



marlovian

all your news from the community

Summer 2022

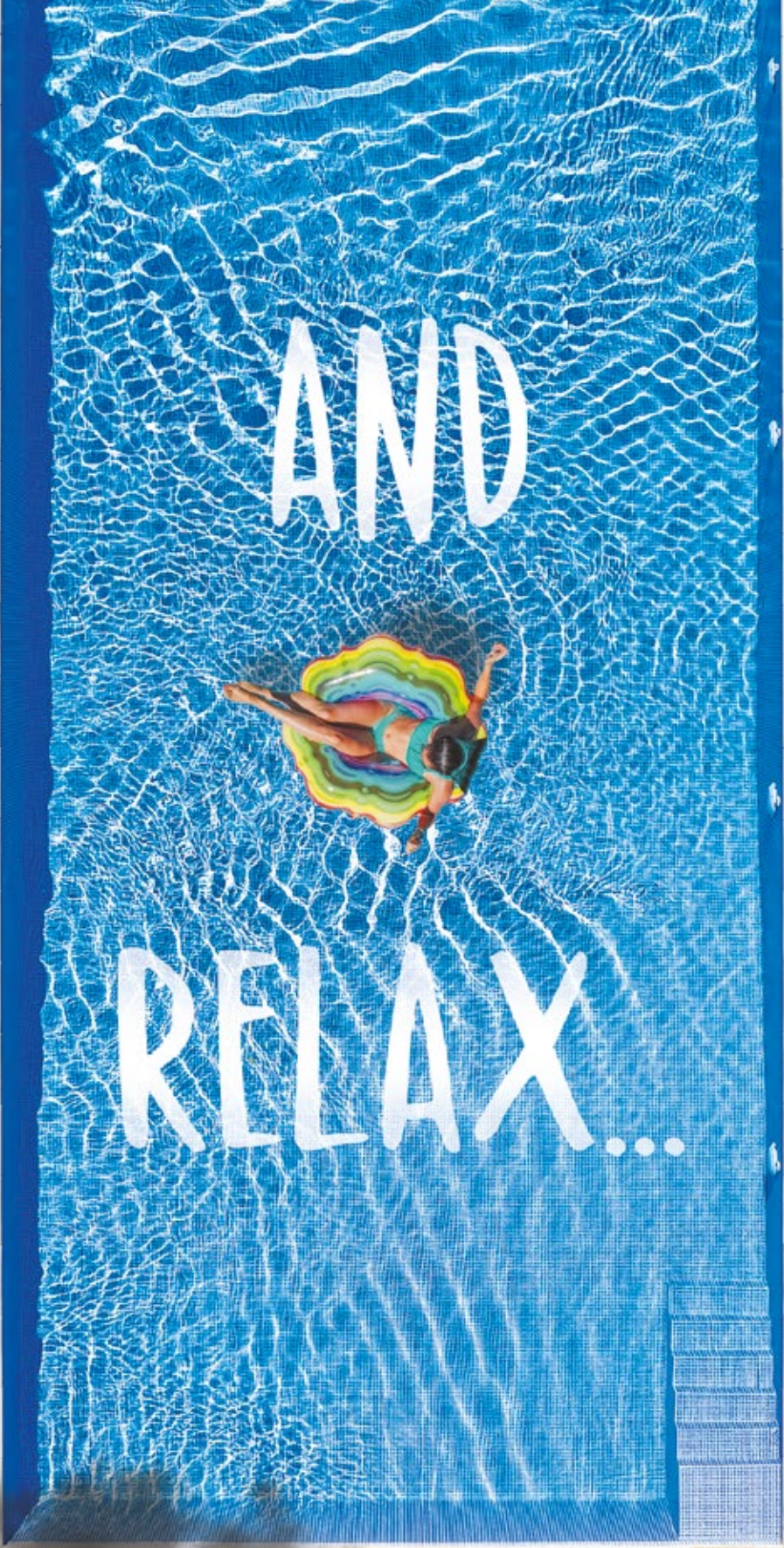
Jubilee. *Jubilation*

Marlovians partied like the Queen at Higginson Park

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PLUS+ Sustainability | Civic celebration | Annual Parish Report | Community

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM MARLOWTOWNCOUNCIL

An aerial photograph of a swimming pool with a blue tiled interior. A person is floating on a colorful, multi-layered inflatable ring in the center of the pool. The words "AND" and "RELAX..." are printed in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the water. The pool is surrounded by a light-colored stone tile deck.

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Mayor's Message

Summer welcome

I am honoured and delighted to have been elected as your mayor until May 2023 – it is a role that I serve with great pride to represent all residents.

Marlow is a busy and buzzing town, the envy of many, and following a more relaxed Covid environment, many of our regular events are now coming back into the calendar. In recent weeks, I have been pleased to attend several of those, including the Marlow Rotary Club concert, Marlow Town Band concert, Marlow Orchestra spring concert and a rehearsal session of the Next Stage choir – music is certainly alive and well in Marlow.

I have attended the Scouts St George's Day Parade and the annual general meetings of Marlow Refugee Action and Age Concern, and I have also represented Marlow at a number of civic events within the county, including the installation of a new High Sheriff. Most recently, I have welcomed new businesses into the town including Megan's restaurant, Gail's Bakery and Laurents Deli. And finally, I hope all residents enjoyed the "Party like the Queen!" event on 3rd June, which is fully reported elsewhere in this Marlovian.

Marlow is a busy and buzzing town, the envy of many, and following a more relaxed Covid environment, many of our regular events are now coming back into the calendar

will agree the recipients, which could, of course, be more than one in Spring 2023.

I look forward to meeting with you at our town events and please do contact the Town Council office if you would like me to attend one of those.

Cllr Richard Scott
Marlow Town Mayor



My diary is now filling up with more local events for the coming months and I look forward to attending. All this is evidence of a busy town with an excellent community spirit as Marlow remains a very attractive place to live, visit and work.

Last year, the council registered the Marlow Mayor's Charity to formalise its fundraising and it is this body that ultimately approves any donations. Any monies I raise this year will be added to the charity funds and the trustees



Marlow to Marly

Celebrating 50 years of town twinning



Together with four councillor colleagues, the Mayor, Richard Scott visited our twin town, Marly le Roi, to commemorate the end of the Second World War in Europe and the 50th anniversary of the twinning arrangements. As a memento of the anniversary, the Mayor was pleased to receive an engraving of Marly-le-Roi which is displayed in the council offices. In return, he gave Marly council an engraved glass trophy and promised to plant a commemorative tree in November during the tree planting season. Councillors were joined by members of the Marlow Town Twinning Association and their French counterpart, Les Amis de Jumelage.



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Town Council News

Summer 2022

Illuminated Union Jacks & Jubilee bunting

Two huge, illuminated Union Jacks, sponsored by Buckinghamshire Council's Welcome Back Fund, have been sited at the top and bottom of the High Street. In addition, Jubilee bunting has been installed throughout the High Street to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Photo credit: Paul Merchant, My Marlow



New fencing at Seymour Park Recreation Ground

The Council has invested in replacement and new fencing for Seymour Park Recreation Ground, replacing sections that were over thirty years old and no longer fit for purpose. Two new pedestrian gate entrances have been created on the north side of the park, and the benches have been refurbished to improve the park's overall appearance. The fencing parallel to Marlow Road has greatly improved the entrance to the town.



Marlow Cemetery

Marlow Cemetery is situated in Wethered Road and is managed by Marlow Town Council. The Cemetery has been in use since 1911 and many Marlow families' ancestors have been interred here.

When a grave is purchased, a "Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial" is granted to the registered grave owner. This gives them the exclusive rights to the grave for 99 years. All full graves have space for two full burial interments and six ashes interments.

As Marlow Cemetery nears capacity, we urge residents to check to see if there is a grave space in the family that they could use for future family interments. If families are unclear on who holds the "Grant of Exclusive Right for Burial" for a plot containing a relative, they may contact the Town Council office for assistance. Once the previous owner has been identified, families will need to agree who will have responsibility for it. Transfer of ownership of the "Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial" can take place once the Town Council has received all the appropriate paperwork and fees.

If you have any queries regarding ownership of a grave space, please contact the Town Council office for assistance. Call **01628 484024** or email **office@marlow-tc.gov.uk**

Photo credit: Archive cemetery photo



A-board policy

Marlow Town Council's A-board policy has been in force now for several years. During this time officers have worked closely with local business owners to ensure that advertising boards are treated equally for all town centre businesses and do not obstruct footpaths. Confiscation of offending boards is a last resort and officers ensure that the rules are enforced fairly.

The full policy can be viewed on our website at **www.marlow-tc.gov.uk/a-board-policy**

Litter

With the advent of lighter evenings and warmer weather unfortunately the volume of litter is increasing, particularly in Gossmore Park. The photo below shows the scene that greeted officers after the Easter weekend. If the waste bins are full, please take your litter home.



ShopMobility needs a home

Places for People at Court Garden Leisure Centre have unfortunately decided that they can no longer continue to house the three ShopMobility scooters that the Council owns. If you have a venue reasonably close to the town centre that the scooters can be collected and returned to - ideally during retail hours, seven days a week - please do get in touch with us to discuss further. If a suitable location cannot be found, the scheme will sadly have to cease at the end of July. Please contact the office on **01628 484024** or email **office@marlow-tc.gov.uk**

Marlow in the press

Marlow town has been featured in National Geographic Magazine highlighting its beautiful waterside walks, Michelin-starred dining, country houses and shopping in the fabulous high street.





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the marlovian

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#sustainablemarlow

Helping Marlow become more sustainable

The town's environmental challenge quantified

How sustainable is Marlow as a town? The Council's innovative Marlow Environmental Performance Index (MEPI) for 2022 sheds crucial light on this question. The MEPI shows how Marlow households compare with the rest of the country and highlights positive and negative trends. A summary of the report is shown on our website.

This year's MEPI shows some encouraging trends. In particular, Marlow extended its national lead in the take-up of electric cars. Nearly four times as many vehicles registered in Marlow are electric than as across the country as a whole. Electric vehicles emit zero air pollution, as well as no greenhouse gas emissions from their exhaust pipes, so the rapid growth in electric cars locally could have contributed to a big improvement in air quality in the town centre. However, changes in travel patterns during the pandemic were likely more important.

On the flip side, the MEPI also reveals that the average Marlow household consumes more resources and emits more greenhouse gases than the national average. Despite the growth in electric vehicles, the CO2 rating of vehicles in Marlow is higher than across the country. The average Marlow household uses more water, more gas and more electricity.

The MEPI provides the Council with an important factual basis for community engagement on sustainability issues. But individual residents can also use it independently to benchmark their sustainability profile against the Marlow or national averages. For example, the average CO2 rating of vehicles registered in Marlow is 145g/km, but 138g/km across Great Britain. If you drive a petrol or diesel car how does yours compare?

Average household gas consumption in Marlow is nearly 17,000kWh, compared with under 12,000 across England. At current energy prices, that is costing Marlow households an extra £400 per year, as well as causing nearly a tonne of extra carbon dioxide emissions.

If you're feeling dedicated and have weighing equipment, you can also benchmark your performance on waste recycling. The average rate across Buckinghamshire is 51%, which is actually higher than the national average of 44%.

If you benchmark your sustainability performance let the Council know your results.

Download the full report at:

www.marlow-tc.gov.uk/environment

Electric vehicle trial

Last chance to hire wirelessly charged vehicle.

Marlovians have given the thumbs-up to an innovative electric hire car stationed in Marlow since September. The vehicle has been used around 50% of all days, making it one of the most popular cars on the Hiyacar rental platform. But the scheme only runs until July, so time is running out to give it a try.

The most common users of the hire car are families with two drivers but only one vehicle, says the Open University, which is monitoring the trial. This shows how a car club approach can potentially help households live well while owning fewer vehicles.

What makes the car unique is that it charges wirelessly from an induction pad under its dedicated parking bay in Liston Road car park. But for many users the key benefits have been to drive an electric vehicle for the first time, the ease of locking and unlocking via a mobile phone app, or the possibility to rent by the hour at an affordable cost.

The trial is run by Buckinghamshire Council and electric charging firm Char.gy, with funding from the Government's Office for Zero Emission Vehicles. Users need to create an account with online car rental firm Hiyacar to make a booking.

Trinity Road update

Key walking route permanently pedestrianised.

Buckinghamshire Council has permanently pedestrianised Trinity Road, close to Marlow town centre, after local residents backed the change. The short stretch of road connecting Dean Street car park to Wethered Road is a key walking route, connecting much of north-east Marlow with the town centre. Its single pavement is too narrow for double buggies or mobility scooters, which can now safely use the roadway.

A trial of the scheme was started in April 2021 after the concept was supported in an initial public consultation by a majority of respondents. In a second consultation before Buckinghamshire made the scheme permanent, the number of respondents and the share of those in favour of pedestrianisation both increased. Pedestrian usage of the road increased by 45% over the course of the trial, while cycling increased by 12%.

Eco-Schools Conference



Ten Marlow schools work together for the environment

On Wednesday, 9th March, around 50 pupils from the ten schools in Marlow met at Marlow C of E Infant School for their second all-Marlow Eco-Schools Conference. This was the first to be held 'in person' as the inaugural conference last summer had to be held online due to Covid restrictions.

Representatives from Burford School, Danesfield School, Foxes Piece School, Great Marlow School, Holy Trinity CE School, Little Marlow CE School, Marlow C of E Infant School, Sir William Borlase's Grammar School, Spinfield School and St Peter's Catholic Primary School were all in attendance.

During the afternoon they toured the grounds of Marlow C of E Infant School to see some of the environmental projects they have implemented, including raised beds for growing vegetables, rewilded areas to encourage bees, insects and small animals, as well as covered, outdoor teaching spaces. The schools are planning a collective effort to mark this year's World Environment Day in June and they discussed various ideas for ways in which they could make an environmental impact

in Marlow. These included non-uniform days to raise money for environmental causes, more action to clear up litter, an all-Marlow walk or cycle to school day, a day of avoiding single-use plastic and even an electricity-free day in school.

Most of the schools in Marlow now have designated Eco-Warriors from their student body. Marlow C of E Infant and St Peter's are accredited Eco-Schools under the international Green Flag Scheme with several other schools in the process of joining the scheme including Great Marlow, Holy Trinity, Burford, Danesfield, Sir William Borlase's, Cadmore End and Little Marlow.



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Civic Celebration

Mayor praises community spirit in Marlow



Mayor Richard Scott held a very successful Civic Celebration on Sunday, 13th March at All Saints' Church Marlow. Amongst invited guests were The Lord Lieutenant; The Countess Howe; High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, Mr George Anson; Chairman of Buckinghamshire, Cllr Zahir Mohamed; Mayors from Beaconsfield and Gerrards Cross and Deputy Mayor of High Wycombe Charter Trustees, Cllr Mrs Lesley Clarke; and MP Joy Morrissey. Representatives of groups, associations and volunteers from the Marlow Community were also invited in order to receive a thank you for their part in making Marlow such a caring community.



reformed after Covid. They were wonderfully uplifting with their beautiful vocals.



Commanding Officer, Lt Nick Jones of the Marlow Sea Cadets spoke about the Cadets having to build up their numbers after not being able to hold any activities during Covid. He said that the Cadets are very much part of the community and help out at events whenever possible. He said that being part of the Cadets helps to form them as responsible and caring adults through their various activities. They are actively seeking new recruits.

Mayor Richard Scott said in his speech that it has been three years since a Civic Service had been held due to Covid. He said the service was called a Civic Celebration to reflect on the last two years of the pandemic and that hopefully the worst was over, but also to reach out to our wider community. There have been many examples of the community in Marlow coming together, not least of which a food distribution service that was established to reach the vulnerable, housebound and health service workers. Meals from Marlow is run by volunteers from many parts of the town, supported by one of Tom Kerridge's companies. To date this operation has raised £260,000 and supplied 134,000 meals. This is ongoing on a slightly reduced scale as there is still demand for help from some residents.

The Mayor said: "Many residents have asked why we volunteer to be Councillors. I have a simple answer, we believe that you should put something back into the community in which you live."

In addition to the service taken by Rev'd Canon Dave Bull and assisted by Rev'd Nick Thompson, the Town Council had invited the Harmony Belles community choir to sing two songs as part of the service, having recently



Dementia Action Marlow were invited along to talk about the charity. Jen Mason, Jennifer Miles and Bernie Hunter spoke to the guests about the challenges that dementia brings and, that during the past year, they have built up a friendly and supportive circle for those living with dementia and their carers. They now meet every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon at the Pugin Rooms and Age Concern in Marlow. They welcome anyone who would like to join. Email [**contact@dementiaactionmarlow.org**](mailto:contact@dementiaactionmarlow.org).



Annual meeting

Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting

Marlow Town Council met in Court Garden House on Tuesday, 10th May. As part of the Annual Meeting a vote was taken by Councillors to appoint a Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2022/2023. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Richard Scott would remain as Town Mayor and Cllr Jocelyn Town as Deputy Mayor. Committee Chairmen serving on the various Committee's remained the same.

Members of the public who attended the meeting were given a copy of the Annual Parish Report which outlines the activities of the Town Council during 2021/2022. A copy of the report is enclosed in this magazine on page 12. Please do take a moment to read it.

Mayor Richard Scott said: "As evidenced in several parts of the report, your Council continued to serve its residents in one of the most difficult periods in recent history - the Covid pandemic. During the year some of the Covid restrictions were lifted, changed or eased and

the holding of relevant public meetings can now take place.

"During Covid, all Council services operated fully, either virtually or physically, and I want to pay tribute to all members of staff who made this possible. In addition, to thank the many residents who played an active part in supporting other residents who were vulnerable or lonely. Marlow is truly blessed with a superb community spirit, a point I acknowledged at the Civic Celebration in March.

"The annual report highlights the work of our Councillors and Committees during the year and indicates how active they have been over the months – from civic events, to planning matters, to environment and sustainability, and maintaining strong financial management. You have a dedicated volunteer Councillor team in place to keep Marlow a vibrant town, open to all, serving our residents, welcoming visitors and supporting our local businesses."





ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2021/2022



Good news! - many town events are now back in the calendar

I am honoured to have been your Town Mayor for the past three years, though it has been somewhat challenging.

The period of uncertainty caused by the Covid pandemic affected every resident in some way and whilst the worst of it seems to be over, it is still necessary to exercise caution. We again owe a great debt of gratitude, not only to our NHS and their support staff, but to many more in the community who have worked selflessly over the last two years to keep our lives as normal as possible. Many of our town organisations have supported (and continue to do) our more vulnerable residents, not only with food and meals, but with moral support where there has been loneliness or other personal issues. Post-Covid, we are moving into more difficult economic times and I am aware of several organisations within the town that are helping residents with these issues.

During the latter part of last year, relaxation of Covid restrictions allowed some of our civic and town events to take place. The annual Remembrance service attracted excellent support; the outstanding Christmas lights were switched on by Chris Evans; Carols on the Causeway took place in Christmas week; and the Chamber of Trade late night shopping and the Rotary Santa's Fun Run also took place in December.

The good news is that many town events are now back in the calendar. The Council held a civic celebration service in March with a revised format to include a community choir and two town organisations promoting their activities. In recent weeks, I have attended Age Concern's annual general meeting; Marlow District Scouts' St Georges Day service; and

excellent concerts by the Town Band and Marlow Orchestra. The Marlow Town Regatta and Festival is back in May. I have also welcomed several new businesses to the town and note that currently empty shops appear to have plans for occupancy. For information, details of the events I have attended on your behalf are always reported to the full town council meetings.

The weekend of 7/8th May was the 50th anniversary of town twinning with Marly le Roi, France and I travelled to Marly together with several councillors and the Marlow Town twinning association to commemorate this historic occasion.

Talking of anniversaries, the Council would be delighted to see you in Higginson Park on Friday 3rd June, where it is hosting a "Party like the Queen" event to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. It is a real family day out, themed in the 1950s and includes music, entertainment, food, drink and much more – full details on the Town Council website.

Marlow remains a very community-orientated town and I'd like to offer a big thank you to all residents for your support. My thanks also go to all Town Councillors and to my Deputy, Cllr Jocelyn Towns, who has supported me and stood in for me on several occasions. Finally, we would not function as a Council without the support of our officers, led by Town Clerk, Hilary Martin. Many thanks to them for running everything in the background.

I have very much enjoyed representing our town again and I wish you and your families well for the coming months.

Cllr Richard Scott

Town Mayor

➔ **Marlow remains a very community-orientated town**

Leader, Cllr Chris Funnell

Change has been our theme this year - the most substantial in the last 15 years.

We listened to our residents during last May's elections and as a result decided to build and strengthen Marlow Town Council, our interaction with residents and our resilience for the future.

I am delighted as part of that change to welcome five new councillor volunteers into position, elected by you to serve you. The team has been working hard to learn the ropes pre- and post-pandemic, helping to build a council fit for the future. Fresh minds bring new ideas for growth, transformation and importantly provide a succession of individuals who are committed to serving our residents. Please welcome our new members below, challenge them, test them, and get to know them. They are here to serve you and are part of our important team of twelve.

I am equally honoured to have taken the job as Leader of the Council, a role that supports the entire organisation and is responsible for directing, overseeing and interacting with our 15,000-plus residents. The Leader also drives our vision and strategy and keeps us focused.

Our mission is to provide:

- A caring environment for all
- A fantastic place to live



- A great place to work
- An exciting place to visit
- A wonderful place to bring up children

Looking back on this year, the community of Marlow has been no less than exemplary in rising to the challenges we faced and so many of you brushed aside your own concerns and supported others selflessly during the ups and downs of the pandemic. Covid has had a devastating effect on everyone's lives and what we accepted as "a normal way of life" has changed forever. Your Council is often the "fourth emergency service" - when no one else answers we are often in action with organisations, clubs, voluntary organisations and individuals across our town to keep the wheels in motion.

I would also like to acknowledge our support team of officers - under the leadership of Hilary Martin, our Town Clerk - who diligently go about their work to ensure the back office of the Council functions 365 days of the year. They play a huge part in running the town effectively.

As we continue our work in our new council year I look forward, along with the team, to continuing to serve you and driving the organisation that makes Marlow a wonderful place to live.

Please stay in touch by visiting our website, **www.marlow-tc.gov.uk**, which explains what your Council does and provides contact information for any questions.

We would also welcome any feedback by email via: **office@marlow-tc.gov.uk**

Cllr David Brown



Cllr Carol Heap



Cllr Chris Hoyle



Cllr Natalia Mityaeva



Cllr Colleen Stapley



RESOURCES COMMITTEE

REPORT 2021/22

Chairman, Cllr Natalia Mityaeva

Resources

The Council continues to strengthen its commitment to Marlow and its residents through high-quality services and events. Below we outline some of the key areas of expenditure.

Grounds maintenance

Although most of the public land in Marlow is owned by Buckinghamshire Council, we manage the ground maintenance of all the Marlow town land in order to maintain a consistent appearance at a high standard. A new ground maintenance contract has now been tendered. During our selection process for a contractor, we took into consideration other environmental and sustainability criteria like the use of electric tools and vehicles instead of polluting, fuel-driven alternatives. The grass cutting service for six cuttings a year comes at a projected cost of £75,000/year.



Public spaces

We maintain our public spaces by working with the Community Payback programme. This programme provides us with minor offenders who are supervised, tasked with maintenance requests. This partnership enables us to have better maintenance response and coverage while giving back to our local community. The service costs £6,000/year.

Security services

Our Police Community Support Officers provide another level of support for our community in addition to the police. For many years the Council has supported the security of our town by sharing the cost of an additional Police Community Support Officer, 50% of whose time is dedicated to Marlow. We know that residents are pleased to see this additional resource patrolling on a regular basis throughout the town. We will continue to support this role, the cost for which is £19,125/year.

Additionally, for the past two years the Council has hired and paid for a private security firm to help keep our town safe. These patrols visit our parks and green spaces on a regular basis, dealing with anti-social behaviour and minor crime and working closely with the Police. This has been successful with residents that we are now adding it as a permanent service for the town. The cost of this service is £27,372/year, which was previously funded from reserves.

Transportation services

Marlow town bus operates on weekdays in and around the town centre and to and from Maidenhead and High Wycombe. The service is managed by Buckinghamshire Council and we contribute £6,300/year.

Community services

The much-loved Marlovian magazine is published by the Council to keep residents informed as to what is happening within the town and the Council. The Marlovian publishing costs £6,400/year.

We continue to offer grants each year, totalling £8,000/year to our town's groups and associations to help them achieve their ambitions and make Marlow a better place for us all.

We continue to make Marlow a great place to be over the Christmas period, with our enhanced Christmas lights, decorations and Carols on the Causeway. To maintain these to a high standard, we budget a cost of £11,600.

The Council's finances are in good shape and we hold earmarked reserves for future projects to improve the town, some of which are already under way. If you would like any further information on the Council's finances, please contact the Town Council office.



→ We look forward to celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 3rd June



Chairman, Cllr Neil Marshall

Planning

Marlow Town Council is a statutory consultee to the local planning Buckinghamshire Authority. The Planning and Transport (PT) Committee meets every three weeks to review planning applications within the Marlow town boundary. We review all applications carefully and make appropriate comment or objections.

The bulk of applications reviewed each year are for minor extensions or changes of use and we have a strong correlation with the Planning Authority findings.

The Wycombe Local Plan was approved without any major changes that affect Marlow. It maintained our Green Belt protection areas against developer threats. A new Local Plan for Bucks will be developed in the near future to supersede the Wycombe Plan in due course, but is still some time away and is unlikely to have major impact on Marlow.



Developments soon to be under consideration include the Marlow Studio project, for which a planning application is expected in the very near future, and a proposal for the new schools boathouse which was strongly supported by the committee.

Transport

We are always mindful of the challenge of parking availability in the town, largely brought about by the vibrancy of the town itself, but solutions that satisfy residents, shoppers and inward commuters (all of whom are essential to the viability of the town) prove to be very challenging. We are working with the new Buckinghamshire Council towards a post-Covid travel plan and supported the new quietway on Trinity Road.

We were also involved in the installation of the inductive electric vehicle charging point in Liston Road car park. The electric car hire facility trial has proven to be very popular and extends to the end of July. We will also be considering options on the town bus service when the current contract comes to an end.

The Committee is looking forward to another busy and productive year for Marlow.

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

REPORT 2021/22

Chairman, Cllr Jocelyn Towns

This committee was set up as an official Town Council Committee at the Annual Meeting in May 2021.

This was decided upon following the success of the Sustainable Marlow working group, who focused on some local projects in 2019 to make a difference:

- The first Eco Schools conference took place virtually during lockdown. A further meeting has taken place in person.
- 'Refill' launched before the pandemic hit to discourage single-use plastic water bottles. We introduced two water stations, one on the Causeway and one in association with The United Reform Church. Many shops displayed water refill signs in their windows. The pandemic changed things, but we hope to re-invigorate the initiative soon.
- Releaf, in conjunction with TTM, saw the planting of many trees, with plans for many more.



The TC has a long history of engagement with the environment. For example, flower baskets were introduced into the town centre back in 2012. More recently we have introduced wild-flower areas into some of our verges and parks. We are also focused on keeping pavements and footpaths clear to enable more walking in and around the town.

We introduced our new Environmental Policy in 2019, whereby we committed to improving our own environmental performance to raise awareness among residents. We also undertook to work with other organisations to drive greater sustainability. We introduced our climate change statement in March 2020.

In 2021 we took on our Environmental Sustainability consultant to help us move projects forward. We held our first public meeting online in March 2021 and will be following up with the launch of our Sustainability Challenge soon. This will help raise further environmental awareness among residents as we work together with other organisations to drive greater learning about sustainability in our town.

MTC has looked at its own climate impacts and how it can reduce them. The second edition of Marlow's Environmental Performance Index (EPI) has just launched. This is a detailed carbon audit to help identify the Council's own emissions and make practical changes. These include the introduction of lower energy Christmas lights, encouraging contractors to use electric tools, and the purchase of an electric staff bicycle.

The TC has also greened its policies, adopting a clean air plan and aiming to eliminate excess NO2 by 2025.

Recently, we conducted a survey of residents on sustainability, the results of which were shared in the Spring Marlovian magazine. You can keep up to date with all Sustainable Marlow's actions and projects via updates included in the magazine.

Please help us as we continue to work with residents on initiatives that will lead to a more sustainable future for Marlow.



→ The Town Council has a long history of engagement with the environment

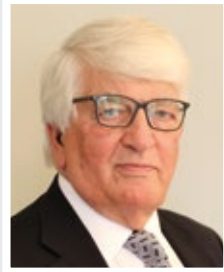
COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

REPORT 2021/22

Chairman, Cllr Richard Scott

The new Community committee was established in November 2021 to lead on events; manage how your Council communicates with residents and other stakeholders; deliver projects and services to enrich and improve the Marlow community in areas such as economic development and tourism; community safety, community engagement and community cohesion. The committee consists of five members and is chaired by the incumbent mayor.

Since its formation, the committee has been very active, both formally and informally, and not withstanding some Covid restrictions, has continued to provide residents with Christmas lights Switch On, traditional Carols on The Causeway and a Civic Celebration service. This celebration event, held in March, reached out all residents and endorsed the community spirit which prevails in our town. The event included presentations by two town organisations, Dementia Action Marlow and the Sea Cadets and several songs were provided by the Harmony Belles choir. We are likely to repeat this style of civic



celebration in 2023. Unfortunately, the Mayor's charity golf day had to be cancelled.

2022 sees the 50th anniversary of town twinning with Marly le Roi, France. This very successful arrangement was recognised in France on 7th May with councillors and members of Marlow Marly town twinning association attending. To commemorate this historic event, your Council will be planting a tree in Marly le Roi and presenting a commemorative plaque to their town council. Marly council has given us a superb painting which will be displayed in our offices in Court Garden house.

We have organised an informal event in Higginson Park on 3rd June to celebrate the platinum anniversary of HM The Queen. "Party like the Queen" will have a 1950's theme and include entertainment for the whole family and vintage food and drink stalls; and please bring your own picnics if you wish. The planning of civic events is carried out well in advance and preparations for our Christmas events for this year are now in hand.

Looking forward, the committee is also looking at a number of future capital projects to enhance the town and full details will be shared with residents when the information is available. We will also be reviewing our communications to make full use of traditional and social media channels to promote the council's activities.



➔ We are looking at several future capital projects to enhance the town

Marlow Partied Like The Queen! Events

Thousands came to Higginson Park to celebrate the Jubilee

Over 7,000 people came to the 'Party like the Queen' event organised by Marlow Town Council in Higginson Park to mark the Queen's Jubilee on Friday 3rd June.

Marlovians were transported back to the sights and sounds of the 1950s, experiencing what England was like during the time of the Queen's coronation.

People of all ages relaxed on blankets enjoying their picnics, danced to the sounds of the 1950s and laughed at the magician. Many dressed in 1950s-style or vintage while they savoured entertainment provided by swing trio The Polka Dots and authentic rock and roll band the Bluejays.

There were vintage swing boats and other fairground games, vintage cars and a selfie-booth equipped with a regal crown, cloak and, of course, corgis for that memorable photo. The Barbarian Grill, Aroma Pizzeria, Howe & Co 22 Fish and Chips, Noadies Tea Stop and the Prince of the River Bar stalls provided food and drink for those not bringing a picnic.

Mayor Richard Scott said: "A fantastically successful 'Party like the Queen', which was echoed by the many comments I have received from residents and visitors alike expressing their thanks and appreciation for a great day. So many families and friends enjoyed a day out in the sunshine."

Photos: Jon Perry, Marlow Camera Club



Marlow Partied Like The Queen! continued <<



Photos: (Top and bottom 3rd & 4th) Rowena Wolton, Marlow Camera Club; (Bottom 1st & 2nd) Jon Perry, Marlow Camera Club



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Charity Cycling

Brian's 1000 Challenge for WheelPower



Brian, 75 from Marlow loves to support local charities and earlier this year he took on a very unique fundraising challenge for the Stoke Mandeville based charity WheelPower (the national charity for wheelchair sport).

During February Brian had initially decided to support WheelPower by doing 1000 chin ups. Brian injured his neck, so not wanting to stop, he then began cycling to reach his 1000 target.

"I took on the 1000 Challenge for WheelPower because I want to help others enjoy sport as much as I do! Over the years I have completed various charity challenges and I naturally thought that in 2022 it must be for WheelPower."



Brian was born in Harrow, north London in 1946 and moved to Marlow 42 years ago. He has been a hairdresser since he was 16 and now works part time at The Marlow Club. 20 years ago he had a pacemaker fitted and ever since he has wanted to show everyone what's possible, and what can be achieved with a strong mind and body. Brian is no stranger to WheelPower and Stoke Mandeville Stadium having ridden

Buckinghamshire's biggest charity bike ride, the Tour de Vale on multiple occasions.

"I am always impressed with the positive attitude and determination that disabled people have to overcome such serious disadvantages and their desire to do as much as they possibly can. Watching the Paralympics is so awe inspiring, incredibly motivating and totally humbling."

"Watching the Paralympics is so awe inspiring, incredibly motivating and totally humbling," says Brian

After starting his Chin-Up challenge Brian soon reached 260 chin ups and was reaching his 54 a day target as planned. As he explains, "Chin ups are an excellent exercise, using many muscle groups including biceps, back and core. I regularly do them as part of my gym sessions, but on average probably no more than 50 per week and I know that reaching 1000 in 28 days will be tough!"

Unfortunately, these words proved true as after just six days Brian suffered a very painful repetitive strain muscular injury in his neck and his physios strongly advised him to rest from any upper body exercise until his body has fully recovered.

Despite the injury Brian was determined to continue to push forward and reach 1000 by any means possible. After the physios suggested cycling, Brian set his sights set on completing the final 740km in the saddle and raising lots more money for WheelPower along the way.

"I finished my February challenge by the end of the month as planned. By the 24th I had reached my combined 1000 target but decided to carry on with a new number in mind. So to sum up, during February, over 15 days, I did 460 chin-ups and in 22 days I cycled 740 kilometre – a combined figure of 1200. It has been a very enjoyable, yet challenging experience but easy to keep going knowing that whatever amount I raise, it will go to help someone less fortunate than me."



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Marlow Ukraine Collective

Local volunteers come together to help Ukrainian families



As soon as the Homes for Ukraine visa scheme opened on 19th March local residents began to submit applications to host families fleeing from the war. Over that initial weekend we were operating as individuals, unaware of the impressive movement we'd soon become. Seven weeks later 59 host families in Marlow and the surrounding villages have opened their homes to refugee families. There are 157 Ukrainian guests expected, including 60 children. Around half have arrived and are settling into our community.

We have had great success in bringing more hosts on board, streamlining the visa application process and school applications, negotiated bus and leisure centre access, and allocated dozens of donated bikes. A cycling proficiency course has also been organised to give you some idea of how creative we've become in a short time!



This vibrant network of people has been putting preparations in place to offer practical support, access to training and job opportunities. We are delighted by the phenomenal support we have received. Chris Horn has been a major force lining up employment opportunities and many guests have already found work. He says, "Marlow businesses have welcomed the opportunity to help our Ukrainian guests by offering jobs and support in any way they can. There are many local vacancies particularly in hospitality and retail, and we are successfully managing to secure roles locally. We have even managed to secure free bus passes to allow new guests to get to their jobs if they are further afield."

Being able to keep in touch with their hosts and other family members, access google maps to navigate around our town and to access local services was quickly identified as a crucial part of the process. Thanks to Vodafone creating a great offer, Marlow Refugee Action have been able to assist us in implementing this smoothly. Dorn Kipping was on hand with sims for our first 50 arrivals. More are on their way!

Our matching team receive many requests, so if hosting is something you have been considering please do get in touch. This has all been complemented by our incredible translation team who are providing support at all stages of the process, from assisting with initial introductory Zoom calls to sitting in as a translator at interviews for jobs.



With dedicated commitment from the team at Crisp Digital, we now have a website which provides all the information required. Whether you are considering hosting a family, wish to donate, run a local business and have jobs to offer, or have time/resource/skills to offer then the website is the place to go. You will also find all the relevant links for when guests arrive to settle them into life here. It can even be translated into Ukrainian!

The Odney Club hosted a welcome morning for 60 people giving a lovely opportunity for guests to connect. In a few weeks we have a day at Longridge Activity Centre to celebrate our success and bring everyone involved together. The Ark Café is also hosting a weekly coffee afternoon and there will also be a support session each week at Marlow Library, a valuable opportunity for guests to meet and socialise.



We would like to give particular mention to Arriva, Crisp Digital, Saddle Safari, Camelot, Runners' Retreat, Longridge Activity Centre, The Compleat Angler, Boots the Chemist, Places Leisure – High Wycombe and Marlow, Tom Kerridge, Brand Events, Marlow Library and The Ark Café, who have all gone above and beyond to support us. **www.ukrainecollective.co.uk**

Contributed by *Jenna Killington*

Matching and Translation Teams

From Lucia Montans, Host:

"I started completely on my own, looking for information online, never being fully certain that the steps I was taking were right. Then I found the Marlow Ukrainian Collective, so I got in touch and soon started taking part in the events they organised.

"By working together, we were able to achieve so much more! Videos on how to complete our visa requests, advice on how to prepare for the arrival of our guests, resources for them to access on arrival, even church services were ready for key dates... but most importantly, the psychological support they lend by providing a community to be a part of, not just during the horrible four-week wait for the visas we endured, but also through the process that has been welcoming our guests, now friends, into our lives".



From Tania, Ukrainian relocated to the UK:

"Even though I understand that I can only rely on myself, I see that my hosts and the community are creating a new and safe world for me and my family: with care, help, support and protection.

"I feel supported at each step: to blend in, to continue my son's study, to master English for better communication, to find a proper job.

"As I am a clinical psychologist, I am fascinated by our host's and community's attitude: caring, supporting, anticipating our needs better than we could imagine. I have to say that the war in Ukraine made me reconsider many of my values.

"Hugs, talks, sharing food, having dinners together, supportive messages, little picnics, going to parks and on and on - all these are bringing pieces of myself back to me, rebuilding my confidence. I even hope I could start my own business here in the Mental Health area."

*"My hosts and the community
are creating a new and safe
world for me and my family,"
says Tania*

As early host families from Marlow started to offer their homes to Ukrainian families, it became clear that there was going to be an ongoing stream of new requests for matching. Many of these requests come from friends and family of Ukrainians already coming to Marlow. We therefore set up a volunteer Matching Team to try and match these new families with local hosts.

So far we have approximately 22 families who have matched and submitted Visa applications in the local area, and some of the Ukrainian families are now starting to arrive.

It is very rewarding to play a part in helping a host family and a Ukrainian family build enough trust to go forward with a Visa application. We have been completely blown away by the generosity of spirit of the people involved. We are receiving more requests for additional hosts every day, so please do get in touch, and email us at **MUCmatching@gmail.com**.

We can support you through the process, from helping find you a suitable family to match with, sharing experience and tips about how to go through the Visa application process, and helping with language interpreting on introductory Zoom calls.

We also have a fantastic Translation Team who can provide support with general interpreting and translation between Ukrainian and English. As well as helping during the matching process, now families are starting to arrive, the Translation Team are helping them with translation of various forms and information as they get set up with bank accounts, GPs, schools and all the other admin needed to make a new life in this country. The Translators can also (if needed) act as interpreters at various appointments that arriving families need to attend.

Rotary Club Of Marlow

Always helping the people of Marlow



The Rotary Club of Marlow was formed way back in the late 1940's, not long after the end of the Second World War. Over its 70-plus years of existence, the club's members have never stopped putting into action the Worldwide Rotary International motto of "SERVICE ABOVE SELF" for the benefit of Marlow's community, especially the young and the old.

Rotary International is the largest, and the oldest volunteer organisation in the world, with over 1.2 million members, in over 200 countries, with all those members seeking to give "something back" to their local community, and to people in need all over the world.

Here in Marlow the community is indeed helped by there being three local Rotary clubs, which is very unusual in a town the size of Marlow. In addition to the Rotary Club Of Marlow, the Rotary Club of Marlow Thames was formed over 20 years ago and, more recently, the Rotary Club of Marlow Bridge was started.

Covid cutbacks

Of course, the Rotary Club of Marlow, like so many other clubs and organisations, has had to cancel much of its activities in the last two years because of the Covid pandemic. However, even during those very difficult times (that we all so sincerely hope are behind us now) the over 30 men and women club members never stopped trying to help others wherever possible, and especially kept raising the much needed money to help many local charities.

Rotary Club of Marlow activities

In recent and coming months, as the major problems of the Covid pandemic hopefully continue to decline, we have been able to again organise some of our traditional events, and some new events, for the benefit of the people of Marlow, including:

- Youth Concert for the public at All Saints Church.
- Bridge Night at Liston Hall.
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee Free BBQ Lunch for local senior citizens.
- Young Enterprise Business Competition for school children.
- Senior Citizens Free Boat Trip on the River Thames.
- And, of course, the giant Rotary Christmas Santa's Fun Run with over 3,000 runners and joggers. This event is jointly organised by all the Marlow Rotary Clubs.



Support for Ukraine and it's people

We are all aware of the desperate problems caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and nearly everybody has contributed towards providing help in any way that they can. The Rotary Club of Marlow arranged for the collection of a substantial amount of clothes, bedding, and medical items to be sent to the Ukraine via Poland and have also arranged for a street collection in the town, which was so well supported by the people of Marlow that over £5,000 was collected to be used for medical equipment.



Do you want to make a difference in Marlow? To give "something back" to your community?

Then please consider joining one of the three Rotary Clubs in Marlow, and also enjoying the FUN, FELLOWSHIP and REWARDS of being a full member, or associate member, or just helping us with some of our community projects. For more details about the Rotary Club of Marlow follow us on Facebook or contact our Club Secretary Chris Kelsey on **01628 471727** or email **secretary.rotaryclubofmarlow@hotmail.co.uk**

Four Seasons Club

Long-running social club is back in full swing



The Four Seasons Club is a well-established social club for the 50-plus age group and has been successfully running for over 50 years. Back in 1971, Marlow Community Association thought it a good idea to form a social club. There were not many clubs in Marlow back then, so along with the help of Mrs Dorothy Bruce, the Four Seasons Club was formed.

2021 was the Club's 50th anniversary, but unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the club was unable to celebrate this special event, with all social events coming to a halt. However, The Four Seasons is up and running again with a newly formed committee. Members enjoyed a coach trip to Salisbury in April, followed by a five-day holiday to Weston-Super-Mare. Further day trips are planned, with Swanage and Cheltenham on this year's schedule.

The Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month in Liston Hall from 10:15am until midday. You can enjoy a tea or coffee, and there is a raffle, book and jigsaw stall, and a short talk with a variety of speakers.

We would be delighted to welcome new members and look forward to seeing you at future meetings.



Learn, Laugh, Live

u3a is working to improve accessibility to the countryside

Marlow & District u3a has been operating in Marlow for more than 16 years and has over 700 member and 70-plus interest groups ranging from languages to bridge to music, engineering and technology, and walking.

As part of their commitment to improving the environment and accessibility to the countryside, the Wednesday Walkers have been collecting money to pay for gates to replace stiles on local footpaths.

The Chiltern Society have worked with the group to identify suitable locations and to liaise with landowners and the Council to have the gates installed. So far four gates have been installed and collection is underway for more.

Several members of the Walking Group also work with The Chiltern Society to help clear woods and maintain paths.

u3a is always ready to welcome new members. We are an organisation for people who are no longer in full-time employment. It's a self-help organisation and all groups

are run by members for members. If you're interested please contact our New Members Secretary, Barbara Lawrence, on **01628 486734** or email **membership@marlowu3a.co.uk**.



Community Grants

Funding for environmental projects that serve the community



Transition Town Marlow (TTM) is offering grants of up to £500 to individuals and voluntary organisations that serve the local community and whose objectives align with its own. TTM's primary objective is to advance the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment and the prudent use of natural resources for the benefit of the population in Marlow through promotion, awareness raising and skill sharing to build community resilience.

The purpose of the grant scheme is to provide seed funding for projects which strengthen the local community and reduce our environmental impacts in ways that are enjoyable, constructive, inspiring and produce positive change.

Details of TTM and how to apply for a grant can be found at **www.transitionmarlow.org/home/community-grants**

Queen's Green Canopy

Tree planting ceremony held at Churchill Retirement development

We all celebrated and raised a toast to The Queen's leadership of the Nation by having a tree planting ceremony at our Churchill development. Over 40 of our developments are doing the same, as are many other organisations both small and large.

It helps to highlight the ongoing value of trees and woodlands, benefiting future generations. It's nature's way of cleaning the air we breathe, slows the impact of climate change, creates important wildlife habitats, and improves our general health and well being.



Marlow Museum

Find out about Marlow's long history

We love to have families from far and wide pop into the Museum at Court Garden on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Come in for a chat on local or family history.

Have you spotted the veteran delivery bicycle parked outside, waiting to make another delivery for Hunts of Marlow?

There is a lot of current talk about lace and we have interesting items on display.

As we near the Queen's Platinum Jubilee the museum is preparing its special exhibition. We are looking at the 1950s and would welcome your memories and thoughts.

Entry is FREE and we have museum booklets and local postcards to sell. It's well worth a visit, if only for a short time. We would love to see you — if you're interested, please visit **www.marlowmuseum.org**

Contributed by *Mike Hyde*

The benefits of mediation when resolving family disputes

Family mediation is a process in which an independent and professionally trained mediator helps separating couples resolve any challenges and disputes faced when parting ways. The mediator will help you to work out arrangements for things such as housing, children, assets and finances.

Mediation involves an initial assessment meeting where the mediator will see you on your own to discuss the process and find out what you are hoping to achieve. There will then be a series of face-to-face discussions between you and your partner, which are facilitated by a mediator. The mediator will help you and your partner make decisions in a constructive and confidential setting, making sure all disputes are resolved with as little conflict as possible.

If you do not feel comfortable with face-to-face mediation, the mediator will offer video mediation or shuttle mediation – where you will each be in a separate room and the mediator will shuttle between you.

What are the benefits?

There are several benefits to the mediation process, some of which are set out below:

Cost effective: Mediation tends to be more cost-effective than involving solicitors. Even if you do not come up with a complete agreement in mediation, the mediator should help you narrow the issues that are being disputed.

Confidential: Disputes resolved through mediation and not in court are completely confidential for both parties involved.

Faster outcome: Mediation generally takes less time to complete, allowing for an earlier solution than through the legal or court route.

More control: Mediation increases the control both parties have over the

resolution. Both parties are involved in negotiating their own agreement and no settlement can be imposed upon you.

It improves communication: The mediation process helps both parties to focus on communicating effectively and relieves the pressure and stress that court disputes may bring.

Flexible: The process is informal and there are no formal rules and evidence required although the mediators at Blaser Mills Law will explain the advantages of full financial disclosure.

How Blaser Mills Law can help

By focusing on clear and open communication, family mediation has the potential to get you and your partner on the same page. We will support you every step of the way.

The Family & Divorce team at Blaser Mills law currently holds two qualified mediators that can help, acting solely or together in co-mediation.

Lucinda Holliday

With over 10 years of experience in mediation, Lucinda Holliday qualified as a mediator in 2011. In 2018 Lucinda went on to get her accreditation in child inclusive mediation which means she can facilitate your children being heard in the mediation process when relevant.

She is an expert in her field with expertise in dissolution, divorce, and separation and the associated financial issues and children matters that might occur as a result of the breakdown of a relationship.



Sarah Scriven

Sarah is an experienced family lawyer and a Resolution qualified mediator. Her expertise covers a range of family law matters arising from the breakdown of a relationship including divorce, financial arrangements, cohabitation disputes, and children.



Get in touch

To speak to the Family & Divorce team about how mediation could be a constructive and positive solution to your divorce or separation, please contact the team on **01494 478 603** or email **ljmh@blasermills.co.uk**.

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