
TOWER AND TOWN



The Bath Road

JUNE 2016 50P

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TOWER_{AND}TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 660 JUNE 2016



The Bath Road

Marlborough is blessed to stand on one of the country's iconic roads - the Great Road to Bath. As described later it only achieved this status in the eighteenth century, but having done so it was progressively improved until it was one of the finest in the nation carrying particularly glamorous coaching traffic. It was also the road which saw the first trials of mail coaches in place of the postboys and was the proving ground for the early bicycle makers, and many of their athletic customers.

But the railways put an end to all this - except for the cycling at the end of the nineteenth century. Through traffic pretty much disappeared until motor cars became more common in the 1920s and 30s. But even this was mostly summer traffic until car heaters became standard fittings in the 1960s. But as the A4 (as it had been numbered in the 1920s) became increasingly important the Ministry of Transport contemplated pulling down St Peter's church to speed traffic through the High Street. The Ministry also explored evicting the Mop Fairs from the High Street to stop its twice a year closure. Fortunately these plans came to nothing until the M4 was built, by which time the need had gone away.

So we are left with a road with a rich history and many fine coaching inns passing through the town.

Alexander Kirk-Wilson, Editor

Front cover: Alexander Kirk-Wilson

The Origins of the Great Bath Road

The Great Road to Bath and Bristol only came to prominence late - after the Great North Road and the Dover Road. This is evidenced by the north-south alignment of the High Streets in Newbury and Hungerford; communication between the Oxford colleges and Southampton and the south coast was more important. The Bath Road only became an important highway as Bath became a fashionable place of resort in the eighteenth century.

Before that time there was of course an east-west road, principally to connect London and Bristol, but it was less a defined single route than a braid of broadly parallel ways, so the one chosen for any particular journey would depend on the time of year, the conditions and the preferences of the guides. Locally the way west from Marlborough could be in the Kennet valley where the A4 still runs, or in wet or wintery weather it could be the less muddy route over the downs (close to where Manton stables are now) and down the escarpment to Avebury. Similarly travellers from Hungerford could come through the wet muddy forest (where the A4 still runs), or along the Kennet valley through Ramsbury and Axford, or branch off to the north close to the TWU pumping station at Axford to enter Marlborough from Rabley Wood. The simplified modern route derives from which ways became turn-pikes.

Once the turnpike trustees bedded in and learned by experience how to build weatherproof roads, there were a succession of road improvements. The greatest of these in the town was the construction of the New Road from the High Street London bound to the bridge over the Kennet. Hitherto traffic had wriggled down the Parade or through Oxford Street to the Green.

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Turnpikes & the Great Bath Road

The origins of the turnpike system are well known. By the end of the seventeenth century the condition of the roads had become so dreadful that it was clear something had to be done. In 1688 it took Samuel Pepys in a coach three days to travel from Bath to London. Making the parishes through which major routes passed responsible for their maintenance was clearly failing. The forced labour of unskilled villagers on work from which they derived no benefit was making conditions worse. So in the early eighteenth century the first trusts were set up to improve the worst sections of road - typically the steep hills. Local worthies were the trustees and they employed gatekeepers ('pikies') to collect tolls from the road users and carry out the upkeep. Hopefully the repairs could be done and the trusts wound up; but sadly this proved impossible as upkeep was an endless task.

On our road this first happened in 1706 on Kingsdown Hill - now a quiet residential road leading down from Batheaston eastwards towards the village of Gas-

tard a little to the south of the present A4. Queen Anne had returned from a visit to the not-at-all fashionable city of Bath and her slow, heavy coach stuck dangerously on the hill only by good fortune avoiding an accident. In the following decades other particularly bad stretches of road



were taken in hand by new trusts. By about 1760 the whole route we would recognise as the A4 had been turnpiked, though improvements continued to be made until the 1840s.

The turnpikes and the pikies were always unpopular among local people who had to pay to use roads that had previously been free. The low road to Hungerford through Minal and Ramsbury still had its devotees after the forest road through Savernake - the present A4 - was turnpiked and improved in 1726.

But as the railway network spread in the mid-nineteenth century the turnpike trusts fell off a financial cliff as all their through traffic disappeared and most trusts became insolvent. Under the Local Government Act of 1888 their assets and responsibilities were passed to the county councils, but disappointingly there was no requirement for any of their books and ledgers to be preserved, so almost all were destroyed. Piecing together their work is a matter of detection and inference.

Fast Coaching on the Great Bath Road

Fast coaches were the glamorous poster boys of the Bath Road, and mail coaches in particular took precedence over all other traffic. And while 10mph for a day coach in the 1830s seems to us painfully slow, they had halved journey times over the preceding 50 years - a similar effect to that achieved by motorways in our own time.

The period of fast coaching was very short. Coaches in Queen Anne's time were heavy (think of the Lord Mayor of London's coach in his annual show) and moved at a stately walking pace, but as the eighteenth century progressed and more stretches of the roads were turnpiked and improved, speeds went up. By 1788 it became quicker to send the mails from Bath to London by coach than by a post boy on a horse. And the road improvements continued and speeds quickened, but within 50 years it had all stopped, killed by the trunk railways.

But glamorous they were while they lasted; the day coaches, colourful and individually named and with outside seats on the roof for the hardy and brave (accidents were frequent) tend to feature on snowy Christmas cards: the mail coaches, in maroon and black, leaving London around 8pm and trotting through the night to get to Bath for breakfast time: the little post chaises rented from inn to inn and often painted yellow ('yellow perils') for individual travellers: and the private coaches of the very wealthy.



Coach travel was very expensive, mostly because it needed a lot of horses. The coaches were hauled by a team of 4, which could only work one 10 to 20 mile stage per day. Furthermore they could not work every day but needed a day off each

week. The result was that, as a rule of thumb, to take a coach 100 miles needed 100 horses. As an illustration when Parson Woodford every second year used to travel from Norwich to his sisters near Stourhead in the 1780s, the journey cost him about £10, the equivalent of many months wages for a working man. The railways prospered so quickly because they were so much cheaper, as well as faster, safer and more comfortable.

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This is the striking new logo for Marlborough's new School, Marlborough St. Mary's Primary School which will come into being on 1st September 2016.

For a year the school will operate on two sites, the current St Mary's and the current St Peter's, but with a single Head, a single Governing Body and a new uniform.

The Head of the new school will be Mrs Anne Schwodler, currently Head of St Mary's Infant School. At the end of this transitional school year, it is expected that the new building will be ready to house the whole school in its new site by September 2017.

Whilst the amalgamation of the two schools does mark the end of an era, there is strong recognition that a single school will be for the benefit of pupils and all those who have worked so hard to make this hap-



**MARLBOROUGH
ST MARY'S**
PRIMARY SCHOOL

An evening with Frederic Chopin

Warren Mailley-Smith

will give a recital of Chopin's music for piano

at St Peter's Church, Sunday 19th June at 7pm

Introduced by Robin Nelson, former Director of Music at Marlborough College



Tickets £10 from White Horse Bookshop, Sound Knowledge or on the door

10th anniversary year

Marlborough Concert Orchestra

Saturday 18 June 2016 7.30pm St Mary's Church

Conductor Roselise Gentile Leader Edward Judge

Rossini Overture from Il Signor Bruschino
Beethoven Symphony No 2

Tchaikovsky Marche Slave

Delibes Le Roi S'Amuse

Shostakovich Tahiti Trot

Rimsky-Korsakov Sinfonietta on Russian Themes

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You and your prostate: John Grundy

If you are male, are you one of the 54%? That's the percentage of men who were shown by a recent survey (1) not to know where their prostate gland is. I certainly lived till my 64th year in ignorance of the prostate, what it did for me, and why it is important to check on its health. Many men, like me, only realise they have a prostate when it starts to go wrong. Now I'm Chairman of Oxfordshire Prostate Cancer Support Group, and I'd like to explain the work that such groups do.

There are approximately 80 support groups working with men and their families in the UK, but not yet in Wiltshire. The nearest to Marlborough are in Reading, the Cotswolds and Bristol – see <http://www.tackleprostate.org/>, Tackle, the Federation of Prostate Cancer Support Groups. Support groups have two main aims: to support men who have been diagnosed with or treated for prostate cancer, and to spread awareness so that more men get checked. In Oxfordshire we run group meetings on topics related to prostate cancer and we hold well supported social events – an annual cruise on the Thames with cream tea and jazz band is a highlight. The most frequent enquiries to our support line come from men who have to decide between a choice of treatments. We are able to put them in touch with men who have been through the various treatments and can share their experiences reassuringly.

It's easy to produce scary headlines: '1 in 8 men will develop prostate cancer', 'Prostate cancer is the biggest killer among male cancers'. But the fact is that it's a slow growing cancer and can be treated effectively if caught early enough. Men over 50, and those in the two groups who are at higher risk of prostate cancer (men with a family history of prostate cancer and Black men) should consider having a discussion with their GP, who may well recommend a 'PSA test', that is, a simple blood test to measure the level of prostate specific antigen.

Can there be symptoms? Sometimes urinary problems can be a clue, but many men such as myself had no recognisable symptoms and count our blessings that a two-minute blood test was enough to show that action was needed. Six years later I am leading an active life with a job that involves travelling the world. Thank goodness my wife said 'Go and get checked.'

John Grundy, Marlborough College 1959-1964, Chairman, Oxfordshire Prostate Cancer Support Group, www.opcsg.org

(1) *Prostate Cancer UK, March 2016, <http://prostatecanceruk.org/about-us/news-and-views/2016/4/almost-1-in-5-men-lethally-ignorant-they-even-have-a-prostate-new-survey-finds>.*

St Mary's Garden Trust: David Chandler

The Trust has been in existence for over fifty years and is administered by five trustees, appointed by the PCC, with the Rector of St Mary's always the chairman.

The Trust has investments which give an annual income that is distributed as grants. This is to benefit children up to the age of about eleven and over the past twenty years grants have gone to St Mary's Infant School, Preshute Primary School, St Peter's Junior School, Manton Playgroup, St Mary's Playgroup and occasionally other youth groups such as The Brownies.

Over the last twenty years a total of almost fifty thousand pounds has been distributed.

Why is "Garden" in the Trust's title?

It is because the Trust originally owned a garden opposite the old St Mary's school in Herd Street. The school itself only had a very small playground so the garden allowed a safe recreational area for the children. This garden on the west side of Herd Street had previously been the garden of Number One, The Green. Most Marlburians over the age of fifty who went to St Mary's will have happy memories of the garden (including the author).

Number One, The Green was the home of Herbert Leaf who came to teach at Marlborough College in 1877, retiring in 1907. He was Mayor of Marlborough in 1906 and was a generous benefactor to the College and Town in all sorts of ways. He preferred anonymity with his many donations but his name is remembered in Leaf Close off Blowhorn Street and in Leaf Block at the College. On his death in 1936 his house was acquired by the Borough Council and became the offices of the council and the large garden was given to St Mary's for the benefit of the school.

In 1974, the new St Mary's school opened in Van Diemens and the garden was now too far away for it to be of continued benefit to the children. This is why the trustees of the time decided to sell the land at full market value and invest the proceeds so that an income could continue to bring benefits to the children of Marlborough.

It is good to think of the generous gifts of Herbert Leaf still being of benefit to Marlborough's children.

Gospel Singing Workshop with Vocalist Jo Sercombe Saturday 2 July, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm, St Mary's Church

This promises to be a fun morning and singers of all abilities are welcome to join us – no need to be able to read music.

Jo is a well-known motivational singer specialising in community music projects, vocal practice and gospel music.

She believes that singing can be energising for people of all ages in many different environments.

Cost:

£10 to include coffee and homemade cake, £5 for accompanied children 10 – 16 years

Tickets can be obtained from Sound Knowledge.

Author talk at The White Horse Bookshop

Friday 24th June at 7pm

The Secret Life of The Georgian Garden: Beautiful Objects and Agreeable Retreats

by Kate Felus

Join Kate Felus, garden historian and historic landscape consultant, as she reveals the previously untold secrets of the daily life of the Georgian garden. Georgian landscape gardens are among the most visited and enjoyed of the UK's historical treasures. The Georgian garden has also been hailed as the greatest British contribution to European Art. But scratch below the surface and history reveals these gardens were a lot less serene and, in places, a great deal more scandalous.

2016 is the tercentenary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, arguably Britain's greatest ever landscape gardener, and the book is uniquely positioned to put Brown's work in its social context.

Marlborough Anglican Team will be holding an

Alpha Course

in St Mary's Church Hall

starting with an evening meal on Wednesday 14th September at 7pm

An opportunity to explore questions of life, faith and God

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Fauré Requiem at the College: Philip Dukes

July 1, 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme. On that fateful day in 1916, alongside many others, 20 Old Marlburians lost their lives, and to commemorate them the College will give a devotional performance of Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* in the College Chapel. The event takes place on Thursday 30 June at 7.30pm, the eve of the 100th anniversary, and promises to be a poignant and moving occasion.

Arguably one of the finest requiems ever written, each of the movements will be interspersed with specially selected readings, which include diary notes of old Marlburians and poetry by Siegfried Sassoon and Owen Sheers amongst others. In the case of Sassoon, these are particularly significant given that he remains one of the most famous of war poets as well as being an Old Marlburian.

The College's Chapel Choir will be augmented by a number of special musical guests, some of whom are Old Marlburians themselves, and will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra made up of leading College music scholars and staff, in the version by eminent composer John Rutter. The soloists are Helena Mackie, soprano, (former chorister at Salisbury Cathedral) and Christopher Sheldrake, bass, (a member of Wells Cathedral Vicars Choral and the Prince's Consort). Marlborough College Choral Society director Alex Hodgkinson will be the organist, and the performance will be conducted by Marlborough College's Artistic Director, Philip Dukes.

Admission to this event is free, but tickets are required and early booking is advised. Tickets can be obtained by contacting Ellie Adams on eadams@marlboroughcollege.org or by calling 01672 892202.

The College's magnificent chapel should provide an extraordinary setting for such an occasion, offering the audience an opportunity to pause and reflect on the ultimate sacrifice made by so many in the pursuit of liberty and peace.

Philip Dukes
Artistic Director
Marlborough College



Royal Mail & the Great Bath Road

The Royal Mail as the King's messengers goes back to 1516 when Henry VIII established the 'Master of the Posts', renamed the 'Postmaster General' in 1710. Charles I opened it to the public in 1635, payment being by the recipient of the letter. By the eighteenth century it took the form of postboys on horseback carrying mail in satchels to and from London and across country (the 'bye mails'), a little like the later American Pony Express. But the system did not work very well. The riders were inclined to be waylaid and robbed and they were slow and unreliable.

John Palmer was a theatre manager in Bath and Bristol with influential connections to William Pitt. He recognised the shortcomings of the postboy system and the improvements in the stage coach service, and in 1784 got permission to send the Bristol to London mail by coach on a nine day trial. There were many advantages: an armed guard could deter robbery: in case of difficulty with the coach or the team the guard could take the mail on alone with one of the horses, leaving the driver and the passengers to fend for themselves; the coach could carry more mail than a man on a pony. Although the Post Office massively opposed the experiment and filled three volumes with objections, the trial proved a resounding success and was extended. The next year mail coaches were running from London to other destinations.

Initially the mail coaches were very like regular stage coaches, but in the smart Post Office livery of maroon and black and bearing the royal cypher. Quickly the patented mail coach grew distinct and settled to the pattern they kept for 50 years to the end of the mail coach era. Rather like modern contract hired cars and trucks, they remained the property of the builder (Besant and Vidler) who maintained them and charged the Post Office for their use by the mile. The Post Office provided the guard who kept the timesheet and was effectively the vehicle commander. The contractor provided the driver ('the artist'), horsed the coach at the inns along the route, and collected three pence a mile from the Post Office and the fares of the inside passengers. Unlike other stage coaches there were no seats on the roof, though one passenger could sit on the box by the driver.

Royal Mail coaches ran overnight and on a very exacting schedule. They would leave London a little after 6pm and arrive in Bath and Bristol for an early breakfast. The thought of trotting through a dark moonless night with only oil lamps sounds pretty daunting, but I am assured by Mr J A E Richards (past President of the Coaching Society) who has done it, that with a grey as the nearside 'leader' (the front horses of a four horse team; the rear two horses were 'wheelers'), coach lamps

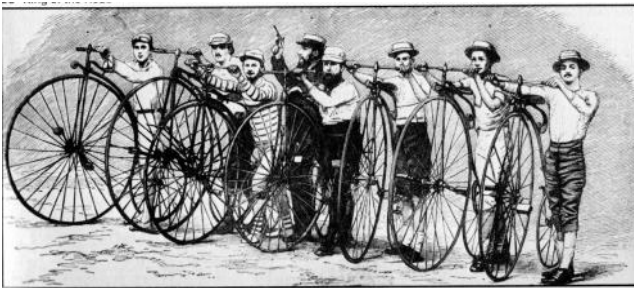
Royal Mail & the Great Bath Road (cont)

and the sparks from the horseshoes on the road metal, it is quite practical.

As the Great Western Railway was built out from London the mail coach would be run up onto a flat bed truck for that bit of the journey, but as soon as the railway reached Bath and Bristol, that was the end of the horse drawn service, and the end of Marlborough's direct connection with the metropolis.

Early Cycling & the Great Bath Road

In the 1870s and 1880s the velocipede - an iron machine with the pedals ('treadles') on the front wheel had morphed into the 'ordinary' or high bicycle (the penny farthing) with a huge front wheel (still carrying the treadles) and a prodigious turn of speed. Because it was ungeared - no chain - the high speed could only be gained by having a wheel as big as the rider could get his leg over. This had the incidental advantage of conferring a much smoother ride over the rough roads of the time (Mr Dunlop's pneumatic tyre had not been invented) but put the intrepid rider at risk of a header over the handlebars if the front wheel hit a pothole or other obstacle. Still the intrepid were plentiful; cyclists liked to show off their athleticism and manufacturers the excellence of their new designs, and the Bath road became a place to do this, as our 1874 picture shows.



The 'ordinary' in turn evolved during the 1880s into the 'safety' bicycle where chain drive to the rear wheel allowed the front and rear wheels to be of equal size, dramatically reducing the risk to the rider of pitching over the handle bars. It also enjoyed the comfort of the pneumatic tyre.

In 1886 the Bath Road Club was founded in Hayes in west London and has fostered social and competitive cycling ever since.

What's on in June

Regular events

Every Tuesday

10-11.30am: Christchurch. Friendship Club.

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

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.

2-3pm: St George's, Preshute (*every 2nd & 4th Wed*) Teddy Prayers & Picnic. A service for tea & cakes for U5's & 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.

June Calendar

Until 25 June (*Thursdays & Fridays*)

10am-5pm Rabley Drawing Centre, Mildenhall. Exhibition by Tom Hammick.

1st (*Wednesday*)

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. WI. Talk by Tay Adams: 'Massage & Reiki'.

Marlborough College: End of Half Term.

Butler Family Farm, Avebury Trusloe. Open Farm Sunday.

6th (*Monday*)

St John's Academy: Start of Term 6.

2pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Embroiderers' Guild. Talk by Jane O'Brien: 'Damask, Colour and Collage'.

8th (*Wednesday*)

12.30pm 40 St Martin's. Widows' Friendship Group. 514030. All welcome.

9th (*Thursday*)

7pm Town Hall. Recorded Live from NT: 'The Audience'. £15 in adv, £17.50 on door.

11th (*Saturday*)

6.30pm The Marquee, Marlborough Rugby Club. 50th Anniversary Summer Ball.

Black Tie. £65pp. info@marfc.co.uk

June Calendar (continued)

13th (*Monday*)

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. Pewsey Vale DFAS. Lecture by Tony Tucker: 'Wren's Towers, Domes and Steeples – Summits of Genius'.

16th (*Thursday*)

7.30pm Town Hall. Film: 'Spectre' (12A). £5 in adv, £6 on door.

18th (*Saturday*)

Ridgeway Farm, Bishopstone Ridgeway. Helen Browning Ridgeway Revenge Half Marathon & 10 K Trail Run. In aid of The National Trail & Swindon Brighter Futures Radiotherapy Appeal.

7.30pm St Mary's Church. 10th Anniversary Concert for Marlborough Concert Orchestra. Tickets £12 including cocktail and cake (£5 students) from Sound Knowledge or on the door.

19th (*Sunday*)

8am Marlborough Common. Car Boot Sale in aid of Wilts Air Ambulance Appeal. Cars £8, Vans £10.

10am-4pm The Merchant's House. Open Gardens around the Town. Tickets from MH.

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Piano Recital: Warren Mailley-Smith. £10, £8 (members of St Peter's Trust & MBG).

20th (*Monday*)

11am Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton. Kennet DFAS. Lecture by Elizabeth Merry: 'An evening with Lord Byron – Monsters, Vampires and the Gothic Imagination'.

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. KV National Trust

Association AGM and Lecture by Kim Sharman: 'Captain Bligh – victim of 18th century spin'.

25th (*Saturday*)

6-8pm St John's Academy. The African Choir. £6, £3 (children).

26th (*Sunday*)

6pm St Peter's Church. Annual Evensong. Preacher: The Revd Ed Probert (Canon Chancellor, Salisbury Cathedral).

27th (*Monday*)

7.30pm Friends' Meeting House, The Parade. Poverty Action Group. All welcome.

30th (*Thursday*)

7.30pm Marlborough College Chapel. Fauré Requiem. MC Chapel Choir, Orchestra & Guests. Admission free. Tickets from eadams@marlboroughcollege.org or 01672 892202

From the Registers

Baptism:

15 May Sebastian Griffiths at St George's, Preshute

Wedding:

29 April Gary Easom and Natalie Meadows at St George's, Preshute

Departed:

9 April Derek Charles Guy (86) of Hunters Moon, Bath Road,
Marlborough

St George's and West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington

16 April William 'Bill' Joseph Harris (89) of 51 George Lane, Marlborough
St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery

23 April Stanley Ernest Cook (90) of 3 Meadow View, Pewsey
St George's and Churchyard

4 May Annetta Jeanne Morris (91) of Coombe End Court, Marlborough
St Mary's and West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington

Family News compiled by Audrey Peck

Congratulations to **Micky and Charles Graham** on another grandchild, Georgina, born on March 21st, first child of Nick and Nichola. They live near Oxford where Nick is a teacher. It seems like only yesterday that Nick and his brother, Tom, were making slides and swinging on tree ropes over the river near the cycle track at Elcot Lane.

Delphine Odey died on March 23rd. She came here aged nine and went to Marlborough schools. Her first job was book keeping at North Farm, West Overton, for Frank Swanton just after the war. She married local builder, Frank Odey, and had two daughters Sally and Janet. She had three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She enjoyed knitting and reading but her main interest was the NSPCC, having been on that committee and secretary for many years. Our sympathy to all the family.

Derek Guy, who died recently, was born in 1929 and lived in Ashted Surrey. In 1947 he joined the RAF during National Service and became a Parachute Training Instructor and took part in the Berlin Air Lift. Later he joined Lambretta as Company Secretary, and formed the British Lambretta Owners' Club. In 1963 Derek went to work in the Public Relations Department of Castrol. When Burma took over in 1973 the head office relocated to Swindon. Derek and Iris and their children, Amanda and Mark, moved to Marlborough. He enjoyed a full and happy retirement of 30 years with Iris. He is greatly missed. Our sympathy, and thanks for this contribution, to Iris.

Audrey Hopwood grew up in the Birmingham area. A vivacious, charming teenager, she met Alf at a dance. They married and lived in Wrexham and she worked as a legal secretary. Alf's work took him to Swindon where Kay and Jenny were born. After some years in Ickenham, West London, they retired to Castle Court in 2007. Sadly Audrey's many interests, her church, amateur dramatics, walking and camping were curtailed by the onset of Alzheimer's. Alf cared for her until 2015. She died in Marlborough Lodge. Family and friends, including her brother, Keith, gave thanks for her life full of smiles at St. George's Church on March 30th. Alf's friends greatly admired his devotion in difficult times.

Celebration of Queen & Community

Marlborough Churches Together will be joining with the Town Council to hold a special Civic Service on Sunday, 12th June to celebrate our Queen's 90th Birthday. It will be a time for thanksgiving to bring the whole community together and a chance to look back at the parish over the last 90 years - Marlborough's spiritual, civic and community life.

In the lead up to this event, we would like to hear from members of the community who, like the Queen, were born in 1926 or even share the same birthday. We would also like to stage a small exhibition of photographs from 1926 and other memories of Marlborough from that decade. It'll also be a chance to reflect on how our town has changed over those 90 years – a then and now.

Following the service, the Town Mayor will invite the congregation to the Town Hall for refreshments and a chance to wish Her Majesty the Queen a very happy birthday.

Our outgoing Town Mayor said: “This is a unique opportunity to look back at a special snapshot in time and reflect on how our town and its communities have changed in the 90 years since the Queen was born. We are hoping that as many as possible will share their memories with us from 1926 and the intervening decades and that others can show us just how good it is to be in Marlborough today. Everyone is warmly invited to the service and then to come along to the Town Hall afterwards.”

The Service will be held at St Mary's Church, Marlborough at 10am on Sunday, 12th June 2016. All those in the congregation are invited back to the Town Hall for some royal refreshments!

For more information and if you have any photographs or memories you feel could be included in our exhibition, please contact Marlborough Anglican Team at The Team Office, Church Cottage, Silverless Street, Marlborough, SN8 1JQ.

Tel: 01672 512357 Email: marlb.anglicanteam@tiscali.co.uk, Web:

www.marlboroughanglicanteam.org.uk or Marlborough Town Council, 5, High Street, Marlborough, SN8 1AA Tel: 01672 512487 Email: enquiries@marlborough-tc.gov.uk Web: www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk



Clergy Letter: Fr John Blacker

The Football and Rugby seasons have ended, Cricket, Tennis and the Olympic Games dominate and it is said that sport takes up more time, money and energy than most religious practice does. But it does bring people together in a sense of shared enjoyment, belief and commitment. We may favour sports that highlight individual prowess or those that are team games. Team games carry the extra challenge of a group having to work together to achieve their aim. When this does not work, the result can be mutual blame and a desire to find a scapegoat. When it does work, the shared celebrations add an extra expression to what has been a remarkable display of how human beings can cooperate in often intricate and exceptionally demanding efforts.

For those who are turned off by any sport, the same collaboration can be heard in any music group. Less observed by the public are the engineers who create the complex machinery, buildings and services we take for granted as part of our modern world. A lot of thought and ingenuity goes into the processes that help us work with one another rather than at loggerheads. The art of good management is to create the environment and atmosphere where the skills of all are recognised and used. Although this can be tough and demanding, what is successful does not just happen because we hope it will.

As Christians we are asked to do the same. Our ability to be one and to live, believe and work together is ultimately the gift of God's own love living within us. It will always be a challenge. We will try shortcuts, make assumptions, identify God's will too quickly with our own. We will be afraid. But like the sunflower constantly turning its face towards the sun, so we are to turn again and again to God, that it may be God's love that truly enlightens and guides us.

Father John Blacker
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Marlborough Medical Practice: Patient Participation Group (PPG) Update

Carers Week will be taking place from **6 – 12 June 2016**. This is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges that Carers face and recognise the contribution they make.

Marlborough Medical Practice has achieved the Gold Plus Award for two years running in recognition of the service we provide for our patients who are Carers.

If you believe you are a Carer, please let the practice know so that you can receive any additional support you may require. Any patient who is a Carer can register on the practice's 'Carer's Register' by collecting a pack from Reception and returning completed the form it contains.

More information is available on the practice website, along with an electronic version of our Carers registration form:

<http://www.marlboroughdoctors.org.uk/info.aspx?p=3>

Wiltshire Carers can be contacted by phone on 0800 181 4118, or through their website: <http://www.carersinwiltshire.co.uk/>.

Marlborough Churches Together

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

Regular Sunday Service times

Christchurch, New Road (Methodist)

- 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 Informal Prayer: 8.00 am Wednesday
Holy Communion: 10.30 am Wednesday

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

St George's Informal Prayer: 8.00 am Wednesday
Teddy Prayers & Picnic: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 2-3pm
Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer: 4.30pm Weds.

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NEWS from the Churches

Sunday Lunch Club on 12th June

The lunch will begin at 12.15pm following the 10.00am Civic Service at St Mary's and the birthday celebration toast at the Town Hall. As always, please reserve your places by noon on Friday 10th June through the Christchurch office. (513701) All welcome. It was good to see some new faces, please do come again and bring your friends!



Filling Station meets on **Wednesday, 22nd June** at St Peter's School from 7.30—9.30pm. The speaker is Helen Azer, from 'Heartcry for Change', an international missionary organisation. Helen spoke powerfully when she visited us a year or so ago.

There are no Filling Station meetings scheduled for July or August but we will meet again in September.



Women's Fellowship meets at 2.45pm in Christchurch.

June 7th Alison Harris (African Artefacts)

June 14th Rosie Beal

June 21st TBA

June 28th Eric Gilbert (Blue Plaques in Marlborough) an audio-visual presentation.

July 5th A.G.M.

July 12th Social



Marlborough Churches Together

To celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, we will be joining with the Town Council to hold a special Civic Service at St Mary's on Sunday, 12th June at 10am. *(See page 19 for more on this theme).*

The Fraternal meet on **Wednesday 1st June** and the **Annual General Meeting** is on **Wednesday 6th July**. All are welcome to the AGM. The Annual report will be available in the churches by the end of June – or you can be e-mailed a copy by contacting Alison Selby.



Marlborough Churches Together is looking for a new secretary from July. For more information about the role or to volunteer, please speak to one of the clergy.

NEWS from the Churches (continued)

Pub Theology

On **Wednesday 1st June** we will meet at The Piano Lounge, The Parade, Marlborough at 7.30pm and on **Tuesday 28th June** we are anticipating sunshine and will meet at The Horseshoe Inn, Minal. Please contact Janneke (515970) for more information or if you have a topic you would like to discuss.

St John the Baptist, Minal

Exhibition to celebrate the Bicentenary of the Church Restoration in 1816.

The exhibition is available to view daily until the end of August 2016. You are all welcome to come along and discover more about St John the Baptist Church and its role in Minal life.

On **Sunday 26th June** we will be celebrating the Queen's Birthday and our Patronal Festival from 3.00pm with activities in the churchyard. The special service starts at 4.00pm with Revd Colin Fox preaching and the Bishop of Ramsbury officiating, followed by refreshments. All welcome.

Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG) meets at the Friends Meeting House, The Parade, Marlborough at 7.30pm on **Monday 27th June**.

Lent 2017

After a number of years of Lent talks, we plan to have small Lent groups instead of talks in 2017. Suggestions for topics or offers to host/lead will be welcome - please contact Alison Selby. (511128)



The Heart of Things – the exhibition by Paul Hobbs in May – was enjoyed by those who went to see it. The centrepiece “Holy Ground” was inspirational and challenging.

*An update on Youth Work within the Marlborough Churches
– exciting times!*

Devotion

The youth groups - Hangout@ The Mead (from 6.30 – 9pm on Tuesdays) and Hangout@Devotion (from 7pm -8.30pm at the Wesley Hall on Thursdays) – continue to run through June. More details on the website www.devotion-marlbrough.co.uk.

Hangout@Devotion

Hangout@The Mead

Blayze White

The Anglican team have appointed Blayze White as Youth and Families Worker for the Churches. Blayze will be working across the Anglican Team and in close collaboration with the ecumenical Devotion Youth Project. He will be involved in the work already happening such as the newly set-up youth group Any Time and our work in local schools. In addition to that he will bring his own ideas about what we can do for our children and young people. Currently, Blayze is finishing his degree in Theology at Cliff College, and we hope to welcome him to Marlborough to start work in mid-June. We are very much looking forward to all he will bring to our Church and especially for our young people.

Any Time Youth Group for ages 10 – 14 meet weekly (apart from the first Sunday in the month) at Christchurch at 4.30pm and then join the Informal Service at St Mary's at 5.30pm. More details from Janneke. (515970)

Please continue to pray for the work of Devotion and for Peta and Blayze and the other helpers.

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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 July issue by 7 June please.

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