

TOWER_{AND}TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES.

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The Hancocks of Marlborough

The Hancocks of Marlborough were a remarkable family. They came to Marlborough, like many other tradesmen, directly after the fire of 1653 to profit from the rebuilding, and they stayed and prospered. A hundred years later James Hancock was born and he grew up to be a highly regarded cabinet maker, timber merchant and upholsterer with a well equipped workshop. He was also fertile, fathering 4 daughters and 8 sons, of whom only 6 sons survived to adulthood, the remaining 6 children all succumbed to smallpox, consumption or other childhood killers (though one of the girls survived almost to complete her cabinet making apprenticeship, and the family treasured the door she had made). All the children were well educated at the Marlborough Academy, run by the dissenters (although James was an Anglican and a parishioner of St Peters) and more forward looking than the grammar school. When James closed his businesses in the dreadful depression following the end of the Napoleonic Wars (exacerbated by the terrible harvests consequent on the 1815 Mount Tambora volcanic eruption - see Turner's sunsets for graphic evidence), two of the boys went to America and dropped from the record while the other 4 went to work in London. Between them they founded the British rubber industry, built the first steam vehicles to carry passengers on public roads (see cover picture), developed the gutta-percha insulation for the cross channel and transatlantic telegraph, exhibited at the Royal Academy and much else besides. Throughout they remained close and regarded themselves as 'The Hancocks of Marlborough'.

Alexander Kirk Wilson, *Editor*

Compiler: Hugh de Saram

Proof Readers: Mike Jackson and Jean Gray

Thomas Hancock: the vulcanising brother

Thomas was the second brother. Like the third brother John he had served his apprenticeship as a cabinet maker and they went into business together in London in 1816 as coach builders, rather bizarrely using whalebone as a structural material (strictly it was not bone they used but the springy baleen used in corsetry). With experience of building strong light wheeled vehicles they built and sold the 'Ladies Pilenium', which was a tricycle to afford ladies agreeable exercise, and unlike the contemporary hobby horse bicycle it had foot treadles which turned the wheels (the hobby horse was propelled by pushing the feet on the ground so only rideable by men in trousers). During this time he had been greatly impressed by William Hunter the famous 'coal heaver and sinner' preacher, and the evangelical chapel where the teaching influenced him all his life.

Around this time Thomas became curious about rubber. India rubber (usually known by the Mayan name of 'caoutchouc') had been used from the late 18th century both as an eraser, a sealant on the canvases of oil painters and a gas-proofer on hot air and hydrogen balloons. Thomas saw it as way of treating fabrics to make waterproof clothes for the outside passengers on coaches. By 1820 he had built a masticator to chop up rubber into granular form and taken premises in Goswell Mews to make rubberised cloth. He also came across Charles Macintosh who was already making inferior waterproof fabric and they became



business collaborators and friends, both being hard working evangelicals. So bright was the future for rubber sheets, billiard table cushions and rubberised cloth (the company lasted 100 years in Goswell Mews premises) that Walter at this time joined Thomas and John in the business. Walter made many ingenious machines for the factory, including the 'pistonless steam engine', which occurs later.

Having more work than he could handle Thomas gave his patent for a promising rubber ships' anti-fouling paint to brothers Walter and Charles. They being young and naive soon lost this and all their money to vulpine partners they brought into their business. Charles returned to painting and Walter stayed with the rubber business, though soon branched out into building steam carriages.

In 1835 John died of consumption; his depressive widow spent some time in the Froxfield almshouses before ending her days in the Devizes lunatic asylum.

Thomas Hancock (continued)

Thomas, though unmarried, adopted nine orphans and built Marlborough Cottage in Stoke Newington as a family home for them all.

In 1842 Thomas was shown by an American visitor some small lumps of a hard rubber-like substance (they were also shown to Mr Moulton of Bradford on Avon). He wrote to Charles Goodyear who had made them and asked if he could be licensed to use the patent, but received no replies (it was not patented). After many months, and Charles Macintosh's death, and receiving no response from Goodyear, he started his own systematic experiments, in time discovering that sulphur and heat together made rubber hard and stable. He also gave the process the name 'vulcanising' from the heat and sulphur combination and patented the process in 1843.

The process grew and grew. With more heat the product was like ebony and found many uses, decorative and functional. With less heat it was softer and could be coloured, so it filled the space taken much later by plastics. Surgical bottles, carriage tyres (solid and pneumatic), ink stands, bas reliefs, printing type, toy balls and countless other uses were found for rubber. Thomas and Charles Goodyear became friends and both exhibited at the Great Exhibition in 1851. The firm he founded lasted over 100 years but he himself died in 1877.

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Walter Hancock: the steam carriage brother

Walter was the fifth of the brothers. The first four (and sister Elizabeth) were apprenticed to their father as cabinet makers, but Walter was apprenticed to a jeweler/clock maker in London. However, he did not follow that trade and in 1820 he joined brothers Thomas and John who were using 'India rubber' to make waterproof clothing (two layers of cotton sandwiching a rubber layer) and exploring other uses. To speed production the company needed a small, lightweight steam engine. Walter built one, his 'pistonless engine' not using cylinders with moving pistons but two bags ('lungs') of rubberised cloth which alternately filled and emptied of steam driving a crankshaft to and fro. This was so powerful for its size and weight that his mind turned to using it to drive a carriage.

After he had methodically developed a compact boiler which would both raise steam at a sufficient rate and be safe from boiler explosions he built his first three wheeled experimental vehicle. With the concept proven he built the 'Infant,' a 10 passenger coach (like stage coaches, all Hancock's vehicles had names) which in 1831 started to run for hire between Stratford East and Finsbury Square in London. He was then approached by the recently formed London and Brighton Steam Carriage Company for whom he built the 'Era,' but as they proved unable to raise the finance he kept it.

This did prompt the London and Paddington Steam Carriage Company to order a carriage, with the prospect of 2 more if trials were successful. This time Hancock negotiated a deposit and stage payments. This carriage, the 'Enterprise,' (see cover photograph) had inward facing seating like Mr Shillibeer's recently introduced omnibus, and went into service in April 1833. Between then and 1836 it carried 12,000 passengers. Poor Walter though was dogged by his own naivety and the villainy of his customers; he discovered that they were dismantling and copying the Enterprise. Gratingly though their copy never worked properly, though a replica made about 15 years ago by Tom Brogden works a treat and will climb a 1 in 6 hill.



In 1834 he built a new carriage improbably called the 'Autopsy' which ran for a month between Finsbury Square and Pentonville, but then in April he withdrew his carriages from public service. Disaster had struck; Thomas' factory had burned down and all Walter's attention was needed at the factory making replacement machinery. Also he had never taught anyone else to drive the steam carriages. (continued on page 7)

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Walter Hancock (continued)

In 1836 he built for his own use the 'Automaton' with seating for 22 and a more powerful engine which in 1839 went from London to Cambridge in 4½ hours including a stop for lunch.

In the meantime he had built a modest runabout called the 'Phaeton', also for his own use. Sadly though, his lack of business acumen caught up with him. In 1842 he ran out of money, gave up the factory and filed for bankruptcy. But this does not detract from his genius in solving the boiler problems, the wheel problems (he invented the strong wooden 'artillery' wheel later used on early motor cars), and running the first steam vehicles to carry fare paying passengers on common roads. He built 11 in all, and had the horse flesh lobby not succeeded in placing so many obstacles in the way of these vehicles, which ruined their commercial success, they would have filled the gap in local transport. Running at 15 or 20 miles an hour they would have improved urban transport and prevented the building of so many uneconomic rural railway branch lines.

Book Discussion

Author **Anna Thayer** has written an epic fantasy trilogy (similar in genre to Tolkien's Lord of The Rings)

the first of which is called ***The Traitor's Heir*** –
a gripping tale of intrigue, passion and divided loyalties.

She is coming to Mustard Seed on
Thursday 2nd July 7.30pm to talk about her books. Everyone is welcome to
come and join in the discussion.

Marlborough Concert Orchestra

Saturday 27th June, 7.30pm, St Mary's Church

Mendelssohn: Overture - Calm Sea And Prosperous Voyage

Brahms: Violin Concerto

Gounod: Ballet Music From Faust

Mussorgsky: A Night On A Bare Mountain

Soloist: Matthew Taylor

Conductor: Rosalise Gentile

Tickets £8 adults, £1.50 students, from Sound Knowledge or on the door

Licensed bar; raffle

Charles Hancock: painting, gutta-percha, electric telegraph

Charles was the youngest of the brothers and apprenticed to a painter in London. At the age of 17 he had pictures hung in the Royal Academy summer exhibition. Throughout his life he was a respected and financially successful painter, increasingly featuring animals and especially successful racehorses. His pictures are still collected today.

However, he also had scientific/commercial interests and early on went into business with Walter. The two were given a patent by brother Thomas in 1823 for a ship's anti-fouling paint made from gutta-percha. Gutta-percha is a latex similar to rubber and is collected from the sap of trees in Malaya and India. At room temperature it is a pliable solid easily formed into objects like knife handles. He and Walter were young and naive however and their chosen partners quickly stripped them of both the patent and their money so he returned to painting, taking rooms in Reading and doing private commissions. But he also invented and sold 'Hancock's Scentless Water Colours' and 'Hancock's Scentless Oil.' By 1826 he had moved to Norwich taking a room at Tattershall's, the better to paint turf and sporting subjects. Better at spending than getting, however, he still needed to borrow £40 from the Ward and Merriman Bank in Marlborough.



Around this time 'gutta-percha' was being introduced into the UK from Malaya. Like rubber it was a tree sap, but differed in molecular structure and was a solid at normal temperatures. Charles, like Thomas, and Walter was a member of the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) where their friend Michael Faraday suggested gutta-percha might be a good material for insulating telegraph wires. Charles was finding portraiture less lucrative than he had hoped and was working with Walter to invent a gutta-percha artificial bottle cork, and founded the Gutta Percha Company off the City Road in London making chamber utensils. But then Charles, who seems to have had little compunction about double crossing his siblings or business partners, patented a machine to insulate telegraph wires without telling them. In the furore he lost this company and with Walter set up the West Ham Gutta Percha Company in competition, but this quickly went bankrupt. The patents and the stock were bought by Mr Samuel Winkworth Silver (who gave his name to Silvertown in the Isle of Dogs) who formed 'The Indiarubber, Gutta Percha & Telegraph Cable Works.' Meanwhile the original company supplied the cable for the 1850 and 1851 cross-Channel and the 1858 trans-Atlantic telegraphs.

William Hancock: cabinet maker

William was the fourth brother and the only one who stayed with his apprenticed trade of cabinet making. He did not stay long in London but soon moved to Bury St Edmunds, where despite being bankrupt in 1820, he acquired a reputation for fine work. Pieces were bought by the Marquis of Bristol at Ickworth House (his famously high standards are why there are so many Bristol Hotels around continental Europe) and he made a presentation piece for George IV which is still to be seen in the royal collections. He did receive a gift of £200 from the palace in recognition of its quality.

Sadly, though, William could not make a living and he returned to London to join Thomas, who gave him a patent for 'caoutchouc' (ie rubber) bookbinding for ledgers and account books. This was similar to the 'perfect' binding today used on paperbacks, with glue but no stitching.

Sadly William continued to be a fine craftsman but dreadful businessman and by 1839 was again bankrupt. In 1848 he died at Gravesend while seeing his children off to Australia.

Alexander Kirk Wilson



Devotion are launching a new youth club at the old Youth Development Centre! **Hangout@The Mead** will run from 6.30pm-9.30pm on Tuesday nights, with the 1st half of the session for years 6-8 and the 2nd half for years 9-12. It will take the same format as our popular Hangout@Devotion club on Thursdays, with games, tuck shop, wifi, a place to chill with friends, people to listen to you and, of course, free toast!

We are also looking for volunteers to help us staff this club. All training will be provided, and you would be joining a committed and friendly team of various ages. If you're interested, please contact Peta.

We open on the 16th June, and would love to see you there! Spread the word, and come Hangout with us!

If you have any questions or want to find out more about what we do, please contact **Peta** on 07812947754 devotionyouthproject@hotmail.co.uk or search Devotion Marlborough on Facebook.

Clench Common Microlighting: Graham Slater

Clench Common Airfield was originally given outline planning for Microlight use in the mid 1980s, and was one of the first registered Microlight Airfields in the UK. It had previously been an airfield (called Overton Heath and a satellite to Upavon) during the Second World War, operating twin engine Airspeed Oxford trainers.

It has been a full time microlight training operation since the mid 80's, with more than 700 students taught to fly to microlight licence standard. Graham Slater (G S Aviation) has managed the airfield since 1991, Graham established a flight training base for both Flex wing and Fixed Wing microlight aircraft. Flex Wings look like big hang gliders with a trike underneath; Fixed Wings look like normal aeroplanes. They have evolved over time and now cruise at 70 to 80 knots (70 to 90 mph) sipping fuel at an average of 12 litres an hour. They use a four stroke engine of 1200 cc and are economic, quiet and environmentally friendly. They are comfortable (even having a cabin heater), so it is possible to fly to France in two hours from Marlborough. In fact we often organise Club fly-outs to Abbeville in France with an overnight stop incorporating a good dinner and a few glasses of fine French wine.

We have sixty eight club members based at Clench Common, with about twelve aircraft of different types, and we teach about thirty to forty people to licence standard every year, with four full time instructors. Our instructors are fully qualified through the CAA and British Microlight Association instructor scheme, and have amassed thousands of training hours during their careers.

Our latest achievement is to be chosen by Marlborough College to offer a summer school flying course, and to have been selected by Dauntsey's School to teach children from 14 to 17 years of age to the full licence as part of the Dauntsey's School curriculum! We believe this is the first time a Microlight Training Operation has done this.

So the flying history of a local rural airfield continues, tucked away on the Wessex downland.

STITCHCOMBE HOUSE OPEN GARDEN

In Aid Of St John The Baptist Church

7 JUNE FROM 2 – 6pm

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Wiltshire's Emergency Volunteer Doctors

SWIFT Medics is entirely dependent on donations from the people of Wiltshire and local organisations and is most grateful to Tower and Town for the generous donation recently given and for the support of local communities throughout Swindon and Wiltshire.

When someone is badly injured in a traffic collision or other medical emergency, getting the right clinical help quickly to those involved can literally be the difference between life and death, as well as preventing long-term, life-changing injuries.

In Wiltshire and Swindon, a key part of that response is provided by SWIFT Medics – a team of dedicated volunteer doctors ready at a moment's notice to respond to emergencies and provide essential life-saving treatment.

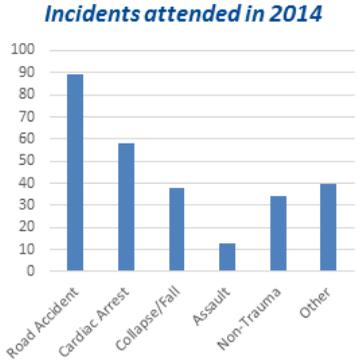
Working alongside ambulance crews and other emergency services, SWIFT Medics doctors play a vital role in ensuring seriously injured or critically-ill patients receive essential treatment at the scene – in effect bringing the hospital emergency department to the patient, often in difficult and dangerous situations such as an overturned vehicle at night.

Despite the close working relationship with other emergency services, and the fact that they are activated to incidents via the ambulance service control room, the pre-hospital emergency care provided by SWIFT Medics is not funded by the NHS or central government.

SWIFT Medics began life in 1996, since when it has attended thousands of emergencies. Each year, team members typically attend in excess of 250 incidents providing enhanced medical care to patients throughout Wiltshire and Swindon – and sometimes beyond. Without that intervention, around one in six of those would either have died or suffered permanent, life-changing disabilities.

In such situations, seconds count; getting advanced clinical care to those patients as early as possible in the first 60 minutes after the emergency occurs – known as the golden hour – has a significant impact on the eventual outcome.

Since September last year, the team's ability to provide that rapid response has been enhanced by the donation of a dedicated, fully-equipped rapid response car by



SWIFT Medics (continued)

Dick Lovett BMW Hungerford – the distinctive 3 Series Touring X Drive is already becoming a familiar sight on the county’s roads as it speeds to the next patient whose life may be hanging by a thread.

The Cost of Keeping a Doctor on the Road for a Year

SWIFT Medics volunteers are all either GPs or hospital doctors, who donate their own time free to help people suffering medical emergencies in Swindon and Wiltshire.

Thanks to a close working relationship with the South West Ambulance Service (SWAST), SWIFT Medics receives financial help with the initial costs of training and equipping new doctors. However, there is no statutory funding for running costs – including the use of doctors’ own cars to attend emergencies or for the medicines they use.

As shown in the table the average cost of keeping each doctor on the road in 2014 was £3,596.

Average Cost per Doctor in 2014	Cost
Replacement Medicines	£1,243
Petrol and Vehicle Expenses	£1,158
Training and Equipment	£195
Total	£3,596



SWIFT Medics
Emergency Response Doctors

Providing critical care at emergencies throughout
Wiltshire and Swindon

www.swiftmedics.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1133797

Interpreting The Fall: Hugh de Saram

John Hick's singular gift to our generation in his *Evil And The God Of Love* (MacMillan 1966) is the fleshing out of an alternative Christian view of The Fall and the environment within which it took place; a view first suggested by Irenaeus, bishop of Lyons in the second century, pre-dating Augustine and providing a radically different perspective on the human condition from that of the dominant Augustinian tradition.

The crucial difference between Irenaeus and Augustine might be summarised as follows: starting from the words of Genesis 1 telling us that God looked at everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good, while the Augustinian tradition takes that to mean that mankind was created in full moral perfection and fell from perfection into perdition, Irenaeus suggests that 'very good', rather than signifying morally perfect, instead means perfect **for God's purpose**, namely, able to grow from innocence into a moral and spiritual maturity that is not ready-made at creation but won from hard choices and the long rough ride of experience, endlessly forgiven and continuously transformed by the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Here it is worth noting the fit of the Irenaeian view with a universe now thought to be 13.8 billion years old, where *homo sapiens* emerges from the animal kingdom only very gradually – with the implication that our moral awareness also emerges only gradually.

Hence the story of The Fall represents, symbolically, mankind's first faltering step out of innocence on the road to spiritual maturity, not some sudden unmitigated cosmic disaster. And instead of seeing life's trials as a divine punishment for Adam's inexplicable, wilful adult sin, Irenaeus sees our world of mingled good and evil as an environment divinely appointed from the outset to entice man to step out of moral childhood and grow towards the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

GWA Annual Exhibition

Date: Sunday 21st-Sunday 28th June during opening hours

Venue: St Peter's Church Marlborough

The annual summer exhibition by the Guild of Wiltshire Artists featuring a wide range of paintings to suit all tastes. Free entry and all are welcome.

The Nepal Earthquake: Rachel Rosedale

We have been receiving much news from different organisations in Nepal since the earthquake on 25th April which has devastated large areas of central Nepal. The epicentre was the District of Gorkha, north west of Kathmandu, reaching up to the Chinese border. It has affected hundreds of small villages in the middle hills where landslides covered whole villages and houses collapsed like packs of cards. As I write the death toll is over 7,500 and it is estimated 2.8 million have lost their homes.

The situation in the Kathmandu valley was patchy, again many buildings collapsed or have become unsafe; some world heritage sites have been devastated; hospitals have been overwhelmed coping with injuries sustained in Kathmandu and further afield.

The Nepalese government is bureaucratic and inefficient; a constitution has still not been agreed since the Maoists introduced a republic over 6 years ago. We hear stories of aid lorries being organised by private individuals being confiscated by the police and consignments being held up at the airport for lack of paperwork but some smaller charities on the ground are getting aid through and doing great work.

The Nepalis themselves are community minded and resourceful but they need help. They have suffered unimaginable losses. The monsoon is approaching.

Once immediate effects of the earthquake have been dealt with using funding from agencies like the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), the infrastructure will need to be dealt with. Barney, Nick Maurice and I worked for the Britain Nepal Medical Trust (BNMT) in East Nepal nearly 40 years ago. It is now staffed entirely by Nepalese workers and has extended its work to cover 47 of about 72 Districts. They are in a good position to reach out to affected communities.

Doug Scott's charity Community Action Nepal (CAN) also works in mountain areas badly affected by the earthquake.

If you are contemplating donating I suggest you look at the websites of the above. We have subscribed to these three.

- <http://www.dec.org.uk>
- <http://www.britainnepalmedicaltrust.org.uk>
- <http://www.canepal.org.uk>

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Wednesday 8th July 2015 – The Magnificent Three

**Special charity performance in aid of The Merchants House
Trust, Marlborough**

7.30pm at Ogbourne Maizey near Marlborough

(gates open at 6pm for picnics)

Bar/WC/Coffee & Sweetie bar

Cornwall's Miracle Theatre takes a long-awaited visit to the Wild West with this brand new spaghetti western for lovers of open-air theatre.

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Space for these short term ads is limited and needs to be booked at least three weeks in advance of the publishing date, so please enquire in good time.

What's on in June

Regular Events

Every Monday

7.30pm Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

Every Tuesday

10-11.30am Christchurch. Friendship Club.

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

Every Wednesday

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

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

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

Every Thursday (or some Thursdays)

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

10.30am-12noon Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Sing for the Brain. Alzheimer's Support Group. 01225 776481. (Every Thursday during term-time).

1.30-3.30pm Wesley Hall, Christchurch. Macular Society (last Thursday in 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.

Last Sunday in Month

10am-3pm High Street, Marlborough Communities Market.

June Calendar

1 st (<i>Monday</i>)	St John's Academy Start of Term 6. 2pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Embroiderers' Guild. Speaker: Kirsty Whitlock: 'My Journey Through Stitch'.
3 rd (<i>Wednesday</i>)	7pm The Merchant's House. Steve Toltz talking about his new book 'Quicksand'. Tickets £7 from the White Horse Bookshop. 7.30pm Wesley Hall. WI. Talk by Ann Orr (solicitor) 'Are you legally prepared?'
4 th (<i>Thursday</i>)	7.30pm Town Hall. Film 'The Theory of Everything' (12A). £5 in adv, £6 at door.
6 th (<i>Saturday</i>)	7pm Theatre on the Hill. Concert: 'The South' featuring ex members of The Beautiful South. £20 from TicketSource.
7 th (<i>Sunday</i>)	11-4pm Overton Farm, Wroughton. Open Farm Sunday & Marlborough Downs Nature Improvement Area.

2-5pm Ogbourne St George. Open Gardens. Entrance to 8 gardens, £4 per adult.

Both events in aid of The Prospect Hospice & OSG Village Hall.

10th (*Wednesday*) 12.30pm 30 The Green. Widows' Friendship Lunch.
7.15pm Town Hall. Live 'La Boheme' £15 in adv, £17.50 at door.

11th (*Thursday*) 8pm The Bear (upstairs room). Speakers from Fossil Free Oxfordshire & Move Your Money. Help drive the growing transition to low-carbon world. info@climatepledge.org.uk

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14<sup>th</sup> (*Sunday*) 2-6pm Marlborough Open Gardens. 12 gardens open to visitors. Tickets from The Merchant's House £5 in advance, £6 on day. Teas from 3-6pm £3.

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Concert: Jean-Selim Abdelmoula (piano). £10 (£8 members of MBG and St Peter's Trust)

15<sup>th</sup> (*Monday*) 11am Ellendune Hall, Wroughton. Kennet DFAS. Lecture by Stephen Duffy: 'The Empress Josephine & the artists of her time'. 01793 840790.

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. KV National Trust Association AGM followed by lecture by John Chambers: 'Charles Dickens the Journalist'.

18<sup>th</sup> (*Thursday*) 6.30pm Town Hall. Celebration of Bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo. Drinks reception and brief talk by Col Simon Vandeleur followed at 7.30pm by Film: 'Waterloo' (U). £15 including wine and tapas.

19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> (*Fri-Sun*) Marlborough Gardening Association. Weekend visit to RHS Harlow Carr.

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21st (*Sunday*) 9am Marlborough Common. Car Boot Sale.

25th (*Thursday*) 7pm Town Hall. Recorded from The Globe Theatre, London: 'The Comedy of Errors'. £12 in advance, £14 on door.

27th (*Saturday*) 7.30pm St Mary's, Marlborough Concert Orchestra

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28<sup>th</sup> (*Sunday*) 6pm St Peter's Patronal Festival. Preacher: the Revd Canon Henry Pearson. Refreshments in the church afterwards.

29<sup>th</sup> (*Monday*) 7pm Theatre on the Hill. St John's presents 'Aladdin Dance Show'. Adults £6.50, concessions £3.50 from Ticket Source

## **Family News from your local community: Audrey Peck**

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On St George's Day, **Pat and Colin Goldsmith** celebrated their diamond wedding with an Open Day at their home in Hyde Lane. A steady stream of local friends enjoyed the warm sun in the garden. Two days later, they held a lunch for thirty family members including their five children - Paul, Bridget, Madeleine, Jill and Celia - plus a few very old friends. Pat and Colin came to Marlborough in 1955 as newly-weds when Colin was appointed to teach maths at the College. Pat is an artist best known for her paintings of the town, from several of which popular postcards have been made. They have known eight vicars of Preshute. They transferred to St Mary's when it was more child-friendly under Canon Jeremy Walsh than St George's under Rev Dick Shorten, returning when Colin was appointed housemaster of Cotton House.

**Trevor Kearley** is very pleased to have a third grandchild. Eleanor Jane was born on April 29<sup>th</sup> to Trevor's daughter, Louisa and David in Minneapolis, U.S.A., a cousin for Harry and Isabelle.

Phoenix Brass was joined by Cricklade Band and members of Kennet Vale Band when they played a selection of **David Watson's** favourite music at a concert in the Town Hall to celebrate his 70 years as a player and conductor. David told the packed audience about the memories which had inspired his choice. Tributes were paid to him by the Chairman of Brass Band England and by the retired Captain of H.M.S. Marlborough. Congratulations to David, especially for the opportunities he has given young people to become musicians.

**Margaret and Tony Killick** celebrated their Golden Wedding on the 17th, 18th and 19th of April. They met many long standing friends and family and had a lovely celebration. They were married in Knaresborough on April 17th 1965. After living in Lydney and Warminster in 1966 they came to Barrow Close, then Ducks Meadow where they have lived for 45 years. Tony worked as a Cosmetic Salesman. Margaret taught at St. Peter's Junior School. Their daughter Julia came home from Abu Dhabi for the celebrations. Their second daughter Angela, husband, Chris and daughters Alice, 11 and Katie, 9 came from their home in Mere. Tony and Margaret count themselves very lucky to have reached this milestone, living in such a wonderful town, with wonderful family and friends and being part of such a lovely welcoming church as St Mary's.

**Kathy and Ian Perryman**, who were our Mayor and Mayoress, in 1994-5, had their Golden Wedding too. Their daughter, Beverley and family from Holland, daughter Claire and family and son, Alexander joined them for a meal at the Raj on

## Family News (continued)

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Good Friday. The next day 50 family and friends celebrated at the Golf Club. Congratulations from us!

**Patricia and Andrew Cady** have great pleasure in announcing the birth of their first grandchild, Sebastian Thomas Andrew Griffiths born 24th April to Jessica Cady and Dean Griffiths at Great Western Hospital, Swindon. Andrew is well known as having run Bell's Garage for many years.

**Mary Leader** died recently, age 81. She grew up in Swindon and came to Marlborough in the 1950's. She did her nursing training and became a Staff Nurse at Savernake hospital and fostered children before having her sons, Mark and Paul. For 10 years before retirement she worked at Aldbourne Nursing Home. Her hobby was upholstery. She was a driver for LINK and she enjoyed short break holidays.

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## Marlborough Medical Practice Update

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Did you know...

### Same Day Appointments:

If you have an urgent clinical problem, the practice will always see you on the same day. In fact, during March 2015, **1456** patients had a same day **phone** consultation and **697** patients had a same day **face-to-face** consultation with a clinician about an urgent health matter.

To access same day care, please phone the practice and speak to a member of the reception team who will add your name and a description of your symptoms to our triage list. You will be offered a call back from our triage team, made up of experienced nurses and our GPs. Please ensure you provide our clinicians with details of your concern so they can establish if you need to be seen.

Please also help us to contact you by providing the reception team with the most reliable telephone number on which you can be contacted. We appreciate that this may be a mobile number, but if possible a landline is best.

There is no advantage in coming to the surgery instead of telephoning. If you do come to the surgery, our receptionists will advise you to leave a suitable number where we can contact you and ask you to return home. So just call us, that way we can deal effectively with your specific needs.



## Clergy Letter: Rachel Rosedale

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Last month I attended a symposium held in Marlborough entitled **Awakening the Dreamer**. It made a deep impression on us all. We were shown many video clips from around the world of our fellow human beings. The simple message of the symposium was given by some Amazonians talking to some Canadians who were asking if they needed their help. The Amazonians replied that they wanted the Canadians to go back to their country and tell their citizens how their “northern” lifestyle was impacting on their lives. Thousands of acres of rainforest have been plundered to fulfil the need of the north.

Before the industrial revolution we were all living more in harmony with nature. From then on the population and demands of the industrial revolution and people took off exponentially; at the same rate at which the population began to rise so did the use of energy, natural resources, food etc. and instead of living in harmony with the natural world, we in the industrialised regions began to plunder its resources and lose the crucial balance.

In the past we have taken the wealth of mineral and food resources for granted and we are now threatened with the very real situation that they will run out. We have kidded ourselves that that technology will develop at a rate that will solve the problem. It can't.

Having shared our very large concerns and anxieties we were encouraged to think about ways in which we can contribute to creating a fairer and more collaborative world. It's we world citizens, you and me, who must address the changes required and not leave it to others. We need to be less acquisitive, less greedy, slow down and find alternative paradigms to the continued growth economies we currently have.

As thinking species surely the time has come for us to accept our responsibilities and each of us needs to find a way of changing our life style, in however small a way, to be the change. To save the planet, if not for ourselves, then for future generations. The earth is not ours to consume. We must be custodians of it and put back what we take out.

As Quakers we are advised to reflect as follows:

We do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. Show a loving consideration for all creatures, and seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world. Work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is used responsibly, with reverence for life. Rejoice in the splendour of God's continuing creation. (Advices and Queries No 42)

# News from the Churches for June

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## Regular Events

Women's Fellowship (2.45pm Christchurch)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> June            Revd Bob Toogood  
9<sup>th</sup> June            Revd Heather Cooper; Bring and Buy  
16<sup>th</sup> June          Rosie Beal  
23<sup>rd</sup> June          Members' meeting  
30<sup>th</sup> June          AGM

All welcome.



**The Filling Station** is a national network of Christians meeting informally for worship, teaching and friendship. The next meeting is on Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup> at St Peter's School, Marlborough, with Philip Bromiley, Rector of The Oldbury Benefice, which lies west of Marlborough. He is also Associate Missioner for Fresh Expressions and is committed to working for renewal through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Philip is a 'regular' at Marlborough Filling Station; he never fails to speak from a heart of deep compassion and humility.



**Hangout @ Devotion** continues to meet through June.

**Hangout @ Devotion**

More details of activities on the website [www.devotion-marlborough.co.uk](http://www.devotion-marlborough.co.uk). Please continue to pray for the work of Devotion with young people.

The **Fraternal** meet on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Please contact Alison Selby ([alison@crossmead.net](mailto:alison@crossmead.net)) if there are any comments you would like discussed.



## Special Events

**June Evensong, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June** - St George's Church Preshute invite you to a Summer Evensong at 6.00pm.

**Pub Theology** will be at The Green Dragon on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June from 8.00pm – all welcome to join in open discussion over a drink. For further information please contact Janneke: 515970.

## News from the Churches (continued)

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**Janneke Blokland's Ordination Date.** Janneke will be ordained as a priest on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June at Salisbury Cathedral (4.30pm.)

She will preside for the first time at a Team Service starting at the later time of 10.30am on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June in St Mary's. The guest preacher will be the Bishop of Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the Rt Revd Martin Seeley. To celebrate her ordination, Janneke would like to invite you to join her afterwards, in the lovely setting at St George's, Preshute, from 12noon for a BBQ. Sign up lists for food contributions will be available in St Mary's and St George's.



**The Mustard Seed book group** will be meeting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 7.30pm at Mustard Seed to meet Anna Thayer and to discuss her book "The Traitor's Heir" - an epic and mystical tale and the first part of an exciting trilogy.

**Flower Arrangers Demonstration** Interested in flower arranging? Please join us at a free floristry demonstration by Cheryl Elias at St George's Church, Preshute on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm. Refreshments and raffle available. For more details contact Gillian Watson : 512055.

**St John the Baptist Patronal Service** The Bishop of Ramsbury, The Rt Revd Edward Condry will be leading the Patronal Service Celebrations at St John the Baptist, Minal on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 9.30am. All warmly welcome.

**MAPAG**, the Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group: at the next meeting on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm, at Friends' House, we will be collating information on provision for homeless people in our area and considering holiday support for families with children on free school meals. All are welcome.

Older readers will remember **Revd Hubert Pitts**, Methodist minister here in the 70s and missionary in India, who died on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 in The Grange Nursing Home in Tewkesbury. Eileen Gilbert writes "He was a founder member of the commencement of the Ecumenical Partnership and coined the phrase 'to share what we can and respect what we can't'".

### **A bit more news from Nepal.**

Anandaban Hospital (<http://www.tlmnepal.org/>) was not badly affected by the recent earthquake as it is built with special concrete supports to withstand tremors, but cracks have appeared and will need repair; they lost several staff houses in the grounds, but there was no loss of life. The road was blocked by falls of rock.

Psalm 46 v 2 'Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall...'

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# **Marlborough Churches Together**

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## **Usual Sunday service times**

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

9.00am Worship

10.30am Morning Service with Junior Church & 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 (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)

10.00am All Age Worship (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)

Parish Communion (other Sundays)

### **St John the Baptist, Minal (C of E)**

8.00am Holy Communion BCP (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)

9.30am Parish Communion (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)

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

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

10.00am All Age Worship (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)

Parish Communion, Junior Church & crèche on all other Sundays

5.30pm Informal service (except on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 George's**

Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer : 4.30pm Wednesday.

### **St Thomas More**

Mass: 10.00am Mon, Tues, Wed & Sat

Holy Days: 10.00am

## Marlborough Church Contacts

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

**The Revd Dr Janneke Blokland**  
515970; jblokland@gmail.com  
*Team Curate, Marlborough Anglican Team*

**The Revd Dr David Campbell**  
892209; dc@marlboroughcollege.org  
*Chaplain, Marlborough College*

**The Revd Heather Cooper** 512457  
heather.cooper432@btinternet.com  
*Minister, Christchurch, Methodist*

**The Revd Miri Keen** 513408  
miri.marlbroughteam@gmail.com  
*Team Vicar, Marlborough Anglican Team*

**The Revd Dr David Maurice** 514119  
david\_maurice2000@yahoo.com  
*Associate Minister, Anglican Team*

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

**The Revd Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy** 514357  
andrewsk1959@btinternet.com  
*Team Rector, Marlborough Anglican Team*

~~~~~  
Alison Selby 511128
alison@crossmead.net
Crossmead, Kingsbury Street, SN8 1HU
Secretary, Marlborough Churches Together

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

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



**Marlborough and Pewsey Deaneries are offering
The Aldhelm Certificate 2015**

This is a course especially developed for Salisbury Diocese and consists of three terms: Faith in Christ, Faith in a Scientific World, and Faith at Work. Each term consists of 10 modules and at the end people who would like to write an essay about one of the topics which they explored can obtain the Aldhelm Certificate.

Term 2 will take place in Marlborough on Wednesday evenings after Easter, and **Term 3** sessions will be held in Pewsey. The cost of the course materials is £15 per term. For more information please contact Revd Janneke Blokland email: jblokland@gmail.com

From the Registers

Baptisms:

19 Apr – Millie Rose Winfield at St John the Baptist
Adam John Dewi Houchin at St George's
George Douglas Johnson and Frederick William Johnson at St Mary's
A Thanksgiving Service for Elsie Frances Paterson at St Mary's

Weddings:

18 Apr – Claire Aitkenhead and Jason Roberts at St George's

Departed:

4 Apr – Mary Latimer Leader (81) of 37 Rogers Meadow, Marlborough
St George's and Marlborough Cemetery

11 Apr – Marjorie Mary Tinsley (93) of Coombe End Court, Marlborough
Kingsdown Crematorium

Brilliant Young Pianist from Switzerland

Date: Sunday 14th June at 7.30pm

Venue: St Peter's Church Marlborough

The final recital in our third series of Brilliant Young Pianists' concerts features the multiple award-winning Swiss pianist, Jean-Selim Abdelmoula, who will be playing music by Beethoven, Janacek and Chopin. Tickets are £10 (£8 for members of St Peter's Trust and Marlborough Brandt Group) and are available on the door or in advance from The White Horse Bookshop and Sound Knowledge.

Tower and Town staff

Chairman	John Osborne, 36 St Martins, SN8 1AS jeo66@btinternet.com	514364
Vice Chairman (Operations)	Andrew Unwin, Sarsen House, The Street, All Cannings Devizes, SN10 3PA afunwin@yahoo.co.uk	01380 860120
Advertising	Andrew Unwin (as above)	
Distribution	Rosemary Spiller, 2 Shakespeare Drive SN8 1UF	512338
Subscriptions	Norma Dobie, 112a Five Stiles Road, SN8 4BG	513461
Treasurer	Peter Astle, 4 Laurel Drive, SN8 2SH	515395

Production Teams

July

Editor	Sara Holden	saraholden22@hotmail.com	515370
Compiler	Peter Noble	peter@kingsburysquare.org.uk	519034

August

Editor	Ilse Nikolsky	ilsenikolsky@hotmail.com	513269
Compiler	Milly Goddard	millygoddard@me.com	513913

Every Month

<i>What's On</i>	Karen Osborne: 36 St Martins, SN8 1AS	karenos64@btinternet.com	514364
<i>News from the Churches</i>	Alison Selby Crossmead, Kingsbury St SN8 1HU	alison@crossmead.net	511128
<i>Family News</i>	Audrey Peck 7 Castle Court, Marlborough SN8 1XG	rogandaud@aol.com	289065

Contributions and comments from readers are always welcome. Please send articles and letters to the Editor; other notices or announcements to the Compiler. All items for inclusion in next month's *Tower and Town* must be submitted by **Tuesday 9 June**.

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