
TOWER_{AND}TOWN



Marlborough Rugby

OCTOBER 2023

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TOWER AND TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

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Marlborough Rugby Club

Marlborough Rugby is delighted to contribute to this October edition of *Tower and Town*. The timing is ideal: when you read this Marlborough Rugby, now the highest ranked club in Wiltshire, will have played their first few games after their promotion to the RFU's fifth Tier and the 2023 Rugby World Cup will be well underway.

In the following pages there are articles on the history of Marlborough Rugby, the current situation, and aspirations for the future. The photo of our Mini girls and boys enjoying their regular Sunday morning training sessions on the Common earlier this year best represent hope for the future of rugby in England.

A recent Sunday Telegraph article highlighted a decline in the number of adult male players "*slowed only by the dedication and enthusiasm of the club volunteers*". Research shows that there has been a fall in active players from 259,600 in 2016 to 95,100 at the end of last season, principally due to the pandemic.

Grass roots rugby clubs are fighting back and here in Marlborough we are developing our Minis and Juniors section, expanding our recently created Girls' section (to deliver a competitive Women's side in the coming seasons) and established touch and walking rugby that will hopefully engage the whole family.

One important reminder is that the club is a not-for-profit organisation and relies entirely on unpaid volunteers who want to promote the game of rugby to the whole Marlborough community. Whilst it would be great if more volunteers stepped forward, the club is also grateful to supporters coming up to the Common to cheer on their local side...especially if you stop by the bar for a chat and a drink afterwards! Maybe a perfect opportunity would be when Marlborough host the famous former Premiership side London Welsh on Saturday October 14th 2023. There will be a full package of entertainment that day. Details of all our matches and events can be found on www.mrfc.co.uk.

Mark Thomas, editor

Cover photo by Leila Nairne

Since being one of the founding clubs of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) to the current day on the Common, rugby and Marlborough have never been far apart. Marlborough Public School (now Marlborough College) formed a rugby team in 1861. The Marlborough Nomads were founded in 1868 and comprised masters and ex pupils from Marlborough College and army personnel from the local army camps – a strong relationship which continues today.

On 4 December 1870, The Times published a letter suggesting that "those who play the rugby-type game should meet to form a code of practice as various clubs play to rules which differ from others, which makes the game difficult to play". On 26 January 1871 a meeting attended by representatives from 21 clubs (including the Marlborough Nomads) was held in London at the Pall Mall Restaurant on Regent Street. As a result of this meeting the RFU was founded and three lawyers who were Rugby School alumni drew up the first laws of the game, which were approved in June 1871.

Marlborough Nomads contributed eight England internationals, including Alfred St George Hamersley, who captained England in 1874 before introducing rugby to South Canterbury, New Zealand and British Columbia in Canada. In 2015 Marlborough College named a sports field after him: The "Hamersley" Field.

Marlborough RFC was formed in 1930 and first played on a field at the top of Savernake Hill near to Savernake Forest. In 1934 the team played on the Marlborough Common for the first time. Their base was the Sun Inn (now The Marlborough) where they changed and entertained the visiting teams.

At the beginning of World War 2, the club ceased to exist but reformed in 1967 and played their first fixture against customers of the Sun Inn (the "Sun Downers") and sought to generate support in the town. At the time, players changed at St John's School on Cherry Orchard, then drove a mile to the Common to play Marlborough followed by entertaining the visiting team at a small cricket pavilion on Elcot Lane (now used as a local amateur boxing gym).

During the late 1990s the strips changed from amber to black and amber, with black shorts. During this time Marlborough strengthened its links with the army camp at Tidworth, one of the largest army garrisons in the UK and is now greatly influenced by players and coaches from the South Pacific Islands.

Marlborough continued to be nomadic up until 2000 when a club house was finally secured on the Common, funded by grants from the National Lottery, Sport England, the RFU and local fund raising efforts.

Last season the First XV were promoted to the RFU Level 5 league with 100%

unbeaten record....making the club the highest rated in Wiltshire. The team also won the RFU's "Level 6 Men's Team of the Season" and now feature on England Rugby social media channels. This season Marlborough are playing in Regional 1 South Central League and will be entertaining London Welsh, Brighton, Bournemouth and several other notable clubs.

The Second XV play at RFU Level 8 (the same level as the 1st XV played seven years ago) having narrowly missed out on promotion last season as runners up in their league.



Photo dated 8 December 1967 Marlborough Rugby Football Union XV team:

Back Row: Dick Anglis, Elved Phillips, John Walton, John and Richard Acheson, Tom Seamen, Peter Lovatt, John Bullen, Owen Martin, Dick Norcross.

Front Row: P. Brain, Graham Light, Martin Kidson-Trigg, Chris Beasant, Chris Naish.

Running The Club

Mark Thomas

Although Marlborough Rugby is an amateur sports club there is more to it than two senior teams and twelve age groups just turning up on the Common every weekend to play rugby. Below is a look at just three aspects of running the club.

Funding

With the Club's recent promotion to RFU Level 5 it is expected that it will cost around £200,000 to run this season.

What is the money being spent on? Big expenditure items include travel. In the new league, the 1st XV will be travelling over 1,600 miles this season with the closest game being against Bracknell (49m) and the furthest against Brighton (114m). Although we plan to put coaches on (to also accommodate travelling

continued overleaf

continued from p.3 supporters) the resulting travel costs are around £20,000 for the season. At the other end of the spectrum, white line marking costs around £25/week just for the materials!

The vast majority of the required funds are raised through three key sources:

Player subscriptions: the club typically has over three hundred registered youth players (U6-U18) and about one hundred Senior players. Their subscriptions provide around 20% of the Club's funding each season.

Bar revenues: Historically, the bar has made a modest contribution to the Club's finances and suffers from the same pressures that most licenced premises face. This is exacerbated by the Club bar only being open on weekends during the rugby season – the equivalent of only about 60 days a year. However, the Club has just appointed a new club house manager with a target to rapidly improve bar profitability. We hope the appointment will allow us to increase the number of local businesses and individuals who hire out our beautifully sited facilities for meetings and events.

Sponsorship: The Club is extremely fortunate in having a fantastic group of around sixty local sponsors whose generosity provides around half of the Club's funding. These sponsors' logos can be found in and around the Club house, on the playing shirts and on the pitch-side advertising boards. Without the support from the sponsors, we would not be able to sustain the club.

Age Grade Rugby

Age Grade Rugby is the game for all players aged 6 – 18. The club has around 45 volunteer coaches who turn up on the notoriously wet and chilly Common every Sunday during September to April. The coaches are usually parents of players and are not allowed to coach unless they are qualified and accredited to minimum England RFU requirements. This includes Kids First Rugby Tag/Contact courses for the Minis and then moving on to the England Rugby Coaching Award for the older players. Everyone, regardless of role, must complete the Headcase Concussion Awareness and Introduction to Safeguarding eLearning training annually.

Safeguarding of the age group players is paramount and all coaches must regularly be DBS checked and this is managed by a dedicated club Safeguarding Officer, without which the club is not allowed to operate.

Volunteers

Of course, in addition to the Age Grade coaches, the Club would not operate at all if it were not for the large number of volunteers who give their time for free to support the development of rugby in Marlborough:

Committee members: Apart from the well-established "Golden Roles" of President, Chair, Honorary Treasurer and Secretary, the RFU website suggests

continued overleaf



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continued from p.4 another 30+ distinct roles that need to be covered to allow a rugby club to function effectively. These include communications, safeguarding, discipline, fixtures, health & safety, marketing and fundraising.

Vice Presidents: called the “1871 Club” after Marlborough Nomad’s participation in founding the RFU in 1871 (see accompanying article). Anyone can be a member on the basis that they love the game of rugby and want to support a local team intent on offering the game to the whole family: male & female, young & old. The 1871 Club are key supporters of the club both pitch-side but also contributing to the club via volunteering for odd jobs around the club e.g. putting up and taking down the pitch side railing every season or organising the Walking Rugby sessions on Monday evenings. In return, there is a highly active social side including trips to away matches, breweries and ale houses; suppers, lunches and events at the club; discount bar card and the opportunity to access tickets to England matches at Twickenham.

Parents: another key group without whose support we would not only have no coaches but we would not have the facilitators to transport and support our 350 minis & juniors on the Common and at away games! Additionally, parents are often found supporting the coaches on Sundays or with helping feed and water the players after matches.

In 2017 Marlborough Rugby made the decision to enlist some world class help to build upon the most successful season in their history with the announcement of Elisi Vunipola as their new Director of Rugby (*see photo*).

Elisi is a former Tonga international fly half with 41 appearance caps who played in two Rugby World Cups in South Africa in 1995 and England in 1999. His rugby career included playing spells in Japan, Wales, New Zealand and South Africa. First capped at the age of 17. Elisi was also his country's most-capped player upon retirement in 2005. At 51, he hasn't hung up his playing boots quite yet, having recently come on as a substitute in Marlborough Rugby's recent 0-52 win away at Weston-super-Mare RFC.

The Vunipola family has a long rugby tradition: Elisi's brothers Manu and Fe'ao also played for Tonga as scrum half and hooker respectively. His son Manu plays for Saracens and has Under 18 and Under 20 England caps. Perhaps the most famous members of the Vunipola family are Elisi's nephews, Saracens, England and British & Irish Lions, Billy and Maku.

Elisi is responsible for coaching across the club, supporting existing coaches for all age groups and players. Last season, Elisi guided the 1st XV to promotion into the Regional 1 South Central League (RFU 5th tier) their highest ever level and the most successful team in Wiltshire. Meanwhile, the 2nd XV narrowly missed promotion to the 7th tier as runners-up in Counties 2 Tribute Dorset & Wilts North.

The recruitment of Elisi also reinforced the relationship with the Army Camp at Tidworth, one of the UK's "Super Garrisons" where Elisi's cultural connection with the large cadre of rugby fanatic South Pacific Islanders has been instrumental in improving the quality and style of rugby now played by Marlborough.



Elisi; Nephews Maku and Billy; Son Manu

Walking Rugby Marlborough News (abridged) 08/2023

Rugby on The Common is now there to be played by the complete age spectrum. Too old? No longer! 'Walking Rugby,' for those who have hung up the scrum cap or thrown away the gumshield years ago has just 'strolled in' to The Common.

Marlborough Rugby has a thriving number of youth teams with the youngest players being the Under Sixes, so the club might be used by four generations: five-year-olds all the way through to great-grand parents, all playing on The Common.

Walking Football is already here in Marlborough thanks to the town's *Youth* Football Club but now Marlborough Rugby has introduced the oval ball game aimed at those of a 'less mobile' generation. This updated version of the classic oval ball game has principles similar to traditional rugby except it is non-contact: there is no tackling involved (a touch on the armpit or below is used instead), is played on a half pitch and participants must be walking at all times.

Walking Rugby can be played by everyone; however, it is generally played by older players and all skill levels can play together. A welcoming, laid back, social environment is the core experience of all walking rugby sessions which you can drop in and out of whenever it suits you.

Walking Rugby has been discovered to be an excellent way for people to be active while improving their physical and emotional well-being. It is a wonderful way to make friends and meet new people. There are no barriers: Walking Rugby is there for both men and women who take part in the sport together. For some, it may be the first time that they get to play a sport they have enjoyed watching from the sidelines. For others, it will be a natural progression after retiring from the game due to age or injury.

If you would like to give it a try, just turn up at the Rugby Club at 7.00 pm on a Monday evening or contact Simon Barter on 07734 724 139 or walking@mrfc.co.uk.



I am pleased to be able to write this short piece for the Tower & Town as the newly elected Chair of fabulous Marlborough Rugby. Firstly, some autobiographical context. My family and I moved to Marlborough from London in 2004 where I had been serving at the British Armed Forces' Permanent Joint Headquarters. Being a newcomer, I was keen to make new friends and, as a former rugby player, gravitated to the rugby club, going up one evening where I was made very welcome.



I joined the Club as a player and, in between other UK and overseas postings, managed to play for ten seasons ending up as Captain of the 2nd XV until injury forced me to hang up my boots. I then coached at the club for some years, until my job took us to France in 2017. We were delighted to return in March 2023, just prior to my retirement from the Army and I was very happy indeed to come back to the Club and see many familiar faces among the new ones.

And yet, Marlborough Rugby has come a long way since I first joined. This season our 1st XV plays in the English RFU's fifth tier league, which is a higher standard than any of our teams have ever played at. This is testament to the hard work of my predecessor, Gary Sharp, supported by an outstanding Committee, a team of inspirational coaching staff, and by all those who volunteer so selflessly to make sure everything runs as it should.

Of course, the young men who play the rugby have been key to our success! Their commitment to training and matches, week-in-week-out, home and away, and in all kinds of weather has been exemplary. The 1st XV was unbeaten last season, winning all of their twenty-two fixtures and scoring over 1,000 points! Named by the RFU as "Team of the Season for level 6" last year, their success has put Marlborough firmly on the rugby map, and has done much to promote our town across the South-West.

Marlborough also has a hugely successful 2nd XV playing in the RFU's eighth tier - the level that our 1st XV was playing only a few years ago. Marlborough II will seek promotion this coming season, having finished runners-up at the end of last season. We also plan to revisit our plans to establish a 3rd XV which was thwarted due to the pandemic.

We are keen to engage with the local community and recently established regular sessions of touch and walking rugby for everybody, irrespective of age and ability. We continue to develop our Women's rugby offering, building on the Girls' section we founded four seasons ago and which we hope will be the foundation of a

continued overleaf

continued from p.9 competitive Women's XV. Our Colts (aged 17 & 18) were last season's Dorset & Wiltshire champions, and these young men are our senior players of the future. However, it is probably our Youth Section that gives me the most pride. Every Sunday, from September to May, we welcome upwards of 300 boys and girls to the Common for age-group rugby. The quality of the safe and competitive sporting challenge we offer all these young people places us at the very heart of the thriving community that is Marlborough.

The good people of Marlborough can and should bask in the reflected glory of this Club – their Club! I happily summarise what we do and mean for the Town by saying “we are one club, providing ‘winning rugby’ for all.” We are constantly evolving, and we strive for the highest quality rugby – in our Minis and Juniors, through our Colts, to our senior teams. We sit right at the heart of our Marlborough community. We are a diverse, inclusive, and well-connected family of volunteers, players, coaches, and support staff. We are a successful and 'go forwards' club and we offer an impressive range of volunteer opportunities. We are bound together by the rugby values of teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline, and sportsmanship. We welcome; we inspire; and we excel.

Above all, we absolutely thrive on the support of our followers. As such, I do hope that you will come to cheer on the players this season as they battle it out on the Common and fly the Marlborough flag right across the South of England.



Walking Rugby Players

As you read this October edition of Tower and Town the 10th Rugby World Cup will be about to enter the knock-out phase. The tournament began on Friday, September 8 and is being played in France across nine stadiums in nine cities. The final will be played at the Stade de France in Paris on Saturday, October 28.

First held in Australia and New Zealand in 1987, the tournament has alternated between the northern and southern hemisphere every four years. South Africa were the winners of the last tournament – in Japan in 2019 – when they beat England in the final and will be among the favourites again this year. New Zealand, as ever, will be the team to beat, especially after their dominant showing at the Rugby Championship.

Along with New Zealand and South Africa, Australia are the other multiple winners of the Webb Ellis Cup and England are the only team to have broken the southern hemisphere monopoly. In 2003, Clive Woodward's side faced hosts Australia and prevailed 20-17 thanks to a last-gasp Jonny Wilkinson drop goal. However, a strong European challenge is expected, not least from France and Six Nations Grand Slam winners Ireland who are currently positioned 3rd and 1st respectively in the World Rugby Rankings.

Although England were runners-up at the 2019 World Cup, at the start of this campaign they were ranked 8th after only winning 4 matches out of previous 13 in the run up to the competition. However, group stage victories against Argentina and Japan saw England qualify for the knock out quarter final stages kicking off on 14th October.

The last Rugby World Cup in Japan attracted two million new participants to the sport, achieved a 99 per cent attendance rate, set a new fan zone attendance record of 1.13 million and delivered a record nationwide economic impact of £4.3 billion.



Credit Belfast Telegraph

Having a month off from *Tower and Town* duties probably isn't good for me, I've been idling, and now the writing (and reading) gears are crunching and grinding alarmingly. Bear with me. I've spent a lot of time asking "Is there a book called *Get an RHS-worthy Garden Without Having to Move From the Deckchair?*", but I think we all know the answer to that. I asked Angus what he was reading and he loftily said "Turgenev", so I made a rude noise, and carried on talking to Gabby who has recently read *I Capture the Castle* for the first time, and absolutely loved it, as I've been telling her for *years* that she would..

Of course, October brings an abundance, a surfeit, a plethora of new titles, with daily deliveries of stacks of boxes, with something for everyone. (I don't expect you'd dream of parking on the single yellow line outside the shop, but please don't, it makes the drivers' lives so much harder, and they're all lovely and we don't want to break them.). There are new titles from Big Name Novelists, and this year I'm noticing lots of political auto/biographies. Depending on the party and the author's current position on the political wheel of fortune, I cynically predict they'll be self-justifying, accusatory, smug, and in most cases obvious stall-setting-out manifestos. That's politics, folks, though let's be fair, they might also all contain kernels of principle and big ideas. Roll up ladies and gentlemen, and take your pick, there's a General Election looming. (And before that, Christmas.)

Time to stop burbling and tell you about something I have actually read. *Mercury Pictures Presents* by Anthony Marra is set in 1940s Hollywood where studio heads accused of creating pro-interventionist movies clash with isolationist senators. The author weaves historical fact and characters into his evocation of a Hollywood peopled with immigrants, refugees and Jews whose connections with a Europe under fascist dictatorships are personal and tragic. Dealing with how art and journalism can be manipulated to serve government propaganda, it's densely written with a big cast of characters, who trade Golden Age of Hollywood-worthy repartee, tragic, but with a seam of sardonic humour all through it, and very readable.

I can't say too much about *The Secret Hours* by Mick Herron, simply because if you've read the Slough House series I don't want to risk spoiling it for you. If you haven't read them you can safely start here and enjoy a clever, twisty thriller. It's not exactly part of the series, but it is connected, and.....oooh!

Jane Austen's Wardrobe; H Davidson (2023, Yale University Press)

I know Ms Guest writes the book review column, but I simply must add a new publication to the growing list of 'must reads' this autumn.

Hilary Davidson is a dress, textile and fashion historian and curator. She is a Jane Austen expert and advocate for the re-making of historical dress as a means of applied scholarly research. In her latest book, *Jane Austen's Wardrobe*, Davidson has helped to uncover the sartorial mysteries behind one of Britain's most revered writers. Indeed, it quotes:

Despite her acknowledged brilliance on the page, Jane Austen has all too often been accused of dowdiness in her appearance. Now her garments and accessories – from gowns and coats to shoes and undergarments – have been brought together with her 161 known letters to tell a very different story. (Davidson, 2023, p.9)

For me, a recent MA graduate in Historical Costume with a shared love of Austen and the Regency era, this book is like delicious magic. It is divided into chapters relating to a particular area of garment history, for example, *Closet: Spencers, Pelisses and Outer Garments* and *Drawers: Undergarments and Nightwear*. This book follows decisively on from Davidson's first book about early to mid-nineteenth-century fashions, *Dress in the Age of Jane Austen: Regency Fashion* (2019). In both texts, Davidson's precision, attentiveness to research, analysis, and interpretation are apparent on every page. In contrast to what has been previously written, said or inferred about Jane Austen's appearance, Davidson states:

She may not have been a fashion leader, but she maintained a respectable, informed balance between old and new clothes, and never seems to have actually fallen out of style. (Davidson, 2023, p.9)

Beautiful illustrations, fashion plates and photographs fill the pages of this book, elevating the text and providing readers with a thorough examination of what Jane Austen is likely to have worn and possessed. One of a very small number of surviving items believed to have belonged to Jane Austen, is her silk pelisse coat (dated 1812-14). The pelisse belongs to Hampshire Cultural Trust, but on p.106 of Davidson's book, there are two photographs (front and back) showing the pelisse in its full glory. Judging by Davidson's assessment of the pelisse and the two images, it is in remarkably stable condition, with little discolouration or damage.

Lastly, Jane Austen's House in Chawton, Hampshire, is a truly wonderful place. I found it peaceful, restorative, engaging and transporting. So, off to Meryton I go to buy some new ribbon for the Netherfield Ball...

What's On in October

To 15th (Sunday)

Sculpture Exhibition in Avebury Manor Garden, 10am until 5pm.

This popular annual exhibition will showcase over 70 works of art from local artists. Enjoy a wide range of styles, from stained glass glowing between the flowers in the Monk's garden, to bronze hares hiding in the Orchard meadow, and intricate limestone carvings amongst the herbs in the Half Moon Garden. On Thursdays, come and see a sculptor at work with 'artist in the garden'!

The event is free, but normal admission charges apply for the venue:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wiltshire/avebury/events/78b3a4ad-cbf5-402d-a06b-2b7233ec6998>

Through October/November to 6th December (Wednesday)

Art Workshops at the White Horse Bookshop, 136 High Street, Marlborough.

Extremely popular one day Art workshops throughout the Autumn, held in the Bookshop studio which looks onto the gallery. Workshops include watercolour seascapes, calligraphy, Chinese Ink painting, pastels, oil painting and acrylics.

For more details see website: <https://www.whitehorsebooks.co.uk/art-workshops?sort=created>

5th (Thursday)

Marlborough Floral Club, Mildenhall Village Hall, 2pm.

Demonstration by Sally Taylor: Sallying Forth Once More! Including a competition for Halloween Hanging for a door. Treat yourselves to an enjoyable afternoon out on the first Thursday of each month.

For more information, please call Micky Graham on 01672 514301.

5th (Thursday)

The Parade Cinema, 'Event Cinema' – The Royal Opera L'elisir D'amore 7.15pm

Expect sun, fun and vocal acrobatics in Laurent Pelly's much-loved staging of Donizetti's intoxicating and witty comedy. Conductor Sesto Quatrini makes his house debut, as does soprano Nadine Sierra in the role of Adina with the incomparable Bryn Terfel as the genial wheeler-dealer Doctor Dulcamara.

Website: <https://www.theparadecinema.com/movie/the-royal-opera-lelisir-damore>

7th and 14th (Saturday)

Marlborough Mop Fairs – 12 noon to 11pm.

Known as the Big Mop and Little Mop, these Fairs were granted to the town in line with a charter from King John in 1204 where agricultural workers would come to be hired. Now hosting a funfair that takes over the town, the Fairs are one of the highlights of the year.

8th (Sunday)

Marlborough College Concert Series, Memorial Hall 7.30pm

The National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Rimma Sushanskaya presents a programme to include Bach Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G major and Vivaldi Concerto in G minor for two cellos. *Ticket price includes free parking & programme.*

Full details from: <https://marlboroughconcertseries.org/concert-national-symphony-orchestra/>

11th (Wednesday) and 19th (Thursday)

Marlborough Gardening Association, Marlborough Town Hall – 7pm for 7.30pm.

This month's subject is The Cutting Garden with Moira White, and the Display Table is Late Seasonal Colour. The talk is on 11th at the Town Hall, and on 19th there is an **Outing to Stourhead**. *Further details: <http://www.marlbga.org.uk/index.htm>*

14th (Saturday)

Avebury Vocal Ensemble - Church of the Holy Cross, Ramsbury, 7.30pm

William Byrd's Mass for Five Voices. The United Kingdom has a unique and rich choral tradition dating back many centuries. AVE are proud to continue this tradition with a beautiful mass by the graceful and evocative English Renaissance composer William Byrd, who died 400 years ago this year. The evening includes choral gems by John Rutter, Rachmaninoff and Thomas Weelkes. Conductor Peter Tims and Organist Simon Dinsdale. *Tickets £12 on the door (cash only) or £12 in advance + £1.70 booking fee. Under 18s free. <http://www.aveburyvocal.org>*

15th (Sunday)

St Peter's Trust presents Brilliant International Musicians – 7pm to 9.30pm.

Now in its twelfth season, St Peter's Church Marlborough presents a wonderful evening featuring internationally-renowned musicians Judith Choi-Castro (violin) and John Paul Ekins (piano). The performance includes Grieg violin sonata no. 1 in F major; Dvorak sonatina in G major and Prokofiev violin sonata in D no. 2.

Tickets £10 Members/£15 Non-members. Full details <https://stpetersmarlborough.org.uk>

30th October 8.30pm (Monday) and also 12th November 3pm (Sunday)

Parade Cinema 'Event Cinema' – Exhibition on Screen: Klimt & The Kiss

An exquisitely rich film that delves into the detail and passion surrounding Gustav Klimt's iconic artwork, as well as revealing the scandalous life of the artist himself!

<https://www.theparadecinema.com/movie/exhibition-on-screen-klimt-and-the-kiss->

Looking Ahead.... >>>

18th November (Saturday) at 7pm

St George's Church, Preshute – *Harmony in Autumn*.

A splendid evening of music and readings celebrating the beauty of autumn in the church's atmospheric setting. *Tickets £15, including wine and canapes*, available from David Beacom – dbeacom@aol.com. In aid of the ongoing work of St George's.

October School Dates:

St John's/Marlborough St Mary's: Half Term Thursday 19th to Friday 27th

Preshute: Half Term Thursday 19th to Friday 27th, Monday 30th TD (no school)

Marlborough College: Half Term from 12 noon Friday 13th to 9pm Sunday 29th

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

10 September Sophie Lily Roberta Lynam St Mary's

Departed - we pray for the families of

28 August Robert Ratcliff (71) Blowhorn St, Marlborough St Mary's

30 August Max Booker (88) Llandridod Wells, Powys St Mary's

6 September Derek Greenaway (94) George Lane, Marlborough St Mary's

December's Editor Says: Do you have a favourite Christmas carol that you would like to share? Mine is "Adeste Fideles" - preferably sung in Latin. Sarah Bumphrey, Chairman, loves "The angel Gabriel from heaven came". Send your favourite to **Sara Holden** at dec.editor@towerandtown.org.uk

Friends of the Victorian Cemetery

The Friends of the Victorian Cemetery are looking for more volunteers to join their group, which has been going for over eight years. We are mainly retired people and our official working morning is the second Monday in the month, 10 – 12 ish; some volunteers go on Friday a.m. as well. We support Marlborough Town Council in keeping this beautiful cemetery as a special place where people can walk through or just sit and reflect on life. We especially work on the Non Conformist area, and the Paupers memorial. Please contact:

margaretrrose@hotmail.co.uk



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Anna Harrison 1942 – 2023, by Alison Selby

Anna was born in London, and spent her early years in Tarring near Worthing and at Southampton. She qualified as a teacher at Chichester, as well as embracing sailing, singing and acting. Whilst teaching at Croydon, Anna met Martin and they married in 1966. They went to teach in the USA for a year and then moved to Marlborough, with Martin teaching at the College and Anna teaching at Preshute and St John's. Anna became an excellent hostess entertaining students and others.

On Martin's retirement, with their sons John and Mark grown up, Anna also retired and together they travelled around the world. Anna delighted in meeting people when she travelled and a special pleasure was to accompany visually impaired individuals on holiday, as a Sighted Guide, describing with her wonderful gifts of words the places they visited.

Her life was filled with activity, bearing her health challenges with courage and determination. Anna looked after her mother and her mother-in-law to the end of their lives and nursed Martin with true devotion until he passed away in 2017. She then continued to care for elderly housebound friends and support those (like her) coping with bereavement. Anna was an active member of St Mary's and involved with Open The Book; and home groups and devotional material enriched her unshakeable Christian faith and her daily prayers.

Anna loved reading, music and theatre. She had supported the Chichester Festival Theatre from her youth. She enjoyed walking and bird watching. She was also one of the founders of the Talking Newspaper Service in the Marlborough area and was still corresponding with many friends and family.

I was privileged to work alongside Anna, when she was chair of Marlborough Churches Together when I came to live here in 1990 and with Open The Book from 2011. Anna died on 12th April following a major cerebral bleed. She is missed but we rejoice that she is reunited with her loved ones ... and her Saviour, Jesus.

We celebrate the life of **Letty Kenny** who has died at the age of 93. Letitia Elizabeth Mary Kenny, née Waters, known as Letty, was born in Marlborough into a local family and lived all of her life here apart from a brief spell in Scotland where her husband Tommy came from. She and Tommy brought up three daughters in the town, one of whom still lives locally. Long a resident of St Margaret's Mead, she latterly found a home in Coombe End Court where she died on 6th August. She leaves daughters, sons in law, grand children, great grandchildren and many friends in the town. She enjoyed reading *Tower and Town* and was a long time subscriber.

This month our focus is on rugby – a wonderful team sport and here in Marlborough we are lucky enough to have a thriving club, headed up by a 1st XV that has just been promoted to Level 5. We also have a burgeoning Minis and Junior section with over 300 children playing rugby each week. If you're walking by the Common on Sunday mornings, you'll hear shouts of glee and see lots of exhausted children being watched by very proud parents.

Rugby, much like faith, is built on a foundation of values that include integrity, respect, teamwork, and discipline. These values are deeply ingrained in the sport's culture and are reflected in the way players conduct themselves both on and off the field. Similarly, Christianity promotes these very same values as essential for following Christ.

So, what does our Lord say about teamwork? In the Bible, we hear that Christians are part of a team, working together, as part of the body of Christ.

As a team leader, Jesus chose people to share his ministry and to take it further, to the ends of the earth. Sometimes he just saw a couple of people casting nets and he invited them to join him. At other times, he was more specific and invited someone who had few obvious gifts but needed to change and develop.

He believed that through his teaching people could grow to love God and love each other and by following him, they would be saved. Sometimes he seemed to ask too much of them, for example feeding the 5000, with only bread and a few fishes and they weren't sure that they could do it. At other times, he inspired them to do far more than they'd ever imagined, for example, Peter walking on water.

Jesus shared his understanding of the kingdom of God and gave his disciples power to heal the sick and authority over demons. He wanted the best for everyone, and he had something great to offer. He had a vision, and he shared this vision, offering everyone a shared goal, rules to follow and the opportunity to join in.

Rugby teams often become like a second family for players, creating a strong sense of community and fellowship. Faith communities, too, offer a sense of belonging and support. Both rugby and faith provide spaces for individuals to find belonging and live a life with meaning.

So, those of you who play or watch, enjoy every moment of your practice sessions and matches. Meanwhile, if you're wondering about joining one of our church family, we look forward to including you. Do join us anytime, you'll be very welcome.

The weather and birds:

In the sonnet accompanying Vivaldi's Spring from the Four Seasons the birds "welcome it in joyful song", a cue for three warbling violins to strike up. "The sky darkens, and there is thunder and lightning" (rushing scales and trembling unisons) and then "the little birds return and all sing anew." (renewed warblings!) It may be a truism but it is always a delight, after a period of prolonged rain, to see the sun shining and birds emerging from shelter, singing away and hurrying about their business, as if making up for lost time.

Birds are weather dependent in all manner of ways, just as we humans are. Our common summer immigrants, due to their size and weight, prefer to fly with a tailwind to make their journey easier. After a period of inhibiting cold northerlies in late March, a change to warm, light southerlies will accelerate the arrival of iconic species: Chiff Chaff and Blackcap, Swallow and House Martin, Redstart and Cuckoo.

It isn't always plain sailing in the breeding season: a flood can wash out a Kingfisher's nest hole on a river bank or a Plover's nest on the floor of a gravel pit. Early breeders such as Stone Curlews and Barn Owls are sometimes faced with unseasonal conditions in April: cold, saturated ground can ruin the Curlew's scrape and frozen earth prevents the Owls from hunting rodents and small mammals.

Come summer and birds are increasingly faced with hot weather. The smaller species will cool off in a bird bath or a wet gutter, or open up their wings and spread their feathers.

Birds can pant, opening their beaks and breathing heavily: air rushes in causing the moisture in their lungs, throat and mouths to evaporate, which absorbs heat and helps keep them cool.

In the autumn birders keep an eye on weather forecasts, especially if they are sea-watchers. On the Land's End peninsular they will be huddled together by Pendeen Lighthouse when the wind is north westerly, then switch to Porthgwarra for a south westerly-their quarry passing auks, shearwaters, skuas and petrels. Even in Wiltshire storm-blown vagrants turn up in October and November. A Grey Phalarope spent a few days on the Crammer Pond in Devizes in 2005 and more recently a Kittiwake appeared there amongst the Black-headed Gulls.

In winter wild birds can be tamed by the freezing cold. Fieldfares and Redwings will raid orchards for fallen apples and bird tables become important sources of food and unfrozen water.

Opposite: Grey Phalarope in Winter Plumage

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News from the Churches

Marlborough Anglican Team

Harvest Festival – Sunday 1st October.

9am @ St John the Baptist, Minal

10.30am @ St George's, Preshute

Sunday 8th October, 10.30pm @ St Mary's with Christchurch.

St George's Messy Church, Saturday 14th October, 2pm

please do join us for this informal afternoon service with worship songs, lots of Bible-based craft activities and afternoon tea too!

St George's Family Worship, Saturday 21st October, 4pm A

service particularly for those who find Sunday a busy day! Please do come and explore this new Saturday afternoon service centred around worship songs lead by Rev Pete at the keyboard.

Energize Children's Church runs alongside the 5:30pm Informal Worship service in St Mary's. Children stay with us for the start of our family-friendly service, then go out to their friendly groups for Bible teaching, crafts, games, music and prayer. After the service, do join us for drinks and cake. Everyone is welcome

Friendship café

meets on **Saturdays 7th & 21st October** from 10.30am to 1pm in the Church Hall in Silverless Street. A welcoming space for anyone looking for friendship and a chat, with coffee and refreshments. (*Poster below*)

Welcome Wednesdays: Thought for the day

Wednesday mornings, "Thought for the Day" followed by coffee and doughnuts, continues through the autumn at 10:30am in St Mary's Church. All are welcome.

Emmanuel

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.

We also offer various activities throughout the week. For more information and updates on our events, please visit our website at emmanuelmarlborough.org.

Coffee Central, Thursday 5 October, 7.45-9 pm, monthly church members meeting for planning and prayer – all are welcome (non-members are welcome too!) Meeting in the Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough.

CY (Christian Youth), Sunday 8 October and 29 October, 5-5.30 pm, Our Youth group for school years 8-11. We're a friendly group and enjoy meeting for a short Bible study on themes relevant to young people. Meeting in the Müller Room



(Youth Room) at Emmanuel Marlborough after the main service.

CYJ (Christian Youth Junior), Sunday 8 October and 29 October, 5-5.30 pm, Our Youth group for school year 7. We're a friendly group and enjoy meeting for a short Bible study on themes relevant to young people. Meeting in the Wesley Hall, at Emmanuel Marlborough after the main service.

Monday Lunch, 9 October, (every 2nd Monday of the month), 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, Marlborough.

Ladies Bible Study, Friday, 13 October, 10 am- 11.30 am. Friends discovering God's truth in the Bible (All ladies welcome - onsite crèche available). For more details, email office@emmanuelmarlborough.org

Sunday Morning Service, 15 October, (every 3rd Sunday morning), 10-11 am – Main Church Hall, New Road, Marlborough, SN8 1AH. Join us for refreshments afterwards.

Sparklers, Monday, 16 October, 2.30-3.45 pm. A kids club for School Years Reception to Year 2 Games, snacks and Bible stories. Meeting in the Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough.

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

Explorers, Fridays during term time, 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)

Friday Nights, Fridays during term time, 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!

Homegroups, Thursdays during term time, Pewsey – 7.30 pm, Marlborough – 8 pm, Ogbourne St George – 8 pm. Bible study, prayer and fellowship. For more details, email office@emmanuelmarlborough.org

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

MAPAG

The 2 summer outings were a great success with 16 families booked on each of the trips, one to the Cotswold Wildlife Park and one to Weston Super Mare.



Please contact Rachel (rachelrosed1@gmail.com) for details of the next MAPAG meeting.

Quakers

Wednesday evenings 7.30-9pm in the Quaker Meeting House, The Parade; next to the cinema.

Talks will end with refreshments and chat >>>



<<<

11th October: Truth and Integrity

18th October: Simplicity and

Stewardship

25th October: Equality and Fairness

1st November: Peace and Pacifism

Youth Work Update

Youth for Christ are moving their work to the Youth and Community Centre, The Recreation Ground, St Margaret's Mead, Marlborough SN8 4BA. "We are very grateful for the support and prayers of people in the town, and discussions with teenagers themselves, whose welcome has been one of the factors in encouraging us to continue."

If anyone would like to get involved and stay in the loop then please let me know by emailing steve@wiltshireyfc.org.uk

Harvest Festival



Marlborough Anglican Team invites you to join us for our Harvest Festival services

SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER

9AM: ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MINAL

10:30AM, ST GEORGE'S, PRESHUTE

SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER

10:30AM ST MARY'S, MARLBOROUGH

All are welcome at our family friendly services.

Donations of non-perishables for Devides and District foodbank gratefully received.

MARLBOROUGH ANGLICAN TEAM

ST MARY'S | ST GEORGE'S | ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WITH CHRISTCHURCH METHODIST FELLOWSHIP

**Quakers?
What are they about?**



Many people have heard of Quakers but know little of their historic role in the abolition of slavery, or campaigning of prison reform, or in modern peace-making. Marlborough Quakers are planning a series of short talks, free and open to all, to explain the basis of Quaker values. We are not seeking to recruit or convert. We want to discuss the immediate relevance of these values, shared by many of you, to the crises we all face in today's world.

Wednesday evenings from 7.30 to 9 pm in the Quaker Meeting House, the Parade (next to the cinema).
The talks will end with refreshments and chat.
All welcome

Dates and topics

- 11th October Truth and Integrity
- 18th October Simplicity and Stewardship
- 25th October Equality and Fairness
- 1st November Peace and Pacifism

Welcome Wednesdays

Wednesdays at 10:30am

St Mary's Church, Marlborough

Please join us for a Thought for the day followed by coffee and doughnuts



MARLBOROUGH ANGLICAN TEAM

ST MARY'S | ST GEORGE'S | ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WITH CHRISTCHURCH METHODIST FELLOWSHIP

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Contributions and comments from readers are welcome.

Please send articles and letters to the monthly editor or the chairman, other notices or announcements to the compiler.

All items for the November issue by Tuesday 10 October 2023 please.

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

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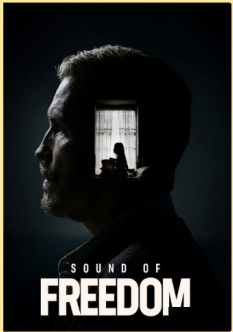
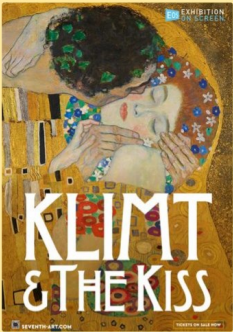
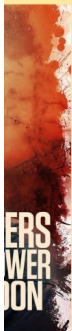
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