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Discoveries

JULY 2017

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Discoveries

Discoveries – we've all made them, we've all enjoyed them, whether they be first hand or via others' disclosures. In this edition, we cover many and varied types of discoveries – the scope for such a term is endless.

Michael Gray, curator at The Merchant's House, kicks us off with a selection of some of the fascinating finds on the walls of the House as they have over time stripped back the layers. Rachel Maurice tells us about the origins of the Old Boathouse, now home of the Mustard Seed book and coffee shop. Next we need to dust off our walking boots and follow John Osborne on an interesting and varied journey to "Bedwyn and Beyond" via bus or train and 'shank's pony'! It all sounds delightful and one or two mentions of a pub is undoubtedly meant to keep us going!

I seem to learn something new each time I visit St Peter's church, and in this edition David du Croz gives us a detailed account of the life of Sir Nicholas Hyde and talks about one of the memorials in St Peter's, which records the deaths of three of Sir Nicholas' children. David Sherratt lets us in on a "Secret Society" from Marlborough's history, and for something completely different, Tim Balmer shares with us what he has discovered about the history of the Marlborough railways.

Hugh de Saram certainly gives us something to think about with the article of his own "Theory of Relativity". And finally, Patrick Titman comments on a very topical subject, 'Forced Migration'.

I hope you enjoy reading about our contributors' 'discoveries'. Hopefully some, if not all, will be discoveries for you.

As always, my thanks go to all the contributors, and to Hugh de Saram for the amazing front cover photo.

Sue Pells, Editor

Front Cover: *The Discoverers' Monument, Lisbon;* Hugh de Saram

A Merchant's House Discovery: Michael Gray

Shortly after the newly-formed Merchant's House Trust moved into the property at 133 High Street, the volunteers began careful exploratory uncovering of areas of wall surface. This is known as upstanding archaeology. We were fortunate that the last domestic occupancy was in the 1970s, so our surfaces were of the long tradition in which each new paper scheme was laid on top of the previous layers, thus creating an historic stratigraphy. Such a process, using the then available adhesives, were more forgiving than modern synthetic products. As the layers were peeled away, we experienced an interior-decorative time trail which started with the orange/brown pub décor styles of the nineteen-seventies. From here to the florid Victorian layers to the pre-wallpaper age where paint was the chosen surface, we dug back into history.

Eventually the original, 17th century layers were revealed. This is the stuff of which architectural historians dream. The walls of the great staircase were painted in imitation of the wooden balustrading, an outstanding example of trompe l'oeil decoration, all painted in a pale grey to resemble stonework. Next the dining room was investigated. This was brilliant in every meaning of the word. Could the puritan Bayly family, builders of the house, really have indulged in such a pavonine display? Bands of coloured stripes, 13 inches wide, were spaced around the room, dazzling in their boldness. It eventually dawned on us that the family, as silk mercers, might be paying a tribute to the textile patterns with which they were familiar, or perhaps the scheme is a direct copy of a fabric in their possession, or might be the matching curtains in that very room.

There was more to come, however. On the ground floor, between the shop and the side passage, layers of shop fittings and wall coverings were being removed. First the W H Smith fittings, then deal matchboarding of Lucy's the stationers, taking us back to an oak screen of about 1690. Behind this we could discern a board, mounted high on the wall and butting the ceiling beam. By touch it was found to be carved along a curved bottom profile. As the oak screen needed to be restored in a workshop environment, it was removed, and our latest discovery was revealed. Spandrel shaped, (think the corner of a clock face, filling the space between the round dial and the square corner), the elm board was a painted design showing a man and a swan. Here was a survival from Bayly's shop decoration, installed following the Great Fire of Marlborough in 1653. No human eye had seen this image since the oak screen covered it in about 1690.

Our man, almost certainly the only surviving depiction of a Marlborough resident from this period, confronts the viewer whilst fending off the swan with a

Continued from page 2

sword or stick. Painted in a limited palette of ochres, black, white and grey on an elm support of two boards, the technique is impressionistic in style and primitive in execution. The man's hair and costume place him firmly in the 1650s - the period of the rebuilding of Thomas Bayly's house. What a discovery — and what a mystery. How do the man and the swan relate to each other? There is one possible clue in the records of the Duke of Somerset, now held in Alnwick Castle, Northumberland:

Pd Mr Tayler for looking to my Lords Swanes for marking of them. Aug. 19.1671

18. o.

From this primary source it is clear that in the seventeenth century ownership of swans was not confined to the Crown, The Dyers Company and the Vintners Company, as it is today. My Lord Seymour, it seems, was regularly notching the birds' beaks in his own private swan-upping ceremony before returning them to the Kennet. Could this be the subject of our mysterious painting? For the moment I am pleased to add this probability to Marlborough's rich store of history.



The Old Boathouse, Waitrose Car Park

Do you wonder why places have the names they do? Some house names intrigue me as they bear little obvious relationship to the house. I remember as a teenager living near Henley-on-Thames. A house down the road was called ‘Sea View’. One could hardly have been further from the sea! We are often asked about our name at Mustard Seed and the history of the building. From what we have heard, the building now housing Mustard Seed was the boathouse on the river for the large house that was where Waitrose now is. The car park was the garden of the house and The Old Boathouse was exactly that. So under the flagstone floor is water. Sometime in the first half of the last century a cinema was built on the site of the house – my husband remembers it being there – and the boathouse became overgrown and fell into ruins. A year or so ago we had a customer who had grown up in Marlborough and remembered how that area looked when he was a child. He remembers playing there and climbing an old wooden ladder inside the building. He sent us a photo taken in 1986, the year before Tom Seaman renovated the boathouse. Waitrose had opened in 1977 and with the car park there was an opportunity to ‘do’ something with the ruined boathouse. Tom sold the building as a shop and for a number of years it was a dolls house shop. We still have people arriving expecting to find dolls house furniture. Mustard Seed moved in in 1997.

Rachel Maurice



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A Canal Walk: John Osborne

Walk to Hungerford? What? Don't take the car? All the way from Marlborough? And back? On the A4? Well, not quite.

Take the bus from Marlborough to Great Bedwyn and then set off down the Kennet and Avon Canal. It's only three hours' walk, with the sun behind you in the afternoon and slightly downhill at each lock. This is a very pleasant section of the canal and the countryside flanking it. You'll meet a heron or two en route and all the delights of Hungerford await you. The town is not the only one round here with interesting shops, including an independent bookshop, and places to refresh oneself with food and drink. Have a look at Hungerford's website: there's a fair amount of local pride in what's on offer there.

But how do we get back, apart from walking back the way we came? Well, there's the bus back to Marlborough or the train to Bedwyn.

But you may not want to walk for as long as three hours, even to that nice place Hungerford. If you'd like a shorter walk, just go down the towpath from Great Bedwyn to Little Bedwyn and back. The church at Little Bedwyn is worth a look, with its late 12th century structure and you may be curious to find out why Pevsner describes the east window as 'terrible', and I suspect that there aren't many villages with a boules pitch. The distance there and back is about four miles.

There are several good reasons for returning to Great Bedwyn, including a bus to Marlborough, two pubs and a fine, spacious church. The 13th century chancel has memorials to members of the Seymour family from Wolf Hall, including the tomb of Sir John, father-in-law of Henry VIII for a few months.... and the kind parishioners do great teas in the church on Saturday afternoons in the summer months.



Clergy Letter: Heather Cooper

Writing this letter on the day after Pentecost Sunday and in the immediate aftermath of the London Bridge terror attack, the contrast between the two events is particularly stark.

Yesterday we celebrated the birth of the church as God poured out his Holy Spirit on the disciples and they in turn went out of hiding to share the Good News of Jesus with the crowds. It was a day of excitement that changed the world and when the church today is as open to the power of God's Spirit, still changes the world.

Contrast this with those who chose to bring death and terror to London and to Manchester, not forgetting Kabul, Cairo and Manila, and we see the reality of both death and life, dark and light in our world.

Pentecost is an outpouring of God's love, the attacks an outpouring of hate.

Perhaps the timing is good in that the different events highlight the stark difference and challenge us about the way we respond. We have seen the humanity and compassion poured out in London and Manchester and the refusal to be cowed by the tragedies. These remind us that the power of love for our neighbour is more powerful than hatred.

If we are to overcome terror in our midst it will not come by increased security and more stringent laws, although these are important. It will certainly not come by demonising all Muslims.

We will only overcome hatred by loving our neighbour. When we recognise and celebrate our common humanity how can we seek evil and not compassion?

When we refuse to give in to terror, when we refuse to sacrifice our freedom, when we refuse to stop living our lives then the light triumphs over the darkness.

We have no way of knowing how many attacks there may be in the future, but I pray that we will find it within ourselves to continue loving our neighbour as God loves us and so create light in the face of those who would plunge us into darkness.

We hold in prayer all who have been affected by the tragedies in London and Manchester and for the emergency services whose response shows such compassion and courage.

May God's Holy Spirit bless us and fill us with God's love.

The Hyde Memorial, St Peter's: David Du Croz

There are many interesting wall memorials to be found in St Peter's Church, but the most famous one, and probably the one of greatest architectural interest, is on the chancel's north wall, and commemorates three of Sir Nicholas Hyde's children. Nicholas was born in the county, possibly at Tisbury, in about 1570 into a prominent local family with land in Berkshire and Hampshire as well as Wiltshire. By his marriage to the daughter of Sir Arthur Swayne he acquired the manor of Hinton Daubnay in Hampshire, in 1601 he was elected MP for Andover, and two years later for Christchurch. He gained a reputation as an opponent of the court of James I, but seems to have switched sides on the accession of Charles I for we find him defending the king's chief minister, the Duke of Buckingham, in 1626 against the charge of impeachment by the House of Commons. On the strength of this he was knighted and appointed Chief Justice of the King's Bench the following year, and was involved in a number of key political/constitutional cases as the king and Parliament clashed in the late 1620s. Despite his high office, he was described as of mean appearance and careless of his dress, riding on circuit in a whitish-blue cloak "more like a clothier or a woolman than a Lord Chief Justice" and lowering the dignity of his office. He died of gaol fever in 1631.

The memorial records the deaths in 1626 of two of his sons, Robert and Francis, within four days of each other, and of one of his daughters, Elizabeth, a month later. We do not know the exact ages of the children when they died, but this is likely to have been a case of the plague attacking the youngest members of the family. It is a poignant reminder of the fragility of early seventeenth century life, even for those well born. A larger memorial of similar style commemorates Sir Nicholas and his wife Mary in the Church of All Saints in Catherington (Hampshire). On the base of that tomb are carved the kneeling figures of their six sons and four daughters.



A Secret Society: David Sherratt

Nowadays 'History' programmes put 'secret' into their titles to attract viewers - here is a 'secret' society from Marlborough's history.

Thomas, Earl of Ailesbury, Lord of the Manor 1748 to 1814, formed the Castle Club to manage Marlborough. It met in the Castle Inn on Fridays before the full moon. Members came from his family, the Bruces, who provided MPs, and from 'prominent citizens'. A.R. Stedman, Marlborough historian, wrote: 'Charles Bill, the Wards and Merrimans were not only Town Clerks and Common Councilmen but acted as links with the Bruces for they were their Agents.' The Borough Council consisted of Burgesses who elected the Mayor and Chief Magistrate, and a Common Council. In 1834 Municipal Corporation Commissioners reported: 'the legitimate interests of this Municipal Institution have been constantly subverted to the preservation of the interests of the Patron of the Borough [the Earl]. Some years ago Mr Ward, the Steward of the Earl, the late Lord Ailesbury, was the leading member of the Corporation which was at that time principally composed of persons united with him by relationship or professional connections ... the choice of Corporation Officers is still regulated by the Patron [the Marquis]. The Steward of the Marquis is now and has been a member of the Corporation; he stated that at the present day a person objectionable to Lord Ailesbury would not be elected a Burgess.'

Clearly the Marquis and the Castle Club had created a self-perpetuating oligarchy. The Earl, the Castle Club, and the Stewards have gone. The 1834 and subsequent Acts eventually meant all adults could vote for their local authorities. Ironically, the 1974 Local Government Act abolished the Borough and put a powerless Parish Council in its place which now cannot attract sufficient citizens to stand for election and so has to resort to co-option to fill vacancies. For the first time since the 19th century its Chairman - the Town Mayor - and Deputy are co-optees who have never faced an election because citizens are indifferent or indignant. The Castle Club has been replaced by covert group meetings in houses or local hostleries. 'Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose'.

As the Town Mayor takes his seat in the throne given by the 4th Marquis, Earl Thomas and Marquis Charles must be delicately smiling!

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Railways To Marlborough: Tim Balmer

Interestingly, Marlborough had two railway stations. This came about because of the piecemeal development of railways and a completely un-coordinated approach, as all railways were run by separate companies. Many of these lines are now closed but the lines can be traced on maps and following clues on Google Earth. Similar to Marlborough, Devizes also had a railway link and a tunnel under the castle. Indeed, looking south of Marlborough, there are two disused railway lines equating to the two railway companies.

Historically, the railway passed close to Burbage with no link to Marlborough. In essence this is the current Great Western Railway (GWR) line that runs through Hungerford and Great Bedwyn.

Key dates in the development of Marlborough railways are as follows:

1864 the Marlborough railway opened as a branch from Savernake

1874 the line was taken over by GWR

1881 saw the opening of the north-south line from Swindon Town to Marlborough as part of the Swindon, Marlborough and Andover Railway (SMAR). This is the route of the path from Marlborough to Chiseldon (and thence onwards to Swindon). This did not connect with the GWR line from London to Bristol.

1881 also saw the opening of the Swindon and Cheltenham Extension Railway (S&CER) opening from Swindon to Cirencester

1882 SMAR opened the Grafton to Andover section with Marlborough to Grafton being operated on GWR tracks from 1883 to 1898

1884 SMAR and S&CER amalgamated to form the Midland and South Western Junction Railway (M&SWJR)

1891 M&SWJR opened Cirencester to Andoversford joining the GWR Banbury to Cheltenham line enabling a service to Cheltenham

1892 M&SWJR acquired Andover to Redbridge (Southampton) line enabling a through service to Southampton

1898 saw the opening of the Marlborough and Grafton Railway (M&GR) replacing the use of the GWR line

1899 M&SWJR acquired M&GR

1923 M&SWJR became part of GWR

1933 Former GWR Savernake to Marlborough line closed

1961 saw the cessation of passenger traffic to Marlborough and

1964 saw the cessation of goods traffic

So from nothing, Marlborough became well connected, but is once again isolated from railway connections.

A Theory Of Relativity: Hugh de Saram

The question is often asked: “Even if we accept that it's good for us to face up to real choices and tough dilemmas, surely God didn't have to make the world so full of extreme horrors? Couldn't He have toned it down a bit?”

There's no easy answer to this, but perhaps we could try thinking along these lines.

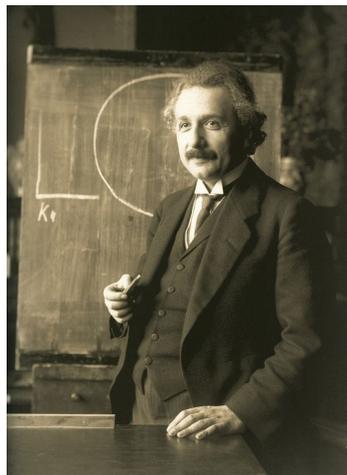
Here we are on Planet Earth, and we face – or some of us face – appalling horrors such as barbarous beheadings, senseless slaughter, economic meltdown leading to mass deprivation, disease, starvation and death.

Alongside this, however, technical wizardry is advancing all the time, and in due course we discover another inhabited planet somewhere in the universe. By and by we learn that they too are asking the same question: “Did He have to make it so extreme?”

However, we discover a startling difference. Within their environment – which is all that they know – their “extremes” consist of things such as the common cold and temperatures that fall all the way to plus 15 degrees Celsius. In every way they feel as hard done-by and fed-up as we do here on Earth, but those feelings are relative to the bounds of their experience.

Is it possible that we could view our own environment in this light? In other words, even if God had made things less extreme than He apparently has, those lesser bounds that He had set would still feel “extreme” to us because they would be at the limit of our experience and knowledge.

Do we just have to live with the fact that, for us as finite mortals, “extreme” is a relative concept?



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What's on in July

Regular events

Every Monday

7.30pm: Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

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

Every Tuesday

10-11.30am: Christchurch. Friendship Club.

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.

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

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

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

2-3pm: St George's, Preshute (every 2nd & 4th Wed) Teddy Prayers & Picnic. A service with tea & cakes for U5s & their carers.

Every Thursday (or some Thursdays)

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

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

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

Every Friday

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

Every 2nd Saturday

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

July calendar

29th June (Thursday) – 2nd July (Sunday)

10am-4pm Rabley Barn, Mildenhall SN8 2LW. Rabley Printmakers' Summer Exhibition.

1st (Saturday)

1-4pm St Peter's School, The Parade. Reunion & Celebration. Parking available at the school. 513158.

2nd (Sunday)

6pm St Peter's Church. A Preacher: Revd Sam We Fields. Music: Choir of St

5th (Wednesday)

2-5pm The Merchant's Hall per table including Tea, R Appeal. 511491 (Victoria

6pm Savernake Cricket C Cricket Match. Proceeds sports equipment.

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxfo Antiques Road Show. Bri Brockman. Guests welco

6th (Thursday) to 9th

Barbury International Hor

7th (Friday) to 9th

East Farm, Avebury. Avel

8th (Saturday) & 9th

Town Hall & Priory Garde Festival. £5, £2.50 (childr exhibitions in The Mercha Church.

9th (Sunday)

Marlborough College Sur

7.30pm St Peter's Church Trio. In aid of Radiotherap collection.

11th (Tuesday)

8pm Marlborough Colleg with Ann Widdecombe. £

12th (Wednesday)

12.30pm 40 St Martins (o Widows' Friendship Grou

14th (Friday)

7.30pm (6pm for picnics) 1RY. Miracle Theatre per Tickets in adv only 51212 under 16), £38 (families). Churches Trust.

8pm Marlborough Colleg Year 2015: Nancy Kerr. £

- Annual Festal Evensong.
 ...ls, Vicar of St-Martin-in-the-
 ...John's, Devizes.
- ...ouse. Bridge Afternoon. £40
 ...affle & Prizes. In aid of MH
 ...Egerton).
- ...Ground. Mayor's Annual
 ...in aid of St Mary's School
- ...ord Street. WI Meeting.
 ...ng items to value by Gordon
 ...me.
- ...se Trials.
- ...bury Rocks Music Festival.
- ...ns: Marlborough Puppety
 ...en), £10 (families). Also
 ...ant's House & St Peter's
- ...mmer School: Start of Week 1.
 ...n. Brighter Futures Concert
 ...y Appeal at GWH. Retiring
- ...e Ellis Theatre. An Evening
 ...15.
- ...pposite The Queen's Head).
 ...p Lunch. 514030.
- ...Maizey Lodge Garden SN8
 ...orm "The Third Policeman".
 ...5. £14 (adults), £7 (children
 ...In aid of Wilts Historic
- ...e. Concert: Folk Singer of the
 ...20.
- 15th (Saturday)**
 7.30pm St Peter's Church. Chamber Concert Choir:
 Avebury Vocal Ensemble. A programme of summer
 music. Tickets on door.
 Stonebridge Wild River Reserve. Moth Night. 511028.
- 16th (Sunday)**
 Marlborough College Summer School: Start of Week 2.
- 17th (Monday)**
 7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall. National Trust Association.
 Lecture by James Evans: "Runnymede & Magna
 Carta".
- 18th (Tuesday)**
 8pm Marlborough College. Concert: 'Only Boys
 Aloud' (3rd Place in Britain's Got Talent 2012. £15
- 20th (Thursday)**
 Gardening Association. Visit to Longstock Park Water
 Gardens.
- 21st (Friday)**
 St John's Academy: Last day of Summer Term.
 7.30pm St Mary's Church, Bedwyn. Summer Concert:
 ATEA Wind Ensemble. £14 (£12 members), children
 free. 870970.
 8pm Marlborough College. Concert: 'The Jive
 Aces' (Finalists in Britain's Got Talent.) £20.
- 23rd (Sunday)**
 8am Marlborough Common. Car Boot Sale in aid of Wilts
 Air Ambulance Appeal. Cars £8, Vans £10 (payment on
 the day). 526928.
 Marlborough College Summer School: Start of Week 3.
 7.30pm St Peter's Church. Chamber Concert Group:
 Bridge String Quartet. Tickets on door.
- 25th (Tuesday)**
 7pm Marlborough College Leaf Block Lawn. Live
 performance: 'Illyria: The lost World', £15 (under 18's
 free).
- 28th (Friday)**
 8pm Marlborough College. Concert: Jive Talkin'. £20.
- 30th (Sunday)**
 Marlborough College Summer School: Start of Week 4

Discovering Forced Migration: Patrick Titman

Early this year I came across an invitation to go to a Quaker conference about forced migration. It was to be at the Woodbrooke Quaker centre in Birmingham in February. I'd never been there and knew nothing about forced migration, beyond the often disparaging views about migrants and refugees in the popular press.

An opportunity to find out about two new things in one weekend!

Woodbrooke proved to be one of several such centres I've known. A well run spacious place in lovely grounds offering stimulating courses, with time and facilities to reflect, as well as opportunities to learn and for discussion and challenge. It has a pleasing simplicity and caring staff.

In the 1940s and 50s refugees were identified with the huge number of people made homeless and without country by the horrors of the Second World War. Now in the UK, 'refugees' are only those we have agreed to allow to live here for 5 years. They then have to re-apply to be allowed to stay longer. We have coined new words for the un-accepted: 'asylum seekers' allowed a minimum of subsistence, sometimes with housing provided by Government, but usually not allowed to work until their plea is decided. 'Refused asylum seekers' awaiting deportation or the results of an appeal. They are not allowed to work, are denied benefits and have no access to housing or health care.

The process of seeking asylum is very tough. Application has to be made in person. There is no right to legal help for appeals. Papers have to be in order and the case presented in the right words. Yet many applying have fled their homeland in fear, have been a long time in difficult conditions and have limited understanding both of the process and of our language.

A strict process is necessary, but does that have to mean one that is tough to the point of inhumanity; one that so distresses both asylum seekers and, I'm sure, those administering the system? There were many examples of such treatment within the process given at the conference. A way to see this is to look, not at individual stories, but at what work is being done in alleviation by voluntary organisations: help with such things as:

Accommodation Weekly money Accompanying to appointments

Advocacy, help with solicitors, medical treatment, Home Office reporting requirements etc. Interpreters Treatment for trauma and stress Childcare.

Locally, a good example of this is the Harbour Project in Swindon.

What I came to think, over my weekend at Woodbrooke, is that we all need more understanding of what is being done in our name. We need to consider whether the system, is, in the end, counter-productive because of its side effects. Poverty drives some to crime. Disillusion and bitterness are a discouragement to

having a positive view of Britain. Costs of psychiatric care and in long running appeals (around one-third of which are successful) take money from actions to help. People, especially children, living for so long in such uncertainty and with so many difficulties become very disturbed.

Can we do better?

It won't be easy and there's not likely to be a single solution. But one good hope is the Syrian refugee programme. Under this programme people are selected in or near their home country. They are admitted as refugees. Local authorities provide housing and school places and for five years at least they have some security. Thank goodness Wiltshire and Swindon are involved in this.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism: 21 May – Elise Walker at St Mary's
21 May - Hugo Gill and Edward Brigstocke at St George's
4 June - Leo Atcherley at St Mary's
18 June - Jemima Hilliar at St George's

Weddings: 20 May – Jessica Webb & Tomas Bennett at St John the Baptist

Departed:

5 May – William 'George' Presley (98) of Coombe End Court,
Marlborough
Kingsdown Crematorium

13 May – Shane Liam Hartop (25) of 36 Five Stiles Road, Marlborough
St Mary's and Kingsdown Crematorium

25 May – Samson 'Sammy' James (77) of 43 Purlyn Acre, Marlborough
St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery

7 June – Sally Louise Smith (48) of 5 Mount Pleasant Street,
Marlborough
West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington

8 June – Patricia 'Pat' Mary Christine Goldsmith (88) of 15 Hyde Lane,
Marlborough
St George's and Marlborough Cemetery

8 June – Beryl Mary Stunt (83) of Felkins, Back Lane, Marlborough
St George's and Marlborough Cemetery

Marlborough Churches Together

Please check pages 25 to 27 for special services and events.

Usual Sunday Service times

Christchurch, New Road (Methodist - URC)

9.00am Worship

10.30am Morning Service with Junior Church and crèche

Society of Friends, Friends Meeting House, The Parade

10.30am Meeting for Worship

St George's, Preshute (C of E)

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

10.00am All Age Service (1st Sunday)

Parish Communion (other Sundays)

St John the Baptist, Minal (C of E)

8.00am Holy Communion BCP (2nd Sunday)

9.30am Parish Communion (1st and 3rd Sunday)

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

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP on 4th Sunday)

10.00am All Age Worship (1st Sunday); Parish Communion and Junior Church and crèche on all other Sundays

5.30pm Informal service except on 1st Sunday.

St Thomas More, George Lane (Roman Catholic)

11.00am Sung Mass (See also below)

Marlborough College Services are shown at the College Chapel

Weekday Services

St Mary's Holy Communion: 10.30am Wednesday

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

St George's Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer: 4.30pm Weds.

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Assistant Chaplain Marlborough College

The Revd Dr David Campbell

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Chaplain, Marlborough College

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Dear Sir

In the (excellent) June edition of *Tower and Town* there was a double-page notice for ***Wiltshire Historic Churches*** and its supporting body, ***The Friends of Wiltshire Churches***.

There seemed to be no indication how one might join *The Friends*. May we publish this information in the forthcoming edition, please?

There is an excellent website - wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk - where there is a form to download to apply for membership of The Friends.

Or one can write to the Chairman: *Martin Knight, The Manor, Winterbourne Bassett, Wiltshire SN4 9PU*.

The membership fee is a one-off, by the way, not an annual charge. The main activity of The Friends are the guided visits to Wiltshire churches on Saturdays during the summer months.

From John Osborne

Dear Sir

Last month's 'Marlborough and the sea' *Tower and Town* only briefly acknowledged **Howard Birchmore** as the artist of the cover picture of HMS Marlborough. May I add that a print of the painting is available for viewing in the Town Hall. It was a gift to the town by the artist during Bryan Castle's mayoralty following an exhibition of the artist's work in the Town Hall. Our thanks are due to him.

From Alexander Kirk Wilson



Would you like to learn something new or re-engage with a hobby with like-minded people who are also retired?

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Or contact our membership secretary, Nick Swan, on membershipec@u3ainkennet.org.uk

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Family News compiled by Audrey Peck

Sammy James was remembered at his funeral in St. Mary's and buried in the cemetery alongside his late wife, Queenie, and their daughter, Karen, where his family and friends had left an amazing number of floral tributes. He was well known in the town, was very keen on playing darts in the Lamb, loved watching football and enjoyed a bet on the horses. Our sympathy to his children, Charlotte, Bert, Lily, John and Betty and their families.

Bruce Spackman was a familiar face in the High St. He assisted his son with his window cleaning business. He and Pat had been married for 54 years. For their first date he took her to an Elvis Presley film. St. Mary's was full for his funeral and later his 14 grandchildren released 80 balloons because he had almost reached his 80th birthday. He had many hobbies, having played cricket and followed horse racing. Lots of us remember that he had a very successful day when he bet on Frankie Dettori who rode seven winners on one card at Ascot. Pat is comforted by their children, Derek, Sylvia, Susan and Ian after his sudden death. Our sympathy to all the family.

Sylvia Stroud has written an online book about her life here in Marlborough during the WW2. She was born and still lives in Chopping Knife Lane. Her daughter, Carolyn, has spent an hour each evening for many months writing her mother's memories of rationing, evacuees, American soldiers and the slow recovering after the war. The book is called, 'Born at Chopping Knife Lane'.

John Bateson died in mid-May. He came to Marlborough in 1973 as a teacher of German at the College, becoming the first Head of that language. He was a gifted amateur musician and used his many talents to the full. Sadly he had to take very early retirement, on medical grounds, in 1997. He threw himself into activities in the town. Most notable was his work in the late-lamented Tourist Information Centre, where a trio of volunteers provided such splendid service. John also worked with St John's School giving support to the Extended Learning and Year 10 interview projects. In Swindon he worked on school appeals panels right up to the end, devoting much time to the complex paper work involved. His passing leaves a huge gap in the lives of his friends.



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NEWS from the Churches

2nd July: Sunday Lunch Club

meets in the Wesley Hall, Christchurch. To come please contact the church office (513701). Cost £7.50. The next lunch club will be on 6th August, book by Friday 4th August.



Women's Fellowship Tuesdays at 2:45pm in Christchurch:

4th July AGM

11th July Social

There will then be a break until the programme restarts on 5th September with a Members' meeting.

9th July - Civic Service

10am at St Mary's Church, Marlborough.

This year's Civic Service coincides with Marlborough's celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the founding of Pelham Puppets - a name greatly associated with this town. A festival of puppetry will take place over the weekend of 8th and 9th July, and in the 10.00am service on Sunday, a young puppeteer, 14 year old Joseph Leech, will give a performance whilst David Leech (no relation) who has written a history of Pelham Puppets, will show how the puppets were made. There will be ample scope for both celebration and theological reflection.



15th July - Gospel Workshop

Another opportunity to join a fun Gospel Workshop at St Mary's, from 10am - 12noon with Jo Sercombe. Cost: £10, to include refreshments, £5 for accompanied children (10 – 16 years.) Tickets available from: Sound Knowledge and The White Horse Bookshop, Marlborough. Singers of all abilities are welcome and there is no need to be able to read music! This event is being supported by Marlborough Jazz organisers, and the Gospel singers will be performing (not obligatory!) with other musicians at the annual Jazz service (see below)



16th July - Annual Jazz Service

10 am at St. Mary's Church, Marlborough with the Wiltshire Police Band, The Slaughterhouse Seven, Debbie Bond and Rick Asheton and the Marlborough Community Choir. We are pleased to welcome Rev Dr David Campbell as the preacher.



19th July - Possessed by God and Poetry

7pm at The White Horse Bookshop, Marlborough.

An Evening with the Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins led by Edwina Fogg and Janice McFarlane with Andrew Studdert-Kennedy. "We shall explore some of Hopkins' best loved verse with its unique insights into the natural world and consider the implications for our faith."

Youth Work

Blayze will be finishing his role as youth worker with us in July; we are very grateful for the work Blayze has done and wish him well in his new job in Derbyshire.

Hangout at Devotion continues to meet on Thursday evenings in the Youth Room at the Wesley Hall, Christchurch and *Anytime* restarts in September. Please continue to pray for the work with young people.

Hangout at Devotion

Future Diary Dates

23rd to 25th August – MEGA Get There! Holiday Club

After a few years break, the summer of 2017 will see a new instalment of the Get There! Holiday Club. This year's theme is **MEGA!** and everything, from assault course to water games and starry skies, will be big.

Get There! is aimed at children aged 7-11. It will take place at the Marlburian Centre and the College Playing Fields from Wednesday 23rd August to Friday 25th August 9am - 1pm. The cost for children is £7.50 per day, £20 for three days and financial support is available. On Friday there will be a closing act of worship at St Mary's Church followed by a BBQ for the whole family.

The Holiday Club 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 / 515970). The deadline for registration to attend is 15th July, but offers for help are welcome after that!

12th -15th September St Non's Retreat

at this beautiful site on the Pembroke coast will be led by Sarah Musgrave. To book a place or for more details, please contact Barney Rosedale on 512205.

Marlborough Cricket Club Charity Cricket Match 2017

Wednesday 5th July

Marlborough Cricket Club hosts their annual charity 20/20 match against the Mayor's XI.

Last year's fixture successfully raised more than £600 to buy cricket equipment for refugees in Germany.

This year the money raised will help provide cricket and other sports equipment for the town's new primary school, **Marlborough St Mary's.**

Admission is free. The match will be preceded by a taster session of the ECB's new **All Stars Cricket** programme and followed by a raffle draw.

Refreshments will be available.



IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, Santa Fe, May 2017

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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 11th July please.

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