



# marlovian

all your news from the community

Winter 2025

## Christmas *Carol*

Lights Switch-On: Carol Kirkwood ignites festive cheer!

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all your news from the community

**COVER:** Paul Merchant, My Marlow

**MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL**

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# Mayor's Message

*Welcome to the Winter 2025 magazine*



As I sit down to write this, I can't believe how quickly the months have flown by. My mayoral role continues to be a true privilege, and I am doing my utmost to accept every invitation I receive. We have been treated to a particularly beautiful autumn this year and against this lovely backdrop, the last few months have been full of memorable moments, and I would like to share just a few highlights.

In September, Marlow Town Council joined the Green Village at Marlow Carnival. It proved to be a delightful day, full of conker playing and conversations with residents about sustainability, their interest in the Local Plan and what they would like to see in the High Street phone boxes. Having experienced firsthand the therapeutic value of being in the fresh air, and growing food in the company of others, I was invited to join the horticultural therapy group at Hanging Hill allotments to discuss the positives of community gardening. Some of us also attended the Allotment AGM, precious assets for Marlow residents.

The General Manager of The Britannia invited me to their Macmillan Coffee Morning and while there, I learned about their wonderful community initiative: a community coffee afternoon from 4pm – 6pm on the second Monday of every month, providing a free hot drink, a slice of cake or a biscuit, and, more importantly, some friendly chat. I am told these afternoons are very well attended by our seniors, and I am delighted to see such care for community wellbeing.



*Photo: Mayor of Marlow at The Britannia Macmillan Coffee Morning*

October brought with it the Council's first Community Forum. We were thrilled to welcome over 60 attendees from local community groups, organisations, and non-profits. You told us about your struggle to recruit volunteers and the need for a community organisation venue in our town. We are planning our next event for Springtime, following positive feedback. I also had the pleasure of supporting Brighter Futures Together at their Halloween film screening. It was wonderful to see so many families



*Photo: The Mayor at the Amistice event in Marly Le Roi*

attend this community offering. Watch this space for more fundraising events for the Mayor's charities.

It was a pleasure to see people coming to the Local Plan Consultation evening. The Local Plan working group did an amazing job at compiling your answers and comments and sharing them with Bucks Council as the Marlow Town response to the draft proposal.

It was also an honour to attend the induction service for the new Minister at Christ Church URC, and as part of my duty as Mayor, to attend the Civic Services of neighbouring towns, an opportunity to reinforce the links between councils within the Buckinghamshire area.

The Remembrance Service and Parade were profoundly moving. My heartfelt thanks go to all who organised the event, to all who participated and to the many residents who came to show their support. Following the service, I travelled to Marly le Roi to attend their Armistice event as part of our town twinning arrangement, strengthening the connections between our communities. Our towns face similar challenges and could help each other by sharing successful projects.

And of course, no winter season is complete without the Christmas Lights Switch-On. It was wonderful to watch the town gather together as our splendid display burst into life. I am looking forward to Carols on The Causeway on Tuesday, 16th December.

As we approach the festive season, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very happy holidays and a peaceful, healthy New Year. It is an honour to serve as your Mayor.

*Cllr Muryel Boulay*

Marlow Town Mayor



# Town Council News

Winter 2025

## Year End external audit report 2024/25

The external auditor PKF Littlejohn has returned the audit and certificate confirming that Marlow Town Council has completed the Annual Return in accordance with all of the relevant legislations and that there are no except for matters. The full report and certificate can be viewed on the website.

## Zero tolerance on graffiti

Council operates a no tolerance policy on graffiti and aims to cover any graffiti within 24 hours of it being reported. The underpass at Gossmore was recently redecorated by the outside team after graffiti was reported.



## Carols on The Causeway

Please come and join The Mayor and Marlow Town Band at The Causeway on December 16th for Carols around the Christmas Tree, Santa has confirmed his attendance and will be in his grotto, with mince pies and mulled wine available. Santa is available from 6pm with carols starting at 6.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Christmas free parking

By arrangement with Buckinghamshire Council, Marlow Town Council has arranged for free parking in all Buckinghamshire owned Council car parks on the following dates, December 13th, 16th and 20th.

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# A Greener Christmas

## Creative Ways to Cut Down on Waste



**Christmas is a time for joy, giving and lots of gifts. Here are some fun and easy ways to reduce waste this festive season.**



Are you treating yourself to a new Christmas jumper? Why not take your old jumper to a charity shop in time for it to bring some Christmas cheer to somebody else?

Why not gift an experience? Creating memories is a great alternative to buying things.



Not all wrapping paper is equal when it comes to recycling. Wrapping paper that is foil or metallic, or has metallic shapes or glitter, can't be recycled.

A rooted tree can either be planted out in the garden or potted and reused again next year. Alternatively, if you already have an artificial tree, it can be reused for many years.



Christmas cards and their envelopes can be recycled but you will need to remove any parts with foil, glitter or additional decorations. A great idea for the fronts of cards that can't be recycled is to cut them out and reuse them as tags for next years presents.

Instead of buying a wreath with non-recyclable components, why not make your own Christmas wreath from natural materials you forage on a winter walk? There are some great online tutorials that show you how.



A lot of people will think about having a sort-out of their children's toys after Christmas. Taking good quality unwanted or outgrown toys and games to charity shops during December can help another family at Christmas.

You have cooked Christmas dinner and your guests are full to their Christmas hats, what can you do with the leftovers? Why not search online for recipes and get creative with turkey curry, turkey and ham pie, vegetable frittata, or bubble and squeak?



# Roots & Shoots Awards

*Spinfield School wins award from the Dr. Jane Goodall Institute*



Spinfield School has been named a winner of the Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Awards 2025, in the Roots & Shoots Journey and Legacy – Your Story category. The judges praised the school's inspiring story of teamwork and growth, highlighting how it integrates environmental care, community service, and compassion for animals into everyday school life. They said Spinfield's approach exemplifies how young people can make a meaningful impact on the world around them. Judges also commended the pupils' creativity, collaboration, and impressive project outcomes, calling the recognition "well-deserved for everyone involved." Thanks to the generosity of the Roots & Shoots programme sponsors, Spinfield Primary School has received a £500 prize to support its next sustainability initiative. The school will also be presented with a Roots & Shoots trophy and a collection of special prizes. The judges remarked that Spinfield's story continues Dr. Jane Goodall's legacy of hope and action, and expressed their excitement to share it more widely.



**Foodbank Support** – Through collaboration with One Can Trust, pupils organised food donations for families in need.

**Chimpanzee Sponsorship** – Pupils raised £150 by selling a Fairtrade cupcake recipe book, sponsoring three chimpanzees in support of Jane Goodall's mission.

**Waste-Free Wednesday** – Weekly tallies of plastic-free lunchboxes encourage a reduction in single-use plastics.

**Sustainability Pledges** – Families across the school community committed to eco-friendly pledges at home.

## *Recognition and community impact*

Spinfield's achievements have been celebrated on the Roots & Shoots Mission Updates page and were posted in the 2025 end-of-year Roots & Shoots newsletter as the featured school. In July 2025, Spinfield hosted the Roots & Shoots team for an engaging workshop with two classes - an event that inspired pupils and reinforced their passion for sustainability. The Roots & Shoots programme has empowered pupils to become leaders in sustainability and global citizenship, fostering teamwork, creativity, and compassion throughout the school community.

## *Looking ahead*

Spinfield's newly elected Global Citizens Committee is preparing to launch new initiatives in 2026, continuing the school's commitment to improving life for people, animals and the planet.

Spinfield's Roots & Shoots journey demonstrates how young people can be powerful changemakers. The school is proud of its pupils' passion, dedication, and ability to create real-world impact - a testament to what can be achieved when a community unites behind a shared vision for a better future.

*Ms J Spreadbury, Headteacher*

*Mrs S Armstrong, Eco lead*

*"Together we can. Together we will.  
Together we must save the world."*

*— Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE*

## *A journey rooted in sustainability*

Before joining Roots & Shoots, Spinfield School had already established a strong foundation in sustainability through several initiatives, including the British Council International School Award, Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Schools, the Woodland Trust, and the Fairtrade Schools Association. Becoming part of the Roots & Shoots community allowed the school to unify these efforts under a single, cohesive vision — giving pupils a stronger sense of purpose, global awareness, and environmental responsibility.

## *Highlights of the school's work*

**Little Rotters Composting Group** – Pupils manage composting across the school, learning about food waste reduction and the natural cycle of life.

**Bug Hotels** – Children designed and built habitats to boost biodiversity and encourage outdoor learning.

**Fairtrade Cupcake Competition** – 53 pupils baked cakes using Fairtrade ingredients, showing creativity and commitment to ethical sourcing. The cakes were shared with a local care home, connecting global and local acts of kindness.





## Blaser Mills Law announced as main sponsor of Marlow Rugby Club

**Blaser Mills has been confirmed as the main club sponsor for Marlow Rugby Club for the 2025/26 season.**

Following Blaser Mills' move of its headquarters to Marlow, the firm has been actively seeking to partner with local organisations that form a key part of the Marlow community - the partnership with the rugby club has provided the ideal fit to do this.

Marlow Rugby Club, formed in 1947, has become one of the pillars of the local community, and is now home to 24 teams including men's, women's and youth, with players mainly from the local area.

**Hiren Gandhi, Partner at Blaser Mills, commented:** "We are delighted to have partnered with Marlow Rugby Club. Grassroots rugby is so important because it nurtures community spirit, gives individuals a sense of belonging, develops strong social bonds, and serves as the foundation for the entire sport.

As our firm continues to grow in the town, the partnership is a great way for us to integrate with the Marlow community and we're looking forward

to cheering the teams on this season."

**Jeremy Povey, Commercial Director at Marlow Rugby Club added:** "We are absolutely thrilled to be partnering with Blaser Mills. The Club has always had strong links with local business, given our proximity to Globe Park, with many members business owners and managers. We plan to further develop those relationships through the medium of Sport and Rugby in the coming seasons.

A firm of Blaser Mills' standing is the perfect partner for us; we warmly welcome them to the local business community and the Marlow Rugby family."

Blaser Mills is a nationally recognised law firm with a long-standing presence across Buckinghamshire and the Thames Valley.



**Hiren Gandhi**

Partner

# Marlow Energy Group

*Consider investing in a new heat pump*



**T**wo years ago, a couple who live in a bungalow in Marlow, decided to replace their aging condensing gas boiler to reduce their carbon footprint. During the two years of researching and investigating the purchase of a heat pump to warm their house and heat their water, they contacted 12 companies and had 12 visits and subsequent quotations varying from around £12,000 to over £19,000. However, as the Government's Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) provides grants of £7,500 to reduce the overall cost, they decided to spend £5,700 to purchase a Vaillant Arotherm plus 7KW heat pump.

Their chosen supplier installed their heat pump and ensured that their four thermal panels (water) and their 16 photo-voltaic (PV, Electricity) panels were incorporated into the system. As some existing pipework and radiators had to be replaced, the thermal panel had to be linked to the new hot water cylinder and their PV panels were connected to provide some of the power to the heat pump, the installation took four days. Their house is now warm all through the day and night and the water for their showers is hot.

This year they purchased a 6kwh battery at a cost of £2,325 from a supplier in Marlow. In conjunction with their electricity supplier (Octopus), they now charge their battery, either using Octopus's cheap rates (4am to 7am, 1pm to 4pm and 10pm until mid-night), or from their PV panels on sunny days. Their battery (see photo of the battery and the PV Inverter) provides them with power during a good deal of the day and evenings.

Although a new gas boiler will cost between £2,000 and £4,000, they contribute significantly to adverse climate change. So, if you have to replace an aging gas boiler, or if you have some spare cash, consider buying a new heat pump, which is likely to save you money and reduce your carbon emissions and hopefully protect future generations.



## Home Counties Loft Ladders, Quality You Can Trust!

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are Quality, Integrity and Value. Quality in the materials that we use for all our installations and the fact that all our loft packages are fitted by time served tradesmen, so our customers are assured of the best job.

Integrity in that we will turn up at the time we say and make sure the house is spotless when we leave, and value in that we offer our services at a price people can afford.

Our business relies on referrals and we get a huge amount of our calls from people who have been

referred to us by our existing customers - that simply wouldn't happen if we didn't adhere to our overriding principles.

At the end of the day the old adage that happy customers lead to more happy customers is true and we work hard to make that happen for every installation we carry out!

So, if you want to make use of your loft space, call Jamie free on 0808 301 9552 and he'll be happy to pop round and give you a no obligation quote so you too can make use of your loft!



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# The Green Village

*Visitors enjoyed sustainable activities at the Marlow Carnival*



Marlow Town Council were out in force in The Green Village at the Marlow Carnival on Saturday, 13th September. We had a variety of sustainable activities for visitors on our stand. There were some enthusiastic games of conkers which were enjoyed by councillors and visitors alike. Visitors were invited to write a 'concrete' poem inside the shape of a plastic bottle. Congratulations to Debbie Farnfield who gets her poem printed here. Thank you to everyone who submitted poems.

We also collected ideas for using the two recently adopted telephone boxes in the High Street - £1 each from BT! We now have a list of 64 creative and unusual ideas, of which a third came from visitors to the Marlow Carnival. The most popular suggestions from several visitors were as an art exhibition for local artists, photographers and schools, and for advertising events by local community groups. Thank you to everyone who submitted ideas. We are working on sprucing up the telephone boxes - weather permitting - and will be realising these ideas soon. If you are interested in having a telephone box display, then get in touch with us at [office@marlow-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@marlow-tc.gov.uk)



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# Wild Marlow

## Helping Marlow's hedgehogs through the winter



As temperatures start to drop this winter, hedgehogs will be searching for cozy places to hibernate in our gardens. Whether your garden is naturally wild or more formal, there are some easy and effective ways to improve your garden for hedgehogs. Our gardens are fundamental for the survival of our urban hedgehog population. The State of Britain's Hedgehogs Report 2022 reveals a decline of 30-75% since 2000 but it has also showed that urban hedgehog populations appear to have stabilised. Connections between gardens act as safe highways for hedgehogs and the simple concept of leaving a gap in fences has been very effective for the Hedgehog Highways project.

A natural pile of logs and brash with a ground-level opening makes a perfect shelter for our prickly companions. It could be the chosen site for hibernation and even more magical would be a nesting site for a female in the summer months. If you have a formal garden then tucking a wooden hedgehog house in a quiet, sheltered spot will still be a good option for hedgehogs.

Wilder gardens support more invertebrates, which are vital for a hedgehog's diet. Increased use of pesticides and slug repellents has meant that it is not so simple for hedgehogs to find a tasty meal. Please stop the use of these toxic chemicals! As cold temperatures cause puddles and ponds to freeze, it's important to keep a shallow water dish regularly defrosted with hot water for the hedgehogs. Although they hibernate, they are known to periodically rouse from sleep and a water source is vital.

Please create these fantastic connected highways through gardens to ensure a diverse buffet of food, offer those sheltered spots and maintain a water source to help our hedgehog populations thrive in Marlow.



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# Cycle To School

*Students offered free bike checks and safe cycling tips*



Saturday, 18th October saw several groups of students getting their free bike checks and cycle-skills top-up at the Cycle to School event. Sponsored by Transition Town Marlow and Saddle Safari, trainers from BeSpoke Cycle Instruction Ltd ran guided rides to different parts of the town. Students cycled on-road from the town centre to their home area and back, gaining tips on safe cycling, as well as useful road awareness experience.

As part of Transition Town Marlow, Cllr Olwen Elliott and Cllr Frank Schoofs helped to organise the event and were on hand to see groups off, welcome them back and chat to participants. Some lovely feedback was received from both students and parents.

Another cycling initiative is planned for Spring. Again with the support of Saddle Safari, we intend to start a 'Back to Cycling' group for those who haven't ridden for a while or want to gain a bit more confidence. The idea is to have several short sessions, initially using off-road areas, and including a coffee and chat. Please email [info@transitionmarlow.org](mailto:info@transitionmarlow.org) if you would like to join the group – either as a rider-returnee or a helper.







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# Follow The Donkey

Events

*Explore the story of the Marlow Donkey by rail and on foot*

A new community project was launched on the 12th August bringing local history to life in Marlow and Bourne End. The project, 'Follow the Donkey', celebrates the heritage and local environment of the Marlow / Bourne End railway line - which is affectionately known by locals as the Marlow Donkey.

With funding from Great Western Railway's (GWR) Customer and Community Improvement Fund and supported by Buckinghamshire Council's Culture Development Team, the scheme has worked with community partners and groups to explore and celebrate the history of the railway, whilst promoting a popular riverside walking trail which links the stations.



The artwork and poetry produced at the community workshops have been curated into a colourful collage which has been on display at Marlow and Bourne End libraries and will be moving to Marlow Museum following the launch event.

Earlier this summer, creative workshops were held with community groups and local residents to explore the story of the Marlow Donkey, strengthen community connections, and contribute to a local exhibition. These workshops also helped shape the design of the walking trail information and heritage boards.

The trail and heritage boards were unveiled by the Chairman of Buckinghamshire Council on the 12th August with a celebration at Bourne End station, where there were family-friendly activities, provided by Marlow Museum and Wooburn & Bourne End Parish Council, along with history talks and complementary refreshments.





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# Remembrance Sunday

Events

*Hundreds assemble for Marlow's Ceremony of Remembrance*

Large crowds gathered on The Causeway on Remembrance Sunday, 9th November, for Marlow's Ceremony of Remembrance, organised by Marlow Town Council and the Marlow Royal British Legion.

The Parade, comprising members of the armed forces, veterans, Royal British Legion, cadets, local organisations, Brownies, Guides and Scouts, was escorted by the Scots Guards Association Pipe Band from Pound Lane to The Causeway. The service was led by Rev'd Sarah Jones from All Saints' Church.

Naomi Riches, Deputy Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, began the wreath-laying and took the Salute from the podium near the gold post box. Nearby parishes and organisations around the town laid their wreaths.

"It was wonderful to see so many Marlow residents gathered with us to remember the fallen," Marlow Mayor, Cllr Muryel Boulay, said. "We were delighted to welcome 1st Deputy Mayor, Emmanuelle Rampazzo from Marly-le-Roi, and Councillors Gabor Molnar, Eszter Bauer and Janos Zsitnyak from District 1 of Budapest to our event."



*All photos credit: Jon Perry, Marlow Camera Club*





*Remembrance Sunday continued* «

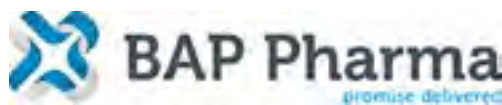




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# Christmas Lights

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# Christmas Lights Switch-On

Events

*Marlow shines as community gathered for festive switch-on*

The festive season officially began in spectacular style on Thursday, 20th November as Marlow came together for the annual Christmas Lights Switch-On.

The atmosphere was one of warmth, anticipation and holiday cheer. The event, long regarded as one of the community's most popular seasonal traditions, once again drew an impressive crowd.

---

*"I would like to sincerely thank Carol for joining us and switching on the lights."*

---

Taking to the top of the double-decker bus, The Mayor of Marlow, Cllr Muryel Boulay and Naomi Riches, who compered the event, led the crowd in a joyful countdown.

The highlight of the evening was the moment BBC Breakfast weather presenter; Carol Kirkwood illuminated the town's dazzling Christmas display.

Cllr Boulay expressed her gratitude for the overwhelming support the event received:

"It's been such a wonderful evening, and I would like to sincerely thank Carol for joining us and switching on the lights. I would also like to thank all those who helped to bring this fantastic event together, our wonderful sponsors, and for everyone who has come along to join in the festivities."

*All photos below credit: Paul Merchant, My Marlow*





*Christmas Lights Switch-On continued* ‹‹



*Photo credit: Jason Clark*



*Photos credit: (middle row and bottom) Paul Merchant, My Marlow*





# Marlow Town Band



*Tickets are on sale for local brass band's Christmas Concert*

Based in the heart of the beautiful town of Marlow on the bank of the River Thames in Buckinghamshire, Marlow Town Band is a traditional community Brass Band. With a current membership of 35 players, the non-contesting band seeks to entertain audiences with their wide repertoire of brass band classics and well-known tunes from popular culture, performing regularly in and around the local area to support local events and charities.

Established in 1906, the band is, at its heart, a community group, with players from all backgrounds coming together each week to enjoy the process of music making. Players range in age from 18 to late-80s and include experienced musicians who have been playing for years as well as those who have only recently picked up or returned to playing. The band rehearse once a week on a Monday evening in Marlow, and are always happy to welcome new members.

The band support local charities, most recently "Meals from Marlow", and historically Hearing Dogs for Deaf

People, Air Ambulance, British Heart Foundation, amongst others.

The band's Christmas Concert on 20th December at Marlow Methodist Church will have a very festive programme, and tickets are now on sale through the band's website.

More information about the band can be found on their website [marlowtownband.co.uk](http://marlowtownband.co.uk), Facebook page @ **Marlow Town Band** and Instagram account @**marlow\_town\_band**. Enquiries about joining or hiring the band can be sent to [marlowtownband@btinternet.com](mailto:marlowtownband@btinternet.com).





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# Rotary Club of Marlow

*Marlow Ukulele Group entertains Senior Citizens on boat trips*



On 17th July the Rotary Club of Marlow organized two free trips on the river for our Senior Citizens. The first included moments of tropical sunshine, the second torrential rain! These trips have been run regularly for over 45 years, with the exception of Covid, and are eagerly anticipated by those who have been before.

This year we added something new – The Marlow Ukulele Group entertained us on both trips with several foot-tapping numbers that we could sing along to. Each trip lasted two-and-a-half hours and this year we went up towards Henley, turned round, back through Marlow lock and down towards Cookham before turning round to come home.

What hadn't changed was the delicious homemade lunch and tea boxes provided by the Inner Wheel Club of Marlow all served with hot or cold drinks by their

friendly members. Keeping an eye that everything was ship-shape and ran smoothly was the Rotary President Reg Markham who had been on board when he was previously president 38 years ago and then a comparative youngster. He is now proud to be a Senior Citizen himself!

Everyone left the boat full of smiles and goodwill and looking forward to next year.

Thanks also go to Bucks Search and Rescue who provided medical cover, to Laura at Marlow Age Concern who arranged transport for those who needed it and to Ritchie, Fiona and Mark from Salters for crewing the boat.

Thanks to a very generous donation from the Shanly Foundation, The Rotary Club of Marlow were able to make this trip possible for the Senior Citizens of Marlow.

*Photos: (Top left) On the top deck under umbrellas; (top right) Marlow Ukulele Group; (bottom left) Rotary President Reg and Inner Wheel Chairman Nicki (bottom right) Inner Wheel Catering*







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# Marlow Museum

## News and updates

### *Game On: Sporting History of Marlow*

A new Exhibition is now on display at Marlow Museum, celebrating the town's proud sporting heritage. *Game On: Sporting History of Marlow* explores the remarkable stories, achievements, and personalities behind many of Marlow's sports clubs. The exhibition runs until Easter 2026, and promises to inform, entertain, and perhaps even inspire you to try a new sport yourself!

Did you know Marlow once had a horse racing track? Or that the town is home to one of the largest Jiu Jitsu centres in England? Or that General Sir George Higginson founded Marlow's Rifle and Pistol Club, in 1907, in concern about the poor shooting skills of our soldiers in the Boer War? You'll find these stories and many more in this fascinating new display and booklet.

### *Christmas celebrations*

Winter opening hours have now begun for the Museum - Sundays only, from 2 - 4pm. Throughout December, visitors can enjoy mince pies and mulled wine (in return for a donation). The Museum will be open during Marlow's Late Night Christmas Shopping evening. Do pop in to say hello on Thursday, 4th December and enjoy some festive cheer and browse our shop items for some perfect Christmas gifts.

### *Looking ahead to 2026*

Two major exhibitions are already being planned for next year. The first will celebrate the extraordinary impact of

Michael Eagleton on Marlow life. Many will remember his music shop in Spittal Street, his dedicated support of Marlow FC, his much-loved Trip Back in Time books — full of historic photographs, and his nostalgic columns and broadcasts for the Marlow Free Press and Marlow FM respectively.

The second exhibition will mark the centenary of the creation of Higginson Park. In 1926, when the Court Garden estate was put up for sale and housing threatened Marlow's riverside, a determined group of residents—rallying around General Higginson's 100th birthday—raised the funds to secure the park for the town, forever.

If either of these projects interests you, we'd love to hear from you. Volunteers are welcome to join us in developing and organising these exhibitions.

### *Join us – volunteers and trustees wanted*

As the Museum continues to grow, we're looking for new volunteers and trustees. Whether you have time to spare or skills to share—in fundraising, administration, visitor engagement, or other areas—we'd be delighted to welcome you to the team.

Get in touch via our website or speak to a team member during your next visit.

*Heather Adams*







## Blaser Mills continues its growth in Buckinghamshire with new Marlow headquarters

**Blaser Mills has significantly increased its presence in Marlow. The Buckinghamshire based firm has tripled the size of its office space in the town.**

The office at Liston Exchange in central Marlow will now be the firm's headquarters and will be home to 80 of Blaser Mills' 140 personnel. At the same time, the firm is also upgrading its established presences in High Wycombe and Amersham.

The Marlow office is in a prime location to serve the firm's ever-growing local client base. It has a dedicated suite of meeting spaces for clients and has been designed to fully accommodate modern, flexible working practices for staff. Blaser Mills followed their approach of using local providers wherever possible, employing the services of Buckinghamshire-based Miles Shepherd for the fit out.

The move forms part of the firm's overall vision, encompassing multi-million pound investment into premises and IT projects over the next 24 months; enhancing the experience of clients and its employees.

"Four years ago we viewed the large premises at Liston Exchange and felt that it was the perfect location for us but was too early to move such a large part of the firm's operation. Thanks to the exceptional performance and growth of the firm over the last few years we now find ourselves moving into these new modern offices.

Marlow has become a key location for us, both in terms of the work we do and the clients we support. Expanding here allows us to continue

growing, based in a space that better supports our people and the high standards of service we aim to deliver."

**The Marlow headquarters offers the firm's full range of legal services, including:**

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- ▼ Sport

Blaser Mills Law is now firmly established as Marlow's law firm and looks forward to welcoming both existing and new clients to its office.



**Dave Matthews**

CEO



# Community Engagement

*MTC and Red Kite joined together to listen to resident queries*



**M**arlow Town Council and Red Kite held a joint 'open surgery' for resident queries on Saturday, 27th September on the Gunthorpe Road estate.

Councillors Jenny Simnett and Emma Hawkins of Marlow Town Council were joined by Red Kite staff from their community engagement and property management staff. The event was attended by over 50 estate residents and supported by Councillors Olwen Elliott, Anna Crabtree and Alex Collingwood, the latter two representing Bucks Council.

The issues raised spanned queries about the approved planning proposals, parking, fly tipping, extra and relocated bins, anti-social behaviour, flooding garages, repainting white parking lines and individual property repairs. Red Kite has removed most of the fly tipped rubbish and cleared some of the overgrown footpaths. All the issues raised have been progressed and we are endeavouring to feedback action taken to individual residents where appropriate or via the Gunthorpe Road estate Facebook page.

We have shared some resident queries about the two approved planning proposals in Westhorpe Road and Shelley Road. It has been highlighted to Red Kite the need to engage with residents in person and answer residents' concerns about parking capacity and disruption during construction.



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# Community Forum

*MTC hosts first-ever Community Forum for local organisations*



On Thursday, 16th October, Marlow Town Council held its first Community Forum, welcoming representatives from local Community Interest Companies (CICs), non-profit organisations, community groups, and churches to come together, network, and share the challenges and projects that matter most to them.

The event was a great success, with 66 people in attendance, reflecting the strength and diversity of community spirit across the town. The forum provided an opportunity for local organisations to connect, exchange ideas, and identify ways to collaborate in addressing community needs and supporting residents.

The Mayor of Marlow Town Council, Cllr Muryel Boulay expressed gratitude and enthusiasm for the turnout and the positive discussions that took place:

"It was inspiring to see so many dedicated organisations represented in one room, all committed to making a difference in our community. The passion, energy, and collaboration on display truly highlight what makes our town special. We are incredibly proud to support the people and groups who go above and beyond every day to help others."

The council plans to build on the success of this first forum by making it a regular event. The next Community Forum will continue to nurture these vital relationships, ensuring that local voices are heard and that partnership working remains at the heart of the town's community strategy.



# Marlow Ukraine Collective

*Families gave out medals at the Marlow Striders half marathon*



Families from the Marlow Ukraine Collective were delighted to support the Marlow Striders half marathon by handing out all the medals at the finish line. Our families are a cheerful and welcoming group for the runners at the end of a challenging course. This is the

fourth time our families have done this since the Marlow Ukraine Collective charity was generously chosen as one of the Striders' fundraising recipients in 2022 and we are very grateful to have this chance to give back to the Marlow community.



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# Marlow Canoe Club

*2026 will see the club celebrates 50 Years of paddling*



Next year, Marlow Canoe Club (MCC) marks a remarkable milestone: 50 years of paddling adventures! To celebrate its golden anniversary in 2026, the club is showcasing the incredible diversity of its members' waterborne pursuits with the 50 Paddle Challenge. The challenge celebrates 50 unique paddle trips, highlighting the breadth of experiences MCC members enjoy – from quiet, local waterways to thrilling international expeditions.

Some members enjoy relaxed camping trips along canals in open canoes, blending paddling with weekends under canvas. Adventure seekers drive to Slovenia, Austria, or France to tackle white-water rapids in their kayaks. Sea paddlers test their skills by rock hopping and navigating tide races, while others take in the scenery with a gentle glide along the Thames. Early risers might embrace paddleboarding at sunrise, capturing peaceful moments as the world wakes up, and competitive members push their limits by entering marathon boat races.

All these trips highlight the range of crafts and experiences MCC offers – from kayaks, canoes, and SUPs, to marathon boats. The 50 chosen paddles will be recorded in a commemorative book and celebrated at the club's Half Century Social in Summer 2026, a chance to reflect on five decades of paddling and share stories with fellow paddlers.

To MCC's members, paddling is about giving anything a go, feeling the amazing sense of freedom on the water, and experiencing nature in a way you can't from the shore. And the cherry on the cake? Sharing those moments with your friends and making memories that last long after you've packed up your paddle. That's the true spirit of MCC – adventure, connection, and joy on the water.

Here's to 50 years of adventures – and the many more still to come! To find out about the club, visit **[www.marlowcc.org.uk](http://www.marlowcc.org.uk)**



# The Real Meaning of Christmas

*A reminder of what Christmas is really about*



As winter settles in and our beautiful town begins to glow with twinkling lights along the High Street, we know that Christmas in Marlow is just around the corner. The festive market stalls, carol singing, and community gatherings all bring a wonderful sense of warmth and togetherness. Yet, amid the busy schedules and joyful noise, it's worth pausing to remember what Christmas is truly about.

For Christians, Christmas is far more than a season of presents and parties. It is the celebration of God coming close—the extraordinary moment when the Creator of the universe entered our world as a child. Born in a humble stable, Jesus shows us that no one is too small, too ordinary, or too far away to be loved by God. The heart of Christmas is not luxury or perfection, but love that reaches out to us right where we are.

This message feels especially powerful today. Our world often feels uncertain, and many people—perhaps even within our own neighbourhoods—face loneliness, anxiety, or hardship. Yet the Christmas story declares that light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The angels' ancient song—"Peace on earth, goodwill to all"—reminds us that hope and kindness are still possible, and that we are all called to be bearers of that light.

So as we celebrate this season in Marlow, perhaps we can each find simple ways to share that message: a warm conversation with someone on their own, a donation to the Marlow Community Cupboard, or a moment to reach out with care to a neighbour or

friend. These small acts of love reflect the very heart of Christmas.

Whether or not you usually attend church, you are warmly invited to join us this Christmas at any of the Churches in Marlow. Come and sing the carols, light a candle, and share in the peace and joy that God still offers to the world. You don't have to have everything sorted—just bring an open heart.

May you and those you love know the deep peace of Christ this Christmas, and may His light continue to shine in our homes and throughout our town in the year ahead.

With every blessing,

*Rev. Kate Strange*

Minister, Marlow Methodist Church







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