



# *Long Marston Village Appraisal 2001*



# *Village Information*

Members of your Parish Council trust that you find this booklet interesting and informative. We hope that it will inspire you to take part in at least some of the village activities!

It apologises for any errors or omissions.

*Marston Sicca*

*Village*

*Information*

June 2001

## Preface

Welcome to Long Marston. This directory comes with the compliments of your Parish Council, in the hope that you will find it useful. It is also an investment in the future - for without the continued involvement of new and old villagers, Long Marston could become, like many other small villages, a dormitory.

This new edition of *Village Directory* is to a revised format, now incorporated into the *2001 Long Marston Appraisal Report*. We hope that this will enable us to update the information it presents on a regular basis. If there are any further details that you would like to be included, please let us know!

June Beazley

*Chairman, Marston Sicca Parish Council*

## Village Hall

The hall was built in 1926 on donated land, with money raised by the Women's Institute. It is a registered charity with three trustees, and is administered by a chairman and a committee of ten. Half of the committee is drawn from members of the Women's Institute and the remainder from villagers. The committee meets monthly.

The hall can be hired for private functions and there is a crockery and tea urn hire service available. Tables and chairs can also be hired.

<i>Chairman</i>	Mr. Colin Drumblings	<i>Tel.</i> 720574
<i>Hall Hire</i>	Mrs. Jackie Johnson	<i>Tel.</i> 721413

## Your Parish Council

Elections are held every 4<sup>th</sup> year for the 5 councillors, who select a chairman and vice-chairman. It has the powers to co-opt members when necessary, and employs a clerk on a minimal salary. It sets the annual precept, discusses all planning applications, administers the allotments and is responsible generally for pedestrian lighting, grass cutting, 'bus tokens and the *Marston Sicca Newsletter*.

The Council meets in the Village Hall at 7.00 pm on the third Monday of each month except December. You are encouraged to attend and members of the public have the opportunity to voice their opinions before the council meeting commences. The Parish Councillors are currently:

<i>Chairman</i>	Mrs June Beazley	<i>Tel.</i> 720294
<i>Vice Chairman</i>	Mr. Sam Savidge	<i>Tel.</i>
<i>Councillors</i>	Mr. David Forsdick	<i>Tel.</i> 720568
	Mrs. Claire Parriss	<i>Tel.</i> 721698

## ***Village Worship***

### **St. James the Great**

A warm welcome awaits everyone at our Church which can be found at the south end of the village, just a few yards down the Dorsington Road.

### **Benefice of Quinton and Admington with Marston Sicca**

Rev. James Wilson Tel. 720224  
(Retiring October 13<sup>th</sup> 2001)

*After October 13<sup>th</sup> 2001, Long Marston (known within Gloucester Diocese by its old name of Marston Sicca) becomes part of the*

### **Benefice of Honeybourne, Pebworth and Dorsington**

*The vicar will then be*

Rev. Colin Mattock Tel. 01386 830302

Services at present – 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays – Holy Communion  
(at 10.00 am) 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays – Welcome Service

***Please note these arrangements may change after 13<sup>th</sup> October 2001***

### **Methodist Church**

Rev. David Key Tel. 01386 438278

Stewards Mrs.M.Allard Tel. 720709  
Mrs.M.Coveney Tel. 750819

Services Every Sunday at 6.15 pm.

### **Catholic Church**

There is no Catholic Church in the village, the nearest being St. Joseph's at Bidford on Avon, contact: Father Barney Donnellan,  
St. Joseph's the Worker, Quinney Lane,  
Bidford on Avon. Tel. 773291

Services 5-30 pm Saturday and 11 am Sunday

## ***Village Activities***

### **Best Kept Garden Competition**

This event is organised by your Parish Council and is partially sponsored by Mr. Tony Bird. Full details are published in the *Marston Sicca News*.

### **Village Fund-Raising**

Events organised to raise money include the Village Fete, Grand Raffle, Harvest Supper, Burns Night, Barbecue, Open Gardens, etc. Proceeds normally split 50/50 between the Village Hall and Church.

### **Women's Institute**

Celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1998. Full programme of demonstrations, talks etc. Meets second Wednesday in each month at 7-30 pm, in the Village Hall in the summer and in members homes in the winter. Organises the village Annual Fruit and Vegetable Show, and was responsible for compiling our village history.

Contact - Nina Drummings Tel. 720574

### **Marston Singers**

A group of local amateurs that practise four-part singing every Thursday evening. They give concerts raising money for charity. Rehearsals usually take place in members' homes. Contact - David Morehen Tel. 720479

### **Marston Sicca News**

A monthly newsletter (except January) delivered free to every household, and funded by the Parish Council. Your honorary editor keeps you fully informed on Village news and events. Any copy matter by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to the editor, please – Jackie Johnson Tel. 721413

### **Skittles, Darts and Air Gun Shooting**

A number of skittles teams use the Masons Arms alley as a venue and take part in informal league matches there and at other local hostelrys. The Masons Arms also hosts the air gun club and darts teams – Air Gun and Skittles – Contact - Bob Beazley Tel. 720294  
Gents Darts – Contact - Kevin Johnson Tel. 720811

## Neighbourhood Watch

Your village takes part in the community alert programme to promote crime prevention in the area.

Village Co-Ordinator - Tanya Tissington Tel 721911

## Masons Arms Golfing Society

Holds informal golf days and an annual golfing holiday abroad. Golfers of all handicaps welcome.

Contact - John Matthews Tel 720497

## Keep Fit

Held in the Village Hall every Tuesday 6-30 – 7-30 pm. Beginners to advanced. Contact - Jan Andrews Tel 450478/450514

## Pilates

Held in the village hall every Monday morning from 10am to 11am

Contact - Jane Bilsborrow Tel 01926 312170 Mobile 07715 864745

## Painting Classes

Held in the village by professional artist. Beginners to proficient.

Contact - James Fotheringhame Tel 721975

## Table Tennis Club

Temporarily inactive due to lack of support. Equipment available in village hall. Contact - Colin Drummings Tel 720574

## Gardening Club

Interesting meetings, usually monthly, and occasional garden visits.

Contact - Nina Drummings Tel 720574 and Sheila Spittle Tel 720635

## Mother and Toddler Group

Meets in Village Hall, every Thursday morning, from 10 am to 12 noon.

Contact - Mandy Lake Tel 721439 or Karen Stewart Tel 720058

## 1<sup>st</sup> Welford Cub/Scout/Venture Group

Meet every Monday, Welford School Hall

Contact - Colin Drummings Tel 720574

## Village Services

We cannot stress too strongly that unless local businesses receive support from us all, their services will be lost.

**Masons Arms** - your local, Rachel Watts Tel 720586

### The Marston *Poppin* - Village Stores/Post Office/Newagents

Retail shop Tel

Your Postmaster, Dick Shaw Tel

**Electrician** Norman Hamer Tel 720491

**Plumber** Alan Rimmell Tel 720080

**Nurserymen** Avon Woodlands Limited  
Landscape Contractors Tel 750651  
Gould Bros - Arthur and Pat Robbins Tel 720209  
Noleham Brook - David Gunnel Tel 720828  
Welford Plant Centre - Heinz Hempel Tel 751042

**Bed and Breakfast** Mrs. Wiggy Taylor, Church Farm Tel 720275

**Public Transport** The village is served by both public and community bus services— see timetables in The Marston *Poppin*.  
**The Hedgehog** community bus can be hired privately.  
Contact Peter Thompson Tel 01386 430189

**Mobile Library** Calls fortnightly on Wednesday with a 10 minute stop at Orchard Nursery and a 40 minute stop at the Masons Arms.  
Further details from Sally Brandrick Tel 01926 412318

**Refuse Collection** Refuse collected every Monday – waste paper every other week in the containers provided which should be placed on the edge of your property.

**Recycling** Bins on Masons Arms Car Park for Glass (clear, green and brown), Cans, Paper, Cardboard

**Newsprint only** to Welford Scout Hut (behind telephone kiosk) on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday every month between 1.00 and 3.00pm – this benefits Cub/Scout/Venture Group Funds!  
Contact Colin Drummings *Tel.* 720574

## ***Village Benefactors***

### **John Coopers's Foundation**

In 1643 John Cooper left £300 “for the erection and maintenance of a free school for Boys from Long Marston, Pebworth, Dorsington, Welford on Avon and Quinton.” This funded the “Grammar School” at Long Marston until its closure in 1910. The fund is currently administered by a board of Governors from the five villages covered by the foundation. Interest from this bequest is granted to applicants from the villages who are studying courses of higher education usually at College or University. Further information from Joan Matthews - *Tel.* 720497

### **Charities of BMA Neville and Revd. John Loggin**

In his will dated 1726 John Loggin gave money to his trustees, the interest from which was to be divided equally between seven Parishes of which Long Marston is one. Beatrice Neville by her will, proved in 1920, bequeathed a sum of money and required the interest “to be shared among poor widows and single women over the age of 40” who lived in the Parish. The small combined income is distributed in confidence by the Incumbent and Churchwardens in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Long Marston. Further information from Joan Matthews - *Tel.* 720497

### **Long Marston Fund**

This fund was formed in 1995 following an offer of a sizeable donation to the Parish Council who were unable to accept on behalf of the village for legal reasons. It receives lump sum donations from a number of large scale events held at the airfield. A chairman and committee controls and distributes funds at their discretion within the village. Further information from Joan Matthews - *Tel.* 720497

### **200 Club Fund**

A small amount of money is available in this fund which can be used to help individuals or groups to assist in setting up a village activity. Information is available from Tim Farrell *Tel.* 720097



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# Introduction

*This report is about us – the Community of Long Marston . . .*

*The Appraisal process started in January 2000. An initial meeting called by Long Marston Parish Council at the invitation of Stratford District Council resulted in the formation of "The Long Marston Appraisal Steering Group". The objectives were clearly identified at an early stage :-*

- *To take stock of the characteristics of Long Marston in both an historic and present-day context.*
- *To identify current concerns and aspirations for the future, of both residents and local businesses.*
- *To identify the actions required to meet those needs.*
- *To establish, through the compilation of a report, the means of communicating the views determined by the Appraisal process not only to all members of the community but also to all levels of local government – truly an example of community power at work!*

*The means whereby this was to be achieved was initially through an Open Meeting to which all members of the community were invited: through this a consensus was established of matters to be put into a 70-point Appraisal Questionnaire. This was circulated to every household in Long Marston, with responses requested from both the principal householder and every member of the household over the age of 11 years. A subsequent "Action Planning" event, organised after the Appraisal results had been analysed, gave all villagers an opportunity to become involved with turning actions into reality!*

*The return from this opinion-seeking exercise was exceptionally good – over 78% of the Questionnaires distributed were subsequently completed and collected. The analysis of this data forms the base from which this Appraisal Report has been compiled. We have tried to make it informative and entertaining reading, but additionally for those interested a full statistical analysis is available for inspection either from the Parish Council or at the Marston **Poppin**. We intend to review what has been achieved approximately 12 months from now to assess any requirement for further action.*

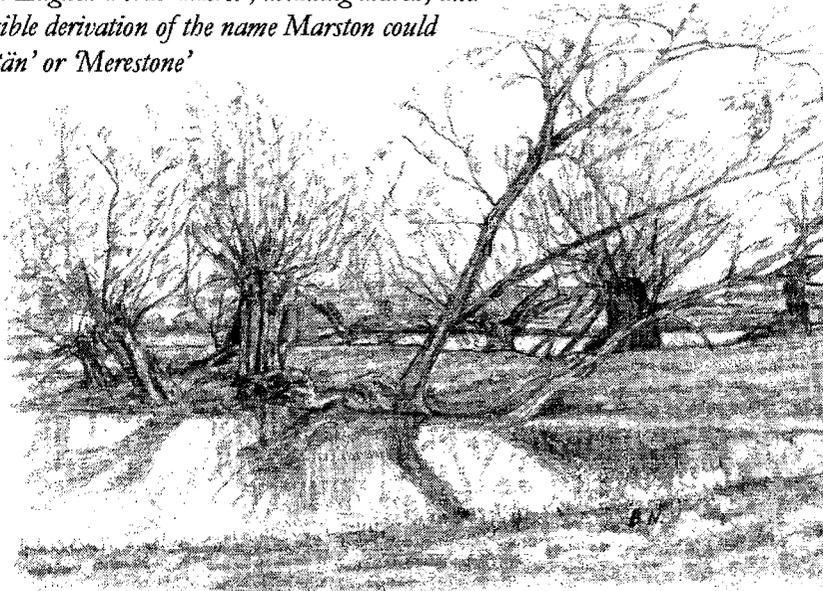
*We hope that you will keep this document for future reference - in the pocket at the front you will find useful village and local information which will be periodically updated as changes require.*

# Our Village History

*Long Marston is situated approximately 6 miles southwest of Stratford upon Avon. The village lies in the bottom corner of Warwickshire and the parish boundaries adjoin the counties of Gloucestershire and Worcestershire. Long Marston was originally in Gloucestershire and was transferred to Warwickshire when the county borders were revised in 1931.*

*The village was originally known as Marston Sicca (both the parish and church councils are still known by this name). The main part of the name, Marston, is a common English village name meaning marsh farm or village. It is derived from the two Old English words 'Mersc', meaning marsh, and 'Tun' meaning farm or village. Another possible derivation of the name Marston could come from the Anglo-Saxon words 'Maere Stān' or 'Merestone' which means boundary stone although the former definition is more likely. Sicca comes from the Latin 'Siccus' which means dry or thirsty.*

*Although these two terms contradict each other, the name was possibly applied to the village due to its wetness during the winter months and dryness during the summer. Hence 'Dry Marston' was given its name due to the fact there are no springs within the parish. Originally villagers had to rely on a large number of ponds for their water supplies. It was not until 1913 that mains water was made available to the villagers.*

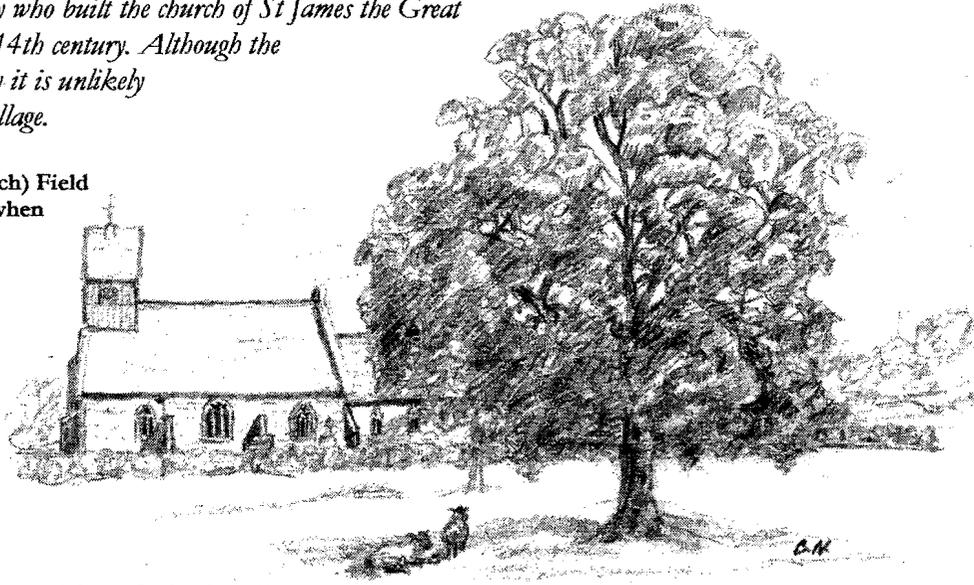


**Wyre Pools; perhaps a corruption of the word 'weir'. It is possible that in the past a channel or weir connecting the pools to the Granbrook could have contained eel traps**

*The first written evidence of a settlement was in 1043 when Earl Leofric granted Long Marston to the monks of Coventry on condition that a church was built within the parish.*

*The village is mentioned in William I's Domesday Book in 1086, and was then in Gloucestershire. Some 200 years later the 'Manor' was sold to the Abbey of Winchcombe for 1130 marks (£753.33). It seems most likely it was they who built the church of St James the Great sometime in the middle of the 14th century. Although the manor belonged to a monastery it is unlikely that any monks lived in the village.*

**Walnut tree in Manor (Church) Field  
planted by Gerald Hodges when  
he was 6 or 7 years old.  
When it was planted, the  
tree was the same age  
as he was:  
he was born in 1913,  
so the tree is now  
88 years old.**



*In 1479 William Tomes  
took a lease on the Abbey  
Manor, at a yearly rent of  
£8.66, by this agreement the*

*Lordship of the Manor was divorced from the land itself;*

*this separation must have had an effect on the future development of the village.*

*Fifty years later came the dissolution of the monasteries and the Abbey of Winchcombe, landlord of Long Marston for 300 years, ceased to exist when the crown took possession of Abbey lands.*

*There the ownership remained until 1566 when Queen Elizabeth I granted the Lordship and the Manor of Long Marston to Robert, Earl of Leicester. Eleven years on, in 1577, John Kecke and John Tomes, both yeomen, purchased the land and buildings of the manor from him for £1180.12. The Earl of Leicester retained the Lordship of the Manor until about 1602 when it was sold to Edward Sheldon, one of a well-known Warwickshire family. The Sheldons, at intervals, held a court in the village, presumably at Court Farm. The three principal families of the time were Tomes, Kecke, and Cooper. When John Cooper died in 1643 he left £300 for the erection and maintenance of a free school for boys from Long Marston and neighbouring parishes. The school was closed by Gloucestershire Local Education Authority in 1910, having served the educational needs of the village for some 260 years. John Cooper's money is still distributed by trustees in grants for educational purposes.*

The Tomes family were associated with the village until the sale of King's Lodge in 1976. It was at this residence in 1651 that Charles II stayed for one night, being a fugitive after his disastrous defeat at the Battle of Worcester. The house known as Hopkins in Wyre Lane is reputed to be one of the oldest remaining in Warwickshire having been constructed in the 14<sup>th</sup> century with additional work done in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.



#### 'Hopkins'

Agriculture is still the most obvious activity in and around Long Marston

but now employing far fewer people than in earlier times. Orchards and allotments dominated the village in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, but now only one orchard remains, the rest having been lost to building and economic change. Many houses and cottages in the village are still named after the orchards.

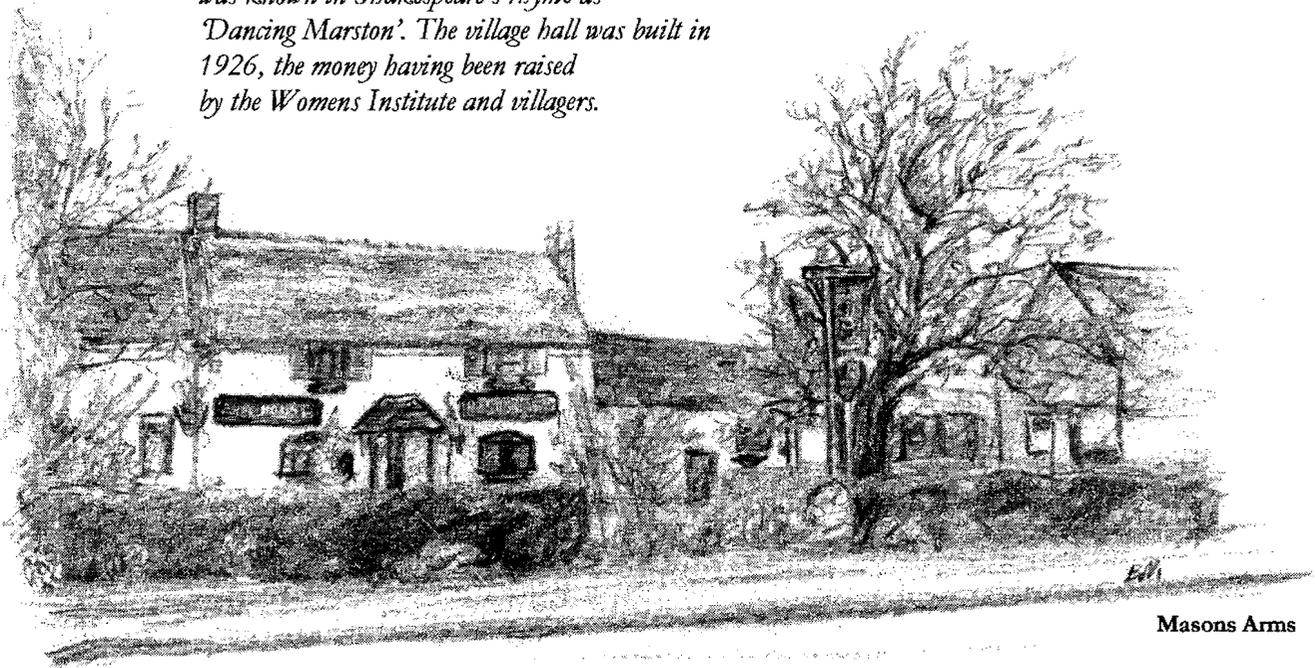
In about 1880 the village school was built on land given by the Tomes. Shortly afterwards the coming of the railway marked another great change for the village.

The Lychgate War Memorial commemorates those who fell in two World Wars. However, events that occurred during the Second World War changed the character of the village. One third of the land within the parish boundaries was taken for the aerodrome and army camp.

Electricity came to the village in 1948, but it was not until 1977 that Long Marston was the last village in the county to be provided with a mains sewage service. It was a memorable period for the residents and contractors, with 30 foot deep trenches cutting off access to the village. Shortly after the war the Village School was closed and in 1964 under the Beeching Plan Long Marston suffered the loss of all rail facilities. A section of the railway's old route has been converted into the 'Greenway' which runs

*from Stratford to Long Marston. The Greenway is open to walkers and cyclists from Stratford to Milcote and additionally horse riders from Milcote to Long Marston only.*

*The Mason Arms has stood since the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. This was possibly the venue of what was known in Shakespeare's rhyme as 'Dancing Marston'. The village hall was built in 1926, the money having been raised by the Womens Institute and villagers.*



**Masons Arms**

*The village shop/post office and the garage were demolished in 1999 to make way for a new housing estate. A new community shop and post office has been built.*

*The population of the village has not shown the steady growth one would expect. Without doubt the shortage of water was a contributory factor in the past, as was the splitting of the land from manorial rights. At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the population was 199 rising to 346 in 1891. The electoral role of 1954 showed 218, whilst at February 2000 it stood at 269.*

*Our village has always been a friendly, close knit community. It is connected by over 6 miles of public footpaths and retains some open spaces, which the villagers have said they wish to preserve.*



**An 'Appraisal Open Day'  
in progress**

*The many activities currently available in our village will only be sustained if we all support each other in ensuring that the future is evolved in sympathy with the past.*

# The Survey

*The survey, which received a splendid response from the village community, has been derived from an analysis of the figures, opinions and comments given to the Appraisal Questionnaire.*

*A full statistical analysis of the responses to the Questionnaire has been distributed to the Parish Council, Stratford District Council and Warwickshire County Council. A copy is available for reference in the village shop – the Marston **Poppin** – itself an outcome of the Appraisal process!*

*A listing of all the Individual Comments has been made and will be passed to our Parish Council and other bodies for use in actions being taken and to be taken.*

## Population and Households

*Out of a total of 268 individuals responding, 56 are 17 years of age or less and 54 are 60 years of age or more.*

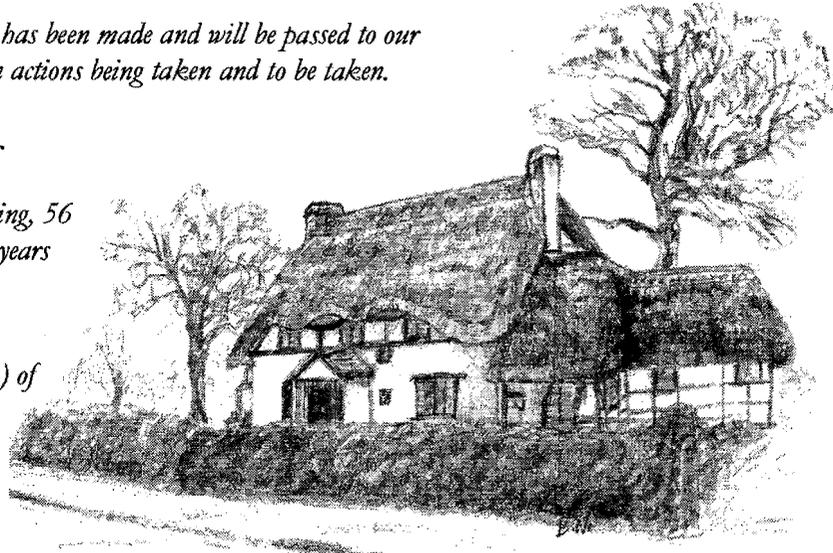
*80% of homes are owner-occupied and nearly half are detached. Over half (53%) of village dwellings were built before 1950, with a further 29 being constructed between 1970 and 1990.*

*Since 1991 (at the time of the survey in May 2000) another 21 had been*

*added, and since May 2000 several more have been or are being constructed, showing an escalating*

*rate of growth. In the floods of Easter 1998, out of 110 households*

*responding, over 68% suffered foul and/or storm water flooding to some degree - 30 properties (27%) were flooded internally – and only 35 households (32%) of those surveyed escaped unharmed. A report on what has been achieved so far concerning the flooding and drainage problems appears on page 16 of this document, and the work is on-going!*



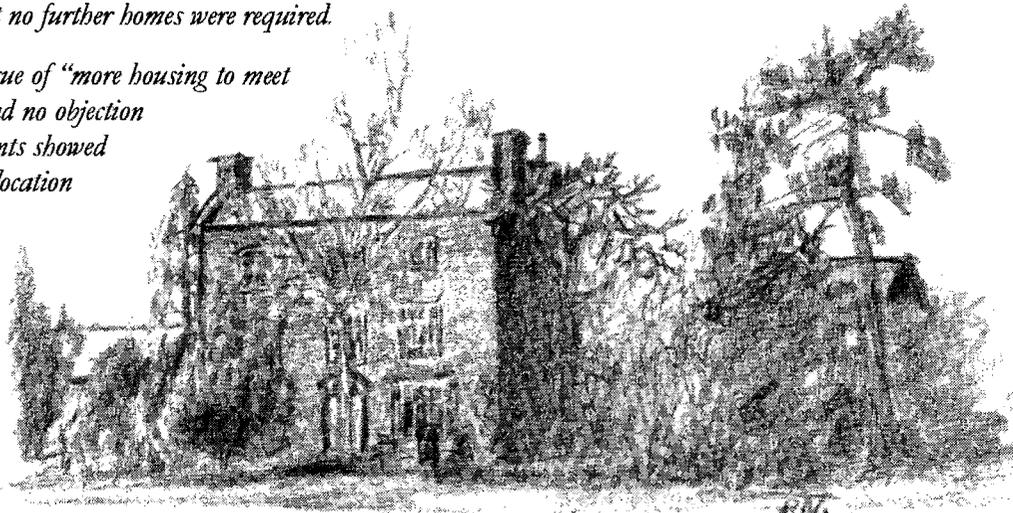
The Old Post Office

*It was recorded that 10% of the population had lived in the village all of their lives, 30% for more than 15 years and 40% for 5 years or less. Only 33% had moved here from over 30 miles away, whilst 32% previously lived within 10 miles of Long Marston. This may suggest that in general many people are contented with our village life and move away only by necessity. Apart from the usual reasons of "born here", "work", "proximity to relatives" and "availability of houses", the reasons given for living in Long Marston – "sense of community" (61%), "the environment" (65%) and "location" (68%) – were important, and a good reason to try to maintain the essence of the village.*

## *Housing Development*

*Housing is always a sensitive issue in any community, and the pattern of opinion was much in keeping with that found in similar villages. Out of 205 replies, 90 favoured homes for young people, 91 small family homes and 32 large family homes. There was support for homes for people with disabilities (23), rented accommodation (60), low-cost sale (57), sheltered housing (24) and shared ownership (22). 71 individuals thought that no further homes were required.*

*79% of the replies to the issue of "more housing to meet the needs of local people" had no objection in principle, but the comments showed concerns as to the size and location of such a development and displeasure at aspects of some existing recent developments.*



Manor Farm

*We hope that our Appraisal will provide a solid guide, representing the voice of the village, to be used and referred to by the Local Authorities.*

## Employment Opportunities

When asked whether or not the following should be encouraged in and around Long Marston, 235 villagers responded as follows:-

	In Favour	Against
Tourism	40	96
Small Business	91	35
Small Scale Craft Workshops	111	26
More Jobs in the Village	90	37

Those individuals in employment (self or otherwise) numbered 136, whereas 4 were unemployed, 17 were housewife/husband, 21 were in full-time education and 38 were retired.

Of those who were employed, 91 worked locally (Long Marston, Stratford and Cotswold area), 17 worked in Redditch and Birmingham and 51 in other areas. Does this show that we are becoming a "dormitory" village and is the nature of recent housing developments encouraging this?

## Transport

For transport to work or study, 140 individuals used a car or van and only 29 used another form of transport. A high percentage of respondents wanted improvements in the bus services and 32% endorsed the need for a bus shelter. The number experiencing transport difficulties in getting out of Long Marston is similar to the figure for those **not** using a car/van to get to work/study. This suggests that those depending on public transport do have a problem. There was a high demand for improvements to the bus services – "routes" 44%, "timetables" 62%, "cost" 33% and "reliability" 37%.

To achieve this improvement we need someone to lead a small working group with the objective of discussing local needs with both the bus operators themselves and other relevant Authorities.

## Local Countryside and Environment

There was, as might be expected, an overwhelming concern for matters relating to these subjects. Out of 185 villagers responding, the support shown for the protection of landscape features was as follows :-

GROUPS OF TREES	85%
HEDGES	83%
PONDS	82%
OPEN SPACES	81%
DITCHES	78%
WILDFLOWERS/GRASSES	77%
STREAMS	72%
RIDGE and FURROW FIELDS	63%
DARK SKY POLICY	56%

There was also strong support to improve the environment by the planting, conserving and management of trees, woodland, hedges, orchards, etc. Equally a similar majority considered wildflowers, wild animals, birds and butterflies to be "very important" or "important".

An encouraging number of people said that they would be willing to help in a practical way in this matter. If you believe strongly enough in these values, then you can volunteer to help – in which case please refer to the "Projects and Actions" sheet inside the back cover pocket and join in making this happen!

The significance of pear orchards to the history of the village was commented upon as a precious heritage that should not be lost.

Some form of open space / picnic / play area was in high demand, 102 villagers stating their choice of possible site.

*Complaints of litter / dog fouling were numerous, the sites most reported being The Greenway and Wyre Lane, and the Parish Council has been made aware of all the views expressed. It is pursuing the "open space" issue with local land-owners and has been asked to take action against offending dog-owners together with giving consideration to the provision of more bins. All dog-walkers are reminded that it is their legal responsibility to clean up, and heavy financial penalties can be brought against offenders.*

*Maps of local footpaths/bridleways and leaflets of walks were in strong demand, as were stiles giving access to dogs – another "ACTION" for us to get involved with!*

## *Local Facilities*

*Policing issues aroused great interest and comment. Although police presence does seem to have improved marginally recently, at the time of the questionnaire 64% believed that we did **not** have a local police service, and a further 23% considered it "poor". Apart from the questions asked there were 34 comments, all expressing concern over what was needed.*

*It was felt that a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was needed; this has now been formed. Villagers are encouraged to actively support the scheme and the co-ordinators, who are pursuing better communications with the police and community safety officer (their names and telephone numbers are in the "Village Information" booklet inside the front cover).*

*The main anti-social behaviours of concern were theft 60%, noise excess 43% and vandalism 34%.*

*More activities for young people were requested by 56% and improved pedestrian lighting by 34%.*

*The Church received support, especially as a focal point for the community 56% and as an historic building 80%.*



**Lychgate War Memorial and Old School. This Memorial was originally dedicated in 1920. In 1996 it was re-dedicated after refurbishment by the Royal Engineers at their Long Marston base as a gesture of goodwill and appreciation prior to the closure of the Depot.**

*The opinions expressed with regard to housing and the creation of new small local businesses should prompt District and County Councils into planning affordable housing and business premises in Long Marston. This policy would encourage and enable young people to live and work in their village.*

## *Highways*

*There was a very strong response to the questions dealing with facilities for pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, wheelchairs, pushchairs, the partially-sighted and others, e.g. horse riders. An urgent need to reduce traffic speed through the village was expressed, which will be addressed by the introduction of a 30 mph limit achieved by our Parish Council.*

*Several commented on the damage to paths and verges by parked cars and by manoeuvring lorries.*

*The precious rural nature of the village includes many pavement-side hedges resulting in heavy autumnal leaf accumulation. This has the effect of narrowing the width available for clean walking, a problem made greater during hours of darkness. We need hedges to be trimmed, and the trimmings and leaves removed more frequently and efficiently: villagers should remember their responsibilities in these matters. With pavements clearer any surfaces needing repair would be detected more readily, facilitating prompt repair.*

*Heavy goods vehicles using the village road unnecessarily were considered a serious problem as was road surface maintenance. The Parish Council is working on these matters.*

## *Local Government*

*The awareness of local Councils to the concerns of the villagers was felt to diminish with the increasing area of the authority, clearly demonstrated by the results:-*

<i>Authority</i>	<i>Aware</i>	<i>Not Aware</i>
<i>Marston Sicca Parish Council</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Stratford District Council</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>75</i>
<i>Warwickshire County Council</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>113</i>

*It must be said that actions taken as a result of the questionnaire have made the Councils more aware than before and stimulated them into taking note and working in partnership.*

Publicity and information on planning applications was thought to be insufficient by 115 out of 192 replies. Opinions expressed relating to "satisfaction with appearance of new buildings" in the village were almost equally divided.

It is felt that villagers' aspirations (examples specifically expressed in responses to the Appraisal Questionnaire being "Open Space facilities" and "Village Hall development" etc.) could be achieved by the use of Planning Gain clauses suitably controlled by 106 Agreements. This might be achieved either as a whole from larger developments or piecemeal from smaller sites. Developers should contribute to the betterment of village facilities!

This Village Appraisal, when adopted, becomes a consultation document for the District Planning Authority under Policy ENV22 of the Local Plan and is important in helping the review of the District Local Plan to determine policy for the period to year 2011 – hence our motto YOUR VOICE – YOUR CHOICE.

### *Sport, Social and Entertainment*

The interest in leisure activities was considerable but very diverse as would be expected. Out of 116 respondents, numbers who would attend the different activities were:-

TENNIS	44
KEEP FIT	34
BADMINTON	31
SKITTLES	25
SNOOKER	17
TABLE TENNIS	15
POOL	14
FOOTBALL	12
DARTS	12
OTHER	18

There are willing volunteers to help organise these, so it is a case of bringing interested people together and providing the information and support to get sports activities off the ground. There is a Sports Development Officer at Stratford District Council. This matter was taken further at our Open Day on November 11<sup>th</sup> 2000, and you will find a contact name on the "Projects and Actions" sheet in the pocket on the inside back cover of this report.

*The Village Hall was felt to be adequate for the needs of Long Marston by 176 out of 186, but several comments were made suggesting that with the expansion of the village we should plan for the future and the possible relocation of the hall with car parking, green space around and more facilities inside. This report together with the full analysis and comments has been passed to the Village Hall Committee.*

*Of those expressing an opinion on social facilities the opinions were "good" 5.7%, "reasonable" 37.5% and "poor" 56.7%. Taking age categories into account this broadly suggests that adults are well catered for but younger people are certainly not so.*

*Clubs and activities, including some already running, received good support both for participation and willingness for organisational help. Rambling and Gardening were most in demand followed by Art, Drama and Music: however we are still waiting for those interested to volunteer and get these activities off the ground - see "Projects and Actions" sheet in the back cover pocket for contacts.*

*Most thought that the amount of information about what is going on in the village to be reasonable or good, and the main source by far was the village newsletter "Marston Sicca News", which obviously gives an excellent service to the community. No doubt when the shop is re-established another good source of information will be available.*

*At the time of the questionnaire, access to the internet was available at home to 89 individuals, with 50 having access through either work or school/college. 99 villagers had no access - if you think that an Internet Cafe (in the Village Hall?) is a valued project for Long Marston, see the "Projects and Actions" sheet inside the back cover pocket.*



The Goodwins

# Projects and Actions

*Whilst the purpose of the Appraisal process was to gather facts, assess community opinions and quantify potential village PROJECTS, much has actually been achieved in the last 12 months by way of ACTIONS. The Appraisal Questionnaire and Open Days indicated that re-instatement of our village shop and flooding were two major concerns.*

*Community action initiated by the Appraisal Group has secured the shop, but the fear of flooding will forever haunt the village. Since the flooding of Easter '98 it appeared that though the Halcrow-Fox report had been commissioned the resource-strapped Councils had achieved little by the date of the Questionnaire. The SDC and WCC appreciate the information we are gathering in co-operation with the PC. Initially we surveyed roadside ditches and gullies, and at our instigation SDC and WCC inspected gullies and culverts with us, subsequently clearing some. Most ditches flowing from the roadside to Noleham Brook or Granbrook have been documented, and Landowners are legally responsible for maintaining the unimpeded flow of water in ditches alongside or through their property. These have been listed, and co-operation on the whole has been excellent. Under the practical guidance of the SDC team some surveying of land and ditch levels has taken place. More will be done to define where and how deep ditches need to be, and sixteen villagers have volunteered to assist practically as required. It is essential that any future development in the village should be made conditional on provision of adequate drainage.*

*Another PROJECT from which an ACTION has already been achieved is the re-launching of our Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, detailed on the "PROJECTS and ACTIONS" schedule in the inside back cover pocket. Responses to the Questionnaire indicated these PROJECTS to be of interest to villagers, so we are providing information to help anyone wishing to get involved with ACTIONS!*

# Acknowledgements

*Members of the Long Marston 2000 Appraisal Steering Group were Colin and Nina Drumblings, Tim Farrell, Chris and Shelagh Martin, Michael Moore, Brian Needham, John and Sheila Spittle and Paul Stephens. They wish to thank all villagers who responded – without their involvement nothing could have happened! Nothing could have happened either without the Grant of nearly £3000 from Stratford District Council, our only source of funding. Also enormous support was received from Rebecca Frost, Appraisal Officer at Stratford District Council. Thanks also to Brian Needham for all the sketches in this final report and to the W.I., Jean Matthews and other villagers who provided much of the Village History information.*

# *Projects / Actions Factsheets*

## Projects

MAP of FOOTPATHS and CONSERVATION

OPEN SPACE

BUS SERVICE

EVENING CLASSES

MOTHER/TODDLER

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTING

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

DRAMA GROUP

RAMBLING CLUB

ART CLASS

GARDENING CLUB

YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

FLOOD PREVENTION

EMPLOYMENT

## Actions

*Obtain and update last available maps and consider options for communication to villagers*

*The Parish Council has been unsuccessful in reaching agreement with any local landowner – refer to page 14 of Appraisal Report*

*Obtain all local timetables for display in Marston **Poplin***

*Encourage villagers with specific interests to use newsletter to gain support*

*This group has now been set up – meets in Village Hall, Thursday mornings 10 to 12 – cost £1*

*Generate a list of villagers willing to collect prescriptions - and display in Marston **Poplin***

*Scheme to be developed*

*Interested people to make themselves known – and tell us their specific skills/ interests.*

*Address of local rambling clubs to be made available to interested villagers*

*Art facilities in village soon to be expanded when new participants will be welcome*

*This club is now active*

*Specific actions and events involving our young people to be established*

*A team of willing helpers has been set up – insurance position to be checked*

*Advice and links for help with local business/ employment opportunities is available*

## Who Can Help Us?

WCC – Countryside Recreation **01926 413427**  
Possible grant from SDC

WCC – Transport Operations **01926 412760**  
Rural Transport Partnership **01789 260132**

Council for Voluntary Service **01789 262886**

SDC – Arts Officer **01789 260637**

SDC – Arts Officer **01789 260637**

WCC – Community Education **01926 413603**  
SDC – Sports Development **01789 260639**

Refer to page 16 of Appraisal Report

Business Link **0345 124600**  
SDC - Economic Development **01789 260103**

## Local Contact

PAUL STEPHENS - **720859**

LONG MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

COLIN DRUMMINGS - **720574**

COLIN DRUMMINGS - **720574**

{ MANDY LAKE - **721439**  
KAREN STEWART - **720058**

NINA DRUMMINGS - **720574**

WIGGY TAYLOR - **720275**

BARBARA FARRELL - **720097**

CHRIS MARTIN - **721793**

SHEILA SPITTLE - **720635**

{ SHEILA SPITTLE - **720635**  
NINA DRUMMINGS - **720574**

ANNE HARRISON - **720368**

BRIAN NEEDHAM - **720418**

TIM FARRELL - **720097**

## Projects

SPORT

YOGA

KEEP FIT

NEIGHBOURHOOD  
WATCH and  
POLICE RELATIONS /  
CRIME REDUCTION

HELPING IN SHOP

INTERNET ACCESS

VILLAGE HALL FACILITIES

LITTER / DOG FOULING

MAINS GAS

VILLAGE DESIGN  
STATEMENT

ROAD CONDITION /  
TRAFFIC SPEED /  
TRAFFIC CALMING

PLANNING  
CONSULTATION  
MATTERS and  
IMPROVED  
COMMUNICATIONS  
BETWEEN SDC and  
WCC AND VILLAGERS

STILE ACCESS FOR DOGS

## Actions

*Establish and publish local opportunities for villagers to participate in sport*

*Establish interest in village*

*Existing keep fit classes publicised in newsletter*

*Group has been revived by Tanya Tissington and local co-ordinators identified*

*Long Marston **Poppin** soon to open – volunteers always needed !*

*Perhaps something for the future !*

*Report given to Village Hall Committee for their consideration*

*Investigate additional litter bins and notices*

*Transco were asked – consumers would have to pay for new main, considered too expensive at estimated £4083 per dwelling.*

*Parish Council to initiate project*

*Road to be re-surfaced. Measures to reduce speed limit from 40mph to 30mph, new signs and "traffic calming" road markings*

*Parish Council has been asked to review it's process and improve communications and access to information*

*To be researched*

## Who Can Help Us?

SDC – Sports Development **01789 260639**

SDC - Appraisal Capital Grants **01789 260694**

Refer to page 12 of Appraisal Report

WCC – Traffic Management **01926 412475**  
SDC – Appraisal Capital Grants for Traffic  
Calming projects **01789 260694**

SDC - Planning Service **01789 260349**  
Planning Aid Service **0121 7668044**

WCC – Countryside Recreation **01926 413427**

## Local Contact

TIM FARRELL - **720097**

BARBARA FARRELL - **720097**

JAN ANDREWS -  
**450478/450514**

TANYA TISSINGTON - **721911**

JAYNE BENNETT - **720405**

COLIN DRUMMINGS - **720574**

LONG MARSTON PARISH  
COUNCIL

SHEILA SPITTLE - **720635**

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WARWICK CC

LONG MARSTON PARISH  
COUNCIL