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I am delighted to be able to introduce myself in the capacity as your newly elected Town Mayor for the coming term.

I am proud and honoured and take the trust you have shown in me very seriously. I commit to serving the residents of Marlow to the very best of my abilities and of course with enthusiasm, compassion and devotion.

Marlow became my home at the tender young age of six months old when my family took up residence here in 1960. I attended St Peter Street infant school, Holy Trinity junior school and Sir William Borlase’s Grammar School, and I have served the bulk of my career in the pharmaceutical industry. My career has taken me in and out of my beloved town and around the globe, but ultimately I settled back here to run my own business in consultancy. Each time I have returned home over the years I still love the feeling of crossing the bridge and being home again.

My position as Mayor is ambassadorial on behalf of the town, and I also chair the Town Council. I am taking up this role at a time when it is not only important to have a real presence in supporting residents and businesses, but to echo strongly the voice of the town at both county and district levels, lobbying for better support as we drive the change we need.

We have more events, activities and change taking place in Marlow than ever before and while change is exciting, sometimes it is very negative – like defending our town against the imposition of parking meters. We have proved over the last year that we can galvanise our team collectively, though with all our different interests to protect – and also manage what happens in Marlow.

I am a pragmatist by nature and so my main focus will be to continue to drive change sympathetically. I will also focus on delivery as one team alongside all the interest groups and stakeholders in Marlow.

I am delighted that Cllr Tim Avery, with his local knowledge and skills, will support me as my Deputy Mayor. Tim is another born and bred Marlovian, and while we promise we won’t dwell too much on the past, telling ‘Marlow memories and stories’ with our collective 100-plus years of residency, we will use our long experience and understanding of the town to make sure we remember the people we met along the way – who made Marlow what it is today.

Finally, a message of appreciation to the outgoing Town Mayor, Cllr Jocelyn Towns, for her skills, guidance and dedication this last year in leading us and rallying the ‘One powerful voice of Marlow’.

Cllr Chris Funnell
Marlow Town Mayor

Each time I return to Marlow
I still love the feeling of crossing the bridge and being home again.
Parking

Controversial parking measures for Marlow’s town centre have been scrapped in a dramatic U-turn following a hard-fought campaign by residents and businesses.

Transport for Bucks announced in May that it would not be installing pay-and-display in the High Street and surrounding roads after the majority of residents and businesses, as well as Marlow Town Council “made their opposition to paid parking very clear”.

Bucks County Council wanted to charge people £1 per hour or 20p per 12 minutes to park along the busy shopping street – replacing the current ‘limited waiting bays’, where people can park free of charge for one hour between 8.00am and 6.30pm with no return within an hour.

The news was met with jubilation by an emotional Cllr Towns, who in her mayoral year 2017-18, was a key figure in leading the fight against the plans.

She said: “I am staggered, delighted and thrilled that the people of Marlow have helped to get this decision – it was down to everyone in Marlow doing their bit.”

Village Gateways

Village gateways have been installed on the B482 into Marlow from Lane End and on the A4155 from Henley. These gates have been installed not only to enhance the entry to the town but are also statistically proven to traffic calm, reducing traffic speeds.

Grounds Maintenance Update

MTC has been busy reconditioning and renewing street furniture around the town this spring. The playground at Seymour Park has been repainted and looks really fresh. The benches there were revarnished as were all the benches at Balfour Gardens and the wooden benches at the Riverwoods open space by the river. A new dog bin has also been installed at the top of Riverwoods Drive.

At Herons Place, MTC replaced an old wooden bench and has requested some new street plate signs to be installed shortly. There was also some tree surgery at Herons Place, Riverpark Drive and The Causeway to tidy up the trees in those areas.

Grass cutting has commenced for the year and has been managed well despite a heavy flush of growth this month.
Plough Corner

The brick wall bordering the junction of Wycombe Road and Little Marlow Road known locally as Plough Corner has been an eyesore for many years. Marlow Town Council worked collaboratively with Transport for Bucks to get the wall replaced and restored to its former glory.

Mobile Library

Following a recent public consultation, Bucks County Council has decided to end the Mobile Library service, with the final visits due on 31st May 2018. BCC has emailed library customers to inform them of the cessation of the service and to highlight alternative ways to continue to access library services. Letters will also be posted out to those customers without email.

If you are unable to travel to a library due to age, illness or disability, you can request the Home Library Service. You will be matched with a named volunteer who will bring you the books you want to read every month at a mutually convenient time and take back your previous loans. This service gives you a longer loan period, free reservations and no fines.

You can find out more at: www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries/community/home-library-service

Bus Shelters

Unsightly and rusty bus shelters have been replaced as part of a refurbishment programme on the Henley Road, at the junctions of Spinfield Lane and Pound Lane, and on Wiltshire Road. In addition, a new shelter has been installed at the junction of Little Marlow Road and Newtown Road.

Above and beyond!

On a spring Monday afternoon a resident reported to the office that a lamppost had been knocked down in Station Approach, leaving live wires exposed. Barry Cross, our Communities and Amenities Officer, immediately attended and kept the public away from the area. Melissa Bradley reported the incident to Transport for Bucks online and by phone within five minutes of it being reported.

Barry went on to speak to members of the public who had been able to get partial registration plates of the vehicle involved, then through the use of the DVLA and Flickr websites, Barry identified the vehicle involved and the haulage company name. All of the information and photographs were then passed to the police.

All in a day’s work in Marlow Town Council!
Photography Intro Course
Tuesdays, 26th June and 3rd, 10th and 17th July 2018

This summer Marlow Camera Club is running, for the first time, an introductory training course for the general public. Over four evenings, these two-hour sessions aim to cover the basics of photography.

You’ll start with how your camera works – lenses, the digital sensor and files – and how to use your camera in three different modes.

Session two puts the emphasis on how to take good photos – after a look at composition and light there will be a chance for some practical work outside, followed by still life and portraiture inside.

The third session covers basic photo-editing and file manipulation, saving and storage, and the final session takes you out and about to put all you’ve learned into practice.

It will be held at Marlow Methodist Hall from 7.30pm till 9.30pm and at £89 offers great value for money – that’s without taking into account that everyone who completes the course will get discounted membership to Marlow Camera Club for the first year.

As for the club, we pride ourselves on being friendly, welcoming and inclusive. Our members, men and women of all ages and backgrounds, have one thing in common – that is the desire to paint with light – the dictionary definition of photography.

So whether you have a mobile phone, tablet, a pocket compact, a small bridge camera or a digital single lens reflex, this course could help improve how you see and take pictures. But places will go fast – so book your place for a small deposit now – more details on the website: www.marlowcamera.club
Marlow Music Makers’ Summer Concerts will take place at the United Reformed Church, Oxford Road, Marlow.

The concerts start at 7.30pm and end around 9.30pm.

Tickets cost £10.00, to include a glass of wine and light refreshments, and are available from Leighton Insight, High Street, Marlow or by telephoning 01628 484618 or 01494 883392.

A choir of mixed voices, Marlow Music Makers was established in July 2009.

Once we have covered our costs through membership subscriptions, fundraising activities and ticket sales, we aim to donate the proceeds from our concerts to local charities. Our two selected charities for June are:

- Headway South Bucks – the brain injury association
- Marlow Age Concern

We hope you’ll join us in June!
On 1st April 1918 the Army's Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service were amalgamated to form the Royal Air Force, the world’s first independent air force.

Many of the RAF’s exploits since its formation are well known, especially in World War II and in conflicts around the world that continue to this day. Not so well known is the vitally important role that RAF units in our local area played in fighting for and securing victory in WW2, thus helping to secure and protect the way of life that we are able to enjoy today.

Bomber Command was the most well known of the local RAF units, with its HQ commanded by ‘Bomber’ Harris based at Naphill, near High Wycombe. After early defeats suffered by Britain in the war, Bomber Command was given the responsibility of taking the war to Germany. Bomber crews attacked the airfields that were sending aircraft to bomb our country, and industrial sites providing resources for the formidable German war machine. They paid a heavy price, suffering the highest proportion of casualties of any of our forces, with more than 55,000 aircrew lost.

Their remarkable achievements and sacrifices were only recognised publicly in recent years, when the splendid and evocative Bomber Command Memorial was unveiled by Her Majesty the Queen in Green Park, Piccadilly on 28th June 2012. RAF High Wycombe has continued to play a vital role in the defence of our country since WW2, and is now the home of RAF Air Command, the HQ which is responsible for RAF operations worldwide.

For many years after the war the skills developed and carried out at RAF Medmenham, only two miles from Marlow, were cloaked in secrecy, to prevent world-leading aerial photography and interpretation techniques from being used by other countries for intelligence purposes as the new Cold War developed.

As inventive as the code-breakers at Bletchley Park, and as resourceful as a university research establishment, the men and women of Medmenham played a vital role in the intelligence war. It was said that 80% of all intelligence in WW2 came from aerial photography. Brave pilots with specially equipped Spitfires, and later Mosquito aircraft, flew from nearby RAF Benson with no weapons so as to enable them to carry more fuel for longer range photographic reconnaissance missions, relying on speed to avoid being shot down. Their camera films were then rushed to Medmenham, where they were interpreted to help determine what the enemy was doing and plan both defensive and offensive countermeasures.

In the post-war era RAF Medmenham became the RAF’s HQ for signals communications worldwide, before the Officers’ Mess eventually became the luxury Danesfield House Hotel we know today, and the camp became home to an American-owned software company. However, it still provides accommodation for serving RAF personnel who work at RAF Air Command and their families.

Another secretive RAF activity which only came to light recently was the important role that the National Trust property Hughenden Manor, the home of Disraeli, played in WW2. A chance comment by a visitor who had worked there during the war revealed that the house had been used to draw detailed maps using photographs and intelligence information from RAF Medmenham. It now has a display showing the wartime work carried out there.

Contributed by Group Captain Mike Basnett CBE RAF (retired)

Armed Forces Day
Saturday, 30th June 2018

The Royal British Legion is organising events in Higginson Park to recognise the vital work and sacrifices of members of our armed forces, both past and present, in defending us and our way of life. Come along and help us to celebrate their work.
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The party presented a wreath at the Charles de Gaulle commemoration at the old Town Hall, after which around 40 attendees took a coach ride to the old Marly cemetery in the forest where wreaths were laid. Jocelyn laid one and assisted Patrick Gautier and Noreen Riols, an English lady living in Marly-le-Roi who trained the SOE (Special Operations Executive) during World War II. She recited We Will Remember Them with great emotion while laying the British Legion wreath. Children from local schools read out the names of the fallen. Jocelyn gave a short speech in French followed by a speech from Jean-Yves.

“It was a lovely occasion with fabulous weather and all very well organised,” Jocelyn said. “On return to town we met at the Salle de Fete for presentations to the children who had won awards for their study of the Second World War. Our twin town was looking splendid and we really enjoyed being there. We were so well looked after and look forward to the next time we meet up.”

The group also visited the re-located telephone box and post box – donated some years ago by Marlow to Marly. The telephone box is now used as a library where books are borrowed and swapped.
Sir William Borlase’s Grammar School hosted a 100th anniversary service in March in memory of a war veteran who studied at the school.

A special service took place to remember former pupil Lt Basil Arthur Horsfall VC – exactly 100 years to the day that he died.

Born in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in 1887, he died on 27th March 1918, and was awarded the Victoria Cross medal for gallantry in World War I.

He studied at the school from 1903 until 1905 and became the then-headmaster’s first school captain. He was the youngest of four brothers who all studied at the school.

One of the organisers, Ilona Cains, Borlase’s Director of Development, said the service was a chance for the school to honour Mr Horsfall and his life.

She said: “It really brings out the traditions [of the school] and shows how long the school has been a part of the community.

“We have found some real gems in our archives about him. It’s gold dust and really special.”

Following the service, the head boy and girl were presented with a replica Victoria Cross medal by Marlow’s Deputy Mayor Chris Funnell, president of the Old Borlasian Club.
At an upbeat Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting at Court Garden House on Tuesday, 15th May, over 60 residents witnessed Marlow Town Council in session and the changeover of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Outgoing Mayor Jocelyn Towns presented an overview of the progress made over the last year to the town’s Vision for Marlow, the town’s 10-year strategy. This included updates on Marlow as a floral town, the flood defence scheme, the ‘Taste of Democracy’ project in Marlow schools, and new bus shelters and defibrillators. New initiatives under review, she said, are lights on the bridge and a crossing at the junction of The Causeway/High Street and Pound Lane.

There were cheers and applause for the Mayor for leading the successful campaign against paid-for parking in the centre of Marlow, and she thanked the people of Marlow, the Chamber of Commerce and The Marlow Society for their support.

The Annual Meeting then took place and the Town Mayor-elect and the Deputy Mayor-elect were voted in. Councillors all agreed that Deputy Mayor Cllr Chris Funnell be appointed Mayor for 2018-2019 and that Cllr Tim Avery be appointed as Deputy Mayor. The newly appointed Mayor thanked Jocelyn for her excellent work on behalf of the Town Council over the past year as Mayor and presented her with flowers and a gift from the Council.

“It is an absolute honour to be voted in as Town Mayor and I will serve Marlow to the best of my ability, and with enthusiasm, compassion and devotion,” Chris said. “I am proud and honoured and take the trust you have shown in me very seriously.”

Marlow’s outgoing Mayor raises £10,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support

Jocelyn presented a whopping £10,000 to her chosen charity for the year, Macmillan Cancer Support.

The money was raised throughout the year via a series of fundraising events, including a ‘fashion coffee morning’ hosted by Danesfield House Hotel, where various Marlow shops displayed items and donated raffle prizes, and the Mayor’s Charity Golf Day, which was enjoyed this year by a record 22 teams.

Jocelyn ran in the Santa Fun Run in December 2017, raising over £2,000 for the charity. She said: “I completed the run in a really good time for me, 36 minutes and no stopping!”

Bucket collections were also held at various events throughout the year.

“I was delighted to hand over the cheque at the Annual Meeting to Sally Carter, the Macmillan representative for this area,” Jocelyn said. “Sally has been a great help throughout the year.”

Photos (left, right): Marlow Town Mayor Cllr Chris Funnell and Deputy Mayor Cllr Tim Avery; Sally Carter of Macmillan Cancer Support receiving the cheque from Cllr Jocelyn Towns, outgoing Marlow Town Mayor
“It is always a leap of faith using a tradesman you haven’t used before, but after seeing the initial designs we felt confident leaving the job in Barry’s expert hands. It was a big job, but he has turned our garden from a mess into something very pleasant and easy to maintain. We would definitely use him again and recommend him to anyone”

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Help support local business
It has been a busy year, but that is what you expect in such a very special town. I am so proud to be part of this community and to have served for a third term as your Mayor. As well as busy, it has been a year of change. We wished our Town Clerk Annie Jones a happy retirement and welcomed Hilary Martin to the role.

We amalgamated three events into one called ‘Celebrate Marlow’, held at the Crowne Plaza. A perfect opportunity to thank all those who do so much for our town, who are often not recognised. The next Celebrate lunch will be on 30th September this year. Please do let us know of any unsung heroes that you think should be invited.

Our Switch On event with Russell Brand in November was extremely successful. Though considered controversial, he was brilliant and the High Street was buzzing. The lights were magnificent again, so a very big ‘thank you’ to all our sponsors.

**Stop Press!**

Fantastic news just in, Bucks County Council will not install parking meters on our High Street! Thank you to all our residents, The Chamber and The Marlow Society, for your support. The petition and consultation worked. Together we achieved the best result for the Town.

We have also met with BCC and WDC together to ask them to review the parking in Marlow jointly. We believe the only way to address the town-wide parking issue is for these two authorities to work together as Marlow is at capacity! We have presented them with our outline scheme for decked parking in the centre of Marlow, though we won’t hear anything on this until the Parking Review currently underway by WDC of the district-wide off-street car parking, has been received.

In another key step, MTC has already supported BID Co., the business improvement district, to help facilitate projects that move parking away from residential streets back into Globe Business Park. Several businesses and clubs already have projects approved or in process to increase employment-based parking and reduce congestion in town.

We are looking into ways in which we can light the bridge again and are currently working with Bucks for the necessary permissions. We are also working closely with BCC on measures to understand the loading on the bridge, with a view to changing the weight restriction to restrict heavy vehicles.

My chosen charity this year was Macmillan Cancer Support it is a great cause and I hope as well as raising funds for this wonderful charity, I have also managed to increase awareness of the great work they do. If you would like to make a last minute contribution to the charity, please donate to Sort Code 30-95-36 A/C 03635900, the Mayor’s Charity Account. Thank you.

Volunteering is a great part of our community and I would like to thank you for all your hard work and support in this Mayoral year, with a special thank you to my fellow councillors, especially Chris Funnell, my deputy. I would also like to thank the officers for the sterling work they do in running the office and supporting us and you, in keeping our town special.

I have very much enjoyed representing our town and thank you for your support. So as I end this year of change, there are still further changes ahead when the decision is made on Unitary Authority. We as a town welcome the opportunity to take on more responsibility.

We have a beautiful town, with great people, and I know we are the envy of many towns around us.

**Let’s all do what we can to keep Marlow the thriving and buzzy market town that it is.**

Jocelyn Towns

Town Mayor
Chairman, Cllr Richard Scott

The prime responsibility of the Resources Committee is to manage all financial and administration services required by the Town Council. It meets six times during the year and residents are welcome to attend the meetings. The Committee seeks to maximise the Town Council element of your Council Tax to provide excellent value for money in procuring and administering services for residents.

In the last financial year, which ended on 31st March 2018, a small surplus was realised on our general fund; this will be added to our reserves to ensure future financial stability. This surplus arose through good levels of income and prudent management of our expenses. In terms of our regular expenditure, this was the second year of absorbing responsibility for devolved services for grass cutting and other maintenance matters from the District and County Councils. Your Council has continued to provide an improved service and has been able to act more quickly to residents’ requests in dealing with maintenance issues. We will look to take on further devolved services, if appropriate to do so.

We have continued with the publication of the well-liked Marlovian magazine, which is distributed to all properties in the town, but for the first time have had to pay for its distribution costs. The majority of other expenditure was close to our approved budget.

As part of our Vision of keeping Marlow an attractive and vibrant place to live, visit and work, we continue to provide the following services to a very high standard:
• ‘Celebrate Marlow’ is now firmly fixed in the calendar.
• Floral Town from May to October.

• Expanded provision of Christmas lights.
• Provision of another successful ‘Switch On and Shop’ event to launch Marlow’s Christmas festivities.
• Maintenance of all our play areas and green spaces.
• Grants and donations to local organisations totalling over £7,000.
• Provision of half the cost of a dedicated Police Community Support Officer and support for the Community Payback scheme.
• Town Cemetery and allotments maintained.
• Support for the town bus service.

Your Council has strong general and earmarked reserves and have taken the decision to use some of those over the coming months to improve the town and its infrastructure further. These include:
• £35,000 for a safer ‘refuge’ between the Causeway to Higginson Park.
• £13,000 on new bus shelters in Henley Road (two), Wilshire Road and at the junction of Newtown Road with Little Marlow Road.
• £20,000 on improving the footpaths and street scene in Spittal Street jointly with Wycombe District Council and Sorbon Estates.
• £25,000 for new electrical infrastructure to ensure our Christmas lights remain effective.
• £1,700 for gateway signs at two entrances to the town.
• £35,000 for the possible lighting our world-famous bridge across the Thames.

We are pleased to confirm that the Town Council element of your overall Council Tax bill will not increase for the year to 31st March 2019 and the annual charge for the average Band D property remains less than £1 per week. With good levels of reserves, your Council remains financially strong.
Chairman, Cllr Neil Marshall

Marlow Town Council is a statutory consultee to the local planning authority Wycombe District Council. The Planning, Environment and Transport (PET) Committee meets every three weeks to review planning applications within the Marlow town boundary. The bulk of the applications reviewed each year are for minor extensions or changes of use and we have a strong correlation with the Planning Authority findings.

The New Local Plan has now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by Wycombe District Council. We suspect there may be a challenge by IM Land regarding the green belt immediately to the north of Marlow, but we believe that the case for Green Belt retention is well made.

Several major developments are now nearing completion including the former Police Station site, Windsor House on the junction of Dean Street with Spittal Street and the Portlands site. Works are about to commence on the movement of the pedestrian crossing on Dean Street and the improvements to pavement, drainage and lighting on Spittal Street.

Marlow Sports Club’s plans for a replacement building have now been approved; these will ultimately result in much-improved accommodation facilities.

The Marlow Flood Relief Scheme is nearing completion, which will bring about the reinstatement of Gosamore Park playing field and greatly reduce the risk of flooding in the Gossmore and Pound Lane neighbourhoods.

We are always mindful of the challenge of parking availability in the town, largely brought about by the vibrancy of the town itself, but solutions which satisfy residents, shoppers and inward commuters (all of whom are essential to the viability of the town) prove to be very challenging. We are working with both the District and County Councils (who hold responsibility for off-street and on-street parking respectively) and have suggested decking the Central Car Park with a partially sunken ground floor as an option. We are also pressing the District Council for the provision of additional off-street car parking. We are still pursuing the case for free on-street parking with the County Council, who are yet to announce the results of the recent consultations at time of going to press.

We are working with the District and County Councils to examine options for reducing pollution levels around the town centre on Spittal St, High St and West St. We will update you when we have firm proposals on this.

The Committee is looking forward to another busy and productive year for Marlow.
Town Mayor, Cllr Jocelyn Towns

Our 10 Year Vision for the town is at the heart of all we do to make Marlow the most attractive and vibrant riverside town in the Thames Valley. The Vision has now completed its sixth year, after another busy 12 months.

Our ‘Floral Town’ hanging baskets will soon be installed, you will have seen that the summer bunting is already in place, in time for the May Fair.

In recent months the Transition Town market has moved to The Causeway and takes place on the first Saturday of every month. It sells artisan food and crafts, and is growing from strength to strength, it is lovely to have an outdoor market in the town centre once again.

The ‘Taste of Democracy’ initiative, launched last year, continues to be a popular event in the primary and junior schools of Marlow and we plan to repeat the project in coming years. The children really appreciated learning about the democratic voting process, and it seemed to capture their imagination.

The EA continues to manage our flood issues. The flood protection scheme is almost finished. We now look forward to the completed works in the summer.

We have replaced the old bus shelters with smart new ones on the Henley Road at the corner of Pound Lane, Spinfield Lane and Wiltshire Road. A brand new shelter will be erected on the junction of Newtown Road and Little Marlow Road imminently.

A number of defibrillators will be installed around the town using some of our redundant telephone boxes. Financed by our WDC Councillors using their ward budgets, so thank you all for the contribution.

We have worked with BCC to improve the road crossing from the Causeway to Higginson Park by putting in a refuge, and funding has been agreed for this work to start.

The French market came back to Higginson Park on bank holiday weekend. It comes here each May Bank Holiday and is always a very welcome sight.

A number of Councillors and volunteers donned their litter pickers and rubbish bags and went out around the town collecting litter. This is something that needs doing on a regular basis and I am very happy to gather groups of volunteers together to go out as often as necessary to the many areas where rubbish is a problem. Join us on our next litter pick; dates will be advised.

We have been waiting on Spittal Street improvements and are pleased to confirm that they have now started. This will involve a night-time working team so that disruption during the day will be at a minimum. This will greatly improve this entrance to the town.

New gateways into the town from the Henley Road and Seymour Park Road will be installed soon. As well as welcoming, they help to calm the traffic.

Marlow is a lovely town and we would like to thank you for being such a supportive community. Your involvement is much appreciated in helping with our Vision:

“To make Marlow the most attractive and vibrant Riverside town in the Thames Valley.”

If you have any suggestions or ideas that you think would help us, please do share them, email office@marlow-tc.gov.uk.
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21.
Marlow is at risk of flooding, as was illustrated most recently in July 2017.

The Flood Fair will address topics such as:

- The different types of flooding that could affect you
- What you can do to protect your property or business from flooding
- What flood projects or schemes are going on in Marlow
- Which organisations are involved and how they work together

Please join us on 18th September 2018 for the Marlow Flood Fair to be held in Court Garden House.

Look out for more information on Marlow Town Council’s social media channels and in the next edition of the Marlovian!

@MarlowTC (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter)
Much More Than Books

Marlow Library Manager Maggie Ross reveals many reasons to love your library

Albert Einstein, someone famous for knowing Quite a Lot, once claimed: “The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library”. Let me make sure that if nothing else I keep Einstein happy by reminding readers of Marlow Library’s location. We’re in Institute Road, and open Tuesdays to Saturdays.

I am fairly sure, however, that 21st century libraries look and feel fairly different from those in Einstein’s time, or even probably those of 20 years ago.

Books are still very much at the heart of our offer, and here at Marlow, you will find an array of fiction, non-fiction, reference books, audiobooks, children’s and young adult titles as well as large print editions. Library membership entitles you to 20 books on loan at a time. But there’s so much more than books on offer; we have magazines to borrow, eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines available on library apps, and newspapers to read in the branch. Our online reference offer is extensive, with free access to popular sites like Ancestry and Britannica. Computers are available for use at no charge for Library members, and we have facilities for printing, scanning and photocopying.

At Marlow Library, we also have the added benefit of including the local Visitor Information Service, so all local information is available, and there are souvenirs and goodies to buy.

Staff and volunteers oversee a variety of activities throughout the week, ensuring there is something for everyone – from Bounce and Rhyme for babies through to Knitting and Nattering for those a little older. We recently worked in collaboration with The Princes Trust to host a 3D printing demonstration, and the previous week welcomed the Cookham Handbell Ringers who provided a taster session.

So if you’ve let your membership lapse over the past few years, are new to the area, or are just intrigued by the description of a community resource that lets you read books for free and sort out your council enquiries while babies are bouncing and handbells are ringing (and let’s face it, who wouldn’t be?!), come along and meet us!

More info: www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/libraries
Follow us on Facebook or Twitter using @BucksLibraries

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Marlow’s Spring Clean

Locals brave the weather to tidy up our town

The Great British Spring Clean is a campaign organised by Keep Britain Tidy with a simple aim: to bring people across the country together to clear up the litter that blights towns, villages, countryside and beaches.

As part of the Great British Spring Clean, members of Marlow Town Council and volunteers went out with litter-pickers on a cold and drizzly March day to tidy up the town.

“\textbf{All were very supportive and many offered their help for the next time.}”

Fifteen volunteers set off from Higginson Park armed with litter grabbers and ‘loo seats’, as they are affectionately known – they are in fact holders for the bin bags. They tackled Lower Pound Lane, around the tennis courts at the Sports Club, Braemar Court, Liston Road and Gossmore Park.

Mayor Jocelyn Towns, Cllr Richard Scott and Carol Heap, a volunteer, went around Station Road, Glade Road, Claremont Road, Cromwell Road and Liston Court, filling six black bin bags of rubbish.

The Mayor said: “We had a great walk around the town and met and chatted with many residents. All were very supportive and many offered their help for the next time. We aim to organise another event, hopefully when the weather’s a little kinder.”

Children from Marlow C of E School and their parents also took part in their own litter-picking event. They collected litter on the school run, and in and around the school. They found snack wrappers and drinks containers. The school has asked parents to make their children aware of the need to dispose of litter responsibly in the bins provided.
If your family have flown the nest and you no longer need the extra space, you might be considering moving home and starting a new chapter.

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*Based on a recent survey by the NHBC Foundation. Local area photography. Pricing correct on 27.02.18.
Marlow Town Regatta & Festival

This year’s event featured rowing, live music, good food and family fun.

On Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th June, Higginson Park Marlow was the venue for the highlight of Marlow’s annual sporting and social calendar – the Marlow Town Regatta and Festival 2018. The theme of the day was: “Birthday Celebrations” and there were also some exciting changes for nearly 4,000 people who attended the weekend.

The Saturday format evolved this year to include more adaptive rowing – a nod to Marlow Rowing Club being at the forefront of adaptive rowing and a centre of excellence – as well as a head-to-head competition between the boys’ and girls’ eights from Sir William Borlase’s Grammar School and Great Marlow School – in which Great Marlow School won both races. Trophies and medals were presented on the Riverside Stage by Marlow Paralympian Naomi Riches and Marlow Town Regatta Chairman Nav Ali.

The new concept Riverside Dining with Sojo Kitchen played host to some very excited customers tasting the amazing food on offer.

The Riverside Stage hosted Marlow FM’s winners of the UpNext competition – finding and promoting local musical talent. The overall winner was Christina Cameron and the two other very worthy finalists were Kanvas Music and One World Less. Later in the afternoon local covers band Interkoola warmed up the tempo to close the afternoon session and create a crowd for Abba’s Angels. 3 Minute Rockstars then took that crowd energy and members of the audience became lead singers at the festival. Toploader closed the evening with crowds dancing to iconic songs, culminating in their hit song Dancing in the Moonlight.

Sunday saw the Marlow Dragon Boat Festival, a combined schools’ choir, a dog show, cake competition, duck herding, petting farm, ferret racing and circus acts, an incredible line-up for a local free event.

Next year’s dates are provisionally booked for 15th and 16th June 2019. Check for news in the Marlovian or at: www.marlowtownregatta.org

Contributed by Marlow Town Regatta & Festival

Photos courtesy of Chris Hoyle, Paul Merchant and Marlow Camera Club; illustration credit: Nicola Metcalf
Bon Appétit

French Market gives Marlow the continental touch

Visitors could be forgiven for thinking they were in France over the early May bank holiday weekend with the traditional French Market in town and the glorious weather making Higginson Park feel very continental.

Hundreds of people came to sample the traditional French produce, which included breads, cheeses, an impressive array of olives, honey and much more.

Mayor Jocelyn Towns visited all the colourful stalls and even helped with some cooking on one of them.

The Mayor said: “The French Market was great. All the stall holders were on very good form and really appreciated the good weather this year.”

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Les Baladins de Marly
French comedy comes to Marlow

Les Baladins presented a new comedy: *Une Fleur sur Les Ruines* by Oliver Jollivet at Bourne End Community Centre on 19th May, which was enjoyed by a small but very appreciative audience.

Award-winning Les Baladins is the French sister group of The Marlow Players and Saturday’s production was a prime example of their superb acting skills.

With a minimalist set the actors presented a story set on the fifth floor of an apartment block in Angers during World War II. The inhabitants of each apartment detest each other but, when the building is bombed and they are trapped inside, they have to learn to live together.

Les Baladins bring a French production to Marlow every two years, providing a wonderful opportunity to experience French theatre. Their productions are always very visual and so, with the help of an English synopsis in the programme, the audience (even with limited French) can understand and enjoy the show.

In turn The Marlow Players take their spring production to Marly-le-Roi – our twin town where Les Baladins are based – on alternate years. Last April’s was *Relative Values* by Noël Coward.

We thank Marlow Town Council for its support, which enables the friendship between Marlow and Marly to continue to flourish!
Marlow Mayor Jocelyn Towns was delighted to welcome a record 22 teams for her Charity Golf Day at Harleyford on Tuesday, 24th April.

The Mayor started the tournament by lighting a rocket to announce the ‘shotgun’ start at midday, with Rob Marsh, Harleyford’s owner, teeing off from the first hole. With 22 teams playing on an 18-hole course, ‘shotgun’ is the best way to kick off the competition: players are positioned on tees around the course at the start and work their way round from wherever they began.

“The weather was changeable but failed to dampen the spirits of the participants,” Jocelyn said. “We all had a great day amid beautiful surroundings – I was particularly delighted to see the bluebell woods on the way into Harleyford.”

Dinner was very convivial, with over 100 guests. Captain of Harleyford, Gareth Roblin, welcomed Mayor Jocelyn Towns and guests to the Club, and the Mayor thanked all those who took part, including the sponsors and those who donated prizes for the raffle and auction. “I’m delighted to have raised such a good amount for Macmillan Cancer Support, one of my chosen charities this year,” she said.

Town Clerk Hilary Martin turned her hand to being an auctioneer on the night to auction a must-have item: a Garmin Distance Watch, donated by Online Golf.

The event raised in the order of £4,000 made up of team entries, raffle, auction and Beat the Pro competition.

The winners listed below were announced following the dinner.

**Mayor’s Cup**  
Harleyford 2 Team with 123 points

**Individual Men**  
Lee Bressington

**Individual Ladies**  
Lyndsey Carter

**Straightest Drive on 13th**  
Stuart Duncan

**Nearest the Pin in 3 on 17th**  
Don Thompson

**Macmillan Cancer Support Trophy**  
Paul Batey

The Mayor would like to thank all the sponsors for their generosity in providing prizes for the raffle:

Baroosh, Compleat Angler Hotel, Crest Nicholson, Danesfield House Hotel

Delta Paintball Games, Harleyford Golf Club, Leywood Estates Limited

David Martin, Marlow Bookshop, Mixology, Online Golf, Renaissance

Shanly Foundation, Sunrise, Swish, The Botanist, The Vanilla Pod, Turners, Villa D’Este

Photos (top, left, right): Winners of Mayor’s Cup, Winner of Individual Men Award, Winner of Individual Ladies Award
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An update from your Marlow Team

Our new police office is planned to be ready for 30th July 2018, back on our site on Dean Street, next to the Churchill Retirement living complex. This will provide extra police visibility in the town.

During the short month of February we recorded our uniformed foot and cycle patrol in Marlow (not including vehicle patrol), which amounted to just over 122km of visible patrol around Marlow Town Centre and the residential areas. This equates to approximately 30km per month for each Marlow PC and PCSO. In addition our marked police vehicle averages 2,500 miles per month on patrol and travelling to/from incidents and calls for service.

If you have any queries of a non-urgent nature then our team email boxes might be a good point of contact:

For Marlow residents: MarlowNHPT2@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

For South West Rural residents: MarlowSouthWestRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Our phone numbers remain as 101 for non-emergency contact and to report a crime that has occurred, while 999 is the emergency number for a crime in progress, or where you believe someone is at risk of harm to themselves or another.

Here are the Marlow Team names for your convenience:

INSP Pete WALL  Wycombe Rural NHPT
SGT Robin HUGHES  Marlow and SW Rural PS
PCSO Claire BOWLES  Marlow PCSO
PCSO Stephen WATKINS  Marlow PCSO
PCSO Gavin WARD  Marlow PCSO
PCSO Mark RACKSTRAW  Marlow PCSO
PCSO Lucy ASH  Marlow PCSO
PC Darren KING  Marlow PC
PC Kerry GOLDFINCH  Marlow PC

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