

---

# TOWER<sub>AND</sub>TOWN

---



St John's Academy

Edition

---

NOVEMBER 2022

Single copy £1; Annual subscription £5

---

# A niche firm of Lawyers focusing on Private Wealth

Providing advice on:  
**Wills**  
**Powers of Attorney**  
**Estate Administration**  
**Trusts/Succession Planning**  
**Elderly Client Work**  
**Court of Protection**  
**Tax Planning**

At **DUNCAN MORRIS SOLICITORS**, we combine up-to-the-minute knowledge of all the latest legal issues with a down-to-earth approach to advise private clients on a broad range of issues relating to estate and succession planning.

Our wide range of individual clients highly regard our service based on our legal expertise and the close relationships we have built up over a number of years. We pride ourselves on our ability to seek clear and simple solutions to complex challenges, guiding our clients using sound and practical advice.

Our clients include businessmen, entrepreneurs, professionals, landowners and farmers.



TELEPHONE: 01672 515193 or 07917 177647  
EMAIL: [info@duncanmorrissolicitors.co.uk](mailto:info@duncanmorrissolicitors.co.uk)  
106 HIGH STREET, MARLBOROUGH, WILTSHIRE SN8 1LT  
[www.duncanmorrissolicitors.co.uk](http://www.duncanmorrissolicitors.co.uk)



# TOWER<sup>AND</sup>TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 731 NOVEMBER 2022



## Editorial

I am aghast, again, as I watch them. “These are *our* students” I think, whilst I also wonder if it is, indeed, possible for pride to burst a person. I think, maybe, I am physically glowing with wonderment; my beaming face spotlighting them on stage. At the end of September, some of our St. John’s sixth-form students took part in a literary debate as part of Marlborough Literature Festival: an event which has, over the past couple of years, become the festival’s habitual opener. And, as I watched these students - our students – deftly discuss the complexities of ‘Othello’, I wished the whole world could see them.

My role as a teacher is often thus: a state of aghast pride. “I couldn’t have done that, at their age” I think, time after time. The yearly opportunity to showcase our students’ work, afforded to us by *Tower and Town*, means that I get to share a snapshot of that feeling. This month’s edition boasts a lucid review of George Eliot’s *Middlemarch*; a compelling tale from the perspective of Love; letters addressing fracking, childhood hunger and the media’s duty to inclusivity; and a cogent snippet about jealousy in ‘Othello’, in case you missed that superb live debate in the Town Hall. I hope that you find something to enjoy in these pages and that, in reading them, you might feel some of the astonished ‘beaming’ and ‘bursting’ that is a teacher’s true dividend.

**Lauren Sankey (Key Stage 3 Lead for English at St. John’s Marlborough)**

Cover photo: Mia Young - “Being Brave”

# On Jealousy in the Literature of Love

---

*A speech by Eleanor Flower (Year 13)*

*Written as part of the sixth form debate for Marlborough Literature Festival, exploring jealousy and sympathy within Shakespeare's 'Othello'.*

Jealousy within the literature of love is a trait that is rarely afforded any degree of sympathy from audiences on account of history's codification of it as an inherently feminine trait. From the infamous betrayal of Clytemnestra in Aeschylus' 'Agamemnon' to the complex sexual jealousy of Marianne in Sally Rooney's recent bestseller, 'Normal People', women throughout literature, and in particular the literature of love, have been burdened with the ineffable sins of masculinity; patriarchal expectations of subordination and delicateness that have transformed them into a timeless scapegoat. Yet why is jealousy the centre of this? Why, amongst man's systematisation of the sins of femininity, should jealousy be crowned as their epitome? The answer, I believe, is because jealousy represents an expression of female autonomy, an acknowledgement of a women's desire to exist in an otherness that is otherwise denied her. In describing a woman as jealous, she is given motive, and above all, a potential to be fulfilled. In a world controlled by the porcelain grip of men, any violation of the established order can lead to fracture: as Clytemnestra took her jealous revenge on Agamemnon and Cassandra, and Marianne's subtle resentment ate at her once and future lover, jealousy has, and always will be, as much a symbol of female villainy, one of feminine power.

However, while jealousy is frequently used as a marker for toxic femininity, it would be both reductive and misogynistic to suggest that women, even in literature, are the only ones capable of its expression. In 'Othello', William Shakespeare subverts this traditional archetype in a truly fascinating way: instead of representing the women as one-dimensional villains, defined only by their want of something else, it is the male characters who fall prey to the 'green eyed monster' in their own respective ways. In applying the lens of the inverse, Shakespeare adds depth and complexity to his narrative, challenging the audience's preconceived notions of the comfortably archetypal narratives of the mystery plays and classical reproductions to which they were accustomed. Furthermore, Othello's jealousy-driven downfall deeply contradicts his initial portrayal as the perfect Renaissance Man. Through this, Shakespeare satirises the base Aristotelian principle that the tragic hero should not compromise his inherent nature. From this perspective, it is therefore arguable that the role of tragic hero too is subverted and falls instead to Desdemona. In this complex exploration of gender and morality, Shakespeare highlights the quintessential female-coding of jealousy within love literature, and therefore the assertion that is intrinsically connected with basal villainy, rendering jealous characters arguably unsympathetic.

# Reading George Eliot's 'Middlemarch'

---

*Astrid Wilson-Gignoux (Year 11)*

*Winning entry for the 2022 Bath Spa 'Love Books' competition, run in conjunction with Marlborough Literature festival.*

She sits (with her back to the window, her left foot resting on the bedpost below, her back curved like the arc of a wave) and reads. Every so often she stretches the crick in her neck, moves her hair from the dip between her eyes and the sloping bridge of her nose, and glances at the people passing on the street below. A dog has surreptitiously done what it shouldn't have in the mud of the path (the owner is irritated but more anxious about the disparagement of his neighbour advancing towards them); a small, unprepossessing, boy in green khaki shorts is failing to fish his plastic buggy out of the stream. They are amusing but not consuming. Her protagonist – Dorothea - is far more nuanced in her disintegrating naivete, a far more lucrative prize to comprehend. So she returns to her book.

She is coming to the denouement and yet all is still written in tranquillity, with unflinching precision. Words hang perfectly on Dorothea's silken figure, following her every step without impeding her movement – without appearing masterful or painting her as a puppet. The entangled lives of Middlemarch run haphazardly through her hands – or through Eliot's? She seems to feel the quicksand presence of fingers clasping a pen, dipping in ink, an enigmatic flick of magnanimous wrist at the decision to bring the two lost lovers together in the drawing room at that moment, to counteract Casaubon's insensitive buffoonery with Will's confusion and heartache, to delve into Mary Garth's independence. The world dissolves at Eliot's loom and is remade into a weave of such depth, of such integrity, of such detail. Will Ladislaw's unthinking forays into the viper's nest - that tumultuous couple Rosamond and Tertius Lydgate – are balanced with his amiability towards our own Dorothea (whose disastrous match with the out and out villain Casaubon is redeemed by her unflinching thirst for knowledge). We are not pushed to our limits as a reader, we are simply led to the window and told what we don't look hard enough to see on the everyday street.

Someone shouts downstairs and she straightens herself out. She has homework, violin practice, life, to be getting on with. But the image imprinted on her brain (of that woman staring with love at the hunched old man shrugging off the dawn and starting on his mountain of ploughing) is effervescent. She smiles. Only the greatest of writing can produce joy at the piecing together of a sentence. Not a word is out of place, or a scene misaligned. Middlemarch is real, Middlemarch is there hidden in the downs somewhere. That scuffed old cover appears no more than a door to a different world.

I do not think there is any need for me to introduce myself. You will know me, or you have known me, and I certainly know you.

When you first feel me, you may not know who I am. But I will gradually, gradually, crawl inside a space in your head. Many people think I operate in the heart. Of course, they are wrong. The heart is just an organ; a machine, pumping blood through your veins. No, I work in your mind. I crawl into every spare place, every nook and cranny, until you are infatuated with me.

My first stop today is the lonely old man who lives a few doors down from you. He's rather forgetful, but, most of all, alone. I always sense loneliness. It throbs through me like your blood in your veins. I reach into his thoughts and place into him memories of his old friend who lives downstairs. He smiles, forgetting his loneliness, and creaks painfully down the stairs to go and talk to her again. Love makes the mind do funny things.

I want to stay and laugh at the funny couple, but a darkness flashes into my mind. The first broken love of today. It is a dirty house, an unfed dog lying panting outside. Through the window, a woman is lying on the filthy floor, blood oozing out of a gash in her head. A man, drunken and messy, stumbles out of the front door. Her blood on his hands. He is muttering something angry under his breath.

I push through the wall and see by her head a small black ball. My broken love. I pick it up, and cradle it with my hands, before rooting through her mind. Abuse. Guilt. Hatred and a loneliness that fills her mind like a dark pool. I place the broken love in my pocket and leave.

On the way out, Death appears. I murmur. "*He* deserved to see you today."

"Perhaps he will," Death smiles knowingly. "Perhaps not. Not everyone gets what they deserve, Love. You of all people know that."

My next stop is a school yard. A young boy and an innocent girl. They are fifteen, impressionable and straightforward. The girl is laughing with her friends, the boy watching her and blushing a little. I smile. A sweet, young love. This one is easy. I place a bright ball in his mind, which slowly starts to grow. True, pure love.

I stop next outside a hospital. I have visited here many times before. Mothers smile down at wailing infants. A strong, forever bond. I conjure up hundreds of balls and watch them expand in each person's mind. It's beautiful.

The trenches are muddy and stinking. Not much room for me here. A young man smiles at his friend and blushes as I place a bright love in his mind. I will have to come and collect it soon enough.

I stay for a while, watching them tease and jostle, laughing and hiding their fears under masks, bright facades of happiness.



# CLARIDGE

Funeral Service

Local independent family funeral directors

*Proudly supporting our local community*



*Daniel, Mary & Richard Claridge and team welcome you.  
Every funeral is individual and tailored entirely to your wishes,  
within all budgets.*

Parade Mews | The Parade | Marlborough | Wiltshire SN8 1NE | T: 01672 511836  
E: [daniel@claridgefuneralservice.co.uk](mailto:daniel@claridgefuneralservice.co.uk) | [www.claridgefuneralservice.co.uk](http://www.claridgefuneralservice.co.uk)  
Available 24 hours a day all year round, for information, help and advice

CHARLES S. WINCHCOMBE & SON LTD. Est. 1932  
THOMAS FREE & SONS Est. 1875



FOURTH GENERATION INDEPENDENT FAMILY

FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
& MEMORIAL CRAFTSMEN



[www.wiltshirefunerals.co.uk](http://www.wiltshirefunerals.co.uk)  
[wiltshirefunerals@gmail.com](mailto:wiltshirefunerals@gmail.com)



01672 512110

01380 722500

Albert House,  
The Parade, Marlborough, SN8 1NE.

Registered Office: Winchcombe House,  
37, New Park Street, Devizes, SN10 1DT.



# KFR

**BUY | DONATE | VOLUNTEER**

The furniture & white goods charity

## OPEN TO EVERYONE

### BUY

We stock a wide range of items.

Refurbished and new furniture including tables, chairs, beds, chests of drawers, cupboards and sofas. We also stock white goods such as cookers, washing machines, dishwashers, fridges and freezers. Reconditioned white goods come with a 6 month warranty excluding refrigeration which comes with a 3 month warranty.



We are fully committed to supplying quality items to families with limited income and so our green price carries a 40% discount for those with means tested benefits including tax credits.

Visit our showroom today SN10 2EU

### DONATE

We only thrive if you donate to us.

We will collect your unwanted furniture and white goods (washing machines, dishwashers, cookers, fridges & freezers only) from your doorstep, free of charge as long as they are in a suitable condition. We cover the whole of Wiltshire, reviving communities by removing unwanted items and reducing landfill.

[kfr.org.uk](http://kfr.org.uk)



01380 72 0722 • [info@kfr.org.uk](mailto:info@kfr.org.uk)

### VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are a vital part of KFR.

We simply could not function without them. In return for their commitment, we are able to offer on the job training with a wide variety of personal development opportunities including Health & Safety, CV writing and interview skills. Get in touch if you would like more information about becoming part of the KFR family.

**reuse**  
NETWORK

refurbishing furniture  
reviving communities

Registered charity no. 1056649



# Letters to Papers

---

As part of the Year 11 Creative writing GCSE course, students at St. John's were asked to find a newspaper article which interested them and formulate a concise response using the principles of rhetoric. They were then asked to submit their letter to the paper in which the article originated. Some very strong, emotive and genuine letters were submitted, showing an engagement and thoughtfulness about current affairs that affect them and their peers. Across the next few pages is a sample of these letters. Another of our students, Mia Pitts, actually had hers published in the Guardian on 30<sup>th</sup> September, should you like to read it there.

## **Tara Alagoz on Fracking**

The fracking issue shown in Peter Walker and Helena Horton's eye-opening article ('Tory MPs angrily challenge Rees-Mogg's fracking revival plan', 22nd September) truly highlights how little say the public has in important national decisions.

By enabling laws of the extraction of shale gas, we will be releasing a storm of unnecessary and unknown possibilities, all because of Rees-Mogg's predictable, hasty jump at an easier option. The fact that such a substantial decision on a matter like this could be so freely made with little input by local towns (that will be directly affected) really makes one think, is my voice actually heard?

As a student, having your opinions ignored is not unfamiliar territory. Obviously, we are too young, naive, and foolish to even begin to fathom the problems of today, but I ask you to consider this... Who will be the ones forced to pick up the pieces of the broken puzzle tomorrow? The ones to draw up emergency plans in the future to attempt to fix the irreversible obstacles, left by those who didn't want to act?

Here are three main reasons why Rees-Mogg's "fracking revival plan" should not be allowed. Firstly, it can cause unpredictable seismic activity. If scientists get their maths wrong, even by a little, earthquakes could become the new normal. We might start to practice additional, avoidable drills in our schools.

Secondly, the chemicals used in the complex process can harm human-health, can lead to cancer. Human life, all at a cost of a quick economic cash-grab.

And lastly, fracking has tremendous greenhouse effects due to its by-product of methane. And so, I'd like to leave you with this thought: do you really want to undo decades of work of environmentalists, to bargain all the detrimental consequences of fracking for a speedy, abrupt, access to non-renewable energy?

# Sophie Collister on Hungry Children

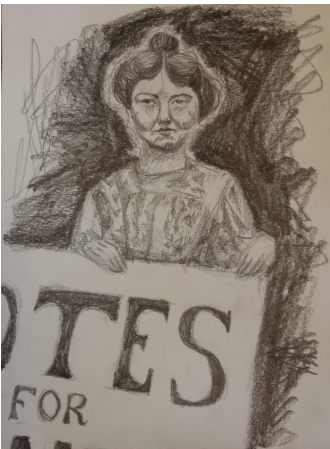
The headline by Anna Fazackerley, ‘Schools in England warn of crisis of ‘heartbreaking’ rise in hungry children’ is a very topical issue that deserves more attention. Our future is in the youths’ hands, yet we still can’t seem to make a change for the better.

Food is a necessity in everyone’s lives: it provides the nutrients we need to simply function daily. Many of us take it for granted, having a plate full of crispy roast potatoes and a warm roast chicken engulfed by a piping hot gravy that melts the flavours together on your tongue. However, for many who are struggling in poverty, this is maybe a once in a lifetime phenomenon; for them they don’t complain if mum hasn’t cooked their peas right, for them all they desire is something to fill their aching stomachs.

The recent pandemic opened our eyes to the injustice in society, where many children struggled to obtain a meal every day. However, this is still happening as we speak, more and more families are asking for aid from charities and schools due to the increase in the cost of living. The age range for free school meals is only from reception to year two, why is this? Surely the issue doesn’t disintegrate as they grow older?

All youth should feel a sense of equality throughout their school years, no one should feel as if they are less valuable. I am a student myself, and I am exposed to the harsh reality, how some children just can’t afford lunch therefore go without it or feel guilt ridden every time they buy lunch, as they understand how this is affecting their parents.

Our youth are crumbling in front of us. What are we going to do about it?



**Tali Rumsey explores the concept of the typical woman and her role in society contrasted with feminism and how Grace Kelly was portrayed as a sex symbol and a typical woman.**



## Sasha Minoudis on LGBTQ+

I am writing in relation to the article highlighting LGBTQ+ presence. This portrayal of sexuality is significant because the 2020 society is very aware of inclusivity. The patriarchal society of the 1980s is very much a thing of the past and the ‘woke’ awareness of current audiences means that inclusivity and equality is one of the most important aspects of any media representation. I think it is vitally important that equality is portrayed in children’s cartoon series as it delivers a message to children very early on that there isn’t a ‘right’ and ‘wrong’ sexuality and they aren’t limited to a fixed image of how they are meant to be.

In the LGBTQ+ article, it is stated that the screenwriter (James Gunn) tried to out the heroine Velma Dinkley in the cartoon series Scooby-Doo in the early 2000s but the “studio was having none of it” and watered it down; even giving her a boyfriend for the 2004 sequel Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed. I think it shows how society has grown and established a greater sense of equality even over the last 15 years. Outing this character as homosexual, I imagine, would bring a greater sense of belonging for the LGBTQ+ society so therefore I think it is important that there is a wider variety of individuals shown on TV.

In conclusion, I believe that media representation has such a huge influence on public opinion that it is incredibly important that every minority group should be fairly and accurately represented across all texts. This would encourage acceptance and inclusivity and reduce any naïve fears and phobias.



Wyatt Duquenoey on pollution. The hook and magnet signifying the need to pull people away from the damaging habits that attract them.

George Shepard looks at aspiration and how it can be a powerful motivator in our modern society.



# What does your garden say about you?

Sarah Bumphrey

---

Penelope Lively poses this question in her book *Life in the Garden*. It prompted me to reflect on my own horticultural efforts. My front garden might indicate someone with big ideas without the dedication to follow it through. It began as a three point design centred on acanthus and hebes planted on a grid. The acanthus plants are still there but in various states of decay while two of the hebes have died and been replaced with daphnes, leaving gaps populated by forget-me-not seedlings.

This is rather shaming as my grandfather was a gardener by profession. He worked at an hotel growing fresh vegetables for the kitchen and maintaining the grounds, cheekily putting rose flowers in the lily ponds if the show of blooms was not to his liking. His own front garden was a reflection of the post war era: patriotic planting of red salvias, white alyssum and blue lobelia in geometric designs and a low privet hedge with “bobbles” sticking out of it at regular intervals which we children loved to pat to and fro. The back garden was dominated by two enormous greenhouses full of tomato plants. The smell of home-grown tomatoes always takes me back there. He was a thrifty man always conscious of the need to have enough money to feed his family; he sold his tomatoes and vegetables and flowers from his allotment to local greengrocers.

His son, my father, was also a gardener. He grew fruit and vegetables to feed the family and also found gardening an antidote to the stress of work. His garden in Dorset reflected his perfectionism: a beautiful green lawn with sweeping curves (not a regimented salvia in sight) and weed free flower beds. He preferred my siblings and me to go to the recreation ground to play rather than whacking balls into the roses!

Returning to my own garden and venturing behind the house I think my grandfather would have been more impressed by the back garden where there has been some sustained hard work. The raised beds have produced a good crop of broad beans, potatoes and mange tout, sweet corn and even a couple of squash. I fed the pot plants and they flourished, especially the dahlias which are a delight. As a child I did not like dahlias. I thought the colours were harsh, found their smell strange and, as I often saw them at harvest festivals, associated them with the onset of cold weather. But now I think they are glorious, from huge peach coloured Penhill Watermelon to the eight slender folded petals of Honka Fragile and all the others in between. My garden hints that I can change my mind! What does yours say about you?



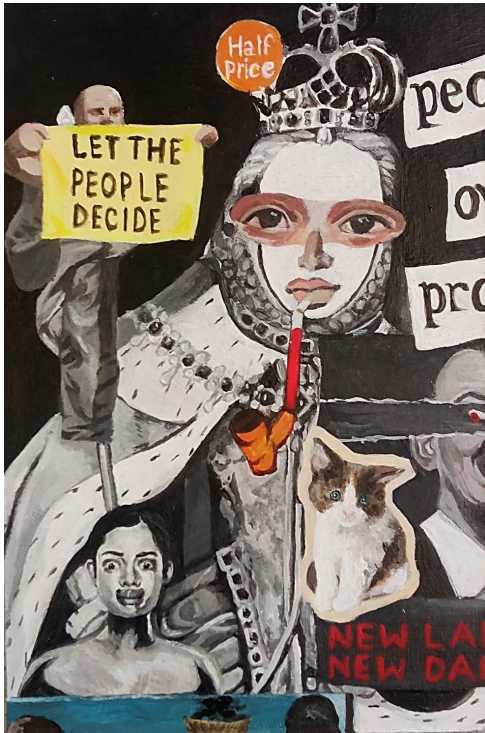
Freya Paul - 'Fragile'  
 Freya was looking at how nature will always win. Nature eventually takes over any urban landscape.

Amelia Mansfield –  
 Climate Change

She was looking at the idea of fragility of the environment and how we seem to be always hitting a dead end when it comes to solving climate change.







Anisha Baker –Don't believe the Hype

Looking at how modern politics has become farcical. Every politician has become a parody of themselves but the subject matter is incredibly important but continually downplayed.

Sofia Duncan -Monarchy

Looking at the belief that some people see the monarchy as a façade: however with the representation of butterflies she was showing the metamorphosis of this institution.



Lila Davies –Be your own role model

Looking at the idea that we should be our own positive role model.





### **Crimes Of The Future** – showing from 3<sup>rd</sup> November

A David Cronenberg Sci-Fi film carries a certain expectation and *Crimes of the Future* wastes little time in setting the scene of a future in which human beings have begun to develop new organs and adaptations to survive in their mostly synthetic surroundings. In this world, pain and infection are distant memories, and surgery is the new sex. The film follows a pair of performance artists, Caprice (Léa Seydoux) and Saul Tenser (Viggo Mortensen), who have capitalised on this, making their canvas the human body; their public performances involve Caprice publicly performing a kind of ritualistic surgery on Tenser. As Timlin, part of a team tasked with cataloguing and investigating new organs and adaptations, Kirsten Stewart lends a lighter perspective to the film and steals every scene she is in.

*Crimes Of The Future* is unlikely to appeal to everyone. Still, the stellar cast alongside an intriguing premise carries the film, and Cronenberg's trademark style will keep you enraptured from beginning to end. It feels at times as though the film cannot quite follow through on some of its ideas but remains compelling throughout.

### **My Neighbour Adolf** – showing from 23<sup>rd</sup> November

*My neighbour Adolf* asks the question, what if the most notorious war criminal of all time had not, in fact, shot himself in his bunker and was instead living his life in a suburb? Malek Polsky, played by David Hayman, is a lonely and grumpy Holocaust survivor who finds himself at odds with local authorities who refuse to believe him when a German man, played by Udo Kier, moves in next door. Malek is sure he recognises those “dead blue eyes” as belonging to none other than the Fuhrer himself.

What follows is a film that treads a line between a mash-up of *Rear Window*-style psychological suspense and *Home Alone*-style humour as Polsky attempts to find proof that his neighbour is the Fuhrer; this ranges from following his neighbour's movements with binoculars from behind the curtains to trying to ascertain the number of testicles he has.

*My Neighbour Adolf* keeps you guessing until the last 15 minutes, and the performance by Kier is at times mesmerising and compelling, the actor's charisma and gravitas distracting from a slightly uneven script. Hayman is relatable and exciting as the viewer's perspective in the film and the interplay between the actors works well enough to distract you from any minor quibbles with the film.

# What's On in November

---

## **3<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday)**

2pm Mildenhall Village Hall. Marlborough Floral Club. Carolyn Vanstone – ‘The Christmas Story’. Treat yourselves to an enjoyable afternoon out on the first Thursday of each month. There is a Guest Demonstrator and the arrangements are raffled at the end of the demonstration. For more information, please call Micky Graham on 01672 514301

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

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Marlborough History Society presents a talk by local enthusiast Neil Stevens ‘The Americans in the Marlborough Area in WWII’. See further details on page 27. Guests are very welcome, £5 entry

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

Marlborough College: Exeat starts - to 21<sup>st</sup> (Monday)

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

7.30pm St Peter's Church. 11<sup>th</sup> Series of Brilliant Young International Musicians: Haru Ushigusa (Violin) and Yoko Misumi (Piano). See more details on the St Peter's website. Tickets (£15/Members £10) on the door on the night or from [www.stpetersmarlborough.org.uk](http://www.stpetersmarlborough.org.uk) in advance

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

7pm-9pm The Merchant's House. ‘A 17<sup>th</sup> Century Magical Musical Winter's Evening’. A wonderful opportunity to come and explore the House, lit by candlelight, accompanied by local musicians on the spinet, plus four-piece choir Sing4Joy. Tickets (£15/Friends of MH £12). For further details, and to book, visit [www.themerchantshouse.co.uk/events](http://www.themerchantshouse.co.uk/events)

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

7pm-9pm St John the Baptist, Minal. The Merchant's House. ‘Hallowed Ground’. We expect a fascinating evening with two local authors who share a deep love for the English parish church: Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of Ramsbury and Jon Cannon, author and historian. Tickets (£18/Friends of MH £15). For further details, and to book, visit [www.themerchantshouse.co.uk/events](http://www.themerchantshouse.co.uk/events)

Jane and I have lived in Marlborough for just over three years and we have come to realise how blessed we are to live here with so many and varied events going on throughout the year in the town and local area. Recently there have been Gifford's Circus, the Literary Festival and the Mop Fair. Three very different activities appealing to people of all ages, tastes and interests.

We are also blessed to live here with so many opportunities to worship God and attend events throughout the year in the churches, which are named in this magazine. There are different styles of worship and numerous activities appealing to people of all ages, tastes and interests.

I am the minister at and serve Christchurch Methodist Church. We may only number about forty members, but we are also part of the worldwide Church. As Christians, we believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Saviour and we serve him in the life of the Church and in the world. We believe in baptism and confirmation. We are committed to worship, Holy Communion, fellowship, prayer, Bible study and responsible giving. We are also committed to working out our faith in everyday life, offering personal service in the community and supporting the Church in its total world mission.

This is like all churches, but what is distinctive about the Methodist Church? Everyone is able to know God personally and should be made to feel welcome in the local church. We are traditionally known for the importance of lay leadership in preaching, pastoral care and running the local congregation. In our worship, hymn singing is very important, not only to worship God, but to express our beliefs. "Methodism was born in song" and we sing our faith.\* Small groups are important for teaching, pastoral care and fellowship. Each church is linked with other churches in the area in circuits, which are presided over by a superintendent minister; circuits are then grouped into Districts, which are in the charge of a chair. Nationally, all churches are part of the Connexion, linking all the congregations through the annual Conference, which is presided over by an annually elected President.

Last year, Christchurch Church Council made a very hard decision. After a number of difficult years managing and caring for the extensive premises and running the church, it was felt that it was not fair, or sustainable, for so much work to be carried on by the few people who were physically able to do what was needed. This is not the fault of anyone, but just the way things are. So, with sadness and some relief, it was decided to consider what to do with our building and how we could

*continued overleaf*

## Clergy Letter continued:

continue as a Methodist Church in Marlborough. Two groups of church members have for the last twelve months spent hours thinking, praying and working to determine what God is leading us to do.

One group, “Exodus”, looked at what should happen to the building and the other, “Milk and Honey”, at how we can be a Methodist congregation in the town. Exodus’ work led to the “Freehold For Sale” sign going up in the summer. According with Methodist practice, the sale is being dealt with by the Circuit and the national Church, who, like all charities, have to follow Charity Law. “Milk and Honey” has been exploring all the possibilities and opportunities, which this exciting new start gives us. They have shown great care and sensitivity in getting the views of all the congregation along the way. The team is grateful for the support and encouragement of other Christians in the town and we are looking to take decisions in the coming weeks on where and how we will worship and witness in future.

After over a hundred years of worship on that site, it will be sad to sell the building, but the Methodist presence, which has been in Marlborough for over two hundred years, will continue in a new way somewhere in town. As one chapter of our history closes, another will begin, which is a cause for praising God for his faithfulness. After the Exodus and wandering in the wilderness for forty years, God led the Israelites to the Promised Land, a land overflowing with milk and honey. At the heart of the Christian faith is the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. The pain, suffering and death of Jesus on the cross is followed by his glorious resurrection as God raised him from the dead. On Easter morning, tears of sorrow turned to tears of joy. Recent years have been difficult for Christchurch and it has become harder to look after the building and so a decision has been made to sell. It is painful and hard, but also liberating.

At the last Methodist service on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023, there will be sadness and a sense of loss and grief, as the church walls hold within them many precious memories for lots of people. Those moments, however, will stay with us on our Christian journey as we go in faith, knowing that the risen Lord Jesus is with us. We go in the power of the Holy Spirit, praising God for new beginnings and looking forward to being part of Marlborough’s Christian story wherever that might be or whatever that might look like. We appreciate the prayers and support which the churches of the town have and are giving us at this momentous time. Only God knows what the future holds, but we do know that we can trust in him. He has a plan for us and the town. In the words of John Wesley, who founded the Methodist Church, “the best of all, is that God is with us”.

*continued page 21*



**Tuttle**  
architectural  
services

- Planning applications
- Building Control approvals
- Extensions & alterations
- Loft & garage conversions
- Listed applications
- New dwellings

01672 518 278

[info@tuttlearchserv.co.uk](mailto:info@tuttlearchserv.co.uk)

[www.tuttlearchserv.co.uk](http://www.tuttlearchserv.co.uk)

**29 SEPT - 2 OCT 2022**

**marlborough**

**literature**

**festival**



A large, bare field at the foot of the Downs seems bereft of life, but as a Buzzard lazily cruises overhead a mixed flock of birds gets up - a dozen Lapwings with their distinctive floppy flight and a larger group of slightly smaller birds with sickle-shaped wings flying in formation and calling with soft whistles, Golden Plover, winter visitors from Northern Europe and Britain.

It's mid-afternoon on a cold November day with light beginning to fade after three o'clock. It is then on a favoured spot in the Salisbury Plain Training area that dedicated birders and photographers gather, waiting for the arrival of special birds of prey in an area of unimproved grassland dotted with small bushes, and I've joined them.

First to appear is a Short-Eared Owl, cruising back and forth low over the ground in search of field voles, and then another, emerging from a fold in the downs. When there is a "plague of voles" the Owls, which are scarce

but regular winter visitors to Wiltshire, will suddenly appear in numbers, and then just as suddenly disperse. It's a glamorous bird, the short ears just about visible when it perches on a bush, the plumage a subtle mix of browns, oranges and pale ochres. The photographers are clicking away.....

A Kestrel hovers and a Red Kite sails past, but the birders are looking for something much more exciting: as the light begins to go there it is, a beautiful male Hen Harrier, gliding past slowly, close to the ground on long, grey V-shaped wings. Some of our wintering individuals may originate from Fenno-Scandinavia and the Netherlands, but a number of ringed birds have come from Wales and Scotland. The term "harrier" refers to its former habit of preying on free-ranging fowl, it's winter diet mainly consisting of short-tailed voles, meadow pipits and skylarks. A small falcon is perched upright on a post, before taking off and zig-zagging in the air pursuing a lone skylark. It's a female Merlin hoping its prey will tire and give up the ghost, but it doesn't, and the Merlin goes hungry.

*continued opposite*



# Marlborough Church Contacts

---

## **Fr John Blacker**

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

## **Reuben Mann**

07894 048146  
office@emmanuelmarlborough.org  
*Minister, Emmanuel Marlborough Church*

## **The Revd Tim Novis**

892209; twgn@marlboroughcollege.org  
Senior Chaplain, Marlborough College

## **The Revd Pete Sainsbury**

512364; revpetesainsbury@gmail.com  
Team Vicar and Worship Director,  
St George's Preshute & The Marlborough  
Anglican Team

## **The Revd Stephen Skinner**

512457; rev.stephen.skinner3@gmail.com  
*Minister, Christchurch Methodist*

## **The Revd Chris Smith**

514357; revcsmith@outlook.com  
Rector; Marlborough Anglican Team

## **Rachel Rosedale**

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

---

## **Penny Reader**

marlb.anglicanteam@tiscali.co.uk  
Church Cottage, Silverless Street, SN8 1JQ  
01672 512357; 07593 815609  
*(Weekdays, 0900 to 1300)*

## **David Wylie**

513701;  
office@christchurchmarlborough.org.uk  
Christchurch Office, New Road, SN8 1AH  
*(Fridays, 14:30 to 16:30)*

---

Some will have got that special shot of the Owl as it turned in the air, and it is good that the shooting is with a camera, not with a gun. I make my way home in the dark, happy to have experienced a raptor watch, but there is another surprise awaiting me. Along the West Kennet Avenue a bird rises up from a fence-post: a beautiful Barn Owl, caught in the car lights, vanishing on silent wings to hunt for mice.

## **Small Wonders Online Art Auction**

supporting the isolated and vulnerable

### **Live online auction November 18 - 29**

Snap up an original artwork by a professional artist,  
for yourself or as a unique Christmas present!

Shop local, do good for your community!

Visit our website for more details.

*arts*  
**together**  
ageing creatively

**[www.artstogether.co.uk](http://www.artstogether.co.uk)**

On that Thursday we had the honour of attending the Lying In State of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Armed with marmalade sandwiches, we joined the line snaking along the Thames at the point where the Golden Hinde rests in dry dock (23:30). The app on our phones told us we were something like 2.6 miles from our goal of Westminster Hall – although that proved to be a considerable underestimate of our journey through the night. Daughter Georgia sent us a Twitter quote: *If you are British, this is the queue you've been training for all your life.*

Seeing night-time London reflected in the Thames as we shuffled along the South Bank was quite magical. As we progressed, the tide turned and the current came racing in from the sea, glinting in the city lights. There was St Paul's, standing out against the taller buildings of the city on the north side along with the Millenium Bridge, with the Tate, the Oxo Tower, Shakespeare's Globe and the London Eye on the south side. The stretch between Westminster and Lambeth bridges brought us right up against the brim-full river as we scented the approach of our goal.

We had a lovely couple behind us, Chelsea fans just back from a match. In front was a pair of schoolfriends, one a doctor, the other a zookeeper specialising in gorillas. In front of them was another couple, he a pest controller around London, lamenting the traffic developments of the past couple of years: cyclists zooming dangerously through red lights, with motor-scooter delivery drivers now beginning to follow suit.

Crossing Lambeth bridge, you could feel the footsteps quicken, the anticipation rise. But then, turning the corner at the end of the bridge, came the great shock: amid a welter of generators, portaloos and discarded rubbish, something like 100 zigzags covering the length of Victoria Tower Gardens. We reckon this added some 3.5 miles to our pilgrimage, more than doubling the distance from our starting point. Soul-destroying.

By contrast, the police at the security point were a tonic: quick, efficient and common sensical in their assessment of what could pass and what couldn't, adding kindly concern and friendly chat. Time: 07:30.

Then it was into the Great Hall of the Palace of Westminster.

*continued opposite*

Clergy Letter continued:

As the lights are switched off after the last service, we know that it will mark a new beginning, bringing new life with new hope and a bright future in Marlborough for the Christian people known as Methodists.

*Stephen*

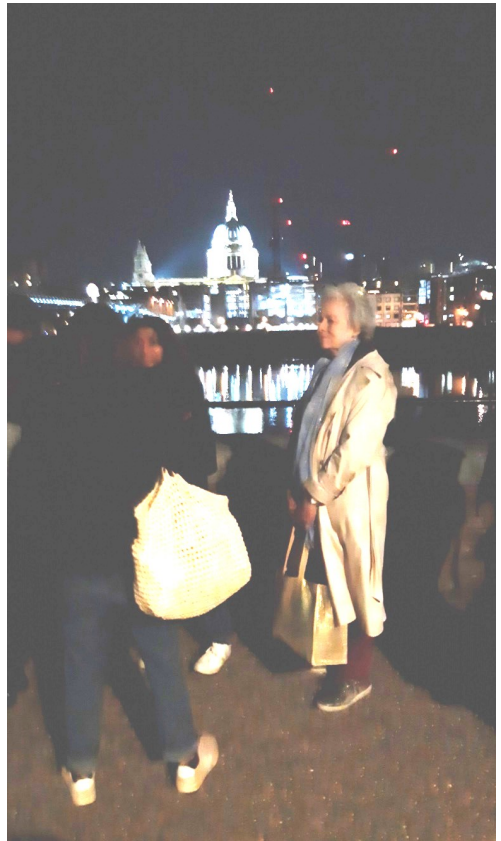
\*Preface to “The Methodist Hymn Book” (1933). Today’s hymn book is called “Singing the Faith” (2011).

---

Lying in State continued:

Actually being in the Hall was deeply moving and awe-inspiring. Our arrival coincided with the changing of the guard, with great clomping of boots and solemn dignity. And then being able to stand beside the coffin, draped with the royal standard and supporting the Imperial State crown, the monarch’s orb and sceptre, was a unique and precious experience, real and powerful, within touching distance of the Guardsmen, the Gentlemen at Arms and the Yeomen Warders.

We felt vividly part of an ancient and hard-won tradition. This is Our Monarchy, Our Parliament, unique among the nations.



In the queue. St. Paul's in background

# 20 Years in Afghanistan

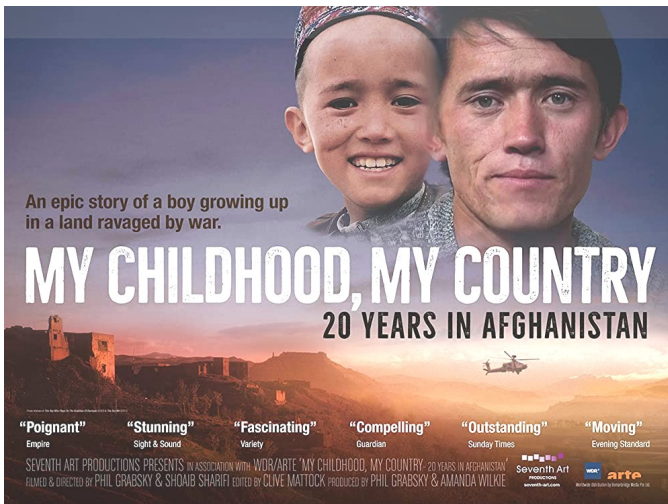
Neil Hall

*The screening of the film 'My Life, My Country: 20 Years in Afghanistan' which I played a role in promoting, was very well attended. I would like to thank all those who bought tickets, for their interest and support. The following is a letter from Natalia Deane, Head of Communications at AFGHAN AID, to the Manager at the Parade Cinema.*

I wanted to extend our deepest thanks for helping to facilitate the event at the Parade Cinema last week, and thank you for waving the entry fee for 3 of the tickets - that was really kind of you. The cinema is absolutely lovely and the evening was a great success, raising over £600 in donations on the night. I am sure Neil would have mentioned that the UK government is doubling everything we raise from this appeal so £600 is transformed into £1200 to be channelled to supporting Afghan women, during a time when to be a woman in Afghanistan has become so much more difficult, and the hard won rights of the last 20 years have been rolled back. On top of this, we saw an uplift in donations on the evening of the 28th and on 29th and 30th, amounting to £994, which I am sure was at least in part due to the event.

Aside from donations, these events are so important for raising awareness and keeping the issues facing the people of Afghanistan in people's minds, so that we can ensure people do not forget about them at a time when they need our support the most.

Thank you again and very best wishes,  
Natalia



# THE MERRIMAN PARTNERSHIP SOLICITORS EST. 1738

- Property
- Wills
- Probate
- Family
- Employment
- Litigation
- Mediation

HUGHENDEN HOUSE, 107 HIGH STREET  
MARLBOROUGH, WILTSHIRE SN8 1LN

Tel: +44 (0) 1672 512244  
Fax: +44 (0) 1672 515871

[www.merriman-partnership.co.uk](http://www.merriman-partnership.co.uk)

## *Leathercraft of Marlborough*

JEAN UPTON

*FINE QUALITY LEATHER GOODS  
& PRESENTS LARGE AND SMALL*

OLD HUGHENDEN YARD, HIGH STREET  
MARLBOROUGH SN8 1LT  
TEL. (01672) 512 065



**AD DRAUGHTING**  
ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

Extensions | Conversions | New Builds  
Planning Permission | Building Regulations

01672 511412 | 07791 341698  
[www.addraughting.co.uk](http://www.addraughting.co.uk)

## **CHRIS WHEELER CONSTRUCTION**

For fencing and associated work  
Contact the specialists

All types of fencing supplied and erected  
Driveways and road construction  
Quality assured to ISO 9001:2000

Tel: 01672 810315  
Email: [cw.cw@btinternet.com](mailto:cw.cw@btinternet.com)

## MARLBOROUGH PODIATRY CLINIC

10 The Parade, Marlborough, SN8 1NE

**Niki Thompson**

BSc (Hons) PodMed, MRCoP, HCPC Reg.

Treatment of all foot  
problems  
for  
Children and Adults

Professional Advice  
Routine & Specialist Care  
Nail Surgery Advice - Orthotics

01672 514581  
07910 525376

[marlboroughpodiatryclinic.com](http://marlboroughpodiatryclinic.com)  
[podiatrycare1@mail.com](mailto:podiatrycare1@mail.com)



# Dianne Mackinder Funeral Service



On Call Day & Night  
01672 512444 or 512516

Wagon Yard, London Road,  
Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1 LH



The Hair and Trichology Clinic  
Lynda Hutton MIT

for medical & cosmetic hair & scalp conditions  
NHS & private wig design; affordable hair salon

7 High Street, Chiseldon, 7 miles from Marlborough  
01793 740147 - [www.hairandtrichology.co.uk](http://www.hairandtrichology.co.uk)

TO ADVERTISE HERE

Please contact Chris Rogers

at

[advertising@towerandtown.org.uk](mailto:advertising@towerandtown.org.uk)



Furniture Restorer, Upholsterer  
& Cabinet Maker

**Andrew Brennan**

Harepath Farm, Burbage, Marlborough SN8 3BT

M: 07769 833 939

[brennanrestorations@gmail.com](mailto:brennanrestorations@gmail.com)

Established 1992

# MARLBOROUGH TAXIS

We pride ourselves on providing  
a warm and friendly service to get you  
to your destination safely, on time  
and at a reasonable cost.

Booking ahead is advisable.

We have an on board card payment facility.  
Local or long distance for up to 4 passengers.  
Licensed Hackney Carriage.  
We have a DBS certificate and are fully insured.

## 01672 512786

Volunteering  
is fun and  
rewarding!



Marlborough & District

## VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED



Could you be a LINK driver taking people for medical  
appointments, shopping or social activities?

If you could spare time please contact us

Call **01672 288007**

Visit [marlboroughlink.org.uk](http://marlboroughlink.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 1069752

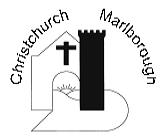


# News from the Churches

---

## Christchurch

You may have seen that we have had a problem with falling slates. We hope to have this resolved very soon. We continue to worship as a Fellowship and thank everyone for their prayers as we move forward in faith. We hope to have more news soon. A challenging and yet exciting time. We are trusting in God as we plan and know that the Holy Spirit is guiding us.



## Women's Fellowship

meet at 2.45pm in the Crush Hall, Christchurch.

1st Nov Speaker Stephen Roe  
15th Nov Co-op Legal Services (Wills & Powers of Attorney)  
29th Nov tea and chat.

6th Dec Looking forward, looks like our final one at present as Christchurch closes as a church in January, 2023. As always a warm welcome can be guaranteed to all.



## Marlborough Churches Together: Fraternal

The next Fraternal will be held at 18 Priorsfield on Wednesday 2nd November at 12.30pm.



## Friendship cafe 5th November St Mary's Church Hall

10am to 12 noon. Open to anyone who would like to spend a couple of hours talking to others who are feeling lonely.

For more information contact Louise Seddon 07917 248339 Marke Whitehead 07814 89512

## Children's Church, St Mary's

From 6<sup>th</sup> November St Mary's is delighted to be launching Children's Church to accompany the 5:30pm Informal Worship. Children up to age 11 stay with us for the family-friendly start of the service, then leave for Bible teaching, crafts, games, music and prayer in friendly groups. New children are welcome at any time, even if just visiting. If you have any queries, please contact Penny for more [marlb.anglicanteam@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:marlb.anglicanteam@tiscali.co.uk)



**Marlborough Anglican Team**

information.

## Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG)

The next Open Meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th November 5.00pm on zoom. All Welcome. Please contact Rachel ([rachelrosed1@gmail.com](mailto:rachelrosed1@gmail.com)) if you would like to join us.



## Quakers

The Meeting with Danny Kruger to find out more about government policy on Climate Change and to discuss issues we feel should be taken on renewables and saving energy is to go ahead on **Thursday 10th November**, 7.00 for 7.30pm at St. Peter's Church. For more information contact Rachel (rachelrosed1@gmail.com). All welcome. Let's hope political uncertainty does not prevail again.



## Kids@StMary's Remembrance

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 10am in St Mary's Church Hall. Craft activities themed on 'Remembrance' plus coffee and cake for the grown-ups. All welcome.

## Remembrance Services Sunday 13th November

St John the Baptist, Minal at 9am;

St George's, Preshute at 10.30am ; and

St Mary's, Marlborough at 11.15am (N.B. Later start to allow joining in with the short act of Remembrance and the Parade at The War Memorial at 11am)



## Lighting up Marlborough for Christmas

The Christmas Lights Switch-on Event and Christmas Market is due to take place on Friday 18th November. The Christmas Market in the High Street trades between 10am and 7.30pm; the Christmas lights go on at 6.30pm.

## Fundraising meal for St John the Baptist

Sunday 20th November, at The Raj : £15 per head. More details from Penny in the Church Office. marlb.anglicanteam@tiscali.co.uk

## Emmanuel Marlborough.

We are grateful to meet for a weekly 4pm Sunday service at

Christchurch, New Road, with crèche and Sunday School groups. All are welcome to stay afterwards for refreshments

and a sandwich tea for children. Mid-week we are also

delighted to offer a variety of activities including homegroups meeting in Marlborough, Pewsey and Ogbourne St George and community groups as below - for more details and the latest updates, please check our website at [emmanuelmarlborough.org](http://emmanuelmarlborough.org):



**Little Friends Toddler Group**, Thursdays, 10-1130am at the Marlborough Community and Youth Centre. Come and enjoy free play, singing and story time, snacks for children and refreshments for carers.

**Sparklers Monday 21 Nov** 3:45-4:45pm (Doors open at 3:30pm) at the Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough. A monthly kids club for school years Reception to Year 2. Games, Snacks and Bible Stories!

**Explorers**, Fridays, 6-715pm at the Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough. Our kids club for school years 3-6. Fun, games, tuck and a short Bible talk (bring 50p for tuck)

**Friday Nights** Fridays, 7:30-9pm. Our youth club for school years 7-11 at the Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough. Friends, fun & faith – everyone welcome!

**Hope Explored** A 3 session short introduction to Christianity, from Luke's Gospel. All welcome to come and ask any question or just listen! For more details, email [office@emmanuelmarlborough.org](mailto:office@emmanuelmarlborough.org)

### FROM THE REGISTERS

**Weddings** - we congratulate:

17 September Philippa Brown & Luke Sandler; St George's

**Departed** - we pray for the families of:

7 September John Isaacson (91), Savernake View, Marlborough

13 September David Hutchins (82), Newby Acre, Marlborough

21 September Kate Maurice (77), London Road, Marlborough

24 September Maurice Nathan (91), Savernake View, Marlborough

26 September David Whiting (75), West Manton, Marlborough



## “The Americans in the Marlborough Area in World War II”

By Neil Stevens

Neil is a local person who has grown up in Marlborough. From an early age he has had an interest in the Americans in Marlborough and over the years has been in touch with veterans.

He organised for the memorial stone to be put on Marlborough Common which records the presence of an American Military Hospital there. This hospital catered for the wounded from the Normandy Beaches and only closed when the war in Europe ended.

Thursday, November 17, 7:30 pm, St Peter's Church.

Guests are very welcome, £5 entry. (Covid safe provisions are in place)

# Tower and Town staff

---

<b>Chairman</b>	Sarah Bumphrey	chairman@towerandtown.org.uk 16 George Lane, SN8 4BX	516862
<b>Advertising</b>	Chris Rogers	advertising@towerandtown.org.uk	
<b>Distribution</b>	Sue Tulloh	distribution@towerandtown.org.uk	288912
<b>Subscriptions</b>	Peter Astle	4 Laurel Drive, SN8 2SH	515395
<b>Treasurer</b>	Peter Astle	treasurer@towerandtown.org.uk	515395

## Production Teams

### *December*

Editor	Gemma Harris	dec.editor@towerandtown.org.uk	513101
Compiler	Rob Napier	dec.compiler@towerandtown.org.uk	512333

### *February*

Editor	John Osborne	feb.editor@towerandtown.org.uk	514364
Compiler	Rob Napier	feb.compiler@towerandtown.org.uk	512333

## Every Month

<i>What's On</i>	Ali Pick	whats.on@towerandtown.org.uk	512250
<i>News from the Churches</i>	Alison Selby	church.news@towerandtown.org.uk Crossmead, Kingsbury St, SN8 1HU	511128
<i>Family News</i>	Jessy Pomfret	family.news@towerandtown.org.uk	519134
<i>Arts</i>	Gabriella Venus	arts.correspondent@towerandtown.org.uk	
<i>Books</i>	Debby Guest	books.correspondent@towerandtown.org.uk	
<i>Nature</i>	Robin Nelson	nature.correspondent@towerandtown.org.uk	

**Website, searchable article archive** <https://www.towerandtown.org.uk>

**Webmaster, IT** [hugh@towerandtown.org.uk](mailto:hugh@towerandtown.org.uk)

**Contributions and comments** from readers are welcome.

Please send articles and letters to the Monthly Editor or the Chairman, other notices or announcements to the compiler. All items for the November issue by Tuesday 8th November 2022 please.

**Our Advertisers** support us. Contact Chris Rogers if you would like to join them.

Tower and Town is available at St Mary's, Christchurch, St Peter's, Mustard Seed, Kennet Pharmacy and St George's, Preshute.

**Annual subscription** £5 for 11 copies a year delivered to your address.

Please ring Sue Tulloh (288912) or use [www.towerandtown.org.uk](http://www.towerandtown.org.uk)

**originzone**



## ***Websites shaped around you***

We create bespoke websites with your business in mind.

Our solutions are suitable for any business, whether you're looking for a new website or you simply want to refresh.

**Make your website work for you.**

[originzone.co.uk](http://originzone.co.uk) | 01793 430006

FILM ★ FRIENDS ★ FOOD



# THE PARADE CINEMA

MARLBOROUGH'S NEW INDEPENDENT CINEMA ★

Showing the latest releases, live events, classics, foreign  
★ language films, kids' club, subtitled and lots more...

Book in person or online at [www.theparadecinema.com](http://www.theparadecinema.com)  
or scan the QR code

★ 1 screen, 104 seats, full bar, cafe & large garden ★

★ Open 7 days a week from 9.30am until late ★

★ Follow us @theparadecinema The Parade, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1NE ★

