



Marston Murmurs

The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council

February 2026



Beautiful Marston in January's snowfall by Alison Hamlin Hughes

A word from the Editor.

On behalf of Marston Parish Council, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

I think the year entered with a bit of a bang, with the snow shower and bitterly cold weather. We hope you all stayed safe and warm. According to RoSPA, we should walk like a penguin to avoid slips and falls during snow or icy conditions, might be a helpful tip but could get you some funny looks! Better safe than sorry though.



We enjoyed a Christmas Coffee morning at the hall and would like to send our thanks to all who came and made it such an enjoyable morning, as you can see from the photos.



We also were happy to join in the birthday celebrations of one of our oldest residents Tom Perrin who was 98. Tom has been a loyal supporter of village events and particularly the coffee mornings for many years and it is lovely to see Tom at the hall.



Higher Marston Playground.

Cheshire West and Chester Council have continued their improvements to the playground area, introducing new fencing and gate way, signage and traffic calming measures on the entrance.

These measures have been taken for the health and safety of the playground users and we ask residents to respect the area by keeping vehicles off the grassed areas and not letting dogs foul the area.



Marbury Ward - Parish Update - January 2026

Ward Councillors – Phil Marshall, Lynn Gibbon and Norman Wright.

Dear Residents, Parish Councils and Community Group

As we begin 2026, we send our warmest wishes for a happy, healthy, and successful New Year. Thank you for your continued role in making our communities strong, supportive, and resilient. We're proud to represent you on the Borough Council and of the progress made locally over the past year.

You're Safe Here Initiative - Tackling Domestic Abuse strategies implemented with borough-wide training. Launched in October 2025, You're Safe Here is a Cheshire West and Chester accreditation scheme offering safe spaces in public venues for anyone feeling vulnerable or at risk.



Venues displaying the window sticker have trained staff ready to support people facing issues such as spiking, harassment, hate crime, or mental health distress. Backed by the Community Safety Partnership, the scheme includes key sites like Storyhouse, Chester Cathedral, Anderton Boat Lift, and Chester Racecourse.

Training is free and delivered monthly. Accredited venues receive a practical guide covering scenarios from lost children to scams, including how to de-escalate incidents, offer reassurance, and help people get home safely.

The scheme encourages a culture of care and vigilance across the borough, without focusing on specific groups or issues. It reflects the council's commitment to ensuring public spaces, particularly in hospitality, are welcoming and supportive.

Residents are urged to look for the You're Safe Here sticker and feel confident that help is available when needed.

Policing

Rural Policing – Motion to Full Council Dec 25 on PCSOs In December, Cllr Phil Marshall tabled a successful motion at Full Council calling for a requested review of Cheshire Constabulary's proposal to reduce Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) numbers. We argued that:

- PCSOs provide essential visibility and early intervention
- Cuts would disproportionately impact rural areas with already stretched coverage

- Local confidence in policing depends on accessible, uniformed presence

The motion passed and a review has now been launched. We are monitoring this closely and remain in contact with the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure rural voices are heard.

Marbury Policing

Key Contacts:

PCSO Diana Wiggins

Constable Dan Vinton

Updated Reporting Guide: Reporting crime and ASB | Cheshire West and Chester Community Safety Partnership

2 Parish & Ward Campaigns

- Green Belt protection campaign and local survey now live
- Petition: Witton Street (Northwich) resurfacing - Petition presented to full council last year by Cllr Lynn Gibbon. This issue will now be referred to Scrutiny committee. Having received well over a thousand signatures from local residents, this issue has also been picked up in the local press. cheshirewestconservatives.org.uk/news We will now be pushing for concerns addressed as part of the Weaver Square Development.
- Finger Posts – Historic England’s move to protect historic signage.

(Marston has two finger posts, the one at the cross roads of Ollershaw Lane, Marston Lane and Dark Lane has been restored and is now a grade II listed monument. Marston Parish Council are looking into restoring the fingerpost at the junction of Earles Lane and Marston Lane and applying to protect its historic status.)

Marston Churchyard, Ollershaw Lane.

Great Budworth Church are arranging a tree surgeon to cut back and make safe the trees along the road boundary. The trees are overgrown and beginning to drop large branches.

The Friends of Anderton and Marbury

EVENT NOTICE

HOMES FOR WILDLIFE - SUNDAY, 15 FEBRUARY

Make and take away a nest box to put up in your garden, as part of National Nest Box Week. We will also be making bird feeders to take home. Please bring an old mug if you'd like to make one.

There is no charge for this event but donations are welcome.

Meet: 10.00 am - 12.00 noon at the Rangers' Cabin/Marbury Lodge

For information contact Joanne Redley - jarhillcliffe223@aol.com



Wellness Sanctuary
A day of grounding, connection and wellbeing

Sunday 22nd February
09:30 - 15:00
£55.00



Join us and enjoy a day of:

- Inspiring educational talks
- Interactive workshops
- Group meditation
- Experience 2 of the available treatments
- Reflexology; New Vision Therapy; Reiki
- Angel Card Reading
- Snacks and refreshments provided

A peaceful day created to nourish your mind, body, and spirit

Limited spaces, booking required
Contact Andrea, 07503 063 611
Marston Church Hall, Ollershaw Lane, Marston, CW9 6ER





Happy New Year from all of us at Great Budworth!

Our first week back was a fun one, although the snowy conditions made it tricky for some children to get in.

Thankfully, things improved after a couple of days! This week, the children got to enjoy forest school—or maybe we should call it *snow school*—having lots of fun with their friends in the snow.

This term, we've also started Judo classes with Northwich Family Martial Arts, where the children learn age-appropriate self-defence techniques. Alongside this, Years 3, 4, 5, and 6 have begun their swimming lessons, so it's been an active start to 2026 at Great Budworth!

As we move into mid-January, we will be exploring our Christian value of **Courage** and discussing what it means in our daily lives.

Smiles from Great Budworth,

Lois Dewey

School Administrator



Cheshire
Constabulary

PCSO 20322 Diana WIGGINS

Cheshire Constabulary | Northwich
Local Policing Unit | Chester Way |

Northwich | CW9 5EP

Marston

RTC on Marston Lane near Four lane garage, driver of one of the vehicles has been dealt with accordingly.

Community Events - Held

- Coffee mornings attended. To offer advice and reassurance. Engage with local communities.
- Police Surgeries held.

- Church services attended to engage with members of the congregation
- Youth clubs attended.
- Parish Council Meetings attended when on duty.
- Local contact with Weavervale Housing re any issues raised.
- Local events attended when on duty.
- Residents voice carried out.

[Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

🚩 Council Tax scams

We've been made aware of scam messages claiming to be from Cheshire West and Chester Council about Council Tax payments.

How to spot if a Council Tax message is genuine:

- It will include your Council Tax reference number
- It won't ask for personal or bank details via text or email
- It will direct you to the Council's official website or phone number

If in doubt, contact us before taking any action:

☎️ 0300 123 8123

📧 Or visit: <https://cwac.co/8logz>

👉 Help shape the future of SEND services!

The Parent Carer Forum SEND Survey 2026 is open until Friday 6 February 2026.

The PCF are asking parents and carers of children and young people (0–25) with SEND or additional needs to share their experiences. This feedback will influence health, education, social care, and community services across Cheshire West & Chester

✅ Complete the survey here:

<https://cwac.co/i5RT3>

📄 Paper copies available on request.



**Marston
Parish
Council**



BECOMING A COUNCILLOR

Are you passionate about your community? Do you want to help make a long-lasting change? Do you have innovative ideas for the council? Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it? If this is you, then we need you. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community to put

themselves forward for election. Make a change and become a councillor. Here, you will find everything you need to know. We explain what parish and town councils and councillors do, how you can become a councillor, what the role is and what to expect, and a range of resources to help recruit the next community champions.

WHAT PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS AND COUNCILLORS DO

Parish and town councils and councillors make a massive difference to local people's quality of life. They are passionate about their communities and seek to make a change to help improve their residents' lives.

What parish and town councils do

Parish and town councils run numerous services, depending on the council size. You will see many day-to-day, but some have yet to be discovered. These include delivering services (such as allotments, car parks, celebrations and festivals, community buses, community and leisure centres, litter bins, parks and open spaces, public toilets and street lights), improving the quality of life (such as community hubs, neighbourhood plans, funding community projects and services, suitable housing, setting up dementia-friendly groups, solar panels, tackling loneliness and youth projects), and giving the community a voice on planning matters with principal authorities and developers, local police and health services, and the government.

What parish and town councillors do

Councillors are elected to represent the local community, so you must live or work in the parish or town council area. Becoming a councillor is a

rewarding experience as you can make a change in your community to help improve residents' lives. A councillor's role can include developing strategies and plans for the area, helping with problems and ideas, representing the community, working with other local community groups, making decisions, and talking to the community about their needs and what the council is doing.

A councillor's role has three main areas:

- Decision-making — Councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered, and what policies should be implemented by attending meetings and committees.
- Monitoring — Councillors ensure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by monitoring how well things work.
- Getting involved locally — As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. These responsibilities often depend on what a given councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available.
-

What a day as a councillor may look like

The day-to-day work of a councillor may include the following:

- Attending council meetings.
- Joining meetings of local organisations and bodies that affect the wider community, such as the police, the Highways Authority, schools and colleges.
- Taking up issues on behalf of residents, such as making representations to the principal authority.
- Running surgeries for residents to bring up issues.

HOW TO BECOME A PARISH OR TOWN COUNCILLOR

Parish and town councils' effectiveness, connectivity, and vitality hinge on the individuals chosen to lead them. We require capable, enthusiastic, and deeply engaged councillors to mirror their communities. There are

three pathways to becoming a councillor: standing for election, co-option (filling a vacant seat post-election), or filling a casual vacancy (occurs when an elected member ceases to be an elected member as a result of, for example, their death, resignation, becoming disqualified, or being no longer qualified to remain elected).

Am I eligible to stand for election?

To be able to stand as a candidate at a parish or town council election, you must:

- Be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights.
- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Meet at least one of the following three qualifications:
 - You are and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish you wish to attend from the day of your nomination onwards.
 - You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish area during the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of the election.
 - Your principal or only place of work during the 12 months before your nomination and the day of the election has been in the parish area.
 -

What is the time commitment?

Our previous councillor surveys have found that councillors put aside, on average, three hours a week for council work. Parish or town council work often includes attending meetings, engaging with residents and speaking to local groups and bodies on behalf of the council.

Is there any training and support?

Councillors can receive training and support via their county association, which are a network of regional bodies for parish and town councils.

If you think you may fit the bill, please contact a councillor or the clerk, details are found at the back of Marston Murmurs.

1. 'A Winter's Tale' is a song that reached number 2 in the UK singles chart in January 1983 for which singer?
2. True or false. The Earth is closer to the sun in our winter than in summer?
3. General Winter often refers to the winter climate of which country?
4. Burning the Clocks is a winter solstice festival that takes place each year in which seaside resort?
5. Chionophobia is the extreme dislike or fear of what?
6. Which Christmas carol is based on a poem by the English poet Christina Rossetti?
7. How many sides do all snowflakes have?
8. The eruption of which country's Mount Tambora volcano in April 1815 created a 'Year without Summer' in the Northern Hemisphere?
9. The Winter War was a military conflict between the Soviet Union and which country?
10. In television's *Game of Thrones* what is the name of the ancestral home of House Stark?
11. What was the name given to the public festivals held on frozen Thames throughout the 17th and 18th centuries?
12. The 1924 Winter Olympics, which were the first ever, were held at a site at the foot of which mountain?

QUIZ



GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS – DETAILS OF HOW TO SUBSCRIBE FOR THE 2026 SERVICE

You are now able to sign up to receive Garden Waste collections for 2026. For £55.00 you will receive 20 fortnightly collections from your property on your scheduled collection day between 9 March and 11 December 2026. The service costs £55.00 regardless of when in the year you subscribe, so sign up now to ensure you don't miss any collections.

The quickest and easiest way to subscribe is by making your payment online, where you will also find more information about the service: [Garden waste collection | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Gardening in February

Spring is in sight. This month there are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as day length and temperatures increase. There's plenty to do indoors this month to prepare for the season ahead. Outdoors, as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune certain shrubs and climbers, such as Wisteria, Rhododendron, Cornus (dog wood), ornamental grasses and winter flowering Jasmine.



Use February to get yourself properly prepared for springtime. The following jobs will set you up for your best growing season yet:

1. Prepare your seed beds. As long as the ground isn't frozen, you can cultivate beds and start to warm up the soil, with fleece, polythene or cloches, in preparation for sowing in the coming months.
2. Check your tools are sound and your garden machinery is working. Give your tools and equipment the once over and apply a little TLC to anything that needs it. While you're at it, tidy your shed ahead of the imminent planting & sowing season - you'll thank yourself for a clean & tidy space later!
3. Blitz perennial weeds in your beds and kitchen garden. Dig them up, roots and all, to get a head start on the blighters before the weather warms up.
4. Trim winter-flowering heathers as the flowers disappear, to prevent plants becoming leggy.



The Chair Exercise Class is 10am on Wednesdays,
Please join us for fun exercise which can be done by all ages and abilities.
£5 per class.
Coffee mornings 10am Tuesdays, all welcome.

Answers:

1. David Essex
2. True
3. Russia (its been a contributing factor to the military failures of several invasions of Russia)
4. Brighton
5. Snow
6. In the Bleak Midwinter
7. Six sides
8. Indonesia
9. Finland (in 1939-40)
10. Winterfell
11. Frost fares (the last was in 1812)
12. Mont Blanc (the site was Chamonix, France)

williams 01606 837040 | DESIGN · PRINT · SIGNS
design and print sales@williamsdesignandprint.co.uk

WE CAN MEET ALL YOUR DESIGN, PRINT, SIGN AND PROMOTIONAL PRODUCT NEEDS

www.williamsdesignandprint.co.uk

Marston Parish Council cannot be held responsible for any errors, misprints or opinions stated in this publication. The views expressed by the contributors are their own and not necessarily the views of the editor .

Your Contributions and ideas are welcomed! Please send to the editor or any one of the councillors or even give us a ring

Useful Contacts.

Parish Councillors		
Marion Potts	CHAIR 07842894733	marion.potts@marstonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Amanda Nixon	VICE CHAIR 07786135375	amanda.nixon@marstonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Phil Carter	07879843900	phil.carter@marstonparishcouncil.gov.uk
David Wallace	07903158771	david.wallace@marstonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Vacancy		
Simon Tate	07714801316	simon.tate@marstonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Vacancy		
Yvonne Hinkson	CLERK 07515102962	clerk@marstonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Marbury Ward Councillors		
Lynn Gibbon	07581226814	lynn.gibbon@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Norman Wright	01606 74788	norman.wright@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Phil Marshall	07917171438	phil.marshall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

The Church Hall on Ollershaw Lane is a great place for parties, band practice or events and activities. To hire contact Angie.

Hall costs just £10 per hour to hire.


Angie Kemmett	07977920445
---------------	-------------


Cut out and keep.

Tuesday Week B

Cheshire West & Chester Council Recycling and waste collection dates

Your collection day is a **Tuesday**
Please refer to the calendar below for your 2026 collection dates.

 Please place out your recycling containers and food waste caddy

 Please place out your household waste container and food waste caddy

December 2025				
TUES 2	TUES 9	TUES 16	TUES 23	TUES 30

January 2026			
TUES 6	TUES 13	TUES 20	TUES 27

February 2026			
TUES 3	TUES 10	TUES 17	TUES 24

March 2026				
TUES 3	TUES 10	TUES 17	TUES 24	TUES 31

April 2026			
TUES 7	TUES 14	TUES 21	TUES 28

May 2026			
TUES 5	TUES 12	TUES 19	TUES 26

June 2026				
TUES 2	TUES 9	TUES 16	TUES 23	TUES 30

July 2026			
TUES 7	TUES 14	TUES 21	TUES 28

August 2026			
TUES 4	TUES 11	TUES 18	TUES 25

September 2026				
TUES 1	TUES 8	TUES 15	TUES 22	TUES 29

October 2026			
TUES 6	TUES 13	TUES 20	TUES 27

November 2026			
TUES 3	TUES 10	TUES 17	TUES 24



Visit: cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-bin

Scan the QR code
for more information

