
MARSTON
SICCA
PARISH NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2025

EDITORS NOTES

Happy 2025! I hope this new year has started well, and you are fit and healthy.

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



editor@uberdoodle.com

PARISH COUNCIL

The parish council have been organising specific action plans for the assets that have either been transferred to the PC or are about to be. The budget plan concluded for 2025/26 includes various projects that will support the community including our objective to improve our parish.

Marston Meadow is a 3-year project. Year 1 is to complete the pavilion including furnishing it and to provide the first phase of a footpath to the site. Year 2-3 will be to increase the path, provide play equipment and sensory planting. We have already organised the planting of more trees to the orchard area and will site benches to this important green space.

The parish council have created an Asset Management Committee (AMC) to focus on the running of the assets which will include Barley Fields play area, green spaces, Marston Meadow, Meon Vale village hall and the sports field. The committee will meet bi-monthly with public participation to ensure resident opinions feature in our strategic planning. AMC meeting dates will be published on the parish council website.

A recent review of hedges has shown no cutting has been made by house owners to reduce the size of hedges that encroach on public footpaths. The parish council are considering seeking the assistance from Highways to ensure the hedges are cut back to their original boundaries.

A review of general waste and dog bins has been organised to ensure green space and sport fields are not spoiled by discarded rubbish and dog mess. **We would remind all dog owners to pick up after their dog.**

The parish council is working on a business plan that identifies key priorities

over the next 3- 5 years; Our parish has evolved into a much larger entity following additional housing numbers in both Meon Vale and Shackleton. Changes will continue with the expectation that parish councils will be charged to fulfil a broader role in the coming years. Following central government directives on devolution (the process of transferring power from central government to national regions), the plan is to have a single tear unitary authority. AN EXTRAORDINARY meeting of Stratford District Council is being held to discuss devolution plans. It will be held on Monday February 10 at 2pm at Elizabeth House and will be a chance for councillors to talk about the implications for the council of the government's recent white paper on Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation, which will see current two-tier local governments abolished and replaced with unitary authorities. The meeting is
also an opportunity for members of the public to come along and have their views heard.

Planning Matters, SWLP (South Warwickshire Local Plan and call for sites) see: http://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/

The parish council debated the SWLP with specific focus on E1 (Long Marston Airfield) and the decision to object to the development of LMA and adjacent parcels of land to be classified as new mixed-use settlement. The council felt considering any further development of LMA was tenable without an upgrading of the B4632 Campden Road Corridor, a relief road around Stratford, an additional river crossing and sustainable travel considerations along an upgraded Greenway into Stratford. Because there are no major designated routes locally, and the site is poorly related to the Strategic Road Network of the A46 and the M40 junction 15 at Longbridge, it is difficult to see how the site can be considered as sustainable if these highways infrastructure projects are not carried out. It certainly will not attract much by way of employment to the site, or indeed anywhere south of Stratford. The proposed development site is geographically bounded by the Greenway and the B4632 Campden Road and should remain so that Local Service Villages maintain their separate identities.

Long Marston Airfield was selected as one of 14 sites in the country for development as a Garden Village by the Government and supported by Homes England. It was also selected as a Strategic Site by SDC in the 2016 Core Strategy. The WCC Evidence Report, 31st July 2017 on the SWRR stated at 2.9 on page 5 that the promoters of LMA advised SDC 'that they would be prepared to deliver a relief road as part of an infrastructure package in order to support development at LMA'. In the same evidence report at 3.14 they also stated that they had obtained the land assembly to safeguard the identified route of the

SWRR. At 3.15 they then stated that they would fund and deliver the identified structure which was confirmed in a Statement of Common Ground. They also demonstrated initial feasibility work on the design and alignment of the route undertaken by AMEC Foster Wheeler.

Marston Sicca Parish Council supported outline planning application 18/01892/OUT to build up to 3500 dwellings on the Airfield which is predominately a brownfield site which has been previously developed. This support assumed that this necessary traffic infrastructure would be delivered by either the SWRR or an Eastern Relief Road to join the A439 Warwick Road. The SWRR proposal resulted in thousands of objections, and despite what the promoter stated there appears to be no current source of funding. Increasing the size of the development will only exacerbate this problem further especially as there will now be traffic accessing/exiting the B4632 from both the west and east, leading to increased traffic problems.

Phase 1 at LMA was supported By Marston Sicca PC for 400 dwellings, again on the assumption that highways infrastructure was carried out as stated at item 9 on page31 of the NPPF. As none of this has happened, we objected to Phases 1A and 1B for a combined total of an additional 500 dwellings which are pending consideration. The site cannot continue to expand as anticipated without the Highways Infrastructure in place, the route of the relief road established and with funding in place. Without this the existing residents of Phase 1 will end up living on a large housing estate in the corner of a dis-used airfield. This is NOT what the current residents bought into.

Marston Sicca Parish Council
Next Meeting 17th February 2025 Long Marston Village Hall

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Stuart Keighley

In the run up to Christmas the Government announced plans for the biggest shake up of local government in 50 years. The idea is to create Regional Strategic Authorities and introduce more Mayors with powers to deliver growth and services, taking decisions away from Whitehall as part of the plan for devolution. Under these large Strategic Authorities will be a single tier of Unitary Councils. The announcement has already sparked divided debate and calls for a ‘Rethink’ and more ‘Consultation’. It is not surprising, as we know how Unitary Authorities reduce the number of Councillors on the ground representing our residents.

The changes are likely to happen over the next 2 years and it will mean that Stratford District Council (and the other 4 Districts/Boroughs of Nuneaton and Bedworth, Warwick, Rugby and North Warwickshire) will be abolished. The SDC services provided to you such as bin collections, planning, licensing, housing and parks, the Leisure Centres, will all be merged and the County Council will become a new Unitary Warwickshire Council. There are no changes planned to Town and Parish Councils under these proposals.

There are those in favour of these changes who claim that bringing strategic services like education, highways and transport, fire and rescue and social care together with planning decisions will mean more joined up thinking and better delivery. They also anticipate significant savings by reducing duplication of efforts and management costs. The economic argument seems to be the main one driving changes. The claims are that across England many £billions can be saved. However, those against the changes argue that devolution of powers doesn’t need potentially ‘wasteful’ reorganisation and that the larger the number of people the Council represents, the further away from ‘the coal face’ the Council becomes. They feel that there will be a dilution of democracy, fewer elected Councillors to represent local interests and a loss of focus on smaller towns and villages. Evidence points to such changes polarising control to the larger political parties making it more difficult for smaller parties and independents to have a voice. In my opinion I think that these outcomes are inevitable. Stratford District residents may also suffer if a Unitary Authority concentrates resources on the Urban areas with current plans and proposals put at risk.

There is already a proposal by Warwickshire County Council to cancel the May 2025 elections claiming it will save £000s and that an election is unnecessary given the changes ahead.

These savings might be true, but residents across Warwickshire will be denied the opportunity to vote for new County Councillors who might perhaps have a different view on the structure of this new Unitary Council.

Against this background it is easy to see how these proposals have already raised much debate. In making any changes we must ensure that local government is fit for the future and provides excellent services and value for money. It also needs to provide growth opportunities, infrastructure, jobs and services alongside new housing. With the anticipated growth in the population

of our area, we know that demand for these services is going to increase significantly over the next few decades. Changes also highlight the role that Town and Parish Councils need to play. If we have a Unitary Authority that represents the whole of Warwickshire (c. 600000 people) there will be many less Councillors covering much larger areas, have more meetings to attend and have less time to spend on local rural communities.

Improving the skills and contribution of the Town and Parish Councillors and Clerks can make a difference to their decision making and levels of authority. Within the District we have nearly 40 small Parish Councils who collect less than £1000 per month from the Council Tax precept and it may be time to review how they are working cost effectively for our communities. In Long Marston Ward and in my opinion, your Marston Sicca Parish Council works very well, however the size of the Meon Vale development and the growing number of homes at the Long Marston Airfield Garden Village point us towards a different local governance structure for future years. Discussions have taken place but I fear that these recent Government announcements will mean that local changes will be postponed while the larger Authorities are in transition.

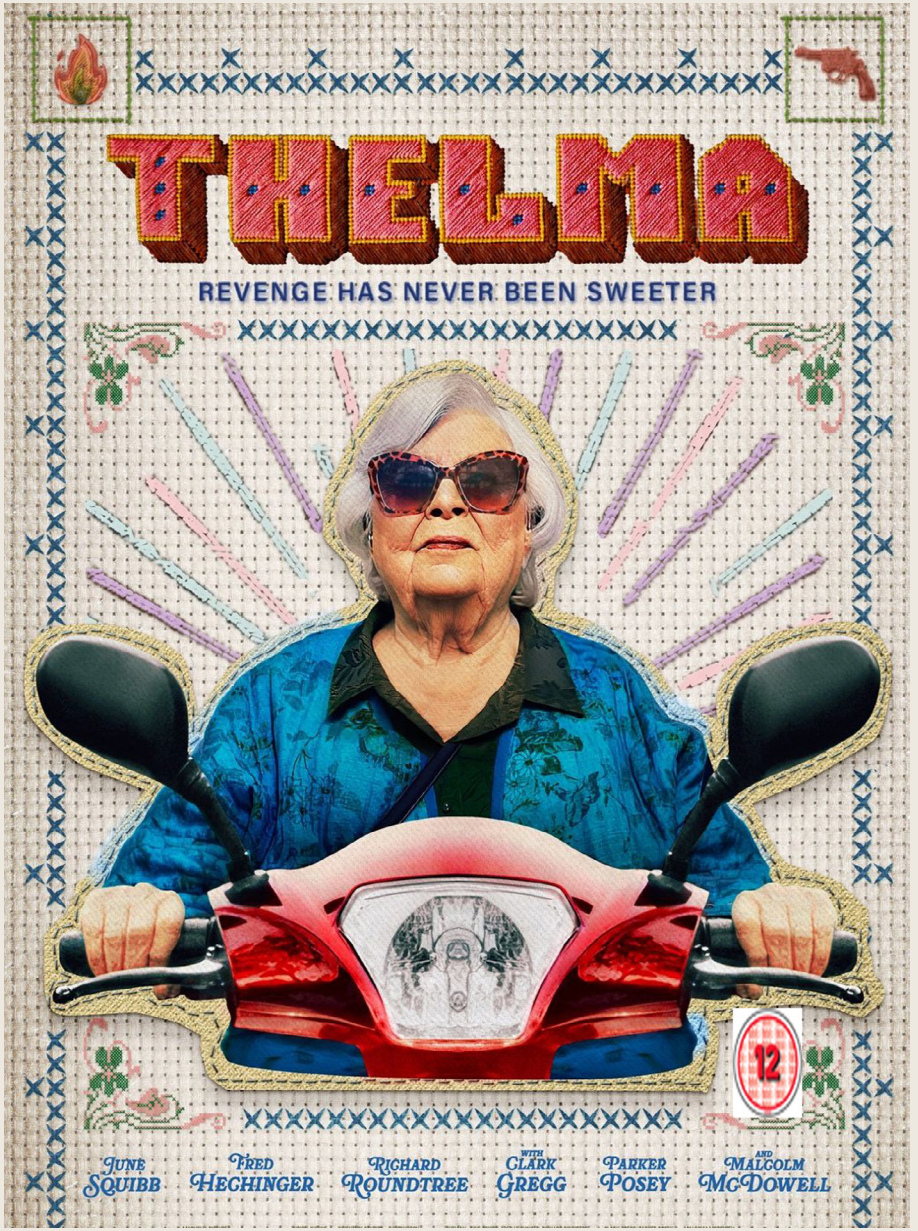
From my previous updates you will know that our Core Strategy Plan is being renewed in conjunction with Warwick District (creating a new South Warwickshire Local Plan). The Parish Council is invited to contribute to the next consultation of the plan which runs from January to March 2025. This is the Preferred Options consultation of Stage 3 of the Plan process. It has 8 stages and concludes in December 2027.

In addition to this a Parish Forum is also arranged for Chairs and or Clerks to attend a general update on 30th January. I look forward to seeing the Parish Council supporting both the Plan Consultation and the Forum.

If you want to know more about the work of your District Council head to the SDC Website and search for the Parish and Partners Briefing (search under Communications : District Council Publications : Parish and Partners) you will find the December issue is a very interesting review of the year.

I would like to hear your views on the proposed changes to a Unitary Authority so please get in touch with your thoughts and concerns if you have a few minutes to spare. (stuart.keighley@stratford-dc.gov.uk).

I wish everyone reading Marston Sicca News a Safe, Healthy and Happy New Year. **Stuart**



FRIDAY 28th FEBRUART - 7:30PM

Licensed Bar | Snacks | Ices

Only £3 on the door

THE PAVILION

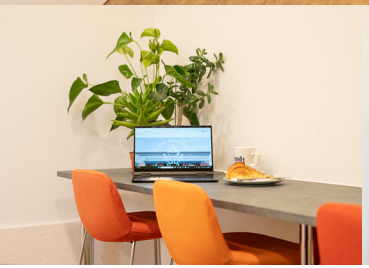
CAFE &
COMMUNITY SPACE

Did you know we have a side room available for hire?

If you are looking for somewhere to host a meeting, hold an event, or just somewhere to work from (with easy access to amazing coffee & cake!) then get in contact with Steph for further information.

steph@meonpavilion.co.uk









LONG MARSTON WI

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Happy New Year From Long Marston WI

January Meeting 8th January 2025

We kicked off the New Year with an interesting talk by Christine Cluley on the life of Cicely Lucas (1879-1970). Cicely fulfilled her ambition to become a teacher of girls at a Birmingham School. Pushing against the expected role model of enforced domesticity, so prevalent at that time. She joined the Suffrage movement as she was a staunch believer in women's rights. Cicely wanted women to be empowered. Her personal life was complicated and eventful. For the best part of her remaining years she settled down with her husband, Ernest Lucas, also a Schoolmaster in Claverdon, Warwickshire. Pupils remembered Cicely for her upmost dedication and kindness. Although strict, she made it her life's work to bring out the best in each and every pupil regardless of their ability.

February Meeting 12th February 2025

Our February Meeting is a talk by Lisa Blaxall on her recent Visit to South Africa.

Lisa was chosen by her company to travel to South Africa as part of a Training Programme.
It promises to be enlightening, entertaining and thought provoking.

GUESTS ARE EXTREMELY WELCOME!!
(£3.00)

We welcome New Members of all Ages

HELLO FROM THE POPPIN SHOP

Running short of time & need a quick tasty supper .. well the Poppin has the answer !! We stock a great range of delicious pies from the award winning Fladbury pie shop , there are chicken and mushroom, beef in Guinness , steak and Stilton , lamb and mint to name a few. They come highly recommended and many customers come back for more & more ! We also sell their faggots , savoury slices and pasties , all really easy just to pop in the oven and serve with potatoes and vegetables that we also sell in the shop . All the Fladbury products freeze well so you can stock up and keep a supply at hand.

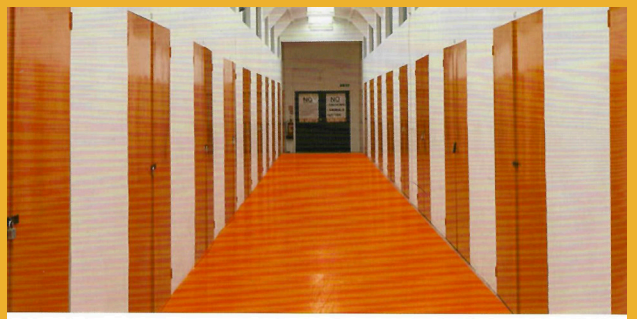
In addition we have a good selection of fresh sausages , bacon and gammon steaks from local supplier Willersey provisions for a good easy supper along with local fresh free range eggs , cheese and cream for a fabulous omelette !!

Please do pop in and see what takes your fancy !

Shop local and support.

Helen and the Poppin team .





STRATFORD SELF STORE .CO.UK

01789 720027

- Indoor Storage Rooms
- Outside Containers
- Packing Materials

COFFEE MORNING

We raised £145 for the Kevon Sinfield - Running Home for Christmas.

The total raised natinally was £382,881.12. This will be shared between 6 charities that support people affected by MND and invest in research to bring us closer to effective treatment and a cure for the disease: ***Motor Neurome Disease Asociation, Leeds Hospitals Charity, Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association, My Name'5 Doddle Foundation, MND Scotland and The Darby Rimmer MND Foundation***.

Thank you too all those who attended, contributed, and supported the fight against MND.

GARDEN CLUB

We had an excellent lunch at the Masons Arms and I asked for suggestions on gardens to visit this year. I will shortly start planning our 2025 programme.

Look forward to the Spring and hopefully your garden is surviving the winter.

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

SHOEBOX APPEAL

We are not sure which country our shoeboxes went to this year but we do know that Teams4U sent lorry loads to the following countries:
3 lorries to Ukraine, 2 to Georgia, 1 to Romania, 1 to Moldova, 1 to Belarus, 1 to Bosnia.

A total of 60,005 boxes were sent, 23,000 of those from the Evesham depot. Wherever our boxes finished up, we know that the Teams4U volunteers will have handed them out to deserving children.

We are collecting for next Christmas. Please don't put your small toys and games in the dustbin, we can use them. Unused pages from colouring books can go into paper packs along with oddments of paper. Material oddments can be turned into drawstring bags of all sizes, we use these for marbles, jewellery, hair items and of course pe bag size to use for school.. Old towels we cut up and edge for flannels. Oddments of wool can be knitted into colourful scarves and hats.

Donations can be left at The Poppin or in the brown box by Gaverne's front door. (Opposite Rumer Close).



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Village Hall AGM will be held on Monday, February 24th at 7.30pm in the hall. Open to everyone, this is your opportunity to learn about the accounts, the events and maintenance over the past year and future plans. Also, to ask any questions.

MARSTON MOVIES

On February 28th the film to be shown is "Thelma". Admission £3 bar and snacks available as usual. 7.30 pm.

VILLAGE HALL DIARY for February

Beavers	3rd 10th 17th 24th	5-7 pm
Yoga	4th 11th 18th 25th	7-8 pm
Long Marston Ladies	5th	7.30 pm
Private Booking	6th	
Private Booking	7th 14th 21st 28th	10 - 12 am
W.I. Meeting	12th	7.30 pm
Parish Council Meeting	17th	7.30 pm
Library/Coffee Morning	18th	10.30 – 12 am
Village Hall AGM	24th	7.30 pm
Marston Movies	28th	7.30 pm

To book the hall, please telephone Anne Harrison 01789 720368

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Easter Bingo	Saturday, April 5th
Quiz with Dawn	Saturday, April 12th

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
01789 444670
shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk
www.facebook.com/ShipstonPolice

Crimestoppers
0800 555111

WEBSITE
www.marstonsicca-pc.gov.uk

