



Discover 10 blue plaques following this town centre walk  
 1.3 miles/2 km - 45 mins-1 hour  
 A self-guided walk



## Blue Plaque Walk

# Marlborough

29 The Green  
**WILLIAM GOLDING 1911-1993**  
 Author and Nobel Literature Laureate lived in this house – “Our house was on the Green, that close-like square, tilted south”

*From the Green, walk along Patten Alley past St Mary’s Church. As you emerge from the alleyway, look across the road slightly to the right*

1-3 Kingsbury Street  
**BOB PELHAM 1919-1980**  
 Pelham Puppets were created at 1-3 Kingsbury Street by Bob Pelham and a small group of employees in 1947

*Take the steps behind the Town Hall (Perrin’s Hill) then cross the road*

3-4 High Street  
**THOMAS HANCOCK 1786-1865**  
 Inventor of vulcanisation of rubber  
**WALTER HANCOCK 1799-1852**  
 Inventor of the Passenger Steam Road Carriage lived here

*Stay on the same side of the road and walk to the other end of the High Street until you come to The Wellington Arms and The Food Gallery*

48 High Street  
**THE GREAT FIRE OF MARLBOROUGH 28 APRIL 1653**  
 Began near this place, at the house of Francis Freeman, Tanner “Where in three hours were consumed at least 250 houses”



Tourist Information

*Continue along the street, crossing into the precincts of St Peter’s Church*

St Peter’s Church  
**THOMAS WOLSEY 1473-1530**  
 Cardinal Archbishop of York and Lord Chancellor of England  
 Ordained Priest in this Church 10 March 1498

*There’s a craft shop and café inside, and on certain days tower tours offer a wonderful view of the town*

*From the church head west along the A4 (Bridewell Street) past the College and use the crossing to reach the other side of the road. Go round the corner, under the arch until you reach the porter’s lodge gates*

Marlborough College Gates  
**THE STATUTES OF MARLBOROUGH 1267 HENRY III**  
 An Act of Parliament passed in the Great Hall of Marlborough Castle near this place. “He made many statutes for the betterment of his realm and the manifestation of Common Justice”



*Cross the road and head back, keeping to the left of the church where you’ll see some interesting houses*

The Library  
**EGLANTYNE JEBB 1876-1928**  
 Founder of Save the Children Fund taught in this building when it was St Peter’s School



## A potted history

*Continue along the High Street until you reach the colonnaded section. There are three plaques very close together here – you’ll need to peer round corners into the alleyway to see one!*



114 High Street (Susie Watson Design)  
**SAMUEL PEPYS, DIARIST 1633-1703**  
 “...lay at the Hart a good house and there a fair and pretty town...” on 15-16 June 1668  
*Parts of the Inn’s galleries remain in nearby buildings*

114-116 High Street  
**LORD CHAMBERLAIN’S MEN**  
**SHAKESPEARE’S COMPANY**  
 Performed in the courtyard of the White Hart through the archway in the 1590’s “All the world’s a stage”

The Castle & Ball Hotel  
**THE BATTLE OF MARLBOROUGH 5 DECEMBER 1642**  
 Near this place a Royalist Army fought their way into the Town and defeated the Parliamentary Garrison

Marlborough grew from a Saxon settlement (now *The Green, above*) expanding along the High Street to a Norman Castle built on a prehistoric man-made mound, today within the grounds of Marlborough College. The castle was used and enlarged by various kings until the early 14<sup>th</sup> Century. The Statutes of Marlborough, still part of the law of England, were enacted here in 1267 by Henry III. There was once a Royal Mint here.

In 1204 King John granted the town a charter, formally establishing it as a market town. Markets still take place every Wednesday and Saturday on the original site in the High Street.

In 1642 during the Civil War the town was captured by Royalists and the Mayor and prominent citizens were marched through the snow to Oxford as prisoners of the King. The Great Fire followed in April of 1653, wiping out more than 250 houses.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries Marlborough’s position on the Great West Road to Bath and Bristol made the town a major coaching centre. The coaching trade dwindled as railways were developed and the town’s largest inn, the Castle Inn, became Marlborough College which was founded in 1843.

Our Tourist Information Point is open Monday to Friday, 10am-4pm or visit our website

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 www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk  
 @MarlboroughTC @MarlboroughTC @MTCouncils



Three plaques close together between 114 High Street and the Castle & Ball Hotel

**BATTLE OF MARLBOROUGH**  
5 December 1642

Near this place a Royalist Army fought their way into the Town and defeated the Parliamentary Garrison

**LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S MEN**  
**SHAKESPEARE'S COMPANY**  
Performed in the courtyard of the White Hart through the archway in the 1590s  
*"All the world's a stage"*

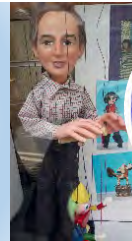
**SAMUEL PEPYS DIARIST**  
1633-1703

*"...lay at the Hart a good house and there a fair and pretty town..."* on 15-16 June 1668.  
Parts of the Inn's galleries remain in nearby buildings



**BOB PELHAM**  
1919-1980

Pelham Puppets were created at 1-3 Kingsbury Street by Bob Pelham and a small group of employees in 1947



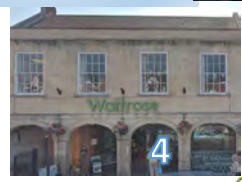
**WILLIAM GOLDING**  
1911-1993  
29 The Green  
Author and Nobel Laureate lived in this house  
*"Our house was on the Green, that close-like square, tilted south"*



**2. St Mary's Church** walls are 15<sup>th</sup> century. It was reroofed after the 1653 fire. A stone pillar in the west wall, turned red by the intense heat, is a reminder of the fire. Patten Alley is named after an overshoe which raises its wearer out of the mud



**4. The stone frontage at Waitrose** was the town's corn exchange, subsequently used as a fire-engine house and then a cinema



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**9.** There are a number of interesting yards off the High Street typical of the housing styles in the old Borough. Chandlers Yard is almost unchanged since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century with some of the upper windows containing the original glass. The **Merchant's House** was built after the 1653 fire – now open for tours and containing a museum

**EGLANTYNE JEBB**  
1876-1928  
Founder of Save the Children Fund taught in this building when it was St Peter's School



**The Library** was built in 1853 as St Peter's school

**8.** An intricately carved door next to No 105 shows the history of Marlborough back to King John. Look up at the gables of the 1925 building for some interesting carved messages

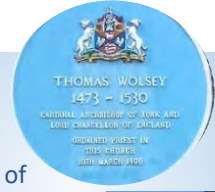


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**THE STATUTES OF MARLBOROUGH**  
1267 Henry III  
Marlborough College  
An Act of Parliament passed in the Great Hall of Marlborough Castle near this place.  
*"He made many statutes for the betterment of his realm and the manifestation of Common Justice"*



**THOMAS WOLSEY**  
1473-1530  
St Peter's Church  
Cardinal Archbishop of York and Lord Chancellor of England. Ordained Priest in this Church 10



**3. The Town Hall** was built 1900-02, although there has been a Town Hall on this site since 1656

**THOMAS HANCOCK**  
1786-1865  
Inventor of the vulcanisation of rubber  
**WALTER HANCOCK**  
1799-1852  
Inventor of the Passenger Steam Road Carriage  
Lived at 3-4 High Street



**5. The Priory** is an 1820 house in a style known as Strawberry Hill Gothic. It overlooks gardens on the River Kennet and sits on the site of a 14<sup>th</sup> Century Carmelite friary



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**THE GREAT FIRE OF MARLBOROUGH**  
48 High Street  
28 April 1653  
Began near this place, at the house of Francis Freeman, Tanner *"Where in three hours were consumed at least 250 houses"*



**6. St Peter's Church** dates from about 1460. It survived the fire of 1653, but the interior did not survive a massive Victorian facelift. Declared redundant in 1974, it now houses a café, craft shop and is also used as a space for exhibitions, lectures and concerts. There are fine views of the town for those taking the tower tour