
TOWER_{AND}TOWN



Marlborough: The Dukedom

JULY 2020 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@duncanmorrisolicitors.co.uk
29 HIGH STREET, MARLBOROUGH, WILTSHIRE SN8 1LW
www.duncanmorrisolicitors.co.uk

**DUNCAN
MORRIS**
SOLICITORS

TOWER AND TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 705 JULY 2020



John Churchill - Duke Of Marlborough 1650 - 1722

How odd that the dukedom of John Churchill, for whom Blenheim Palace was built by a grateful government, should be named after our town. What is the connection? See *Why Marlborough?* later.

But first a few words about John Churchill. The gratitude of Queen Anne and her government and the bestowing of Blenheim Palace upon him arose from his repeatedly defeating the armies of Louis XIV - notably at Blenheim in Austria in 1704, but at numerous other battles and sieges less well remembered. This was at a time when the French armies and fortifications were the standard against which all others were judged.

So great was this reversal of fortune that French children had a song 'Le Duc de Marlborough va en guerre' and if they were naughty were threatened with him as later English children were threatened with Napoleon.

He lived through difficult times. He served first Charles II and then James II (to whom he owed his advancement) with distinction, but as James' Catholicism became more pronounced Churchill transferred his allegiance to William of Orange. However, tainted by suspicions of Jacobitism from William and his entourage, he was sidelined.

Then, in line with the old adage 'It's not what you know - it's who you know,' when Queen Anne (a lifelong friend of Churchill's wife) came to the throne in 1702, he was placed in command of the British armies in the War of the Spanish Succession. The rest, as they say, is history.

Alexander Kirk-Wilson: Editor

Chairman's note: proof-reader Mike Jackson is 95 in July. Our warmest congratulations and thanks to him for his continued commitment to Tower and Town.

Cover: *The Battle of Blenheim, 13 August 1704* (britishbattles.com)

Why Marlborough? The Family Background

Before John Churchill became famous there was an Earl of Marlborough to whom he was distantly related. The title was created for James Ley (a cousin of his mother) in 1626. James Ley was MP for Westbury and a judge - latterly Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench. He took the title of Marlborough as the family held land around Lockeridge. Three years after being created Earl he died. His grandson the third Earl of Marlborough was a naval captain killed in 1665 fighting the Dutch fleet at the Battle of Lowestoft. The title passed to his uncle William Ley and when he died in 1679 it became extinct.

John Churchill was born in Musbury, close to Axminster in Devon in 1650 (three years before the fire of Marlborough leading to the construction of the Merchant's House). His father was Sir Winston Churchill, and they were a modest gentry family. Both the Churchills and the Leys backed the royalists in the Civil War and were impoverished as a result, though their fortunes improved with the restoration of King Charles II in 1660.

John Churchill had attended St Paul's school in London and then became a page to James, Duke of York, subsequently receiving a commission in the Foot Guards in 1667. He then served in Tangier (1670) and in alliance with France in the Franco-Dutch war (1672 - 1678), in which Charles II participated in return for a secret subsidy from Louis XIV. This participation was unpopular in England, even though the French subsidy was kept secret, and the English withdrew in 1674. John Churchill was well thought of by the talented French commander Turenne however, and although most English troops left or transferred to Dutch service, he and the Duke of Monmouth (of Pitchfork Rebellion fame later) continued to serve with the French armies.

Shortly afterwards in 1678 John Churchill, by now a colonel and a Gentleman in Waiting to the Duke of York, married Sarah Jennings who had been a Maid of Honour to the Duchess of York in St James' palace and was very close to Princess Anne who later became Queen Anne.

In 1685 Charles II died and the Duke of York - hitherto Churchill's patron and a Roman Catholic - became King James II. The Pitchfork Rebellion broke out in the west country, led by the Duke of Monmouth, Churchill's fellow commander in the Franco-Dutch War. Monmouth was an illegitimate son of Charles II and a Protestant. Churchill's first loyalty was to the crown however, and he was appointed second in command of the army sent to defeat the rebellion. For his competence in the defeat of the rebels at the Battle of Sedgemoor he was created Baron

Sandridge.

Three years later however, increasingly uncomfortable with the Catholicism of James, when William of Orange landed in Brixham Churchill declined to oppose him, defecting to William's army and leaving a letter of apology to King James. On William's coronation Churchill was created Earl of Marlborough in 1688. This revived the extinct title, linking to his Ley relations and their land holdings around Lockeridge. The ascent from Earl to Duke of Marlborough is recounted later.



The Pitchfork (Monmouth's) Rebellion And Service Under James II

The seventeenth century was a period of difficult choices. The Civil War, its approach and its subsequent events forced the servants of the state, even more than ordinary people, to take sides. John Churchill was one such, initially a soldier loyal to the king.

When Charles II (the Merry Monarch and friend of Nell Gwyne) died, the crown passed to his brother James (the Duke of York) in February 1685. As he was avowedly Roman Catholic, like his wife, this was seen almost universally in England as unacceptable. But as James II he was the lawful king.

James Scott, the Duke of Monmouth, was the oldest illegitimate son of Charles II and, like his sister Mary, a Protestant. He claimed he was the rightful king. He was living in Holland, but sailed to Lyme Regis in the early summer and set about raising an army of non-conformists, artisans and farm workers (hence the 'Pitchfork' name) in the west country where he was popular. With occasional skirmishes they marched north through Dorset and Somerset hoping to take Bristol, but were met by King James' army at Sedgemoor on the Somerset levels close to Bridgwater.

King James' army was commanded by the Earl of Feversham with Colonel John Churchill as second in command and numbered some 3,000. The rebels, untrained and ill equipped as they were, were some 4,000. Monmouth attempted a night attack - a difficult task even for experienced troops - crossing the deep drainage ditches (rhynes). One of these crossings startled an army patrol, a shot was fired and surprise was lost. The battle was soon over, Monmouth fled to the coast but was captured and executed within a fortnight. His amateur soldiers were killed on the moor, or, if they fled, hanged at the roadside or tried in Judge Jeffries' Bloody Assizes.

John Churchill, however, fulfilled his duties admirably and was ennobled as Baron Sandridge in recognition. (That Sandridge was in Cambridgeshire and nothing to do with the Devizes egg farm).

Shortly afterwards, unsettled by James' increasing Catholicism he joined the conspirators communicating with (Protestant) William of Orange, who was married to (Protestant) Mary, the daughter of Charles II.

A.D. Draughting

Plans Drawn for:

Extensions | Conversions
Planning Permission & Building Regulations

T: 01672 511412 | m: 07791 341698

email: alex@addraughting.co.uk
www.addraughting.co.uk

Contact: Alex Dawson

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

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



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



Furniture Restorer, Upholsterer
& Cabinet Maker

Andrew Brennan

Harepath Farm, Burbage, Marlborough SN8 3BT

M: 07769 833 939

Established 1992

brennanrestorations@gmail.com

CHARLES S. WINCHCOMBE & SON LTD. Est. 1932

THOMAS FREE & SONS Est. 1875



FOURTH GENERATION INDEPENDENT FAMILY

FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MEMORIAL CRAFTSMEN



www.wiltshirefunerals.co.uk
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.

Apartments and houses are now available to buy in four well designed, purpose-built developments for the over-55's, Town Mill in Marlborough and three in or around London.



Each property is equipped with 24-hour emergency systems and every development benefits from beautiful landscaped gardens, communal facilities such as lounge, guest suites, resident house/estate managers and on-site parking.

Availability and more information about each development - Osprey Court (NW3 7AA) near West Hampstead, Heathside (NW11 7SB) near Golders Green, Challoner Court (BR2 0AB) in Bromley and Town Mill (SN8 1NS) in Marlborough - can be viewed on the website

www.ospreymc.co.uk



For further enquiries, please contact Lorraine Wash on (020) 8569 8364 or email lorraine.wash@ospreymc.co.uk



The War Of The Spanish Succession

The 17th century saw France as beyond question the dominant power in Europe. The wars of religion had come to an end in the previous century. It was rich and populous, creative - the Canal du Midi was built in mid-century linking Bordeaux on the Atlantic coast with the Mediterranean - and militarily dominant, taking Alsace and Lorraine to essentially achieve its present borders. It was the time of the three musketeers, a very capable field army, and the military engineer Vauban who had the reputation of capturing anywhere he besieged and making impregnable anywhere he fortified.

It was also the time of Louis XIV - *le Roi Soleil*, the Sun King - who built much of what we see at Versailles, hankered after *la gloire* and reigned from 1643 (with a regent) to 1715.

In 1700 King Charles II of Spain died childless and the two strongest candidates as his heir were his grandnephew Philip who was a (French) Bourbon and the grandson of Louis XIV, and Charles, an (Austrian) Hapsburg and the younger son of Leopold the Holy Roman Emperor (of effectively the Austrian Empire with territory in Italy as well as Germany, Hungary and Bohemia). Spain then also possessed territory in the Italian peninsular and in the Spanish Netherlands, so both of these were scary propositions for the balance of power in Europe. But of the two the Bourbon was much the worse, so the Grand Alliance was formed between Austria, the Dutch Republic, Savoy and Britain to stop this happening. Spain, where Philip was popular, allied itself with France, as did Bavaria.

Crucial to our story, the French and Bavarians threatened Vienna, so John Churchill marched an Anglo-Dutch army up the Rhine (rivers were essential for logistics) to support the Austrian Hapsburgs. He (and Prince Eugene of Austria) won a stunning victory at Blenheim in 1704; by 1706 the French armies were back within their borders but the war continued. In 1711 Emperor Leopold died and Charles unexpectedly succeeded him as Holy Roman Emperor; the prospect of him also becoming King of Spain was even more scary than Philippe, so there followed the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. Under this Philippe was confirmed as King of Spain but renounced for himself and his descendants any claim to the French throne. Spain also lost all claims on territory in Italy or the Netherlands.

The war can be seen to mark the emergence of Britain as a consequential military power on the European continent, active in maintaining the balance of power.



The March To Blenheim And The Battle

The Grand Allies facing Louis XIV comprised the Dutch Republic, England and the Austrian Hapsburgs. Obviously there is a huge distance between Holland and Austria. So when Louis' armies advanced against Vienna in early 1704, the army in Holland under the command of John Churchill (now Duke of Marlborough after a series of successful battles in the Low Countries) needed to go to the Austrians' aid.

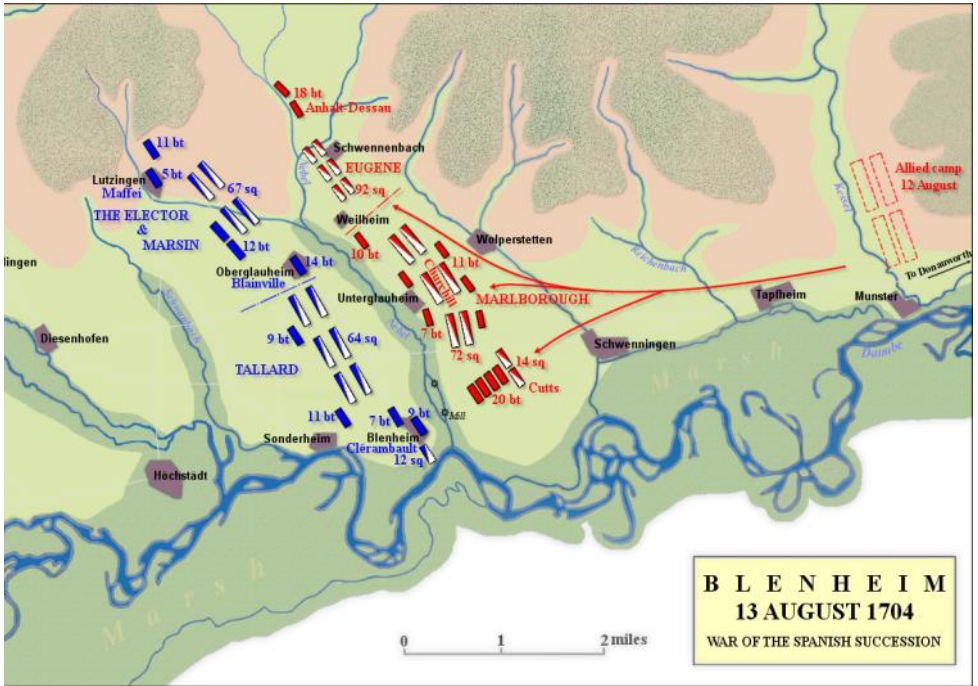
This was a march of some 700 kilometres - about 50 days without a break. It was a textbook example of logistical planning. Most of the march was up the Rhine valley, with heavy items going by water. Large numbers of carts were provided which remained the standard pattern for horse drawn carts in the Rhineland for 200 years afterwards. Enormous numbers of pairs of boots were obtained (mostly made in Raunds, Northamptonshire) and prepositioned along the line of march. (As visitors to the Merchant's House and observers of Mister Bayly will know, left and right boots were then identical; left and right handed boots were not produced for another 100 years).

Churchill needed to be quite wily as the Dutch government did not want its troops to travel so far from home since the French still retained an army in the north east able to threaten Holland

Arriving in Bavaria, the Austrian and Anglo-Dutch armies combined and engaged the French at Blenheim (or Hochstadt to the French and Germans) close to the village of Blindheim (from which the anglicisation of 'Blenheim' derives) in Bavaria on the left bank of the Danube. Each side numbered just over 50,000.

An early start by the armies of the Grand Alliance allowed them to cross the stream and marshy ground which separated the armies and catch the French unprepared. The Franco-Bavarian army was in consequence comprehensively defeated and their Commander in Chief Marshal Tallard captured and held in Newdigate House, Nottingham till 1711.





The Lockeridge Connection

While the ancestral connection of John Churchill via his Ley relations to Lockeridge and Marlborough is somewhat murky to me - or at least beyond my research ability - what is clear is that he (or Sarah his wife and widow) took an interest in the rebuilding of Lockeridge House by a local builder. This stunning small gentry house was built in the late 1720s about the time of John Churchill's death, and its first occupant was either the 2nd Duchess or the 3rd Duke of Marlborough (there appears not to have been a 2nd Duke).



Blenheim Palace

Chris Rogers

The Battle of Blenheim of 1704 has been described as one of the greatest battles in the history of warfare, which, along with the subsequent battles of Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet, put an end to Louis XIV's expansionist visions. John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, and Prince Eugene of Savoy, who together commanded the anti-French Allied forces, are rated as two of the finest soldiers in European history.

It was thought fitting therefore that a doting sovereign and a grateful nation should wish to reward the triumphant Duke with a palace worthy of a hero.

The Queen therefore granted the tenancy of the royal manor of Hensington or Woodstock to Marlborough in perpetuity on the payment of a



peppercorn rent of a French Royal flag each year on the anniversary of the Battle of Blenheim. (This still happens!)

That is the easy bit. Gift of a grateful nation indeed, but there seemed little clarity of how much a grateful nation would contribute towards the cost, or indeed what would constitute a suitable palace. A grant of £240,000 was approved, but that was nowhere near enough, and the payment was very haphazard indeed, depending on whether Marlborough's political adversaries were in power or not.

Who was to build it? That was the next problem. The architect of choice, at least the choice of the Duke's wife, the cantankerous and grasping Sarah, was Sir Christopher Wren, the revered architect of Saint Paul's Cathedral and much else beyond. He was already building Marlborough House in Saint James', London for her, but a palace in Woodstock was beyond the aged Wren. So the commission was given to John Vanbrugh, one of the most controversial and flamboyant figures of his day. As a well-connected young man, Vanbrugh had been a swashbuckling soldier who was even arrested as a spy in France, serving time in the dreaded

Bastille until returning home in a ‘prisoner exchange’. He then became a hugely fashionable and controversial playwright with a series of risqué plays such as the ‘Provoked Wife’. Being a patentee of the Drury Lane theatre helped, of course. From playwright to architect in one easy move was helped by his association with the influential Earl of Carlisle who commissioned the inexperienced Vanbrugh to build him a new house in Yorkshire known today as Castle Howard. This house was quite unlike anything hitherto built in England, adopting a French Baroque style straight from the France of Louis XIV, which of course Vanbrugh had seen, if only from the barred windows of the Bastille. The Baroque is defined as ‘whimsical’, where the order and symmetry of the Renaissance architect have given way to the cult of the theatrical and imaginative. Castle Howard, with its dome, sweeping curved wings and immense south front are all of that. Not bad for a first commission.

It is said that Marlborough had met Vanbrugh in the Drury Lane playhouse and, on an impulse, invited Vanbrugh to build the house for him. However, the house could never have been built without the active and constant attention of Nicholas Hawksmoor, a proper architect, trained in Wren’s office and designer of many of the so-called Wren city churches. The two men had already worked at Castle Howard and were friends as well as colleagues. An experienced architect and a totally flamboyant figure, he was sympathetic to Vanbrugh’s architectural imagination, but ensured that the building would actually stand up! Together Vanbrugh and Hawksmoor built the most remarkable palace with its huge courtyard on the northern side and an immense southern façade crowned with a bust of Louis XIV removed from atop of the town gates in Tournai. Blenheim is best known for its remarkable skyline with four corner towers crowned with balls (orbs) surmounted by ducal coronets. What a statement about the saviour of Europe! Some of the best craftsmen money could buy began working here, including Grinling Gibbons, better known for his spectacular limewood carvings, but here responsible for yards of mouldings and decoration.

However, all was not well. Sarah Churchill and Queen Anne quarrelled irretrievably in 1710 and the Marlboroughs were in disgrace. Further money for the house (already amounting to £220,000) failed to be delivered and all building work ceased, with tradesmen and workforce owed some £45,000. In 1716, with an ageing Marlborough no longer able to oversee the completion of his house, the intractable and embittered Sarah took over in an attempt to make the house habitable. The team of first class craftsmen such as Grinling Gibbons refused to continue on the reduced wages that were being offered, while Vanbrugh was enraged by Sarah’s interference and left in a rage, never to return. He wrote:

‘You have an end, Madam, for I will never trouble you again unless

the Duke recovers (from a stroke) so as to shelter me from such intolerable treatment’.

To add insult to injury Vanbrugh, Gibbons and others failed in their case for lost income. Banned from Blenheim, Vanbrugh only ever saw something of his masterpiece in 1725 looking over the garden wall of Woodstock Rectory, while his wife was denied access to the house and gardens even as a paying tourist. Such was the eternal animosity felt by Sarah. The less choleric Hawksmoor refused to continue supervision at Blenheim although he was called back to work there in a rather fitful way, creating for example the magnificent library on the west side of the house, one of the greatest interiors of any house in Great Britain. However, even he was bypassed by Sarah for the designing of the late Duke’s memorial in the chapel. This led Vanbrugh to write of his friend

‘Poor Hawksmoor. What a barbarous age have his fine ingenious parts fallen into.’

Sarah lived on until 1742, an astute business woman, gleefully browbeating contractors and cutting down expenses while her legendary rudeness to King and pauper alike made her a very unpopular figure. Blenheim was finished about 1735, but the meticulous accounts of the Vanbrugh era were never maintained, so neither the completion date nor the final cost can be ascertained. So Blenheim, the national tribute to this nation’s greatest soldier was, in Sarah’s own words, nothing but a controversial and unloved ‘great heap of stones.’ Go and decide for yourselves!



Savernake Forest boasts many fine or ancient oaks and perhaps the best place to see fifty and more in all stages of vigour and decay is a walk along the Marie Louise Ride starting near Cadley.

Almost opposite Dobie Wyatt's is a forest road with a wide parkable entrance. Follow this road, leaving it to go round the field on the right and rise into the wood to soon pass the first significant oak (it has a green tag). Continue along the twisting path, past the large house to a new fence and steel gate. Through the gate and after some 40 yards a veritable avenue of oaks commences. The second old misshapen one on the left is 'Marie Louise North East'; a little further on and set well back on the right is 'Marie Louise South West', old, with a wide, bark stripped, mossy trunk. Both trees lack name boards. Now behind you (left of the path), strikingly pale, stark and dead, stands the original Marie Louise NE, visible behind smaller shrubs. After passing another twenty or so oaks and about 400 yards from the gate, a small tortuous path heads off right to a stile with Big Belly Oak just beyond. Returning to the original path and continuing, it soon becomes impossible to count all the oaks, and most are in good condition.

The path soon meets a wider one that crosses it; turn left and left again along a gravel road almost parallel to Marie Louise Ride.

After passing through a new gate, two low grass mounds are visible on the left: Boadicea's Graves. I leave you to speculate...

Further on a path descends from the right and re-ascends on the left, follow this leftward one and look for but don't bother visiting 'Spiral Oak' a decrepit specimen a hundred yards off to the right beside the plantation. Further along your path is a fine old oak, definitely worthy of a name, and then a large fallen beech before returning to the green tagged oak near Cadley.



Marie Louise
NE (original)

Should you miss the final path, continue along the gravel road, turn left at the junction and the road will lead to your car - if you had one!

[These photos may be viewed to much greater advantage in the online edition]



Marie Louise
SW

It was intriguing to read about the changes to Berlin in the May *Tower and Town*. Having taken many trips to the old DDR, East Germany, for research purposes, I was there in March 1989 and again shortly after reunification in December. While I had many interesting visits, in March 1989 I was asked to talk to students at the winter sports academy in Gotha. In my innocence I assumed the 15 to 18 year olds would like to know about England, or in my case Canada, or perhaps the USA, BUT NO, they only wanted to know about jeans and the pop stars! I was a bit out of my depth. From Gotha I travelled to Dresden by train, first class and in the freezing cold as the window would not shut. However, a kind Russian army major lent me his greatcoat and it was very heavy and warm.

The December visit was to study Christmas markets, a theme two of us had done for about 12 years in the West but here was the opportunity to see what went out in the many towns and villages in the East. We visited a doll-making town in Thuringia, where I had been in March when the local café had offered good hot food, mostly sausages with boiled cabbage and potatoes. However, the December visit to the same café with the same owner and the same menu, ended with a plate of sausages, fresh salad and chips. When asked about the boiled potatoes and cabbage, the owner politely but firmly stated: “You are entitled to salad and French Fries”, which became my motto for many years. His ideal with reunification was not a large car or even disinfectant for the toilets but ‘western’ food.

Caroline G Goodfellow was the Curator of Dolls, Toys and Games at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Cooking During Lockdown

Karen Osborne

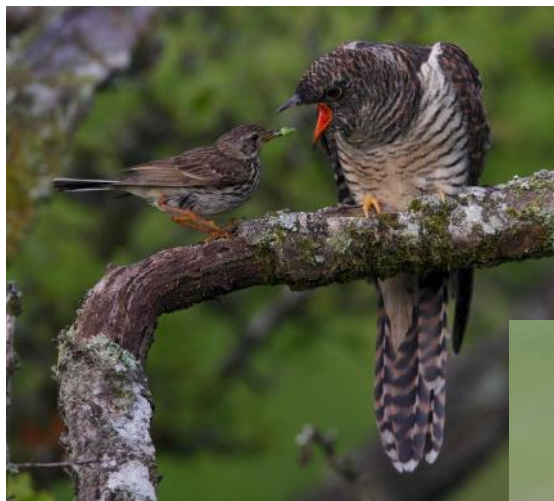
If, like me, you are getting your weekly shopping done for you by a friend, you may be having an interesting time devising your menus. My shopping arrives on a Saturday so, for the first few days, I have plenty of ingredients to choose from and we eat quite well. However, by the time Friday arrives, there are probably some strange items left in your fridge and you have to be imaginative.

Take last Friday, for example. I found 6 mushrooms, 2 green peppers, a couple of tomatoes and some cooked rice left over from yesterday’s risotto. OK, I thought, not too bad. We can have stuffed peppers. Just add a bit of garlic, some

pine nuts, a touch of chilli sauce and put this mixture in the halved peppers with some salt and pepper and a sprinkling of parsley from the garden and a touch of olive oil on top. Cook in a moderate oven for 30 minutes and serve immediately. This turned out quite well.

But what about a pud? No fruit left in the house apart from two lemons. All right, I have some eggs and I can make a lemon mousse. My eggs were small, and the recipe called for large ones. Shall I add another egg, or put in less gelatine? I made the wrong choice and reduced the gelatine. I got bored with waiting for the mixture to set, had a cup of tea in the garden and did a few emails. No luck, the mixture was still too sloppy. I decided to add another couple of sheets of gelatine (soaked and melted, of course) which I left while I went to watch the 6 o'clock news. Still too liquid, so put the bowl in the fridge and went outside for a glass of wine with my husband. Half-an-hour later I came inside and found the mixture almost solid. What should I do? I quickly beat up the egg whites, then beat the lemony mixture hoping this would loosen it. No luck. So, just beat the two together, put it in the fridge and forget about it! Conclusion: a very unappetising-looking pudding which tasted quite delicious!

Better luck next week.



*Cuckoos (see article, p. 18).
Go online to view these
much larger and in colour*

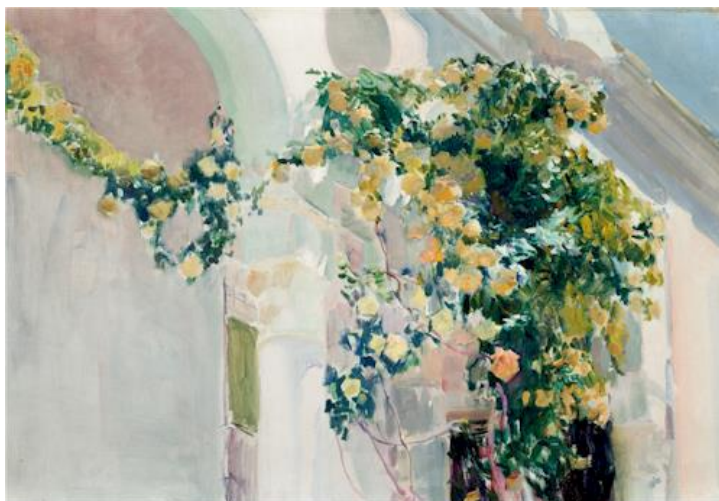
For the days when the sun isn't shining...

There are countless museums and art galleries that have digitalised their enormous collections. The V&A, The National Gallery, The MET, and The Fashion and Textile Museum are to name but a few. During lockdown, I've spent many an afternoon browsing their sites, gazing in awe and wonderment at the beautiful things that have been produced and created by artists, designers, makers and photographers as well as just ordinary people, over hundreds of years.

The other day, I thought back to the Sorolla exhibition 'Spanish Master of Light' that I saw at The National Gallery last year with my family. I remembered how stunningly beautiful each of his paintings were, and it made me think how impactful just one artist can be. If there is a painter whose work will brighten your day, for me, it has to be Sorolla. There are some exhibition highlights on TNG website. The painting that always conjures up nostalgic memories of hot summer days is 'A Rose Bush at Sorolla's House'.

Everything about it oozes that hot, fiery Spanish summer heat. You can almost feel the sun reflecting off the white walls, as you squint to notice the cool shadows from the overhanging roses. Questions immediately suggest themselves: was it painted while everyone was having a siesta; or in the height of the day with children running around and families shouting and gesticulating at one another from across the street?

I just love it, as I do all of Sorolla's work. It's epitomises happiness and light.



The National Gallery (T&T online shows this larger and in colour)

Thank you and farewell

After six memorable years Marlborough bids farewell to Reverend Doctor Janneke Blokland. Janneke's career path to date has been quite remarkable. A native of the Netherlands, she studied for a degree and then a doctorate in Physics at Nijmegen University before going on to further research in Berlin. While there she was attracted to the Anglican Church and felt called to full time priesthood in the Church of England. She studied theology at Jesus College Cambridge before coming to Marlborough as a curate in 2014. She was ordained and in 2015 priested at Salisbury Cathedral. Her curacy ended in 2017 but she continued in Marlborough, taking the post of Assistant Chaplain at the College.

Janneke applied her exceptional energy, organisational ability and brain power to a wide range of activities in Church and the wider community. She set up the "Get There" summer club for Marlborough's 5-12 year olds and supported "Devotion", the young people's drop-in centre at Christchurch. She accompanied a summer group of teenagers to the Gambia and became a trustee for the Marlborough Brandt Group. As a governor and later as Chair she had total commitment to the successful amalgamation of St. Peter's and St. Mary's schools into Marlborough St Mary's. As a trustee of Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group she organised help for struggling families especially at Christmas.

Her "Beer and Carols" gatherings were a wonderful way of bringing the whole community together in a church setting. Beer also featured in her "Pub Theology" sessions which provided a forum for the discussion of a wide range of controversial issues.

As a native of the Netherlands it is no surprise that she is a keen cyclist and she's often seen riding around the town and the countryside.

Teaching, chaplaincy and assistant-house mistress experience at Marlborough College have equipped her well for her new role at Hurstpierpoint College, an Anglican co-educational school near Brighton. Later this year she takes up the role of Chaplain there including some teaching commitments and no doubt also getting involved in the local community.

All three of our churches have benefitted from her presiding, preaching and care. She was involved in ecumenical matters, led a memorable retreat at St. Non's



and served as Mayor's Chaplain for a year. She also liaised with and supported churches in the Marlborough and Pewsey Deaneries helping to cover interregna and maternity gaps.

There are so many special occasions to remember. The celebration of the Eucharist at St. Mary's after her priesting was a truly joyful occasion and was followed by a delightful barbecue in the beautiful setting of St. George's church. Another memorable shared meal followed her farewell service at St Mary's in 2017.

Janneke, we'll miss you so much, thank you for all you have done for us, your love and concern shown in so many ways. We wish you all the best for your new appointment.

Cuckoos

Sean Dempster

Not a fan of social media, I am a member of just two WhatsApp groups: the immediate family and “Kennet”, a trio of fishermen bound by a common passion for rivers and their wildlife. Almost daily, we communicate sightings including mayflies, water voles, kingfishers and otters.

In the first week of June, two of us set off to see, rather than just hear, the elusive cuckoo. On a cool, windy afternoon, we managed just a tantalising glimpse of a bird that might have been a cuckoo. My friend returned the next evening and the “Yes!!!” which pinged in on my mobile phone encapsulated his delight at spotting his first cuckoo just east of Axford.

While males call “cuckoo, cuckoo” to command territories and attract mates, the females stake out potential host species in whose nests they will deposit an egg. Given the inaccessibility of some of these nests, debate raged for many years as to how this task was accomplished so rapidly, usually in a matter of seconds. One widely-accepted theory was that the female laid her eggs on the ground and then swallowed them before regurgitating them into the host nest.

Finally filmed in the 1920's by Edgar Chance, the secret to rapid egg-laying lies in the remarkably extrusive cloaca which literally squirts the egg into the nest. Chance discovered that cuckoos lay eggs every second day, the seasonal record being 25, with the provision of additional artificial nests beside occupied ones.

Edward Jenner, of smallpox vaccination fame, was the first to document the newly-hatched cuckoo chick's ability to eject the foster parents' eggs and young from the nest, using a special hollow developed in the middle of its back.

In Britain, about fifty species can act as hosts but the commonest are reed and sedge warblers, meadow pipits, robins, pied wagtails and dunnocks. Different cuckoo populations, referred to as “gentes”, target particular species, producing

eggs that closely mimic those of the host. In July, the adult cuckoos return to warmer latitudes leaving their offspring to terminate their tenancies and find their own way south across the Sahara.

For further information I would recommend Nick Davies's marvellous book, "Cuckoo: Cheating by Nature".

Clergy Letter

Stephen Skinner

I have just had a wonderful holiday, or rather a staycation. My wife Jane, daughter Hannah, and I enjoyed exploring the beautiful Wiltshire countryside. We are so blessed to have walks in the Kennet valley, the Savernake Forest, the open Downs, the Kennet and Avon canal and glorious landscapes within a few miles of home. The highlight of the week came when we attended our son Peter's marriage to Michelle in St Sebastian Parish RC Church, Akron, Ohio without leaving the lounge! As the service was livestreamed, I was able to give them a blessing via FaceTime. We should of course have been there in the church packed with their family and friends. The church looked empty with nineteen people scattered round the building keeping a social distance, but there was a worldwide congregation sharing Peter and Michelle's joy. When they became engaged two years ago at Viking Bay in Broadstairs, no one dreamt that we would not be able to travel to America to be there or that the Church would not be available. It has made me think about how the Church, and all of us, have had to adapt to a new way of doing things.

Along with the other Churches in the town, at Christchurch we have been preparing weekly services which are either sent by email or hand delivered to all those who would like a copy. Parts of the service are recorded on YouTube and ready to download by Sunday at 10.30am when everyone joins for prayer and worship in their own homes, but knowing that they are part of the Church family joining in worship together. During the week, people telephone each other making sure that everyone is all right. People are available to do shopping and collect prescriptions and so on if needed and members have been looking out for neighbours and helping through town schemes. A Bible Study group meets through Zoom. It is sad to see the Church buildings standing empty, but the Church is still being the Church.

A little while ago a cartoon arrived by email. It showed the devil and God standing by a world globe. The devil is saying to God, "It took Covid-19 for me to close your Churches". God replies, "On the contrary! I have opened one in every

home!” Instead of gathering in a few places on a Sunday morning, numerous homes across the town have become powerhouses of prayer and worship. People who would not think of themselves as missionaries or evangelists have been passing on the Worship Sheets and YouTube links to family, neighbours and friends whom they think would find them helpful, and so sharing the good news of Jesus. As the followers of Jesus, it is wonderful to meet with other Christians to share in worship and encourage each other in the faith, but whilst the buildings are closed, we have had to peel away the layers of Christian life. We have had to take away the weekly services, (which are, or should be, the highlight of the week), the house-groups, the fellowship groups, the Bible Studies, the coffee mornings, the opening of the premises to welcome various groups and organisations, the meetings to organise the running of the church and so on. We are left with the core of our faith, what really matters.

When Jesus began his ministry he said, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news”, (Mark 1:15). When Jesus called the first disciples, he said to Simon and Andrew, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people”, (Mark 1:16-17). We can come to Jesus anywhere at anytime and being in lockdown has enabled some people to spend more time with God in prayer. Some have said that although they miss seeing people at church on Sunday mornings, they enjoy being able to continue in prayer after using the Worship Sheet, rather than being surrounded by people and rushing off for coffee. We cannot go into the street with the good news of Jesus, as the disciples did at Pentecost, but we can show God’s love for others by helping neighbours, being involved in the community, supporting the NHS and key workers, working for the NHS and doing essential jobs, writing to people and telephoning them, comforting and praying for the ill and the bereaved, and passing on Worship Sheets and YouTube links. Church buildings may be closed, but the Church is open, the people are busy following Jesus, loving one another as he first loved us, (John 13:34), and passing on the good news.

When I came to give Peter and Michelle a blessing during their Marriage Service, the internet crashed minutes before FaceTiming! Hannah got a link on her mobile data. The screen said “Poor video connection” and so I wondered if those who were in the church could hear me. We had turned the volume down on our television to prevent feedback. So part way through my spiel, I asked if they could hear me. I asked it a couple of times before launching into the blessing, causing great amusement, lowering the tone of what was a beautiful service until then! I realised that I need to trust the wonders of modern technology. In the same way, we need to continue trusting in God who is with us and will see us through this pandemic.

Marlborough Church Contacts

Fr John Blacker

513267; marlborough@catholicweb.org.uk
Parish Priest, St Thomas More RC Church

The Revd Dr Janneke Blokland

892291 jblokland@gmail.com
Assistant Chaplain, Marlborough College

The Revd Dr David Maurice

514119; david_maurice2000@yahoo.com
Associate Minister, Marlborough Anglican Team

Reuben Mann

07894 048146
office@emmanuelmarlborough.org
Minister, Emmanuel Marlborough Church

The Revd Tim Novis

892209; twgn@marlboroughcollege.org
Senior Chaplain, Marlborough College

The Revd Chris Smith

514357; revcjsmith@outlook.com
Rector; Marlborough Anglican Team

The Revd Stephen Skinner

512457; rev.stephen.skinner3@gmail.com
Minister, Christchurch Methodist

Rachel Rosedale

512205; rachelrosed1@gmail.com
Member, The Religious Society of Friends

Andrew Trowbridge

513701; office@christchurchmarlborough.org.uk
Christchurch Office, New Road, SN8 1AH

Laura Willis

512357; marlb.anglicanteam@tiscali.co.uk
Anglican Team Office, Church Cottage,
Silverless Street, SN8 1JQ

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals - we pray for the families of:

8 May – Cynthia Diana Pocock (82) of Meadow Court, Pewsey

St John the Baptist Cemetery

10 May – Leonard Henry Bulley (81) formerly of Marlborough

North Wilts Crematorium, Royal Wootton Bassett

21 May – Joyce Jennings (80) of St Margarets Mead, Marlborough

Marlborough Cemetery

30 May – Garry John Powell (85) of Kingsbury Street, Marlborough

Marlborough Cemetery

3 June – Jeremy John Witts (69) formerly of Marlborough

Marlborough Cemetery

5 June – Angela Mary Whitrow (81) of Highfield Residential Home, Marlborough

North Wilts Crematorium, Royal Wootton Bassett

One of the perks/chores/privileges (it feels like all three at different times) of my job is being on the judging panel for the Richard Jefferies/White Horse Bookshop Nature Writing Prize. This year it's been a definite perk, as reading the short list over the last couple of months in lockdown has been one way in which I could still feel vaguely useful. All the shortlisted books were very strong contenders and choosing was a bit of a challenge – but after some to-ing and fro-ing we have a winner, ladies and gentlemen. The prize goes to Benedict MacDonald's *Rebirding* (Pelagic Press).

Obviously this book will invite comparison with last year's winner, *Wilding* by Isabella Tree. That examined 'rewilding' in the context of a specific, small location. Benedict MacDonald now makes a convincing case for a wider and more general revision of policy around wildlife habitats, with a particular emphasis on bird life. He calls for bold, but achievable changes in land management practices which would create a variety of landscapes to allow a multitude of species to thrive, and argues for strategies which would improve the UK's current low position in world ranking for intact biodiversity. The book is full of statistics and scientific studies, but it's also engaging and thoroughly readable, with the author's enthusiasm coming through strongly. *Rebirding* is his first book, and it's now been longlisted for the Wainwright Prize as well – we know how to pick 'em!

I did say the choice of winner was tricky this year, and I'd also strongly recommend the book that just narrowly came in second place, *Working with Nature* by Jeremy Purseglove (Profile). As an environmentalist in the water industry the author has travelled all over the world, pursuing what he calls 'gardening on a global scale' – working out ways of harvesting the earth's resources responsibly and sustainably. It's unexpectedly engrossing, and very readable.

All being well, by the time you read this the bookshop should be open again, and I'll be able to get back to reading and recommending new releases. There are lots of books I'm looking forward to, but as an absolute treat I spent two days last week reading an advance copy of Lissa Evans' new novel, *V for Victory*. I'll review it fully next time.



Looking for support at home?

With over 30 years' experience in caring for people within their own home, and a commitment to using only directly employed carers, we have the expertise to provide the best care possible from 30 minutes to full-time live-in care.

- Award-winning team
- Fully managed service
- Dementia specialists
- 100+ branches nationwide
- Fully regulated by CQC & CIW
- Care can start within 24 hours

Looking for home care or a job in care?
 Call our specialist team on
01488505746

For more information
 Visit our website
www.helpinghands.co.uk

Ogbourne Taxis

07791 673192

Local service for up to 4 passengers
 Visit hospital/dentist/doctor/optician/supermarket
 All journeys by owner/driver Mark Bentley

Wiltshire Council
 Licensed Hackney Carriage
 DBS Certificate/fully insured
 Onboard credit/debit cards
 Bike rack with prior notice
 Bookings taken
 Competitive rates

ogbournetaxis@gmail.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

Dianne Mackinder Funeral Service



On Call Day & Night
01672 512444 or 512516

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

CLARIDGE Funeral Service

*Local independent family funeral
directors, proud of what we do.*

Clear estimates upon request



Pre-payment plans available



Friendly and approachable
team available 24 hours a
day all year round

*Parade Mews, The Parade,
Marlborough, Wiltshire.*

SN8 1NE.

Telephone: 01672 511836

www.claridgefuneralservice.co.uk
enquiries@claridgefuneralservice.co.uk
facebook: Claridge Funeral Service



refurbishing furniture
reviving communities

 KFRWiltshire

The Furniture and White Goods
Charity

To buy, donate or volunteer
Tel 01380 720722

Find us on Facebook

Unit 6B(5), Hopton Industrial Estate,
Devizes, SN10 2EU

www.kfr.org.uk

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

Registered Charity No. 1088752

News From The Churches

Church Websites, Prayer Support and Contacts

Prayer support is available for individuals or for your loved ones. Please contact the clergy, in confidence, contact details below or see page 21

Communal use of our churches for worship and other gatherings is not possible at present but they are still accessible via their websites:

Marlborough Quakers <http://www.marlboroughquakers.org.uk/>

Christchurch <http://christchurchmarlborough.org.uk/>

Marlborough Anglican team www.marlboroughanglicanteam.org.uk/

St Thomas More <https://marlboroughhandpewseycatholics.org.uk/notice-board/>

Emmanuel Marlborough <http://www.emmanuelmarlborough.org/>

Marlborough Anglican Team Vicar Interviews

The Bishop has decided to reschedule the team vicar interviews for July 13th and 14th, which is very good news. Please pray that these interviews can go ahead as they are subject to national advice about social distancing etc.



Love Marlborough

If you, or someone you know, needs help getting shopping or prescriptions please contact Simon Mills at Love Marlborough. If you can volunteer please contact Simon Mills: 01672 861632 lovemarlborough@gmail.com



Please also contact Simon if you can help with the following needs:

1. Space - half a single, dry garage or similar to store some boxes for a few months.
2. A vehicle to move a sofa and boxes between Devizes, Pewsey and Marlborough.

St Mary's, St George's & St John the Baptist

Churches are now open daily for individual prayer:

St Mary's, Marlborough 9am-5pm;



St George's, Preshute 9am-6pm;

St John the Baptist, Minal 9am-5pm.



Your health is of paramount importance, and we have followed regulations and made changes within the churches. We have done the government-required COVID-19 risk assessment for every building and site open to the public. As you enter, you will notice ...

1. Hand sanitiser will be available either at the door or on the font or on the table to the left of the aisle for use as you arrive and leave.

2. Church doors will be open and where applicable the pew doors will be open, welcoming you to sit or kneel for prayer, but without having to open the doors yourselves.
3. In St George's and St John the Baptist we are using alternate pews and in St Mary's spaced chairs in order to comply with social distancing regulations.
4. There will be laminated signs within the pews and on chairs in St Mary's (green tick (ie safe to sit/ kneel) and red no-entry (ie unsafe)).
5. Please turn the tick one over to show the no-entry, when you leave, indicating where you have been sitting. This is a message to each other for our ongoing safety.  

Our Online Worship continues to be led by one of our clergy or Lay Minister team with prayers, readings, music and singing. We also have a 'Live' Wednesday Prayer Session at 5pm from our church buildings via zoom – visit website and click on 'Online Services' or 'Latest News' for more information.

Christchurch Methodist

One of the marks of Christian fellowship is the desire to gather together to worship God. However, the current restrictions mean that this is not possible. Our minister is making available each week material designed to assist people to offer their own worship. There is the option of using the material at 10.30am on Sunday mornings with others from the Christchurch fellowship doing the same: <http://christchurchmarlborough.org.uk/worship-notes/> and pastoral care continues via telephone (see page 21).



St Thomas More Roman Catholic eBulletin

Opening days and times

St Thomas More, Marlborough

Tuesdays	10-11 am
Thursdays	5-6 pm
Fridays	11-12 am
Sundays	3-4 pm

Holy Family, Pewsey

Saturdays	6-7 pm
-----------	--------

The Diocese have approved the parish plans for opening the churches for private prayer. Please remember to maintain social distances within the Car Parks as well as within the Churches.



Services and local information can be found via the eBulletin; please email

MandPCatholics@gmail.com or access

<https://marlboroughandpewsey Catholics.org.uk/notice-board/>

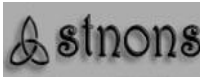
Keeping Contact during the Covid 19 Crisis: we have Parish members who would be very willing to make a regular phone call to anyone who would enjoy a chat. Please let us know. Or if you know of anyone else who might be interested, please let them know, and ask if they would like to be contacted. Please contact:

Colin Fraser 01672 515283 or Louise Gordon 01672 810421 or Father John 01672 513267

St Non's Retreat

St Non's Retreat on the Pembrokeshire coast is planned for September 15th to 18th; we only have one place available, please contact Barney if you are interested: barney.rsdl@gmail.com .

We hope we will be able to go, but this, of course, is not certain at present.



Devizes & District Foodbank

Donations of food and pet food can be left at your local supermarkets. Please visit the website for particular food shortages:

<https://devizesdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/> As the lockdown

continues, people are finding themselves in crisis via redundancy and job uncertainty: "The foodbank was there when we really needed it, it was an absolute lifeline." Foodbanks provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis. Please hold the staff, volunteers and Foodbank users in your prayers.



Alpha Online

Revd Chris Smith is currently running an Online Alpha course by Zoom during July. If you are interested in exploring your faith, please contact Chris for information about future courses. (revcjsmith@outlook.com)



Dial-a-Prayer – The Methodist Church

Dial-a-Prayer is a FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church. For Listen to a Prayer, call: 0808 281 2514; for Listen to News, call: 0808 281 2478. The content is updated weekly on Thursday afternoon.

The Methodist Church also offers prayers, worship sheets and full worship services on its website under "Worship during the pandemic" at www.methodist.org.uk.



Virtual Church Choir – The Methodist Church

Born in response to social distancing measures, The National Methodist Choir of Great Britain/Virtual Church Choir want to provide all singers everywhere with an opportunity to sing and worship. If you would like to hear recordings or to join the choir, please go to www.nmcgb.org/ for details.

Tower and Town staff

Chairman	Hugh de Saram	chairman@towerandtown.org.uk 18 Kelham Gardens SN8 1PW	516830
Advertising	Andrew Unwin	advertising@towerandtown.org.uk	01380860120
Distribution	Sue Tulloh	distribution@towerandtown.org.uk	288912
Subscriptions	Peter Astle	4 Laurel Drive, SN8 2SH	515395
Treasurer	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>	Karen Osborne	whats.on@towerandtown.org.uk	514364
------------------	---------------	------------------------------	--------

<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	
--------------------	---------------	---------------------------------	--

Website, online edition www.towerandtown.org.uk; info@towerandtown.org.uk

Contributions and comments from readers are welcome. Please send articles and letters to the Monthly Editor or the Editorial Coordinator, other notices or announcements to the compiler. All items for the August issue by Tuesday 14th July please.

Our Advertisers support us. Contact Andrew Unwin 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

ENGAGE *your* AUDIENCE

WITH DESIGN FOR DIGITAL AND PRINT



Origin DESIGN
PRINT
DIGITAL

SWINDON
T. 01793 430006

CHELTENHAM
T. 01242 514238

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



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