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Marlborough College Edition

APRIL 2018 50P

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TOWER AND TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES



NUMBER 680 APRIL 2018

The April edition of *Tower and Town* is normally written by a team of pupils from Marlborough College. This year the team is drawn from the College adults.

We begin with a review by Bob Pick of his experience as the first head of Marlborough College Malaysia, setting up and running an entirely new branch of the College in an area of the world where the work ethic is noticeably different and the mix of faiths and ethnicities hugely enriching.

Sean Dempster, recently retired, taught Biology and was always at the heart of the College's involvement with Wiltshire's natural history. He follows a long tradition of such College commitment and has produced for us a bird's eye view of the meticulous recording by students and teachers that went into this.

Andrew Brown reflects on the dynamism of the College's contribution to modern language teaching, moving out from core French and German in the 1960s to include Russian and, later, Spanish, and a couple of decades later Chinese, Japanese and Arabic, driven by the vision of Gerald Groffman. The first-year taster course, where all pupils are introduced to the full range of languages on offer, is an inspiring exercise in horizon-widening.

Andrew Gist describes for us another example of the College striking out along its own path in the shape of its first-year humanities project "Form". In fact this is more of a return to an earlier era: my own first year as a student at the College included just such an arrangement, under the watchful eye of Jake Seamer. There can be few better ways to encourage joined-up learning.

Guy Nobes concludes with a review of some of the exciting university possibilities now open to school leavers, with degrees from Europe, America, Australasia and even Abu Dhabi offering experiences far beyond what my generation dreamed of.

Gabby Venus and Debby Guest continue their regular columns, while David Chandler introduces us to Human Writes. It all adds up to a hearty meal!

Hugh de Saram, Editor

Front Cover: Cowslips

Marlborough College in Wiltshire and Malaysia

Bob Pick

(Bob Pick was the founding Master of Marlborough College Malaysia and continued in this position until retirement in July 2017. He now acts as an Educational Consultant and a tutor at Buckingham University and lives in Marlborough, Wiltshire.)

When I was asked ten years ago to keep an eye on possible overseas development for Marlborough College, I never envisaged that I would be living and working in Malaysia for the last years of my teaching career. By 2009 my watching brief had turned into a full-time job as head of the brand-new Marlborough College Malaysia.

From a starting cohort of 350 pupils entering the College on Monday 27th August 2012, we have grown steadily and now have nearly 900 pupils between the ages of 3 and 18. As yet, we do not have the luxury of waiting lists (and will struggle to do so until the Iskandar region develops more strongly) and therefore remain a recruiting school rather than a selective school.



Marlborough Malaysia nevertheless punches well above its weight academically for the simple reason that the work ethic of the pupil body is much stronger than anything I ever experienced in Wiltshire. There is a genuine thirst for knowledge and an understanding that success in life is not an entitlement. Last summer's results averaged 69% A*/A grades at IGCSE and 35 points in the

International Baccalaureate against a world average of 30 points.

The Asian work ethic, particularly among the Chinese, is well known but I have been pleased to see hard-working western pupils too. Many expatriate families come to Asia for a few years, work phenomenally hard to gain their rewards and, unsurprisingly, expect the same from their children. It is interesting to observe how many of the few underperformers are swept up by the driven approach of the majority.

One challenge which will, I fear, continue is the movement within Common Room. We have been fortunate to attract a good number of applicants for each advertised position but the turnover rate is currently around twice that of the UK school. Whilst renewal can be good and does lead to a younger Common Room, there are moments when too many high quality people move on after two or three years. I would, however, encourage beaks at Marlborough and indeed any teacher reading this article to consider venturing abroad at some point in their career.

My wife, Ali, and I have had our lives enriched by the experience in a way I

could not have believed possible when it was first mooted that we might relocate. Our eyes have been opened by living and working with people from different cultures, beliefs and faiths, and this has asked questions of what we really stand for and what life is about. I could easily have been accused of not looking beyond the gates of the College, certainly not beyond the end of Marlborough High Street, before going to Malaysia. We now have a more balanced, reflective view of society and only regret not taking a leap of faith such as this earlier in our careers. It has been a truly magnificent experience and we feel very privileged to have been given the opportunity.



Natural History at Marlborough College

Sean Dempster

With the exception of the one at Bootham School, York, the Natural History Society at Marlborough College is the oldest of its type. Founded in 1864 by three boys, A.C. Almack, W.W. Dayman and R.T. Isaacson, its activities were recorded in Reports, the compilation of which excused the editors from Latin Prose for the week.

The pages of these Reports, which were published until the 1960s, contain invaluable records of local species of bird, flowers and insects as well as research carried out by students and masters. College boys were systematically weighed and measured, these statistics being passed to the Anthropometrical Society in London.

The founders were keen to show exhibits to the Master – “*on one occasion when the poet Tennyson was a guest, we brought over a nightingale’s nest and a pair of ring-ouzel’s eggs.*”

The Reports give a fascinating insight into the changes in birdlife: Corncrake, Cirl Bunting, Woodlark, Hawfinch and Lesser Redpoll all nested – nowadays the occurrence of any of these species would be the cause of great excitement. On the other hand, species such as Tufted Duck and Great Spotted Woodpecker, which now breed in the College grounds, were absent.

A small museum was established in 1866 but in 1883 this building was replaced by Museum Block which contained magnificent showcases of animals from all over the world.

Continued over the page

Field Days were an important feature of the Society's activities; on Saturdays in the Summer Term large numbers of members repaired to some outlying district to forage.

In 1885, Rev. T.A. Preston, the founder-President left the College. His



PLATE I. The Rev. T. A. Preston, President, 1864-80.

successor, E. Meyrick FRS, was one of the world's leading authorities on microlepidoptera; his British collection of butterflies and moths is housed in the College. Another unique collection is the Wedgwood Herbarium, donated by Mary Wedgwood in memory of her second son, Allen, who was killed at Gallipoli.

In 1933, the Society's base was moved to Mount House where the collections survived intact despite The Military taking over the building, installing a machine gun post and concreting the bow window. Today the collections and Reports are housed in the Science Department and Archives who have catalogued and digitised the Reports.

In 1977, Beverley Heath established a Nature Trail around the College Lakes and Granham Hill. This was extended in 2002 and much of it is accessible to the public. A guide to the trail can be obtained from the College; as one follows the numbered posts one is given an insight into the natural history that has fascinated generations of Marlburians.

Stretching the limits of our world: Modern Languages at the College Andrew Brown

Our view of the world is increasingly coloured by news of security threats and terrorist atrocities, and continuing uncertainties over what our role in Europe will actually feel like next year when we officially leave the EU. Are we engaging confidently with a globalised marketplace, or retreating nervously as we pull up a metaphorical drawbridge over the English Channel?

At the College, the 29 teachers in the Modern Languages Department (full and part-time teachers, language assistants and the languages technician) can feel in the front line helping pupils interpret these questions and find answers that make sense. Languages open minds to new ways and ideas, and encourage engagement with linguistic and cultural difference. Knowledge of foreign languages can transform a teenager's experiences and, who knows?, enhance their professional opportunities.

Continued on page 7

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Continued from page 4

Many pupils quickly pick up an enthusiasm for languages. Within three weeks of arriving at the College in September, the new “Shell” (Year 9s) will have had taster lessons in Chinese, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish, as well as continuing with French, which many started when they were nine or younger. The explosion of language is palpable, and as “¡Hola!”, “Nǐ hǎo!” or “Buon giorno!” ring down the corridors, so the variety and imaginative quality of language learning becomes evident.

In higher years, with the serious business of mastering the passive or the imperfect subjunctive under way (and with Arabic and Japanese available as beginners’ languages too), we introduce exchanges and study visits to add the wings that make the linguist fly. This is the learner liberated: the pupil stepping forward to thank the local *maire* for welcoming us to the town hall in France, or taken by the Chinese host family into Beijing to see the modern 798 Art Zone, or attending school in Luxembourg for five weeks and becoming part of the *lycée*. It’s the icing on the linguist’s cake, the honing of a vital skill, and the foundation for a deeper understanding of the world.

The Cambridge-based philosopher, Ludwig Wittgenstein, said: “The limits of my language mean the limits of my world”. We hope that, as our Upper Sixth (Year 13) Modern Linguists prepare to leave the College in June, they will play their part in ensuring that that metaphorical drawbridge remains firmly down and open to a world without limits.

“Brilliant Young International Musicians in St Peter’s Church”

Sunday 15th April 2018 7.30pm

**Harry Nowakowski Fox (piano) & Alisa
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**Bach (prelude), Schumann (Kreisleriana), Brahms (Cello Sonata), Piazzolla
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Form—A Different Approach Andrew Gist

About ten years ago, the College decided to take a fresh look at the curriculum for its first-year pupils (Year 9), called the Shell. With most pupils having spent the previous two years preparing for common entrance exams at prep school, and with GCSEs and A levels to come, a break was needed from the cycle of learning for examinations. Pupils should have a chance to explore rather than listen, and discover rather than be taught. It was also felt that there was a need to dismantle the often arbitrary distinctions between subjects, particularly in the humanities, and try to encourage pupils to see human experience as a connected whole rather than divided into discrete disciplines called English, history, philosophy etc.

So, after a year of planning, English, history and religious studies were removed from the timetable and one third of the Year 9 curriculum was given over to a different kind of subject called, simply, Form. Pupils were placed in groups of no more than 12, with a Form teacher whom they would get to know extremely well during their first year. This would also have pastoral advantages and help pupils make the jump from a small junior school to large senior school. Covering the combined subject content of those three disciplines also meant that the teacher was necessarily not a specialist in at least two of them, and would therefore be forced to learn the topics alongside the class, rather than teach from the front.

What topics would be explored was left up to the teacher and instead, a list of 15 core skills became the basis for planning each Form's scheme. These included promoting reading, use of the library, and developing literacy and oral skills; engaging pupils with the historical concepts of cause and effect, and change over time; considering current affairs, notions of identity, and getting pupils to reflect on fundamental questions, exploring religious and philosophical ideas and the spiritual dimension to life.

For teachers, this was a challenging prospect. Having got used to being the person in the room who knew the answers, we had to put ourselves back in the position of the pupil. As an English specialist choosing to explore the French Revolution, I had to stand in front of the class and admit that I couldn't teach the topic. 'If we're going to study the French Revolution, what do we need to find out? What are the important things to know about the revolution, and why? Where are we going to find the information, and how will we check that it's reliable?'

Unlike examination subjects, Form is not taught. The teacher devises a scheme covering significant areas of history, religious belief, philosophy, sociology, literature and the arts, and then explores them with the pupils in ways that encourage independent learning, collaboration and discussion. Pupils have to take responsibility for finding and learning information themselves. They teach each

other, debate, argue. They give presentations and write projects; they go on visits and reflect on their responses and experiences. They never ask, 'Is this on the syllabus?' because everything in the area of human experience is potentially of interest and therefore relevant.

During the last four years, every Shell pupil has been paired with one of the 749 Old Marlburians who lost their lives in The Great War and in the week marking the centenary of that young man's death, have researched his life at the College and at war, presented information about him to the year group and planted a cross in his memory as part of the weekly assembly.

In the summer term, the pupils' progress is assessed by an individual creative or research project on a topic of their choosing, accompanied by an oral presentation reflecting on what they have learned from the experience. The year ends with the Form Festival, lasting two days, when pupils are offered a wide choice of artistic, creative and scientific challenges ranging from making a short film to determining whether the spire of the College chapel or the tower of St Peter's is the higher, using only trigonometry.

We feel that the experiences of Form help shape pupils' attitudes to learning and they enter the GCSE years better prepared to approach difficulties by themselves and less reliant on their teacher for every answer. The Form project also provides an early experience of independent research, helping them with the more sophisticated tasks demanded later in their school and university careers. Above all, it is a year of school learning that pupils, almost universally, *enjoy* and which encourages an open-minded, curious and questioning approach that should help them throughout their lives.

MARLBOROUGH AREA POVERTY ACTION GROUP

Inequality Is Making Our Lives Poorer

Martin Wilkinson

Member of the Equality Trust and brother of the author of *The Spirit Level*

MONDAY 30th April 2018

VENUE: St Peter's Church, Marlborough High Street

TIME: 7:30pm (Tea and coffee available from 7pm)

(voluntary collection at end of meeting to cover costs)

Arts Review Gabriella Venus

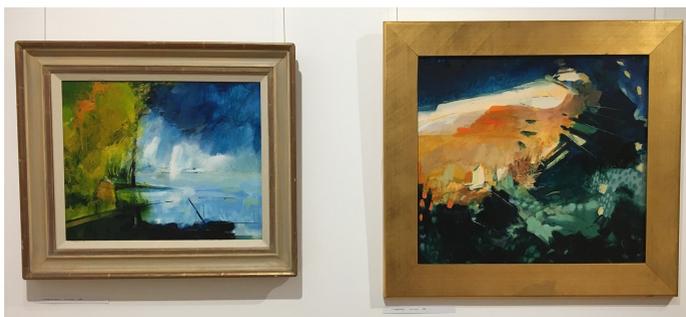
Kick starting 2018 at The White Horse Gallery was *A Sense of Place* by Wiltshire-based artist and Emeritus Professor at Bath School of Art and Design, Ron George.

Having never really commented on the size and scale of artwork that hangs (or stands) in the gallery, I think it worth mentioning that *A Sense of Place* is the first show we've had with canvas paintings up to two metres in size. Describing them as simply 'bold' would be dull, and perhaps a little crude. Opinions aside, *Knight Crossing River* and *Bonjour m'Lord* look magnificent in the gallery.

George describes much of his work as 'traditional subjects set in contemporary contexts using traditional painting techniques'. The subjects he favours, and often returns to, are the reclaimed landscapes of East Anglia and the Severn Estuary. The collection consists of work inspired from different parts of the United Kingdom and abroad, the roots of inspiration deriving from the beauty of the natural world, and man's exploitation of it.

The paintings in this exhibition span the figurative, landscape and abstract. Most of the landscape paintings are oil on canvas, with a selection of portrait paintings produced in the same medium. There are also some pieces of mixed media on panel wood, as well as a couple of working sketchbooks on display. The exhibition demonstrates a 'continuing process of enquiry', prompting the viewer to understand his/her surroundings, and the experiences lived within them.

A Sense of Place is striking. These paintings are challenging, organic, intense and impactful. Something that has particularly stood out for me is the palpable use of colour, and the effect it has on the white walls of the gallery. A space full of colour, they are rich, powerful and commanding.



A Sense of Place was at The White Horse Gallery from 31st January to 3rd March 2018.

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Human Writes David Chandler

Human Writes is a UK-based organisation, founded in 2000, which finds penfriends for prisoners on death row in the USA. In spite of members being against the death penalty, the organisation is not a campaigning group.

There is, happily, a steady decline in the death penalty in the USA, with twenty states having abolished it. However, there are still almost three thousand prisoners on death rows around the United States.

My own penfriend, who I have been writing to for eight years, was on death row for thirteen years. While the death penalty is still on the statute book in his state, and there are about one hundred and fifty prisoners on death row, there have been no executions for almost twenty years.

I visited my penfriend last year and I was pleased to find that he had come off death row (his sentence changed to life imprisonment) and he had moved into the general prison population.

The restrictions for death row prisoners are harsh, with visiting hours limited and a glass screen between the visitor and the prisoner. The death row inmates spend twenty-three out of twenty-four hours in solitary confinement so a move to the general prison population is very welcome.

I visited my penfriend in this more relaxed atmosphere and spent several hours with him on several successive days. I was accompanied by my American grandson, Carlos, who drove me around the neighbourhood in our rented car. He joined in the visits and I was grateful for his wide knowledge of modern film and media which he shared with my penfriend.

I got involved with Human Writes because of my strong opposition to the death penalty. I cannot believe that the USA, one of the friendliest countries in the world, should be there with such savage tyrannies as North Korea, Iran, Saudi Arabia and China (China executes criminals to order, to supply the human organ trade).

I remember how chilled I felt, travelling through the town of Huntsville, Texas, where hundreds of executed criminals are buried. Huntsville is execution capital of the state and most of the local employment is concerned with death.

In all jurisdictions there have been innocent people executed over the years, which should take the death penalty off all statute books: here in the UK, many will recall the execution of Timothy Evans in the 60s for the murder of his wife. The murderer was later found to have been Christie, his serial killer lodger.

From School to University Guy Nobes

Fifteen years ago Facebook did not exist, but today a nation of Facebook users would be the third largest in the world. University education has experienced extraordinary change too, and one shift is also in scale which we may measure in Football World Cup terms: when the last significant competition was hosted and won by England 63 universities were attended by 27,000 students, and by the time of the most recent competition in Brazil the number of universities had nearly tripled to accommodate over 2.3 million students. For comparison, this vast student population equates to all those serving in the British Armed Forces added to the number of employees in the NHS, our largest employer.

Another change is in finance. When I went to university the government paid for tuition and living expenses that included beer. My daughter, currently in her second year, is painfully aware that her opportunity will cost over £50,000 by the time she graduates, and she is not much encouraged by IFS calculations that four out of five of her cohort will never earn enough to finish paying the money back.

A further remarkable development, often linked to finance, has been the interest in universities abroad. Costs in the rest of Europe are far less than here, with tuition ranging from zero in Finland to under £2,000 in anglophile Holland, where BA courses taught in English have doubled from 188 in 2011 to 426 today, and the number of British students has tripled to 2,778 over the same period. With Canada costing about the same as the UK, North America has attracted closer scrutiny too, and even the pricy US universities have a growing appeal to Brits, mostly with their scholarships. 11,489 British students were lured to America in 2016-17, some 30% more than in 2009-10. Further afield, the globally ranked Australasian universities also beckon, along with other exotic possibilities such as that my son is enjoying in Abu Dhabi where he has just begun at the American university of NYU. The scholarship that makes this possible would even cover beer, if it were available. If, despite the threats of Brexit and Trump, overseas growth is maintained then increasing numbers of students and their families will need to keep in touch, and Facebook looks set to expand yet more.

Thank you, Distributors!

The chairman and editorial team of *Tower and Town* would like to acknowledge the selfless and enthusiastic work of the many distributors who deliver the magazine, come rain or shine. Thank you all very much indeed for your irreplaceable commitment and hard work!

What's on in April

Regular events

Every Monday

7.30pm: Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

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

Every Tuesday

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

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

Every Wednesday

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

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

7.30-9pm: St Peter's Church. Marlboro' 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, tea & cakes for U5s & 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*)

2pm Mildenhall Village Hall. Marlborough Floral Club. £30 a year membership. £5 guest. 520129. (*1st Thursday*).

Every Friday

10-12 noon: Christchurch Crush Hall. Food bank is available but there is no coffee morning.

Every 2nd Saturday

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

April calendar

4th (*Wednesday*)

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. WI. Resolution. Discussion with Members. Guests welcome.

5th (*Thursday*) Folk Roots. Concert: Gigspanner Big Band.

£15 from Sound Knowledge.

6th (*Friday*) – 14th

10am-4.30pm St Peter's Church. Annual Exhibition. Admissions free.

8th (*Sunday*)

Barbury Racecourse. Teddington.

9th (*Monday*)

2pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Ploughman's Lunch. Demonstrations etc. Every 2 weeks.

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Peasemore. Pewsey Vale. Lecture by Dr. Soane'. Members' visitors welcome. 683163.

11th (*Wednesday*)

Marlborough College: Staff & Friends.

10am Merchant's House. Georgian Age: The English Heritage (friends of MH) including MH Trust office 511491.

12.30pm 40 St Martins. Winton. Welcome. 514030.

7.30pm Town Hall. Lecture: Intrigue & History in the Streets of St Nicholas Church, Bath. www.ticketsource.co.uk/bath

7.45pm Wesley Hall, Christchurch. Talk by Andy McIndoe: 'Dogs in the Garden'.

12th (*Thursday*)

7.30pm Town Hall. Film: 'The Express' (12A). £5 in advance.

15th (*Sunday*)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Fox (piano) & Alisa Liubarska. St Peter's Trust members welcome.

16th (Monday)

St John's Academy: Start of Term.

11am Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton. The Arts Society: Kennet & Swindon. Lecture by Toby Faber: 'Cremona & The Golden Age of Violin Making'. Guests welcome (£7). 01793 84079

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. KV National Trust Association. Lecture by Andy Thomas: 'Crop Circles'. £3, £4 non members.

19th (Thursday)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. History Society. Lecture by Christopher Moule: 'Castles as they were meant to be seen'. Guests £4, students half price.

20th (Friday)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. The Merchant's House Lecture by Amanda Herries: 'Skin Deep – the Beastly Art of Beauty'. £15 (£12 Friends) from The Merchant's House.

21st (Saturday)

7.30pm St Mary's Church. Marlborough Concert Society Spring Concert. £8, £1 (under 16s) from Sound Knowledge or on the door.

22nd (Sunday)

7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Film: 'Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool'. £6.

26th (Thursday)

7.30pm Town Hall. Film: 'Victoria & Abdul' (PG). £5 in adv, £6 on door.

27th (Friday)

7.30pm St Mary's Church, Gt Bedwyn. Concert: Olga Stezhko (piano). £12 (members £10, children free).8700970.

28th (Saturday)

8pm St Mary's Church Hall. Marlborough Folk Roots. Concert: Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman. £14 from Sound Knowledge.

Marlborough Churches Together

Usual Sunday Service times

Christchurch, New Road (Methodist)

10.30am Morning Service with 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 (3rd Sunday)

Parish Communion (other Sundays)

St John the Baptist, Minal (C of E)

8.00am Holy Communion BCP (2nd Sunday)

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

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

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP on 4th Sunday)

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

5.30pm Informal service except on 1st Sunday.

St Thomas More, George Lane (Roman Catholic)

11.00am Sung Mass (See also below)

Marlborough College Services are shown at the College Chapel

Weekday Services

St Mary's Holy Communion: 10.30am Wednesday

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

St George's Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer: 4.30pm Weds.
Teddy Prayers and Picnic: 2-3pm every 2nd & 4th Wed

FROM THE REGISTERS

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St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery

How well is our economy working for you?

Clare Napier

Thank you, Barney and Rachel Rosedale and everyone who helped organise an exciting 'New Economics' course on successive Tuesday evenings in January and February in the Jubilee Centre. It was based on seven booklets produced by the Quakers, but our course was secular.

Quakerism is more a way of life. Quakers try to minimise their consumption, minimise their carbon and environmental footprint. They respect everyone and everything, whoever and whatever they are. Inequality in our society is a concern; as is understanding that the world's resources are limited.

The first evening was an introductory session led by Rachel. Thereafter each evening, which was led by a different person, our discussion in the whole and smaller groups was based on a booklet. That first evening Rachel asked the thirty of us, who had different political and religious beliefs and perspectives, why we had come and what we were hoping would be the outcome of the course. Some were activists and others, like myself, had come out of interest.

Booklet 1 'What is the economy for?': The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines economy as 'The administration of concerns and resources of a community'. The Quakers' booklets build on ideas in a Quaker document 'Principles for a New Economy', which aims to help explore alternatives to our current economic system. So for them the economy should be the enhancement of all life, human and non-human.

Booklet 2: 'Good work in the new economy'

Booklet 3: 'Energy in the new economy'

Booklet 4: 'Money, Banks and finance in the new economy'

Booklet 5: 'The role of markets in the new economy'

Booklet 6: 'Ownership in the new economy'

Booklet 7: 'Building the new economy' .

Some of the objectives, which came out of our discussions, were (among others):

To find an alternative economy to our present one, which is based on continual growth, expansion, profit.

To achieve less differential between the highest and the lowest earners.

A fair basic standard of living for all, including housing, fuel supply, healthcare. I enjoyed the stimulating and complex concepts and ideas, and the exchange of different views, often different to mine. This for me was sometimes challenging.

There will be ongoing, occasional meetings and anyone is welcome. If you would like to come please contact: Rachel Rosedale, 512205, rachelrosed1@gmail.com.

Clergy Letter Rachel Rosedale

In 2011, Britain Yearly Meeting, the central body of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain, wrote a minute of which the following is an extract:-

“The global economic system is posited on continued expansion and growth, and in its pursuit of growth it is often unjust, violent and destructive. Several Friends have said ‘we must move out of our comfort zone’ and we have heard that rage and passion may also have a place in our responses.

We need to ask the question whether the system is so broken that we must urgently work with others of faith and goodwill to put in its place a different system in which our testimonies can flourish.”

In response to this calling we in Marlborough decided to refurbish our Meeting House in order to make it more energy-efficient and to divest from use of fossil fuels. We also encouraged our members to do the same. Over the last four years we have insulated the walls and ceiling of the meeting room, installed LED lighting and replaced our windows with double glazed ones. We have also changed our energy supplier to Ovo, a company who claim to supply electricity from 100% renewables.

At our March Business Meeting the annual accounts showed a reduction in our energy usage of between £200 and £300. We have ended up with a bright and cheerful building with ever-increasing lettings.

In response to the above minute the Economics, Sustainability and Peace Committee of Britain Yearly Meeting developed a series of booklets which have been used as the basis for the New Economy Reading and discussion group that we have been facilitating at the Jubilee Rooms on Tuesday evenings. Few of us had much prior economic knowledge but we have been introduced to new ideas and shared our thoughts in a deep way. Numbers attending session have varied from 30 to 18. We have been alerted to more positive actions that can be taken to make our world a little more equal and environmentally friendly.

Family News Audrey Peck *(continued on page 20)*

Reverend Howard Gilbert, son of Eileen and Eric, who is a Cirencester vicar and Area Dean of the South Cotswolds, is to be installed as an Honorary Canon in Gloucester Cathedral on Sunday May 13th. Howard attended St.Mary's Infants and St. Peter's Junior Schools and St John's. He was a Curate in Dulwich before moving to Cirencester.

Audrey Brodrick (mother of Michael Reynolds) died peacefully on 18th January at Savernake View Care Home, aged 93. Audrey trained at the Royal Manchester

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The banner features a collage of images: a sun logo with the text 'MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE SUMMER SCHOOL', a boy playing a guitar, a boy in a red hat, a woman with a tennis racket, a girl with a paint palette, and a man with a paint palette. The background is a light pinkish-orange gradient.

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Continued from page 18

College of Music and was a very accomplished pianist, and especially enjoyed playing music by Chopin. For many years she taught music at a school in Cheltenham. She and Michael's father retired to South Devon where they sailed, walked and playing bridge. They then moved to Marlborough in the early 2000's. After Michael's father died in 2006 Audrey married Roy Brodrick and they enjoyed three happy years together, including a world cruise. Audrey remained an enthusiastic bridge player and continued, until a few years ago, to play at the Friday afternoon Bridge Club at the Scout Hut. Our sympathy to Michael and all the family.

Stan Radnedge grew up in Coulston, near Erlestoke and he cycled to Dauntseys School each day. Later he did his National Service with the Horse Guards. He lived and worked in Marlborough for over 50 years and ran his building firm, S.Radnedge Ltd, one of the biggest employers in the town. He was a life member of the Golf Club, a Town Councillor and a member of the Conservative Club, but his main interest was cricket. He was President of Marlborough Cricket Club for many years. His funeral took place at West Berks Crematorium, Thatcham. Our sympathy to his friends and family,

David Smith loved to tell stories about the absurdities of life and to tease the family about the little calamities that happen from time to time. He and his sister Mary were born in 56 London Road. His father ran a drapery delivery service from Moffat House opposite ATS tyres. His uncle ran Mundy's shoe shop, now Costa Coffee. His mother was disappointed that he showed little interest in learning and sent him to Colston's, a strict boarding school in Bristol. He loved flying but poor sight kept him grounded. However, he joined the ATC and Observer Corps and took every opportunity to fly. He joined the Service Corps and was posted all over Europe and then worked in the family business. He and Margaret married in 1954 and lived in Forest Dale Road where Migs and Simon were born. In the 1980s he became a milkman - another source of amusing anecdotes. He was a voracious reader, regularly walked the dogs in the forest, loved fishing, learning about historic aircraft and playing cribbage with his granddaughter, Kirstie. David died in November and will be sadly missed by all his loving family.

Sheila Robinson retired as a GP in Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, in 1999. Sheila made the move to Marlborough with her husband Robert. Here she was able to see more of two of her grandchildren who at the time lived near Calne. She enjoyed her garden and was a member of U3A. Always keen to learn, she attended Summer School for several years, participating in a range of studies. She enjoyed travel and had many years of holidays worldwide with her late sister Margaret. Other hobbies included tapestry and the making and fitting out of doll's houses. She also

partnered Robert at their Friday Bridge Club. She was a member of St. Mary's church and a regular worshipper there until she needed to move from St Luke's Court into Merlin Court Care Home in the latter half of last year where she died. Sheila is much missed by her husband Robert, children Sue, Gill and Ian, and grandchildren Becky, Charlotte and Sam.

White Horse Bookshop Reviews Debby Guest

My novel pick this month is **Miss Boston and Miss Hargreaves** by Rachel Malik, which I suspect is going to be one of those slow burning word-of-mouthers, and will eventually feature on every reading group's list. Elsie Boston is a farmer, Rene Hargreaves is an initially unwanted and unwelcome Land Girl, on Starlight Farm (lovely name!) in Lambourn. Loosely based on a true story, it's a book of quietly unfolding detail about determinedly private lives, incrementally coming together to form a relationship of respect and loyalty. Much is unsaid, it's a book that makes the reader do the work of reaching conclusions (don't be put off, it's not onerous, and so very much worth taking the time over). An unusual, thoughtful, satisfying novel to read slowly and carefully, and then to re-read – as I plan to do soon.

Some non-fiction now. **A Sweet, Wild Note**, by Richard Smyth considers birdsong and what it means, to the birds and to humans, acoustically, ornithologically, and culturally. Smyth has a relaxed and conversational style, with footnotes and asides contributing to the sense of enthusiasm that comes off the page. I started by thinking it was quite a slight, insubstantial little book, but soon found it enjoyable, engaging and informative (A Sweet, Wild Note is on the shortlist for the Richard Jefferies/White Horse Bookshop Nature Writing Prize.)

It may be just me, but I have a sense that The Essay is having a bit of a revival at the moment. Zadie Smith's collection **Feel Free** is a book to dip into, and to come away from feeling that you've spent time with the bright, confident friend who always makes you up your game. Wryly self-mocking she links and reviews Pop culture and high culture, and she's clear-eyed and sensible about social media and 'snowflake' sensibilities. You may be irritated by some of her comments and conclusions, and you may entirely agree with some of the things she says. That's fine. In her introduction Zadie Smith says she offer these essays “to be used, changed, dismantled, destroyed or ignored as necessary!”

Finally, you can't have missed all the reviews and interviews around **Educated** by Tara Westover, so I don't need to add anything, but do, please, read it.

'Memories of a Misspent Youth' No 3

James Milsom

It was quite a long walk from the Mead to school at St Peter's but it was relieved a little by calling in to Mrs O'Keefe's sweet shop in the Parade where, before sweet rationing ended, we might be able to spend our threepences on off-the-ration cough sweets. Oh with what joy and gluttony we celebrated the end of sweet rationing! School lunches were eaten in the Wesleyan Hall and each day the boys of St Peter's would walk in a noisy crocodile through the High Street to the hall where lunch had been delivered in hay boxes. The lunches were surprisingly good and I was particularly fond of the stews and individual fruit pies with custard.

Marlborough, set near Salisbury Plain and surrounded by military camps at Tidworth, Ogbourne and Chiseldon in the 50s, often saw military activity. Postern Hill was sometimes the site of exercises and we often saw long convoys of military vehicles including on some thrilling occasions, at least to us boys, tanks. I particularly remember during the Suez crisis a convoy of desert -painted vehicles labouring up Herd Street as I was delivering the morning newspapers for Mr Lewis, the manager at WH Smiths. My round began at the bottom of Kingsbury Street, continued to the top then down Herd Street to the Green. On very cold mornings Ann Rushen's mum would be waiting in Herd Street with cocoa for her shivering paper boy. They don't make them like that any more!

I'm ashamed to say that I wasn't a fan of Marlborough Grammar School. I was a good deal less interested in what it had to teach me than in my other activities which revolved around the local platoon of the Army Cadet Force, Devizes Rifle Club, The Marlborough Small Bore Rifle Club run by the splendidly -named Major H Heygate-Goddard in the College rifle range, tennis, my paper round, my weekend and summer job at Mr Gale's bee farm, beating for game on local shoots and Swindon Town Football Club. Unsurprisingly, I left MGS at 16 with one 'O' Level in English Language.

Living in "the Mead" had its downsides for me. On the corner of London Road and Stonebridge Lane lived the headmaster of MGS, A R Stedman and his family. During the summer holiday when I was 15 he waylaid me and suggested that I might enjoy helping to remove the turf from the site of the pavilion he hoped to have built in the sports ground in Elcot Lane - an offer I could hardly refuse. So much of that holiday was spent either working in the bee farm or labouring unpaid on Mr Stedman's building site.



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NEWS from the Churches

Easter Sunday 1st April

The Sunrise Service on Martinsell Hill takes place on Easter Morning; 6.00am in Martinsell Hill car park, walk to the hill top for sung communion and watch the sunrise due at 6.43am; followed by hot breakfast via St John's Church, Pewsey.

It has been suggested that **kite flying** is a way of celebrating the risen Christ, a tradition from the Caribbean. There is an

opportunity to join in this Easter celebration by flying a kite at the **Marlborough College Playing Fields** (*off Leaze Road*) on Easter Sunday afternoon at **4.00pm**.



Easter Day Services

6.00am Sunrise Service at Martinsell Hill

8.00am Holy Communion (St Mary's)

8.00am Holy Communion (St George's)

9.30am Family Communion (St John the Baptist)

10.00am Family Communion (St Mary's)

10.00am Family Communion (St George's)

10.30am Holy Communion (Christchurch)

10.30am Quaker Meeting for Worship

11.00am Mass (St Thomas More)

4.00pm Kite Flying (College Playing Fields, off Leaze Road)

Women's Fellowship – all meetings in Christchurch at 2.45pm

3rd April No meeting

10th April Rev Heather Cooper

17th April Maggie Gibbs

24th April Trevor Durston (Leprosy Mission)



Mustard Seed Book Club

will be meeting on **Thursday 12th April**, 7.30pm and will discuss **The Fragment** by Davis Bunn, a novel set in Paris in 1923. A young American photographer finds herself documenting antiques that a US Senator has travelled to France to acquire. Events take a dangerous turn when she realises the Senator is on a mission far more momentous, and potentially deadly.



Continued over the page

Sunday Lunch Club on **15th April** at Wesley Hall, Christchurch at 12.15pm. To book a place please ring the office before 10am on Friday 13th. 513701. Cost £7.50

Philosophy in the Pub

There will be another three evenings that will give us the opportunity to discuss a wide range of topics over a pint of beer (or another suitable beverage). Starting on **Wednesday 18th April**, at The Lamb in Marlborough 7.30pm we will discuss the topic: *#metoo: is there anything we can still say?*. In October of last year, the #metoo movement spread quickly to debate and help demonstrate the prevalence of sexual harassment in the workplace. Now, six months later, we can wonder if we have gone too far in our need to be politically correct, and some argue that the expression of diverse opinions is threatened. Join us to discuss your opinion, whether it's controversial or not!

Filling Station

Due to other bookings at the Community Centre, Filling Station is now meeting on a Thursday evening. At 7.30pm on **Thursday 19th April** we welcome Rev Keith Powell, the Renewals Adviser for the Bath & Wells Diocese. The Diocesan Renewal Group (DRG) aims to enable every member of the Church to recognise their unique gifts to use in mission. It aims to empower individuals, enrich churches and engage communities. Keith is particularly keen to encourage the Prophetic Ministry within the life of the Church.



MAPAG

Meet this month on **Monday 30th April** at St Peter's Church, Marlborough High Street at 7.30pm with tea and coffee from 7pm. Martin Wilkinson will lead a talk and discussion on "Inequality is making our lives poorer." All welcome. More details page 9.

Help Needed for Cub Scout Group

St Thomas More Church intends to form a Cub Pack to meet in the Church narthex. It already has one leader, but needs one more before the group can be launched. Full training is provided by the Scout Association. The pack is intended for boys and girls of all denominations aged 8-11 years, and the Scouting Association confirms that there is a long list of children in this area, waiting and hoping to join. Would you be willing to train and help with this very worthwhile and enjoyable project? A lady helper would be particularly welcome. For no obligation and a chat, please contact Elizabeth. Tel 01672 511579



Marlborough Churches Together had a valuable AGM and shared supper in February. The minutes and the Annual report are available to download from their website. Please contact the clergy for the date of the next Fraternal meeting.

Christian Aid

Following the cancellation of the Good Friday lunch this year, Bryan Castle (chair) writes "The CA committee's current average age is over 70, with some reaching 80; and they are anxious to retire. The committee has agreed to stay on until after Christian Aid Week (Sunday 13th to Saturday 19th May 2018). Thereafter most of the committee will resign and will not be available in 2019. I appeal to the Marlborough Churches and Community with regard to Christian Aid "use it or lose it!". "



Lent Talks

The talks given by various speakers over four weeks in Lent have challenged some of our preconceptions. It has been rewarding to see how stories of hope can encourage us to engage more with the issues around us.

Flower Festival at St Peter's Church Marlborough 2018

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the St Peter and St Paul's Trust. We will be setting up on Friday 29th June, to run over the weekend and the following week (incorporating the Annual Festal Evensong on Sunday 1st July). Would anyone like to be involved with floral displays? Please contact Mary du Croz: 511725 email: maryducroz@gmail.com to register interest or for further information.

St Non's Retreat - September 11th to 14th on the coast of Pembrokeshire

It will be led by Revd Dr Colin Heber-Percy, a Church of England priest, screenwriter and academic. He lectures and publishes on spirituality, mission, and the relationship between faith and culture. He writes: 'God walks in the garden in the cool of the evening; and the man and woman hide themselves. Rather than concealing ourselves from God, what if we opened ourselves to God's gaze? Perhaps the more we reveal ourselves to God, the more God is revealed to us as the light of the world. Like flowers, we draw our life from the light. Taking Julian of Norwich's *Revelations of Divine Love* as our starting point, we'll explore how God is revealed in our lives, in prayer, in scripture, in silence, in poetry and art.'

This is a small, ecumenical retreat in a beautiful place and could suit people who have not been on retreat before. Book soon with Barney on barney.rsdl@gmail.com.

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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 May issue by 10th April please.

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