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# TOWER AND TOWN

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IN MARLBOROUGH**



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September  
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**TEN YEARS ON**

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October 2019 50P

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# TOWER<sup>AND</sup>TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 697 OCTOBER 2019



## **Message from the LitFest - Celebrating 10 years**

A decade on from the first festival in 2010, Marlborough will be welcoming yet another fabulous crop of authors and interviewers at the end of September for a weekend bulging with events, workshops and book-related chat in the Town Hall café.

Tickets for some of the big names and more niche activities have sold out but there's plenty more on offer which we're previewing for you here. It's a chance to try something new – a young novelist you haven't heard of or someone sharing their expertise on an historical figure or a timely subject such as the food we eat or the air we breathe.

The LitFest also has some new local partnerships this year. The town's link with Save the Children through Eglantyne Jebb's brief time as a teacher here has led to schoolchildren responding to a picture book about child refugees. Look out for a display of their work in the Town Hall alongside entries for our annual children's competition. And we're delighted that Raynor Winn, this year's popular Big Town Read author, will be giving a talk at HMP Erlestoke on the Monday after the festival.

We would be really pleased to hear from other local organisations who would like to work with us in future years. A festival can be much more than its showcase events. It's about sowing seeds so that a love of reading takes root in more unexpected quarters.

We have wonderful support from the town for which we're truly grateful – from our lead sponsor Brewin Dolphin, event sponsors and donors, all our volunteers, the White Horse Bookshop, and Tower & Town for devoting this issue to LitFest, and then of course thanks to you, our audience. Here's to the next ten years!

***Genevieve Clarke, Chair of Marlborough LitFest***

Cover: Kate Fry

**Marlborough Litfest is ten years old. Back in 2009, the town had a jazz festival and a rich, well-established musical life, but little on offer to celebrate the legacy of writers like Siegfried Sassoon, John Betjeman, William Golding and others. At the same time, literary festivals were springing up all over the country in towns large and small. Why was Marlborough without one?**

The idea was initiated by Nick Fogg and Mavis Cheek. A small committee started planning as early as February 2009 and the first Litfest took place in September 2010. We wanted to be different from other festivals. The aim was to be first and foremost about good writing. Authors rather than celebrities would be at the heart. We were keen to hear young, new voices as well as established authors, and clear that we should always pay them a fee, no matter how well-known or unknown.

We had help financially from ALCS (Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society) who gave us a grant; Brewin Dolphin and Hiscox agreed to sponsor us, and Marlborough College offered to arrange our poetry event. These generous sponsors have continued their support and, with new sponsors, have helped the festival grow to its present size and reputation.

The first Litfest was 15 events spread mainly between the Town Hall and The Merchant's House. Margaret Drabble opened it, poet Don Paterson and children's author Cressida Cowell were among those who took part. The following year, it expanded to 23 events including the first debut authors with Evie Wyld and Ed Hogan. We began to add things – a tour of Libanus Press, Poetry in the Pub, Creative Writing. In 2012 William Golding's Estate sponsored Howard Jacobson, the first Golding Speaker. Each year since then a Golding speaker has opened Litfest; this year, it's Ben Okri. In 2013 Jackie Kaye launched The Big Town Read, an event for local book groups. 2012 saw the first free event for local primary school children. Since then, work with schools and educational outreach has grown each year.

In this its tenth year, Marlborough Litfest has around 40 diverse and inspiring events. It remains a charity run by a small committee of unpaid volunteers; over the festival weekend, another 100 local people volunteer to steward events and run the cafe. Litfest is lucky: it has as its home a town with a strong literary heritage and a great independent bookshop.

## **“Every Breath You Take: a user’s guide to the atmosphere”**

**On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 12 o’clock The White Horse Bookshop will host Dr Mark Broomfield discussing his first popular science book ‘Every Breath You Take: a users guide to the atmosphere’. Mark approaches this topical and important subject in an engaging and entertaining manner drawing on both science and personal stories. Be ready to take a deep breath (literally) as he looks back in history, finds out about air pollution around the world today, and looks forward to what the future holds.**

Mark has worked as a specialist in air quality for almost thirty years. Before that, he studied for a PhD in atmospheric chemistry, working with some of the smelliest chemicals known to man, in a vain attempt to show that acid rain in Scandinavia wasn’t just caused by our power stations (turns out, it was the power stations). Since then, he has worked on all kinds of air quality projects, which have taken him up chimneys, into sewage works, onto landfill sites, and even out to the streets of Hull to carry out odour sampling. As he explains, this particularly arcane branch of air quality monitoring requires you to sit on a large blue barrel, then send large cardboard boxes containing air samples back to the laboratory, where they can be tested by people with calibrated noses.

Air pollution results in about seven million early deaths every year worldwide – that’s more than obesity, passive smoking and road accidents put together. Closer to home, air pollution may already have accounted for 14% of the price of your house, so this is definitely something you should find out more about. Mark looks at our own individual responses to these big issues: should you drive a diesel car or not? Why are wood-burning stoves such a big deal? What can we do to protect the health of our families and ourselves? Mark doesn’t restrict himself to Earth: he takes you on a journey to distant planets, the ozone layer and ‘lazy’ and ‘disappearing’ gases. Mark is passionate about explaining the complex scientific issues linked to air pollution in a way that we can all get to grips with. Bring your questions, bring your noses, bring your lungs, and come to the White Horse Bookshop to find out more.

*12 noon on Saturday 28 September*

## “A Boy in the Water”

**Most of us like a swim now and then: an occasional dip in the pool, a bit of body-boarding at the seaside. Some of us may even swim a couple of times a week. Tom Gregory is not most of us. In 1988, aged 11, he became the youngest person ever to swim the Channel. The distance was 32 miles and it took him 12 hours. His record will never be beaten. Why? Shortly after his feat, the Channel Swimming Association set a minimum age of 16.**

Gregory’s extraordinary achievement is the subject of his book, which won the 2018 William Hill Sports Book of the Year award and which gives a vivid account of his preparation, both physical and mental, and of the event itself.

**A Boy in the Water** takes you from Gregory’s early swimming experiences as a reluctant seven-year-old doggy-paddler in a pool in south-east London, through his increasingly gruelling training regime with his coach – he was allowed no contact with warm water for nine months before the swim and slept in a small room with the window wide open and just a sheet to cover him – to the day of the Channel crossing.

One September night he took the night ferry to Calais, brushing shoulders with a cohort of truckers. He recalls wolfing down a huge fried breakfast. Once on the beach in Calais, he entered the water before dawn in “just a pair of Speedos and a bit of Vaseline”, with a small light-stick attached to the back of his trunks. He describes the elation of cresting the waves and looking at the support boat in the troughs beneath him; the luminescence of his arms “plunging through the water, creating tiny little sparkles of green”; falling briefly asleep; hallucinating; the elation of being told he had reached the halfway point, followed by despair at the thought that he would never make it, so exhausted was he; the final few strokes; his left hand touching Shakespeare beach in Dover and the muffled rattle of the pebbles on the shore; the reunion with his father, mother, tears in her eyes, and Flossie the dog.

Back at school, after his astonishing effort, what most impressed his friends? His Blue Peter badge.

*Tom Gregory’s Event is at 12 noon on Sunday 29 September*

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



# Hiscox Debut Authors

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**The Lit Fest has had an event for first time authors for many years sponsored each time by Hiscox Insurance.**

This year, having invited Elizabeth Macneal and Stacy Hall, we find their books *The Doll Factory* and *The Familiars* are already appearing in the charts.

## **“The Doll Factory” by Elizabeth Macneal**

This book is set in London in 1850. The Great Exhibition is being built in Hyde Park. Among the crowd watching the spectacle, two people meet. For Iris, an aspiring artist, it is forgotten seconds later, but for Silas, who is a collector of curiosities which artists use in their paintings, that meeting marks a new beginning.

When Iris, stuck in a doll factory painting dolls’ faces, is asked to model for the Pre Raphaelite artist, Louis Frost, she agrees on condition that he will teach her to paint. Suddenly her world begins to expand, to become a place of art and love.

But Silas has only thought of one thing since their meeting, and his obsession is darkening....

In writing this story, Macneal has drawn on her fascination with the life of Lizzie Siddal who was plucked from the obscurity of a milliner’s shop to be transported into the bohemian world of talented young artists, to be a muse and model.

Macneal is not only a writer but also has her own ceramic business with a kiln at the bottom of her garden.

## **“The Familiars” by Stacy Hall**

Stacy Hall, now a journalist in London, grew up in Rossendale, Lancashire and so visited Gawthorpe, a large house near Lancaster. There she looked out of the window onto Pendle Hill and realised her fascination with the Pendle witches who were put to trial in 1612.

The tale focuses on the heroine, a 17 year old bride struggling to have a successful pregnancy and the girl she believes in and befriends her, who becomes involved in the trial. Although this is a novel, it depicts pretty accurately the story of that trial, the people involved in it and the real paranoia at that time of witches and their familiars (the supernatural entities often seen as animals) who assisted them in their practice of magic for doing things both good and bad. Hall has used as her main source the book written by the Clerk of the Assizes for the trial.

It is a fascinating subject for a first novel which carries you into the hardships of life for many in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century

*The Debut Authors can be heard at 12 noon on Saturday 28 September*

# Children's Events for 2019

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**The children's events have always been a striking part of our programme and as this is our 10<sup>th</sup> year we decided to mark it by inviting authors who have 'made it good' .**

A former Children's Laureate, *Chris Riddell* is holding an event when he will use his beautiful illustrations (such as his design for our brochure cover) to tell us about the *Cloud Horse Chronicles*. As he talks, Chris Riddell will draw and show us how he gets inspiration for his illustrations.

The Comedian, *David Baddiel*, who believes in audience participation, is giving a talk at Marlborough College, sponsored by St Francis School to entertain fans who have enjoyed reading 'The Parent Agency' and 'Birthday Boy'. This time he will be bringing his latest. Book '*The Head Kid*'

We also have *Cressida Cowell* who, little did we know at the time, would become our new Children's Laureate and would be a sell out! She will be telling us about her latest edition of the *Wizards of Once* series. A wonderful story of the clash between the Warrior and Wizarding worlds and the heroic deeds of their teenage leaders. Sprites and witches lead us through the world of 'once there was magic'...

Younger children can listen to and act out a storytelling session at Marlborough Library on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September. There will then be a lively talk from *Kristina Stephenson* on the Saturday about her intriguing picture book '*Why are there so many Books about Bears?*'. Good question!

To mark our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we also decided to hold extra 'outreach' events. St Margaret's School in Calne is hosting Maz Evans, author of 'Who Let the Gods Out' for local primary schools. Secondly, and in partnership with Save the Children we have encouraged primary schools in and around Marlborough to look at the difficulties overcome by child refugees and to study and respond to Sarah Garland's book, 'Azzi in Between'. Results will be exhibited in the Town Hall and Library. There will also be talks by the award-winning dyslexic author, Tom McLaughlin, at St Mary's. Don't forget too the dancing displays that will take place in the High Street as the festival begins.

John Dougherty will entertain 400 Marlborough area primary schoolchildren with music and jokes from 'Stinkbomb and Ketchup Face' and teenagers will be able to hear Geraldine McCaughrean at St John's Academy talking about 'Where the World Ends' - an extraordinary dystopian book that will surely lead to a fast paced discussion afterwards.

Over our 10 years, several thousand children have listened to such talks and walked away from meeting their favourite authors holding a signed copy, full of inspiration.

# Virginia Nicholson

# by Virginia Reekie

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## **How Was It For You ? Women, Sex, Love and Power in the 1960s ??**

There must be many of us living here for whom the 1960s was a decade of change and a time when you 'took off'.

Virginia Nicholson, the daughter of Quentin Bell and the granddaughter of Vanessa Bell, a renowned social historian, takes us from a world of women wearing hats and white gloves tied to the home through to a time of ardent women's liberation movements and the entrance of Germaine Greer.

She interviewed more than 40 women, both famous and anonymous, telling their personal stories in a touching and often humorous way. You meet the wife of a Hull trawler skipper who, having had a very stay at home life, was galvanised to take action after a triple trawler tragedy to secure safer working conditions at sea. This changed her life and the lives of many others like her. You hear the story of Pattie Boyd who at 21 years married George Harrison and at first lived the life of a dream; there is also a mother of one of the first thalidomide children who was told he would not live beyond five but is now in his fifties having learned to swim and play football. There are many girls who broke away from their staid rural homes to find a life of freedom in London.

There is definitely a sense of déjà vu as memories are jogged which create smiles of recognition as you are reminded of the introduction of washing machines and Kenwood mixers into your kitchens, Mary Quant, Bunny Girls, Cindy dolls, Mods and Rockers and Flower Power and all that went with it.

*Virginia Nicholson's event is at 1.30 pm on Saturday 28 September*

## **Collectable Book Roadshow**

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**Our local rare book expert Chris Gange will be once again at Katherine House Gallery to value and discuss your rare and collectable books.**

Whether you have a first edition on your shelves or just something that might be out of the ordinary, take it along to Chris and find out more.

*Saturday 28 September 11.00 am to 1.00pm*

## **Luca aged 9 years**

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*says David Baddiel's 'Head Kid' is 'A staggeringly exciting unexpected adventure. My favourite book of all times!'*

Nathan Filer is one of the most engaging, funny and compassionate storytellers I've ever had the pleasure to meet. Three years ago, I interviewed him on the World of Words stage at Womad, where he enthralled the audience with tales about his life as a stand-up poet, mental health nurse and author. He was in good spirits – his debut novel, *The Shock of the Fall*, had recently won numerous prizes, including the Costa Book award. It had also been translated into 30 languages. But I also detected a certain anxiety. How do you follow such huge success? Second book/album/film is a curse that plagues many artists.

Three years later, Filer has come up with a brilliant second book, *The Heartland*. Wisely, it's not a novel, thereby dodging comparisons with *The Shock of the Fall*, but a fascinating study of "so-called schizophrenia", as he calls it. It's also not such a big change of direction. As he explains at the beginning of the book, the protagonist of his debut novel, Matthew, had schizophrenia, even though it's never explicitly stated.

*The Heartland* has only been out for a few weeks, but its critical reception has been extraordinary. "I have never read a more powerful book about mental health," says Joanna Cannon, author of *The Trouble with Goats and Sheep*. Jo Brand, the comedian and former psychiatric nurse, was equally impressed. "Absolutely blew me away... I cannot think of another book in the field that would come close to this."

Filer takes us on a mesmerising journey around the psychiatric wards he once worked on, hoping to debunk myths and challenge assumptions about schizophrenia. He also invites us to spend time with experts and some remarkable people whose lives have been blighted by this most curious of human conditions. Erica, for example, is an ambitious fashion journalist in her twenties who is convinced that the contraceptive coil she has had fitted is, in fact, a camera implanted by MI5. Describing the transient nature of her delusion, she tells Filer it's like "when you kind of sniff something in the air. Except it's sniffing a thought".

And then there's James, who was struggling, mentally and physically, on the notorious Rowallan course in the 1980s at Sandhurst, attempting to become an officer. One morning he turns up on parade in the snow – wearing his pyjamas.

As Filer writes, "There's a fragility to the mental health of everyone. It serves us all to be part of the conversation."

*Nathan Filer will be talking to Jon Stock in the Town Hall at 3pm on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September.*

I fell in love with train travel when I was living in India. On a Friday evening, we'd take the night train from Old Delhi to Rajasthan, waking up on a Saturday morning in the blue city of Jodhpur. We didn't travel fast, but that wasn't the point. Something that Monisha Rajesh knows all too well. The British journalist and travel writer clearly loves train travel. She's written two books, *Around India in 80 Trains* and now, her latest, *Around the World in 80 trains*, and I'm looking forward to talking to her about them both at this year's Litfest.

Rajesh is dismayed by the notion that the romance of the railways is dying and is clearly on a mission to prove that slow travel will always have a place in our hearts. We live our lives at ever faster speeds, but what are we actually doing with the time that we save?

As part of her epic seven-month journey around the globe, Monisha did actually go on the world's fastest train, travelling at 268mph to Shanghai Pudong International airport, but speed wasn't her goal. What interested her were the people she met along the way, the countries she saw, including North Korea, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Canada.

"The richest flavour of train travel lay in the joints and hinges that held countries together, where cultures swirled together, currencies doubled up and languages overlapped," she reflects. "Invisible to others, these oases were the preserve of train travellers."

*Monisha Rajesh will be talking to Jon Stock at St Mary's Church Hall at 6pm on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September.*

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## Volunteering for LitFest!

We have more than 100 volunteers and couldn't run the Festival without them.

They steward the events (there are 40 this year) looking after the audience and venues and taking tickets. Others run the cafe which provides a welcome refuge in the short gaps of inactivity. There you will find groups not only refuelling but chatting about books against the background of the significant pop up White Horse Bookshop.

## “The Way We Eat Now”

Food is a hot topic. Henry Dimbleby is leading a review into England’s food system. A UN report on climate change has recommended that we cut our consumption of red meat. And we’re besieged on all sides by advice, often conflicting, about what we should and should not eat, not just for our own health but that of our communities and our planet.

So we’re lucky to have a food journalist, author and ‘kitchen oracle’ Bee Wilson coming to talk to us at the LitFest to keep us on the right track and give us the best up-to-date advice.

Her latest book, *The Way We Eat Now: Strategies for Eating in a World of Change*, takes a hard look at what we eat at the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, asking why we ignore the extraordinary choice on offer in favour of a limited and often poor diet. Just 30 of the world’s 7000 edible crops provide 95% of our food. What we eat now is a greater cause of death and disease in the world than tobacco and alcohol. At a time when life around the globe has improved in terms of medical and scientific advances, why are we letting this happen?

Wilson also overturns many commonly-held assumptions. In fact the highest-quality overall diets are to be found in sub-Saharan Africa rather than among far richer countries. Children in southern Europe are now among the most obese having swapped the much-lauded Mediterranean diet for sugary foods. She discusses everything from meal replacements such as Huel to the disappearing lunch hour, the rise of veganism, the lack of time to cook and prepare food and the rapid increase in food delivery services, as well as providing her own strategies to try and achieve a more balanced relationship with the food we eat.

*Cut short your Sunday lunch, or even go without one, and come to hear Bee Wilson talk about one of the key preoccupations of our time on Sunday 29 September at 1.30pm in the Town Hall.*

## Volunteering for LitFest!

There is also a small group who discreetly look after the authors in the Green Room (The Mayor’s Parlour) – seeing to their needs, calming nerves or giving them space. This is also the hub for the Press and Social Media and Becky, who organises everyone’s accommodation and transport – much of it supplied by Norman and his invaluable Aldbourne Taxi Company.

## “The Salt Path”

**Every year the Lit Fest chooses a book for Book Groups to read and discuss and then come to meet the author. This is this year’s choice and has proved so popular that it became one of the first events to sell out so there are some disappointed readers. Nonetheless it is a book to read!**

It is an uplifting memoir about a couple who embarked on the South West Coastal Path after becoming homeless. The day after Raynor and Moth ( her husband) found out that they were going to lose their Welsh farm, Moth was told he had a rare degenerative disease.

What do you do when you are in your 50s, have lost your worldly possessions and been diagnosed with a terminal illness? Naturally you decide to walk the South West Coastal Path from Minehead in Somerset, through North Devon, Cornwall and South Devon to Poole in Dorset. A 630 mile walk. Their children said they were insane, but as their world collapses, the coastal path gives them a purpose and offers them the hope that they might find some kind of future.

Their journey is filled with many ups and downs – intense cold, wet, hunger and physical pain but is also filled with optimism and the freedom of wild camping, swimming in the sea in the moonlight and surviving for days on fudge and pasties.

Raynor’s writing is filled with the deep endearing love she has of Moth, history of the landscape they are moving through, insights into the natural history around them and humour. It is a wonderfully touching book which was shortlisted in 2018 for the Costa biography award

*The Lit Fest is taking Raynor Winn to talk to the Book Group at Erlestoke Prison as part of its outreach programme.*

## **Volunteering for LitFest!**

Many volunteers have been with us from the start but each year new ones come forward and that includes students in their gap year, recent English Literature graduates wanting to move into the book world and 6<sup>th</sup> formers.

Everyone is welcome and can put their name forward via

[general@marlboroughlitfest.org](mailto:general@marlboroughlitfest.org)

but not for this year’s festival

# What's On

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## Regular events

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### Every Monday

6.00pm: Recreation Ground, Salisbury Road. Bowls Club.

10.00am: Jubilee Centre. Drop-in, Tea/Coffee.

12.30pm: Jubilee Centre. Lunch.

7.30pm: Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

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

### Every Tuesday

10.00am: Jubilee Centre. Drop-in, Tea/Coffee.

12.30pm: Jubilee Centre. Lunch.

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

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

### Every Wednesday

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

10:30-12 noon: Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Singing for the Brain. Alzheimer's Support. 01225 776481. (*Every Thursday during term-time.*)

2.00pm: Mildenhall Village Hall. Marlborough Floral Club. £30 a year membership. £5 guest. 520129. (*1st Thursday in the month*).

7.00-8.30pm: Wesley Hall, Devotion. Youth Club.

### Every Friday

10.00-12 noon: Christchurch

10.00am: Jubilee Centre. D

12.30pm: Jubilee Centre. L

### Every Friday and Saturday (1

10.00am-4.00pm: 132 High  
Marlborough Museum. £3

### By appointment

Marlborough & District D

Help line: 07729 452143

## October calendar

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### 2<sup>nd</sup> (Wednesday)

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford  
Astrid Kauffmann: 'Jin Sh  
and guests welcome.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday)

9am The Merchant's House  
the American Museum in 1  
The Merchant's House 51  
2pm Mildenhall Village Ha  
demonstrator: Katie Baxte  
£6. 861279.

7.30pm Coronation Hall, A  
Pollard: 'The Avebury Livi  
Project'. £8.50 (children ha

### 6<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)

7.30pm Marlborough Coll  
Concert: Ensemble Bash  
students) 892566.

### 7<sup>th</sup> (Monday)

2.00pm Kennet Valley Hal  
Embroiderers. Branch AG  
Vesey Williams: 'Life and V

Oxford St. Hangout &

Crush Hall. Food bank.

Drop-in, Tea/Coffee.

Lunch.

**1st April-22 December)**

Street SN8 1HN.

(u 16s free).

Dyslexia Association.

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rd Street. WI. Speaker:

in Jyutsu'. New members

se. Departure by coach to

Bath. Return 4pm. £40 from

1491.

all. Floral Club. Guest

r: 'Autumn Falls'. Visitors

Alton Barnes. Talk by Josh

ing with Monuments

alf price). 852265.

ge, Memorial Hall.

(percussion) £20 (£10

ll. Marlborough

M followed by talk by Nikki

Work in Textiles'.

### **8<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)**

10am-6pm Devizes Corn Exchange. Devizes Autumn Fair. £4.

### **9<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**

7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Gardening Association. Talk by Marcel Floyd: 'Climbers'.

### **11<sup>th</sup> (Friday)**

Marlborough College: Start of Half Term.

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

11am-2pm Aldbourne Green. Christmas Market.

1.30-4pm National Trust Guided Walk of Prehistoric Avebury. £8. Booking essential. 01672 539250.

### **17<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)**

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Marlborough History Society. Talk by Chris Rogers: 'The architectural scene in Europe in the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century – An Age of Diverse Tastes in Architecture'. Guests welcome £5.

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

7pm St Peter's Church. Concert (NB earlier time): - Jonathan Deakin and Yulia Chaplina (piano duo) have been performing together for nearly a decade and bring an exciting programme of music to this recital. £10 (£8 Members of St Peter's Trust).

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Film: 'Fisherman's Friends'. £6.

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

11am Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton. The Arts Society: Kennet and Swindon. Lecture by Jane Tapley: 'From Soup to Syllabub: A Light-Hearted Insight into Food and Eating Habits of 18<sup>th</sup> Century England'. Guests welcome £7. 01793 840790.

7.30pm Slade House, St James' Gardens, Devizes SN10 1EL. National Trust Association. Talk by Sue Spanton & Brian Hinton: 'The Fenton Collection – an historic photographic collection recently transferred to

the Fox Talbot Museum, Lacock. £4 non members.

**22<sup>nd</sup> (Tuesday)**

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. The Arts Society Pewsey Vale. Lecture by John Ericson: 'Art Inspired by Wine'. Visitors welcome. £7. Membership Secretary: 07775 683163.

**23<sup>rd</sup> (Wednesday)**

St John's Academy: End of Term 1.

**24<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) – 24<sup>th</sup> December**

10am-4pm St Peter's Church. Cards for Good Causes: the annual sale of Christmas cards for national & local charities.

**25<sup>th</sup> (Friday)**

8pm Town Hall. Marlborough Folk Roots. Concert: Nick Harper presents 58 Fordwych Road. £15 from Sound Knowledge.

**27<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)**

Marlborough College: End of Half Term.

9am start from Coach House Café, High Street, Avebury. Trust10. Free 10k trail run. 538036.

**31<sup>st</sup> (Thursday)**

**1<sup>st</sup> November (Friday)**

7.30pm St Peter's Church. MacMillan Cancer Support Charity Concert. Marlborough Big Band plays a range of Jazz and Swing music, and the Sarsen Songmen sing unaccompanied four part harmony from Vaughan Williams to Flanders and Swann and beyond. Tickets £5 on the door on the night or from David Baker in advance (07500635870 or david@baker30.co.uk).

**“Brilliant Young International Musicians”**

**St Peter's Church**

**Yulia Chaplina (piano) and Jonathan Deakin (piano).**

**7.00pm Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

**They are a well established British piano duo who have been playing together for a decade. Their Russian programme will feature music by Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, Khachaturian and Sviridov!**

**Tickets £10 available from Sound Knowledge and White Horse Bookshop**

**I love books; I like the feel of them, I like the way they are constructed with different methods for different purposes. I like being able to lend, give and borrow books and I like being able to flip through the pages and stop if something catches my eye or write in the margins, but I am a slow reader.**

I could read a map with understanding long before I could read a book. When approaching my 11+ exam, I had two books to read but I was over-faced so my mother had to read them to me.

Sixty plus years later I am still a slow reader. I have to hear each word in my head in order to understand it. Consequently perhaps, a thick book is a daunting prospect. I have three such books about my exploring heroes that have sat on my bookshelf unopened for more than thirty years! As a Christian it is presumed I have read the bible cover to cover several times... Sorry to say...

Perhaps therefore you can imagine my feelings when entering an excellent bookshop like The White Horse.... pleasure at the presentation and the quality of the books, awed by variety of topics, yet totally overwhelmed. Even when I want to buy I often leave, buying nothing. Yet books fascinate me but my subject interest is limited and, rather like my early joy in the Ordnance Survey maps that my father let me ponder over as a five year old, I now ignore the fiction shelves and the pastel coloured books on how difficult was this or that woman's early life. I look for atlases, for geographical and scientific discoveries. I soak up information on sailing -ships and how they were rigged and managed. I'm fascinated by the evolution of aircraft or the way changes in air pressure affect our weather and why.

Some years ago I acquired a 'how to do it' book. The right hand pages were diagrams of the topic in question, the left hand pages gave a written description of the process. I recall ploughing through several such pages because I thought all those words must contain information that the diagrams could not. Not so; the text laboriously said what I had perceived in thirty seconds of looking at the diagrams.

So where do I stand on LitFest? Well, I do wish it well and I am envious of those who can devour the written word easily and with delight. I nod politely when people talk knowledgeably about authors I've never heard of, and yes, I do feel I'm missing out, almost deprived. But then I open my map of the Lake District, or Snowdonia or perhaps the Alps and I see not just a flat page with coloured lines, I *see* the mountains, the valleys, the tumbling streams or glaciers, the lonely farmsteads. Each map is a three dimensional picture with stories, many stories, geological, historical, cultural, and I need no fiction writer to create these stories for me.

# Michael May's Research into the Dobson Archive

Henry and Alice Dobson married in 1882 and had 10 children:

Blanche - Born 1883 - Death Unknown

Edmond - Born 1885 - Died 1906

Reginald - Born 1887 - Died 15/7/1916 (At the Somme and buried at Bouzincourt Cemetery in France)

Margaret - Born 1888 - Death Unknown

Alexander - Born 1890 - Died 1935

Oliver - Born 1892 - Died 1914

Arthur - Born 1894 - Death Unknown (Was in Royal Berks - No 9734)

Dorothy - Born 1897 - Death Unknown

Wilfred - Born 1899 - Died 31/5/1916 (On the Queen Mary - Battle of Jutland)

Lucie - Born 1905 - Death Unknown

I believe that Alexander may have been pulled out of the war as the only male survivor of the children as he died in 1935 in Swindon.

Lucie (Lucy) being the youngest kept hold of the medals. She married Harry Smith in 1926 in Swindon and they moved to Coventry and had two children - Anthony & Sonia Smith.

Anthony Smith married Margaret Williams in 1947 in Coventry.

They had two children - Denise and Jacqueline.

Anthony (known to all as Jack) (Jack the Lad) left Margaret, Denise and Jacqueline in 1952 for another woman. (Denise was 4 years old).

Denise Smith married Colin May in 1968 and had two children - Christopher and Michael... which is me.

When my nan, Margaret, died, I was handed the medals, being the youngest child.

## ***The Merchant's House***

Invites you to join us for a day out at the  
American Museum and Gardens in Bath  
Thursday 3rd October 2019 9am—3pm



Tickets £40 each  
Available from the shop or online —  
coach included

Email [lucyf@merchantshoustrust.co.uk](mailto:lucyf@merchantshoustrust.co.uk)  
for details

This event is being held to raise funds for the Merchants House Trust. Charity no1010902

## “This Green and Pleasant Land”

**What happens when a Muslim man is asked to establish a mosque in a sleepy English village?**

The story takes place in a fictional south coast village named Babel’s End where the Muslim population numbers precisely three; gentle mannered Bilal Hisham, his wife Mariam and their teenage son, Haaris. Sakeena, a Pakistani single mother has never understood why her accountant son born and raised in ‘multicoloured’ Birmingham chose to live in a ‘white, white’ village. Bilal in turn feels that he has always been a disappointment to her. Her dying wish was that he grew a beard. This turns out to be the easy part; she also instructs him to build a mosque in his village!

It is an engaging scenario, - when he raises the matter with his local Parish Council, they instantly fear that the community is about to become a hot bed of fundamentalism. But as Malik draws you into the lives of Bilal’s family and those of the villagers, you find seemingly insoluble issues of faith and intolerance dealt with in a light and accessible way.

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## The LitFest - Thurs 26th to Sun 29th September

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**For the full 2019 programme and ticket information visit:**

**[www.marlboroughlitfest.org](http://www.marlboroughlitfest.org) or The White Horse Bookshop**

But to whet your appetite look at these authors attending to talk about their books and their work and answer your questions. Also other exciting events.

David Baddiel, Mark Broomfield, Hilary Cotham, Cressida Cowell, Carol Anne Duffy, Lissa Evans, Toby Faber, Nathan Filer, Tom Gregory, Joanne Harris, Robert Harris, Cate Haste, Tom Holland, Daisy Johnson, Claire McGlasson, Ayisha Malik, Virginia Nicholson, Ben Okri, Mike Pitts, Monisha Rajesh, Ian Rankin, Chris Riddell, Kristina Stephenson, Adam Weymouth, Bee Wilson, Raynor Winn, Adam Zamoyski, plus the Hiscox Debut Authors & The McKittrick Prize Winner

In addition - What the Papers Say, Under 5s Story Telling, Poetry in the Pub, Creative Writing Course, A Translation Duel & Collectable and Rare Books valued.

This is all just too good to miss.

# Marlborough Churches Together

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## Usual Sunday Service times

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### **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

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- 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*

## **The Revd Dr Janneke Blokland**

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

## **The Revd Dr David Maurice**

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

## **The Revd Tim Novis**

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

## **The Revd Chris Smith**

514357; revcsmith@outlook.com  
*Rector, Marlborough Anglican Team*

## **The Revd Stephen Skinner**

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

## **Rachel Rosedale**

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

---

## **Andrew Trowbridge**

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

## **Laura Willis**

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

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## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

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### **Baptisms - we welcome:**

18 August – Arlyn Harold Vaughan Roberts at St George's

### **Weddings - we congratulate:**

7 September – Sophie Wood & Lukas Otto at St George's



## **Drop in and Sing**

### **with Marlborough Community Choir**

*A relaxed, friendly approach to singing.*

No experience needed - no auditions - ability to read music not necessary  
pop, folk, gospel & world music - all taught by ear in lovely harmony

**Wednesdays 7.30 - 9.30pm term time**

at St Mary's Church Hall SN8 1JQ

**£8 per session at the door or £7 per session payable in advance**  
(includes refreshments and song sheets)

For further information and full list of dates:

[www.mcc.singtastic.co.uk](http://www.mcc.singtastic.co.uk)

[kate526@btinternet.com](mailto:kate526@btinternet.com)

Vicky Sweeney 07593 833943

**This month will be the third exhibition where two artists share the gallery space at the White Horse Bookshop.**

Inspired by their shared love of County Donegal's northern coastline, (specifically the Fanad region), Paul and Clare Risoe, painter and ceramist, have produced a collection of work inspired by the beauty and natural formations of this wild stretch of coastline.

'There is a theme running through the paintings in this exhibition. In essence it is the 'Figure in the Landscape'. The figurative elements are the woman, the bird (inspired by recent events in Australia), the bones and stones found on the shore.' Taking inspiration from Surrealist artist Max Ernst, as well as the natural weathered rocks and stones along the shoreline, and the sounds and rush of the sea, Paul's paintings are unusual and enigmatic. The repetitive images of birds, a female body (but with two clearly defined heads) are present in nearly all of his paintings. They echo the bizarre, ethereal works of Kandinsky. Although strange and other worldly, these paintings somehow manage to work as a complete piece, rather than a single canvas comprising three different images.



Clare Risoe's ceramics are incredibly tactile and sensory. Working from her original drawings of shells found mainly on the shores of North Donegal, Clare's aim is 'to explore the rhythmic structures found in these shells, and interpret the form, texture and colour through modelling in relief forms.'

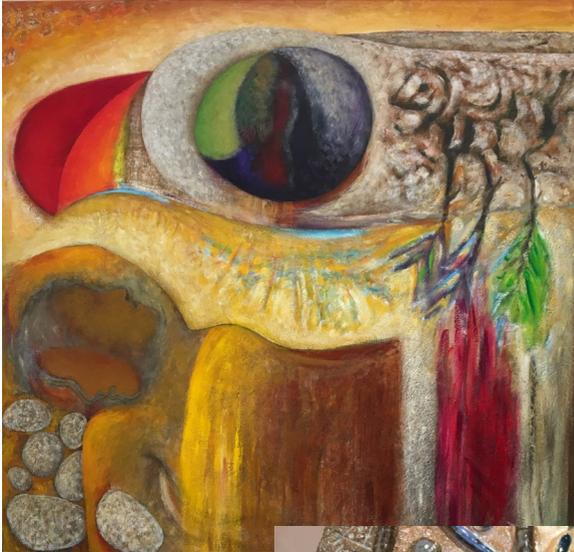
Some of her pieces are abstractions from drawings of small sections of shells. The clay is modelled into a base shape, and then more clay is modelled into different shapes, sizes and thicknesses (to represent weeds and other rock pool findings) so that these can be added to the surface, therefore creating new textures. They are bright, colourful and pretty lifelike!

'Paul Risoe paintings  
&  
Clare Risoe ceramics'

The White Horse Gallery  
4<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September.



Collection of ceramics  
including "Shellform 6"  
and "Stoneshell 14"



"Strange Sleep"  
oil on calico board  
2018



"Fragment 3"

# Dianne Mackinder Funeral Service



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## The Power of a Story

When I was asked recently what I had been reading theologically, I had to admit that most of the books I read over the summer had been novels. Some were recommended by friends, others I had picked up because they looked interesting and not too heavy for a summer's evening. I don't think that was the expected answer, but I suspect I have learnt at least as much from reading good fiction as I have gained understanding by reading more academic works.

Although I am by no means an expert, for me a good book tells me something about myself, and the world in which I live. In one way or other I can identify with the characters, or recognise some of the scenarios which are brought to life. One particular book that has stayed with me is 'The Cut Out Girl' by Bart van Es.

The book was given to me by a friend who had visited the Chalke Valley History Festival, where the author had given an inspiring talk. Indeed, it shows that maybe one of the best ways to find a good book is to be inspired by its author. That is precisely the great merit of festivals such as our own LitFest: an opportunity to not only engage with the text, but also with the author himself or herself. It can bring the text to life in a different way.

This also, I would like to suggest, applies to our Christian faith. It is one thing to read Scripture, but quite another to hear someone talking about how it may have changed their lives. And we can only imagine what it must have been like to hear Jesus himself speak and preach. It is one of the great privileges of preaching: trying to bring God's Word alive, trying to relate it to those who listen and the world around us. However, ultimately, it remains often the story that speaks for itself.

The Christian story is one that has captivated the imagination of millions of people for nearly two thousand years. It is the story of God with His people; a story that is kept alive not just by what we tell, but also by what we do. It is the story we share, it is our story, and so let us commit to keeping it alive for the generations to come.

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# News from the Churches

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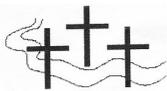
## Rev Stephen Skinner

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was installed at Christchurch Methodist Church on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, together with his wife Jane, and daughter Hannah, surrounded by a full church of members of the Methodist Circuit, the Marlborough Ecumenical Community, and members of his former churches in Broadstairs and Ramsgate, Kent. The Speaker, Rev Dr Jonathan Pye (Chair of District) gave an uplifting address, all followed by light refreshments. At the time of going to press Rev Chris Smith is still to be licensed on 24<sup>th</sup> September, we will give an update in November's Tower and Town issue.

## Harvest Services - 6<sup>th</sup> October 2019

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**Marlborough  
Anglican Team**

St Mary's Church at 10.00am - informal family service with the Brownies

St George's Church at 10.00am - All Age Worship

St John the Baptist Church at 3.00pm – All Age Worship followed by a Harvest tea

Donations of fresh produce will be given to the Jubilee Centre for use in their kitchens. Other donations will be given to our local Foodbank, based at Devizes. Current shortages are:

tinned meat, beef stew, ham and tuna, tinned chicken casserole, tinned sponge pudding and custard, tinned carrots, tinned rice pudding, long life orange juice, long life semi-skimmed milk, Kit Kat/penguins, toothpaste, shower gel, packet super noodles, packet pasta in sauce, pasta sauce and rice. Donations can be left at St Mary's, large grey plastic box in the church foyer or St George's, black box on the left as you enter as well as the local Tesco or Waitrose supermarkets.

## Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group

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Meets at the Friends Meeting house, The Parade at 7.30pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October when Alexa Davies, Community Engagement Manager for the Marlborough Area Board, will be coming to talk about her role and the potential for working with her to support vulnerable people within our community.

## Women's Fellowship

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10<sup>th</sup> October Tea and Chat

24<sup>th</sup> October Rev Stephen Skinner

All meetings start at 2.45pm and are in Christchurch.

## Sarah Meyrick

PR consultant, journalist and organiser of the Bloxham Literary Festival, is coming to talk about her two novels *Knowing Anna* and *The Restless Wave* on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October in Mustard Seed at 7.30pm.

## Marlborough Churches Together Fraternal

meets at 12.30 on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October**. The meeting is open to all Meeting House.



## Marlborough MOP Fair

Bells will be rung at St Mary's from 12noon on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October to celebrate Marlborough's Big MOP fair; the Little MOP fair takes place on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

## Sunday Lunch Club

meets on 13<sup>th</sup> October, to book a place, please ring the office before 10.00am on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October (513701). Cost £8.00.



## Autumn Messy Church

Takes place in St Mary's on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October from 4 to 6 pm. The theme will be celebrating autumn, all ages welcome but under 8s to be accompanied by parent or carer. For more details please contact Caroline: [cphilps2@gmail.com](mailto:cphilps2@gmail.com)

## Get There! Holiday Club

After last year's success, Janneke Blokland and the Marlborough Churches Together organised another instalment of the Get There! Holiday Club. After three action-packed and enjoyable mornings of Get There, everything was packed away or moved to St Mary's to show at the All Age Service on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

Janneke writes: 'I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you for making this enterprise possible, whether that's by financial or edible contributions, or the time and talents that you have so generously given.'

We had on average 37 children each day, with a total of 43 different children. At least 30 people have contributed in some way, and I'm sure there are more who I have forgotten to mention.

I think it's safe to say that most of us enjoyed ourselves, and I think that this is a great way of 'Making Jesus Known' in Marlborough.'

## All Souls' Service

this takes place at St Mary's Church on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 4.00pm**. This is an Ecumenical Service of thanksgiving and remembrance for those who have died during the past year.

# Tower and Town staff

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<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](http://www.towerandtown.org.uk); [info@towerandtown.org.uk](mailto: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 November issue by Tuesday 8th October please.

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