
TOWER^{AND}TOWN

Summertime



JULY 2016 50P

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TOWER_{AND}TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 661 JULY 2016



Summertime

Ah, summertime! The very word brings joy to the heart and a smile to the face. It conjures up images of long walks in the sunshine, cricket on village greens, concerts, relaxing in the garden or on the beach with a good book, and let's not forget the ubiquitous barbecue. Although we are well into our summer by now, this issue looks at some of these heady summery pastimes.

Debbie Guest from the Whitehorse Bookshop starts us off with some great recommendations for our summer reading, or, if the cinema is more your thing, Susannah McKim reviews the film, *Brooklyn*, about a young woman leaving her home in Ireland in the 1950's to start a new life in America. For those of you who look forward to the thwack of leather on willow, Jo Carroll gives us a light-hearted look into the two love/hate camps of cricket. She will have us all converted! The judging of Marlborough in Bloom is almost upon us, the 19th July, and Anne Crawley takes us behind the scenes as they make preparations once again for the big day. If walking is your passion, Peter Noble shares with us one of his favourite walks, around 3 miles and circular, but not too strenuous, with some stunning views. Anna Marsden gives us an insight into the world of the Marlborough Concert Orchestra; and we are invited to reminisce with Joyce Brooks and Dr Nick Maurice on a small part of the history of Lloran House, prior to its imminent metamorphosis. We also take a look at the art of barbecuing - summer just wouldn't be the same without it; and summer in Marlborough wouldn't be the same without Giffords Circus. We have a little taster here about their new forthcoming tour, arriving in Marlborough at the end of August.

So, a lot to look forward to. Let's hope we get the summer we all deserve. Enjoy your summer activities!

Sue Pells and Sara Holden, Editors

Front cover: Jenny Pepper

Cricket for Beginners: Jo Carroll

We are familiar with our gender differences. But men and women can be further subdivided into two species: those who love and understand cricket, and those who don't. I belong to the first category, and so here are some words to those for whom cricket is a mystery.

We all love a good picnic on the boundary. But don't ask us what is going on, because we will tell you. It is chess on a field, we will say. We will talk about who is in, and who is out, and the nuances of the wicket. We will tell you that there are six balls in an over (but might not think to tell you what an over is). We will scatter our monologue with terms like leg-breaks and googlies, and will explain the significance of cow corner. You might try to interrupt, tell us you've been on holiday and were almost eaten by a tiger, but we are unimpressed. For by now we are onto the nuances of cover drives and reverse sweeps over silly point.

So I suggest you pass us by. Take your picnic to a different corner of the ground, settle back in the sunshine and watch. Sip wine. Make a daisy chain. Notice the warmth of the sun, the smell of freshly-mown grass, the thwack of leather on willow. You might dare to start watching. You might, slowly, work out who plays for which team (not instantly obvious when everyone plays in white). Take a look at the scorecard in the corner, which – if you are not too drowsy from the wine and the warmth of summer – will begin to make sense. You will watch fast bowlers, slow bowlers, and muse on the difference. You will realise why wickets matter; you might even be distracted from your wine and find yourself cheering a six. What if, you might think, that were me, dressed in white, with that bat in your hand?

That is the moment when you have stepped from the cricket-is-a-mystery camp to stroll round the boundary and sit beside those of us who love it. That is the moment to ask us what is going on.



Summer Reading: Debbie Guest, White Horse Books

So many books, so little space... new titles are coming in all the time, but some that we've enjoyed so far this year include

- *Sweet Caress*, by William Boyd. Blurring history and fiction this autobiography is convincing, realistic, complex and structurally accomplished while remaining unpretentiously readable. Boyd's many fans won't need convincing, but if you've not read him before, you have a treat in store.
- *The Girls*, by Emma Cline, out in June, is a debut novel which will be one of *the* books of this summer. A coming of age story, set in and around a cult, it perfectly captures the edgy, volatile vulnerability of a teenager in thrall to older, cooler girls.
- Another of this year's must-reads is *The Kindness*, by Polly Samson, brilliantly plotted, bittersweet, and evocatively descriptive.
- *The House at the Edge of the World*, by Julia Rochester, is a psychological mystery, a family drama, subvertingly romantic, dealing with home and identity.
- Or, for a straightforward, pacey, gutsy thriller, try *Vanishing Games*, by Roger Hobbs – smuggled gemstones, professional assassins, graphic (really, not for the squeamish) violence, perfect beach or holiday flight reading.
- Angus won't let me finish this brief round-up of choice novels without urging you all to read *Our Souls at Night*, by Kent Haruf. It is (Angus says) 'close to perfection'.
- *SPQR*, by (the utterly fabulous) Mary Beard, is scholarly, yet informally written, and while it doesn't exactly say Everything You Thought You Knew About Ancient Rome is Wrong, it does challenge preconceptions – as she says, about so much, the only certainty is that we really don't know for sure!
- Closer to our own time, *A Curious Friendship*, by Anna Thomasson, looks at the intense and sustaining platonic friendship between the artist Rex Whistler and Edith Olivier, writer and hostess to a literary and artistic circle which included Cecil Beaton and Siegfried Sassoon.
- If you've been in the shop recently I've probably pressed *Crooked Heart*, by Lissa Evans, on you, with slightly scary enthusiasm. If you've resisted so far, be warned, I'm not giving up! Also, for a light, funny, touching holiday read, have a look at *A Robot in the Garden*, by Deborah Install.

As I said, so little space; come into the shop and ask us for more recommendations!



Brooklyn - A Film Review: Susannah McKim

Sympathetically adapted by Nick Hornby, from Colm Toibin's novel set in the 1950s, this film tells the story of Eilis, played by Saoirse Ronan, a young woman from Enniscorthy in County Wexford. She almost unwittingly finds herself sailing off to America and new horizons, as there are no prospects for her in Ireland

She arrives in America which is a world of vivid colour; an extreme contrast to the chilly greys of rainy streets and cold churches at home. The film captures the widening horizons of Eilis' experience as she becomes accustomed to these new bright surroundings. Initially bereft, lonely, missing her sister Rose and piercingly homesick, she gets a job in a department store. She finds her feet when Tony Fiorello (Emory Cohen) asks her to dance, and then introduces her to Italian charm, cuisine and family life. She becomes happy and gradually acclimatised to American life. However, her sister in Ireland dies and she is called back for the funeral. Before she leaves New York, she and Tony marry secretly.

Brooklyn beautifully evokes the sense of being torn between time, place and identity. In Ireland Eilis is a daughter with a history, in America she is a woman with a future. In both she is filled with displaced longing. When she returns to Ireland Eilis is courted by Jim Farrel (Domnall Gleeson). She has a duty also to her mother. Loyalty to her secret husband prevails and she returns to America.

Just at this point I felt there was insufficient tension when she seemed to family and friends to have the choice of staying in Enniscorthy or going back to America, and she had to reveal to her mother her marriage to Tony.

It's a beautiful rather old fashioned film which moves slowly. The inner conflicts are reflected in outer change, and we are guided through the transatlantic voyages of the story with grace and insight.

Music plays a role too: new verses and old choruses amid contrasting dancehall scenes. When Eilis helps serve a communal Christmas dinner to Irish down and outs, one of them sings a traditional Irish love song. A sublime sequence.

Saoirse Ronan plays Eilis sensitively and compellingly. She has timeless lovely looks and a convincing Irish inflection; she convinces us that she could inspire the patient ardour of two very different men. Julie Walters is splendid as Mrs Kehoe, the matriarchal landlady of the boarding house, and Jim Broadbent plays Father Flood as a benign presence without soft soaping.

Costume, production, hairstyles, clothes, make-up, surroundings such as the contrasting beach scenes, guide us through the transatlantic voyages of the story. *Brooklyn* does not shout its virtues. Like its heroine it has subtlety, charm, courage and imagination.

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Lloran House: Joyce Brooks, Nick Maurice

Joyce's father was William Whant, who lived at 9, Figgins Lane, one of the cottages for staff at Lloran house. "He was the main gardener with an assistant, Mr Akers. The garden ran down to the river between Figgins Lane and the Ivy House Hotel. Behind the house, home to the Dr's Maurice, there were lawns and flower beds. There was a greenhouse with grapes, a filbert nut walk and a kitchen garden supplying most of the vegetables for the house. Fruit trees and raspberries grew against Figgins Lane wall. They kept chickens and ducks. Near the river was a summer house and a wilderness area where trees grew wild. A wooden bridge crossed the river to the public allotments, now replaced by the houses and gardens on the North side of George Lane."

Nick Maurice picks up the story, telling us that "Dr Walter Maurice and his wife Caroline, my grandfather and grandmother who lived at Lloran House, soon to be occupied by Rick Stein, introduced the first catalpa tree to England from the Far East which still flourishes in the garden of the 'Lower Lloran' house built by their sons Dr Tim and Dr Dick after the death of Dr Walter, when clearly Lloran house was too large for his widowed grandmother.

"'Marlborough Granny', to be distinguished from Cornish maternal grandmother 'Bude Granny', was a very keen gardener and her herbaceous borders were magnificent, as was the 'nut walk' in which red squirrels were to be found and which led you to the river where we canoed, tickled trout and paddled about as young children and watched birds' nests as the fledgling thrushes and blackbirds grew and took off.

"Then over the wooden bridge to Ducks Meadow, which was a lovely meadow full of wild flowers with a large pond in the middle, occupied by ducks, although the meadow was named after the Duck family of toy shop fame and Jimmy Duck, onetime Mayor of Marlborough."

A postscript - in the courtyard behind Lloran House is now a new development of town houses - Old Lion Court - whose occupants can still enjoy two of the splendid trees: a magnificent beech and a view of the famous catalpa.



Gifford's Circus: Wild West Extravaganza

"I held the jewel of my childhood up to my eye, and through it I saw ponies and a dressing-up box and a tent, and that was Gifford's Circus." Nell Gifford

Gifford's Circus' highly anticipated 2016 tour *The Painted Wagon* is a Wild West extravaganza set to wow audiences this spring and summer. Touring the South West and London from May until September, this original whip-crackin' horse-wrangling hell-raisin' show promises more of the much loved unique Gifford's Circus magic. Their signature burgundy and gold showman's wagons and billowing tent have become a summer staple in village greens, market towns and cities all over the South West.

The Painted Wagon invites audiences to a spectacle of eye-catching acrobatics and aerialists from far and distant lands, dancing horses, bounty hunting and gold panning, all to the beat of the "Dodge City" Gifford's Circus saloon band.

Nell Gifford, co-founder and co-producer of Gifford's Circus with husband Toti, said: "This year's show is shaping up to be another cracking tour with some wonderful new talent joining the Gifford's Circus family. Without doubt the show will be one of our best yet."

New artists and firm favourites form the critically acclaimed company. Newcomers include gun-slinging, rope-spinning teenage Cowgirl Lilian Konyot, along with duo Lyrical Lycra, two beautiful aerialists. Gifford's Circus stalwarts Madame Nancy Trotter-Landry, rodeo rider Dan Fortt, jugglers Bibi and Bichu, El Gifford (STILL WANTED) and funny man Tweedy the Clown all make a welcome return.

The Painted Wagon opens at Gifford's Circus HQ at Fennells Farm, Stroud on Friday 13 May. During the tour Gifford's Circus will visit the following locations: Sudeley Castle, Daylesford Organic Farm, Blenheim Palace, Oxford University Parks, Chiswick House and Gardens, The Fox Inn at Barrington, Frampton on Severn, Minchinhampton Common, Marlborough Common and Cirencester, before returning to Fennells Farm until Sunday 25 September.

Once again, Circus Sauce, the much-loved 60 cover travelling restaurant, will be inviting circus-goers to a feast like no other. Circus Sauce is not a licensed restaurant and diners are invited to bring their own drinks including alcohol.

Tickets to *The Painted Wagon* are on sale now and can be purchased from the Gifford's Circus website at www.giffordscircus.com or Box Office on 0845 4597469. Places for Circus Sauce can also be booked through the website and Box Office.

Marlborough in Bloom 2016: Anne Crawley

Marlborough in Bloom is the local entry to the South West in Bloom, one of eighteen regional/national competitions that make up Britain in Bloom, the biggest horticultural campaign in Europe. The aim of the communities that take part each year is to improve and regenerate our local environments, through the imaginative planting of trees, shrubs, flowers and landscaping, conservation and recycling projects, and to sweep away the eyesores that blight our streets, such as litter, graffiti and vandalism.

Marlborough in Bloom is run by a small voluntary committee. It receives grants from Wiltshire Council Area Board and Marlborough Town Council. Headed by lead sponsor Brewin Dolphin, we also have generous donations from local traders, businesses and individuals.

As you would expect, the High Street is the focus of our presentation to the South West in Bloom judges on judging day, July 19.



"This year the response from our businesses and shops has been amazing, transforming the High Street with a blaze of colour from the glorious floral displays in troughs and hanging baskets. The community have been very appreciative of our efforts whilst we have been out litter-picking and weeding around the town," says Marlborough in Bloom Chairman Anne Crawley .

New this year are the 14 local and very different groups entering the Royal Horticultural Society's "It's Your Neighbourhood" campaign. This non-competitive scheme aims to encourage volunteers to revamp and improve the areas they live in. This pride in place, with old and young working together to achieve a greener, cleaner town, has a knock-on, positive effect on the local economy and tourism. The neighbourhoods taking part are Stonebridge Wild River Reserve & Stonebridge Meadow, Marlborough Community Orchard, The Waterfront Garden in Kennet Place, and The Merchant's House Garden. We have high hopes of an outstanding award for these four entries to the 2016 It's Your Neighbourhood scheme.

If you can spare a few hours to help with Marlborough in Bloom please come to one of the Community Action Days (4, 11, 18 July) meeting in the Priory Garden at 10 a.m.



Marlborough Concert Orchestra: A Marsden

Anna Marsden, Chair and Bass player, Marlborough Concert Orchestra, writes:

Marlborough Concert Orchestra - the Town's very own orchestra - was formed in 2006 and is going from strength to strength. In 2014, following a tough selection process, Roselise Gentile was appointed conductor. Roselise grew up and studied in her native Italy but 5 years ago decided to live permanently in England where she is continuing her career as a choir and orchestra conductor. She also returns regularly to conduct the professional chamber orchestra Farnesiana in Italy, which has a vast repertoire ranging from baroque to 20th century music.



Marlborough Concert Orchestra performs three exciting concerts a year. The programmes are a mix of major symphonic works by composers such as Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Brahms, Beethoven and Rachmaninov and lighter pieces from the shows, Christmas music and film scores. The orchestra has performed concertos with professional local players and is also keen to give exceptional young soloists from the music colleges concert experience.

The orchestra draws together people of different ages and playing experience. We offer a supportive environment which is ideal for anyone (providing they have passed Grade 6 or above) who hasn't played in an orchestra before or is returning after a break. We warmly welcome new players, especially in the strings and brass sections.

Volunteers are needed too. If you have some spare time and would like to become involved with the orchestra, there are many ways you can help, especially on concert days. All helpers are entitled to a free ticket!

"I am always amazed how busy people with family and work commitments manage to keep Tuesday evenings free for orchestra rehearsals. Could it be that joining together to make music is good fun and a rewarding experience which provides us all with the chance to learn and improve? Concert nights are even better!"

All enquiries to mco_secretary@mco.org.uk

Pink Clouds Over Pewsey Vale: Peter Noble

Some day I might encounter those pink clouds seen once in a picture, but regardless, a walk overlooking the Pewsey Vale is always rewarding.

A favourite is to leave the car at Knap Hill's unofficial car park on the Lockeridge to Alton Barnes Road, cross the road and head acceptably uphill to Adam's Grave with its ancient earthwork fortification. Ponder a while about life here two, perhaps three millenia ago and gaze out over the vale below; it's like looking out to sea from a coastal headland. Now turn west and follow the track along the top of the escarpment passing the Alton Barnes White Horse (you might pull out the odd weed).

Continuing, the path is sometimes a little unclear but just keep the altitude and perhaps pause for refreshment in the shelter of the gorse. Eventually swing north round Milk Hill and encounter a broad green track, a gate, a field, and then the view changes from south to north to the Marlborough Downs. When the view becomes wider and deeper, stop and pick out Cherhill Monument, Silbury Hill, Barbury Castle and Liddington Castle further away.

At the field's north corner right turn and you are stepping out parallel to the Wansdyke. Some people say the ditch is the dike, others the ridge beside it; whatever. You can in places follow either, or stick to the field path which does rather hide the view. After three fields, there is a meeting of tracks. Turn right and right again down a long straight track back to the road and your car.

A not too strenuous walk of perhaps three miles but definitely one to be savoured.



Past Teachers and Pupils of St Peter's Junior School!

The Dec/Jan edition of Tower and Town, produced by pupils of **St Peter's Junior School**, will be a memorial edition to that school as it disappears in a merger with St Mary's Infants. The pupils writing the edition need to talk to past teachers and pupils and to photograph memorabilia in order to create something really unforgettable at this landmark moment in the school's history.

Contact headteacher@st-peters-jun.wilts.sch.uk

The Art of the Barbecue: Sue Pells

It's that time of year again, isn't it? Suddenly, everywhere you go you smell the tantalizing, addictive aroma of the barbecue, and think, we must have one! And why is it that everyone else's always smells better than ours tastes? So where did this come from, this caveman style of cooking which has taken the world by storm? Some would say Australia, others America. It is thought though that the Spanish, upon landing in the Caribbean, used the word *barbacoa* to refer to the natives' method of slow cooking meat over a wooden platform. So there you go, a likely possibility.

Let's face it, most of us Brits are terrible barbecuers. We cremate sausages and risk poisoning our family and friends. But it needn't be this way if we plan well ahead, take our time and concentrate on what we are doing, instead of thinking, bbq – easy and quick – don't have to work too hard or make much effort. Got the equipment – deckchair and tongs, uniform of shorts and flipflops, pass me another beer, sorted!

Next, a big decision to make – gas or charcoal? Gas, as we know, is quick, clean and controllable. However, as we also know, the barbecue gurus would not entertain anything but charcoal. It has that smoky flavour, they say; with gas you may as well be cooking in the oven, they say. What they don't say is that cooking with charcoal gives off carbon monoxide into the atmosphere, contributing to increased pollution. But hang on, let's not be a killjoy here, after all how often do we actually get to let loose with caveman cooking in our climate?

Next comes the patience, at least with the charcoal: the coals must be allowed to go grey and glowing before the food gets anywhere near it, otherwise your meat will be brown and crispy on the outside and raw in the middle. This is where the poisoning comes in. Beware! The concentration bit is to do with keeping raw and cooked food well away from each other. Obvious, I know, but how easy would it be for those errant, uncooked, dripping juices to contaminate the rest without us even noticing? Patience - allow the meat to cook slowly, there's no hurry – even if the forecasters got it wrong, and it is bucketing down. Have another beer!

Oh and while you're piling all that meat onto the barbeque for the carnivores, spare a thought for the vegetarians amongst us. Barbecues are for them too. How about halloumi kebabs with a lemon and thyme baste?

So, what will it be? Burgers – make your own, they are much tastier and will beat anything you can buy in the shops. The good old sausage – a butcher gave me some good advice recently and that was to par-boil or microwave them briefly before putting them on the grill. This cuts out the risk of raw middles and still gives the barbecued flavour. This could be said for any meat really, apart from steak obvious-

ly! And don't forget the fish, they love the barbecue. It is so easy to cook if you get hold of one of those clamp/clip/basket things, whatever *they* are called. Whatever you cook, don't forget the marinade. This will lift your food to another level altogether, and impress family and friends. Just keep basting!

Halloumi kebabs

Thread chunks of halloumi, courgette, red onion and cherry tomatoes onto skewers. Baste frequently with a marinade of 1tblspn olive oil, 2 tblspns of lemon juice, 2 tspns of lemon thyme, 1 tspn of Dijon mustard. Served with pitta or flatbreads.

Happy Barbecuing!



Calling all book Groups!

Tower & Town would like to have regular book reviews and would welcome contributions from any of our many local book groups. Articles should be between 300 and 400 words and if you can add an illustration (either of your group or of the book cover) that would be marvellous.

Please send to chairman@towerandtown.org.uk

The Marlborough Passion Play, Easter 2017

An exciting project is being planned for Easter Saturday 2017, namely, a Marlborough Community Passion Play involving as many people as possible from all sectors of our community. Possible locations include The Priory Gardens; The Town Hall steps; St Mary's Church; Silverless Street; St Mary's Churchyard; and Marlborough Green, where we would finish with a hog roast.

A significant non-acting team would also be needed including:

- Administrative organisers
- Costume and set designers and constructors
- Sound and amplification specialists
- Musical coordinator and performers
- Volunteer stewards including at road diversions

Key organisers are needed as soon as possible: please consider what YOU could offer and contact Vincent or Helen Stokes on marlbopp2017@gmail.com

What's on in July

Regular Events

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.

2-3pm: St George's, Preshute (*every 2nd & 4th Wed*) Teddy Prayers & Picnic. A service for tea & cakes for U5's & their carers.

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

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

Every 2nd Saturday

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

July Calendar

1st (*Friday*)

Marlborough College: End of Summer Term.

2nd (*Saturday*)

Mount House, Marlborough College. Art Exhibition: Art u Love.



3rd (Sunday)

2-5pm 3 Rookery Meadow, Lockeridge SN8 4EW. Open Garden in aid of Kennet Valley Driving Group & Riding for the Disabled.

4th (Monday)

2pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Embroiderers' Guild. Talk by Lisa Earley: 'The Nature of Mending Project & Paul Nash Piece (purchased by HQ)'. 861658.

7.30pm St Mary's Church, Great Bedwyn. Concert: Salisbury Cathedral's Boy Choristers. £10 from White Horse Bookshop. Under 15's free. In aid of St Mary's Organ Restoration Fund.

6th (Wednesday)

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. WI. Talk by Sabina Orton (David Dudley Jewellers): *The World of Fine Jewellery*.

7th (Thursday)

Barbury Castle. Barbury International Horse Trials (7th to 10th July).

7.15pm Town Hall. Live from the Garrick Theatre: *Romeo & Juliet*. £12 in advance, £14 on the door.

9th (Saturday)

From 8.30am. St Katharine's School, Savernake. Savernake 3k and 10k Fun Run.

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Concert: Bridge Quartet. *Lest we forget* . . . WW1 reflections. £12.



10th-17th

10am-4pm St Peter's Church. Guild of Wiltshire Artists Annual Summer Exhibition.

11th (Monday)

Start of first week of Marlborough College Summer School

13th (Wednesday)

July Calendar (continued)

12.30pm 40 St Martins. Widows' Friendship Group Lunch. 514030.

18th July – 14th August

10am-4pm St Peter's Church. Crop Circle Exhibition.

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## 18<sup>th</sup> (*Monday*)

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. National Trust Association. Lecture by Cathrien van Hak & Dawn Gill: *Dressing Mrs Dunch: Tudor Dressmaking at Avebury Manor.*

## 21<sup>st</sup> (*Thursday*)

7pm St Mary's Church, Bedwyn. Bedwyn Millenium Choir: A Summer Concert. £6 adults, under 16s free.

## 22<sup>nd</sup> (*Friday*)

St John's Academy: End of Term 6.

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

8am Marlborough Common. Car Boot Sale. £8 (cars), £10 (vans). In aid of Wilshire Air Ambulance.

## 31<sup>st</sup> (*Sunday*)

12-3pm Marlborough College. The Merchant's House Summer Lunch. 2-course lunch + historical talk and live performance of Punch & Judy. £25 (£22 for Friends, £12 under 12's, free under 5's).

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# From the Registers

## Baptism:

19 June – Jessie Little at St Mary's

## Weddings:

11 June – Natalie Meadows and Gary Easom at St George's



## Departed:

12 May – Constance ‘Connie’ Gough (92) of Coombe End Court,  
Marlborough

*Thanksgiving Service at St George’s*

16 May – Patricia Wilson (90) of Ducks Meadow House, Ducks  
Meadow, Marlborough

*Kingsdown Crematorium*

22 May – Mary Elizabeth Kelly (73) of 7 Ducks Meadow,  
Marlborough

*St George’s and Kingsdown Crematorium*

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### **Gospel Singing Workshop with Vocalist Jo Sercombe**

**Saturday 2 July, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm, St Mary’s Church**

This promises to be a fun morning and singers of all abilities are welcome to join us – no need to be able to read music. Jo is a well-known motivational singer specialising in community music projects, vocal practice and gospel music. She believes that singing can be energising for people of all ages in many different environments.

Cost: £10 to include coffee and homemade cake,  
£5 for accompanied children 10 – 16 years

Tickets can be obtained from Sound Knowledge.



# Family News compiled by Audrey Peck

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**Neil Stevens**, son of Mr David and Mrs Wendy Stevens of Upper Isbury, delivered an information-packed lecture 'The Yanks in the Kennet Valley' to a crowded meeting of the History Society on May 19th. He has been researching the subject for almost 30 years, has collected photos, artefacts and uniforms, attended reunions in the US and arranged reunions for US veterans here in Marlborough. It all started because his great aunt Tina Rogers was a GI bride. She was one of seven siblings and three sisters who lived at 66 High St. where Crosby & Lawrence now is. She settled happily in Portland, Oregon in the U.S.A. but kept in close contact with her Marlborough relatives, returning once in the 1960s. She passed away in the late 1990s.

Neil showed a photo of Joan (nee Head) and Oscar Fulk, the first GI wedding couple here and he was surprised and pleased when he realised that their daughter, Sarah, had been in the audience and wanted to speak to him.

**Jeanne Morris** was born in Kingsbury St where the flower shop is now 91 years ago. Sadly she died recently. During the war she manned a phone to report emergencies in the town. She married and had three sons, Andrew, Stuart and Melton Curtis, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She loved to travel, visiting Germany with her husband to see where he had been as a prisoner of war, and enjoying many trips with her second husband, Dick Morris, including to Russia and the USA. She spent her final years in the comfort of Coombe End Court. Our sincere sympathy to all the family.

**Connie Gough** died in May aged 92. She was always very active and sociable, doing her own decorating and driving her car to the shops until a few months ago. She was a Cheshire girl and met Jim in Kent when he was in the REME and she in the ATS. They married and came to Marlborough where Jim started a business called Fringevision and later ran Marlborough Furnishings in the Parade with two partners. She was a keen member of the Townswomen's Guild and helped to run the Over Sixties Lunches in the Town Hall. Her children, Helena, twins David and Irene, and Graham and their families, including eight grandchildren, celebrated her life at St. Georges Church, Preshute on May 24th.

**Margaret Smith**, 23, Castle Court, has had a very eventful family time recently. A great grandson, Edward, was born on May 20th, second son of Charlotte and Gareth. Margaret's grandson, Mark, married his fiancée, Kayleigh, at Ufton Court, Reading on June 3rd. The guests included the bride's mother who had travelled from Australia. Mark's sister, Alice, has just announced her engagement.

## HOME-START KENNET PREPARATORY COURSE STARTS SEPTEMBER 2016

Home-Start Kennet has just won a Big Lottery grant which enables us to continue our unique family support service to families in the Devizes, Marlborough, Pewsey and Tidworth areas. We are also expanding into Calne and Chippenham and need to build up our volunteer force in all those areas. We are eager to meet local people who will enjoy the satisfaction and challenge of working with a young family and help them to give their children the best possible start in life.

For more information please visit our website: [www.homestartkennet.co.uk](http://www.homestartkennet.co.uk) or phone 01672 569457.



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Tickets are priced at £25, £22 for Friends of The Merchant's House, £12 for under 12s and children under 5 go free. Buy direct from the house (132 High Street, Marlborough).



# Clergy Letter: Janneke Blokland

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## *Community and the Churches:*

Just after two years, I think I have ticked most of the boxes of being a ‘proper Marlborough resident’: I’ve been to a Town Council meeting; I’ve been to Gunjur in The Gambia; I was interviewed by Marlborough News Online; I was on the winning team of a Friends of St Mary’s School Quiz; I have joined a local sports club, and, of course, I have been to most of the local pubs. Before people within Church start wondering: yes, I have been doing some work as well in the meantime!

As many of you will know, this is one of the privileges of living in Marlborough: no matter which community group you would like to join, you are always welcomed. Although I have been told I am still too young to join the U3A ... That made me ask the question: Is the Church also one of these groups? An ‘activity’ you can join and where you are welcome? The answer is, I think: yes, and no.

Yes, because everyone is always welcome to join at any time, and I’m not just saying that because that’s part of my job: our churches are genuinely welcoming places. And it is not that difficult to find other parallels between going to Church and other activities in the Town.

No, because equally the Church is in many ways different from other community groups and clubs: it is there for everyone at any time. You don’t need to ‘join’ to have your wedding in church, to have your children baptised, and even to go to a service, whether it is on Christmas Eve or an ordinary Sunday in July.

Of course, as in any other organisation, the work needs to be done and the bills need to be paid: churches cannot function without a large number of committed volunteers and members. But equally, part of our mission is to share those resources – our gifts – with others, with our neighbours. By doing that, we hope to show something of God’s unconditional and everlasting love for everyone.

One example of this is that we try to keep our buildings open during the day. This gives anyone the opportunity to walk in, to have a look around, or just to sit for a few moments and pray if you like. Because no matter who you are, where you are, God has always time to listen.

So if you find yourself at a loose end this Summer, why not walk into Church and spend some time there? On a Sunday, or otherwise. You will notice: you are very welcome indeed!

# Marlborough Church Contacts

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## **Fr John Blacker**

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

## **The Revd Dr Janneke Blokland**

515970; jblokland@gmail.com  
*Team Curate, Marlborough Anglican Team*

## **The Revd Dr David Campbell**

892209; dc@marlboroughcollege.org  
*Chaplain, Marlborough College*

## **The Revd Heather Cooper**

512457; heather.cooper432@btinternet.com  
*Minister, Christchurch Methodist*

## **The Revd Miri Keen**

513408; miri.marlboughteam@gmail.com  
*Team Vicar, Marlborough Anglican Team*

## **The Revd Dr David Maurice**

514119; david\_maurice2000@yahoo.com  
*Associate Minister, Marlborough Anglican Team*

## **Rachel Rosedale**

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

## **The Revd Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy**

514357; andrewsk1959@btinternet.com  
*Team Rector, Marlborough Anglican Team*

---

## **Alison Selby**

511128; alison@crossmead.net  
Crossmead, Kingsbury Street, SN8 1HU  
*Secretary, Marlborough Churches Together*

## **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*



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# Marlborough Churches Together

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*Please check pages 25-27 for special services and events.*

## **Regular Sunday Service times**

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### **Christchurch, New Road (Methodist)**

- 9.00am Worship
- 10.30am Morning Service with Junior Church and 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 Sunday)
- 10.00am All Age Service (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 and 3rd Sunday)

### **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 and Junior Church and 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**

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**St Mary's** Informal Prayer: 8.00 am Wednesday  
Holy Communion: 10.30 am Wednesday

**St Thomas More** Mass: 10.00 am Mon, Tues, Wed and Sat  
Holy Days: 10.00 am

**St George's** Informal Prayer: 8.00 am Wednesday  
Teddy Prayers & Picnic: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 2-3pm  
Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer: 4.30pm Weds.

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# NEWS from the Churches

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## Gospel Singing Workshop Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

10am – 1pm in St Mary’s Church with vocalist Jo Sercombe.

Tickets from Sound Knowledge, Hughenden Yard, Marlborough, £10 or £5 for accompanied children 10-16 years, includes coffee and cake.

## Women’s Fellowship meets at 2.45pm in Christchurch.

July 5<sup>th</sup> AGM

June 12<sup>th</sup> Social

We then break over the summer and meet again on September 6<sup>th</sup> with Revd Heather Cooper.



## Marlborough Churches Together

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July** at 7.30pm in Christchurch. This is an open meeting and you are all very welcome to come along and support us. Copies of the Annual Report are available in our churches or contact the MCT Secretary, Alison Selby, if you would like one emailed to you: [alison@crossmead.net](mailto:alison@crossmead.net). Alison is standing down after many years as MCT Secretary at the AGM and we thank her for all her enthusiasm and dedication over the years. If you are interested in finding out more about these voluntary posts please contact Alison or speak to the clergy.



## Sunday Lunch Club on 10<sup>th</sup> July

The lunch will begin at noon at Christchurch. All welcome. Please reserve a place through the Christchurch office (513701) by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July.



## Jazz Service

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July** at 10.00am in St Mary’s. All welcome to join in a Jazz Communion Service with visiting Jazz musicians and preacher: Revd Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy.



**Marlborough  
Anglican Team**

## St John the Baptist, Minal Refurbishment Exhibition

Celebrating the Bicentenary of the Church Restoration in 1816; available daily until the end of August 2016. If you can’t visit the church to see the exhibition visit: [www.minal.org.uk/](http://www.minal.org.uk/)

St.J.B.Refurbishment\_Mobile.htm

# NEWS from the Churches (continued)

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## Time of Transition for Devotion

This summer is a real time of transition for Devotion: Blayze has joined us in June and in August Peta will be leaving us to start a new exciting job in Swindon in September. So, Peta is handing over the baton to Blayze, as it were.

Hangout on Thursdays will continue as usual, but have a summer break in August. The future of Hangout at the Mead on Tuesdays will very much depend on Wiltshire Council's plans for the Youth Centre.

More details about these youth clubs and up to date information can be found at <http://devotion-marlborough.co.uk>. Please continue to pray for the work of Devotion with young people, especially in these months of change.

**Peta O' Brien** writes: "After 6 years of working for the wonderful people of the Devotion Youth Project, I will be hanging up my Youth Worker boots on the 7<sup>th</sup> August and beginning life as a teacher (of Youth Work!) at Swindon Academy. I would like to say thank you to all those who have supported me and the project and prayed for us. There have been tough moments over the last few years, but I have felt held up and loved by those around me. We have done some great work, reaching out to the young people of the town and showing them that God (and therefore Christians) care about them and their needs. I am excited to see what Blayze has planned for the future of the project, and hope that you will all continue to support him enthusiastically."



**Blayze White** started work as the Youth and Families Worker during June; he is based at the Devotion Office in Christchurch and is looking forward to working with Peta and the young people and families in the town. Updates about his work and ideas will be posted in weekly church notices and future editions of Tower and Town.



**Camp ACTIVATE:** MAPAG (Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group) is raising money to enable children in need, who are living in Marlborough, to participate in Camp ACTIVATE at Marlborough Leisure Centre this summer. More information at: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/lscampactivate](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/lscampactivate)

MAPAG hope to raise about £1000, which will enable them to book 60 full time

sessions. If you would like to know more about this project, or make a contribution, please contact Janneke Blokland.

*MAPAG next meet on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in Friends' Meeting House, all welcome.*

### **Christian Aid Update**

'Love thy Neighbour' is this year's Christian Aid theme and the Christian Aid Committee in Marlborough thanks all who have given their time, enthusiasm and compassion for Christian Aid; in particular at the Christian Aid Sunday Service on 15<sup>th</sup> May in Christchurch, when we raised an amazing £2,028.00 (including Gift Aid). The service was well attended and we heard an interesting address by Stephen Dominy, the Christian Aid Organiser for Wiltshire and Dorset. The final figures for Christian Aid Week are still being collated.



### **Future Diary Dates**

#### **Bicentenary Service, 4.00pm on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August at Christchurch**

All welcome to join this Special Celebration Service for our Bicentenary, followed by tea.

We would be delighted to welcome our ecumenical partners to celebrate with us.



### **Historic Churches Ride and Stride**

**([www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk))**

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2016 10am - 6pm.** Walk, cycle or ride around Wiltshire visiting as many churches as you can to help raise funds for the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust. 50% of the money raised goes to the participant's chosen church and the other half to the County Historic Churches Trust.

For more information or sponsor forms please contact:

St Mary's, Marlborough: Keith Galpin: [audrey-keith@talktalk.net](mailto:audrey-keith@talktalk.net) 516005

St John the Baptist, Minal and Christchurch: David Fishlock:

[theoldforge@waitrose.com](mailto:theoldforge@waitrose.com) 512007

St George's, Preshute: Charles Graham: [ctg100@hotmail.com](mailto:ctg100@hotmail.com) 514301

### **Alpha Course**

This autumn there will be another Alpha Course running in Marlborough. This is the well known Christian basics course. It will be held in St Mary's Church Hall. There will be an introductory 'taster' session on **14<sup>th</sup> September** and thereafter will meet weekly on Wednesdays. If interested or want further information, contact David Maurice: [david\\_maurice2000@yahoo.com](mailto:david_maurice2000@yahoo.com) or Simon Mills: [simon@clatford.org.uk](mailto:simon@clatford.org.uk)



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| Editor   | Sarah Bumphrey     | aug.editor@towerandtown.org.uk   | 516862 |
| Compiler | Rob Napier         | aug.compiler@towerandtown.org.uk | 512333 |
| Theme    | 'Mother and Child' |                                  |        |

### September

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## Every Month

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| <i>News from the Churches</i> | Alison Selby<br>Crossmead, Kingsbury St, SN8 1HU   | church.news@towerandtown.org.uk | 511128 |
| <i>Family News</i>            | Audrey Peck<br>7 Castle Court, Marlborough SN8 1XG | family.news@towerandtown.org.uk | 289065 |

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