

Councillor Margaret Rose's Blog 2015-2016

A Life Change

After my own Mayor Making ceremony, which I found quite emotional, my first civic appointment was to attend Chippenham's Mayoral investiture and it was interesting to compare the two and meet with fellow Mayors from across the county – we are often collectively known as the Chain Gang!



I am honoured to have been made Honorary President of MENCAP. The AGM, held at the Conservative Club which hosts many of the charity's meetings, was light hearted with a cheerful crowd. We all said a big thank you to Mrs Jenny Smithers and Bryan Castle who have been involved with this group for more than 20 years and were standing down from their roles as Secretary and Treasurer. Both have been hard working and truly dedicated to the group.

On Saturday, 23rd May, I spent the day with my Mayoress, my daughter Mary, collecting funds in our High Street in aid of my chosen charitable cause for the year - The Brain Tumour Charity. With the help of other volunteers including 3 young soldiers from the 4th Military Intelligence Battalion, we raised an impressive £941.60p. My thanks all go to my volunteers and to those, of course, who

contributed.

Bank Holiday Monday. In Marlborough, that often means the chance to go to the Common to browse at a car boot sale. This latest and successful one was run by the Rotary Club. How lucky we are to have this amazing open space which not only allows events such as this and many others but, provides parking too.

The following Tuesday was my first Full Council meeting. With its long agenda including the election of Committees and their Chairs, it was a test of endurance for most Councillors, especially with a controversial planning issue during the Planning Meeting that followed. However, we always cheerfully recover.

Wednesday. It's a great pleasure to chair the Common User's Group (aka CUG). This is an environment that I understand. The group meets about 3 – 4 times a year and is made up of representatives of those clubs based at the Common as well as dog walkers and others who have an interest in its guardianship. The Town Council appreciates the advice the group can offer and it helps inform decisions about the future of this special area. It was very interesting to hear about the Marlborough Model Flying Club, to see firsthand the problems rooks cause to the beautiful greens and to know that the project to level the ground adjacent to the Rugby Club is almost

complete and that the new grass is growing well. I think if we can sort out the problem of parking in Frees Avenue, it might turn this country road back to what it was.



On Thursday, 28th May, Mary and I were invited to the Great Western Hospital to support the *Brighter Futures Radiotherapy Appeal* which is a massive endeavour and looking to raise £2.9 million. This will enable cancer patients in the catchment area to be treated at the GWH saving a long trip to Oxford which will, undoubtedly, enhance their recovery. We were told that 53,520 hours - equating to around 6 years - are spent by patients each year travelling to receive treatment. We all released pink and orange balloons to launch the Appeal. I will certainly want to raise the profile in Marlborough of this worthy cause and hope that they will be invited to do a presentation here. Also, I gather Savernake Hospice is hoping for an official opening fairly soon, another cause very dear to our community.

On Friday, I met with two talented young women – Anna Friend and Cheryl Heuston - who have volunteered to help me run a family event in Priory Gardens on Sunday, 5th July. We are going to host an Enchanted Picnic with stalls and entertainment for children and their parents. Watch out for more information over the next few weeks.

So, only a few days into my Mayoral year and my feet have hardly touched the ground – it really is life changing. Being your Mayor promises to be an exciting challenge for me and one I am proud to accept and I shall try to represent Marlborough in the very best way I can.

Flaming June!

Monday, 1st June

The month started with a Planning meeting with a difference as we were filmed and recorded. There were difficult decisions to be made about a road closure for the Jazz Festival. Sadly, there was no compromise this year.

Then followed the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee which has responsibilities for all Town Council-owned open spaces where we rely on

Richard, our Grounds and Estates Manager, to keep us updated. This covers a wide spectrum from



maintaining children's play areas to planting beautiful flower troughs in the High St as well as the maintenance of Cooper's and Stonebridge Meadows.



Tuesday, 2nd June

I went to Lydiard House at the invitation of The Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Troughton. The event focused on 'Cadets in the Community.' This highlighted the important benefits that young cadets and their adult instructors bring to the community and employers. Speakers included Col Mark Nash, Commandant Wiltshire ACF who had formerly been attached to 4MI, the Battalion with which Marlborough is closely connected.

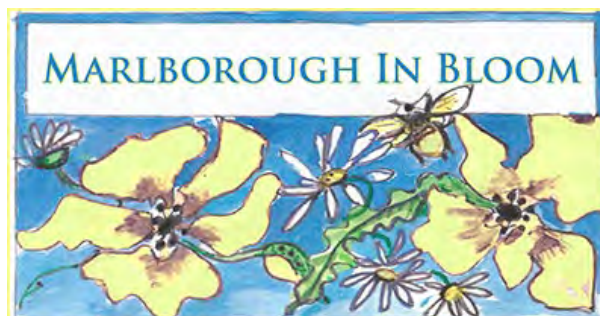
It was also a huge pleasure to send warmest congratulations to Col and Mrs Napier on their 70th Wedding Anniversary. I do hope that they had a wonderful celebration with family and friends and have many more years enjoyable marriage ahead.

Wednesday, 3rd June

Today, I chaired the Marlborough Christmas Lights Switch On meeting and it always staggers me how much has to be put in place to get an event like this off the ground so that everyone has a good time and feels safe.

Wednesday, 4th June

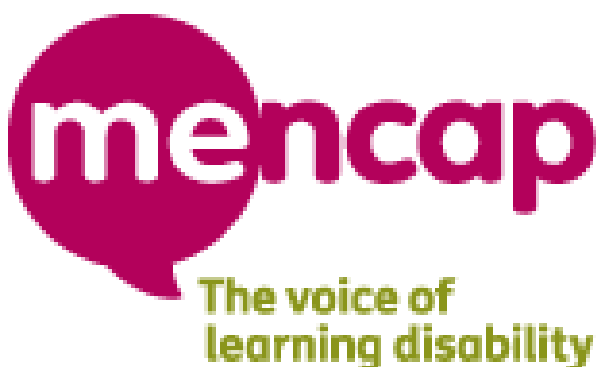
A Marlborough in Bloom meeting. What seems like a genteel group is actually packed with people of steely determination all striving to do well in this year's competition. We are looking to everyone to support us in making Marlborough a winner.



Sunday, 7th June

Today was the Mencap Summer Party at Kennet Valley Hall with a rounders match with no known rules. This was played with great enthusiasm and gave great pleasure to all who played, the Mayor getting a cheer when she actually managed to hit the ball! Cllr Alec Light was a splendid bowler. As President, I gave the presentation to Mrs Jenny Smithers and Cllr Bryan Castle for their dedication

to Mencap members over many years. I also presented a prize tankard to the winning team. Afterwards, we were served a delicious tea, partly sponsored by Tesco. Sarah Hart, Tesco's Community Champion is taking over as Mencap's Secretary was very hands on. Manager, Nick



Helps, was also there and he had cycled from Chippenham to join us. The sun shone and the loving care that the minders gave to their charges all helped to make the day special for them and us. The memory of this happy day will stay with me. This is a community working at its best - *To labour and not to ask for any reward.*



Summer Arrives

Sunday, 14th June



It was all go with the ongoing [Victorian Cemetery tidy up](#). We are a small loyal group with Anne providing cakes for refreshment. I find the whole atmosphere very therapeutic and we all enjoy each other's company and our achievements. Then it was back home as my own garden was open to the public to raise money for the Church. Next was a Civic Service in the beautiful Malmesbury Abbey where Wiltshire's Mayors paraded in with the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the High Sherriff, Lady Gooch and local MP, James Gray. The choir sang the Coronation Anthem 'I was Glad.' The sermon was given by a Lay Preacher - a local vet.

Monday, 15th June

Magna Carta – The Great Charter. This was Wiltshire Council celebrating the [800th anniversary](#) of the sealing of this famously important document. Enormous Barons from towns all over the county descended on Salisbury. There was a splendid reception in the Guildhall and afterwards we were invited to join the parade. The Baron heads and costumes were mostly painted by Wiltshire's schools and colleges and were magnificent with each town putting in their own personal artistic touch. As Mayor, I led our town group with painted banners depicting scenes from all around Marlborough. Our own Baron, influenced by Merlin, was designed and painted by students from St John's Academy. How talented the young people of Marlborough are.

We listened to a dialogue, beautifully read, about what Magna Carta stood for and its importance even in our lives today. This Magna Carta document has never left Wiltshire and is in the prized possession of Salisbury Cathedral where it can be viewed by everyone.

The evening ended with a very large Baron lighting a fire work display - a spectacular flame of wild horses and other displays emerging from the fire.



This was an event I shall never forget. I was very proud to represent Marlborough as its Mayor and be part of this historic event. My congratulations go to Jane Scott, Leader of Wiltshire Council and her team together with Salisbury City Council for their hospitality.

Saturday, 27th June

I had great pleasure attending The Marlborough Concert Orchestra's Summer Concert where its enthusiastic conductor, Roselise Gentile, spurred the orchestra on to give of their best. The pieces of music played were varied and challenging.

Sunday, 28th June



I went to Trowbridge to the Wiltshire Armed Forces and Veterans Celebrations. We were met at the car park and escorted around Trowbridge Park to view all the WW2 exhibits with each group presenting with pride. I watched the start up of the Spitfire and there was many a tear in the old RAF Veterans' eyes. The hospitality was generous and we ended the day with The Rev Tony Gilbert, Wg Cdr, Ret'd taking the service with the collection going to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

July

Wednesday, 1st July

I was invited to The Marlborough Brandt Group's AGM where Director, Dr Nick Maurice, gave a rousing speech. Gambian members of the MBG partner organisation, the Kombo Sillah Association, based in Bristol were there as well as students from Marlborough College and St John's Academy. A thought provoking address was given by Dr Isatou Touray of Gamcotrap on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). This sensitive issue cannot be swept under the carpet but, has to be an ongoing campaign through education to communities to overcome the prejudice of tradition.





Thursday, 2nd July

I was invited along to the Marlborough Scout Group's AGM and listened to a talk on Child Sex Exploitation (CSE). There were also two young scouts, Megan and Mel, giving a preview of their forthcoming trip to Japan for a Scout Jamboree. What fabulous work our scouts and their leaders do.

Friday, 3rd July

Alongside fellow Councillors, members of staff and a representative from the police, the Mayor's Chaplain, Dr David Campbell and I read prayers. We stood for 1 minute's silence in respect of those victims of the terrorist attack in Tunisia the week before. The flag was flown at half mast.

Sunday, 5th July

We had been gearing-up for Alice's Enchanted Picnic for weeks. This took place in Priory Gardens and was to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll writing *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. I made a Herald Rabbit and he stood at the entrance looking very regal!

The weather was kind to us and a large crowd gathered - Mums, Dads and Grannies too. All watched wonderful performances from the Marlborough Academy of Dance and Drama. The younger students danced as little white rabbits and the older ones gave us an interpretation of the lost Alice through jazz dance.

Anna Friend, our Artistic Director, co-produced the whole event with MTC. Her enthusiasm enabled her drama students to enter into the spirit of the Lewis Carroll story. They wore amazing costumes which really portrayed their individual characters as they mingled with picnickers and enjoyed the occasion. Wilton lent us some beautiful painted boards of Alice scenes which all helped to create the perfect atmosphere. Cllr Alexander Kirk Wilson and Richard Jones, one of our MTC groundsmen, wore white rabbit suits and collected money for the Mayor's Charity.

We appreciated all support given us, particularly the sponsorship from Tesco, all of which helped to make Alice's Enchanted Picnic such an enjoyable community and family day.





Monday, 6th July

July saw a Marlborough in Bloom community clear-up day where I with other volunteers pruned roses, hoed weeds in the Priory Gardens, and weeded cobbles in Patten Alley and litter picked throughout the town.

Wednesday, 8th July gave us a walk around Cooper's Meadow with the new User's Group. We took on board views and suggested improvements to the area, while looking too to protect the habitat of the

water vole, a protected species.

Tuesday, 14th July

We all stood on the Town Hall steps waiting for the South West in Bloom judges, Jane Pagano and Kim Parish, to arrive. They were greeted with the Town Crier's welcoming voice ringing in everyone's ears and the bells of St Mary's also adding to the day's excitement.

The judges watched a photographic presentation by Eric Gilbert and listened to a running commentary by our Town Clerk about all the community work going on in Marlborough and its beautiful areas, with the High Street leading the way with its colourful baskets and tubs. The judges were then escorted around Marlborough by Anne and our Grounds and Estates Manager, Richard Beale.

With our In Bloom Chairman, Anne Crawley, dressed all in lemon and your Mayor in lime, citrus colours were the in-vogue colours for this year's theme. The little citrus touches in shop windows encouraged by new committee member, Diana Cooper, were evident. One shopper was overheard commenting that the shops certainly like citrus coloured clothing! Lots of window displays included small bouquets of flowers and bowls of lemons



too.

A special champagne lunch was generously donated by the Polly Tearooms and a vintage Rolls Royce, complete with chauffeur, drove the judges on to see the *It's Your Neighbourhood* projects.

It was a fine day and the judges enjoyed seeing what Marlborough in Bloom was capable of

achieving with community involvement. It only leaves me with judging the children's paintings from St Peter's school.

We are all now waiting until 24th September to hear what our efforts have scored.

Friday 17th July

My Mace Bearers escorted me to the Castle & Ball to join the celebrations and opening of this year's International Jazz Festival. Councillor Nick Fogg welcomed everyone, and my Chaplain, Rev Dr David Campbell, offered up a prayer which sounded very much like a song, cleverly using the words from a well known ABBA song! The BBC's Young Jazz Musician of the Year, Alexander Bone, officially opened the event and St John's Academy Jazz Band played too, which was appreciated by all. In the evening, I enjoyed a reception in the magnificent garden at the Merchant's House hosted by Wiltshire Life.

Thursday, 30th July

The Mayor's Team versus Marlborough Cricket Club.

The Mayor's team arrived slightly shambolic but, enthusiastic on a lovely summer evening at Marlborough Cricket Club and ready to take on the opposing team.

Some team members arrived without any cricket gear, one Councillor looking as if he had just stepped out from the Indian Raj and (I suspect) neither one having much knowledge on how to play or the rules of the game.

We were fortunate to have 2 members from 4MI Battalion to add gravitas and give some format to the batting order. The opposition were in first and we made some fine catches but their hitting prowess proved to be too good and they soon chalked up runs which was never going to be easy to beat.

Cllr Cook, when he could find some pads that actually fitted him, managed to hit a respectable 6 and avoided having his teeth knocked out from flying balls. We had hoped to have put Cllr Kirk Wilson in as the night watchman but, as he was bowled out in style for a duck it was not to be. The Marlborough Club team played very well and deserved their win. The game was played in good spirit and I presented the cup and thanked Marlborough Cricket Club for their invitation asking for 3 cheers for the Mayor's Team who had played to the best of their ability.



August

Saturday 1st August

I was delighted to be invited to attend the MENCAP skittle night at Marlborough Football Club. The event was attended by approximately 40 members and carers. Councillor Alec Light also attended. Everyone took their turn bowling and I managed to knock down four skittles while one member knocked down a very impressive seventeen. So, my skills must lay elsewhere.

A raffle was held and drawn by the Mayor and a light buffet was served. Everyone agreed it was a very enjoyable evening.

Monday 3rd August

I attended the 25th anniversary of the Kennet Community Transport, which was held at the Jubilee Centre. On arrival I was greeted by Councillor Kirk Wilson busy putting up silver balloons in readiness for the celebrations.



Mrs Joyce White, Councillor Stewart Dobson, Councillor Marian Hannaford-Dobson and Councillor Bryan Castle - all former Mayors - also attended. We were treated to a delicious tea of homemade coffee sponge, my favourite.

The Mayor presented a certificate on behalf of the Town council and congratulated the organisation for their dedication and commitment to the local community.

Councillor Kirk Wilson replied talking a little on the history of the organisation. He also thanked Mr Robert Hiscox for his generous offer to install air conditioning for the benefit of the passengers. A toast was proposed to the next 25 years.

Thursday 6th August

I attended the Marlborough Floral Club Summer Lunch celebrating their 45th anniversary in the Village Hall, Mildenhall. The President Mrs Phyllis Broadway is a long standing member having been a keen flower arranger for at least 35 years.

I was greeted by the Chairman Mrs Wendy Jordan. The theme of the day was blue and there were beautiful blue heads of Hydrangeas as floral arrangements on each table.

We had a delicious cold lunch with fresh fruit salad. After lunch we were treated to a demonstration by the florist Sarah Styles (who has recently opened her own shop) on how to create a summer wreath with subtle pink and mauve colours which, was later raffled.

The celebration cake was cut by the Chairman.

The Mayor was on a well-deserved holiday during the later part of August



September



After an August summer rest in hot and sunny Spain, I rushed back from Bristol Airport on the last day of the month to a luncheon for the Macular Society held in the Methodist Hall. We were entertained by the Kennet Singers and all invited to sing along.

Wednesday, 2nd September

Ongoing co-ordination meeting about our Marlborough Christmas Lights Switch-On. This takes place on Friday, 20th November. All coming together well but, we could do with some more able-bodied volunteers to support the Rotary Club in manning the road closure barriers.

Friday, 4th September

I was invited to the Youth Centre and was able to see Cllrs Farrell and Cook keeping an eagle and watchful eye on 60 youngsters aged between 8 - 15 years who were very much enjoying a beautiful September evening. Some were using council play equipment, Cllr Cook was playing football with the boys and Cllr Farrell multi-tasking, keeping her charges happy and organising her supporters and volunteers. On top of that we were all treated to a BBQ.



I was shown around the premises which offer great potential - there was even a fully stocked Tuck Shop which proved very popular. What will be needed is perhaps more equipment for the darker evenings.

Saturday, 5th September

Marlborough Gardening Association Show, an important annual event for the green fingered and where I was invited to present the prizes. I also presented a cheque for £300 – a Town Council grant to the Association. Entries to the vegetable classes were noticeably down on previous years but, one competitor, Nigel Elliott, managed to sweep the board, winning 10 cups and showing what can be achieved. Crafts and flowers were well represented with my own Paper Mache Otter being awarded a Highly Commended.

Monday 8th September

We started the meeting early at 6.30pm with Dr Nick Maurice giving a presentation on Marlborough becoming a Fairtrade Town. He received a warm reception and then it was onto the Full Council agenda with 22 items. Then, the Planning Committee and with it all ending at 9 55pm. So, some very weary Councillors!

Tuesday, 9th September

A MENCAP committee meeting with dates already flying around for Christmas parties and a Pantomime visit to Bristol to see Snow White and the 7 dwarfs.

Wednesday, 9th September



A meeting with 4 MI Battalion, the Royal British Legion, the Police, Highways and Councillors to discuss November's Remembrance Day Parade and Armistice Day. Both of these events are important ones for the Town Council.

Friday, 11th September

I presented a Town Council grant cheque to the Alzheimer's Support group at its meeting in the Conservative Club. We were treated to a talk from a retired Fire Officer who gave an amusing account of his career. This group loyally look after their loved ones and they need support and time for themselves.

Sunday, 13th September

The Mayor's Charity Concert at St Peter's Church. The generosity of Berendina Cook & Matthew Stanley in performing their classical piano recital was hugely appreciated. It was a very special occasion, a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. It also raised over £3,000 with generous donations for the Brain Tumour Charity. This was a very worthwhile effort and my thanks go out to all who not only helped but, those who supported this event too.



Wednesday, 16th September

Today, to Trowbridge with other Councillors and representatives from towns all over Wiltshire for a Market Towns Network Meeting. We listened to speakers talking about advances in technology which will spearhead the way for all councils and commerce.

Friday, 18th September

I was invited by St Peter's Junior School to their assembly to present certificates for the painting competition on the theme *A Day in the Park*. In all, I judged about 100 paintings. I felt privileged to sit through the assembly as teachers each awarded one of their pupils as 'Star of the Week.' The pupil came out to the front to talk to us about their achievement. I was so impressed by the ethos of St Peter's and the encouragement given to all students to keep on trying. I was then invited to talk to the children. Naturally, I praised their artistic achievement, encouraging them to always have a go then presented the certificates on behalf of the Town Council and Marlborough in Bloom. I also gave out 2 tins of sweets which were very readily accepted!



Saturday, 19th September

Bingo evening with Mencap. This was not a game I had ever played before so it needed my considerable concentration. The event was well attended with Cllr Loosmore as Chairman and Sarah Hart and her family supporting it all. Thanks go to Mr and Mrs Bundy for co-ordinating it – a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Sunday, 20th September



The Old Victorian Cemetery. Six of us met up and tried out our new tools - Cllr Dobson and I both had a test drive with the strimmer! We dug up brambles too. The grass was rather soggy and difficult to cut short but, we are hoping that Richard's team will be able to mow what we have cleared so we are able to maintain progress. We now await the arrival of our bulbs so we can have a planting session and have something to look forward to in the spring.

Wednesday, 23rd September

It was a lovely September day when Cllr Hannaford-Dobson and I headed south to Dartmouth, the day before the presentation for South West in Bloom. We arrived at the picturesque harbour, drove through the quaint little town to find our B&B, The Paper Moon. We were staying with the Mayor of Dartmouth, Cllr Rob Lyon and his wife which was very convenient and we were able to walk with them to the evening reception. The Sergeant-at-Arms saw to the safety of the Mayoral chain. We arrived at the Britannia Naval College the following morning. What an impressive building, looking towards the harbour, portraits of great Admirals hanging imposingly on every wall.



Perhaps a little disappointment that we did not leave with armfuls of trophies but, certainly plenty of plaudits and we also retained our Silver Gilt status presented to us by Jonathan Dimbleby. We were so pleased to hear that the It's Your Neighbourhood awards went well and were delighted that The Lamb Inn picked up third prize for the best floral display for a pub in our region. I was very proud to collect the Thriving certificate on behalf of the Old Victorian Cemetery.

Saturday, 26th September

I was invited to open OKA at Froxfield. This store had had a fire last year and was re-opening in style. I was invited to cut the ribbon and was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Cocktails were served to all and I was given a tour of the showrooms - I was certainly I impressed and hope to take my granddaughter there to buy her birthday gift.



Saturday evening saw me at St John's Academy for a fund raising concert, the proceeds of which were for Help for Heroes and Hope and Homes for Children, two very worthy causes. The different choirs put in a tremendous amount of effort with the children from Kennet Valley and Oare Primary school perhaps just stealing the show with their enthusiasm. It was an excellent programme with some fine soloists including David Dudley giving us a Frank Sinatra routine. Fiona MacArthur performed a Mezzo

Contralto, Nicola Evans gave a rendering of Amazing Grace and Sarah Allport played an aria on the saxophone. The evening finished with all performers singing from Les Miserables. Both Jo Sutton (Hope and Homes for Children) and Natalie Williams (Help for Heroes) both gave an account of their charities.

Sunday, 27th September

A fund raising Jazz lunch for the Wilts Community Foundation's Surviving Winter. This charity raises money for people, especially the elderly, living in fuel poverty and perhaps struggling to survive. The late September sunshine was lovely and we enjoyed drinks outside before being treated to music from a young jazz group and its musical director whilst we ate lunch in the marquee.



Wednesday, 30th September



I had a shock when this pigeon decided to visit the Council offices in the High Street without opening the window first. You'll be relieved to know the pigeon was rescued, checked over and released, a little dazed but otherwise unharmed. All in a day's work!

October

Wednesday, 7th October

The day started off with a Stonebridge Management Committee meeting, then on to the Mobility Store for discussions about starting a Shop Mobility scheme in Marlborough. This is a scheme linking up with other towns where you can hire mobility scooters at very reasonable prices. This proposal will, hopefully, be supported by the Area Board.

In the evening we had the Marlborough in Bloom AGM and Award Presentation when everyone was welcomed by the Chairman, Mrs Ann Crawley. Some MiB members had been invited down to the beautiful Dartmouth Naval College to collect the awards which were presented that evening. In the *Its Your Neighbourhood* category, ARK collected a piece of silverware for best native planting at Stonebridge Meadow and



Marlborough Water Front, under the care of Mrs Val Compton, received an Outstanding Award certificate. The Lamb (which clearly should have come first) collected a certificate for third place for being the pub with the best floral displays in the South West and the landlords were delighted to receive it.

The evening also saw the launch of the MiB Calendar which has been produced with local photos taken by Eric Gilbert.

Saturday, 10th October



All the excitement of the Little Mop Fair. Alongside Claire Perry, we all enjoyed opening this with Claire and I starting it all off by having the first ride. The Showmen's Guild generously presented me with a cheque for £500 towards my Mayoral Charity and the bonus was me winning more on the darts stall! It was then onto a Reception in the Town Hall given by the Guild.

Sunday, 11th October

A beautiful autumn day welcomed Marlborough's first Town Council Civic Service and we were honoured by the presence of Sir Mike Pitts, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire and the 4th Military Battalion's new Commander, Lt. Col. Matt Jones. Not forgetting too, ten Mayors and Mayoresses and Councillors from around Wiltshire and Hungerford.



Marlborough College Choir sang an Anthem and together with the trumpeters, made for some beautiful singing and sound. I read a lesson from St Mark and my Chaplain, Dr David Campbell, gave the sermon. Father Blacker, the Rector Rev Andrew Studdert Kennedy and the Town Council staff all helped to make it an occasion. It was followed by a Reception in the Town Hall.

Tuesday, 13th October

A Common Users Group meeting at the Golf Club which was very well attended and plenty of views aired.

Wednesday, 14th October



Marlborough Christmas Light's Switch-on meeting. The committee is pulling together, what we hope will be a fine evening which will include a presentation to our Citizen of the Year 2015.

In the evening, I went along to the Marlborough – A Fairtrade Town meeting which Dr Nick Maurice hosted in the Town Hall. Joe Human, Co-ordinator of the Cumbria Fairtrade, gave a very good presentation on why we should all support Fairtrade then two managers from Waitrose and Tesco spoke about the commercial side and how they might be able to

work together.

Thursday, 15th October

Golf Match. Here the Mayor's Team took on the Golf Club. 4MI made up the bulk of our team alongside Ryan from our Grounds staff. The matches were played in good spirit and as it was a draw, I presented the Rose Bowl Trophy to both captains! Now it only leaves the decision about next year when it will be a lady Captain - do we go for mixed pairs or include a ladies team? We were treated to a delicious meal by the Golf Club and my thanks go to its Captain, Alan Pryor, as well as to our own captain, Paul Clemerson, and his team.



Friday, 16th October

The Town Council Stonebridge Management team met ARK at the meadow where it is hoped to place some log seating by the river so everyone can enjoy the ambiance. There were also discussions about the felling and pruning of an unsafe tree.

The evening saw me at a Civic Dinner at Warminster which was very well done where we had the chance to meet and talk with other Mayors.

Thursday, 22nd October



A splendid Fashion Show at the Town Hall. I was honoured to be invited along and I made the following speech to open the event:

"Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you for coming this evening and supporting the Lion's Fashion Show. I would like to add my congratulations to the President, Mrs Sue Lampard, and the Marlborough Lions Club as they reach their 40th anniversary which I believe is a ruby celebration.

The concept of the Lions is to be a charitable organisation, to not just raise funds, but to support where needed not just in this country but around the globe supporting worldwide disasters and I list some of the Charitable causes which have benefited:

Wiltshire Air Ambulance, Naomi Children's Hospice, The Hydro Therapy Pool Swindon, Children's Adventure Breaks, Macmillan Nurses. We at

Marlborough Town Council appreciate its support with The Christmas Light Switch-on, a community event where they will escort the Mayor down the High St in the Reindeer Sleigh to turn on the Christmas Lights. They also will be collecting in the High Street for one of their charities.

Some of their successful fund raising events are The Bluebell Woods, Easter Egg Raffle, the Christmas Carol Float and tonight, the Fashion Show

It leaves me only to thank all who have participated in this Fashion Show

Annabel from the Merchant House – Foxtrot – Luna - White Stuff - Phase Eight – Viyella – Dress - and to the Lions for kindly inviting me. I hope you all enjoy the evening"

December

Wednesday 2nd December

Started the month off with a visit to the Women's Institute to help with its 6th Anniversary Party where a cake was cut to help with the celebrations.

Friday 4th December



A trip to the beautiful Malmesbury Abbey to attend a Carol Service which was a fund raiser for Youth Action Wiltshire which supports young carers who are often looking after a parent or family member. These young people can often feel isolated or miss out on education and development.

Saturday 5th December

This was the third time that I have been invited to the Marlborough Concert Orchestra event held in St Mary's Church. It's all under the energetic baton of Rosalie Gentile, the conductor. Besides the rendering of The Christmas Song played by the whole orchestra, there was an unusual Double Bass Concerto by Koussevitzky and an engaging Hungarian Dances by Brahms.

Sunday 6th December

I went to the Wroughton Prospect Hospice Service, "Light up a Life" which was held outside. I was invited to read a piece on the stage, the Ridgeway School Choir sang beautifully and Aldbourne Band kept the mood very festive. The moving and underlying theme was to light a candle and celebrate a life gone of a loved one.

Tuesday 8th December

A night to remember! I was invited to the 4MI Mess Dinner. This was an insight into the inner circle of how the army celebrates and their own personal etiquette. I was able to stay the night, so thoroughly enjoyed entering into the spirit of the occasion.

Thursday 10th December



I was invited up to London to the Old Malburian's Carol Service at St Michael's Church, Chester Square. It was lovely to see some of my old students from Marlborough College and I hope to receive a donation for my Mayoral Charity.

Friday 11th December

Held in the beautiful Chapel, the Carol Service at Marlborough College is always a highlight in the Council calendar. The rendering of the Choir, the lessons and the hospitality in the Adderley Room all helped to ensure it was again a wonderful occasion.

Saturday 12th December

Off to Hungerford to the Brass Band concert where there were a lot of Berkshire Mayors whom we normally do not have a chance to meet due to the county boundary.

Sunday 13th December

I was invited to the Kennet Valley Brass Band concert. It featured a Male Voice Choir and was held in the Town Hall. What an excellent concert! This put everyone in the Christmas spirit and raised over £400 for Macmillan Cancer Support, a very worthy cause.

Monday 14th December

An invitation to St John's Academy to cut the ribbon for its new Sixth Form building. It was nice to see Dr Hazelwood there who did so much in setting the high standard of the Academy and its proud reputation.

In the evening, it was back down to earth to chair our Full Town Council meeting. This included discussions about setting up a committee towards another Civil War re-enactment. This event was very popular when held in 2014 and helped to put Marlborough on the map.

Tuesday 15th December

Carol singing in the rain on The Green with the Revd Heather Cooper. Our musicians - keyboard and recorder players - had to be sheltered from the rain under a large umbrella. These played for some brave and hearty carol singers. Afterwards we enjoyed some welcome flapjacks provided by our very own kind Tesco Manager, Nick Helps.

Then on to St Mary's Church to celebrate with MENCAP, the Christmas story beautifully acted with great enthusiasm. My thanks go to all the Councillors who have given their own time to help me support all these local groups this year.



Thursday 17th December

A fund raising evening with Dr Nick Maurice and the Marlborough Brandt Group.

With the run up to Christmas, it was quite an eye opener when the police exhibited a car in the High Street that had crashed that year in Savernake Forest. It was a mangled wreck, a sharp reminder to us all about safe driving over the Christmas period.

Thursday 24th December

I very much enjoyed going to the Children's Nativity on Christmas Eve at St Mary's. The Church was packed with families supporting their children who re-enacted the nativity scene so beautifully.

Friday 25th December

On Christmas Day I visited the residents at Coombe End nursing home to wish them a Happy Christmas. Father Christmas gave out presents which were unwrapped with joy. It was then on to Merlin Court to greet the residents there.

I arrived at the Town Hall at noon and all the guests were in a festive mood, enjoying each other's company. Nigel Kerton wished Lisa Farrell and his granddaughter, Vicky Ellis, together with their new team, every success in carrying on the tradition. I was pleased to be able to thank him and Joy for all the dedicated Christmas Dinners that they had put on over the last 6 years. There were a lot of supporters helping to make the occasion go well and I left them to enjoy the rest of the day at 2 pm to drive over to my family in Oxfordshire.

Thursday 31st December



New Year's Eve. I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown" and he replied "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God, that shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".

May I wish you all very happy and successful New Year 2016.

January 2016

Happy New Year to you all!

Well, what a wet season we have had. Daffodils out before the snowdrops, what is happening? We sympathise with towns and villages in the north which have been so badly flooded. A lot of thought will be needed to try to safeguard these places if this weather pattern is going to be the norm.



Wednesday 6th January

I had a meeting with Churches Together to discuss the merits of a Civic Service, a service which is held in most towns to welcome and introduce the new Mayor into the community. At present, here in Marlborough, we visit all of our churches in rotation.

Thursday 7th January

The Gazette & Herald celebrated [200 years](#) of publication in Devizes Town Hall. Our own Nigel Kerton, who was a reporter for many years, told a tale about how the bus to Swindon would pick up his written reports and when it arrived in Swindon the bus would be stopped and those reports collected, ready to go to press.

Wednesday 13th January

A visit to Lydiard Park and the AGM of the NSPCC which was celebrating 30 years of the organisation in Swindon. The guest speaker, Jon Cameron, OBE, spoke very movingly about the organisation's work to combat child abuse, the work of ChildLine counsellors and the dangers of the internet. The main concerns for referrals were neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse. This is a charity which deserves all our support.

Friday 15th January

Time for the Penguins Annual Presentation, an event which is always so well supported by parents. It was with great pleasure that I presented trophies to some very accomplished young swimmers. Enormous credit goes to all who support this successful club which has about 400 young members.

Tuesday 19th January



A visit with Cllr. Barrett-Morton and the Town Clerk to Chippenham to discuss the issue of public conveniences with Wiltshire Council, and also whether the Town Council may be able to take on the toilets at George Lane - that's the building and the service provision. This decision will need careful thought from the Council.

February

Monday 1st February

Preshute School. I very much enjoyed my visit, being shown around by Mrs Hicks and meeting Mrs Joyce White, a school governor and former Mayor. Also, having the chance to talk to the children. I was so impressed by the standard of behaviour and their keen interest in everything. I couldn't believe that there were 200 children in such a small space but, all the pupils were so attentive and charming. My congratulations go to Mrs Celia Hicks and her dedicated staff for attaining an excellent Ofsted report. I gather that she is retiring at the end of the academic year - she will be a hard act to follow but, will certainly have left a school with a reputation to be proud of. We wish her a happy retirement.

Wednesday 2nd February

Alzheimer's Association. I was invited to host a table for a Gala Dinner in the beautiful room in Devizes Town Hall along with the Mayor of Devizes. There were 10 tables of carers and their partners or parents with dementia. We were treated to a lovely dinner with spring daffodils on each table. All those waiting on tables were staff from the Alzheimer's Association and had given their services free. A talk was given on how to eat well. I enjoyed talking to carers who were all very upbeat. I think the whole occasion was appreciated by everyone who attended.



Tuesday 9th February

It was with great anticipation that we were all taxied up to Savernake Hospital from the George Lane car park on a lovely sunny day (a relief after such a wet Monday) to witness HRH Duchess of Cornwall officially open the new Prospect Outreach Centre. The Duchess is the President of Prospect Hospice.

The Outreach Centre project was achieved by the amazing effort of raising over £260,000 and the foresight of Kevin McNamara, Director of Strategy at the Great Western Hospital, to charge only a

peppercorn rent. I was honoured as the Mayor, by being presented first and introduced by the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Sarah Troughton. The Duchess was escorted around the unit by Mrs Angela Jordan, Prospect's Chief Executive. It was clear that she enjoyed talking to everyone, especially the patients whom she put at ease with her quiet charm. During her tour, she was shown the counselling room with its soft furnishings, watched a collage being made and chatted and thanked volunteers who give so much dedicated time to the hospital. Before she left, she signed the register and was presented with a beautiful cream posy of flowers by a young pupil from Ogbourne St George who made the most elegant curtsy.

Savernake Hospital is very dear to us all in the Marlborough area so the effort that has gone into this project will not only help to give this building a new impetus but, support patients in overcoming and working with their disabilities which is to be applauded.

Tuesday 10th February

Today I attended two meetings. One as a representative to the Stonebridge Management Committee with Action for the River Kennet where we discussed projects and the maintenance in Stonebridge Meadow and then down to the Football Club to discuss land for a possible football pitch. Before the day finished, I had a quick look at Cooper's Meadow to get ideas for future projects.

I now go off to Spain for a week to tend a very different garden.

I returned from Spain with a suitcase filled with Seville oranges, large oranges and lemons too, all from the trees in my garden. I also tackled the prickly pears which had taken over but, are now dying with a fungus

Saturday, 20th February 2016

Today saw Councillor Marian Hannaford-Dobson and me playing bingo with the local MENCAP Group. Marian actually managed to win a prize. I wasn't so lucky!

Thursday, 25th February 2016



Councillors were invited up to Greatwood for a guided tour to learn more about how looking after retired race horses was combined with a work programme with schools helping disadvantaged children. Sasha Thorbek-Hooper, Fundraising Manager for Greatwood, who clearly has wide expertise in this field, took us round. It was apparent right from the start that helping to look after these beautiful animals in such a happy environment really contributes to building up confidence in these children's own abilities.

The Town Council congratulated and praised Greatwood for its work with young people and the educational programme it provides, enabling many to eventually work in that field of employment or simply find their way back into society with confidence, believing they can contribute. We were fortunate to be able to meet and talk to many cheerful youngsters as the mucked out stables and fed the chickens. *"It takes courage to grow up to become who you really are". EE Cummings.*

I had great pleasure on behalf of the Town Council, in presenting the Co-founder and Managing Director, Helen Yeadon, with a cheque for £928 which will go towards ongoing programmes.



Friday, 26th February
Friday saw me in the wilds of Wiltshire along farm tracks, wandering around looking for Winkworth Farm whilst hoping I was not lost forever. I was invited to the North Wilts Annual Awards and Celebration of Guiding and Achievements so, it was a relief when a glimmer of light appeared in the distance. (More signs please).

I was greeted and made to feel very welcome.



The event was attended by Sir Mike Pitts and the Mayors of Malmesbury, Swindon and Chippenham along side Guides and their Leaders from around the county. I was particularly proud when four young Guides from the Ogbourne St Goerge Unit, which is counted in the Marlborough division, went up for the Baden Powell Challenge Award - the highest award a Guide can achieve. I was honoured to have a photo taken with them afterwards. I have to be honest and say I knew little of the guiding movement in Wiltshire so to see so many dedicated Leaders go up for 10, 20 even 30 years' service awards was very impressive. Sir Mike spoke with affection of his Skipper (Scouts) and camping days. There was an interesting exhibition and I was shown a picture of the camping ground which is owned by the county. We were also treated to some delicious hot chips served in cups and a large bowl of fruit.

So, I quote the Guiding promise which is something we all could aspire to for better communities and a better world to live in:

I promise that I will do my best
To be true to myself and develop my beliefs
To serve the Queen and my community
To help other people
To keep the Guide/Brownie Law

March

Tuesday, 1st March



St David's day saw Cllr Hannaford-Dobson and myself being chauffeured to a visit of 4MI Battalion at Kiwi Barracks, Bulford. We were very warmly welcomed, given a tour of the building and introduced to a number of personnel. Col Matt Brown gave us an insight into the work and training of the Battalion, the ethos of 4MI as an intelligence unit and its close connection with Marlborough.

I was presented with a cheque for £285 for my Mayoral Charity *The Brain Tumour Charity* raised by soldiers playing a football match, whom we enjoyed meeting. Also, Capt. Mickey Yendall who, alongside his team, hopes to fund raise through a 1,000 mile sports activity finishing up in Marlborough on 30th April, again in aid of my Charity.



I presented the 4MI Library with a collection of books on Wiltshire regiments and one about the Battle of Gallipoli which were well received.

We had lunch in the new Sergeants' Mess and then went on to visit the Welfare Office Department and met many who support the Battalion before being safely chauffeured home by a delightful young soldier.

Wednesday, 2nd March



All Councillors were invited up to Savernake Hospital to tour the new Outreach Centre run by Prospect which had recently been opened by the Duchess of Cornwall. Over £300,000 was raised in a very short time by the community enabling this worthy project to go ahead. We were given an overview on how much it cost to run and what could be done to help often terminally ill patients. The unit offers a community room with a kitchen, an Occupational Therapist and counselling and therapy treatment rooms. We came away pleased that Savernake Hospital offers a new project enabling a secure future to a much loved building.

Saturday, 5th March

Today saw the Youth Council, under the guidance of Cllr Lisa Farrell, work towards the Clean for the Queen campaign, a national initiative to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. We all had a photo taken on Marlborough Town Hall steps before setting off down the High Street all armed with gripper gloves, plastic bags on hoops and tongs for picking up rubbish. We all became quite adept at picking up cigarette butts. Can I make a plea for all smokers to dispose of these in the right receptacle? There are a number of these attached to the bins in the High Street.



The youngsters entered into the spirit of it all with great enthusiasm. After the High Street, we carried on to the Recreation Ground and I left them as they made their way up the Salisbury Road to Tesco. I gather they were rewarded for their endeavours by cakes and cola back at the Town Council offices. From what we saw on our route round the town, it's clear that more certainly needs to be done to encourage everyone to take their litter home or bin it properly.



After attending a Memorial Service in the afternoon, I made my way to St Mary's Church in the evening to attend the Marlborough Concert Orchestra perform its Spring Concert. It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Janet Tanner who played the violin, a founder member of the Orchestra and a former teacher at Marlborough College.

The programme had overtures from Mozart, a symphony by Schubert and the programme ended with Johann Strauss and The Blue Danube which set all feet tapping.

On 3rd December, the Orchestra celebrates its 10th birthday with a special programme to include young international soloist, Irene Enzlin, cellist and Mathieu van Bellen, violinist, so a date not to be missed.

Monday, 7th March

A very full start to the week. In the evening, we held a welcome ceremony in the Court Room for our new Town Cryer/Beadle, Michael Tupman, a former Special Constable. I gave a brief introduction of the history of this ancient position of the Town Cryer/Beadle recorded as going back to at least 1699. Our now retired Town Cryer, Alfie Johnson, handed over the bell and staff.



Michael gave a rendering of acceptance of the position which includes Ale Tasting in all the public houses in Marlborough. We feel very lucky to have someone with such a big personality who will grow into this position and become very much a part of Marlborough. He will soon become just like his predecessors who are depicted in the paintings in the Council Chamber. We now just wait for his distinguished outfit to be delivered.

We then retired to the Chamber for a Full Town Council Meeting where there was interest in staging a street party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. It was then on to Planning Meeting with discussions about the new school in Ducks Meadow. All in all, a long day for Councillors and Staff.

Thursday, 10th March

Today gave us the 34th Marlborough Brandt Group Annual Lent Lecture in Marlborough Town Hall which was given by Harriet Lamb, CBE, CEO of International Alert who was introduced by Lord Joffe, a leading member of the defence team in South Africa for Nelson Mandela 1963.



The evening started with a reception and speech given by Alison Burden who has spearheaded the successful campaign towards Marlborough's Fairtrade status. I was presented with a certificate in recognition of the Town Council's support. In my acceptance speech, I said I was pleased to accept this as a sign of our ongoing support to the farming community around the world, aiming for a fairer world where everyone has an equal opportunity to work and make a living. I also praised Alison and her team for their perseverance which enabled all of this to come about. The

Manager of Tesco in Marlborough, Nick Helps and Poppy, Community Co-ordinator from Waitrose, gave a perspective from a Supermarket's view.

Harriet Lamb's lecture was based on *'To Bomb or not to Bomb' - That is the Wrong Question!*. She talked with great knowledge, having worked with these countries with Fairtrade for many years.

Peace is when people are able to resolve their conflicts without violence and can work together to improve the qualities of their lives, everyone has fair and equal access to the basic needs for wellbeing such as food, clean water, shelter, education. Peace can only last when human rights are respected, where people can practice their own beliefs, where individuals and nations are free to live their lives in safety from oppression.

So, we have a long way to go before everyone around the world enjoys the freedom and equality that we take for granted in Marlborough.

Sunday, 13th March

Today was the Service for the *Rule of Law* in the magnificent Salisbury Cathedral. This is held to commemorate the Office of the High Sheriff which goes back over 1,000 years, its roots going back to Saxon Times. It's the oldest secular office under the Crown until when, in 1908 under the right of King Edward VI, the Office of the Lord Lieutenant became the Sovereign's personal representative in a county. Whilst the duties of the High Sheriff have evolved and reduced over the years to a mainly ceremonial role, he or she still remains the Sovereign's representative in the county for all matters relating to the judiciary and the maintenance of law and order.



So, all of Wiltshire's Mayors processed into the Cathedral in their red robes and ceremonial chains leading onto the main aisle followed by the judiciary who looked very impressive in their High Court wigs and robes.

The service was very moving with a reading from Roman 13:1-10 read by the Hon. Mr Justice Dingemans - "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities".

There was a reading from the Quran, some rousing hymns and we ended up singing the National Anthem before processing out to queue for a nice cup of tea and chocolate chip cookies!



So, we say goodbye to Lady Gooch who has done so much in her year, not only with youth groups, SPLASH and YAW but, supporting the Probation Service, the Royal Cadets, the Asian Women's Group and many others.

Here, I quote from Magna Carta 1215:

"No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send other to do so, except by the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land."

I would like to think this still works for us all today, that a man is innocent before being proved guilty but, sadly, I think not.

Monday, 14th March

We celebrated Commonwealth Day and Members of the Town Council met on the Town Hall steps, all holding the Commonwealth Flag. I then read a message from the Secretary General, Kamallesh Sharma, reiterating the bond that binds the Commonwealth of 53 countries and 2 billion people. The Commonwealth Charter asserts that everyone is equal, deserves respect whatever their status in life and seeks to build a better world.



Alan, our Caretaker, raced up to the roof top to fly the flag which fluttered proudly over our historic town on a beautiful spring morning.

Wednesday 16th March



Shopmobility

Wednesday evening saw many Councillors supporting the Shopmobility evening when traders from the High Street were invited to a reception with a welcoming glass of wine to learn about what the Town Council, the Area Board and the Mobility Shop are trying to achieve. It was to highlight Marlborough's commitment to support disabled people in enabling them to shop in Marlborough. This scheme is up and running in Salisbury very successfully. Sadly, the evening was not well attended. I was asked to name 3 of the mobility scooters and now we have Henry, Bella and James, perhaps with Thomas the tank engine in mind - great fun they are too.

We are looking for volunteers to give a few hours a week to support this venture.

Sunday 20th March 2016

In the morning the Friends of the Victorian Cemetery met up. It was a lovely day and we put in valuable time raking up old grass and digging up brambles. The daffodils are beautiful so, do go and look. Sadly, all the new bulbs that were planted have not materialised and the damage done by the contractors has not helped. However, in May we are invited to talk on wild flowers in churchyards and be presented with our first certificate for ongoing efforts. We also are discussing bees which is something important to work on.



Wednesday 23rd March 2016



A Common Users Group meeting in the Council Chamber with different groups coming together and discussing main issues on the use of the Common. It's important to keep a fine balance of use and users and to protect and repair this beautiful piece of land which belongs to use all and is for everyone to enjoy.

As we now celebrate Easter and the start of new life, it is a great joy to see the fritillaries coming up

and the daffodils in full bloom, a pure white heron feeding on the Kennet and the Kites flying overhead. I am reminded, in these troubled times, how blessed we are to live in Marlborough. May I wish you all a peaceful Easter.

April

"Oh to be in England now that April's there" - Robert Browning

I can't believe that this is my last month of my Mayoral year. Where does time go?

The month started with the flag being flown on the Town Hall to celebrate my birthday which was a great honour and made my day feel very special.

We saw the shutting of the George Lane toilets and several Councillors volunteered to leaflet shops to make everyone aware. This could really be the start of a very positive move with the chance to upgrade these old toilets to something special. We are looking at including a coach driver's rest room and a small Tourist Information Point too.



This month, I attended a committee meeting with MENCAP and we were all delighted with the grant awards from the Area Board. We had discussions about the summer party and how we could include celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday. This group works hard to give a social life to its members.

I have been very busy working hard with [Marlborough Scouts](#) to organise a Duck Race on Monday, 2nd May at 2.30 pm in Waitrose car park. I had forgotten how much red tape you have to go through even for very small events. The proceeds will be shared with the Scouts and the Mayor's charity - The Brain Tumour Charity. Hopefully, we'll have a fine day, enjoyed by all.



Saturday, 9th April

Tesco very kindly gave me permission to collect for my Charity and I added £266 to my total.

Sunday, 10th April

Today found me driving to Warminster to get to a Civic Service by 10 am. It was a very fulfilling service and I was able to say goodbye to other Town Mayors who I have shared my year with. I have very much enjoyed their support and company.

Monday, 11th April

I enjoyed going to the [Open Studios preview](#) held at the Mount House which was sponsored by David Dudley who hosted the event. Open Studios is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. It really shows us that art, with its many diversities, plays a very large part in our culture of everyday life and we would be very much the poorer without it.

Saturday, 16th April

A disco with Mencap with the music taking me back to my youth. Unfortunately, the knees are not so young and remind me of my age, but it was enjoyed by all the members.

Sunday, 17th April

A civic service at [St George's, Preshute](#) with the flag of St George flying in the breeze. This has to be one of the most beautiful churches in Wiltshire in an idyllic setting by the River Kennet. The Mayor and Councillors were welcomed by the Rector Miri Keen. Included in the service were the Civic Service Colour Party, members of which helped read prayers with others from the congregation. Mike Tupman was with us for the first time as our Beadle and made his presence felt as did Mace Bearers, Bob and Geoffrey, who lend so much dignity to these civic occasions.



Monday, 18th April

Today saw me chairing my last Full Town Council meeting which always takes a lot of thought and preparation from the office.



Tuesday, 19th April

I was invited up to Merlin Court with students from St Francis and St Mary's to bury time capsules so, who knows what will be made of the artefacts in 100 years' time! I was then invited to visit St Mary's assembly to talk to the children, wear my duck hat and given the opportunity to sell some yellow ducks for the Duck Race on 2nd May which is fundraising for the Scouts and the Mayor's Charity.

Friday, 22nd April

I went to Lockridge to view [The Marlborough Embroiderers Guild](#) exhibition which was pretty impressive and showed off the skills in many interpretations. All the husbands of members were also present.

May 2016

Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May

Firstly, I'll just slip quickly back into April when, on Friday 29th April, I visited an exhibition in St Mary's Church. This was an exhibition with a difference which was meant to be thought provoking.

Then on Saturday 30th April I was in the High Street before 8 am for my street collection for [The Brain Tumour Charity](#). I had five members of 4MI Battalion who very much helped to swell my total, and with a cake stall we were able to pass our previous year's total and brought in £1,064.

Friday, 2nd May

The day of the Duck Race. This involved a lot of hard work beforehand for Peter Povey (Marlborough Scouts) and myself. As this was a joint venture, we were seen on a regular basis wearing our duck hats in Waitrose car park selling bright yellow ducks. There was great excitement at the launch, the Mayor Duck went in first and after a few turbulent moments when she got caught in the weir and needed rescuing, all the small ducks were released. Then as every duck was urged onto the finishing line, Cllr. Kirk Wilson was chivvying on wayward ducks as they drifted in on waves waiting to be caught by valiant members of ARK. This is an event that, in the future, can be built on for the

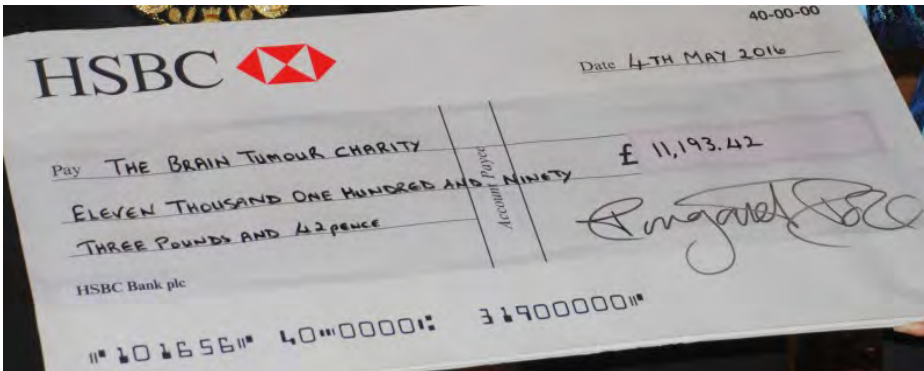


enjoyment of Marlborough. My grateful thanks to all who helped and to the businesses that sponsored it. If anyone finds any stray ducks, please hand them in at the Town Council offices.



Wednesday, 4th May

This was the evening of my reception to thank all who had donated or supported me over my Mayoral year and to hand over the cheque for £11,193.42 to my chosen charity, The Brain Tumour Charity. It was a very nice evening supported by my old colleagues from Marlborough College, the Old Dames, who helped bring together the reception and Tesco Manager, Nick Helps, who very generously provided the wine. My thanks also go to 4MI and all those others who have helped me to more than reach my total.



Friday, 6th May

The [Stonebridge Meadow](#) Wetlands project, which is an [ARK](#) initiative, includes a reed bed which will encourage wildlife and includes a viewing platform and a boardwalk. Claire Perry, MP was introduced by the Chairman of ARK, Dr. Geoffrey Finlay, who talked about the project and particularly praised Anna Forbes, ARK's project manager. Claire Perry then cut the ribbon.

