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Marlborough
And The Railways

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THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

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Marlborough And The Railways

Although a crucial town on the coach road to Bath and Bristol, Marlborough was bypassed by the railways. When Brunel started scheming the Great Western Railway (GWR), he planned to take it up the Thames Valley to Wootton Bassett, Chippenham and Bristol. A rival survey envisaged a line through the Vale of Pewsey parallel to the Kennet and Avon Canal. Never was a line beside the coach road from Hungerford to Marlborough seriously considered.

After the GWR was opened in 1841, trade in the town shrivelled and in 1843 the finest inn on the Bath road was sold to the founders of Marlborough College. Only in 1864 was the town connected to the rail network via the single-track Marlborough Railway (MR), branching off the Berkshire and Hampshire Extension Railway (BHER) at Savernake, running to a station at the top of Cherry Orchard. So things remained for almost 30 years.

Then the Midland Railway decided it had ambitions to reach Southampton and the Channel ports. Their subsidiary, the Midland and South West Junction Railway (MSWJR), built a line south through Cirencester and Swindon to Marlborough, with a view to reaching Southampton via BHER and other railways. However, relations with the Marlborough Railway quickly soured and the MSWJR built its own double track line south from Marlborough. The town now had two stations, the MSWJR to the east of Salisbury Road and the MR to the west.

What happened to these is told in this issue. Northbound to Swindon has become the Railway Path; southbound, some entertain hope of reopening the MR.

Alexander Kirk Wilson: Editor

Front cover courtesy of transpress nz

The Marlborough Branch Line And Station

When the dire consequences to the economic life of the town of not having a railway connection became apparent, local sentiment drove the creation of the Marlborough Branch Railway which opened in 1864 - 13 years after the GWR main line had reached Swindon.

It was single track leaving the Berks and Hants Railway just east of where it and the Kennet and Avon Canal are crossed by the Marlborough - Salisbury turnpike road (now the A346) and terminating in Cherry Orchard just west of the turnpike.

The junction and Savernake station (Low Level as it later became) was built on top of the canal tunnel and the sinuous line was built to Brunel's broad gauge and operated from the outset by the GWR. In consequence it used Brunel's idiosyncratic 'baulk' track which used 'bridge' rails of top-hat section laid on top of heavy continuous timbers (the baulks); this was very different from the normal practice of rails being fixed to cross-wise sleepers and did not work nearly as well. In time all the baulk track was replaced by conventional rails and sleepers, but two sections of bridge rail at the start of Upper Churchfields survive as an abandoned gatepost.



The trackbed of this railway has scarcely been built over except at the Marlborough end where Orchard Road and St John's school occupy the station site, so there is a proposal to reconstruct the line as set out in John Yates' piece.

The GWR Motor Bus (and KCT)

As you see from our front cover, Marlborough may have been slow with the railway, but it was quick off the mark with the motor omnibus. The GWR started a service in 1904 to connect Marlborough (on a branch off the Exeter main line) and Calne (on a branch off the Bath and Bristol main line), towns very inconvenient to travel between by rail. This was one of the first motor bus services in the country, and cheaper for the GWR than extending the Chippenham to Calne branch line to Marlborough, which was being considered. It was delivered by a Milne-Daimler motor omnibus which could carry 10 passengers inside plus 2 beside the driver. It ran three trips each way per day, taking an hour and 25 minutes for the 12¾ miles, so quicker than walking but not by much.

Kennet Community Transport similarly fills a transport need - collecting older people who would otherwise be housebound and bringing them into town to the Jubilee Centre. It also does ad-hoc outings for some of the local care homes and, to help to pay the bills, brings St John's pupils in from Broad Hinton. It has one full time driver, but depends on volunteers to cover sickness and holidays, and to provide direction on the committee. Anyone who would be an occasional driver, or who would serve on the (not very onerous) committee would be welcomed with open arms. Call Alexander Kirk Wilson on 01672 513861 or aleckirkwilson@uwclub.net



Marlborough To The Channel Ports (and Midlands)

Traders in Swindon were concerned that their rail links were all east-west, and came together to promote the Swindon, Marlborough and Andover Railway (SMAR), which secured its act of parliament in 1873, 33 years after the GWR had reached Swindon. It ran south through Chisledon and the Ogbournes to Marlborough, then along the existing (GWR) Marlborough branch to Savernake, then newly constructed track to Andover. From there it ran over London and South Western (LSWR) tracks to Southampton.

In 1881 a further act of parliament approved the Swindon Cheltenham Extension Railway (SCER) going north through Cirencester to Cheltenham and providing a link with the midlands. All was then acquired by the Midland Railway which too was eager to gain access to the channel ports, so as the Midland and South West Junction Railway (MSWJR) it became a moderately important north-south route cutting across Great Western territory. During both world wars it became a crucially important link.

To begin with it used the single track Marlborough Railway for the 6 miles south of Marlborough, but the GWR was unhelpfully dog-in-the-mangerish about scheduling Midland Railway trains through, so the MSWJ built its own line south from Marlborough through a tunnel (now a protected bat roost), past Savernake (High Level), over the canal and the main line to rejoin its line to Andover.



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For further enquiries, please contact Lorraine Wash on (020) 8569 8364 or email lorraine.wash@ospreymc.co.uk



Closure

During the Second World War the railway was very busy, bringing troops and material south, and after D Day taking casualties north. A part of this was munitions to and from the enormous War Office storage area in Savernake Forest, which continued after the war as they were removed for disposal. But during the 1950s traffic dwindled as motor cycle and car ownership spread, and more efficient lorry distribution replaced goods trains for transport of individual items - notable the important collection of milk churns along the line. The Beeching Report proposed closure and in 1961 the line closed to passengers, the old GWR station site at the top of Cherry Orchard being quickly built over and the MSWJR site east of the A346 becoming first a county council highways depot and subsequently the site of the Savernake View care home development.

But that was not the end for the railway as you will read in Dick Millard's piece on the Railway Path from Marlborough to Swindon. There is also the possibility - though unlikely - of rebuilding the line south of Marlborough to provide a better terminus for trains to Paddington than Great Bedwyn; see John Yates' piece.

Lost Memories Of Old Savernake Peter Noble

Old names die out far too easily and I notice that Brimslade Farm, the last reminder of the old bailiwick of Brimslade, a large area of Savernake that lasted from Norman to Tudor times, has been renamed 'The Old Granary'. In my research into the forest several old names have cropped up for places that are not on any map so far discovered. If anyone can help with identifying and locating the following places I would be most grateful.

Bushell Clump, Flashy Pond, New Pond Bottom (somewhere near the Roman road to Old Sarum), Boadicea's Grave (an iron age barrow in or near New Pond Bottom), Catshott Brow, Wheelbarrow, Frying Pan, Fairbough Bottom, Gore Copse (possibly in West Woods or Clench)

Please contact me via peter@kingsburysquare.org.uk



In the 1980s a group of local enthusiasts, working with Sustrans, converted the old track of the Midland and South West Junction Railway into a cycle/walking/bridleway path, which is largely off road. It is well used not only by cyclists, but also walkers, runners and horse riders. It is accessible from 5 Stiles Road, Barnfield or Rabley Lane and connects Marlborough to Swindon as part of the National Cycle Network.

North as far as Chiseldon it is designated as a Local Nature Reserve, and provides a green corridor with a varied mosaic of habitats through a largely arable landscape. It runs past Ogbourne St Andrew and through Ogbourne St George. The habitats include woodland, scrub and grassland with a small fragment of high diversity chalk grassland on the sides of a cutting north of Ogbourne St George. A usage survey indicated that about 25,000 journeys are made on the Path each year.

Between Chiseldon and Coate Water Country Park, the path has a tarmac surface and provides the only off road access to Swindon from the south.

The land is owned mostly by local Councils. It is leased and managed by Sustrans, who have included it in their *Greener Greenways* programme. Friends of the Railway Path organises work parties and events to improve the Path and its habitats, to introduce people to them, and to encourage people to use and enjoy the Path. To find out more, search for *Friends of the Railway Path* on the web or Facebook.

North of Swindon, the former railway is used by the heritage Swindon and Cricklade Railway. From south of Cricklade to South Cerney, the old line is again used by the National Cycle Network.



Was There Ever A Truthful Society?

Quakers have expressed a concern shared by many about the Post Truth society in which we are now living and ask us to think what we could be doing to counter it. What does this mean?

Sadly, we have to challenge so much of what we hear and read and delve deeper into ourselves. We must think what really matters: developing our spiritual lives, living simply, decluttering and making time and space for what really matters: love, truth and integrity in all our relationships.

Two things recently particularly affected me. One was an article in the Week magazine headed “*I’ve seen things I can never unsee’: Life as a social media moderator.*” It was about a housewife who was a moderator for social media platforms, a job she could do at home to supplement her income. She is one among thousands, and was employed to assess, and if necessary, delete material that breached the organisations’ rules. It involved engaging daily with hundreds of instances of bullying, racism, sexism, pornography and violence. Facebook alone has trebled its number of moderators, from 4,500 to 15,000 in the last 18 months. After 8 years she resigned with post-traumatic stress disorder and an inability to trust anyone. How can we police social media without doing more harm than already exists?

The other was a conversation reported on the radio by a mother, between herself and her 5 year old son. They were on a plane. The boy said that there was a man on the plane like his daddy. He was the only black man on the plane and his father is black. The boy then went on to say he was frightened the man was going to rob everyone on the plane. His father is an upright man. How had he come to this thought?

We absorb so much information consciously or unconsciously that affects our attitudes from the media, press, TV and internet.

How can we make efforts to counter this ‘post truth’ world in which we live and learn to challenge and question what is presented?

In our little red book of Advices and Queries, No 38 says

‘If pressure is brought upon you to lower your standard of integrity, are you prepared to resist it? Our responsibilities to God and our neighbour may involve us in taking unpopular stands. Do not let the desire to be sociable, or the fear of seeming peculiar, determine your decisions.’”

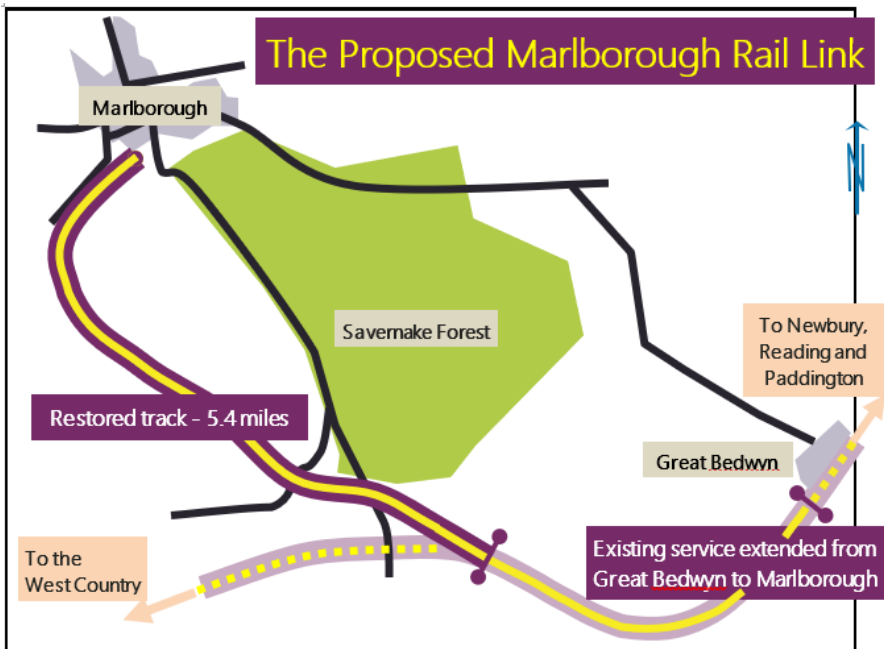
A Railway Reborn? Or Stillborn?

John Yates

Restoring a rail link to Marlborough would solve many local problems. Bus cutbacks have restricted transport options for the young, the elderly and those without cars. More traffic on the roads has led to worsening congestion, air pollution and parking problems. Great Bedwyn's car-parking capacity is over-stretched as it tries to accommodate rail travellers.

Transition Marlborough (TM) began working up ideas for the rail link scheme in 2013. The proposal seemed practical and appeared to meet government funding criteria.

Following this initial work TM consulted with our MP, our Local Enterprise Partnership and Great Western Railway in order to secure funding for a feasibility study. It transpired that the scheme could only move forward if it had the declared support of Wiltshire Council. After a series of inconclusive meetings, the responsible member for Wiltshire Council was invited to a meeting of Marlborough Town Council in 2018. At his meeting he made it clear that Wiltshire Council would not support the feasibility study, effectively killing the scheme.



Family News compiled by Jessy Pomfret

Peggy Roy died on 4th April at the Prospect Hospice in Wroughton. She came to live in Marlborough over 20 years ago to be near her daughter, Julia Wall, and her family. Peggy's son, Jonathan, lives in Hampshire with his family and he and Julia each have three sons. Peggy ran a playschool at her home before her children were of school age. She enjoyed being with children and this inspired her to become a teacher. She loved her work in a multi-cultural school where the children of new immigrants were in the majority. Eventually, she decided to obtain a degree from the Open University and continued to teach, mostly scientific subjects, until she retired. Peggy was a proficient tennis player and enjoyed being involved with school sports. In later life, she loved watching all sport but especially tennis on TV. An accomplished bridge player, she became popular in the Marlborough bridge clubs as she was always even tempered and friendly. She was a member of the Marlborough History Club, the U3A Gardening Club and NADFAS. She loved the lunches, coffee mornings and general socialising that went with the clubs and was to be found nearly every morning in the Waitrose coffee shop watching the world go by and meeting friends. She will be missed by many in Marlborough as well as by her large family.

Congratulations to **Peter and Jeanette Hancock** who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on Thursday 27th June. They were married at St Paul's, Bristol, and came to Marlborough in 1987 when Peter took over as manager of Lloyd's bank. People also knew him as president of the Rotary club. Peter and Jeanette were members of the U3A Thursday walkers for 18 years.

Congratulations, also, to **Sally and Howard Cripps** who have become grandparents for the first time. Noa Catherine Cripps-Barandalla, daughter of Oliver and Loli, was born on April 3rd at Chippenham Birthing Centre. Noa is an adorable, much loved addition to the family and both mother and baby are doing well.

Duncan and Nicola Elks continue to enjoy life in Derbyshire. After leaving St John's school, where Duncan received great help and encouragement for dyslexic challenges, they both pursued medical careers. They were married in St. George's Church, Preshute, in 2001. Nicola (née Jones) is now a GP in a small town near Derby. Duncan is Senior Biomedical Scientist in the Clinical Chemistry Laboratory of the Royal Derby Hospital. Both enjoy walking in the Peak District and further afield on adventure holidays in their spare time.

Finally, more congratulations, this time to **Caroline Peck** (Carrie) who now has 3 grandchildren, making **Audrey** a three times great grandmother. Trevor and wife Sharyn have a baby girl, India Sofia, sister to 2 year old Aspen.



AGM 2019
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Tuesday 21st May 2019

3.30pm

**At the Jubilee Centre, 28 High Street,
Marlborough**

**Guest Speakers including Karolyne Fudge-Malik,
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local community**

**Tea and home-baked cakes will be served, and you will have
the opportunity to meet and talk with members of the
Committee and other Friends**

More information from the Administrator on 01672 288167
or info@friendsofsavernake.org

Friends of Savernake Hospital and the Community—charity number 262732

St Peter's Church, Marlborough: Annual Choral Evensong
30th June at 6pm

Choir: St John's, Devizes

Preacher: The Rt Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of Ramsbury

St Martins (part III of an oral history): Muriel Cobern

In 1931 when I was four years old I moved with my parents and Jimmy the cat to 36 St Martins and still retain many memories of our time there, especially of the big garden which Jimmy and I loved. On the opposite side of the road, a few doors west of the Queen's Head pub was a small sweet shop where I used to spend my Saturday pocket money. It was run by a Mrs Wiltshire whose husband was the outrider for R Mundy and Son, the boot and shoe retailer in the High Street. Mr Wiltshire's job was to drive around the local villages with their populations of poorly paid farm labourers and collect orders for footwear which he would deliver and collect the money for; most of the items were paid for in weekly instalments by the old "shilling a week" system. Further along the road at the bottom of Blowhorn Street was a bakery belonging to a Mr and Mrs Baden and their grown-up children.

My father, Arthur Victor Cobern, was a self-employed painter and decorator and sign writer, in partnership with his aunt's husband Ernest Ponting who ran the business of Ponting and Co from their home at 7 The Green. During the summer of 1932 my father was rushed to Savernake Hospital with a perforated gastric ulcer. Thanks to Dr Wheeler's skill on the operating table, his life was saved but he had to remain in hospital for six weeks after the operation. After Dr. Wheeler retired, his son Dr Bob took over the practice which later became amalgamated with the Maurice practice. Dr Bob died in 1978 from cancer.

A few years before, a down-and-out called "Swanee" Norris was tramping about the country looking for work and was on his way from Bristol to Marlborough, when he collapsed in the Bath Road from sheer starvation, as he had not eaten for several days. A passing motorist picked him up and took him to Savernake Hospital where Matron Lavington nursed him back to health. When he recovered she gave him a job as handyman at the Hospital and he found lodgings on the Green with a widow whom he eventually married! He was very friendly with my father and every morning while my father was in the hospital he would call in on his way to work to see if there was anything he could take up to him. At this time I had a passion for collecting the black and orange striped caterpillars of the Cinnabar moth and one morning I was sitting on the steps leading up from the basement kitchen to the garden feeding them with groundsel, when Swanee arrived. He was wearing hob nailed boots on his rather large feet and fearful that he would squash my beloved pets I cried out "Oh, Mr Norris, mind my caterpillars". Luckily he stopped in time and with a look of complete horror on his face said "Just look at all they maggots".

What's On:

Regular events:

Every Monday

6pm Recreation Ground, Salisbury Road. Bowls Club.
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, St Mary's, Marlborough.

Every Wednesday

10am Jubilee Centre. Drop-in, Tea/Coffee. 12.30
Lunch.
12.30pm St George's, Preshute. Teddy Prayers &
Picnic. A special service for U5s & carers followed by
a picnic lunch. (*First Wednesday*)
1.30-3.30pm Town Hall. Sunshine Club for over 55s.
7.30-9pm Bell-ringing practice, St John's, Mildenhall.
7.30-9.30pm St Mary's Church Hall. Marlborough
Community Choir.

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*)
2pm Mildenhall Village Hall. Marlborough Floral
Club. £30 a year membership. £5 *guest*. 520129. (*1st*
Thursday in the month).
7-8.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St. Hangout &
Devotion. Youth Club.

Every Friday

10-12 noon Christchurch Crush Hall. Food bank.

Every Friday and Saturday (10-12 noon)

10am-4pm 132 High Street
Museum. £3 (u 16s free).

Every 2nd Saturday

10-12 noon Library. Marlborough
Association. Drop-in advice.

June calendar

2nd (Sunday)

Marlborough College: End of term

3rd (Monday)

St John's Academy: Start of
2.00pm Kennet Valley Hall. 'The
Embroiderers'. Talk by Val
Stitch'.

5th (Wednesday)

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St.
Anna Tham: 'Medical Detachment'
and guests welcome.

7th (Friday)

7.30pm St Peter's Church.
Eglantine Jebb, founder of

8th (Saturday)

7.30pm Pewsey Vale School
& Friends: Songs for my C
Pewsey Carnival, Wilts Air
Army.

8th/9th (Saturday/Sunday)

9am-5pm Rainscombe Park
Vintage Rally. £10 (£8 cor
of Bobby Appeal, Wilts Air

9th (Sunday)

8am The Common. Car B
(£10). In aid of Wiltshire A

st April-22 December)

t SN8 1HN. Marlborough

orough & District Dyslexia

ce. Help *line: 07729 452143.*

l of Half Term.

f Term 6.

l. Marlborough

l Alison Hulme: 'My Life in

rd Street. WI. Speaker:

ection Dogs'. New members

Dramatised story of

f Save the Children.

ol SN9 5EW. Robert Pilon

Grandfather. £20 in aid of

Ambulance, Salvation

k, Oare SN8 4HZ. Steam &

ccessions) (u16s free). In aid

r Ambulance, Julia's House.

oot Sale. Cars (£8), Vans

Air Ambulance.

14th (Friday) – 16th (Sunday)

Gardening Association: Visit to Midlands.

16th (Sunday)

2-6pm Marlborough Open Gardens. Tickets from The Merchant's House.

17th (Monday)

11am Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton. The Arts Society Kennet & Swindon. Lecture by Martin Ellis: 'Silver in England: A Fresh Look'. Guests welcome £7. Membership Secretary:01793 840790.
7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. National Trust Association AGM followed by an amusing talk by Ben Sergent, Pest Control Officer for Wiltshire. £4 non members.

21st (Friday)

Gardening Association: Visit to Blenheim Palace Flower Show.

22nd (Saturday)

6.30pm Norwood Hall, Marlborough College. Marlborough Rugby Club Summer Ball. Dinner, dancing, live music and auction. £70 pp.

23rd (Sunday)

10am-3pm Ramsbury Football Ground. Annual Ranmer Cup between Ramsbury Football Club and Marlborough Youth Football Club + BBQ.

24th (Monday)

8pm Town Hall. Marlborough Folk Roots. Concert: Nancy Kerr & James Fagan. £15 from Sound Knowledge.

25th (Tuesday)

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. The Arts Society Pewsey Vale. Lecture by Tony Rawlins: 'Mad Men and the Artists'. Visitors welcome. £7 Membership Secretary: 07775 683163.

Alexandra Terrace - Part 1 of a Memoir by Gareth Pearce

I was born 25th. January 1938, in the front bedroom of No. 7, Alexandra Terrace, Marlborough, the first child of William George Pearce and Frances Olive Pearce (nee Newman), attended by the District Nurse and midwife, Nurse Lush.

Alexandra Terrace was a short block of 12 terraced three-bedroom houses built in about 1907, off Blowhorn Street. The houses originally had been built for local shop-owners, clergy and generally lower middle-class people, all being individually privately owned. My parents, who had married at Lydiard Millicent in 1935, had previously lived at 'Sunny Croft', Coldharbour Lane but turned down the chance to buy it on the (poor) advice of my maternal grandfather. We moved to Alexandra Terrace in 1937, the 'new' house having no electricity (installed 1954), all lighting and heating being by gas, candles, coal fire and a gas stove. In the kitchen was a cast iron range and a large brick built copper, fitted with a semi-rotary hand pump to pump hot water to the upstairs bathroom, but we could never make it work, so our infrequent baths in the bathroom were taken by carrying hot water upstairs in saucepans: very dangerous. Otherwise, it was a galvanised wash tub in the kitchen.

Our neighbours at that time were Brangwyns, family bakers, at No. 6 (Mrs. Brangwyn was the sister of Norman Lumsden, who played the part of J.R. Hartley in the Yellow Pages T.V. advert, who often came to stay). Our neighbours at No. 8 were the Hilstons, at No. 9 the Winchcombes. No. 1 was the Leney, Mr. Leney being an H.G.V. driver working for, I believe, Carter-Paterson operating out of London. In No. 2 lived the Whiteside family, staunch Exclusive Brethren as were the Sims at No. 10.

My father, Bill, at that time worked at Hurd's shoe shop in the High Street. He was a very keen amateur golfer playing with a very low single figure handicap. The clubhouse was in a small compound next to the current cemetery off the Rockley Road and known as the Thistle Club for 'artisans'. The club also had a shed behind The Clump which housed a Ford Model T car fitted with spiked wheels, used for towing mowers.

All this began to change in September 1939 when war on Germany was declared. Mr. (Walt) Hilston became an Air Raid Warden and Mr.(Bill) Winchcombe became a Clerk of Works on the construction of the camp at Ogbourne St. George. My father stayed on at Hurds until he was called up in 1940 as he was not in a Reserved Occupation. Off he went to join the Royal Artillery, Bofors guns, leaving my mother and myself alone in our large three bedroomed house, and couldn't return

for about eighteen months as he was posted all around the U.K.

With the East End of London being blitzed, an influx of evacuees came to Marlborough with little in the way of possessions. We usually had two families billeted with us. My mother and I had one bedroom, a sitting room and kitchen, but the kitchen was shared by the other families. A gas stove was installed in our front living room and the upstairs bathroom and toilet were shared by all.

The families changed from time to time as circumstances changed, some were very pleasant people, others were not, but we could now understand how everyone was under a great deal of stress. One particular family stole all of my Christening silverware presents, but another family from Austria, the Einows, were very pleasant appreciative as, being Jewish, they had escaped from Hitler. They were father, mother, two children and a granny and spoke little English.

This was when I heard of our first casualty: Percy Howell's (my age) father who lived near us had been killed. The Brangwyns moved on and No.5 was occupied by Mrs Strickland and her son Brian, refugees from Catford, London. Mr Strickland worked for Thomas Cook, in London, and on the outbreak of war was recruited into the Army as a Major due to specialist knowledge, spending most of his time in Cairo. Very pleasant people, but with a much greater income than ours. Their only child, Brian, went to Mayfield College, a private school in London Road. Mrs Strickland told us that the singer Anne Shelton was a teacher at their local school in Catford.

The next major impact of war was rationing. Each person was allowed minuscule quantities of such items as sugar, butter, margarine, meat, sweets and clothing. Surprisingly bread was not rationed at that time. My paternal grandparents lived at No. 13 Chiminage Close further up Blowhorn Street towards The Common. Two of my maiden aunts, Annie and Lily, lived with my grandparents. Their bigger numbers meant they had larger rations than us, of course, and to economise, my aunts always mixed their butter and margarine rations together. One day I was with my mother in New Road outside the yard where Coopers the Butchers slaughtered their animal. A large black dog owned by the Anglis family leapt the wall from the yard with a large carthorse hoof in its mouth; no doubt that poor horse had filled many families' rations. With food rationing in place the Government organized a restaurant chain called The British Restaurant, located on The Green in front of the Toc H Hall, where two flat areas remain where the restaurant had been. Meals could be purchased at these restaurants without the need for ration books or coupons. My mother was directed to work there which was quite useful as we had meals there which enabled us to save our rations.

I've been walking around with a daft grin of pure pleasure on my face lately, because – pause for drumroll – Kate Atkinson has written a new Jackson Brodie novel, *Big Sky*. This series isn't exactly detective fiction, though investigation is always at the heart of the narrative. They're books about people (what other subject is there?), the messiness of life and the horrible mundane sordidness of crime. Set on the Yorkshire coast, the subject matter of *Big Sky* is definitely grim: sex-trafficking and historical child abuse cases, with shades of Jimmy Savile and Operation Yewtree. So you'll have to trust me when I say that it's also lightly funny, the humour in the writing skittering around the darkness of the theme while in no way trivialising it. Kate Atkinson's intricate and tightly controlled plotting, beady observation of character and loose yet spiky writing have me gibbering with enthusiasm. "Easy reading's damn hard writing" as the man said (Nathaniel Hawthorne, according to Google, don't write in), and on that basis I reckon K A must be worn out - fans should club together to send her on a holiday (to somewhere relaxing, like the salt mines). I had to force myself to read slowly, savouring every line and rationing myself to make the book last.

If you've read the J B novels you'll know why I'm so happy about this latest title and you'll be delighted at the return of some characters (Reggie's back, and doing well, also the slightly terrifying Tatiana), and of course, *of course*, Jackson Brodie himself, currently baffled by his teenage son and wonderfully, wearily, always doing the right thing. (Yes, I am in love with Jackson. I'm not alone.) If you *haven't* read them then I almost envy you, because you've got four to catch up with, you lucky people. You really need to read this series. I mean it, go away and start with *Case Histories*. You can thank me later.

Just a couple of lines left to highlight a lovely summer read. When a book is labelled 'whimsical' most right-thinking readers should look for the nearest shredder, but it's hard to find another way to describe Antoine Laurain's novels. Somehow, though, he gets away with it. (Something to do with being French, perhaps?) **Vintage 1954** involves a group of people sharing a bottle of 1954 Beaujolais and being spirited back to the Paris of that year. Yes, it is as fanciful and fluffy as that sounds, but, like all Laurain's books, it's warm and wise too and a perfect read for a summer afternoon. Pour a glass of something, find a sunny spot and enjoy it.

**Marlborough Concert Orchestra:
Summer Concert**

Saturday 29th June at 7.30 pm in
St Mary's Church, Marlborough

Programme:

Gounod Petite Symphonie for Wind

Gounod Funeral March of a
Marionette

Schubert Rosamunde, Entr'acte 1

Mozart 'Haffner' Symphony No 35

Tickets on sale at Sound Knowledge,
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on the door - adults £10, students
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Raffle in aid of Marlborough LINK.



Hildegard of Bingen

Edwina Fogg

Mystic, prophet, politician, poet, painter, composer, musician, counsellor and herbalist, Hildegard of Bingen is one of the most fascinating people in the history of Christianity.

“Who is this woman?” asked Pope Eugenius III, “who rises out of the wilderness like a column of smoke from burning spices.” He was speaking from experience, being someone in a group of powerful men, bishops, popes and kings, with whom she conversed and often challenged.

Hildegard was born in 1098 and lived into her eighties. She was born in Bernheim in what is now Germany, in the times of the Crusades. It was an age of cathedral building and pilgrimage, but also of laxity and heresy. The burning issues of the day were more forcibly addressed by Hildegard when she became founder Abbess of a vibrant Benedictine convent.

On May 12th 2012, Pope Benedict named her a Doctor of the Church, the fourth woman out of 35 saints to be given that title. On that occasion Benedict said “Her message seems extraordinarily timely in today’s world, which is especially sensitive to the values that she proposed and lived.”

Marlborough Churches Together

Usual Sunday Service times

Christchurch, New Road (Methodist)

- 9.00am Service with Communion (1st Sunday)
- 10.30am Morning Service with Junior Church and crèche

Society of Friends, Friends Meeting House, The Parade

- 10.30am Meeting for Worship

St George's, Preshute (C of E)

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

St John the Baptist, Minal (C of E)

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

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

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

St Thomas More, George Lane (Roman Catholic)

- 11.00am Sung Mass (See also below)

Marlborough College Services are shown at the College Chapel

Weekday Services

St Mary's Holy Communion: 10.30am Wednesday

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

St George's 4.30pm Weds: Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer
12.30 pm (1st Wednesday): Teddy Prayers & Picnic,
a special service for U5s & carers followed by a picnic lunch

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FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms - we welcome

12 May - Henry Mark Greenman at St George's

19 May - Freya May Gilbert at St George's

Departed - we pray for the family of:

7 May - Alfred 'Alfie' William Johnson (88) of Coombe End Court, Marlborough

St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery

Kennet Community Transport

Can you help? We need occasional volunteer drivers when our full time 5-days-a-week driver is on holiday or sick. You drive a smart Peugeot Boxer taking charming old people to and from the Jubilee Centre.

And if you are really gallant, we could also do with someone not yet 70 on our small committee.

Please contact Roger Hagerty (01672 540698) or Alexander Kirk Wilson (01672 513861)

This month, I have divided my review into two parts, mainly because when this issue is published, the White Horse Gallery would have had two exhibitions.

Alongside her duties as HM Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Sarah Rose Troughton is a keen artist, and has painted as a hobby for many years. She attended informal classes with the late figurative artist Neil Forster, whose palette of colours she continues to use to this day.

This humble, self-deprecating, delightful exhibition was indeed one of the most successful shows to date at White Horse Gallery. To quote her close friend, renowned artist, Maggi Hambling (who Sarah describes as her ‘muse and mentor’), the paintings ‘combine power and delicacy, her lively brush responds afresh each time and we share her journey of discovery...’ Working in different mediums, watercolour and gouache, ink or oil, ***Here and There*** is about places and people – the landscapes we see, (emphasis on Wiltshire and Scotland), the food we eat, the people we meet, the changing seasons, colours in the everyday, the familiarity of home, and the anticipation of being away.

Particular stand-out pieces were her studies of the human form, and a selection of delicious seafood paintings with freshly sliced lemons, giving a real sense of summer bursting with Mediterranean colour.

Every year, the gallery holds its ***Annual Open Art Exhibition***. This year, we received one hundred and thirty five entries, all of varying subjects and styles. This is a chance for anybody wanting to enter a piece of artwork into a public exhibition, providing it is for sale. The Annual Open Art Exhibition attracts many artists and visitors every year. It provides a wonderful opportunity for amateur artists to have their work on show, and for visitors to the bookshop and to Marlborough to see what’s on offer.

Sarah Rose Troughton *Here & There* was at The White Horse Gallery between 17th April – 4th May 2019.

Annual Open Art Exhibition is at The White Horse Gallery between 9th May – 1st June 2019.



Penny Cope

Dennis Price





Sarah Rose Troughton



Ian Macdonald



Jennie Slater



Dianne Mackinder Funeral Service



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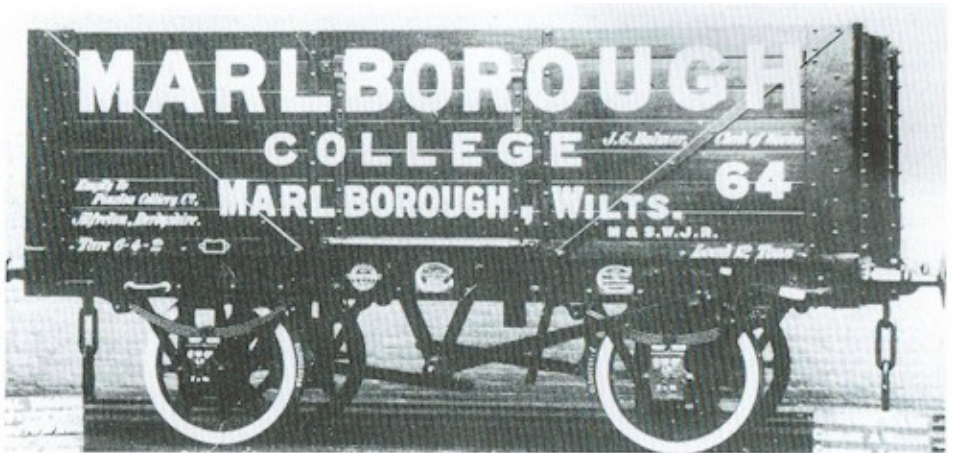
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Goods (freight) Trains To Marlborough

It is easy to forget that the early railways were built to carry freight not passengers. When the Liverpool and Manchester - the first intercity railway - was built it was primarily to carry goods (and especially raw and finished cotton); the huge demand for passenger travel came as a surprise to the promoters. And so it was with the railways right until the 1950s and 1960s. Almost everything was moved by rail - more urgent and smaller items by passenger train and bulkier ones by goods train. Marlborough College boys would mostly arrive by train and the coal for heating and cooking in the same way in the college's own railway wagon. (It probably had only one, despite the 64 painted on the side!).



Marlborough College coal wagon No 64. It was probably the only member of the fleet. Painted purple-brown, it was built by the Gloucester Railway Carriage & Wagon Works in March 1907. (Author's collection)

As so much came and went by train - coal for the town's gasworks, livestock, much of the stock for the town's shops - the old Marlborough High Level station became a goods depot, and the low level station had a big goods area of its own. To manage the goods trains, breaking up arriving trains and reassembling the wagons into new departing trains huge marshalling yards were needed, and these viewed from space are the most visible bits of railway engineering rather than the stations or the tracks. However many were of these were built in the 1960s just as the days of individual freight wagons came to an end, so they quickly closed.

News from the Churches

Team Rector for Marlborough Anglican Team

The Bishop of Ramsbury is pleased to announce that he has appointed the **Revd Christopher Smith** to be the next Team Rector of Marlborough. Chris is currently Rector of St Botolph's Church, Chevening, Kent in the Diocese of Rochester.



Chris will be licensed on September 24th, time to be announced. Please continue to pray for him and his family as he prepares to leave his current responsibilities and move into this new role.

Lent talks online

Colin Heber-Percy's stimulating and well- received talks are online at <http://marlboroughchurchestogether.uk>.

Women's Fellowship Programme

Continues to meet at Christchurch on Tuesday afternoons at 2.45pm, but will be more of a social event with tea and chat.

June 4th is at The Manse, Priorsfield;
11th and 18th Tea and Chat;
25th Rev. Heather Cooper;
July 2nd AGM.



Christian Aid Service at Christchurch on 12th May

This was led by Alison Harris and other members of M.C.T. The Speaker was Yvonne Penn and this year highlighted Sierra Leone and its difficulties in the past years with 11years war, and the Ebola Crisis. An audio-visual presentation told the story of Judith – abandoned by her family after she became pregnant while still young. She used her experience to learn what she could and became a nurse and lead her village to make things better for them all. Christian Aid went in and helped them with hygiene and sanitation matters and help them build their own hospital. The Service was attended by members of Marlborough Churches Together.



MAPAG

There will be no meeting in June. The next will be 7.30 on 1st July in the Quaker Meeting House, and all are welcome.



Sunday Lunch Club

Meets on 23rd June in the Wesley Hall. To book a place please ring the office (513701) by 15th. Cost £7.50.

Marlborough Churches Together .

There is no meeting of the Fraternal in June. The next will be on 1st July at 12.30 in the Quaker Meeting House; all are welcome.

St John the Baptist Patronal Festival

Takes place on Sunday 23rd June at 4.00pm in St John the Baptist Church, Minal with the Bishop of Ramsbury, Andrew Rumsey, preaching.

Devotion Youth Project

Meets on Thursdays from 7 - 8.30pm in the Wesley Hall. Term-time only. Please contact Janneke: Jblokland@gmail.com for more information.

devotion

Save the date – Get There!

Get There will be held on 28th – 30th August 2019 suitable for 7 – 12 year olds. Contact Janneke for more information: jblokland@gmail.com

Messy Church – Pentecost

All welcome to celebrate the birthday of the church on Saturday 9th June 4-6 pm in St Mary's Church, Marlborough.

All ages welcome but under 8s must be accompanied by parents, grandparents or carers. Please contact: cphilps2@gmail.com to book or for information.

St Non's Retreat

will be from 17th to 20th September. To book, contact Barney on barney.rsdl@gmail.com ; 512205. Places are limited to 14.

The retreat will be led by Edwina Fogg, centering on the remarkable 12th century mystic, Hildegard of Bingen: writer, composer, philosopher and polymath (*see p.19 for a note on Hildegard by Edwina Fogg.*)



Illumination from the Liber Scivias showing Hildegard receiving a vision and dictating to her scribe and secretary.

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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 Tuesday 11th June please.

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