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THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

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Marlborough Women

Wikipedia's list of notable people of Marlborough contains only one woman – Eglantyne Jebb. In this edition I aim, making Ms Jebb my starting point, to redress the balance with my selection of articles about and by women who have made or are making a contribution to life in Marlborough.

Teaching has long been a profession in which women have been able to achieve some independence and make a difference. Sara Holden focusses on Eglantyne Jebb's time teaching at St Peter's School while Nick Baxter brings to light the life of Emma Pullen, the school mistress at St Peter's, who greatly impressed Eglantyne Jebb. The final member of my trio of teachers is Monica Weston remembered with fondness and respect by Janet Buck.

There are, of course, many other ways in which women make a contribution to the town. Lisa Farrell tells her inspiring story of how she went from activist to mayor (and will be mayor again!) and Susie Price describes her stint as a young female town councillor. Louisa Evans explains the pleasures and challenges of running a business in the town, Pam Tulloch gives us an insight into her time as the first full-time woman doctor at the Marlborough practice and we hear of Vicky Sullivan's much valued contribution to the LINK scheme and WI.

By way of contrast, I hope you enjoy meeting Minal's reluctant church warden and reading the contributions from our regular correspondents.

Sarah Bumphrey

Front cover: Eglantyne Jebb (left) and Lisa Farrell (right)

Town Councillor: Susie Price

Why did you want to become a councillor?

I've always had an interest in politics and have done a variety of volunteering since my mid-teens, so getting involved in local government was sort of a natural progression from that. Actually, getting on Marlborough Town Council was all quite last minute for me, but it was a combination of feeling it was something I should have a go at, friends nagging me, and the timing being right!

How did it feel when you were elected and actually had to do the job?

I wish I'd been elected! There weren't enough candidates standing for the town council in 2017, so we were all walk-ins, which was quite a strange feeling for a newcomer to the council. It definitely leads to a bit of an imposter syndrome.

I didn't come to the council with a list of pet projects, which I think is the best way to approach it. What becomes immediately clear when you join is that there is a huge amount of work going on behind the scenes, so I tried sitting on every committee over the years to get a feel for every aspect of council work. A 4-year term is about enough time to get your head around it all!



Walking back from the Civic Service

What are council meetings like?

As a councillor you get used to them quite quickly, which can be a problem because you lose all perspective of what they are like to a "normal" person! Generally, though, the best way to think of council meetings are as business meetings. The

point is to make decisions, and councillors are supposed to do the work beforehand and come to the meeting ready to get things done efficiently.

Some people are put off because they don't feel they can participate during a meeting, but every meeting has a public question time, and for the first couple of years being a councillor it was rare to see any members of the public at a meeting, which is a shame. Doing virtual meetings during 2020 saw a huge increase in public engagement, so I was dismayed to hear that these might not be continuing.



What do you like about being a councillor and what is less enjoyable?

I'm really interested in what goes on in the community and what makes the town tick, so the council is an opportunity to stick your fingers in loads of pies and make a genuine difference. Seeing things like people enjoying a new play area, or even having a clean bill of health from the financial auditors (less glamorous but still important!), and knowing you had a part in making it happen is a good feeling.

I think the most frustrating thing about being a councillor is when misunderstandings snowball into toxic arguments, either between councillors, the public or both. There is often no "right" answer, and certainly never one that will

please everyone, so the best we can do is make sure all the available information has been considered fairly.

Do you think you have anything particular to offer as a young woman in the role?

Diversity is a force for good, and it was pretty pale, male and stale when I joined the council in 2017 (my former fellow councillors won't mind me saying that!). However, I am still a middle class, white, childless, able-bodied, and all round quite privileged person in the town. We all have a responsibility to support people from less represented groups to be part of local decision making.

Eglantyne Jebb: from Marlborough to Save The Children

Edited by Sara Holden from Nick Baxter's longer article, published in Wiltshire Life in May 2019.

Eglantyne Jebb, founder of Save the Children, taught at St Peter's School in Marlborough from 1899 to 1900. The school, now the town library, was then flanked by overcrowded and squalid terraces, rows, yards, places, and courts such as Union Place, Holt's Row, Macklin's Court, Bernard's Court, Smith's Yard, St Peter's Terrace, and Militia Court.

Eglantyne came from an enlightened upper-middle class family from Shropshire. Before undertaking teacher training she had been a student at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. She clearly had a vocation to work with deprived children because she would have preferred to teach in London Docklands, but couldn't get a job there. Instead she succeeded in gaining a post at St Peter's School in Marlborough, where she had connections through her uncle James, a retired Marlborough College teacher, who lived nearby.

When Eglantyne taught at St Peter's, there were three school rooms: boys, girls, and infants; Eglantyne taught the girls. Her classroom was built to accommodate about 115 pupils. There were five members of staff but only Eglantyne and the headmistress were formally qualified. The others were teenage girls aged 18, 15 and 14.

Eglantyne noted in her diary how casually her pupils talked about death in their families, one girl stating that "None of us has died yet." It was perhaps unsurprising that she found the children pretty indifferent to the suffering involved in the Boer War then raging in South Africa.

But Eglantyne's health was poor. Her diary reveals bouts of depression. On one Sunday she wrote, "The prospect of returning to my work tomorrow makes me feel physically ill, my body and heart ache in concert. If I were only going to the dentist tomorrow - but to stand, mutilating scripture to the detriment of inattentive children, I could shed tears over the prospect."

On 20th December 1900, she left St Peter's School. In the aftermath of World War I two decades later, appalled by starving children in defeated Austria-Hungary and Germany, she founded Save the Children with her sister Dorothy Buxton. Although her time in Marlborough was brief, it clearly made a big impression upon her and contributed to her later life's work.

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Emma Pullen, schoolmistress at St Peter's:

Nick Baxter

St Peter's School for the boys, girls, and infants of St Peter's parish, was opened in 1854. In 1918 it became the town's boys' school closing in 1963 to become Marlborough Library, its function today. In 1900 the school inspector reported, "The girls are in very good order and work with industry. The lessons are given with much earnestness and thoroughness and the results are successful. Needlework is very good."

Emma Pullen, the schoolmistress, was assisted by Eglantyne Jebb, a certificated elementary school teacher; Emma Wilkes, articled; Daisy Cox, pupil teacher; and Elsie Smith, candidate. Eglantyne admired Miss Pullen's teaching skills, despite her 'rough edges', the fact that 'she had a tongue in her head', and occasionally 'fled into a temper' and 'stormed' at the children. She observed her class was always better behaved after a lesson from Miss Pullen. She must have felt valued when Miss Pullen praised her for instilling in her pupils, "more than ordinary initiative and resourcefulness".

Emma Mary Pullen was born on 1st May 1865 in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Edward, her father, was a plasterer and Anne, her mother, a dressmaker. As the eldest child of a large family, she would have helped with her siblings, developing qualities that were to later serve her well as a school mistress. She taught in Hungerford before gaining the post of mistress at St Peter's.



Two houses were attached to the school. Emma resided at 8 Sun Lane (now 17 Hyde Lane). Emma Greening, a young teacher, boarded with her. William Peal, the boys' master, lived at 7 Sun Lane (now 16 Hyde Lane) with his wife and six children.

Emma had to resign after she married Henry James Brooke, a Marlborough plumber and house painter. This may have jarred with her as, had she been a man, she would have carried on teaching. Emma and Henry had a son, Henry Edward Brooke named after his father and grandfather.

Emma died, aged 61, on 31st May 1926. At probate, administration was granted to her widower and to her son, a grocer's assistant. Astonishingly, her "effects" were valued at £2,053 0s 1d, a huge sum for the time.

Town Councillor and Mayor: Lisa Farrell

I became a town councillor in 2013 because the elderly and young families in Marlborough had nowhere they could afford to shop on their low incomes. They had to catch the bus or a taxi to Asda or Tesco in Swindon which I knew put a strain on their budget. So in 2008-9 I led a campaign to bring Tesco to Marlborough with so much support of the people from Marlborough. I then thought there is more I could do if I joined the council.

I never thought for one moment that I would become Mayor but I had great support from the councillors around me. I found it very hard at first as I felt I did not fit in because I was from a single parent family and lived in social housing, and I had dyslexia and learning disabilities. I was also working full time. It was the most nerve-wracking experience of my life. It was so hard to walk into rooms when I didn't know anyone. But it is good to get out of your comfort zone. And I wanted to prove that if I could do this then I would hope it would prove that anyone could do it, no matter their background, if they worked hard; it also helped that I love the place I grew up in.

I was very nervous at the Mayor-making. There is a list of people you should invite. But I felt that I needed to invite kids I have worked with; they haven't had it easy but they were proud of me being Mayor. I also had people who supported me from Tesco and I wanted them there but there was no more room in the town hall that night so I had a party at the night club straight after the mayor-making. The councillors walked there with me which made me so proud so they could all see us in our robes. It all worked really well.

Lisa on the town hall steps with the rest of the town council and officials after her mayor-making. Her son, Brian Rumbold, is on her left (and Susie Price is top right).





With Billy Whitelegg at the Mop Fair; at Presbute in connexion with Marlborough in Bloom; with Japanese visitors from Tokai High School



If you love somewhere and feel passionate about it you want to contribute. Kids inspire me, they're so cool and the elderly around me are so inspirational. It's nice to have people thinking my Mum would be so proud of me (I'm sure she would be shocked too) and to have the backing of local people from people who I grew up with to people whom I've never met before. I tried to start a youth council to get the young people from the town and the college together. I really want to bring the town and the schools closer together; there is too much that is said that is so untrue. They got on so well. I invited the Jubilee centre people to Marlborough College for lunch. I asked them what was their favourite lunch and I would ask the chefs to cook it for them; they asked for fish & chips. They were so excited; it was beautiful to see.

Being Mayor had some surprises. I got to know certain groups who helped me to support my youth work and I could open doors for people around me. I saw other parts of the town I had no clue about – like Wye House Gardens! I saw a lot more about Marlborough especially when I volunteered during Covid lock-down and how we all come together to help one another. I really hope this will continue; we have a beautiful town with beautiful shops which we need to support.

It was great when it stopped but I'm up for it again. I became Deputy Mayor on 12th April so I will be Mayor next year. I have more confidence to go forward, to get the community to work together and get people to talk about what they want.

Memories of a Reluctant Church Warden:

Gordon Pepper

St John the Baptist church, Minal is ranked among the ten most beautiful churches in Wiltshire. After Jane Austen's 'Emma' was filmed there it was described to be one of the five most romantic churches in the country in which to get married.

What does a church warden do?

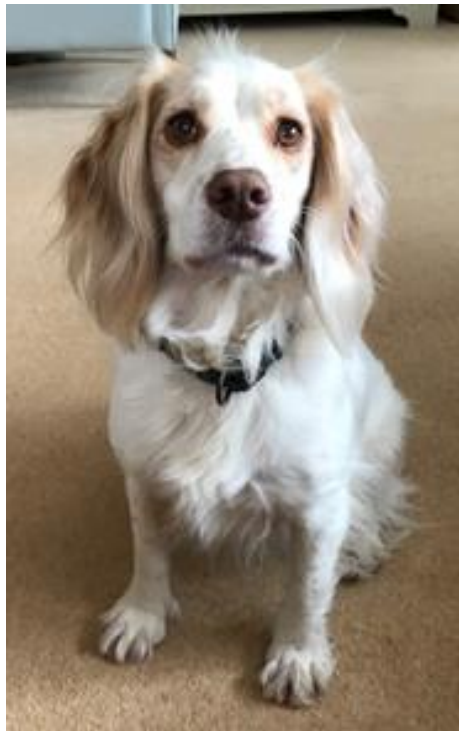
The background to my becoming the church warden of Minal church was that the previous one, Mary Fishlock, had wanted to retire for about two years because of ill health and no one had been found to replace her. The situation was becoming desperate and I decided that I must step in. So I went along to the Rector and asked what a churchwarden did. He gave me a book. It described how the church's assets were divided into the fixed ones, the building and the real estate, mainly the churchyard, which the rector owned, and all the moveable assets, which I would own. It went on to explain that the Parochial Church Council, and NOT the church warden, was responsible for the maintenance, preservation and insurance of the said movable assets but I would be responsible for keeping the record of them and reporting additions, changes and deletions each year. In other words, I would merely report the work done by others. This seemed a bit odd so I went along to see a dearly loved retired Canon and asked him what a church warden did. His reply was, 'Anything the Rector wants'. So I went back to the Rector and asked him what he would want. I received the classic reply, 'I don't know - I have never been a church warden'¹. I then asked an experienced church warden. His reply was, 'Everything else'. I assumed this meant things that were unallocated or unexpected and anything others did not want to do. Cleaning the loo? I made a mental note to make sure I retired as church warden before the planned toilet was completed.

The best way of keeping the church records was easy to decide but involved a great deal of work. There had been a very good survey by the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (now the Arts Society) in 1996. This was put on to a computer and the annual changes recorded in a supplement, with the approval of the Archdeacon. One thing boomeranged. The Sacristan of the church kindly agreed to check the records of all the textiles, his own responsibility being the altar linen and communion vessels, plus the altar frontals. He checked everything else too and came up with 15 corrections to the NADFAS report. I would have liked to have ignored them because they greatly complicated the supplement

¹ *It was a jocular remark during the middle of a useful discussion.*

but I did not dare.

Further according to the regulations all the maintenance work carried out in the church should be recorded in a log book kept in the church. I thought up a lazy way of recording it – copying the relevant extracts from the PCC minutes into a separate file in my computer - the cheeky thing was calling it ‘Church Log Book’. I tried it out on the Archdeacon expecting to be told not to push my luck. Her answer was unexpected, ‘What a good idea’. She had made a friend for life.



The day after I asked the Rector what a church warden does we went for a walk in Savernake Forest with our dogs. *We* lost *my* dog, a lovely lemon and white working cocker who we found waiting by my car. A few days later I discovered that another church warden had walked with the Rector in the Forest. *They* lost the *warden's* dog too. Of the three of us the Rector was the common denominator. To a statistician this was proof that he was the one at fault. My apologies. I am an actuary. This is a good example of a very bad actuarial joke - a joke because it is so ridiculous. Anyone with an ounce of common sense would realise that the explanation was that the Rector's dog was better trained than the other two. The lesson is always to check that statistical conclusions are in accordance with common sense.

One final thing about the job of a church warden - he or she has the same power of arrest inside the church as does a policeman outside. This raises the delicious possibility of me being authorised to arrest my son-in-law if he should sing out of tune!

For Bishop Andrew's survey of the church see
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhOA5xMgHIQ>

Clergy Letter: Bishop Andrew

This is an edited version of an address given for the centenary of Save the Children at St Mary's Marlborough, December 2019.

There are times in life when each of us experiences the world turned on its head: times of loss, or testing; new realisation or revelation that changes how we perceive the world around us. While these can often be disorientating and deeply challenging, they can also rearrange our priorities, our perspective – sometimes the whole course of our life.

One of the earliest accusations against the first Christians was that they had ‘turned the world upside down with their teaching’. What a wonderful complaint to have levelled against you – and certainly, in Christ’s teaching, the usual ways are constantly reversed – the first shall be last, the meek inherit the earth, our enemies are the very ones we must love and pray for - to name a few examples. Another is his famous command to ‘suffer little children’ – the resonant phrase from St Matthew’s Gospel, which is preceded by his challenge that no one becomes great unless they change and become like children.

The importance of doing this in order to see things aright could mean different things: the need to retain our sense of wonder, for example. And we read this, of course, with 21st century eyes, from a culture in which childhood has a very different status and value – not least due to the vision and endeavour of charities like Save the Children. But in Jesus’ day, children really were the least in society, having neither status nor rights of their own. To become childlike would be to become weak, powerless and utterly dependent on the charity of others.

And while our culture is significantly different, the life of a child remains, of course, staggeringly vulnerable. As children, we simply receive whatever life gives or denies us – as Christians would say, children live entirely by *grace*. Jesus challenges us to make a headstand in their own perspective that enables them to see and feel on behalf of those who live like this: indeed, to realise their own utter dependence on others and on God and to let this realisation move them, impel them, to charitable action.

It is easy to forget that a nation’s values do not emerge by accident, but through this process – of seeing the world differently, and thus being moved to action. The great charitable impulse that was the engine of so much social change in this country came in large part from the Christian vision of women and men like Marlborough’s own Eglantyne Jebb, whose bright firework of a life lit the way for so much good. So passionate was she for justice that she was nicknamed ‘White Heat’. What an example: and what a local hero!

The late Clive James wrote that ‘a society is civilised to the extent that it understands human frailty’. Eglantyne Jebb, who the Church of England celebrates on 17th December each year (the date of her death in 1928), understood that frailty and devoted her life to helping others see the world from a child’s perspective. May her example inspire us to do likewise – for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as her.



Marlborough's First Full-time Woman Doctor: Pam Tulloch

I grew up in coastal Ayrshire, in Troon (the land of golf), and then went to Medical School in Edinburgh, followed by five years of further assorted clinical training in Scotland.

By a series of coincidences (some would call it serendipity!), I was accepted for a partnership in the longstanding Marlborough GP practice in 1984. There had been two women doctors previously, but on limited time contracts. So it was the five chaps and me!

I felt very fortunate, especially as a single female, to be welcomed in Marlborough, and rapidly came to feel at home here. If I'm being picky, it is rather far from the sea, and from "God's Own Country" i.e. Scotland!

I have had the chance to get involved in all sorts of parts of the community, particularly St Mary's Church which was open and friendly. I made the mistake very early on of asking if they "had any Home Groups?" which became an important involvement, including leading a group for 15-20 years. The League of Friends of Savernake Hospital was another important example, coffee mornings and all!

In the practice I attracted a lot of, not surprisingly, gynaecology and mental health concerns, as well as the full cross section of GP work; the variety of this was always what had attracted me to general practice as a speciality, a great mixture both of people and medical issues. I enjoyed the continuity, walking with people through different stages of their lives: e.g. growing families; mid-life crises (!); serious and less serious health problems; even bereavements. It is a very privileged position.

General practice was different in those days; some changes have clearly been for the better, but some less so. We used to manage with two partners' meetings a year: (1) to plan the staff Christmas party; (2) to share out holiday time. Now weekly meetings are the norm, since NHS bureaucracy, and its "business model" has ballooned. I think this increase in administrative responsibilities is one of the reasons many young doctors prefer not to take on a partnership role.

I was ready to retire, but there was no job I would rather have spent those 35 years doing.

Running a Business: Louisa Evans

My business [*Louisa's Sugarcraft and Cake Decorating Supplies* in Hillier's Yard] is in a market where there aren't many of us. It started small and has grown to a range of about 4,000 different items over 6 years since it started in July 2015.

It began as a hobby after I was inspired by a beautiful cupcake shop that I saw on honeymoon in San Francisco. Back home I started doing cupcakes, selling them at school fetes, fairs, village shows and Marlborough and Cirencester community markets, whilst in the meantime I did various cake decorating exams and diplomas. Then the premises in Hillier's Yard became available. Mum said it's about time I took on a shop, so I left my job as a pharmacy technician to follow my dream. I started in the shop selling celebration cakes and cupcakes and people kept asking me for supplies for making their own cakes. I've been selling cake supplies for the last 4 years since Mum passed away, which is when I decided to concentrate on supplies and equipment.

People travel to shop here from the south coast, Newbury, Oxford, Hereford, Bristol, Reading, London. It's good for the town; they will have a coffee and spend money in other independent businesses. Unless people use independent shops the High Street will die.

When Covid hit we built a website and, by the end of the first lockdown, Click and Collect was in operation. We've been building on that over the months. It has been very successful and has kept us going. We will go postal but that's quite challenging so one step at a time!

People think that independents are dearer than online but they're not. You have to be price competitive; all my stock is price checked. My goal is to increase stock, offer a bigger range and keep adding the latest trends. At the moment they are rose gold and geo moulds. Skills learned from previous jobs have contributed to success of the business.

Finally, my baking tip is to have the right equipment. I couldn't manage without a turntable and good quality tools and cutters. Don't stress if it's all going wrong - sit down, have a cup of tea and go back to it.



Monica Weston, Headteacher of St. Peter's Junior School – Janet Buck

Monica Weston became headteacher of St. Peter's Junior School in September 1987 where she remained for 12 years until she had to take early retirement due to ill health. I was fortunate to work with her for eight of those years.

Monica was an inspirational headteacher and leader. She was a good listener and was approachable to everyone at school, children and adults alike. When her office door was open, children knew that they could go with any problems or share a special memory with her. Their ideas and opinions were valued; they felt safe to express their feelings and, as a result, learnt respect for each other. Monica always said that all the members of her school were like family and she was very proud of them. To know we were appreciated made us all the keener to work hard for her and the school.



During her time at St. Peter's, Monica saw the introduction of the new curriculum in 1988, which impacted hugely on how and what was taught. She coordinated the successful delivery of in-service programmes so that all teachers felt confident in their teaching and this created a vibrant learning environment. She had high expectations for all students both in learning and behaviour, knowing that this greatly affected their achievement.

Monica was a true professional with great organisational skills. Her notes were always hand written in a beautiful script. Her communication skills were a real strength whether she was speaking to an education officer, one of the children, a colleague or parent. Her lasting legacy is that past students and staff will remember her when they think of a great headteacher who believed in them and their abilities.

At her untimely death in March 2000, it was said of her by one of my colleagues, "Many things made Monica a special person to all who knew her. Her enthusiasm for the simplest of things was infectious. She had the ability to arouse interest in the most unlikely things, and yet she had the sophistication and depth of background knowledge which enabled her to relate to many people in all walks of life."

Photograph of Monica Weston by David Uttley, printed by kind permission of Dianne Uttley.

If I tell you I'm recommending a really marvellous book about a disparate group of people who, over the course of forty years enjoy art, and the art of living, and love and sunshine and fresh peaches in Florence – you could be forgiven for going “Really? Yawn...” But bear with me, **Still Life** is by Sarah Winman, one of my favourite authors, so it's not cliched or predictable. Sarah Winman's writing is clear and clever, and the book is joyous and evocative, full of funny and touching detail, and just fantastical enough to be interesting without going too far into magic realism. It's about the power of art and beauty to bolster the human spirit, and about generosity and constructing one's own family. It's all about connection really, and yes, E M Forster does make an appearance, in a room, with a view. It made me grin, and it made me weep, and halfway through I had to consciously slow down because I didn't want to come to the end. I loved it. (Can you tell?)

A quick canter through some other titles I've enjoyed – judging by the sales I know a lot of you may have already read **Small Pleasures** by Clare Chambers, but if you haven't then please do. A reporter on a local newspaper investigates an extraordinary claim in this beautifully constructed and detailed, slightly melancholy story of constricted suburban lives in the early 1950s.

I'm a fan of Nick Hornby's 'useless-bloke-lit' as I call it, and I very much enjoyed **Just Like You**, in which the central 'bloke' is actually almost the least useless of the characters. The story of an unexpected, unlikely, and on the face of it, unworkable relationship it's a sweet reminder not to make assumptions and not to over-think human interaction.

Anne (*Meet Me at the Museum*) Youngson's second novel is another 'second chances' story, and again, could be cliched, but absolutely isn't. **Three Women and a Boat** is well-constructed and witty, a tale of women facing or making changes in their lives, and forging friendships. Youngson reminds us that making a change doesn't have to be dramatic or drastic, a slight tweak of the dial may be all it takes. It's a warm and sweet-natured book (but *not* sentimental).

Finally - I'm not racist, and neither are you, obviously. *But*. Do read **Assembly** by Natasha Brown. It's a very slim, sparingly written novella, which skewers the blindness of privilege, in relation to both race and class, as well as sex. Both explicitly and implicitly Brown describes the effort involved in code-switching, as her narrator reflects on whether the work involved in assimilating is worth any potential reward. The author is appearing at this year's Marlborough Literature Festival, I'm hoping for a front row seat.

“In August away I must” goes the nursery rhyme: cuckoos are bound for their wintering quarters in central Africa, indeed some started their migratory journey this year in late June. It is also the holiday season when people seek sunshine, seaside and the great outdoors, needed more this year than ever before.



The cuckoo is not the only bird leaving our shores in what we regard as high summer. By mid-August most of our Swifts are flying southwards, likewise sand martins, common terns and the diminutive little ringed plovers that have summered in the Cotswold Water Park. Despite our position more than 50 miles from the coast migrant waders such as the common sandpiper, the green sandpiper, the whimbrel and the greenshank stop to feed along our waterways or in the shallow margins of gravel pits.

An extract from the Wiltshire Ornithological Society’s postings for August 1st last year gives some idea of the movement of our summer visiting passerines through Salisbury Plain, mist-netted, ringed and recorded by the North Wilts Ringing Group, with the sanction of the military authorities:

“1 nightingale, 7 whinchat, 3 grasshopper warbler, 4 reed warbler, 30 sedge warbler, 70 whitethroat, 18 garden warbler, 20 blackcap, 5 chiffchaff, 30 willow warbler, tree pipit.”

August is a good month for our brown butterflies: speckled woods, meadow browns, ringlets, gatekeepers, small heaths and walls. The comma is an occasional visitor to our gardens, the buddleia bushes attracting peacocks, red admirals and

small tortoiseshells on hot sunny afternoons. Add to this migrant species such as the clouded yellow and the more familiar painted lady (which sometimes arrives in large numbers in Southern England) at a time when wild flowers are a riot of colour on our downs and unimproved grassland: bird's foot trefoil, foxglove, loosestrife, campion and clover.

In a butterfly-rich county we should all have a go at The Big Butterfly Count, which runs from July 16th till August 12th this year. We are asked to spend at least 15 minutes each time, preferably on warm, sunny days, recording every species we see and submitting our records to: bigbutterflycount.org

As to the increased number of walkers, picnickers, hikers and bikers in our area maybe we should all join a litter-picking group, keep off eroded footpaths and boycott the sale of disposable barbecues to give the beleaguered National Trust a helping hand.



marlborough literature festival
30 SEPT – 3 OCT 2021



sarah 
raven

Marlborough LitFest is delighted to announce that Sarah Raven is the new lead sponsor for the festival. The full festival programme will be announced by late August; tickets will be on sale from 2 September.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms – we welcome

4 July Kit Francis Bisley at St John the Baptist.

Funerals - we pray for the families of:

13 June Bryan Derek Castle (83) of Town Mill, Marlborough

St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery

Helen Pullen (nee Rowlands), known as Nel, was the much - loved wife of Jeff, mum of Arran, daughter of David and Gerry, sister of Vicki and Dunc, and friend of many others. She was warm, caring and fun, “with a smile that could light up a room” and lived in Marlborough all her life. She died far too young, at 45, in GWH after a short illness, and will be greatly missed. May she rest in peace.

Ian J Perryman writes: Just as the 10.30 Sunday morning service at St. Mary’s Church on 13th June 2021 commenced, **Bryan Castle** died at his home in Town Mill Marlborough, aged 83. With him were Daniel and Joe, his two sons, Hilary his carer, and Henry Pearson who had given him the last rites. It was as if he wished to pass on at the moment when his beloved church, an institution where he was a committed Christian and ardent bell ringer, was about to pray for him. Bryan was a former Mayor and town councillor. Some of you will have noticed the flag at half-mast above the Town Hall, a sign of respect and thanks for loyal service to his fellow townsfolk. I knew him for 41 years as a singular character and friend, and shared many activities with him in the course of my life. He introduced me to the Rose of Hungerford trip boat on the Kennet & Avon Canal as crew in the 1980s. I progressed

to skippering it, and later joining him in a similar role within the Bruce Trust, running hire boats for the disabled and elderly. He was also chairman of this area’s Christian Aid Committee, working tirelessly in that capacity until his demise. He was widowed 14 years ago when another Hilary, his wife, sadly died after a devoted happy life.



Hanging on the wall of my office is a large canal painting from him, a memento of the many happy canal holidays Bryan, other friends and myself spent travelling all over England’s beautiful network of waterways. May he rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Ian McNeill Penfold was born in North London and lived in Totteridge. He went to Highgate School aged 8 and this is where his love of choral music began.

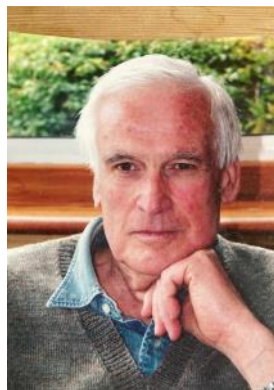
He was in the school choir together with three pupils who were to become prominent professional musicians; John Rutter, John Taverner and Howard Shelley. Ian also sang in the Totteridge Church of England choir. Megan joined the choir after being widowed and Ian and Megan married in 1984. They had 37 happy years together before his sudden death on 23rd May this year. The music played at his funeral was composed by John Rutter and included the anthem, 'The Lord Bless you and Keep You', which was written for the memorial of the Music Master at Highgate School.

Whilst in Marlborough, Ian enjoyed singing in the Jubilate Choir and also visiting the Edington Music Festival, where outstanding choral music is performed within the Liturgy. He and Megan created a beautiful garden in Manton where they lived for 19 years. During most of this time, he was treasurer of Preshute Church before they relocated to Edgbaston to be near one of their daughters.

Michael Yates moved to Marlborough from his country idyll in Winterbourne Bassett in 2009, soon after his wife Jill died. He had retired long ago from medicine where he had been a gynaecologist obstetrician at the Great Western and Savernake hospitals locally. Because of this, he already knew many people. He lived in Castle Court as, in his own words, he could "lock and leave it"

whenever he felt like it. In actual fact he loved the town and became a part of the community. He enjoyed history and despite being nearly 80, did guiding at the Merchants House, relishing the company of showing people around. He formed many friends there. He joined the local theatre club and another passion was golf. He also supported every event possible at the Marlborough Literary festival often bringing his family too. Theatre, music and drama were always central to his life and every year he would be off to any jazz festival he could find, both locally and in Cheltenham.

He loved visiting the local pubs and cafes for endless coffee and chats with the locals. As he approached his late 80s he could be seen constantly on his scooter meandering up the pavement to his next social event. He was very happy at Castle Court and made many friends amongst the residents. His family was very important to him; he had 3 daughters living within an hour of him and a son in Brussels. Family occasions were sacrosanct and usually the family would congregate at The Marlborough along with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Michael will be very much missed by all who knew him.



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News from the Churches

Marlborough Anglican Team www.marlboroughanglicanteam.org.uk/

We are delighted to be offering the following 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 (2nd, 3rd & 5th Sundays of the month) and St George's (1st and 4th 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 (2nd and 4th Sunday of the month)

The Informal Service will become weekly in September. This service is relaxed in style and aimed at the young and 'young at heart'.

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.

Christchurch www.christchurchmarlborough.org.uk/

We continue to meet as a physical congregation - hoping guidelines will soon be eased so we can sing again. We are still offering services by Zoom.

It's lovely to have 'New Road and 'Love Marlborough' meeting on our premises again, and we are beginning to welcome more groups back.

For any more information, please view the Christchurch website.

Marlborough Quakers www.marlboroughquakers.org.uk/

Meeting for Worship is at 10.30am on Sundays in person at the Meeting House and on Zoom; details from Barry Mercer on 514144.

We are adopting a new website; watch this space.



St Thomas More

www.marlboroughandpewseycatholics.org.uk/notice-board/

Mass: Sunday at 11am. Monday, Tues, Wed, Sat at 10am.

Thursday, 6pm.

Holy Family, Pewsey: Friday 12 noon, Saturday 6pm.



Emmanuel Marlborough www.emmanuelmarlborough.org/

We plan to restart gathered Sunday afternoon services from September, including children's groups, in line with Government guidance. Venue TBC. Further details will be on our website and Facebook page.



Marlborough Churches Together Fraternal

The Fraternal meets on 8th September; details from Rachel Rosedale on 512205.



St Non's Retreat

At the time of going to press, it is not clear whether we shall be able to meet on the Pembrokeshire coast this September (and we shall be governed by Welsh restrictions). If we do, we are already over-booked, so if you are not on the list, think about joining us in September 2022

Inspiring Volunteers: Vicky Sullivan

Hugh de Saram

Vicky is one of the movers and shakers of this town and we are lucky to have her here. She was born in Nottingham and is periodically tempted to return to her roots, but somehow Marlborough has managed to hang on to her.

For 40 years, Vicky was married to John Sullivan, whom every member of Marlborough Golf Club will remember as a leading figure in that organisation. Perhaps less well known is that Vicky nursed him through an illness lasting years before finally losing him. Since then she has taken a firm grip on two of Marlborough's institutions, the Marlborough and District LINK Scheme and the Marlborough Women's Institute whose motto is "inspiring women". Before that came a professional life as an insurance broker, where Vicky ran her own business in Swindon. That experience gave her an extensive and rock solid knowledge of insurance law and liability which she has deployed to good effect in her running of

a Marlborough LINK Scheme where there are clear, solid protocols for every aspect of the enterprise and an enormous awareness of the possible pitfalls that a seemingly simple, innocent volunteer organisation can find itself falling into. Her volunteers feel very safe with her at the helm.

I first encountered Vicky when I responded to a leaflet I found in the back of St Mary's church. My mother was a grateful and frequent user of LINK in her latter years when walking was difficult but shopping needed to be done and visits made. So I picked up the phone and asked whether Marlborough LINK needed volunteer drivers. Boy did that open the flood gates! Before I knew it, I was sitting in Vicky's study being interviewed not just for the driving but for every last thing I could contribute. Vicky's life experience has taught her that everyone has hidden talents and her command of Marlborough LINK gave her the perfect opportunity to probe her unsuspecting volunteers who very quickly found themselves not just driving but contributing their other gifts too. In my own case, when Vicky discovered I could program computers, she grabbed me to write a management program for the running of Marlborough LINK and enthusiastically championed it in the periodic meetings with the county-wide Wiltshire LINK Schemes. She embraces change and progress: the grass doesn't grow under her feet or anywhere near them.

That is the secret of Vicky's greatness: she believes in people and is totally committed to encouraging them to fly when most are pretty contented just to walk. She is a particular champion of women in Marlborough and is the current President of the Marlborough W.I., setting herself to make everyone a speaker so that their voices are heard. If that takes using a roving microphone, then she gets in a roving microphone and makes certain the quieter voices are properly heard alongside the vociferous.

We are very lucky to have her amongst us. If anyone deserves a medal for services to Marlborough, it's Vicky Sullivan.



<http://www.marlboroughlink.org.uk/>

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