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# TOWER<sub>AND</sub>TOWN

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Marlborough and the Sea

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# TOWER<sup>AND</sup>TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 671 JUNE 2017



## *Marlborough and the Sea*

Marlborough and the sea? Absurd - we are as far from the sea as you can get in southern England. But we are still less than 50 miles from the coast - you can drive to the seaside in not much more than an hour. In any other country that would count as VERY close to the sea. The town has close links both to the Royal Navy and to the merchant service.

The Royal Navy has had six HMS Marlboroughs. One of them (number iii), a 74 gun third rate ship of the line, blockaded Chesapeake Bay during the war of 1812 with the USA and features in that role on our front cover. Number iv marked that transitional phase - a wooden warship powered by steam. Another (number v), an Iron Duke class dreadnought went to the Black Sea and southern Russia in 1919 to evacuate the Romanov imperial family after the revolution. The sixth HMS Marlborough, a type 23 frigate was only sold to the Chilean navy in 1998. Many Marlburians served in the Royal Navy during both world wars and many more served in the merchant marine. Some of their stories appear later in this edition.

And do not forget that our ferociously hard water and furred up kettles are because our town is built on chalk, formed from the calcium-rich bodies of tiny sea creatures over many tens of millions of years. That too is explored later in this edition.

**Alexander Kirk-Wilson , Editor**

**Front Cover:** *HMS Marlborough—American War 1812*, by Howard Birchmore  
[howardbirchmore.co.uk](http://howardbirchmore.co.uk)

# Burning The White House

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HMS Marlborough (iii) was laid down in 1807 - shortly after the Battle of Trafalgar in the Napoleonic Wars as a third rate ship of the line (ie the line of battle). 'Third rate' to our ears sounds rather feeble, but third raters made up most of the French and British battle fleets; they were a good compromise of fire power and sailing qualities. She was a big ship carrying a crew of around 600 and 74 guns on two decks.

In 1812 she could be spared from European waters and the fight against France and went to North America to join the fleet blockading the US ports in the war of 1812 - 1814. Our cover picture shows her blockading Chesapeake Bay. This unwanted war came about as a result of the Royal Navy's sometimes high handed way of stopping American ships to take off any British deserters they might have among their crews, and American confidence that Canadians would be eager to join their union. The blockade shut down American coastal shipping and provided a means of raiding inland. One such raid from Chesapeake Bay went up the Patuxent River and through Lower Marlborough and Upper Marlborough to the new federal capital under construction at Washington in the District of Columbia. The raiders burned many government buildings and caught the inhabitants of the President's Palace at breakfast (which they ate) and set fire to the building before withdrawing. To cover up the scorch marks the 'Palace' was later painted white to become the White House.



# Clergy Letter: Janneke Blokland

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Is it all about perspective?

*Love means to learn to look at yourself  
The way one looks at distant things  
For you are only one thing among many.*  
Czeslaw Milosz

It is well-known that different people have different memories of one and the same event. Also, most of us will know the experience of going back to a place: it is often not the same as we remember it to be.

One of the first times this occurred to me was when I went back to my old primary school. The classrooms, which I remembered to be gigantic, were suddenly very small. Probably because I had grown, and got used to larger spaces. Another interesting experience has been that I remember certain car journeys as sitting in the passenger seat on the right-hand side of a car, which must be incorrect as it was a UK car driving on UK roads. Yet, it is the only way I can remember them.

Physically moving to a different place, or transitioning to a difference phase of our lives, puts things in a different perspective. Whether we like it, or not, we start to see things differently. Because we have made a change ourselves, suddenly familiar places may look less familiar and things we took for granted are now not so sure any longer. It can be a very discomfoting and disorientating experience, but I think we all need to go through it from time to time to avoid getting stuck.

Changing place means changing perspective, and it helps us to see ourselves in a different and better way. I am sure that I am not the only one who at times can get somewhat self-absorbed. Usually it happens when I have been stuck in the same routine for too long. When trivial details have become unsurpassable obstacles, and I have lost the ability to see and understand others around me.

The paradox alluded to in Milosz' poem 'Love' (cited above) is at the heart of our human existence, and at the heart of the Christian faith. We only can start to realise who we truly are ourselves, our own significance, when we begin to understand our insignificance, or maybe better, the significance of others.

Where the distant gaze and the intimate encounter meet, there we will start to see glimpses of God. In ourselves and in each other. We are only one thing among many, but the many would not be the same if I, or you, were missing.

# The Transition To Steam

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The nineteenth century was a time of extraordinary change in warships and the fourth HMS Marlborough exemplifies this. Steam propulsion was augmenting sail from about 1820; it gave a freedom from the wind which opened interesting possibilities and was really useful for tugs getting sailing ships in and out of harbour - think of the grubby tugboat towing the Fighting Temeraire in Turner's evocative picture. Cross channel packets and coastal shipping were quickly steam powered. The problem was that their steam engines burned a colossal amount of fuel; no use for an ocean-going navy. Furthermore the paddlewheels were very vulnerable and occupied the space needed for guns.

For 20 years this was a circle that could not be squared and the fourth HMS Marlborough was laid down in 1855 as a wooden battleship, looking much like Nelson's HMS Victory (though twice the size as a stronger method of construction had been found by laying the frames on the diagonal rather than at right-angles to the hull planking). She was driven by a screw propeller which could be lifted out of the water and into a slot at the stern when she was travelling under sail - which was most of the time. This retractable propeller shows clearly on the model.

She had a surprisingly long life, serving as flagship of the Mediterranean fleet, eventually serving as an accommodation hulk in Portchester Creek, and not broken up till 1924.



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# The Royal Navy Association: David Hicks

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*When did you join the Royal Navy?*

I joined in 1953 and very quickly went to sea on HMS Eagle - a new aircraft carrier flying among other types Supermarine Attackers, early jets built at Stratton. I was a artificer and known as Fixer Hicks. In 1954 HMS Eagle went back to the dockyard for an angle deck to be fitted but I rejoined her when she was back at sea [*editorial note: the angled flight deck was canted over by 8.5° to allow landing aircraft which missed an arrester wire to bolt over the side without crashing into aircraft taking off or parked at the bow*]. In 1957 I joined the Ark Royal and we sailed to Norfolk, Virginia, in the USA passing the replica Mayflower in mid-Atlantic; she was almost out of vittles but bizarrely refused offers of more provisions. In 1960 I formally transferred to the Fleet Air Arm and finished my service in 1962 at RNAS Yeovilton. When I joined in 1953 I had been issued with a cut-throat razor and a ration book. Neither of these needed to be returned.

*Tell me a little about the RNA in Marlborough*

We were founded in 1986. I was a founder member and am now the chairman. We number about 18 and last year received a shield from RNA HQ for the most rapid growth in membership of any UK branch, though this was measured as a percentage and if you start with smallish numbers two new members can be a big percentage. After a tussle with HQ we now accept seamen from the merchant service as full 'dark blue' members (they used to be 'light blue' and second tier). For many years our numbers included John O'Keefe, a merchant seaman and a veteran of the North Atlantic convoys, and at present our Vice Chairman is Brian Bearman, late of the merchant service. Our Honorary Secretary is Clive Bristow, who does a grand job with PR and accounts. He is reachable on 01672 514151.

We meet socially twice a month on the second Friday at the Conservative Club and parade with our standard on Remembrance Sunday



# Rescuing The Romanovs

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The sixth HMS Marlborough was laid down during the naval race with imperial Germany before the First World War as an Iron Duke class battleship and commissioned in the summer of 1914. They were popularly known as 'dreadnoughts' after the first ship which made a dramatic break from previous practice. Firstly all their guns were of the same calibre (13½" in the case of HMS Marlborough) which made the fall-of-shot uniform and so the aim easier to adjust. Secondly all the gun laying, firing and corrections were commanded from an armoured fire control station high in the superstructure. Thirdly they were driven



by steam turbines (not reciprocating [piston] engines) and very much faster than their predecessors. Fourthly their boilers were fired by oil not coal, making replenishment simpler and the boiler rooms cleaner. She joined the Grand Fleet

and fought at Jutland in 1916, but after the war moved to the Mediterranean Fleet.

After the outbreak of the Russian Revolution in 1917, its takeover by the Bolsheviks the following year and the Civil War that followed, the imperial royal family was moved East from Moscow. Britain and other powers intervened in the civil war between the Bolshevik 'reds' and the 'whites', both in the north around the Baltic and in the south around the Black Sea (indeed my father-in-law in 2nd Bn DCLI was sent to guard the railway over the mountains between the Black Sea (Baku) and the Caspian Sea (Batum) ). HMS Marlborough was ordered to Sevastopol and then on to Yalta.

The reason for HMS Marlborough being sent to the Black Sea in 1919 was to provide an escape route for the Romanov imperial family if they could flee to the coast. This was in spite of the deep reservations of our King George V who was very wary of bringing them to Britain as they were not popular here and their presence could inflame revolutionary and republican enthusiasms. In the event the

*Continued from page 8*

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principal members of the imperial family were all murdered at Ekaterinburg and HMS Marlborough only brought off some 80 people; These included the Dowager Empress, the Grand Duke Nicolas and other lower members of the imperial family - plus several hundred cases of luggage. The Dowager Empress took over the Captain's cabin, and another 34 officers' cabins were taken over by the Russian party. All were taken to Malta and put ashore.

HMS Marlborough served in various roles until scrapped under the terms of the London Naval Treaty of 1930.

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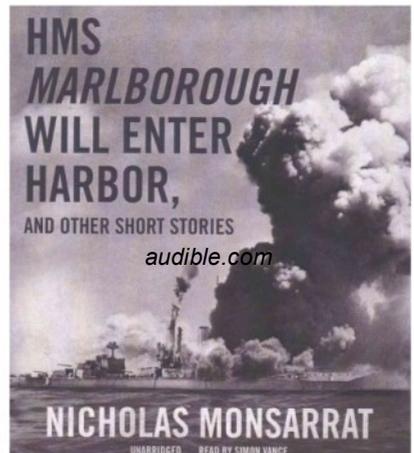
## **‘HMS Marlborough Will Enter Harbour’**

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*The Literary Connection and Nicolas Monserrat*

At 80 pages 'HMS Marlborough Will Enter Harbour' is either a very short novel or quite a long short story. It was published in 1947 but shortly afterwards was overshadowed by 'The Cruel Sea' which tells a somewhat similar story. This concerns a convoy escort sloop in the North Atlantic, where Monserrat served in the RNVR; she is badly damaged by a torpedo and subsequent shellfire; many of her crew are killed, but against the odds she limps back to Londonderry.

Sloops were rather similar to destroyers, with less speed but longer range. They were designed as convoy escort vessels



# Marlborough's Marine Geology: Richard Clarke

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Despite being on land and near the centre of southern England now, the chalk downlands surrounding Marlborough with their fossil shells, ammonites, and sea urchins are a constant reminder that this was not always so.

Looking back 150 million years or so (see [youtube.com/watch?v=5yVfjGNjok0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yVfjGNjok0)) we see the early South Atlantic ocean opening with the northern part marked by shallow seas as the old supercontinent began to split. The oldest record of the beginnings of the North Atlantic are the Jurassic rocks visible along the Dorset coast and the Bristol Channel and extend up to the Cornbrash limestones west of Devizes. Eventually, deposition of sediments choked the shelf on which they were laid down and low-lying land emerged by the beginning of the Cretaceous period. This was a good time for dinosaurs and their footprints and bones are found in several deltaic deposits formed then.

By 100 million years ago the North Atlantic began unzipping northwards driven by plate tectonic processes and brought oceanic conditions and renewed subsidence to Britain. After periods of deltaic deposition: the Gault Clay and the Greensands, the shelf was submerged over a wide area and white “oozes” typical of fairly deep water deposition became widespread. This Chalk limestone formation extends from Ireland to Poland and is characterised by the abundance of tiny plant skeletal plates with a long name: coccolithophoridae. The extraction of carbon dioxide to form these plates by such creatures and its entrapment in chalky deposits was responsible for the some of the atmospheric cooling that ensued towards the end of the Cretaceous period and through the succeeding Tertiary.

There was a major “attempt” by rifting processes to break apart western Europe down the axis of the North Sea which must have been the locus of major earthquake activity at the time. Huge faults along the central rift valley and substantial uplift elsewhere brought chalk deposition to an end. Both were probably caused by the rising, heating and lateral movement of a hot plume of rock from the Earth's upper mantle to the base of the Earth's crust.

However, this rifting episode failed and activity moved westwards to western Scotland and Ireland where major volcanoes formed as a record of the successful opening of the North Atlantic west of Britain. This opening continues to the



*continued from page 10*

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present day at a centimetre or so per year. Valleys developed on the surface of the chalk as it was variously uplifted, folded, faulted, and abandoned by the retreating sea as huge volumes of water became trapped as the Antarctic continent moved over the south polar region. Rivers sourced in the Welsh highlands deposited sands in some of these valleys. Some smaller valleys can still be seen near Lockeridge and on Fyfield Down and where the sarsen stones are silicified relics of these deposits. These streams may have drained into the London Basin which formed about 40 million years ago and whose westernmost edge is marked by the “Reading Beds” – sandstones and mudstones – reported to occur beneath the Monument in Savernake Forest.

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**Concert at St Peter’s, Marlborough on  
Sunday, 9th July 2017 at 7.30 p.m.**

Michelle Urquhart (viola), Keith Mitchell (piano)  
from Sydney, Australia



with the Ditchley String Trio

Music to include works by Brahms, Glinka, Piazzolla, Chopin  
and Mozart’s Piano Quartet in G Minor  
Interval Drinks

# Trip Advisor, 1890: Alex Dunlop, Jazi Castleman

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*(The Editor regrets that this article could not be fitted into Marlborough College's April edition)*

It's the 1890s in Marlborough - where to go, what to do? There is no modern technology, no Pizza Express and no supermarket. This article tries to give you an insight into the life of a Victorian visitor to Marlborough.

In these modern times in the late nineteenth century we still keep our old traditions. The Mop Fair is one of Marlborough's proud achievements from King John's reign. This is when the land owners search for new employees, who walk around wearing an item signifying their skills. For example, a housekeeper carries a mop or brush head, shepherds will parade wearing a tuft of wool. When a landowner has chosen a person, he takes the significant item and in exchange the employee wears a bright ribbon. However, these traditions have been changing: nowadays, it's more of an entertainment with food, laughter and music for any age.

Stonehenge is becoming very popular with visitors to Wiltshire. Even the famous writer Mr. Hardy has been known to visit recently. However, Marlborough also has its own monolithic attractions; The Devil's Den, though not as well-known as Stonehenge, is still an ancient and breath-taking place to visit. Revd A C Smith told us that the name was 'After the habit of old time of attributing all megalithic monuments, or stupendous earthworks to the arch fiend'. Many farmers have tried to remove the capstone from the top of this man-made creation. One man used twelve oxen with a new harness but when he tried to pull the giant stone, the harness broke immediately. Some believe it was just a coincidence but many more believe in the superstition. For anyone wanting to explore a mysterious place then try if you dare – perhaps the devil really does live there.

Why not take your horse and cart to explore and get away from the buzzing life of the high street? Spring is prime time for West Woods as the remarkable bluebells cover the ground in bright colour, regaling us with luscious views of the Wiltshire countryside. If you're looking to get away, this is the perfect day trip with the family or even just for two ladies wanting a peaceful stroll. On your way you can collect some picnic victuals from butchers and grocers.

The market is very special to us here in Marlborough. We pride ourselves greatly on how we have the second widest high street in Britain - perfect for even the largest horses and carriages on their way to London, Bath, Bristol and The West Country – and we're only one day's ride from London. The High Street is so wide because of the terrible fire which happened in 1653. Through the use of new technology we have improved our town using brick and with the help of steam engines. Wednesday markets have now stopped due to the fact that the Sunday

market was much more popular and fewer people were attending the Wednesday markets. The market sells many goods including eggs, fruit, toys and farm animals. You can buy everything you need for the modern Victorian household.

One of Marlborough's prized historical sites, the Mound, provides us with endless historical and mythological inspiration. Situated in the heart of the recently established college, the Mound has abounded with local folklore for centuries. The town's motto, *Ubi nunc sapientis ossa Merlini* ('Where now are the bones of wise Merlin?'), tells us about the myth which has generations believing Merlin's bones were buried underneath. It is a splendid place to visit on a free afternoon when nothing is going on: go on an exquisite walk up to the top and look over our lovely town. A mile up, a mile down, a perfect perambulation for those wishing to take the air and have some light exercise.

As the end of the century approaches it is easy to feel swept up in the rapidly-changing world around us. Marlborough Town and its attractions represent a peaceful antidote to the stress and strains of modern living. We hope that you have enjoyed our recommendations and that you take time to enjoy them.

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## **Pewsey Vale Design and Fine Art Society**

The next Lecture for the Pewsey Vale Design and Fine Art Society is on

**Monday 12th June at 7.30 pm at the Bouverie Hall, Pewsey, SN9 5QE.**

The subject is

***Psychology of a City: The Architecture of St Petersburg***

by Rosamund Bartlett.

Members' visitors are welcome. All guests are welcome free of charge for this June lecture. Coffee and wine will be served from 7.00 pm. For more information please contact [www.pewseyvalenadfas.org](http://www.pewseyvalenadfas.org) or email [pvdffas@gmail.com](mailto:pvdffas@gmail.com)

# What's on in June

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## Regular events

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### Every Monday

7.30pm: Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

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

### Every Tuesday

10-11.30am: Christchurch. Friendship Club.

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

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

### Every Wednesday (or some Wednesdays)

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

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

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

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

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

### 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.

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## June calendar

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### 3<sup>rd</sup> (Saturday)

From 10am White Horse Book Shop: 'Marlborough LitFest Goes Wild' Several talks throughout the day. Each event £10. See website for more information.

### 4<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)

Marlborough College: En...  
7.30pm St Peter's Church...  
(piano). £10 (£8 MBG & S

### 5<sup>th</sup> (Monday)

St John's Academy: First...  
2pm Kennet Valley Hall, ...  
Guild; 861658. Talk by Ni...  
father's daughter'. 86165

### 7<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxf...  
by Terry Rogers: 'History...  
welcome.

### 8<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)

6-8pm White Horse Boo...  
Mumfrey's novel 'Fall Out...  
price £8. RSVP to elizabe...  
7.30pm Town Hall. Film: ...  
day.

### 11<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)

11am-6pm. Altons & Ho...  
Gardens + Recitals in All...  
£1).  
2-6pm Marlborough Oper...  
£6 on day from The Merc

### 12<sup>th</sup> (Monday)

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, ...  
Vale DFAS. Lecture by R...  
of a City: The Architecture...  
welcome. pvd fas@gmail

### 13<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)

7.30pm Town Hall. Exhi...  
Gallery on Screen: 'Miche...  
door.

### 14<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

12.30pm 40 St Martins...  
Head). Widows' Friend

### 16<sup>th</sup> (Friday)

9.30pm Stonebridge Wild F...  
Night.

d of Half Term.

n. Concert: Ben Schoeman  
(St Peter's Trust members)

day of Term 4.

Lockeridge. Embroiderers'  
Cola Jarvis: 'May Morris – her  
8

ord Street. WI Meeting. Talk  
of St Peter's Church'. Guests

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'Lion' (PG). £5 in adv, £6 on

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Saints Church). £5 (Children

n Gardens. Tickets £5 in adv,  
Merchant's House. Teas £4.

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osamund Bartlett: 'Psychology  
e of St Petersburg'. Guests  
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hibition from the National  
elangelo'. £12 in adv, £14 on

(opposite The Queen's  
ship Group Lunch. 514030.

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### **18<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)**

8am Marlborough Common. Car Boot Sale in aid of Wilts  
Air Ambulance Appeal. Cars £8, Vans £10 (payment on  
the day). 526928.

### **18<sup>th</sup>—25<sup>th</sup>**

10am-4.30pm St Peter's Church. Wiltshire Artists'  
Summer Exhibition. Free entry..

### **19<sup>th</sup> (Monday)**

11am Ellendune Hall, Wroughton SN4 9LW. Kennet  
DFAS. Lecture by Anne Haworth: 'Objects of Desire:  
Caskets and Ornamental Boxes for the Collector'. 01793  
840790.

7.00pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. NT Association.  
AGM and Lecture by Rose Somerset: 'Prehistoric Use of  
Sarsen Stone & the Modern Industries'. £3 (non  
members £4). 526928.

### **23<sup>th</sup> (Friday)**

7.30pm St Mary's Church, Gt Bedwyn. Concert: Cello &  
piano. £14 (£12 members of Bedwyn Music Society),  
children free. 870970.

### **24<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)**

Barbury Castle. The Ridge Walk. 0300 330 9257.

7.30pm St Mary's Church. Marlborough Concert  
Orchestra: Beethoven, Krommer & Dvorak's New World  
Symphony.

Adults £10, Students £2.

### **25<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)**

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Concert: piano, violin, cello.  
£10 (£8 MBG or St Peter's Trust members).

### **27<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)**

Marlborough Gardening Association: Visit to Mottisfont  
Abbey. [www.marlbga.org.uk](http://www.marlbga.org.uk)

### **28<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**

7.15pm Town Hall. Film of Verdi's 'Otello' (12A). £15 in  
adv, £17 on door.

### **29<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)**

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Merchant's House Lecture.  
Dr Mark Spencer: 'Murder Most Florid' (How plants can  
help solve murders.) £15 (£12 for members) from The  
Merchant's House.

### **30<sup>th</sup> (Friday)**

Marlborough College: End of Summer Term.

# Sport in Marlborough: Jack White, Ned Corfield

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*(The Editor regrets that this article could not be fitted into Marlborough College's April edition)*

The town of Marlborough has a rich history of sporting institutions and a vibrant club culture. With excellent facilities, residents have access to rugby, hockey, cricket, tennis and golf amongst other sports. We set out to explore the history of some of these clubs.

Marlborough Town RFC was founded in 1867, then known as the Marlborough Nomads. The Nomads originated at the College and the club was a founder of the English Rugby Union. They didn't have an actual base and played most of their games in London.

In 1911, Roslyn Park RFC invited the old boys of Marlborough to join them, so the club was abandoned. In the 1930s a small club was established and played up until the war. They had a base, the Sun Inn (known now as 'The Marlborough') and they would play on a field on the top of Savernake Hill. The teams mainly consisted of masters and pupils of Marlborough College. In 1933-34 the team moved to the Common where they are still based today and where there are very good facilities; a large clubroom with a bar, a screen and projector with a number of flat screen TVs, and a kitchen able to provide hot food.

Marlborough Hockey Club, which trains on the Marlborough College astro-turf pitches, consists of four men's teams, three ladies' teams and junior teams from under 8s to under 16s. Whether this sport tempts you or your children, Marlborough are happy to let you train if you get in touch.

Marlborough Cricket Club is located on the edge of Savernake Forest; the cricket season runs from April to September. Training sessions are held throughout the year; when the winter comes they train indoors. Recently they raised £615 for Afghan refugees in a charity match which was played last season.

Marlborough Golf Club was established in 1888; this Wiltshire course 'provides a fair test to golfers of all abilities' and the club has hosted the Wiltshire Professional Championship since 1992. The club currently has a driving range, chipping green and putting surface. The clubhouse has a pro shop where you may borrow clubs to play on the range or course. The clubhouse is used for other occasions such as weddings or as a function room which seats up to 100 people. The club encourages all types of players, from those who have played for more years than they can remember or for those who have never picked up a club.

There are many opportunities to play sports in Marlborough and to get involved in some great clubs. We encourage you to take part and enjoy these opportunities on our doorstep.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

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### **Baptism:**

30 April – Charlie, Evie and Elizabeth Patterson at St George's

### **Weddings:**

22 April – Kim Wingham Gray and Max Francis at St Mary's

22 April – Becky Seymour and Sam Croft at St George's

### **Departed:**

9 April – Eric John Edward Cos (88) of 32 Homefields, Marlborough  
*St Mary's and West Berkshire Crematorium, Thatcham*

19 April – Norman Stapleton Egan (78) of 8 The Thorns, Marlborough  
*Kingsdown Crematorium*

20 April – Bruce Spackman (79) of 13 Purlyn Acre, Marlborough  
*Kingsdown Crematorium and St Mary's*

## **“BRILLIANT YOUNG INTERNATIONAL MUSICIANS IN St PETER'S CHURCH”**

**Sunday 4 June, 7.30 pm**

**Ben Schoeman (Piano)**

Ben Schoeman is considered by many to be the greatest pianist to come out of South Africa.

He played brilliantly in our series three years ago and more recently with the Swindon Choral Society in Marlborough College Chapel.

He will be playing music by Scriabin, Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev and Rachmaninov.

*Tickets at £10 are available from the White Horse Bookshop and Sound Knowledge.*

# Marlborough Churches Together

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

## **Usual Sunday Service times**

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

- 9.00am Worship
- 10.30am Morning Service with Junior Church and crèche

### **Society of Friends, Friends Meeting House, The Parade**

- 10.30am Meeting for Worship

### **St George's, Preshute (C of E)**

- 8.00am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sunday)
- 10.00am All Age Service (1st Sunday)  
Parish Communion (other Sundays)

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

- 8.00am Holy Communion BCP (2nd Sunday)
- 9.30am Parish Communion (1st and 3rd Sunday)

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

- 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP on 4th Sunday)
- 10.00am All Age Worship (1st Sunday); Parish Communion and Junior Church and crèche on all other Sundays
- 5.30pm Informal service except on 1st Sunday.

### **St Thomas More, George Lane (Roman Catholic)**

- 11.00am Sung Mass (See also below)

**Marlborough College Services** are shown at the College Chapel

## **Weekday Services**

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**St Mary's** Holy Communion: 10.30am Wednesday

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

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

# Marlborough Church Contacts

---

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*Member, The Religious Society of Friends*

**The Revd Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy**

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*Team Rector, Marlborough Anglican Team*

---

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*Christchurch Office, New Road, SN8 1AH*

**Laura Willis**

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*Anglican Team Office, Church Cottage,  
Silverless Street, SN8 1JQ*

## **“BRILLIANT YOUNG INTERNATIONAL MUSICIANS IN St PETER’S CHURCH”**

**Sunday 25 June, 7.30pm**

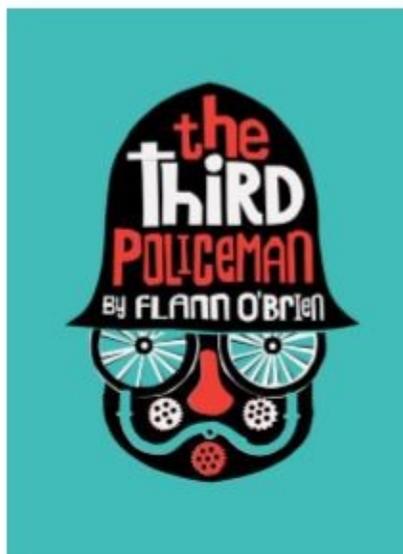
### **The Watterton Trio**

**Simon Watterton (piano), Anna Cashell (violin) and  
Simon Wallfisch (cello)**

are an extraordinary young trio made up of musicians with an impeccable background who have played all over the world. Their programme will include music by Mendelssohn, Haydn and Arensky.

***Tickets at £10 are available from the White Horse Bookshop and Sound Knowledge.***

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in aid of **Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust**



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## The Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust



WILTSHIRE HAS AN EXTREMELY rich ecclesiastical heritage of more than 500 buildings. The Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust was founded in 1954 and in the last five years has assisted around 160 churches and chapels with grants of over £400,000 for fabric repairs and community enhancements. It is a non-denominational body and is able to assist non-conformist chapels and Roman Catholic churches as well as Anglican churches by funding repair, improvement and reconstruction.

In 2008 the Friends of Wiltshire Churches was set up to raise awareness of the many beautiful churches and chapels in the county and to seek additional funds for the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust. You can support the important work of the Trust by becoming a Friend of Wiltshire Churches.

# Family News compiled by Audrey Peck

---

**Sheila Hanson** has a new grandchild, Lyra Sadie, born to Rupert and Harriet on 25th April. She is the cousin of Harry and Samuel, children of Rupert's brothers Tom and Ed. All three grandchildren have been born in the last 19 months! Sheila will have a very busy time!

**My granddaughter, Sian Clarkson**, was married on Easter Saturday to her fiancé, Rhys Miles. We had a very happy day. We all travelled to and from the ceremony at Swindon Registry Office in an old Royal Blue coach. Celebrations lasted at Marlborough Golf Club until midnight when the young ones continued at Sian and Rhys' home in Rogers Meadow. They honeymooned in Sri Lanka and the Maldives. We wish them a long and happy marriage.

Students and staff at the Grammar School and St John's who remember **Nancy Ramsden** were sad to hear that she had died. She came here about 40 years ago to teach French. She lived in Kennet Mews and was a keen bell ringer. St Mary's and Ogbourne St George's churches rang a muffled peel in her memory. Our sympathy to her brother, Bernard.

**Stewart Dobson**, who was born and brought up in Marlborough and managed the family business, Dobsons Garages Ltd, has retired from the Town Council after 46 years. The Borough Council to which he was elected in 1971 had much wider powers and responsibilities in those days and included some very influential figures such as Eric Free, Dr Tim Maurice and Lorna Pocock, to name just three. After local Government re-organisation in 1974, apart from managing its property and maintaining its recreation areas and cemetery, it was, sadly, reduced to Parish Council status. During his time on the Council Stewart has chaired all the Standing Committees and has been Mayor twice, in 1986/7 and 1999/2000. He will still be representing us as a Wiltshire Unitary Councillor having just been re-elected for the Marlborough East Ward. We offer him our congratulations and thanks for so many years service.

## **Marlborough Concert Orchestra**

**Saturday 24 June 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Marlborough**

**Beethoven Egmont Overture,**

**Krommer Clarinet Concerto (Soloist Helen Pysanczyn)**

**Dvořák New World Symphony**

**Tickets £10, £2 students from Sound Knowledge or on the door**



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# NEWS from the Churches

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## **Pentecost Praise**

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Pentecost is on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June; please see individual church notices for service times.

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

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6<sup>th</sup> June Members' Meeting

13<sup>th</sup> June To be arranged (Bring and Buy)

20<sup>th</sup> June To be arranged

27<sup>th</sup> June Revd Heather Cooper

## **Filling Station**

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Next meeting Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 7.30pm in Marlborough St Mary's Junior School with preacher: Philip Bromiley. Philip is rector of the Avon River Team, based in Durrington. He is also Associate Missioner for Fresh Expressions and is committed to working for renewal through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



## **Marlborough Churches Together AGM**

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Takes place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm in Christchurch – all very welcome. Please contact the clergy for more information. For dates of Fraternal Meetings and forthcoming events please visit: <http://marlboroughchurchestogether.uk/mct/>

## **Seniors' Sunday Lunch Club**

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For the next Sunday Seniors' Lunch club dates at Christchurch, Wesley Hall at 12.15, please contact the church office on 513701. Cost is £7.50.



## **Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG)**

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next meets at the Friends Meeting House, The Parade, Marlborough at 7.30pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. All welcome to attend the meeting.

## **Janneke - a Thank You**

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As many of you will know, this spring I have moved from the Town to the College. Although I hope to continue to engage in the life of the Town, I would also at this point say a grateful 'thank you' for all you have given me during my curacy in the Marlborough Anglican Team. I have had the privilege to engage in a wide range of activities, and have very much enjoyed meeting many people in different contexts. Thank you also to those who came and generously contributed to my official farewell on 7<sup>th</sup> May, which was a very joyful occasion. Thank you!

## Passion Play Update

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The Wiltshire Air Ambulance will receive at least £1,500 from Marlborough Community Passion Play, the majority of which was raised in a street collection at the close of the play. Should people wish to obtain a copy of the free souvenir programme or declare an interest in being informed of a DVD of the performance they should contact [marlboroughpp2017@gmail.com](mailto:marlboroughpp2017@gmail.com).

### Hangout@Devotion

Meets weekly on Thursday evenings 7-8.30pm in the Youth Room at Wesley Hall for young people aged 11-16.

**Any Time;** for young people aged 10 - 14. Meets weekly on Sundays (apart from the first Sunday of the month) at 4.30pm at Christchurch and moves to St Mary's Church to join the 5.30pm Informal Worship service.

For more information about youth work please contact Blayze White: 07758 837233 or email either [devotionyouthproject@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:devotionyouthproject@hotmail.co.uk) or [youthworkermarlborough42@gmail.com](mailto:youthworkermarlborough42@gmail.com)

Please continue to pray for the work with young people and for the Youth Groups: Devotion and Anytime.

## School Merger Update

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The work on the new Marlborough St Mary's School building on Duck's Meadow is making good progress and on schedule for completion in August. Some photos of a recent visit of staff and governors to the new site can be found here: <http://marlboroughstmarys.wilts.sch.uk/index.php/2017/04/12/new-building-tour/>. The date of the official opening of the school has not been fixed yet.

Currently parents, staff and governors are fundraising with the aim of raising £75,000 to ensure that when the school opens it can provide the best possible start to the education of the children of Marlborough. So far we have raised £15,000 from generous donations. The school is looking for funding in several areas, including IT, the Library, outdoor playground equipment and PE materials. If you know of a company or anyone who would be interested in sponsoring a classroom or any other equipment please let the school know.

## Holy Land

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There is an opportunity to join a party led by Rev Debbie Hodgson visiting the Holy Land from 7<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The visit will include time spent in Jerusalem and Galilee. The cost is £1929 per person based on two people sharing a twin room. For single people there is the choice of sharing or paying a £395 supplement. For more information please contact the Christchurch Office.

## **Future Diary Dates**

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### **Pelham Puppets' Exhibition**

Takes place throughout Marlborough on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July – more details to come next month.

### **Gospel Workshop with Jo Sercombe**

Takes place in St Mary's on the morning of Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July. There will also be an opportunity to perform at the Jazz Service in St Mary's on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 10.00am.

### **St Non's Retreat, 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September**

This will be the 15th retreat at this beautiful site on the Pembrokeshire coast, led by Sarah Musgrave. Please contact Barney Rosedale to book a place or for further details: 512205.

## **Marlborough Cricket Club Charity Cricket Match 2017**

### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

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

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

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

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

Refreshments will be available.

# Tower and Town staff

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<i>News from the Churches</i>	Alison Selby	church.news@towerandtown.org.uk Crossmead, Kingsbury St, SN8 1HU	511128
<i>Family News</i>	Audrey Peck	family.news@towerandtown.org.uk 7 Castle Court, Marlborough SN8 1XG	289065

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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 13th June please.

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