

TOWER_{AND}TOWN

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GROWING OLD (DIS)GRACEFULLY?

This September Edition of Tower and Town gives a generally light-hearted view of a matter which affects us all from our first day on this earth. Of course, as the Bard noted, the most critical of the ‘seven ages of man’ are perhaps the first: ‘the infant mewling and puking in the nurse’s arms.’ And the last: ‘... second childishness and mere oblivion, /sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything’.

We probably all know people who have aged or are aging both dis- and gracefully. And hopefully we can learn from them. David Sherratt, in his article, pays a fine tribute in this respect to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, and Prince Philip (even the republicans amongst you must concede they are wearing very well!).

The tone of this Issue however is set by the delightful poem on p. 3 by Jenny Joseph *Warning!* This poem gave rise to the worldwide founding of the Red Hat Purple Dress Society (see cover images). It is reflected, also, in the interview with Dee Dee Wilde, a well known name from the past with Pan’s People, and who now continues to thrive close to us near Trowbridge.

John Matthewman returns to our pages with another tale of the Colonel, this time on an OAP outing to Bournemouth, and we have put together a survey of very frank and practical advice from both the aging and their carers alike – any further suggestions most welcome!

Finally the Marlborough Team Rector, Andrew Studdert-Kennedy, introduces a touch of ‘gravitas’ with his interesting comments on Robert Browning’s poem, Rabbi Ben Ezra.

Happy Reading and enjoy the rest of our GBS (Great British Summer)!

Andrew Unwin, *Editor*

The Duke of Edinburgh belongs to a generation which lived in more robust times before 'political correctness' and over-sensitivity began keeping in check the stronger side of raw human nature. A somewhat dysfunctional (to use the modern term for 'chaotic') childhood amongst assorted European royals, followed by the tough physical regime at Gordonstoun, then Dartmouth Naval College leading to active service in naval operations in the Second World War, have made him the man he is.

In contrast the Queen had a sheltered childhood with a shy, retiring father and Scottish aristocratic mother, disturbed by suddenly being thrust into the limelight as daughter and heir to the King of England. Her schooling was with governesses and her social circle was limited to the company of selected children from aristocratic families. She was shown 'doing her bit' in the War by wearing an ATS uniform, and ostensibly changing a lorry's wheel in a staged publicity picture.

Then in 1952, a solitary figure dressed in mourning black, she emerged from a plane to be greeted by an octogenarian ailing prime minister to begin her reign and be immersed in all that this entails: constant publicity, a public persona which must be 'all things to all men' - 'don't dare to be seen not smiling' - and guided by strict protocols. How she has survived in the job for sixty years and not become insane must be a source of constant wonder. She has been shot at on a public parade, had an 'undercover' reporter taking photographs of her breakfast table, endured a nocturnal visit by a deranged man who entered by her bedroom window, been lampooned in satirical programmes and by smart-arse comedians desperate for material, and been insulted by a display of Maori bare buttocks in New Zealand.

Then come the commentators, unofficial biographers, television pundits claiming inside knowledge who are wheeled out on Royal occasions or crises, all opining and turning speculation into fact about the Queen and her opinions. Perhaps this reached a peak with the film, 'The Queen' where Helen Mirren was taken to be fact not fiction.

And after all this, no member of the public knows what her true opinions are and what her feelings are after insults and intrusions into her family life. Can we imagine that the public persona and royal mask slip on occasions with the Duke of Edinburgh, and both can relieve the tension of an intensively lived public life? But whether it is a public facade or reality, here is an example of growing old gracefully. Amid crises and calamities, disasters and divorces the Queen has remained stoically reserved and apparently unruffled. Dull it may be but constancy has been, and remains, her watchword.

When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat that doesn't go, and doesn't suit me,
And I shall spend my pension
on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals,
and say we've no money for butter.

I shall sit down on the pavement when I am tired,
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells,
And run my stick along the public railings,
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick the flowers in other people's gardens,
And learn to spit.

You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat,
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go,
Or only bread and pickle for a week,
And hoard pens and pencils and beer mats
and things in boxes.

But now we must have clothes that keep us dry,
And pay our rent and not swear in the street,
And set a good example for the children.



We will have friends to dinner and read the papers.
But maybe I ought to practise a little now?
So people who know me
are not too shocked and surprised,
When suddenly I am old
and start to wear purple!

I had arranged to meet Dee Dee Wilde at the house of my friend Caren in Steeple Ashton, and had got there a few minutes before the agreed time of 1.30. Dee Dee, by all accounts, was a fabulous example of how to age (that word doesn't even seem applicable) well, and I wanted to see this for myself and find out Dee Dee's secret.

Her entry was superb. Not for her the convention of knocking on the door (Dee Dee and Caren have known each other since Ghana in the fifties). She 'made an entrance' a la Alida Valli, but not in an overtly diva-esque way: she waltzed in, full of verve and humour and enthusiasm, and immediately I could see how her reputation was well-earned.

Dee Dee was one of the founders of Pan's People, the hugely popular dancing troupe from the sixties and seventies, well before pop videos were made. The twin daughter of a naval officer married to an Italian she had been brought up in a cosmopolitan environment and had trained as a Classical Dancer in her teens at the Elmhurst Ballet School. "Life with Pan's was wonderfully exciting, and though we enjoyed the attention of lots of men, some unwelcome advances (such as those of Jimmy Savile) were easily rebuffed, since there were always six of us girls!"

After Pan's People, Dee Dee continued with her dancing career, and with her hugely active and occasionally wildish life (episodes involving getting chucked out of Bahrain, and knickers on the kitchen lights of a Country House were mentioned), and she even found time to get married to her first husband Andrew and have two children, Alex and Poppy. Dance has remained a central part of her life to this day, and she continues to hold Dance classes, to the eternal benefit of her figure and obvious physical well-being!

Dee Dee now lives in Wiltshire and is married for a second time to Henry Marsh, (multi-talented member of Pop Group Sailor). She clearly thrives on her 'life in the country' but I sense that the love for her 'showbiz' life has not left and she seems to be enjoying this 'conversation with questions'. If she is, it is due in large degree to

(Continued on p. 9)



Dee Dee Wilde, second from left



"July 26th, I knew it!" The Colonel waved his sabre triumphantly at the fridge door, "The outing is today!" Geraldine expertly leapt high over the descending sword. "Now dear. As you know, I am seeing the grandchildren. I have packed your essentials. Remember to take your pills at 12.00 and do please listen to Graham, the organiser, and keep an eye on Mr Thurleston." Geraldine knew that he had been looking forward to this for a month. The Colonel adjusted his pith helmet in the hall mirror, and straightened his khaki shorts approvingly. "Thurleston is a menace - and so are his beetles."

A horn hoot summoned him to the road outside. Clambering aboard for the annual OAPs trip to Bournemouth, the colonel glared at the coach community. "Back seat - the only place to have fun," he muttered inwardly. He limped up the aisle to sit next to Ben the Butcher; past Mr Whistle, fast asleep; past Cynthia, asking Graham whether her usual bridge would take place; past 75 year-old, Hyacinth, 'the Bluebell girl' with her encouraging smile and bikini, hanging on grimly to her body, beneath her dressing gown. Several "Morning"s later he sat down happily next to Ben. "I have a plan," whispered Ben conspiratorially. Fifty two passengers climbed down the few steep steps onto the promenade, or were carried down to their wheelchairs by their carers.

Graham outlined the day: coffee at The Ocean View Hotel, paddling for those who wished, supervised by Nurse Carol, and supported by volunteers from the St John Ambulance Brigade; a picnic lunch supplied by the W.I. The weather forecast promised sun, wind and high temperatures. As Graham manoeuvred the party onto the sand, he failed to notice two elderly gentleman setting off for the town at the speed of a Ferrari. (Continued on p.12).



"The trouble with today's generation is that they can't stand on their own two feet."

Some Practical Considerations A Survey by Andrew Unwin

Growing old is a very serious business – for the aging and their carers alike. But like its immediate aftermath – and taxes (Benjamin Franklin 1789) it is an inevitability. Different cultures treat their ‘senior’ citizens in different ways, but in Britain today there is a wide gamut of alternatives for both the aging and their families to consider.

One of my closest friends puts it very well:

“Of course the ‘growing old’ and how it affects others depends hugely on the circumstances AND personality of the individual. Human nature comes into it as well: the degree with which some people live life in a Jekyll and Hyde manner can vary greatly, as they present a very different face to family, to friends, and to the outside world, whilst others have a more consistent existence.”

I have asked various people, both the aged and their carers, for *very practical* tips on how to age gracefully, as applied mostly to the aging themselves. Here are some of the quite frank suggestions:

- Never say how rarely people visit you – especially when patently untrue!
- Try to remember and maintain the social niceties as long as possible; be aware of personal hygiene and dirty and stained clothing.
- Avoid self pity. Maintain an interest in people and events that surround you.
- Don’t say that you don’t bother to cook any more now that there is only one to cook for.
- If asked “How are you” try to answer “Fine, thank you” even if you know this to be a fib. You can elaborate later!
- Beware alcohol. It causes either depression or aggression. And it can affect your balance.
- Try to see and talk with younger generations – especially your grandchildren if you are lucky enough to have any.
- Try not to moan – this can affect even the closest relationships.
- Do not live in the past.

And for the carers (family or friends): Remember that you will be there too.

- Be ruthless about getting a break – you will both need it.
- Try not to argue about past events. Memory is unreliable so give in gracefully!
- Do not feel guilty if you decide that a Home, rather than home, is the best solution.
- Do not feel the need to ‘jolly them along’.

Some Practical Consideration (cont)

There is a wealth of very good advice, particularly in this internet age, about the way to keep our brains and bodies in shape as long as possible. Most of us don't or can't follow it as much as we perhaps should. Exercise, diet, social intercourse, reading, hobbies and so on. But staying socially acceptable, interesting and warm to our partners (if they exist), family and friends is surely at least as important. If only one can age to be regarded as a sweet old woman, or a lovely old man the rewards are bound to be greater for the 'twilight years'.

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## Pan's People - The One in Red (continued from p.4)

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her own input and vibrancy. Dee Dee and Henry live in Rood Ashton with Henry's mum, Jean; whilst a 102 year old(!) clearly needs a lot of care and attention, to the occasional detriment of the mobility of the carers, I sense that Dee Dee is perfectly at ease with this.

I feel that this is part of the 'secret' in terms of growing old gracefully as exemplified by Dee Dee. In my view, albeit only after a 90 minute meeting, she is a giver rather than a taker. She has looked after herself wonderfully well, has a remarkably moderate 'ego' for someone so involved in the world of dance and entertainment, and has an energy which communicates itself very readily to any normally sentient being.

As I said to her, she seems to embody that untranslatable French expression of being 'bien dans sa peau'!



*"They never phone, they never visit,  
they never text message."*

## ***“Pastoral Reflections”***

*a concert by the highly acclaimed, London-based  
Bridge String Quartet*

*Date: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 7-30 pm*

*Venue: St Peter’s Church, Marlborough*

*Programme: Mozart: “Hunt” Quartet K458 in B flat major*

*Ravel: String Quartet in F major*

*Holst: Phantasy on English Folk songs Op 36*

*Schubert: “Quartettsatz” D 703*

*Tickets £12*

*from White Horse Bookshop or Sound Knowledge in Marlborough,*

*or online from <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/321679>*

*or on the door.*

### **Late Night Lecture**

An elderly man driving erratically was stopped by the police around 2 am and was asked where he was going at that time of night.

The man replied, "I'm on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late."

The officer then asked, "Really? Who's giving that lecture at this time of night?"

The man replied, "That would be my wife."

## **Marlborough Gardening Association Annual Show**



**Town Hall, Marlborough**

**Saturday 5th September**

**Viewing from 2pm**

Entries open to everyone; schedules available from

TH White Country Store, Quality Stationers,

Marlborough Library and [www.marlbga.org.uk](http://www.marlbga.org.uk)

From the award winning creator of  
'The Fossil Lady of Lyme' and 'The Story of Mrs Beeton'

**MRS BEETON, MY SISTER**

A new one-act play written and performed by

**ALISON NEIL**

Directed by DAVID COLLISON

at PEWSEY HERITAGE CENTRE

a matinee performance

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2.30pm**

Tickets £10 from Pewsey Heritage Centre,  
All Around the World and The Gallery

**VOICES ON THE HILL**

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00 p.m.

Wine Bar open from 6.30 p.m.

Theatre on the Hill, Granham Hill, Marlborough SN8 4AX

A Magical Evening with music from Mozart to Les Miserables

Featuring:

Fiona Scott MacArthur – Contralto

Sarah Allport – Saxophonist

The Great Bedwyn Millenium Choir

The Blue Belles

Choirs from Oare C of E and Kennet Valley Primary Schools

Plus some surprises !

Tickets £12 available from Theatre on the Hill Box Office 01672 519537

[ticketsource.co.uk/stjohnstheatreonthehill](http://ticketsource.co.uk/stjohnstheatreonthehill)

Or main sponsor Henry George Estate Agent, 46 Kingsbury Street Marlborough  
01672 512299

Proceeds to be divided 50/50 between Hope and Homes for Children (charity no  
1089490) and Help for Heroes (charity no 1120920)

For further information please contact Alison on 01672 562777

## A trip to the Beach (continued from p.7)

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As the sea sparkled in the glorious heat of the day, the beach became crowded with eager holidaymakers surrounding the Wiltshire gathering with music and games. A plastic ball bounced off the head of Mr Claythorpe and was helped on by Mrs Trunswick on her mobility scooter. Graham made a suggestion. The following beachvolleyball game between the over 70s and the under 14s was a hotly contested battle, and was filmed by a passing BBC crew. At 4.30pm, Graham thanked all and took a roll call. Not many answered: some refused, some were otherwise occupied, some found their names unrecognisable, some clapped. However, as the coach group put on their seatbelts, a singing duo came into view - the unmistakable full figures of the Colonel and Ben the Butcher, and behind them a line of townsfolk, a moving wave of swaying children and adults dancing the 'Conga.' Bournemouth waved affectionately as the smiling coach drew away. One by one, the group were dropped off at their individual residences, but not before the OAPs unanimously cheered those who had volunteered to help.

### THANKSGIVING SERVICE

A Thanksgiving service to celebrate the life of

## **John Bailey Cooper**

Will be held at St Mary's Church, Marlborough at 12.30pm on  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

Colourful dress, please.

Please join the family for light refreshments at the Town Hall after  
the service

Donations, if desired, to The Marlborough Medical Practice (for Doppler Ultrasound equipment)  
c/o Diane Mackinder, Wagon Yard, London Road, Marlborough SN8 1LH

## Friends of Savernake Hospital and the Community

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The Friends of Savernake Hospital and the Community (the “Friends”) are looking to increase the size of its committee of trustees. This local charity works to enhance the quality of life of people affected by ill health or disability, and supports their care and well-being through the giving of healthcare-related grants. The trustees meet approximately every 10 weeks to consider the merits of grant applications and the ongoing running of their hospital shop at Savernake Hospital.

If you are interested in supporting healthcare in the local community by becoming a Friends trustee please contact chairman Janet Louth on 01672 513868 or [louthremovals@talktalkbusiness.net](mailto:louthremovals@talktalkbusiness.net). For further information about the Friends, go to [www.friendsofsavernake.org](http://www.friendsofsavernake.org)

## Marlborough Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG) Update

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Dr Abi Griffith is now on maternity leave, looking after her healthy new baby girl. We hope you will join us in sending her congratulations and wish her well for the duration of her maternity leave, and we look forward to welcoming her back in 2016.



In the meantime, Dr Helen Dace has joined the Practice as a Maternity Locum GP, and will be looking after Dr Griffiths’ patients. Dr Dace will be working on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Practice.

In addition, Dr Anke Lehmkuhl has joined the practice as an Associate GP and has taken over the care of all those patients who were registered with Dr Thirza Deboo. Dr Lehmkuhl will be working on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Practice.

Finally, Dr Maddox, a locum GP, will be working at the practice over the summer and will support the existing GP team in the care of all our patients.

# What's on in August

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## Regular events

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### Every Monday

7.30pm: Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

### Every Tuesday

10-11.30am: Christchurch. Friendship Club.

2.45pm: The Parlour, Christchurch. Women's Fellowship.

### Every Wednesday

10am: Jubilee Centre. Drop-in, Tea/Coffee. 12.30 Lunch.

1.30-3.30pm: Town Hall. Sunshine Club for the over 55s.

7.30-9pm: St Peter's Church. Marlborough Community Choir.

### Every Thursday *(or some Thursdays)*

10am: Jubilee Centre. Drop-in, Tea/Coffee. 12.30 Lunch.

10.30-12 noon: Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Singing for the Brain. Alzheimer's Support. 01225 776481. *(Every Thursday during term-time.)*

1.30-3.30pm: Wesley Hall, Christchurch. Macular Society *(last Thursday in the month)*

### Every Friday

10am-12 noon: Christchurch Crush Hall. Food bank and coffee morning.

### Every 2nd Saturday

10am-12 noon: Library. Marlborough & District Dyslexia Association. Drop-in advice. Help line: 07729 452143.

## September calendar

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1<sup>st</sup> (Tuesday) St John's term starts.

2<sup>nd</sup> (Wednesday) 7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street.

Talk by Dan Allen: 'Women in the Army in the First World War'.

3<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday) 7pm Town Hall. Live from the NT: 'The Beau Stratagem'

5<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) Town Hall. Gardening Association Annual Show (see p.10).

7<sup>th</sup> (Monday) Marlborough College term starts.

2pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Embroiderers' Guild. Talk by Carol Naylor: 'Crossing Boundaries'.

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Pewsey Vale DFAS. Lecture by William Forrester: 'The Lord Mayor, the City and the Guilds'.

07775 6883163.

## September calendar (cont)

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- 9<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) 12.30pm. 40 St Martins. Widows' Friendship Club Lunch. 514030.  
7.45pm. Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Talk by Patricia Elkington: 'The Garden in Autumn'.  
8pm. Town Hall. Live panel discussion of Greenpeace documentary: 'How to Change the World'
- 10<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) 6pm. Town Hall. Recorded screening of Garsington Opera's summer performance: 'Cosi fan Tutte'.  
7.30pm. Merchant's House. Concert: Jonathan Prag, Guitar  
Concert. £12.
- 13<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) 10.30am, 12 noon & 1.30pm. The Merchant's House. Open Day. Free tours.  
7.30pm. St Peter's Church. Mayoral Charity Concert. The Cook and Stanley Piano Duet. Tickets £10 in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity.
- 14<sup>th</sup> (Monday) 8pm. Ellis Theatre, Marlborough College. Marlborough Mound Trust Annual Lecture: 'The Mound, the Castle and the Palace: Royal Residences in Marlborough and other Castles in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century'.  
Speaker: Dr Jeremy Ashbee FSA. Entrance free.
- 17<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) 7.30pm. St Peter's Church. Marlborough History Society. Talk by Ruth Lamden: 'East Kennet School'.
- 18<sup>th</sup> (Friday) 7.30pm. Town Hall. Live from Biggin Hill: 'The Battle of Britain at 75'.
- 20<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) 9am. Marlborough Common. Car Boot Sale.  
7.30pm. Memorial Hall, Marlborough College. Subscription Concert: Dame Felicity Lott (soprano). £20, £10 (students).
- 21<sup>st</sup> (Monday) 11am. Ellendune Hall, Wroughton. Kennet DFAS. Lecture by Linda Smith: 'Great Tarts in Art'. 01793 840790.  
7.30pm. Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Kennet Valley National Trust. Talk by Peter Knight: 'Stolen Images – Pagan Symbolism & Christianity'.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> (Tuesday) 7.15pm Town Hall. Live from Covent Garden: 'Romeo & Juliet'
- 25<sup>th</sup> (Friday) 7.30pm. St Peter's Church. Concert: Bridge String Quartet.  
£12 from White Horse Bookshop or Sound Knowledge.
- 26<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) 7pm. Theatre on the Hill. Concert: Voices on the Hill. Tickets £12 (519537) in aid of Hope & Homes for Children and Help for Heroes.

2-4 October. Marlborough Literature Festival. Details on [www.marlboroughlitfest.org](http://www.marlboroughlitfest.org)

## The Revd Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy

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Grow old along with me!  
The best is yet to be,  
The last of life for which the first was made;  
Our times are in His hand who saith,  
'A whole I planned,  
Youth shows but half; trust God: See all, nor be afraid!'

*Rabbi Ben Ezra* by Robert Browning

One of the features of life today is that it is so often seen as containing different compartments rather than a single whole. So it is that we have different categories of people mercilessly targeted by advertisers – children, students, the young, the single, the newly married, double income and no kids, single income and kids, middle aged, early retired, elderly, old, (exhausted?!) and so on.

Faith, however, encourages us to see life as a whole and to see all its different phases as belonging together. And behind the notion that ‘the best is yet to be’ lies the conviction that life contains a destination and that we are therefore heading somewhere that we can look forward to.

Although these words of Robert Browning are understandably associated with old age, the truth they contain can apply to all stages of life: For young people setting out, life is full of possibilities and the conviction that our endeavours will bear fruit; for those in middle age, with all the responsibilities entailed by this phase of life, there is the assurance of serenity when those responsibilities are relinquished; for those approaching old age (however that might be understood) there is the assurance of a depth of living and a maturity of relationships which allows them to see that the best is yet to be; while for those who are indeed old, faith can encourage a growing trust in God who sees the whole of life, whilst youth shows ‘but half’.

One of the paradoxes of Christianity is that although it is a faith based on specific events in history, located in a place and a time, the person of Jesus always encourages us to look forwards rather than back.

It is true that Jesus himself never experienced old age, but we can still trust his companionship on our own journeys, knowing that just as Jesus touched the bottom of life, so he will be with us whenever we might do the same.

We return to the life and ministry of Jesus, but this allows us to look forward and trust that the best is indeed yet to be.



## News from the Churches

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**Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG)** meets on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September in the Friends Meeting House, The Parade, Marlborough at 7.30pm. All are welcome. More details from Rachel Rosedale; [rachelrosed@gmail.com](mailto:rachelrosed@gmail.com)



The **Wiltshire Historic Churches Ride and Stride** takes place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September between 10am and 6pm. If taking part is not possible for you, those of us who will be getting on our bikes would be very glad if you could sponsor one of us. For more information, please contact Charles Graham (514301/ [ctg100@hotmail.com](mailto:ctg100@hotmail.com)) or visit [www.wiltshirehistoricchurches.org](http://www.wiltshirehistoricchurches.org). The money raised is split between the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and the individual Church the participant nominates.

The **Mustard Seed Book Group** meets on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in Mustard Seed. They will be discussing



*What's a nice Jewish girl like you doing in a church like*

*this?* Lynne Bradley, the author, has not had a quiet life; ballet dancer, model, performing artist, poet and Messianic Jewess. The book is a bright, frank and humorous account of how Jesus pursued her for many years before she finally turned to Him. It offers insights into the Jewish and Christian faiths and is an honest account of heartache and joy, dramatic healing and second chances.

### Immigration - a cultural and ethical challenge?

The Bishop of Ramsbury, Edward Condry will be in conversation with Dominic Grieve MP and Jane Esuantsiwa Goldsmith of ActionAid at Marlborough Town Hall on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7 pm. Admission free, all welcome.

### Women's Fellowship

|                       |                                                         |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 8th Sept              | Rev. Heather Cooper;                                    |
| 15th Sept             | Members Meeting;                                        |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept | Ruth Richards;                                          |
| 29th Sept             | Dr. A. Steele, Mission Aviation Fellowship;             |
| 6th Oct               | Rev. Heather Cooper (celebrating our 70th Anniversary). |



## News from the Churches (cont.)

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### Paul Hobbs Art Exhibition – Postponed due to health reasons

The Heart of Things: Painting & Sculpture by Paul Hobbs

The Paul Hobbs Art Exhibition will be held later this autumn 2015; dates to be confirmed in the October Tower and Town edition. For more information about Paul Hobbs and his artwork, visit his website: <http://arthobbs.com>.



For information about September's **Filling Station**, please contact Helen Stokes, [hcostokes@gmail.com](mailto:hcostokes@gmail.com), as the meeting and visit by Paul Hobbs has been postponed.

The Informal 5.30 pm Service at St Mary's starts again on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September. The 9am service at Christchurch has continued throughout the summer.

Devotion continues with its Hangout sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays. More information on the website, [www.devotion-marlborough.co.uk](http://www.devotion-marlborough.co.uk).

devotion

There will be **24 hour prayer** from 12 noon on 26<sup>th</sup> September in Christchurch. A sign-up sheet for the 24 hours will be available nearer the time. The main focus for prayer will be discerning God's will for the people that are Christchurch.

### Harvest Festivals

Christchurch celebrates Harvest on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30 a.m.

St Mary's and St George's will be celebrating Harvest on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00am with services suitable for all ages.

St John the Baptist, Minal will be celebrating at the later time of 11.00am on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October (All Age Worship for Harvest) followed by a BBQ in the church grounds.



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"I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then it dawned on me . . . they're cramming for their final exam."

News from the Churches (cont.)

Lay Worship Leaders Training: A ten week training course organised by the Marlborough Deanery to equip and qualify lay people to lead worship is running this Autumn at St George's, Preshute on Wednesday evenings from 30th September. An introductory Saturday morning will take place on Saturday 19th September. Do speak to any of the Anglican clergy if you would like to know more.

October Dates for your diary:

Civic Service will now take place in St Mary's Church Marlborough on Sunday 11th October at 3.00pm followed by refreshments in the Town Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Marlborough Street Angels will be at the Mop Fairs on 10th and 17th October. The Street Angels will be co-ordinated by Helen & Vincent Stokes. Please contact them if you would like to volunteer to take part in this exciting venture. hcstokes@gmail.com



Wiltshire Council Chaplaincy

Revd Dr Rob Thomas writes "At present we are a team of a dozen chaplains, and we provide a confidential listening service to employees and councillors. We explain that the service is a gift from the churches, as an expression of our care for the community, and is offered to everyone, regardless of their faith (or absence of). We say that if anyone prefers to speak to someone of their own faith then we can set that up for them. We always need more members in the team! We're from a wide spectrum of Christian denominations. We commit what time we can to it; even a couple of hours once a month is a valuable contribution. Different team members work in different ways. Chaplains don't need to be ordained. Lay people who are positively endorsed by their minister would be most welcome.



I'd love the opportunity to chat to anyone who'd like to know more about this avenue of service to the Lord! 01225 350647; rob.thomas@cantab.net

Family News from your local community, by Audrey Peck

At **Grace Denman's** 103rd birthday tea her guests ate cake decorated with the words *Amazing Grace*. The occasion was marked by the flag flying on St. Peter's Church tower. We remember the many years she worked for Tower & Town. Late birthday wishes to Grace.

Jo and David Chandler celebrated their Golden Wedding with a party in Catherine's garden in Pewsey. They were specially pleased because their children, Catherine, Simon and Rachel and families and David's brother, Chris (best man) were all back in England and able to be there with the bride and groom and all seven bridesmaids.

Bob Wise died peacefully in Miranda House nursing home in Royal Wootton Bassett, aged 93, on 1st August. He grew up in West Overton and attended Marlborough Grammar School before joining the Marlborough Times as a reporter. After serving in the RAF in WW2 in the Far East he returned to journalism in editorial roles with both the Marlborough Times and the Swindon Evening Advertiser. But it was horse racing journalism where Bob's main interest lay and over 70 years he wrote for both local and national papers including the Daily Mirror. Bob was a dedicated family man. He and his wife, Elsie, had three children, Rosalind, Roger and Robin and grandchildren, Cecilia and Samuel. In his retirement Bob enjoyed gardening, bowls and painting in oils. Family and friends gathered for a Thanksgiving Service in St. Mary's on 11th August.

Tony Bryant died in July. He came to Marlborough in the mid 1950's. He loved the town and being part of the community. His hobbies were gardening, bowling, stamp collecting and, at home in Vellow, Somerset he had enjoyed sea fishing at Donniford. He was treasurer of Marlborough Gardening Club for 30 years. Tony loved nature and the countryside and being out in the fresh air, appreciating the seasonal transitions and changing views as he drove to and from his work as Principal Court Clerk in Swindon. He will be greatly missed by Sheila and their daughter, Tracey, and by Sheila's family and their friends.

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*I'm not old, just chronologically gifted!*

## Letter to the Editor

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It saddens me to hear that Sunday trading hours are going to be relaxed even further by allowing superstores to open for longer, albeit upon the decision of local town councils.

Why this? Surely shops are open long enough now? It would seem to be just another nail in the coffin of the Sundays that I knew and loved over half a century ago. In those days one really looked forward to a Sunday, relished the prospect of a day of peace and relaxation, having worked hard during the week in anticipation of a well-earned break.

As a child I recall being kitted out in my Sunday 'best' and taken to church; the remainder of the day being spent in joyous play with friends. As I grew older it was walking or riding my bike here, there and everywhere. In my teens and school holidays there came lovely Sunday afternoon drives in the country with my parents and sister and a sumptuous picnic packed away in the boot of the car.

Sunday was a day for family involvement, for visiting friends and generally taking things easy; recharging those personal proverbial batteries. No invasive mobile phone calls, no kowtowing to the demands of a computer, no 24/7 television.

Life is stressful enough these days, not helped by a seeming desire for immediacy in all things... quicker cars, faster trains, microwaves for instant meals, high speed communication, endless e-mails demanding prompt response... Couple an already hectic world with eternal wars, natural disasters, disputes, strikes, travel delays, traffic jams and computer breakdowns and it's a wonder any of us stay sane!

In this helter skelter world we need Sundays – traditional Sundays – more than ever before. We need quality time.

Our dear Lord had it absolutely right. Work for six days, rest on the seventh. Bless him.

Robert Macmillan

~~~~~

*You're only young once, but you can be
immature forever!*

Berendina Cook and Matthew Stanley

(Piano Duet)

Sunday 13 September 2015 7.30pm

This recital is being given on behalf of the Mayor's Charity "The Brain Tumour Charity"

Sonata in C major, K521 Rondo in A major, op 107 Valses Bourgeoises

Mozart Schubert Lord Berners

York Bowen Debussy Gershwin

INTERVAL during which refreshments will be served

Suite in 3 Movements Petite Suite Rhapsody in Blue

Tickets at £10 are available from White Horse Bookshop, Henry George and Sound Knowledge or from Margaret Rose margaretrrose@hotmail.co.uk / 01672515500.

Donations may be made to The Mayor's Fund, 5 High St Marlborough SN8 1AA or www.justgiving.com/margaret-rose1

This recital is generously supported by

HENRY GEORGE
co.uk

Marlborough & District Link Scheme

needs more volunteers!

Are you able to help with a regular weekly shopping trip, taking someone to the surgery or hospital? If you don't drive and are computer literate, you might like to consider becoming a co-ordinator operating from the comfort of your own home. You can give as much or as little of your time as you wish, and expenses and mileage allowance will be paid.

This is a wonderful community scheme and appreciated by all who use it.

Phone Link on 01672 288007 for more details.

Marlborough Churches Together

Usual Sunday service times.

Christchurch, New Road (Methodist)

9.00am Worship

10.30am Morning Service with Junior Church & crèche

Society of Friends, Friends Meeting House, The Parade

10.30am Meeting for Worship

St George's, Preshute (C of E)

8.00am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)

10.00am All Age Worship (1st Sunday)

Parish Communion (other Sundays)

St John the Baptist, Minal (C of E)

8.00am Holy Communion BCP (2nd Sunday)

9.30am Parish Communion (1st & 3rd Sundays)

St Mary's, behind the Town Hall (C of E)

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP on 4th Sunday)

10.00am All Age Worship (1st Sunday)

Parish Communion, Junior Church & crèche on all other Sundays

5.30pm Informal service (except on 1st Sunday)

St Thomas More, George Lane (Roman Catholic)

11.00am Sung Mass (See also below)

Marlborough College Services are shown at the College Chapel



Weekday Services

St Mary's

Holy Communion: 10.30am Wednesday

St George's

Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer: 4.30pm Wednesday

St Thomas More

Mass: 10.00am Mon, Tues, Wed & Sat

Holy Days: 10.00am

Marlborough Church Contacts

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**Angela & Paul Mc Grorty Trading as the**  
**Marlborough Care Company**  
LOCAL CARE FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

We are a local husband and wife Partnership providing a small, private care service to the people of Marlborough and the surrounding villages. We have many years of experience working in the Health and Social Care services.

We can provide support with . . .

- Personal Care
- Recovery from illness or surgery
- Cooking, shopping, housework & laundry
- Transport for appointments, shopping visiting friends or family etc.
- Filling in Benefits forms
- Overnight stays if you are unwell
- Respite care in your own home, if required by the family
- Palliative care
- Someone just to have a chat with and anything else you may require

We offer competitive rates for our services and excellent references. We are both fully police checked. You can contact us on either of the following numbers:  
**Angie: 07766 091629 Paul: 07449 795705**  
or email: marlboroughcarecompany@gmail.com

## From the Registers

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### Baptisms:

- 16 August Arlo Christopher Banks and Evelyn Rose Perry at St George's  
16 August Noah Benjamin Dillon, Isabella May Dobie and Annie Louise Tilley Smith at St Mary's

### Weddings:

- 25 July Jessica Cady & Dean Griffiths at St George's  
25 July Nadine Bull & Carl Johnson at St Mary's  
7 August Emily Edwards & Stephen English at St George's  
8 August Sarah Gulliver & Cliff Harris at St Mary's

### Departed:

- 21 July Anthony 'Tony' George Bryant (81) of Merlin Court Residential Home, Marlborough, *St Mary's & West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington*
- 21 July Olive Catherine Hyland (90) of Merlin Court Residential Home, Marlborough, *Kingsdown Crematorium*
- 23 July Una West (94) of Peppercorn Cottage, 1 High Street, Manton *Kingsdown Crematorium & Thanksgiving Service at St George's in September*
- 28 July Jean Elizabeth Wheeler (94) of The Coach House, Back Lane, Marlborough, *West Berkshire Crematorium, Thatcham & Thanksgiving Service at St George's in September*
- 1 August Robert 'Bob' Howard Wise (93) of Miranda House, Royal Wootton Bassett (*formerly of Upper Churchfields, Marlborough*), *St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery*

## Tower and Town staff

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|                                      |                                                                                                                    |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Chairman</b>                      | John Osborne, 36 St Martins, SN8 1AS<br>jeo66@btinternet.com                                                       | 514364       |
| <b>Vice Chairman</b><br>(Operations) | Andrew Unwin, Sarsen House, The Street, All Cannings<br>Devizes, SN10 3PA                      afunwin@yahoo.co.uk | 01380 860120 |
| <b>Advertising</b>                   | Andrew Unwin (as above)                                                                                            |              |
| <b>Distribution</b>                  | Rosemary Spiller, 2 Shakespeare Drive SN8 1UF                                                                      | 512338       |
| <b>Subscriptions</b>                 | Norma Dobie, 112a Five Stiles Road, SN8 4BG                                                                        | 513461       |
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### ***Every Month***

|                                   |                                                                              |        |
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| <i>What's On</i>                  | Karen Osborne:    karenos64@btinternet.com<br>36 St Martins, SN8 1AS         | 514364 |
| <i>News from<br/>the Churches</i> | Alison Selby:        alison@crossmead.net<br>Crossmead, Kingsbury St SN8 1HU | 511128 |
| <i>Family News</i>                | Audrey Peck:        rogandaud@aol.com<br>7 Castle Court, Marlborough SN8 1XG | 289065 |

**Contributions and comments** from readers are always welcome. Please send articles and letters to the Editor; other notices or announcements to the Compiler. All items for inclusion in next month's *Tower and Town* must be submitted by **Tuesday 8 September**.

**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,  
St George's, Preshute and Mustard Seed.

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

Please ring Rosemary Spiller (512338)