
TOWER AND TOWN



**LitFest
Anniversary
Edition**



September 2024

Single copy £1
Annual subscription £7



KFR

refurbishing furniture
reviving communities

IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE WE CAN ALL DO OUR PART TO SAVE MONEY,
SAVE THE PLANET, AND HELP OTHERS IN NEED.



SAVE MONEY



SAVE THE PLANET



HELP PEOPLE IN CRISIS

#REUSEREVOLUTION

REFURBISHING FURNITURE AND
WHITE GOODS SO THAT QUALITY
ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE TO FAMILIES
WITH LIMITED INCOME.

SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

JOIN THE REUSE REVOLUTION TODAY!

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

SCAN OUR QR CODE & DONATE TODAY



Registered Charity 1056649



info@kfr.org.uk



01380 720200

TOWER AND TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 751 SEPTEMBER 2024



Marlborough LitFest 2024

Fifteen years on from the first Marlborough LitFest in 2010, there's a celebratory mood in town. Thanks to the foresight and dedication of a small group of bookish folk back then, several of them still involved, Marlborough can play host to an ever more star-studded cast of authors for its festival each autumn.

The aim has been to add depth to the main four days of LitFest with writers to appeal to all ages and tastes, more workshops and even a walk in Savernake Forest this year. Most important are an increasing number of free activities for families including the second year of the popular Once Upon a Trail for children to find book clues in Marlborough's shop windows.

The LitFest committee is very grateful to have significant local support through sponsorship, an expanding Friends scheme and, vital to its success, a burgeoning troop of enthusiastic volunteers. We are delighted to be returning to The Merchant's House with a storytelling session for adults and to be holding events at St Peter's Church for the first time. Our partnership with The Parade Cinema continues with a special Big Book Quiz and Street Storytellers for children in their courtyard.

Some of the biggest names this year have already sold out (stop press: more tickets have just gone on sale for Sir Simon Russell Beale – buy now while you still can!) but, with well over 40 events in total, there are plenty more on offer, a few of which we are previewing here. You might also like to dip into the books to be featured at The White Horse Bookshop or Marlborough Library.

Genevieve Clarke, LitFest Chair

Marlborough LitFest runs from 26 to 29 September. The programme is available at the White Horse Bookshop, Marlborough Library and on marlboroughlitfest.org. The box office is now open: you can buy tickets in The White Horse Bookshop, phone TicketSource on 0333 666 3366 or visit marlboroughlitfest.org/tickets.

Front cover: Tonwen Jones

Adam Sisman (The Big Town Read) – The Secret Life of John le Carré

In 2015, Adam Sisman wrote a biography of the spy novelist John le Carré. The book was widely praised, but it hadn't been an easy journey for Sisman. Le Carré had initially granted him complete access to his private papers, former colleagues (he used to work for MI5 and MI6) and friends, but when the biographer began to unearth a string of love affairs, le Carré restricted what he could include.

Fast forward eight years, and Sisman has now produced a coda to his biography, comprising all the material that le Carré suppressed. He has done so with the author's blessing – "I don't care what you write about me after I'm dead," he said. His family have given their approval too, believing that any information that may aid understanding of their father's work should be on the public record.

Sisman could be accused of prurience, but le Carré himself felt that his affairs – it appears he had a different muse for almost every one of the 26 novels he wrote – were integral to his writing process. "My infidelities produced in me a duality and a tension that became almost a necessary drug for my writing," he explained. "They are not therefore a 'dark part' of my life, separate from the high literary calling, so to speak, but, alas, integral to it, and inseparable."

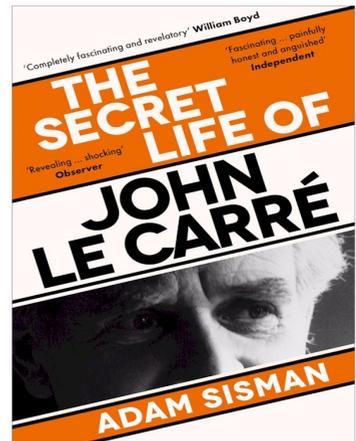
Needless to say, he conducted his affairs using all the clandestine tradecraft found in his books, including dead letter drops and anti-surveillance techniques. The result is a fascinating, if troubling, read.

Jon Stock

Adam Sisman will be talking to Jon Stock about The Secret Life of John le Carré at The Big Town Read in the Town Hall, 4pm, Sunday 29 September.



Credit Karen Robinson



Linda Grant (The Golding Speaker) – The Story of the Forest

Every year, Marlborough LitFest is in the happy position of being able to invite a top literary name to share their writing life with the Marlborough audience, thanks to the association with Nobel Laureate William Golding, who spent his teenage years in the town. This year we are delighted to welcome Linda Grant as our Golding Speaker.

Author of nine novels published over nearly 30 years, Grant has become an acclaimed chronicler of individuals on the margins of a society, sustained by their heritage and undaunted by what life throws at them. She won the Orange Prize for Fiction in 2000 with *When I Lived in Modern Times* and was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2008 for *The Clothes on Their Backs*.

Her latest book, *The Story of the Forest*, now in paperback, takes 14-year-old Jewish girl Mina from the forests of Latvia to a long life in Liverpool suburbia, where Grant herself grew up. Spanning most of the 20th century, it draws heavily on the author's own family history – the disputed memories, the lost years of family separation, the challenges of finding their way in a new country that was dealing with the upheaval of world war.

There's a rich cast of characters, with the women taking centre stage as they risk reputation, yearn for new experiences in London and beyond and yet are still pulled back to the bonds of family life. "That whole world is a kind of fairy story, isn't it?" muses Zoe, as she learns yet another version of the memories passed down from her great-grandmother Mina.

Grant will be in conversation with journalist and broadcaster Alex Clark, well

known to Marlborough audiences for interviewing previous Golding Speakers including Sebastian Barry, Ali Smith, Ben Okri and Elif Shafak. We're in for a treat at the start of the festival weekend.

Genevieve Clarke

Golding Speaker Linda Grant will be in the Town Hall at 7.30pm on Friday 27 September.



© Charlie Hopkinson

Linda Grant

Sam Leith – The Haunted Wood

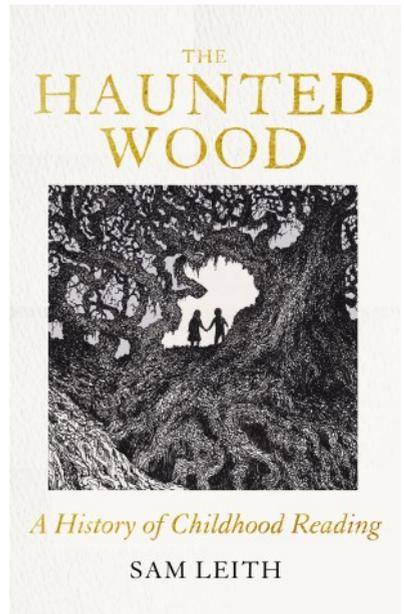
Anyone who enjoys books and reading will have fond memories of favourite stories from their youth. Perhaps you were swept away into strange lands like Narnia, or wandered around the forest with Winnie-the-Pooh, or giggled at the antics of Just William. Whichever it was, Sam Leith's *The Haunted Wood: A History of Childhood Reading* is sure to bring those memories flooding back.

Leith opens with a prehistory section around fables and fairy tales, and how children came to be seen as needing a separate literature to adults. Next, it's the Puritan writers, who wanted to educate and moralise, which led into Victorian children's publishing such as Charles and Mary Lamb's retellings of Shakespeare's plays. Leith then takes us from *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Water-Babies* all the way through to JK Rowling and Philip Pullman, in a highly enjoyable discussion of classic children's books and the impact they had when they were published.

There are omissions, of course, but Leith is clear at the start that he can't include everything. Instead, he concentrates on the books that have had the most impact and are of the highest quality; as literary editor of *The Spectator*, he's well placed for this task. And while his wood may be haunted, his ghosts are of the distinctly friendly kind.

Kate Fry

Go back in time with Sam Leith in The White Horse Bookshop at 11.30am on Saturday 28 September.



Collectable Books Roadshow

Our local rare book expert Chris Gange will be at Katharine House Gallery (at the bottom of the Parade) to value and discuss your rare and collectable books. Whether you have a first edition or just something out of the ordinary, bring it to Chris and find out more.

11am-1pm, Saturday 28 September.



Help Ukraine Group Support (HUGS)



in association with
The Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership (SHAP); Dragon Oxford Aid to Ukraine; Stanislav Induchny

COLLECTION OF AID FOR UKRAINE

Tuesday 1st October 2024 9.00am-2.00pm

Great Bedwyn Village Hall, SN8 3PB

**Help us supply medical & other essential items to frontline communities
See our website for comprehensive list of needs**

Please get in touch for more details or to volunteer help on the day.

Enquiries: Tony: 07999 693399 / Mandy: 07762 935804

www.helpukraine.co.uk

www.facebook.com/helpukrainegroupsupport

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 | www.claridgefuneralservice.co.uk

Available 24 hours a day all year round, for information, help and advice



Bridget Codrington

Laura Cumming – Thunderclap

This is a beautifully written and informative memoir of Carel Fabritius, who was an artist of the Dutch Golden Age in the 17th century, and James Cumming, the author's father, also an artist. Both died prematurely – Fabritius on 12 October 1654, aged 32, in a gunpowder explosion that devastated Delft, leaving only his haunting masterpiece, *The Goldfinch*, and barely another dozen pictures. The explosion also buried his reputation, along with the mysteries of his life.

Laura Cumming, chief art critic of the Observer, manages to uncover many of these and in doing so explores her own life, that of her painter father, and the lives of other Dutch Golden Age artists.

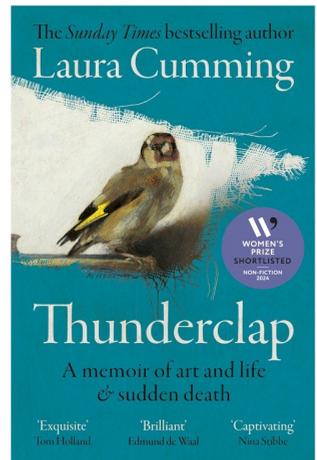
Thunderclap: A Memoir of Art and Life and Sudden Death opens with an illustration of Fabritius's *A View of Delft, With a Musical Instrument Seller's Stall*, about which Laura reveals a wealth of detail. Throughout, she gives us fascinating snippets of information about other artists' pictures. If you were lucky enough to see the Vermeer exhibition, you will be enchanted by returning to a number of his pictures.

Laura's father was also a magical figure – children would ask him to draw a circle, which he would do without taking his pencil off the paper, and then turn it into a peach or a diamond ring. He didn't have an easy life, teaching by day at the Edinburgh School of Art and painting at night.

To quote from book's blurb: "This is a book about what a picture may come to mean, how it can enter your life and change your thinking in a thunderclap."

Virginia Reekie

Laura Cumming will paint pictures with words in the Town Hall at 4pm on Saturday 28 September.



Ben Kane – Stormcrow

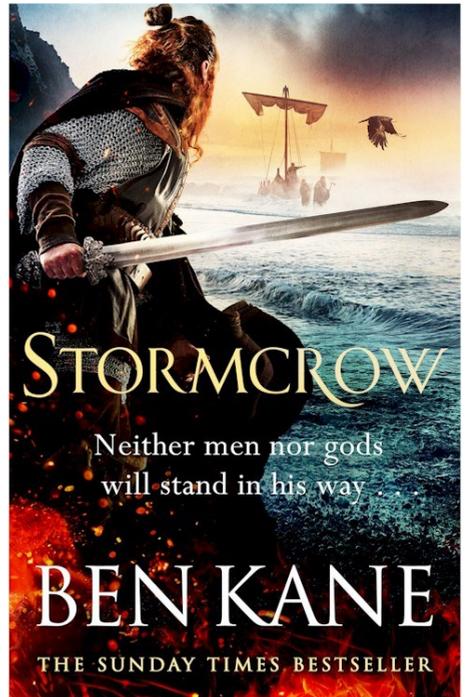
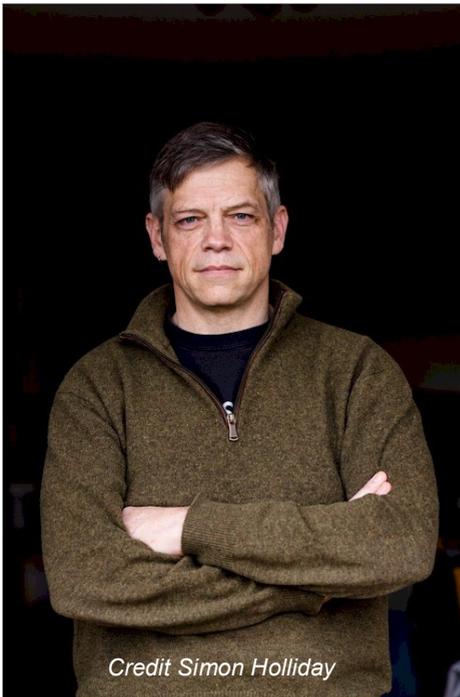
Ben Kane's *Stormcrow* is pacey, action-packed and accessible. Norsemen, Shamans, longboats, Odin's ravens, murder and intrigue – all wrapped up in a coming-of-age narrative. The descriptions are vivid, the characters grow and deepen as the plot surges ahead at a fine rate of knots.

Driven by revenge, Finn Stormcrow enters the world of the Viking raiders, chasing a stolen sword and seeking retribution for the violent murder of his father. He joins the crew of a longship plundering the Irish coast, forms strong bonds with his shipmates and becomes the focal point of political and romantic entanglements.

Stormcrow is definitely more in the Conn Iggulden/Ken Follett camp than the Patrick O'Brian style of historical fiction – its hooks are set early and it is immediately immersive. The book really did keep me engaged – I read it over a couple of days. The threads left untied at the end of the book definitely point towards this being an overture rather than a stand-alone novel – bring on the sequels, Ben!

Ian Watson

Thrill to the tale of Finn Stormcrow in St Mary's Church Hall at 1pm on Saturday 28 September.



Matthew Fox – The Lovely Dark (Children’s LitFest)

What a read – you just can’t put this book down. It is so honest and mysterious, it makes you want to read and read.

The story follows 12-year-old Ellie Newton and her friend Justin who both think they are dead after an accident that happened during a visit to a mosaic depicting the story of Orpheus. They find themselves in another world – the underworld – and soon split up, both taking their own paths. Will they uncover the secrets of this mystical land and get back home?

This book is a reflection on what may happen to us in the afterlife, through a beautiful story of love, friendship and loss. It talks about the pain of grief and that it is OK to be sad and feel down.

India Tilley



Credit Julianne O Malley



The Witchstone Ghosts – Emily Randall-Jones (Children’s LitFest)

If you want a spooky, spine-chilling read, this is the book for you. Autumn Albert has a peculiar skill: she can see the dead and she’s quite cross about it. After the mysterious death of her father, she assumes he will appear to her, but he doesn’t.

Autumn and her mother, following the instructions in her father’s will, leave for Imber, a darkly mysterious island with many secrets and a troubled past, and here is where the drama unfolds.

This is a heartfelt tale of family and love, with a fresh take on ghosts and witches.

India Tilley

Former St John’s students Matthew Fox and Emily Randall-Jones will be discussing their books in St Mary’s Church Hall at 2.30pm on Saturday 28 September.

Sonia Purnell – Kingmaker

When Pamela Churchill Harriman died in 1997, her obituaries were scathing. The *Daily Mail* paid a tribute of sorts: “When historians look back on the twentieth century,” it said, “they will find traces of Pamela Harriman’s lipstick all over it.” Another dismissed her as expert only in the subject of “rich men’s ceilings”.

Yet Bill Clinton, whom Harriman had handpicked and backed for President, gave an eight-minute eulogy at her funeral, recalling her as “an active life force in the greatest continuing alliance for freedom the world has ever known”.

Sonia Purnell charts Pamela’s journey from her birth into the Dorset Digby family in 1920, through her early years as a “fat and freckly” schoolgirl and dismal debutante, to her precipitous marriage aged 19 to Randolph Churchill – and thence to the heart of power.

Adopted by her in-laws – she called Clementine and Winston Churchill “Mama” and “Papa” – Pamela was set to work wooing key visiting Americans to the British cause against Hitler during WWII. So began a lifetime of wielding her considerable charms to political effect, culminating in being appointed US Ambassador to France in 1993. It’s a tale of sex, fabulous clothes and even more fabulous parties played out over two continents.

Purnell combines rigorous research with a novelist’s eye for detail as she argues Pamela’s case not as a saint but as a serious political contender. We see the cracks behind the perfect maquillage – Pamela’s ultimate vulnerability as a woman trying to make her way in a male-dominated world. But who can resist being swept up in the sheer chutzpah of the “Pam Power” parade?

Mary-Vere Parr



Credit Charlie Hopkinson

Enter the seductive world of Pamela Churchill Harriman in the Town Hall at 10am on Saturday 28 September



Discover the freedom of choice with Live-in Care



“

Live-in Care means I don't have to sell my home of 50 years, where I hold so many memories with my late husband.

Joyce

Bluebird Care Live-in Care Customer

Live-in Care means staying in the family home that's loved, with the memories that you all cherish and the surroundings that provide comfort to your loved one.

With tailored care packages ranging from companionship to high-dependency support. Live-in Care with Bluebird Care ensures personalised attention that caters to all needs.

Find the right care today
Bluebird Care Wiltshire South
Call: 01722 568930

bluebirdcare.co.uk/wiltshire-south
wiltshiresouth@bluebirdcare.co.uk



Sarah Perry – Enlightenment

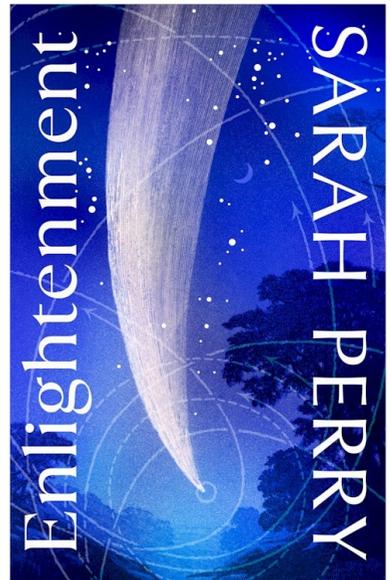
From the author of *The Essex Serpent* and *Melmoth* comes a story of love, a ghost and a blazing comet told over the course of 20 years, through the lives of two improbable friends, Thomas Hart and Grace Macaulay, who have always lived in the small Essex town of Ardleigh. Though separated by more than three decades in age, they are kindred spirits – torn between a commitment to religion and a desire for more. But their friendship is threatened by the arrival of other relationships.

Thomas falls for James Bower who runs the local museum. Together they become obsessed with the vanished 19th-century astronomer, Maria Veduva, said to haunt the nearby manor, and whose startling astronomical discoveries have hardly been acknowledged. Inspired by Maria and the realisation that his feelings for James aren't reciprocated, Thomas finds solace in studying the night skies. Meanwhile, Grace meets Nathan, a fellow sixth-former. They are drawn passionately together, but quickly pulled apart, casting Grace into a more uncertain world.

In time, the mysteries of Ardleigh are revealed, bringing Thomas and Grace back together with a richer understanding of love and the nature of the world.

Virginia Reekie

Prepare to be enlightened in the Town Hall at 1pm on Saturday 28 September.



Ysenda Maxtone Graham – Jobs for the Girls

A word of advice to all you trainee air hostesses out there: if a pilot (male, of course) comes knocking on your hotel door asking for toothpaste, don't open the door. Squeeze the toothpaste through the keyhole.

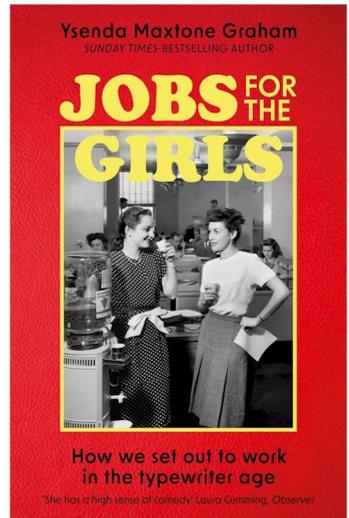
Welcome to the world of women's work from 1950 to the early 1990s, a heady mix of cardigans, pearls, smoking in the office and – trigger warning – bottom-pinching. *Jobs for the Girls: How We Set Out to Work in the Typewriter Age* is the third in Ysenda Maxtone Graham's trilogy that began with the bestselling *British Summer Time Begins* and continued with *Terms & Conditions*, which looked back at school holidays of yore and life in girls' boarding schools respectively.

Maxtone Graham draws on the testimonies of more than 200 mostly middle- and upper-class “girls” – featured names include Bumble Ogilvy-Wedderburn – to paint a picture of working life that was often just a prelude to the main event: marriage to a man of means.

So if you want to learn about – or remind yourself of – what it was like to wear an apron, have an inkwell thrown at your head, send a fax or apply for a “Girl Friday” job in the Crème de la Crème section of the Times' Sits Vac column, Maxtone Graham is the LitFest speaker for you.

Ben Tarring

Avoid flying inkwells with Ysenda Maxtone Graham in St Mary's Church Hall at 11.30am on Saturday 28th



5th (Thursday) 2.00pm

Marlborough Floral Club – Flower Power with Christine Ramsey at Mildenhall Village Hall. £6 to attend and no pre booking is necessary.

7th (Saturday) 8.30pm – 10.00pm

Chuckle at the Church 2 – Comedy Night St Peter's Church, High Street, Marlborough. Details of all events <https://stpetersmarlborough.org.uk/events>

10th (Tuesday) 6.30pm and 15th (Sunday) 2.00pm

The Royal Opera: The Marriage of Figaro at The Parade Cinema. It's Figaro's wedding and you're invited to join the Almaviva household for an uproarious day of revelation and scandal. Early booking recommended. Book online or phone 01672 646232 (between 10.00am and 7.00pm)

11th (Wednesday) 6.45pm for 7.30pm

Marlborough Gardening Association – New Tricks for Old Gardeners with Katherine Crouch at Marlborough Town Hall. Display table will be Colourful Cut Flowers. Information on talks and events at marlbga.org.uk

19th (Thursday) 7.30pm

Marlborough History Society talk - The RNLI 200 Years 1824 to 2024. The talk coincides with the 200 years anniversary of when the RNLI was formed. The talk will narrate the formation and development of the institution from the early 1800s up until the present day. There will also be time for questions and a chance to buy some RNLI souvenirs and Christmas cards. Speakers are Devises based husband and wife team Mary and Ben Bentley. Guests very welcome. Entry £5. Venue St Peter's Church.

19th (Thursday)

The White Horse Bookshop Autumn Workshop Programme begins with Very First Steps in Watercolour with Maggie Bunning Price £70. For full details of the extensive and varied programme visit To avoid disappointment, it is advisable to book early: <https://www.whitehorsebooks.co.uk/art-workshops>

26th (Thursday) to 29th (Sunday)

Marlborough LitFest celebrates its 15th year. Venues all over town. Jonathan Dimbleby, Kate Moss, Celia Imrie, Zeinab Badawi, Robert Hardman, Sarah Perry, Robert Peston, Martin Sixsmith, Felix Francis and many more plus a variety of workshops and events for children. For more information and festival programme see www.marlboroughlitfest.org. Early booking recommended.

Events at The Merchant's House, High Street, Marlborough

20th (Friday)

Music by Candlelight with the Millefiori Trio (Sue Stephen's – Flute, Tessa Welford – Violin and Cathy Oliver – Cello). Enjoy a truly unique evening in our very special panelled room and soak up the atmosphere. Tickets: £18 (Friends of The Merchant's House £15).

17th (Tuesday) – 29th (Sunday)

An Exhibition of Books and the Marlborough Journal. A very special opportunity to enjoy many of the unique and unusual books from the library at The Merchant's House. The Exhibition will also include original copies of The Marlborough Journal, one dating back to 1772. Tickets: £5 (under 18's are free). Or if you purchase a ticket to enjoy the whole house for £10, it will include a pass to visit the exhibition .

28th (Saturday)

Katy Cawkwell – The Wild Within (As part of Marlborough Literature Festival)

Performance storyteller, Katy Cawkwell, will tell the tale of Artemis. Plunge into the wild world of the goddess: an ecstatic encounter with the Dawn, a moonlit path that leads to transformation and a dilemma that only the audience can solve... join Katy on a path less trodden, as she goes hunting in the wild places. An epic tale of women taking their power whatever the consequences. This event is not suitable for children under 10. Tickets available from www.marlboroughlitfest.org/tickets/

Coming up:

13th October, 7.30pm Milos Karadagic – Virtuoso Guitarist in concert at Marlborough College Memorial Hall.

15th October 7.15pm and 20th October 2.00pm The Royal Ballet: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland at The Parade Cinema.

School Dates - please see school websites for any updated information.

St John's School Autumn term begins Wednesday 4th September. Half Term Friday 25th October – Monday 4th November.

Marlborough St Mary's Primary School Autumn Terms begins Wednesday 4th September. Half Term Thursday 24th October – Monday 4th November.

Preshute Primary School Autumn Terms begins Tuesday, 3rd September. Half Term Thursday 24th October – Monday 4th November.

Marlborough College: Michaelmas Term begins Tuesday, 3rd September (Shell, new Lower Sixth, Prefects and Heads of House). Wednesday 4th September (All other pupils between 6.00pm and 9.00pm). Exeat 12noon Friday 27th September – 9.00pm Sunday 23rd September. Half Term 12noon Friday 18th October – 9.00pm Sunday 3rd November.

During lockdown, in my garden, the sound of bees on the pulmonaria seemed so loud with the roads being so quiet. There were sounds of people out for their permitted walks on the footpath nearby. People visited parks and beaches en masse, even when it was apparently not safe to do so. I spent more time than ever in the garden, working, sitting, strolling, observing. It seemed there was a need to get outside, to access nature in some way, however limited the time; no matter how crowded and small.

Google the word rewilding and there'll be a plethora of results. Most refer to the rewilding of land and the animals on it. Fewer refer to the rewilding of ourselves. If we are to heal the planet, ourselves and our connections perhaps we need to re-connect with the wildness within ourselves. Like the animals and plants we farm, those we keep as pets, we too have become domesticated. Maybe we need to go beyond the bounds of our domestication? In Rachel Cory's book, *Rewilding Yourself* she states: *'the first step in reclaiming areas of land and habitat, to saving, refurbishing, rewilding them, is to find the wild place inside, to rewild yourself.'*

Ever noticed that plants are always trying to grow in the cracks in paths and drives; trees growing out of brick walls, cracking concrete? Under domestication wild nature is attempting to manifest and as a part of nature, manifest in us too. So, allow it. What ways can help that process? Here are some ideas:

Get out in nature

Plant a garden, grow your own fresh food

Go barefoot

Get your hands into the dirt

Learn to forage and about wild plants in your area suitable to eat

Celebrate seasonal shifts like equinox and solstice

Leave electronics at home

Trying some of these will go towards re-connecting with nature, re-connecting with our wild side. This rewilding is a process starting with a single step so maybe try one and proceed from there. A part of the process for me was to spend that extra time in the garden.

See Deborah Schofield's photo of daisies, next page

Deborah Schofield



BURROW



**Septic Tank Owners
register your interest
in a fully-funded upgrade**

Due to the Phosphate pollution in your local river catchment we are operating a septic tank replacement scheme using private funding.

We install wastewater treatment plants that remove almost all pollutants, with funding secured from planning applicants who need to create a positive impact on the environment.

Register on our website today.



burrow-environmental.com 01935 507 508

The Hair and Trichology Clinic (Cameo Hair Salon)

**All your hair solutions in one location – we
really do understand your hair inside and out!**

Member of the Institute of Trichology

7 High Street Chiseldon SN4 0NQ

Telephone: 01793 741136

Open Tuesdays to Saturdays

We offer all aspects of hairdressing including a wide range of cutting and colouring techniques, balayage, foiling, perming, unisex salon, hair extensions and wigs.

Consultations for all scalp disorders and hair loss within one of our private consultation rooms.

Visit our websites www.cameo-hair.co.uk

or www.hairandtrichology.co.uk

Find us on Facebook under Cameo Hair Salon,
Chiseldon.

STORAGE SPACE AVAILABLE To let in Burbage

**Flexible Terms
Harepath Farm
Please call George Gordon
07802 596868**

**george.gordon@lkl-
services.co.uk**

Nature Notes Robin Nelson

The magic of mushrooms

If you go down to the woods this autumn you might be surprised by the number of fungi to be found on the ground and on the branches of oak, beech, spruce and fir. There are well over 10,000 separate species in the U.K. in woods, riverbanks, meadows and unimproved grassland, and we celebrate their fabulous diversity on October 15th, National Mushroom Day.



Bonnet mushrooms—Credit David White

Most of us can recall an encounter with a circle of perfectly-formed field or horse mushrooms that have magically appeared overnight on a field after rain, something I remember from our family camping years. It used to be a common sight in late summer but due to loss of habitat and the chemical sprays used nowadays it's become a rarer event.

Those circles are caused by an individual fungus growing underground. The fungus sprouts lots of small threads, called mycelium, in a circular shape. In time, with the right weather, the mushrooms appear at the edge of the circle, creating a "fairy ring." In Shakespeare's "The Tempest" Prospero says of the fairies "You demi-puppets that by moonshine do the green-sour ringlets make, and you whose pastime is to make midnight mushrooms."

One needs to be careful with what to bring home to cook: the similar-looking "Yellow Stainer" is an imposter and can leave you with an upset tummy. Its smell is unpleasant and the bulbous base stains chromium yellow. The rogue's gallery of dodgy mushrooms carries dire warnings:

Common Inkcap-edible when young but don't consume with alcohol, as it can induce vomiting!

Fly Agaric-Poisonous and hallucinogenic-do not eat! **Octopus Stinkhorn**-largely inedible! **Stinkhorn**-smells like rotten flesh and attracts flies! **Deadly Webcap**-toxic to the kidneys!

Worst of all **Deathcap**-one of these can be enough to kill 6 people! I like the

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

Canon Sarah Musgrave

511286 sarahmusgrave99@hotmail.com
Lay Minister, St John the Baptist, Minal

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; revcjsmith@outlook.com
Rector; Marlborough Anglican Team

Rachel Rosedale

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

Penny Reader

Anglican Team secretary

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

Methodist Office Coordinator

07564 082092
office@christchurchmarlborough.org.uk

quote: "falling in love is like eating mushrooms-you never know it is the real thing until it is too late!"

If you want to play safe there is a wide range of mushrooms available in the supermarkets to keep most home foodies happy: Chestnut, Button, Cremini, Portobello, Oyster, Porcini and many more.

In the wild there is the Chanterelle found in beech and oak woods, amongst the most commonly consumed species. Then there is the bracket fungus "Chicken of the Woods", the Charcoal Burner (locally common) and the Parasol (the cap is edible and makes a great soup).

Amongst the most photogenic are the Bonnet mushrooms: like so many fungi they play an important role in breaking down the big molecules of life.

*The author wishes to acknowledge help received from Fred the Forager - Fred Gillam
fred@thewildsideoflife.co.uk*

Holidays hallow the whole year, hold a sacred place in our past. In almost every grief-stilled living room I have entered – notepad and teacup poised, like the mood, between spillage and restraint – it is to holidays the bereaved return: as if these were the weeks that mattered. The caravan in Morecambe, that place in the Lakes, the crammed car, Dad more relaxed. This homing in isn't disproportionate – we know full well the other fifty weeks of the year are where ordinary life occurred – it is simply our need for sabbath: for certain seasons to be festive and different, to renew the balance and make sense of the rest.

As a child, fascinated by the succession of dates on the spines of my annuals, on my father's Parson's Pocketbook diaries, summer holidays formed a chain of memory, a way of telling the time. I took pride in being able to reel off the years and the locations, straining to focus the earliest, blurry recollections. The older, the better. Most powerful of all in personal myth-making are destinations we revisit, whose simplest features (which would soon be dulled if we were to remain there) become totems of wonderful recognition – the cafe is still there! – extending our infant delight in repeated play, in disappearance and return.

Once laid down, these dormant impressions can be awoken in a moment. So it only takes a waft of wet bracken and I am back in North Wales, on another reluctant walk: Snowdonia, through a Thermos-fogged windscreen. This August, at short notice, we were invited to Bodowen, a house in Barmouth where we have stayed, every couple of summers, for fifteen years. Formerly the home of Himalayan adventurer Bill Tillman (lost at sea in his eightieth year, piloting a tug towards the Falklands – the glowing ashes of his image, dauntless behind moustache and pipe, still greet visitors aboard) Bodowen affords an unrivalled panorama of the Mawddach estuary, as it yawns into Cardigan bay.

Mostly we've driven here late at night, often after Evensong on a Sunday, descending through a notch in the crags above Dolgellau, to peel sleeping children from their seats and arise to a landscape that places all else in the background. Slate hills, purpled with heather; the viaduct's delicate neckline; Cadair Idris, climbing through theophanic mist. Our friends are selling up, so this will be our last time in this God-haunted spot, particularly poignant for teenagers anticipating their own, opening horizon. There is, consequently, a heightened desire to rekindle former joys – from car soundtrack (Glory Bound by Wailin' Jennys, Ben Folds' Jesusland) to day trips (Harlech, for junk shops and fabric, Tan-y-Bwlch station on the Ffestiniog Railway, for the enveloping sweetness of steam from a footbridge).

Just before Harlech Castle’s formidable silhouette crowns the headland, we pull off to find the church of Saint Tanwg, buried in the dunes like a snoozing granddad or abandoned dinghy. An unpromising prism to begin with, its plain medieval shell houses possibly the oldest Christian foundation in the country, presumed to date from St Patrick’s Irish mission in the 430s AD. Inside, prone or prostrate by the altar, is the Ingenuus Stone, a striking fifth-century pillar, inscribed ‘Ingenui’ with its owner’s name and carried, so it is thought, from the Wicklow Hills of Ireland. Until the 1960s, with common-sense utility, it was employed as a lintel over the church door. Tanwg is associated with this church only, and holy days stretching back over the sand.



Mawddach Estuary

Thank you, Alison

Our warmest thanks go to Alison Selby who, after many years as Church News Editor for Tower and Town, has decided to step aside. She performed her role with efficiency, accuracy and dedication, liaising between the churches and the magazine each month and introduced a really effective new format in recent months. She was an eagle-eyed proof reader too!

We will miss her expertise and humour but wish her a very happy "retirement"!

Sarah Bumphrey (Chairman) and the Tower and Town team

Erratum

We are very sorry that we spelt the name of Simone Dawood incorrectly on page 4 of the August edition in a feature on her work. We thank her for her understanding and are happy to correct the error here.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms - we welcome:

- 30 June Bonny Francis, St John the Baptist, Minal
29 July Maggie Patricia, St Mary's
28 July Eliza Lettie & Jonty Peter Francis, St John the Baptist, Minal

Weddings - we congratulate:

- 13 July Claudia Marquis & Rupert Palmer at St George's, Preshute
27 July Zoe Spicer & Simon Burgess at St John the Baptist, Minal

Departed - we pray for the family of:

- 27 June Patricia Rogers (80), Grove Hill, Highworth
 St Mary's, Marlborough
19 June Joseph Anderson (95), Baywater, Marlborough
 St Mary's, Marlborough
22 June Carmen Black (13 weeks), Cherry Orchard, Marlborough
 St Mary's, Marlborough
15 July Linda Robinson (89), St Margaret's Mead, Marlborough
 St Mary's, Marlborough

OWEN & JONES

makers of fine jewellery



7 Bridge Street Hungerford RG17 0EH
Tel. 01488 686226 www.owenandjones.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

MARLBOROUGH PODIATRY CLINIC

Niki Thompson

BSc(Hons) PodMed, MRCoP, HCPC Reg.

Treatment of all foot problems

(We also offer home visits)

10 The Parade, Marlborough SN8 1NE

Tel: 01672 514581 or 07910 525376

Marlboroughpodiatryclinic.com podiatrycare1@gmail.com



AD DRAUGHTING
ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

Extensions | Conversions | New Builds
Planning Permission | Building Regulations

01672 511412 | 07791 341698
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

Dianne Mackinder Funeral Service



On Call Day & Night
01672 512444 or 512516

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

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**

Registered Charity No. 1068752



Tuttle
architectural
services

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

01672 518 278

info@tuttlearchserv.co.uk

www.tuttlearchserv.co.uk

Marlborough Churches Together

Usual Sunday Services Times

Society of Friends, Friends Meeting House, The Parade

10.30am Meeting for worship

St George's Preshute (Anglican)

8.00am Holy Communion (1st & 3rd Sundays)

10.30am Worship

St Mary's with Christchurch Methodist Fellowship (behind the Town Hall)

8.00am Holy Communion (2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

10.30am Worship

5.00pm Informal Worship (with Energize Children's Church)

St John the Baptist, Minal (Anglican)

9.00 am Worship

St Thomas More, George Lane (Roman Catholic)

11.00 am Mass

Emmanuel, New Road (Free Evangelical)

10.00am Worship (every 3rd Sunday)

4.00pm Worship (every Sunday)

Marlborough College Services are shown at the college chapel

For more information and updates please check the individual church websites.

News from the Churches

What's on at Emmanuel Church Marlborough:

Join us every Sunday at 4 pm for our weekly church service located on New Road in Marlborough, SN8 1AH. Our service includes crèche and Sunday School groups, followed by refreshments (for adults) and a sandwich tea for the children.

In addition to our Sunday service, we also offer various activities throughout the week including home groups in Marlborough, Pewsey and Ogbourne St George, as well as community groups. For more information and updates on our events, please visit our website at emmanuelmarlborough.org.

All are welcome to join us!

From the Churches

Children/Family Activities

All-age Pet service – Sunday 1st September at St George’s Church, 10:30am

Informal All-age Worship – Sunday 8th September at St Mary’s Church.

Children’s tea at 4.30 pm followed by a service from 5 – 6pm.

The Ark Parent/ Carer and Toddler Group will start back on the **9th September**.

Please contact Caroline Philps for more information (cphilps2@gmail.com)

Little Friends Toddler Group, Thursdays during term time, 10 to 11.30 am at the Marlborough Community and Youth Centre. Come and enjoy free play, singing and story time, snacks for children and refreshments for carers. For more details,

email littlefriends@emmanuelmarlborough.org.

Explorers, Fridays during term time (starts back on the **13th September**), 6-7.15 pm 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). For more details, email explorers@emmanuelmarlborough.org

Friday Nights, Fridays during term time (starts back on the **13th September**), 7.30-9 pm. Our youth club for school years 7-11 at the Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough. Friends, fun & faith – everyone is welcome! For more details, email fridaynights@emmanuelmarlborough.org

Midweek Activities

Start, are you looking for answers? Maybe it’s time to make a Start. Running from Monday 23rd September, from 7:15pm in Church Cottage,



Silverless Street. This free six-week course introduces Christianity through small-group sessions. To sign up or for more details, please contact Mark Philips on marksphilps@gmail.com

Romans Bible Study, *Romans* is presented by Andrew Ollerton from the Bible Society and helps people to explore Paul's letter to the Romans. Starting on Tuesday 17th September at 7:30pm and running for 10 weeks at The Manse, please contact Rev Stephen Skinner for more information
rev.stephen.skinner3@gmail.com

Welcome Wednesdays, every Wednesday, 10.30 am in St Mary's.

Restored Lives, is an eight-week course that helps people to recover from relationship breakdown. It's entirely non-judgemental and meets people where they are now. Starting on **Wednesday 25th September**, it starts with Supper at 7:15pm at The Rectory, for more information or to enroll, please contact Rev Chris Smith revcsmith@outlook.com

Ladies Bible Study, every other Friday, 10 am- 11.30 am. Friends discovering God's truth in the Bible (All ladies welcome - onsite crèche available). For more details and dates, email ladies@emmanuelmarlborough.org

The Bereavement Journey, Mark Whitehead will be offering a seven session course to help those experiencing grief. Please contact the Church office for more information. Marlb.anglicanteam@tiscali.co.uk

Hope Explored, A 3-session short introduction to Christianity, from Luke's Gospel. All are welcome to come and ask any questions or just listen! For more details, email office@emmanuelmarlborough.org



Tower and Town staff

Chairman	Sarah Bumphrey	chairman@towerandtown.org.uk	516862
	16 George Lane, SN8 4BX		
Advertising	April Nobes	advertising@towerandtown.org.uk	07732024488
Distribution	Sue Tulloh	distribution@towerandtown.org.uk	288912
Subscriptions	Peter Astle	4 Laurel Drive, SN8 2SH	515395
Treasurer	Peter Astle	treasurer@towerandtown.org.uk	515395

Production Teams

October

Editor	Kymee Cleasby	oct.editor@towerandtown.org.uk	
Compiler	Peter Noble	oct.compiler@towerandtown.org.uk	516830

November

Editor	Sarah Bumphrey	nov.editor@towerandtown.org.uk	516862
Compiler	Peter Noble	nov.compiler@towerandtown.org.uk	516830

Every Month

<i>What's On</i>	Linda Illsley	whats.on@towerandtown.org.uk	
<i>News from the Churches</i>	Penny Reader	church.news@towerandtown.org.uk	512357
<i>Family News</i>	Naomi Painter	family.news@towerandtown.org.uk	
<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	
<i>Gardening</i>	Deborah Schofield	gardening.correspondent@towerandtown.org.uk	

Website, searchable article archive <https://www.towerandtown.org.uk>
Webmaster, IT 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 October issue by Tuesday 10th September please.

Our Advertisers support us. Contact April Nobes if you would like to join them.

Tower and Town is available at St Mary's, St Peter's, The White Horse Bookshop,
Mustard Seed, Kennet Pharmacy and St George's, Preshute.

Annual subscription £7 for 11 copies a year delivered to your address.

Please ring Sue Tulloh (288912) or use www.towerandtown.org.uk

MARKETING
DESIGN
PUBLISHING
WEBSITES
ADVERTISING
PRINT



We now cater for your every communication need, from websites to wedding invites, book publishing to business cards, advertising campaigns to branding campaigns, Google ads to TV ads, posters to social media, photography to video. Why not take a look at our new website originzone.studio or even better pop in for a chat and a coffee.

www.originzone.studio • 01793 430006

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

106 HIGH STREET, MARLBOROUGH, WILTSHIRE SN8 1LT

www.duncanmorrissolicitors.co.uk

**DUNCAN
MORRIS
SOLICITORS**