



marlovian

all your news from the community

Autumn 2022



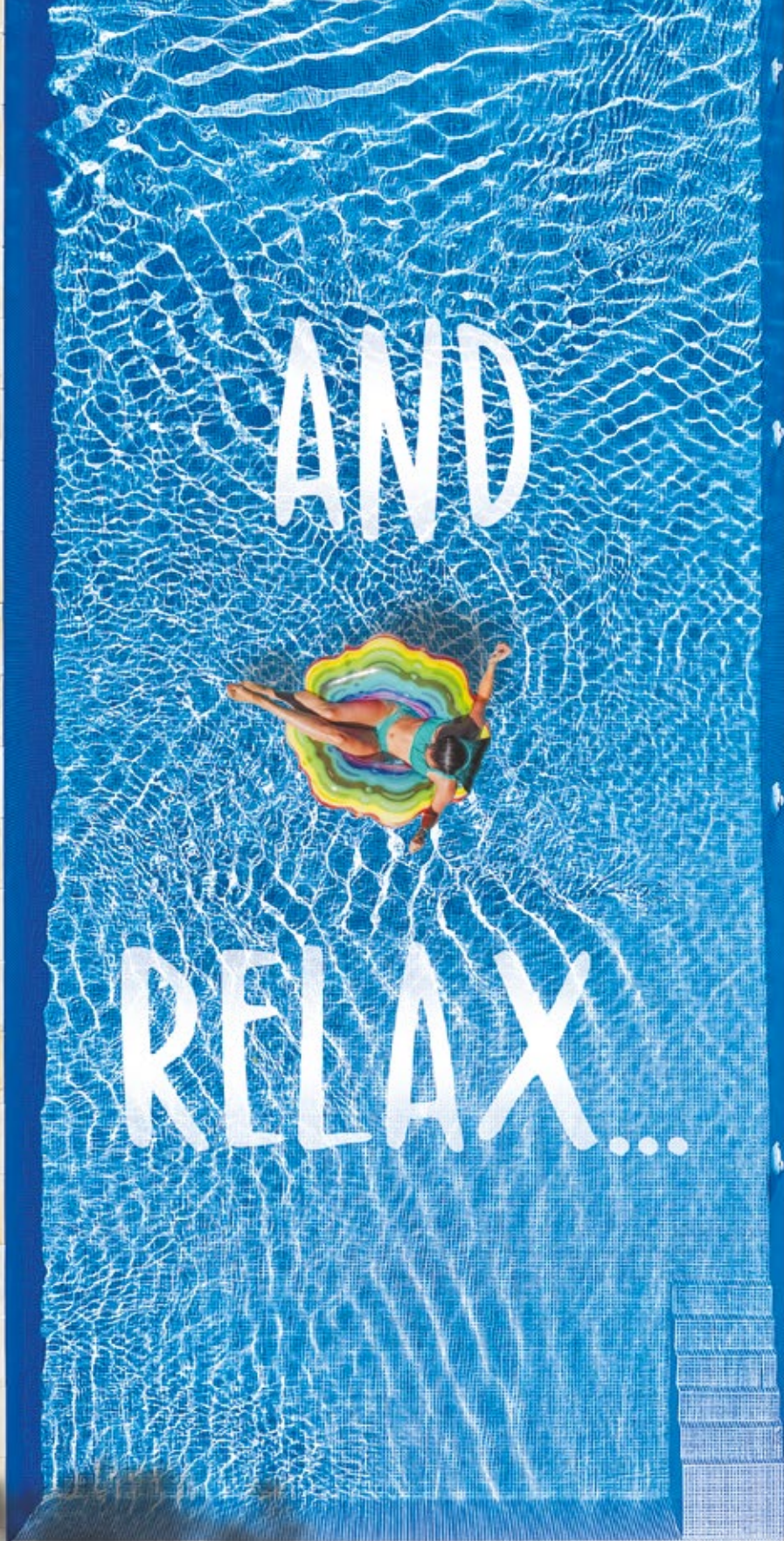
Census *Of Swans*

The heat was on for this year's Swan Upping

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THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM MARLOWTOWNCOUNCIL



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MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL

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Everything you need to know about a Deed of Variation

A Deed of Variation is a document that changes how assets are distributed in someone's Will after they have passed away. It can be very useful for Inheritance Tax planning purposes such as passing inheritance down to the next generation.

Whilst the document may seem helpful there can be unforeseen tax consequences if not handled correctly.

Jonathan Gallop, Head of Wills, Trusts and Probate at Blaser Mills Law, outlines all you need to know about putting the document together.

Do I need a Deed of Variation?

If you are a beneficiary of an estate, you may wish to enter a Deed of Variation to redirect your inheritance to other members of the family who are less well provided for. For example, you may wish to pass some, or all, of your inheritance to your children. If dealt with correctly, a Deed of Variation can create significant tax benefits.

If you make a gift of your inheritance without entering a valid Deed of Variation, then you may create adverse tax consequences and lose out on tax benefits. It is advised to seek expert legal advice to help you understand the rules and restrictions around this.

When can I make a Deed of Variation?

You can make a Deed of Variation either before or after a Grant of Probate has been issued. The document allows the original beneficiary to redirect their inheritance to another individual, charity or trust. If you are creating a Deed of Variation for Inheritance Tax or Capital Gains Tax purposes, then it must be signed within two years of the date of death in order to be effective for tax purposes.

Can a Deed of Variation be cancelled?

Once the changes are made, they cannot be revoked. You will need to carefully consider that all details are correct to avoid costly consequences.

Are there any alternative options?

1. Lifetime gifts: The beneficiary can make a gift to the new beneficiary once they have received their inheritance. However, if the original beneficiary passes away within seven years of making this gift, the value of the gift would be added to their estate for inheritance tax purposes. Therefore, advice should be taken before doing this.

2. Disclaiming your interest: In some circumstances, the beneficiary may wish to disclaim their interest in the estate. Again, do seek advice before you choose this option.

How Blaser Mills Law Can Help

If you are considering a Deed of Variation, it is essential to get in touch with a solicitor first. Using a solicitor can ensure any potential issues in the future are considered and you are not faced with any costly mistakes.

For any further information or advice please get in touch with the Wills, Trusts and Probate department on **01494 781362** or by email at **cad@blasermills.co.uk**.

About Jonathan

Jonathan is a Partner and Head of Wills, Trusts and Probate at Blaser Mills Law and is located in the Marlow office.

He is ranked in the Chambers High Net Worth Guide and as a Next Generation Partner in his field in The Legal 500.

Jonathan regularly undertakes a full range of Private Client work, including Wills, Probate & Administration of Estates, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Trusts and Tax Planning.





Mayor's Message

Welcome Autumn

What a great summer we had! The weather has been superb and our town has been busy.

Over the summer I was pleased to attend several of our regular events, including Marlow Town Regatta & Festival, litter picking with primary school children in May Balfour Gardens, and the annual general meeting of Dementia Action, Marlow. I was also delighted to attend Great Marlow School's Celebration of Success, the first time this event has been held for three years. A full list of my engagements is published with the agenda of all Council meetings.



Swan Upping, Marlow, © Jon Perry

A key date for your diaries is the Marlow Carnival on 17th September with the return of the Green Village, demonstrating residents' support for sustainable activities. Our plans for Christmas are well in hand, with the fabulous Christmas lights being switched on by a celebrity on Thursday, 24th November – more news in the coming weeks. The Rotary Clubs of Marlow Santa's Fun Run will take place on Sunday, 4th December.

I am hearing that many of our local charities and organisations are experiencing reduced member numbers and a shortage of volunteer helpers, so if you feel you have the time to help just one or two of our many town organisations and charities, please do contact them. The Town Council office can point you in the right direction!

Elsewhere in the Marlovian is an obituary of ex-Councillor Bob Johnson, who died in July after a long illness. He will be sadly missed by colleagues and residents alike. Last year I chose Thames Hospice as my charity as they had helped Bob during his illness and I was pleased to hand over a cheque for £2,000 to them in August.



Photo: Debbie Craven & Mayor Richard Scott

Please contact the Town Council office if you would like me to attend any of your activities.

Cllr Richard Scott
Marlow Town Mayor





Bob Johnson Obituary

A tribute to former Mayor and heart of the community

The Town Council and its Councillors were saddened to hear of the death of former Councillor Bob Johnson, who died in July after he bravely fought a long illness. Bob had been a member of the Town Council from 2011 to 2021 during which time he had been its Mayor from 2015 to 2017 and Chairman of the Resources Committee for a number of years. His chairmanship and wise counsel during this time were widely respected by his fellow Councillors. Bob represented Marlow at our twin towns of Marly le Roi and Budavar, District 1 of Budapest and thoroughly enjoyed the exchange visits. He took his council work very seriously, supporting and enjoying the whole range of council activities.

Bob was married to Shirley and had two sons, Simon and Andrew. They lived in Henley Road for many years and the boys attended our local schools. Bob was a great supporter of a number of local organisations, serving as

a governor of Danesfield School and on the committee of Marlow Community Association. He was also an active member of the local Freemasons.

Apart from his family, Bob had a passion for sport having played football, rugby and cricket in his youth. His real love was football and an avid Tottenham Hotspur supporter having lived there in his earlier life. In the spring of this year, his sons took him to a match at the new Tottenham Hotspur stadium, an afternoon he thoroughly enjoyed.

During his time as Mayor, Bob was a strong supporter of Thames Hospice, who were a great help to him during his illness. In August, in memory of Bob and to support their excellent work, the current Mayor presented the charity with a cheque for £2,000 from the town mayor's charity fund.

Photos (Top left to bottom right): Regatta opening with family; Presentation of award to Marlow Library; 8th May commemorations in Mary-Le-Roi; Mayor Bob Johnson; Fundraising at Marlow Masonic Centre with Mayoress, Shirley Johnson.





Town Council News

Autumn 2022

Community Payback and Grounds Maintenance looking after the town

The team have been hard at work this summer clearing footpaths and overgrown shrub areas throughout the town. The Council has a zero-tolerance policy to graffiti and we aim to remove any that is reported immediately, wherever possible. If you see graffiti around the town, please do report it into the office either by phone **01628 484024** or email **office@marlow-tc.gov.uk**.



Marlow schoolchildren brighten up Balfour Garden

On Tuesday and Wednesday, 28th and 29th June, Year Two children from Marlow C of E Infant School took part in mindful action in the May Balfour Garden. Marlow Town Council was delighted to welcome the Dragonfly and Grasshopper classes to the event, which was held for the benefit of the local community. Pupils worked together in a group act of service, planting bulbs, cleaning benches and the sundial, and litter-picking in the garden. By doing this, the young residents learnt that they were part of a larger community and were able to glimpse the bigger picture of the world around them. Service is one of Marlow C of E Infant School's values and the children were learning that an act of service is about helping and showing kindness without receiving a reward. The Town Council provided the bulbs, litter-pickers and some fresh fruit and drinks for the hard-working youngsters. Cllr Richard Scott, who visited the children on both mornings, handed out certificates of appreciation and thanked them, saying: "You should all be very proud of what you're doing. Marlow thanks you!"

Hanging Baskets

The Council has installed summer hanging baskets and troughs throughout the town. They have been an absolute riot of colour this year and are commented on by many residents and visitors.

www.marlow-tc.gov.uk

Defibrillators in Marlow

Do you know where defibrillators are located in the town?

Here is a list of the defibrillators that are around Marlow. If you need to use a defibrillator, phone 999 and you will be given the code to open the box. The machine, when turned on, will talk you through what to do. You don't need any training to use one — just call **999**.

Marlow Medical Doctors, The Doctors House, Victoria Road – **01628 484666**.

Higginson Park, near the Resolute Café on the wall outside the public toilets. Nearest park entrance is the corner of Pound Lane and Marlow High Street.

Court Garden Sports Complex, Pound Lane.

Institute Road, near the Marlow Post Office. The sign is on the wall just past the Post Office at the entrance to the alley. The defibrillator is on the wall in the alley on the left-hand side.

Corner of Seymour Park Road and Oak Tree Road in the telephone box.

Corner of Lock Road and Station Road in the telephone box by the Marlow Donkey pub.

Wildflowers

Marlow Town Council is expanding its wildflower areas to a total of five this year on highways approved verges throughout the town. "Absolutely stunning" is just one of the many comments that the office has received on these wild areas which help support pollinators and other insects.



Best Kept Village Competition

Marlow has been awarded a Certificate of Merit in Buckinghamshire’s annual Best Kept Village Competition - ‘fully deserved’ according to the competition’s administrator.

The judges’ comments included: “Excellent floral displays – strong community effort – in Jubilee colours”, “Areas around shops and pubs were to a very high standard” and “Good evidence of community effort in the town”.

Mayor Richard Scott said: “We’re delighted with the Certificate of Merit for Best Kept Village – the competition is fierce. I’m particularly impressed with the judges’ comments about community effort and would like to thank residents, businesses and Council workers for keeping our town clean and beautiful.”

Founded in 1957, the Best Kept Village Competition’s objective is to encourage entrants to work together as a community, involving all age groups, to make villages and towns more attractive places, not only for residents but also for visitors. The winner was Stony Stratford, with Wendover the runner-up.

Save the dates

Remembrance Service and Parade. Marlow’s Remembrance Service and Parade will be held on Sunday, 13th November at The Causeway, Marlow. All are welcome to come along to the service, which will commence at 10.45am. The High Street will be closed to traffic from 8am until the finish of the parade at approximately 11.30am. Marlow Bridge will also be closed to vehicles during this time.

Switch On and Shop. This year’s very popular Switch On and Shop event will be held on Thursday, 24th November.

Carols on The Causeway. After a record attendance last year this popular community event will be back on Monday, 19th December for everyone to sing carols around the Christmas tree with Marlow Town Band.

Check our website nearer the time for the most up-to-date information. www.marlow-tc.gov.uk

Marlow Town Bus service

Did you know that the service can take you to Handy Cross?

Service 158 also serves the Coachway at Handy Cross to provide a facility for passengers wishing to visit Waitrose and the leisure centre.

A copy of the full timetable is shown opposite – the 10:10 journey from Court Garden will call into the Coachway if requested by passengers on board. Both the 11:25 and 13:15 journeys from High Wycombe bus station will also call in to the Coachway to provide the return journey.

<i>Marlow - Marlow Bottom - High Wycombe</i>			158
MONDAY & TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY			
Marlow, Court Garden	10:10		
Marlow, Sandygate Road	10:14		
Marlow, Sunnybank			
Marlow, Seymour Park Road	10:18		
Hillside, Woodland Way	10:20		
Marlow Bottom, Post Office	10:22		
Marlow Bottom, High Heavens Wood	10:26		
Marlow Bottom, Post Office	10:32		
Cressex, Marlow Road	10:39		
High Wycombe Bus Station	10:44		
High Wycombe Bus Station, Gate A	11:25	13:15	
Cressex, Marlow Road	11:31	13:21	
Marlow Bottom, Post Office		13:27	
Marlow Bottom, High Heavens Wood		13:31	
Marlow Bottom, Post Office		13:35	
Hillside, Woodland Way		13:38	
Seymour Park Road		13:41	
Marlow, Sunnybank			
Marlow, Sandygate Road		13:45	
Marlow, High Street	11:42	13:48	
Marlow, Court Garden	11:43	13:49	
This service is operated by Red Eagle (01296 630402) under contract to Transport for Buckinghamshire			

<i>Marlow Town - Little Marlow Marlow Bottom</i>			160
MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY			
Court Garden Leisure Centre	09:05	11:45	14:00
Marlow, High Street	09:06	11:46	14:01
Marlow, Bobmore Lane	09:10	11:50	14:05
Little Marlow, Winchbottom Lane	09:11	R	R
Little Marlow, Church Road	09:15	R	R
Westhorpe Park	09:19	11:59	14:14
Marlow, Wiltshire Road	09:26	12:06	14:21
Marlow Bottom, High Heavens Wood	09:32	12:12	14:27
Marlow Bottom, Post Office	09:36	12:16	14:31
Hillside, Woodland Way	09:38	12:18	14:33
Marlow, Oak Tree Road Shops	09:39	12:19	14:34
Court Garden Leisure Centre	ARR	09:43	12:23 14:38
Court Garden Leisure Centre	DEP	09:45	12:25
Marlow, Pound Lane	09:46	12:26	
Marlow, Terrington Hill	09:52	12:32	
Sandy Gate Road	09:56	12:36	
Sunnybank	09:58	R	
Marlow, Oak Tree Road Shops	10:01		
Hillside, Woodland Way		12:40	
Court Garden Leisure Centre	10:05		
<i>R Serves this stop upon request to the driver on board only.</i>			
This service is operated by Red Eagle (01296 630402) under contract to Transport for Buckinghamshire			

Little Marlow - Marlow Bottom - Marlow - Maidenhead

155

WEDNESDAY

From: 1st April 2012

Maidenhead, Frascati Way West Side, Stop N1		10:20		12:30	
Maidenhead, Golden Ball Lane West		10:27		12:37	
Marlow, Court Garden	09:05	10:39	11:30		13:45
Terrington Hill			11:37		
Sunnybank			11:43		
Seymour Park Road			11:45		
Marlow Bottom, Post Office			11:48		
Marlow Bottom, High Heavens Wood			11:52		
Marlow, Wiltshire Road			11:57		
Little Marlow, Winchbottom Lane	09:11		12:03	12:45	13:51
Little Marlow, Church Road	09:15		12:07	12:49	13:55
Westhorpe Caravan Park	09:19		12:11	12:53	13:59
Marlow, Wiltshire Road	09:26			13:00	14:06
Marlow Bottom, High Heavens Wood	09:32			13:06	14:12
Marlow Bottom, Post Office	09:36			13:10	14:16
Seymour Park Road	09:39			13:13	14:19
Sunnybank				13:15	
Terrington Hill	09:47			13:21	
Marlow, Court Garden	09:53			13:27	15:27
Maidenhead, Golden Ball Lane East	10:08		12:20		
Maidenhead, Frascati Way	10:14		12:26		

This service is operated by Red Eagle (01296 630402) under contract to Transport for Buckinghamshire

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help for households.

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Pushing The Boundaries

Have your say on a new political map for Bucks Council



News Release from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

New boundaries are being proposed for council wards in Buckinghamshire Council. The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what residents and local organisations think about the proposals. A 10-week consultation on the proposals will run until 10th October 2022.

The Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It is reviewing Buckinghamshire to make sure councillors will represent about the same number of electors, and that ward arrangements will help the council work effectively. The Commission has published proposals for changes to Buckinghamshire. It is proposing that Buckinghamshire Council should have 98 councillors. Those councillors should represent 51 wards, represented by 10 three-councillor wards, 27 two-councillor wards and 14 single-councillor wards. The boundaries of most wards will change.

Proposed changes include:

- The creation of single councillor Sands and Downley wards in the High Wycombe area, as a result of strong community-based evidence.
- The proposed warding arrangements for Amersham, Chesham, Chesham Bois, and the surrounding rural parishes.

The proposals reflect the local evidence the Commission received, which requested that the difference between urban and rural communities be recognised.

Launching the consultation Professor Colin Mellors, Chair of the Commission, said:

“We want people in Buckinghamshire to help us. We have drawn up proposals for new wards in Buckinghamshire. We want to make sure these new electoral arrangements reflect communities. We also want them to be easy to understand and convenient for local people.

Residents and local organisations can help us to do that. We would like them to let us know whether they agree with our proposals before we take final decisions. It's easy to get involved. Go to our website. Or you can e-mail or write to us.

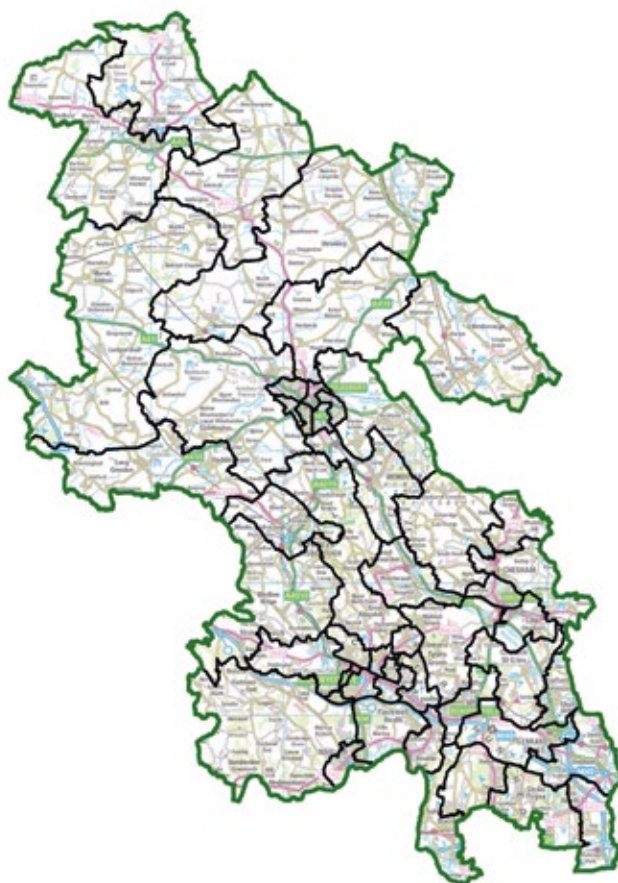
Just tell us what you think and give us some details why you think that. It's really simple, so do get involved.”

"We want to make sure these new electoral arrangements reflect communities", says Professor Colin Mellors, Chair of the Commission

The Commission has a dedicated section on its website where people can see the detail of the proposals and comment on the names of wards and their boundaries:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/buckinghamshire/buckinghamshire-council>

People can also give their views by e-mail at **reviews@lgbce.org.uk**, and by post: Review Officer (Buckinghamshire), LGBCE, PO Box 133





Town Regatta & Festival

Events

Marlow's premier sporting and social occasion

Crowds flocked in the sunshine, 'Coming Home' to Marlow Town Regatta and Festival for its 22nd year on the Marlow stretch. The day featured the historical Opening Ceremony by our local hero, Sir Steve Redgrave and his daughter Sophie Redgrave, followed by a warm welcome from Chairman, Robin Atkinson. We were very lucky that local author and screenwriter, the fabulous Robert Thorogood agreed to be our judge for our Schools Writing Competition. He presented the worthy winner, Amelie Chapman, with a painting of her winning poem by local artist Richard Grinter. Robert was introduced by Vice Chair, Sarah Campbell. Her Majesty's representative, Countess Howe and the Lord Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire attended the opening, alongside local MP Joy Morrissey; Mayor of Marlow, Richard Scott and fellow Town Councillors.

The two-day event being the premier sporting & social occasion since 1855, presents one of the few remaining traditional rowing regatta and garden party events. Marlow Rowing Club co-ordinates the rowing which includes teams from schools, universities and clubs from around the country. Picnickers filled out the 160 pitches, whilst local businesses populated the stalls. Each year we showcase new and innovative attractions over the weekend to entertain the local community. This year Great Marlow School claimed a victory against Sir William Borlase School at 'Marlow's Own Boat Race' and they were presented with their medals by our own Paralympian, Naomi Riches. Showcasing for its inaugural year was the schools writing competition, introducing the

younger audience to our event and prolonging it into the future.

The riverside bar, run by Marlow Round Table, was overflowing as Saturday daytime fun got underway. Live performances on stage were hosted by Marlow FM, kicking off with Dave Dunbar, followed by an evening concert with the sensational "Worldwide Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist", Ben Portsmouth, supported by the Rock Doctors.

A grand start on Sunday with the Dragon Boat Racing - pipping 'Team Oarsome' to the post, were 'Saville Row' who came in first. The children's choir was presented by Sheila Wilson, alongside buckets of free entertainment, including "Dangerous Steve's Thrilling Outdoor Show" and "Circus Passion with Katy Kartwheel", Waggiest Tail Dog Show and Bake Off. Trade, craft and food stalls, filled the park, closing off a superb Marlow Town Regatta and Festival for another year.

Our gratitude goes to Mo, our smashing photographer @ Maureen McLean Photography. With Thanks to Marlow Rowing Club for its essential support, our generous sponsors and supporters: Blaser Mills Law, Swish Fibre, Pub in the Park with Tom Kerridge, Hutchins Marine, Savills, The Shanly Foundation & Traylens Funfair, Marlow Town Council, Marlow Round Table, Rotary Club of Marlow, Marlow FM 97.5, My Marlow, 'Have a Go, Have a Row' with Naomi Riches, Jenny Tobin Flowers, LOVE Marlow, Marlow Rugby Union Football Club.

Marlow Literary Festival

Events

Marlow Writers organise the town's first literary festival

On a sunny June afternoon in a Marlow back garden, over 60 writers and readers gathered for the first ever Marlow Literary Festival. It was organised by the local creative writing group, Marlow Writers, a small group of supportive and friendly community writers who meet monthly to share their writing. A big thank you goes to Jonathan and Catriona Slack for hosting.

A garden art studio was transformed into a stage with microphones and amplifier to share a pacy and varied collection of creative writing. There were recitals of poetry, prose and even rap from ten of the Marlow Writers' members, on topics ranging from collective nouns to temptation. The recitals were interwoven with informal interviews with three local published authors: Susanna Beard (<https://www.susannabeard.com/>), Geoff Lambton (<https://www.mtp.agency/authors>) and Mike Bourton (<https://thecasualpoet.com/>), who spoke about how they started writing and what inspires their writing.

The audience comprised friends and family of the performers and many interested local residents. The Marlow Mayor, Richard Scott and his wife, the Mayoress, together with Liz Lorente from Transition Town Marlow also attended and enjoyed the entertainment.

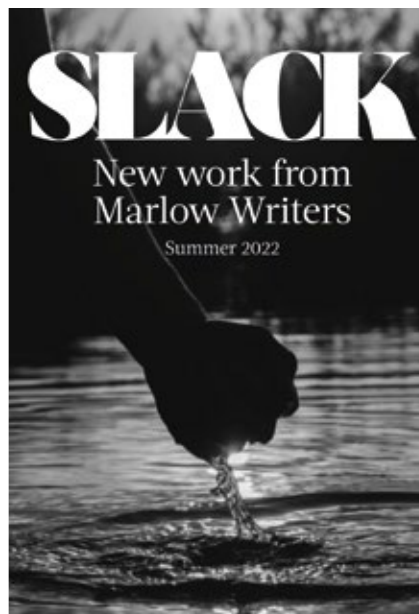
After two hours of creative delights, the published authors offered a book signing and performers promoted their debut Marlow Writers zine, called 'Slack' with the £2 cover price being donated to Marlow Refugee Action.

Given this initial success, planning is now under way for a much larger and indoor venue for the second Marlow Literary Festival during 2023, with the promise of more recitals, more published author interviews, workshops for all ages, musical entertainment and refreshments.

Marlow Writers was relaunched in September 2021 after Covid-19. The group is for all ages and backgrounds and meets at 6.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month at The George & Dragon, The Causeway, Marlow, SL7 2AA. We write on an agreed theme every month and meet to share our writing, inspired by a spectrum of topics in a variety of styles and genres. New writers are welcome!

For further information, contact Mary on **07947 140104**.

Marlow Writers on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/292351919418128>



Poppy Power

Marlow Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Sunday



The Poppy Appeal in Marlow has been a great success so far this year with £34,002.65 being raised up to August. So, a very big thank you to the townspeople of Marlow who have made it a great year. A thank you to all those who have assisted in the appeal both Legion members and non-members.

Many do not realise that the Poppy Appeal runs throughout the year from the 1st October to the 30th September and not just for the two weeks before Remembrance Sunday. The sums raised help our serving injured servicemen, servicewomen, veterans and dependants. It is of vital importance, and without your assistance the Royal British Legion would not be able to continue this work.

Every year a number of volunteers and older collectors decide that they are no longer able to assist us. They have well and truly done their bit, and now we need to focus on new faces to come forward and lend a hand to the Poppy Appeal. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Poppy Appeal and the Royal British Legion. We couldn't achieve all that we do without them.

This year the appeal fortnight runs from Saturday, 30th October through to Sunday, 13th November. There's always space for more collectors on our appeal team during the appeal fortnight, and we need you to help us provide as many opportunities as possible for people to

wear a poppy. Collecting for us is easy and anyone can do it - you don't have to be a Legion member. You do need to be over 16 to collect on your own but you can collect for us with your group.

So become a Poppy Person and help our gallant veterans both young and old, and their dependants. Show your appreciation to them for all that they do and have done for us. You only need a couple of hours spare to help us and your time would be invaluable. So please contact either Barbara Murphy or Shaun Murphy on **01628 474482** if you can assist in any way or if you want to join the premier Service Charity.

A Poppy Dance is being held on Saturday, 22nd October with Gary Roman. Tickets for this will be for Legion members £10 per head and non-members £12. Tickets will be available from the Royal British Legion Club in Station Approach. All the net proceeds from the dance go to the Poppy Appeal. Look forward to seeing you there!

During the Poppy Appeal please display the poppy in your windows and make a donation to the appeal. There will as usual be a Remembrance Sunday Parade sponsored by the Town Council and The Marlow Branch of the Royal British Legion at the War Memorial on The Causeway. Please come along to pay your respects to those that have made the greatest sacrifice.

Photo credit: Jon Perry



SUPPORTING THE POPPY APPEAL



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Swan Upping

Royal Swan Upping provides a spectacle despite record temperatures

This summer's Royal Swan Upping went ahead on Tuesday, 19th July, despite the heat — and as always provided a colourful sight for walkers along the Thames towpath. Marlow's Mayor, Richard Scott, accompanied the Swan Uppers on the river from Cookham to Marlow, where he held a reception at the Two Brewers pub. "I was very pleased to join the Swan Marker, David Barber, and the teams of Swan Uppers on their annual Swan Upping," the Mayor said.

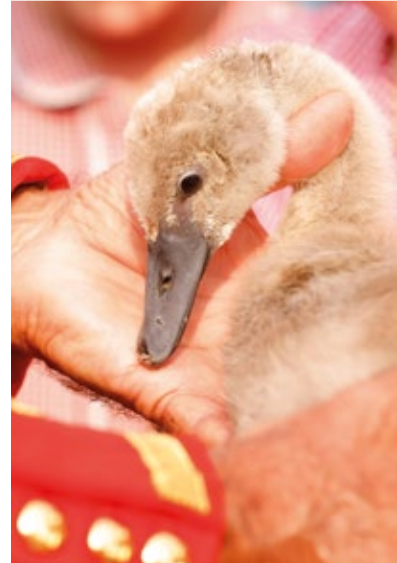
"On the hottest day of the year, they ringed cygnets between Cookham and Marlow as part of the process of checking on the health of swans and cygnets on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen.

"I was also delighted to meet with the Swan Marker the following morning, when he explained the importance of the annual event to children from a number of local schools."

The Royal Swan Uppers wear the scarlet uniform of Her Majesty The Queen and travel in traditional rowing skiffs, together with Swan Uppers from the Vintners' and Dyers' livery companies. Many schools are invited to meet the Swan Uppers on their journey up river, giving the children the opportunity to view cygnets at close quarters and ask questions.

Photos below: (Top left & right) Jon Perry; (Bottom left & right) Paul Merchant, My Marlow. Photos opposite: (Top & bottom left) Paul Merchant, My Marlow; (Bottom middle & right) Jon Perry






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Wildflower Heaven

Burroughs Grove Hill joins wilder verges pilot scheme

Anyone who drives the old road from Marlow to Handy Cross will be familiar with its views over the Thames Valley and its wide grass verges. Fewer will have stopped to look at the verges up close. Yet they are full of nature and getting more so.

This spring, at Marlow Town Council's request, Buckinghamshire Council added this road to its pilot programme for wilder verge management. This means that nature is being prioritised along an additional 8,000 square metres of verge — roughly half the size of Marlow's Seymour Park. The area under new management runs between the turnings to Winchbottom Lane in the north and Pump House Lane North in the south, a distance of about a kilometre.

Previously the verges were left to grow right through the summer months, apart from a safety strip next to the roadway. Now there is a spring cut, taking the energy out of the coarse grasses that would otherwise dominate. This is followed by a late summer cut, after wildflowers have set seed. Also, grass cuttings are now removed from the site. Over time this will progressively reduce

nutrients in the soil. It may seem paradoxical, but low fertility leads to higher diversity, especially of perennials.

There are already many wild flowers living in the Burroughs Grove Hill verges. A survey in mid-July found 34 species in flower, including goat's rue, field scabious, rest-harrow and marjoram. In future there could be even more, potentially including orchids!



Scheme Boosts Walking

Pedestrian usage of Trinity Road quietway is going up and up

The number of people walking along Trinity Road, near Dean Street car park, has steadily increased since it was closed to motor vehicles in 2021.

The data, from Buckinghamshire Council, shows that when places are made safer and nicer for pedestrians, more will use them.



Trinity Road provides a cut-through from the town centre at Dean Street to Wethered Road. Motor vehicles were excluded in April 2021, initially as a coronavirus emergency measure. The scheme was made permanent in March 2022 after locals backed it in a consultation.

Buckinghamshire's graph of pedestrian usage of Trinity Road shows an almost consistent increase, topping 700 per day on average in May, compared with just around 350 per day in March 2021, before the road closure. This suggests that some people are changing habits, perhaps even opting to walk when previously they might have driven.

The road closure has also provided a large new safe area at the top of Trinity Road where parents at Holy Trinity school can wait for their children. Plus, a number of parents who need to drive to school are now parking at Dean Street car park rather than on the congested Wethered Road, and walking up Trinity Road.

A Ray Of Sunshine

Spinfield School in Marlow goes solar!

Spinfield School has become the first primary school in Marlow to install solar panels as part of its commitment to sustainability. The panels will provide up to 50 per cent of its electricity and save the school money in the face of rising energy prices. The savings will be re-invested in other sustainability projects for the benefit of the school and pupils.

The Spinfield School Council led the project with the support of the staff, Governors and parents. The project was possible due to the generosity of local Marlow organisations Transition Town Marlow, Marlow Environmental Trust, Marlow Energy Group and the Marlow Round Table, as well as generous grants from the South West Chilterns Community Board of Buckinghamshire Council and the Shanly Foundation.

The school community also raised over £3,000 towards the project through a solar relay race and ice cream sale. The installation is taking place as part of a partnership with Solar for Schools, a Community Benefit Society, which supports schools to get more of their energy from the sun and to provide hands-on educational materials and tools to equip children with a solid understanding of sustainable climate adaptation through a focus on STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). This is in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which include building knowledge and capacity to combat climate change.



Headteacher of Spinfield School, Jayne Spreadbury, said: "I'm really pleased that our project 'Solar for Spinfield' was largely driven by Spinfield pupils, led by the School Council. It was their commitment to finding ways to reduce our carbon footprint that made us determined to deliver their vision. We have been a Plastic Free School since 2019 and have committed to becoming net zero — so this project is a major step forward for us."



*Solar for Spinfield is live!
A huge thank you to all
our supporters:*



Community Board
South West
Chilterns

Gold Standard



Naomi Riches reflects on the last ten years since winning gold

Long before I won the gold medal at the London 2012 Paralympic Games at Eton-Dorney, I knew I'd 'struck gold' when I moved to Marlow.



It's really difficult to put into words, but the town, its people, and its strong sense of community has played a vital role in my life for over a decade.

That's, when I was asked: "Where do you want your post

box, Naomi?", my immediate response was: "The big oval one in Marlow High Street of course". It had to be there; it just wouldn't have looked right anywhere else.

Amazingly, it was painted within 36 hours of us crossing the finish line at Dorney... my phone and social media channels were completely flooded with photographs and messages of thanks.

When I woke back home on 12th September 2012 and saw it with my own eyes, in the middle of Marlow High Street, shining gold in my honour, I was overwhelmed and so, so proud. For me, it doesn't just represent that moment at those games; it's more about a sense of really belonging to the town of Marlow.

Ten years on, watching the workmen carefully apply a fresh coat of paint the other day brought a big smile to my face - and it reinforced my feelings about what I consider to be my hometown.

Of course, an awful lot has happened in ten years. Establishing a new Guinness World Record for sculling the navigable length of the Thames to raise money for the charity IN-vision - for which I am delighted to be Patron - was more than a bit of a high point, and I'm particularly proud to be a Trustee of the much-appreciated 'Meals for Marlow' initiative. I am part of the project team for The Marlow RowAbility charity and I am honoured to be one of the Patrons for Marlow Sports Club - alongside legends like Sir Andrew Strauss, Alex Danson MBE, and our local hero Tom Kerridge.

It's vital for me to give back to the town that has given me so much. Without doubt, Marlow has helped me to

grow as a person in all sorts of ways, and in my latest incarnation I am thrilled to be helping people to unlock their own true potential, and to be the very best that they can be.

Thanks Marlow — here's to another ten 'golden' years.

Naomi Riches





Million Meter Madness

One man's 1,000km World Record attempt for Marlow RowAbility

It takes someone pretty remarkable to take on a physical challenge that requires multiple days of strenuous effort... but someone even more extraordinary, perhaps slightly mad, to want to do it more than once.

In 2021, Graeme Gordon, past Master of the Chartered Accountants' of England and Wales Livery Company ran, cycled, then rowed the River Thames from Lechlade to Tower Bridge over five days, raising money for five charities. Unsatisfied with this remarkable achievement, he is now training to complete a million metres on the rowing machine in September. Completing this in under six days, 14 hours and 29 minutes will earn him the Concept2™ "Individual Million Meters Record", a world record in the 60-69 age category.



But why? Marlow RowAbility is a local charity seeking to raise £200,000 to make Marlow Rowing Club's hard-standing and boat storage areas safe and accessible for all club members, regardless of their abilities or disabilities, as well as making it more attractive from the river.

You may recall the devastating fire that destroyed Marlow's clubhouse in 2011. In 2014, the club rose phoenix-like from the ashes to reopen as a state-of-the-art water sports hub. At the time, funds did not stretch to development of the space outside, leaving substantial areas in need of further works. Delivering external facilities that match the standard of those inside the clubhouse is vital for everyone's safety and to remain accessible and inclusive.

When Graeme Gordon joined the club in 2019 to train for his 2021 "Source 2 City" row, he soon came to appreciate the great strength of the Marlow rowing community and their passion to make the sport accessible.

He said: "I fully appreciate the positive impact of physical activity, no matter what a person's ability, personal goals or limitations. Helping Marlow RowAbility to achieve their £200k target is so important to me; it will allow many more people to enjoy equal opportunities to access the river safely."

Graeme will take on the Concept2™ "Individual Million Meters Record" attempt between 11th and 17th September 2022.

If nothing else, a training programme averaging 100km a week on the ergo (which he completes alone in the club gym for 99 per cent of the time) proves two things: first, he is totally committed to the attempt — and second, that he is perhaps a little bonkers.

Please read more about the project's aims and support Graeme and Marlow RowAbility by donating generously here: <https://rowability.marlowrowingclub.org.uk/rowability-events/million-meter-madness/>





We Discover, We Grow

Girlguiding in Marlow is looking for adult volunteers

Girlguiding in Marlow has been offering fun sessions to girls aged 5-18 years for over 100 years. Even the pandemic didn't stop us as we continued with our fun activities over zoom, via activity parcels delivered by our volunteer leaders and, when we were able, with socially distanced meetings. Activities included making mug cakes, scavenger hunts and even getting together virtually with guiding friends for a virtual sleepover! The girls enjoyed their meetings despite the need to stay at home – one parent said “...thank you again for doing such great Guiding ZOOM, and for putting together a 'live' programme for the girls.”



Recently girls have been on hikes, learnt about and discovered safe places in our community, had a sleepover, cooked their dinner on open fires, built emergency shelters, been boating and helped in our community and that is just a few of their activities!

Despite the restrictions of the pandemic, our units are full and we have a waiting list of girls wanting to join in the fun they can have by being a member of Girlguiding



in Marlow. We are looking for adult volunteers to join our team so that more girls can get involved with numerous activities and learn skills for life. Volunteering with us isn't just about campfires and helping girls to get their next badge - although those are special moments that we all share. It's about empowering girls and giving them new experiences. It's being a role model and helping girls to realise their full potential. It's sharing and developing your skills.

At the heart of guiding are the unit meetings that girls go along to each week. Volunteering at unit meetings means getting messy, meeting new people and running activities that help girls discover their potential. You'll volunteer directly with young people as part of a team and can choose the age group you would like to work with. Unit meetings are usually an hour and a half once a week although there may also be some planning and preparation to do before the meeting. Being a leader is perfect if you would like to:

Support girls on a regular basis and see them grow.

Get stuck into adventurous (and often messy!) activities.

Have a rewarding role where you'll develop great relationships with girls and volunteers.

We are also looking for people to work in the background. These roles could include being a unit treasurer, helping us to take care of our Guide Centre in Marlow and helping to promote Guiding locally. Whatever time you can give us there is a role in Guiding in Marlow for you.

Please get in touch for further information at marlowdistrictgg@gmail.com or register your interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk

Marlow Museum

Volunteers urgently needed

We're asking for:

- A minimum commitment of four hours per month.
- No special knowledge or skills, just over 18.
- People who enjoy talking to others.

We offer you:

- A friendly group of like-minded people.
- Learning about local history.
- Socials and events.

marlow
museum

Court Garden, Pound Lane, Marlow SL7 2AE.
For more information, call Barbara on **01628 523444** or email **contact@marlowmuseum.org**.



Santa's Fun Run 2022

Event website now open to entrants. Book early and save money

With the end of summer on the horizon, the Rotary Clubs of Marlow have announced that the website is now open to runners (and walkers) who wish to take part in the 18th Annual Marlow Santa's Fun Run held on Sunday, 4th of December at 9.30am. Entrants usually congregate at Higginson Park from 8am on the day.

This year there are three significant changes:

- Entrants booking before 17th November will be charged £15 for each adult and £7.50 for each young person (aged 5-17 years). Under 5s are free. The entry price thereafter increases to £20 per adult and £10 for each young person. For entries made after 17th November, Santa Suits can only be collected on the event day.
- The "Charity Pool" is set at a record £8,000. Any team entering that raises £50 for a favourite charity can secure an additional £50 for the charity (terms apply). If the team raises over £500, the chosen charity should qualify for a share of the remaining Charity Pool balance (terms apply). The Charity Pool has been made possible due to the fantastic generosity of local organisations The Shanly Foundation, Softcat, The Clare Foundation, The Heart Of Bucks Foundation and Community Impact Bucks.
- A "Carbon Offset" initiative will be introduced. All funds received via the Donate button on the event website will be directed towards incremental tree planting in the South Bucks area.

The event is ideal for families, friends, companies, clubs, schools, PTAs, Guide and Scout Groups etc. And of course, any charity team. Businesses in particular may choose to use the event to raise funds for their own in-house charity.

For the fourth consecutive year The Shanly Foundation takes on the role of lead sponsor, and this year the organisers are also delighted to announce that local company Softcat will be a core sponsor. A wide range of other sponsors also support this great event.

The website is now open, and fully explains all of the changes made. Entries can now be made at **www.santasfunrun.org**

All three Rotary Clubs in Marlow are involved in running the event. Marlow Rotary Club President, Chris Kelsey, says: "On Sunday, 4th December we want the course to be a sea of red Santas. We want to create a fantastic fun weekend that includes teams from local businesses, schools, churches, charities, scout and guide groups, families, neighbourhoods, clubs – all running or walking for a great cause. Come and join us!"

This year the two lead charities are One Can Trust and Marlow United Charities.

Marlow Music Makers

Choir makes it back!

As the threat from the Covid 19 pandemic receded, Marlow Music Makers Choir started weekly rehearsals on 7th September last year and held a concert in May. This was a departure from its long-established practice of choosing July for its summer concerts. In addition, the Choir changed from performing on three consecutive evenings to evening concerts, on 19th and 21st May, with a matinee on 21st May.

Happily, the Choir was able to return to its popular venue, Marlow's United Reformed Church, for its rehearsals and concerts.

Choir members, greatly enthused at being able to sing together once again after the long Covid break, enjoyed performing a programme of popular songs spanning several decades, compiled by their Musical Director, Barbara Whitehead. The audience reactions were also positive, particularly when the Choir sang some well-loved numbers such as 'Unchained Melody' and a medley from the hit musical show 'My Fair Lady'. As has happened at every concert since the Choir was established way back in 2009, James Church wowed the audience with his superlative performance on the church's grand piano.



Photo: the Choir at the United Reformed Church on 19th May 2022

Marlow Music Makers are now looking forward to their Christmas concert which will be held in the United Reformed Church in Oxford Road, Marlow on Friday, 2nd December at 7.30 pm and on Saturday, 3rd December at 3pm and 7.30 pm.

Anyone who is interested in joining the Choir can get more information by telephoning the Choir's MD Barbara Whitehead on **01628 484937**.

All Saints' Marlow

Sunday afternoon concert series at the church

This year's Autumn Concert Series begins on Sunday, 11th September at 3pm with the brilliant cellist, Nicola Tait Baxter, accompanied by distinguished pianist Mina Miletić. Further concerts will follow every Sunday afternoon until 30th October, all starting at 3pm. Concerts will last about an hour, after which tea and cake will be served in the church, giving an opportunity to mingle with performers and other audience members.

This is a wonderful way to spend a relaxed Sunday afternoon

This is a wonderful way to spend a relaxed Sunday afternoon, giving an opportunity to listen to music which is familiar and be introduced to less well-known composers. Entry to all concerts is free, with a retiring collection to defray expenses.

The concert on 11th September is in aid of All Saints' Marlow Music Trust, a charity set up in 2012 to enhance, safeguard and sustain the church's strong musical tradition. It has been fortunate to receive on-going support both from interested individuals and companies, as well as from concerts, and has established a very successful Choral and Organ Scholarship scheme. For more information, please go to our website: **4u-team.org/churches/all-saints-marlow/music-trust**.

In addition to this autumn series, we run a summer series of Sunday afternoon concerts and a Friday lunchtime series in May and June, offering a wide range of styles and instruments. As well as welcoming very able musicians from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and renowned professionals from further afield, we also promote many talented local individuals and groups. We are fortunate to have an excellent Yamaha grand piano, and one of the finest pipe organs in Buckinghamshire. For more information, please go to **www.4u-team.org**, or to sign up to our mailing list, send a request to **Rhidian.jones@4u-team.org**.



Marlow u3a

Life-changing opportunities offered by Marlow group



U3a is an exciting and unique movement which provides life-enhancing and life-changing opportunities for people who are no longer in full-time employment. Celebrating 40 years in the UK and running for 16 years in Marlow, u3a was previously known as the University of the Third Age. People come together not for qualifications but for u3a's own reward - the joy of discovery. All groups are self-help - learners teach and teachers learn. By sharing knowledge, skills and experience, we learn from each other.

There are currently over 70 groups including:

- Art
- Beading & Jewellery
- Bridge (at various levels)
- Canasta
- Card Making
- Days Out
- Discussion Group
- Engineering, Technology & Transport (ETT)
- Family History
- Languages (French, German, Italian, Spanish)
- Lunching
- Mahjong
- Members on Their Own (MOTO)
- Music Appreciation
- Singing
- Walking - from Strolling to 10+ miles

It's not all about learning, however. It also provides the opportunity to socialise with like-minded people in a safe and secure environment, while enjoying a wide range of activities and making new friends. Most activities are arranged in small- to medium-sized groups which meet regularly. In addition, there is a monthly meeting with a speaker, which is held in Liston Hall and is open to all members. We have had many interesting talks including, most recently, Bill Hamilton, the ex-TV news and sports journalist; Susanna Beard, a local author of psychological thrillers; and Sarah Slater, a white badge guide from Hampton Court Palace talking about ghosts! Recent days out visits have included a trip to the Tulip Festival in Arundel and one to the Superbloom at the Tower of London. Visits are usually by coach with a number of pick-up places in Marlow.

New members are always welcome. If you're interested in joining Marlow & District u3a, contact our Membership Secretary, Barbara Lawrence, on **01628 486734** or via email **membership@marlowu3a.co.uk**. Or why not visit our website at **u3asites.org.uk/marlowhome** where you'll find more information about us.

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the marlovian

all your news from the community



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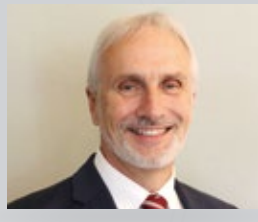


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