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TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT - COUNCILLOR MARIAN HANNAFORD-DOBSON

This has been a busy and important year for our Town Mayor, Councillor Marian Hannaford-Dobson. As our First Citizen, her civic duties, which total around 85, have been welcome and wide-ranging with many visits to the town's community, voluntary and charity groups, shops and businesses as well invitations to represent Marlborough at various events across Wiltshire and beyond.



The Town Mayor is also Chairman of the Council and responsible for chairing the Full Town Council which has met nine times during the year.

Here's a quick tour of some of the events, projects and issues dealt with over the course of the year. This and reports from the Town Council's committees, gives a taste of the enormous amount of work covered by this small local authority.



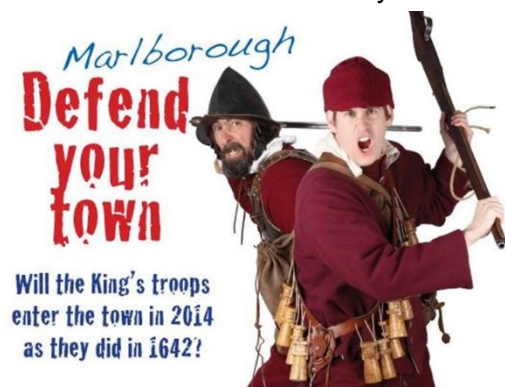
ROYAL VISIT

One very special occasion was the visit of HRH The Duke of Kent to Marlborough on 27th October 2014 to unveil a plaque at the New Road War Memorial commemorating those from Marlborough who lost their lives in the First World War.

This ceremony was followed by soldiers of the 4th Military Intelligence Battalion receiving medals from HRH The Duke of Kent who also witnessed the signing of a Community Covenant between the Town and the Battalion. This was all followed by a lunch with representatives of the local community and voluntary groups.

A CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT

During the last weekend in July, Marlborough was transported back to the 17th Century with a civil war re-enactment on The Common between the Royalists and the good citizens of Marlborough. The battle lines were drawn and the troops were mustered. All this and a Living History display in Priory Gardens showing how the townspeople of Marlborough would have lived in 1642. This was staged in partnership with the English Civil War Society and supported by Wiltshire Council, Marlborough History Society and Hills. It was a free event for everyone to enjoy.



NEW MAYORAL CHAIN

The Town Mayor has worn the new Mayoral Chain, completed just in time for the Mayor-Making Ceremony in May 2014, for many civic occasions.

This is a replica of the one worn by Mayor Thomas Free for the first time in 1911 but stolen from Marlborough in October 2013.



CCTV

After many years, CCTV is now being installed in the High Street. This was funded by the Town Council and a grant obtained by the Chamber of Commerce via the Area Board.

This is a long held hope of the Mayor and other Town Councillors and following a public consultation in 2014, this project is now coming to fruition.

COMMUNITY COVENANT

This is a document which further strengthens the links between Marlborough and 4th Military Intelligence Battalion. Signatories to this include the Royal British Legion, St John's Academy, Marlborough College and the Sports Forum.



A meeting has been held to look at possible joint projects and the commitment to the covenant will be re-affirmed at the Annual Parish Meeting



SOUTH WEST IN BLOOM

First entry for Marlborough in Bloom into this prestigious competition met with huge success. The Town won a Silver Gilt Award, a Category Winner's Cup, the Best New Entry Trophy, the Best Community Initiative (Marlborough Community Orchard) and was shortlisted for the best municipal gardens (Wye House) and best non-municipal gardens (Marlborough College).

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON – 21ST NOVEMBER

Over the last few years, the Switch-On event has grown in popularity. As a result, Councillors agreed that this event should be co-ordinated in-house. Working through an Event Management Plan, the Rotary and Lions Clubs, Communities Market, Wiltshire Constabulary, Wiltshire Council, Highways and our schools with support from a number of other organisations made this a successful event attracting well over 4,000 people. This first step will be built on in future.



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2014

Our long serving Town Crier, Alfie Johnson, was made Marlborough's Citizen of the Year at the Christmas Lights Switch-On on Friday, 21st November. Alfie has been making public announcements or 'shouts' in the town for more than 20 years, but his voluntary work goes much further. He has tirelessly helped to raise funds for the Carnival, Fun Day and other charity committees. He has been a popular visitor to our primary schools, a volunteer at the Jubilee Centre, he played the euphonium for the Town Band, was an actor with the Amateur Dramatic Society, sang with the Kennet Singers and even rang bells at St Mary's. Born in the front bedroom at 23, Kingsbury Street in 1930, as a young man he undertook National Service and served in the Territorial Army. Alfie is a marvellous ambassador for Marlborough and truly deserved this award.

BENCHMARKING

This was an exercise commissioned by the Town Council and undertaken by People & Places. In the autumn, data was collected about the busiest areas of the High Street. This included retail vacancy rates, car park occupancy, etc. through footfall counting, business and online visitor surveys. This evidence was then compiled into a report which compared the results of various Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) with those other market towns of a similar size. This information will prove vital for moving forward with the Business Initiative District (BID) currently being taken up by the Town Team. It will also provide evidence for funding applications and feed into consultations (as it has with Wiltshire Council) and help to back up Marlborough's Neighbourhood Plan. The Benchmarking Report is available at <http://www.marlboughtowncouncil.gov.uk/images/2014MarlboroughPeopleandPlacesReport-November2014.pdf>





THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

This is a new power allowing qualified town and parish councils the right to do anything that individuals may do, unless it is forbidden by other legislation. Marlborough Town Council qualifies for this and it will remain in place until the Elections in 2017. Examples of its use might include, for example, the development of land for residential or commercial purposes.

PLANNING COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN: COUNCILLOR MERVYN HALL

All Town Councillors sit on this committee (with the Mayor in an *ex-officio* role so with no vote) and meet every 2 weeks to consider planning applications, road closures, premises licences, footpaths, works to trees and relevant planning associated consultations.



PLANNING APPLICATIONS

It's important to remember that the Town Council is a consultee on planning issues – decisions are made by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) – Wiltshire Council. Here's a look at the number of planning applications received this year.

Town Council Comment	Planning Applications
No objection	140
Objection ¹	19
Total	159

Of the 19 objections raised on the planning applications received, three (of those so far decided) have been refused by Wiltshire Council.

Over the last year, there have been controversial planning applications in respect of land for development at Salisbury Road owned by the Crown Estate, the development of a Care Home at the former Wiltshire Council Depot site, land for development at Rabley Wood and retirement homes

at Granham Hill. (Councillors remain concerned about how infrastructure will be able to keep up with new development – a point regularly raised with developers and the LPA.) Where applications have been for decision by Wiltshire Council's Eastern Area Planning Committee and the Town Council has objections to raise (usually in support of local residents), members of the Committee have spoken during that Wiltshire Council meeting. Our 2 Unitary Councillors – Councillors Stewart Dobson and Nick Fogg are also very active in representing local people on planning issues.

¹ When objections are raised to the granting of planning permission, Councillors must give reasons based on material planning considerations

TREES

Marlborough's Tree Warden, Councillor Bryan Castle, has a vast knowledge of the town's trees and advises on various applications for works (e.g. felling) received by the committee.



STREET NAMING

The Committee also has a role to play in advising on street naming. During the year, it challenged names put forward by developers at the new Care Home site at Salisbury Road and was able to influence the adoption of a more historical name linked to the town.

FLOODING

Flooding issues also come under this Committee's remit and our Flood Warden, Councillor Alexander Kirk Wilson, regularly attends area meetings and is compiling a Flood Plan. More about preparing for, or coping with, a flood can be found on our website at <http://www.marlboughtowncouncil.gov.uk/marlborough-town-council/flooding>.

CORE STRATEGY

The Committee has also been consulted at various stages about the now adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy including its informal Housing Site Allocations document.

TRANSPORT

The Committee has representatives with seats on the Area Board's Community Area Transport Group CAT(G) looking at Highways and transport issues across the Community Area. Issues raised and influenced by the Town Council at this group include the building of a path at George Lane Car Park, a traffic order at St Peter's Place, re-surfacing of Salisbury Road, speed limits, metro counts, Highways project spending, dropped kerbs and more.



YELLOW LINES

As requested by Wiltshire Council, the Town Council asked local people to let us know the priority areas for yellow lines in the town. We completed applications and sent these off in January 2014 and are still awaiting an outcome. However, the Planning Committee has been assured that our top priority – yellow lines at Frees Avenue - will be dealt with soon.

CAR PARKING

Councillors recognise that this is a real concern and it's clear that there are particular problems around a lack of parking for residents and for those on low incomes working in the town. As promised by Councillors at the Annual Parish Meeting in 2014, the Town Council held a public meeting in the lead up to Wiltshire Council's Car Parking Review. The outcome of this meeting can be viewed at

<http://www.marlboughtowncouncil.gov.uk/marlborough-town-council-news/1130-car-parking-consultation> Evidence backing up findings as set out in the Council's benchmarking report was also passed onto Wiltshire Council.



A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Town Council has taken the decision to support work towards a Neighbourhood Plan for Marlborough. This will start by defining the area to be included in the Plan (it could be that we work alongside neighbouring parishes especially where development might have an impact on Marlborough), then scoping out what is needed in terms of land development and housing, making sure it is in line with the policies set out in the Core Strategy. There will be consultations to ensure that local people agree with what the Plan sets out. A referendum will then need to take place and an inspection by the Planning Inspectorate. If passed, then this document will be a planning document which holds statutory weight in determining planning applications – real power at a local level, planning policies made in Marlborough.

Councillors met with representatives from the group that produced the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan (the first in Wiltshire) ahead of inviting the public along to a first meeting on 24th March 2015 which will be followed up by a second meeting in May.

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN: COUNCILLOR ANDREW ROSS

The Council Tax you pay helps towards a variety of services. The largest proportion is for those provided by Wiltshire Council - education, roads, car parks, bin collections, social services and planning right across the county. Then comes your contribution towards Wiltshire Police Authority and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Services. A small proportion of your Council Tax, less than 10% of the overall annual bill, is for the running of your own Town Council which provides your most local services. The Town Council receives no direct grant from central government and no share of business rates.



WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY

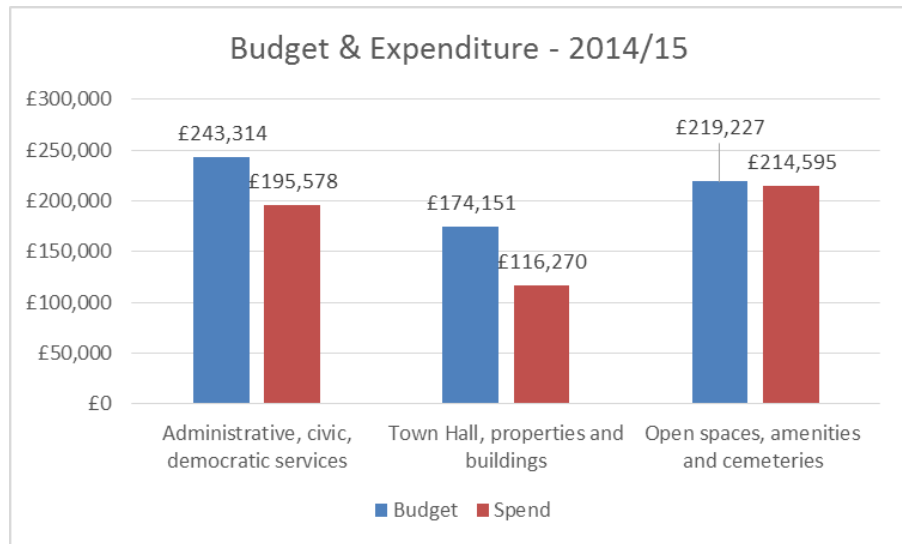
- Maintenance and management of Town Council-owned assets and open spaces – Town Hall, various commercial and residential properties, Marlborough Common, The Green, Salisbury Road Recreational Ground, Elcot Lane Playing Fields, Skate Park, Children’s Play Areas, The Priory Gardens, Wye House Amenity Gardens, Stonebridge and Coopers Meadows, Allotments, War Memorials, Floral Displays, Football Pitches and Cemeteries
- Consultation and assessment of all relevant planning applications
- Administration of burial records, cemetery space, plaques and memorials
- Christmas lights
- Event management for the Christmas Lights Switch-on Event, Royal Visit, Civil War Re-enactment
- Administration of a Small Grants Scheme
- Local communication via notice boards, website, social media and newsletter
- Work towards securing external funding and implementing new projects
- Information on Wiltshire Council services
- Tourism Information
- Liaison with other external agencies
- Civic work around Military links, Remembrance Day Parade, etc.

Each year, Councillors scrutinize Town Council budget lines carefully to ensure best value but, there are costs over which there is little or no control – tax, superannuation, national insurance, utilities, business rates, etc.

There was an unavoidable rise in Council Tax for 2014/15 due to changes in the way Council Tax benefit was paid which resulted in shortfall of 35% in revenue for the Town Council. There was also the risk that the council tax rate would be capped by central government which would have left no flexibility for future plans and projects which include the services being passed down to town and parish councils. In common with many other towns and parishes across the county, Marlborough Town Councillors made the difficult decision to raise the local precept by 15.49% (equivalent to an overall annual increase of £19.56p per Band D property) to try to meet this shortfall.

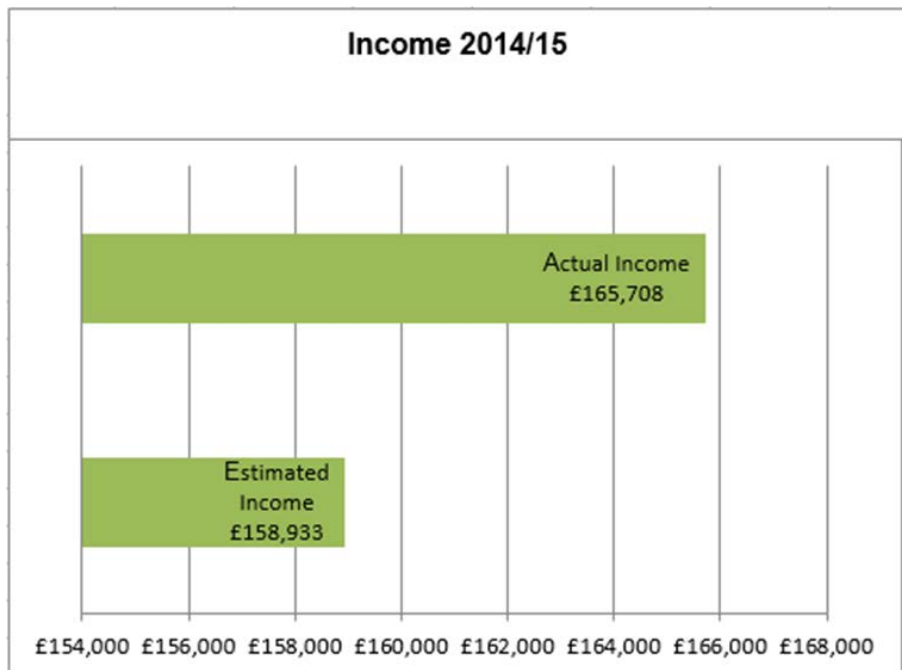
EXPENDITURE AGAINST BUDGET FOR 2014/15

The budget spend during the year is summarised in this chart. It is important to remember that these figures are taken from the unaudited accounts and are indicative only at this stage. The accounts will be closed down on 11th May and audited accounts will then be available for the public to view.



INCOME

Around 25% of the overall budget requirement is met through income other than local council tax. The Town Council looks to maximise income where it can to help keep the precept demands on local residents as low as it sensibly can. This is met by rents received from residential and commercial properties, cemetery, sports pitch hire and other fees. In 2014/15, in spite of not meeting income targets with cemetery fees and with property vacancies, there is an overall increase in income. This is largely due to hiring fees for the Town Hall where there is a substantial increase over estimates.



RESERVES

Guidance is that general reserves should usually lie within the range of 3-12 months of gross expenditure. These currently stand at £247,535. In 2015/16 we propose to have Ear Marked Reserves for specific projects which include money set aside for a Neighbourhood Plan for Marlborough, works to the Town Hall, open spaces projects and a cemetery extension.

FIXED ASSETS

The Town Council owns the Town Hall, the Council offices and residential, community and commercial properties. Other assets include open spaces (e.g. Priory, Wye House and Plume of Feathers Gardens). Infrastructure assets include play areas and associated equipment as well as vehicles and equipment needed to maintain all of our sites.

BORROWING

The Council has no loans.

COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

Only the Town Mayor receives an allowance for civic duties. This currently stands at £3,400.

LOCAL COUNCIL TAX (PRECEPT) FOR 2015/16

Following the precept setting round in autumn 2014 and through careful planning, Councillors have been able to keep the rise to a modest 2.2% which largely takes into account a national pay award over 2 years to staff. This rise equates to an increase of just over £3 per year for an average Band D Council Tax payer towards the running of Marlborough Town Council.

SMALL GRANT SCHEME 2014/15

With a budget of £6,600, the Finance & Policy Committee has granted awards to nine organisations, all meeting criteria showing that the work they do benefits Marlborough:

Grant Recipient	Amount	Grant Recipient	Amount
New Road Centre	£750	The Greatwood Charity	£450
St John's Ambulance	£500	Home Start Kennet	£1,250
Jubilee Centre	£750	Marlborough Boxing Club	£750
Vitalise	£500	1 st Marlborough Guides	£1,250
Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust	£400	Total	£6,600

REVIEW OF FINANCE REGULATIONS

During the year, the Town Council has reviewed its Finance Regulations and these have now been adopted.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE– CHAIRMAN: COUNCILLOR NOEL BARRETT-MORTON

The Property Committee has met 4 times in the last year and is supported by the Town Hall Working Party. The income stream from the Town Hall and Council-owned properties raises approximately 25% of budget requirements - all helping to keep down the precept bill.



TOWN HALL

The day to day running of the Grade II Listed Town Hall is all managed by our Office Manager, Sue Fry, who also oversees the work of our Caretaker, Alan Brown and his Deputy, Mark Harding. All have done good jobs looking after the hall's various venue spaces.

Following the previous year's rolling re-decoration programme, this year's works have included a refurbished kitchen in the Court Room, damp proofing work in the Council Chamber, re-decoration of the Mayor's Parlour, repairs to masonry and stone

pillars in the foyer and new flooring on part of the ground floor.

An approximate breakdown of bookings for 2014/15 is:

	Hiring	Bookings
Wedding Receptions		10
Wedding Ceremonies		17
Sales, Craft Fairs, fundraising coffee mornings		42
Meetings (excl. Town Council)		33
Film Nights		44
Private parties, training events, fundraising nights, other		62
Total		208



Income from hiring charges for the Town Hall has exceeded original budget estimates by just under 30% in 2014/15.

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

For the first time since the Town Council offices moved from 1, The Green to 5, High Street in 1992, some re-decoration has taken place.



This has resulted in the opening up of the front office into a Reception/Visitor Information Office for local residents and visitors to the town where a variety of tourist and other information is now available.

Our new part time Receptionist, Dawn Whitehall, works from here and our Office Manager and Civic Secretary have now moved to a previously little used office on the first floor.



COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

The Council owns 3 shops and 6 residential properties. Where lease clauses stipulate landlord's responsibilities, regular inspections take place and maintenance works are programmed in. During the last year, works to these properties have included replacement fencing, major roof repairs and re-painting.

Different arrangements are in place for some Council-owned assets from which community groups or Trusts operate (e.g. The Merchants House).

SECURITY REVIEW

A major security review has taken place for all the Council's business-based properties – the Town Hall, 5, High Street, Workshop and the Town Hall. This has involved intruder and other alarm and surveillance systems being reviewed.

FIRE AND SAFETY AUDIT

Our business-based properties have also received a safety audit from the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service.



PUBLIC TOILETS

Complex legal work around Wiltshire Council's Community Asset Transfer of the George Lane public toilets to the Town Council continues with the aim of, once the Chantry Lane toilets have been sold, re-installing toilets in the basement of the Town Hall.

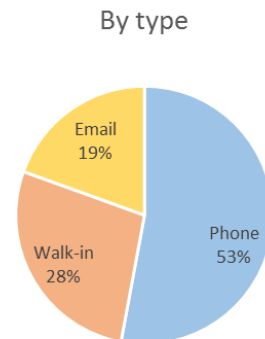
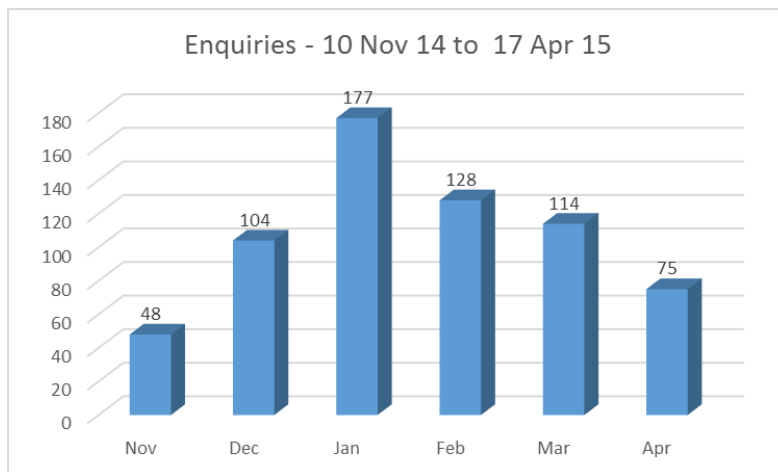
STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN: COUNCILLOR PEGGY DOW

The Staffing Sub-Committee reports to the Finance & Policy Committee and meets as required to deal with various staffing and management issues. Headed-up by Town Clerk, Shelley Parker, the Council employs 9 full-time and 3 part-time members of staff who deal with the day to day running of its administration, services, grounds and property portfolio as well as providing support and advice to Councillors and implementing their decisions.

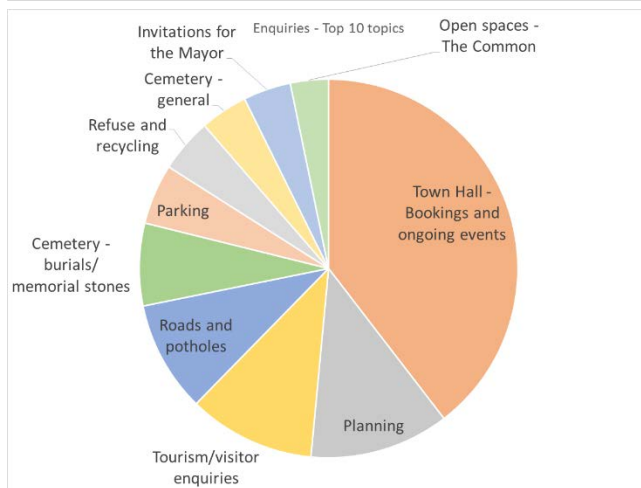


Staff are based at 2 sites – the Council Offices at 5, High Street and the Workshop at the Recreational Ground at Salisbury Road. Senior Managers Sue Fry and Richard Beale oversee day to day administration, event management and property services as well as maintaining our grounds and estates.

In November and following a job evaluation, we have welcomed a new part-time member of staff - Dawn Whitehall. Dawn shares the running of the front office at 5, High Street with our Civic Secretary, Linda Chapman, and has also taken over committee administration from Sue Fry, freeing up more time for improved event and property management. Since starting her role, Dawn has compiled some statistics showing the range of residents and visitors enquiries we receive on a day to day basis:



These figures exclude other business-related enquiries received by other members of staff.



SOME FURTHER STATS

In 2014/15, the office received 1,293 items of correspondence via postal services and more than 30,000 emails. The Grounds Team have collected approximately 38 tons of litter (that's 86 visits to each bin and an average bin bag weight of 15kg), cut grass at Council-owned sites 14 times, planted 5,000 bedding plants, 7,000 spring bulbs and 200 shrubs.

EVENT MANAGEMENT

The last year has been a very busy year in terms of running events for the town and staff have managed the following:

- Civil War Re-enactment on the Common / Living History in the Priory Gardens
- Visit of HRH The Duke of Kent
- Remembrance Day
- Christmas Lights Switch-on

SOUTH WEST IN BLOOM

Working alongside the community and businesses, the Grounds and Office Teams put in lots of effort into making sure the town did well in Marlborough's first entry into South West in Bloom, winning a number of cups and awards.

The Grounds Team worked very hard in ensuring that Priory Gardens, Wye House and other Council-owned spaces looked their best as well as the many floral displays throughout the town.



TRAINING

Training is important to the Council's development, resilience and success and helps staff to become more efficient and productive and where work can be undertaken in-house rather than outsourced to contractors, it saves costs. This year staff have received the following training:

Administrative Team	First Aid
Grounds Team (2)	Chainsaw Course
Grounds Team (1)	Royal Horticultural Society Practical (Stage 1)
Grounds Team (4)	Tractor Training
Administrative/Grounds Teams (4)	Mapping Training

APPRENTICESHIP

Our Apprentice, Michael Haines, is doing well with his horticultural training and will soon be moving into his third year at Lackham College.

2015/16

Next year will see the Staffing Sub-Committee look at more efficient working to meet the challenges of the devolution of services and transfer of assets from Wiltshire Council.

Councillors' thanks go to all staff – Shelley Parker, Sue Fry, Linda Chapman, Alan Brown, Dawn Whitehall, Barbara Chapman, Richard Beale, Nigel Weatherly, Ryan Atcherley, Mark Harding, Richard Jones, Aaron Presley and Michael Haines

AMENITIES AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN: COUNCILLOR GUY LOOSMORE

The Amenities and Open Spaces Committee has met five times in the last year. Integral to its work is the Grounds Team, headed up by the Estates Manager, Richard Beale, which is based at the Workshop at the Recreation Ground at Salisbury Road. The team maintains various open spaces in and around Marlborough - The Common, The Green, Priory and Wye House Gardens, the Recreation Ground, Jubilee Field at Manton, play areas and much more. They cut grass, pick litter, plant and look after floral displays and



bedding and keep an eye on the condition of trees – all the things that make a difference to residents and make a real impact on our visitors.



L-R: Ryan Atcherley, Richard Jones, Mark Harding, Aaron Presley, Michael Haines and Nigel Weatherly

SOUTH WEST IN BLOOM

Working with the Marlborough in Bloom Committee, the Town



Council helped the town to win a number of awards.

Special thanks to those whose combined efforts helped to sweep up the prizes – Action for the River Kennet, Marlborough Community Orchard, the Merchants House, Marlborough College, Marlborough Waterfront Association and schools as well as retailers, businesses and all those residents who all made terrific efforts to improve the town.

S106 PROJECTS

Two new projects are moving forward thanks to developer's contributions via S106 Agreements. One of these is the levelling of ground adjacent to Marlborough Rugby Club. This will enable a better training area for our young rugby and football players and better recreational space for all to enjoy. A Trim Trail for younger children will also be installed later in the year. The second project will be a new play area off of Orchard Road. The Town Council is currently working on the transfer of land for this from a local Housing Association.



STONEBRIDGE MEADOW

The Town Council works closely with local group, Action for the River Kennet (ARK) towards improving jointly owned land at Stonebridge Meadow. The Estates Manager looks after mowing, trees, litter clearance and health and safety issues helping to ensure that the meadow is accessible to all. He regularly liaises with ARK's Project Officer and Director on day-to-day management issues and a Management Committee is in place to monitor it all and make

sure that the Management Plan is followed through.

A joint consultation was run in summer 2014 to gauge local public opinion to the work at the meadow. This is available at <http://www.marlboughtowncouncil.gov.uk/consultation/results-of-stonebridge-meadow-consultation>.

ARK has obtained funding to install a reed bed and pond at the site. Once ready, the surrounding ground will be seeded with a mix of flowers and grass and, later on, a boardwalk will link the two sides of the reed bed – well worth a visit. ARK Project Officer, Anna Forbes, has worked hard to help raise the profile of the meadow through well attended Moth and Bat nights and other activities particularly during the summer months.

COOPER'S MEADOW AND TIN PIT

Both of these meadows are the responsibility of the Town Council. Councillors are immensely grateful for the huge improvements made by ARK to the river at these sites. A Community Asset Transfer of Cooper's Meadow from Wiltshire Council is currently underway. We are looking forward to the sheep returning to graze in late spring and working with the community and our partners on possible improvements to this amenity area. A new Community Users Group will be set up specifically to look at this.



CEMETERIES (FREES AVENUE)

The Grounds Team continues to keep this a peaceful and tranquil area. There has been a slight increase in the number of burials and ashes interments this year:

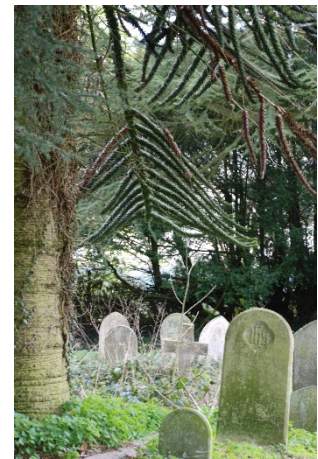


The Council is looking for additional space for an extension to the cemetery and improvements will be made to the cemetery approach road.

Year	Burials	Ashes Interments
2014	17	15
2015	17	18

THE OLD VICTORIAN CEMETERY

Under the enthusiastic guidance of Councillor Margaret Rose, a number of community days have taken place to improve some of the overgrown areas in the Old Cemetery, plant native flowers and help it return to the dignified and respectful place it was always meant to be. As well as being a beautiful area, it has huge historical significance and in November, Archaeologist, Kim Wakeham, gave a fascinating history talk and tour around it. Interest in this project is increasing and a Friends of the Old Cemetery Group is currently being established.



WAR MEMORIALS

The War Memorials at New Road and Salisbury Road have been cleaned by specialists - an appropriate project in 2014 to commemorate WWI. Our Grounds Team keeps a special eye on these to make sure they are looking their best year round and especially for Remembrance Day. Wild flowers were planted at the New Road Memorial as part of Marlborough in Bloom.

THE COMMON

The Common – a vast area of around 200 acres - is becoming increasingly popular as a venue for all types of events and activities. In May 2014, it hosted, for the first time, Marlborough Food & Drink Festival (returning 16/17 May 2015) and in July, a 17th Century Civil War Re-enactment attended by around 4,000 people. Various sports and interest groups continue to use it and meet regularly alongside dog walkers and local residents as part of the Common Users Group which helps advise the Council on current issues and new projects.



CIVIC AND CEREMONIAL

The Town Mayor is supported by our Civic Secretary, Linda Chapman, who works hard co-ordinating the Mayor's many engagements and annual Town Council-led civic events including Mayor-Making, civic services and dinners as well as Remembrance Day. Linda also works in close liaison with 4 Military Intelligence Battalion.



We are proud to have Officers of Dignity – a Beadle, 2 Mace Bearers and a Town Crier – all honorary positions. These are John Yates, Bob Dobie and Barry Mercer. Our Town Crier has been Alfie Johnson. We are also able to call on 2 reserves - Geoffrey Snelgrove and Luke Callaghan.

The position of Beadle and Mace Bearer have a long history. The Beadle is a town official

whose job is to summon Marlborough parishioners to various meetings, lead processions into church, etc. As the title implies the Mace Bearer carries the Maces ahead of the Mayor and is responsible for its proper care during ceremonies and that of all other insignia.

Marlborough has had a Town Crier since at least 1204 and whose job it is to make announcements about the town by ringing a bell with the cry "Oyez, Oyez, Oyez." Alfie, who has been in the role for 21 years, is often seen at civic events and in the High Street doing just that and doing his best to help to promote Marlborough.



Author: Shelley Parker, Town Clerk
Design: Dawn Whitehall, Administrator
April 2015

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