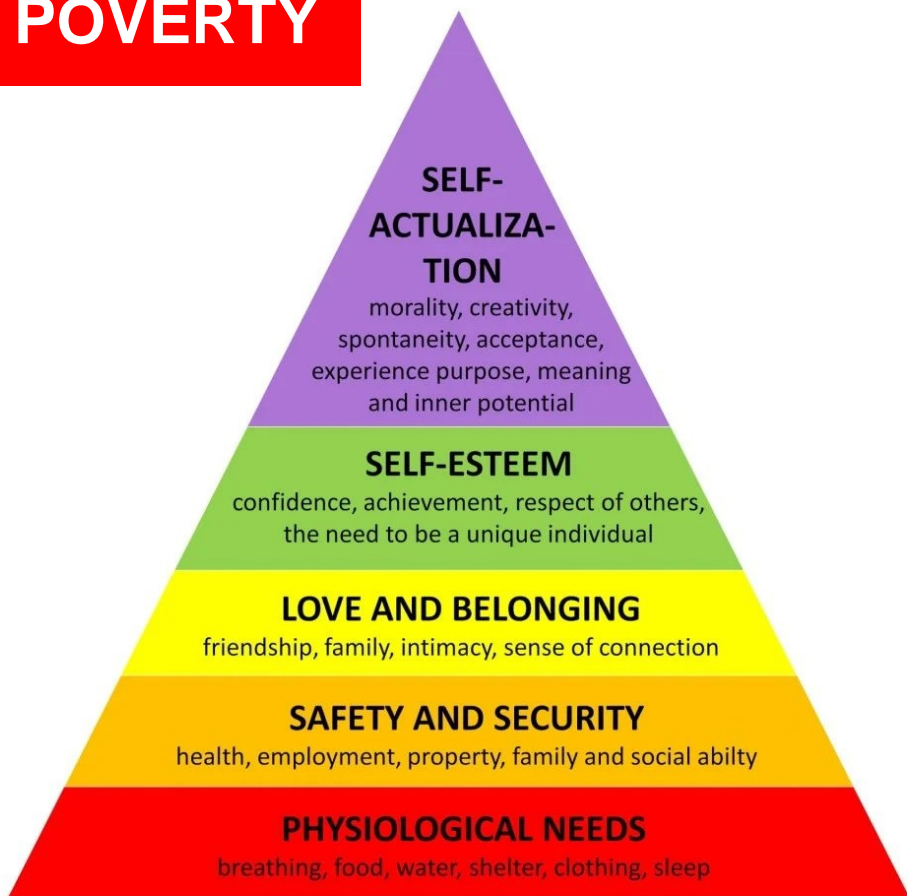

TOWER_{AND}TOWN

POVERTY



Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



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 752 OCTOBER 2024



Challenging poverty in a rich town

Do you remember *Little House on the Prairie*, with its rosy portrayal of poverty? The idea that while the poor may lack wealth, they are somehow happier. Reality, however, paints a far grimmer picture. Poverty in our country, our county of Wiltshire, and our town of Marlborough is starkly different.

I was brought up in my early years on one of the toughest council estates in the north of England – it was so bad, a girl I went to school with wrote a book about it and it was made into a film, my childhood on screen. We often didn't have enough to eat, but the real poverty of my childhood was the lack of opportunities. The Arts, sports, books, socialisation were either limited or non-existent.

Nowadays, it can be even worse. At least I didn't know what I didn't know? Today's world shows everyone what they're missing, what they should have, what they are 'entitled' to, a constant exposure to a world of unreachable wealth. That makes poverty even harder to bear.

Do we understand the problem, and what can we do to break the cycle? Please take the time to read and maybe one small action (or a big one) could help in our neighbourhood.

Kym-Marie Cleasby
Mayor of Marlborough

Front cover: Abraham Maslow, American psychologist

Steven Rand is one of the founders of Jubilee 2000/Jubilee Debt Campaign/Make Poverty History. A communicator and campaigner.

A provincial government in Canada consulted its citizens on how government and people could work together to reduce poverty and encourage people to reach their full potential. They produced a document to prompt discussion and outline possible action which included this introduction, headed **What is Poverty?** It highlights how poverty is far more than shortage of money and underlines how poverty for some affects everyone. Efforts by the community to combat poverty within the community benefit everyone in the community – it’s a win-win situation.

What is poverty?

Poverty is about not having enough money to meet basic needs including food, clothing and shelter. However, poverty is more, much more than just not having enough money. The World Bank Organization describes poverty in this way:

“Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time.

Poverty has many faces, changing from place to place and across time, and has been described in many ways. Most often, poverty is a situation people want to escape. So poverty is a call to action -- for the poor and the wealthy alike -- a call to change the world so that many more may have enough to eat, adequate shelter, access to education and health, protection from violence, and a voice in what happens in their communities.”

In addition to a lack of money, poverty is about not being able to participate in recreational activities; not being able to send children on a day trip with their schoolmates or to a birthday party; not being able to pay for medications for an illness. These are all costs of being poor. When people are excluded within a society, when they are not well educated and when they have a higher incidence of illness, there are negative consequences for society. We all pay the price for poverty. The increased cost on the health system, the justice system and other systems that provide supports to those living in poverty has an impact on our economy.

There is no one cause of poverty, and the results of it are different in every case. Poverty varies considerably depending on the situation. Despite the many definitions, one thing is certain; poverty is a complex societal issue. No matter how poverty is defined, it can be agreed that it is an issue that requires everyone’s attention. It is important that all members of our society work together to provide the opportunities for all our members to reach their full potential. It helps all of us to help one another .

Poverty has deep and pervasive effects on families, influencing nearly every aspect of their lives. From access to basic necessities to emotional and social well-being, living in poverty presents constant challenges that shape the lives of both parents and children. This chronic stress can strain relationships, affect health, hinder education, and create a cycle that is difficult to escape.

Economic Stress and Parental Well-being

At its core, poverty creates relentless financial stress. Parents in low-income households are often forced to make impossible choices between basic needs—rent, food, healthcare, and utilities. The constant juggling of bills and resources can lead to heightened anxiety, depression, and emotional exhaustion in adults. These mental health challenges often affect how parents interact with their children and their ability to maintain a stable home environment. When parents are overwhelmed by financial pressure, they may struggle to provide the emotional support their children need, leading to tension and weakened family bonds.

In addition to mental health struggles, parents in impoverished families often work multiple jobs or irregular hours, leaving them with little time to spend with their children. This lack of time can weaken the parent-child relationship, and the stress of long hours without adequate rest can lead to burnout. The inability to balance work and family life affects the quality of caregiving and can result in emotional distance within the household.

Impact on Children’s Education and Development

Children growing up in poverty face significant educational disadvantages. Limited access to early childhood education, insufficient resources like books, internet connectivity, and quiet study spaces all create barriers to academic success. Schools in low-income areas are often underfunded, leading to larger class sizes, outdated materials, and fewer extracurricular opportunities. This lack of resources can hinder cognitive and social development, placing children at a disadvantage from an early age.

The stress of living in poverty also affects children’s ability to focus on their education. Hunger, unstable housing, and witnessing parental stress can lead to emotional distress, making it difficult for children to engage fully in learning. Over time, this can result in lower academic performance, increased absenteeism, and a greater likelihood of dropping out of school. These challenges reduce future earning potential, contributing to the cycle of poverty.

(continued overleaf)

Health and Nutrition

Healthcare is another critical area affected by poverty. Families living in poverty are less likely to have access to preventative care, meaning minor health issues can go untreated and become chronic. They may also face difficulties affording medication or insurance, further compounding health problems. Poor living conditions, such as overcrowded housing or exposure to environmental hazards, can lead to respiratory issues, infections, or other health problems that are difficult to manage without proper care.

Nutrition is often compromised as well, with families unable to afford healthy food. Access to fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains may be limited due to cost or availability, leading to diets high in processed foods that are calorie-dense but nutrient-poor. Malnutrition can have lasting effects on children's physical and cognitive development, and poor health overall contributes to increased absenteeism from school or work.

Social Isolation and Emotional Effects

Beyond the tangible effects on health and education, poverty often leads to social isolation. Families may feel excluded from community activities or school events due to the inability to afford participation fees or supplies. Children in poverty may experience bullying or feel ashamed of their circumstances, leading to low self-esteem and emotional distress.

For parents, the inability to provide for their children as they would like can result in feelings of inadequacy and guilt. This emotional strain may affect marital or partner relationships, contributing to conflict or even separation. The lack of a strong support network exacerbates the challenges of poverty, making it harder to break free from its grip.

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

The effects of poverty on families are profound, impacting every aspect of their lives, from health and education to relationships and emotional well-being. Poverty often creates a cycle that is difficult to break, as the challenges faced by one generation can pass down to the next. Effective interventions, such as access to quality education, affordable healthcare, and social support services, are critical in helping families break free from the cycle of poverty and improve their overall quality of life.

Addressing poverty requires a multifaceted approach that supports both parents and children, giving them the tools they need to thrive despite financial hardship.



Help Ukraine Group Support (HUGS)



in association with

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

COLLECTION OF AID FOR UKRAINE

Tuesday 1st October 2024 9.00am-2.00pm

Great Bedwyn Village Hall, SN8 3PB

Help us supply medical & other essential items to frontline communities

See our website for comprehensive list of needs

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

Enquiries: Tony: 07999 693399 / Mandy: 07762 935804

www.helpukraine.co.uk

www.facebook.com/helpukrainegroupsupport

CLARIDGE

Funeral Service

Local independent family funeral directors

Proudly supporting our local community



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

Parade Mews | The Parade | Marlborough | Wiltshire SN8 1NE | T: 01672 511836

E: daniel@claridgefuneralservice.co.uk | www.claridgefuneralservice.co.uk

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

For primary-age children, a nutritious hot meal at school can play a vital role in their overall well-being and academic success. When children do not receive a hot meal during the school day, the consequences can be significant, affecting their physical health, cognitive development, and emotional well-being.

One of the most immediate impacts is on a child's ability to focus and learn. Hunger makes it difficult for children to concentrate, participate, and retain information. Without proper nutrition, children may become easily fatigued or distracted, resulting in poorer academic performance. Studies have shown that well-nourished children tend to perform better in school, while those who skip meals or eat insufficiently are at risk of falling behind.

In addition to academic challenges, not receiving a hot meal can negatively affect a child's physical health. School meals often provide essential nutrients that may be lacking at home, particularly in low-income families where access to balanced meals is limited. A lack of proper nutrition can lead to issues like stunted growth, weakened immune systems, and a higher likelihood of developing chronic illnesses such as anaemia or diabetes.

Emotionally, hunger can lead to irritability, anxiety, and behavioural issues. Children who come to school hungry may struggle with self-regulation and social interactions, leading to conflicts with peers and teachers. Over time, this can contribute to lower self-esteem and social isolation.

Providing hot meals at school helps ensure that all children, regardless of their home situation, receive at least one balanced, nutritious meal each day, promoting their health, academic success, and emotional development.

Love Marlborough Kids Meals Catherine Williams

Since we first launched in 2020, our charity has continued to support families who find themselves struggling in the Marlborough area.

We are part of the charity, Love Marlborough and are an active part of Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group. We cover Marlborough and villages within an 8 mile radius.

We provide a hot, healthy family meal, every Friday delivered to the door in (recyclable) take-away packaging. This is usually a roast chicken with potatoes and mixed vegetables. We offer all our families a slow cooker to help with their cooking costs. We also provide additional groceries from time to time, often during school holidays.

The cost of living pressures have impacted many members of our local community. This includes families with working parents, challenging health issues or other personal circumstances, or sudden and unexpected changes making things difficult.

Stories we have heard recently include:

- A single-parent who had a sudden and unexpected health difficulty, which meant they were physically unable to cook for their family (or work and do many of their usual parenting activities).
- A couple of parents who have been completing nurse training, working long hours on placement and studying, with the associated low income. Not having to plan and make one meal a week was really helpful!
- Families with a parent experiencing a mental health crisis.
- Families with a child who has additional needs.
- Families recovering from a domestic violence situation.
- Ukrainian families recovering from traumatic experiences, who are setting up home and work within our community.
- A parent who found purchasing the extra fuel to visit their terminally-ill mother too much for their tight weekly budget.



Kids Meals is currently supporting 44 families who have children under the age of 18 years. Most families self-refer, others come through schools, children's centres, GP or social services. Families

tend to remain with us long term but occasionally a parent will let us know that their circumstances have changed for the better and they no longer need our support.

One of our greatest assets continues to be our volunteer team, whose members come from different parts of our local community. We cook on Friday afternoons, at SBC, a professional kitchen generously provided free of charge by Kymee Cleasby.

(continued overleaf)

We have a rota of cooks and kitchen assistants, cooking and packaging our meals every Friday afternoon. Our team of delivery volunteers operate on a rota, covering 7 delivery routes. In addition, there are coordinators for liaising with families, on-boarding volunteers, IT support and overall management of the project.

We continue to be supported financially by St Mary's Church. We have also received generous grants and funds from the Wiltshire Community Fund, Marlborough Town Council, local businesses and supermarkets, commercial companies linked to some of our volunteers and from individuals. Kids Meals is also one of the Mayor's charities this year. However, we need to continually fundraise to remain sustainable.

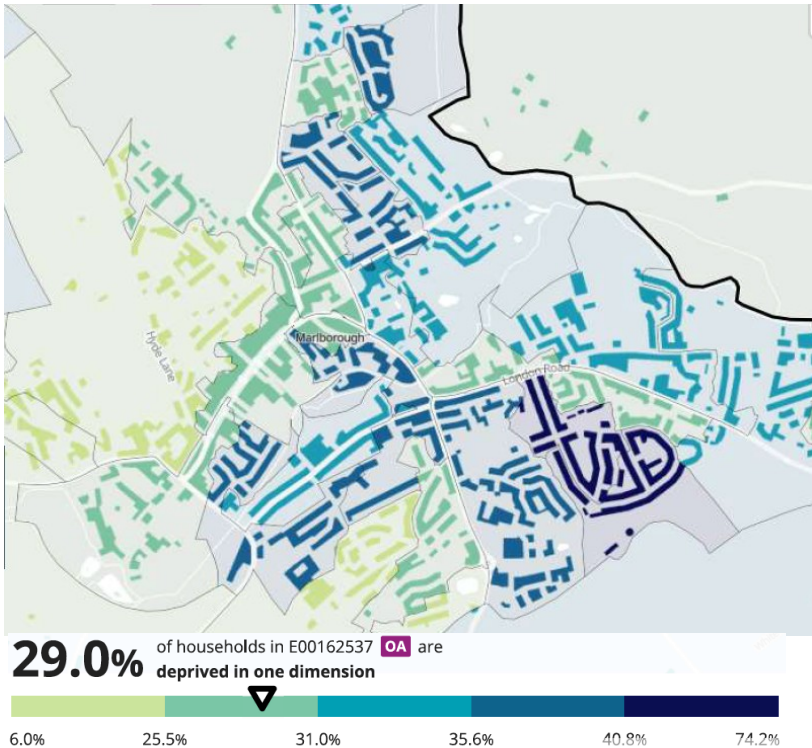
How you might help:

Every donation is received with thanks. Every penny will be used to feed families who are struggling.

We often need extra help in the kitchen Friday afternoons, between 3-5pm and for deliveries between 4.15-5pm.

For more information, contact: deliveries@lovemarlbroughkidsmeals.org

Deprivation map of Marlborough supplied by Wiltshire Council



I remember my mother holding my nose as she spoon-fed me cabbage soup. I was four, maybe five at the time and, as you might expect, not entirely convinced by the bowl of beige, mushy liquid. However, it was all we had to eat that night so I gave it my best shot. I managed a whole mouthful before promptly throwing it back up. Although it must have been a horrible experience for my parents, we still joke about it to this day, though I'm not sure any of us could tell you why it's funny.

Tight finances during my childhood also meant no flashy toys or expensive holidays - combine that with three restless kids stuck at home for the summer and you get frequent bus trips led by my stepdad, out into the Cornish wilderness where we would wander the woods and fields for hours. On one particularly adventurous trip I remember him wading through thigh-deep boggy waters, muttering under his breath as he rescued the three plastic whales my brother and I had thrown into the river moments before. This *isn't* a memory we laugh about. If anything I look back on it with a solemn sense of fondness, as a time I saw and understood my stepdad would wade through muck to rescue something precious to me.

Poverty is something we rarely associate with the British countryside, and while rural deprivation shares many characteristics with its urban counterpart (food insecurity, unstable housing, mental health pressures), it also has its own unique set of challenges to overcome. Historic lack of investment in rural infrastructure has left the more remote parts of the UK playing catchup when it comes to digital connectivity, transport links and access to jobs. Difficulty accessing training in advanced skills means many rural workers are ill equipped to take advantage of the boom in remote working. Finally, throw into the mix the heady cocktail of low wages, seasonal work and higher costs of living (especially for transport and fuel) and you are faced with a significant hill to climb if you want to create a better future for your family.

After six years working abroad, burnout and chronic illnesses in the family I find myself back in my home county with my own wife and children, facing many of these same challenges my parents faced decades before me. I do, however, consider myself privileged; I don't know that I would trade these gentle woodlands, lonely moors or windswept coastlines for anything. Plus, while the hill is hard to climb, there are paths to follow. Still, I am left wondering if my children will be forced to face the same obstacles twenty years from now, if they choose to remain in the place that is quickly becoming their home. With all our technological advancements and changes in the way we work, now more than ever we have an opportunity to completely transform the prospects of our rural inhabitants; if only we will reach out and take it.

The elderly and vulnerable populations often face numerous challenges, particularly in relation to social isolation and financial hardship. Access to social centres like The Jubilee, and the ability to afford heating during colder months are two critical issues that deeply affect their well-being.

Social Isolation and Community Centres

For many elderly and vulnerable individuals, social centres provide vital support. These centres serve as hubs where they can engage in social activities, access services, and form connections with others. For those living alone, visiting a social centre can be a crucial lifeline, offering companionship and alleviating loneliness, which can otherwise lead to depression and anxiety. Social interaction is essential to maintaining mental health, especially in older age when opportunities for socializing may become more limited due to mobility issues or the loss of loved ones.

Additionally, social centres often offer access to important services such as health screenings, meals, or exercise programmes designed to maintain physical well-being. However, access to these centres can be uneven. In rural or underfunded areas, there may be few such facilities available, and those that do exist may not be accessible for everyone due to transportation issues. As a result, many elderly and vulnerable people may become socially isolated, further exacerbating feelings of loneliness and neglect.

The Financial Struggle to Heat Homes

Financial struggles are another significant issue for many in the elderly and vulnerable populations, particularly when it comes to heating their homes during the winter months. With rising energy costs and fixed or limited incomes, many face the difficult decision of choosing between heating their homes or paying for other essentials like food and 'over-the-counter' medication. This is often referred to as "fuel poverty."

Living in a cold home can have severe consequences for health. For older people, prolonged exposure to cold can lead to respiratory issues, hypothermia, or exacerbated chronic conditions such as arthritis. Vulnerable individuals with pre-existing health problems are at even greater risk. The stress of trying to afford heating can also have mental health implications, leading to anxiety and increased social withdrawal.

In some cases, government or charity programmes may provide assistance with energy costs, but these programmes often do not reach everyone in need, or the assistance may not be sufficient to cover rising costs. Those without adequate

Discover the freedom of choice with Live-in Care



“

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

Joyce

Bluebird Care Live-in Care Customer

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

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

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

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



support may resort to unsafe heating methods, increasing the risk of fire or carbon monoxide poisoning.

Addressing the Problem

Addressing the needs of the elderly and vulnerable populations requires a multi-faceted approach. Expanding access to social centres and improving transportation options can help reduce social isolation, while greater financial support, energy-efficient housing, and awareness of fuel poverty programmes are crucial in ensuring that people can heat their homes safely. A coordinated effort from communities, governments, and social organizations is essential to protect the well-being of these vulnerable groups.

Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG)

Rachel Rosedale

This summer, we have been very well supported by helpers and donations especially a generous donation from the Area Board . We have been able to organise 3 outings for families in our catchment area, mainly those who have at least one child at Marlborough's Primary Schools. Despite on each occasion leaving the Waitrose car park in pouring rain, they were much enjoyed. The first was to Bournemouth, the second Weston Super Mare. For both trips we arrived in dry weather and saw occasional sun. Most of the children braved the sea. The last was to Marwell Zoo, when the weather was less favourable, but we still got very good feedback. Thank you to all who gave us their support.

Towards Christmas we will again be raising funds for vouchers for families in need.

Pewsey's Response to Rural Poverty

Phil Brady

The Hidden Struggles of Wiltshire: Poverty's Impact and Community Resilience

Poverty is an often invisible yet pervasive issue affecting many communities across the UK, and Wiltshire is no exception. Despite its picturesque landscapes and historic charm, Wiltshire faces significant socio-economic challenges that impact the lives of its residents, particularly in rural areas like Marlborough, Pewsey and surrounding villages..

The Stark Reality of Poverty in Wiltshire

Recent data reveal that over 15,000 children in Wiltshire are living in poverty. This alarming statistic underscores the broader issue of financial hardship that many families face. The effects of poverty are far-reaching, influencing not only the immediate well-being of individuals but also the overall health and stability of the community.

Children growing up in poverty are more likely to experience poor health, lower educational attainment, and limited job prospects. The stress and uncertainty associated with financial instability can lead to mental health issues, further exacerbating the cycle of poverty¹. Additionally, the lack of secure housing is a pressing concern, with over 100 children in Wiltshire currently homeless.

Phil Brady a founding Director with Positive Community Action, tasked with tackling poverty and its effects on society in Wiltshire has recently been a victim of poverty and homelessness himself after being served, not one but two section 21 eviction notices and was forced to live in a van last year with his partner, two young children and their family dog. Phil tells us “having experienced first hand the brutally sharp edge of the effects of poverty and the local housing emergency, I can tell you that we have to make changes both at grassroots and government levels to ensure local working families can afford to live sustainably, securely and without fear of homelessness, poverty and isolation which have huge impacts on our physical and mental health and on society as a whole. This is why we continue to campaign for a more just and fairer society at PCA and why we believe that strength in unity and kindness is crucial in holding communities together”

Community Response: Positive Community Action CIC

In the face of these challenges, grassroots organisations like Positive Community Action CIC (PCA) are making a significant difference. Based in Pewsey, PCA is dedicated to addressing food poverty, food waste, loneliness, isolation, and malnutrition in the local community.

- **Emergency Food and Household Supply Boxes:** PCA provides essential supplies to individuals and families facing financial hardship, ensuring they have access to basic necessities.
- **Weekly Nutritional Meals:** To combat malnutrition, PCA cooks and delivers home-cooked meals to vulnerable community members, ensuring they receive at least one nutritious meal each week.
- **Foodshare Initiative:** By collecting surplus food from supermarkets, PCA helps reduce food waste and distributes it within the local community, providing much-needed resources to those in need.

(continued p.16)

What's On in October

Linda Illsley

1st (*Tuesday*)

The White Horse Bookshop Autumn Workshop Programme – Village Street Scenes with Figures in Watercolour with Ian McManus. Price £80. For full details of the extensive programme visit <https://www.whitehorsebooks.co.uk/art-workshops>

3rd (*Thursday*) 2.00pm

Marlborough Floral Club – Oriental Takeaway with Rosemary Kerr at Mildenhall Village Hall. £6 to attend and no pre booking is necessary.

3rd (*Thursday*) 7.00pm

Challenging Poverty event (see advert p.17)

4th (*Friday*) 11.00am – 12.30pm

Parkinson's UK Café at St Peter's Church, Marlborough - Come along for a chat with others, share experiences and find out what is on offer for the local Parkinson's community. More information is available from Jane: 0344 225 3694 /jhenderson@parkinsons.org.uk No booking is required, just drop in anytime.

6th (*Sunday*) 7.00pm

Brilliant International Musicians at St Peter's Church
(see advert p. 20)

9th (*Wednesday*) 6.45pm for 7.30pm

Marlborough Gardening Association – Glass Painting Flora with Lynn Jones at Marlborough Town Hall. Display table will be Late Seasonal Colour. Information on talks and events at marlbga.org.uk

13th (*Sunday*) 7.30pm

Marlborough College Concert Series – Miloš Karadaglić – Virtuoso Guitarist. Programme includes works by Albeniz and Scarlatti. Memorial Hall, Marlborough College. marlboroughconcertseries.org

15th (*Tuesday*) 7.15pm and 20th (*Sunday*) 2.00pm

The Royal Ballet: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland at The Parade Cinema. Be prepared for some of the most flamboyant and familiar characters in dance to

come face to face. Book online or phone 01672 646232 (between 10.00am and 7.00pm). Early booking is recommended.

16th (*Wednesday*) 8.00pm

Marlborough Folk Roots: Chris While and Julie Matthews 30th Anniversary Tour - Marlborough Town Hall. This much beloved singer/songwriter duo have gathered numerous nominations, awards and critical acclaim during their 30 years of unrivalled musical partnership. Tickets £20. www.marlboroughfolk-roots.co.uk

17th (*Thursday*) 7.30pm

Marlborough History Society Talk – ‘Marlborough by Gaslight: The Victorian Age’ at St Peter’s Church, Marlborough. (see advert p.122)

29th (*Tuesday*) until 2nd November (*Saturday*) 10.00am - 4.00pm (last entry 3pm)

Halloween Spooky Tours at The Merchant’s House, Marlborough. Soak up the atmosphere during half term week with a spooky tour. Visit the witch’s kitchen, look out for low flying bats and see if you can find the pumpkins hidden in unexpected places. Entry to the house is £10 per adult, under 18’s free. (Historic House Members are free).

School Half Terms

St John’s School Half - Friday 25th Oct - Monday 4th Nov.

St Mary’s Primary and Preschute Primary Thursday 24th Oct - Monday 4th Nov..

Marlborough College 12noon Friday 18th Oct - 9.00pm Sunday 3rd Nov.

Coming Up In November

Sunday 3rd 7.00pm 13th - Brilliant International Musicians Series – French maestro Ingmar Lazar (solo piano) at St Peters Church, Marlborough. See stpetersmarlborough.org.uk for programme details. Tickets £15 (£10 for St Peters Members) on the door on the night.

10th and 11th Marlborough At War Exhibition

The Merchant’s House. Local residents can enjoy the exhibition free from 11.00am until 3.00pm on the 10th and 10.00am until 3.00pm on the 11th.

23rd Launch of ‘The Night Before Christmas’ at The Merchant’s House.

Lots of Christmas trimmings, special events up to Christmas Eve and historical reenactors The Devereaux Regiment on 7th December. Full details at www.themerchantshouse.co.uk

- **Friendship Cafe:** This welcoming space offers a chance for people to enjoy a chat over a cup of tea and some cake, helping to alleviate loneliness and build community connections.
- **Buddy Crew:** PCA's telephone befriending service offers companionship to those who are isolated or housebound, providing a vital lifeline of social interaction.

How You Can Help

PCA relies on the dedication of volunteers and the generosity of the community to continue its vital work. There are numerous ways to get involved, from preparing meals and providing companionship to assisting with food bank operations and driving the community bus.

If you are interested in volunteering or need assistance, you can visit PCA's website at ourpca.uk or call 01672 487022.

Challenging Poverty

Alex Montegriffo

As part of Challenge Poverty Week 2024, Devizes and District Foodbank, with Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group, invite the community of Marlborough to this event to challenge the systems that are contributing to local poverty, for example housing-related issues, and to get information on the different levels on which destitution is being challenged - local, regional and national.

The speakers will give short presentations followed by questions and answers. The event is all about challenging perceptions of poverty in Marlborough, starting conversations with decision-makers, and hearing about projects in Marlborough, Wiltshire and the UK that aim to challenge the systems that are pushing people towards poverty.

As a food bank, we know that food is not the answer to rising poverty in the UK. The people who are pushed towards a food bank are not just struggling with affording food, but also paying rent, bills, buying school uniform, and other essential costs. The factors that push people towards food banks include precarious work, low wages, a flawed social security system, and housing issues, amongst others.

The Mayor of Marlborough, Kym-Marie Cleasby, will also be attending. There will be information about local support on offer in Marlborough. We look forward to hosting our first Challenge Poverty Week event in Marlborough.

For any enquiries, please contact Chairman of Devizes and District Foodbank, Richard Oliver, on richard@devizesdistrict.foodbank.org.uk.

Challenging Poverty

- information, questions, answers and actions -

Thursday 3 October 2024

7.00pm



**Marlborough Town Hall
High Street
Marlborough
SN8 1AA**

Speakers & Panellists:



Hon. Danny Kruger MP
Jane Davies – Wiltshire Councillor for Marlborough West
Suzanne Wigmore, CEO – Wiltshire Citizens Advice

A Challenge Poverty Week Event

Ask questions, share stories, get information, and find out how to challenge poverty

Photos by Bob Naylor, WaterMarx Media, and from Mayor Kym-Marie Cleasby

We want to see a future where food banks aren't needed and we know that together, we can make that happen.

Find out more about our work by visiting our website:

devizesdistrict.foodbank.org.uk



Devizes and District Foodbank | Registered Charity Number: 1179397 | Registered in England & Wales

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

“The Paradise Tern”

The recent news that five seabirds have been added to the list of 68 endangered U.K. avian species is cause for grave concern, especially as it includes a bird with which I have a special relationship which breeds on northern coastlines, Shetland and the Orkneys-the Arctic Tern. It isn't exactly a characteristic Wiltshire species, but the arrival of a flock of 125 passing through the Cotswold Water Park in late April 2012 marks the date when I began composing an extended choral work for soloists, chorus and orchestra about this remarkable bird.

Creating “Atlantic Odyssey” was quite a project for librettist Mike Polack and myself, and left both of us amazed at the courage, skill and stamina of a bird no heavier than an apple that reputedly travels the equivalent of three times to the moon and back during its lifetime. With silver-grey wings, a smart black cap and blood-red bill and legs, its call is a harsh “Kria!” One curious phenomenon is the so-called “Dread”—a period of silence in an otherwise noisy tern colony, prior to the departure of all the birds south, on their long migratory journey. Fiercely defensive of their nests, they can draw blood from the head of a human intruder, as some readers may know from personal experience on the Farne Islands! Arctic terns remain faithful to one partner and can live for up to thirty years despite their perilous travels.

(continued)



Marlborough Church Contacts

Fr John Blacker

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

Reuben Mann

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

Canon Sarah Musgrave

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

The Revd Tim Novis

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

The Revd Pete Sainsbury

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

The Revd Stephen Skinner

512457; rev.stephen.skinner3@gmail.com

Minister, Christchurch Methodist

The Revd Chris Smith

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

Rachel Rosedale

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

Penny Reader

Anglican Team secretary

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

Methodist Office Coordinator

07564 082092
office@christchurchmarlborough.org.uk

They are capable, like Swifts, of sleeping on the wing as they fly, sometimes at great heights, and when returning north in the Spring they can cover a distance of 300 miles a day. Each year they make their extraordinary 40,000-mile Atlantic migration from polar north to polar south, starting in September.

Arctic Terns are in a precarious position as their breeding areas are threatened by climate breakdown and the food they eat such as sand eels are overfished and at risk from warming seas. Invasive predators such as rodents decimate their young, and bird flu has caused further population declines. Some human help is offered to some of our tern species, providing rafts or nesting boxes, cordoning off areas on beaches and patrolling areas to deter human and animal access, but there is a limit to what can be done to reverse the downward trend.

The Arctic tern has another name-Sterna Paradisaea, the Paradise Tern, referencing its restless circumpolar quest for the realms of perpetual light.

Arctic Tern photo by David White whose photos enhanced performances of
“Atlantic Odyssey”

Autumn is usually the season when the garden starts to look a bit tired and bedraggled as plants finish flowering and their leaves begin to drop. However there are plenty that still look good, especially if we continue to have milder weather.

Pots, hanging baskets and window boxes that have been adding summer colour can be revamped to provide something nice to see from a window or welcome you by the door. Autumn bulbs and evergreens are available to buy and cheer us through the winter months, with many flowering year after year. Start by cleaning your chosen container and assembling some compost with a little grit or perlite for drainage.

Hanging baskets Line the basket well with moss from the lawn or garden centre, part fill with your planting medium and place a small empty flowerpot into the compost to aid watering by ensuring water can get to the bottom of the basket. Plant up with trailing or colourful foliage plants such as heucheras, bugle, small ferns and grasses, variegated ivies or whatever is available at your preferred retailer or in your garden. More colour can be added with autumn cyclamen, pansies or violas.

Pots can provide instant drama and needn't be complicated. There are bright stems and leaves, berries and flowers to choose from which give a prolonged season of interest. For the thriller, filler and spiller effect use larger plants such as cornus or viburnum, grasses, flowers such as hellebores or pansies and ivies. Another approach is to layer in Spring bulbs as a lovely bonus to look forward to. When planting pots add a crock at the bottom to protect the drainage hole and stand on 'feet' or stones to ensure good drainage in wetter weather.

To layer bulbs add some planting medium and start with the larger ones such as tulips - there are gorgeous colours to choose from. Add more compost followed by a layer of smaller bulbs such as narcissus or crocus, topping off with winter foliage plants. Place your container in a sheltered place while your plants establish themselves. Happy gardening.

Brilliant International Musicians - 13th season

Sunday 6th October at 7pm

St Peter's Church Marlborough

Joana Ly (violin) and Martin Andre (piano)

Pejacevic, Moszkowski, and Beethoven

Tickets £15 (£10 for St P members) on the door on the night

If you should happen to be looking for a short, sweet, funny coming of age tale, with sex, drugs (not enough to frighten the horses) and Bach, then may I point you to *Almost Nothing Happened* by Meg Rossoff? Callum is returning home from a miserable French exchange trip, in which his 17- year- old sense of being a Total Failure is compounded by being utterly unable to connect with his cool-as-illicit-vodka-shots, chic-as-all-get-out, deeply unwelcoming hosts. Impulsively he decides not to board the Eurostar and plunges into a heat-wave stricken Paris, with his phone battery dying just after (phew!) he's established contact with an unknown older cousin. There follows 48 frenzied hours of classical music, insurance fraud, art theft, climate activist protests and manic chases across the city on the back of a scooter driven by the irresistible Lilou, everything he has always imagined French girls to be.... This is officially a Young Adult title, but this Old Adult enjoyed it immoderately.

I have, alas, never zipped across Paris on the back of a scooter, or even driven in a sports car with the warm wind in my hair. Though I've had my moments (no need to pity me) I was, even in my prime, pretty nerdy, and have only become more so with advancing years. As a child I would have, and as an adult I do love Tom Read Wilson's *Wonderful Words That Tell A Tale*. It's an etymological exploration, in which the author takes four words from every letter of the alphabet, and explains their origin and derivation. It's full of lovely illustrations (from the Latin *illustrare*, 'to enlighten') by Ian Morris, and bouncy (possibly from the Dutch *bonzen* 'to beat or thump') rhymes. If you or a child of your acquaintance is enthusiastic (from Greek 'to be inspired or possessed by a god') about words - then I strongly recommend this book. From the Latin *commendare* 'to commit to the care of'. I really will stop now. (But did you know that the word 'fart' comes from Sanskrit? And 'barbecue' from Arawakan?)

I'm all about simple entertainment this month, so my last pick is *The Formidable Miss Cassidy* by Meihan Boey, a mix of romantasy (it is a word) and historical fiction. Employed as companion and tutor to a frail orphan in 1890s colonial Singapore, Miss Cassidy, a long way from the down-trodden Victorian governess, deals calmly and competently with multi-cultural dark forces, gods and demons. It was described to me as 'a cross between *Mary Poppins* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*'; I couldn't have put it better myself.

Marlborough History Society

Thursday 17th October at 7:30pm

“Marlborough by Gaslight”

On December 2nd 1997 a “Victorian Extravaganza” was held in Marlborough High Street, which was closed to traffic. Late night shopping was made available, and a variety of stalls, displays and street entertainment provided. Victorian Marlborough was a very different place to what it is now. The gasworks, prison, workhouse, tanneries, breweries, rope works, and railway stations are all gone but they continue to cast a shadow.

Speaker:

Nick Baxter, local historian, speaker, tour guide
and Marlborough College Summer School tutor.

Guests are very welcome, £5 entry.

www.marlboroughhistorysociety.org.uk

For further information contact Sara Holden, saraholden22@gmail.com,
01672 515370, 07811040993

Family News

Naomi Painter

Eileen Gilbert died on 31st July 2024 at the age of 89. She was married to Eric for over 60 years, and they had made Marlborough their home since 1964. Their son Howard grew up in Marlborough and attended St John’s school in the town. Howard is now a Rector in the Gloucester diocese and lives in Minchinhampton with his wife and two daughters.

Eileen had a deep Christian faith and lived her long life serving her family and others, whilst enjoying a career as a teacher specialising in children who had special educational needs. Eileen was a long-standing member of Christchurch Methodist Fellowship in the town, which she joined with Eric in 1963, where she held various leadership roles and will be sorely missed by their members and friends.

Happy News: Our Deputy Town Clerk, **Clare Harris**, is Now **Clare Williams**. She married **Darren** in June. She heads up Marlborough’s Community Fridge which saves food waste in the town and is well supported. After their honeymoon she is back to work with a new spring in her step. One of Clare’s roles is to support doners and customers alike. Congratulations Clare (Williams)

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 websites.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms - we welcome:

18 August Isobel Alison Janet to Laura and Mark Richards, St Mary's

Weddings - we congratulate:

17 September Bethany James & James Conway at St George's, Preshute

Departed - we pray for the family of:

15 July Audrey Dancy (93), Ridgeway House, Royal Wootton Bassett
at St George's Preshute

21 July Joyce Jarman (97), Dando Drive, Marlborough
at St George's Preshute

31 July Eileen Gilbert (89), Poulton Crescent, Marlborough at St Mary's

It was beautiful in Savernake Forest this morning. The sun was streaming through the trees, lighting up the leaves, casting shadows across the path. Trotting through shadows and sunshine our dog Yanni's coat glistened as he walked through the light. Every now and again, he would stop, raise his nose and sniff. I wondered what he could smell. So, I too stopped, sniffed and enjoyed the aroma of damp vegetation. I'd love to know what Yanni caught on the breeze.

I then reflected on the beauty all around me from the ground to the highest twig. From iridescent black beetles scuttling across the path to tiny wrens high in the branches singing their hearts out. Over the past few months we have seen the crops growing, ripen and harvested. Grain is now gathered into silos and straw transported round the country.

This "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness," (John Keats), is the season in our churches when we thank God for the harvest and all that he provides for us. It is a time to consider how we can look after the earth and what we can do for those who are not as fortunate. This is a good time to think about how to help those who won't enjoy a harvest this year, through buying FairTrade produce and giving to such charities as Christian Aid and Water Aid. Supporting our local food banks help those in our own communities who are unable to afford to feed their families. It is so good that we can easily buy FairTrade products and give to the food banks through our town's supermarkets.

We also reflect on how we can care for our world, which is abused and being ravaged by the effects of climate change. On 22nd June this year, Jane and I joined the "Restore Nature Now" family friendly protest march in London to encourage those in power to take action to protect and restore nature to what it could be. We were with over 60,000 other people, including Chris Packham and Dame Judy Dench, concerned about the state of our natural world. Wearing my dog collar, some avoided me, but others engaged in interesting conversations. Who knows what good it will do, but it was better than just shouting at the radio when hearing about sewage being pumped into our waterways!

Seeing some acorns on an oak tree today reminded me that sometimes we wonder what we can do to solve big issues. On our own we might be one person, but if enough people do the same thing, together we make an impact and change things.

In Genesis chapter two, God creates the world and "took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it," (2:15). Harvest Festival is an opportunity to thank God for all that we enjoy from the harvest and commit ourselves to caring for the earth.

News from the Churches

Marlborough Anglican Team

All-age Harvest Festival

Sunday 6th October

- 9am, St John the Baptist, Minal
- 10:30am, St George's, Preshute
- 5pm, St Mary's, Marlborough (with Children's tea at 4:30pm)

The Ark Parent/ Carer and Toddler Group - Mondays during term time.
Please contact Caroline Philps for more information (cphilps2@gmail.com)

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

What's on at Emmanuel Church Marlborough:

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

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

All are welcome to join us!

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).

For more details, email explorers@emmanuelmarlborough.org

Friday Nights, Fridays during term time, 7.30-9.00 pm. Our youth club for school years 7-11 at the Wesley Hall, Oxford Street, Marlborough. Friends, fun & faith— everyone is welcome! For more details email:

fridaynights@emmanuelmarlborough.org

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

November

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

December

Editor	Sarah Musgrave	dec.editor@towerandtown.org.uk	
Compiler	Peter Noble	dec.compiler@towerandtown.org.uk	516830

Every Month

<i>What's On</i>	Linda Illsley	whats.on@towerandtown.org.uk	
<i>News from the Churches</i>	Penny Reader	church.news@towerandtown.org.uk	512357
		Church Cottage, Silverless Street, SN8 1JQ	
<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 November issue by Tuesday 8th October 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

