MARSTON SICCA



PARISH NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2025

LIZ MARCUSE

It is with deep sadness that Michele, Alison and I share the news that my beloved wife of 59 years has passed away peacefully, aged 82, at home on Friday 21st Feb.
David Marcuse

EDITORS NOTES

Can anybody help with the following, or know anybody who could:

"We have a very old WI scrapbook full of photos etc of Long Marston in the past. We would like to display it in our Village Hall. Is there anyone local who could make us a display cabinet please? If so please get in touch.

Diana - dianarippin@hotmail.co.uk"

All articles for the April edition must be submitted by Friday, 21st March.

Have a flipping good Easter. Simon x

editor@uberdoodle.com

PARISH COUNCIL

Events

In partnership with Meon Vale Ecology Group, the second Big Green Environmental Day will be held in Meon Vale Village Hall on Saturday, April 12th 2025. The theme this year is Sustainable Living and will include numerous informative displays (please see the Parish Council website).
As part of our ongoing commitment to support Climate Change awareness and a biodiversity action plan at a local level, the parish council are keen to support local initiatives. This is a family event so please come and join us on the day.

Devolution

The English Devolution White Paper published on 16 December 2024 set out the government's vision for simpler local government structures which can lead to better outcomes for residents, save significant public funds which can be reinvested in public services, and improve local accountability.

On 16 December 2024, following the publication of the English Devolution White Paper, the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution Jim McMahon wrote to all councils in remaining two-tier areas and neighbouring small unitaries to set out plans for a joint programme of devolution and local government reorganisation.

The changes are likely to impact on parish councils, and Marston Sicca are already taking steps to create a 3–5-year strategic plan. It would be true to say, Marston Sicca have already been proactive in its vision for the future; having a much larger parish that incorporates Long Marston, Meon Vale, and Shackleton, we have had to consider best practice to support new, widely spread communities. We have secured and managed assets that provide valuable social infrastructure whilst ensuring we maintain robust financial controls.

Community Projects

Marston Meadow – following the erection of the Pavilion, the building has now been furnished with benches and a picnic table (with disabled access),

in preparation of the warmer months. New trees have also been planted to enhance the space.
The first phase of a footpath leading from the entrance to the pavilion will be concluded before the end of March.
Repairs to Barley Fields play area are being organised, but the work cannot be actioned until we have dryer weather.
The work to erect a bus shelter to Meon Vale will start March 7th 2025.

Planning Matters:

24/03282/FUL Residual Land Parcels 4B (31 Dwellings), 4D (24 Dwellings) 4B, Land off Larch Road, 4D off Poplar Drive. These residual plots were highlighted in reserved matters applications 20/02569/REM and 20/03723/REM, respectively. Decision: Object

Comments: Marston Sicca PC are unable to support this application as conditions 27&28 for outline application 14/01186/OUT have not been met. Prior to the occupation of the 650th dwelling the junction at Shipston Road with Clifford Lane & Shipston Road with Trinity Way should be constructed and completed to the satisfaction of the Highways Authority. The highways work has yet to be started. The occupancy stands at 728 dwellings and that does not include any Meon Vale properties that sit within Pebworth PC.

Community Engagement

Parish Councillors discussed ways of reaching the growing community within Marston Sicca Parish. As the council are now running Meon Vale village hall, and with availability of its meeting rooms, the council have decided to run a Parish Council surgery on the first and third Friday of the month from 9.30am – 11.30am. This will enable members of the public to raise any questions or queries and receive updates on any matters relating to the parish.

Next PC Meeting March 17th
7.30pm at Marston Sicca Village Hall

Debbie Woodliffe | Parish Clerk



FRIDAY 21st MARCH - 7:30PM
Licensed Bar | Snacks | Ices
Only £3 on the door

CHURCH SERVICES MARCH 2025

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

St. James the Great - Long Marston

Sunday 2nd - Breakfast Service at 10.30 am

Wednesday 5th - Ash Wednesday at 7.00pm

Sunday 16th - Breakfast Service at 10.30am
Communion at 12 noon

Sunday 30th - Mothering Sunday at 10.30am

St.Swithin's - Quinton with Admington

Sunday 9th - Family Communion 10.30am

Sunday 16th - All-in Service 10.30am

Sunday 23rd - Communion 10.30am

Sunday 30th - 'All In' at 10.30am

NEW!

Meon Vale

Sunday 9th 3.00pm

This service includes children's activities and toddlers space!

rivervalechurches.co.uk /RIVERVALECHURCHES

ST JAMES THE GREAT

Easter means Hope.

As I write, I look out my window and see my kid's trampoline. It's tired, it's lost the safety net, the ladder only has one rung, and it has survived the storms we had at the start of the year. I know this trampoline; it's built to last. I remember checking on it during the last big winds. It wobbled but stayed put—an inspiration to trampolines everywhere, not like some of these softy ones you can get these days in B&M.

Now, you might be wondering, why on earth is Jay talking about a trampoline? Well, because it caught my attention, and once something does, it often wants more—more of our time, our energy, our focus. And so yes, my trampoline has wasted a few moments of my day. Unlike my trampoline, most of the time, the things that need our attention are worth it. Our family, friends, work, fitness, soul. But with only so many hours in the day, I wonder if, as we head towards Easter, there are extra things we could set aside for a while. Could it be that God has something important for us, and if we don't stop, if we don't make space, we might miss it?

Easter is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, the promise of new life, the start of a greener season in creation (and, of course, plenty of chocolate) - a season of Hope. But has the life-changing message of Easter ever captured your attention? With so many things vying for our focus, it's easy to overlook just how significant Easter is. So, I want to encourage you to stop and notice, to make space, and to join us in reflecting, thanking and celebrating what God has done for us all.

At Christmas, we celebrate that God became flesh, the start of His redemption plan for humanity. But at Easter, we see that plan revealed and fulfilled. We journey with Jesus from the Lenten desert to Palm Sunday, where he rides through the East Gate to cries of hope and excitement—Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey (Zech 9:9). In our churches we may even have a donkey somewhere this year!

But as Easter approaches, we're reminded of the cost of salvation. On Maundy Thursday, we share communion and recall Jesus' heavy burden in the garden of tears, leading into silence. Then comes Good Friday. This year, we will hold a vigil at St Peter's in Welford, weaving scripture, reflections, and beautiful music as we journey to the cross and wait there. Why? Because the temptation at Easter is to rush to the happy ending, to jump straight to resurrection and celebration. But Good Friday invites us to pause, to acknowledge grief, disappointment, and pain, things we all experience in life, some will be feeling that acutely as you read this right now—Good Friday is the truth that we do not bear those things alone.

But—and it's a big but—we are not meant to live in Good Friday forever. The joy of Easter is that God changed the ending. On Easter Sunday, our church will be full of life and colour because the tomb was empty. Through the cross and that empty grave, we know Jesus has accomplished what he came to do. We will celebrate because Easter reminds us that, in Christ, we are a people of hope, of life in all its fullness, called to share that joy with the world. To refuse to let the brokenness break us because God has gone through the brokenness ahead of us and said 'No' to all that would steal our attention from life, light and love. From hope.

All this from stopping to watch a battered trampoline stand defiant. See what happens when you pause to notice? May you find time to stop this Easter, to journey with us, to know just how deeply God loves you, and to discover the freedom and fullness of life found in Him.

Blessings,

Revd Jay



SATURDAY MARCH 8TH - 2PM

CLOTHES, BOOKS, BRIC-A-BRAC, PUZZLES, TOYS, ETC...
Hall open from 11am for donations.

FUTURE EVENTS

April 12th - Quiz night
July, Date tbc - Strawberry Teas
All profits go to help maintain the fabric of our beautiful church



THE PAVILION

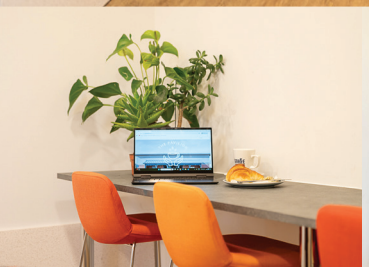
CAFE &
COMMUNITY SPACE

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

Wednesday Meeting 12th February 2025

A well attended meeting. We were given an excellent talk and demonstration of the art of Wig making for Theatre and Film. This unusual and rare craft was brought to life by Fiona, her daughter Hattie, and Rachel. It was a revelation to discover the intricacies involved, the surprising cost, also the many facets of skill required.

The animated talk was interspersed with many personal anecdotes, one notably concerning Dame Judi Dench.
Speed being essential in aiding actors to develop their characters, especially during live performances. Quick change hairstyling (ably demonstrated) and wig application, a benchmark of the secret world 'behind the curtain'.

March Meeting 12th March 2025

Daziel Ellis – Subject: I'm a Poet but not as you know it!!

This promises to be another very interesting and entertaining evening! We would love to see you there!

Visitors are extremely welcome, as always, at any of our Monthly Meeting Talks for a an entrance fee of £5 which includes refreshments.
These are held second Wednesday of each month, 7.15 pm, unless stated otherwise in the Sicca, or online.

HELLO FROM THE POPPIN SHOP

We held our annual skittles match at The Masons in February to say thank to our wonderful team.
It was a fun evening and the volunteers & their partners enjoyed a delicious meal along with drinks . Matt Neville was the winner on the men's side and the luck was with me for the ladies !

We always welcome more people to join the team so if you are interested in volunteering please do pop in and leave your contact details in the shop . As little as an hour or two a month would be a tremendous help to us. It's a great way of meeting people & we have lots of fun events over the year to say thank you in return .

We have all you need for Pancake day which falls on March 4th and chocolate eggs are now available in readiness for Easter , do pop in and see what we have to offer and support your local shop .

Open Mondays - Fridays 7.30am - 4pm
Saturdays & Sundays 8am - midday

Shop local and support.

Helen and the Poppin team .





LONG MARSTON LADIES

Long Marston Ladies launched 2025 in February with a Mystery Object Quiz. Items ranging from a pom pom maker, maple syrup tree tap, pythagoras cup and log chain to name but a few had the ladies puzzled. The evening continued with everyone catching up on chat over a drink.

Not too late to join this fun loving group, more details on the website.
www.longmarstonladies.co.uk

GARDEN CLUB

Hopefully we may soon be getting Spring weather.
I have been rather slow working on our programme for 2025.
Hopefully I will get it finalised very soon. Do pass the word around anybody can join in on our visits to amazing gardens.
Every month there will be a different garden to visit. J
ust let me know.

Wiggy
wiggytaylor@gmail.com



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!



MARSTON MOVIES

On March 21st the film shown will be “The Trouble With Jessica” at 7.30 pm. Admission £3 Snacks and bar available as usual.

VILLAGE HALL DIARY for March

Beavers	3rd 10th 17th 24th	5-7 pm
Yoga	4th 18th 25th	7-8 pm
Long Marston Ladies	5th	7.30 pm
Private Booking	7th 14th 21st 28th	10-12 am
Jumble Sale	8th	
W.I.	12th	7.30 pm
Parish Council	15th	10am -2pm
Parish Council Meeting	17th	7.30 pm
Library/Coffee Morning	18th	10.30-12 am
Craft Club	18th	pm
Parish Council	24th	10am-2pm
Marston Movies	21st	7.30 pm

REMEMBER ALSO -

Easter Bingo - April 5th and Quiz with Dawn- April 12th
To book the hall please telephone Anne Harrison -01789 720368

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

