

Our Queen and Our Community



On Sunday, 12th June, our community marked the Queen's 90th birthday at a well-attended Civic Service at St Mary's Church followed by celebrations at the Town Hall. It was all arranged between Churches Together and the Town Council with a focus on the Queen as well as a look at how Marlborough has changed during those 90 years. The congregation was made up of many local community and voluntary groups sitting alongside our Mayor, his fellow Councillors, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Richard Handover, CBE and Mayors from across the county.

A recording of the speech by the then Princess Elizabeth on her birthday on 21st April 1947 was played, a poignant message where the Princess dedicated her life to the service of the Commonwealth. Dr Janneke Blokland's own sermon focussed on the importance of how the Church, Town Council and our local community are all dedicated to Marlborough.

The Revd Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy gave special gifts to two members of the congregation, Vinnie Harris and Bill Soames who, like the Queen, are celebrating their 90th birthdays this year. He presented representatives from various groups with a special commemorative booklet – The Servant Queen.

Those collecting these included – The Royal British Legion, Alzheimers Support, Jubilee Centre, Mencap, the Scouts, Brownies, Kennet Valley Transport and more.

Afterwards the whole congregation moved across to a bunting clad Town Hall for a glass of Bucks Fizz and a royal cupcake where our new Town Cryer, Mike Tupman, MBE asked everyone to raise a glass with three cheers for the Queen.



A Civic Selfie!

The Mayor wielding a telescopic selfie stick and ably assisted by Marlborough News Online, took a selfie to commemorate the occasion. As many as possible squeezed behind him to create this modern memory.

A Marlborough Exhibition

Those attending also had a chance to look at a small



exhibition of Marlborough memories with newspaper clippings, old photographs, Church Registers and the old Council Minute Books from 1926, 1953 and 1977 – all significant royal dates. Running on the screen throughout the event was film footage of Queen Elizabeth's life – as a small child, her wedding to the Duke of Edinburgh, the 1953 Coronation, her Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilee years and more. Everyone was able to take away a copy of The Servant Queen.



The Town Council and Churches Together would like to thank all those who worked hard to bring this together with a special mention to David Sherratt and Michael Gray and the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. Most importantly, many thanks to all those who came along to help celebrate on 12th June 2016. Finally, of course, a Happy Birthday to Her Majesty.

Comments and enquiries to the council are always welcome, you can contact us on:-

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