

---

# TOWER<sub>AND</sub>TOWN

---

## Wiltshire and me Eight different views of the county



---

JULY 2021 50P

---

# A niche firm of Lawyers focusing on Private Wealth

Providing advice on:  
**Wills**  
**Powers of Attorney**  
**Estate Administration**  
**Trusts/Succession Planning**  
**Elderly Client Work**  
**Court of Protection**  
**Tax Planning**



At **DUNCAN MORRIS SOLICITORS**, we combine up-to-the-minute knowledge of all the latest legal issues with a down-to-earth approach to advise private clients on a broad range of issues relating to estate and succession planning.

Our wide range of individual clients highly regard our service based on our legal expertise and the close relationships we have built up over a number of years. We pride ourselves on our ability to seek clear and simple solutions to complex challenges, guiding our clients using sound and practical advice.

Our clients include businessmen, entrepreneurs, professionals, landowners and farmers.

TELEPHONE: 01672 515193 or 07917 177647  
EMAIL: [info@duncanmorrissolicitors.co.uk](mailto:info@duncanmorrissolicitors.co.uk)  
106 HIGH STREET, MARLBOROUGH, WILTSHIRE SN8 1LT  
[www.duncanmorrissolicitors.co.uk](http://www.duncanmorrissolicitors.co.uk)

**DUNCAN  
MORRIS**  
SOLICITORS

# TOWER<sup>AND</sup>TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 716 JULY 2021



## Wiltshire and me

When I was 18, and still living with my parents, we moved from Surrey to a village in West Sussex. We had not long been there when we were invited to take part in a poetry recital in a beautiful little church in the lee of the South Downs. I was asked to read Kipling's *The Run of the Downs*, a paean to the hills that run from Beachy Head in East Sussex to the Itchen valley in Hampshire. The poem ends with the lines: "The Downs are sheep, the weald is corn / You be glad you are Sussex born!"

I did my best but I found the recital troubling on two counts: I wasn't remotely Sussex born; and it felt vaguely absurd to speak Kipling's words – essentially a litany of Sussex place names – in my posh public-school accent. Who was I to extol the virtues of a county of which I knew nothing?

Nearly 40 years later (the last 20 in Wiltshire), I am still intrigued by this sense of belonging, of identifying – or not – with place. That is why I asked the eight disparate people featured in this edition of T&T to give a very personal account of their relationship with their home county. Of the eight, five have moved to Wiltshire from elsewhere (very much elsewhere in two cases), two grew up in the county, moved away and returned, and one has lived here for 91 years, man and boy.

So to Liu Hong, Steve, Selam, Chris, Gina, Simon, Rachel and Alan I say thank you so much for sharing your fascinating insights into your Wiltshire lives. I hope the readers of this magazine enjoy reading them as much as I have.

**Ben Tarring**

Front cover: Selam, near Huish, by Ian Davies

# 'We used to go down to the station and help the shepherd take the sheep through town and up to the common'

---

*Alan Crook was born and brought up in Marlborough and, apart from a stint in the army and a short spell in Swindon, has lived there for all his 91 years. He lives in St Martins, a stone's throw from his childhood home.*

I can't say how many generations my family has been here but I know that my father lived in Marlborough and his father before him. My mother's family were the same. Hamblen was her name. There were a lot of Hamblens.

I grew up in 7 South View, off Blowhorn Street. My father, Herbert, was a plumber. I went to St Mary's Infant School on Herd Street, then St Peter's, which is now the public library. I remember I had an ear operation in Savernake Hospital, which meant I had to miss a lot of school. When I went back a teacher hit me on the ear – teachers used to bang people about in those days – and my mother came down to St Peter's in a rage.

As boys, we used to go to the forest and the Downs. We were part of the community. We were content, I suppose. We liked the Mop fairs and the circus on the Common. That's where they held the sheep fairs too. Some of the sheep were brought over the Downs and some came by train. We used to go down to the station and help the shepherd take the sheep through town and up to the common.

I trained as an electrician and then worked as an apprentice telephone engineer in Swindon. At the interview, they asked if I could draw a circuit of a two-way electrical switch. I could, so they took me on.

I joined Marlborough Dramatic Society, where I met my wife-to-be, Joan. She lived in Rockley. Her father was the butler at Rockley Manor. She used to cycle to work every day except when the weather was too bad, when she would ride to Marlborough on the back of a tractor.

We lived at 25 The Parade, opposite The Crown. Then we bought the plot in St Martins and built our bungalow, where our children David, Susan and Alison grew up. I got involved with the swimming club when I took David there to learn. It was an open-air pool near the Parade and River Kennet, and I coached there for many years.



*Alan, Savernake*

My job as a Post Office TO – technical officer – was based at the telephone exchange in Blowhorn Street. Work took me to many other exchanges, so I got to know them quite well. I was an army reservist too. But I wouldn't have wanted to live anywhere in Wiltshire other than Marlborough. It's a nice, settled atmosphere. And you've got a job to beat this view of the forest from my window.

---

## 'As I walk down Marlborough High Street, my progress is accompanied by an undercurrent of memories'

---

*Rachel Bond, 56, was born and grew up in Easton Royal, before leaving Wiltshire to work, travel and start a family. She returned to Wiltshire 15 years later and now lives in Great Bedwyn.*

To me, Wiltshire always feels like a hidden gem in plain sight. So many millions of people drive through it on the M4 and A303, catching mere glimpses of its beautiful scenery and rich history as they head for better-known tourist destinations. Those of us who live here, however, have learned over the past year to appreciate more than ever the network of footpaths and bridle paths that allow us to roam this ancient landscape.

I was born in Easton Royal and lived the first 18 years of my life there. My father taught at the Marlborough Children's Convalescent Hospital and School on Marlborough Common, now Merlin Court Care Home, and my mother worked part-time in the White Horse Bookshop. I went to Easton Royal Primary School, then to Pewsey Comprehensive before doing my A-levels at St John's. The train from Pewsey station then took me away to university and eventually off into the big, wide world.

As a teenager, I was persuaded by a friend to join Pewsey Vale Young Farmers Club and that was where I met my future husband, Ian, a farmer's son from Gloucestershire. Married life took us first to a pig farm near Wuhan, China – a fascinating experience cut short by the events in Tiananmen Square in June 1989.



*Rachel, Gt Bedwyn*

Spain, Mexico and the USA followed, before we settled back in Wiltshire, this time in Great Bedwyn, in the thatched cottage that my great-aunt had bought in 1948. With a dog and a young family, there was so much to explore, and I came to relish walking along the myriad footpaths that have been rights of way for centuries.

Their names are so evocative: Galley Lane, Hatchet Lane, Monk's Lane, the Brails. A more recent feature of the local landscape, the Kennet & Avon canal, has its own charms, not least the wildlife you see along the towpath. I never tire of seeing the extraordinary flash of blue from a darting kingfisher or hearing the rhythmic thrum of a swan in flight. I tend to take other wildlife sightings for granted these days: skylarks trilling overhead, hares dashing across a field or the ever-present red kites performing aerobatics in the skies above my garden.

Coming back to live in the place where you grow up can be disconcerting. Familiar places feel different when viewed through an adult lens. As I walk down Marlborough High Street, my progress is accompanied by an undercurrent of memories. More recent events, such as registering the birth of our third son in the Town Hall, singing carols in Marlborough College Chapel with the Bedwyn Millennium Choir or watching Big Man Clayton's fat fingers hammering the piano keys at the jazz festival, have added new layers to much deeper-seated experiences.

I have vivid memories of climbing up the creaking stairs to the labyrinthine attic rooms at the very top of the White Horse Bookshop, where the then owner's son had an impressive model railway. The lawns of the Priory Gardens were a haven of freedom for us sixth-formers in those heady, post-exam days of summer and served the same purpose for my sons and their friends many years later. In contrast, the flint walls of Old Lion Court still send a slight shiver down my spine as I recall sitting in trepidation in the waiting room of the dental surgery there.

Two of our three boys were born overseas, and it would have been easy to carry on with expat life indefinitely, but we chose to come back and put down roots in Wiltshire. This was a deliberate decision: we wanted our children to grow up in a rural environment and feel a deep sense of belonging in a landscape and a community. It is hard to imagine a better place than Wiltshire to do just that.



# CLARIDGE

Funeral Service

Local independent family funeral directors

*Proudly supporting our local community*



*Daniel, Mary & Richard Claridge and team welcome you.  
Every funeral is individual and tailored entirely to your wishes,  
within all budgets.*

Parade Mews | The Parade | Marlborough | Wiltshire SN8 1NE | T: 01672 511836

E: [daniel@claridgefuneralservice.co.uk](mailto:daniel@claridgefuneralservice.co.uk) | [www: claridgefuneralservice.co.uk](http://www.claridgefuneralservice.co.uk)

Available 24 hours a day all year round, for information, help and advice

CHARLES S. WINCHCOMBE & SON LTD. Est. 1932

THOMAS FREE & SONS Est. 1875



FOURTH GENERATION INDEPENDENT FAMILY

FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
& MEMORIAL CRAFTSMEN



[www.wiltshirefunerals.co.uk](http://www.wiltshirefunerals.co.uk)  
[wiltshirefunerals@gmail.com](mailto:wiltshirefunerals@gmail.com)



01672 512110

01380 722500

Albert House,  
The Parade, Marlborough, SN8 1NE.

Registered Office: Winchcombe House,  
37, New Park Street, Devizes, SN10 1DT.



# KFR

**BUY | DONATE | VOLUNTEER**

The furniture & white goods charity

## OPEN TO EVERYONE

### BUY

We stock a wide range of items.

Refurbished and new furniture including tables, chairs, beds, chests of drawers, cupboards and sofas. We also stock white goods such as cookers, washing machines, dishwashers, fridges and freezers. Reconditioned white goods come with a 6 month warranty excluding refrigeration which comes with a 3 month warranty.



We are fully committed to supplying quality items to families with limited income and so our green price carries a 40% discount for those with means tested benefits including tax credits.

### DONATE

We only thrive if you donate to us.

We will collect your unwanted furniture and white goods (washing machines, dishwashers, cookers, fridges & freezers only) from within your property, free of charge as long as they are in a suitable condition. We cover the whole of Wiltshire, reviving communities by removing unwanted items and reducing landfill.

### VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are a vital part of KFR.

We simply could not function without them. In return for their commitment, we are able to offer on the job training with a wide variety of personal development opportunities including Health & Safety, CV writing and interview skills. Get in touch if you would like more information about becoming part of the KFR family.

[kfr.org.uk](http://kfr.org.uk)

**reuse**  
NETWORK



refurbishing furniture  
reviving communities

Visit our showroom today SN10 2EU

01380 72 0722 • [info@kfr.org.uk](mailto:info@kfr.org.uk)

Registered charity no. 1056649



# ‘Life’s journey started many miles away, in sub-Saharan Africa... a very different place from where I now call home’

---

*Selam Davies was born in Ethiopia and travelled the world before moving to Marlborough 20 years ago. She is married with two children, and is a professional dog-walker.*

Life’s journey started many miles away, in Ethiopia in sub-Saharan East Africa. Then a student exchange opportunity launched me into a very different world, one where other cultures were waiting to be discovered, shared and enjoyed.

I was born and brought up in Dessie, a medium-sized Ethiopian town, surrounded by the Tossa Mountains. My people are mainly of the Amhara tribe, with strong Orthodox beliefs that form a harmonious and community-spirited environment. This, along with the tropical equatorial climate, makes it such a very different place to where I now call home.



**Selam**

The interim years were what I can only describe as my “honeymoon years”, a pleasurable tour of several countries. We spent two wonderful years in Hokkaido, Japan, but Oman was definitely the family’s favourite. This expatriate lifestyle helped to turn our two daughters into the worldly young ladies they are today. The experience along the way cultivated my own personality and perspective on life.

Any secret, preconceived reservations I may have had about moving to Marlborough were quickly dispelled. I was welcomed from the very beginning, and no doubt having two young girls to entertain boosted social involvement and my circle of friends. It was a seamless and quite unconscious integration into a community I am now proud to call home.

Marlborough has such a lovely atmosphere that is unique and difficult to describe; others I know have said the same. One attraction, perhaps the first to make an impact, was and remains the stunning landscapes that surround the town. I love to walk and am so fortunate to be able to wander in the ancient Savernake Forest or to stroll along the Pewsey Vale with its miles of awesome views. It is more remarkable to think that these wonderful places are also my place of work, and I am not sure who gets more excited, the dogs I walk or myself.

For me, Marlborough has the perfect balance of all that I could wish for: a close and increasing circle of friends, a lovely town and above all beautiful landscapes. I feel most privileged to live in such a place, a feeling that even the worst of the British weather cannot diminish.

# ‘Wiltshire children take it for granted but as a city child I am still in awe of the changing seasons, birdsong and starry nights’

---

*Gina Cooke grew up in London and moved to Wiltshire in her 20s. She has taught in local schools for 40 years and lives in Marlborough.*

Life at the Elephant and Castle in the 1950s and 60s was my “normal”. It was dirty, noisy and still bore the scars of the war. We understood seasons, as they were marked by the displays in the newsagent’s window: Christmas decorations, Easter eggs and fireworks. I adored trips to “the country”, where the air smelled so different and life seemed quieter. Even from a young age I was drawn to this natural environment.



*Gina and Andy,  
Liddington Castle*

After student days in Bath, where I met my husband, a Moonraker, we lived in a variety of places before coming to Marlborough. At the time I taught at St John’s and have since worked in many local schools, teaching pupils aged four-16.

Why have I stayed in Wiltshire? It’s home, a glorious county, with gentle countryside and a sense of history all around. And why teaching? It’s the children, and the amount I learn from them.

Wiltshire children are no different from those inner-city kids I grew up with. They take their “normal” for granted. Whereas we were thrilled by a trip to the country but the travel on the bus and train was of little consequence, for many Wiltshire children, using public transport on school trips has been an adventure. How do I ask for a bus ticket? What about the return bit? Can I speak to the old lady who asks me where we are going? How do I know where to get off? Do the trains have toilets?

And what have I learned? I know what hedgereggs are, that a bull has to be taken bullin’ and that mares have to be covered. Not to mention the joys of teaching spelling to children who don’t drop their h’s but add r’s and u’s.

And my other great interest is the natural world and environmental issues. Of course, Wiltshire children take it for granted but as a city child I am still in awe of the changing seasons, birdsong and starry nights and have tried to inspire the children with an understanding of how amazing the natural world is and how we need to protect what we have. As a child was heard to say when I walked in to take assembly: “Oh, it’s Mrs Cooke, it’ll be recycling.”

# ‘I am a Chinese girl at heart but Wiltshire is a wonderfully inspiring place. It has good Feng Shui’

---

*Liu Hong Cannon was born in northern China and came to study in England. She is a teacher and novelist, and lives in a village outside Marlborough. She is married with three children. She is working on a historical novel set in late 19<sup>th</sup>-century China.*

On first sight, Wiltshire reminded me of Mongolia, the Chinese part of which I once visited. The Downs have a special openness that resonates with the soul. Wiltshire is also a lot of pretty and peaceful market towns, which contrasted with the bustling, medium-sized Chinese seaside city I came from. Penelope Lively called Wiltshire “the cradle” of England’s civilisation, and walking in Avebury amongst the enigmatic standing stones you can see why.

I came to England as a student and ended up in Wiltshire because of my husband’s job. I was a language teacher in Beijing, and carried on teaching here, though instead of English I now teach Mandarin Chinese. It kept me up to date with events and I have met some really lovely people through my work who have taught me a great many things. There are so many differences between the two languages, which is a reflection of the two cultures.

I am so grateful to be part of both. Writing in English about China, which started off as a way of dealing with homesickness, has now become a part of my identity; it is also a unique pleasure to get published in my adoptive language, even more so to discover that what I write can entertain. Above all, it is a great honour to be given the voice, and the more I write the more I realise the truth that there are more things that unite us than divide us – except perhaps the weather. I am of course a Chinese girl at heart, and love nothing better than a good stir-fry and a loud banter in my mother tongue, Mandarin, but this green and pleasant land has taught me the special joy of eating smelly cheese and the power and value of pregnant silence.

Wiltshire is a wonderfully inspiring place. It has good Feng Shui. I have now lived more years in Wiltshire than anywhere else, including China. Wiltshire is where all my children were born and where I have made enduring friendships. A home is where you feel the most at ease in, and Wiltshire is such a place for me.

# ‘This Swindon band are up there with Lennon and McCartney – and their home county is a big influence’

---

*Steve Webb, 61, lives in Cricklade. He moved to Swindon in 1984 as a reporter on the Swindon Evening Advertiser. When he left 35 years later he was assistant editor. He now works for the Swindon-based Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. He is married with two children.*

There is a podcast I enjoy called My Time Capsule, in which the host asks celebrities to choose five items to store in a time capsule – four things they love, and one that they want to exclude from their lives. They can be objects, people, places or emotions. So this is My Wiltshire Time Capsule...

## **XTC**

I have been a fan of this underrated Swindon band for more than 40 years. Surfing in on the late 1970s New Wave (ie punk), it soon became clear there was more to this four-piece than authority-baiting songs and gobbing at their audience. Their songs have offered plenty of food for thought, and can often bring a smile to your face. Frontman Andy Partridge’s songwriting is up there with British greats like Lennon and McCartney and Ray Davies, and their home county is a big influence on their output – listen to Chalkhills And Children, Red Brick Dream and Respectable Street.

## **Salisbury Cathedral**

I am not a churchgoer and have no religious faith. But I have great admiration for the people who designed and built Britain’s medieval churches and cathedrals, and Salisbury is my favourite, with its famous spire reaching to the heavens (what a hypocrite). And the space and peace of the interior is at once calming and awe-inspiring. Egypt may have its pyramids, Greece and Rome their temples – but Wiltshire’s got Salisbury Cathedral.

## **The River Thames**

Not many of the Thames’s 215 miles flow through Wiltshire, but those that do are picturesque and peaceful. For the first 11 years of my life I lived in south-east



*Steve, Cricklade*

London – if I walked to the end of our street I could see the Thames as it fast approached its estuary. If I walk to the end of the street where I live now, I can see the Thames, only in its infancy, but still a big part of my life.

### **Avebury atmosphere**

The village of Avebury and its famous ancient stone circle would be a worthy addition to my time capsule, but I would rather capture what I consider to be the essence of this most mysterious of locations. On visiting Avebury, the sense of history and the unknown is palpable, even at times when the place is thronged with tourists. Best time to visit? A damp, mizzly Wednesday afternoon in February. Zip up your cagoule, lace up your boots and immerse yourself in a setting that is unique.

### **Swindon town centre**

This is the item I want to get rid of – at least in its current state. When I first came to Swindon, the town centre was vibrant and inviting. It is now a shadow of its former self. There’s no easy solution: a major cash injection, some imagination and creativity... I know, easier said than done. Swindon has an industrial heritage to be proud of, some beautiful parks and open spaces. I even love the Magic Roundabout. It’s just a shame that what should be the very heart of the town has all but ceased to beat.

---



*Salisbury Cathedral (© Christianity.com)*



# 'Avebury has always been mum: she is buried in the churchyard there, behind the house'

---

*Sir Simon Russell Beale, 60, lived in Avebury as a child and, after spending most of his life in London, returned to Wiltshire in 2019. He has been described as "the greatest stage actor of his generation".*

When I was a young man, going up to the pub at the top of the road in Avebury on a winter's evening was always my idea of heaven. When I did Desert Island Discs, one of my music choices was A Spotless Rose. It's a cold, frosty carol. For me, it's that walk to the pub and back.

My father was in the army and we had a very peripatetic life when I was young. I was born in Penang, Malaya, as it was then.

When I was 13 or 14 my dad got a job in RAF Wroughton hospital and mum found her dream house, a beautiful thatched cottage, in Avebury, where dad still lives.

Home was mum and Avebury has always been mum: she is buried in the churchyard there, behind the house. Her funeral service was amazing; the church was so full that people were standing in the pulpit. Three of my siblings were married in the church and my brother Matt was nearly killed there. A bell weight fell when he and I were standing underneath and it almost landed on him. You can still see the damage on the floor.

I boarded at Clifton College. After I left, before going to university, dad and I would sing in churches around the county. Dad used to drive very fast, whizzing through the lanes, listening to Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau.

I went to the Guildhall in London as a singer, then became an actor. Two years ago, I decided to leave London and return to Wiltshire. I was doing the Lehman Trilogy in New York and came back to look at houses in Marlborough. I walked into the one I finally bought because I loved it straight away.

Marlborough makes me feel safe. Always has done. My brother Andrew and his family live here. Now the White Horse Bookshop is part of my life. And Waitrose. I love Waitrose! My daily social is to go there in the morning to see Ann and Denise on the tills. They give me advice on recipes and tell me what to do with Puy lentils.



*Simon, Avebury*

# ‘An itinerant childhood meant that I’ve valued putting down roots and calling Marlborough home’

---

*Christopher Joseph, 81, came to Wiltshire in 1967. He has lived in Alexandra Terrace, Marlborough, for 40 years.*

In 1966 I was a grammar school teacher caught up in comprehensive reorganisation. In the state system, no one could promise a stable job. I was fortunate to be appointed head of Geography at Marlborough College aged 27. Here was stability: a contract until “the summer after your 60th birthday”. Geography was a backwater and it was a challenge to bring it into the mainstream, against some prejudice from pupils and staff alike. Success in breaching the barriers has been very gratifying.

I grew up as a mixed-race boy in the 1940s and 1950s. School and university shielded me from racism. Not so once I started city life. This brought me sharply up against a very different Britain. Marlborough has been wonderfully free of that; it’s a place where variety flourishes.

An itinerant childhood meant that I’ve valued putting down roots and calling Marlborough home. I miss the mix of small shops that there used to be. Bring back our cinema, and thanks to those independents who survive. As a geographer, it’s not surprising that I value the countryside enormously. Kipling’s view of Sussex applies equally here: “Our blunt, bow-headed, whale-backed Downs” are a joy to walk on, with their views in so many directions. For contrasts, there are woods ranging from Gopher to Savernake, with their seasonal variety. Also we have the River Kennet, where ARK is doing such splendid conservation work.

Music has played a large part; a source of many friendships, much fun and laughter. I’m still with the North Wiltshire Symphony orchestra after 54 years. I’ve played with orchestras in Swindon and elsewhere. The choir of St John’s, Devizes has been my main musical focus since retirement. We are a mixed choir of 37 reaching far beyond parish standard and singing in every nearby cathedral. Watching children grow and passing on to college has been a constant joy, sadly all too rare in parishes now.



*Chris with Dotty Heaton-Renshaw, oldest and youngest in St John’s, Devizes church choir*



Brand new from Miracle Theatre . . . . a "feel good" cosmic comedy about obsession and the rekindling of love, hope and possibility.

## Wednesday, 14 July 2021

in the garden at Maizey Lodge,  
Ogbourne Maizey nr. Marlborough SN8 1RY

**Performance starts 8.00pm (whatever the weather!)**

Approx. 70 minutes – no interval

**Gates open from 6.00pm for picnics. Bring your own chairs.**

Please note : Government regulations will apply

Bar/coffee/ice creams/W.C./parking

**Tickets:** Adults £14.00 Children (under 16) £8.00 Family £40.00 (2A 2C)

**Tickets in advance only 01672 – 512125 / [maizey50@gmail.com](mailto:maizey50@gmail.com)  
[www.miracletheatre.co.uk](http://www.miracletheatre.co.uk)**

in aid of **Miracle Theatre**

What does ‘leaving lockdown’ mean for you? Now, with miles of walking under our belts and countless hours on Zoom, we’re free to go further afield, but where will we go and what do we really want to do?

I’ve always longed to go to Iona and as I write this, I’ve just spent a couple of days on the island, visiting the Abbey and spending time in the various chapels. Within one of them, was a bench with the simple inscription, ‘Be still’.

As I was wandering along one of the beaches, the words from James 4.8 came to mind *‘Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you’*. God is with us wherever we are, although our own minds are often elsewhere. For a moment, I was still, and I noticed that there were birds’ eggs in a nest on the beach, the shells were beautiful, the pebbles were pinks and greens and small flowers were growing out of the rocks. I was also conscious of how little time I give to being still and just being with God.

How often do we really find space to hear the still small voice within or consider becoming the person God intends us to be? Sometimes it is refreshingly simple. Maybe finding a book that inspires us, listening to music, hearing a sermon that sets us on a new path or reading a Bible passage that speaks clearly into our own situation. At other times reflecting on our lives and particularly our spiritual lives can be more challenging.

Some people find silence essential for hearing God’s voice, others find it stultifying and oppressive. Where and when do you hear God speak to you most clearly? Jesus calls us to change our lives and to follow him. How could you learn more about following Jesus and give God the chance to meet you in a new way?

Not all journeys involve going away, going on a spiritual journey can start anywhere at all. Might praying as you walk, or just being still, be a good way to start?



On long, warm July days anglers will be on the banks of canals, rivers and lakes following the opening of the coarse fishing season in mid-June, while others have been casting their flies over the noses of trout on our precious chalk streams since April. Fishing is the nation's most popular participant sport and Wiltshire offers a varied selection of waters. Some of the best coarse fishing can be found on large lakes in the Cotswold Water Park, stocked with sizeable carp, tench, bream and pike. My career as a fisherman ended when a kingfisher perched on the tip of my rod one evening and I took up birdwatching instead.

However, I was tempted to revise my rusty fly-casting skills when I came to teach at Marlborough. The two College lakes were created in the 1970's for the annual Summer School courses and stocked with rainbow trout: the adjacent stretch of the Kennet is harder to fish with overhanging bushes and gin-clear shallow water but with skill you can catch the native brown trout, and the scarcer and subtly marked grayling too. The lakes are no longer used by the Summer School: a recent spate of blue-green algae temporarily put a stop to the fishing altogether, but recovery is hopefully on the way.

The Kennet valley, from Marlborough to Chilton Foliat and beyond, is rich in wildlife, and the trout fishing can be enjoyed on a number of private stretches. Riverside paths are closed to the general public, which has had a beneficial effect on wildlife. Scarce birds such as the grasshopper warbler, mandarin duck and kingfisher are present and there are reports of returning dragonflies, water voles and otters too. Ospreys pass through in the Spring.

The river has suffered from a variety of threats in recent decades: with a volunteer team acting to improve and restore habitats. **Action for the River Kennet (ARK)** has done much to protect it. It campaigned successfully to reduce abstraction and export of water to Swindon and as a result Thames Water now provides an alternative water source during low flow conditions. Thanks to ARK the water quality has improved and phosphate and nitrate levels reduced.

From Lower Denford to Kintbury there is fishing along the canal, as well as the river. I talked to a father and son who proudly showed me their pike catches on an iphone. Good to sense the passing on of the sport from generation to generation....!



The mayfly hatch is among the many natural wonders of this part of the world, and nowhere is more famous for it than the River Kennet. Known by fishermen as “Duffer’s Fortnight”, for a few glorious weeks each year, the normally wily trout lose all inhibitions and gorge on the mayfly – after the long winter, a time of plenty for all.

Mayfly nymphs spend up to two years in the river before hatching, mating and dying in a day – hence the Latin name *Ephemeroptera*. Once hatched, the flies “dance” frenetically above the river, streaming up and down in order to attract a mate. This is what creates the extraordinary spectacle, before thousands of imagoes (fully hatched mayfly) fall onto the river and drift down on the current like a flotilla of small sailboats.

The Kennet above Chilton Foliat is generally too fast and lacking in sediment to support a large mayfly hatch, but between Newbury and Hungerford the river is larger and the hatches can be prolific.

It’s not only trout that fatten up on mayfly. Chub, roach and dace will join the feast, as will ducks, bats and swallows. Fledgling moorhen chicks can be seen chasing and toying with the imagoes as they pass. Sometimes the water’s surface seems ready to boil over with activity. Fishermen come from all over the country and indeed the world to take advantage.

Like most things, the mayfly were late this year, not appearing in earnest until June. But the wait was worth it and the hatch was enormous when it came. On the riverbank some evenings, the air was so thick with flylife it resembled smoke and the continual roll and plop of fish in a feeding frenzy set this angler’s heart racing.

The best places to see the mayfly are any of the footpaths that cross the Kennet around Kintbury. Mayfly also come off along the River Dun/canal between Hungerford and Great Bedwyn. Look out for the mid-May cow parsley bloom in hedgerows and verges – that’s normally a sign that the mayfly are ready to dance.

I've been immersed in other worlds this month, which is after all, one of the points of reading. I'm never going to learn Japanese (too old, too lazy), nor am I going to go to sea on a trawler (too old, too seasick!) but other people have done just those things so I can read about them. Polly Barton's **Fifty Sounds** is a series of essays recording her total immersion in Japanese language and culture. Taking in turn 50 sounds or phrases Barton considers the psychological re-wiring that occurs as language evolves from something one *learns* to something one *is*. In possession of one language, the acquisition of another starts as an attempt to bend the new tongue into something relatable, to say the same things, and be the same person, just using different words. The author shows us that instead language-learning is transformative, and uncomfortable. One's use of language becomes indicative of the adaptations one makes to fit in to a new culture, and to an extent the development of a new personality, an ability to shed one skin and slide into another – which ability is both admirable and perhaps faintly dubious. Isn't a chameleon-like 'fitting in' also a sign that one's nature is unfixed and untrustworthy? Philosophical, candid and entertaining I will return to this book, not least because I'm not entirely sure I've understood everything she says. In fact I think I may be experiencing *uka-uka* - 'the sound of always being slightly wrong'.

**Dark, Salt, Clear** by Lamorna Ash is also, obliquely, about identity and the limits of language. Part memoir, part sociological study the author describes her brief period working with the men of a fishing trawler out of Newlyn in Cornwall. The lived reality of the fishing industry is, obviously, far from romantic, but within the insular yet welcoming community she encounters a depth, nuance and pride. The fishermen, tough, competent, all blokey banter, pranks and epic drunken nights in the local pubs are also thoughtful, self-aware and tolerant. Referencing Melville, Woolf and Sebald, Ash acknowledges the difficulty of finding language that adequately evokes the liminal existence of those who make a precarious living in harsh conditions. By her own admission, the author is posh, educated and seeking an identity that her subjects take for granted. In this thoughtful, observant book she demonstrates that belonging cannot be forced, but attachment and acceptance come gradually.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

---

### **Weddings – we congratulate**

12 June Emma Liddle & Douglas Giles and Jennifer Brown & Richard Angus at St George's.

### **Funerals - we pray for the families of:**

14 May Pamela 'Pam' Harrison (83) of Priory Court, Marlborough  
*St Mary's and North Wiltshire Crematorium, Royal Wootton Bassett*

17 May Helen 'Nel' Marie Pullen (45) of Clench Common, Marlborough  
*St Mary's and Kingsdown Crematorium*

17 May Alan John Dicks (72) of High Street, Marlborough  
*North Wiltshire Crematorium, Royal Wootton Bassett*

19 May Anthony William Harrop (83) of The Priory, High Street, Marlborough  
*St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery*

23 May Michael John Yates (91) of Castle Court, Marlborough  
*North Wiltshire Crematorium, Royal Wootton Bassett*

24 May Brian Sawyer (82) of Five Stiles Road, Marlborough  
*St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery*

24 May Ivor Morton (75) of Barrow Close, Marlborough  
*North Wiltshire Crematorium, Royal Wootton Bassett*

31 May Anita Helen Price (74) of Five Stiles Road, Marlborough  
*St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery*

### **Brilliant Young International Musicians in St Peter's Church**

Sunday 4 July The Corran Quartet  
Joana Ly (violin) Kirsty Macleod (violin)  
Edward Keenan (viola) Molly McWhirter (cello)

Hugo Wolf Italian Serenade

WA Mozart String quartet No 15 K4

Beethoven C sharp Minor Quartet op.131

[drnickmaurice@gmail.com](mailto:drnickmaurice@gmail.com)

**Joe Biggs** was born in London in 1934. During World War II he was evacuated to Leicestershire, after which he came with his family to live in Marlborough. He was a choirboy in St Mary's church and was one of the first pupils to attend the secondary modern school on the Common.

Upon leaving school, he went to work at the famous Pelham Puppets factory but, at the age of 18, was called up to do his national service. He joined the Royal Tank Regiment and served in Germany, rising to the rank of Corporal. At the end of his term, he was discharged but was called back again in 1956 to serve as a tank commander during the Suez Crisis. For this he was awarded the General Services Medal.

Janet and Joe, who had met briefly four years before, were married in St Mary's church in 1960. Their banns of marriage were the first banns to be printed in an issue of Tower and Town.

Joe had a diverse career: early on he was with Fringe Vision erecting TV aerials and then he learnt the trade of painter and decorator with Burt's the Builders. In his spare time he engaged in gardening, ballroom dancing and playing cards.

Joe enjoyed many sports including tennis and badminton. His biggest love was football and he played for the Burbage and Marlborough Town club. He also had opportunities to play for the Jockey Club team and to participate in matches against players such as Sean Connery, Tommy Steel and England captain, Billy Wright, who were in Showbiz 1. On one occasion Joe stood in for Lester Piggott and scored the winning goal.

Janet and Joe had two daughters, Sarah and Joanne; four grandchildren, Fiona, Holly, Josh and Alice; and six great grandchildren, James, Alfie, Thea, Sophie, Wynter and Harriett. Our thoughts are with them.

**Lionel Peck** died in March. He was a well known and respected local driving instructor having started Peck's School of Motoring almost 50 years ago. He grew up with his brother and three sisters in Fyfield and went to Lockeridge School followed by Marlborough Secondary Modern. He trained to be a motor mechanic and was one of the last to be conscripted in to National Service in the R.E.M.E. posted to Germany for 2 years. After marrying Enid they lived in Elcot Lane where they had three sons, Richard, John and Matthew who shared his passion for scrambling. Lionel was still to be seen at races with his sons until recently. He enjoyed his retirement spending time with his family which included four grandsons, playing bowls and helping at local charity events.

# V Greater than GOLD

  
run by  
EMMANUEL  
CHURCH

*Holiday Club*



Come and join us for an Olympic-themed week of fun, games, Bible stories, crafts, quizzes, music and more as we find out about something that Jesus says is even greater than gold!



23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> August



# What's On in July

---

## **3<sup>rd</sup> (Saturday)**

Marlborough College Term ends (to 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> September)

## **4<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)**

7.30pm St Peter's Church, 'Brilliant Young International Musicians', The Corran Quartet, Joana Ly (violin), Kirsty Macleod (violin), Edward Keenan (viola), Molly McWhirter (cello).. Contact [drnickmaurice@gmail.com](mailto:drnickmaurice@gmail.com) for tickets

## **14<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**

'Starcrazy' by Miracle Theatre, Maizey Lodge, Ogbourne Maizey. Open 6.00pm for picnics, curtain-up 8.00pm. Tickets, advance only, [maizey50@gmail.com](mailto:maizey50@gmail.com)  
Adults £14.00, Children (under 16) £8.00, Family (2A 2C) £40.00. 01672 512125

## **23<sup>rd</sup> (Friday)**

St John's Academy: Term 6 ends (to 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> September)

'Greater than Gold' event, 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> August,  
organised by Emmanuel Church (see further details p.23)

---

# Marlborough Church Contacts

---

## **Fr John Blacker**

513267; [marlborough@catholicweb.org.uk](mailto:marlborough@catholicweb.org.uk)  
*Parish Priest, St Thomas More RC Church*

## **Reuben Mann**

07894 048146  
[office@emmanuelmarlborough.org](mailto:office@emmanuelmarlborough.org)  
*Minister, Emmanuel Marlborough Church*

## **The Revd Tim Novis**

892209; [twgn@marlboroughcollege.org](mailto:twgn@marlboroughcollege.org)  
*Senior Chaplain, Marlborough College*

## **The Revd Pete Sainsbury**

512364; [revpetesainsbury@gmail.com](mailto:revpetesainsbury@gmail.com)  
*Team Vicar and Worship Director,  
St George's Preshute & The Marlborough  
Anglican Team*

## **The Revd Chris Smith**

514357; [revcjsmith@outlook.com](mailto:revcjsmith@outlook.com)  
*Rector; Marlborough Anglican Team*

## **The Revd Stephen Skinner**

512457; [rev.stephen.skinner3@gmail.com](mailto:rev.stephen.skinner3@gmail.com)  
*Minister, Christchurch Methodist*

## **Rachel Rosedale**

512205; [rachelrosed1@gmail.com](mailto:rachelrosed1@gmail.com)  
*Member, The Religious Society of Friends*

---

## **Laura Willis**

[marlb.anglicanteam@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:marlb.anglicanteam@tiscali.co.uk)  
Anglican Team Office, Church Cottage,  
Silverless Street, SN8 1JQ  
Mornings M,W,F 512357; T,Th 07593 815609

## **David Wylie**

513701; [office@christchurchmarlborough.org.uk](mailto:office@christchurchmarlborough.org.uk)  
Christchurch Office, New Road, SN8 1AH  
(Fridays, 14:30 to 16:30)

## Greater than Gold

An Olympic-themed week of fun, games, Bible stories, crafts, quizzes, music and more as we find out about something that Jesus says is even greater than gold!

**23rd-26th August 2021, 9am-12pm,  
Marlborough Community & Youth Centre**

**For ages 5-11. £10 per family**

Plus a Sunday family closing ceremony  
at our church service on  
29th August

Limited spaces! Please book online by  
Friday 23rd July:

[greaterthangold.eventbrite.com](http://greaterthangold.eventbrite.com)

[club@emmanuelmarlborough.org](mailto:club@emmanuelmarlborough.org)



### **Leathercraft of Marlborough**

**JEAN UPTON**

*FINE QUALITY LEATHER GOODS  
& PRESENTS LARGE AND SMALL*

OLD HUGHENDEN YARD, HIGH STREET  
MARLBOROUGH SN8 1LT  
TEL (01672) 512 065



**AD DRAUGHTING  
ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES**

Extensions | Conversions | New Builds  
Planning Permission | Building Regulations

01672 511412 | 07791 341698  
[www.addraughting.co.uk](http://www.addraughting.co.uk)

### **CHRIS WHEELER CONSTRUCTION**

For fencing and associated work  
Contact the specialists

All types of fencing supplied and erected  
Driveways and road construction  
Quality assured to ISO 9001:2000

Tel: 01672 810315

Email: [cw.cw@btinternet.com](mailto:cw.cw@btinternet.com)

MARLBOROUGH

## PODIATRY CLINIC

10 The Parade, Marlborough, SN8 1NE

**Christine MJ Stiles**

DPodM, MCPod, HCPC reg.

Treatment of all foot  
problems  
for  
Children and Adults

Professional Advice  
Routine & Specialist Care  
Nail Surgery - Orthotics

**01672 514581**

**07910 525376**

[marlboroughpodiatryclinic.com](http://marlboroughpodiatryclinic.com)

# Dianne Mackinder Funeral Service



p24\_202105\_v1.mic

**On Call Day & Night**  
01672 512444 or 512516

Wagon Yard, London Road,  
Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1 LH



We pride ourselves on providing a warm and friendly service to get you to your destination safely, on time and at a reasonable cost.

Booking ahead is advisable.

We have an on board card payment facility.  
Local or long distance for up to 4 passengers.  
Licensed Hackney Carriage.  
We have a DBS certificate and are fully insured.

**01672 512786**



## The Hair and Trichology Clinic Lynda Hutton MIT

for medical & cosmetic hair & scalp conditions  
NHS & private wig design; affordable hair salon

7 High Street, Chiseldon, 7 miles from Marlborough  
01793 740147 ~ [www.hairandtrichology.co.uk](http://www.hairandtrichology.co.uk)

TO ADVERTISE HERE

Please contact Chris Rogers

at

[advertising@towerandtown.org.uk](mailto:advertising@towerandtown.org.uk)



*Furniture Restorer, Upholsterer  
& Cabinet Maker*

**Andrew Brennan**

*Harepath Farm, Burbage, Marlborough SN8 3BT*

**M: 07769 833 939**

**[brennanrestorations@gmail.com](mailto:brennanrestorations@gmail.com)**

Established 1992

Volunteering  
is fun and  
rewarding!



Marlborough & District

# VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED



Could you be a LINK driver taking people for medical appointments, shopping or social activities?

*If you could spare time please contact us*

Call **01672 288007**

Visit **[marlboroughlink.org.uk](http://marlboroughlink.org.uk)**

Registered Charity No. 1088752

# News from the Churches

---

As this article was prepared before 21<sup>st</sup> June when Step 4 of the Covid road map took place, we trust that church services and activity groups are slowly getting back to how they were two years ago! Please continue to check the church websites for up-to-date information.

We are blessed in this town and country to have a successful roll out of the vaccination programme and an NHS. Please include prayers for those less fortunate than us.

*Healing God, bless those on a journey of recovery from illness or surgery.  
Grant strength, patience, and freedom from pain.  
Bring restoration of health through your Spirit's power.  
Reach out and touch them so they know you are there,  
bringing comfort and light even in the darkest of times.*

## **Christchurch [www.christchurchmarlborough.org.uk/](http://www.christchurchmarlborough.org.uk/)**

Services continue during July as planned: worship on a Sunday morning with full social distancing and use of masks. All are welcome to join us at 10:30. Please find out through our new website; we are hopeful that in July we will be able to socialise a bit more and have coffee and chat.



The service for our Church Anniversary on 6 June was led by Chris Smith (Rector of St Mary's); his message for us after 205 years on the same site asked, 'where do we encounter God today', in church, at work, in the street? In the reading from Genesis, Jacob met with God on the road and called the place Bethel. Many have met with God here over the last 205 years. May we continue to be a welcoming place, of community (Foodbank, New Road Centre, Love Marlborough Kids' Meals, etc). We give thanks for all those years and pray it will continue for many more.

## **Marlborough Quakers [www.marlboroughquakers.org.uk/](http://www.marlboroughquakers.org.uk/)**

Continue to hold Meetings for Worship using Zoom. Please contact Rachel Rosedale (512205) for more details.



**St Thomas More** [www.marlboroughandpewseycatholics.org.uk/notice-board/](http://www.marlboroughandpewseycatholics.org.uk/notice-board/)

Worship services continue at St Thomas More with live services.



**Emmanuel Marlborough** [www.emmanuelmarlborough.org/](http://www.emmanuelmarlborough.org/)

Emmanuel continues to meet for Sunday afternoon services, with children's groups, kindly hosted at Christchurch. The *Explorers* club, for children aged 7+, meets at 6pm on Fridays at the Wesley Hall; and midweek groups for adults meet in-person and online. The *Christianity Explored* course is meeting in person on Tuesday evenings, for enquirers to discover Jesus in Mark's gospel. For more information, contact [office@emmanuelmarlborough.org](mailto:office@emmanuelmarlborough.org)



**Marlborough Anglican Team** [www.marlboroughanglicanteam.org.uk/](http://www.marlboroughanglicanteam.org.uk/)

The Sunday morning Zoom service will be brought to an end on 20th June - a big Thank You to Mark Philips for looking after it so well. Zoom Prayers will continue Wednesdays at 5pm.

We are delighted that from 27 June (subject to Government confirmation) we are aiming to start a new pattern of Services across our team, please visit our website for further details. We appreciate your continued prayers and support.

Planned Services at time of going to press are: -

8am Holy Communion at St Mary's (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month) and St George's (1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month)

9am Weekly Services at Minal

10:30am Weekly Services at St Mary's and St George's

5:30pm Fortnightly Informal Service at St Mary's (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month)

All three churches remain open for private prayer daily:

St Mary's 9am-5pm St George's 9am-6pm St John the Baptist 9am-5.30pm

along with Prayer meetings on Wednesdays at 8am in St Mary's Church and in the afternoon via a zoom meeting at 5pm.

Prayer support is available for individuals or for your loved ones. Please contact the clergy, in confidence, see page 22. Please do be praying for our world and the church at this time.



## Marlborough Churches Together Fraternal

The Fraternal met at the end of June. Please speak to clergy if you would like anything raised during the July meeting.



## Farewell to Bishop Nicholas

There will be a Choral Evensong Farewell to Bishop Nicholas in Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday 3 July 2021, at 5.30pm.

The service will be livestreamed via: <https://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/live>



## Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG)

MAPAG have an open meeting on Monday 5 July at 5pm. Contact Rachel Rosedale (512205) for more details.



## **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> South West in Bloom judging date for Marlborough**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July is the big day! The judges arrive at 10am and will be guided around a route chosen to take in the highlights of the town. Starting and finishing at the Town Hall, the route will zig zag down the High Street, meander through Priory Gardens, into and along Coopers Meadow, through The Parade, finishing up in Wye House Gardens before heading back to town.



If you live or work on the route and would like to 'do your bit', you could simply weed and sweep up in front of your home, shop or business, put out a colourful planter or hanging basket.

We plan some 'tidy up' days in the lead up to the competition, so, if you have a passion for the outdoors or just want to help us to make Marlborough look 'blooming amazing', **please contact Clare Harris [charris@marlborough-tc.gov.uk](mailto:charris@marlborough-tc.gov.uk) or on 01672 512487.**



# Tower and Town staff

---

<b>Chairman</b>	Hugh de Saram	chairman@towerandtown.org.uk 18 Kelham Gardens SN8 1PW	516830
<b>Advertising</b>	Chris Rogers	advertising@towerandtown.org.uk	
<b>Distribution</b>	Sue Tulloh	distribution@towerandtown.org.uk	288912
<b>Subscriptions</b>	Peter Astle	4 Laurel Drive, SN8 2SH	515395
<b>Treasurer</b>	Peter Astle	treasurer@towerandtown.org.uk	515395

## Production Teams

### *August*

Editor	Sarah Bumphrey	aug.editor@towerandtown.org.uk	516862
Compiler	Hugh de Saram	aug.compiler@towerandtown.org.uk	516830

### *September*

Editor	Virginia Reekie	sep.editor@towerandtown.org.uk	512083
Compiler	Rob Napier	sep.compiler@towerandtown.org.uk	512333

## Every Month

<i>What's On</i>	Ali Pick	whats.on@towerandtown.org.uk	512250
<i>News from the Churches</i>	Alison Selby	church.news@towerandtown.org.uk Crossmead, Kingsbury St, SN8 1HU	511128
<i>Family News</i>	Jessy Pomfret	family.news@towerandtown.org.uk	519134
<i>Arts</i>	Gabriella Venus	arts.correspondent@towerandtown.org.uk	
<i>Books</i>	Debby Guest	books.correspondent@towerandtown.org.uk	
<i>Nature</i>	Robin Nelson	nature.correspondent@towerandtown.org.uk	

**Website, searchable article archive** <https://www.towerandtown.org.uk>

### **Contributions and comments** from readers are welcome.

Please send articles and letters to the Monthly Editor or the Chairman, other notices or announcements to the compiler. All items for the August issue by Tuesday 13th July please.

**Our Advertisers** support us. Contact Chris Rogers if you would like to join them.

Tower and Town is available at St Mary's, Christchurch, St Peter's, Mustard Seed, Kennet Pharmacy and St George's, Preshute.

**Annual subscription** £5 for 11 copies a year delivered to your address.

Please ring Sue Tulloh (288912) or use [www.towerandtown.org.uk](http://www.towerandtown.org.uk)

**originzone**



## ***Websites shaped around you***

We create bespoke websites with your business in mind.

Our solutions are suitable for any business, whether you're looking for a new website or you simply want to refresh.

**Make your website work for you.**

[originzone.co.uk](http://originzone.co.uk) | 01793 430006

THE  
MERRIMAN  
PARTNERSHIP  
SOLICITORS EST. 1738

- 
- Property
  - Wills
  - Probate
  - Family
  - Employment
  - Litigation
  - Mediation
- 

HUGHENDEN HOUSE, 107 HIGH STREET  
MARLBOROUGH, WILTSHIRE SN8 1LN

Tel: +44 (0) 1672 512244  
Fax: +44 (0) 1672 515871

[www.merriman-partnership.co.uk](http://www.merriman-partnership.co.uk)



HARRISON AUCTIONS LTD

JUBILEE AUCTION ROOMS

Phillips Yard, Marlborough Road, Pewsey, SN9 5NU

Opposite Pewsey train station  
Regular monthly auction sales

For more information please contact  
David Harrison or Sue Owen 01672 562012  
[www.jubileeauctions.com](http://www.jubileeauctions.com)