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all your news from the community

Summer 2023

# Crowning Glory

Crown competition winners announced on coronation day

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## MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL

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The Marlovian Magazine is published on behalf of the Marlow Town Council, Court Garden, Pound Lane, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 2AG by Round & About Publications, Windrush Innovation House, Howbery Business Park, Benson Lane, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8BA.

## ROUND & ABOUT PUBLICATIONS LTD

Managing director: Chris Savage

Sales director: Luke Maitland

Production manager: Michelle Miley

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# 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 mediator 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.

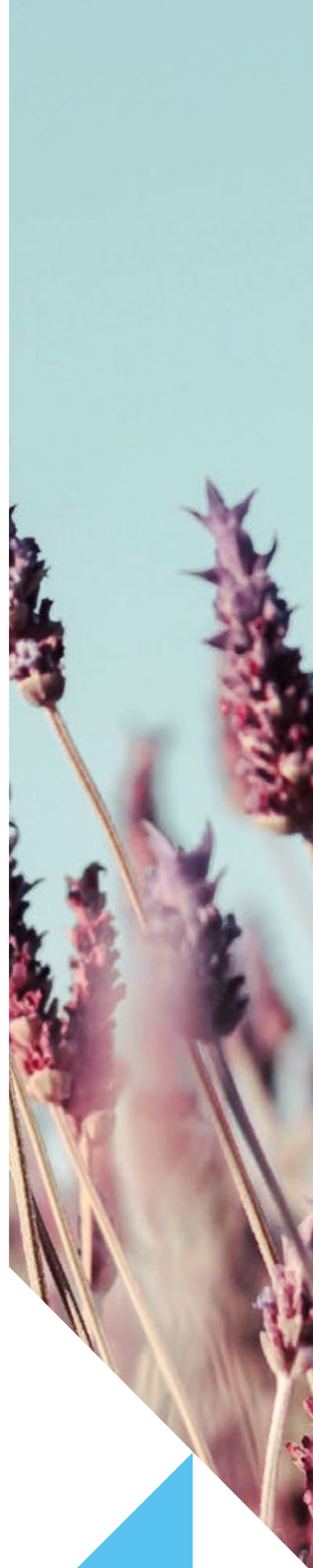
### Lucinda Holliday

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.

To speak to Lucinda call **01494 478 603** or email [ljmh@blasermills.co.uk](mailto:ljmh@blasermills.co.uk).

For more information, visit:  
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# Mayor's Message

## Summer welcome



I am honoured and delighted to have been elected as your mayor until May 2024. It is a role I will serve with great pride to represent Marlow Town Council and all residents. Marlow is an amazing town, the envy of many. I have lived here for around 30 years, and have seen it grow as I've grown over those years.



*Marlow is an amazing town, the envy of many. I have lived here for around 30 years, and have seen it grow as I've grown over those years.*

Some brief background to me: as a former Royal Marine, I had the honour of representing the Corps around the globe and my country at Cross-Country skiing in the 1993 World Championships. After leaving the Marines, I became a financial adviser, and then moved into printing after having a stroke — which is why as part of the Mayor's fundraising effort I would like to choose a charity that helps young people who have been affected by strokes.

I look forward to being part of many regular events over the coming twelve months. As a Marlow councillor I have attended several of these with the previous mayor, sadly the May Fayre was cancelled but I was honoured to be a judge at the Children's Crown Competition that the Town Council organised for the King Charles III coronation. I was also one of four councillors that visited our twin town, Marly le Roi last year, along with the Mayor, to commemorate the end of World War II in Europe and the

50th anniversary of the twinning arrangements in 2022.

My diary is now filling up with local events, including the 80th anniversary of the Dambusters, which 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.

The Mayor's Charity is now a registered charity and approves all donations. Any monies I raise this year will be added to the charity's funds and the trustees will agree the recipients in spring 2024.

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

*Cllr David Brown*

Marlow Town Mayor





# Town Council News

Summer 2023

## Jan Bailey retirement

Jan Bailey, who provided PA support to the Town Clerk and the Town Mayor and organised civic events for the Council, has retired.

Jan applied for a part-time role at the Council back in 2001, just four mornings a week to help with admin. Her skills were very quickly realised, and she was soon promoted. Her role saw many changes throughout her 22 years of service.

From organising a much-needed drink for the Swan Uppers after they'd marked the Marlow swans, to meeting and greeting French dignitaries from Marlow's twin town Marly-le-Roi for Regatta celebrations, Jan has made sure everyone has felt valued and welcome.

The pinnacle in the Town Council calendar is always the Remembrance Parade and Service, and it was Jan, working with the Royal British Legion and a host of other organisations, who ensured that Marlow's Remembrance Day was the envy of the county.

At Christmas, Jan ensured that the mulled wine flowed, and everyone got a mince pie when they sang jingle bells at the Council's Carols on The Causeway event.

From celebrations to commemorations, Jan was involved. Frequently referring to her bible, the Civic and Ceremonial, she always made sure that Marlow's guests were treated with the respect they deserved.

*She enriched the lives of everyone living in or visiting Marlow for more than two decades.*

*What an amazing achievement.*

*Jan, we salute you!*

Jan was a dedicated, loyal and hard-working member of a very small team, working hard to promote Marlow Town Council. In doing so she enriched the lives of everyone living in or visiting Marlow for more than two decades. What an amazing achievement. Jan, we salute you!

## Grounds Maintenance clear up allotments, West Street & Gossmore Bridge

Community Payback, the Probation Service project and the towns grounds maintenance team have been busy ensuring that several areas in the town are cleaned up to look smart.



Extensive painting has taken place at Gossmore Park under the bridge to clear the area of debris and paint over the graffiti. Teams also worked to clear overgrown hedges at the Hanging Hill allotments.



Path clearance in Eton Place.





## Grants information & how to apply

The Town Council has a budget of £8,000 for 2023-24 to distribute grants to community groups, charities and local organisations who benefit Marlow, its residents, visitors and the wider community.

Applications are considered at each meeting of the Resources Committee. All applications must be received three weeks prior to the date of the meeting to be considered for a grant.

A Grant Application Form is available on the Council website [www.marlow-tc.gov.uk/grants](http://www.marlow-tc.gov.uk/grants)

## Save the dates

**18th July** Swan Upping

**12th November** Remembrance Parade and Service

**23rd November** Christmas light switch on

**19th December** Carols on The Causeway

## Coronation bunting & summer planting

Your Council has arranged for the installation of hanging baskets and planters throughout the town and town centre. They improve the appearance of the town and are a glorious riot of colour. In addition, to mark the Coronation of King Charles, the high street has been festooned with Union Jack bunting.

## Causeway consultation

In January, the Town Council approved works to update The Causeway and the project were put out to an informal consultation. Around 90 responses were received from residents and the Community Committee subsequently discussed these responses.

At a meeting on 18th April, the full Council agreed to the following changes to the proposals:

- Replace the flagpole, but leave in current location.
- Leave electricity box in present location, resulting in a cost saving of c £5k.
- Level out, repair and refill, where appropriate.
- Trim low hanging trees, subject to any required permissions.
- Review location of benches, being selective on which benches facing the park should be turned round, noting that three out of the current four have a donor plaque on them.
- Locate up to two additional benches on the south side of The Causeway, facing up the High Street.
- Ensure crocus beds are maintained and/or enhanced.

It was also noted that the best time to carry out the work would be in late autumn 2023, after Remembrance weekend, which will be well outside the growing season and less used by the public.



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# Buckinghamshire Highways

*New partnership aims to improve the county's streets*

Monday, 3rd April saw the launch of a dynamic new partnership designed to improve the way roads and footways in Buckinghamshire are maintained and managed, bringing positive changes for residents.

The newly formed 'Buckinghamshire Highways' is an alliance between Buckinghamshire Council and two highly experienced and industry-leading organisations - Balfour Beatty Living Places and Atkins, as well as a number of specialist framework contractors.

Covering all elements of highways maintenance and repair, including pothole repairs, gully cleansing, street lighting, winter gritting and resurfacing works, as well as larger improvement and development programmes, the new arrangements allow the Council to take greater control and increase accountability in maintaining the county's network of almost 2,100 miles of highways and 1,500 miles of footways. Buckinghamshire Highways replaces Transport for Buckinghamshire, which for the previous 13 years managed highways in the county.

The three main partners marked the start of their alliance at a brand-new operational hub at the Griffin Lane depot in Aylesbury. The hub uses the latest technology and has eight 55" screens to monitor activities as they happen, track the progress of works on roads and footways and identify where further efficiencies can be made.

Steven Broadbent, Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet Member for Transport, said: "Over a number of months

we've been working on ensuring a smooth transition to Buckinghamshire Highways. We looked at what wasn't working so well and have created an organisation that can better respond to the needs of everyone using the highways. I'm pleased that all partners in our new alliance share our commitment to giving residents the best value for money, to innovation and to finding better ways of doing things and share the council's determination to reduce carbon emissions in their work."

Buckinghamshire Highways will continue the multi-million-pound investment pledged by Buckinghamshire Council towards improving the county's roads. Earlier this year the Council announced a further £5m investment alongside the £100m over four years it has already set aside to deal with the worst affected areas. This extra investment follows on from the impact of recent weather, where the combination of freezing temperatures, followed by long periods of heavy rainfall, have worsened conditions on even more of the county's roads.

Problems on the roads and footways of Buckinghamshire should continue to be reported using: **[www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/fixmystreet](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/fixmystreet)**

One.network continues to be the way to check for roadworks near a location, find out who is carrying them out and when they should be finished.

You can also call the Council on **0300 131 6000**.





# Crown Competition

*Winners announced on coronation day*



Despite terrible weather leading to the cancellation of Marlow's May Fayre and the Big Screen in Higginson Park, the Town Council's Crown Competition went ahead and the winners were announced on Saturday, 6th May.

*They put a huge effort into their entries and the standard was excellent.*

Town Mayor Richard Scott said: "We're delighted that we were still able to hold the Crown Competition and avoid disappointing the children. They put a huge effort into their entries and the standard was excellent."

Children were asked to 'upcycle, repurpose and forage' for the materials to make their crowns. The Mayor described the winning crowns as "creative and resourceful." Prizes were coronation seed-planting kits, commemorative teddy bears and mugs.



Photo: Town Mayor Richard Scott; one of the winners, Scarlet, aged 7; and Cllr Colleen Stapley.



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# Mayor's Civic Celebration

*Recognising the work of Marlow's community*

On Sunday 12th March, Mayor Richard Scott welcomed residents of Marlow, members of local organisations and local dignitaries to All Saints' Church for the Town Mayor's annual Civic Service.

Deputy Lieutenant Dr Sheena Dykes, BEM, attended together with Chairman of Buckinghamshire Cllr Dev Dhillon; Mayor of High Wycombe, Cllr Arif Hussein; Mayor of Beaconsfield Cllr Alistair Pike; Mayor of Henley, Cllr Michelle Thomas; and Mrs Joy Morrissey MP.

Ali Liebowitz of the Ukraine Collective gave a talk on the work that has taken place in helping Ukrainian Refugees in Marlow, while Matthew House and a young scout from 3rd Bridge Scouts spoke about the benefits of scouting to prepare them for their future lives.

Two excellent choirs sang from Sir William Borlase's School; the Chapel Choir sang Rainfall by Patti Drennan and the Gospel Choir sang Just the Way You Are by Bruno Mars.

Mayor Richard Scott said: "The Civic Service is evidence of the community spirit that exists in our town, demonstrating that the Council and town organisations can work together to support our community. Thanks to everyone for attending and for the work that you do, much of it unpaid, for the organisations and charities that you represent."

The Mayor announced his Lifetime Achievement Award to be presented to Mrs Liz Ferris for her community

work over many years. He said: "Liz has given a lifetime of outstanding service to children in Marlow, working with community groups and individual families, including Tiddlywinks, Teeny Saints Children's groups and Lighthouse.

"In addition to caring for children, she actively supports the elderly, making a point of visiting them, taking them to Holy Communion and supporting their wellbeing in practical and spiritual ways." Deputy Lieutenant Dr Sheena Dykes presented the Award for Lifetime Achievement Community Recognition to Liz Ferris on the Mayor's behalf.

Rev. Canon Dave Bull took the service, assisted by Father John Udris and Tony Threlfall.







# Annual Meeting

## *Council elects new Mayor and Deputy Mayor*

On the evening of 9th May, Marlow Town Council held its Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Meeting, and elected a new Mayor, Cllr David Brown and Deputy Mayor, Cllr Colleen Stapley.

Outgoing Mayor Richard Scott said: "I am honoured to have been your Town Mayor for the past four years. Marlow remains a very community-orientated town and I'd like to offer a big thank you to all residents for their support. My thanks also go to all Town Councillors and to my Deputy, Cllr Jocelyn Towns."

The new Mayor, David Brown said: "I am delighted to have been elected as your mayor until May 2024. I have lived in the town for 30 years and it's with great pride that I will serve Marlow Town Council and all residents."

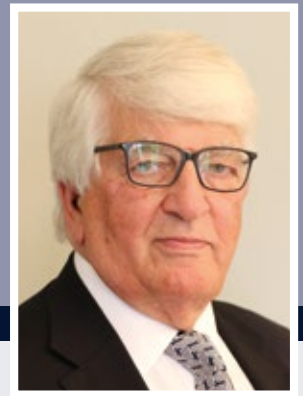
New chairs of the Council's various committees were also elected, and Jan Bailey, PA to the Mayor, was presented with an award to mark her recent retirement.

Over 70 members of the public attended and enjoyed drinks and canapés following the meeting.





# ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2022/2023



## Marlow remains a very community-orientated town and I'd like to offer a big thank you to all residents for your support

I am honoured to have been your Town Mayor for the past four years and I shall be standing down at the annual general meeting in May. During that period of four years, many town events were cancelled due to Covid. I am, however, pleased to report the good news that all our civic events and indeed many events put on by the various town organisation are now back in the calendar – this all makes for Marlow to be an excellent place in which to live, visit and work.

Reporting on this last 12 months - the Council hosted the "Party Like The Queen" event in Higginson Park on 3rd June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was a really successful family day themed in the 1950s and included music, entertainment, food, drink and much more. It was therefore with much regret that only three months later the Queen passed away and civic ceremonies took place locally to remember her magnificent reign and service to our country. Subsequently, I had the privilege of reading the official Proclamation of the accession of King Charles III to the throne from The Causeway.

Other civic events continued during the year and the annual Remembrance service attracted excellent support; the outstanding Christmas lights were switched by Peter Jones; 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 Council held a civic celebration service in March this year with

our changed format to promote town activities - we included two choirs from Sir William Borlase school and presentations of the local Ukrainian cooperative and 3rd Marlow Scouts. I also had the pleasure of presenting a Lifetime Achievement Award to Mrs Liz Ferris for her many years of working with children in the town. During the year, I have represented the town at the Marlow Town Regatta & Festival; Great Marlow School Celebration of Success; Buckinghamshire Council and other local Town's civic services; and with several councillors and the Marlow Town Twinning Association commemorated the historic occasion of the 50th anniversary of town twinning with Marly le Roi, France.

I also continued to support new businesses moving into the Town by cutting ribbons to open shops and offices; and with the Lord Lieutenant, presented a Queen's Award for Enterprise to G & L, an international company in the healthcare industry based in Marlow.

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 over the last four years and I wish you and your families well for the coming months.

*Cllr Richard Scott*

Town Mayor



➔ I have very much enjoyed representing our town



# LEADER'S

# REPORT 2022/23

## Leader, Cllr Chris Funnell

**Volunteering and leading is important as it offers essential help to worthwhile causes, places, people and the wider community**

The big question, why do you become a councillor, what do the 12 of you do, how much do you get paid, what does it involve?

The answer surprises most, we are the first tier of government, 12 council members elected by you to look after our town. As a team we share your passion, care about Marlow's future and its prosperity and looking after our home. We want to make it a wonderful place to live and work, a caring environment for all, an exciting place to visit and a wonderful place to bring up children.

Like you, we are also residents, with families, jobs, and the same range of human challenges, we have a collective belief in pledging our service to you, 14,464 residents, to deliver the best service we can .

We operate with a budget of approximately 500k per year. We cut the grass, look after green spaces, cemetery, allotments, hedges, pathways, security, environmental challenges, planning, trees, Christmas lights, grants, charity, litter management, asset management, health and safety finance, legal, treasury and finance, and much more.

As a team we are the legal corporate body governed by the local government act 1972. Our job is to listen, discuss, promote and win the best for you and the town - taking your challenges to the next levels of government, offering support on your issues and we don't ask you for a penny for doing that, we are volunteers.

I am proud to say we collaborate with numerous other volunteers and groups in the town that also give their time with grace and humility to lead, care and provide for others and I would like to extend my appreciation to the many other volunteers that give up their time to do this.

The challenges over the last couple of years have been financially driven, inventing new ways to ease the pain for residents through the pandemic, supporting many



hardship initiatives and seeking out our vulnerable for support. At the same time, we continuously challenged ourselves on how we operate, how we spend your money and how efficiently we deliver our service recognising that we face new challenges every year and changing and adjusting our approach accordingly.



This year we took on board the challenge to look at every line of our budget, absorb inflationary challenges, take a hard look at value for money, look at supporting residents and we delivered a "zero" increase in the council tax precept for all of you.

As we sign up soon for another council year at our AGM in May, along with my fellow councillors, I look forward to continuing to serve you as leader. We will continue to drive an organisation that will take Marlow from strength to strength as a fantastic place to live, and deliver the best value we can.

Once a Marlovian, always a Marlovian.

Please stay in touch by visiting our website at

**[www.marlow-tc.gov.uk](http://www.marlow-tc.gov.uk)** which explains what your council does and provides contact information for your councillors and questions.

We would also welcome any feedback by email **[office@marlow-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@marlow-tc.gov.uk)**

➔ **We have a collective belief in pledging our service to you**

# RESOURCES COMMITTEE

## REPORT 2022/23

### Chairman, Cllr Natalia Mityaeva

Despite the difficult economic climate, the Town has finished its fiscal year in a good fiscal position. We realised increased revenues from both investment income and cemetery fees which enabled us to support and finance many enhanced services for our residents.

Among these we continued to pay for grass cutting and caring for our public spaces, providing our town with extra security through financial contributions for a Police Community Support Officer and delivering additional patrols of our parks and green spaces by a private security firm, contributing to the town bus service, purchasing and maintaining bunting and summer floral displays around town, as well as continuing to print and distribute the much-loved Marlovian magazine.

We also continued to organise and sponsor some amazing celebrations of the important events that became so iconic in our town such as the Remembrance Parade, the Swan Upping, the Civic Service that showcases



the best of volunteering and the community spirit of Marlow, and of course the annual Christmas Celebrations including the high street Christmas lights switch-on and our wonderful Carols on The Causeway event with a lovely orchestra, a choir, mulled wine and mince pies. The additional highlight this past year was the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in Higginson Park that brought much of our community and visitors together to enjoy the day out with live entertainment and fun activities.

Our annual budget also supported maintenance of our allotments and cemetery, waste management and required site inspections for health and safety of the residents and visitors.

As we move into the new financial year we will continue to review and evaluate our expenditures and financial commitments where our resources are most impactful and valued by the local community and will continue to build on our healthy reserves. Our projected budget for 2023/2024 has been balanced with no increases in parish tax to our residents. We also will be looking to review our accounting systems and processes for efficiency and improved delivery.



➔ The Town has finished its fiscal year in a good position





## 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 Buckinghamshire will begin to be developed in the near future which will supersede the Wycombe Plan in due course. It is still some time away and is unlikely to have major impact on Marlow.

Developments under consideration by Buckinghamshire



planning department include the Marlow Studio project for whose revised planning application is expected to be reviewed by the strategic sites committee in the very near future. The proposal for the new schools boathouse at Gossmore was finally approved earlier this year after protracted negotiations.

### 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 Buckinghamshire Council towards a post-Covid travel plan and are looking at options for improving the Town Bus service with a more environment-friendly operation. We supported the new quietway on Trinity Road.

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

# ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

# REPORT 2022/23

**Chairman,  
Cllr Jocelyn Towns**



## Environment, sustainability and wellbeing

We continue as a Council to raise further awareness amongst our residents as we work together with other organisations to drive greater learning about our Environment and Sustainability as a Town. You will recall we talked about **The BIG Sustainable Marlow Challenge** which we launched towards the end of last year. This programme encourages all of us to take simple steps towards a greener lifestyle, by helping Marlow to reduce its carbon emissions, and to help nature.

Please continue to join us in our eco-missions and be part of the Challenge.

These simple steps are:

- Saving energy at home
- Reducing waste
- Walking and cycling more
- Switch to an electric car
- Helping nature

Do check out our website where you can find all the information [www.marlow-tc.gov.uk/challenge](http://www.marlow-tc.gov.uk/challenge)

## Wildflower areas

Our pollinator policy has provided wildflower areas around the Town, with more news from the team to be shared on this very soon.



## The Great British Spring Clean

We were very pleased to be able to support the Great British Spring Clean again this year, and together with the Wombles and residents, we were able to collect over 25 bags of rubbish. A big thank you to all who took part.



## In conclusion

I have been running the Environment Committee, which became a fully delegated Council Committee in 2021. This was developed from a working group set up in 2019 (just before Covid), when we launched the Sustainable Marlow programme. This included projects aimed at reducing single-use plastic bottles, engaging Marlow schools in sustainability, and planting more trees.

Here is one of the trees that have recently been planted in the business park replacing three birch trees that had sadly failed.

Your Town Council will continue to improve its own environmental performance and to fully consider sustainability in its policy decisions going forward.

More information on all our policies and initiatives can be found on our website.

I sign off having greatly enjoyed my work with the environment team and wishing my successor Colleen Stapley the new Environment Chair a very successful year ahead.



➔ Please continue to join us on our eco-missions

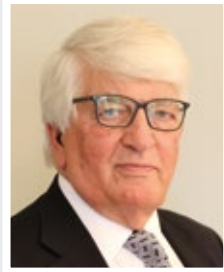


## Chairman, Cllr Richard Scott

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. We continued to offer residents several very successful events throughout the year.

On 3rd June 2022, we celebrated the platinum anniversary of HM The Queen with "Party Like The Queen" in Higginson Park. It had a 1950's theme and included entertainment for the whole family and vintage food and drink stalls. All helped by glorious weather, thousands of residents and visitors enjoyed a really great day.

This year, we have organised an informal event in Higginson Park to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Taking place on Saturday, 6th May, "Party Like The King" will be sharing the park with Marlow & District



Round Table May Fayre and will include entertainment for the whole family, a large screen on which to watch the coronation service and, food and drink

2022 saw 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, I planted a tree in Marly le Roi and presented a commemorative plaque to their town council. We will be reciprocating the French hospitality this year over the weekend of the Marlow Town Regatta & Festival on 10th and 11th June.

Our traditional events of the pre-Christmas lights Switch On, Carols on The Causeway and a Civic Celebration service were back in full swing and our celebration event, held in March, reached out to all residents endorsing the community spirit which prevails in our town. Further details of the celebration event are covered in the Mayoral report.

Looking forward, the committee is also considering 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 continued to offer residents several very successful events

# Marlow Energy Group

## *Schools climate change competition*



The Marlow Energy Group is an organisation focused on trying to reduce the effects of climate change in the area. We felt it was important to encourage the thoughts of young people on the subject and their ideas for action, so we created a competition.

Scientists have warned that the Earth is warming to a dangerous level. Much depends on government action but individuals and communities play their part. Thus the subject of the competition was: "What do you think that you and the residents of Marlow and its organisations can do to help reduce the effects of climate change?"

The competition was open to 12 – 18 year olds, and was publicised in Marlow's two secondary schools, Sir William Borlase's Grammar School and Great Marlow School, with a £100 prize for the winner.

Great Marlow responded with some very thoughtful and interesting ideas for action, ranging from changing diet and planting more trees to creating energy from the use of gyms. Those who took part are all to be commended for their ideas and expressions of concern.

The winner was Isabella Murray (with help from fellow students Ruby Chicchirillo and Oliva Coyne), all from Great Marlow. Isabella had some well expressed and well

developed ideas, particularly on involving the residents of Marlow to cut down on electricity use, reduce litter and plant more trees and vegetables. She was encouraging and persuasive in her approach.

During the morning of Wednesday, 19th of April, Cllr Richard Scott, Marlow Town Mayor, spoke about the Town Council's efforts to fight climate change and presented Isabella with the winning cheque. Also present were MEG Directors Jane Mann and Martin Fry. Rachel Addy, Isabella's Form Tutor, also attended the event.



# Great British Spring Clean

## *Marlow's litter pick in and around town*

As part of the Great British Spring Clean, Councillors Natalia Mityaeva, Carol Heap, Chris Hoyle, David Brown and Deputy Mayor Jocelyn Towns joined The Marlow Wombles and members of the public on April 1st to litter-pick in and around the town.

Litter-picking took place in Station Road, Institute Road, town centre car parks, Higginson Park, Pound Lane and the High Street, resulting in twenty-five bags of rubbish being collected.

Jocelyn Towns, Deputy Mayor and head of the Environmental Committee at Marlow Town Council, said: "About thirty people, including several family groups, came to help with the Great British Litter Pick — a marvellous turnout. The Council handed out pickers, bags and gloves, though many turned up with their own kit, which was great to see. Many thanks to all who came along, and special thanks to Emma Hawkins and Debbie Farnfield from the Wombles for helping to publicise the event so well."

The Great British Spring Clean is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign.





# Marlow u3a

*Technology and music meeting open to all*



In addition to smaller group meetings on various interests which are only open to group members, u3a holds meetings each month at URC which are open to all members, Engineering, Technology & Transport (ETT) and Music Appreciation Group (MAG).

The main aim of the ETT Group is to be accessible, informative and of interest to all those who are perhaps slightly more technically minded. It is generally a mix of stimulating subject matter plus sufficient engineering detail to be educational as well as providing social interaction.

**Currently the ETT meetings are intended to cover a broad range of topics that includes:**

- Engineering & Asset Infrastructure (Civil, Mechanical & Electrical Engineering, Utilities, Petrochemical).
- Technologies, Application of Technology, New Technologies and Research.
- Historical People and Events, Technical Discoveries, Materials & Machines.
- Road, Rail, Air and Water Transport plus Space and the Universe.
- Science, Computing, Communications, Robots & Artificial Intelligence.

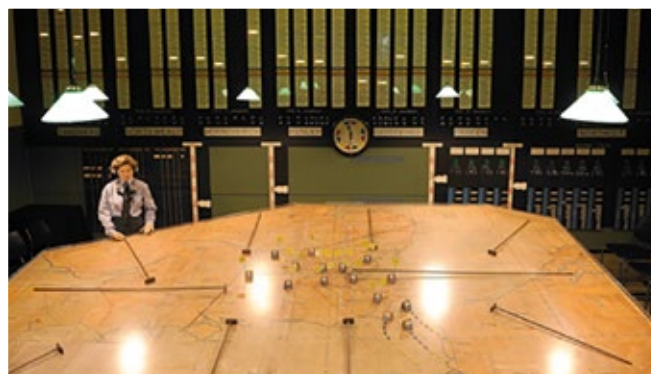
These meetings are interspersed with two or three visits per year to relevant places of interest, some of which are by coach and others self-drive/car share. Recent visits have been to Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Farnborough Airport, BMW Mini Car Plant, RAF Uxbridge (pictured), Didcot Railway Centre, and Bremont Watches

Workshops (Henley) plus cream tea on a steam hauled train on the Chinnor & Princes Risborough line.

MAG meetings typically include a recital from a local young musician, followed by a talk on music-related matters. Due to the Convenor's connections, we have been treated to some wonderful playing from extremely talented young people - a chance for them to gain performing experience and for our members to hear the possible stars of the future.

ETT meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 2pm and MAG on the third Thursday at 10am. In both cases there is an opportunity for refreshments and to meet with your fellow attendees after the meeting. The cost is £3.

New members are always welcome at u3a and, in addition to the above two groups, there are many varied interest opportunities. If you're interested, look at our website for Marlow & District u3a or contact **[membership@marlowu3a.co.uk](mailto:membership@marlowu3a.co.uk)** and we'll be happy to tell you more.



# Neighbourhood Watch

*Securing your home: Peace of mind whilst you're away*



Everyone needs a holiday, but we want you to come home and find everything as you left it. Almost half of all burglaries happen when a home is left empty. With the tips set out below you can help to make your home more secure while you are away.

- Make sure your home looks occupied. Ideally, ask a trusted neighbour or friend to look after it and to check for post and parcels on the doorstep or left protruding from the letterbox. Let them have a spare set of keys, but don't put your name or address on them.
- Don't leave your curtains closed during the daytime, as this shows the house is empty.
- Use automatic timer-switches to turn your lights on at dusk.
- Cancel any regular deliveries such as newspapers and milk.
- Cut the lawn before you go and trim back any plants that burglars could hide behind.
- Uncollected mail is a sign that you're away. The Royal Mail's 'Keepsafe' service will keep your mail for up to two months while you're away.
- Avoid putting your home address on your luggage when you are travelling to your holiday destination. Put this only on the inside of your cases.

- Make sure that you have up-to-date contents and buildings insurance.
- Keep tools and ladders locked away.
- If you're not leaving your car at home, ask a neighbour or a friend to park their car on your drive.
- Don't publish your absence on social media. Status updates, comments and photos can all give away that your home is empty.
- Is there a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme where you live? Visit **[www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)** and enter your postcode to check to see if there are any schemes set up in your area, or alternatively speak with us via our email address.
- Finally, don't forget to lock all external doors and windows. If you've got a burglar alarm, make sure it is set.

And before you set off, it's worth spending a couple minutes checking you've done all you had to do and taken everything you need with you. Don't forget your passport and tickets!

**[office@wdnhwatch.plus.com](mailto:office@wdnhwatch.plus.com)**





# Oxford vs Cambridge Boat Race

*Marlow Oxford University student rows in this year's race*



Marlovian Sara Helin was one of the rowers to represent Oxford at this year's boat race against Cambridge. Sara who attended Danesfield Primary School and Sir William Borlase's Grammar School, learned how to row in Year 9 at Longridge as part of the Sir William Borlase's Boat Club. By year 13 Sara was a National Schools Regatta medal winner and ready to take a break. Sara was offered a place at St. Peter's College, Oxford University, where she currently studies Engineering Science. Taking a year out in her first year at Uni to try new sports showed Sara how much she loved rowing, and she was back training by the end of the year with the Oxford University's Women's Boat Club (OUWBC).

Sara was voted in as the President of the OUWBC in 2022, having been part of the club for two years. Described as 'Amazing' by crewmate Laurel Kaye, Sara is proud of how far her team came, despite losing. Some of the team this year had only taken up rowing since starting their undergraduate degree at Oxford. Sara rowed in Osiris, the Oxford Reserve Boat, last year and when this year's Osiris boat came in, she was the first

to go and welcome and commiserate with each crew member.

The Boat Race took place on March 26th on a clear day, after much rain. The river was high and choppy, overflowing the banks by high tide. The place where the coin toss had taken place was flooded by 6pm that evening. The interviews and presentations were made at the Mortlake Boat Club.

If you would like to see the OUWBC squad in action again, they will be competing at Henley Women's Regatta this year. Feel free to come down and cheer them on.



## Oxfam Marlow Shop

*Volunteers wanted to join the team*

Oxfam is a global humanitarian organisation that aims to end poverty and suffering around the world. Oxfam shops not only help to raise funds, but also help to reduce waste by giving items a second life.

The Oxfam Marlow shop is currently looking for new volunteers to join its team. There are many opportunities to get involved within the shop, whether it's sorting through donations to find hidden gems or helping customers on the shop floor. Volunteers say that the role has helped them to meet new people, gain new skills and join a friendly team.

Join Oxfam today and help end global poverty!

If you're interested in applying, please come and visit us at: 31 High St, Marlow SL7 1AU

Alternatively, please apply online at:  
**<https://bit.ly/3OaeixO>**





# Aid for Ukraine

## Volunteers visit Poland

A group of six volunteers from the Marlow and Maidenhead URC churches' Aid for Ukraine project travelled to Poland at the end of March this year.

The project had been supporting refugees from Ukraine arriving in Poland since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the purpose of the visit was to see how the aid was rolled out, to see what else could be done to help and to help unload one of the lorries arriving in Poland which had been loaded three days earlier in Maidenhead.

At the beginning of the war, there were many thousands of refugees arriving daily, with very few possessions, little or no documentation and only the clothes they were wearing. Aid for Ukraine took on the task of supporting the local authorities and volunteers in Susiec, a small town about ten miles from the Polish/Ukrainian border, in south-eastern Poland.

The cultural centre in Susiec became the headquarters for coordinating help for the newly arrived refugees. Hundreds of volunteers were mobilised. Staff at the centre, led by the director, Johanna Kowalczyk, worked around the clock, providing aid to the new arrivals in the form of food, clothing, paperwork, bedding and shelter, as well as emotional support for families who had left loved ones behind. The volunteers, many from the police, fire brigade and ambulance teams, also had to be looked after. At one point, one thousand sandwiches were prepared each day to feed the arriving refugees and the volunteers.



The Aid for Ukraine volunteers were welcomed warmly by Johanna and her team at the community centre and were able to watch a presentation about the community's work at the height of the refugee crisis. Johanna was most grateful for the help and support that had arrived from Marlow and Maidenhead. The volunteers toured the

kitchens and the food preparation areas as well as the offices.

Many of the items in the kitchens had been provided by the Meals from Marlow project, organised by Tom Kerridge and his volunteers.

It was good to see in real life what had only been seen in photos previously, and also that the equipment is now being used for community projects. It was both humbling and emotional for the volunteers to be thanked so often and so genuinely for the support and donations sent.

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*Aid for Ukraine works with Ewa's group to provide what is required, so it knows that what is sent is needed and useful and that the aid is going directly to people in need.*

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The Aid for Ukraine project has been sending lorries with donations to Poland since March 2022. The latest lorry was loaded with donations from Marlow and Maidenhead by volunteers from both churches in Maidenhead on Tuesday 28th March.

The visiting Aid for Ukraine volunteers were delighted to help unload this same lorry in Tomaszów Lubelski on Friday 31st March. Because the stream of refugees arriving in Poland has tapered off, Aid for Ukraine changed its focus late summer last year from helping Ukrainians arriving in Poland to helping Ukrainians in Ukraine.

Headed up by an enthusiastic, energetic Polish lady, Ewa Piwko-Witkowska, a group of volunteers drives vans and cars into Ukraine to take much-needed supplies to villages, towns and hospitals, quite often putting themselves in danger.

Aid for Ukraine works with Ewa's group to provide what is required, so it knows that what is sent is needed and useful and that the aid is going directly to people in need.

The volunteers from Aid for Ukraine helped unload the truck into a small flat loaned to Ewa by the local council. From there the donations are sorted, sometimes repacked then loaded into smaller vans and cars to be delivered to various parts of Ukraine. Ewa herself drives into Ukraine every ten or twelve days.



Meeting Ewa was inspiring for the volunteers and helped them be even more determined to send aid where and when it is needed.

Visiting the area, the volunteers were impressed by the enormity of the task the Polish people had undertaken to help Ukraine in its hour of need. From council officials to local priests, from emergency services to local businesses, from hospitality workers to shop assistants, everyone gave help when asked, sometimes also without being asked. A lasting memory for the Aid for Ukraine volunteers will be a letter they each received on arrival from the hotel manager in Tomaszów, thanking them for “helping our neighbours”.

Aid for Ukraine would like to thank everyone who has donated over the last year. **Donations are still needed.**

Christ Church URC, Marlow (Oxford Road) is open for donations on Fridays from 10am - 12 noon and on Sundays from 4.15 - 5pm. There is an up-to-date list of the goods needed on the Ukraine page of Christ Church URC, Marlow's website:

**[www.christchurch-marlow.org.uk](http://www.christchurch-marlow.org.uk)** as well as on the church's face-book page: **@ChristChurchMarlow**





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# WORDS To Inspire

Events

*Marlow's literary festival promises 'to inspire and delight'*

**M**arlow's first official literary festival, WORDS, promises an inspiring and packed programme of prose, poetry, song and drama, according to organisers The Marlow Writers' Society.

The event takes place on Saturday, 17th June, with presentations from morning to evening in venues in the town centre. Local celebrity Tom Chambers will open the event officially at 10am, kicking off a day of entertainment for all.

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*The programme has something to inspire and delight everyone*

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Local authors including Bill Dunn, John Karter and Susanna Beard will talk about their writing journeys and read extracts from their books, while Cecelia Anne Sadek, Michael Bourton and Jenny Simnett, all well-known local poets, will present an eclectic range of their work. Meanwhile Sian Baldwin, who handles publicity for Marlow-based Robert Thorogood among other authors, will discuss how to launch a book into the world successfully and how to capture the attention of media and national press.

For those who enjoy singing, Harmony Belles and Dave Dunbar are among the performers preparing to entertain. Harmony Belles is an all-female, four-part singing group with songs ranging from musical theatre to jazz and classical, while Dave Dunbar performs classic Jazz/Swing hits from the 1940s, 50s and 60s.

'Mary Does Marlow', in the form of Nicola Metcalfe, will bring Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*, to life through rhyme, song and general buffoonery, while Heather Adams will lead a Walk Through Marlow to discover and discuss the literary past of the town. Environmentally themed activities for young children will be provided in a special room called the 'Seedling Room'.

"We set up this festival to celebrate all forms of the spoken and written word, and we're delighted that Marlow has so many wonderful writers and performers who are keen to join us," Jonathan Slack, Chair of the Marlow Writers' Society, said. "The programme has something to inspire and delight everyone."

Sponsors of the event include Marlow Town Council, Transition Town Marlow and Marlow Round Table. A full programme and tickets will be released in the next few weeks.

**[www.marlowwriters.org](http://www.marlowwriters.org)**





# Marlow Half Marathon

Events

*New Frankenstein event for 2023*

*"Beware, for I am fearless and therefore powerful."*

These words are spoken by Frankenstein's monster in Mary Shelley's renowned novel but could just as easily have been uttered by one of our runners completing last year's Marlow Half Marathon or the Marlow 7. Every year in November, fearless and powerful runners from all over the country flock to the market town of Marlow to compete (or just complete) one of our scenic events.

This year is our 35th year of hosting the events and we've got a special treat lined up for runners - The FRANKENSTEIN. This is a gruelling six-mile, multi-terrain event in the glorious countryside of the very town where Mary Shelley completed her gothic novel. Runners will start with an ascent up to Bovington Green, followed by a traverse across Marlow Common. They will then trek through the historic Pullingshill Wood before looping around Hollowhill Wood and beginning a long and fast descent back to Marlow Sports Club.

For runners who prefer to pound the pavements, the Marlow Half or Marlow 7 (a 7-mile race) will also be held this year as they have been previously. And the best part is, not only will you be supporting sport in Marlow, you'll also be supporting this year's nominated charities, South Bucks Hospice and Women's Aid, adding to the £235,000 we've already raised since the event began.

So choose your race and come and join us at the 35th Marlow Half Marathon, Marlow 7 and Frankenstein on 5th November 2023, where our resident 'Guy Fawkes' will be starting the race. Entries are now open at [marlowhalfmarathon.co.uk](http://marlowhalfmarathon.co.uk)



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## Marlow South Ward

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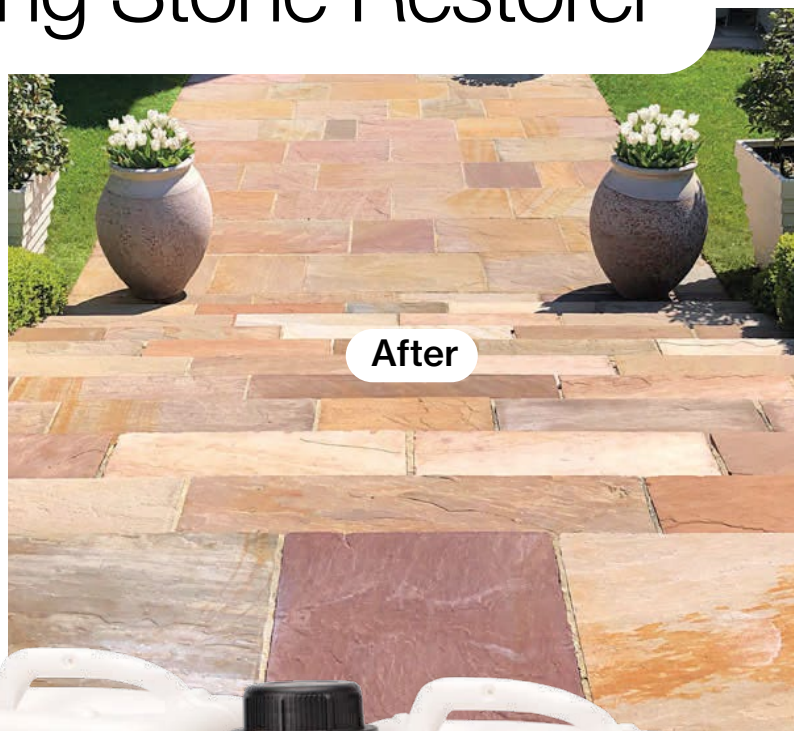


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