
TOWER_{AND}TOWN



Marlborough And Civil War

JULY 2019 50P

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TOWER AND TOWN

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Marlborough And Civil War

July is typically a month for recreation and outdoor fun so the topic of civil war might seem perverse. But we are happy to welcome the English Civil War Society back to Marlborough this month for a repeat of the exciting re-enactment of the battle of 1642 on our Common and that will be fun!

It also reminds us of the serious side – the damage to the Town of Marlborough following that 17th century attack as well as the sad persistence of civil wars in the world today.

There is an informative article about Marlborough's actual Civil War experience, by Nick Baxter, and information about the English Civil War Society and the people who participate as re-enactors.

And not forgetting that civil wars still ravage many countries: according to the United Nations there are actually 14 civil wars active today in the world. These are all major conflicts which meet the quite stringent criterion of civil war (as opposed to lesser instances of internal discord) and they include the well publicised wars in Syria, Yemen and Sudan as well as lesser known wars in East Asia, Latin America and one on the fringes of Europe in Turkey. Our article about the work of the charity Actionaid reminds us of the ongoing damage caused by the civil war in Uganda.

Getting away from the theme of war there is a reminder of the annual Marlborough Open Studios trail, an uplifting account by a Marlborough student of his voluntary work in Nepal, and a lucky sighting of an otter in the River Kennet.

I hope you'll find the combination of the thoughtful and the more light-hearted an enjoyable read.

Sara Holden: Editor

Marlborough Is Attacked!

Nick Baxter

Marlborough, like many prosperous market towns, was broadly pro-Parliament at the start of the Civil War, which broke out in the late summer of 1642. Amongst many grievances, people resented paying ship money, a tax extended to inland towns in 1633. King Charles's embracement of High Church Anglicanism, which was seen as covert Catholicism, did not endear him to the Puritans in the town.

The Royalist failure to take London in the autumn saw King Charles fall back on Oxford, where he made his base. He was determined to assert his rule within his now home region. Marlborough, which Charles's courtier Edward Hyde described as "a town most notoriously disaffected" and its people full of "obstinacy and malice" was just 35 miles away. Charles's henchman, Lord George Digby, was sent with some 400 horsemen to take the town.



Royalist Artillery Pinterest.com)

Marlborough's Members of Parliament were in Westminster: Sir Neville Poole, acting for Parliament, organised the militia and recruited volunteers from the Wednesday market. Faced with unexpected resistance, Digby abandoned his attack and returned to Oxford.

King Charles was incensed at Marlborough's perfidy and ordered his commissary of horse, Henry Wilmot, to lead an army of some 3,300 men against Marlborough despite the inclemency of the weather. Mustered on The Common, on Monday 5th December they began their assault. The Parliamentary Commander-in-Chief, the Earl of Essex had sent Sir James Ramsey to help. Under Ramsey's guidance earthworks had been erected. Despite spirited opposition, the earthworks were eventually



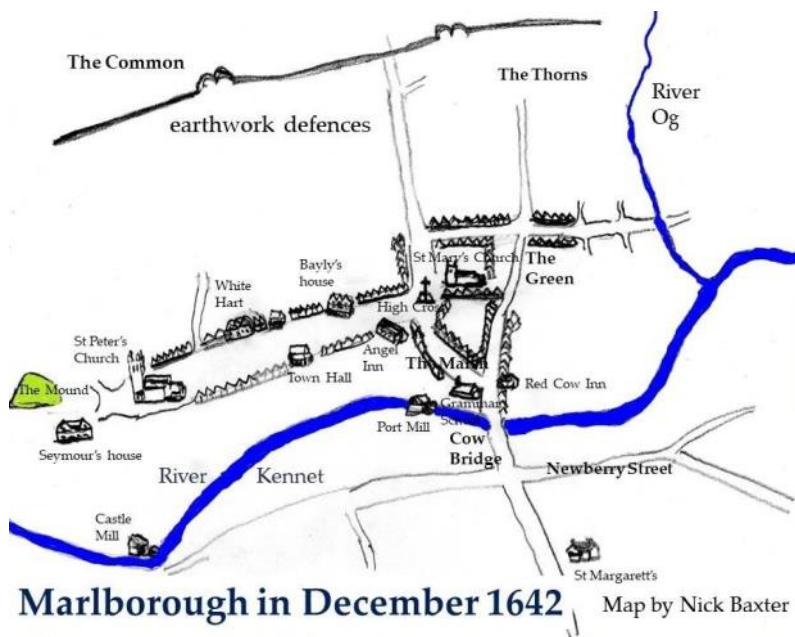
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Parliamentary pikemen

taken and a barn fired. The Royalists advanced into the town overcoming defended barricades whilst being shot at by musketeers firing from windows. According to one eye-witness the attackers used their swords, “cutting and slashing those men they met with, whether soldiers or not.” The last stand, led by Ramsey, was in St Mary’s church where the windows were shot out.

Reprisal followed: 53 houses were burnt down by the “King’s half-starved troops” who proceeded to plunder, taking whatever they could carry. News of a relieving army from Essex’s base at Windsor spurred the Royalists to evacuate. Some 120 prisoners, including Ramsey and John Francklyn, the Marlborough MP who had returned from Westminster to defend his constituents in person, were tied two and two together and led before the guns to captivity in Oxford Castle. William Smith, the gaoler, described as a “monster” and a “serpent” had a reputation for savagery. Francklyn died there the following year.

For more detail, see our newly published book “Marlborough at War With the King”, a work of historical fiction that details the fortnight between the “Parley” and the eventual sack of the Town.



A Call To Arms!

Good citizens of Marlborough - be prepared to help defend your town on 27th and 28th July 2019 against the RAMPAGING Royalist troops.

Will the King's troops enter the town in 2019 as they did in 1642?

Does Lord Digby have artillery to batter the town?

What do the townspeople gathered in Priory Gardens on the 27th and 28th July think may happen to them?

You need to be in Marlborough on 27th and 28th July this year to see the outcome. Your defending Parliamentary soldiers will be drilling on the Common during the mornings. The Royalists may be bringing their guns to bombard the town. The clash of arms will take place between 3.00pm and 4.00pm each afternoon. The townspeople will be in Priory Gardens from 11.00am to 5.00pm each day.



So what's this about?

Marlborough Town Council and the English Civil War Society will be arranging a re-enactment of the early part of the two engagements that took place in 1642 at Marlborough during the English Civil War. This will be on The Common to the north of Marlborough on the original site of the fighting. There will be infantry, cavalry and artillery displays during each morning prior to the main battle in the afternoons. Also there will be living history displays from 11.00am to 5.00pm in Priory Gardens and the Merchant's House in the town demonstrating seventeenth century crafts and activities. The Royalist artillery battery on the Common will be recreated on the original site and be open from 11.00am to 5.00pm (except during the battles).

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

www.ospreymc.co.uk



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



“For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” Isaiah 30:15

It’s probably true in a host of professions, but teaching has intense moments of busyness called ‘pinch points’, sometimes entire school terms it seems, followed by a cliff edge drop-off when the end of year comes. It creates a psychological dynamic I have seen a host of teachers find quite challenging. The transition from a state of being hyper-busy to distinctly not is not an ideal circumstance. The creation of a sudden void in the work schedule leads to an emptiness in the heart and the startling change can be a worry; like a diver who comes up to the surface too quickly and experiences decompression sickness: Divers' Disease or The Bends.

Yet the prophet Isaiah encourages us to embrace rest and quietness as elements essential for our spiritual wellbeing. How do we create a healthy balance?

There is a simple trick to avoiding the void: have a holiday, don’t take a vacation. A vacation implies a vacancy and creates that empty, purposeless feeling that can haunt and distress. A holiday insists upon a constructive returning to the self in acts of refreshment and reflection – a ‘holy day’, and hopefully quite a few in a row!

I knew one teacher who always scheduled a personal activity immediately after the very last Parents’ Conference of the school year. He would have his bicycle in the boot of his car, and no sooner would he close his brief case than he would turn the key and head to France for some very serious cycling.

I might be inclined to say that it is a sign of our times, but the truth is it’s been a bane for a long time. St. Ignatius Loyola wrote of movements of the spirit ranging from Desolation to Consolation. In developing the ability to be spiritually aware by virtue of his ‘spiritual exercises’, you can begin to detect circumstances and choices that leave your soul feeling desolate – alone, isolated and empty. Consolation is a soul at peace because it is connected to a purpose greater than itself.

We fool ourselves into believing that our jobs connect us to a greater purpose, but too often we reduce everything to a means-and-ends economy where we only find value in what we do. We become ‘human doings’ rather than ‘human beings’ and we wonder why we feel so desolate. In reality, we are addicted to work place pressure and it becomes a distorted virtue whereby we distract ourselves from being who we truly are and who God wants to love us into being.

So to honour the words of the prophet Isaiah, this summer, have a holiday, don’t take a vacation. If you have some time off, embrace the opportunity to return to the ground of your being.

The English Civil War Society

The English Civil War Society traces its roots back to the early 1970s when two re-enactment ‘Armies’, The Roundhead Association and The King’s Army began to recreate events of the English Civil War period in Britain.

There are few hobbies that encourage women and men from all backgrounds and of all ages from the newborn babies to those with the greyest of hair to meet all over the country and take part in a weekend where there is something for everyone. And fewer still where as a society of friends we welcome everyone to escape from the hustle and bustle of modern life and to take part as much or as little as they would like. Events take place mainly in the summer, anywhere in the country in wonderful locations.

This month, July 27 and 28, we are coming to Marlborough to re-enact the dramatic invasion of the Town of Marlborough (then supportive of Parliament) by the overwhelming Royalist forces. There will be a battle, complete with horses and cannon, on the Common, both afternoons.

The encampment in the Priory Gardens will showcase the Living History side of the Society which demonstrates everyday living for people of the period and the non-combatants. Many members of the Society have developed considerable proficiency in the production of clothing, equipment, weapons, instruments, and even buildings of the period. We have experts whose skills are sought to equip museums, produce accurate props for films and we support the National Civil War Centre in Newark.

In the Living History displays members show the skills that our forebears used in everyday life, from blacksmithing to making candles and soap; from weaving and spinning to repairing armour and muskets. You can find out about the different re-enactment roles you may wish to try out whether it be firing a cannon or cooking the finest dishes of the period

Nowadays over 1,000 members from all walks of life make up the national membership of these two Armies - organised into seventeenth century style Regiments. They present all manner of activities, both military and civilian, for the public, for schools and for a wider audience on film and video.



Our members are all volunteers. Our practices are rooted in historical

authenticity. Considerable research is required in the equipping of whole companies of soldiers be they of The New Model Army or of any of the other Armies which contested the issues of the day.

Whilst at times re-enactors may be baffled by the questions from the public when they ask ‘is that a real piece of cheese?’ (as you eat it) or ‘how did they do without washing machines’ or any number of other comments, the very same public will truly enjoy putting on the pikeman’s armour and they will be applauding the fantastic battle or drill that you have just put on for them. This has the added bonus of providing plenty of funny tales to amuse everyone around the campfire or beer tent later in the evening as the entire Society socialises after the public have gone home.

“ECCENTRIC BUT BY NO MEANS FRIVOLOUS”

The English Civil War Society publishes a considerable amount of material



which is of interest to teachers, students and members of the public who share our interest in this period.

More information on our publications, or concerning membership of either Army, may be obtained by visiting our website at: www.ecws.org.uk



After studying at Marlborough College for 5 years Luke decided to take a gap year in order to reapply to university and to travel. He now has a place to read music at Oxford.

The most rewarding part of my gap year has been the three months I spent volunteering with Raleigh International as part of an International Citizenship Service (ICS) programme. Raleigh International is a sustainable development charity that works to create lasting change through youth action.

In early February, I joined 37 other UK volunteers on a flight to Kathmandu to start what would be an unforgettable twelve weeks away from home. After four days in Kathmandu, where we received training and got to know each other, I was very excited to leave Kathmandu for my community where I would be living for the following twelve weeks. The village that my team was working in was named Raniswara, located in the Gorkha region. Travel to the village involved a very dangerous and spectacular five-hour bus journey from Kathmandu, and arriving in Raniswara was very memorable. I will never forget seeing the view of the Himalayas for the first time.

The main aim of the volunteering programme was to construct polytunnels for village households. These polytunnels will be used for growing tomatoes to be sold in a nearby market, thereby helping to increase and diversify household incomes.

Many households in the community rely heavily on men working abroad and sending remittances home in order to make ends meet. As a result of this there are few men in the village, particularly young men. In my host family, for example, both of my host mother's sons worked in Dubai.

In an effort to make our construction work sustainable, we always worked alongside the community so that they will be able to maintain and continue building polytunnels in the future. There were forty-nine households in the village and we built a polytunnel for every household that wanted one – twenty-five tunnels in total.

The financial effects from selling tomatoes is potentially life-changing. Over three years approximately one million rupees (£7000) can be generated in one household. The average yearly income in rural Nepal is 330,000 rupees (£2400). The hope is that this income will diminish the reliance on remittance and the need for young Nepali men to migrate to find work. It is a sad reality that many children in rural Nepal will grow up without a father.

Our project was not limited to construction work. We also took part in sessions about climate change and youth development. One of my favourite events was a session at the local primary school about the problems associated with plastic. We

helped the children to make useful items out of used plastic bottles.

Adjusting to the many cultural differences was one of the most challenging aspects about the project. Despite my best efforts, my level of proficiency in Nepali was very limited which made communicating with my host family very difficult. However, by the end of the three months I was able to have ‘conversations’ with community members using a mixture of broken Nepali and sign language.

Another big change was the food. In Raniswara people tended to have only two meals a day, one at mid-morning and another in the evening. Every meal was ‘Dal Bhat’. This consisted of rice, lentils and something curried, usually potatoes and spinach. Although Dal Bhat is delicious, eating it solely for three months did get very repetitive. We rarely ate meat (buffalo, goat or chicken) as it was mainly restricted to festivals.

Before leaving for Nepal my main concern was that the programme might not be particularly worthwhile, but I am left in no doubt that I have helped to make an ongoing impact on the community of which I was part. I would strongly encourage more young people to take part in an International Citizenship Service programme.

The UK is committed to spending 0.7% of its National Income on foreign aid. In 2016 this equated to £13.4 billion – only the US spends more money on foreign aid. Some have argued that this money could be better spent elsewhere and in fact the ICS programme is being reviewed this year by the government’s Department for International Development. However, I think that wealthier countries like ours have a responsibility to assist developing countries, particularly with the challenges of Climate Change, and that programmes like ICS should be continued. From my own experience, ICS not only helps tackle poverty in some of the world’s poorest countries, but also has the benefit of creating active citizens within our own country.



Marlborough Open Studios 2019

Summer is here and so is the Marlborough Open Studios Art Trail! Artists will be opening their studio doors to welcome visitors over the first four weekends of July. The Art Trail stretches from Devizes to Hungerford - including Marlborough, Calne and many villages in between. This year's trail boasts 60 exhibiting artists, including 2 bursary artists and a number of new exhibitors, so there is much to explore. It's a great way to enjoy art whilst exploring the stunning countryside in this area.

This free Art Trail is a fun way to meet artists and talk to them about their work and what inspires them. There is no pressure to buy and everyone is welcome, whether you are an art enthusiast or simply like the idea of a fun tour around some of the hidden corners of Wiltshire.

From sculpture, ceramics, painting, photography and much more besides there is something for everyone. Pick up a brochure or check the website www.marlboroughopenstudios.co.uk for more information and to plan your own art trail.



I've never seen an otter in England; at the end of May I missed one by about fifteen minutes. A friend was due to join me fishing near the Pewsey Road Bridge but he was delayed and I had to get home. Just as I entered the house, my phone pinged with the first text – “just seen an Otter!” This was followed by “Kingfisher flown past!” and finally, a video query “are these Noctule or Daubenton bats?” My friend was enjoying a wildlife spectacular and, unlike me, he also managed to catch a trout!

While very rarely seen, otters are moving up and down the Kennet, mainly at night. A few years ago, two lost their lives just below Marlborough, one knocked down by a car and the other, a cub, killed by rat poison which had been placed carelessly in an insecure location. Sad though these deaths were, both bodies were put to good use. The adult female, laid out for a week in a science laboratory, enthralled scores of Biology students and the cub, which has been stuffed, continues to form an integral part of Action for the River Kennet's educational programme. Named Geoffrey after a previous Chairman of ARK, this young otter has travelled the length and breadth of the Kennet catchment and is extremely popular with the primary school children.

It is only when viewed up close that one can really get a sense of the marvellous adaptations of otters: the rudder-like tail, webbed feet, two layers of fur (one for insulation, the other waterproof), long whiskers and piercing eyes perched high on the flattened head, enabling the animal to surface without revealing its body. This is why they are so hard to see; often their presence is only revealed by a string of bubbles emitted as they exhale underwater.



So, next time you cross a bridge over the Kennet, take a moment to scan the river and its banks – you never know what you might see!

What's On in July:

Regular events:

Every Monday

6pm Recreation Ground, Salisbury Road. Bowls Club.
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. (*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

10-30-12noon Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge.
Singing for the Brain. Alzheimer's Support. 01225
776481. (*Every Thursday during term-time*).
7-8.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St. Hangout &
Devotion. Youth Club.

Every Friday

10-12 noon Christchurch Crush Hall. Food bank.

Every Friday and Saturday (1st April-22 December)

10am-4pm 132 High Street SN8 1HN. Marlborough

Museum. £3 (u 16s free).

Every 2nd Saturday

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

July calendar

30th June (Sunday)

6pm St Peter's Church. Arrivals
Preacher: The Bishop of Reading
John's Devizes will be singing.

14 July – 10 August: Marlborough School.

First 4 weekends in July: Open venues. Details from:

www.marlboroughopenstudios.com
Wagon Yard Artists, Unit 10
Road, SN81LH.

1st (Monday)

2.00pm Kennet Valley Hall
Embroiderers' Guild. Talk
'Traditional and Regional I
welcome.

3rd (Wednesday)

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St.
Helen Holtam 'Origami at
members and guests welcome.

4th (Thursday)

2pm Mildenhall Village Hall
Demonstrator: Stephanie C
'Inspiration'. Visitors £6. T

5th (Friday)

Marlborough College: Summer

11th (Thursday)

7.30pm (6pm Garden Open

Marlborough & District Dyslexia
Society. Help line: 07729 452143.

Annual Choral Evensong.
Marlborough. The Choir of St
Mary's Church.

Marlborough College Summer

Marlborough Studios Art Trail: various

Marlborough Studios.co.uk Brochure from
Marlborough, Wagon Yard, London

Marlborough, Lockeridge. Marlborough
College by Victoria Riley:
'Indonesian Batik'. Everyone

Marlborough Street. WI. Speaker:
'Earlestone Prison'. New
Marlborough.

Marlborough. Floral Club. Guest
Speaker: 'My Source of
Inspiration'. Tel: 861279

Summer Term ends.

Marlborough for Picnics) Maizey

Lodge, Ogbourne Maizey SN8 1RY. Miracle Theatre's
production of 'A Perfect World'. £14 (adults), £8
(children), £40 (family: 2A 2C). Bring your own chair.
Tickets in advance only from 512125 or
maizey50@gmail.com. In aid of Swindon Diabetes
UK Local Giving.

13th (Saturday)

Savernake Forest's Fourth Annual 10K & 3K Fun
Run. Register at run20@savernake10k.co.uk. All
profits to St Katherine's School.

14th (Sunday) – 21st (Sunday) daily.

10am-4pm daily. St Peter's Church. Guild of Wiltshire
Artists' Summer
Exhibition (local artists). Free entry.

16th (Tuesday)

8pm Memorial Hall, Marlborough College. Concert:
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. £15. Tickets
from Sound Knowledge or [https://
summerschool.co.uk/entertainment](https://summerschool.co.uk/entertainment).

19th (Friday)

St John's Academy: End of Term 6.
8pm Memorial Hall, Marlborough College. Concert:
Emma Johnson's Clarinet Goes to Town, with Paul
Clarvis (percussion) & John Lenehan (piano). £20.
Tickets from Sound Knowledge or [https://
summerschool.co.uk/entertainment](https://summerschool.co.uk/entertainment).

21st (Sunday)

8am The Common. Car Boot Sale. In aid of Wilts Air
Ambulance.

22nd (Monday) – 29th (Monday) daily.

10am-4pm St Peter's Church. Haydon Artists' Art
Exhibition (Swindon-based artists). Free entry.

23rd (Tuesday)

8pm Memorial Hall, Marlborough College. An
Evening with Clare Balding. £15.

Tickets from Sound Knowledge or <https://summerschool.co.uk/entertainment>.

26th (Friday)

8pm Memorial Hall, Marlborough College. The Counterfeit Stone: A mockumentary on the Rolling Stones' colourful history. £20. Tickets from Sound Knowledge or <https://summerschool.co.uk/entertainment>.

27th (Saturday: 9.30am-4.30pm) & 28th (Sunday: 10am-4pm)

The Merchant's House & Gardens. Living History: Talk to 17th century characters as they prepare to defend their town, silk merchant's business and beautiful 17th century home, during the Civil War. Entry free. Donations to The Merchant's House.

Also: Re-enactment of the Civil War's Battle of Marlborough (timing not yet published).

30th (Tuesday)

7.30pm Leaf Block Lawn, Marlborough College. Illyria's open air production of 'Ali Baba & the 40 Thieves'. £15. Tickets from Sound Knowledge or <https://summerschool.co.uk/entertainment>.

remembered. Over the 21 years that he did the job, he revived the ancient duty of ringing his bell and proclaiming the news of forthcoming events to all those in the High Street. He made over 200 of these shouts and also reintroduced one of the centuries-old roles of the Town Crier, that being as the town's official ale tester visiting all of the town's hostelrys on one single evening. Not bad for someone who was teetotal!

Family News continued

With all that he achieved it came as no surprise when in 2014 he was declared Marlborough's Citizen of the Year!



Family News compiled by Jessy Pomfret

Many of us have fond memories of **Alan Jewell** when he was Head of Preshute School from 1976 until 1992. Sadly he died on March 27th leaving his wife, Sarah, his two children and four grandchildren. We send our sincere sympathy to all the family.

John Bower may be the only D-day veteran in Marlborough now. He thoroughly enjoyed joining in the ceremony at Portsmouth on the anniversary of the D-day landings. He went with Babs and their family, Brian and Jane, and stayed in a holiday let from Tuesday until Thursday. They joined his former comrades for the 75th Anniversary Parade. He was interviewed for BBC news, and shook hands with Teresa May and Emmanuel Macron, the French President. He had not accepted the British Legion's invitation to board M V Boudicca to spend several days attending ceremonies in France. Had he not been in Portsmouth, Marlborough Town Council had hoped he would join them at their wreath laying ceremony on the Common where the US Army hospital had been. John is rightly proud of his role in keeping Hitler out of our country. He was still busy selling poppies outside Waitrose last November 11th.

Ian Philpott sent in the following:

On 29 May, the town turned out in large numbers to say farewell to its much-loved former Town Crier & Beadle **Alf Johnson**. Crowds lined the streets around the Town Hall and applauded as Alf made his final journey following a fitting tribute at St. Mary's. The service reflected his involvement in a remarkable number of local activities in his lifetime and included his time as Tower Captain of the Bell Ringers at St. Mary's; musician with Marlborough Town Band, Kennet Vale Band, St. Mary's Church Band and the Territorial Army Band of the 4th Wiltshire Regiment; as a long-time volunteer at the Jubilee Centre; a leading light in the Kennet Singers; chorister at St. Mary's and treading the boards with the town's Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society.

Alf also had a lifelong interest in Marlborough's Mop Fairs and used to give talks to local groups on their ancient history. He made intricate, fully-working models of some of the rides, side stalls and transport.

Alf spent all his working life in the town: at Redwood Brothers Gentlemen's Outfitters in Kingsbury Street; as a shoe repairer for Mundy & Sons; as an accomplished leather-worker for F J Chandler, the renowned Saddlers at number 1, London Road; as a postman for the Royal Mail and delivery driver for Hayden's Bakery.

It will be as Town Crier that he will be best *continued on previous page*

Families have secrets – sometimes kept from the world, sometimes within the family circle - and secrets will out. In 1929 a small child was kidnapped from a beach in Lincolnshire. Five days later she was found and returned home, and the incident was never spoken of; it was 50 years before that little girl learned of the episode. She grew up to become an artist, and the mother of Laura Cumming who has written *On Chapel Sands*, in which she teases out the story and discovers at least some of the truth about her mother's family.

I began reading thinking 'Oh, OK quite interesting...' and quickly became completely engrossed. The author researches the family, neighbours and friends, the life of the village in the 1920s, and what people may have known, and why they kept silent while the kidnapped child grew up among them. Simply as an investigation of the mystery and a portrait of her mother's early life the book would have been absorbing. But as an art critic and historian Laura Cumming also turns her eye to the family photograph album, and the narrative is informed by her interpreting the images, and spotting the gaps and discrepancies, illustrating the complexity, persistence, and sometimes the sadness, of family love.

Here's a list of adjectives. Fiery, passionate, romantic, proud and wise, with flashing dark eyes. Also dirty, thieving, surly, untrustworthy and violent, with greasy black curls. Words which have been used to describe Gypsies, and words which romanticise and demonise. Damian Le Bas is public-school and Oxbridge educated, fair-haired and blue-eyed, a writer, journalist and film-maker, and a Romany Gypsy. In *The Stopping Places* he journeys from Scotland to the South of France, exploring significant sites in Anglo-Romany culture and visiting the historic stopping places used by his family when travelling to fairs or for hop-picking and other seasonal work. While managing to avoid anger or defensiveness, Le Bas is determined to challenge prejudice and unimaginative media representation of Gypsies. His travelogue shows the unromantic reality of the travelling life, and gives some insight into the distinctive culture of his people – however untypical a representative of that culture he may appear to be. Not a new book – *The Stopping Places* was Radio 4 Book of the Week last year – but if you missed it then, do catch up now. It's intelligent, readable and engaging.

A Country Full Of Bodies - Civil War Today

Charlotte Clarke, *Action Aid*

Reflecting on her own experience, Action Aid's country director in Rwanda, Josephine Uwamariya vividly remembers returning to Rwanda in 1995. She saw it as 'a country full of bodies – like there was no hope at all.' She visited the community where her family of 20 had lived and found only two survivors. To this day, she has not been able to locate her relatives who were killed and bury them properly. She says this is very hard but as a Rwandan it is important to say it happened and move on.

Josephine says:

'All the communities we work in have been affected by the genocide, because genocide was nationwide. So when we work with communities we are cautious of that. Everything we do is geared towards unity and coexistence and because we know that poverty was one of the leading causes of the genocide, we are fighting that. People must honour their commitments to upholding human rights and most importantly the basic right to life.

'We must invest in the young people and children of Rwanda, because the future generation must uphold the unity prevailing today. Many of their parents perpetrated, or were part of the genocide.

'One of the issues that led to the genocide was poverty. The perpetrators were promising those who engaged in killings that they could take the property of the Tutsis'. 'If people are not economically empowered they can find themselves sleepwalking back into a situation where they don't care for their people and neighbours because they want land.

'We must learn from what happened in Rwanda not to be complacent again.'

ActionAid is an international charity working with the poorest women and girls. In civil war, the underlying acceptance of violence against women and girls in many societies is heightened by insecurity and displacement. This means women and girls are more at risk of rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy and forced marriage. Women and girls also have limited access to basic services, such as healthcare and education. As a result, structural inequalities are created that last for many years.

ActionAid is committed to promoting women's leadership in emergencies, because women bring vital skills, resources and experience to humanitarian response. We provide training on women's rights, leadership skills and disaster preparedness, and support women to rebuild their livelihoods in the aftermath.

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

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FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms - we welcome

26 May - Logan Mark Jasper Speake at St George's

Weddings - we congratulate:

17 May - Sean Crombie and Isabella Lawrence at St George's

18 May - Philip Barber and Charlotte Lampard at St George's

Kennet Community Transport

Can you help? We need occasional volunteer drivers when our full time 5-days-a-week driver is on holiday or sick. You drive a smart Peugeot Boxer taking charming old people to and from the Jubilee Centre.

And if you are really gallant, we could also do with someone not yet 70 on our small committee.

Please contact Roger Hagerty (01672 540698) or Alexander Kirk Wilson (01672 513861)

This is the second successful collaborative exhibition we have had at The White Horse Gallery. This month showcases work by painter Benedict Rubbra, and potter Tessa Rubbra. Married in 1964, Benedict and Tessa set up home in Devon, and it was here Benedict built his gallery and studio where exhibitions of his commissioned portraits and experimental work took place every two years.

Benedict's paintings are inspired by the early Italian Renaissance artists. He states, 'the work of Fra Angelico, Donatello and Brunelleschi embodies a perfect balance between control and freedom of expression.' Three-dimensional forms, chaotic creativity and acute observations of the forms (often animated with projected light) are descriptions of the paintings in the words of the artist himself. Indeed, walking into the gallery, the first oil painting we see is *On Entering the Cathedral in Pienza*. Four brilliant beams of light cut through the centre of this painting, projecting a radiant, luminous, animated glow. Are these beaming rays just Italian sunlight, or do they allude to religious connotations of light and divinity? Or all three?

The use of light, reflection, shadow and shape (often random yet with a definite sense of purpose) are fundamental in these paintings, prints and drawings. A sense of place and belonging, yet also the joy of discovery are key motifs prevalent in Benedict's work.

There is wonderful synergy in this exhibition between Benedict and Tessa. I say synergy, but I want to also make it clear that the work produced by each artist is extremely notable in its own right. Tessa's fine hand-thrown pottery pieces are glorious. These practical, ergonomic designs are principally made for home use. Form and profile, rich glazes, paper resist techniques and colour application are all key components in her making design process. Mentored by Ken Clark when she was a student at Central School of Arts and Crafts in the sixties, Tessa was later then trained by Michael Casson with whom she shared a workshop. As is the case with the paintings, there is certainty about shape, colour and finish in each crafted item.

This has been a wonderful exhibition. Sadly, the two pouring jugs I rather fancied sold in the first half hour of the show opening...



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News from the Churches

Two new Reverends for Marlborough

On 3rd September at 10.30am Revd Stephen Skinner will be welcomed at his first Service at Christchurch Methodist Church.

On 24th September at 10.00am Revd Chris Smith will be licensed as Marlborough Anglican Team Rector at St Mary's.

Both vicars are currently working in Kent and will be starting their new appointments at similar times. Please include them and their families in your prayers during this time of transition.



Women's Fellowship Programme

Continues to meet at Christchurch on Tuesday afternoons at 2.45pm as a social event with tea and chat.

Tuesday 2nd July - AGM

Tuesday 9th July - Social

We will break for the summer before meeting again on 10th September.



Marlborough Christian Aid Week

The total amount donated during Christian Aid Week this year is: £2,850.00 Marlborough Christian Aid Committee would like to thank you for all your support, time and generous donations.



MAPAG

There will be no meeting in June. The next will be 7.30pm on 1st July in the Quaker Meeting House, and all are welcome.



Marlborough Churches Together .

The MCT Fraternal meeting will be held on Monday 1st July at 12.30pm in Friends' Meeting House, Marlborough; all welcome.



St Non's Retreat

will be from 17th to 20th September. To book, contact Barney on barney.rsdl@gmail.com ; 512205. Places are limited to 14.

The retreat will be led by Edwina Fogg, centering on the remarkable 12th century mystic, Hildegard of Bingen: writer, composer, philosopher and polymath.

Devotion

Thanks to a small number of loyal volunteers, the Devotion ecumenical youth project has continued to provide Thursday evening Hangout sessions (7.30-9pm), where young people can find a safe space to relax. We are pleased that we've been able to sustain the pattern



of one evening per week during school term time, and we hope that we will be able to expand our activities again in the autumn of 2019.

The last Hangout session of the current season will be on Thursday 18th July, and we will start again on 5th September. If you would like to know more, or volunteer, please contact Janneke for more information (892291/jblokland@gmail.com).

5.30pm Informal Worship at St Mary's

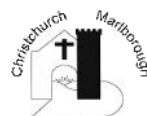
Sunday 14th July will be the last 5.30pm service before breaking for the summer holidays. We look forward to seeing you all again on Sunday 8th September, tea and cake from 5.15pm.



Revd Heather Cooper

At the end of July, Christchurch Methodist Church bids farewell to Revd Heather Cooper after 8 years leading us as our Minister.

We will always remember her for her knowledge of Roman/Greek history and theology; her love of cooking; her sense of humour – agendas for meetings always had a cartoon or picture with an aagh factor! We wish her well as she moves to pastures new in The Wirral...



All very welcome to join us for Heather's final Service at 10.30am on Sunday 28th July at Christchurch.

Marlborough under Attack!

Good citizens of Marlborough - defend your town against the imminent attack of Royalist troops!

The English Civil War Society have organised free activities, events and battles across the town on the weekend of 27th and 28th July 2019; visit: <http://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/news/2039-marlborough-under-attack>.

Including representative Sermons by Laudian and Puritan re-enactment preachers in St Mary's at 11.00am on Saturday 27th July.

As part of the weekend there will also be a Civic Service at 10.00am on Sunday 28th July at St Mary's; with the Mayor and members of the Town Council, as well as some re-enactors in full costume. This service will be an opportunity to reflect on the past, as well as to look to the future.

After the service, two wreaths will be laid at the blue plaque outside the Castle & Ball, following by refreshments in the Town Hall to which all are invited.

28th to 30th August – Get There! Holiday Club 2019

After the success of the last two years, the summer of 2019 will see a new instalment of the Get There! Holiday Club. Get There! is aimed at children aged 7-11. The holiday club will take place at the Marlburian Centre and the College Playing Fields from Wednesday 28th August to Friday 30th August 9.30am - 12.30pm.

The cost for children is £7.50 per day, £20 for three days and financial support is

available. Get There! is supported by Marlborough Churches Together. If you know anyone who would like to come or if you would like to be involved in any way, please contact Janneke (jblokland@gmail.com / 892291). The deadline for registration to attend is 12th July, but offers for help are welcome after that!

Save the date: Ride+Stride

Visit unique historic buildings, see beautiful countryside, get some exercise and have fun with the family!

Ride+Stride is a sponsored bike ride or walk in which people all over England walk or cycle between churches, exploring and enjoying the countryside from Cornwall to Northumberland.

The money they raise helps to save historic churches, chapels and meeting houses for future generations by helping to fund urgent repairs and the installation of modern facilities. Each year the event raises over £1 million pounds to help fund urgent repairs to historic churches and chapels.

In 2019 Ride+Stride for Churches takes place on Saturday 14th September.

Mustard Seed Book Group

The July meeting date to be confirmed; but we will talk about **Phoebe**, the woman who was entrusted with delivering the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans. The book is written in narrative style like a novel but it is all based on fact and historical understanding of the period. The author, Paula Gooder, is a New Testament theologian and uses her knowledge as the basis for her imagination.



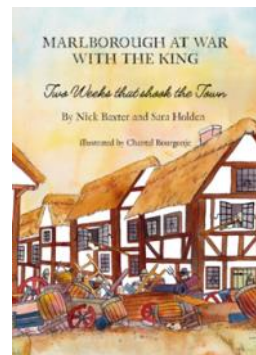
New Book Tells Sad Marlborough History

“Marlborough at War With the King” is the first book published about the attack on Marlborough in 1642 by Royalist forces.

It is a work of historical fiction for all the family, aimed at young readers from about eight years upward but with a wealth of historical detail that will also be of interest to adults. Co-authored by Sara Holden and historian Nick Baxter and illustrated by Chantal Bourgogne, it boasts an editorial committee of retired teachers ensuring that the text is appropriate to a young readership.

Publication is timed to match the return of the English Civil War Society who will present a re-enactment of the battle on Marlborough Common, July 27-28.

Available from the White Horse Bookshop, St Peter's and direct from the publisher at £5.99.



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Contributions and comments from readers are welcome. Please send articles and letters to the Monthly Editor or the Editorial Coordinator, other notices or announcements to the compiler. All items for the August issue by Tuesday 9th July please.

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