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LitFest Preview

OCTOBER 2018 50P

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THE MAGAZINE OF MARLBOROUGH'S COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES

NUMBER 686 OCTOBER 2018



The Marlborough LitFest

The 2018 Marlborough LitFest offers 45 events during its ninth festival weekend (27-30 September), featuring new and young fiction writers as well as established names, children's authors, workshops and poetry events, as part of the Festival's intention to bring the best of good writing to the town of Marlborough.

This year's line-up includes prize-winning novelist and short story writer, Rose Tremain, opening the Festival as the annual Golding Speaker; acclaimed contemporary novelist William Boyd; military historian Max Hastings chronicling the Vietnam conflict; ex-MP Alan Johnson discussing his latest memoir; bestselling author and co-founder of the Women's Prize for Fiction, Kate Mosse. Themes of history, politics, nature, crime, travelogue, memoir and poetry will be covered, with an annual debut authors' event and, returning for another year, the popular Translation Duel – this year focusing on French translation. Actor, star of ITV's *Britain's Got Talent*, as well as successful children's author, David Walliams is the LitFest's children's author, and younger children will be treated to free Storytelling events, primary school workshops and a pop-up children's book competition. The annual Big Town Read is back for 2018 – this year LitFest is recommending individuals and book groups read Chris Cleave's latest novel, *Everyone Brave is Forgiven*, ahead of an author Q&A in Marlborough Town Hall during the Festival.

As well as events with well known authors, there are a number of less obviously popular ones. The previews in the magazine are focussing on these and I hope they will tempt readers to go to one of them and from past experience be pleasantly surprised! For the full 2018 programme and ticket information visit www.marlboroughlitfest.org

Virginia Reekie and Fran del Mar

Front cover: The White Horse Bookshop Anniversary Poster

Compiler: Hugh de Saram

Proof readers: Mike Jackson, Julia Peel

From small beginnings in 2010 the Literature Festival, set up after the initiative taken by Nick Fogg and the novelist Mavis Cheek and carried on by a committee headed by Jan Williamson, our much valued Chair for the last five years, has matured into a much-anticipated event of substance and reputation which has become an integral part of our cultural calendar.

It has throughout kept faith with its founding mantra, the celebration of fine writing. Much of its consistent success is due to a knowledgeable, well-read and hard-working committee who are determined that the festival's standards should be maintained, if not bettered, each year. Word is spreading amongst authors and publishers that this is a festival worth attending, being assured of interested audiences, a warm welcome and remuneration (not always the case with other festivals) from their hosts. Our 70 volunteers make a major contribution to this.

The festival invigorates the town and brings in discriminating visitors who spend money here and spread the word about the Litfest and Marlborough's other attractions. By building on a strong local literary inheritance (William Golding, Siegfried Sassoon and John Betjeman amongst others), it has made an invaluable contribution to the cultural mix. Interest in good creative writing via the Litfest stimulates face to face discussion and exchange of ideas, an excellent antidote to the distractions of a technological age.

Blood on the Page, by Thomas Harding

Harding spent two years investigating a killing by interviewing key witnesses, police officers, forensic experts and journalists. In 2006 a notorious recluse was found murdered under piles of paper in his dilapidated house in upmarket Hampstead. The main suspect, Wang Yam, a political refugee from Tiananmen Square, was found guilty and sentenced to 20 years life imprisonment. The government ordered that the case be heard in camera, the first time that a British murder trial has been heard in secret. **Did this case threaten national security?**

With this in mind, Harding has to try and get to the bottom of what really happened.

Harding is a former journalist and documentary maker and was shortlisted for the Costa Biography Prize in 2015 for the *House on the Lake* which chronicles the lives of the occupants of his grandmother's house on the outskirts of Berlin.

Events For Children At The Marlborough Literature Festival

Reading in childhood is one of the most formative experiences as you grow up – beautifully described by Lucy Mangan in *Bookworm* as ‘those glorious days when reading was the thing and life was only a minor inconvenience..’ Starting the process begins with being read to and allowing imagination to take flight. The two story telling sessions for under 5’s take place in Marlborough Library (Friday, 28th September at 10.30am) with Tor Bert and again in the White Horse Bookshop (Saturday, 29th September at 10.30am) with Teresa Masterton. Both readers involve the children in the story telling and choose some of the books that inspired their imagination when they were at that age.

An invitation has gone out to local primary schools to bring their children from Years 5 and 6 to hear Ross Montgomery speaking about his latest book *Max and the Millions* in the Town Hall on Friday, 28th September. Over the years, we reckon over 3,000 children have come to these author talks. They are always entertaining and fun. Older children at local secondary schools have similarly been invited to hear Tamsyn Murray speak about her dramatic book *Instructions for a Second-hand Heart* at St John’s School. The questions put to the authors are always interesting and wide-ranging.

Local author Debi Evans is coming to the White Horse Bookshop to speak about Rolo, her beloved Jack Russell terrier’s time-travelling exploits. (Saturday, 29th September at 3pm). The illustrator of her beautiful books, Chantal Bourgonje, will also be on hand to answer questions.

LitFest is excited this year to have David Walliams coming to give two live events at Marlborough College (Sunday, 30 September 10.30am and 3pm). It is the 10th anniversary of his first book, *The Boy in the Dress*, and we look forward to hearing from him and for a packed audience to ask questions on his hugely successful books.

The Festival will kick off on Thursday, 27th September at 11am with primary school children using Marlborough High Street as an impromptu venue for some Pop Up Street Theatre acting out well-known fairy tales. Prepare to be entertained!

The Marlborough Literature Festival wants to thank the sponsors of its children’s events: St Francis School Pewsey, Marlborough.news and Hamilton Trust. Thanks also to St John’s School and Marlborough College for providing venues.

The Big Town Read:

A book for discussion:

Everyone Brave is Forgiven, by Chris Cleave

On Sunday, 30 September at 5pm, the Town Hall will host many local book groups (and those who simply enjoy delving into a book) to hear Chris Cleave describe his latest work, *Everyone Brave is Forgiven*. Chris has written other bestsellers, such as *The Other Hand*, shortlisted for the Costa Novel Award and *Gold*, published before the 2012 Olympics.

This book is set in London and Malta during the Second World War and is a moving love story. It is an extraordinary book, full of contrasts and beautifully written prose. The clipped voices and self-imposed conventions of the period contrast shockingly with the brutality of war. At times, the reader is almost jolted by the suddenness of these dramatic twists.

The author found love letters written by his grandparents and the story is loosely based on these. However, there are many other interesting themes that the author



brings into the book. At the outset, the motives for enlisting in war are treated in a completely new and fresh light. Later, the desire to teach youngsters, without any prejudice, is inspirational to read. The relationship of teacher and pupil and, indeed, between adult and child, is turned upside down by the collapse of war-torn London. Examining the nature of close friendship and love is the issue that the book returns to throughout and will provoke interesting debate in the Big Town Read. This event gives an opportunity to discuss all these and many more issues that can be found in *Everyone Brave is Forgiven*. It might lead to different views and interpretations of the way that the last World War was lived. It should make for a thought-provoking evening.

The Big Town Read works in partnership with Wiltshire Libraries and with the national charity, The Reading Agency, whose aim is to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to read for pleasure and enjoyment.

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www.ospreymc.co.uk



For further enquiries, please contact Lorraine Wash on (020) 8569 8364 or email lorraine.wash@ospreymc.co.uk



Hiscox Debut Authors

The Literature Festival has had an event for debut authors for many years. This year's authors have a recognised past in writing but not novels. Adelle Stripe has published 4 books of poetry and Mike Kitson was a journalist turned teacher who became frustrated by the books which appeared on the curriculum and so set out to write something he would want to teach.

Their books are very different but are equally compelling as you are immediately drawn into the lives of the main characters

Adelle Stripe's *Black Teeth and a Brilliant Smile* is based on the true story of Andrea Dunbar, who lived on a rough housing estate in Bradford in the 1980s and despite the odds became a playwright for the Royal Court Theatre in London - a status she could never quite come to terms with. It has a rawness to it but is also very real and refreshing.



***Sal*, by Mick Kitson**, is about a 13 year old who, having committed a dreadful crime in the Glasgow flat she lives in with her mother and her partner, leaves with her 10 year old sister in a planned get away into the Scottish Wilderness in search of safety and redemption. She has an extraordinary knowledge of survival techniques which she has learned through You Tube, which you glean at the same time as she exposes her life story. The event will be chaired by a skilled interviewer.

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We will be identifying and inviting in those patients who we think would best be supported by Jo and our TCOP team, but we would also encourage any patient over 65 to take advantage of this service.

To book an appointment, or for more information, please contact the surgery and asks for Stephanie or Hannah.



The Marlborough Booker

The Man Booker prize is surely the most famous literary prize around - but which is the best of all the Booker winning books?

This year is the 50th anniversary of the prestigious prize and so we decided to celebrate by holding a light-hearted panel event at the end of this year's LitFest to choose 'The Marlborough Booker'. The panel of literature-loving locals have picked their favourite Booker winning novels and will define, debate and defend their choice before the audience votes on the ultimate winner.

To date our panellists and their nominations are:

Debby Guest of the White Horse Bookshop is choosing *Moon Tiger* by Penelope Lively.

Philip Cayford QC, a longtime supporter of the LitFest, who has selected *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel.

David Roth-Ey, Editor at Forth Estate who has decided on a book from his own stable (but in my opinion a very strong runner), *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel.

Hugo Tinley, English master at Marlborough College who has chosen *Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro.

Whether you've read them all or not, join us on Sunday 30th at 6.30pm in the Town Hall and enjoy a free glass of wine during what is bound to be a fascinating and entertaining debate - let's see what 'The Marlborough Booker' will be!

The Nominations

Moon Tiger - has been described as one of the best Booker winners ever - superficially a love story it is stylistically challenging, very inventive, and superbly emotive.

Life of Pi - A strange and wonderful story of a boy who has to make his way across the ocean in a small boat with a large tiger after being shipwrecked. A novel full of mysticism and spirituality.

Wolf Hall - This is a beautifully evocative and poetic book, underpinned by a huge amount of scholarly research, about the rise of Thomas Cromwell at the court of Henry VIII.

Remains of the Day - Another evocative and delicate story told from the point of view of Stephens, an aging butler with thwarted ambitions of love. Loss, memory, class and self-deception are all explored.



The Collectable Book Roadshow

Saturday 29th September from 11.00am to 1.00pm

Chris Gange will examine and value your rare and collectable books in Katherine House Gallery in the Parade.

Just turn up with them!

The LitFest and the White Horse Bookshop

Marlborough Literature Festival - it's fun, it's fast, it's busy, it's stimulating, and it's non-stop. "Three cheers for nearby coffee establishments, hip hip...!" LitFest comes round faster every year, each time bringing something new and fresh to the table. In fact, I'd say this year's line up is pretty hot. The festival is something people look forward to, whether they are local or from further afield. But, nobody said it would be easy - not least for the staff at The White Horse Bookshop who are part of the cohort working from dawn till dusk! Here's a little peep into what goes on backstage...

As the festival's principle bookseller, The White Horse Bookshop readies itself for a large logistical operational weekend. The shop is bursting at the seams with stock. Not only do we have our regular deliveries and 'new titles' to take care of, but we also have to order and house the LitFest stock. All in all, there are a lot of boxes and we do a lot of weightlifting. Once everything has been scanned, counted, arranged and organised, the books have to be transported to their necessary venues. This takes time, but the fabulous displays always make it worth it in the end.

Stock in place, it is now a question of staffing and making sure we have enough staff to actually continue to run the shop as normal, as well as be in each venue. Thankfully, we have a superb team on hand who are dotted about all over the place. The only downside of course is we generally miss out on attending any of the events, and hearing any of the talks. However, one of the venues is our own beautiful gallery, and so it is wonderful to have this space used, and a nice opportunity to connect the bookshop with the LitFest more closely.

Although it is a hardworking few days, The White Horse Bookshop firmly believes it is a tremendous privilege to be involved in something that is becoming increasingly important to the town. Furthermore, from a profile perspective, it is always great to have authors and publishers come and see Marlborough's finest bookshop.

The LitFest is always a busy one, yet the buzz that shivers through the town makes it an enjoyable weekend to be part of each year.

So...bring it on!

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The Word became Flesh

When Kate Mosse, one of the many authors coming to this year's Literature Festival, featured as the guest for Radio 3's Private Passions, she spoke about her choice of a Bach Brandenburg Concerto. Commenting on the composer as well as the concerto itself, she summed up the strength of her feelings about Bach by saying simply - 'He is the Word'.

The Word, or *logos* in Greek, to which Mosse was referring, is understood as the divine reason implicit in the cosmos, ordering it and giving it form and meaning. For Mosse, there is clearly something about Bach's music that gets to the heart of things and to describe this as the 'Word' seems to me to suggest simultaneously both the power of language and its limitations. For language can point, but not quite connect; there is always something beyond words themselves.

The Christian faith is predicated on the belief that the 'Word' became flesh – that is to say, the divine power immanent within the world was embodied in the person of Jesus. It is a staggering claim - that this universe should find its meaning in and through a person who was both fully human and divine. Yet this is basis of the faith and one of the reasons that allows historian Diarmaid MacCulloch to describe Christianity as a 'personality cult'; it follows a person and is not a religion of a book.

All of us, whether followers of Jesus Christ or not, need to make sense of life and navigate our way through it. To do this requires being open to learn from others and to having our own world views enlarged. Literature is perhaps the pre-eminent way this happens to us; the creation of characters in fiction allows us to imagine what it is like to be someone else; the well-researched biography shows us how a life was formed and shaped; the well-crafted poem begins to tell us something we secretly know already.

I love this quote from William Boyd's 1988 book *The New Confessions*:

I ponder all the possibilities that come with being human. Good and evil, happiness and misery, achievement and failure, love and isolation – everything that goes into being the particular person you are in that particular social and historical setting. That's a lot, isn't it? My God, that's some menu!

To explore that menu and to ponder those possibilities is the purpose of both good religion and good literature.

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What's on in October

Regular events

Every Monday

7.30pm: Christchurch. Marlborough Choral Society.

7.45-9pm: Bell-ringing practice at St George's, Preshute.

Every Tuesday

2.45pm: The Parlour, Christchurch. Women's Fellowship.

7.30-9pm: Bell-ringing practice at St Mary's, Marlborough.

Every Wednesday

10am: Jubilee Centre. Drop-in, Tea/Coffee.

12.30 Lunch.

1.30-3.30pm: Town Hall. Sunshine Club for the over 55s.

7.30-9pm: Bell-ringing practice at St John's. Mildenhall.

7.30-9.30pm: St Mary's Church Hall. Marlborough Community Choir.

2-3pm: St George's, Preshute (*every 2nd & 4th Wed*) Teddy Prayers & Picnic. A service with tea & cakes for U5's & their carers.

Every Thursday (or some Thursdays)

10am: Jubilee Centre. Drop-in, Tea/Coffee.

12.30: Lunch.

10:30-12 noon: Kennet Valley Hall, Lockeridge. Singing for the Brain. Alzheimer's Support. 01225 776481. (*Every Thursday during term-time.*)

1.30-3.30pm: Wesley Hall, Christchurch.

Macular Society (*last Thursday in the month*).

2pm Mildenhall Village Hall. Marlborough Floral Club. £30 a year membership. £5 guest.

520129. (*1st Thursday in*

Every Friday

10-12 noon: Christchurch bank.

Every 2nd Saturday

10-12 noon: Library. Marlborough Dyslexia Association. Dr 07729 452143.

October Calendar

Till 6th October (*Sat*)

Daily during opening Church. Guild of Wiltshire Autumn Exhibition. F

Till 20 October (*Thurs, Fri*)

10am-4pm Rabley Guild Exhibition of New Drama Eileen Cooper RA.

1st (*Monday*)

2pm Kennet Valley Hall. Talk by Vernice Church Mahal and Tuk Tuks'

3rd (*Wednesday*)

7.30pm Wesley Hall, by the Team of Wiltshire 'How to Keep Safe in members and guests

4th (*Thursday*)

2pm Mildenhall Village Floral Club. 861279. 7.30pm The Merchant Allum: 'The Anatomy adv. from MH £12 (£

6th (*Saturday*)

High Street. First Mo

the month).

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ch: 'Textiles: The Taj
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Oxford Street. WI. Talk
hire Bobby Van Trust:
the Cyber World'. New
welcome.

e Hall. Marlborough

t's House. Talk by Marc
of Antiques'. Tickets in
15 non friends).

p Fair. High Street

closed noon Friday to 8am Sunday.

7th (Sunday)

7.30pm Marlborough College Memorial Hall.
Subscription Concert: John Lill (piano). 01672
892246.

8th (Monday)

7.30pm Bouverie Hall, Pewsey. The Arts
Society Pewsey Vale. Lecture by James
Allen: 'Callgeofiguresques: An Introduction to
Islamic Art and Design'. Visitors welcome £7
Membership Secretary: 07775 683163.

9th (Tuesday)

10am-4pm & 5.30pm-8pm Corn Exchange,
Devizes. Autumn Fair. In aid of Prospect
Hospice, Salisbury Hospice Charity, Dorothy
House & Cancer Research. £4 (including hot
or cold drink).

10th (Wednesday)

12.30pm 40 St Martins. Widows' Friendship
Group Lunch. 514030.
7.45pm Wesley Hall, Oxford Street.
Gardening Association. Talk by Lois Philpps:
'Art & Science of Compost Making'.

12th (Friday)

Marlborough College. Start of Half Term.

13th (Saturday)

High Street. Second Mop Fair. High Street
closed noon Friday to 8am Sunday.

15th (Monday)

11am Ellendune Community Centre,
Wroughton. Lecture by Diana Lloyd:
'Worcester 1750-1900' Guests welcome £7.
Membership Secretary:01793 840790.
7.30pm Kennet Valley Hall. National Trust
Association. Lecture by Clare Russell:

'History of Marlborough College'. Members £3, Non-members £4.

18th (Thursday)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. History Society. Lecture by Martin Palmer: 'Graffiti – the lost stories of the Churches around Avebury'. £4 for non-members who are most welcome.

21st (Sunday)

7.30pm St Peter's Church. Concert: Inês Costa (piano). £10, children free.

25th (Thursday)

St John's Academy. End of Term 1.

7.30pm Coronation Hall, Alton Barnes. Talk by John Dymond: 'The Lost Wiltshire Village of Snap'. £8.50 in aid of All Saints Roof Appeal.

28th (Sunday)

Marlborough College. End of Half Term.

From the Registers 2018:

Baptism - *we welcome:*

26 August – Anna Williams and Harlan Diwell at St Mary's

2 September – Otterley Hillier at St George's

Wedding - *we congratulate:*

17 August - Adele Richards and Sebastian Blay at St George's

31 August – Maxine Chandler and Mark Gardener at St George's

Departed - *we pray for the families of:*

3 September – Zena Marilyn Scoble (83) of Winchester (formerly of Minal)

St John the Baptist and Kingsdown Crematorium

4 September – Pepita Lilian Hurd (73) of Glebe House, Minal

St John the Baptist and West Berkshire Crematorium, Thatcham



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Marlborough Churches Together

Usual Sunday Service times

Christchurch, New Road (Methodist)

10.30am Morning Service with crèche

Society of Friends, Friends Meeting House, The Parade

10.30am Meeting for Worship

St George's, Preshute (C of E)

8.00am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sunday)

10.00am All Age Service (3rd Sunday)

Parish Communion (other Sundays)

St John the Baptist, Minal (C of E)

8.00am Holy Communion BCP (2nd Sunday)

9.30am Parish Communion (1st and 3rd Sunday)

St Mary's, behind the Town Hall (C of E)

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP on 4th Sunday)

10.00am All Age Worship (1st Sunday); Parish Communion and Junior Church and crèche on all other Sundays

5.30pm Informal service except on 1st Sunday.

St Thomas More, George Lane (Roman Catholic)

11.00am Sung Mass (See also below)

Marlborough College Services are shown at the College Chapel

Weekday Services

St Mary's Holy Communion: 10.30am Wednesday

St Thomas More Mass: 10.00am Mon, Tues, Wed and Sat Holy Days

St George's Tea Time followed by Evening Prayer: 4.30pm Weds.

Teddy Prayers and Picnic: 2-3pm every 2nd & 4th Wed

Ground Work: Writings on Places and People

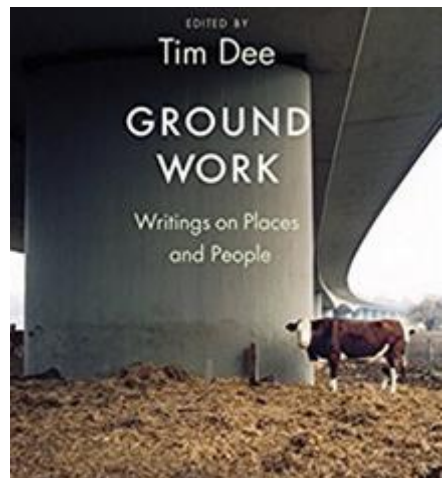
Tim Dee is a radio producer, bird watcher and author. He came to the very first Marlborough Litfest in 2010. Some of you may remember his talk on *The Running Sky*, a wonderfully poetic book on birds. He's coming to Litfest this year as the editor of an anthology of new writing by some of our finest and most exciting nature writers.

Ground Work was inspired by the charity Common Ground which was founded in 1983 with the aim of seeking “imaginative ways to engage people with their local environment”. They’ve helped foster community projects such as Apple Day, parish mapping and community orchards. Part of the book’s profits will go to the charity.

In his startling introduction to the book Tim Dee writes: “We are living in the Anthropocene - an epoch where everything of our planet’s current matter and life, as well as the shape of things to come, is being determined above all by the ruinous activities of just one soft-skinned, warm-blooded, short-lived, pedestrian species. How then to best live in the ruins that we have made?”

The anthology tries to answer this. The writing above all is an exploration of local distinctiveness. The spirit of a place, especially in our global corporate world, remains vitally important and works best on a local, human scale. So, we have memories of childhood homes from Adam Thorpe and Marina Warner, Tessa Hadley describes her London garden and Helen Macdonald recalls growing up in a five-acre walled estate and reflects on our failed stewardship of the planet. Further afield contributors journey from the Arizona desert to the Canadian Arctic.

Ground Work is a timely and important book. It helps us look at how we relate to the wild. Helen Macdonald says “During this sixth extinction, we who may not have time to do anything else must write now what we can, to take stock.”





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“Brilliant Young International Musicians in St Peter’s Church”

Inês Costa (piano)

Sunday October 21st 7.30pm

The first recital in the 2018/19 series of seven concerts is being given by the Portuguese pianist Inês Costa.

Inês Costa has performed in many venues including St Martin in the Fields, Steinway Hall and the Royal Albert Hall.

She will be playing Fantasies by Mozart and Brahms.

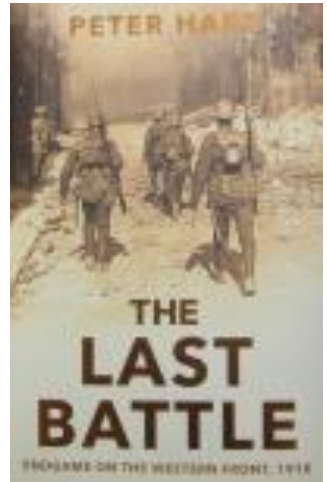
Tickets at £10 are available from the White Horse Bookshop and Sound Knowledge.

Peter Hart on *The Last Battle*:

David Du Croz

The story of the latter part of 1918 is brilliantly told by Peter Hart, guest speaker at this year's Marlborough LitFest, in his book *The Last Battle*. Peter is the oral historian at the Imperial War Museum, and builds his story round a wonderful collection of first-hand accounts of the fighting during those last four months. The book is appropriately detailed, but the reader is not suffocated by facts and a clear story-line emerges from the tales told by those who were there.

By 1918 it was clear, even if it had not been so earlier, that the outcome of the First World War would be determined on the Western Front. The story of the fighting in France and Flanders during these 10 months contains some dramatic twists and turns, and despite the fact that it had become a war of movement again with troops on both sides no longer quite literally banging their heads against impenetrable entrenched defences, casualty figures continued to climb. It was the year in which the British and French nearly managed to lose the war and then just managed to win it, both approximations reflecting the near-total exhaustion of all combating armies.



It is a year that lacks the high profile tragic stories of the Battles of the Somme (1916) and Passchendaele (1917), but its events were nevertheless of crucial importance in deciding the endgame. In a sequence of five ferocious offensives between March and July the Germans desperately sought the key to crushing the British and French armies, but despite losing large numbers not least as prisoners of war both armies managed to hold their ground in a series of fighting retreats. Having exhausted themselves in the process the Germans then became the object of four major counter-offensives by British, French and American forces in late July and August, recovering all the land lost earlier in the year. This was followed in late September by a further four planned and integrated Allied attacks which broke the back of the German defensive lines and their morale - it was at 6pm on September 28th that Ludendorff went to Hindenburg and told him that Germany must sue for peace.

David Du Croz will be editing the next edition of Tower and Town, which he will devote to the impact of World War 1 on Marlborough.

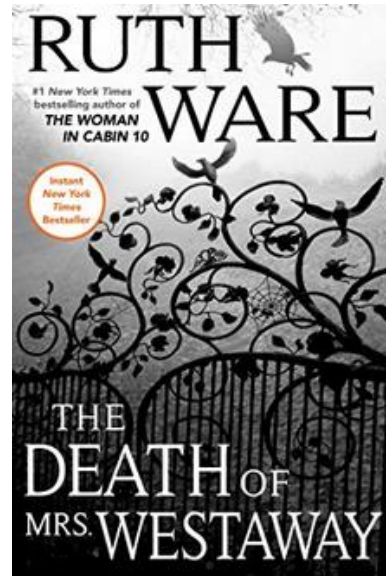
Ecstatic reviews for a new book are always gratifying for an author, but when they talk about it being the author's best yet, and they've already written three terrific novels, you know something exciting is afoot. Ruth Ware, who is appearing at this year's Marlborough LitFest, must be delighted by the reception for her latest thriller, *The Death of Mrs Westaway*. A.J.Finn, author of the hugely popular *The Woman in the Window*, is in no doubt that it's her finest work: "A dark and dramatic thriller, part murder mystery, part family drama, altogether riveting."

Ware shot to fame with her first novel, *In A Dark, Dark Wood*, which was published in 2015. It was a Richard and Judy Book Club pick, quickly became a *Sunday Times* bestseller, and was translated into more than 40 languages. *The Woman in Cabin 10* followed the next year. Billed as Agatha Christie meets *The Girl on the Train*, it cemented her reputation as a master of the psychological thriller. Last year, she had another hit with *The Lying Game* but it looks like her latest book, *The Death of Mrs Westaway*, is set to eclipse them all.

Harriet Westaway works as a seaside fortune teller but she's heavily in debt and the loan sharks are circling. So when she receives a letter telling her that she's inherited a substantial bequest from her Cornish grandmother, it seems her prayers have been answered. Except that her grandparents died 20 years ago. The letter has been sent to the wrong person but that doesn't stop her turning up to a stranger's funeral in Cornwall to claim a bequest she's not entitled to. And once she's embarked on a life of deception, there's no going back, even if she risks losing everything, even her life...

It's a cracking premise for a thriller, with more than a whiff of du Maurier. Ruth will be talking at the LitFest about the book, all those incredible reviews and her life as a writer.

Ruth Ware will be in conversation with Jon Stock at St Mary's Church Hall, Marlborough at 6pm on Saturday 29 September



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Dear Sir

Why does Peter Noble want to get the Mop Fairs out of Marlborough High Street? Speaking as a High Street resident, we suffer far less from the fumes of the Mop Fairs than from those of the hundreds of cars and dozens of lorries that go through the High Street daily.

This tradition is every bit as real as, for instance, that other wonderful Wiltshire tradition of Pewsey Carnival. Traditions change and the fact that the Mop Fair is not the same as it was in the time of King John, over eight hundred years ago, doesn't detract from the affection that many Marlburians have for this very enjoyable High Street occasion.

Yours faithfully,
David Chandler

Dear Sir

Regarding Sarah Bumphrey's article [*A High St for the 21st Century*; August edition], a golden opportunity for beautifying the High Street was missed by the Steering Committee For The Millenium, of which both my husband (as mayor-elect) and I were members. We proposed a Market Cross towards the St Peter's end of the High Street, which might have housed the Tourist Information Office and perhaps also a Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Unfortunately the plans were abandoned on what in my opinion were spurious financial grounds. We had expected a Millenium Fund grant which, when added to local fund-raising, would have raised more than enough.

Yours faithfully
Sally Gillian Watson



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NEWS from the Churches

Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group

meets at the Friends Meeting house, The Parade at 7.30pm on **Monday 1st October** when we will be taking stock of where we are and thinking of how we go from here. All are welcome.



Women's Fellowship

- 2nd October Harvest Festival
- 9th October Chrissy Whittington
- 16th October Susan Bothamley
- 22nd October Rev Heather Cooper
- 30th October Ruth Richards



All meetings start at 2.45pm and are in Christchurch.

Harvest

Harvest Festival will be celebrated on **Sunday 7th October** at St Mary's church at 10 am in an informal family service and at St John the Baptist church at 11.30 am followed by a shared picnic lunch afterwards,.



Marlborough Churches Together Fraternal

meets at 12.45 on **Monday 8th October**. The meeting is open to all.



Sunday Lunch Club

To book a place, please ring the office before 10.00am on Friday 12th October (513701). Cost £7.50.

The lunch on **Sunday 14th October** in the Wesley Hall at 12.15pm will be followed by an Audio Visual presentation - Iceland via Orkney and the Shetland Islands – by Eric Gilbert at 2.15pm also in the Wesley Hall.



Philosophy in the Pub

All welcome to The Lamb on **Tuesday 16th October** at 7.30pm to discuss "What about War?"

Not many people in Britain have first-hand experience of living in wartime. Will there come a time when we no longer commemorate the lives of those who died? What should be the aim of Remembrance Sunday, and should we celebrate it in Church? And what are the most important lessons we learnt from previous wars? We will discuss these and other questions around war and remembrance, and the role they play in contemporary Britain.

Messy Church

Is happening in St Mary's on **Sunday 21st October** from 4 to 6pm. The theme will be celebrating Autumn.



Filling Station

For details of October's meeting please contact Helen & Vincent Stokes. (516592)

"THE GREAT WAR: Trying to make sense of 'senseless slaughter' "

is the title of a talk on **Wednesday 31st October** at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church by Allan Mallinson, former soldier, and The Times chronicler of the First World War: *Why was the war so long and bloody, and what did Old Marlburians Charles Sorley, Siegfried Sassoon and Henry Wilson have to do with it?*

Devotion

The Youth Club for 11 – 17 year olds continues to meet from 7 – 8.30pm in the Wesley Hall. Volunteers to help the leaders run this group are needed. Please contact Janneke: jblokland@gmail.com or Keith: skylarkhome@btinternet.com.

devotion

Get There! Messy Holiday Club

After last year's success, the Marlborough Churches Together organised another Get There! Holiday Club, this year's theme being 'Messy'. Thirty-five children and fifteen volunteers joined together for three mornings full of activities, lots of outdoor sports and a bouncy castle, as well as stories and songs. The children constructed their own 'burning bush', and houses - one built on sand and one on rock. The last morning culminated in a water fight and water slide, set up around the fields of Marlborough College, just as the sun came out to warm everyone up. Adults and children alike enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere. The children not only enjoyed the activities, but also making new friends with children from different schools.

The event was organised by Marlborough Churches Together, and supported by Marlborough College, who make the venue available and Tesco, who donated the majority of the refreshments. We thank them both for their generous support. We hope to be able to hold the event again next year.

Marlborough Area Poverty Action Group Summer Outing 2018

Rachel Rosedale writes:- Rain poured down as 46 of us set off to the Cotswold Wildlife Park and as we arrived a miracle happened. The last spot of rain dropped! We were 13 family groups with between one and four children. We asked what they enjoyed about the day. The comments fed back were "the whole day"; "spending time with my daughter"; "being able to have a fun day with the children and seeing the animals"; "the giraffes and the alligator"; "the play park": no more need be said. It was a joy to see them enjoying the outing and many were not going away at any other time during the holidays.

Sarah and Andrew Bumphrey's granddaughter was christened at St. Mary's on August 26th, Anna Elizabeth Jane Williamson. Her parents, Clare and Neil had been married there and her brother, Adam, christened there 3 years ago. They live in Old Town, Swindon. Her godparents are Joshua Bumphrey, Dean Williamson, Lucy Lipscombe and Sophie Barfield. There was a family party in the Church Hall afterwards.

David Parker was very well known in the town. Friends and colleagues packed St. Mary's Church for his funeral. He and Janet came here in 1974 to run London Rd Post Office and more recently he and an old army friend started the Serviceman's Letting Agency. He was an active member of the Swimming Club and chairman of Marlborough and District Indoor Pool Appeal, a founder of the Geriactives Tennis Club and he loved playing golf. He was a Kennet District Councillor for many years and Chairman from 1995 to 1998. He travelled far and wide in his army days and had adventurous holidays with Janet to Europe, South Africa, the USA and Canada, as well as visiting Tracey and her family in New Zealand and Australia. We send our sympathy to Janet and their daughters Tracy, Julie and Louise, son Ian and their families.

Congratulations to **Annabel Hitchmough**. She and her friend, Maisie Harkness, have been selected to represent GBR at the 420 Sailing World Championships in Newport, Rhode Island, USA. They have sailed together since they were 8 years old and take part in races most weekends in various places around the UK, recently Lyme Regis and Brightlingsea. Annabel works hard at her sailing and equally hard at studying for A level at St. Johns.

Brian Lay, Julie Presley's father, was born in Yorkshire but lived all his adult life in Manton. He ran a small business called Manton Maintenance and loved gardening. In winter recently he had started to enjoy cooking. He watched football and rarely missed going to the pub on Friday nights. He died in Great Western Hospital in July and is sadly missed by his family, Julie, Sean, Tania and Carl, his five grandchildren and little great grandchild.

CORRECTION. The Swimming Club moved to the Leisure Centre in 1984 NOT 1992.

MARLBOROUGH AND HUNGERFORD LUNCHEON CLUB

Following requests to open our Luncheon Club to husbands and sons, members have decided to open the monthly meetings to all men and women who might be interested. The Club meets nine times a year from October to June, with a guest speaker. The topics are general in nature, some educational, others entertaining. This year there are talks on the Art of Japan, Guide Dogs and a very Merry Christmas Party. If you are interested in knowing more about the Club and its programmes, please contact Caroline Goodfellow, 01672 516353 or Kathleen Walker on 01488 684861.

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Contributions and comments from readers are welcome. Please send articles and letters to the Monthly Editor or the Editorial Coordinator, other notices or announcements to the compiler. All items for the December issue by 13th November please.

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