

MARSTON SICCA

PARISH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

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EDITORS NOTES

I hope you all enjoyed your February, pancakes, and school holidays!

There is some good stuff happening this month in the village, so take a look at what's going on and do get involved if you can.
A couple of tasty recipes this month featuring Feta cheese which can be purchased from The Poppin, and also a recipe for any of you that find yourself with excess chocolate (is that even possible!?!) over Easter.

Don't forget to send in any notices or birthdays you'd like to see in next months newsletter to editor@uberdoodle.com

All articles for the April edition must be submitted to editor@uberdoodle.com by Wednesday, 22nd March.

Go easy on the chocolate, don't ruin your dinner.
Simon

THE PAVILION

COFFEE SHOP & COMMUNITY SPACE

Opening hours:

Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 4pm

Located alongside Meon Vale Park & Skatepark

CV37 8YE

(Parking free)

Instagram: @thepavilionatmeon Facebook: @thepavilioncoffeeshop

COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE/CARE

Community Food Share – Operated by a small team who distribute food to those who require that extra help.

Please contact
Stephenie Hillier
(07720 975023)
or Jane Batchelor
(07522 559865).



All inquiries and conversations are strictly confidential.

If you would like to donate food towards **The Community Food Share there will be a collection box outside The Poppin, Long Marston.**

Thank you.

The Electoral Commission

You now need Photo ID to vote at a Polling station

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

Find out more at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

or call 0800 328 0280

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Manuela Perteghella



Dear Residents,

Hope you are keeping well, and looking forward to the warmer weather.

Budget

It is that time when the District Council sets its budget, which will be debated on 27th February. The current administration's proposals suggest a council tax rise of £5 for a band D property applied to the district council element of council tax. It is worth noting that the District Council gets its funding from a variety of sources – council tax makes up about 48% and business rates about 24% - the rest comes from various 'pots' of money from central government. The Council does have other sources of income. Green bin users will have noticed the charge has gone up this year and it is the ruling administration's plan for it to go up again for the next five years, year on year. The proposed budget already includes provision for climate change (although we need to see how this is spent), cost of living, and improvements to the housing department processes. Our group, the largest opposition at the council, will also propose budget amendments, including a review of the green bin charge and a review of the pensionable age parking permit, which was cut by the current administration. We are also proposing more resources to improve planning enforcement. The planning enforcement amendment has already been accepted by the Cabinet and will be included in the council's budget.

Voter ID

As you know, despite widespread opposition, legislation has changed in that everyone wishing to vote at polling stations from 4th May 2023, must show an accepted form of photo ID such as a passport, photo driving licence or bus pass (the full list of documents is on the SDC website). https://www.stratford.gov.uk/council-democracy/voter-id-at-polling-stations.cfm

On 16th January, the Government portal went live so that anyone without acceptable photo ID could apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. People wishing to vote at the polling stations on 4th May have until 5pm on 25th April to apply for one of these Certificates whether on-line, by paper application or in person at the SDC offices.

Email: elections@stratford-dc.gov.uk
Telephone: 01789 260208

Please note that this change applies if you choose to vote in person at the polling station. Postal votes remain unchanged, and residents can apply for a postal vote, should they wish to. More details here: https://www.stratford.gov.uk/council-democracy/postal-and-proxy-voting.cfm

Full Council Meeting 27 February
My cost-of-living motion, asking Council to review some of their schemes and help residents who need assistance, has been recommended for acceptance, and will be debated at the next Council meeting. Indeed, I'm pleased to see that a cost-of-living provision has been included in the council's budget proposals. At this meeting, the community infrastructure funding allocations to selected projects will also be voted. I'm pleased to report that the Meon Vale Pavillion has been recommended for funding for its second phase community projects.

KING CHARLES III'S CORONATION

The Coronation will see people across the UK and the Commonwealth come together to celebrate. The Coronation programme will include the procession and service at Westminster Abbey on 6 May, the 'Coronation Big Lunch' across the country on 7 May (with a concert taking place in Windsor in the evening), and 'The Big Help Out' community activity on the bank holiday, Monday 8 May.
As usual, please don't hesitate to contact me with any query, issue or concern you might have.

Warmest best wishes

Manuela

Email: manuela.perteghella@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Mobile: 07870488071

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CllrManuelaPerteghellaWelford

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THE MEON VALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (MVRA)

MVRA General Meeting 2 February 7pm

A very good turnout in the village hall at Meon Vale.

Ben Cole PCSO from Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood Team gave us an illuminating 20 minute presentation, there were very few incidents for months December and January, much less than the UK's average for example, MV is a low crime area. The crime statistics for MV included the following incidents:

- 0 reported incidents of house burglaries
- 2 reports of burglaries to businesses, we think this was to the St Modwen Industrial site
- 4 thefts of parcels
- 15 reports suspicious incidents which are calls relating mainly to vehicles on MV, i.e. driven late at night but acting suspiciously
- 2 reports criminal damage - a fence and garage door
- 10 asb reports, (not youths) such as person to person and between neighbours. Although we see reports of so-called youth 'disturbances' on Facebook, none of these have been reported to Shipston, so nothing appears in their crime reports for youths, therefore if incidents occur, for them to be logged please make the report
- 1 theft of tools from motor vehicle but no thefts of motor vehicles. Apparently Ilmington has had quite a few cars stolen recently, as gangs tend to target areas then move on. Good after-market anti-theft deterrents are the 'Krooklok' style mechanical locking devices, through the steering wheel, gear lever or foot pedal, as some (not all) keyless entry cars are prone to theft, these mechanical devices make that possibility much more difficult.

PC Sid Hammond and PCSO Ben Cole between them, look after 55 Warwickshire villages and over 170 square miles of countryside! Contact details are at the end.

The last hour of the meeting was devoted to forming local community groups; we had plenty of volunteers who have now made the first steps, dividing themselves into informal groups, ready to take these ideas forward. If you are interested in joining any of the following, contact us for more information.

- Youth Group
- Woodland Wetland & Wildlife Group
- Arts & Crafts Group
- The Community Mile & Strollers – local walks in and around Meon Vale and surrounding countryside.

Earth Day

If you're not aware of Earth Day, celebrated world-wide, then you soon will be .....

It's a chance to be inspired and take an interest in your environment around Meon Vale; like the woodland and wetlands for example, tree & wild flower planting, bats, endangered habitats but really much more, how can you help?

It is a celebration jointly organised by the Marston Sicca Parish Council (PC) and MVRA, involving family events, in conjunction with our school. We have a number of presentations planned - increasing biodiversity in our back gardens, the local ecology, birds and local wildlife, how to combat effects of climate change, minimising food waste & bin recycling - where does it all end up? Lookout for further announcements on Facebook and on local web sites.

Save the date:- Saturday 22nd April on Meon Vale



Wildlife Status

A notable achievement in 2022, was that the designation of the Meon Vale Woodland, Wetlands and stream as a Local Wildlife Site by Stratford District Council. There are large areas of the open land on the business park (and possibly the Greenway outside of MV) that are shown as a Potential Local Wildlife Site and we are awaiting detailed surveys by Stratford and Warwickshire Councils.

The MVRA will be urging both SDC and WCC to expedite the surveys and determine which areas should be designated. This will mean that the sites are recognised at county

and regional level as important because of their habitats and species.

Bus Shelter

The MVRA has raised the need for a bus shelter opposite Londis with the Parish Council, although technically this is the responsibility of the developer as the site has not yet been adopted by the local authority, it is highly likely that a bus shelter will be approved by the PC shortly.

Quinton Neighbourhood Plan
On Thursday 19th January Quinton voted yes to the Neighbourhood lan.
https://www.stratford.gov.uk/doc/211581/name/Quinton%20Neighbourhood%20Plan.pdf
Why is it Important? - the plan will help to protect all the open spaces in this part of Meon Vale within the Lower Quinton Parish it is something we have fought for, since the woods were threatened by developers. The areas to be protected are shown on Page 40 – 41 in the plan
The Pavilion Coffee Shop & Village Hall Refurbishment - temporary closure
As most people who use the Pavilion Coffee Shop and Village Hall will know, they are both due to shut for refurbishment.

The Pavilion is due to shut on 25th February and the Village Hall sometime after that, but at this stage we don't have an exact date. We hope to reopen both by 15th April 2023.

The new Pavilion will be relaunched with a new kitchen, interior ambience and fixtures and fittings with the ability to provide a wider menu. It will continue to source most produce ethically and sustainably from local suppliers, the manager will probably be looking for a paid helper on reopening, but more on that shortly. The Pavilion will be expanding its wide-ranging charitable work, including FareShare part of the UK's largest charity fighting hunger and food waste, if you have a little spare time, and wish to meet people we can do with more volunteers, please email us.
The village hall, will be reconfigured to provide remote office-working facilities, which was a condition of planning consent; a bigger and better fitted kitchen with hatch, Stratford Foodbank will commence operating from its Meon hub a different charity to FareShare, the large hall will have acoustic treatment to make it more meeting and group-friendly.

Forthcoming Events at Meon Vale save the dates…….

- **Easter Bingo** 30th March, 7pm venue tba
- **MVRA Easter Egg Hunt and Trail** 10th April
- **Earth Day** – 22nd April, Climate Change Public Event with Parish Council in Village Hall
- **Kings Coronation Celebration Party** 6th May details tba
- **Meon Funfest** 29th July
- **MVRA Quiz** – date tba

Meon Vale Football
The new Meon Vale Football Club is going strong and don't forget that boys and girls of all ages from three to 16 are welcome. New football goal posts are being installed for the club by St. Modwen, and the pitches will now be maintained on behalf of the community by the club's dedicated grounds team.

Timings for the training sessions are:

•Wednesday, 18:00 till 19:30
Training for age groups U7, U13, U16

•Thursday, 18:00 till 19:30
Training for age groups U8, U10, U12, U14

•Saturday, 09:00 till 13:00
Matches

•Sundays, 09:00 till 11:00
Little Kickers aged 3 to 6 years + Wildcats (female only)

The club already has lots of children from Meon Vale among its teams but would be delighted to welcome new members. For more information contact Matt Henson on 07803 608813 or via email at matt-henson@hotmail.co.uk.

Volunteers

The MVRA is looking for volunteers, if you have a few spare hours and wish to meet new people and want to help make our community a better place to live, please email: meonvaleresidents@gmail.com

Useful Information
Any incidents requiring police attention can be reported as follows: dialling 101 is always an option this will be recorded and tagged to the local team at Shipston who will pick it up, alternatively email details and even a photo or recording to sid.hammond@warwickshire.police.uk or for more urgent attention call his mobile on 07967 303185
In an emergency, then always use 999.

If you want to sign up to Warwickshire/Police Warwickshire Connected to keep abreast of

police alerts & incidents in our area you can sign up here: alert@neighbourhoodalert.co.uk

The MVRA website is now live at www.meonvalera.org

We're also on Facebook so make sure you follow us and stay up to date with everything that's going on in the community https://www.facebook.com/MeonValeRA

R Whittaker on behalf of MVRA

CHURCH EVENTS

Sevices and Events for
The Church of St James the Great, Long Marston.

Sunday March 5th 2023
Benefice Holy Communion at 9am - Rev Sarah Hayes.

Sunday March 19th 2023
Family Breakfast Service at 10.30am - Rev Andrew Goy.
Everyone welcome do come and join us for food and family worship,

Saturday 25th March 2023
Bric a Brac & Jumble Sale in Long Marston Village Hall at 2.30pm
Lots of Books, Clothes, Toys, Ornaments, tools etc etc
Don't miss out on many bargain items.

Enquiries regarding Church Services and Church affairs please contact Mike Edwards - Churchwarden
Tel 07786 483114 or email mde.glos@gmail.com

LONG MARSTON WI

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

At our February Meeting we were mesmerised by Jennifer Rigby who gave us her own created monologue about 'Shakespeare and me with performance extracts'.
It commenced with a powerful delivery of Henry V chorus.

She brought Shakespeare to life with her knowledge and humour and had us all mesmerised with her varied and wide anecdotes and her path to becoming a Shakespearian actor. She has also been part of a Shakespearian team who have taken plays and acting to Schools using their own dialect to encapture childrens' interest. Occasionally presenting using roller blades to add more fun. Visitors sometimes have the opportunity of performing part of Romeo and Juliet by leaning out of the upstairs window of Shakespeare's Birthplace. Jennifer had a way of delivering her message with so much vitality interspersed with a touch of commediene. It was a very well received evening.

Next meeting Wednesday 8th March 7.30pm
'Something Different with a hint of Royal Connection' - Pia Wilkes

Guests always welcomed.

Liz Marcuse

LONG MARSTON LADIES

Long Marston Ladies launched 2023 with a quiz including crisps and pop to identify. One table of ladies gaining full marks on crisp flavours and knowing their coke drinks !

March the 1st meeting will be the charity evening in aid of the Shakespeare hospice. Mr Julian Marcus as speaker on " It Could Only Happen to a Vet" Anyone who knows Julian will know this is going to be a really good evening. £4 for visitors, all proceeds to the charity. In Long Marston village hall 7.30pm.

Details of future events can be found on www.longmarstonladies.co.uk

You can join this informal, fun loving ladies group at any time £25 for the year.

LONG MARSTON GARDEN CLUB

On Valentines Day a visit was organised to view snowdrops at Painswick Rococo Garden. I was informed there were 5 million snowdrops but didn't count them!

We only had 4 members who viewed this amazing sight in the most glorious weather. Very disappointing turn out and a lot of work is put into organising our garden tours and would appreciate that more members joined in. The 2023 programme is being worked on at the moment but looks as if there is a visit to view Hellebores in March, Fritallary's at Magdalen College, Oxford in April and a visit to Highgrove (a date to be confirmed).
Keep an eye out for your 2023 programme. Wiggy

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



Events in our lovely hall are increasing nicely with villagers wanting to join in again after the pandemic. We are pleased to say that exercise classes are back. Our floor has been carefully tested and thought safe. The bar area is now repaired and also other suspect areas. The joists in the floor have suffered from a soaking at some time, probably during the awful surface flooding we had some years ago. We do need to investigate replacing it completely but for now we are increasing ventilation under the floor in the hope it will last a little longer while we source funding.

LAUNCH OF LONG MARSTON FETE 2023
Thursday March 2nd 7.30pm
Sally has kindly offered to lead this so please come along to give her your support. You will be welcomed with a glass of wine! Bring your family and neighbours. Together we can all enjoy a fete once more.

MARSTON MOVIES - Friday March 17th at 7.30 pm
We are showing ***MRS HARRIS GOES TO PARIS***. A widow simply has to have a Dior dress!!! Set in the 1950's. Good reviews both in the press and from people we know who have seen it.

EASTER BINGO
Friday 24th March - Doors open 7 pm Eyes down 7.30.
Dawn has kindly said she will call. Come along for a fun, family evening. If you haven't played before, help is at hand and you may be lucky and win one of our super prizes. There will be a raffle too. Licensed bar/snacks at reasonable prices.

RUMMAGE SALE
Saturday March 25th In aid of St James Church.

ZUMBA
Tuesdays 9.20 to 10.20am

LINE DANCING
Most Mondays 7.45pm contact 07504976921

LIBRARY COFFEE MORNING
Tuesday 21st March 10.30am



FRIDAY 17th March - 7:30PM

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

Why not hire our hall for a family and friends event. We have very reasonable prices and AIR PURIFIERS to help keep you safe. Phone Anne on 01789 720368

THE POPPIN

Your Shop Needs You

When you read this update we hope to have replaced the open fronted deli unit with a double door unit and should benefit from a reduction in electricity usage. Until we can ascertain the freezer requirements a selection of frozen food will be available in the ice cream freezer.

It has been said before that the shop needs to be used or it will be unsustainable. The number of news papers sold has been reducing gradually over a period of time as has the sales generally.

We are looking for ways to attract customers and if you can think of anything you would like us to do that would result in an improved service please let us know. Two things we are thinking of are a leaflet drop in the village and a loyalty scheme for regular customers.

Our prices are very good, particularly compared to another local shop.

We have a wine buying expert and our prices are very competitive and the selection is first class plus we have beers and spirits.

Our selection of fresh bread (which can be ordered), bread rolls, cakes and biscuits are very popular with the regulars that know! Fresh croissants, Danish pastries, Eccles cakes, flapjacks and a selection of cakes are available (and sometimes delicious jam donuts) etc. are just some of the goodies that are supplied by local bakers.

There are seasonal items available. We have just had a display of ingredients to make pancakes complete with recipe. Easter will be with us soon and no doubt Easter Bunnies will be busy having a display of chocolate eggs etc.

Please pop in to see what we have or just for a chat you will be very welcome.

John Rathbone, Poppin Shop
Chairman

PUZZLES

3+ Letter Words

Grab pen and paper! Using the letters above how many words can you make, always including the central letter.

MARCH QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. What is the birth flower of March?
2. Symbolizing courage, name March's birthstone?
3. March is called maaliskuu in which European language?
4. The March Hare is a character from which book?
5. Complete the saying: 'March comes in like a lion and goes out like a ....'?

KIDS JOKE CORNER

Q: Why did the chicken cross the playground?
A: To get to the other slide!

Q: What did the duck say after she bought chapstick?
A: Put it on my bill!

Q: What's red and smells like blue paint?
A: Red paint!

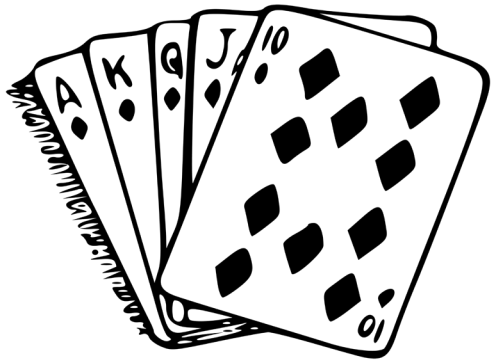
Q: What did one plate say to the other?
A: Dinner is on me!





Long Marston Village Hall
Friday March 24th
Doors open 7.00 pm
Eyes down 7.30 pm
Easter prizes!

Licences Bar, snacks,
And RAFFLE!
Families welcome.



BRIDGE

Join us at our small and friendly bridge club. We play duplicate bridge at Binton Social Club on Wednesday evenings.
For more information contact June Beazley 01789 720294

LIBRARY/COFFEE MORNING



Don't forget March 21st Library/Coffee morning.
Village hall 10.45 am. All welcome.
Come along and meet new people and have a chat.

Chris Rathbone* | *01789 720969

Ingredients

1 pack of Feta cheese
1 onion
1 courgette
Olive Oil
1 aurbergine
2 tins chopped tomatoes
1 pepper (red, yellow or orange)
Dried oregano
Fresh parsley

Method

1. Chop all ingredients into small pieces
2. Place into a large casserole dish
3. Mix with olive oil and dried oregano
4. Cover with foil and cook in the oven for 1 hour
5. Add the tins of tomatoes and chopped parsley
6. Put in the oven for another 1/2 hour
7. Cut Feta into small cubes and sprinkle on the top
8. Put in the oven for another 1/2 hour
9. Add salt and pepper, optional.

Eat and enjoy!!

Recipe courtesy of Margaret Clarke, to showcase the excellent Feta cheese which is available from The Poppin.





CARROT, SWEET POTATO AND FETA FRITTERS

Ingredients

800g carrots
2 large potatoes
1 large onion
600g sweet potatoes
5 medium free-range eggs
200g feta, crumbled
6 tbsp wholemeal flour
25g fresh coriander, chopped
2 tbsp cumin seeds
300ml vegetable oil
Green salad, lime wedges and yogurt to serve

Method

1. Peel and grate the carrots, potatoes, onion and sweet potatoes. Put in a colander over the sink with a big pinch of salt to drain for 30 minutes.
2. In a large bowl, combine the eggs, feta, flour, coriander and cumin seeds, then beat with a fork until mixed.
3. Squeeze as much liquid from the veg as you can, pressing down hard into the colander for 1-2 minutes, then add to the egg mixture. Stir to combine and season well. Heat the oven to 150°C/fan130°C/ gas 2.
4. Heat the oil in a wok or saucepan to 180°C or until a cube of bread sizzles. Put a small handful of the mix in a slotted spoon and lower into the oil. Cook 2-3 at a time: fry for 1-2 minutes, then turn and repeat until golden. Put on a plate and keep warm in a low oven.

Ingredients

150ml sunflower oil, plus extra for the tin
165g golden caster sugar
2 eggs
150ml milk
165g self-raising flour
3 tbsp cocoa powder
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

For the chocolate fudge icing

100g milk or dark chocolate, chopped (either a chocolate bar or Easter egg, broken up)
100g butter, softened
100g icing sugar
100g Easter treats (chocolate eggs, sweets, chocolate

Method

1. Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Oil and line a traybake tin, about 20 x 30cm, and 5cm deep. Put the oil, sugar, eggs and milk in a bowl and whisk until well combined. Sieve over the flour, cocoa and bicarb, and stir briefly until combined. Pour the mixture into the tin, and bake for 20-25 mins until the cake is well risen and springs back when pressed. Transfer to a wire rack and leave to cool completely.

2. Melt the chocolate in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water, ensuring the bowl doesn't touch the water, or in short blasts in the microwave until melted. Leave to cool for a few minutes.

3. Beat the butter and icing sugar together until pale and fluffy, then drizzle in the chocolate and beat again until smooth and uniform in colour. Swirl the icing over the top of the cake, with a few peaks and swirls to decorate. Scatter with the Easter treats to serve.



CONTACTS

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman - Ian Johnsey
Vice Chairman - Bill Tempest
Councillor - Anthony Hodges
Councillor - Noel Davis
Councillor - Margaret Clarke
Councillor - Richard Whittaker

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

