



Marston Murmurs

The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council

March 2026



Little Snowdrop The world may never notice if a Snowdrop doesn't bloom, Or even pause to wonder if the petals fall too soon. But every life that ever forms, Or ever comes to be, Touches the world in some small way for all eternity.



A word from the Editor.

I hope you are finding the lengthening days and the coming clock change that heralds the approaching spring encouraging and that the cold dark days of winter will soon be a memory. The emerging daffodils and spring flowers are bringing colour and life back to our gardens, verges and pots.



Marston Parish Councillors braved the cold wind in January to install a planter on the triangle at the crossroads on Marston Lane to compliment the grade II listed fingerpost and daffodils. The plants are flowering and bulbs are beginning to emerge. We



hope you will enjoy the colourful display.

March is a busy month according to the calendar, beginning with St. Davids Day on the 1st, Mothering Sunday on the 15th, St. Patricks Day on the 17th, Last day of Ramadan on the 18th, Vernal Equinox, beginning of Spring on the 20th and



Palm Sunday and the beginning of British Summer Time on the 29th.



Don't forget to put your clocks forward!



A Date for your Diary.

Simon Tate is offering a free one-hour training session on the use of the defibrillator at Marston Church Hall, Ollershaw Lane, **on Saturday, 14th March at 11am.**

Defibrillator (AED) training is vital to gain the confidence, speed, and knowledge needed to save a life during a cardiac arrest, where survival rates drop 10% for every minute without intervention. While devices are user-friendly, training ensures correct, rapid, and effective use while providing essential CPR skills.



Key reasons to undergo training include:

- **Increased Survival Rates:** Using an AED within 3-5 minutes of a cardiac arrest can increase the chance of survival up to 70%.
- **Confidence and Speed:** Training reduces panic and hesitation, allowing you to act quickly, which is critical in emergencies.
- **Proper Technique:** You learn correct electrode pad placement and how to integrate the AED with high-quality CPR.
- **Safety Assurance:** It teaches how to use the device safely, avoiding potential issues or misuse.
- **Improved Response:** It prepares you to manage the entire emergency, including coordinating with emergency services.

Training makes you feel empowered and prepared to act in a life-or-death situation

Marston has three defibrillators in the village, funded by the Parish Council. It is important to know where these are located in an emergency.

The Salt Barge Pub

Marston Church Hall

1 Fernlea Road, Higher Marston estate.

| The law on dogs and livestock has changed. 🏛️👮

From March 2026, tougher penalties and new police powers are in force to protect farm animals and support rural communities.

It will now be an offence if a dog:

- Attacks livestock
- Chases, stalks or frightens livestock
- Causes stress, injury, death, miscarriage or loss of produce
- A dog does NOT need to touch an animal for an offence to occur.

The law covers a wide range of livestock, including:

- Sheep 🐑
- Cattle (cows, bulls, calves) 🐮
- Goats 🐐
- Pigs 🐷
- Horses 🐎
- Poultry (chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese) 🐔
- Alpacas and llamas 🐫

These protections apply on farmland and on public footpaths or roads where livestock are present.

Under the updated law, police can now:

- Seize dogs involved in livestock worrying
- Enter premises with a warrant
- Take DNA and other evidence
- Recover costs from offenders
- Courts can issue unlimited fines.

As a dog owner, you need to:

- Keep dogs under close control near livestock
- Use a lead in fields with animals
- Public rights of way are included
- Remember, it's your dog. Your responsibility.





Part of being a dog owner is taking responsibility for the dog's poo; it is against the law to walk a dog without carrying the means of collecting and disposing of your dog's poo. This doesn't mean collecting and hanging from a tree or throwing it under a hedge.

Marston Parish Council receives numerous complaints over the year regarding the dog poo left on pavements and verges or poor disposal choices.

With Councils budgets under many constraints, we are unlikely to have more bins put in the area, so please note where your nearest

bin is and make the effort to dispose safely there. Thank you.

PCSO Diana Wiggins.

We have all been saddened by the decision of the Police Authorities to reduce the number of PCSO's on our streets.

We would just like to add our tribute and thanks to Diana Wiggins who has been our designated PCSO. Diana has been the best community support officer we could have wished for and she will be missed by so many of us.

Diana covered the Marbury ward which involves a large rural area across the North of Northwich stretching from Little Leigh across to Antrobus and around to Wincham but found time for us all.

We wish Diana well and good luck with whatever comes next.





Cheshire Constabulary

Community Events

Held

- Coffee mornings attended. To offer advice and reassurance. Engage with local communities.
- Police Surgeries held.
- Parish Council Meetings attended when on duty.
- Local contact with Weaver vale Housing re any issues raised.
- Local events attended when on duty.
- Residents voice carried out.
- School presentations conducted.
- Road safety carried out regarding parking outside schools.

Upcoming

- School monitoring to be conducted.
- Warm Hubs and Coffee mornings to be attended to offer reassurance and safety advice.
- Partnership working with Weaver vale Housing trust – contacting vulnerable adults within the ward.
- Speed monitoring / enforcement within the ward.

PCSO SURGERIES

- Barnton Library 11/1/26 @ 4-5pm
- Barnton Library 3/3/26 @ 2-3pm

- Wincham Community Centre 19/2/26 @ 6-7pm
- Wincham Community Centre 19/3/26 @ 9-10am

- Comberbach Memorial Hall 27/2/26 @ 9-10am
- Comberbach Memorial Hall 28/3/26 @ 12-1pm

Everyone is welcome to come along to say hello and discuss any local issues or concerns.

I am aware that not everyone will be able to attend these surgeries, if you wish to raise any concerns please complete the Residents Voice Survey on the Cheshire Police Website, search for Residents Voice Northwich, and when completing the survey, the Policing area is Marbury

PLEASE NOTE I WILL BE FINISHING MY ROLE AS PCSO FOR MARBURY AT THE END OF MARCH.

I WILL BE TAKING ANNUAL BETWEEN NOW AND THEN.

IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE WORKING WITH EVERYONE AND I WISH YOU EVERY HAPPINESS IN WHAT YOU DO.

PC VINTON IS VERY COMMITTED TO HIS NEW ROLE AND I KNOW HE WILL DO HIS BEST TO TRY AND RESOLVE ANY ISSUES OR CONCERNS YOU MAY HAVE.

Regards

PCSO 20322 Diana WIGGINS

Cheshire Constabulary | Northwich Local Policing Unit | Chester Way | Northwich | CW9 5EP



Great Budworth School News

As we look back on the past term, it's been a busy and exciting time here at school! We're proud to share some of the fun activities and successes our pupils have enjoyed. Everyone loved taking part

in judo sessions, which were made possible thanks to a Cheshire Police grant.

The children also got involved in NSPCC Number Day by wearing digits and bringing in donations, raising a brilliant £25. As always, Forest School has been a highlight of the term, with pupils heading outdoors every Tuesday to explore nature with Mrs Curren.

In science, our Otters class had great fun investigating materials by squashing, squeezing and rolling playdough to create a Gingerbread Man — be sure to take a look at the photos! Our wonderful PTA also organised a lovely Valentine's Day treat, which brought lots of smiles.



We would also like to thank the Big Boys Breakfast for buying our Year 6 leavers hoodies.

As we head into the half term break, we would like to send our very best wishes to Mrs Corradine, who has now officially left our federation. We thank her for everything she has contributed to the school and know our families will join us in wishing her all the very best for the future.



Lois Grogan
Administrator



1. The typical implementation of DST is to set clocks forward by an hour in springtime - what does DST stand for?
2. What is the common name of the spring flowering plant

narcissus?

3. "Is the spring coming?" he said. "What is it like?"... "It is the sun shining on the rain and the rain falling on the sunshine..." These are lines from which Frances Hodgson Burnett novel?
4. "Younger Than Springtime" is a show tune from which Rodgers and Hammerstein musical?
5. The word for which period of six weeks is a shortened form of an Old English word meaning "spring season"?
6. In 1830, Englishman Edwin Bear Budding was granted the first patent for what device?



7. The March equinox or spring equinox is better known by what name in the Northern Hemisphere?
8. Demonstrating support for environmental protection, which annual event is held on April 22?
9. The tulip is a member of what flower family?
10. "May brings flocks of pretty lambs, skipping by their fleecy dams" is a verse from "The Garden Year" by Sara Coleridge. What is a 'dam'?
11. Is it frog spawn or toad spawn which floats in stringy lengths?
12. Which Hebrew female name meaning springlike or fresh, is also the name of a British insurance company?
13. Also a female's name, what is the French word for April?



Answers on page 15

**To test your local knowledge and word skills.
Anagrams in and around the local area.**

1. Matrons ()
2. Ailments ()
3. Athlete brags ()
4. Chin throw ()
5. Heel shafts ()
6. Inept frogs ()
7. Renders any cattleman ()
8. Bark ray rump ()
9. Fronted battalion ()
10. Worn oak stills ()



**Green Bin collections start again on 10th
March 2026**

What can go in your green bin?

cut flowers
grass and hedge clippings
leaves
small branches (under 10cm) and twigs

Do you know these items can also be recycled? Please place other items out for collection alongside your recycling bins in a sturdy box (such as your old recycling boxes) or plastic bag.

- household batteries
- cooking oil (please ensure that you leave this out in a sealed container next to your food bin)
- mobile phone
- small electrical items (smaller than a toaster)
- small empty printer cartridges
- spectacles

Jobs to do in your garden in March

March is your last chance to prune apples and pears before the buds burst. As the soil warms and weeds begin to grow, this is a sign that it's also the time to make the first outdoor sowings – cabbages, broccoli, cauliflowers, kale, corn, salad, land cress, peas, broad beans, maincrop onions, parsnips and turnips can all be sown this month.



Last chance to plant bare-root fruit trees.

Look out for potted soft fruit bushes such as currants, gooseberries and raspberries for planting now.

Plant cold-stored strawberry runners

Plant onions, shallots and garlic sets.

Chit early and maincrop potatoes.

Plant asparagus crowns.

Carry out formative pruning of newly planted fruit trees if the weather is dry.

Prune blueberries.

Untie canes of blackberries and hybrid berries that have been bundled together for the winter, and train into arches before the buds burst.

Never prune grape vines after late winter to avoid sap bleeding, otherwise vines can be seriously weakened.

Protect brassicas from pigeons.

Consider hoeing or pulling out weeds that may smother emerging seedlings and crops.

Sow seed outdoors in mild areas with light soil, eg: broad beans, carrots, parsnips, beetroot, onions, lettuces, radish, peas, spinach, summer cabbage, salad leaves, leeks, Swiss chard, kohlrabi, turnip and summer cauliflower. Be guided by the weather, and sow only if conditions are suitable.

Sow seed indoors of sweet peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines, celery, salads.

Protect fruit blossom from frost, but make sure insects can access the flowers or else hand pollinate them.

Mulch raspberries with homemade compost to suppress weeds and improve the soil.

Apply sulphur chips to beds of blueberries if needed.

Apply a mulch around fruit trees, nuts, and bushes as long as the ground isn't frozen.



Higher Marston Estate has some beautiful views over the surrounding countryside and with this in mind the Parish Council are applying to Cheshire West and Chester Council Highways for a licence to put a bench on the grass triangle at the junction of Fernlea Road and Vale Road. Please get in touch if you would like to help in any way



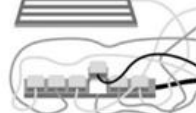
Handy Hints to keep your household safe.

Home Fire Safety CHECKLIST



Here are some steps to help you stay safe:

- Don't leave cooking unattended** and don't cook if you're tired, under the influence of alcohol or drugs or on strong medication.
- If you smoke, **smoke outside**, at an open external door or window and never while under the influence. **Always use an appropriate ashtray.**
- Using a laptop? Make sure it's **placed on a hard surface**. Soft surfaces such as beds and sofas could ignite due to the heat from a laptop.
- Always turn** computers and laptops **off at night**.
- Don't overload** electrical sockets.
- Make sure all common areas and exits are **kept clear** of any combustible materials and don't leave any items in escape routes.
- Make sure flammable items like cardboard or paper are **safely stored**.



TWICE WINNERS OF BBC RADIO 2 FOLK AWARD
'BEST DUO'



KATHRYN ROBERTS & SEAN LAKEMAN

Saturday 14th March 2026
LION SALT WORKS, Marston, Northwich

Tickets £19.00 from <https://www.wegotickets.com/event/681301>
for info : [e] lswsessions@gmail.com



The SALT WORKS Sessions

kathynrobertsandseanlakeman.com



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.

1.. Daylight saving time 2. Daffodil 3. The Secret Garden 4. South Pacific
5. Lent (short version of the Old English word lencten, which means
spring season.) 6. Mechanical lawn mower (we associate getting out our
lawn mowers with Spring!) 7. Vernal equinox 8.Earth Day 9 .Lily 10.
Female Mother Sheep 11. Toad spawn 12.Aviva 13. Avril

1.Marston 2.Salt Mine 3.The Salt Barge 4.Northwich 5.The Flashes
6.Fingerpost 7.Trent and Mersey Canal 8.Marbury Park 9.Anderton Boat
lift 10.Lion Salt Works

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

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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
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