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Mayor's Message

Winter welcome

agood community is created by its people. We possess the power to make our daily lives joyous or miserable; we can be an instrument of inspiration or a tool of torture; we can humour or humiliate or heal or hurt. Let's be mindful of others and care for those around us as we race towards this festive season. Be joyous, inspiring and healing to those in our lives!

The ever-increasing number of events in Marlow and the wonderful year we have had so far are a testament to Marlow's good fortune. The town is evolving all the time and has an incredibly active community, with dedicated people who are never slow to get involved and make things happen.

I cannot think of a weekend, or a week, that passes by where we do not have major events taking place, with even more being planned. During this last quarter I have been fortunate to have been invited to and hosted so many events, and I've met a huge cross-section of our community. I am still discovering the great activities that happen around the town every day.

I continue to be grateful for those who run and nurture our sports clubs, associations, societies, charitable organisations, churches, Guiding and Scouting movements, cadets from the three services and many other members' clubs which create this environment for growth and success.

On behalf of the entire Marlow Town Council team I look forward to seeing you out and about and enjoying this festive season together. Don't forget to come and chat to us and ask us about the things that matter to you.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Cllr Chris Funnell Marlow Town Mayor

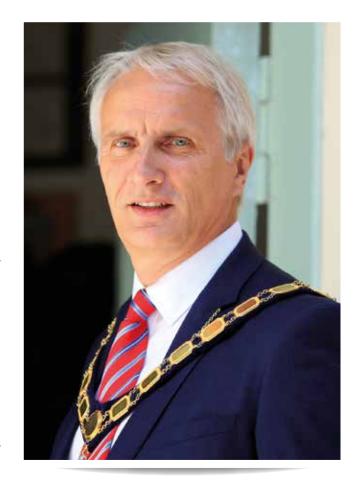
"Let's be mindful of others and care for those around us as we race towards this festive season. Be joyous, inspiring and healing to those in our lives!"



"I am still discovering the great activities that happen around the town every day."

For my charitable cause this year I am raising funds to support Marlow's schools, teachers and helpers with the huge challenge created by the increasing number of children and teenagers struggling with mental health issues. We are making good headway and I'd like to thank all those who have generously contributed so far to this evolving vision.

We will continue to raise funds to empower and support teachers and other child professionals in Marlow schools. I would be grateful if you could find a way to contribute. Please send donations to the Mayor's charity account sort code 30-95-36, account number 03635900 or contact Jan Bailey in the Town Council office: jan@marlow-tc.gov.uk



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Town Council News

Winter 2018

Refuge at The Causeway ____

The Causeway, outside Burgers, in a scheme initiated and funded by the Town Council with additional funding from the Local Area Forum (LAF) has had a pedestrian refuge installed. This is the first phase of the project. The second phase, to remove the adjacent parking spaces and complete a dropped kerb, will be carried out later in the year.

Mayor Chris Funnell welcomed the news that the crossing has been installed, commenting: "I'm delighted that after a long campaign to push for this project to get going, the refuge on The Causeway is now finally being started. Safety is our first priority and we need to ensure that everyone, particularly the disabled, young people and the elderly, have a safe way of crossing the road to get to the park. The new refuge will also act as a visual signal to drivers to be vigilant in that area."

Defibrillators Installed in Phone Boxes ____

In 2012, the British Coatings Federation (BCF) partnered with BT and the Community HeartBeat Trust in a nationwide scheme to install life-saving defibrillators in rural phone boxes. Over the next five years, they aim to encourage the UK's rural communities to install a defibrillator in their local phone box, with the objective of creating a national network of 2,500 defibrillators.

Cllr Richard Scott, Cllr Roger Wilson, Cllr Suzanne Brown, and Cllr Alex Collingwood have allocated from their ward budgets to the decommissioning of telephone boxes on the corners of Lock Road and Station Road and of Oaktree Road and Seymour Park Road. Defibrillator units have been installed in both boxes.



Cllr Richard Scott & Cllr Suzanne Brown

Crown Paint Centres provided the paint to allow the boxes to be restored to their former glory.

"We're delighted to be involved in this scheme," Cllr Richard Scott said. "It continues the legacy of the red kiosk and provides our local community with a beneficial and lifesaving function."





Dangerous Tree _

On a windy afternoon, officers received a call that a tree had come down in Rookery Court and several branches were in danger of falling on pedestrians. Wycombe District Council are responsible for the trees in the park but, unfortunately, officers were unable to reach their tree department. Katherine Joy the Deputy Clerk quickly made the decision that Marlow Town Council would take responsibility to make the tree safe in the absence of WDC and a contractor was instructed to attend the park immediately, assess the trees and clear the debris. WDC thanked the Council the following week for their prompt action.

Dog Rescue ___

Officers work extensively in the community in many ways outside the standard job descriptions. Recently our Communities and Amenities Officer, Barry



Cross, came across a lost puppy just about to cross the busy Seymour Court Road. He managed to catch the puppy and after a bit of detective work on Barry's part, the puppy was reunited with its very relieved owner.

Sea Cadets in Urgent Need of Help _

Marlow Sea Cadets, a local youth charity, have for many years provided education and fun for young people based on Royal Naval principles. These have helped to foster life skills, which equip them to enjoy and succeed in the everchanging world they are entering.

A number of members of the UMT (Unit Management Team) have retired after many years of service. In addition, the Uniform Officers have vacancies including

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civilian trainers. Consequently, there are opportunities for volunteers to ensure continuity of the unique service the Sea Cadets offer. All the volunteer roles can be tailored to meet skills, interests and availability so they will fit in with lifestyle requirements.

They need your help in finding this next generation of supporters. Perhaps you or someone you know might be interested in getting involved. This would make full use of the extensive range of skills and expertise that local people have to offer. Fundraising, building maintenance, cadet operations and skills training, and many other talents are the areas where people can help. If you would like to find out more please contact the Chairman, bobsavidge@talktalk.net or marlowscc@ gmail.com or telephone 01628 891121. For more information on Cadet activities visit www.sea-cadets. org/marlow



IT company, Softcat, very kindly volunteered to litterpick in September. A large number of staff spent a day collecting litter along the Wycombe Road and collected over 30 black bags full of litter. We are very grateful to companies for giving up their time to improve the community for everyone. If your company is interested in getting involved then please contact Barry Cross:

barry@marlow-tc.gov.uk

Barry Cross and the Community Payback team started to cut back the vegetation from Redshots Close to the railway sleeper wall. This section alone generated 22 tonne bags of green waste, all of which has been recycled.

Marlow Town Bus Service 160

Did you know that there is a great local bus service? Marlow Town Council subsidises this service, which calls at various locations around the town every weekday except Wednesdays.

The service is perfect to help reduce car use and parking in the town and when your shopping is just too heavy for walking. The full timetable is to the right.

The Town Council spends £5,639 per year subsidising this local service to provide greener transport provision for Marlow residents and visitors. More information:

redeagle.org.uk

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Softcat volunteers litter-picking

| Marlow, adj Court Garden Leisure Centre | 09:05 | 09:45 | 11:45 | 12:25 | 14:00 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Marlow High Street (o/s 46) | 09:06 | | 11:46 | | 14:01 |
| Marlow Pound Lane (W-bound) | | 09:46 | | 12:26 | |
| Marlow Terrington Hill (E-bound) | | 09:52 | | 12:32 | |
| Marlow, adj Bobmore Lane | 09:10 | | 11:50 | | 14:05 |
| Marlow Sandygate Road (W-bound) | | 09:56 | | 12:36 | |
| Little Marlow, adj Winchbottom Lane | 09:11 | | 11:51 | | 14:06 |
| Marlow Sunnybank (o/s 12) | | 09:58 | | 12:38 | |
| Little Marlow, adj Church Road | 09:15 | | 11:55 | | 14:10 |
| Little Marlow, adj Westhorpe Caravan Park | 09:19 | | 11:59 | | 14:14 |
| Marlow Wiltshire Road (opp 62) | 09:26 | | 12:06 | | 14:21 |
| Marlow Bottom, opp High Heavens Wood | 09:32 | | 12:12 | | 14:27 |
| Marlow Bottom, o/s Post Office | 09:36 | | 12:16 | | 14:31 |
| Marlow Seymour Park Road (E-bound) | | 09:59 | | 12:40 | |
| Marlow Hillside Road (W-bound) | 09:38 | | 12:18 | | 14:33 |
| Marlow, adj Oak Tree Road | 09:39 | 10:01 | 12:19 | | 14:35 |
| Marlow High Street (o/s 23) | 09:42 | 10:04 | 12:22 | | 14:37 |
| Marlow, adj Court Garden Leisure Centre | 09:43 | 10:05 | 12:23 | | 14:38 |
| | | | | | |

(3) Wheelchair-accessible

Answers to quiz: Picture 1: Moda in Pelle, Picture 2: Francesco's, Picture 3: Mint Velvet

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Marlow Obelisk

Restorations are complete

ransport for Buckinghamshire has finished the restoration works to the Marlow Obelisk. The historic structure looks cleaner, smarter and is definitely something Marlow can be proud of!

Now that it's clean there is a noticeable colour difference between the main section of the structure, made of Portland limestone, and the top section leading to the

point, which is sandstone. These contrasting materials have different properties and have to be repaired, cleaned and treated differently, exposing the original colour difference.

The limestone has been treated with a protective substance called 'shelter coat', though this cannot be used on the sandstone section as here it could actually accelerate the decay process. The inscription panels on the lower part of the obelisk have been repaired using lime mortar, which matches the colour and texture of the underlying stone. As the mortar repairs are more porous than the stone, these will respond to moisture and the panels may appear mottled from time to time. The weathered areas of stone will also respond to moisture and appear mottled. This is normal and to be expected.

Interestingly, there was originally a pump in front of the obelisk for public use, and it was found that the well and some of the pumping equipment is still present below

Buckinghamshire County Council Deputy Leader and Transport Cabinet Member, Mark Shaw said: "The completion of the restoration of Marlow Obelisk has been greatly anticipated and I think residents of Marlow will be really pleased with the end result. The obelisk has been restored to its former glory and really does look fantastic!"



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Flooding Unpacked

News and advice for Marlow residents

he first Flood Fayre to be staged by Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) was held in Court Garden House Marlow on 18th September, with over 180 people visiting during the day. Seven major organisations that respond to flooding emergencies showcased how they all work together.

Representatives were also on hand to talk to residents of Marlow about the different types of floods to which the town is susceptible, how to prepare for flooding and the flood risk schemes operating in the town. Marlow, which is at risk from the river, surface water and ground water flooding, had 11 flood events between 2006 and 2014.

Wycombe District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, Marlow Town Council, The Environment Agency, Transport for Bucks, Thames Water and Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue were all represented at the Fayre.

An £8.5 million flood alleviation scheme to protect homes in the Pound Lane and Firview areas, has almost been completed by The Environment Agency. It follows the severe weather of winter 2013/2014, which left parts of









Marlow under several feet of water.

The Flood Fayre was held in conjunction with Transport for Buckinghamshire's exhibition of options to protect Marlow Bridge from use by overweight vehicles. Engineers were on hand to discuss proposals with residents.

After the event BCC said that they had received very positive feedback from those who had attended.

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Allotment Prize Winners

Marlow Town Council Allotment Competition

n Monday, 5th November the Allotment Association held its Annual General Meeting. The Mayor Chris Funnell attended and had the pleasant duty of handing out prizes to the winners of the Marlow Town Council







J Kirby, G Robinson & J Rowland (clockwise from top left) with Mayor

Allotment Competition.

Master Gardener was awarded to Dianne Elliott and Alison Ford of Foxes Piece Allotment. They were presented with a cheque for £50, a certificate and the Master Gardener Cup which is theirs to keep for a year.

Joint first place at Foxes Piece was awarded to Denise Bagge and Bernard Carter and Fred Tillier and David Tillier. They were presented with a cup, a certificate and a cheque for £30.

Andy Ross of Hanging Hill took first place and received a cup, certificate and cheque for £30.

The Mayor and Town Clerk, Hilary Martin, toured the two allotment sites in order to find the most unique feature to win the Mayor's Unique Feature Award. After much debate and poring over photographs taken on their tour, the Mayor decided that the award for Foxes Piece should go to Mrs J Kirby and for Hanging Hill to Mr G Robinson.

Another award winner was Jake Rowland who won the Special Novice Award.

Meadowside

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Celebrate Marlow

A joyful event to celebrate Marlow's volunteers

The Celebrate Marlow event, hosted by Town Mayor, Chris Funnell, took place on Sunday, 30th September at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The lunch brought together 200 guests from across the community who volunteer or who make a difference to Marlow. Attendees included representatives from local sports clubs, Marlow Sea Cadet and Air Training Cadet Units, local Marlow organisations and clubs, litter pickers, flood wardens and many many more.

Mike Cannon from Marlow FM was the Master of Ceremonies for the day and kept the whole event running smoothly.

Air Training cadet, Cadet FS Amy Tarrant, who was one of the guests, sang *Thank You for the Music* by Abba. Anna Nightingale, a very talented singer who specialises in jazz and swing, had the whole room clapping and singing along.

Mayor Chris Funnell said: "This event is a great reminder of how important our volunteers are and it is great to give something back to you for the day. This is your Celebrate lunch party, you are all our esteemed and special guests

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for many reasons and without question you all have your special place in Marlow."

He also took the opportunity to highlight his charity fundraising for the year: to support Marlow's schools in coping with the huge and growing challenge presented by mental health issues in children. "I would like to raise funds to empower and support teachers and other child professionals in Marlow schools," he said. "They need to know how to support children and teenagers who are suffering. We want to enable them to provide the earliest possible intervention."

If you know of an "unsung hero" who volunteers and makes a difference to people's lives in Marlow, let us know and we can put them forward for an invitation to this event next year. Send details to **office@marlow-tc.gov.uk**

If you would like to donate to the Mayor's Charity Appeal, please either contact **jan@marlow-tc.gov.uk** or make a direct contribution to the Town Mayor's charity account: sort code 30-95-36 account number 03635900.

Picture quiz

A quiz was included on the "Table Talker" which was on every table and created great debate. There were three historical photos of shops in Marlow and guests were invited to name what the shops were today for a small prize. See if you can identify what the shop is now. Answers at the bottom of the Town Council News page.

- Picture 1: Moda in Pelle / Whistles / Susie Watson
- Picture 2: Helen & Douglas House / Francesco's / M&S
- Picture 3: Burgers / Mint Velvet / Phase Eight

Thanks to Michael Eagleton for providing the photos.



Picture 2

Picture 3













Marlow Remembers Them



Record turnout for centenary of Armistice Day

A fter a night of torrential rain, the skies cleared on the morning of Sunday, 11th November for Marlow's Ceremony of Remembrance around the war memorial in The Causeway.

A record number of about 6,000 people attended the event, being a particularly special year celebrating the end of the First World War and the 100th anniversary of the RAF.

The parade arrived at the memorial after marching from the Royal British Legion Headquarters in Station Approach, led by Lt Col Shaun Murphy with Sir Colin Terry, KBE, CB, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire coming on parade at the memorial.

Reverend Dave Bull gave the introduction and welcome and was joined by Reverend Nick Thompson of Marlow Methodist Church who gave a prayer of thanksgiving for the end of WWI, and Pastor Kenneth Claessen of Newfield Community Church gave a reading. The Last Post was played by buglers Simone Davie and his son Nick prior to the two-minute silence.

Following Reveille this year, All Saints' bells were rung to celebrate the end of the First World War.

The names of the fallen were read out, commencing with Mayor Chris Funnell reading, followed by cadets from the three armed forces whilst wreaths were being laid at the memorial.

Prayers were said for the fallen, the armed forces, for peace and the sovereign.

Town Clerk Hilary Martin and Cpl Firth read out the poignant poem, *The Inquisitive Mind of a Child.*

The much larger parade this year, which included the RAF, Army, Navy and for the first time Royal Marine Reservists, moved off at the end of the service to parade up the High Street and Sir Colin Terry took the salute.























A memorable Remembrance at Marly-le-Roi

ouncillor Bob Johnson travelled to Marlow twin town Marly-Le-Roi to mark Armistice Day and the 100year commemoration of the end of the First World War.

Also attending were Town Mayor Frank Steffes and his wife Petra Jacobs from Leichlingen in Germany, and from Viseu in Portugal, Senior Town Representative Conceição Azevedo, who was accompanied by head teacher José Rosa from Emidio Navarro Secondary School. Both towns are also twinned with Marly-le-Roi.

At the town library on Saturday, 10th November, there was a presentation of texts written by people from Marlyle-Roi; pupils from Sir William Borlase School in Marlow, directed by Professor Fiona Bovis; and pupils from the college of Leichlingen, directed by Professor Otto Büchel. There was also an exhibition of drawings on the theme "Peace in Europe" designed by children from ten to 15 years old from Marly-le-Roi, Marlow and Leichlingen.

At an outstanding musical extravaganza in the Town Hall to mark the 1918-2018 centenary, local school musicians and choirs played to the enjoyment of around 300 proud parents. The group of performers grew in size from around 30 to over 150 during the course of the concert, brilliantly orchestrated by a single conductor. A highlight of the evening was when six young children playing their

cellos were joined gradually by the whole ensemble. to a chorus of cheers from the audience.

On Sunday Cllr Johnson attended a parade to the town cemetery for the laying of wreaths. Mayor Jean Yves took



Cllr Bob Johnson, Marly-le-Roi Mayor Jean Yves, Conceição Azevedo from Viseu & Leichlingen Mayor Frank Steffes (left to right)

the opportunity to symbolise peace and unity by the holding of hands between the English, Portuguese, German and French Senior Representatives. At the town gardens, a tree symbolising peace was planted by the representatives, and lunch saw a gathering of all war veterans and members of the Marlow Town Twinning Association.

A truly memorable weekend - well done Marly-Le-Roi!

Contributed by Bob Johnson, Town Councillor and Past Town Mayor

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Switch On & Shop

Ovents

Edd China wows the crowds at Switch On and Shop

he temperatures dipped, the snow fell and the crowds arrived in their thousands for this year's Switch On and Shop with Edd China – TV presenter, mechanic, and inventor.

Having arrived on his mobile sofa – the fastest sofa in the world – he successfully pressed the "plunger" from the top of the bus to light the town's beautiful Christmas lights to roars of approval from the crowd.

Edd would have been seen in Marlow in the run-up to this event, driving the lucky winners of the Marlow Town Council/My Marlow competition, Vicky and Graham Everitt around town on the "Sofa".

"Over the past 20 years or so, I've seen Marlow change from a rather sleepy country town to this lively and interesting place with so much to offer," Edd said. "And we've all done that, all of us here. By voting with our feet and our wallets we have made Marlow a place for residents and businesses to thrive, so keep doing that!"

Mayor Chris Funnell said: "Every year we get compliments for our stunning Christmas lights, and this year is no exception. I'd like to thank our generous sponsors for supporting us, and of course the marvellous Edd China for being such a brilliant guest. A fantastic start to the Christmas season in Marlow!"

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Marlow Carnival



A sunny day out

arlow Carnival was another huge success and the sun shone down on us all day long on Saturday, 15th September. Higginson Park was packed with visitors of all ages, many of whom made a real day of the event, enjoying the various activities and the wonderful entertainment.

The parade travelled a longer route this year, bringing mobile floats from Burford School and Celebrations Party Shop. There was a team of majorettes and a record number of schools in the walking parade: Holy Trinity, Sandygate, St Peters, Little Marlow and Foxes Piece. The schools were joined by Marlow Bridge Scout Group and a huge effort was made by all.

The parade was led by Mayor Chris Funnell and Dave the Disco, who compèred and entertained the crowds. Many classic cars and a fire engine joined in as the groups moved through the town and into Higginson Park. We estimate that up to 5,000 people attended the event which was supported by many local groups, charities and businesses. The whole day was broadcast by Marlow FM who provided the compères and hosted from the park.

There were four entertainment stages and performances from dance groups, choirs and bands, which pleased the crowds right to the end of the day. The atmosphere was brilliant and there was a happy community spirit.

Stalls included reptile handling, go karts, swing boats, art and craft, an assault course and much, much more.

It was a wonderful day for the whole town and we are already looking forward to 2019, which will have the theme "Oh I do like to be Beside the Seaside". We are tremendously grateful to Kier Group and Chevron who manage the road closure for us free of charge, and who have agreed to do this for us again in 2019.

Additional thanks to both Holy Trinity School and Great Marlow School for allowing us to use their sites for the parade meeting points.

Contributed by Lindsay Robinson, Chairman, Marlow Carnival

























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A Day In The Life Of A GP.

By Dr Vikram Jhajj

s a GP, my day often begins before 8am, sifting through correspondence from hospital consultants regarding patient referrals. These often come with complex diagnoses that require a shared care plan between us and hospital doctors. Putting into practice the recommendations requires diligence and attention to detail to ensure the highest level of patient care.

"If you are ever wondering why the surgery runs late, the chances are we are doing our best to provide the care that we would all want for our relatives."

Then I review and sign prescriptions requested by patients, often as many as 50, on occasion having to cross-reference these with notes to avoid any errors. Finally, I check my inbox for any administrative or clinical requests sent by other members of staff; all before my surgery begins at 8.30am.

My morning surgery consists of 13 patients, all with a tenminute appointment. Some of these appointments can be dealt with quite easily but increasingly my colleagues and I are seeing more complex medical cases that can need a longer period of time. So if you are ever wondering why the surgery runs late, the chances are we are doing our best to provide the care that we would all want for our relatives with a similar convoluted history.



At the end of surgery, the necessary administrative tasks are completed, often sending specimens off to hospital, making referrals, dictating letters and checking blood tests and investigations performed.

On some days, I may do a home visit if one of our paramedics or doctors is sufficiently concerned about the health of a patient.

I often work in the Rapid Access Clinic, an excellent concept designed to meet the needs of those patients who are acutely unwell, as opposed to chronic issues that are better dealt with in surgery appointments. The team comprises brilliant, knowledgeable and inquisitive health professionals, ranging from advanced nurse practitioners to paramedics. Their commitment to the job and maintaining clinical knowledge is inspiring and invigorating. During this time, I also help respond to any concerns or requests by our wonderful receptionists, our physicians' associates or our physiotherapists. This clinic usually ends at 5pm but I am on call until 6.30pm to ensure continuity of care right up to the end of the working day.

Having worked formerly as an emergency and intensive care doctor, I can say with a high degree of certainty that general practice, with its emphasis on the holistic care of the patient and his or her family from cradle to grave, is perhaps the last bastion of pure general medicine in our valued NHS. The more I reflect upon this the more I understand that the GP surgery really does perform a vital role and occupies a rare niche not easily seen elsewhere. It is in all of our interests to preserve this partnership between the local community and its health professionals.

"The Rapid Access Clinic is designed to meet the needs of those patients who are acutely unwell, as opposed to chronic issues that are better dealt with in surgery appointments."

To avoid unnecessary trips to the surgery and holding on the phone please visit our website **www. marlowdoctors.co.uk** where you can contact us 24/7, whether to 'Ask a Doctor a Question', order your repeat medication or book an appointment.

Contributed by Marlow Medical Group

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River Clean-Up

Marlow Canoe Club tackles trash on the Thames

A recycling bin and glass bottles were some of the items collected at a river clean by Marlow Canoe Club on Sunday, 28th October.

A group of 20 members took to the water to clean the River Thames and spent six hours plucking litter and other waste from the water while paddling from Marlow to Hurley.

Four canoes were filled with more than eight large bags of rubbish. Club member Andy Flaherty said the group found more rubbish than expected. "We found a Wycombe District Council bin, which someone had obviously chucked in, and lots of general rubbish like glass bottles," he said.

"A clean river is really important to us. This is our hobby and we use the water a lot. Our power is purely paddling; there is no motor or pollution involved. Our ethos is: 'leave no trace.' We found a lot more rubbish than we thought we would."

Andy added that a clean-up like this requires knowledge of the water. "We would not advise members of the public to do this, because you need to have the right skills and to know how the water behaves in terms of flow."

marlowcc.org.uk

Contributed by Marlow Canoe Club









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Points Of Light

PM rewards outstanding MS and chronic illness ambassador

The Prime Minister recently recognised Trishna Bharadia, 38, from Marlow for supporting people living with MS and other chronic conditions.

Trishna is the latest recipient of the Points of Light award, which recognises outstanding volunteers who are making a change in their community and inspiring others.

Diagnosed with MS herself in 2008, at the age of 28, Trishna wanted to help others in a similar situation. Trishna spends many hours each week blogging, vlogging, writing for various publications, being a media spokesperson on healthcare issues, speaking at events and conferences, and co-creating services and information. She's an Ambassador for MS Society UK and ADD International, is a Patron for ParaDance UK and the Cambridge MS Therapy Centre, and sits on the committee for national support group Asian MS. She has been pioneering in leading the conversation about MS and chronic illness in Asian communities.

Trishna said: "This is amazing news. It's great to have an initiative that recognises all the work that volunteers are doing across the country, encouraging others to get involved. Hopefully they'll enjoy it as much as I do! It's also great for raising awareness about MS and chronic illness, as well as highlighting the work of the various organisations I'm involved with, such as the MS Society, MS-UK and the MS Trust."



If people know someone who could be a Point of Light they should write to the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street.

www.pointsoflight.gov.uk

Contributed by Points of Light





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Be Inspiring, Be You

Could you help local Rainbows, Brownies and Guides?







A hundred years after the first Guiding unit in Marlow was opened in 1914, Guiding in Marlow is thriving and we now have ten units where girls can come and enjoy the adventure and fun that being a member offers.

The programme for all sections has recently been revised to ensure it continues to be relevant to the girls of today. We continue to offer the traditional activities such as camping, cooking and outdoor activities like climbing and canoeing. In addition we have introduced new and exciting activities and badges such as the annual Girlguiding pop concert, vlogging, festival-goer, costumes, inventing and geocaching.

Thanks to the dedication of our amazing volunteer leaders in Marlow we are able to give girls and young women a space where they can be themselves, have fun, build brilliant friendships, gain valuable life skills and make a positive difference to their lives. They also have the chance to help in their community, for example by assisting at the Marlow Half Marathon, entertaining the elderly or picking litter in the local parks. Could you help us to continue to give this to girls and young women in Marlow?

We are currently looking for volunteers who would be interested in helping us with any of our units for girls aged from 5-18 years, but particularly with one of our Rainbow units for the 5-7 year-olds, which meets once a week, so that they can continue to enjoy the fun of Guiding. No experience is necessary; you just need to enjoy helping girls and young women to develop their skills and have fun and adventures!

To find out more contact Sue Berry, District Commissioner on **01628 472168** or by email at **suejberry@gmail.com**

Contributed by Girlguiding Marlow District



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Marlow Music Makers



Mistletoe and Holly

arlow Music Makers will have performed their tenth Christmas Concert by the time you read this in *The Marlovian*. A choir of mixed voices, Marlow Music Makers was established in July 2009 and will celebrate ten years at the Summer Concert in 2019.

The choir needs to generate sufficient income to cover its costs through membership subscriptions, fundraising



activities and ticket sales, but beyond that Marlow Music Makers aim to donate the proceeds from concerts to local charities. We are proud to report that the charity chosen for the Christmas Concert 2018 is Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service.

We hope you can join us in June 2019 – dates to be posted nearer the time.

For further information, please contact Barbara Whitehead on **01628 484917**.

www.facebook.com/marlowmusicmakers

Contributed by Marlow Music Makers

"Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service is benefitting from our Christmas Concert."



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Teen Book Club



Marlow Library launches teen readers' group

"Books are my friends, my companions. They make me laugh and cry and find meaning in life."

Christopher Paolini, Eragon

hristopher Paolini wrote *Eragon*, a young adult fantasy novel, when still a teenager, and became a best-selling author at the age of 19 – an inspirational story in itself. One of the most exciting innovations introduced recently at Marlow Library is our teen readers' group.

We launched this group to recognise that teenagers have their own reading habits and experiences and to share and showcase some of the many excellent young adult fiction books available (*Eragon* being just one example!) Two meetings in, we have a group of about 15 youngsters, aged 11-16, all keen readers and eager to discuss their reading choices and aspirations. The group meets on alternate Saturdays (including 8th December) from 11am-12pm.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested, do come along, and join in varied and stimulating conversations about young adult books.

Not only is it exciting to be catering for our teenage customers, but it's also reassuring to know that a new initiative like this can be so instantly successful. I would encourage anyone who would like to set up a group that could work in the Library to get in touch.

Staff at the Library would like to wish all Marlovians a very merry Christmas and to thank our customers, young and old, for their continuing support. Don't forget, there's still time to buy your Christmas cards from us!

Contributed by Maggie Ross, Library Manager





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Being A Councillor

Would you like to be a councillor?

ould you like to serve your community, influence local decision-making and really make a difference? Why not consider standing as a councillor in the May 2019 local elections? This may be deferred to 2020 due to the Unitary Council decision announced recently.

There are roughly 20,000 town or parish councillors in England. Councillors are elected every four years to the local council to represent their own local community, so they must either live or work in the area.

The role offers the chance to make a huge difference to the quality of life of people in your local area. Being an effective councillor requires both commitment and hard work. Councillors have to balance the needs and interests of residents, the political party they represent (if any) and the council.

The councillor's role centres around community leadership and engagement. Responsibilities include:

- Representing the ward for which they are elected
- Decision-making, developing and reviewing council policy
- Scrutinising decisions taken by the councillors
- Regulatory, quasi-judicial and statutory duties

How can I get involved?

Once you've decided to get involved and stand as a councillor there are two main routes: you can decide to stand for one of the political parties/groups or as an independent.

Representing a political party

If you want to represent a political party, then get involved with your party locally as soon as possible. They

will advise on what is involved and ultimately select a candidate.

Standing as an independent candidate

If you're thinking of standing as an independent candidate, you can contact your council's electoral services department. You will need to start to become aware of issues in your local area; what your local council is doing about these issues; and how your own opinion differs from that of the political parties.

Getting officially nominated

Whether you've been selected by a party or are standing as an independent candidate, you must make sure that you are officially nominated as the election date draws nearer. This means getting ten people to sign your nomination papers (signatories must be registered electors in the ward where you wish to stand) which are available from Wycombe District Council's democratic services department.

You must also give your consent in writing to your nomination. All the necessary documents must be submitted no later than 19 working days before the day of the election.

For more detailed information please visit:

www.gov.uk/government/get-involved/take-part/become-a-councillor

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Or for a more informal chat do pop into the Marlow Town Council Offices.



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Town Council Committees

Resources Committee





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