MARSTON SICCA



PARISH NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2024

EDITORS NOTES

Happy New Year... sorry, probably a bit too late to be going in with that now. Anyway, I hope you all had a great time over the festive season.

There was a page missing in the printed edition of Decembers issue which had more of the winners from the Produce Show, so you will find it at the back of this one.

Barbie is this month's film at the Village Hall. So grab your pinkest frocks, shirts, shorts, etc and head over on Friday the 16th at 7:30pm.
Should be a very fun night!!

Please email your articles to editor@uberdoodle.com by Friday 22nd February for the March newsletter.



Have a fantastic February!
Valentine hugs. **Simon**

BRIC-A-BRAC & JUMBLE SALE



February 10th at the Village Hall from 2pm

PARISH COUNCIL

The parish council are organising a site visit with Highways to LM village. We will be discussing footpaths (including verges and hedges that encroach over them), potholes, and any other matter that needs attention.
The council are aware of two streetlights that have been out of action. Street Scene have been chased twice and recently confirmed, the delays have been due to a backlog of work but have placed on the priority list.
With the involvement of SDC enforcement, communication with three firms of solicitors, and our district councillor, we have finally received confirmation that the final transfer of Marston Meadow will be completed by end this month. The plan is then to resume the working group meetings and map out a plan of action for the site. The parish council has concluded its budget (will be published on our website) which includes the use of reserves for the open space. We also have some further CIL monies to help us undertake specific projects.

Cllr. Davis confirmed the neighbourhood plan referendum is the next step and details of the event will be posted on the notice board and the parish council website.

Cllr. Keighley advised SDC have confirmed there is a new council plan in place with a £2m fund available to help make reforms (including planning). There is also a £500k fund available for climate change initiatives. This topic will be a regular point on the parish council agenda, with the aim of working closely with the climate change working group. The next meeting will be to organise 2024 Green Day event.

The assets within Meon Vale remain under the ownership of St Modwen and cannot be transferred until their internal name changes have been concluded. In the meantime, Marston Sicca Parish Council have organised a 3-month license with the developer to enable the Meon Village Hall to be open for events and the community.
The Pavilion Coffee Shop has some final remedial work to be undertaken including making the outside canopy area more comfortable for customers. New equipment has been organised to broaden the menu and volunteers continue to give their time to support the project. Many thanks to all those who use the pavilion, the funding helps to manage community projects.
Next Meeting 7.30pm, 19th February Meon Vale community centre/village hall (as we now have the license).

Marston Sicca Parish Council

GARDEN CLUB

There was no visit to a garden this month but instead got together for a lunch at The Masons. A good time was had by all but numbers were down with so many suffering from various winter colds etc.
Wiggy is now working on this year's programme and all agreed an outing in Colin's minibus to view the RHS garden near Manchester would be a good idea.

If you have any suggestions about gardens to visit let Wiggy know.

Happy New Year. **Wiggy Taylor**
wiggytaylor@gmail.com

SHOEBOX APPEAL

As you begin to springclean, please think of us before you throw things away. Old towels we can cut down for flannels. Greetings cards(fronts or unused) can be put in paper packs along with any other oddments of paper. Jewellery is needed for the older girls. Hats scarves and gloves in good condition, toys of course, in fact anything that will fit in a shoebox that a child can use. Oddments of knitting wool are needed for our knitters. Of course we also need your empty shoeboxes! Please leave at the Poppin or in the box outside Gaverne. Many thanks.

SOLO LUNCH

The Masons have decided to close on Wednesday lunch times due to fall in trade because of the bridge closure. So in January and February the Solo lunch, for people who live alone, will be on Fridays.
Hopefully things will be back to normal in March.

Lunch dates
Friday January 26th....12.30pm
Friday February 23rd..12.30pm.
Just come along and join us, the friendly bar staff will point you in the right direction.

MARSTON MOVIES



Get out your pink outfits ladies and gents because Barbie is coming to Long Marston! In our own Village Hall on Friday February 16th at 7.30 pm. Come and relax with a drink and snacks from the bar.
Bring a cushion or your own picnic chair. It is a 12A so hopefully we can welcome some of our younger residents.

Should be an evening to remember!

Don't be a pain in the drain



Only put **pee**, **poo** and toilet **paper** down the loo.

Use a **bin** for anything else.

Help avoid blocked sewers and costly repairs.
Never flush wipes, condoms, cotton buds, tampons or sanitary pads down the toilet; always put them in a bin.

WONDERFUL ON TAP

SEVERN TRENT

LONG MARSTON WI

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INSPIRING WOMEN

Christmas 2023 was our Centenary Year and we celebrated the success of such a long history with a Party on December 10th. It was a jolly evening with the scene set with 2 long tables decorated with flowers. We had a buffet provided by the Members giving a great variety of delicious food and chat and laughter took over the evening. We had a 100 Birthday cake made by Diana Rippin and decorated by Emma. Lisa Blaxall organized some photos as a record.

Our January Meeting we had as our Speaker Adrian James from Offenham who gave a captivating talk and slide show entitled 'Through the garden gate'. He is a professional garden photographer and showed photos of his not so known gardens. The most spectacular was 199 High Street, Kensington – 100ft up in the rooftops where there is a 1.5 acre garden divided into 3 themed sections including full grown trees and a stream with resident flamingoes.

Our next Meeting is on February 14th – Jennifer Rigby "Albert,Worms and George don't do that' to be held at Long Marston Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Liz Marcuse

CHURCH NEWS

How is it February already?! It seems like it was only last week that we had the church buzzing over the Christmas festivities. The crib service was a definite highlight for me, seeing St James so full and getting to meet so many new people - it was great fun! But it's now February! And that means Lent is upon us. In fact, to the keen observer you would have noticed that Lent has been coming for a while, because as soon as Christmas day had past, the hot cross buns and easter eggs graced the shelves. I think I set a new personal record for earliest I've eaten a hot

cross bun, enjoying my first 'this year' on December the 28th last year! Personally, I do not mind getting access to these treats early but there is something odd about the speed at which retail seems to have the power to move us into the next season before the current one has had its chance to finish.



I don't know your story or your spirituality, but I believe Lent is a gift to us all. It is a time in the Calendar, like Advent, where we are encouraged take the foot off the accelerator, it is a time where we are invited to live stripped back, simpler lives replicating Jesus own 40 days in the desert. It is a time to reflect on the world around us and what Jesus did and does through the cross and resurrection. That outrageous event of grace that even today when responded too, brings us closer to God and each other through divine love. This is why Lent is a gift. It is sacred time offered to us to be real about the state of our world, the ways in which love is still not the driving force in so many of our relationships, personal and global, a time to think more deeply about love in a way that even Valentine's Day cannot offer us.

So, before the shops start stocking sun-cream and portable BBQ's again, I wonder if we can make some time for a desert walk this Lent. Time simplified, time with Jesus, time to process and mourn all that has been, the messy as well as all that has been life giving, both in our own lives, in our relationships with each other; and in our relationship with creation and creator. Let us make this Lent slow, so at the end of it, unlike the post-Christmas exhaustion, we can come to Easter Sunday feeling a little more real, refreshed; and a little more love driven and fulfilled. Afterall, that is what Easter Sunday offers us all, divine love and a fuller life, through the promise of that empty tomb, where all that tries to steal our joy ultimately lost it's grip on you.
So may you have a slow Lent and a very Happy Easter!

Blessings, Rev J.

Stratford-upon-Avon foodbank

We are delighted that we are now able to provide a new Pop Up Distribution Point on Meon Vale for the collection of Emergency Food Parcels by those in need who have been referred into our Stratford Foodbank.

Our new Foodbank Van will be parked along the side of Londis every Tuesday morning from, 10.00am - 11.00am.

We have been trying for some while to establish a permanent distribution base on Meon Vale which will enable people living in Long Marston, Lower Quinton and Meon Vale not only to be given their Food Parcel but also to be referred into our Citizens Advice Money Advice project if they need help with Financial, Benefit or other issues. This can also be done at our current Tuesday session but standing on a wet and windy Car Park may not be the ideal place for Form Filling!

Our new service will alleviate both the cost and stress incurred by those living through a time of crisis who currently have to travel to Stratford, attend a Foodbank session and then make the return journey home laden with carrier bags of tinned and pre-packaged food, essential toiletries, cleaning and washing products. We are very aware that this is particularly difficult for parents with young families and older people and anyone who has to rely on public transport.

Hopefully a permanent home will become a reality soon but in the meantime we would really appreciate if the word could be spread about the availability of this new service, particularly with Christmas approaching.

For further information please contact Marilyn Price - by email ***Pathfinder@stratford.foodbank.org.uk*** or call ***07938 754 051***

POPPIN NEWS

Thank you for all your custom over the Christmas period, we had a couple of good sales months which was pleasing.
Looking into February, Shrove Tuesday is on the 13th and we will have flour, eggs, milk ,sugar and lemons available if you wish to make some delicious pancakes. The following day the 14th is Valentine's Day, cards will be available along with chocolates should you want to treat your better half or yourself !!
We will also be stocking some more plants from TOPS nursery including primroses and crocus .
Just a reminder on Saturdays we have delicious fresh bread and pastries delivered from artisan bakery Wests of Wellesbourne. Their bread is made the old fashioned way with no nasty additives so is gentle on the gut. They offer a wide range of different breads including harvester granary, wholemeal, rye, sourdough, traditional whites along with baps, baguettes and croissants. If you wish to place any orders for your weekend please pop into the shop.

We look forward to seeing and serving you.
Best wishes

Helen Leedham and the Poppin team.

UPCOMING ST JAMES THE GREAT SERVICES

14th Feb - Ash Wednesday – 7PM
18th Feb – 'All in' Breakfast Service – 10:30AM
3rd Mar – RiverVale Holy Communion – 9AM
17th Mar – 'All in' Breakfast Service – 10:30AM
31st March – Easter Sunday Holy Communion – 10:30AM

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

COME AND JOIN OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS AT THE POPPIN SHOP!!

We're looking for local people to come and help us keep our community shop open, which I'm sure you'll agree is a valuable asset to the village and surrounding areas. Join our small friendly team who provide an essential service to the community.

We're looking for people to serve in the shop and re-stock the shelves. Full training and ongoing support will be given.

Becoming part of our team gives you an opportunity to

- ***Meet people and make friends.***
- ***Join other volunteers and their families in regular social activities.***

We're very flexible so whether you can offer a regular shift or an occasional hour we've got a slot for you!!

Please pop in and chat to one of our Volunteers or call Pauline on 01789 720393 to find out more about what's involved.

Looking forward to welcoming you to the team.

VILLAGE HALL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The A.G.M of the village hall will take place on February 29th at 7.30 pm in the village hall. This is your opportunity to learn about the accounts, maintenance that has taken place over the past year and ask questions. The committee would also like to know whether there would be interest in another monthly coffee morning and if there would be volunteers to run it.



FETE MEETING
There will also be a fete meeting in the hall on February 29th at 7.30pm. This is to decide on a possible date, a chairman , stalls and volunteers available for a fete in the summer.

MARSTON MOVIES
The film for February is "Barbie" on the 16th at 7.30 pm in the village hall. Snacks and bar available as usual. Tickets £3.

VILLAGE HALL DIARY for February

W.I. Committee	7 for 7:30pm	2nd
Zumba	Mornings	6th 13th 20th 27th
Yoga	7-8 pm	6th 13th 20th 27th
Beavers	5-7 pm	5th 12th 19th 26th
Line Dancing	7:45-8:45 pm	5th 12th 26th
LM Ladies	7:30 pm	7th
Church Jumble Sale	2 pm	10th
Library & Coffee	Morning	13th
W.I.	7:30 pm	13th
Film Show	7.30 pm	16th
Parish Council	7:30 pm	19th
Village Hall AGM/Fete	7:30 pm	29th

To book the hall please telephone Anne Harrison 01789 720 368

Jar of Jam
1st Sally Van Hoorebeek | 2nd Archer Blaxall-Kimber | 3rd Lisa Blaxall
Jar of Chutney
1st Ben Lowther-Harris | 2nd David Marcuse | 3rd Debbie Aldington

Handicrafts

Painting (any medium)
1st John Bredavs
Handicraft item
Joint 1st Sue Wright & Denise Everson - ***Miss Sanders Memorial Trophy***

Photographs

Architectural Interest
1st Lisa Blaxall | 2nd Eloise Blaxall | 3rd Pauline McIntosh
The Wonder of Nature
1st Pauline McIntosh | 2nd Lisa Blaxall | 3rd John Bredavs
Insects at Work
1st Lisa Blaxall | 2nd Archer Blaxall-Kimber | 3rd Eloise Blaxall
A Funny Moment
1st Eloise Blaxall | 2nd John Bredavs | 3rd Brett Drummings
Character Study
1st Carol Watts | 2nd Eloise Blaxall | 3rd Lisa Blaxall

Children's Classes

A Model (any medium) 6-8 Years
1st Poppy Bluck | 2nd Molly Bluck
A Model (any medium) 9-12 Years
1st Ben Louther-Harris
3 Decorated Fairy Cakes 6-8 Years
1st Poppy Bluck
3 Decorated Fairy Cakes 9-12 Years
1st Ben Louther-Harris | 2nd Molly Bluck
Picture (any medium) 6-8 Years
1st Poppy Bluck
Picture (any medium) 9-12Years
1st Ben Louther-Harris | 2nd Archer Blaxall-Kimber | 3rd Molly Bluck

Fun Classes

Limerick on Royal Family Member
1st Jackie Bluck

Vegetable, Animal or Person (under 12)
1st Ben Louther-Harris
An invitation
Joint 1st Helen Leedham & Poppy Bluck | 2nd Molly Bluck

Cups & Trophies

W.I. with highest points - Ashwin Cup - Carol Watts
Domestic Classes highest points - Rosebowl - Helen Leedham
Flower Arrangements highest points - Cut Glass Vase - Carol Watts
Overall highest points winner - Tomes Cup - John Bredavs



PHOTOGRAPHS - LISA BLAXALL

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
Telephone- 01386 834321
Mobile - 07485 437702

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
Church Warden – Mike Edwards 01386 644231 – 07786 484114

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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www.facebook.com/ShipstonPolice

Crimestoppers
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WEBSITE
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