



marlovian

all your news from the community

Winter 2020

Chris-mas *Surprise*

Chris Evans and son, Noah, secretly switch on Christmas lights

www.marlow-tc.gov.uk

PLUS+ Sustainability | Remembrance Sunday | Wildlife | Local charities

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM MARLOWTOWNCOUNCIL



Meadowside

— RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME —

Meadowside is a small, family-run residential care home for the elderly situated just outside Marlow Town Centre.

The traditional Edwardian-style premises have been carefully converted with the specific needs of elderly people in mind.

Our aim is to create a genuine 'home-from-home' family atmosphere for all our residents.

Accommodation is available for up to fourteen; a small number that enables us to provide the highest quality individual care and personal attention to each of our residents.

We are regulated by the Care Quality

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You can visit our website for further information. Please contact Elizabeth directly to discuss your care requirements.

We will be happy to show you around and provide you with an assessment of your care needs and discuss our rates and the service we offer.

We have recently completed the construction of a warm and comfortable garden room for safe visiting and other activities to minimise the risk of COVID-19.

Elizabeth Hassard | Managing-Director | Meadowside Residential Care Home
 202 Little Marlow Road, Marlow, Buckinghamshire SL7 1HX | Tel. 01628 898068
 E-mail: enquiries@meadowsidecarehome.co.uk
 Web: www.meadowsidecarehome.co.uk

Inside...

- 05. Mayor's Message
- 06. Town Council News
- 07. Who Does What?
- 08. #sustainablemarlow
- 10. Christ Church Water Filler
- 11. Marlow Solar Streets
- 12. Secret Switch On
- 16. Tree Of Hope
- 17. Chiltern Arts Festival 2021
- 18. Remembrance Sunday
- 22. Wild Marlow
- 24. Breaking New Ground
- 25. Community Impact Bucks
- 26. Your Councillors



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all your news from the community

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MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL

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Marlow Solar Streets

DISCOUNTED COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY



Marlow Energy Group and Marlow Town Council welcome this discounted community-based approach for solar panels

12 Panel
4kWp system
with Installation
from just
£4,000



The 12 panel 4kWp system is suitable for a 3-4 bed house

PV installer IDDEA is making discounted panels available to homeowners and businesses in Marlow and surrounding area and adding £50 (home) or £100 (business) into a Green Community Fund with each installation - smaller or larger systems are available

CLEAN ENERGY – LOWER BILLS – CUT CARBON EMISSIONS



Marlow Energy Group

Zoom Event 19 Jan 2021, 7.30 pm

- see website below for more details

SolarStreets.co.uk/Marlow

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Mayor's Message

"The Marlow community spirit continues to show through"



In the last Marlovian, I commented on the Covid pandemic and how pleasing it was to see most retailers and other services had re-opened, along with the majority of our excellent cafes and restaurants. How rapidly things have changed, but I hope that by the time you receive your copy of the Marlovian, we will be free of the lockdown restrictions. All of us wish to be rid of this pandemic and get our lives and businesses back to a level of normality.

We continue to keep all residents informed about changes in Government guidance on Covid-19, service information from Buckinghamshire Council and other bodies through regular updates on the Town Council Facebook page and website www.marlow-tc.gov.uk. You can also contact us on **01628 484024** or via email at office@marlow-tc.gov.uk and all your local Councillors remain available for residents; their contact details are shown on the Town Council website.

Just to re-visit November; Marlow is widely recognised for its Remembrance Day commemorations, which this year had to be cancelled. Not to be put off, the Town Council prepared a virtual service that was broadcast on a number of social media sites on Sunday 8th November. This included all the elements of our usual service, featuring wreath laying in All Saints Church, the Kohima epitaph, the Piper's Lament, the last post and roll of all



the names of The Fallen. A very moving service, a link to which can be found on our website. (See page 18).

Moving to the festive period, we all hope that we can enjoy the Christmas and New Year celebrations with our families and friends. Unfortunately, the Council had to cancel the traditional opening event for the Christmas period - the excellent Switch on and Shop evening planned for 19th November. We were however able to hold this virtually (see page 12) and I hope you will enjoy the new, extended lights and decorations. The carol service around the Christmas tree on The Causeway planned for 17th December may also have to be cancelled, but again, we are looking to see if this can be broadcast virtually. The Marlow Chamber of Commerce is also looking forward to a full re-opening of shops, restaurants and businesses and you should look at their activities on their website "Make it a Marlow Christmas", www.marlowchamber.com.

Charities and voluntary organisations have suffered a lack of income over the past nine months, so perhaps over the coming weeks, you might like to support one or two of your choice. The Council also has small grants available to local charities and details of how to apply for these are on our website. Lockdown has made us all think differently, including our local Rotary clubs. The Christmas Santa Fun Run organised by Rotary has been cancelled, but this annual fundraising success has been partially replaced by a 'virtual Fun Run' taking place the weekend of 19th December. All the details are on their website, so please do take part if you can www.rotary-ribi.org. Do also have a look at the Marlow Thames Rotary Tree of Hope located on The Causeway. For more details, see page 16.

Conservation and sustainability are now becoming part of everyday life and your Council continues to address a number of key initiatives, some of which are referred to elsewhere in the Marlovian. This is an area that we want to expand into 2021 and beyond.

The Marlow community spirit continues to show through and again, a sincere thank you to all those who have helped with many community initiatives during this difficult time. Keep safe and I look forward to meeting you at events in the Town in 2021.

On behalf of the Town Council, its members and staff, I wish you and your families a happy Christmas and an improved and prosperous year in 2021.

Cllr Richard Scott
Marlow Town Mayor



Town Council News

Winter 2020

Christmas Free Parking

The Council has arranged for free parking in all Buckinghamshire Council-owned car parks — Court Garden, Riley Road Central, Dean Street, Liston Road and Spittal Street — on Saturday, 12th and 19th December.

Night-Time Patrols

The Council has now extended its very successful night-time patrol scheme of town green spaces to include Higginson Park and Rookery Court, in addition to Gossmore and Seymour Parks. The scheme, which is operated by 4Front Security, is working to eradicate anti-social behaviour in the town's green spaces during the night.

MVAS Mobile Activated Sign

The Council has purchased a further two of these mobile signs so there are now three at our disposal to monitor and alert drivers to their speed in the town. The data gathered from these is shared with Bucks Highways and the Police.

Wiltshire Road Roundabout

The baskets and planters on the Wiltshire Road roundabout have been an absolute riot of colour this summer. This much-neglected roundabout was taken on for planting by the Council last year. The plants and baskets are all funded by the Council — not the company named on the advertising hoardings!

Causeway Clean Up

Grounds maintenance and footpath clearance has been in full swing to keep the town tidy. The War Memorial at The Causeway and the stonework around it has been thoroughly cleaned, bedding plants have been replaced and the grass has had a final cut before winter.



Who Does What?

Who looks after you in Marlow?



Marlow Town Council

One of 169 Parish/Town
Councils in Buckinghamshire Council
Tel: **01628 484024**



Buckinghamshire Council

One of 55 Unitary Councils in
England
Tel: **01296 395000**



Do you know which council empties your dustbins, runs the Marlow Library, owns our allotments, repairs broken lights, owns and runs our cemetery and chapel, or is responsible for Higginson Park?

We know it can be confusing. It's not always easy to find out who is responsible for what, which can sometimes be very frustrating. The information below is designed to point you in the right direction.

The Marlow Town Council office will always try and help you with your initial queries and put you on the right path, even if we can't help directly. We all work together to try and ensure the best for the residents of Marlow. If you are in any doubt who to ask just telephone the office on **01628 484024**.



MARLOWTOWNCOUNCIL

Marlow Town Council are responsible for:

- Events such as: Remembrance Day Service & Parade, Carols on The Causeway, Switch on and Shop, Celebrate Marlow, Mayor's Civic Service, and the Mayor's Charity Golf Day
- Two allotment sites – Hanging Hill off Prospect Road and Foxes Piece
- The cemetery and chapel at Wethered Road
- May Balfour Gardens in Institute Road
- Marlow town bus service
- Shopmobility in Marlow
- Advertising banners across the High Street and Spittal Street
- Gossmore Recreation Ground
- Seymour Park including the play areas
- Riley Park and Campbell Road play areas
- Grass and hedge cutting in designated areas
- Removal of flyposters and illegal signs on public highway and attached to street furniture
- Contribution towards Marlow's PCSO

You can email Marlow Town Council directly through our website **www.marlow-tc.gov.uk/static/marlow/contactus.aspx**

Telephone **01628 484024**

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

@MarlowTC



Buckinghamshire Council are responsible for:

- Trading Standards
- Transport for Bucks, highways, pavements, street lighting
- Highways and public footpath repair and maintenance
- Social care, adult and children's services
- Schools
- Libraries
- Household waste sites
- Higginson Park, upkeep and maintenance
- Court Garden Leisure Centre
- Car parks – Court Garden, Dean Street, Institute Road, Liston Road, Riley Road, Gossmore Recreation
- Planning applications and building controls
- Environmental health
- Street trading
- Street name signs
- CCTV
- Public toilets and litter bins
- Bin collection and pest control

You can use their website to report a missed bin collection: **www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/bin-collection-recycling-and-waste/**

They have a handy range of online tools to report problems. You can report potholes, problems with street lighting, highways issues, and report issues and complaints with public transport. You can also apply for a whole range of licences from planting shrubs on council-owned land to placing a skip on the road.

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport

Telephone **01296 383500**

All local planning applications are also available to view online here: **www.wycombe.gov.uk/pages/Planning-and-building-control/Planning-applications/Find-a-planning-application.aspx**

Telephone **01494 461000**



#sustainablemarlow

Update from Marlow Town Council's environmental initiative

Focus on climate change

Marlow Town Council wishes to raise awareness of the importance of reducing the town's carbon emissions to help minimise climate change.

The average person is responsible for about 11 tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions per year. Carbon dioxide-equivalent is a measure of the global warming impact of several different greenhouse gases. According to local experts, the carbon footprint of the average Marlow resident could be one-third higher than the UK national average!

We encourage the Marlow community to work out their own carbon emissions as a starting point for reducing them using the following link:

www.carbonfootprint.com

Try it and see...

The average person is responsible for about eleven tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions per year



Marlow Town Council is supporting all efforts to cut air pollution and asks residents and businesses to play their part

Clean Air Plan

Air quality in Marlow town centre improved in 2019, but some illegal pollution remained. Marlow Town Council is supporting all efforts to cut air pollution and asks residents and businesses to play their part.

Marlow town centre was designated an Air Quality Management Area in 2017, due to high levels of nitrogen dioxide, or NO₂. This gas comes mainly from road traffic emissions and is dangerous for human health.

Buckinghamshire Council's latest annual report on air quality in Marlow was released in the summer. It shows that in 2019 NO₂ levels fell by an average of 6% across all monitoring stations. On the other hand, despite the decline in NO₂ the level recorded at the highest single monitoring station was still 9% above the maximum level allowed by law. **This shows more needs to be done.**

Buckinghamshire Council has the lead responsibility for traffic and air pollution issues, but Marlow Town Council has sought to play its part by publishing its own Clean Air Plan. Under the plan the Town Council has put up street banners encouraging eco-driving to reduce emissions. It is exploring other actions too and working with Buckinghamshire Council on a voluntary town centre speed limit of 20 mph.

The Town Council is asking all Marlow residents and businesses to reduce their contribution to high NO₂, for example by preferring a "low-NO_x" model when choosing a new vehicle; by walking or cycling to the town centre rather than driving; and by avoiding engine idling whenever stationary.

For more information see the Council's Clean Air Plan at **www.marlow-tc.gov.uk**



Releaf Marlow

A community trees project supported by Marlow Town Council is preparing for a first round of planting this winter, and is asking Marlow residents to get involved. Releaf Marlow aims to increase the number of trees along our streets and in open spaces and is organised by local community group Transition Town Marlow.

The Marlow & District Wine Circle and Shanly Foundation have kindly provided seed funding. The project organisers are inviting Marlovians to chip in via an online crowdfunding website at **www.crowdfunder.co.uk/reeleaf-marlow-2020**.

During the winter a series of planting days are being organised, which residents are welcome to join. Full details of Releaf Marlow's winter planting programme are available on the Transition Town Marlow website. Residents are also invited to follow the Releaf Marlow Facebook page for regular updates and news on opportunities to get involved in tree planting days.

For more information on Releaf Marlow see: **www.transitionmarlow.org/home/reeleaf** and **www.facebook.com/ReleafMarlow**

Releaf Marlow aims to increase the number of trees along our streets and in open space



Christ Church Water Filler

Church and Council team up to provide refreshment for Marlow

Community

Less than a fortnight after Marlow Town Council inaugurated its new water bottle filling station at The Causeway, another public water point has been opened by Christ Church United Reformed Church on Oxford Road. The project was led by the church and supported by a grant from the Council.

The first bottle was filled on 30th October by the Mayor of Marlow, Cllr Richard Scott, with the support also of the Leader of the Council, Cllr Jocelyn Towns. The church was represented by Revd David Downing and the Church Secretary, Mrs Valerie Brownridge. (See photo).

The new bottle filler is at the entrance to the garden of Christ Church URC. The garden is provided by the church for public use and, since opening a new entrance in June, has become a place of peace and relaxation for many more passers-by. Now they can also refresh themselves with a drink of water!

Cllr Scott said: "It was important for the town to be able to give both residents and visitors easy access to clean

water, keeping up progress in reducing the huge number of plastic bottles that are thrown away each year." He added that the provision of on-street bottle fillers was especially valuable currently, as Covid restrictions have limited access to pubs and cafés.

Martin Ashford led the church project and can be contacted at ashfo24@gmail.com or **07503 102780**



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Marlow Solar Streets



Solar panel Zoom presentation and special offer

We all know that we must use less energy for the sake of our children and grandchildren, and that the energy we use must be as green as possible. To this end Marlow Energy Group (MEG), a not for profit Community Benefit Society, in association with IDDEA, a solar panels installation, operations and maintenance company, is arranging a 'Marlow Solar Streets' Zoom event scheduled for 19th January 2021. IDDEA is based in Westbury, Wiltshire, and has already installed 700 solar projects in the south and south-west. For more information see www.iddea.co.uk

The highly competitive figure of £4,000 for 12 panels is being offered on the basis that IDDEA can make at least 10 installations in and around Marlow. The Zoom presentation will expand on IDDEA's offer to install 12 photo-voltaic (PV) electricity-generating solar panels (subject to a successful free survey) to homeowners in Marlow. The system is 4kWp and will save around 1 tonne of CO2 each year. All other aspects such as financial savings, battery storage and extra panel costs will be covered during the Zoom get-together.

The venture is supported by Marlow Town Council's #sustainablemarlow campaign and by many local groups. For more information, see the MEG website www.marlowenergygroup.com or email marlowenergygroup@gmail.com.

Also, keep an eye open for presentation details in the local press, on social media and through your letterbox.



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Secret Switch-On

Chris Evans and his son switch on Marlow's Christmas lights

Events

Insomniacs and early risers might have asked themselves what Chris Evans was doing, whizzing around the town in his red sports car in the darkness of the small hours of Thursday 19th November, hotly pursued by a film crew — all fully socially distanced, of course!

He was surreptitiously switching on Marlow's stunning new Christmas lights, creating a rather different version of Marlow's annual celebrity Switch On event. Chris announced his nighttime activities live on his Virgin Radio breakfast show, to the surprise of the residents of the town, who were delighted to see the now-famous lights display later that day.

The team has done a fantastic job in creating the film, and we very much hope people will enjoy the results.

A short film of the radio presenter, with his son, Noah, switching on the lights from various locations, can be seen here: <https://we.tl/t-1NYB6RMpFC>. In the film Chris talks of his love of the town and living here, and he and Mayor Richard Scott wish everyone a very Happy Christmas. At the close of the film, Marlow Bridge is briefly illuminated, thanks to lighting company Lumatech.

"We're hugely grateful to Chris for helping us to switch on our renowned Christmas lights this year," the Mayor



said. "We were sorry to have to cancel the live event, but hopefully this will make up for it. The team has done a fantastic job in creating the film, and we very much hope people will enjoy the results."

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor expressed his gratitude to Brand Events and their production team for their hard work in creating the film, and to all our wonderful sponsors without whom the Christmas lights would not be possible.





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Tree Of Hope

Dedicate a message to a loved one and donate to local charity



“I urge all those connected with our town to join together to ensure they make an expression of goodwill that really makes a difference to some very deserving good causes.”

Mayor Richard Scott

The challenges of creating a true Christmas spirit in the midst of a pandemic are very real – and countless traditional ways of fostering seasonal goodwill have been lost due to social distancing and cancellation of the usual festive gatherings. Even carols around a tree are in doubt, along with any event that draws a crowd.

Marlow Thames Rotary Club is filling some of these gaps and, working with Marlow Town Council, aims to turn the “umbrella” tree (by the war memorial on The Causeway) into both a real and an online “Tree of Hope”.

Launched on 3rd November, a specially created website page allows members of the public to dedicate a message to loved ones on a “virtual” Tree of Hope and at the same time offer a donation to a small selection of local charities. If the donor wishes, members of Marlow Thames Rotary Club will decorate the real “Tree of Hope” with dedication tags and lights, creating an attractive and interesting centre point that builds in the lead-up to Christmas Day.

For 2020 the charities chosen are:

- Marlow Mayor’s charity (mental health in young people)
- Alexander Devine Children’s Hospice
- South Bucks Hospice
- Thames Valley Adventure Playgroup (for children with special needs)
- Marlow Age Concern

Marlow Town Mayor Richard Scott said: “This is a fantastic idea. So simple and so appropriate. Many thanks to the Marlow Thames Rotary Club for the work they have done both on this initiative and so many other

activities. I urge all those connected with our town to join together to ensure they make an expression of goodwill that really makes a difference to some very deserving good causes.”

Nicole Hockly, President of Marlow Thames Rotary Club said: “With so many events cancelled we wanted to come up with something different – something that will resonate in these challenging times. Some of our members came up with this idea, and they have built the website page and developed the idea from scratch. The costs have entirely been borne by the Club – and we really hope that members of the public will support us in adding some brightness to these rather dark days”.

Go to the Tree of Hope web page (hosted by “VisuFund”) on:

www.visufund.com/christmas-tree-of-hope-2020

and simply click “**Donate**”

to find out more go to “**About**”

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





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Go to **chilternarts.com/whats-on** for tickets and more information



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**Which composer, whose music features
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celebrating his 100th birthday in 2021?**

The Festival theme this year is 'musical resonance', exploring how music can mean many different things to different listeners, or how it can tell a story or reveal an identity. Events run from 26th February – 3rd March in Princes Risborough, Henley, Marlow, Berkhamsted, Great Missenden and Old Amersham. For the full programme and to buy tickets, please visit
www.chilternarts.com/whats-on

Internationally-acclaimed harpsichord player Mahan Esfahani treats us to one of Bach's most loved works in Marlow: the Goldberg Variations.

Mahan Esfahani: Goldberg Variations
Monday 1st March 2021, 7pm
All Saints' Church, Marlow

*subject to availability. If concert of choice is sold out, a suitable alternative will be offered. One pair of standard tickets is available and the winner will be chosen at random from correct answers received before midnight on 31st January 2021.

Remembrance Sunday

Events

Thousands watch memorial service online

Over 11,600 people from all over the world watched Marlow's streamed Remembrance Service on Sunday, 8th November. The service was filmed in advance at All Saints' Church.

Marlow Town Council and the Royal British Legion were determined to ensure that Remembrance was honoured, despite not being able to have the usual service. They prepared to film a service to be shown for public participation on Remembrance Sunday. Several days' filming were organised — and then lockdown came, and everything changed. The final day of filming was scheduled for Thursday 5th November but all the plans had to be moved forward a day.

"Despite all the uncertainty and many changed plans, the streamed service was really special and unique," Mayor Richard Scott said. "We're delighted that we were able to bring it to so many people. It was a different way of remembering, but also very moving and appropriate."

Countess Elizabeth Howe laid a wreath on behalf of the Queen, while Andrew Farncombe Esq, High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, and Marlow Mayor Richard Scott together laid a wreath on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council. Deputy Mayor Bob Johnson laid a wreath on behalf of Marlow Town Council.

Many organisations that would normally attend the traditional event at the War Memorial were in attendance, including representatives from the Royal Marines, RAF, Air Cadets and Sea Cadets. John Chapman, MBE, gave the Royal British Legion Exhortation and The Kohima Epitaph.

Dave Bull of All Saints, Nick Thompson from Marlow Methodist Church and Anthea Wratten from River Church all took part. Marlow Town Council thanks Tim Ashburner for offering his services free to film all parts of the service at All Saints' Church.

To watch the recording go to www.youtube.com/channel/UCOrfyfN7gfwW09jfmLCqIHA

*"Despite all the uncertainty
and many changed plans, the
streamed service was really
special and unique"*
Mayor Richard Scott

Photo credit: Marlow Camera Club





Remembrance Sunday continued <<



Photos: (Left to right) Mayor Richard Scott; Countess Howe. Credit: Marlow Camera Club



Photos: (Left to right) Deputy Mayor Bob Johnson; High Sheriff of Bucks. Credit: Marlow Camera Club



Photos: (Left) Mayor Richard Scott, Countess Howe, Deputy Mayor Bob Johnson and High Sheriff of Bucks; (Right) Countess Howe reading the Prayer for the Sovereign. Credit: Marlow Camera Club

» Remembrance Sunday continued



Photo: (Left to right) wreaths from Marlow Town Council, Countess Howe on behalf of HM, High Sheriff of Bucks. Credit: Marlow Camera Club



Photos: (Left to right) RAF; Royal Marines. Credit: Marlow Camera Club



Photo: Simon Davie
Credit: Marlow Camera Club



Photos: (Left to right) Tim Ashburner in London; Dixie Ingram from Scots Association Pipe Band. Credit: Marlow Camera Club



Photos: (Left) Chairman of Marlow RBL Club and Chairman Marlow RBL; (Right) Dave Bull, Rector of All Saints'. Credit: Marlow Camera Club



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Wild Marlow

Photo competition draws the crowds

The people of Marlow flocked to see an exhibition of the winning photos from Wild Marlow's Photo Competition at All Saints Church Hall over the weekend of 17th and 18th October. Over four hundred visitors attended and voted for the 'People's Choice' from 24 pictures selected by the judges. It was a very close contest, with the final 'People's Choice' winning by a whisker – 'I've Been Fishing' by Louise Donovan.

Mayor Richard Scott awarded prizes to the overall winner, Paris Losasso, whose 'Sunset Fox' also won the adult category; Kitty Hayward (15) with 'Green Stops', who won Senior School category; and Jacob Walker (7), who won the Junior School category with his picture: 'Mute Swans of Marlow'. There were over 80 entries to the competition in total.

"The entries were extremely high quality," Mayor Scott said. "It's wonderful to see the extraordinary range of wildlife that can be found in and around Marlow. With the work of groups like Wild Marlow and many others in the town, I hope we can continue to encourage and preserve our precious environment."

Photo: Adult category and Overall winner, Paris Losasso, 'Sunset Fox'



The aim of the contest was to stimulate interest in and appreciation of the wildlife and habitats around Marlow. The winning photos from each of the three categories – and the People's Choice – will go into Wild Marlow's 2021 calendar, available soon for £10 each from **www.wildmarlow.org.uk** and in selected shops in the town.

About Wild Marlow

Wild Marlow is a group of enthusiasts passionate about wildlife and protecting biodiversity in the Marlow area, engaging the local community through interesting events, competitions, volunteering and work parties to raise awareness of the importance of a balanced ecosystem. The group covers all areas of Marlow within the SL7 postcode, including Bisham, Great Marlow, Marlow Bottom and Little Marlow. Membership is £10 for individuals (allows free/reduced entry to some events). Wild Marlow is a non-profit group so by becoming a member you will be supporting us in our activities for wildlife and the community. Donations are also welcome!

To join go to: **www.wildmarlow.org.uk** or email: **contact@wildmarlow.org.uk**.





Photos: (Top left to right) Junior School winner, Jacob Walker, 'Mute Swans of Marlow'; People's Choice winner, Louise Donovan, 'I've Been Fishing'; (Bottom) Senior School winner, Kitty Hayward, 'Green Stops'.



Breaking New Ground

Mayor opens Marlow Methodists building project



Often described as a “hidden gem,” Marlow Methodist Church will soon be a lot less hidden. Building work has begun to create a community hub and café for the town and transform the existing church facilities. The Spittal Street site already provides meeting spaces for many of the town’s organisations in the Wesley Hall – one of the most popular halls in Marlow – but Church members have identified a need for more modern spaces that can be used by outside organisations, particularly advice agencies.

The café will be situated in a brand new rotunda at the front of the building and will be open five days a week, providing hospitality and meeting spaces. The sanctuary of the church, which has some important Art Nouveau stained glass, will not be changed and Sunday Worship will continue, with Covid restrictions for the time being. Online services were introduced at the beginning of the pandemic and these will continue.

Commenting on the plans, Minister and Superintendent of the High Wycombe District of the Methodist Church Rev Nick Thompson said: “Any building of this age has its needs and over the decades generations have made changes and improved different aspects. Now we have the opportunity to release the potential of the building to help us in our aim to be ever more outward-looking and welcoming. We would like to give everyone in the local community a building which meets their needs and creates a real sense of belonging.”



Photo: (Left to right) David Duxbury, Mayor Richard Scott, Rev Nick Thompson

Oxford-based architects Leap Design were commissioned to create a building that would better fit the needs and lifestyles of the 21st Century. One of the biggest challenges was to “connect” the Church with the Wesley Hall and with other rooms. Lead Architect Kelvin Sampson explains: “A lack of cohesion, limited storage space and inadequate kitchen and toilet facilities meant that the building was under-utilised. Sensitive adaptation of the building will have a profound impact on its usefulness for the Church to further its work and mission in Marlow.”

Project Leader David Duxbury, who has spearheaded the project from its inception three years ago, has dealt with many challenges along the way, not least the arrival of Covid 19 earlier this year: “This is an exciting project and we have seen it develop from the concept stage to the point where building work can begin. Everyone involved has worked very hard, not least the fundraising team who have made it all possible. We have received many generous grants and donations and we are very grateful to everyone who has helped in this way.”

Mayor of Marlow, Cllr Richard Scott, cut the ribbon at the site and wished the project well, saying he was “delighted to be opening such an exciting project ‘for real’ during this Covid period.” (Left photo).

It’s hoped the building will be completed next spring. Anyone wishing to enquire about hiring space should contact **Malcolmshergold@gmail.com**.

Progress on the project and details about services can be found on the website:

www.marlowmethodistchurch.org.uk



Community Impact Bucks

Call for Bucks residents to volunteer to help COVID-19 efforts



The Buckinghamshire Volunteer Matching Service is calling for Bucks residents to sign up as volunteers to help support local people and communities during the second wave of COVID-19. The Volunteer Matching Service, which is run by Community Impact Bucks in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council and The Clare Foundation, matches registered volunteers to roles where they are most needed in the county. It is looking for volunteers from across the county but in particular from the High Wycombe, Missenden and Chesham areas.

In spring 2020, more than 1,800 people from Buckinghamshire volunteered via the Buckinghamshire Council's website to support local communities during the height of the Coronavirus pandemic, the recovery period and any local outbreaks that may arise. Many of this initial cohort of volunteers have now been matched with charities and voluntary organisations, while others are now no longer available. As a result, new volunteers are needed to support COVID-19 response activities.

"It has been amazing to see so many people offer their

time and skills to help others during the pandemic, and to see this incredible voluntary effort recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours, where nearly three quarters of recipients were awarded for their work in their community, including several Bucks residents," commented Katie Higginson, Chief Executive of Community Impact Bucks. "Building on this, we now need more volunteers to be available to fill key roles – from ad hoc, one-off tasks such as PPE delivery, to longer term positions like regular supermarket collections, mentoring young people and providing ongoing support for vulnerable people. If you are 18 or over, and have some time or specific skills to offer, we would love to hear from you."

To find out more about the Volunteer Matching Service, visit the Volunteer Matching Service information page and register as a volunteer via the Volunteer Matching Service registration form.



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Blaser Mills Law announces acquisition of long-established High Wycombe law firm, Reynolds Parry Jones

Buckinghamshire based law firm, Blaser Mills Law, has completed the acquisition of reputable local solicitors, Reynolds Parry Jones LLP (RPJ), as part of its ongoing growth and expansion.

Already one of the largest law firms in the region, Blaser Mills Law advises both businesses and private individuals. The acquisition will allow Blaser Mills Law to broaden its client base and add to its legal expertise across many practice areas, including family and divorce, employment, commercial and property litigation.

During the last 5 years, Blaser Mills Law has undergone a change in strategy and accelerated its growth plans, which has included the opening of a central London office and the recruitment of several high profile, senior lawyers to increase their commercial offering. The strategic acquisition of Reynolds Parry Jones is aimed to assist Blaser Mills Law in consolidating their market position in Buckinghamshire and Thames Valley.

Blaser Mills Law has committed to retaining most of the Reynolds Parry Jones work force, allowing clients to experience continuity of service, as well as benefiting from further access to a large team of lawyers with complementary expertise.

Following the acquisition, operations will continue under the Reynolds Parry Jones brand and from their existing premises on Easton Street, where the firm has been based for the past 150 years.

Jonathan Lilley, partner and executive chairman at Blaser Mills Law, said: "We are delighted to announce the acquisition of Reynolds Parry Jones, a local firm with an outstanding reputation in the marketplace.

"We are proud to be in a position to make this acquisition during a period of such

widespread uncertainty, and to help safeguard the jobs of Reynolds Parry Jones employees. This purchase takes us another step forward in our growth plans and business strategy and demonstrates our commitment to delivering an excellent legal service to the Buckinghamshire region."

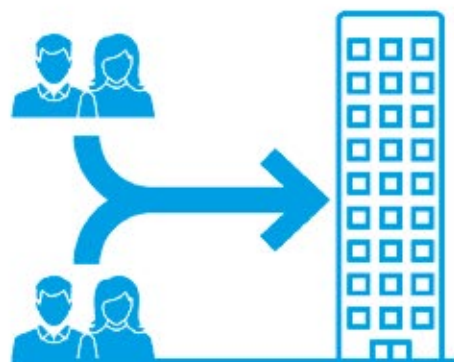
Graham King, senior partner at Reynolds Parry Jones, added: "We are extremely pleased to be handing over control to Blaser Mills Law, a highly experienced and respected team with a focus on delivering an excellent service for both businesses and individuals.

This is Reynolds Parry Jones' 150th year in High Wycombe and the merger with Blaser Mills Law is a further commitment to the town.

Our clients, many of whom are second or third generation whose families have been advised by the firm for decades, can rest assured that our values and culture, as well as our strongly aligned sector focus and philosophy of legal excellence, will provide the ideal platform for our future success with Blaser Mills Law."



If you would like more information about these exciting strategic changes, please contact Jonathan Lilley at jl@blasermills.co.uk or on 020 3814 2020



**Integration of Reynolds
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Blaser Mills Law**



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