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all your news from the community

Spring 2021

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all your news from the community

MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL

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What is Probate?

The word Probate is commonly used, however, there is much confusion as to what it actually means and what the process involves. Put simply, Probate means ‘prove it’. It is the legal process of proving that a Will made by someone who has passed away is a valid document and reflects their last wishes.

Who deals with the estate?

If the deceased has left a Will, the Will names the individuals, known as executors, who will deal with the administration of the estate. The executor will be required to value and confirm the assets and liabilities of the estate and, if necessary, apply for a Grant of Probate to administer the estate.

What if there is no Will?

The process is more complicated if the deceased does not leave a Will. If there is no Will, the law will determine who is allowed to act on your estate. The person who acts will be known as an administrator and will usually be a close relative.

Do I need to apply for a Grant?

A Grant of Representation is the official documentation required to confirm your authority as the Personal Representative (executor or administrator) of the deceased. You need to obtain a Grant of Representation in order to obtain authority to deal with the deceased's assets i.e. selling the deceased's property or shares. The type of Grant required will depend on whether there is a Will or not. If the assets are jointly owned with a surviving spouse or civil partner,

or the funds held in the deceased's estate are less than £5,000, then a Grant of Representation is not usually required.

If I am appointed as a Personal Representative, what are my responsibilities?

The role of the Personal Representative varies depending on what the estate consists of. However, generally it involves identifying the deceased's assets and liabilities, obtaining the precise date of death valuations, preparing the inheritance tax forms and probate papers, discharging the estate's liabilities including taxes, preparing estate accounts and paying the beneficiaries.

Do I have to worry about tax?

As a Personal Representative, there are a number of tax implications that you must think about. Income Tax, Capital Gains Tax and Inheritance Tax are generally the three taxes that will impact an estate. You will need to consider the various allowances and exemptions that are available to bring down the tax bill. If the allowances and exemptions are not properly used, it may prove costly to the estate. There are also penalties for the late filing of tax returns.

How Blaser Mills Law can help?

Our expert Wills, Trusts and Probate solicitors can guide you through the probate process, enabling you to comply with your duties and properly administer the estate. We can prepare the tax forms and probate papers and calculate the tax due, if any, and thereafter apply to the Probate Registry on your behalf. We can also collect in the assets, prepare estate accounts and distribute the estate.

If you would like to speak to a member of the Wills, Trusts and Probate team, please call **020 3814 2020** or email at **privateclient@blasermills.co.uk**.

Mayor's Message

Spring welcome

Welcome to 2021 and goodbye to 2020, which was certainly a very challenging year.

I continue to marvel at the community spirit that shows through in our town, with help to deal with the different aspects of the Covid pandemic still available to many.

We owe a great debt of gratitude not only to all our NHS staff, but to many in the community who have continued to work selflessly over the last twelve months to keep our lives as normal as possible. Our mail has been delivered, our bins emptied, essential shops have remained open and the police and other emergency services have continued to operate.

The Council continues to keep all residents informed about changes in Government guidance on Covid-19; information from Buckinghamshire Council and other bodies is regularly updated on the Town Council Facebook page and its 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.



I continue to marvel at the community spirit that shows through our town, with help to deal with the different aspects of the Covid pandemic still available to many

The majority of our civic events and activities provided by other town organisations were unfortunately cancelled during the Christmas period. However, working with a local business, Brand Events, we jointly organised Marlow Christmas Drive In at Marlow Rugby Club. This provided a number of schools and organisations with the opportunity to hold several of their cancelled events in a Covid-secure environment and deliver some Christmas cheer that would otherwise have been lacking.

During December, I was able (suitably socially distanced!) to welcome three new businesses into the town – Grape Expectations, Komao hair salon and Crew Clothing, and recently, I had the privilege of holding a Zoom call with Mrs Barbara Wood, a resident of Sir Aubrey Ward House, who celebrated her 101st birthday.

The good news is that the numbers of Covid infections have started to fall and the vaccination programme is being rolled out. A relaxation of the lockdown measures has been announced, meaning a welcome return to a less restricted way of life and hopefully the holding of some of our usual spring and summer events in the town.

Your Town Council continues to be busy during the lockdown period and details of our activities are covered elsewhere in the Marlovian. These include setting a council tax precept for 2021/22 at the same level as last year (in fact, no increase in the past six years) and adding to our existing involvement on environmental issues by introducing a carbon audit report and an environmental performance index.

On behalf of the Town Council, its members and staff, may I wish all our residents a much-improved 2021.

Cllr Richard Scott
Marlow Town Mayor



Town Council News

Spring 2021

Covid-19 updates

The continuing pandemic has meant that lockdown information has changed from week to week and the Town Council have tried to ensure that our residents are kept up-to-date with all the changes. At the time of going to print the vaccine programme has been rolled out around the country and Marlow has taken on the challenge to get its qualifying residents vaccinated. This seems to have been extremely successful given the numbers that have received the vaccine. All this information has been shared on our website www.marlow-tc.gov.uk on the dedicated Covid-19 pages as well as breaking news on our Home page.

Grounds maintenance

Mayor Richard Scott has expressed his gratitude to the Council's grounds maintenance staff for keeping all Marlow's footpaths and road hedges cut back and tidy during the pandemic. Roadside hedge work has taken place in Wiltshire Road (both North and South), Spinfield Lane, Henley Road and Gypsy Lane. While footpath clearance is continuing throughout the town, the path from Trinity Road to Oaktree Road has had major works, increasing the width of the alleyway by over two feet.

"Grounds maintenance staff have continued to be busy and diligent in looking after our footpaths and verges over the winter months," Mayor Scott said. "Extensive works have been completed around the town and I want to thank everyone involved for their hard work."

Fingerposts

New finger post signage has been installed outside the footpath by All Saints Church and on Pound Lane outside Court Garden car park. The signs have been funded by the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy).



New bike hoops installed in Marlow town centre

Marlow Town Council has installed of 16 new bike hoops in the town in a match-funded project with Buckinghamshire Council. The pandemic and associated lockdowns have created strong demand for more



secure bicycle parking facilities in the town centre, according to Marlow Mayor Richard Scott. As part of its #sustainablemarlow campaign, the Council was also keen to encourage more cycling and ease congestion in the town.

“Since February 2020,” he said, “Councillors have been working closely with the officers at Buckinghamshire Council on plans initially to find an area for temporary bike racks. Instead we were able to come up with a total of 16 new and permanent cycle hoop locations, and after the necessary investigative groundworks they were installed in the town centre the week before Christmas.”

The new bike hoops are outside Burgers on The Causeway; at Malik’s restaurant at the bottom of the High Street; at D&G Travel further up the High Street; outside Hamptons in the High Street; and at Anglers Court in Spittal Street. The chosen locations utilise the available space and are located in high visibility areas to allow cyclists to keep line of sight of their bikes and minimise opportunistic theft.

Jocelyn Towns, Leader of the Council, said: “We are absolutely delighted to have been able to deliver a permanent solution rather than the temporary one we were initially looking at. The locations were chosen with the cyclist in mind and we hope they will be a great benefit to our cycling community.”



Barry Cross retires

Barry Cross, the Council’s Community and Amenities Officer, has retired from the role after over 11 years of service. Barry is a well-known face around the town and has worked tirelessly in his service to the Council and the community.

No two days have been the same for Barry. He has worked tirelessly to improve the appearance of the town, with a huge portfolio of tasks including looking after several playgrounds and their equipment, litter picking, clearing footpaths and allotment maintenance. Over the years Barry has reunited countless residents with numerous items of lost property; rounded up lost dogs and injured swans; helped tourists; and captured stray chickens in the cemetery!

Barry said: “The job has been so very varied I just never know what is going to face me on any given day. I have learned to expect the unexpected and always be prepared for anything. I am going to miss working for the Council very much.”

Mayor Richard Scott thanked Barry for his service and added that he looked forward to restrictions being lifted so as to be able to mark the occasion with a presentation.

#sustainablemarlow

Update from Marlow Town Council's environmental initiative



Expanded environmental programme

Marlow Town Council has announced a big upgrade in its sustainability efforts. In January it appointed a Sustainability Action Consultant to help it develop stronger policies. The six-month contract is the Council's largest ever investment in sustainability. The consultant's brief is to examine all aspects of sustainability. As well as environmental issues, this will consider the need to enhance Marlow socially and economically too. Important priority areas include air quality, active transport (walking and cycling) and nature conservation.

A key focus will be climate change. With the UK committed to net-zero carbon by 2050, all communities need to take steps to reduce their own contribution to global warming. The Town Council is aiming to kick-start this conversation in Marlow.

The first initiatives under the expanded Sustainable Marlow programme were published in February and are covered in more detail below.

The Town Council will be holding an online briefing and consultation on the Sustainable Marlow programme on the 18th March. Check the council's website for details.

Council publishes its carbon emissions

Any organisation wanting to address its contribution to climate change needs to start by finding out where its emissions come from. With this in mind, Marlow Town Council has published its first carbon emissions audit. Prepared by the Council's new Sustainability Action Consultant, the audit tracked a wide variety of emission sources. These ranged from heating the council office to powering the Marlow Christmas lights, and from security contractor vehicles to grave digging machinery.

Overall it found that the Council was responsible for 30 tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent in emissions over a year. This is roughly the same as three average UK households when measured on a similarly comprehensive basis, including not just direct emissions but also those "embodied" in products.

The Council decided to carry out the audit a year ago when it adopted a statement on climate change. In the statement it also committed to cutting its emissions as quickly as possible in support of the national goal to achieve net-zero carbon by 2050. The carbon audit found that just a few sources accounted for most of the Council's emissions. Topping the list was the town bus running the routes 155 and 160. These old vehicles have poor fuel efficiency. The audit counted only 50% of





their emissions, in line with the Town Council's financial contribution. Also standing out were the Christmas lights put up to illuminate the town centre at this special time of year. Though each bulb is very energy efficient, the audit revealed that there are more than 10,000 of them lit continuously for about 50 days.

The Council is now considering the findings and will be acting to reduce emissions, as soon as possible. The full carbon audit can be downloaded from the Council's website.

Marlow's environmental performance revealed

How does Marlow compare with the rest of the country on environmental performance? An innovative report published in February shed light on this question. The Marlow Environmental Performance Index is a collection of 10 indicators showing how Marlow is doing and whether its performance is getting better or worse. The report was prepared for the Council by its new Sustainability Action Consultant. The results are informing the Council's own sustainability strategy. The Council also sees it as a key tool for engaging the community more widely. For example, residents who wish to can use several of the indicators to benchmark their own performance against the average for Marlow or the country more widely. Ultimately every household needs to reduce its environmental impacts: the index gives a starting point.

Some of the most important environmental issues are reflected in the index, including climate change, resource consumption, waste management and air pollution. But indicators were only included where very reliable annual data were available.

The Index shows Marlow to have environmental strengths but also weaknesses relative to the rest of the country. Most strikingly, resource consumption is relatively high in Marlow. In particular, the average Marlow household uses around two-fifths more electricity and gas than the average across England, and the average Marlovian consumes one-fifth more drinking water. Likewise per person emissions of carbon dioxide from domestic and transport in Marlow are nearly one-fifth higher.

In part, these differences are likely to reflect Marlow's relatively low density housing and semi-rural location, with few blocks of flats and more need for motorised transport to access services. But it also means that the challenge of achieving net-zero carbon emissions in Marlow is particularly large.

One bright spot revealed by the Index is that the amount of waste produced per household is lower on average than across Buckinghamshire. Most strikingly, Marlow is fast becoming a national leader in its take-up of low-carbon electric vehicles. In 2019, the share in Marlow increased threefold to reach a level four times higher than the average across Great Britain.

The Council intends to update the Index annually, if possible, in order to keep highlighting the importance of sustainability in the community and to track progress over time. The full Index can be downloaded from the Council's website.

More trees join Marlow's landscape

This winter a band of local volunteers ensured that Marlow will have more trees in future. With permission from Buckinghamshire Council and working in a socially distanced way due to Covid, the group put in tens of new saplings in at several sites. Releaf Marlow is a community tree planting project run by local group Transition Town Marlow and supported by the Town Council.

Residents planted 26 trees in the verges of the section of Wycombe Road that connects Marlow with Marlow Bottom. As the Marlovian went to press, preparations were underway to put trees into The Ridgeway open space and Little Marlow Road at its junction with Glade Road.

By using slightly smaller saplings than usual and shopping around, Releaf Marlow managed to source and plant the trees at low cost. Its volunteers will continue to care for the saplings for their first three years. The group also took care to source environmentally friendly materials. For example, it used ties made of natural fibre rather than plastic, mulch mats made of jute, biodegradable plastic pegs and 100% recycled tree guards.





Become A Councillor

If you love Marlow, put yourself forward for election

After having to delay local elections last year, it has been decided that the 6th May elections this year can go ahead. So the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is calling on individuals in the local community to become a town councillor at the 2021 elections.

The role of Councillor

Local councillors are the champions of their community. They invest time in local projects and issues for the benefit of residents in the neighbourhood. Councillors attend to the needs of local residents, groups and businesses; make decisions on local services; collaborate with County Councils / Unitary Authorities to adhere to local needs; and progress vital projects to invest in the future of the community.

What councils do

Councils lead on community services such as allotments, footpaths, grounds maintenance, Christmas lights, provision of cycle racks for cyclists, play areas and civic events, as well as larger projects including climate change initiatives. These activities are funded by a local tax called a 'precept', which is determined by the council.

What would be a councillor's commitment?

On average councillors put aside around three hours a week for council work. This would include attending meetings, engaging with residents and speaking to local groups and bodies on behalf of the council.

Who can stand for election?

You must be:

- A British citizen or a citizen of the Commonwealth
- 18 years of age or older
- Work in, live in or within three miles of the area of the local Council
- A member of a political party or an independent

If you love Marlow and feel you can make a contribution to keeping this town a place that residents can be proud of — a place enjoyed by many visitors all year round — then contact **Hilary Martin**, Town Clerk, Marlow Town Council on **hilarymartin@marlow-tc.gov.uk** to find out more. Visit our website for more information on what Marlow Town Council does and read the minutes of the meetings of the Council and various committees that are held regularly. **www.marlow-tc.gov.uk**

Meadowside

— RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME —

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

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 Commission and comply with the required standards for residential care. You can visit our website for further information. Please contact Elizabeth directly to discuss your care requirements.



Rated "Good" in all key areas by the CQC in May 2016.



Census Survey

Have you got your census letter?

All households across England and Wales are being asked to take part in Census 2021. Census day is on 21st March, but households will now be receiving letters with online codes explaining how they can complete their surveys. If you don't get one in the next couple of weeks, please get in touch with the census contact centre. You can also request a paper questionnaire if you'd prefer to complete your census that way.

Local census support centres will be open while the census is taking place. Staff will offer help for people not confident online, who don't have a computer, or need help completing on paper.

Ross Tackley, Census Engagement Manager from the ONS, said: "This census will be the most progressive ever. As well as being a 'digital-first' census, there will be three new questions. The first will ask people whether they have served in the Armed Forces, and, for those

aged 16 and over, there will be voluntary questions on sexual orientation and gender identity."

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that provides the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, when the population of England and Wales was around 9 million. By 1851 it had doubled to 18 million.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations. Data collected from the census is used by the local government to plan future services such as health care, transport, and education.

Remember to complete your census on or by 21st March. For more information, and to find out how to get help, visit **census.gov.uk**, or call the contact centre on **0800 141 2021**



The census is coming

Sunday **21 March**

it's about us
census 2021

John Chapman MBE Obituaries

The Marlow community pay tribute

Marlow Town Council

It was with great sadness that the Town Council learnt of the passing of John Chapman. Members and officers offer their sincere condolences to John's family.

John played a very active part in the Marlow community over many years, including the Royal British Legion. Being its president, he was a very active supporter of the Legion with an emphasis on fundraising to support its members locally and nationally. He will be particularly remembered for his exhortation of the words on the Kohima epitaph at the annual Remembrance Day service.

John had also been very active with Marlow Age Concern and was previously a governor of Great Marlow School. In addition, he had been president of the Chamber of Trade and Commerce and living and working locally, he played an active role in its activities. He had also been president of the Marlow Rowing Club and supported the Marlow Regatta and Festival in June of each year. The receipt of an MBE in 2020 recognised his many years of community work within Marlow.

John will be sadly missed in our community.

Contributed by *Cllr Richard Scott*
Marlow Town Mayor

Marlow Chamber of Trade and Commerce

It is with sadness that we received the news of the death of John Chapman MBE, who was president of the Marlow Chamber of Commerce from 1988-89. Following his retirement from the Chamber, he continued to take a great interest in the town's businesses and was knowledgeable about the history of the town.

John was well known within the community as President of Marlow British Legion, and many will remember him reciting the Kohima on Remembrance Sunday. He was also very involved in Age Concern, was a Governor of Great Marlow School and was a trustee and fundraiser for Thames Valley Air Ambulance, a charity close to his heart.

John was recently awarded a much-deserved MBE for his work. His community spirit and knowledge of the town was extensive and he was often asked for his opinion on things that were happening. He did not hold back with his replies!!

He will be greatly missed by many people.

Contributed by *Jo Braybrooke*



Royal British Legion, Marlow Branch

John Chapman was a member of the Royal British Legion for 25 years and actively supported both the charitable aims of the Legion and comradeship in the Royal British Legion Club.

Throughout this time, he supported the Poppy Appeal in Marlow and was instrumental in increasing the funds raised to support the Armed Forces community.

John was an ex-soldier himself and saw active service in Aden in the 1960s. He accepted the Presidency of the Marlow branch in 2011, providing guidance to the office holders and ensuring that the aims of the Legion were achieved. He embodied the Royal British Legion motto "Service not Self," not only in his actions with the Legion but in all that he did for the community as a whole.

John's overall contribution was officially recognised in the 2019 New Year Honours list when he was appointed as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. He was liked and greatly respected by all in the community.

He will be hugely missed in the Royal British Legion Marlow branch, where he leaves a space in the organisation that will be difficult to fill.

Contributed by *Shaun Murphy*
Chairman, Royal British Legion, Marlow Branch

Rotary Club of Marlow

John Chapman was an absolute stalwart of the community in Marlow over many, many years. Part of his commitment was his very active membership of the Rotary Club of Marlow for well over 30 years. The motto of the Rotary International, the largest volunteer network in the world, is "Service above Self", and those words epitomise John's approach to life in everything he did, in and out of Rotary.

John took an active part in all aspects of the Rotary Club of Marlow after joining in 1987, soon becoming chairman of committees, Treasurer, and ultimately President in 1992/3. He was District Governor for the year of 2000/2001 when he was in charge of all the Rotary Clubs in Bucks/Berks/Oxon and Middlesex.

Some of the special moments in John's life in Rotary include when he led a team taking a group of young business people on a month's visit to America; when he went to India to help with vaccinations for the local population on the massive Rotary-led Polio+ campaign to help eradicate Polio from the world; and his great efforts over many years to help raise funds for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

He was kind, warm-hearted, and always keen to help others, a true example of a Rotarian in action, helping those in need in his local community and elsewhere around the world. He will be greatly missed by all his many friends in the Rotary Club of Marlow and throughout the wider population of the town.

Contributed by *Lance Slater*

Rotary Club of Marlow

Marlow Rowing Club & Marlow Regatta

It is very sad to record the passing of John Chapman on 11th February 2021 after a short illness in hospital.

"If only more people gave to their family and to society in the way that John has always done, the world would be a much better place."

"A kind, generous and wonderful man who will be greatly missed by us all."

These are just two of the messages I have seen since this news became known. I'm sure there will be many more, since John was awarded the MBE in the 2020 New Year's Honours list for services to the Community of Marlow. It is a great shame that Covid-19 restrictions meant that he never received his award in person.

We at Marlow Rowing Club and Marlow Regatta (Dorney) only ever saw a small part of John's contribution to the life of Marlow. He was much-involved in Age Concern, Marlow Parish Church, the Rotary Club, the British Legion and no doubt other organisations of which I am unaware.

Whilst John never took on an official position within Marlow Rowing Club, he and his late wife Jean were essential members of the "working parties" for any event staged by the Club, whether it be baking cakes, making sandwiches, serving on the bar or erecting tents. He was a very keen member of the "heavy gang" that used to erect the two-storey Judges' Box and other structures at Marlow Regatta when it was run in Marlow. He even survived a spanner being dropped on his head one year, only to turn up the next year wearing a safety helmet! (Before the days of Health and Safety!)

He was elected onto the Regatta Committee in 1986 and then to the Management Committee in 1991. He was made a Vice President in 2006 and took over as President from Bill Findlay in 2012. In addition to these local roles, John was Hon Treasurer of the Thames Regional Rowing Council for 12 years leading up to 2006, and then acted as Examiner until 2013. He was elected President of the TRRC in 2011, a one-year appointment, and then became a Life Vice President.

He was widely known throughout the rowing world, partly because of his enthusiastic support for the younger members of his family, who rowed with some success. His presence at meetings and rowing events, as well as his wise counsel and comradeship, will be very much missed by us all.

Contributed by *Tony Evans*



John Chapman presenting the winner of Elite Lightweight Sculls with his trophy.

Marlow Poppies

Thousands of crochet poppies displayed to honour war heroes



Like so many of us, I learnt about WW1 and WW2 through history books, the occasional documentary and listening to grandparents. After a visit to Auschwitz, my outlook on life changed forever. I realised just how much we have to be grateful for and how much we owe all those who lost their lives protecting our future.

After this trip, I crocheted some poppies and advertised them on social media, with the money going to the Marlow Poppy Appeal. The response was wonderful and I was making poppies up until the day before Remembrance. The lovely comments I received inspired me in 2019 to honour all those servicemen from in and around Marlow who had lost their lives 100 years earlier in WW1.

A crochet poppy with the name of each local man was placed along Marlow High Street to be found. Using social media and the 'Marlow Poppy' Facebook page, word got around and each day the poppies were taken. Some very touching tributes were made, including one lady placing a Remembrance wreath on the grave of one young hero buried in Marlow Cemetery.

I know Marlow is a very special place to live, but still I didn't expect the response — it was amazing! Three other ladies were keen to make poppies too, some of which were purple for all the animals lost.

In February last year, as there had been so much support and we were celebrating 75 years since the end

of WW2, I decided to set up a 'Marlow Poppy Display' group asking all who could knit or crochet if they would like to make poppies for the display. Again, the response was amazing, not only from Marlow, but the surrounding areas too, including Maidenhead, Bourne End, Cookham, Hazlemere and Twyford.

*Over £4,600 was raised for the
Marlow Poppy Appeal, with
donations still coming in*

It was a difficult year for us to meet, but through the Facebook group everyone was very enthusiastic about the display, encouraging one another by sharing pictures, patterns and tips. Thankfully we did manage to get together in small groups during October, so we could 'string' the poppies together ready to attach to the railings. In total there were over 3,000 poppies on the church and park railings and once again 300 poppies were left along Marlow High Street, each to honour a local hero from WW2.

It has been a great experience working with these ladies. Their enthusiasm has been uplifting and we are aiming to go further along the park railings with poppies this year. For us as a group, it has been an absolute honour to pay tribute to and remember all those men and women who didn't come back to their homes in Marlow.

I would love to be able to name everyone who helped but in truth, I may never know as some were left anonymously, so I would like to thank everyone as a group for all their time, wool and effort in making the display and to Marlow as a town for all your support, encouragement and, most of all, donations.

Over £4,600 was raised for the Marlow Poppy Appeal, with donations still coming in, which will support those who continue to put our safety ahead of theirs. The Just Giving page is still open so if you would like to donate please visit: **www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/marlow-poppies**.

Contributed by *Corrine Hinch*
Marlow Poppy Display Group





Royal British Legion

Fundraising and remembrance during Covid-19 restrictions



Marlow Poppy Appeal

The last year has been a difficult year for the Poppy Appeal. The Covid-19 restrictions reduced the number of collection boxes that outlets and organisations could host, and street collections were not allowed unless social distancing could be maintained. We were delighted to receive permission from the Town Council for a collection table to be positioned in the High Street on collection days — but this activity, too, was curtailed by the lockdown. Nonetheless the collection surpassed our initial expectations, so we'd like to offer a very big "thank you" to all those that volunteered to collect and to the townspeople of Marlow.

A potentially disastrous year was turned into a success!

Special thanks must go to "Marlow Poppies" and in particular to Corrine Hinch who organised the crocheting of some 3,000 poppies. These were placed on the railings at the entrance to All Saints Church and Higginson Park, along with 300 Poppies that individually commemorated the fallen of World War 2.

The ladies contributed £4,607.55 to the total of £24,958.09 raised in Marlow, a truly magnificent sum in the circumstances. The Royal British Legion awarded a County Certificate to Corrine Hinch for her group's help in raising sums for the Poppy Appeal over the last years. Additionally Corrine was awarded the Buckinghamshire County Poppy Appeal Trophy for her outstanding contribution to the Poppy Appeal in 2020. A well-deserved award.



Remembrance Sunday

Due to Covid-19 Remembrance Sunday commemorations in Marlow were cancelled and a virtual event organised. It was streamed with more than 11,600 views.

Dave Bull of All Saints, Nick Thompson from Marlow Methodist Church and Anthea Wratten from River Church all took part, along with many organisations who would have normally attended the War Memorial service. Many thanks to Tim Ashburner who filmed the event. We only hope that we can go back to the 'normal' commemoration and parade at The Causeway this year.



The Town Council has also been awarded a Buckinghamshire County Certificate from the Royal British Legion for its assistance with the Poppy Appeal and for organising and supporting the virtual Remembrance Day Commemorations.



Many Happy Returns

Marlow resident celebrates her 101st birthday



Barbara Wood, a Marlow resident, celebrated her 101st birthday on 13th February. A birthday tea party was organised by the staff at Sir Aubrey Ward House in Marlow, the residential care home where Barbara lives, with staff and her daughter Georgina.



The Mayor, Cllr Richard Scott, joined her via Zoom to wish her a Happy Birthday. He said "I was delighted to congratulate Barbara on this magnificent achievement. We spoke via a Zoom call on her 101st birthday, but I would have much preferred to have been with her in person to recognise this important milestone. Barbara told me that she had now received her second birthday card from Her Majesty the Queen to mark the occasion. On behalf of the Town, I gave her all our best wishes and said that I was looking forward to speaking to her on her 102nd birthday".

Barbara has two children, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Her grandchildren are both doctors: one is a GP and the other a consultant surgeon. She moved into Sir Aubrey Ward House in the autumn last year. She contracted Covid-19 at the end of December but thankfully survived the virus.

Brought up in Derbyshire, where her parents were local hoteliers, Barbara married a local man and lived

In Matlock until she was in her forties. The family then moved to the West Midlands with her husband's academic job and they eventually retired to Torquay to be near their grandchildren and her husband's boat! After her husband died, she moved to a flat in Cookham to be near her daughter and has already spent 11 very happy years in this area.

She was in the first call-up for the Second World War but because she worked in the offices at Rolls Royce Aero Engines in Derby, she did not join up because her occupation was vital to the war effort. Her then boyfriend joined the RAF and when she married him, he had trained as a Spitfire pilot.

She has always worked; at first owning and managing a small grocery store, then later moving on to other managerial jobs in retailing. At one point she worked for a wine merchant and immediately before retirement was a manager in the handbags and leather department of a prestigious department store. She also worked for the Civil Service when she first moved to the Midlands.

Barbara is fascinated by technological developments and how communications have changed. She still has telegrams sent by her husband in the war and can't believe just how much information can be extracted from those little screens (iPads) everyone has!

Daughter Georgina said: "My mother loves clothes and fashion. When she moved to Sir Aubrey Ward, she was asked if she had a dream she'd like to realise. She said she wanted to go to Royal Ascot, which was a surprise, as she had never appeared to show the slightest interest in horses, racing or betting. We could have taken her to Windsor Races or Ascot if we had only known, but she said that would not have sufficed as she wanted to look at the fashions at Royal Ascot — not the horses!"



Ox-Cam Flood Project

Property flood resilience advice and demonstrations



As one of three DEFRA-funded national pathfinder partnerships, the Ox-Cam Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Pathfinder Project has been launched to raise awareness and take-up of property flood resilience measures, which homeowners and businesses can install, to help lessen the impact of future flood events.

In the last month alone, communities across the Oxfordshire-Cambridgeshire arc region (which includes Marlow) have faced significant disruption caused by flooding, with some homeowners having to evacuate over Christmas and Storm Christoph bringing further flood worries in 2021. The Ox-Cam PFR Pathfinder Project is able to engage with affected communities and demonstrate how resilience measures can be embedded, via the use of online resources, demonstration vehicles and buildings and virtual events.

The Ox-Cam PFR Pathfinder Project has launched a website, which provides access to useful guides, resources, case study videos and signposts to project partners. It has also launched a Twitter and Facebook page which communities can follow for the very latest news and information. Details of a bespoke PFR demonstration vehicle 'The Floodmobile' and demonstration property at HR Wallingford will be announced shortly.

Mary Dhonau OBE, Property Flood Resilience Expert (residential) for the Ox-Cam PFR Pathfinder Project said: "Having been flooded myself, I know just how appalling it is. Winter rain is set to increase by a staggering 59% by 2050 and we can't keep building longer and higher flood defences. I am therefore delighted to be working with the Ox-Cam Pathfinder Project to be able to highlight to those at flood risk, just what can be done to reduce the awful impact and speed up recovery."

The Ox-Cam PFR team will be hosting a number of online community events to demonstrate the active steps that people can take to make properties and businesses resilient to flooding. PFR refers to measures that can be put on or in a property to help reduce the risk or impact of flooding and enable people to 'build back better' so they can get back into their homes or business premises much quicker after a flood.

Adds Matt Tandy, a Chartered Water and Environment Manager and PFR expert for businesses: "We are delighted to launch the Ox-Cam PFR Pathfinder Project's online services and look forward to working closely with the many communities across the Oxford-Cambridge arc region to offer practical advice and PFR demonstrations. In doing so, we aim to support homeowners and businesses in taking decisive action so they can better



Photo: Mary Dhonau OBE, Property Flood Resilience Expert

prepare for future flood events and make real differences to protect lives and livelihoods."

Examples of PFR include installing non-return valves on waste pipes and airbrick covers, applying flood resistant coatings on walls and using flood barriers to stop water coming through doorways.

Led by Northamptonshire County Council, the Ox-Cam PFR Pathfinder Project is working in conjunction with Lead Local Flood Authorities from the following councils: Cambridgeshire County Council; Northamptonshire County Council; Oxfordshire County Council; Buckinghamshire Council, Central Bedfordshire Council; Milton Keynes Council; Luton Borough Council; and Peterborough City Council.

Other key project partners include the Environment Agency, Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (Anglian Central, Northern and Thames), Anglian Water, Thames Water and the DEFRA Property Flood Resilience Roundtable.

For more information, visit www.floodtoolkit.com/ox-cam-property-flood-resilience-pathfinder or follow the Ox-Cam PFR Pathfinder project on Twitter: [/oxcampfr](https://twitter.com/oxcampfr) or Facebook: [/OxCamPFR](https://facebook.com/OxCamPFR).



Ox-Cam Pathfinder Project

Love Your Town

Marlow Wombles 'Keep Marlow Tidy' poster competition



Marlow Wombles and local stakeholders are delighted to be running a 'Keep Marlow Tidy' poster competition. Litter has become an increasing issue, both locally and nationally, which negatively impacts our parks, wildlife habitats and the use of our outdoor spaces.

Marlow Wombles can regularly be seen litter picking throughout the town with a team of dedicated volunteers. The task is neverending and they are looking to the local community to help tackle this issue by raising awareness in the form of a poster competition which is open to anyone of school age.

Do use your creative flair and please ensure your posters are very clear by following the guidelines below:

- Large text that can be seen from a distance.
- Use bright colours.
- Include 'Keep Marlow Tidy'.
- Name, age and school on the back or front of the poster.
- Posters should be A4 white paper and portrait orientation.

Remember to check spelling and include an e-mail address or contact details as each entry will receive a certificate from the Marlow Wombles. Please send your entries to **office@marlow-tc.gov.uk** or alternatively pop your poster in an envelope and drop it into the Marlow Town Council office via the letterbox.

Closing date: **Wednesday, 31st March 2021.**

Winning posters will be chosen by a select panel by Monday, 5th April 2021.

There will be a 1st Prize of £50 and second prize of £25 in the form of a voucher for each age category donated by Globe Business Park BID.

Age Categories:
Junior – primary school age
Senior – secondary school age

Posters will be displayed in and around Marlow.





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Mr Marlow United

Club stalwart steps down

Alan Turner, founder member of Marlow United Football Club, stood down from his position as Club Chairman at the beginning of the current (aborted) season.

His story of unstinting dedication to Marlow's 'other football club,' not to be confused with Marlow FC, began in 1977 when a group of young Marlow friends decided to form a club to indulge their passion for playing the game. Grass-roots football was thriving at the time, with 80 teams competing every Saturday afternoon in the Wycombe district alone.

A true grass-roots football legend, in 2005, Alan had the distinction of being the first ever recipient of the Club Secretary of the Year award from the Reading and District League. During his tenure he saw the club achieve great success on the field, competing in and winning trophies in the Wycombe, East Berks and Reading — now Thames Valley — leagues.



United has the distinction of being the only club to win the Wycombe, Maidenhead and Reading Senior Cups, having played in nine finals at the magnificent Madejski Stadium, home of Reading FC.

A true grass-roots football legend, in 2005, Alan had the distinction of being the first ever recipient of the Club Secretary of the Year award from the Reading and District League

Alan was instrumental in arranging a ground share with Flackwell Heath in 2004. This saw the club win their first Reading League title and eventual promotion to the Hellenic League, where a further promotion with entry in to both the FA Cup and FA Vase culminated in probably their finest achievement, winning the Hellenic League Floodlit Cup Final against Hungerford Town.

Recently the club became the first ever winner of the Thames Valley League, reaching the final of the Berks and Bucks Cup three years on the trot, and again winning the League.

The club continues to thrive, currently ground-sharing with Marlow FC, boasting a vibrant youth section. It's no exaggeration to say much of this is because of the unstinting efforts of Alan. Recent major surgery and the arrival of Covid have finally forced Alan to step aside.

He continues to live in the town and we wish "Mr Marlow United" a long and happy retirement together with his long-suffering wife, Caroline.

Contributed by *Bernard Burger*

Marlow Park Cricket Club

Go Fund Me page set up for repairs after club was vandalised

Marlow Park Cricket Club based in Higginson Park suffered major damage, thought to be as a result of vandalism, over the New Year period.



James Penlington, a Marlow resident, set up A Go Fund Me page to raise funds for the repairs in January with all money going to repair the damage with the possibility of adding CCTV. He thanks Sorbon Estates for erecting a temporary fence around the clubhouse whilst building works were carried out to prevent any further vandalism and Leigh Mason (Builders Ltd) for their full support and offer to repair the building. Marlow Bowls Club have also made a donation to help with the repairs.

James Penlington said "We are incredibly grateful for the response that we received from the Marlow community. We have already started planning the repairs and will be taking further steps to reduce vandalism in the future. If anyone is interested in playing friendly, sociable cricket in a great environment or in joining the club socially please contact us. You don't have play or attend often, just share in the right spirit and we'd love to welcome you."

4Front security are now partnered with Marlow Park Cricket Club offering monitoring and response to the cricket grounds without fee.



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Christmas Craft Market

Local producers brought seasonal cheer to Marlow

Transition Town Marlow (TTM) held its first Christmas Craft Market in December 2020 under cover of the Dray shed in the former Marlow Brewery courtyard.

It is hoped that the Christmas Craft Market will become a regular event

A number of local craft producers were able to display their impressive items, bringing some Christmas cheer to Marlow. Crafts ranged from recycled cork wreaths to glass, prints, candles and the very popular wooden reindeer made by an intrepid 15-year-old.

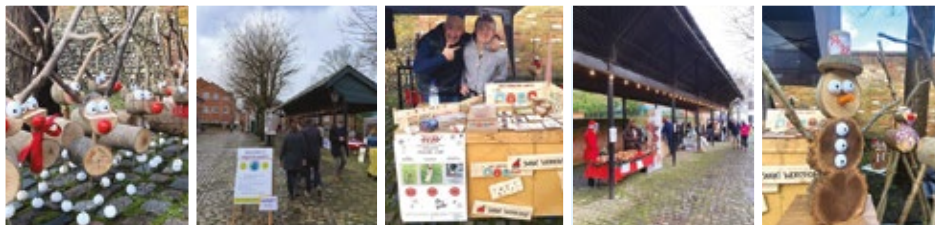
TTM drew up a strict Covid protocol, approved by Buckinghamshire Council's Safety Advisory Group. As the organisers of the

Marlow Market on The Causeway on the first Saturday of each month, TTM were able to ensure that the volunteers involved were well practiced in operating a Covid-secure outdoor event.

The group is constantly adapting to new Government guidelines. Plans are under way to offer locally produced food at Marlow Market on the first Saturday of the month through the year. It is hoped that the Christmas Craft Market will become a regular event as well.

TTM is very grateful to the Marlow Brewery Estate for allowing use of the courtyard.

For information: www.transitionmarlow.org or find the **Marlow Market** on Facebook.



Tree of Hope

Initiative delivers £1,000 to local charities

A 'Tree of Hope' initiative was launched before Xmas by Marlow Thames Rotary Club, working with Marlow Town Council. It featured an 'umbrella' tree (by the war memorial on The Causeway) in conjunction with an online 'Tree of Hope', and invited dedications and donations in support of five local charities.

As a result, just over £900 was donated by members of the public, and the Marlow Thames Rotary Club has agreed to round the sum up to £1,000 and to pay for all the set-up costs. Dedications were wide and varied in nature – mainly to family members and friends, but also to key workers, specific groups and, of course, those for whom current conditions have restricted contact.

As a result donations of £200 will be made to each of the following charities:

- The Marlow Mayor's charity (mental health in young people)
- Alexander Devine Children's Hospice
- South Bucks Hospice

- Thames Valley Adventure Playground (for children with special needs)
- Marlow Age Concern

Marlow Town Mayor Richard Scott said: "We were absolutely delighted to support this initiative by Marlow Thames Rotary Club. To raise £1,000 in the current environment is a fantastic achievement. Hopefully this initiative will be repeated in future years and become more widely known."

Nicole Hockly, President of Marlow Thames Rotary Club, said: "We are very pleased with the public support for this initiative. We had intended to incorporate live activities by the tree in the High Street, including a singalong, but of course the current restrictions prevented this. So to raise over £900 was fantastic – and our club was very happy to round this up and to ensure that all set up costs were covered. We will arrange for the five charities selected to receive their £200 in the next few days."

For more information on Marlow Thames Rotary Club go to www.marlowthamesrotary.org.uk

Festive Festival

Events

Marlow Christmas Drive-In

Nearly 4,000 Marlow residents enjoyed the innovative Christmas Drive-In Festival with hundreds more listening in on the radio.

Organised by Pub in the Park and Marlow Town Council, the event took place over four days, with highlights including the popular Meals from Marlow lunch on Friday – and despite the actual event having been cancelled, Marlow FM's Hidden Heroes Awards was able to take place successfully at the Drive-In on Saturday.

Unfortunately, the three remaining days of the Festival had to be cancelled due to the introduction of Covid-19 Tier 4 restrictions. Mayor Richard Scott said: "We have provided the opportunity to gather for a safe festive

occasion to around 4,000 people. However, we are sorry that others will be disappointed."

Chris Hughes of Brand Events said: "The event demonstrated the amazing community spirit in Marlow. Thanks to everybody for helping to provide a safe festive gathering for thousands of people. Sorry it ended early!!"

"Our priority throughout has been the wellbeing of our wonderful hometown," Richard Scott continued. "The decision to end early is therefore sad but essential. It is a tribute to the whole community that 25 local organisations have been involved in this project, though unfortunately not all of them got to appear on the big screen due to the new Tier 4 restrictions."



Santa's Fun Run



Virtual event raises well over £20,000 for charity

The 2020 Marlow Santa's Fun Run, run by individuals or in separate households this year mainly over the weekend of 19th and 20th December 2020, still managed to attract 900 entries despite the challenges of lockdown, social distancing and general uncertainty. Indeed team runs and walks took place right up until 31st December, building on the flexibility offered this year because of the ever-changing Covid restrictions.

Many smaller charities organised teams for the event, representing both staff and beneficiaries. A good example was the Marlow Opportunity Playgroup (MOP) where at least four teams entered. The charity is based in Wooburn Green and provides pre-school opportunities for children with very challenging needs.

Initial payments are already being made to both Carers Bucks, the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice and some other smaller charities

Much of the event sponsorship fundraising is still in hand. Money raised via Virgin Giving continues to be received, mainly supporting specific charities nominated by entrants. Hence the final sum will not yet be known. However initial payments are already being made to both Carers Bucks, the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice and some other smaller charities.

Carers Bucks also entered a strong team, with 17 supporters raising additional funds by running or walking independently in different locations right across

Buckinghamshire. The event provided local supporters with a focal point for fund-raising.

Together with the Virgin Giving contributions, it is anticipated that the Marlow Rotary Clubs will eventually be able to distribute well over £20,000 to a range of other mainly local charities in the New Year.



For most participants the event was simply a fun day, with families, friends and pets taking a relatively leisurely and socially distanced canter through the local streets. This year the organisers hope that despite the fragmented event, participants found the event provided some welcome light relief and distraction from the challenges of the pandemic.

John Prout, Chair of the Marlow Santa's Fun Run Organising Committee, said: "We are very pleased to have been able to run this event. We sincerely thank the 900 participants, our commercial sponsors and advertisers and of course those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to deliver a successful Fun Run."

The date for the 2021 event is confirmed as Sunday 5th December, and the website for entries will open on 1st September 2021. John Prout added: "Hopefully life will be more like normal in a year's time – and again we will see a sea of red make its way up Marlow High Street on a December Sunday morning. Hope to see you there!"

Contributed by *John Prout*





Santa's Fun Run continued <<

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