
TOWER AND TOWN



Marlborough Tennis

July 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 749 JULY 2024



EDITORIAL

Wimbledon seems to define July - grass courts, tennis whites, Pimms, strawberries and cream, long sunny days and tennis all afternoon on the TV. It's a time when many people take up or come back to the sport for the fresh air, exercise, competition and social interaction.

The Lawn Tennis Association is celebrating 150 Years since the invention of the game on grass. Designed to make maximum use of your croquet lawn (should you have one) and be a sociable way for men and women to join in a more active game.

In Marlborough and the surrounding area, there were probably quite a few big houses and estates with tennis courts by the end of the 19th Century, but it wasn't until 1911 that a town club was set up on land opposite the Common at the top of Kingsbury Street and not until the 1920s that an Old Marlburian funded facilities at the College.

After those Kingsbury Street courts were sold off for housing, the search for a new home eventually led to the present Golf Club; a long process to create six courts on three tiers nestled amongst the trees was completed by members of the long standing committee. We have Roger Wheeler, Hilda Moore, Gareth Clarke, Anne Carroll and Barbara Jones (amongst others) to thank for their tenacity in securing the site and following through to completion in 2018.

Over the winter, the latest expansion of the club has been the building of our two storey stand-out clubhouse, designed to take us into the future in style. The committee has also expanded and changed to include many newer members to take the club forward. **Saturday 13th July** will be a big celebration launch day, with various tournaments including one with a vintage theme. Dig out the old Dunlop Maxply and come and join us!

Jo Payne, Editor

Front cover: Marlborough Tennis New Clubhouse by Colin Palmer

History of Lawn Tennis from the Wimbledon Website

150 years ago, in 1874, the game that has now become tennis was introduced on grass by a retired British Army officer, Major Walter Wingfield. His innovation contained rackets, balls, posts, a net, and everything else needed to mark out a court in a garden in order to play the game. His invention was also initially known as 'Sphairistike' (the ancient Greek for 'belonging to the ball'), but unsurprisingly this name did not catch on. Despite costing five guineas, the equivalent of over £350 today, Wingfield's first 1000 sets sold out rapidly.

Wingfield's timing could not have been better, as the public were craving a game that both gentlemen and ladies could play, and which was more energetic than the then fashionable pastime of croquet. Wingfield ingeniously marketed the portable equipment for the game, advertising in the press and gaining endorsements from influential society figures. In under a year the sport had spread from Great Britain around the world, and patents were approved internationally for his portable court design.

Other pioneers quickly released similar sets of equipment with varying rules. John Hinde Hale created a game called 'Germain's Lawn Tennis', named after his house in Sussex, and Harry Gem and Augurio Perera, in Birmingham, also had their own version of the game. However, it was Wingfield who first used the term 'lawn tennis.' It was his game that was unique in that it used hollow 'India-rubber' balls and it was played on an hourglass shaped court.

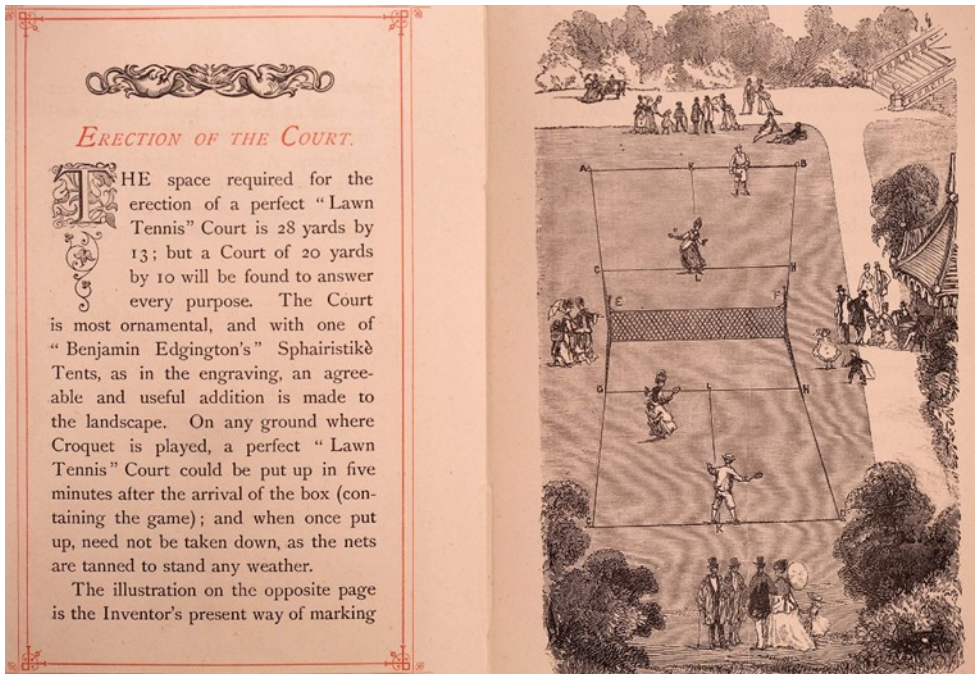
The game that Wingfield and others pioneered became so popular that the then All England Croquet Club, at the suggestion of one of its Members, Henry 'Cavendish' Jones, decided to turn one of its croquet lawns to the pastime of lawn tennis. Soon after, in 1877, the now renamed All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club held its very first Championships. Eventually the hourglass court used by Wingfield was replaced by the now familiar, and instantly recognisable, rectangular one. Jones, as Championships Referee, worked with his Championships sub-committee to further refine the game. The changes introduced included adjusting the height of the net, the location of the service lines, and the scoring system. These pioneers' endeavours helped shape Wingfield's invention into the sport of tennis that is now played and enjoyed by millions around the world. Enthusiasts owe much to Major Wingfield and the global phenomenon which he created 150 years ago.



Wingfield's Lawn Tennis Kit



Contents



Sphairistike or Lawn Tennis by Major Walter Wingfield (1876)

*All items from the Kenneth Ritchie Wimbledon Library,
at the All England Tennis Club, Wimbledon.*

Marlborough Tennis

Tennis has a long history in Marlborough. Land at the top of Kingsbury Street was developed into tennis courts in 1911, just after the completion of the new housing at St John's Close which it backed onto. This land was purchased for the benefit of the community, and a trust set up to continue tennis in perpetuity in the town. There were six courts, three hard standing and three grass. By 1963 the hard courts had been sold off to create Cedars and Winds Point and the grass courts with a wooden shed 'pavilion' were all that remained. After Pewsey and Ramsbury developed new facilities, dwindling membership and income forced the decision to sell the site to Gillie Swanton, who built Overton House in the early 1990s.



Ordnance Survey Map post 1914

There followed over 20 years without a permanent home, renting courts from the College, playing and coaching out of school hours. The search for a new location was a long, difficult and expensive process for the committee members at the time, with sites considered near the Football Club at Elcot Lane and later the Cricket and Hockey Club adjacent to Savernake Forest.

Difficulties with planning permissions eventually led to a third proposal to convert land originally known as The Piggeries, and then used for golf practice, between the Golf course and the A346 up Port Hill. Plans were drawn up taking into account the environmentally sensitive area and using the natural screening to maximum advantage. A challenging engineering feat, due to the gradient of the slope, has resulted in six all weather tennis courts, staggered in pairs down the hill, using LED on-court down-lighting to minimise light spill and be less obtrusive within the landscape.



Aerial photo of the new courts c.2019

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](http://www.claridgefuneralservice.co.uk)
Available 24 hours a day all year round, for information, help and advice

Sponsorship

Our sponsors are local and all like to bring something extra to the sport and the experience of our members. By supporting a local community club, these sponsors help build the club through funding useful items like windbreaks, or free club T-shirts/hoodies for the juniors or sponsoring our Club Championships. This all helps us attract new members, and creates a better experience for everyone.



Left: RBC Brewin Dolphin - Myles Palmer with the coaching team and the new kit



Right: Jon Fish of Lexus Swindon with Andrew Payne (Chair)



Left: Ed Taylor of Fine and Country presents prizes to Nikki and James Hussey

Running the Club

New courts and clubhouses don't come cheap; the site is now worth around £1m. Recently the club became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which has new build, donor advantages and helps us with our 'Opening Tennis up for Everyone' purpose. The club has provided free tennis for disadvantaged groups such as Ukrainian refugees and local children. We are fortunate and grateful to have some kind benefactors who have provided long term loans in addition to the LTA, who supported the new courts with £100,000 loan. All this needs to be paid back of course, whilst ensuring that we save enough each year into a 'sinking fund' which will clean, maintain and renew the courts we have.

After loans and saving, our largest outgoing is rent.. Then there is electricity (clubhouse and on-court lighting), water, insurance, not to mention tennis balls where we spend around £1585 a year. Our membership fees need to generate enough funds each year to cover all these expenses and more, so rather than adopt the standard tennis club model of fixed membership year from 1 April to 31 March, we have adopted a 'rolling membership' model. The day you join is your start date and you will be a member for 12 months. Also, we have been an early adopter of automatic direct debit payments and we are now offering a 'spread the cost over three months' direct debit option for our three highest cost packages, helping with the cost of living whilst keeping the cost for under 18s rock bottom, in order to encourage them into coaching and activity.

Unique in the area is our 'Pay and Play' LTA Rally offering, where we have two courts which can be booked online by the hour (with some restrictions on timings). It is not unusual to find a couple of friends on our courts who both live in opposite directions, but have chosen Marlborough to meet up for a game. 'Pay and Play' brings funds to the club, but is also useful for the casual user, or someone home for the holidays. Bookings have come from as far as Manchester and France!

Unlike other clubs, we encourage our members to bring a friend or relative to play, up to four times, before they join. We do ask for a contribution for each guest, which is voluntary, but also adds to our funds. Even with 300 or so members there is still plenty of court time available, so we allow members to book up to two hours a day, up to 10 days in advance.

So, if you have been thinking about playing tennis, are inspired by Queen's, Eastbourne or Wimbledon or just want to come and check out the courts and clubhouse, email newmembers@marlboroughtennis.co.uk check out the website <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/MarlboroughTennis> or call Peter May 07508 818237

Coaching

Neil Watts is the Head Coach for the club and Elliott Kami his assistant coach. Coaching should be from ‘the cradle to the grave’ according to Neil, who has children as young as 4 and members as old as 80 on his programmes. “People often think that tennis is elitist and they may not be good enough to play or be in a coached session. I say tennis should be for everyone, for all, any standard. Just ask and we will recommend a class for you”.

Along with established juniors coaching, which is split by age group and takes place after school and on Saturday mornings, there are plenty of adult sessions.

The most popular class for adults is HITFIT, Marlborough’s answer to cardio tennis. Fast paced, with music, it’s designed for people to hit a lot of balls, cover a lot of ground and gets those steps in. The perfect way to kick off Thursday morning.

At the other end of the spectrum is Walking Tennis, trialled in April with some free taster sessions, it now has a regular schedule. Great for the less active but still competitive, the game is slowed down, featuring two bounces and an underarm serve. It keeps people involved for longer, while also enjoying the social side of being part of a tennis community. And tennis players tend to live longer, so they can enjoy the sport longer!

The teen groups for 12 to 14 year olds are consistently popular, and three of the 16/17 year old youngsters Oliver, Lottie and Cristabel recently trained for their Level 1 Coaching qualification.

Neil is a performance coach, training county players and Men’s County Captain, in which role he was awarded Team of the Year, by the LTA for successfully taking the team to promotion two summers in a row.

Both Neil and Elliott also take private lessons at the courts. You don’t have to be a member of the club to have coaching. Adult classes can be booked online, with members receiving a discounted rate. For children’s coaching Neil prefers an email, text or phone call in the first instance, to discuss which class might be the best fit.

But the summer is all about holiday camps! Check out the website for dates starting at the end of July. Great for the kids and the grandchildren, they are always popular, with up to 500 spaces being taken over all holidays across the year.

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/NeilWattsCoaching>

Neil Watts: 07810 522628 Elliott Kami: 07403 336228

Barbara Jones - LTA Lifetime Achievement

I interviewed Barbara at her home in Town Mill, shortly after she celebrated her 80th birthday. Recognised by the LTA with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018 for her 45-year contribution to Marlborough Tennis, she has taken every role on the committee during that time. Unable to play since 2016 due to injury, she has remained involved in the background until very recently.

Barbara was born in 1944, the youngest of four children at 31 London Road, Bridge Buildings, where her parents were tenants of the Maurice family of doctors. When she was two, they moved to Isbury Road, on the brand-new post-war estate at Cherry Orchard. Barbara's grandmother Caroline was a Dunford, a local family who could trace their roots back to the 18th century. They had a shop at 120 High Street, next to the Rose and Crown pub, which from 1749 to 1929 was a bootmakers and repair shop supplying the College. From 1929 until his retirement in the 1950s Ernest Dunford had the shop, then Hilda (Barbara's mother) and her sister Ellen bought it from him to run Dunford's Confectioner and Tobacconist. The whole family had to work in the shop around school hours. Even her wedding at 18 was managed round the business, arranged for a Wednesday afternoon at 3pm, to fit in with half day closing.

When Barbara started at Marlborough Grammar School (the 1904 brick building in the Parade) the summer sport was tennis for girls and cricket for boys. The grammar school courts were then at Elcot Lane, a short walk along the London Road, and she relished the game. She applied to join the tennis club on Kingsbury Street in 1976 and had to be 'played in' to check she was the right standard, in an era that traditionally wore whites. Having passed the test, she would play up to three times on a Saturday and often on Sunday afternoons during the season. Her husband David helped maintain the grass courts with weekly mowing in spring and summer and painting the lines back on. Play was usually possible from May to September.

For a very long time, she played in the 'A' Team in the league and, on the committee, brought her enthusiasm to every role she took, which included Secretary, Chair and Treasurer. But perhaps her biggest contribution has been in the Junior Section, spending many years managing junior teams, encouraging the next generation of players, including her own five grandsons. She believes tennis is a sport for life and that joining a club can be a great way to meet people, especially if you have moved to a new town. These days tennis is inclusive and anyone can play, with some coaching. You don't even have to wear whites!

(Continued p.10)

A Team Effort

This year Marlborough Tennis Chair, Andrew Payne, was nominated for the LTA Volunteer of the Year Award for Wiltshire. Andrew received the Wiltshire County 2024 award at a ceremony in Chippenham in March. Since then, he has also won the South West Region award and has been nominated, in a shortlist of three, for the National Award, winner to be announced on 2 July.

Of course, this is very much a team effort, and no one individual creates a club that is friendly, welcoming and vibrant without the buy-in of the members. Like a building society, any good club is a 'mutual' where everyone is a partner - not just a doubles partner. The team starts with the committee but covers every aspect of club life. There are no paid roles at Marlborough Tennis. All the finances, planning, maintenance, website, admin, gardening, decorating, cleaning, leaf sweeping, hedge cutting, tournaments, league matches, social ladders and boxes must be run by members for members. We are fortunate to have so many advocates amongst our membership, who willingly give their time and skills for the benefit of tennis in the town. A legacy to hand on, from those who made a home for Marlborough Tennis.

PS If anyone has information about the club from 1911 to 1970s, photos they would like to share, or any of the old trophies, posters etc. please contact me Jo Payne joannapayne@gmail.com or text 07766 721799. We would like to expand our back story and history.

Barbara Jones

(continued from p9)



Barbara was presented with her Lifetime Achievement Award by Wiltshire Lawn Tennis Association in 2018 by the President of Wiltshire LTA, Sir Geoffrey Owen.

“

I'm happy to
stay in my home

”



Home and Live-in Care, just as you like it.

You love your home and you feel safe there. Needing additional care and support shouldn't change that.

You may be in a situation where you need an extra pair of hands, or you may have complex needs that require more dedicated care. Our well-trusted care packages are built around you and your individual needs which means that you and your family can rest assured you'll receive care and support exactly as you need.

Our care ranges from a 30-minute daily visit through to full Live-in care.

Call our friendly team today.
Bluebird Care Wiltshire South
bluebirdcare.co.uk/wiltshire-south
01722 568930
wiltshiresouth@bluebirdcare.co.uk

your life
your home
your care
your way



Saturday 13th July

Events run from 10-4pm

- Juniors, social and vintage tennis
- Prize draws
- Exhibition match
- Drinks and refreshments

Official Opening New Clubhouse



Marlborough Health and Wellbeing Open Day

Jill Turner, Chair

The first Marlborough Health and Wellbeing Open Day will be held on Saturday 6th July 2024 at St Peter's Church in Marlborough as part of the Wiltshire Council's month-long focus on health.

Organised by the Marlborough Health and Wellbeing Group the day will provide an opportunity for a wide range of local health and care organisations and other community groups to share information about their services and the support which is available in the local area.

The event will be opened by the Mayor of Marlborough, and a therapy horse and Shetland pony from Greatwood Charity will join us in the Church grounds for additional publicity along with other health activities including music and exercises.

A street artist will parade along the High Street at several times on the Open Day with music and posters to inform shoppers about the event. Other health related events and publicity will be taking place too in and around Marlborough High Street to promote health and wellbeing.



**HEALTH AND WELLBEING
IN MARLBOROUGH
OPEN DAY**

SATURDAY 6 JULY 2024

**at St Peter's Church Marlborough
10.00am - 4.00pm**

FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR LOCAL SERVICES AND ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING:

HEALTH AND WELLBEING, SPORTS, LEISURE, COMMUNITY SUPPORT

DISPLAYS - SINGING / DANCING

AND REFRESHMENTS!



St Peter's and St Paul's Marlborough Trust Ltd

Wiltshire Council

4th (Thursday)

The Miracle Theatre Company present 'Love Riot'

Maizey Lodge, Ogbourne Maizey, 7.30pm

Pack a picnic. Suitable for all ages from 7 upwards. Adults £16, under 16s £8, family (two adults, two children) £42. Advance sales only on 01672 512125 or email maizey50@gmail.com. This year's charity performance is in aid of Project Andrew, renovation of Ogbourne St Andrew Church.

6th (Saturday)

Health and Well-being In Marlborough Open Day

St Peter's Church, High Street, Marlborough, 10.00am-4.00pm

Find out about your local services and organisations, including: Health and Wellbeing, Sports, Leisure, Community Support, Displays – Singing/Dancing and Refreshments. Contact MarlboroughHWB@gmail.com for further information.

(See page 13 for further details)

6th (Saturday)

Marlborough Concert Orchestra Summer Concert

St Mary's Church, High Street, Marlborough, 7.30pm

Conductor Philip Singleton will lead the orchestra through a programme of English music: Elgar, Holst and Vaughan Williams. Tickets (adults-£15, students-£5, under 18s-free) from Sound Knowledge, on the door or online at www.mco.org.uk

11th (Thursday) to 14th (Sunday)

Guild of Wiltshire Artists: Summer Exhibition

St Peter's Church, High Street, Marlborough, 10.00am-4.00pm

This lively group of practising artists, based in Wiltshire, regularly exhibit throughout the year and hold meetings and workshops on a monthly basis. Guild exhibitions show a variety of the artists' work.

12th (Friday) to 14th (Sunday)

Marlborough Festival

To include Live Music, Stand up Comedy, Shakespeare in the Park, Puppet Shows, Guest Chefs, Talks, Hidden History Guided Walks, Digital Workshops, Best Local Food and Drink with more to be announced. Tickets to suit every wallet available at marlboroughfestival.com and The Castle and Ball. Follow [@marlboroughfest](https://twitter.com/marlboroughfest).

(See pages 16-17 for further details)

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

6th (Saturday)

17th Century Reenactment. 10.00am-4.00pm

The reenactment group 'Colonel Nicholas Devereux's Regiment of Foot' will bring hidden treasures of The Merchant's House to life with a focus on textiles and silks incorporating displays on dyeing, tailoring, spinning and button making, alongside household staff, a scribe and a musician. Tickets £10.00: themerchantshouse.co.uk

12th (Friday)

Evensongs – An evening with Andrew Rumsey. 7.30pm-9.30pm

Featuring songs from his new album and readings from his acclaimed book 'English Grounds: A Pastoral Journal', Evensongs follows Andrew's poetic route through unlikely corners of our country's heritage. Tickets £18.00 from themerchantshouse.co.uk

27th (Saturday)

Exhibition of work by artists Patrick Bull and Claire Leach 10.00am-4.00pm

Pat Bull – Bronze Wildlife Sculpture. Claire Leach – Drawing and Painting inspired by landscape and nature.

Dates For Your Diary:

22nd to 2nd September – Gifford Circus Avalon Tour, Marlborough Common.

Tickets Adults £20 - £40, Children £10 - £30. For timings and bookings contact giffordscircus.com or phone 01453 800 200.

26th to 29th September – Marlborough LitFest celebrates its 15th year.

Celia Imrie, Zeinab Badawi, Robert Hardman, Sarah Perry, Robert Peston and Martin Sixsmith have been announced for this year's line up. For more information and festival programme updates see www.marlboroughlitfest.org

October 2024 to June 2025 – Marlborough College Concert Series (MCCS)

13th October, 7.30pm Miles Karadaglic – Classical Guitar

12th January 2025, 7.30pm Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

2nd February 2025, 7.30pm Red Priest, Baroque Instrument Group

2nd March 2025, 3.30pm Southbank Sinfonia Smith Square

22nd June 2025, time TBA Wayne Marshall OBE – Piano

All concerts at the Memorial Hall.

More information and booking details to follow.

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

St John's School, Marlborough St Mary's and Preshute Primary: Term 6 ends Wednesday 24th July.

Marlborough College: Summer Term ends 12 noon Friday 28th June.



INAUGURAL MARLBOROUGH FESTIVAL LINEUP:

***Fun Lovin' Criminal, Huey Morgan;
MasterChef Winner, Thomas Frake
Great British Menu Finalist, Josh Eggleton
July 12, 13th and 14th, 2024.***

On June 11th 2024 a new festival for Marlborough was announced with new energy, new ideas and new ambition. Set to take place across the weekend of July 12th, 13th and 14th, the three-day event will showcase Marlborough's vibrant community and all it has to offer. This exciting new festival will put this iconic English town centre stage and reflect the culture, music, food and arts for all age groups that make it such a special place.

Headliner 'The King of New York', **Mr Huey Morgan**, is back with his new brand band – **Huey Morgan The Fun Lovin' Criminal**. Having sold over **10 million records**, the former Fun Lovin' Criminal frontman, will play a mixture of new and classic tracks including *The Fun Lovin' Criminals, Scooby Snacks, King of New York, Big Night Out, Love Unlimited, Loco, Couldn't Get it Right* and more. It promises to be a night of funk, soul, hip-hop and memories at the **Memorial Hall**, Marlborough College. Other highlights include the **Castle & Ball New Music Stage** with support from **BBC Introducing in the West, MasterChef winner Thomas Frake, Great British Menu finalist Josh Eggleton** and educational workshops delivered by **Intel**.

The festival is all about showcasing the best of Marlborough, Wiltshire and the South West. Utilising a variety of venues from pubs & pub car parks for bands, to the **Priory Gardens** for the **Shakespeare's The Tempest**, to the Merchant's House for **puppetry**, the Town Hall for **comedy**, to the grand **Memorial Hall** for **jazz** - the event puts the picturesque town back on the culture map with an eclectic and thrilling bill. It will feature not only well-known headliners but also the arts, dance, theatre groups and heroes of food and drink celebrating the national and the local.

Follow us on: Instagram: [Marlboroughfestival](#), **Twitter:** [@Marlborough_24](#),
Facebook: [MarlboroughFestival](#) email: info@marlboroughfestival.com
To buy tickets or for more information: www.marlboroughfestival.com
or call at the Castle & Ball, Elaines Travel or Sound Knowledge

Marlborough Festival

12th - 14th July 2024

Live Music • Stand up Comedy • Shakespeare in the Park • Puppet Shows • Guest Chefs • Talks • Hidden History Guided Walks • Digital Workshops • Best local Food & Drink

In partnership with

Castle & Ball Hotel

More to be announced!

Tickets available at
marlboroughfestival.com
 @marlboroughfest

Follow us!

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: The Fortunes of our Mammals

Robin Nelson

As June ends and July begins our birds enter a quieter phase after the main nesting season. Songbirds have all but lost their voices, the male Mallard and other duck species have gone into “eclipse plumage” and are flightless for a short period, and many adult birds are recovering from a hectic time brooding and feeding their young. But for some mammals the breeding season is in full swing.

Hedgehogs for example usually give birth in June and July with an average hoglet litter size of four or five young. These much-loved creatures suffered a widespread loss in the first decade of this century and differences between urban and rural populations have become increasingly apparent. In urban areas, the picture is of a stable population that might be recovering, highlighting the importance of gardens, green spaces and local action. In stark contrast, rural populations remain low and, in the last two decades, have continued to decline by between a third and three-quarters nationally.

Foxes have also undergone a decline in numbers (48% since 1995) but urban populations have been growing since the 1990's. It is estimated that 100,000 foxes are killed on UK roads every year. Badger road deaths make equally shocking statistics: c. 50,000 per annum, a fifth of the UK population. *(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

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; revcsmith@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

There are at least six species of Deer on the British list- approximately 2 million in total in our countryside and semi-rural areas, the highest level for 1,000 years. Due to potentially negative impacts on wildlife and crops they are culled in some areas. In Wiltshire the **Roe Deer** is the most frequently encountered, often in small groups during the winter months. A slender, medium-sized deer, it has short antlers and no tail, mostly brown in colour, with a pale heart-shaped buff patch around the rump. The rut, or breeding season, occurs between mid-July and mid-August: after mating has occurred gestation is delayed until January of the next year, so that the young are not born during the harsh winter months. Two or three white-spotted kids emerge the following May or June.

I was surprised to read that there are **Red Deer** in South Wiltshire. A stag is certainly an impressive sight in the highlands of Scotland but for me an early morning encounter with two or three shy **Fallow Deer** in Savernake Forest leaping across my path is as good as it gets. Elegant, soft brown with spotted markings, they soon vanish into the undergrowth and are gone.

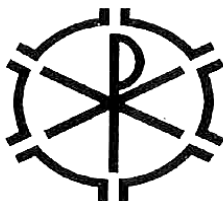
Photo left: Fallow deer by David White

The world is full of gardeners and, just as with flowers and fruit, gardeners come in all shapes and sizes. We have professionals who dedicate their lives to producing the best of blooms, new and old, and we have those with nothing but window boxes and indoor plants who still manage to create havens of beauty and interest.

Jesus uses pastoral images of growth: the flowers of the field, ears of corn and seed that is sown, but He likens the Kingdom of Heaven to a vineyard on more than one occasion and stresses our responsibility for helping the vines to flourish. The image He uses applies equally to vine cultivation today as it did in His time on earth. You cannot leave a vine to its own devices. It will just sprawl all over the place and produce leaves rather than fruit. To counteract this tendency the vine grower severely prunes each vine during the winter months. Jesus says we are pruned by His words. It is through listening to Him that we stay on the right course and produce fruit.

We sometimes think of our lives and purely enclosed by our individual occupations and relationships, as if our responsibilities end at our garden gate or front door. The state of our present world urges us to extend that viewpoint so that we ask more wide-reaching questions. Is there anything I can do in my life that will make this world a better place to live in? The image of the vine expressed by Jesus may help us to find a way of responding to this challenge. As Jesus sees it, we can only bear fruit if we are in union with Him. The fruit we bear is not restricted to being kind to family and friends but to seeing how our stewardship of the world may be best achieved bringing care, healing, growth and life. "It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear fruit, and then you will be My disciples." (John 15:8).

The fruit we are trying to bear is literally a fruit that will last and is grown, not through exploitation, but through cooperation and shared goodwill.



Summer Solstice

Deirdre Watson, Marlborough Gardening Association

As you read this, we will have had the summer solstice and the days are getting shorter. So what is summer solstice and how does it affect our gardens? The word 'solstice' (first known usage in the 14th century) derives from the Latin *sol* (sun) and *stes* (standing). The summer solstice occurs when the sun is directly over the Tropic of Cancer. For every place north of the Tropic of Cancer, the sun is at its highest point in the sky and this is the longest day of the year. The winter solstice marks the shortest day and longest night of the year. In the Northern Hemisphere, it occurs when the sun is directly over the Tropic of Capricorn.

Some plants respond to long nights, some to short nights, and some are indifferent. Photoperiodism is the process by which plants use the length of light and darkness to regulate flowering regardless of the ambient temperature or weather. A plant that requires a long period of darkness is termed a 'short-day' plant which forms flowers only when day length is less than about 12 hours. Many spring- and autumn-flowering plants are short-day plants, including chrysanthemums, poinsettias and Christmas cactus. If these are exposed to more than 12 hours of light per day, bloom formation does not occur.

Other plants require only a short night to flower. These are termed 'long-day' plants which bloom only when they receive more than 12 hours of light. Many of our summer-blooming flowers and garden vegetables are long-day plants, such as asters, California poppies, snap dragons, lettuce, spinach, peas and potatoes. And some plants form flowers regardless of day length. Botanists call these 'day-neutral' plants: tomatoes, corn, cucumbers and roses for example. Some plants, such as petunias, defy categorization. They flower regardless of day length, but flower earlier and more profusely with long days.

Indoor lighting can manipulate the day and night length to get plants to bloom at times other than they would naturally. For example, chrysanthemums naturally set flower with the long nights of spring or autumn. But by making the days shorter by covering them for at least 12 hours a day for several weeks over the late spring and early summer, you can simulate the light and darkness pattern of spring or autumn, thereby stimulating summer blooming. Or you can bring a long-day plant into bud formation and eventual bloom early by putting the plant under grow lights for a few hours a day beyond natural day length for a few weeks. So it may be too late to get your long-day plants to bloom early, but at least you know why they behave the way they do.

In April, I took myself off to the French capital and spent a week living out my Parisian fantasy, having a truly marvellous time. Although I had been before, and know it is a city that warrants a lifetime of repeat visits, there were certain places, things that I wanted to see and do *tout seul*. My first balmy afternoon was spent at the Musée de Montmartre. I was keen to do less of the main tourist attractions, and instead focus on some of the museums and galleries that, although popular, were just off the tourist trail.

The Musée de Montmartre is a stone's throw from the Basilique du Sacré-Cœur, which sits in Paris' iconic 18th arrondissement/district, famous for its rich history of bohemian artists, literary gatherings, the Moulin Rouge and of course, *Le Chat Noir*. The museum and its serene gardens were the home, studios and meeting place of many artists such as Auguste Renoir, Émile Bernard, Raoul Dufy, Charles Camoin, Suzanne Valadon and Maurice Utrillo. The Renoir Gardens are named in memory of the Impressionist painter who lived on-site between 1875 and 1877, where he painted several masterpieces including the famous *Bal du Moulin de la Galette* ('The Moulin de la Galette Ball') and *La Balancoire* ('The Swing').

The museum has permanent collections of Impressionists' work, including visual depictions of the history of Montmartre, including how it became Paris' artistic district, full of jostling cafés and cabarets. One highlight of the museum is Suzanne Valadon's recreated Atelier-Apartment, a studio space she shared with Maurice Utrillo and André Utter in 1912. The room is airy and light, with high ceilings, dried up oil paints and wooden easels. The gardens and café are like something out of a French literary novel. They were luscious, warm, full of blossom, pastel colours and secret paths. The *plat du jour* was delicious too (quiche Lorraine) and overall, this little museum is a feast for the eyes and soul. If you love the classic Belle Époque posters and the creaking of wooden floorboards, steeped in French artistic history, then this really should be top of your list for your next weekend city break.

Musée de Montmartre
12, rue Cortot - 75018 Paris
<https://museedemontmartre.fr/en/>



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. 1069752



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

News from the Churches

Children/Family Activities

Informal All-age Worship – Sunday 7th July 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, Mondays during term-time, 9:30am to 11am in the Church Hall, Silverless Street. Please contact Caroline Philps (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, 6-7.15 pm . Kids' club for school years 3-6 at the Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. 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, 7.30-9 pm. Youth club for school years 7-11 at the Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Friends, fun & faith – everyone is welcome! For more details, email fridaynights@emmanuelmarlborough.org

Midweek Activities

Ladies Bible Study, Fridays 5th July.
10.00am to 11.30am. Friends discovering God's truth in the Bible (All ladies welcome - onsite crèche available). For more details, email ladies@emmanuelmarlborough.org

B.L.T (Bible Lunch Time), Monday, 8th July, 12.30 pm
Pop in briefly if you're busy – Stay & chat if you can. Light lunch + short Bible talk, meeting in the Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. For more details:
email reuben@emmanuelmarlborough.org

Welcome Wednesdays, every Wednesday, 10.30 am in St Mary's. *(Poster right)*

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



Family News

Naomi Painter

We were sorry to hear of the death of Margaret Ramsay who died on 7th May 2024. Margaret lived in Marlborough from 1962 and shared her family life with her husband Denis, who died in late 2017, and her two sons Peter and Timothy. They lived firstly in St John's Close and later moved to a new property in Ducks Meadow where they spent many happy years. Margaret enjoyed singing and joined various musical groups. In her later years she moved to Merlin Court where she spent 3 years. In 2021 she moved to a residential home in Leeds to be nearer her family. Margaret was always happy to receive news from her friends in Marlborough and was still receiving email news of Christchurch Methodist Fellowship when she died aged 94. She leaves two sons and four grandchildren as well as a great grandson. Margaret will be remembered by many people who were privileged to know her.

Anyone who has been a victim of even the very lowest level crime knows it's frightening and disturbing, so it's strange really that crime novels are so massively popular. Some people like them as gritty and forensically gruesome as possible, while others prefer the sub-genre known as 'Cosy Crime'. We start to read about a shuddering parlour maid saying "Lor lumme, Madam, it did give me a turn. That poor gentleman with his head all battered in, and *how* we're to get the stains out of the Colonel's Persian rug I *do* not know" and we lie back and dive in, so to speak. (Might be as well to have a physiotherapist on speed dial.) We can't get enough of the exploits of the Marlow Murder Club, Mrs Sidhu's catering company and so many more. There's even a series in which the detectives are cats (possibly a step too far even for such a batty cat lady as your correspondent). The Richards Osman and Coles, M C Beaton, S J Bennett, Ian Moore – I could go on - flourish, like the green bay tree beneath which the decomposing corpse lies.

A Case of Mice and Murder by Sally Smith meets all the criteria for the category. It takes place in a small, enclosed community, in this case the Inner Temple, with an amateur sleuth and a not-much mourned victim. It's 1901, and mild-mannered barrister Gabriel Ward is tasked to investigate, *discreetly please!* the murder of the Lord Chief Justice. He's also involved in a complicated case around the copyright of a bestselling children's book. Written in a pleasingly slightly arch style, with dry commentary, bouncy humour and a lot of heart, this is a thoroughly entertaining old-fashioned murder mystery. It would make a perfect Sunday night TV series.

And now for a complete change of pace, theme and style. These columns are written a month before you read them, and I'm typing this on 6th June. Quite coincidentally I've just finished reading *From the City, From the Plough*, by Alexander Baron. Following the men of the fictional 5th Wessex (based on the 5th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment) in the weeks either side of D-Day it's a vivid, near-contemporary account of the boredom and intensity of training and war. Unsentimental yet moving, occasionally comical, I'm in no position to judge the authenticity of the descriptions, but it has the ring of truth. There are two more novels by Baron available, I shall read them both.

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

August

Editor	Sarah Bumphrey	aug.editor@towerandtown.org.uk	516862
Compiler	Hugh de Saram	aug.compiler@towerandtown.org.uk	516830

September

Editor	Ben Tarring	sep.editor@towerandtown.org.uk	
Compiler	Hugh de Saram	sep.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>	Alison Selby	church.news@towerandtown.org.uk	511128
		Crossmead, Kingsbury St, SN8 1HU	
<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 August issue by Tuesday 9th July 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

