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Winter 2021



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all your news from the community



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Child Arrangements over the Christmas period

Christmas is a very special time of year and for most people it is about spending quality time with family. However, for separated parents and children alike, the festive season can be marred by bitter disputes over contact and how a child's time should be divided over the holiday period. What should be a happy and child focused time often becomes stressful and upsetting for all involved, including the child.

For some, child arrangements are predetermined by the Court. It is quite common for such agreements to set out exactly which days a child will spend with each parent during the Christmas holidays. There is no hard and fast rule in determining a dispute in respect of a child's time during special occasions, but the Court would expect the holidays to be shared fairly and with the children's best interests as the paramount consideration.

It is extremely important for both parents to acknowledge the detrimental impact contact disputes can have on the child(ren) and to remain mindful of the fact that the child's welfare and happiness should be at the forefront of any arrangements concerning their care.

Lucinda Holliday, from the Family and Divorce team at Blaser Mills Law offers some guidance to help you work towards resolving these issues in an amicable and constructive manner.

- 1. Communicate:** Communication between the parties is the key to successfully managing all children arrangements. If direct communication is impossible in situations where the parties' relationship has completely broken down or an Injunctive Order is in place preventing contact, we would suggest contacting a solicitor who can facilitate contact between parties and assist in agreeing arrangements formally.
- 2. Compromise:** Contact arrangements are largely going to result in one parent feeling disappointed in some way or another as quite naturally, both will want to spend as much time with the child as possible. Approaching these types of issues and entering into discussions on the basis you are prepared to compromise will usually result in the most fruitful negotiations and an agreement being reached amicably and expeditiously.
- 3. Plan ahead:** Christmas is an extremely busy time and so it can only be to all parties' benefit to have clear and defined arrangements in place at an early stage. This will also allow sufficient time to consult legal advice and assistance where necessary.
- 4. Stick to the agreement reached:** It is important to respect and abide by the arrangements that are put in place, not only to provide stability and consistency for the child, but also to demonstrate a responsibility to the other parent by recognising that their time with the child is just as important as your own. This will also help to encourage an amicable relationship and give each parent confidence in the other at being able to work together to co-parent despite separation.

If the child arrangements cannot be agreed you may have to seek help of a solicitor, an independent mediator or even the Court.

How Blaser Mills Law can help

If you are a separated parent who is facing these difficulties and would like further advice and assistance regarding Christmas contact or child arrangements generally, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Lucinda on:

ljmh@blasermills.co.uk or call **020 3814 2020**.



About Lucinda

Lucinda lives in Marlow, Buckinghamshire and is currently located in our new Marlow office, based in Liston Court.

She loves to keep active by running, swimming and paddle boarding with her dog in the Thames!

Lucinda is also divorced so can really resonate with her clients and offer first hand advice.



Mayor's Message

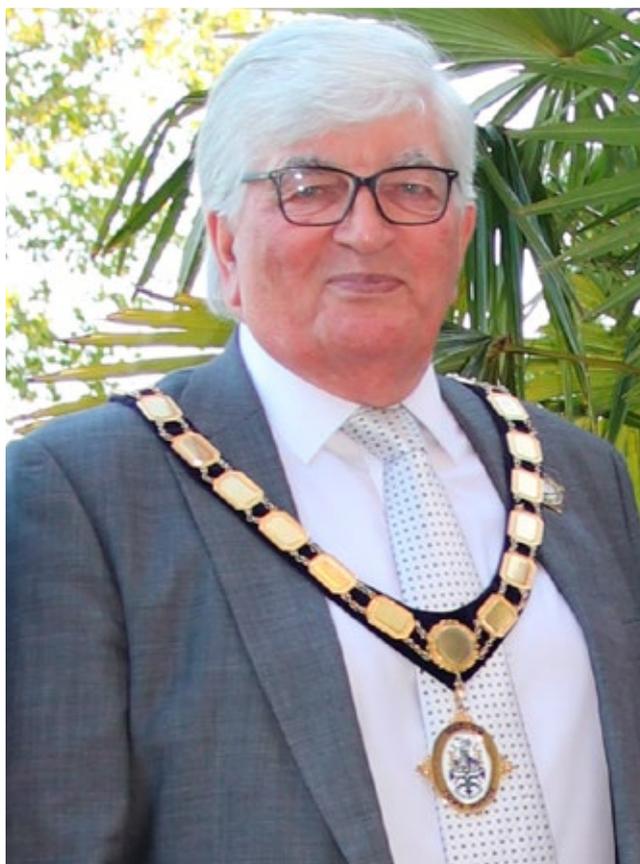
The festive season has started!

On Thursday, 25th November our dazzling display of Christmas lights was switched on by Chris Evans, Virgin Radio DJ and a local resident. You may recall that Chris also switched our lights on in 2020, but virtually at 3.00 am – the video of this went viral around the world! The Town Council is very grateful to Chris for his time and our thanks also go to the many sponsors who support our lights financially.

Continuing in the Christmas spirit, please join me and other councillors around the Christmas tree on The Causeway at 6.30 pm on Monday 20th December for Carols on The Causeway. Everyone is welcome to attend and further details are available on the Council's website.

Some relaxation of Covid restrictions has taken place and our town is starting to get a more normal feel. Our shops, restaurants and other businesses are attracting residents and visitors back, but the wearing of masks and sanitisation is still recommended.

A reduction of the restrictions has enabled me to attend more activities that our local organisations and clubs provide for their members and other residents. In recent weeks, I dropped in on the Marlow Poppy Group making



their poppies, which adorned Higginson park railings leading up to Remembrance; attended the annual Remembrance Day services in Marlow and our French twin town, Marly le Roi; visited Mrs Meg Saint when she celebrated her 100th birthday; opened the URC Church Walk of Life garden; launched A Taste of Democracy at Sandygate School; and presented a prize to the winner of the Marlow Energy Group photographic competition. My diary is now filling up with more local events for the start of 2022 and I look forward to attending these in person, rather than virtually.

On behalf of the Council, may I wish you and your families our best wishes for a very peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year

Recently, Marlow Town Council has reviewed its committee structure – further details can be found on our website. The changes, using external professional advice when appropriate, will ensure that the Council serves the changing needs of residents in the key areas of responsibility - Environment, Sustainability and Wellbeing, Civic and Community, Planning and Resources. Residents are welcome to attend any of these meetings and indeed, the full Council meetings.

I have nominated **Thames Hospice** as my charity. The organisation provides world-class palliative, end-of-life care and support to people aged 16 and over across East Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire, including Marlow. My main fundraising event will be the Mayor's golf day, which is being held at Harleyford Golf Club on 12 April 2022. Due to Covid, all charities have seen reduced income, so if you would like to contribute to my charity, please contact the Town Council office.

On behalf of the Council, may I wish you and your families our best wishes for a very peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cllr Richard Scott
Marlow Town Mayor

Town Council News

Winter 2021



Grounds maintenance

Even though the growing season has come to an end, grounds maintenance work is still taking place around the town.

Oaktree Road footpath has had extensive work to repair the broken and uneven surface.

Riley Park recreation ground has had several sections of the play area surface completely replaced ahead of the winter to improve the safety for those playing there.



Wildflower planting

Following the success of wildflower planting around the town this spring, the Council has agreed to continue the scheme in summer 2022. Three additional areas will be planted; on the junction of Oxford Road and Barnards Hill, Gossmore Lane and the Wycombe Road Junction with Wiltshire Road. Our thanks to Wild Marlow for their guidance and support in this project.

Safe solution to cigarette butt litter

Thanks to Marlow Town Council, Buckinghamshire Council and the Marlow Wombles, a special new cigarette bin has been installed in Marlow High Street to encourage smokers to bin their butts rather than litter the pavements. Smokers can stub their cigarettes out on top and safely dispose of the stubs in the bin, which takes ordinary litter as well. Situated between the benches in the High Street, the new bin is being trialled for six weeks. If it is a success more will be installed.

Deputy Mayor, Jocelyn Towns said: "We hope to see a decrease in butts on the ground in the town centre.

Smokers often say they don't want to put their cigarette butts in the bin in case they set fire to it, so this bin has been designed to solve the problem."

Marlow Town Council has paid for the bin from former Town Councillor Suzanne Brown's ward budget.



MVAS (Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign)

The Council has three MVAS devices which you may have seen around the town. The machines are used to gather data on traffic speeds which is shared with Buckinghamshire Highways and the Police. Any residents who have concerns about traffic speeds and have suggestions for locations are welcome to contact the office at office@marlow-tc.gov.uk.

Electric charging trial and hire car

The On-Street Residential Induction Charger (OSRIC – www.osric.co.uk) demonstrator offers a hire car to local residents in Marlow so they can test the latest wireless charging technology for electric vehicles (EVs) and also gain experience of driving an EV.

Buckinghamshire Council is trialling the innovative induction wireless charging pad, which is set into the ground. The trial will help assess solutions to EV charging that avoid potential trip hazards and a clutter of wires. The pad will only be activated when an electric car (installed with the specialised induction pad) parks over it.

An adapted Renault Zoe electric vehicle is available for hire using hire car company HiyaCar, so that residents

can try it out and become familiar with how to charge it using the wireless pad. It can also be charged using a standard cable connection if driven away from the wireless pad. The car is located in Liston Court car park, and you can book it here www.hiyacar.co.uk.

Marlow's War Memorial restored

The War Memorial at The Causeway in Marlow has been the subject of extensive conservation, cleaning and remedial works in recent weeks, and is now back to pristine condition. The works, carried out by Cliveden Conservation, included repointing of the stone elements, resetting some loose stone at the steps, lime mortar repairs and removal of green staining. The bronze elements were cleaned, polished and waxed. The work was timed to be completed ahead of Remembrance Sunday.

Mayor, Richard Scott said "It's wonderful to see the War Memorial restored to its original glory."

Long service

At the November meeting of the Council Jan Bailey was presented with flowers, champagne and vouchers by the Mayor Richard Scott in celebration of her 20 years' service to the Council. Mayor Scott thanked Jan for her outstanding service to the Council and her significant contribution to organising key events in the town including the recent Remembrance Service.





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#sustainablemarlow

Welcome improvement in Marlow's air quality

Air quality in Marlow town centre improved significantly in 2020, data has shown. In fact, the reduction was so big that for the first time in at least a decade no illegal nitrogen dioxide pollution was recorded.

The fall is very welcome, but was most likely a result of much lower traffic levels during the first coronavirus lockdown in spring 2020. Over the whole year peak nitrogen dioxide was down 25%, but at the height of the spring lockdown it was down by over half.

So the challenge now is to prevent nitrogen dioxide from returning to pre-pandemic levels and instead to keep driving it down. The town centre was made an Air Quality Management Area in 2017 because of high nitrogen dioxide.

Marlow Town Council reiterates its call to all residents to use active travel rather than a car for trips to the town centre when possible, to avoid accelerating hard when driving in the town centre, and when switching to a new vehicle to choose a less polluting type such as an electric car.

Meanwhile, Buckinghamshire Council is continuing with a government-funded project to look at new actions it could take to ameliorate Marlow's nitrogen dioxide problem. We will report further on this in future editions.

Marlow Town Council reiterates its call to all residents to use active travel rather than a car for trips to the town centre when possible



Highest nitrogen dioxide level in Marlow



Marlow Energy Group

'Green Shoots' photo competition results

Marlow Energy Group's 'Green Shoots' competition for photos that best demonstrate improvements to the environment around Marlow was won by Verity West, a leading member of local volunteer group Wild Marlow. A cheque for £50 was presented by Marlow Town Mayor, Cllr Richard Scott.

The photos chosen in second, third and fourth places received a cheque for £35, a £20 voucher from Saddle Safari and a £20 voucher from FourState respectively.

The Marlow Energy Group (MEG) was delighted to receive so many entries from people who care about the local environment.

MEG strongly supports Marlow Town Council's #sustainablemarlow programme of support for environmental improvement projects and engagement with the community on environmental issues.

In addition, MEG is devoted to helping Marlow reach net carbon zero by 2030. To learn more, go to our website www.marlowenergygroup.com.



Photo: (left to right) Verity West, Mayor Richard Scott and John Laker

Marlow Carnival

The event returns with new 'Green Village'

On Saturday, 11th September the Marlow Carnival returned to Higginson Park after a two-year break.

For the first time this year's Carnival included a special 'Green Village' of stands featuring local environmental groups and initiatives.

Marlow Town Council took part in the Green Village to highlight its Sustainable Marlow programme and other environmental work and to hear the views of residents. The stand presented information on the Council's Carbon Audit, the Marlow Environmental Performance Index and the recent Marlow Eco-Schools Conference. There was also an interactive poster enabling residents to use stickers to indicate what they already do and what they could do in future to help combat climate change.

Jocelyn Towns, Chairman of the Council's Environment and Sustainability Committee, said: "It was great to have the Carnival back this year, and there was a great atmosphere in the Green Village. It was good to see so many groups taking part and the strong engagement of residents and visitors alike. Thank you to the organisers for seeing the value in this great initiative."



Photo: (left to right) Deputy Mayor Jocelyn Towns, Mayor Richard Scott and Cllr Colleen Stapley. Photo credit: Jon Perry

Christmas Switch-On

Marlow celebrates a live Switch On with Chris Evans

It seemed the whole of Marlow turned out for the Christmas Switch On on Thursday, 25th November, as Chris Evans, radio presenter and local resident, flicked the switch from the top of the double-decker bus in the High Street.

The crowds roared and cheered when Marlow's beautiful lights display was illuminated, while 'snow' fell and street entertainers performed. Children marvelled at the huge, twinkling Christmas tree on The Causeway as the lights came on.

"Marlow is the best place in the world!" Chris Evans said, recalling last year's event, when he was filmed secretly turning on the lights in the middle of the night due to Covid restrictions.

Chris led an 'official world record-breaking countdown' from 100 before turning on the lights, and paid tribute to Marlow community policeman Robin Hughes, who is due to retire in December after 21 years of service in the town. Mayor Richard Scott wished everyone a Happy and safe Christmas and thanked all the sponsors. "Without sponsors, our very special Christmas lights wouldn't be possible," he said. "Thank you for your generosity once again."

Part-funding for this event was provided by the Government's 'Welcome Back Fund' from Buckinghamshire Council — European Regional



Development Fund money that has been allocated to Buckinghamshire Council and runs up to 31 March 2022. The fund is being used to encourage visitors back to high streets across Buckinghamshire.



Christmas Switch-On continued <<



» Christmas Switch On continued




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Carols On The Causeway

This much-loved event is back again this year



Marlow Town Band will be playing all the favourite carols for you around the town's beautiful Christmas tree from 6.30pm on Monday, 20th December. Join the Mayor, Councillors and officers of the Town Council to celebrate the festive season. Free mulled wine generously donated by The George and Dragon and mince pies provided by Sainsbury's will be available. There will also be free soft fruit drinks for children. All whilst stocks last!

Father Christmas will be in his cosy grotto at The Causeway from 6pm waiting to see his young visitors and will be giving out Christmas chocolates and a surprise gift from Marlow Town Council.

So do come along and join in the fun.



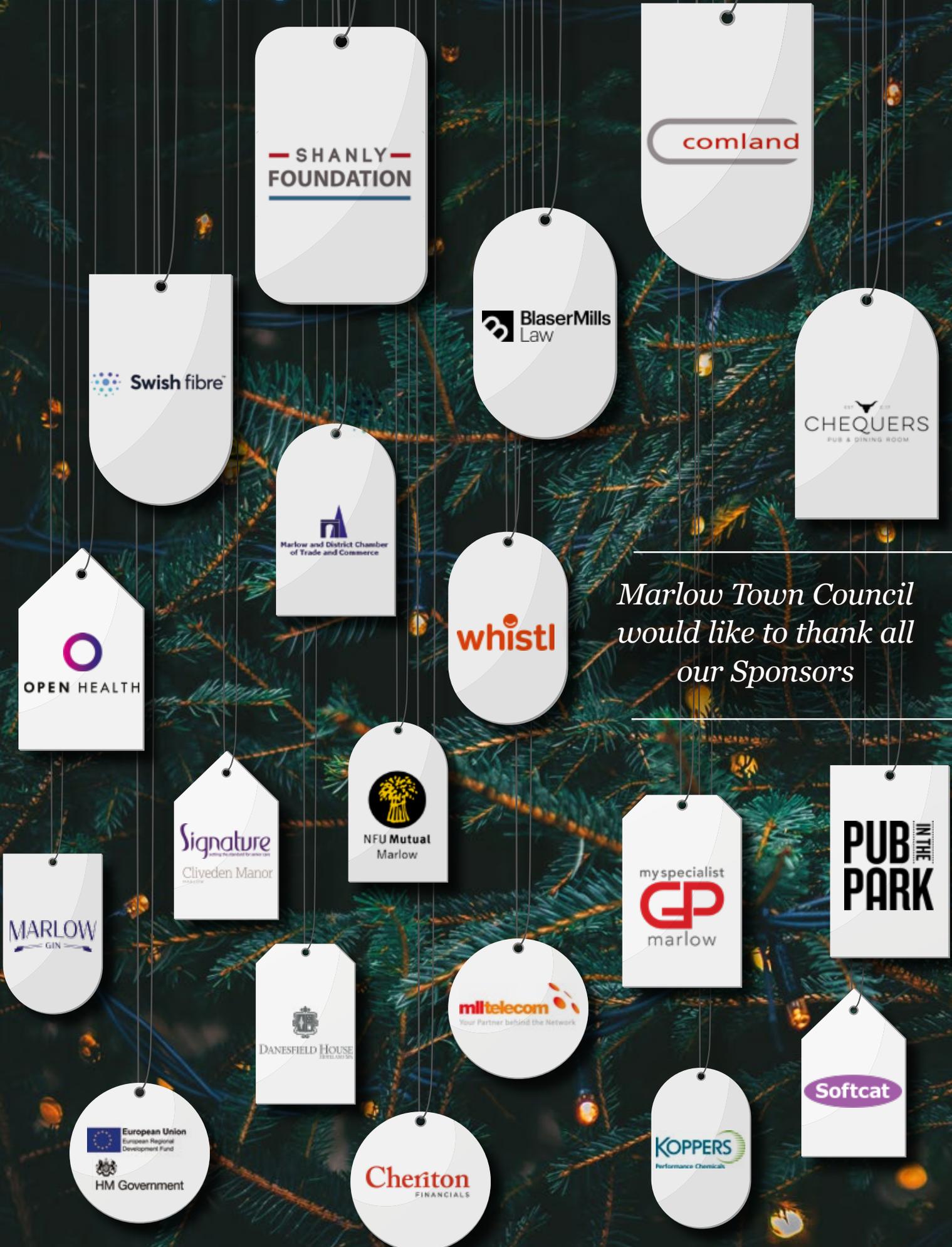
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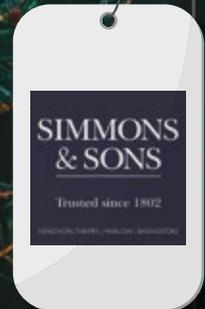
» Christmas Lights Sponsors



Marlow Town Council would like to thank all our Sponsors



for their wonderful support of the Christmas Lights.



Tree Of Hope

Dedicate messages to loved ones and donate to local charities



- **Following last year's success – raising around £1000 for local charities, the 2021 Tree of Hope initiative is again launched by Marlow Thames Rotary Club working in conjunction with Marlow Town Council**
- **As in 2020 it offers an online opportunity to dedicate a message to a loved one, and to make a small donation to some local charities**
- **Every message will result in an actual dedication being placed on the real 'Tree of Hope' – situated close to the war memorial in Marlow.**
- **Donations help support three great local charities - just as we draw close to Xmas**

The challenges of creating the true Christmas spirit as we recover from the worst of the pandemic are very real. In 2020 **Marlow Thames Rotary Club** sought to fill some of these gaps, working closely with Marlow Town Council, and turned the “umbrella” tree (by the war memorial on The Causeway) into both a real and an online “**Tree of Hope**”. Around £1000 in online donations were received – so the organisers have decided to do it all over again.

Launched on 5th November, a specially created website page allows members of the public to dedicate a message to loved ones on a “virtual” **Tree of Hope** (anonymously if they wish) – and at the same time offer a donation to a small selection of local charities. Then, if the donor so wishes, members of Marlow Thames Rotary Club will decorate the real “**Tree of Hope**” with dedication tags and lights. All creating an attractive and interesting centre point which builds as we approach Christmas Day.

For 2021 the charities chosen are:

- **The Marlow Mayor's charity (Thames Hospice in Maidenhead)**
- **Marlow Opportunity Playgroup**
- **Young Adult Carers Bucks**

Marlow Town Mayor Richard Scott says: “This fantastic idea was a great success in lock down 2020. I am really pleased that the Marlow Thames Rotary Club are repeating the effort, and I urge all those connected with our Town to join together to ensure they make an expression of goodwill. This would really make a difference to some very deserving good causes.”

Steve Berry, President of Marlow Thames Rotary Club says: “We were very pleasantly surprised by the response in 2020, and this idea seems to fit very much with the times we live in. It combines a real tree in the

centre of Marlow – lit up for Xmas – with an online messaging and giving opportunity. The costs have been borne entirely by the Marlow Thames Rotary Club – so every single penny raised goes straight through to the selected charities. We really hope that members of the public will support us in adding some brightness to these rather gloomy days”.

Go to the **Tree of Hope** web page (hosted by “VisuFund”) on: visufund.com/christmas-tree-of-hope-2021 and simply “**Donate**”



To find out more go to “**About**” using this QR code.

At the end of December full details of the sums raised will be published, but of course individual donor details will be withheld.



Photo: (Top, then left to right) The online version of the Tree of Hope, Marlow Mayor Richard Scott with Irving Lomon and Roger Smith both from Marlow Thames Rotary Club, The real Tree of Hope near the war memorial

Walk Of Life

Inauguration of Marlow's new commemorative pathway



Marlow now has a new accessible public space, and a place to commemorate loved ones or mark significant life events in a lasting way, both thanks to Christ Church United Reformed Church and its 'Walk of Life' project.

The Walk of Life was opened by Councillor Richard Scott, Mayor of Marlow, on 4th November. It is a brick-paved pathway, fully accessible to buggies and wheelchairs, that takes you into the church garden on Oxford Road and leads to a choice of seating including a new picnic bench. Laying the path completes a two-phase project: the first stage involved creating a new entrance direct from the pavement, and installing a water bottle filling station, and this was completed in autumn 2020.



The new path features brick pavers that have been engraved to the specification of groups and individuals wanting to commemorate family members or particular life events. Among them, for example, are bricks remembering someone who was a "lover of walking on the hills", another to "My dad, world's best brickie", and one commemorating former Mayor James Campbell. There are also bricks for weddings and golden weddings, "our NHS and frontline heroes", and a biblical reminder of "Faith, hope, love – greatest is love". Intriguingly, perhaps, there is also a brick for the "Tenerife Tarts Friendship" – an entirely innocent title for a group of local ladies who used to enjoy holidaying together!

At the opening, thanks were expressed by Martin Ashford, project manager for the church, to a number of companies and trusts who contributed to the cost of the work. They include Marlow firm Blue Sky Intermodal and local group Red Kite Community Housing, as well as the three Rotary clubs in Marlow and the Town Council. Martin also thanked all those who had sponsored bricks in the path, along with garden designer Tania Taylor of Your Lovely Garden who had provided much help ex-gratia, and Colin and Paul Ludlow of Ludlow Fencing and Landscaping who did the hard work of preparing the ground and laying all the bricks.

Revd David Downing, minister of Christ Church, then prayed for the garden and path, all those who were remembered in it and those who would visit it over the years to come, before Councillor Scott cut the traditional ribbon.

Martin Ashford explains that, while the path has now been laid, there is still an opportunity for Marlovians to have their own engraved brick. These will be added in batches by removing 'plain' pavers and replacing them with freshly engraved ones. Anyone interested can find details of how to apply on leaflets at the garden entrance or online at <http://walkoflife.moonfruit.com>.

The church hopes that the garden, formerly the site of cottages and the original Congregational chapel (built in 1726 and replaced by the current building in 1840), will be much used by the local community and visitors. Now that it is fully accessible to wheelchair users and others with mobility difficulties, it should certainly be a feature of Marlow for years to come.

Photo: Reverend David Downing and Mayor Richard Scott



Remembrance Sunday

Events

Parade and service to honour the Fallen

Marlow Town Council and the Royal British Legion were delighted that this very poignant and moving ceremony to remember the Fallen was able to go ahead on Sunday, 14th November in its usual format this year.

The parade consisted of members of the armed forces, veterans, Royal British Legion, cadets, local organisations, Brownies, Guides and Scouts. It departed from the Royal British Legion Headquarters in Station Approach and arrived at the Memorial on The Causeway led by the always impressive Scots Guards Association Pipe Band.

Canon Rev Dave Bull of All Saints' Church led the Service, with Reverend Sarah Jones of All Saints, Pastor Kenn Baird of Newfield Community Church, and Canon Fr John Udris of St Peter's RC Church with Marlow's Town Band providing the music for the hymns and the two National Anthems.

Town Mayor, Cllr Richard Scott, read a prayer for the Fallen and those who suffer. Cadets from the three cadet units in the town read out the names of the Fallen from the First and Second World Wars and the Afghanistan conflict. Over 40 wreaths were laid during the reading of the names at the memorial.

Lord Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire, The Countess Howe, came on parade at the start of the Service and took the Salute at the end of the Service from the podium near the gold postbox in the High Street.

Mayor Richard Scott said "I was very pleased to have led the Town's remembrance at the first physical commemoration since 2019. I was delighted that so many residents came to pay their respects and take part. I was particularly pleased to be joined by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, The Countess Howe."



Photo credit: (Left to right) Jon Perry



Photo credit: (Left to right) My Marlow / Laura Bradley



Remembrance Sunday continued <<

Photo credit: Jon Perry



Photo credits: (Left) My Marlow / Laura Bradley; (Right) Jon Perry



Photo credit: My Marlow / Paul Merchant

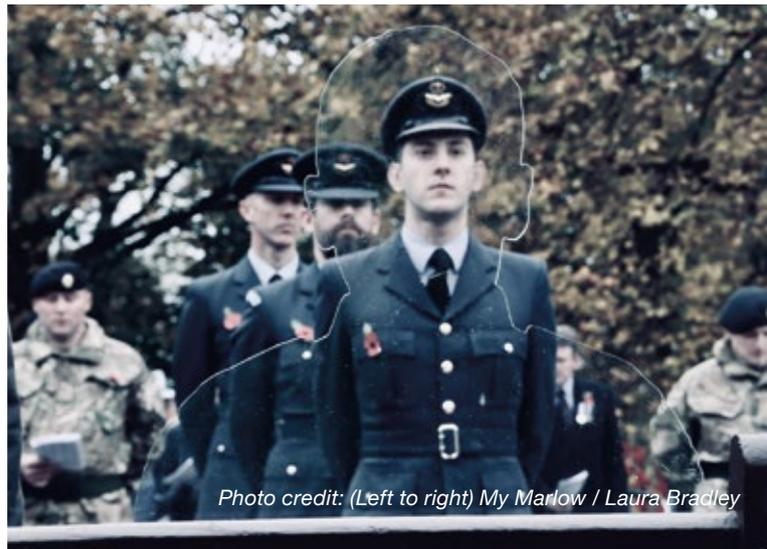


Photo credit: (Left to right) My Marlow / Laura Bradley

Rotary Club Of Marlow

Always helping during lockdown, but looking to the future



Although the last 18 months or so have been extremely difficult for everyone, the Rotary Club of Marlow has managed to keep operating in a very busy way with many Zoom meetings, and also still contributing substantial sums of money to a wide range of local charities including the One Can Food Trust, Wycombe Homeless, Wycombe Women's Aid and Thames Valley Hospice.

During the 'Lockdown' months the Club was very ably led by joint Presidents David Duxbury and Derrick Southon, but at the beginning of July 2021 Harvey Dodgson became the new President for 2021/2022 at a socially distanced handover, and he has many plans for the future of the Club.

Photo: (left to right) Harvey Dodgson and David Duxbury



Rotary International is the largest volunteer organisation in the world, with over 1.2 million members, and with the motto of 'Service Above Self'. The Rotary Club of Marlow has nearly 40 men and women members who always strive to follow that motto, while having great fun, and making many new friends while doing so.

The Town of Marlow is very lucky in having three Rotary clubs, the others being Marlow Thames and Marlow Bridge, whose many members often work together on projects to help benefit the elderly, the young, and the disadvantaged in the local community, or overseas, or wherever they may be.

Over the last few years the Rotary Club of Marlow has been particularly active in supporting projects to defeat Ebola in Liberia, the drive to 'End Plastic Soup' throughout the world, and the work of Mercy Ships which bring medical help to many coastal African countries, as well as the continuing ongoing drive to 'End Polio' in the world.

Although The Rotary Club of Marlow had to cancel nearly all its community projects over the last year or so, the new President, Harvey, is very hopeful that many of these can be started again during his year in office, including the following:

Year - 2021

9/10/2021 Autumn Concert at All Saints Church - with Ascot Brass and a Choir

2/12/2021 Stalls at the Marlow late Night Shopping Event

5/12/2021 The giant Marlow Rotary Santa's Fun Run - jointly organised by the three Rotary Clubs in Marlow

20/12/2021 Assist at the Marlow Mayor's Christmas Carol Concert

Year - 2022

21/1/2022 Annual Bridge Night at Liston Hall, Marlow, with the famous 'Ploughmans & Puds Supper'

12/3/2022 Annual Youth Concert and Choirs by the members of the Chiltern Music Academy

We are so pleased with the great support we get from the local community to support these, and other such events, and for us members they make up just a part of the 'Service Above Self', or 'Giving Something Back' to our lovely Town which makes us want to be a part of the Rotary Club of Marlow

If you are interested to join us, and help us in this good work, or even just be an occasional volunteer on any particular project that interests you, then please come along to any one of our regular meetings, or contact us for more information about the Rotary Club of Marlow, membership, or our future events, by visiting our Facebook pages, www.rotaryclubmarlow.org or contact our Club Secretary Chris Kelsey **01628 471727** email secretary.rotaryclubofmarlow@hotmail.co.uk



Marlow Age Concern

Back in business and looking for new guests and volunteers



Elderly folk in the community seeking a friendly environment will find a warm welcome and good company at the centre in Glade Road. Open four days a week from 10am to 2pm, the centre offers a wholesome home-cooked, two-course lunch for a modest fee, including transport from home.



Age Concern also hosts the Phoenix Stroke Club, which meets weekly, as well as the hospital transport service, offering at-cost car journeys to local medical facilities.



Marlow Age Concern was established nearly 40 years ago to help the older residents in the Greater Marlow area, particularly those confined to their homes (which is more of a problem due to the pandemic). The

organisation provides a safe and happy home from home where guests can be amongst friends, chat, play games or just sit quietly and read.

Please call our co-ordinator Laura on **01628 482883** between 9am and 2pm any day (except Thurs), if you are interested in joining us; also if you are interested in volunteering in any capacity either in the day room, the kitchen or driving the bus, Laura would love to hear from you too!



Email: marlowageconcern@waitrose.com
www.marlowageconcern.org

Transport office **01628 476139** Daily between 10am and 11am.

Centenary Celebration

Marlow resident celebrates her 100th Birthday.

Marlow resident Meg Saint celebrated her 100th birthday on Friday 12th November and received a card from the Queen. Mayor Richard Scott went along to wish her a Happy Birthday in person.

Meg Saint was born on 12th November 1921 in South Wales, where her father was a miner. She grew up near Cheltenham, and in August 1939 she joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve at Staverton Aerodrome. In 1942, Meg was posted to Booker and became Secretary to the C.O. Meg met Trevor Saint at The Chequers pub in Marlow - he was born in Marlow and at the time was a Lancaster Mid Upper Gunner, on leave from RAF Waterbeach. Their friendship blossomed during his Tour; which included the disastrous Nuremberg raid. They married on 14th July 1945, and moved back to Marlow after the war - with Trevor taking over the family tailoring business in London, and Meg worked in the City. Their daughter Jennifer was born in 1951, followed by Catherine and Elizabeth.

Meg then served 25 happy years as Secretary at Foxes Piece Infant School. She became a Governor on retirement and enjoyed hearing children read; including a

little boy called Tyrrell Hatton who told her he played golf!

Meg was a founder member of Marlow Townswomen's Guild, sang in their choir, enjoyed tennis, swimming and keeping fit, and spent 30 years as a volunteer for Riding for the Disabled. She and Trevor belonged to All Saints Church, where he sang in the choir for 60 years.

When she lost Trevor in 2011, Meg moved to Mayorfield House where she set about creating a garden from nothing and has made good many friends. She tootles around town on her scooter often seeing "her children" from School.

Meg has six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren, and is still very active. She belongs to U3A, plays indoor bowls and enjoys church, Age Concern meetings and keeping in touch with family and friends on her "Magic Machine" (iPad!!)

Contributed by *MyMarlow*



Wild Bees

Our helpers in the garden, allotment and field



The Red Mason Bee (Osmia bicornis)

As an allotment gardener of many years, I've always been keen to work with nature and encourage any beastie that's beneficial to my endeavours. The honeybee is, of course, the one we all know and love, until we get stung, which can have serious consequences. But there is a whole world of wild bees, which are less well known. My favourites are the Red Mason Bees. These are gentle, non-aggressive solitary bees that make their nests in hollow spaces rather than in hives. They pollinate much more efficiently and effectively than honeybees and bumblebees, and they happily work alongside their nectar-gathering counterparts. In a nutshell:

- They emerge from cocoons.
- They nest in hollow spaces.
- They don't sting.

Sadly, the number of red mason bees in the wild is declining and they need our help. It is vital to our future that we safeguard their existence.

By creating bee-friendly habitats in our gardens, allotments and green spaces, and by taking an active role in helping bees fight disease and predation, we can begin to help mitigate some of the challenges facing them today. This is how I do it:

Accommodation

No need for a beehive with all the equipment, knowledge, cost, insurance, maintenance, risks etc. involved in



beekeeping. These bees look after themselves. I have assembled a little 'village' of bee hotels on an outdoor table on my plot. In the spring, I obtain cocoons containing bee babies. These are placed in a hatching box and the bees do the rest. Once they are hatched, they fly around pollinating everything in their path; at night they sleep, often near their brood sites to protect them.

They do need a little water, which I provide in a shallow plastic saucer filled with stones and gravel, so that they can walk to the water's edge and drink in comfort. The water also helps them make mud with which they seal their nesting tubes. That's all they need and, of course, a lot of flowering plants to feed them. I add variation to their diet by growing flowers, mainly with single blooms. These are more attractive to bees than double flowers, where it's difficult for them to find the pollen.

When the season comes to an end, they lay eggs in cardboard nesting tubes, which I provide in the bee hotels, and then they disappear. It is quite easy to extract the cocoons from the nesting tubes and clean and store them over the winter. I prefer to let the experts do the job and for that purpose I have become a Mason Bee Guardian (for more information see <https://www.masonbees.co.uk/>). I deliver my egg filled tubes to the people who run this service and they send me clean cocoons in the spring, ready for the new season. Since I started this, my harvest of filled tubes has increased year by year, so satisfying.



A little word of warning

Most are familiar with the concept of the Bee/Insect 'Hotel' made of canes / wood blocks drilled with holes to create nesting places for bees and other garden critters. A nice thought, but there's a big problem for bees that nest in drilled blocks: over time the channels become filled with nasty elements that will threaten the survival of any larvae deposited inside.

Mason bees cannot remove this detritus themselves. If we're serious about improving the bees' welfare, it's vital that we safely clean their nesting spaces each season, which is not possible with canes or drilled wood blocks.

Bee guardianship

I started this years ago by providing just the accommodation, but no solitary bees arrived. So I looked for a supplier and bought a Mason Bee Guardian starter

kit containing nesting material and cocoons of mason bees ready to hatch when the weather allowed. This is how it works:

1. New cocoons and equipment arrive. (March/April).
2. Bees emerge, pollinate, cap nesting tubes. (April-July).
3. Guardians return occupied material. (September-November).
4. BEE-port Cards are issued (December/January).
5. New cocoons and equipment arrive. (March/April).

Did I have to participate?

No! There was no obligation to participate in the cocoon-sharing project with a purchase of a Guardian Kit. Detailed instructions on all steps of the process were provided with the equipment, so I was able to care for their Red Mason bee population at home. But I preferred to leave that to the experts, as they say: "Why bark when you've got a dog?".

The bottom line

Being a mason bee guardian has proved very rewarding, increased pollination and the knowledge that one is contributing to the continued existence of these useful helpers. Win, win, I would say.

Contributed by *Maren Talbot*

Photos courtesy of **MasonBees.co.uk**

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the marlovian

all your news from the community

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- Autumn edition copy deadline - 12th Aug '22 - Delivered - 5th Sept '22
- Winter edition copy deadline - 11th Nov '22 - Delivered - 5th Dec '22

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Fever Pitch

Marlow Hockey Club celebrates a decade of growth since its all-weather pitch was opened

On Thursday, 30th September, Marlow Hockey Club celebrated ten years of the all-weather pitch at their clubhouse. It was opened by Barry Middleton and the then Mayor Jocelyn Towns, who also attended this celebration.

Keith Packer, the current Chairman, updated the club on progress over the last decade and Graham Sweet, former Chairman, cut the celebration cake. The event was attended by past and present players and the current and former Trustees of Marlow Sports Club, who helped deliver and finance the project.

Ten years ago the new pitch was opened with matches against England Men's and Women's Hockey Squads. Graham Sweet, the inspiration and drive behind the whole project, spoke at the opening about the club's "Proud 100 Year History and Exciting Future".

Keith Packer said, "Over the last decade Marlow Hockey Club has certainly delivered an exciting future and an excellent hockey experience for all our members. Thanks

to having our own pitch we have more than doubled our playing membership from 320 to over 700 and we have doubled our senior teams from seven to 14, with seven ladies and seven men's teams. We also have over 550 six to 18-year-old girls and boys training and playing in our junior hockey teams that have won a number of national titles over the last ten years."



Photo: (left to right) Graham Sweet and Keith Pacler

Neil Robertson, Co-Chair of Marlow Sports Club said, "We have been delighted with the growth of membership for all our sports since we purchased the land and invested in new playing facilities. We are proud to be such a strong and successful sports hub for the Marlow area."

Marlow Archaeology Group

Two into one will go

Two local archaeological societies, Archaeology in Marlow and Marlow Archaeological Society, have got together to form the Marlow Archaeology Group.



The first chairman, Peter Borrows, said: "With our combined strengths we can champion archaeology in the community better. Enhanced by links with other societies and the University of Reading, we'll be able to tackle more demanding projects while continuing to make membership attractive".

Both bodies have proud histories of investigating the early history of the Marlow area. This includes helping with the excavation of the Marlow Warlord; charting local Iron Age hillforts; searching for Alfred the Great's elusive defence against the Danes; and mapping the WW1 trenches on Marlow Common. More recently, some members were involved with the recent University of Reading-led investigation at Cookham. This successfully searched for evidence of the nationally important 7th Century Anglo-Saxon royal minster known to have been nearby.

The new group already has a winter programme of talks arranged. The group's website is at www.marlowarch.co.uk and enquiries should be addressed to info@marlowarch.co.uk.



Restaurant Of The Year

Tiger Garden wins the Bangladesh Caterers Association's coveted award

Tiger Garden Restaurant in West Street, Marlow received an award on Sunday, 7th November for "Restaurant of the Year 2021 in the South East Region" by the Bangladesh Caterers Association UK (BCA). The award ceremony was held at the InterContinental London The O2. The award was presented by Sir Keir Starmer to Abdul Rob, who is absolutely thrilled with the achievement, especially during these uncertain times.

BCA is the umbrella organization of approximately 12,000 British-Bangladeshi restaurants and takeaways across



the UK. It was established in 1960 to represent the Bangladeshi Catering Industry. In this award ceremony BCA celebrated their 60 years - Diamond Jubilee Celebration.

The restaurant boasts an outside dining patio area and garden in the warmer months and cosy interior dining all year round. For bookings or enquiries, you can visit www.tigergarden.co.uk

Marlow Sea Cadets

Cadets return and celebrate

In October we celebrated Lieutenant Andy Kingshott and Chairman Bob Savidge, receiving Meritorious Service Awards for services to the Sea Cadets, presented by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire.

Andy volunteers using his qualifications and experience to support the District, Area and National engineering training for Cadets from all over the country, as well as at the Unit where we have a dedicated workshop. Bob has been with the Unit for nearly 20 years in the role of Trustee, Treasurer, buildings manager and fund raiser, and has taken on the added role of Chairman in recent years. Our facilities are recognised as some of the best in the Corps.

The Sea Cadets offers young children aged 9-18, boys and girls in a fully inclusive environment enjoying life changing experiences. Our aim is to develop and train the Cadets to achieve their full potential and confidence. Our training is based on the traditions of the Royal Navy in all things nautical from boating to communications and navigation while having fun. The Cadets can also complete their Duke of Edinburgh Award and take a

number of B-Tec courses. We are now back at the Unit in Wethered Road and we are following all Government Guidelines on Covid.

We are open each Friday evening from 7.15pm to 9.30 pm and invite you to bring along your children and their friends to join us. To find out more, please call Andy Kingshott on **0773 937289** or Bob Savidge on **07946 991573**. We would also welcome adult volunteers for a variety of roles.





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