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all your news from the community

Spring 2026

# Spring *in Marlow*

Local initiatives keep our town clean and green

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all your news from the community

## MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL

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# Mayor's Message

*Welcome to spring*

As we welcome the spring, I find myself reflecting on just how much has happened since the last edition of *The Marlovian*. My mayoral role continues to be a true privilege, and I am doing my best to accept every invitation that I receive.

One of the greatest joys of this role has been meeting so many remarkable people across our community, volunteers, organisers, business owners, and residents, all united by their desire to make a positive impact. Your energy and dedication are what make Marlow truly special, and I am grateful for every conversation and every idea you bring to the table. Following the success of our first Community Forum in October, where we welcomed over 60 attendees from local organisations, I am looking forward to building on that momentum and continuing those conversations.

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*One of the greatest joys of this role has been meeting so many remarkable people across our community*

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I continue to work closely with the Town Council to plan for the future of Marlow, ensuring our town not only thrives today but remains a welcoming place for generations to come. Alongside this, we are collaborating with Buckinghamshire Council to keep our streets clean, tidy, and accessible to all. A town that works for everyone is a town we can all be proud of. It is important to continue supporting our local shops and restaurants which make the high street what it is, provide jobs for the town's youngsters and give us a place to gather and keep our community connected.

I am very happy that the Town Council has launched a new Community Grant Scheme, which opened on 3rd February as a pilot initiative. You can read more about the scheme in this edition of the *Marlovian*.

I am very much looking forward to the Mayor's Civic Celebration on Sunday, 29th March, the perfect opportunity to come together and celebrate the work of young people are doing for our community. It will be followed by the second iteration of the Marlow Community organisations forum, continuing the conversation with our local charities on how to support their cause and increase collaboration. Our young people remain at the



heart of everything we do. Their achievements, creativity, and enthusiasm gives me hope, and it is a priority of mine to support, nurture, and celebrate them. I am passionate about championing opportunities that help them flourish, and I look forward to recognising some of their amazing contributions

Please also mark your diaries for the Hats, Masks & Happy Feet Walk on Thursday, 9th April, a brand new charity fundraising event in support of my chosen causes this year: Wild Marlow and Better Futures Together, these organisations reflect what I care about most: nurturing our young people and protecting the environment they call home. It promises to be a great evening, and I would love to see as many of you there as possible! Watch this space for more fundraising events for the Mayor's charities.

Thank you all for your continued support and making this town such a great place to live and visit.

*Cllr Muryel Boulay*

Marlow Town Mayor

# Town Council News

Spring 2026



## Budget 2026 / 2027

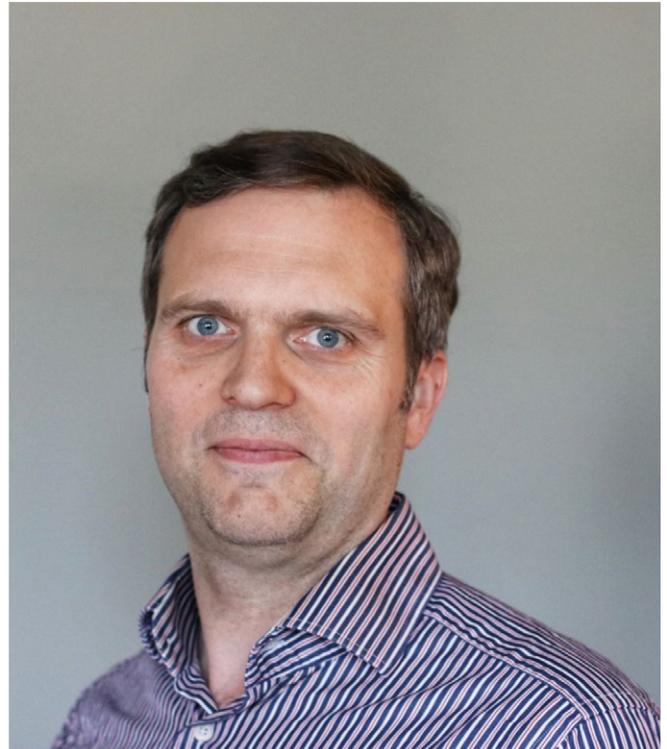
Current forecasts for the 2025/2026 financial year show that the Council is likely to end the year with a deficit of around £58,000, which would need to be met from our reserves. The budget was set in January 2025, but it did not fully capture anticipated costs, including contract and staffing costs (around £22,000). In addition, there were unexpected costs, such as essential safety and maintenance work at Seymour Park and Riley Park playgrounds (around £34,000), and May 2025 election costs of £29,539 payable to Buckinghamshire Council. These election costs were around double what had been expected based on previous elections – we still have not received a satisfactory explanation for this increase.

Over the last four years, the Town Council precept was not increased, despite rising inflation and increasing costs. As a result, the Council's budget has reduced in real terms by almost 20%, which is equivalent to around £60,000.

The proposed budget for the 2026/2027 financial year is based on cautious and realistic planning. We expect an income of around £156,000, excluding council tax, from sources such as devolved services from Buckinghamshire Council, allotment rents, cemetery fees and investment income. Planned expenditure is around £617,000, which will allow the Council to maintain the quality of services, events (Remembrance Service, Christmas Lights Switch-On, and Christmas on the Causeway) and community investment – all aspects that residents value. Savings have been identified wherever possible, without reducing essential services.

However, rising costs mean that current spending levels cannot be maintained without an increase in the precept. For example, the grounds maintenance contract will increase by 4% (£3,480) next year, and staff costs across the local government sector are expected to rise by 3% nationally (£6,000). Together, this contract and staffing account for around 57% of the Council's annual expenditure. In previous years, some contract increases were paid for from reserves rather than being built into the ongoing budget. We are also setting aside reserves to cover anticipated future costs, including higher 2029 election expenses (which could be up to £60,000; we spread them over four years) and essential maintenance to the flagpole and Frohman statue (around £12,000).

In 2025/2026, funding for community grants was set at £2,000, significantly below the usual level of £6,000–£8,000 seen in recent years. This limited the support available to local groups, charities and community organisations. Next financial year, the Council wishes



to take a more proactive approach by investing directly and significantly in the community, with up to £30,000 available through our new community grant scheme.

For the 2026/2027 budget, the Council is seeking to avoid using reserves to fund day-to-day services, as this is not sustainable in the long term and would lead to large council tax increases in future years. To achieve this, the proposed precept income is £460,472, which equates to an increase of £10.89 per year for a Band D property. On average, the increase will be £13.36 per year across Marlow. In any case, the increase will be less than £2 per month for any property.

The Council remains committed to achieving the best value for money. During the coming year, we will continue to seek operational efficiencies, such as reducing paperwork or increasing digital processes, and reviewing contracts as they come up for renewal. We will also explore opportunities to generate additional income from the Council's modest assets, with the aim of limiting future precept increases wherever possible. This additional funding will enable the Council to keep Marlow clean, safe and welcoming, with staff available to support residents and respond to questions.

*Cllr Frank Schoofs*

Chairman Resources Committee

Meetings

All Council meetings are open to the public; the timetable is available on the website here:

**[www.marlow-tc.gov.uk/meetings-agendas-and-minutes](http://www.marlow-tc.gov.uk/meetings-agendas-and-minutes)**

*All residents are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Council on 12th May 2026*

Marlow Cemetery

Marlow Cemetery is situated in Wethered Road and is managed by Marlow Town Council. The Cemetery has been in use since 1911 and many Marlow families' ancestors have been interred here. When a grave is purchased, a 'Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial' is granted to the registered grave owner. This gives them the exclusive rights to the grave for 99 years. All full graves have space for two full burial interments and six ashes interments, and as Marlow Cemetery is almost at

capacity we urge residents to check to see if there is a grave space in the family that they could use for future family interments.

If families are unclear on who holds the 'Grant of Exclusive Right for Burial' for a plot containing a relative, they may contact the Town Council office for assistance. Once the previous owner has been identified, families will need to agree who will have responsibility for it. Transfer of ownership of the 'Exclusive Rights of Burial' can take place once the Town Council has received all the appropriate paperwork and fees.

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

Save the dates

**Sunday, 8th November**

**Remembrance Service and Parade** will be held at The Causeway, Marlow.

**Thursday, 19th November**

This year's popular **Christmas Lights Switch On** event

**Thursday, 17th December**

**Christmas on The Causeway**

Check our website nearer the time for the most up-to-date information. **[www.marlow-tc.gov.uk](http://www.marlow-tc.gov.uk)**

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# Yellow Lines

*Have your say on parking controls in Marlow*



Residents are invited to highlight roads in Marlow where changes to parking controls may help address ongoing parking issues.

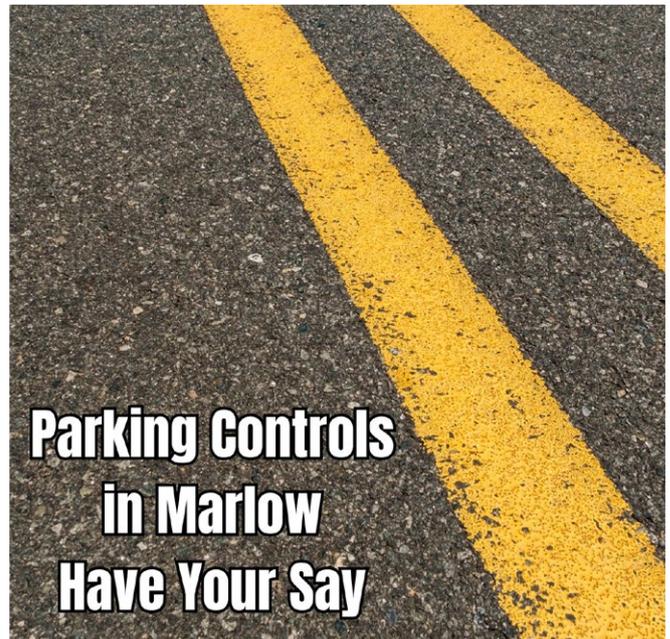
Thank you for helping to improve parking arrangements in Marlow.

Parking controls such as double yellow lines, kerb markings, and disabled bays are long-term measures. While they take time to progress, they can provide lasting solutions.

If you wish to propose a change (beyond simple repainting), please complete Buckinghamshire Council's application form: [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/parking/apply-for-new-parking-controls](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/parking/apply-for-new-parking-controls)

The form includes an option to select the type of parking control you feel may be appropriate. An 'I don't know' option is available, and further guidance can be found here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/known-your-traffic-signs/on-street-parking-control-signs-and-road-markings](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/known-your-traffic-signs/on-street-parking-control-signs-and-road-markings)

Applicants are also asked about existing local support. While this is not required, community backing can strengthen a proposal.



## Marlow Hanging Hill Allotments VACANT PLOTS

An allotment provides exercise, stress relief, and a chance to connect with nature and the community—all while enjoying the satisfaction of growing your own food.

Residents of Marlow and Marlow Bottom can apply for an allotment at Hanging Hill.

Apply via Marlow Town Council website <https://www.marlow-tc.gov.uk/allotments> or use the QR code





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### River Partnership

A new river partnership has been set up to protect a local stretch of the Thames from the East of Henley through to Bourne End. The intention is to bring together the local town and parish councils and provide more effective governance of a natural asset for which responsibility straddles multiple agencies and organisations. This should help to improve engagement between the Environment Agency, Thames Water, the Local Planning Authority, MP's and the local councils. In turn the councils can act as a conduit to share information with the various river-based communities, clubs and action groups.

The group is finalising the scope, aims and priorities but has identified the following key issues:

- Footbridge repairs.
- Little Marlow Sewage Treatment Works Liaison Committee – re-establishment.
- Hambleden/Henley Sewage Treatment Works Liaison.
- Water quality and testing.
- Flood prevention.
- Temple Bridge.

Marlow Town Council has approved in principle to support the concept of water testing with detailed costs to be brought back to the Council. Currently water sampling and testing is performed on some stretches of the river but there is currently a gap in coverage for Marlow that the group is hoping to address. The hope is that test results can be shared with river users, so will be of particular benefit to the active water-based community in and around Marlow.



### Newt Ditch, Marlow

On 18th October 2024 Buckinghamshire Council submitted a Planning Application for the Newt Ditch, Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme and subsequently, a holding objection was received on 3rd March 2025. We have been exploring options to resolve issues stated in the objection and, unfortunately, this has caused significant delays to the delivery programme (N.B. 10 months at the time of this update). As such we are unable to confirm a construction start date, but further updates will be provided as soon as we have completed this exploration work. If there are any queries in the meantime, email the Flood Capital Programme Team on [floodcapitalprogramme@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:floodcapitalprogramme@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

### Temple Footbridge

Temple Footbridge River Thames crossing just outside Marlow opened in 1989, the ownership passing to the Environment Agency (EA). The tropical hardwood arch design had a 30-year lifespan. It lasted 34 years before being closed for safety reasons in May 2023. It provided a picturesque, continuous link for the National Trail Thames Path and a direct pedestrian connection between Marlow and Hurley.

On 8th November 2025 the worst affected central section was slowly lifted and removed during a nine-hour operation. It had a short journey to Harleyford Marina for storage and inspection. Following a full assessment of the central section it was confirmed to be beyond economical repair and will need to be replaced.

At the time of writing the EA are carefully inspecting the integrity of the two side ramps to determine if they can be refurbished or whether a full bridge replacement is required. Outline designs for repair or replacement of the bridge are planned to be ready by the 31st March and will be used to determine construction cost and partnership funding options which will then be communicated to the public.

The EA has also employed a traffic management consultant who is engaging with local landowners to assess whether an alternative to the current Bisham-Temple road diversion is feasible. Residents can access the EA webpage via this link <https://engagetheenvironmentagency.uk/engagementhq.com/thames-area-assets/widgets/131458/faqs>



# Wonder of Wildflowers

*...and why we need to let them thrive in our gardens*



**W**ildflowers are native flowers, unaltered by people. While the flowers in your garden may have been bred for certain features, they all originated from wildflowers. Bees, butterflies and other pollinators rely on these plants for their food throughout the year.

But tragically, we've lost 97% of our wildflower meadows in the UK since the 1930s, and insect numbers have plummeted.

So it's vital that we recoup the loss in whatever way we can – and luckily there are plenty of ways we can help. If you have even a small garden or a balcony space, you can create a haven for bees and butterflies. You can have a 'wild' area in your garden while still keeping a tidy lawn and flowerbeds – the bees will thank you!

As part of our 'Much Wilder Marlow' campaign, Wild Marlow aims to create the biggest local 'nature corridor' in the area, helping wildlife move around built-up areas. Together with Marlow Town Council, we're working to create wildlife-friendly public spaces around the town while still managing footpaths and verges to ensure that safety is not compromised. We also take part in No Mow May, encouraging residents to leave their lawns to grow to support pollinators as they emerge from hibernation.

Some gardeners and residents worry that wild areas look 'messy' (nature isn't neat!) — but you can easily achieve a balance between messy and neat. A good example is the churchyard at Medmenham (St Peter and St Paul's). The areas containing the graves are neat and tidy, while in other parts of the churchyard the grass is allowed to grow. Mown paths allow visitors to walk through the churchyard. Wild flowers are left to proliferate around the edges and walls of the churchyard, maintaining a



habitat for wildlife and yet keeping the graves looking well maintained and cared for. It's a great place to find butterflies!

Here in Marlow we can use our gardens, balconies, doorsteps, driveways, businesses, schools and all green spaces to make different choices and increase the health of all species, including ourselves. We urge you to join us in supporting wildlife and creating a Much Wilder Marlow!

For more information about the Much Wilder Marlow project, go to <https://wildmarlow.org.uk/projects/much-wilder-marlow/>



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# Releaf Marlow

*Schools, parks and residents benefit from new planting*



**R**eleaf Marlow, the community trees project, was busy again this winter, helping to make the town leafier and even more lovely in the future. Highlights of this year's campaign included:

- Planting a new sweet gum tree on Spinfield School's playing field to replace a much-loved beech that sadly had to be felled. At Holy Trinity School, more than 30 new trees were planted, including a ring of Mediterranean cypresses around the 'Medieval meeting circle', the very first European nettle trees in Marlow, and carefully chosen ornamental trees along the road frontage that will add character without growing too large.



- Reforesting a private woodland garden in Marlow Bottom with more than 100 native trees, including oak, field maple, wild cherry and hawthorn, after it had to be almost entirely clear-felled due to ash dieback disease.



- Planting several new trees near the river in Gossmore and Pergola Parks to replace trees originally planted by the Environment Agency that had not survived. These include striking white-barked Jacquemontii birch and flood-resistant river birch, as well as an exotic Henry's lime.



- Handing out more than 200 native trees to residents of Marlow and nearby communities to plant in their own gardens, marking a successful third year of Releaf Marlow's Free Family Trees scheme.

Releaf Marlow is part of local environmental charity Transition Town Marlow and has been planting and caring for trees in the town since 2020. This winter's projects were supported in particular by funding from the Globe Park Business Improvement District and a grant from Marlow Town Council, awarded in 2024 to support planting at local schools.

# WHY WE SHOULD ALL RECYCLE



**MARLOW**  
TOWN COUNCIL

Recycling plays a vital role in protecting our environment and shaping a more sustainable future. By transforming everyday food scraps and waste materials into valuable resources, recycling reduces the strain on landfills, cuts harmful emissions, and conserves energy and natural resources.

What might seem like leftovers or rubbish can become compost that enriches soil, materials that are turned into new products, or energy that powers homes and communities.

These achievements show that recycling is not just about waste reduction—it is about reimagining what we throw away as an opportunity to create positive environmental, social, and economic change. Let's see how some of your waste is recycled.

**Food waste** is delivered to anaerobic digestion facilities where it is turned into energy to power homes and also a high quality fertiliser for use on agricultural land.



**Green waste** is transported to composting facilities and can be composted into high quality compost that you may buy at DIY stores, or on a larger scale to be used in agriculture..

**Glass bottles and jars** are sent to a sorting facility where they are sorted into different colours using optical sorting technology. The glass can then be sent to recycling facilities where it can be made into new products.



**Electrical items** are sent to specialist WEEE (waste electrical and electronical equipment) processing facilities where materials such as steel, copper, aluminium, precious metals, iron, plastic, glass and wire are extracted and sold back into mainstream manufacturing.

**Clothing and textiles** are sent to a sorting facility where they are sorted and graded to ensure that only high quality, desirable used clothing is exported overseas. Approximately 10% of collected textiles are sold in the UK.



**Batteries** are packaged and taken to specialist reprocessing plants where they're dismantled using different techniques. This allows the recyclers to extract materials like metal and plastic.

# WHY WE SHOULD ALL RECYCLE



**MARLOW**  
TOWN COUNCIL



**Paper** is sent to paper mills for recycling. It is washed to remove contaminants and then mixed with water to create a pulp which is made into new paper and card products. A newspaper can be recycled and be back on the shelf in under a week.

**Metal** is one of the easiest metals to recycle and uses up much less resources than making it from raw materials. There are thousands of uses of recycled metal whether it's drinks cans or car parts from aluminium, bike frames or bridges from steel and even musical instruments from copper.



**Engine oil** is transported to a processing plant where it is reprocessed into a base oil product used in the production of new carbon efficient lubricating oils.

**Coffee pods** are sent to specialist recycling plants. Coffee grounds are turned into biogas and soil improver for local farmers. The plastic pods are used for building products, like buckets and packaging crates. The aluminium pods are used for drink cans and car components.



**Cardboard** is transported to a cardboard mill where it is separated into type and graded. It is washed to remove film, glue and ink and mixed with water to create a pulp which is made into new paper and card products.

Plasterboard, fridge and freezers, soil and rubble, wood and timber, printer cartridges and fluorescent tubes are also recycled. Over 50% of the waste we produce is re-used, recycled or composted, the rest has to be disposed of. Only 1% of that waste is still sent to landfill. The remaining waste is transported to the Greatmoor Energy From Waste facility north of Aylesbury, within the Buckinghamshire County boundary, where it burns the waste to generate electricity for more than 65,000 homes.

**Together we can do our bit, by making sure that everything recyclable in our rubbish is recycled. For more information visit <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/>**

# Hats, Masks & Happy Feet

Events

*Family walk brings fun and creativity to Marlow*

Families are being invited to step out together this spring for a brand-new community event organised by Marlow Town Council - the Hats, Masks & Happy Feet Sponsored Walk, taking place in Marlow this April. The relaxed early-evening event will feature a gentle 2.5km circular walking route along flat, well-lit residential roads. Participants can walk at their own pace and complete as many laps as they wish during the event window.

The event has a playful creative theme encouraging walkers to decorate hats, make masks or jazz up their walking shoes using items they already have at home. Organisers are keen to emphasise that no one needs to buy anything new - homemade, upcycled and borrowed items are all part of the fun.

Funds raised through entry fees and voluntary sponsorship will be distributed between the Town Mayor's chosen charities, Wild Marlow and Brighter Futures Together, supporting local people and community projects.

At the finish area, children will be able to scan a QR code to receive a digital 'Well Done' certificate and collect a Thank you to celebrate their achievement.

"Please be considerate along the route and help keep it clean and calm. Wild Marlow will have nature spotting stations where you can discover local plants and animals as you walk," said organisers.

Muryel Boulay, Town Mayor of Marlow, said: "I'm thrilled to support this first-time community walk. It's a fantastic way for families, friends and neighbours to enjoy the outdoors, get active together, and raise money for local good causes that make a real difference in Marlow. I hope to see everyone showing off their colourful creations and having a wonderful evening."

The event marks the first-time organisers have hosted a sponsored family walk of this kind, and they hope it will become a regular fixture in Marlow's calendar.

## Event details

**Date:** Thursday, 9th April 2026

Walk anytime between 6.30pm – 8.30pm

**Start / finish location:** May Balfour Garden, Institute Road, Marlow. Approx 2.5km per lap (around 30 minutes)

Creative hats, masks and decorated shoes encouraged. Entry fees apply and participants are invited to raise sponsorship where possible.



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# HATS, MASKS AND HAPPY FEET

## SPONSORED WALK



Join our fun, family-friendly sponsored walk to raise funds for local good causes, Wild Marlow and Brighter Futures Together!

The flat, well-lit 2.5 km route starts and finishes at May Balfour Garden, Institute Road, Marlow. Walk at your own pace and complete as many laps as you want between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm.

Wear a hat, mask, or decorate your shoes – upcycling and borrowing positively encouraged! Keep your eyes peeled along the way as Wild Marlow helps you spot, discover and celebrate the amazing nature on your doorstep.

**Pre-registration is required** (a small fee applies) and a little thank-you awaits at the finish.

Scan the QR code to register or donate. More info on our website!



**MARLOW TOWN COUNCIL**

**May Balfour Garden**  
**6.30pm - 8.30pm**  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026**





# Join us for the Great British Spring Clean

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
10am - 12 noon**

**Let's Keep Our Community Clean and Green!**

**Meeting point: Marlow Town Council office, Court Garden**

The Great British Spring Clean is our chance to come together to make a difference and tidy up our streets, parks, and green spaces. Whether you can spare 30 minutes or a few hours, every little effort counts!

## **Why get involved?**

- Help make our community a cleaner, greener place to live
- Meet like-minded locals and have fun
- Enjoy fresh air and exercise while making a positive impact
- Show pride in your town and set an example for future generations

## **What to bring?**

We'll provide litter pickers and bags, please feel free to bring your own gloves and your own litter picking gear if you prefer. Wear comfortable clothing and sturdy footwear.

**Together, we can make a BIG difference!**



# Santa's Fun Run

*Record £106,000 raised for charity*

3,000 Santas who took to the streets of Marlow on a 5km run, walk or stroll raised a record £106,000 for charity. An event that started 21 years ago by the Marlow Rotary Clubs with a handful of runners has helped 70 charities, many chosen by those taking part.

Main charities to benefit are Scannappeal, focussing on new breast screening equipment in Bucks, and the Heart of Bucks Community Foundation, supporting their Together Against Poverty appeal. One-third of children in some areas of the County are living in poverty.

At least £60,000 was raised by teams taking part for their own favourite charities, helped by a charity pool from the sponsors, Shanly Foundation, Softcat, Grundon Waste Management, Heart of Bucks and the Clare Foundation.

John Prout, lead Rotary organiser for the event, said that this was an 'amazing' result which made all the hard work worthwhile and added: "In 2004 our very first event attracted around 100 entries and each year we have grown and evolved.

"The unique Charity Pool was introduced in 2021 to incentivise teams to raise money for their own favourite charities."

Well over 100 volunteers helped on the day and included many community organisations and individuals.



# CAMEO Club

*Festive afternoon tea in Liston Hall*

On Wednesday, 17th December, Marlow's CAMEO Club brought together some 60 members and guests to enjoy a festive afternoon tea in Liston Hall.

Eight laden and beautifully decorated tables complemented the Community Association's sparkling Christmas tree and wall decorations to create a warm and welcoming festive venue. Christmas musical entertainment was provided by the Marlow Music Makers songsters with MC Greg Phillips at the piano.

A booming "Ho-Ho-Ho" signalled the arrival of Santa Clause and his 'little helper'. Santa proceeded to draw the raffle and used his magic powers to ensure that every guest received a prize.

For the past 50 years members of CAMEO (an acronym for 'come and meet each other') have been providing monthly lunches for elderly Marlow residents, many of whom rely upon a 'taxi service' provided by club members.

The club's chairperson Mary Webster explained: "Our club members are current and past cooks, hostesses,



drivers and general helpers. Thanks to their efforts, we have been able to provide this additional event which follows a similar 'Easter Tea' held back in April". Mary added that a warm welcome awaits both new guests and volunteer members.

For further information, see the CAMEO Club entry on the Marlow Community Association website or telephone Barbara Whitehead on **07795 205357**.

# Lighthouse Marlow 2026

Register to volunteer at the holiday club this summer



Lighthouse Marlow 2026 is coming 3rd - 7th August 2026 at St Peters School, Prospect Road, Marlow - and we need amazing volunteers like YOU to help make it unforgettable. Lighthouse is a holiday club for children run by Christians from local churches. We aim to introduce the children to God and explore the Bible and its relevance to their lives all in a fun-filled week through sport, craft, drama and music.

Can you help out? The more Lighthouse Keepers we have, the more children we are able to have join us! These are people who look after a group of 12 - 15 children, supported by young volunteers, our Lamplighters.

And if you're up for helping anywhere, just a few hours of your time can make ALL the difference — crafts, sport, prayer team, site team, refreshments — there's a place for everyone! Join us for the whole week or just a couple of sessions, your time and energy make a real difference.

Volunteer now and help make Lighthouse Marlow happen — whether you're a returning helper or brand new, we'd love to have you on board!

Registration opens on March 20th - come and be and be part of a brilliant week!

<https://app.signmeup.org.uk/lighthouse-marlow/45>



## A tribute to Anne Morse 1941-2026

As a long serving member of the congregation at All Saints, Marlow, Anne Morse always had a passion for telling children how much Jesus loves them. Having heard of the success of Lighthouse, a Christian holiday club being run in Great Missenden and Hazelmere and following its launch in Burnham, Anne promptly volunteered and thereafter went on to set up Lighthouse Marlow in 2005.

Anne gathered likeminded people from all the churches in Marlow, starting Lighthouse Marlow with a small number of children and volunteers and a scout tent. Twenty years on, Lighthouse Marlow now welcomes over 250 children and 200 volunteers and is a true testament to Anne's amazing vision.

In addition to Anne's work with Lighthouse Marlow, she was involved in setting up and volunteering at Sandygate Stars, a lunch club for years 1 & 2 with crafts, bible stories and teaching.

A tribute on Facebook said: Anne was always so welcoming, friendly and kind when I first helped out at Lighthouse and when we first started coming to All Saints. Such an inspiration and a wonderful leader.

And another said: She touched so many lives.

Everyone involved in Lighthouse Marlow, yesterday, today and in the future owes a debt of gratitude to our wonderful Queen of Lighthouse.



# Community Fund

*MTC launches new fund to support local ideas*



**M**arlow Town Council has unveiled an exciting new Community Fund aimed at supporting the organisations, clubs and charities that help make our town such a vibrant place to live.

Launched on 3rd February 2026, the new scheme will offer grants of up to £1,500 per organisation per financial year, providing support to groups delivering projects, events and initiatives that benefit our local community. With three application rounds scheduled each year, the fund is designed to support activities taking place throughout the year.

The £30,000 fund is open to registered not-for-profit organisations whose work aligns with the Town Council's vision and priorities. Applications will be assessed on their potential community impact, innovation and ability to deliver meaningful outcomes for our town and its residents. In the past year, grants were awarded to organisations such as Lighthouse, Marlow Town Regatta, Marlow United Charities and Chiltern Arts.

Importantly, the Community Fund replaces our previous grant application process and is being introduced initially

*Open to registered not-for-profit organisations whose work aligns with the Town Council's vision and priorities*

as a pilot scheme. This approach will allow the Council to gather feedback from applicants and councillors alike, helping to refine and strengthen the programme over time. By doing so, the Council aims to ensure the funding process remains fair, transparent and responsive to the town's evolving needs.

For more information about the scheme, including eligibility criteria and application deadlines, visit the Community Fund page on the Marlow Town Council website.



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# Marlow Banking Hub

*Keeping cash on the high street*



As more people choose to bank and pay for things digitally bringing greater choice and convenience, there are still millions of people and many businesses who depend on cash and face-to-face services, and the question is how do we continue to support customers who rely on these day-to-day interactions?

Many who regularly visit Marlow town centre, will see a new service that is helping to change all that. Our organisation, Cash Access UK, opened a new banking hub within the Marlow Library last year, and it's been making a real difference for the town, and we're excited to now be in our permanent home at 30 Spittal Street!

While a standalone bank branch can only serve customers of one brand, banking hubs are shared spaces where customers of all major banks can carry out everyday transactions on any day, under one roof. In Marlow, the hub is open weekdays from 9am to 5pm and offers a counter service where customers can deposit and withdraw cash, check their balance, pay bills and more, on any day.

Additionally, customers can also talk face-to-face to a community banker from their own bank on the day they are in the hub. We provide a private space where customers can discuss more complicated banking enquiries from online banking, mortgages or savings.



Over 200 hubs are open across the UK, with two open in Buckinghamshire; Marlow and Buckingham.

If you value handling your money in person or simply want to see what the hub offers, pop into the hub and speak with the team. They're ready to help with whatever you need or visit the Cash Access UK website for more information: [www.cashaccess.co.uk](http://www.cashaccess.co.uk).



# Telephone Kiosks

*Create a display within a red telephone box*



Since Marlow Town Council acquired the two High Street telephone boxes for £1 each, we have been busy cleaning them, improving the security and agreeing the simple terms and conditions for display. We are also investigating how to use solar or battery-operated lighting.

The telephone boxes are waiting for some replacement window panes and to be painted in the requisite shade of red but unfortunately the weather has not cooperated so far! Regardless of the wet weather we are experiencing, we already have two interested parties who will use them to display artwork as soon as possible.

The telephone boxes will be free of charge for any Marlow community organisations for a period of two months. Any businesses or



organisations outside of Marlow are welcome to use them for display but there will be a modest fee charged.

If you represent or know of a local community organisation who may be interested in using the telephone boxes for display purposes, then please get in touch with the Deputy Clerk at Marlow Town Council on **office@marlow-tc.gov.uk**

*The telephone boxes will be free of charge for any Marlow community organisations*



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The Official magazine for Marlow Town Council

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Email: [ladyshrubs1981@gmail.com](mailto:ladyshrubs1981@gmail.com)

# Marlow Medical Group

## News and updates



We are pleased to share that we have recently welcomed a new Director to our team Mrs Joanna Fox. Joanna has many years of experience working in general practice and the NHS and her main focus is to make sure patients receive safe, high-quality care and the best possible health outcomes.

We are also continuing to strengthen our practice team by bringing in a wider range of skills. Recently, we have welcomed an Advanced Nurse Practitioner, an Operations Manager, and additional Healthcare Assistants to our team. We also work closely with our Primary Care Network (PCN), which provides valuable social prescribing services to patients.

We have a dedicated medicines team who help manage prescriptions safely. Repeat prescription requests can take 5 days to be processed by the practice, followed by an additional 2–3 days for your nominated pharmacy to prepare your medication. More information is available on our website.

The Primary Care Network also offers some helpful community services:

- Talking Café: Held at the Methodist Church Ark Café every Thursday from 11am to 12:30pm.
- Digital Café: Held at Marlow Library every other Tuesday from 11am to 1pm.

In addition, Marlow Medical Group provides support from a Digital Care Coordinator who can help patients use online and digital health services.

### *Are you using the NHS App?*

The NHS App is a free and secure way for patients in England to access NHS services on their smartphone, tablet, or computer. It helps you manage your health and healthcare in one place, anytime.

Using the app, you can:

- Order repeat prescriptions and choose a pharmacy.
- Book and manage GP appointments (where available).
- View your GP health record, including test results and medications.
- Check symptoms and get trusted NHS advice.
- Access NHS letters and messages.
- Manage your personal details.



Photo: Mrs Joanna Fox  
MSc Grad CIEHF, CMgr FCMI, FREC, PGCert, CEBA

The NHS App is simple to use and keeps your information safe. Messaging via the NHS App will be available soon. Patients can be confident that by using the NHS App, the messages come from the NHS and are not scams. You can find more information about the NHS App on our website.

To help us stay in touch with you, please can you ensure we have your up-to-date contact details, including your mobile phone number and email address. This allows us to contact you easily, helping us support your health more effectively.

Looking ahead, in 2026 we plan to set up a Patient Representative Group. This group will give patients an opportunity to share their views and help shape how services are designed and delivered, with patient safety and quality of care at the heart of everything we do. If you are interested in getting involved, please keep an eye on our website **[www.marlowdoctors.co.uk](http://www.marlowdoctors.co.uk)** for more information in the coming months.

Thank you for your continued support.



**Marlow Medical Group**  
Providing NHS services

# Royal British Legion

Meet the new Committee of the RBL Marlow & District Branch



The Royal British Legion (RBL) Marlow & District Branch acts as a local hub and face of the RBL charity. The branch supports members and the local Armed Forces community, organising Remembrance activities and fundraising including the annual Poppy Appeal. We also provide welfare support to veterans and their families and facilitate community engagement. We are run by local volunteers, and anyone can join.

## What is the difference between RBL branches and clubs?

The Royal British Legion branches are part of the charity whilst RBL clubs are independent limited companies that pay a licence fee to use our name and logo. Clubs have their own committees and funds - they are not managed by the branches or the Royal British Legion. They are not part of the charity. Although the Marlow RBL club has closed down, the Marlow & District Branch is still active and supporting the local community.

## The key functions of RBL Marlow Branch include:

**Welfare Support** Providing support to serving personnel, veterans, and their families with issues like mobility, housing or social isolation, often acting as a first point of contact for those in need.

**Community & Socialising** Acting as an information point for members, keeping them informed of local associated organisations such as AFVBC (Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club), SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association) to help foster camaraderie, combat loneliness and improve mental health. The branch engages with the local community and educates the young.

**Remembrance** Organising local Poppy Appeal collections and Remembrance services and parades alongside Marlow Town Council.

**Fundraising** Conducting local initiatives to support the charity's national mission.

**Administration** Managing local membership, committee meetings, and ensuring compliance with RBL regulations.

For more information or regarding membership, contact the Marlow RBL Branch by email at **marlow.secretary@rbl.community** or find us at

**<https://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/marlow>**

Facebook: Marlow and District Royal British Legion Branch



Photo: Marlow Branch Committee: Ms S Brown (Chairman), Mr G Heywood (Vice Chairman), Mr M Lane (Treasurer), Mrs D Lane (Secretary), Mrs R Boast (Welfare) and committee members Mr R Boast, Mr J Tilbury, Mrs V King and Mr E Parkins



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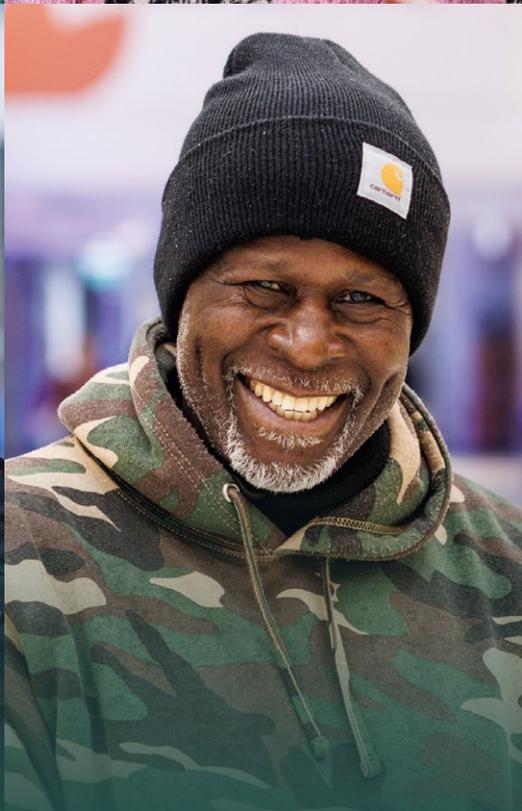
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# Marlow Bowls Club

*Voted Best Club of the Year by Buckinghamshire Bowl Association*

**E**ver fancied playing the game of Lawn Bowls? Tucked away in the corner of Pound Lane car park and backing on to Higginson Park is the delightful bowling green of Marlow Bowls Club.

The club is over 100 years old and has over a hundred members. However, we are always keen to welcome new players of all ages. Our outdoor season starts mid-April and continues through the summer months until mid-September. A variety of bowls can be enjoyed: including friendly roll-ups, matches against other clubs, club competitions, county matches and competitions, or even national events.

In the winter months, Short Mat bowls replaces outdoor play with the club house providing the accommodation for social and competitive play. The clubhouse has good facilities including a kitchen, changing rooms and most importantly a bar where members can buy drinks at very reasonable prices.

Lawn bowls is an easy sport to learn. A few hours on the green with a coach (which is free of charge) teaching the basics of the game will enable you to deliver a bowl towards the jack. It takes practice to perfect the skills of the game and learn the rules but you will soon be able to join in with others. We have bowls available in the club for beginners to use. You don't need any particular clothing for a roll-up – just a pair of smooth soled shoes. Members are asked to wear a club shirt and navy shorts or trousers if playing against other clubs in friendly matches or competitions.



Potential members are welcome to come and try the game on any Friday evening from 8th May and specifically on our Open Days on Friday 1st May from 18.00 and Sunday 3rd May from 10.00 – 13.00.

For further information please contact our secretary, Peter Barltrop on **07485 289235** or email: **p.barltrop@btinternet.com** or visit our website **www.marlowbowls.co.uk**.



# Marlow Common WI

*Come and join us...*

**M**arlow Common WI ladies meet at Liston Hall, Marlow at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of each month except AUGUST and enjoy a guest speaker in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. There is the opportunity to join other sub groups: Book Clubs, Science Group, Gardening, Writing Club, Games afternoons, and Cinema Group. We organise theatre visits and outings and every month a SOLO club enjoy Sunday lunch together. All ladies welcome.

For further information please email **mcwipresident@gmail.com**

*Enjoy a guest speaker in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.  
All ladies are welcome*

# Fearless Photographers

Marlow photographer named in top 10 globally



A local photographer from Marlow has been named top 10 Family photographers in the world by Fearless Photographers, a worldwide directory of the best photographers.

Emma Challinor, who specialises in Documentary Family Photography, is listed at number nine in the world by this curated, merit-based directory. Emma, who set up her photography business just over a year ago, is thrilled.

"I applied to join Fearless at the end of 2024. Their collections of Family Photographs have always been a huge inspiration to me and I crossed my fingers, hoping I would be accepted. Now, just over a year later, I've won six coveted Fearless Awards and received an email announcing that I am in the top ten globally."

She stated: "After becoming a parent, my interest in photography became a real passion. I realised that I wanted to capture all aspects of my sons' childhood- not only the beautiful parts, but also the funny, silly, messy and chaotic. I discovered documentary photography and fell in love with capturing real life."



EMMA CHALLINOR  
Marlow



"I think this genre of photography is a perfect antidote to the unrealistic images of perfection shown on social media and in AI generated images - I want to prioritise the real and the imperfect. I love capturing children and families being entirely themselves - whether that's funny and silly, full of energy or quieter and more reflective."

"I'm inspired by street photography, chiaroscuro and real moments."

Emma lives locally in Marlow and is a member of Marlow Camera Club.

Fearless Photographers began as a directory of the best wedding photographers in the world, before adding a Family category. Now Fearless Family Photographers is a directory of some of the world's best family and portrait photographers. It is highly respected within the photography industry and has always favoured real moments over staged shots.



EMMA CHALLINOR  
Marlow



EMMA CHALLINOR  
Marlow



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# Your Councillors



## Marlow North & West Ward

*Cllr Muryel Boulay*  
*Town Mayor 2025-26*

E: [cldr.mboulay@marlow-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.mboulay@marlow-tc.gov.uk)



*Cllr Paul Burden*

E: [cldr.pburden@marlow-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.pburden@marlow-tc.gov.uk)



*Cllr Olwen Elliott*

E: [cldr.oelliott@marlow-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.oelliott@marlow-tc.gov.uk)



*Cllr Gary Nuttall*

E: [cldr.gnuttall@marlow-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.gnuttall@marlow-tc.gov.uk)



*Cllr Liz Riches*

E: [cldr.lriches@marlow-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.lriches@marlow-tc.gov.uk)



*Cllr Frank Schoofs*

E: [cldr.fschoofs@marlow-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.fschoofs@marlow-tc.gov.uk)



*Cllr Justin Whelan*

E: [cldr.jwhelan@marlow-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.jwhelan@marlow-tc.gov.uk)



## Marlow South East Ward

*Cllr Emma Hawkins*

E: [cldr.ehawkins@marlow-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.ehawkins@marlow-tc.gov.uk)



*Cllr Jennifer Simnett*

*Deputy Mayor 2025-26*

E: [cldr.jsimnett@marlow-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.jsimnett@marlow-tc.gov.uk)



*Cllr Kathy Thomson*

E: [cldr.kthomson@marlow-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.kthomson@marlow-tc.gov.uk)



## Marlow South Ward

*Cllr Mark Skoyles*

E: [cldr.mskoyles@marlow-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.mskoyles@marlow-tc.gov.uk)



*Cllr Jocelyn Towns*

E: [cldr.jtowns@marlow-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.jtowns@marlow-tc.gov.uk)



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