

THE NEW NORTH MARSTON & GRANBOROUGH MAGAZINE



"The High Street, North Marston, 1st January 1960, with thanks to Janet Gowin"

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Recipe - Leftover pie

Christmas already over! And what to do with all the leftovers? You could make soup, a curry, croquettes, or cheeseboard macaroni cheese, but the family favorite is pie. Here is my recipe.

Left over pie or Turkey and Ham pie

Packet ready roll puff pastry
Leftover turkey cut into cubes
Leftover ham cut into cubes
Mug Left over cream
Leftover juices from turkey
Onion
Mixed herbs
Left over white wine (if there's any left!)

Soften an onion in a little oil, add glass white wine and reduce by half. Add about a large mug of cream, you can make up with some whole milk if you don't have enough cream. Add three tablespoons of turkey juice or chicken stock. Mix together and add teaspoon of mixed herbs and salt and pepper to taste and finally fold in the meat. Spoon into a pie dish. Roll out pastry and cut a 2cm strips from the edge and place onto edge of dish with a little milk. Brush pastry on top and cut to shape and you could be artistic and make some leaves or other shapes to decorate the top with leftover bits. Brush over the top with milk or a beaten egg. Cook in a 185c oven for about 40mins. Enjoy with some vegetables.

A Brief History of Granborough Village Hall

These extracts from Granborough Parish Council minutes from 1909 show the origins of the village hall.

Copy of letter from Mr F W Verney dated 5th August 1909 and sent Rev. O J Jones and subsequently forwarded to Granborough Parish Council:

Dear Mr Jones,

I should be very glad to contribute towards the erection of a village hall and library at Granborough, if it is the wish of those who live there to have one. Knowing how the Claydon people appreciate their village halls, it seems highly probable that many of our Granborough friends would be glad to have something of the same kind, under the entire control and management, either of the Parish Council, or some thoroughly representative committee, without any regard to religious or political opinions. Would you kindly take steps to find out whether the Granborough people are ready to help me carry out this plan? One field there belongs to me, part of which would do well for such a purpose. I have an excellent tenant of that field, who deserves every consideration, but it will probably be found that a part of that field might be cut off, and a very good site secured for a village hall.

Lately a building of this kind was put up in a village partly owned by me in Derbyshire and its erection was greatly helped by the generosity of Mr Andrew Carnegie, who contributed a considerable sum on condition that the Public Libraries Act was adopted, and that a penny rate was voted towards the maintenance of the Library. The Parish agreed to this, and they now have got a capital hall, with a billiard room below, and a library and meeting room above, used constantly for concerts, dances, and recreation of many kinds, besides for other more serious purposes.

I should be much obliged if you can, at your convenience, find out and let me know what is the feeling in the village and neighbourhood on this subject. If such a place is to be a success it can only be made so by the people who live in the neighbourhood. It is therefore essential to discover what are their wishes and opinions. Believe me,

Yours sincerely

Frederick Verney



Did you know that North Marston got its name from Granborough?

In Saxon times, Granborough was known as "grenesberga", meaning green hill. In 792, the great Mercian Saxon king Offa gifted Granborough to St Alban's Abbey as part of a four estates including Little Horwood. It was lost by the Abbey, possibly during the Viking incursions, but re-endowed in 948. At Granborough's southern boundary, the St Alban's estate would have abutted the land of Aylesbury Minster. Including the area we now know as North Marston. This boundary was marked by an ancient hedge-line known as hertmere which ran from Hoggaston to Hogshaw following the line of an ancient track.

St Alban's Abbey would have marked the boundary to their endowment wherever a road crossed into their estate. Charters from the time show that these boundary markers were often stones marked with a cross (you can see one to this day in Quainton) and the stone would have been called a *maerstun*, and the local (Mercian) pronunciation would have been *marston*.

Therefore, where the track northwards to Granborough intersected the boundary there would have been a marston, as spoken in local dialect. Over time, any adjacent settlement would have been known by this feature. But because there were over seventy marstons in the ninth and tenth centuries, they tended to be differentiated by a descriptive that differentiated them: *north*, *fleet* or *long* for example.

Therefore it is true to say that due to *grenesberga* being given to St Alban's Abbey, North Marston got its name.

if you want to see a short film about this, visit the North Marston History Club's website (www.northmarstonhistory.org) or go to YouTube and search under "How Did North Marston Get Its Name?"

John Spargo



Nature Notes

Ravens have been present for some time now. A pair were seen quarrelling whilst flying over the Sportsfield and others elsewhere. They fly high so their large size is less distinguishable but their distinctive, deep, resonant *prruk-prruk-prruk* call and thicker beak helps with identification.

Blackthorn trees have produced a good crop of blue-black sloes this Autumn for wildlife as well as those that make Sloe Gin. Use of local raw honey in place of sugar in Sloe Gin can produce a more mellow flavour.

Redwings and Fieldfares, both of the Thrush family, arrived in good numbers in Autumn for overwintering here. They will strip berries in the hedgerows before coming into our gardens. Leaving berries on your garden trees and bushes will attract them and help their survival in winter.

Tawny Owls have been calling: the well-known *Tu-whit; Tu-who*, call is actually a duet, with the female making the *kew-wick* sound, and the male responding *hooo*.

RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch takes place at the end of January each year and 26-28 January 2019 is the 40th year. Find out more on RSPB website and how your participation in a national exercise helps monitor trends and understand on how our birds are doing.

Lights of Friendship in North Marston has raised over £800.

Thanks to everyone for their generosity and to The Shop, North Marston for sponsoring the Tree.

North Marston Church