



# MARSTON SICCA

PARISH NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY 26

# EDITORS NOTES

Happy New Year... never too late is it?! I hope everyone had a great time over the festive season. A few big birthdays coming up this year for the village, so keep your eyes open for what's in store.

The next newsletter is the March edition, so please email your articles to [editor@uberdoodle.com](mailto:editor@uberdoodle.com) by Monday February 23rd.

Valentines hugs.  
**Simon**



**HAPPY CENTENARY (100 YEARS) TO LONG MARSTON VILLAGE HALL**  
**1926 - 2026**

**COMING SOON...**  
INFORMATION REGARDING  
CELEBRATIONS FOR THIS AMAZING  
ACHIEVEMENT

**HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY TO**  
**THE POPPIN**  
**2001 - 2026**  
**COMING SOON...**

**INFORMATION REGARDING CELEBRATIONS FOR THIS AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT**

# PARISH COUNCIL

Ongoing parish growth and the addition of new community assets have created some challenges for the Parish Council. Effectively managing community buildings, green spaces, and allotments, calls for careful financial and administrative planning over the long term. In response, the council is developing a comprehensive three-year strategic plan to strengthen and enhance key resources such as buildings and outdoor areas. This plan will also include provisions for securing external funding to support sound financial management.

The parish council confirms that the Green Day event will take place at Meon Vale Village Hall on June 6th, in partnership with groups such as Stratford upon Avon Net Zero. The event will feature activities and exhibits supporting climate action and biodiversity. A leaflet outlining the day's events will be available as soon as possible on the PC website.

Anti-social behaviour in Meon Vale has been reported to police and councils. Marston Sicca and Quinton parish councils will hold a joint public meeting with police, District Council, and housing association representatives to address the issue. The date and venue will be announced soon.

Work on South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) is ongoing with the final options for Regulation 19 Consultation in May 2026. Consultants have produced the report into options for a new relief road, and this will be presented to the Advisory Group for consideration within the next couple of weeks.

In the aftermath of winter, new or deteriorating potholes have been identified throughout our parish. While many have already been reported, residents who observe or encounter a pothole are encouraged to submit a report via the Warwickshire County Council website by selecting the 'report a pothole' option.

No new planning applications were received, but existing and pre-planning cases are still under review, including ongoing discussions about expanding housing sites before confirming infrastructure needs. The PC participates in meetings, including those with Shackleton, to ensure that our concerns are effectively communicated and addressed.

Addressing traffic concerns in Long Marston remains a key priority. The recent survey led by Councillor Cliff Brown within Welford will include a further study focused on Long Marston. At the request of the Parish Council, this study was postponed until after the Christmas period to ensure that accurate traffic patterns are captured. Meanwhile, data collected from the Long Marston VAS unit is available for review on the parish council website.

Next Parish Council meeting will be held on February 16th 2026 at 7.30pm Meon Vale Village Hall

Parish Clerk

## LONG MARSTON GARDEN CLUB

Hopefully spring is just around the corner. I have spotted snowdrops in bud and hopefully I can find somewhere to view them in all their glory.

We have just had our annual lunch with very few attending. However, as there were so few, we were able to chat to everybody.

I am due to have an operation on my shoulder so will spend the recovery time organising a good programme for 2026. Any suggestions will be most welcome.

Wiggy Taylor

## MARSTON MOVIES



**FRIDAY 20th FEBRUARY - 7:30PM**

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

# LONG MARSTON W.I.

At our January Meeting we had an interesting, illustrated talk by Darren Gough. Darren spent 40 years in the Fire Service, during that time he attended a lot of fires and incidents, some of which he described. He showed us the difference between the equipment and uniform used when he began his career and today. The clothing and helmets worn today are so much lighter and safer with improved equipment making access to buildings etc easier. We had the opportunity at the end to purchase his book outlining his career.

We also voted for our next Resolution, our votes join those of members throughout the country and the winning resolution will be presented at the Annual National AGM.

On Weds February 11th at 7.30pm we welcome Yvonne Burton with a talk entitled "From Juliet Bravo to Jaipur". Visitors are of course welcome £5 to include sandwich and cake supper.

Over the next few months, we have an interesting programme. Why not join us?

March.....Sarah Pugh....."Armchair Yoga"  
April.....David Chatterley....."The History of the Teddy Bear"  
May.....Skittles at The Masons  
June.....Daziel Ellis.....Poet  
July.....Helen Cooper....."Butterfly Studio"  
Aug.....Garden Party.

Membership of the W.I gives you access to talks and workshops throughout Warwickshire and also online access to courses etc nationwide.

## CHURCH SERVICES FEBRUARY 2026



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

### **St. James the Great - Long Marston**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> - Breakfast Service - 10.30am

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> - All Age Communion - 10.30am

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> - Reflective Ash Wednesday Service - 7.00pm

### **St. Swithin's - Quinton with Admington**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> - Family Communion - 10.30am

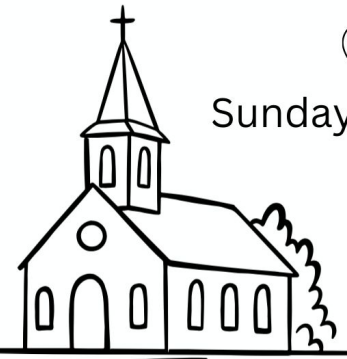
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> - All In Family Service - 10.30am

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - Quinton House Service - 11.00am

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Holy Communion - 10.30am

### **Meon Vale**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> - Meon Church - 3pm



# VILLAGE HALL NEWS

## Long Marston Hall is 100 years old!

A time for celebration!

Look out for events throughout the year.

**Annual fete in June | Easter Bingo in March | Film Shows throughout the year | Joint celebration with Poppin in May Adult party with entertainment in the Autumn. Launch of our exclusive 100 club | And more.....**

## Come and join us!!

The AGM of the Village Hall will be held in the hall on February 23rd at 7.30pm. Everybody is welcome to attend this meeting. This is the opportunity to hear the accounts, review the past year, learn future plans for the centenary year and ask questions. Residents over the age of 18 are eligible to vote for part of the committee for 2026. An agenda will be displayed on the noticeboard before the meeting.

MARSTON MOVIES The film show on February 20th will be “Downton Abbey – The Grand Finale.” Admission £3, bar and snacks available as usual.

## VILLAGE HALL DIARY for February

Beavers	2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> 16 <sup>th</sup> 23 <sup>rd</sup>	5-7 pm
Yoga	3 <sup>rd</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup> 24 <sup>th</sup>	7-8 pm
Long Marston Ladies	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm
Private Booking- Band practice	5 <sup>th</sup>	
Private Booking – Phonetics	6 <sup>th</sup> 13 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup> 27 <sup>th</sup>	10-12 am
Children’s Party	7 <sup>th</sup>	
W.I.	11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm
Valentine Teas	14 <sup>th</sup>	2.30-4.30 pm
Parish Council Meeting	16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm
Marston Movies	20 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm
Village Hall AGM	23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm
Library/Coffee Morning	24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30-12 am

# CHURCH NEWS

Long Marston (or Marston Sicca!) is still, in many ways, a quiet rural place. Fields frame the footpaths, the air carries more birdsong than traffic, and familiar faces still stop for a chat at the gate or by the shop. And yet, if you look closely, you can feel the gentle pressure of change. New homes, busier moments on the roads, and the steady hum of modern life are beginning to shape the edges of an old village rhythm.

With that comes both opportunity and challenge. Parking can be tight. Roads can feel narrower than they used to. Spaces we all rely on — pavements (well the few we have), lanes, car parks, village venues — are shared more than ever. It’s in these small, everyday moments that the character of a community really shows itself.

There’s a line often attributed to the writer Anaïs Nin: “We don’t see things as they are, we see them as we are.” Each of us experiences this village a little differently — as long-time residents or newcomers, parents or commuters, walkers, volunteers, visitors. We all share the same place, even if we walk through it in different ways.

And yet, the way we choose to welcome one another doesn’t just make people feel at home — it slowly shapes the kind of place this becomes. A culture of welcome doesn’t only receive new faces; it helps form the next chapter of the village itself.

You can see that spirit at work across Long Marston. In the warmth of a quiz night at the village hall, the bustle of the harvest supper, the colour and creativity of the bazaar, the glow of the fireworks lighting up the field, and the easy conversations over a drink at the pub. These spaces — the hall, the pub, the green, the church — are more than buildings. They’re shared rooms, where stories are swapped, friendships are formed, and newcomers become neighbours.

Your church has been part of that shared life for a long time — at least since the 14th century, and likely earlier, as hinted at by our Norman font. Through centuries of change, it has stood strong and over time joined by the hall, the pub and the Poppin, as the places where people have gathered, marked milestones, and looked out for one another.

I wanted to re-invite you to continue that tradition of gathering at our services they are open, relaxed, and for all age  
On the first Sunday of each month at 10:30am, we host our Breakfast Service — an informal gathering with bacon and sausage sandwiches, a friendly atmosphere, and plenty for children to do.

On the third Sunday of each month at 10:30am, we hold our All-Age Communion — an inclusive service with activities for children and space for everyone to take part. Communion is a shared meal of bread and wine that reflects a long tradition of belonging, encouragement, and hope — a reminder that community, at its best, is about being invited in rather than left out.

We live in a world that can sometimes feel divided and hurried. Villages like Long Marston offer something quietly countercultural: a slower, more human way of living, where people notice who's new, who's missing, and who might need a hand.

My hope is that, as our village continues to gently grow and change, we keep hold of what already makes it strong — kindness, cooperation, and a culture of welcome that shapes both those who arrive and those who already call this place home.

**You are always welcome to stop by.**

**Rev Jay**

**Breakfast Service**  
1st Sunday of the month

Food from: 10:30am  
Informal Feel, Food, Refreshments  
Little ones friendly &  
All Ages Welcome

**All Age Communion**  
3rd Sunday of the month

10:30am  
Our all age communion begins with refreshments and pastries, we use accessible language and engaging activities for children. All are welcome!

@ St James, Long Marston  
rivervalechurches

## SHOEBOX APPEAL

You will be pleased to know that the majority of the Long Marston shoeboxes made their way to Ukraine in time for Christmas, bringing happiness to youngsters in the war torn zones. Other boxes went to poverty stricken areas in Eastern Europe.

We are busy preparing for next year and need any unused Christmas cards. Also oddments of knitting wool and old towels that we can cut into flannels.

Please leave at the Poppin or in the box outside Gaverne, opposite Rumer Close.

**Thank you.**



# POPPIN NEWS

**OPEN 7am - 4pm MONDAY-FRIDAY,  
7am - Midday SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

This year we celebrate 25 years of your local co operative shop offering its services to the village community , we will be planning to celebrate this milestone with a party on bank holiday 4th May so watch out for further information.

We continue to expand the ranges of items that we sell with lots of new exciting ranges arriving in . We accommodate requests so please do let us know if there is something you would buy regularly that you wish us to stock .

Valentine's Day falls this month on Saturday 14th , cards , chocolates and fizz all available for your loved ones . Following on shortly is Shrove Tuesday on the 17th so do call in for your eggs which we stock from local free range egg supplier Bruce's Eggs , milk, flour , lemons , sugar and syrup also available.

As always , we are readily welcoming new Volunteers to our friendly team , our recent two recruits Keith and Caroline are enjoying their new shifts . If you would like to join us do call in and leave your name and number .

**Shop local , support your village shop and keep it open for the next 25 years !**

**Best wishes  
Helen Leedham and the Poppin team**

**FULL PAGE £25**

## ADVERTISING

If you would like to advertise your business in the Marston Sicca Newsletter, please email [editor@uberdoodle.com](mailto:editor@uberdoodle.com).

**HALF PAGE £12.50**

# CONTACTS

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman - Ian Johnsey  
Vice Chairman - Noel Davis  
Councillor - Colin Parrott  
Councillor - Bill Tempest  
Councillor - Steve Barker  
Councillor - Thomas Jackson

Parish Clerk/RFO - Debbie Woodliffe  
Email - [clerk@marstonsicca-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marstonsicca-pc.gov.uk)  
Mobile - 07768 684673

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Simon Hanagarth - [editor@uberdoodle.com](mailto:editor@uberdoodle.com)

## VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Anne Harrison - 01789 720368

## THE POPPIN VILLAGE STORE

01789 565006

## 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](http://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](mailto:shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/ShipstonPolice](http://www.facebook.com/ShipstonPolice)

## Crimestoppers

0800 555111

## WEBSITE

[www.marstonsicca-pc.gov.uk](http://www.marstonsicca-pc.gov.uk)

