
TOWER_{AND}TOWN



The Thin Blue Line

u3a

AUGUST 2023

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TOWER^{AND}TOWN

THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 739 AUGUST 2023



Editorial

I chose Vincent Stokes' painting "Plan and Elevation (Blue)" for the cover of this month's edition as I enjoy its atmosphere of much-needed calm and contemplation. As Vincent himself explains on page 11, he aims to present the viewer with a 'doorway.' So I am inviting you to step through that doorway into this month's edition of Tower and Town.

As a resident of George Lane, I have always considered the Police Station a major presence on the street, a symbol of the Thin Blue Line in Marlborough. In the early 1990s my son and I watched a temporary building craned in to be used while the old police station was demolished and a new one built; that building itself now awaits demolition to be replaced by houses and flats. Finding out that there was another even older police station in the town made me want to find out more about the buildings. My research on a recent visit to Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre enabled me to write a short article on the old George Lane police station. Nick Baxter and David Davidge bring to vivid life the work of police officers in the town at opposite ends of that building's life.

u3a in Kennet continues to go from strength to strength and Jill Turner and Jeff Hide have willingly contributed articles about current activities and the wide variety of courses available to members. The serendipitous arrival of a picture in my inbox led to the article, meticulously researched by Gráinne Lenehan, Archivist at Marlborough College, about the remarkable Christopher Hughes, College art teacher and four times mayor of Marlborough!

And finally, Max More's exceptional photographs and the reflections on his life by friends, colleagues and family echo the contemplative cover painting.

Sarah Bumphrey, editor

Cover design: "Plan and Elevation (Blue)" by Vincent Stokes

Compiler: Hugh de Saram

Proof readers: Julia Peel and Diana Foster Kemp

Undercover Cop Victorian Style:

Nick Baxter

The Marlborough Times of 11th March 1899 printed a thank you message from Arthur Ernest White:

“To the Burgesses of the Borough of Marlborough.

I beg to thank you most sincerely for the honour you have done me for placing me in the Town Council, and I shall endeavour to serve your interests for the good of the town to the best of my ability.”

Within six months White appeared again in the newspapers, but for different reasons.

In the summer of 1899 the Chief Constable received information that illegal betting and gaming was going on at the King’s Arms Inn at 37 Kingsbury Street. He passed it on to Superintendent John Stephens who ordered Captain Sterne to investigate. Sterne had the sense to realise that it would be useless to send in uniformed Marlborough policemen whom everyone would know. A policeman from elsewhere in the county would need to go undercover to establish exactly what was going on. A man of shrewdness, tact and discretion was needed.

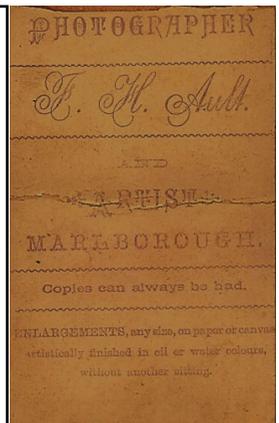
PC George William Hale (*photo below left*), married with three young children, was stationed at Great Cheverell. Aged just 23 he had shown promise and ability.



Sterne considered Hale to be just the man for the job.

Hale came to Marlborough in plain clothes on Monday 24th July at the start of Goodwood Week. On Tuesday he met John Crow and asked him where he could place a bet on a horse. Crow took him to the King’s Arms where Arthur Ernest White, Town Councillor, was the landlord. Hale gave Crow money to place bets with White on two horses, “Little Eva” and “Mazeppa”, that were running at 2.45 pm that day for the Steward’s Cup at Goodwood. White wrote, “One shilling on Little Eva and one shilling placed”, and “one shilling on Mazeppa; one shilling placed”. At the bottom of the slip he wrote “Pd” to confirm payment. White handed the slip to Crow who handed it to Hale.

Incredibly, I found, on the back of the photo of Hale that it was taken in Marlborough. It can only have been taken whilst Hale was uncovering the betting and gaming ring at the King's Arms. The clothes are almost certainly the ones he used whilst going undercover.



Hale went into the bar where he stayed during the dinner hour from about one o'clock to half past two. He noted that during that time some forty or more people came into the house and made bets with the landlord. He returned in the evening to find White sitting down with three men playing cards for money. He visited again at the same times on Wednesday and Thursday, noting very extensive betting going on carried out in a professional manner with all bets being entered in a book. During the evenings of both days playing cards for money was also observed, although on these occasions White did not participate. On Friday Hale was informed by White that Mazeppa had won! As the odds were three to one he was handed three shillings.

White was charged with illegal betting and gaming on licenced premises. The case came up at the Marlborough Borough Petty Sessions on Monday 21st August 1899. White pleaded guilty to both charges asking for his previous good character to be taken into consideration:

“I am a young man, with a young wife, and young children; and I hope you will give me the opportunity of redeeming my character. I will give you every assurance that I will not only give up betting in the public-house, but give it up altogether.”

White was fined £50 (£5 for each charge of gaming and £35 for betting), the costs including the solicitor's fee of £3 3s, and his licence was endorsed.

The endorsement did not last for long. White is listed in the 1901 census as a licensed victualler living at 37 Kingsbury Street. The word “Pub” was added. His wife Ellen was 34, his sons Arthur 6 and Willie 4. His sister-in-law Jinny Merritt aged 24 was a barmaid and May Keir aged 12 a house domestic.

In the 1911 census the King's Arms was run by James Best Elliott. Lucy's 1914 directory lists R C Hartwell as the landlord. I have found no reference to it after that so can only assume it ceased to be an inn soon after.

There is a family connection with this story. George William Hale was married to Kate Butler, my wife's great grandmother.



The bottom of Kingsbury Street showing No 37 with a bay window and a porch supported by columns. On the Ordnance Survey map of 1886 it is marked PH showing that it was a pub at this time.

Policing in Marlborough 1969 – 1987:

David Davidge

Until recent times, there was a Victorian Police Station in George Lane built in 1898 (*photo left*). When we moved to Marlborough in October, 1969, the original Victorian building was very much part of the life of the area. It was a two storey brick building with 'VR' embedded in the brickwork and was as solid as a rock. All that is left of that building is the outer wall with 'Wilts Constabulary' in the brickwork and an iron arch with a blue lamp over the entrance (*photo below right*).



The western end provided accommodation for two families, with the rest as the Police Station. Offices were provided for the various ranks, CID (two plain clothes Officers), Traffic Wardens and civilian staff, with a small rest room/kitchen. Behind the main building was the cell block.

The hub of the building was the public enquiry office, to which the public had access. This was visited by a variety of people and was usually manned by an experienced officer because all sorts of questions would be asked, quite often not a police matter. The patrolling officers mostly dealt with traffic accidents and offences, petty crime, public order and domestic disputes, which were the most difficult to deal with. As with all County Forces, at that time, all officers from the Chief Constable down doubled as Inspectors of Animals under the Diseases of Animals Act, so inspecting farmers' livestock movement registers was another duty.



Marlborough Sub Division consisted of the town and surrounding villages, commanded by a Chief Inspector or Inspector and 2 Sections (a Sergeant and six Constables, both male and female) at first, but when I was promoted it was 3 Sections. This seems to be a lot of Officers to cover this area with a low population but when you take into consideration Rest Days, Leave and Training Courses etc. it was rare for a full section to be on duty together. As well as the regular officers, there was a small number of Special Constables, local volunteers with training, who had the same powers as the regulars when they were on duty. They were a useful back up especially on busy evenings and when large crowds were involved. The annual Mop Fairs in October were two events when extra help was needed so as well as the Specials further help was provided from Swindon. For several years Marlborough Carnival was held in June, when a procession started at *cont. p.7*

These photographs were taken by Max More who very sadly died in May. Best known in Marlborough as a music teacher at St John's, he was also a distinguished photographer. His photos were published in the national press and magazines. In addition he won the Wiltshire photography and Forest Stewardship Council competitions and was selected for the British Wildlife Photography Awards tour and book in 2016 and 2018.



Autumn colour 2012

Welsh landscape 2022





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cont. from p.4 the Common, through Kingsbury Street and both sides of the High Street. This was an easier crowd to deal with as everyone was in a jovial mood so the main problem was ensuring safety to all those involved.

The present day Police officers seem to be weighed down with the equipment they carry but in my time we were issued with a whistle, handcuffs and a truncheon. The whistle was by now virtually redundant but was still worn in a pocket of the tunic with the chain showing. The handcuffs were difficult to use. The truncheon was carried in a pocket in the uniform trouser leg. On a personal note, in 30 years service, I never once used the truncheon, but it did save me from injury on one occasion. When making an enquiry at a house in Marlborough, the lady occupant opened her door and her large dog, who had just had puppies, rushed out and went for my thigh but all she got was a mouthful of trouser and beech wood!

Communications were also very basic at this time. All the vehicles and the Office had radios which were controlled through Headquarters at Devizes. Mobile phones were in their infancy and at first we were issued with large hand-held implements and later a slimmer version. Both would only work with an extended aerial and weren't very reliable. The forerunner of the computer, the teleprinter, was installed in the office. This was a great help with enquiries to or from other forces as the sender could type out details, while a telephone call could miss out vital information.

The method used to police this area worked very well but, of course, other towns would work a system which would suit their area. One occasion showed how different forces worked. On a dark winter's night our crew was sent to a road accident on the bends south of Burbage. On arrival, they found two Police Officers at the scene but traffic had built up and was not moving much. The two officers explained that they were from the City of London Police, en route to Salisbury to collect a prisoner. Their force covers the famous Square Mile in Central London, where all the streets are well lit. They were very impressed with the way our crew coned off the scene and got the traffic moving with the help of red and green torches.

George Lane Police Station: Sarah Bumphrey

The police station where David Davidge worked was built in 1899. A major factor in its construction was the inadequacy of Marlborough's first police station built in 1854. In a letter in December 1890 Horace Cooper states: "Superintendent Pearce has just lost a little girl from inflammation of the membranes of the brain and I believe her death was accelerated by a general deterioration of health due to the

damp and unhealthy surroundings.” He also notes that Dr Edward Penney of Marlborough College was “not surprised at any illness in that house the place feels like going into a vault.” The Secretary of State gave permission for the building to be sold to the College for £1,300 in 1895. *(Photo right: it is now the Marlborough College exams office).*



The process of planning and building the George Lane police station began in January 1891. A plot of land had to be found. Eventually in 1896 Purcell’s Meadow on George Lane was purchased by Wiltshire County Council from brothers Oliver and James Maurice for £200. The County had to gain permission from the Secretary of State to borrow £3,300 to fund the building.

The plans went from pillar to post until 22nd June 1898 when Whitehall approved them. The job was put out to tender and 7 firms responded. It was offered to M.E Piper of Marlborough who accepted. The very substantial and well-constructed building *(Photo left: taken c1990)* was completed by 24th February 1899 exceeding the estimated cost of £4,000 by only £46 10s 4d.



The work seems to have gone very smoothly. However, a letter from William Bromley, the clerk of works, gives an insight into his personal difficulty. He wrote on 19th May 1898 to Sir Charles Hobhouse, Chairman of the Wilts Joint Committee, that he needed a pay rise: “I find that the cost of living at Marlboro’ is much more than I expected owing to there being so

many visitors and people engaged at the College, lodgings are very scarce and I have to pay six shillings a week for the only place I could get, this and the railway fare to and from my home, and also the present increased cost of food make my money [£5 2s a week] go only a small way.” It is interesting to see how similar problems are very much with us today. A letter from William Bromley to Mr Merriman, the solicitor, (requesting him to inspect, on behalf of his clients, the boundaries which had been laid out) shows that he was still working on the site in July suggesting he did get his pay rise.

*With thanks to **Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre** where I accessed the sources for the written text (document **WSHC F2/125/1**) and the photograph of George Lane Police Station (document **WSHC F10/200/186/9**).*

Christopher Hughes: from Marlborough to Ashford and Back Again



Many thanks to Donna Clarke who sent me (as chairman of *Tower and Town*) this photograph of a drawing of The Town Hall by Christopher Hughes. She came across it when she was a boarder aged 15 at Highworth School for Girls in Ashford, Kent. She thinks it was because she was caught in the pub with some friends when they were supposed to be at the Christian Society! They

were gaited for 6 weeks and given the job of clearing out the boarding house social hut where she found the drawing and asked to keep it. “I took it home to my parents’ house in Kent and it has been there ever since!”. The picture probably ended up in Ashford because, as a printmaker, Christopher Hughes will have produced any number of prints from his etchings, and they may have sold quite widely. But what of the artist himself?

Christopher Hughes - Gráinne Lenehan, Archivist, Marlborough College

Christopher Wyndham Hughes (1881 – 1961), printmaker, illustrator and water-colourist, lived and worked in Marlborough for almost fifty years. He was the third child of Eveline and Wyndham Hope Hughes (1849-1948), an esteemed ecclesiastical artist who played a key role in the artistic development of his son – as master to disciple – sharpening his observational capability and refining his technical skills through the sketching of church interiors, rural architecture and the natural environment. His education, in general, was a mixture of formal and home schooling, with increasing involvement in his father’s commissions, which were many and diverse. By the late-1890s, Christopher had set up his own studio in Burford, and over the next decade his commissions included postcard views of medieval Oxford which became very popular; favourably reviewed watercolours; and illustrations for publications such as *The Idler* and *The Windsor Magazine*.

In 1904 Christopher married Edith (1875-1953), daughter of Rev William Wynne Willson, Rector of Codford. Two daughters were born – Esther in *cont. overleaf*

1907 and Ursula in 1909. Edith's brother, Reverend Basil St John Wynne Willson, was appointed Master of Marlborough College in 1911. He invited Christopher, Edith and their daughters to live at the Master's Lodge where Edith would act as hostess and housekeeper. In 1912 Christopher's work was exhibited in the annual art exhibition at the College, and in 1913 he mounted an exhibition in the town of his own paintings and etchings of local scenes, which augmented his profile as an artist and attracted good reviews.

At the outbreak of war in 1914, Christopher Hughes enlisted in the Wiltshire Regiment. Wynne Willson was appointed Dean of Bristol in 1916, and Edith and the girls moved with him so that she could continue her role in support of him. Following Wynne-Willson's marriage in 1919, the Hughes family was reunited in Marlborough, settling at 35 Kingsbury Street, next-door to which Christopher established a studio. In 1920 Christopher was appointed Art Master at the College. Although demobilised in 1919, Col Hughes, MC, was very involved with the College Officer Training Corps, being appointed Commanding Officer in 1927. Tragedy struck in 1924 when Esther died, age 17. Ursula's marriage to John Simson was celebrated in Marlborough in 1937.

Christopher's work was exhibited by the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers in London on several occasions, and in 1938 a solo exhibition of his work took place at the Walker's Gallery, London, which included paintings and etchings capturing scenes in England and Europe. His interest in archaeology made him protective of Wiltshire's special landscape, and he campaigned actively to retain public rights of way and access to the Marlborough Downs and its ancient routes. Notwithstanding his full-time work at the College, and his career as an artist, he was an active citizen of the town, attending services and generously supporting civic functions, parades, local performances etc. He was a town councillor for many years and Mayor of Marlborough four times - 1933, 1944, 1955 and 1959.

Christopher Hughes died in January 1961.

With thanks to Brian Edwards, at The Regional History Centre, UWE Bristol, for kindly sharing his excellent article about Christopher Hughes entitled, 'Impressions of an artist in Wiltshire and something of his earlier life' [2021, unpublished].



Plan and Elevation, an exhibition of works by Vincent Stokes and Tony Martin, takes place from 5th - 28th August in the White Horse Bookshop Gallery

What is it about drawing and painting that engages so many people, either as makers or viewers? Even after making art for over 50 years I'm still not entirely sure I can explain this! Personally, I enjoy the physicality of it, engaging with and learning how to control the tools – paper, charcoal, paint, glue and so on and I love the intellectual and emotional challenge that producing artwork requires.

I taught art at secondary school level throughout my working life. Maintaining studio practice is essential, I believe, so I have been both teacher and practitioner from the beginning.

For many people, “learning to draw” means being able to produce a drawing that more or less resembles a photograph. Thus, a “good” work of art is one that most closely copies another image. There is not room here to fully unwrap this viewpoint; let's just say that sadly this mistaken view too often becomes a stumbling block for so many who would love to draw. Very little of my own work has exclusively aimed to reproduce something front of me.

Over the last few years, I have been challenged to make abstract drawings and paintings which aim to present the viewer with a ‘doorway.’ The doorway is into areas of life that are not easily describable: my Christian faith, which fuels my work, is not easily describable. Someone has said that “each creative moment is just slightly beyond our horizon”. I love that. When making art I'm not always exactly sure of where I'm going – it's often ‘just beyond my horizon’, but I enjoy that feeling. I cannot, of course, describe God, but maybe through making art, I can contribute in some way to the journey towards Him.



Abstract art, for some, is not their thing...but if you'd like to see, and ask questions about some of my recent paintings, drop into the White Horse Bookshop Gallery during August. Both Tony Martin and I will be there on Saturday 5th Aug, or at other times by appointment; we would love to explore our work with you.

‘Learn, Laugh, Live’ – u3a in Kennet:

Jeff Hide, Vice Chair

‘Learn, Laugh, Live’ is the motto of the u3a and the hundreds of members here in u3a in Kennet enjoy these qualities in abundance. Nationally, the organisation decided to stop using the full title of University of the Third Age some years ago as it was thought not to be sufficiently accurate for our modern activities. To begin with, prospective members may have wrongly thought that it was another university and all about study and degrees. Then, what is the Third Age? Certainly, Shakespeare referred to the seven ages of man and it was not so long ago that young, middle age followed by old age was a common acceptance. Not so today! Biological age has nothing to do with u3a. It does not even require an age to be given; the only requirement is that members are no longer working full time.

u3a is a self-selecting and self-managing number of interest groups that pleases its members. Take our Petanque groups. Whilst they offer gentle fitness involvement, hand/eye coordination and competition, it has been said that not a session passes without a great deal of laughing, joy and congratulations – all followed by refreshments.

As age increases, so often do the common ailments that can inhibit our way of life. In u3a we recognise this and, much like a family, do what can be done to help members. For example, travelling to venues without a car anymore can be difficult so travel-sharing is done. The two groups of Theatre and Day Trips are greatly appreciated as members only have to get to central Marlborough to be carried by coach to a show or other interesting venue and back again.

u3a in Kennet offers friendship and satisfaction to anyone and everyone who has the inclination and spare time to live, learn and laugh on a weekly or monthly basis, making new friends or joining in with old friends whatever their age.

Members of the Monday Walking Group on Martinsell Hill and at the Kennet and Avon Canal in Hungerford



Ever-growing u3a in Kennet:

Jill Turner, Chair

u3a in Kennet continues to grow and recruit more members from Marlborough and the surrounding villages. With around 670 members whose ages range from early 50s to mid 90s, u3a in Kennet is now in its 31st year. Following the pandemic we have continued to expand our Groups which now number 67 with several new Groups including creative writing, music maestros and family history.

Our monthly meeting for all members in the Town Hall is becoming very popular often with more than 100 members joining us for coffee, chat and an interesting speaker. Recent topics have included the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust project at Bay Meadows, the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust and Chalk as the bedrock of our lives here in Wiltshire.

We hold our quarterly Kennet u3a Talks at Kennet Valley Hall with tea and cake and have been joined by speakers including Stuart Laing whose talk on 'The Messenger and the Minaret' outlined aspects of Arabic history drawing on his experiences as a diplomat in the British Foreign Service. More recently Commodore Ian Gibb spoke to us about his distinguished naval career 'From Cadet to Commodore and Beyond'.

As an educational charity we are continuing to develop our links with Marlborough College and local schools to explore topics of interest and relevance to all generations. In 2021 we held a one day event on Climate Change and in April 2023 we focussed on the future of the media for which we were joined by a panel of distinguished national and local journalists to explore myriad issues including truth and the media, social media, the media revolution, local media and news stories and the future of print journalism.

We have a very wide range of Groups now with topics including

Activities & Hobbies
Art, Books & Culture
Discussion Groups
Games / Sports

History
Languages
Outdoor Activities
Scientific / Technical



To find out more about u3a in Kennet visit:
www.u3ainkennet.org.uk

Local History Group member Eileen Hill giving a talk on the Wansdyke at the u3a in Kennet Coffee Exchange session on 24th November the Town Hall.

From 1st (Tuesday) to 5th (Saturday)

Marlborough College Summer School – children and adults.

Action-packed, fun-filled courses for Juniors (ages 3-6) Children (ages 6-9), Young Adventurers (ages 9-12) and Teenagers (ages 13-17). A great mix of outdoor sports and indoor activities ensuring variety and enjoyment! Adult courses include Arts & Crafts, Science, Computing, Photography, Music, Walks & Sports and Well-being.

<https://summerschool.co.uk/welcome> for full details.

From 1st (Tuesday) to 31st (Thursday)

National Trust Avebury – Summer of Stukeley.

Celebrating the famous antiquarian William Stukeley's beautifully detailed drawings of the stone circles in the early eighteenth century. There will be an exhibition in Avebury Barn; Stukeley themed trails and fun activities for children; sketching sessions and traditional family games in the Church Garden of Avebury Manor, where you can borrow a blanket for a picnic! For more information see website:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wiltshire/avebury/family-friendly-things-to-do-at-avebury1>

9th (Wednesday)

Marlborough Gardening Association, Marlborough Town Hall 7.00pm for 7.30pm

A friendly group of gardeners and horticultural enthusiasts meets monthly for talks on garden topics. This month's talk features Climbing and Wall Shrubs with Felicity Down, and a Display table of perennials and wildflowers. New members welcome. Further information from their website - <http://www.marlbga.org.uk> For active and armchair gardeners alike!

9th (Wednesday) at 7.30pm and 13th (Sunday) at 2.30pm.

Oklahoma! 'Event Cinema' at the Parade Cinema Marlborough.

Trevor Nunn's highly-acclaimed 1998 version of the famous Rodgers & Hammerstein Broadway musical. Starring Hugh Jackman, Josefina Gabrielle, Maureen Lipman and Shuler Hensley, and featuring much-loved songs such as 'Oh what a beautiful mornin'. A lovely treat!

<https://www.theparadecinema.com/movie/oklahoma>

From 12th (Saturday) to 18th (Friday)

Bob Holman Photography Exhibition - St. Peter's Church, High Street, Marlborough. An exhibition of beautiful and evocative Apple iPhone photography by Bob Holman, featuring some stunning images of Marlborough, to show you just how much your iPhone camera can really do! For more details and tuition, see website

<https://www.bobholmanphotography.co.uk>

12th (Saturday) and 13th (Sunday)

Wiltshire Game & Country Fair: Bowood House & Gardens, Nr Calne 10:00am - 6:00pm. Set within the beautiful surroundings of Bowood House, enjoy the very best in countryside activities and entertainment, including dog displays, a gundog clinic, fishing demonstration, traditional craft and cookery demonstrations, children's amusements and delicious food from local and national producers. A perfect place to relax and unwind! *Tickets in advance or on the day. Please see website for full details:*

<https://www.livingheritagecountryshows.com/wiltshire-game-country/>

12th (Saturday), 15th (Tuesday) and 20th (Sunday) 10.00am – 3.30pm.

Summer River School – Stonebridge Wild River Reserve, Marlborough.

Come along to enjoy and learn about your local chalk stream and how to keep your river flowing. Bring your wellies (or other suitable footwear) and find us at 'The Beach' by the wooden boardwalk, close to the bridge over the river accessed on Stonebridge Lane. Why not bring a picnic too?

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. For further information contact anna@riverkennet.org <https://www.riverkennet.org/events/details/631>

Looking Ahead...

9th September (Saturday)

Prospect Hospice Garden Fete, Hospice Gardens, Wroughton: 12 noon to 4pm.

After a three-year break, this lovely event promises once again to bring joy, laughter and a strong sense of community to Wiltshire. Family-friendly activities, summer raffle, entertainment and delicious food options. There is a free park and ride service throughout the day to and from Nationwide on Pipers Way as visitors will not be able to park at the Hospice on the day. For information see www.prospect-hospice.net/fete

9th September (Saturday) 7.30pm and 10th September 4.30pm (Sunday)

St Peter's Church, Marlborough. A concert by St Martin-in-the-Fields choir with readings by Simon Russell Beale - tickets from White Horse bookshop or at www.stpetersmarlborough.org.uk. Choral evensong on Sunday, with the St Martin's choir. Revd Dr Colin Heber-Percy is Guest Preacher. *Free, but spaces may be limited.*

September School Dates – please see school websites for any updated information.

St John's School: Term 1 begins. Friday 1st/Monday 4th SDD (no students in school). Tuesday 5th Just Year 7 & 12 in school. Wednesday 6th – all students.

Marlborough St Mary's: Term 1: Friday 1st/Monday 4th TD. Tuesday 5th all pupils in school.

Preshute Primary: Term 1: Friday 1st TD. Monday 4th all pupils in school.

Marlborough College: Michaelmas Term begins Monday 4th (Shell, new Lower Sixth Pupils, Prefects and Heads of House). Tuesday 5th (All other pupils between 6pm and 9pm).

From the Registers

Penny Reader

Funerals

23 May Patricia Painter (95), Coombe End Court, Marlborough,

St Mary's Marlborough

16 June Alec Light (84); Cherry Orchard, Marlborough; *St Mary's Marlborough*

07 July Patricia Allsop (92); Merlin Court Care Home; *N Wilts Crematorium*

Family News:

Naomi Painter

Congratulations to **Anne and Mark Hancock** who have a new grandchild, their daughter Lindsey and her partner James welcomed baby Stanley recently.

Patricia (Pat) Painter was a Marlborough person through and through. She was born in Laineys Close and died in Savernake hospital in May at the age of 95. Her funeral was held in St Mary's Church as were her baptism in January 1928 and her wedding to Cyril in June 1949, another Marlborough person who died in 2016. She leaves a son Timothy and two daughters Pauline and Deborah, along with four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

“*Crex crex*”

On warm midsummer evenings local birders are straining their ears for the sound of the quail from downland fields of wavering cereal: our smallest game bird, its call is a distinctive, far-reaching “wet-me-lips!”

Meanwhile, on the island of Iona, residents are kept awake at night by the persistent rasping call of another secretive and seldom-seen game bird: the Corncrake, Latin name “*Crex crex*.”. Once common in England until the 20th C. less than a thousand singing males were recorded in the U.K. in 2021, now confined to the western isles of Scotland.

The adjacent island of Mull is a great place to be in early June, with a wealth of distinctive wildlife to enjoy. Luckily for us the weather was warm and sunny, the sky light till well after 10.00 p.m. and the midges not yet out in force.

Both golden and white-tailed eagles were on the wing and all three species of diver seen in summer plumage. Red deer roam the hills and with patience otters can be spotted along loch shorelines. Photogenic Highland cattle cool off in the loch’s shallow margins, the comical young calves pale and fluffy.

Here, 500 miles from Marlborough, populations of the commoner birds are different. Cuckoos and willow warblers, scarce in Wiltshire, are doing well, while our familiar yellowhammers, corn buntings, magpies and jackdaws are all scarce. Carrion crows are replaced by hooded crows and wild rock doves nest on the cliffs.

From Fionnphort, boat trips take you to Staffa, where you are landed to see nesting puffins and visit Fingal’s Cave. As we came alongside, the skipper played us a snatch from Mendelssohn’s Hebrides Overture. Writing to his sister, the composer, who had rowed there with his friend in a wave-tossed skiff, admitted to being dreadfully sick, despite being inspired by the scene before him.

On a much calmer sea we saw a minke whale as well as razorbills, guillemots, black guillemots, gannets, a great skua and several manx shearwaters congregating around a shoal of fish.

Back home I recently happened on a poem by a local man:

“You heard the corncrake,
Like scissors scraping on stone, a metallic grating.
You wanted to chase that bird away,
till suddenly you stopped, and thought
how all December you would remember this
and want back the sleepless calling of the corncrake.”



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News from the Churches

As well as the meetings below, Sunday worship and prayer meetings continue throughout August. Clergy contacts can be found on page 19 and through the church websites.

Marlborough Anglican Team



Marlborough
Anglican Team

Friendship café

meets on Saturdays 5th & 19th August from 10.30am to 1pm in the Church Hall in Silverless Street.

A welcoming space for anyone looking for friendship and a chat, with coffee and refreshments.

Welcome Wednesdays: Thought for the day

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

Summer in the Psalms : All welcome to relaxed Summer Worship between Sundays 23rd July to 26th August in St Mary's Church, from 5:30pm .

Marlborough Churches Together

The next Fraternal is planned for Wednesday 6th September at 12.30 at 18 Priorsfield.



Emmanuel

Join us every Sunday at 4 pm for our weekly church service located on New Road in Marlborough, SN8 1AH. Our service includes crèche and Sunday School groups, followed by refreshments (for adults) and a sandwich tea for the children. During the summer break, Children's Tea will be "bring your own" and Sunday School will be one combined group.



All are welcome to join us!

Holiday Bible Club.

29th – 31st August 2023, 9-12.30 pm at Emmanuel Church on New Road, Marlborough, SN8 1AH.



Emmanuel Marlborough is becoming the Heroes Academy! There'll be games, crafts, songs, snacks and Bible stories as we learn to become superheroes, and learn about Jesus, the greatest superhero of all! Open to all finishing school years, Reception to year 6.

The cost is £10 per family.

Email: office@emmanuelmarlborough.org to book your place!



Future Diary Date :-

Ride + Stride 9th September 2023 :-

For more local information please contact Charles Graham (ctg100@hotmail.com)

Introducing Kevin Robinson, Marlborough Youth Worker.



Kevin Robinson, Marlborough's Youth worker for the new Area Youth Forum explained his vision for the new Forum, and called for volunteers to help make this a key focal point for the youth of the town.

He explained to marlborough.news: "My vision is that the club becomes a hub for young people in Marlborough, a safe space, providing fun and engaging activities for the members. We understand that our

young people are under the constant threat of negative influence, and they are particularly vulnerable to these influences when their minds are not fully engaged." Whilst enhancing the services to the town's youth, alongside the regular Youth Project at the Youth Centre, Kevin further outlined what activities the Forum will offer to Marlborough's young who will come on board: "Organised themed Fridays, the members will know exactly what is on each week. Some of the activities that we would like to see are:

- 1) Movie Nights : An Evening of Films and food and drink (pop corn, hot dog, sweets, coke etc), mimicking the cinema experience.
- 2) An evening of Sport, where the member gets to participate in different sports, such as football, basketball, rounders, as well as board games such as Chess, Checkers, Mexican Trains, Nintendo Wii etc.
- 3) Guest Speakers and educational week, where we have guests from the community (Police , health and wellbeing professionals) coming in to speak to the members about relevant topics.

But currently the call is for more volunteers. Kevin added: "At the moment the greatest challenge we are facing is having enough volunteers to ensure that the club remains viable.

"We are looking for volunteers who can commit a minimum of 6 hours per month. This is a minimum of two Friday Sessions per month. There are many areas of the club the volunteers can participate in. We are confident the volunteers will find the experience both rewarding and enjoyable. This is a chance to play a role in shaping the future of Marlborough by working with the youth of the area and making an impact in the life of the most at-risk group in the community."

If you would like to volunteer, or to find out more about the project , contact Caroline Thomas, Wiltshire Councillor for Marlborough East and Town Councillor by e-mail at: thomascs@me.com.

Max Brockman-More – 1956-2023



Max was born in Portsmouth in 1956. Having attained a scholarship, he attended Christ’s Hospital School and went on to study for a degree in Music at the University of Birmingham. While a teacher of Music at St John’s (1985-2017) he was also Director of Music for Swindon Male Voice Choir (1988-2022). More recently he led the Marlborough Youth Choir to great success as Wiltshire Choir of the Year in 2018 and winning both the classes they entered at the Mid Somerset Festival in 2022. He was also a prize-winning photographer. Impressive though these facts are, they are just that. What was he really like? Let’s hear from those who knew him.

My father and I, in my early teens, had a conversation about death, where I confided in him that it was the only thing I was scared of. In a manner my dad only knew how, he replied, ‘why would you be scared of something you have no control over and that we all have in common’.

He was always a father to me but recently, he became a friend too; one that could talk openly, explain and listen to ideas or the matters in hand. He put his heart into everything and I’m so proud of what he’s achieved and to say he was and will always be my father.

Adam Brockman-More

Max was one of those rare teachers who was respected, loved and admired. Students of all ages enjoyed his lessons, not just because of his considerable musical knowledge but also his lively sense of humour and effortless classroom control. He had no need to shout, no need to coerce, as his easy manner created an invigorating atmosphere that students invariably relished.

Max’s creativity extended to him forming many school choirs and masterminding eight school musicals including Grease, We Will Rock You and Footloose; all to rave reviews. He insisted on very high standards of effort and performance. All participants bought into it. Hundreds and hundreds of students thrived under his tutelage. Mr More will be fondly remembered.

Steve Tapper, friend and colleague.

At heart Max was a pastoral teacher and as such he was invested in pupil wellbeing; he cared. Max remembered with some pride once being told that he spent too long talking to children. Change the verb talking to listening *cont. p.25*


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cont. from p.22 and you capture the essence of Max the teacher.

Of course listening was central to his musical brilliance and it was one element in his love of nature. However, it was Max's gift for seeing what others don't and capturing it in remarkable photographs, combined with his pastoral philosophy and musical talent, that now create his immeasurable legacy.

Andy Packer, friend and colleague.

From day one Max was able to inspire, to encourage and support every chorister as he introduced his music with his light and lively personality. Choir rehearsals were enjoyable. Yes, we worked hard to learn notes, to learn words as quickly as we could, and develop those rehearsals into concert performances. Max brought real life to the choir's music and performance. His attention to choral detail was intense and the choir went with him.

Every concert brought a Max De-brief. He addressed the good bits and commented on the not so good! Concise, honest, frank but never destructive. His manner encouraged each man to improve and give his best. A unique gift that Max possessed.

Gordie Smith, Swindon Male Voice Choir



“Another Time”

This photo is one of the few of Max's black and white ones that he recently selected for a photo book. This is a spot that Max and I used to love to walk. I particularly like the shape and perspective of these two clumps, with the snow on the stubble giving a lovely texture to contrast with the bare winter branches of the beeches. It also evokes wonderful memories for me.

Mary Soellner, Max's widow

I think I've written before that I'm a complete sucker for anything based on the Arthurian legends. Malory, Tennyson, Roger Lancelyn Green, T H White, Rosemary Sutcliff, Simon Armitage, Lerner and Loewe, endless films and TV adaptations, all grist to my not-very-discriminating mill. I even once opened my mind so far that it twanged like a lute string and attempted to read a Young Adult version, featuring a transgender Arthur in outer space. (No, really. Yes, it was every bit as bad as it sounds.) So naturally, I fell on *Bliss and Blunder* by Victoria Gosling, in which Arthur and Guinevere are a famously wealthy couple, owners of an innovative and hugely successful tech business. The 'knights' are a cohort of trusted colleagues, old school friends and in a couple of cases profoundly damaged veterans of the war in Afghanistan. Set around a lightly fictionalised Marlborough and Avebury, it is, as the original stories were, all about secrets, betrayal, revenge, and the use and misuse of power, with just the slightest hint of other-worldly deep-time magic.

I'm also highly susceptible every now and again to a Chinese meal, all lurid colours and MSG, from a fiercely strip-lit formica-countered cracked-tiled takeaway establishment. But I do know that no actual Chinese person would even recognise such a meal as food, let alone as an example of one of the most complex, subtle and diverse cuisines on the planet. Fuchsia Dunlop's *Invitation to a Banquet* is the result of years of research, travel and enthusiastic eating. It's not a cookery book, there are no recipes, just extensive and fluently imparted knowledge. It's history, anthropology, travel writing and descriptions of food, techniques, culinary identity and ingredients. Describing taste and scent in writing is *really* difficult but the author brilliantly evokes both. I'm still too Western not to recoil slightly at some of the dishes she describes, but I'm sure that's my loss. Seasonal eating with local ingredients, fermentation, all those trendy things – the Chinese got there first. I devoured this book (oh, ha ha), it gives so much food for thought (I *know*, sorry), but I will be force-feeding this to everyone. All right, I really will stop now, but I won't shut up about this book. And I will not call my take-away meal 'Chinese food' ever again.

Quick mention for *Late Light* by Michael Malay, nature writing and memoir by an Indonesian/Australian author, about encountering England, learning about alien (to him) plants and wildlife, and a fresh view on what is, to us, commonplace.

A few weeks ago, Jane and I had our first outdoor swim this year, in the River Thames at Lechlade. I enjoy swimming in our town pool, as those who work there are so welcoming, helpful and friendly, and the post swim conversations in the changing room add to the experience. Many a newsletter and sermon have taken shape whilst gliding through the water, as the events and distractions of the day disappear and the mind is cleared, allowing other thoughts in. We are fortunate to have such a good swimming pool and leisure facilities, but nothing quite beats being out in the open air and plunging into the sea, a lake or a river.

It was surprisingly easy to get into the Thames for our swim at Lechlade, as the water was warmer than expected. It was lovely to feel the sun on our backs and to see the light reflected on the water. The swans cruised alongside us as we cautiously used the breaststroke so as not to disturb them. It was amusing to see some mother ducks trying to keep their ducklings together and close to the bank, as we swam past them. The trees and shrubs along the river were in full leaf and the branches swayed in the breeze. It was invigorating and a joy to be so immersed in nature. Everything was connected and part of the landscape. From being in the river, we got a different perspective of the world, seeing it from a frog's eye view.

It reminded me that as Christians we have a different perspective of the world from many people as we view it through the eyes of Jesus. We see what is going on all around us in the world and sometimes think that we see the hand of God in that act of kindness, or generous expression of help in a given situation. At other times, we think that is not what God intended. He wants everyone to love their neighbour and to live in peace, showing justice and mercy to all people, helping the poor and those in need. He wants us to love Him and others, rather than the love of power or status, or the desire to accumulate things whatever the cost to others.

This is a simplistic summary of something upon which volumes of books have been written. However, if we view God's world through the eyes of Jesus, it is encouraging to remember that the kingdoms of the world come and go, but the kingdom of God never ends and one day we will enjoy the new heaven and the new earth, where God will wipe away every tear and death will be no more, (Revelation 21:4). In the meantime, let us love one another as Jesus first loved us, (John 13:34), "do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with (our) God", (Micah 6:8).

I hope that you have a great summer, with opportunities to rest, relax and be refreshed, and a chance to view the world through different eyes, whether or not they are those of a frog!

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