
TOWER_{AND}TOWN



William Jebb Few and his wife Emily

Moments in Marlborough's History

FEBRUARY 2022

Single copy £1; Annual subscription £5

A niche firm of Lawyers focusing on Private Wealth

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

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

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

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



TELEPHONE: 01672 515193 or 07917 177647
EMAIL: info@duncanmorrissolicitors.co.uk
106 HIGH STREET, MARLBOROUGH, WILTSHIRE SN8 1LT
www.duncanmorrissolicitors.co.uk



TOWER AND TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 722 FEBRUARY 2022



‘Some Remnants of History’

This is Francis Bacon’s definition of ‘Antiquities’ - or perhaps if he were around today he would say ‘Events from the Past’, which in his words have “casually escaped the shipwreck of time”.

Does Bacon perhaps do less than justice to researchers and teachers of history, who take pains to verify and establish reliable historical narratives, and to bring plausible interpretations to their readers and audiences?

Take Nick Fogg’s book *Forgotten Englishman*, which gives an account of the life and times of Thomas Stephens, a 16th century Roman Catholic from north Wiltshire, who worked all his adult life as a missionary in Goa. For me, Nick’s excellent book reveals much about the collisions in this country between Catholics and Protestants and between Christianity and Hinduism in India. There was more certainty and less tolerance in religious matters then, though there are perhaps different lines of battle drawn today.

Look especially, too, at the hugely thought-provoking pieces in Bishop Andrew Rumsey’s *English Grounds* where his encounters with various places in the Wiltshire landscape (and elsewhere) provoke him to wide-ranging and stirring reflections on their history and significance, and especially on the nature and place of Christian faith. Last autumn Bishop Andrew read passages from his book at its launch in St Peter’s Church and - movingly - sang his own songs with guitar accompaniment.

In this edition the main articles have been kindly contributed by leading members of the Marlborough History Society. Do come to a meeting. Do join us. You will find details of the February meeting inside.

John Osborne, Editor

Cover photo: William Jebb Few and his wife. *See page 9*

The Great Fire of Marlborough: 28 April 1653

David Chandler

The Great Fire of Marlborough occurred in a turbulent decade in what was a turbulent century. The English Civil War started on the 22nd August 1642. At the start of the war, in December, Marlborough was besieged by a royalist army who overwhelmed the garrison which supported parliament. Many of the defeated citizens, including the mayor, were taken in chains, in bitter winter weather, to the royalist capital at Oxford.

After the King's defeat in the civil war and execution in 1649, the monarchy was abolished by the Rump Parliament. The republic with Cromwell as Lord Protector lasted just ten years until the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660.

The Borough of Marlborough was staunch in its support for parliament and this is shown by our town maces which were commissioned during the republican era with republican symbols such as oak branches. Royalist symbols were added at the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 and the wording round the top of the mace states '1660: The Freedoms of England by the Grace of God restored'. It looks now as if the Borough of Marlborough was staunch in its support for the restoration of the monarchy!

However Marlborough had always supported parliament during the conflict and that is why when Marlborough suffered the disaster of the Great Fire in 1653 Cromwell called for a national campaign for the relief of the distress.

The fire started around 41 to 47 High Street at the west end on the lower side near the Wellington Arms pub in the yard of a tanner who was drying oak bark used in the tanning process. The fire quickly spread in the space of three hours because of a strong west wind and over 150 houses were destroyed including all of those on the south and north sides of the High Street to the east, the Shambles buildings in the middle of the High Street, Kingsbury Street and the Green including St Mary's Church*.

In 1653, England was at war with Holland and at the time of the fire, Dutch POWs were being marched through Marlborough. These POWs acted with great courage in rescuing people from burning buildings. In recognition of this, when the Town Council put up a blue plaque in the 1990's, the Dutch ambassador was invited to the unveiling and sent his chargé d'affaires.

Other postscripts to the fire are that the Committee for the Relief of Marlborough met in Saddlers' Hall in the City of London. The iconic building of The Merchant's House in the High Street was the house of Thomas Bayly, a

wealthy silk merchant who lost everything in the fire. His claim on the relief funds allowed him to rebuild the house as we see it today. There were two more bad fires in Marlborough, in 1679 and 1690 after which an Act of Parliament banned thatched roofs within the boundaries of the Borough.

** Damage estimated at £70,000. Compare this with the value of the whole High Street in the late 1800's as being about £30,000.*

What's in a Name? A Short History of St John's Close

Dick Whitfield

St John's Close Marlborough - a peaceful development of 28 terraced and semi-detached houses at the top of Hyde Lane and close to the Common. What is its history? Why the name? Which St John? Why a "Close"?

Early in the 13th century there was a religious house known as the Hospital of Saint John the Baptist in The Parade, then known as The Marsh, held under a 1215 Charter granted by King John. The hospital appears to have thrived throughout the Middle Ages, but fell foul of the Dissolution of Monasteries under Henry VIII, and became the property of the Crown.

After Henry's death the Mayor and Corporation petitioned Edward VI to allow them to convert the hospital, which by now held the land known as St John's Close, into a Free School. The petition was granted in 1550; Marlborough's Free Grammar School was founded, and the first building of what eventually became St John's School was erected on the site in about 1577.

The Close remained an asset of the Grammar School until the late 19th century, let out for grazing. Other than that there is little information, although Land Tax records of 1806 intriguingly describe it as "a close of meadow or pasture land called St John's Close or Gallows' Close".

The last years of the 19th century were a difficult period for the Grammar School. Numbers of pupils had declined, and the school was forced to close in 1899 prior to being rebuilt on the same site and re-opening in 1904.

Meanwhile some of its assets were sold off. St John's Close was purchased by three Marlborough College masters – Henry Richardson, Granville Sharp, and Herbert Leaf. Their ambition was to improve the very poor standard of housing in the town. They agreed between them how to develop the land, and that each would retain a third of the properties.

This was an age of great reform in housing. In the last two decades of the 19th century several major industrialists set out to provide better housing for their

workers. It was an age that also produced the social reformer Ebenezer Howard, who in the 1890's developed the concept of the Garden City. In 1899 the Garden City Association was formed. By 1902 Howard was able to proceed with his first garden city, at Letchworth in Hertfordshire.

Howard's vision covered the overall structural planning, and with his lead architect Barry Parker he established more detailed criteria: lower density; individual gardens; maximisation of sunshine; privacy; an area of communal land for leisure, or as allotments, and where people could meet and socialise. Get these right, argued Howard, and a contented, healthy and harmonious community should ensue.

Richardson, Sharp and Leaf, clearly aware of this movement, laid out plans for the Close embodying all Howard and Parker's criteria, and even copied the design of some Letchworth houses. Building commenced in 1907/8, and by the 1911 Census virtually all the houses were complete and occupied.

As the 20th century progressed some houses were sold into private ownership. Herbert Leaf, the last survivor of the three, died in 1936. In his will he left substantial legacies both to the town and to Marlborough College. He also left eleven cottages, including 7 in St John's Close, to the Town Council. These became public housing, although a few have now passed into private ownership. Improvements have been carried out to most of the houses; bathrooms were added to many of the dwellings only as recently as the 1960's. Most new building work has adhered to the style of the original Arts & Crafts concept, and the character remains. The result is a mix of owner-occupied and tenanted housing suitable for families, for single people and couples, leading to a balanced community such as envisaged by Ebenezer Howard over a century earlier.

In 2019 the Town Council released an allotment for use as a Community Garden, and with their support the community has transformed this into a space of beauty, with a lawn, beds of flowers and herbs, shrubs, and a seating area with table and chairs. The garden has become the focus for various gatherings, al fresco meetings, and social events. The full benefit of it was realised during the lockdown phases of the pandemic; when regulations permitted hardly a day passed without a small, socially distanced group in the garden, sustained by coffee, cake, and laughter. Howard and Parker would have approved.

With special thanks to my neighbours Betty Dobson and Jo Payne for their help and contributions.

The original, fuller version of Dick Whitfield's article was published in the Marlborough Journal of the Merchant's House in December 2021. The Editor of Tower and Town is most grateful to The Merchant's House for permission to publish this specially abridged version here.

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

CHARLES S. WINCHCOMBE & SON LTD. Est. 1932

THOMAS FREE & SONS Est. 1875



FOURTH GENERATION INDEPENDENT FAMILY

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
& MEMORIAL CRAFTSMEN



www.wiltshirefunerals.co.uk
wiltshirefunerals@gmail.com



01672 512110

01380 722500

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

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



KFR

BUY | DONATE | VOLUNTEER
The furniture & white goods charity

OPEN TO EVERYONE

BUY

We stock a wide range of items.

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



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

Visit our showroom today SN10 2EU

DONATE

We only thrive if you donate to us.

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

kfr.org.uk



01380 72 0722 • info@kfr.org.uk

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are a vital part of KFR.

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

reuse
NETWORK

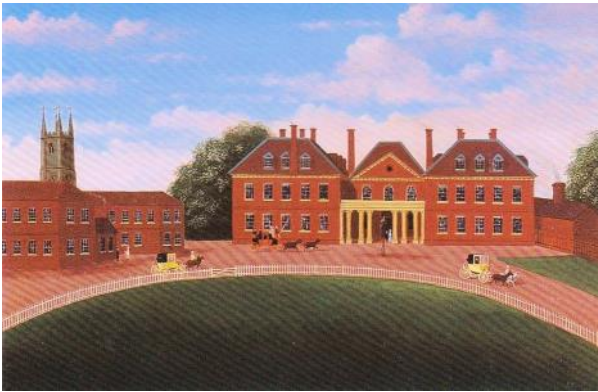
refurbishing furniture
reviving communities

Registered charity no. 1056649

How Marlborough became the Home of Marlborough College

Nick Baxter

C House in Marlborough College began as a mansion during the reign of Queen Anne. On 26 August 1751, the Bath Journal reported it was leased as an inn ‘for the better Accommodation of the Nobility...’ The Castle Inn was named after the castle which once lay nearby. Improvements to the Bath Road increased traffic. In 1833, at the height of this golden age of coaching, William Carter obtained the lease.



In June 1841, Brunel’s Great Western Railway through Swindon was completed. To Marlborough people, the GWR really meant ‘Great Way Round’ as it destroyed the coaching trade. William Carter’s inn became a white elephant.

The Industrial Revolution had transformed Britain. But few had the vote: demands

for an extension of the franchise grew. Earl Grey’s government attempted to placate the rising tide by introducing a reform bill. A general election followed when the bill was rejected.

In Marlborough, many were unhappy that the vote was restricted to twelve members of the Town Corporation. Thomas Estcourt and William Bankes, Marlborough’s MPs and candidates for re-election, were against reform. Some of the townspeople had petitioned Parliament. Thomas Merriman, a Corporation member, complained of “... gross, false, and slanderous libels on the Corporation.” John Gardner, the mayor, presided over a stormy public meeting in the Town Hall.

On 28 April 1831 the Devizes and Wilts Gazette reported: ‘MARLBOROUGH. This town is in the highest state of excitement. The election takes place tomorrow; and it is not unlikely mischief will ensue.’

On 5 May the Gazette reported: ‘... two effigies of Messrs Estcourt and Bankes were carried through the town accompanied with tin kettles and horns, and burnt at the crossroads.’

Townspeople had expressed their feelings. A banner inscribed ‘Enemies to Reform’ was mounted on the wagon. The Reform Act was eventually passed on 4

June 1832. Chartists, who wanted more radical measures, caused serious disturbances in 1839 and 1842. Some in the Church of England felt that civilising influence was waning; there were not enough churches in the growing industrial towns; and there was a shortage of vicars.

Education for clergymen's sons seemed to be the main problem. The grammar schools had become outmoded, bound as they were by their foundation charters, to teach mainly Latin and Greek. Public schools were thin on the ground. Some, like Rugby, had begun as grammar schools, and the largest, Eton, had fewer than 500 pupils. They were also expensive and out of the reach of most clergymen. A new kind of school, which taught a mixture of classical and modern subjects, and a 'collegiate' establishment where boys could board as well as learn seemed the answer. Large numbers would be needed to keep costs down. The idea began with the Rev. Charles Plater, who advocated a school primarily for the sons of clergy: others could come but they would have to pay more. The Church of England hierarchy embraced Plater's idea, backed by William Howley, Archbishop of Canterbury.

On 1 July 1842, a meeting chaired by Howley was held to debate the proposed school for the Sons of Clergymen and Others. It was unanimously agreed it was, "desirable both for the assistance of clergymen in the education of their sons, and to meet the increasing wants of society." The Castle Inn in Marlborough was identified as the ideal site. The inn ceased trading on 5 January 1843, and was converted into dormitories: the stables and outbuildings into classrooms. In late August 1843, 203 boys aged between 8 and 16, arrived at the new school.

In St Peter's church, Edward Denison, the Bishop of Salisbury and President of the School Council, preached 'a most eloquent and admirable sermon, explanatory of the great and important objects such an institution is calculated to attain, if based, as all education must be, to ensure success in its results, on the sure foundations of Christian religion.'

The townspeople hosted a 'splendid banquet' at the Ailesbury Arms Hotel. The Mayor, Thomas Merriman, gave toasts to 'The Bishop and Clergy'; 'The President and Council'; 'Success to the New School'; and, in recognition of the efforts of Charles Brudenell-Bruce in encouraging the new school; 'The Marquis of Ailesbury'.

Concerns that the new school might be considered an upstart to the Grammar School, founded by King Edward VI in 1550, were addressed by Thomas Merriman; who introduced a further toast: 'Success to the Royal Free Grammar School, with the health of the Rev. Mr Meyler, the master'.

The School Council 'expressed their hopes that the tradesmen would co-operate with the masters in maintaining the discipline of the pupils; to which Mr Jonah

Reeve, on behalf of himself and his brother townsmen, responded with very great propriety.’ Jonah Reeve, High Street auctioneer and cabinet-maker, who was shortly to succeed Thomas Merriman as Mayor, represented the tradesmen.

The Marlborough surgeon, John Gardner, had been in 1831 the unfortunate mayor who had witnessed the townspeople burning their MPs in effigy, as had Thomas Merriman. Gardner was the first medical officer to the new school, renamed Marlborough College in 1845. The vicar of St Peter’s, Rev. Sir Erasmus Williams, was effectively the College chaplain until Edward Blore’s chapel was completed in October 1848.

The solicitor Robert Few was a founder of the College. His son, William Jebb Few, migrated there from the grammar school. Jebb was named after his mother, Louisa Jebb. Louisa’s father, Richard Jebb, was the great grandfather of Eglantyne Jebb, who taught at St Peter’s school (now the town library) and founded the Save the Children Fund in 1919. Eglantyne’s uncle, James Gilmore, taught at the College and was housemaster at Littlefield from 1872 to his retirement in 1886.

On 30 October 1851 Thomas Merriman married his second wife, Sarah; sister-in-law to Marlborough College’s first master Matthew Wilkinson.

In so many ways, Marlborough Town and Marlborough College share the same blood.



Marlborough High Street, c. 1865

Water Mills on the River Kennet

David Chandler

According to the Domesday Book (1086) there were 5,624 Water Mills in England among an estimated population of 1.4 million so about one mill for every fifty households (households being estimated at an average of five persons). At Domesday almost all of these mills would have been flour mills.

There were eight mills in four miles along the River Kennet from Clatford in the west to Stitchcombe in the east.

Private households were banned from owning mill stones (querns) and being able to grind their own grain. They were compelled to pay a tithes of flour to have their grain milled in the mill owned by the local lord or church. In the next few hundred years after Domesday, many mills were converted to more profitable industrial processes such as fulling, metal working and tanneries.

Marlborough followed this trend: one of its eight mills, *Elcot*, was a fulling mill by 1215. Fulling is an archaic process applied to woven woollen cloth and involves stamping and shrinking the newly woven material. This work used to be done by slaves treading in vats of human urine. This unpleasant process was increasingly mechanised by using water power and a benefit of this advance was that slavery had largely died out in England by 1200.

Other mills inside the present town boundaries were Manton Mill, Castle Mill (in Treacle Bolly) and Town Mill (by the modern development of that name). Outside the town boundaries were Clatford to the west and Werg, Durnford and Stitchcombe to the east.

Town Mill was a working flour mill until 1922. The building then became a Youth Hostel (of the most spartan kind) until the building was demolished in 1985 when new housing was built. The old Town Mill water wheel is still in possession of the Town Council and one hopes it can be put on display one day. Castle Mill was flourishing in 1204 and was later given to St Margaret's Priory. This mill was demolished in 1880.

Millers liked to hold back water above their mill to guarantee being able to grind their customers' grain. This caused endless disputes between neighbouring millers who often caused flooding above their mill. This happened with Town Mill in particular when the miller caused fields above his mill to flood. This led to 'culver stones' being placed in the river above a mill: there was one by Isbury Lane (near the Figgins Lane footbridge). Culver Stones were set in the river bed and when the water rose above the stone the miller was required to release water. This stone has given its name to Culvermead Close off George Lane. The holding back of water by millers in the Middle Ages has echoes in our modern world: Ethiopia is building

a dam on the Nile and Turkey on the Tigris to the annoyance of Egypt and Iraq.



Stitchcombe today



**Thursday, 17 February at 7:30 pm in St Peter's Church.
'Wiltshire's White Horses'**

By **David Dawson**, Director of the Wiltshire Museum

Wiltshire boasts 13 white horses out of a total of 24 in Britain. David will be telling their stories, their impact in the landscape and the ways that they have been interpreted by artists, including Eric Ravilious, featured recently at the Wiltshire Museum.

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

www.marlboroughhistorysociety.co.uk

We are currently redesigning the website. To join the society please contact the membership secretary, Sara Holden: 515370 or saraholden22@gmail.com.

Reprinted here by kind permission of Marlborough News and the author

In Tudor times the boy King Edward VI used to take refuge from his courtiers and petitioners (accompanied by the Groom of the King's Close Stool) in the Royal Privy. In the 18th Century a Somerset parson slipped on the icy path leading to his 'Necessarium', and in Norfolk a Rector's 'House of Easement' was destroyed by a fallen tree – the Rector was not in it at the time.

None of this was much in the minds of Minal villagers on Tuesday afternoon when the Bishop of Ramsbury, the Rt Rev Dr Andrew Rumsey formally opened and blessed the result of their fund-raising efforts in the form of a handsome oak clapboard refuge built by GG Gough of Marlborough for the convenience of the church goers and others.

The Bishop congratulated the parishioners for their perseverance over the years of negotiation - the building is on Parish Council land – and their sheer hard work in fund-raising during that time.

The Bishop is one of two leads on a commission examining the future of ancient



rural churches and he ventured an opinion that such facilities are essential for their future if such churches are to survive. To a universal cheery groan he noted they had 'spent many pennies' and were now 'flushed with success.' Minal Church is over 1000 years old and has always pointed a way to salvation. A newly-laid path also now leads to a more corporeal relief.



**Mark and Beth Mutch
outside the new Minal loo**

'Quaker' is the name given to a member of the Religious Society of Friends which was founded by George Fox in the late 17th century. Quakers split off from the established Protestant Church of England. It was a time of political and economic turbulence of the Civil Wars, George Fox worked out his belief system "The Lord taught me to be faithful in all things, to act faithfully in two ways viz. inwardly to God, and outwardly to man; and to keep to yea and nay in all things".

This describes the essence of Quakerism. Firstly the connection between God and the individual human is direct. It is not mediated by any priest. Quakers live their beliefs: the love of God is mirrored in the love for 'That of God in every man', that is, for every human being, whoever they are. This leads into respect, honest dealings, kindness and friendship and on the big scale, pacifism.

I have good memories of Quaker junior school. It had a garden where we each had a small plot to grow flowers, the headmistress had a dog and a cat, Birch and Art and we learned their names in English, Irish and French. The lily pond held frogs which mated in Spring, we all watched. Uniform was voluntary and the school was co-educational. I can still remember the regular lunchtime inquiry, "Anybody want more soup?" The atmosphere was one of caring, everyone for each other, and there was a general feeling of happiness.

As many churches do, Quakers say 'everyone welcome'. The difference is, Quakers accept people with a wide range of beliefs, or even none. Each person is encouraged to explore their own concept of God. Quakers have a solid structure and beliefs are written down in the book *Quaker faith and practice*. This book has been developing since 1738. Quakerism evolves by contemplation, listening and discussion. It says that "Truth cannot be confined within a creed". Governance is by Yearly Meeting which reaches down to Area Meetings and finally, Local Meetings. There is a great breadth of Quaker activities locally, nationally and internationally.

Meeting for worship is the equivalent of a church service. It is a gathering of friends who sit in silence, seeking the presence of the spirit of God. It is a time of meditation, reflection and listening. Each person is supported by the gathered friends. Sometimes someone may feel moved to speak, this will be followed by silence as everyone thinks about what has been said. This 'Spoken ministry' is 'Prompted by the Spirit' it is not a debate or an impetuous exclamation. It may be followed by another communication, or the silence may prevail. The precise pattern will vary in different Meetings. Notices, and news of friends follow the silent hour and in relaxed times friends have a chat and a cup of tea or coffee to round off the meeting.

What's On

February calendar

2nd (Wednesday)

7.30pm Wesley Hall, Oxford St. WI event. Talk by Christopher Rogers: 'Marlborough College – the story of how the many buildings of historic interest came to be built'. New members and guests most welcome. Doors open at 7.15pm. Guest donation £4.

3rd (Thursday)

2pm Mildenhall Village Hall. Marlborough Floral Club. Jackie Page: Flight of Fancy. Treat yourselves to an enjoyable afternoon out on the first Thursday of each month. There is a Guest Demonstrator and the arrangements are raffled at the end of the demonstration. For more information, call Micky Graham 514301.

6th (Sunday)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Brilliant International Musicians Concert. Ingmar Lazar playing Mozart, Beethoven, César Frank and Liszt. Tickets £13 (£9 for St Peter's members) via the St Peter's website, from the White Horse Bookshop, or on the door. Refreshments in the interval by donation. LF test and mask please *See next page.*

10th (Thursday)

8pm-10pm Town Hall. Rescheduled Marlborough Folk-Roots event. Steve Knightley live. Tickets £20 available via the Marlborough Folk-Roots website or from Sound Knowledge.

11th (Friday)

Marlborough College: Half Term starts (to Sunday 20th)

17th (Thursday)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Marlborough History Society. 'Wiltshire's White Horses' by David Dawson, Director of the Wiltshire Museum. Guests £5. *See page 11.*

18th (Friday)

St John's Academy: Term 3 ends (to Monday 28th)

St Mary's School, Marlborough: Term 3 ends (to Tuesday 1st March)

8pm St Peter's Church. The St Peter's Annual Quiz. Tables of 6-8 persons (£5 per person) must be booked in advance by emailing du.croz@btinternet.com.

23rd (Wednesday)

10-12pm and 2-4pm The Panelled Room, Merchant's House. Children's Concert: Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Tickets and details from www.themerchantshouse.co.uk/events

25th (Friday)

10.20am-12.30pm The Panelled Room, Merchant's House. Children's Willow Workshop: craft session, making willow shapes and lanterns. Tickets and details from www.themerchantshouse.co.uk/events

27th (Sunday)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Brilliant International Musicians Concert. Piano recital by Ida Pelliccioli. Tickets etc. as for 6th Feb. *See below.*

28th (Monday)

St John's Academy: Term 4 starts (to Friday 8th April)

March calendar

2nd (Wednesday)

10am-12.30pm The Panelled Room, Merchant's House. Spring Study Series (& 16th and 30th March). 'An Age of Expansion: the mid-late 18th Century'. Tickets and details from www.themerchantshouse.co.uk/events

3rd (Thursday)

2pm Mildenhall Village Hall. Marlborough Floral Club. Stephanie Cornell: Contained Delights. For more information, please call Micky Graham 01672 514301.

Brilliant International Musicians Concerts

Sunday 6th February at 7.30pm St Peter's Church

Piano recital by French pianist **Ingmar Lazar**.

Mozart,	Sonata in D Major, KV 576;
Beethoven	Sonata in D Major, op 10 no 3;
César Franck	Prélude, Aria et Finale FWV 23;
Franz Liszt	La Campanella S 141 no 3

Tickets £13 (£9 for St Peter's members) via the St Peter's website, from the White Horse Bookshop, or on the door. Covid precautions: LF test and mask please. Refreshments during the interval by donation.

Sunday 27th February at 7.30pm St Peter's Church

Piano recital by Italian pianist **Ida Pelliccioli**.

Tickets etc. as above.

Marlborough Church Contacts

Fr John Blacker

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

Reuben Mann

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

The Revd Tim Novis

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

The Revd Pete Sainsbury

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

The Revd Stephen Skinner

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

The Revd Chris Smith

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

Rachel Rosedale

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

Penny Reader

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

David Wylie

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals - we pray for the families of:

- 14 December Margaret Killick (78) of Town Mill, Marlborough
St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery
- 20 December Susan Hewitt (66)
St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery
- 21 December Jane Angela McMachin
St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery
- 22 December Linda Wells (69) of Savernake Care Home, Marlborough
St Mary's and Marlborough Cemetery

THE
MERRIMAN
PARTNERSHIP
SOLICITORS EST. 1738

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

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

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

www.merriman-partnership.co.uk



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

It's not just about the bluebells... This winter we learnt more about West Woods'



© Katy Whilaker / Historic England / University of Reading

sarsen stones through an Avebury Society lecture in November and some amateur field walking!

The lecture was given by the two archaeologists, Professors David Nash and Tim Darvill, who had published fascinating research in 2020, proving that the huge sarsens at Stonehenge came from West Woods.

What enabled the research

to make progress was the unexpected return of a core taken from a Stonehenge sarsen in 1958 as part of a maintenance project. It had been given to a member of the 1958 team, who then emigrated to the United States - it had sat there ever since.

Once Tim Darvill had that Stonehenge sample, modern geochemical analysis (rather like a DNA test) allowed him to establish a fingerprint that



© Andre Pattenden / English Heritage

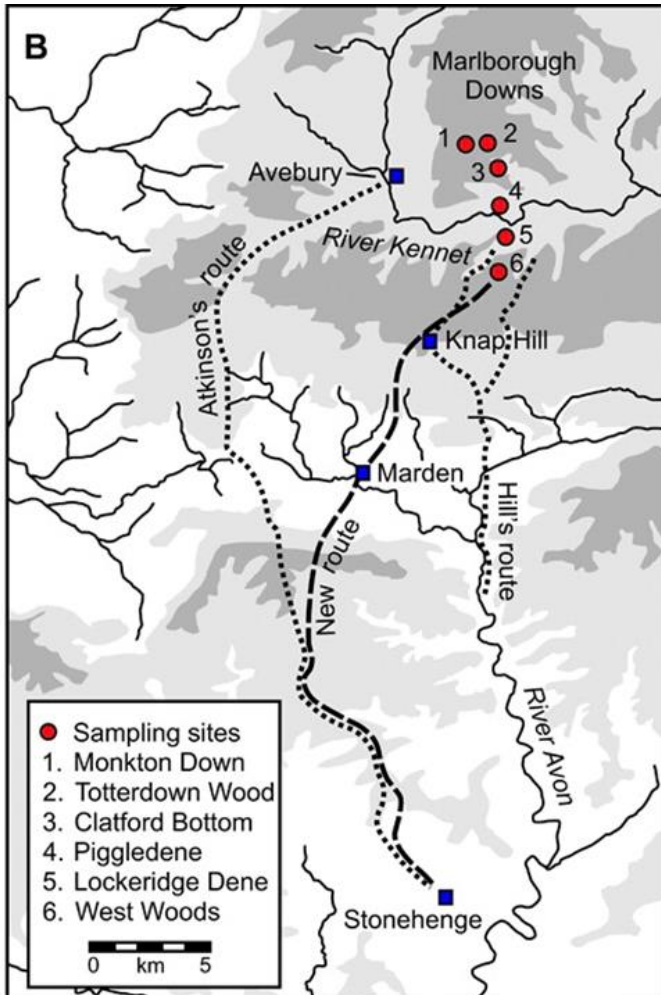
he could use to compare samples taken from this area, and also from several other sarsen outcrops in southern England. An expert on all things sarsen, he then showed us his statistical charts proving the near-perfect match to a West Woods site.

It was something that we locals had suspected ever since it had first been suggested that the stones were sourced from the Marlborough Downs. Coming from Stonehenge, who on earth would have walked straight past the outcrop in

West Woods, climbed the Downs, and set off back again, thereby hauling over 50 sarsens (20 tons each and 20/30ft high) further than was actually needed?

The diagram below shows their best suggestion for a possible route from here (15 miles), plus two former ideas for a route from the Marlborough area. Using the River Avon is still a popular option.

Even before this illuminating talk, John Osborne and I had been hunting for a



polissoir (a sarsen used to polish and sharpen flint tools – there is a well known one on Fyfield Down) said to be in Pumphrey Wood, one of the many small woods named within West Woods. We had a grid reference supplied by Lynn Amadio, one of the lead archaeologists on a detailed LIDAR survey of West Woods published in 2011, and had tracked it down (with Peter Noble's help) to a certain clearing in the Woods, but couldn't be sure exactly which of the many large sarsens was a *polissoir*. However, imagine our joy when the professors confirmed that the spot we had found was very near the area from

which they had taken their sample! Next on our list is to learn more about *polissoirs*, and how to recognise them.

The map overleaf shows where we were, and some other archaeology. Why not visit West Woods yourselves soon, and investigate?

With many thanks to the Avebury Society for arranging such a topical lecture for the community.



The site in Pumphrey Wood, West Woods

SWINDON & DISTRICT SAMARITANS TURNING THE BLUES INTO BREWS IN 2022

Brew Monday is a Samaritans takeover of 'Blue Monday'. Feeling low isn't just reserved for Mondays so we're saying '*Out with the Blue and in with the Brew!*'

There's always time for a cuppa and a catch-up. It doesn't matter if it's a Monday morning or a Saturday evening. It also doesn't matter if you catch up in person, virtually or over the phone. If you're sharing a cuppa and listening, then you're helping to make a difference in beating the winter blues. It's about reaching out, checking in and staying connected.

If you need to know more please contact swindon@samaritans.org. And if you can, please support Swindon & District Samaritans: to donate £5, text BREWMONDAY 5 to 70490

T: 116 123 – calls are free 24 x 365

E: jo@samaritans.org



There is almost certainly no-one alive now who remembers life before the British Broadcasting Corporation. The original public service broadcaster was set up in 1922 by a group of high-minded mavericks, or puritan buccaneers. David Hendy has written *The BBC: A People's History*, taking readers at a canter through 100 years of the institution. The author describes just enough of the technology to be interesting, and intriguing glimpses of some of the personalities involved. I wanted to know more about the fabulously named and 6 foot 8 inch tall Seymour de Lotbiniere, for example. But no time or space. So we get hints of George Bernard Shaw (a nightmare), Cary Grant, Arthur Askey, ferociously independently minded regional programme makers, war, politics, music, sport, royal events, on radio, then television and now digital services.

Walking the tightrope between being a national broadcaster yet never quite 'the state broadcaster', with constant attempted interference from Governments, the BBC has been almost equally trusted and reviled. It has provoked opinion, dissent, complaint, and praise. There have been mistakes, scandals, dodgy dealings, but all, the author argues, in pursuit of a noble endeavour; to inform, educate and entertain, impartially. If this book had an accompanying playlist, a triple album would include, among many other tracks, *Barwick Green*, *Approaching Menace*, *Devil's Galop*, *Lilliburlero*, *Soul Limbo*, *Barnacle Bill*, *Beethoven's Symphony No 5*, and *Knightsbridge March*. There are other, drier books to be written about the politics, sociology and culture of the still-evolving BBC, but this is an enjoyable and accessible popular history.

A BBC man since 1984. Justin Webb has written a memoir, though not about his broadcasting career. *The Gift of a Radio* is his attempt to make sense of his lonely upbringing through that peculiar period, the 1970s. The author's dreadful boarding school, his mother's grim insistence on their social superiority, and a step-father with mental health issues could make this a depressing read, but it really isn't. Webb looks back with 'amazement, with affection, with relief'. If you remember the 70s you'll wince with recognition at a lot of this book. There's nothing so strange as the recent past.

The Vicar of Savernake, Colin Heber Percy's *Tales of a Country Parish*, based on his lockdown newsletters for his parish, is warm and learned, relating the seemingly mundane and personal to deeper and wider issues. A nourishing book.

Nature Notes: Savernake Forest

Robin Nelson

There are many natural features that make the Marlborough environs attractive to lovers of the great outdoors: the River Kennet, the Kennet and Avon canal, the local downs with their ancient monuments and white horses and—right on its doorstep—Savernake Forest.

Standing on a cretaceous chalk plateau between Marlborough and Great Bedwyn, an area of approximately 4,500 acres, it is privately owned by the Earl of Cardigan and his son Viscount Savernake, and administered by trustees. Since 1939 the timber of the forest has been managed by Forestry England on a 999-year lease. The private status of Savernake, Britain's only privately-owned forest, is maintained by closing it to the public one day in the year.

During my first visits in the early 1980's I discovered 'Eight Walks' in the heart of the forest. Taking the various tracks to the right and left I was soon seeing and hearing redstart, wood warbler and tree pipit, while woodcock and nightjar appeared at dusk in the summer months. Forty years on and we have all but lost most of these special breeding species, but there is still plenty to be enjoyed.

February is a good month in which to hear the loud 'tch Witt tch Witt' calls of the nuthatch, the high, wispy song of the diminutive treecreeper and the drumming of greater and lesser spotted woodpeckers, the latter now a national rarity. Winter visitors often include redpolls and siskins, bramblings and the elusive hawfinch.

Quiet and patient observation, preferably before people and their dogs arrive, is the best way to unlock some of the forest's secrets: there are fallow, roe and muntjac deer as well as badger and fox. Along some of the rides in high summer butterfly enthusiasts seek out purple hairstreaks, silver-washed fritillaries, white admirals and the magnificent purple emperor. Amongst 50 or so plant species are four types of helleborine, a late-flowering species of orchid, including the broad-leaved and violet forms, which have even been spotted along the Grand Avenue.

Savernake has a number of 'monumental' trees, including the King of Limbs, and the Big Belly Oak (pictured) which is visible as you drive from Marlborough to Burbage. It is the great grandfather of them all, over 1000 years old, taking root around the time William the Conqueror defeated King Harold in 1066. Apparently Henry VIII was out hunting in Savernake in 1535 when he spied young Jane Seymour for the first time! What secrets those magnificent oaks and beeches must know!



MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE
SUMMER SCHOOL
10 July to 6 August 2022

Create memories

Make new friends

Improve your technique

Something for everyone

Request a brochure today and discover over 500 courses waiting for you.

01672 892388 | summerschool.co.uk

Leathercraft of Marlborough

JEAN UPTON

FINE QUALITY LEATHER GOODS
& PRESENTS LARGE AND SMALL

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



AD DRAUGHTING
ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

Extensions | Conversions | New Builds
Planning Permission | Building Regulations
01672 511412 | 07791 341698
www.addraughting.co.uk

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

MARLBOROUGH PODIATRY CLINIC

10 The Parade, Marlborough, SN8 1NE

Niki Thompson

BSc (Hons) PodMed, MRCoP, HCPC Reg.

Treatment of all foot
problems
for
Children and Adults

Professional Advice
Routine & Specialist Care
Nail Surgery Advice - Orthotics

01672 514581
07910 525376

marlboroughpodiatryclinic.com
podiatrycare1@mail.com

Dianne Mackinder Funeral Service



On Call Day & Night
01672 512444 or 512516

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



The Hair and Trichology Clinic
Lynda Hutton MIT

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

7 High Street, Chiseldon, 7 miles from Marlborough
01793 740147 - www.hairandtrichology.co.uk

TO ADVERTISE HERE

Please contact Chris Rogers

at

advertising@towerandtown.org.uk



Furniture Restorer, Upholsterer
& Cabinet Maker

Andrew Brennan

Harepath Farm, Burbage, Marlborough SN8 3BT

M: 07769 833 939

brennanrestorations@gmail.com

Established 1992

MARLBOROUGH TAXIS

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

Booking ahead is advisable.

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

01672 512786

Volunteering
is fun and
rewarding!

Marlborough & District

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED



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

If you could spare time please contact us

Call **01672 288007**

Visit marlboroughlink.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1063152

News from the Churches

Women's Fellowship: 14th December

meets on Tuesday 1st, 15th February & 1st March at Christchurch, New Road at 2.45pm for tea, coffee and chat.



Marlborough Churches Together

The MCT AGM and Fraternal will be at noon on Wednesday 2nd February at Friends Meeting House, The Parade

Ash Wednesday is March 2nd

Please see the relevant church website for service details

Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group (MAPAG)



We are most grateful for the many donations for hampers received in the lead up to Christmas. We distributed 43 hampers via Marlborough St. Mary's Primary and Preshute Schools, Kids Meals and the Foodbank. Waitrose helped financially and physically in putting the hampers together. It was a great community effort.

The MAPAG AGM will be a zoom meeting on Monday 7th February. More details from Rachel Rosedale: rachelrosed1@gmail.com.

Emmanuel Marlborough

EMMANUEL
MARLBOROUGH



We are grateful to meet for a weekly Sunday service at 4pm at Christchurch, New Road, with creche and Sunday School groups. All are welcome to stay afterwards for refreshments and a sandwich tea for children. Mid-week we are also delighted to offer a variety of activities including homegroups meeting in Marlborough, Pewsey and Ogbourne St George and community groups:

Little Friends Toddler Group: Thursdays, 10-11.30am 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, 6-7.15pm at the Wesley Hall, Oxford Street. Our kids club for school years 3-6. Fun, games, tuck and a short Bible talk (bring 50p for tuck)

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

Christianity Explored: Explore the life & claims of Jesus through Mark's gospel using this video based course in a friendly, interactive setting. All are welcome to come and ask any question or just listen.

For more details, email office@emmanuelmarlborough.org

St Non's Retreat

We have heard from the nuns that they will be leaving the house in February to be with other communities and ask for our thoughts and prayers. The future of the centre is not yet clear; in any case there are no bookings for 2022.

Anglican Team

We have reminders of God doing wonderful things in our lives and in our three churches through 2021.

1. A 'New Wine' style evening service, which has grown to around 50 people. To grow live services in the pandemic is almost unheard of - praise the Lord for his blessings!
2. A New Dawn for St John the Baptist through prayer and giving. Attendance has doubled this year and as one PCC member put it, 'There seems to be a new Spirit at work.'
3. Faith in the Arts, the Lent course, attended by more than 100 people from across Marlborough via zoom. We were left with a greater appreciation of the different ways we can praise our creator.
4. The Circle of Hope took shape at St Mary's with the most poignant prayers attached. People could express their laments and send up their requests to their loving heavenly Father. For Pentecost, the circle moved outside as a symbol of hope to the whole community. The church is not dead, but alive and praying!
5. Generous giving to support struggling churches- as well as the month by month prayer and giving to our regular mission partners. Praise God for all these outpourings of generosity.
6. A Thousand Christmas Stars - there was a wonderful sense of God's presence and peace during the exhibition. Praise the Lord!

'The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy' Psalm 126:3

Christchurch

Adding Zoom to our regular modes of worship over the past year, has both extended our reach to past members who had moved away and strengthened our local fellowship. It was, however, wonderful when we could meet physically once more and God has richly blessed our regular worship, allowing our fellowship to come together and deepen. Through Covid there has been a true feeling of togetherness, many commenting they have got to know others better.

We have considered it a privilege and a blessing to share our worship space with Emmanuel and it is lovely to see the whole building full of youngsters on a Friday night. Our building continues to provide a community space that many enjoy, filling the building with music most days. Our fellowship, though small has raised significant funds and assistance for; Swindon's Harbour Project supporting refugees particularly those from Afghanistan; we have hosted Love Marlborough Kids Meals and Devides Foodbank.

We start 2022 in the knowledge that God continues to richly bless us and guides us.

Emmanuel

We thank God for his gracious goodness to us during a challenging year. Christchurch has kindly welcomed us to meet there on Sunday



afternoons. With the recruitment of Stephen Baker as Kids' Worker and Evie Alsop as Ministry Trainee, we've seen growth in our Explorers club (for school years 3 to 6) and are pleased to have added a Friday Nights group (for school years 7 and up), as well as a third home Bible-study group. We were privileged to serve the community at Christmas with a Car Park Carols service at Tesco that had to be repeated due to high demand. Above all, we are thankful as forgiven sinners for the good news of Jesus Christ: *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life*' (John 3:16).

St Thomas More

We have all sought healing and strength so that in the days ahead we will come to know and understand that God is always close to us as He holds us in His hand.

There is much to celebrate in Saint Thomas More Church with 2022 being The Year of Saint Joseph, and this year as preparation time for the Synod of the Catholic Church in 2023.

Marlborough Quaker Meeting

We have been continuing to meet with a mixture of hybrid meetings and have found it rewarding and successful.

Devotion Youth Project

Going back over many years Devotion has been a church-based youth group, centred in Christchurch. Covid's arrival effectively closed down most indoor youth activity and this coincided with the departure of our youth worker. However a significant legacy has allowed Devotion to register as a stand-alone charity, with the snappy title Devotion Ecumenical Youth Project! This gives Devotion independence to focus totally on a new pilot project, centred on mental health and wellbeing for young people, particularly from ages 11-18.

What is Devotion going to do?

The Trustees of Devotion have joined forces with Wiltshire Youth For Christ (WYFC) who have excellent experience, some strong resources and a network of like-minded groups around the UK, to look for a full-time qualified youth worker for Marlborough.

What can you do to help?

Well, once the youth worker is employed, we're going to need people to assist. There'll be school-based actions, social activities (a weekly club for example), fund raising and of course direction by the Trustees. Right now, we really need one more Trustee to look after compliance and treasury duties. It's an exciting time for the project and a real chance to help bring a full-time youth worker back into the Marlborough community.

If you think you might be interested, then please contact us. The easiest way will be to email keith@fort-m.com



devotion

Tower and Town staff

Chairman	Hugh de Saram	chairman@towerandtown.org.uk 18 Kelham Gardens SN8 1PW	516830
Advertising	Chris Rogers	advertising@towerandtown.org.uk	
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

March

Editor	David du Croz	mar.editor@towerandtown.org.uk	511725
Compiler	Rob Napier	mar.compiler@towerandtown.org.uk	512333

April

Editor	Marlborough Coll.	apr.editor@towerandtown.org.uk	
Compiler	Peter Noble	apr.compiler@towerandtown.org.uk	519034

Every Month

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

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 March issue by Tuesday 8th February 2022 please.

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

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

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

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

originzone



Websites shaped around you

We create bespoke websites with your business in mind.

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

Make your website work for you.

originzone.co.uk | 01793 430006

FILM ★ FRIENDS ★ FOOD



THE PARADE CINEMA

MARLBOROUGH'S NEW INDEPENDENT CINEMA ★

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

Book in person or online at www.theparadecinema.com
or scan the QR code

1 screen, 104 seats, full bar, cafe & large garden ★
Open 7 days a week from 9.30am until late ★

Follow us @[theparadecinema](https://www.instagram.com/theparadecinema) The Parade, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1NE

