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THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

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Marlborough's Independent Retailers

This month, pupils at Marlborough College have been offered the opportunity to contribute to *Tower and Town*. I gladly volunteered my sparky class of Year 9 (thirteen to fourteen year olds) for this challenge. At Marlborough College, we teach a hybrid course called 'Form' to Year 9 in which we combine the teaching of English, History, and Religious Studies. This allows us to challenge pupils and prepare them for the rigour required for GCSE study, so this commission is the perfect challenge for the pupils.

It seemed fitting to focus on local shops for our journalistic exploits, as High Streets across the UK struggle to stay busy and vibrant from fierce competition from out-of-town shopping centres and internet shopping. Some of the students are new to Marlborough whilst others were born here and know the town well. However, when asked about their shopping habits, a lot of students confessed to mainly using familiar chains rather than exploring the many independent shops in the town centre.

As a class, we would like to thank the many shop owners and employees who gave up their time to be interviewed. My pupils enjoyed meeting and talking to everyone whom they met and they were able to learn more about the challenges facing local businesses as well as how enjoyable this line of work can be. Fundamentally, I hope this reminds them to consider the impact of where they spend their money and open their eyes to the importance of supporting smaller independent businesses.

Isabel Marks
Teacher of English and Form at Marlborough College

R.C & J Upton Leathercraft of Marlborough

by Saffron Rowell and Samantha Pickering

Mrs Upton has been running her store on the Marlborough High Street for 57 years. She and her husband opened **Leathercraft of Marlborough**, based in Hughenden Yard, in 1962 and she has been running it ever since. They originally opened the store intending for it to be a saddlery, as Mr Upton had just lost his job and Mrs Upton had always been interested in horses. In fact, her son has only just left his long-time job at a racing yard! However, saddle-making didn't take off, maybe because the saddle industry is already a very prestigious one, so they decided instead to turn it into a leather store, which was and still is more successful. Mr Upton stopped working at the store soon after, as he much preferred the creative arts, such as sculpture, painting and writing - mainly about falconry. Mrs Upton still enjoys her job very much.

Leathercraft of Marlborough has many customers, some local and some from further afield including visitors from abroad. "A trip to Marlborough isn't complete without visiting this shop!" is a compliment voiced by many. Mrs Upton receives a fairly steady inflow of customers, although trade has gone down somewhat since she first opened the shop. "Marlborough is a good location," she told us.

She sources her leather from a number of places, including Denmark, Italy and France, as well as locally. For this reason, she is slightly worried for Brexit, but thankfully the Danish and French companies have warehouses in England.

We asked her if she had any funny stories about her career and she said that whenever famous people come to her shop, she doesn't realise since she does not watch television, so she has no idea who these people are!



DIY Rainbows

by Georgie Creswell and Chicha Nimitpornsooko

DIY Rainbows is located around the corner of the end of the High Street on The Parade next to the launderette. It is run by Jigs Patel. The shop caters for between eighty and one hundred customers per day aged from around fifteen years old to senior members of the community.

When we visited the shop, our first thought was that it was huge and seemed to contain everything you could possibly need. Their main bestselling products are their range of paints: garden paints, wall paints and house paints. They also sell door handles, locks, batteries, paint brushes, glue sticks, saws, sandpaper, torches and all the other DIY equipment you could ever think of. Thirty percent of the shop's products are made in the UK; seventy percent of their products are made abroad. Therefore, Brexit could have an impact on their sales, as the majority of their products are from abroad and, when we leave the EU, importing and exporting rules and tariffs will change.

The shop's peak seasons are in the spring and summer. When asked how chain shops affect their sales, Mr Patel replied that the main impact it had was that they had to change the way they sell things to combat upcoming businesses. The shop got its name from an earlier owner, Wendy Rainbow and her husband, and Mr Patel's father took it over 33 years ago in 1986. Mr Patel thinks that Marlborough is a good place for the shop to run, as the town knows the business and customers use it frequently. Also, because there aren't many other hardware shops in Marlborough, **DIY Rainbows** is the most trusted and used hardware shop in Marlborough. We asked if having the College in the town benefited the business and the reply was that although the pupils and college did not directly benefit the business, because Marlborough College is well known, it helps put Marlborough on the map and attracts people to live and visit the town, which ultimately attracts customers to the shop.

Finally, we asked Mr Patel what his favourite part of the job was. He said that meeting new people, helping and chatting to town members made his job very enjoyable. The shop was very nice, they seemed to have all the necessary DIY and hardware equipment you could need, and the staff were able to give excellent product advice.

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The Marlborough Confectioners

by Joe Purcell and Marco Cheung

The Marlborough Confectioners is the only independent sweet shop in Marlborough. It has been Emma Waring-Jones's dream to own her own sweet shop since she was young, and now she has owned and worked at the shop for ten years and it has been very successful. She has recently moved from across the street into her new premises in Hughenden Yard. Her sweets come from across the world: some from England, some from America, some are even homemade fudges. There are also sugar-free items, so that everyone can enjoy her sweets. They all taste great!

The shop is different from the others because it is special and exotic; the sweets they sell can't be found in **Waitrose** or **One Stop**. Lots of families come here to buy their sweets and it's a special treat for lots of children to come in. The owner thinks that the uniqueness of the shop is what gives it a chance against the big chains.

The shop's opinion on online shopping is that it is good for certain things like buying clothing or sports equipment, but shopping for sweets is different. There is a very appealing atmosphere in the sweet shop that you will not be able to experience if you buy your sweets online. The shop smells enticingly sweet and makes you want to buy some of the shop's produce.

The owner has changed the location of the shop recently (about a year ago), but the location of her sweet shop is still very hidden. The reason for this is that the rent is manageable where she is now. If she chose to move onto the High Street, the rent would be tripled or quadrupled, but she would also get a lot more customers. It's a difficult choice to make, but she is confident that this is the best business decision for her.

All in all, we think that the sweet shop is a great place to go if you want to get the full experience of a warm, cosy place to buy your sweets with your family and to get out of the house. It is better than **Waitrose** and **One Stop** and other grocery stores, as you can get a taste of something you've never tried before including tastes from all around the world.

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The Sumbler Brothers Butchers

by Hugo Lloyd and Archie de Ruig

Sumbler Brothers Butchers on the London Road are a locally run retail butchers. There has been a butchers shop on the same site for over 100 years, having always sold meat sourced from local farms.

The shop sells: locally sourced beef, lamb, free range pork, poultry and different jams and chutneys. The shop gets around fifty customers on average per day with the week starting off slow and, towards the end of the week, it gets busier. The shop was very busy when we visited on a Wednesday morning and the shop looked very neat and organised with a vast selection of produce available.

The butcher whom we interviewed had worked at this particular butcher's shop for fifteen years, but he has been a butcher for thirty-five years. His employees are on average thirty to forty years old. He said that he really enjoyed his job and that he doesn't get the Monday blues!

As the business has been around for over 100 years, it is very important to the community especially with the rising popularity of chains on the High Street, but they are coping very well with that threat. The fact that the business is a family run one also draws a connection that people don't get when they go to a chain supermarket. You also might feel safer about the quality of food when you go to a local butcher, as you know you're going to get the best produce and a nicer customer experience from a familiar face.



In conclusion, **The Sumbler Brothers Butchers** is a lovely, smart and quality-driven butcher's shop. They take very good care in making sure that their meat is clean and is of a very high standard. The employers have shown a large commitment working at this prestigious butcher's shop and, judging from our experience, they are very helpful, friendly and love what they do. Furthermore, the business is doing very well being despite being off the main High Street. **The Sumbler Brothers Butchers** will always be battling against the big supermarket chains, but, as long as they have the locals and good quality produce, they will always be in the lead.

The Marlborough Bike Company

by Jack Harper-Hill & Jake Burnell

Perhaps you may have overlooked The Marlborough Bike Company in its subtle location on the corner of the Kingsbury Street by The Town Hall. For any who have visited this local store, you will have found a passionate team working hard to exceed customer expectations.

The company was founded just over one year ago and has proven to be very successful in the short term it has been open. The team prefers to keep the business local and small with the aim of serving the Marlborough community at a personal level rather than expanding and potentially losing the love of the sport and the people. Service and repair is the backbone of the business with anything from fitting a new inner-tube to a push chair to suspension servicing, and all is all carried out on site.

We interviewed John who has been in the industry for upwards of fifteen years. He informed us that his team is committed to keeping the quality of service and products high, to encouraging both new and expert cyclists to adapt and evolve their perceptions and love for the sport. Each member of the team has many years of experience under his belt. Their products are not bought and sold based upon margin, but upon the quality of their stock and products.

Due to its unexpected and blooming success the company has had no need to advertise, leaving it to the positive word of their customers, which so far has done them justice. Instead, the firm spends what would be a marketing budget on the Marlborough Cyclo-cross races in the summer holidays. Races for all ages and expertise in the sport. Increasingly, the event brings local publicity to the store whilst also creating a fun activity for the community to get involved in.

The knowledgeable cheery and helpful team keeps the business sustainable, but admit they place their customers and their passion before profit.

The team does not work for business, but for the pleasure of the sport, as John stated: “Working with your hobby is the greatest pleasure, and our customers have been so supportive they make it a joy to do so!”

In our opinion, The Marlborough Bike Company clearly has exceptional expertise in their industry coupled with an enthusiastic welcome and a real show of love for their passion of the sport. The team is enthusiastic in giving you the best service for both sales and repairs of you bicycle.



Sue Faux, who runs Faux Arts, has eight part-time workers in her shop. One of them (her daughter) has been working there from about the age of twelve. It is a fabulous family run shop selling home-made food and drinks with pottery, paints, paintings and postcards, which are made on-site.

This shop was set up by chance. Sue says, 'It took a lot of nerve to set it up'. However, Sue now has been running her shop for seventeen years with her family and eight employees. The original business started in Pewsey, but she was given three weeks to get out of that store, and saw the opportunity in Marlborough to start up her business in new surroundings. Sue went to school in Marlborough, so it was a place she knew, and she already had clients from Marlborough College and surrounding schools plus families who live nearby. Sue told us that she didn't necessarily have busy seasons, as she has a system where you work out how many hours you are open for and fit your clients around the timings.

Faux Arts has selling points that make it unique such as lessons for groups or individuals. People also feel it is 'their space', as they tend not to overcrowd their bookings and use the spacing wisely. However, in the lessons you usually have eight to nine people and also occasionally parties of twenty-seven people. Some of the exquisite products and paintings are sourced from China or Italy, but the majority are made on site.

Sue paints her own paintings and creates her own postcards, which are printed and sold in her store. They are extremely good, especially the postcards showing lovely landscape features. She sells normally three paintings each year and a large number of postcards, usually 80-100. **Faux Arts** make a lot of their products themselves, including some of the ceramics. They also make delicious cakes, brownies and hot chocolate for people to purchase when they're in the shop. They have a pancake maker and an ice cream machine. They often have Marlborough College groups in at the weekend as their Sunday's activities, which help the business. However, being on a side street, The Parade, is not helpful, so they promote their business by word of mouth, social media platforms, magazines, memberships and most importantly when customers have created something, and then walk down the street with the brand name showing.

Sue's favourite part of the business is the freedom to change. Her parents run their own businesses and she wanted to follow in their footsteps. As your own boss, you can indulge in one area and become a complete expert. You can choose what you sell, what you buy and your sales technique, which makes you love your work. **Faux Arts** is a lovely place with a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Packaging Not Included (Zero Waste Shop)

New Shop in Hughenden Yard

by Samantha Pickering and Saffy Rowell

On Saturday 23rd February, Haley Lambert opened Packaging Not Included just off Marlborough High Street in Hughenden Yard. Her shop is all about no waste and making it easy for people to shop without any added waste. She does this by telling people to come with their own containers, and she uses larger, more sustainable containers that customers can take a spoonful or more out of and put it into their own containers. She sells: organic soaps; organic fruit and vegetables; some non-organic caster sugar; and flour. Any fruit and vegetables that are past their best, is put outside on a little table and she offers them for free, so they don't go to waste.



Miss Lambert has two main challenges that she faces: one of them is time management, as her shop is very new, and she needs to observe when and who her customers come and are, and then she can form a working 'timetable' and manage her time more easily. Another challenge is stock control, as because her shop is new, she doesn't know how many customers will come, and how much they will buy.

Miss Lambert's main suppliers are: **Infinity Food Co-Operative**, **Essential Trading Company**, and the soaps and balms are sourced from individual independent stores. She prefers independent stores, as their produce is often more organic. As well as these stores, she sources from local stores such as **Rudies Bakery** and **Organic Herb Trading Company**.

Miss Lambert is thoroughly enjoying her new business. Her previous job was a saxophone teacher at Marlborough College, but she will stop this at Easter and her business will then be her main job. She is not very worried how Brexit might affect her business, as she doesn't like to worry about that sort of thing, and it remains so uncertain. Also, all her sources are from Britain and not from Europe and her business will most likely not be affected by Brexit.

continued p.16

An Oral History (part II): The Flood

by Muriel Cobern, courtesy of Marlborough History Society

Thursday 13 March 1947, was my mother's forty-sixth birthday and is a day I shall never forget. In 1938, two years after my father's death, my mother and I moved to 7 Kennet Place, one of the cottages in the inverted L shaped terrace at the southern end of the Parade in Marlborough. Our four-roomed cottage faced the northern arm of the river and was extremely primitive; the front door opened straight on to the pavement from the living room, there was a tiny scullery with a gas cooker, and two bedrooms; a coal fire, and a gas light in the living room provided the only heating and lighting, apart from an oil stove and candles; the water supply came from an outside tap shared with the next door neighbour, and which required constant vigilance to prevent it freezing solid in the winter. The toilets stood in a row at the top of the tiny gardens and like the taps were shared, one between two cottages. However the outlook was pleasant enough.

The Town Mill was still in existence and after being used as a billet for soldiers had reverted to its pre-war role as a youth hostel. It stood at the western end of the tapering tongue of land – where the Town Mill Housing estate was built at the end of the 20th century – between the two arms of the river. At the narrowing eastern end was the public swimming bath which resembled an open-topped box mounted on four legs. Directly opposite our cottage, on the other side of the river, was the Mill Garden, where there was a fine row of flowering current bushes planted to screen the row of toilets erected during the war for the use of soldiers in the Mill.

After enduring the heavy snow and bitter cold of the winter of 1947, the sudden rise in the temperature at the beginning of March was very welcome, but the warmth began a thaw of the masses of lying snow which was exacerbated by heavy rain on 12 March, causing tons of water to flow down the hillsides into the valley and completely overwhelmed the river, flooding the adjacent fields. On the fateful day, my mother arrived home from work at 3 o'clock, but although the river was level with the top of the banks she was not unduly worried, until workers from the Tannery at the bottom of Angel Yard, and who had been sent home early, banged on the door to warn of the impending disaster. I then worked for Mr. and Mrs. Say, who ran a drapery and gents outfitters in the High Street, in the building now occupied by "Viyella", and my mother's first thought was to race up there with my wellingtons. When she got back, water was coming under the back door, and she had to concentrate on getting food, water, the oil stove, matches and candles, upstairs.

continued p.18

There was once a family Thoughts from Keith Fryer

This family lived in Bethnal Green, a multi-cultural part of London.

The younger daughter decided to leave, without telling her parents, taking whatever she could cram into a bag along with her savings and passport, seeking a new, exciting life, having been groomed by adults around her to believe that her future lay elsewhere.

The authorities intercepted many of these messages and even wrote to her during this time, warning that they were concerned, yet they never contacted her parents.

Aged 15, she went to a country far away where she soon wasted any assets that she had, married a stranger and bore him two children, watching and supporting a regime that bore down on the people they overran, committing terrible crimes against humanity.

During this time she did not maintain contact with her family or indeed their friends and relatives; she effectively cut herself off and news came back to the community of her new lifestyle which brought them into public focus and notoriety.

After some years, the country that she had gone to turned from a place of growing prosperity for the ruling group that she had joined, into a place closer to hell, as the oppressed and their supporters waged war with them.

Life became terrible and as food and medical supplies ran out, her two children died, while her husband continued to battle on with the remnants of the elite. She had fallen pregnant again and began to think about some of the life she had given up, but did not want to be seen to have turned away from her husband's position or that of her friends. To do so could also possibly result in terrible retribution. She felt weak when she compared herself to those who remained determined to battle on.

Things turned from bad to worse and eventually the forces that fought against them overcame their position. She and her husband were separated and, now eight months pregnant, was forced to walk into an encampment with other women; her husband was held captive elsewhere and she was left alone, with nothing.

Having reached this point, a man shouted into the crowd one morning, asking the women if any of them would speak to a British journalist; with nothing to lose, she agreed and was sent to a small room, where she told him her story, which became a news sensation back home.

continued page 16...

The Bishop of Ramsbury

The Right Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey

interviewed by David Du Croz

Is it true that you were born in Marlborough?

No! That rumour is a result of misplaced comma in the Salisbury Diocese press release about my appointment! My wife Rebecca is from here, but my childhood homes were in Hertfordshire where my father was a vicar.

What exactly is your role as Bishop of Ramsbury?

I am suffragan (i.e. subordinate) to the Bishop of Salisbury and as such have oversight of the Church of England's work in roughly the northern half of the diocese, which means that I have care of the clergy, their appointment and deployment, and the work of the churches there. Initially that will mean a lot of travelling around getting to know the place and its people - a lot of listening and learning to start with. I am also the regional representative of the Church of England - being that public face of the Church, so that means communication - writing and public speaking, which is something I enjoy doing.

What are your own personal hopes and aspirations for your role over the next few years?

Two things in particular, I suppose. First, helping the Church to make the decisions that will see it flourish in twenty/thirty years' time. We have ageing congregations and ageing clergy, so finding ways to grow again. Patterns of regular church-going have changed radically in the last ten/fifteen years - the Church has to adapt to attract the attention of and be good for family and professional life. And secondly, I want to arouse curiosity in the Christian faith, asking the question "what does it mean to be a Christian in today's world?"

Are you optimistic about the Church of England and the Christian faith in the 21st century?

Most definitely - after all, we are in the resurrection business! We have the perfect conditions for revival - new growth comes best out of decline - indeed, things might need to get more challenging before they get better. There will be and there needs to be a different looking Church - remember the parable about putting new wine into old wineskins: "the wineskins break, the wine is spilled and the wineskins are ruined". We need to preserve the best of our heritage and be adaptable to new circumstances, just as St Augustine says - "ever ancient, ever new". And transforming society isn't necessarily just about big numbers and full churches - very often the best work happens from small beginnings.

What's On

Regular events

Every Monday

7.30pm: Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

7.45-9pm: Bell-ringing practice at St George's, Preshute.

Every Tuesday

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

7.30-9pm: Bell-ringing practice at St Mary's, Marlborough.

Every Wednesday

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

12.30pm: St George's, Preshute. Teddy Prayers & Picnic. A special service for U5s & carers, followed by a picnic lunch. (*1st Wednesday*)

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

7.30-9pm: Bell-ringing practice at St John's, Mildenhall.

7.30-9.30pm: St Mary's Church Hall. 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.*)

2pm: Mildenhall Village Hall. Marlborough Floral Club. £30 a year membership. £5 guest. 520129. (*1st Thursday in the month.*)

7-8.30pm: Wesley Hall, Oxford St. Hangout & Devotion. Youth Club.

Every Friday

10-12 noon: Christchurch

Every Friday and Saturday (1

10am-4pm 132 High Street Museum. £3 (u 16s free).

Every 2nd Saturday

10-12 noon: Library. Marlborough Association. Drop-in advice

April calendar

1st (Monday)

1.00pm Kennet Valley Hall. Embroiderers. Ploughman of 'Textiles, the Taj Mahal

3rd (Wednesday)

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford. Dickon Povey: 'The Disco members and guests welcome

4th (Thursday)

2pm Minal Village Hall. Floral demonstrator: Jackie Page: 'Potty'. Visitors £6. 861279
6.45pm St John's Academy. Teams of 4-6 people. £10 (including cheese & pate p

7th (Sunday)

1.15pm Barbury Racecourse. Point.

10th (Wednesday)

10am-12.30pm The Merchants. The Age of Romanticism (Christopher Rogers: 'Regency Ostentation'. £12 member. Advance booking: 511491.

Crush Hall. Food bank.

1st April-22 December)

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Marlborough

's Lunch followed by Part 2
and Tuk'.

Marlborough Street. WI. Talk by
'The Comforts of Bath'. New
Home.

Marlborough Club. Guest

'Going just a little bit
'.

Marlborough Club's Annual Quiz.

adults. £5 students

(latter).

Marlborough. Tedworth Point-to-

Marlborough House. Study Series:

(1790-1830). 3rd in series:

Marlborough England, An Age of

Marlborough, £15 non members.

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

7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Gardening
Association. Talk by Ray Broughton: 'Hedges and
Lawns'.

11th (Thursday)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Marlborough History
Society. Talk by John Byrom: 'The Wiltshire
Countryside 200 years ago'. Guests welcome £5.

14th (Sunday)

7.30 St Peter's Church. Concert: Joana Ly (violin) &
Martin André (piano). £10 (£8 members of St Peter's
Trust). See p.22.

15th (Monday)

11am Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton.
Lecture by Lynne Gibson: 'Alchemy and Adventure:
A History of Exotic Colours and Poisonous
Pigments'. Guests welcome £7. Membership
Secretary:01793 840790.

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. National
Trust Association meeting. Talk by John Craig,
Retired Chief Fire Officer of Wilts Fire Brigade:
'Going to Blazes: the lighter side of his experiences as
a fireman'. £3, non members £4.

18th (Thursday)

8pm Town Hall. Marlborough Folk Roots. Concert:
Urban Folk Quartet. £15 from Sound Knowledge.

23rd (Tuesday)

Marlborough College: Start of Summer Term.

St John's Academy: Start of Term 5.

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. The Arts Society
Pewsey Vale. Lecture by Richard Whincop: 'Telling
the Old, Old Story: Depictions of the Descent from
the Cross'. Visitors welcome. £7 Membership
Secretary: 07775 683163.

What's On continued...

26th, 27th & 28th (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)

5.30-8.30am. Berwick Bassett: Dawn Chorus Walk. Register: <https://www.spacefornature.net/events-1/dawn-chorus-walk/form>.

28th (Sunday)

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall. Film: 'Bohemian Rhapsody' (12A). £6

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There once was a family continued....

She gave no acknowledgement of changing her attitude, but accepted that now she wanted to come home, for her own sake and for that of her unborn child. She said that she would accept whatever fate the future held and asked for clemency.

Back home, people rose up and said "why should we take her back? What reason is there for us to support this wastrel? Let her rot in the hell that she is in".

A small group of others took a different view. They suggested that she'd left as a child and that while she had indeed now become a 19 year old, she was 'one of us' and that we had a duty to care for her, to try and show her that even though she would have to subject herself to whatever the State decided, ultimately she could come home.

Those against her return asked "why should we do this; we've all stayed here, working, paying our taxes and living inside the laws of our land and those of our beliefs?"

All that those people could say was this:

"But we have to take her back, because to us she was dead, but now she is alive; she was lost, but now she is found".

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Packaging not included continued...

Hayley Lambert hasn't found a particular trend in customers yet, as they come in all shapes and sizes and she hasn't been there long enough yet to see a pattern emerging. Many people are coming to see what the shop is all about, but there are already lots of local customers who have made visiting the shop part of their routine.

We asked her whether she already had any funny stories worth telling that might have happened in her shop and she said, "There was a 'cornflakes all over the floor' incident once, and although it wasn't very funny at the time, now looking back on it it's very funny!".

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‘TALES FROM AFGHANISTAN’

as told by members of The Oxford Storytelling Circle

This *"Evening of Storytelling"* is taking place in **St Peter's Church** in Marlborough on **Sunday 19th May** - stories about kings and commoners, nomads and noblemen, gazelles and cheetahs! The storytellers are drawn from all walks of life, including professionals and those with a theatrical background.

Some members of the Marlborough community may remember the very informative seminar ‘Understanding Afghanistan’ which was held in 2011 at Marlborough College. That event attracted a lot of local interest at a time when Afghanistan was very much headline news. Eight years on and the headlines have changed but the reality of the situation on the ground in Afghanistan has not altered significantly for the people of that country, which is where AFGHANAID comes in.

For over thirty-five years, Afghanaid has worked alongside some of the poorest and most remote rural communities in Afghanistan to rebuild basic services, improve agriculture and other livelihoods, strengthen the rights of women and children, and respond to natural disasters. Despite the many persisting challenges, our projects will continue to make life better for over 12,682,000 Afghan men, women and children in 2019. Our community-led approach gives ordinary Afghans a voice in their own development, making them active participants in shaping the future of their country. Moreover, with our majority Afghan team and deep understanding of local issues, we have earned great trust and respect from the communities we serve.

Afghanaid provides women with the training and tools they need to become economically and socially empowered; with these skills women can change the power dynamics within their families and wider communities which often perpetuate poverty and gender inequality, enabling them to reach their potential and pass on their skills to the next generation.

We anticipate an entertaining evening in St Peter's which is also to raise awareness and funds to support the work of AFGHANAID. Doors will open at **6.30pm** in time for a prompt **7.00pm** start, with a projected finish time of about 9.00pm. This is suitable for all ages over 15, but places are limited (50) to preserve the intimacy of the storytelling experience so do not delay. Tickets (**£12.50**) are available from the **White Horse Bookshop**. The evening also includes appropriate musical interludes, and the reading of a poem by the late Amina Shah, Afghan writer/storyteller/poet. Wine and soft drinks will be available during the interval by donation, and there will be an AFGHANAID stall with up-to-date information about the charity's projects.

Neil and Lucinda Hall, and Rebecca Hodge of AFGHANAID

A Good Read recommended by Debby Guest

When a book is titled *The Killing of Butterfly Joe* you have to expect that things won't end well for Joe, whoever he may be. He is in fact an exasperating, iconoclastic, slightly exhausting maverick with the knack of "making you feel your life could be so much more interesting if you dropped everything and followed him". So our narrator and hero, Llew Jones does just that in this hugely enjoyable though hard-to-classify book – it's partly a road trip that's skidded horribly off-piste, a little bit crime fiction (not really whodunnit, more whatdunnit, or did?do-it), and a slightly skewed look at the tragi-comedy of the American Dream. The author, Rhidian Brook also wrote *The Aftermath*, on which the recently released film is based, and which I also recommend. (The book, not the film, haven't seen it. Yet.)

Last summer an Australian couple came into the shop hoping to buy a book that had received a glowing review in the Qantas inflight magazine. They couldn't remember what it was called, or who wrote it, so I was delighted at the cleverness of me when I identified it as *The Plotters* by Un-su Kim "the hottest new voice in Korean fiction" Alas for my customers, it hadn't yet been published in the UK. But now it has, and I moved it to the top of my to-read list. It's about organized crime, hit-men, and corruption, a deceptively simply written, darkly funny and original novel.

Finally, a book I haven't read but which has received a lot of coverage, and sounds intriguing, even though it's "fantasy" which isn't everyone's goblet of potion. From all the reviews it sounds as though Marlon James has taken the genre in a new direction in **Black Leopard, Red Wolf**. If anyone out there would like to read it and report back to me, I'd be delighted.

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Oral History continued...

By the time I came home at 5 o'clock, the water was knee-deep in the road, and up to the fireplace indoors; looking out of the front bedroom window, we saw, stretching right across the garden boundaries of the houses on the north side of George Lane, a vast coffee-coloured lake flecked with white foam, uprooted trees and other debris.

The water subsided around midnight, leaving behind a black, evil-smelling mess of mud and sewerage, and we were forced to live upstairs for a fortnight, while we cleaned it up. Of course we were not the only victims as the Parade and part of the London Road also suffered.

**Easter Services 2019 - All the churches of Marlborough wish you
a very Happy Easter and warmly invite you to worship with us:**

Palm Sunday, 14th April

6.00pm Sacred Music & Readings with the Dodecantus Choir (St Mary's)

Monday, 15th April

10.00am Mass (St Thomas More)

7.30pm Night Prayer with Address (St Mary's)

Tuesday, 16th April

10.00am Mass (St Thomas More)

7.30pm Night Prayer with Address (St George's)

Wednesday, 17th April

7.30pm Night Prayer with Address (St John the Baptist)

Maundy Thursday - 18th April

7.00pm Section Communion Service (Christchurch)

7.30pm Mass of the Last Supper followed by vigil until:

10.00pm Night Prayers (St Thomas More)

8.00pm Communion Service (St Mary's) and The Watch until midnight

Good Friday - 19th April

10.30am Worshipping at the Foot of the Cross (St Mary's)

10.30am Reflective Worship (Christchurch)

11.30am Procession of Witness Marlborough High Street

12.30pm Stations of The Cross (St Thomas More)

1.00pm – 3.00pm Devotional Service (St George's)

3.00pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion (St Thomas More)

Saturday - 20th April

9.00pm The Easter Vigil Mass (St Thomas More)

Easter Sunday - 21st April

5.30am Sunrise Service at Martinsell Hill

8.00am Holy Communion (St Mary's)

8.00am Holy Communion (St George's)

9.30am Family Communion (St John the Baptist)

10.00am Family Communion (St Mary's)

10.00am Family Communion (St George's)

10.30am Communion Service (Christchurch)

10.30am Quaker Meeting for Worship

11.00am Mass (St Thomas More)

4.00pm Kite Flying (College Playing Fields)

Marlborough Churches Together

Usual Sunday Service times

Christchurch, New Road (Methodist)

- 9.00am Service with Communion (1st Sunday)
- 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

St Mary's Holy Communion: 10.30am Wednesday

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

St George's 4.30pm Weds: Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer
12.30 pm (1st Wednesday): Teddy Prayers & Picnic,
a special service for U5s & carers followed by a picnic lunch

Marlborough Church Contacts

Fr John Blacker

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

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

The Revd Dr Janneke Blokland

515970; jblokland@gmail.com
Assistant Chaplain, Marlborough College

Rachel Rosedale

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

The Revd Heather Cooper

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

Andrew Trowbridge

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

The Revd Dr David Maurice

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

Laura Willis

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

The Revd Tim Novis

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism – we welcome:

24 February – Stanley Alexander William Purton at St George's

17 March – Sapphire Shirley Elsie Kim Foster at St Mary's

Departed - we pray for the families of:

24 January – Susan Caroline Hughes (63) of St Martins, Marlborough

St Mary's and North Wiltshire Crematorium, Royal Wootton Bassett

11 February – Dorothy Gertrude Smith (94) of York Place, Marlborough

Kingsdown Crematorium

17 February – Marjorie 'Bunty' Williams (88) of Barn Street, Marlborough

Kingsdown Crematorium

19 February – Michael Bradley Yeadon (88) of Greatwood, Clench Common

St George's and Marlborough Cemetery

23 February – Margaret Hurd (94) of Highfield Residential Home, Marlborough

North Wiltshire Crematorium, Royal Wootton Bassett

Clergy Letter from David Maurice

One of the earliest symbols of the Christian faith was a fish. The Greek word for a fish is *ichthys* and using the Greek alphabet can form an acrostic for *Jesus Christ Son of God Saviour*. But the symbol that is most associated with Christianity is the Cross. Most people know that and do not give it a second thought. It is often used in jewellery - people wear a silver or gold cross around their neck. Yet it is a most extraordinary thing. In ancient Rome, crucifixion was a most hideous form of torture and slow execution - much worse than hanging. Yet if someone started a new religious movement with a gallows as its prime symbol, it would be considered macabre.

This month, once again we will be remembering the crucifixion of Jesus. And once again, this awful event will be celebrated not as a terrible defeat, as crucifixion was usually regarded, but as a victory. It came to be seen as a victory because of what followed: the resurrection. This is what Easter is all about.

From the earliest times, such as in the writings of St. Paul, the Christian Church has reflected on the meaning of Jesus' death. There have been different understandings about why it happened. All of them see it as in some way being God's answer to sin - human rebellion - and the way we can be reconciled to God. God in the person of Jesus has paid the price for all our failure to be the sort of people God has called us to be and to lead the lives he wants us to lead.

The problem of evil and suffering is one of the great barriers to faith. How can a God of love allow so much evil to happen. The Christian faith believes in a God who is not remote but who, in the person of Jesus, has entered into all the pain and suffering. The cross was the consequence of pure goodness encountering the evil of this world and taking it upon himself and when he rose from the dead overcoming it, breaking its power. The cross, awful as it is, is a demonstration of how much God loves us. It also has the power to change us if we allow the new life of Jesus to enter us by his Spirit and transform us into the people he wants us to be.

“Brilliant International Musicians in St Peter’s Church”

Sunday 14 April 7.30pm

Joana Ly (violin) Martin André (piano)

Sonatas by Beethoven, Janacek and Vienne

Tickets £10 (£8 for members of St Peter’s Trust)
available White Horse Bookshop and Sound Knowledge

Kenneth Armitage (1916- 2002) was a twentieth century British sculptor most famously known for his bronze sculptures. Primarily figurative, his work encompasses the human form, the language of the body and the instantaneous ways in which the body can move and change. Armitage once described the style of his work by saying, 'I like sculpture to look as if it happened, to express an idea as simply as possible.'



The exhibition shown at The White Horse Gallery is an expansive collection of sculptures and drawings chosen from The Kenneth Armitage Foundation archives.



His work is not easy or simple, it is difficult,

challenging and at times, impossible to interpret. Ripples of dark undertones, melancholic moods mixed in with childish charm and humour encompass his work and the peculiar shapes and forms he has created. His drawings are strange, unusual, and repeatedly androgynous and anthropomorphic. The dense physical sculptures are solid and tangible. It is evident how some of them have worn smooth and oxidized from years of being touched and stroked. Indeed, their cylindrical forms and chunkiness make them enticingly tempting to touch and feel.

Armitage's work is of its time. As a twentieth century artist, he lived through tumultuous social, political and economic change. I believe the style of his work, the execution, tone, subject matter and overall feel, is a reflection of the time in which he was working. The sculptures are unconventionally beautiful. Spending time with them, you really feel as if they are moving, setting off. Who knows where they are heading.

Kenneth Armitage RA was at the White Horse Gallery from 20th February – 12th March 2019.



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Family News compiled by Jessy Pomfret

Robert Browning was born in Woolwich. During WW2 he was evacuated to Marlborough, where he stayed with a Miss Neate in South View. He attended St Mary's Infants school in Herd Street and then St Peter's, in the building which is now the library. He then returned to Woolwich but Miss Neate and Marlborough made quite an impression on the young Robert and he often came back to visit both. After studies at Imperial College, he worked in the UK (for ICI) and abroad. He met his current wife, Gloria, in Saudi Arabia in 1995 and they married in 1996; their daughter Stephanie was born in 1997. Together they spent nine years in retirement in Cyprus, returning to Marlborough whenever they could because Robert had such happy memories of his time there. His older children followed his example: Clare, a Norland Nanny, did her nursery nurse placement at St Mary's Junior School and Rowan chose to settle in nearby Baydon. In 2009 Robert & Gloria came back to live in Marlborough and Stephanie went to St John's School, Robert often attending her musical concerts in the school and St Mary's Church. Robert enjoyed playing bridge and was an active member of the Marlborough Bridge club. He is survived by his wife and three children.

At the end of January **Revd Canon Howard Gilbert** was licensed to be the Rector of Minchinhampton with Box and Amberley. The Bishop of Gloucester conducted the service to a congregation of at least 350. A coachload of parishioners from Howard's previous church attended the service and three members spoke on his behalf. After the service generous refreshments were very efficiently served in the packed church. Having lived in a large eight bedroom Victorian Parsonage for nine years it was not easy to downsize to a four bedroom Rectory. Eileen remade all the curtains from the Parsonage to fit in the Rectory. Eric spent several days hacking back the very overgrown bushes and shrubs in the large garden that have run wild for several years. Both Daisy (8) and Lucy (5) have settled well into their new school, which is next to the church. Howard thanks Marlborough folk for all the good wishes they have sent.

Margaret Hurd, nee Jones, grew up in Marlborough. Many will remember Hurd's Shoe Shop, run by her husband and her son, Raymond. In her younger days Margaret was a keen member of the Young Wives and the local W.I. with her good friend, Moira Newman. In later life she and her friend, Sylvia Gray, seemed to really enjoy their old age, walking around the town, going to coffee mornings and lunches and proudly telling people that they needed no medication. She lived alone in the family home in Back Lane until two years ago when she went to Highfield. She died suddenly, aged 94. We send our sympathy to Raymond, his wife Ngaothian and Margaret's brother, Eric.

News from the Churches

(For Easter Service times please see page 19)

Marlborough Churches Together Fraternal

meets at 12.45pm on Monday 1st April, open to all or please contact the clergy if you would like anything raised.



Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group

(MAPAG) meets at the Friends Meeting House, The Parade, Marlborough at 7.30pm on Monday 1st April. All are welcome to attend the meeting.



Last two Lent Talks

'God of the Gaps: A Lenten Journey with St Mark's Gospel'

Marlborough Churches Together invites you to join us with Revd Dr Colin Heber-Percy, priest and screenwriter, as he leads us on the last two Wednesday evenings in Lent. The evenings are held at Christchurch (New Road, Marlborough) starting at 7.30pm. Entry is free and there will be an opportunity for donations for the refreshments.



The themes for the Wednesday evenings are:

3rd April *And the curtain of the temple was torn in two:*
Gaps in our lives, grief and loss.

10th April *Remain here and keep awake:*
Gaps in time, in waiting.

Sunday Lunch Club

Next date: Sunday 14th April at Christchurch, Wesley Hall at 12.15. To book a place, please ring the office before 10.00am on the Friday before: 513701. Cost is £7.50. Sunday Lunch will be followed by an audio visual event from Eric Gilbert along with tea and cake.



Messy Church - Saturday 20th April 11.30am – 1.30pm

St Mary's Church, Marlborough will be running a Messy Church for Easter – this is an opportunity for families to come and enjoy Easter activities, informal worship and refreshments together. All welcome! For further information or to register interest in coming along please contact: Caroline: cphilps2@gmail.com

Women's Fellowship at 2.45pm in Christchurch

2 nd April	Trevor Durston, Leprosy Mission
9 th April	Kate Trowbridge
16 th April	Tea and Chat
23 rd April	No Meeting, Easter holiday
30 th April	Tea and Chat



Palm Sunday

Marlborough Churches Together welcome you to: Sacred Music and Readings for Palm Sunday with the Dodecantus Choir at St Mary's, 6.00pm on Sunday 14th April.



Good Friday 19th April

All are invited to join us outside the **Town Hall** *just before 11.30am* for our procession of silent witness. Some of you will come from other church services but we hope that many more will give a few minutes of their time to mark this special day in togetherness: able-bodied and not so able – wheel chairs and push chairs. After brief opening prayer we will walk silently along the High Street to gather again outside St Peter's for concluding prayer.



There will be Devotional Services in St George's and St Thomas More on Good Friday afternoon and on Saturday evening at St Thomas More.

Easter Sunday 21st April

For Easter Sunday Service dates please see page 19

The Sunrise Service on Martinsell Hill takes place on Easter Morning; 5.30am in Martinsell Hill car park, walk to the hill top for sung communion and to watch the sunrise; followed by hot breakfast via St John's Church, Pewsey.



It has been suggested that **kite flying** is a way of celebrating the risen Christ, a tradition from the Caribbean. There is an opportunity to join in this Easter celebration by flying a kite at the **Marlborough College Playing Fields** (*off Leaze Road*) on Easter Sunday afternoon at **4.00pm**.

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Tower and Town staff

Chairman	Hugh de Saram	chairman@towerandtown.org.uk 18 Kelham Gardens SN8 1PW	516830
Vice Chairman	Andrew Unwin	operations@towerandtown.org.uk	
Operations	Sarsen House, The Street, All Cannings, Devizes, SN10 3PA		01380 860120
Advertising	Andrew Unwin	advertising@towerandtown.org.uk	
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

May

Editor	Raik Jarjis	may.editor@towerandtown.org.uk	511725
Compiler	Peter Noble	may.compiler@towerandtown.org.uk	519034

June

Editor	Alexander Kirk Wilson	jun.editor@towerandtown.org.uk	513861
Compiler	Hugh de Saram	jun.compiler@towerandtown.org.uk	516830

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 May issue by 9th April please.

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