

MARSTON SICCA

PARISH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

EDITORS NOTES

I hope everybody enjoyed their Easter.

Please note that this years Fete date has changed to 19th July.
The search for volunteers is on and if you can help please contact Adam at the pub.

Please remember the cut off for any entries in the May edition is Friday 25th April. Send to editor@uberdoodle.com.

Simon



PARISH COUNCIL

Marston Meadow green space now has phase one of the footpath plan concluded which leads from the entrance of the site to the pavilion. Benches and picnic table are also now in place within the pavilion.

To offset some of the surface water and boggy area to Marston Meadow, the parish council will be planting more trees to help absorb moisture and enhance the orchard.

The Meon Vale bus shelter is installed and has been welcomed by residents.
The parish council are pleased to support the **Great British Spring Clean and have organised a litter picking day to take place on April 6th, Long Marston Village Hall at 10am. Please come and join our team to help keep our village clear of litter (pickers and bags will be provided).**

Two extra bins (multi- purpose waste/dog bins) for the parish have been organised with further larger bins to be placed at Meon Village Hall.

As part of the parish councils aims to support climate change initiatives, we would like to remind residents of the second Big Green Day event being held on April 12th in Meon Vale Village Hall. The theme this year is sustainable living, and will include guest speakers, cooking sessions, waste management ideas and fun events for the children. We look forward to seeing you there.

Council members, as part of a Safer Neighbourhood strategy, have been consulting with Shipton Police to organise crime prevention initiatives including 'tackling vandalism'. A safe and friendly environment requires proactivity and innovative crime prevention ideas, and this forms part of our longer-term vision.

The community speed awareness team has undertaken a speed check course to conduct speed checks through the village. The team consists of volunteers and the parish council thank them for their time and commitment to this project.

Next full parish council meeting April 21st @ 7.30pm Long Marston Village Hall

Debbie Woodliffe | Parish Clerk

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Stuart Keighley



Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) have been taking up a huge amount of time at District Council. You may recall that the Government decided to scrap the two-tier system of County and District Councils replacing them with a single Unitary Authority. There are already many Unitary Authorities in England, and they vary in size from North Yorkshire the largest (620000 residents) to North Somerset (220000) and North Lincolnshire (170000). There are many smaller still.

The pressure is on to meet the initial proposals deadline by the end of March. For Authorities not in the first phase for April 2027, they will be expected to form a Unitary Council a year later by April 2028.

The Government's new 'benchmark' size for a Unitary Authority (500000 residents) appears to be an arbitrary figure with no logical justification. It does not even take account of geography or the differences in rural and urban areas. It seems to have been 'plucked from the air'.

Warwickshire County Council favour a 'One Warwickshire' solution. It would keep the County Council whole and would incorporate all 5 Districts and Boroughs. With over 600000 residents the number of elected Councillors would fall from 250 to about 100. Long Marston would be under the same administrative body as Nuneaton, Rugby and Coleshill. It would be one of the largest Local Authorities in England.

The Government did not accept Warwickshire's proposal to be in an early phase of reorganisation. Had they done so we would not be having County Council elections on **May 1st** and voting would have been scrapped.

Biggest is not always best and there are alternative and potentially better options. A **South Warwickshire Unitary** is a much better solution in my view. Not only does this align with the current work on the new Local Plan but it also fits well with our health service provider South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust (SWFT). It would also mean more Councillors on the ground representing residents and less pressure on local Town and Parish Councils to fill the inevitable 'gap in the floorboards' that will come with a super-sized Unitary. With new housing planned the population of a South Warwickshire Unitary will soon be around 300000 and will grow to 350000 by 2050. More than enough for the scale and financial stability required.

However, it is proving difficult to get these alternatives across because the Warwickshire County Administration is so intransigent in their view. Of course, there are politics at play which is why the County elections have become so important. We will see what the Electorate have to say about this when the polls close at 10pm on voting day. It's your chance to say what you want!

In parallel with this LGR the **Consultation on the Preferred Options** for the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP Stage 3) has just closed on 7th March having been open for 8 weeks since 10th January. During this time the District Council has been holding Public Consultation Events to explain the proposals to residents. A number of local Parish Councils have also held their own
and I was at the very well attended event at Henley Memorial Hall highlighting proposals for the Strategic Growth Area 23 just north of the town.

The land at and around Long Marston Airfield is identified as a potential new settlement and is referred to as **Area E1**. There are 12 new settlement areas being considered in the plan. E1 is a significant area with up to 40 new dwellings per hectare (16 per acre) and an equal area of undeveloped open space.

E1 (excluding Meon Vale) extends to over 5km2 (500 hectares) and although there are areas of constraint due to flood zones, the potential new settlement area is considerable. Working on 50% of land built at 40 homes per hectare there is the potential for **10000 new homes**. This is beneficial in providing a focussed location for housing rather than piecemeal dispersal around villages, and it also provides the scale to fund and support complimentary infrastructure and mitigation measures. However, there is no doubting the potential impact on road traffic especially at peak times and this is an issue for Long Marston and Welford and the villages located alongside the B4632. Consultation responses from Parish Councils on behalf of residents will be crucial, as the Local Plan Team build the evidence base needed to agree on the sites to go forward. Your Parish Council has, as usual, been very diligent in making comprehensive responses to the proposals.

Finally, I can report on the final agreement to the increase in your Council Tax bill which was approved at Council on 25th February. For **Band D** the Stratford District element of Council Tax will rise from **£164.12** to **£169.12** per household which is a modest increase of **3.05%**.

Warwickshire Police have increased their element by 4.83% and Warwickshire County Council by 5%.
Your Parish Council has increased the Band D Precept from £39.38 to £47.01 which is an increase of 19.4%.

Overall this means the Band D increase in Long Marston will be 5.1%.

Thanks as always to those residents getting in touch with their views and concerns. I am always available to help you find solutions.
Wishing everyone a very enjoyable Spring.

Stuart
District Councillor | Long Marston Ward
stuart.keighley@stratford-dc.gov.uk



LONG MARSTON WI

Our Speaker for our March Meeting was Daziel Ellis – Poet but not as you know it!!

We were treated to an entertaining array of poems covering a diverse range of subject matter. A poet with attitude , never afraid to push the boundaries! There was poignancy, wry humour and uplifting messages of hope all wrapped up in Daziel's inimitable style!

April Meeting 9th April 2025
Our April meeting is a talk by Lisa Blaxall. Lisa was chosen by her company to travel to South Africa as part of a Training Programme. It promises to be enlightening and entertaining.

Guests are extremely welcome (£5.00 including refreshments)

We welcome New Members of all Ages

LONG MARSTON GARDEN CLUB

Spring is here!
Lots of spring flowers and hopefully we are going to view Magnolias. On Wednesday 2nd April we have a visit to Batsford Arboretum at 2pm. The Batsford guide suggested we must view their Magnolias. Fingers crossed they will be in full bloom.

Our 2025 programme has been planned so do join in visiting our outings this summer.

Happy Gardening. **Wiggy Taylor**

CHURCH SERVICES APRIL 2025

RiverVale Churches
Welford | Weston | Quinton | Admington
Long Marston | Meon Vale

St. James the Great - Long Marston

Sunday 6th - Breakfast Service 10.30 am

Sunday 20th - Easter Sunday
Family Communion - 10.30am
with Egg Hunt Afterwards

St.Swithin's - Quinton with Admington

Sunday 13th - Palm Sunday Family Communion 10.30am

Thursday 17th - Maundy Thursday - Quinton with Admington Village hall - 7.00pm

Booking Required for the meal
admin@riverchurches.co.uk

Friday 18th - Quinton House Service 11.00am

Sunday 20th - Easter Sunday - Family Communion - 10.30am
With egg Hunt afterwards

Sunday 27th - Communion 10.30am

NEW!

Meon Vale

Sunday 13th 3.00pm Palm Sunday Funday
This service includes children's activities and toddlers space!



rivervalechurches.co.uk /RIVERVALECHURCHES

Community Speed Watch



After a number of residents were getting frustrated with the ongoing issue of safely exiting The Brickall, due to parking in the immediate vicinity of the T junction, with the northbound traffic traffic treating the traffic calming chicane as the start of the overtaking manoeuvre around the parked cars, plus other residents struggling to safely exit onto Welford Road, we invited PC Sid Hammond to a local meeting to review options. Since then we have assembled a group of volunteers, had all the necessary background checks, risk assessments and Warwickshire Police training sessions, with a new speed gun kindly purchased by the Marston Sicca Parish Council. We are now actively recording speed & vehicle details to enable repeat offenders to have a visit from the local police.

Long Marston Community Speed Watch
If you'd like to volunteer, please contact myself, Tim Lightfoot at tlightfoot@hotmail.co.uk.

Great British Spring Clean

April 6th, Long Marston Village Hall at 10am



COME AND JOIN OUR TEAM TO HELP KEEP OUR VILLAGE CLEAR OF LITTER (PICKERS AND BAGS WILL BE PROVIDED)

HELLO FROM THE POPPIN

With Spring now upon us we have a **lovely selection of plants** from local TOPS nurseries in Mickleton for sale to brighten up your gardens and we sell the compost too to bed them in . The outside of the shop is looking lovely with the pots and containers kindly planted by our volunteer Paul Stephens.

We also sell charcoal and kindling/ logs should it reach high temperatures for BBQ's and log pits !!
Easter eggs and **hot cross buns** for the Easter break 18th -21st April are in stock .

We continue to add to our ranges in the shop stocking more fresh fruit, vegetables , bakery products , pies and savouries . Handmade sandwiches are also readily available if you need a quick , tasty lunch .

Do pop by and support your local shop and remember its volunteer based, a great way to meet new friends and locals , if you wish to join our team leave your contact details in the shop and we will welcome you aboard !!

Best wishes to all.
Helen Leedham & the Poppin team.

LONG MARSTON LADIES

AEB Wellness headed by Vicky gave Long Marston Ladies an insight on their health. All stemming from having a heathy gut. Vicky explained how with the correct diet, health issues can be managed without having to take prescribed drugs.

Vicky is also a Reiki practitioner creating an all round sense of well-being.

CHARITY COFFEE MORNING



30th April, 10am until 12pm

Long Marston Village Hall | Free Admission

Parking at the Masons Arms

All proceeds in aid of Shakespeare Hospice

MARSTON MOVIES



FRIDAY 25th APRIL - 7:30PM

Licensed Bar | Snacks | Ices
Only £3 on the door
Bring a cushion!



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

July 19th FETE 2025
PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Adam has kindly offered to be chairman again this year and with Derek's help the fete will be around the Masons Arms as last year. Volunteers will be needed to run stalls, games and help set up. This is the main fundraising event of the year for both St.James' Church and the Village Hall.

Please help if you can. Contact Adam to volunteer.

The Village Hall Committee is still below strength.
If you would be interested in joining and helping to run the hall please contact D.Rippin 01789 720536



MARSTON MOVIES
On 25th April the film will be "Conclave" at 7.30 pm starring Ralph Fiennes.

Tickets £3 with bar and snacks available as usual.

VILLAGE HALL DIARY for April

Yoga	1st 8th 15th 22nd 24th 29th	7-8 pm
Long Marston Ladies	2nd	7.30 pm
Private Booking	4th 11th 18th 25th	10-12 am
Easter Bingo	5th	7 for 7.30 pm
Beavers	7th 14th	5-7 pm
Old Post Office (Sara)	8th	10.30 – 11.30 am
W.I.	9th	7.30 pm
Quiz Night	12th	
Library/coffee morning	15th	10.30-12 am
Parish Council Meeting	21st	7.30 pm
Marston Movies	25th	7.30 pm
Shakespeare Hospice-coffee morning	30th	am



Long Marston Village Hall

Saturday April 5th

Doors open 7.00 pm

Eyes down 7.30 pm

Good prizes!

Licensed Bar, snacks,
And RAFFLE!

Families welcome.

Please come and support us!

Avoid that sinking feeling

Scrape plates



Collect used oil



Wipe before washing



Use a **strainer**



Help avoid blocked sewers and costly repairs.
Never put cooking oil, fat, sauces, gravies or food scraps down the sink, toilet or outside drain; always put them in a bin.

WONDERFUL ON TAP

SEVERN TRENT

CONTACTS

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman - Ian Johnsey
Vice Chairman - Richard Whittaker
Councillor - Noel Davis
Councillor - Colin Parrott
Councillor - Bill Tempest
Councillor - Claire Craige
Councillor - Steve Barker

Parish Clerk/RFO - Debbie Woodliffe
Email - parishclerk@marstonsicca-pc.gov.uk
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Simon Hanagarth - editor@uberdoodle.com

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS
Anne Harrison - 01789 720368

THE POPPIN VILLAGE STORE
01789 721011

THE POST OFFICE, LONG MARSTON
01789 721411

NOMINATED SAFE-GUARDING PERSON
Linda Thomas - 01789 721180

DEFIBRILLATOR
This is located outside the Poppin shop.
A 999 call giving the location will provide a code and method of use.

ST JAMES THE GREAT
Church Warden – Carol Watts 07730 419958

POLICE
999 - Emergency only
101 - Non urgent contact

SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM
www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk/ship

PCSO 6230	Emma Turner
PCSO 6362	Ben Cole
PC 1508	Sid Hammond

Shipston Police Station
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shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk
www.facebook.com/ShipstonPolice

Crimestoppers
0800 555111

WEBSITE
www.marstonsicca-pc.gov.uk

