

Marsworth News

Serving the village and parish of Marsworth

Your independent village newsletter, produced ten times a year, omitting August and January. Delivered free to every home in Marsworth.

Items for next month's newsletter by the 18th of the month.

Email to:
editor@marsworthnews.co.uk
Adverts to:
advertising@marsworthnews.co.uk

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Changes at Marsworth News!

As this is the first edition of the year, can we take the opportunity to wish all our readers a happy 2026.

This month we say goodbye to Sandra Costello who has edited this publication for the last 10 years. Her tenure has seen it go from strength the strength and we owe her a huge debt of gratitude.

Because we couldn't let such a valuable village resource disappear, we, Zoë Card and Lynn Mildner, have volunteered to take on the job. We hope we will do Sandra, and you the villagers of Marsworth justice. As it turns out, getting the Marsworth News to such a professional standard is harder than it looks, so please bear with us. Luckily there is a fabulous team behind the scenes, and we suspect our proofreader,

Elaine Standen, will be working extra hard this week. Sandra has volunteered her advice too, so hopefully we will be able to pull it off!

In the March edition we are thinking of including a calendar of village and local events, which hopefully will include bin collection days! If there are any other additions you would like to see in future do let us know by email: editor@marswothnews.co.uk and we will see what we can do.

Deadline for copy is around the 18th each month so if you would like something included, please send it in prior to then.

We would particularly like to involve some of the young people of the village, showcasing their photographs, original written articles and details of any fundraising efforts they want to publicise.



Red Lion Rebuilding Delays

The Red Lion has been informed by the council planning office that due to staff shortages the planning decision on rebuilding the pub will be delayed for at least another 8 weeks.

See Kate Andrew's full report on page seven

Marsworth News

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Marsworth News also available online at Marsworth.org.uk

Marsworth Village Hall Hire of rooms

Main Hall - available for parties and special occasions.

Licensed for up to 100 seated and up to 200 for dances.

Upstairs room - available for meetings or activities.

Can seat 24 for smaller functions.

For bookings, availability and charges contact Frances Brown on 01296 661211 after 4.00pm.

The Bucks Herald

Please send items about upcoming events, or of local interest, to: Kate Andrew
01296 668727 / 07963 180466 or
kate.andrew@btinternet.com

Last postal collections (Marsworth)

Church, Hall and Startups:

Mon-Fri: 9.00am / Sat: 7.00am

Tring Post Office - 5.30pm

Ivinghoe Post Office - Open:

Mon- Sat: 7.30am - 8.30pm

Sun: 9.00am - 4.00pm

Diary Dates - February 2026

04	Wednesday	8.30pm	Marsworth 100 Draw, Village Hall
09	Monday	8.00pm	Village Hall
11	Wednesday	7.30pm	Quiz Night, The Red Lion
18	Wednesday	10.15am	Ash Wednesday Communion Ivinghoe
14/28	Saturday	9.00am - 2.00pm	Farmers' Market Tring Church Square
28	Saturday	9.30am-12.30pm	Repair Café, Pitstone Pavilion

Editorial

By Lynn Mildner and Zoë Card

With Christmas and the New Year celebrations seemingly a long way past now Zoë and Lynn are both really excited to be editing the Marsworth News in 2026 and looking forward to getting to know more of you through the newsletter.

The new year also sees both the Red Lion and the old White Lion facing challenges with delayed planning decisions, Hopefully both issues will see resolution soon.

It is lovely to see after a quiet year last year, the starling murmurations are back. In smaller numbers than previously they have been spotted a few times now, at dusk, but this morning at dawn too.



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Parish Council meeting precis

- Dec 25 and Jan 26



For full Minutes of all meetings, future agendas and other information go to:
www.marsworth.org.uk/marsworth-parish-council/meetings-minutes-agenda-dates.

Marsworth Parish Council (MPC) Parish meetings held in December 25 and January 26

Clerk's new email address

To comply with new Government accessibility requirements, Marsworth Parish must move to a .gov.uk domain. A new website is currently under construction, and the Parish Clerk now has a new email address: clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk

Retirement of Sandra Costello, Editor of Marsworth News

MPC placed on record its appreciation for her support of Marsworth over many years.

Budget and Precept

The budget for 2026/27 was agreed and a precept was approved of £27,050. This means that a Band D property will pay £75.94 precept per year, against £72.99 last year.

Self Healing Matting on the 2 Village noticeboards

The new matting on the noticeboards make it much easier to pin notices. Please only use pins and not staples and A5 size only so that everything fits. If you need items laminated please email them to the Parish Clerk and she can also organise for information to go on the website. Charities, events, volunteering: please no sales.

Marsworth Village Hall Audio Visual Equipment (AV) & Heating Systems

With section 106 funding, works are almost complete on the heating controls and audio visual equipment at the village hall.

Railing at Startops

MPC was last advised that the railing would be completed by Christmas 2025. There is currently no date for when the railings will be installed and our Buckinghamshire Councillors are treating this as a priority. The works and temporary traffic lights from the 15-19 January were for a new connection by Thames Water.

Marsworth Parish Councillors

Bob Kennedy (Chairman)	07962 002250
Ray Brown	01296 661211
Giles Monks	01296 662104
Chris King	01296 660019
Steve Smith	07753 744437
Robert John	07768 004337
Helen Gracie	07748 145762

Parish Council meeting dates 2026

9th February 8.00pm in Village Hall

Recreation Ground Flooding

Stephen Wooler, Parish Councillor Steve Smith and the Clerk have been investigating the flooding at the Recreation Ground for two years and, in particular, the ownership of and responsibility for the culvert and watercourse (created originally by the Grand Junction Canal Company) adjacent to Bridgeways (a former lockkeeper's cottage) on the Aylesbury Arm at Marsworth.

The issue is an important one because the poor condition and partial collapse of the culvert causes flooding to the recreation ground at times of heavy or prolonged rain with the recreation ground continuing to flood during the wetter part of this last summer. The evidence resulting from investigations by Marsworth Parish Council creates an overwhelming inference that title to the strip of land in question has belonged to the canal company since it was acquired in 1813 from St Thomas's Hospital Trust for the purpose of constructing the Aylesbury Arm - even though the CRT does not acknowledge its ownership. The small strip of land between Bridgeways and the Recreation Ground - the land in question - has never been registered. The MPC Chairman has now written to CRT with extensive documentation regarding ownership and is awaiting CRT's comments.

Next MPC Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 9 February at 8.00 pm. Any items for the agenda Sunday 30 November. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting, but please let the Parish Clerk know in advance if you intend to be present clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk



need to have been submitted to the Parish Clerk by Sunday 30 November. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting, but please let the Parish Clerk know in advance if you intend to be present clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk

All Saints Church



Lent and Transfiguration

February is a month when the Church celebrates both the start of Lent and Jesus being transfigured, so I'm surprised we don't hear more about the Prophet Jonah. Jonah is one of the very few minor prophets in the Bible who has a good story and whose message of repentance (a strong Lent theme) evoked a positive response.

Here my favourite Franciscan, Richard Rohr, shares his thoughts about Jonah and about positive transformation.

"In the late 1980s, I began my studies into men's rites of passage. I read everything I could on why every ancient culture deemed it necessary in to initiate the male. It seemed that no culture assumed that men would grow up naturally, because nothing in the male wants to descend. He wants to ascend; he wants to be number one. It's the competitive nature of masculinity, which has totally informed our culture, no matter who we are. Something has to break through that."

For me, there is no story, other than the Jesus story himself, which makes that point quite as clearly as Jonah's story. Here we have a man who is running from God, running from his own vocation, and God sends a fish to swallow him and take him where he would rather not go. That's perfect! That's initiation! We have to be swallowed by something bigger than ourselves. The phrase used by many, including Thomas Merton, was that we have to go into the "belly of the beast, a place where we are not in control, where we can't fix it, explain it, understand it, or even like it. Our lack of control, our lack of preference isn't important. We just have to learn from it.

I've always made a great deal of the passage where Jesus says, "This generation is an evil generation; it seeks a sign, but no sign will be given except the sign of Jonah" (Luke 11:29). He is saying that his message is simple and clear: You've got to die before you can really live. In rites of initiation we teach people that they have to go down before they can possibly go up. In modern psychological language, we call it the death of the ego or the separate self. What has to die is our sense of separateness, because what goes with separateness is superiority. Once we define ourselves according to our nationality, culture, religion, or identity, we feel we have to defend each one of those. What a waste of energy! We sink to scolding and blaming; not just are we "number one," but everyone else is a second-class citizen.

That's how dualistic our thoughts become. To undergo the sign of Jonah feels like losing, and by worldly standards, it looks like it, too. The sign of Jonah is a symbol of surrender, of letting go, of giving up. Most of us wouldn't describe those as the stages of the journey of enlightenment, but they're much closer to the real truth and the real journey." Have a transformational Lent and keep saying your prayers!

James

Who's Who at All Saints Marsworth

www.achurchnearyou.com/All-Saints-Marsworth



Vicar: Rev James Grainger-Smith
01296 297915 j.grainger-smith@sky.com

Churchwardens:

Neil Kennedy 01296 660973 n.kennedy@btinternet.com
Richard Hares 01296 663652 rffhares@aol.com

PCC members:

Ken Longhurst 01296 660711 k.c.longhurst@talk21.com
Gavin Merrylees 01296 668046 gavin.merrylees@gmail.com
John White 01296 662252 horse.71shoe@sky.com
Gill White 01296 662252 horse.71shoe@sky.com
Jenny Sheils 01296 668230 sheils.j@btinternet.com
(Treasurer)
Ruth Monks 07751 430323 ruthmonks@btinternet.com

Church flowers:

Gill White 01296 662252
horse.71shoe@sky.com

Food Bank:

Richard Cooper 01296 661725
richard.bennettcooper@outlook.com

Bellringers tower captain:

Richard Booth 07850 038197
rbooth.maffers@talktalk.net

Church mowing:

Gavin Merrylees 01296 668046
gavin.merrylees@gmail.com

Choir:

Neil Gurney 07732 721953

Church cleaning:

Elsie Beesley 01296 668492
elsiebeesley@aol.com

February Services for Marsworth

(at All Saints' Church unless otherwise stated)

1st Feb	9.15am	Holy Communion
8th Feb	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
15th Feb	9.15am	Holy Communion
18th Feb	10.15am	Ash Wednesday Communion @ Ivinghoe
22nd Feb	6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)



Beacon Villages Community Library

Run by the community for the community

Opening hours

Tuesday, Thursday 2 - 5pm
Wednesday 10am - 12 noon, 2 - 5pm
Thursday 2 - 5pm
Friday 2 - 7pm
Saturday 10am - 1pm

General enquiries: info@bvcl.org.uk,
01296 387890.



Bridge Club at Marsworth

New members welcome.

Come and join us.

First and third Mondays of the month at 1.30pm in the Mike Frost (upstairs) room at the Village Hall.

Contact: Mike Mullally:zen40567@gmail.com or 07984



Marsworth Village Hall 100 Club



December 100 club draw.

£100 winners

No:4 Jill and John White – Horse Shoe Cottage

No:136 Tony Brook - Vicarage Road

£50 winners

No:158 Nigel Lamb - Bluebell Cottage

No:154 Robin Brinklow - Lukes Lea.

£20 winners

No:164 Sarah Dean - Aspens Farm

No:120 Gill and Roger Neal - Norvic Road

No:161 Clare Hill - Wagtails

No:152 Elaine Standen - Lukes Lea

No:19 Trisha Alderton - Vicarage Road.

January 2026 100 club draw

£20 winners

No:155 Alan and Linda Beardsley - Lukes Lea

No:19 Trisha Anderson - Vicarage Road

No:101 Jayne and Jim Treebooker - Stepnells

No:77 Mavis Gates - Lower Icknield

No:47 Julie Grace - Tring

Huge congratulations to all of the winners in the last two month's draws. The next draw will take place at the Red Lion on Wednesday 4th February 8.30pm, after the committee meeting at the Village Hall. Please do come along and good luck to you all!

Stephanie Hurley

Council takes decisive action to cut congestion and curb disruption from roadworks – including Lower Icknield Way



Buckinghamshire Council is moving decisively to tackle the delays and day-to-day disruption residents experience from roadworks, with the introduction of a new Lane Rental Scheme that will keep people and businesses moving.

Following government approval, the council will introduce its own Lane Rental Scheme — Lane Rental: Streets Ahead — a major step to reduce disruption and improve journey reliability across the county. The scheme allows the council to charge up to £2,500 per day for works

carried out on the busiest parts of the road network at peak times, encouraging companies to plan smarter, work together and finish jobs faster.

The scheme will apply to around 7.8% of Buckinghamshire's network (approximately 500 roads and streets) and is expected to go live in spring 2026. It complements Buckinghamshire Highways' existing permit scheme and is designed to drive industry-wide behavioural change.

Following representations by Marsworth and Pitstone Parish Councils, Lower Icknield Way will be included in this scheme.

Money raised will first cover the costs of running the scheme. Any additional funds will be ringfenced in the council's Streets Ahead Investment Fund to reinvest directly into initiatives that reduce the disruption and adverse effects caused by roadworks, delivering visible benefits for residents.

What residents will see:

- Fewer roadworks at the busiest times and on the busiest routes
- Quicker completion of essential works through better coordination
- More reliable journey times and reduced congestion
- Smarter, collaborative planning between utilities and contractors

Can you spare some time to help others?

We're looking for volunteers to support adults and young people who are at risk of homelessness

Our Bearbrook Place service in Aylesbury offers supported accommodation to people aged between 16-55 who are either homeless, or at risk of becoming so. We're seeking volunteers to provide dedicated support to help equip our residents with the skills and confidence they need to live more independently.

How you can help?

- **Be a Mentor** - offer guidance and friendship.
- **Lead Workshops** - share your skills in cooking, budgeting, job preparation, exercise, gardening, DIY, games and more.
- **Signpost to support services** - connect residents with essential resources.

If you'd like to find out more, please get in touch or complete our application form online by scanning the QR code below.

01296 484322

volunteers@connectionsupport.org.uk

connectionsupport.org.uk





Works progressing well at Wilstone Reservoir as spring re-opening nears

By Kate Andrew

Visitors to Wilstone Reservoir can expect easier access and improved safety this spring, as essential works around the popular beauty spot continue to move forward on schedule.

A spokesperson for Canal & River Trust and contractors Kier has confirmed that both the car park and the main footpath are on track to re-open by the end of March.



The footpath, which has been temporarily closed during the winter, is being resurfaced to make it more accessible for walkers, birdwatchers, and local residents.

A set of new steps is also being installed to link the car park with the upper path. This will include a resting platform halfway up, designed to make the climb easier for visitors of all ages and abilities. About 200m of the footpath into the woods on the north-west side is being partially surfaced, as well as the whole crest around the reservoir of approximately 1,250 linear metres.



Where the piles extend out of the ground for approximately 200 metres on the south west embankment, nine new seating areas are being installed, each measuring three metres long on top of the flat steel pile cap for public viewing and resting points.

Alongside the access improvements, engineers are continuing work to reline the culvert that runs beneath the site. The ditch downstream of the culvert outfall is also being cleared.

The culvert gives the reservoir engineers the option of diverting the water from the upstream reservoirs (Tring etc) to either Wilstone Reservoir or into local watercourses.

Aylesbury Arm Locks 1 to 16

By Caroline Smith

The arm locks 1 to 16 were closed back in June whilst works to the Wilstone Reservoir took place. The Arm remained closed to enable a weed boat to run through and remove any weed that has been hampering navigation. (The boats that have passed through reported it was almost impossible). Boats have been permitted through on a Thursday prebooked for either Bate's Boat yard or ACS, for business purposes only, not leisure travel.

The weed boat had removed over 150 tonnes of weed by the end of November and was only half way along the Arm.

The closure was initially to conserve water as the need in other areas with Wilstone works was more demanding and it enabled the Grand Union canal to remain open. The Wilstone reservoir will refill naturally over the winter and when sufficient excess is available the Aylesbury Arm will be reopened.

Serving the village and parish of Marsworth

Save the Date!

**Roving Canal Traders Association
Bank Holiday Floating Market**



Grand Union Canal Towpath at Marsworth Reservoir from Lock 39 to Lock 40

Saturday 2nd May from 10.00am to Monday 4th May finishing at 5pm

The World Famous Waffle Boat will be serving food

Marsworth and District Miscellany

Items for *Bucks Herald*, by Kate Andrew. Some of these get fuller treatment elsewhere in this issue.

For weekly updated village and local news search for Bucks Herald and Marsworth.

Blow to Red Lion repairs hopes, due to staff shortages in Planning Department

The fire-damaged Red Lion pub in Marsworth faces another two months of delays before work can start on repairs, thanks to staff shortages in the Planning Department at Bucks Council.

Managers Pete and Mandy Oxley were expecting the green light for work to finally begin, giving the hope that the pub might be back to normal by early summer.

But instead, they have just heard from the Council that, due to staff shortages, the application to rebuild the damaged parts of the pub after the devastating blaze last May, has been delayed by eight weeks, says Mandy.

'We were expecting to hear that we could start work this week,' she adds.

The fire started in a roof space and badly damaged the dining area, kitchen and outhouses, which are all under scaffolding.

Being Grade II-listed, any plans for the pub's repair have had to go through a heritage process and now planning approval.

Marsworth Parish Council Chairman, Bob Kennedy, comments: 'Because the property is listed, any changes or even repairs need a formal application and approval process. Not only does this add needless delay, it adds cost.

'The general planning process needs a serious review to streamline it and remove simple non-controversial changes from it altogether or at least allow a fast low-level approval to occur.'

The pub bar reopened last July and has been well supported by locals. Food vans visit regularly and Pete and Mandy organise an ongoing series of events, so it continues to be an important social hub for the village, while repairs are awaited.

The Red Lion's upcoming line-up of events includes:

Looking ahead, the ever-popular Quiz Night returns on February 11.

Meanwhile the former White Lion pub conversion project has also been mired in planning process delays.

Stolen Golf R still missing after £100k break-in at Marsworth dealership

SMT Automotive in Marsworth is open again after suffering a major break-in on December 16, causing more than £100,000 in damage and losses.

Three cars were stolen, two of which — a BMW X5 and a Mercedes E53 — have since been recovered with false plates. The third vehicle, a Limestone Grey Volkswagen Golf R (VO16 VLY), is still missing.



Ricky Thakrar, director of the dealership, says there has been no further progress as of last week: police have not yet located the missing car, the business is still waiting for insurance updates, and repair quotes for the damaged showroom front are still outstanding. Despite the disruption, the dealership has reopened.

Ricky and his girlfriend could see the distressing events unfolding on his phone, triggered by the alarm system, as hooded, masked intruders smashed the showroom window at night. They rushed to the scene, arriving before the police. They found the showroom doors were smashed, glass was everywhere and cars were missing.

'Our team at SMT Automotive were incredible – staff came in at short notice to help clear glass, move vehicles, secure what we could, and try to make the site safe again.'

The community response has been overwhelmingly supportive, with residents sharing updates and offering messages of encouragement. Ricky continues to urge the public to stay alert and report any sightings of the missing Golf R, which is a distinctive Limestone Grey colour.

Parking Issues

Villagers have been posting about parking issues in Church Lane, Marsworth. Those leaving their cars there are urged to consider whether a fire engine would be able to get through. Delivery vans can find it hard to access homes. A utilities van reportedly damaged grass and a wall this month because of parked cars and, in the past week, a lorry broke its wing mirror on bushes because it could not get through, say residents.

Cold Callers

Marsworth Neighbourhood Watch is warning that cold callers have recently been to the village, apparently collecting late into the evening on behalf of Great Ormond St Hospital. 'This may be genuine but we cannot verify this,' says MNW.



Fraud services advise that you do not reveal any personal details to strangers and do not enter into any agreement if you feel pressurised. If you wish to support the hospital, you can do so via their website.

Ashridge House; a hotel:

Ashridge House, near Berkhamsted, can now be used as a hotel after Dacorum Borough Council’s planning committee agreed to a change of use. So, it can be stayed at by leisure guests, not just those attending for conferences, training or weddings. Ashridge House, as it looks today, dates back to 1808 and has gardens designed by Humphrey Repton and Capability Brown.



Local LIDL opens soon

Lidl in Tring is due to open on February 12. There are 99 car parking spaces, of which six are disabled spaces and seven, parent and child. There will be opening offers, and five tills, plus self-service, and a customer toilet.

There will be plenty of fresh produce and a ‘middle of Lidl’ selling a changing range of goods.



The majority of staff have been recruited locally, says Debby Hughes who has been posting regularly about Lidl’s progress on Everything Tring and has been invited to the opening. Debby adds that there is no immediate bus stop there, but Lidl is looking into this.

Marshcroft

The stage 3 hearings on the Dacorum Local Plan, which includes the huge Marshcroft development near Tring Station, will be in the weeks commencing March 2, 9 and 23, in the Council Chamber at Dacorum Council Offices, Hemel Hempstead.

Road Round Up

The traffic lights were out at Marsworth bridge, close to Waters Edge Café, on Thursday, with traffic stationary and a red light both sides. Temporary traffic lights were later in place over the weekend while Thames Water worked on pipes close to the White Lion site. There was also a road closure at Cook’s Wharf in the parish, due to water main repairs, causing some issues for drivers.

There is a large pothole on the road coming from Dunstable to Ivinghoe, just below the Beacon turn-off. Drivers are also complaining of a large pothole near the Denbe Theatre on Station Road, Tring.

Brewery damage

Tring Brewery staff were in for a 6.30am surprise when an 18-tonne lorry loaded with a crane careered into its brewery shop, due to a reversing mishap. While repairs are instigated, the shop is still open, having moved into the unscathed Piggeries taproom next door where 14 beers are on tap. Food is available at Dunsley Farm Shop café.

Bus Issues

On Everything Tring there has been much discussion about delays involving the 500 bus to Hemel and Aylesbury, run by Red Eagle.

The company recently introduced a new timetable.

You could be advertising here!

£10 for one issue

£50 for ten issues

We can help with layout and graphics.

Contact: advertising@marsworthnews.co.uk

Marsworth: Festive fun at the Red Lion as village welcomes the new year

By Kate Andrew

The Red Lion rang in 2026 with a Christmas movies-themed New Year's Eve celebration that drew a lively crowd and plenty of festive spirit.

Many partygoers arrived in full fancy dress, including one young guest who charmed everyone as Cindy Lou Who from *The Grinch*.

An impromptu auction added an extra element of fun to the evening. Live music from three talented local lads kept the atmosphere buzzing, and dancing carried on late into the night as villagers and friends welcomed the new year together.

The Red Lion is keeping the momentum going with a full line-up of events:

Quiz Night returns on 11th February, promising another season of friendly rivalry and community fun.

The Red Lion continues to be a vibrant hub for locals, offering visits by food vans, music, events and a warm welcome to all as the new year begins. The kitchen and dining area of the historic pub were damaged by a fire last year, but the bar is very much open while heritage permissions for full repairs remain ongoing.



Santa's helper (right)



The Mask (below)



The Red Lion, Marsworth



Marsworth News

Send us your **Photos, Articles** and items of interest

Help us amake Marsworth News!

Send to editor@marsworthnews.co.uk

Marsworth Ladies

By Chris King

Marsworth Ladies continues to thrive, and at our December meeting we celebrated Christmas at Chiltern Forest Golf Club once again, and the evening was a delight. The hospitality shown to us was superb and the food is both delicious and generous in portions. Each member was given a beautifully wrapped Christmas gift of some seeds to be planted in the spring. What a lovely evening enjoyed amongst good friends.

Last year, we were still Marsworth WI, such a lot has changed in that time. The meetings are really vibrant with some great speakers, we are able to decide how our subs are spent, and we are not answerable to any other organisation. It hardly seems possible that our first AGM is not that far away. We do not have a January meeting, and so the next meeting will be at the beginning of February when we will have a Sing-along with The Kensal Duo, which I look forward to.



**Seniors Christmas Lunch –
22nd December 2025***By Richard Cooper*

In early October the team (Richard & Lisa Cooper, Helena Winter-Brown, Tony & Di Harvie and William & Jane Blumsom) met to start planning the Seniors Christmas Lunch.

Booking the hall was first, followed by contacting local supermarkets for donations. Our private donors were incredibly generous and without them it would probably not be possible to hold the event.

Also the Marsworth Charity were very generous as were many local people, who dropped of all sorts of useful things ranging from bottles of wine, champagne, mince pies, panettones and a myriad of other presents. The Marsworth Craft Club wonderfully gave everyone a carefully made gift.

Monday 22nd December came all too quickly and by 8.30am the ovens were on and Helena had the turkey cooking. Around the village Ali Wade was making her superb trifles, Jeremy Whitehead and Annie Sandon were preparing vegetables and then the team arrived to set up and lay the tables – a major project for 63 people, making sure everyone had crackers and that there were plenty of pots of cranberry jelly. Di Harvie did an incredible job with her amazing table decorations so the whole hall looked really festive.

Helena had a team of over 17 servers, waitresses and washers-up all ready for the rush. They were fantastic and never stopped laughing among themselves and with all the guests. It was marvellous that they came, not just from Marsworth, although most did, but also from across the benefice, including Pitstone, Ivinghoe, Slapton and Ivinghoe Aston.

There were a couple under 80 and our oldest was the remarkable Kitty Pinnock, who will reach 107 in February.



Guests started arriving by 11.30 am and enjoying a glass – or two – of sherry. Lunch was served after a riotous game of pass-the-parcel, and our superb singer, Anna Sewall, sang lots of carols and Christmas songs, which they all loved. Richard said grace then lunch was served, with everyone being asked which vegetables they would like – most saying 'all of them!' The level of chatter never



faded as it was clear they were all having a great time. Here Father Christmas (Paul Barber) burst through the doors with much Ho Ho Hoing, cheering from everyone and presents for all.

Local names and numbers

All Saints Marsworth - See Church page

Bucks Councillors for Marsworth

Chris Poll - chris.poll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Peter Brazier - peter.brazier@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Canal & River Trust -

Customer Services: 03030 404040

enquiries.southeast@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Crime Stoppers

0800 555 111 / crimestoppers-uk.org/

Marsworth Archive

Jonny Taylor - marswortharchive@gmail.com

Marsworth Bridge Club - Mike Mullally,

zen40567@gmail.com or 07984 409035

Marsworth Craft Club

marsworthcraftclub@hotmail.com

Marsworth Infants School - Office:

01296 668440 / office@marsworth.bucks.sch.uk

Marsworth Ladies - Christine King - 01296 660019

Neighbourhood Watch - MarsworthNHW@gmx.com

Parish Council—See Parish Council page

Police - Wing & District Neighbourhood

Policing Team, 73 Leighton Road, Wing, LU7 0RD

To report a non-urgent crime, telephone 101 or visit www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/

For non-urgent enquiries, email:

WingNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk.

In an emergency dial 999

Street problems - To report a problem on a street/road in Bucks e.g. potholes, signage etc:

FixMyStreet - fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk

For street lighting: clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk

Village Hall bookings - See page 2

Windmill Pre-School

Emma McEnteggart - 01296 661031

Manager@windmillpreschool.co.uk

Bucks Councillors Report

January 2026



Cllr Peter Brazier and I would like to wish all residents within Ivinghoe ward the very best for this New Year of 2026.

It has been a very busy 7 months since the elections in May, and we have quickly settled into the new council term, Peter having been appointed as a Cabinet member for Culture and Leisure, and myself as Chairman of the Community Board. Besides these roles there is the day-to-day tasks of answering residents' enquiries and attending those meetings in Aylesbury and elsewhere as required. I shall be attending the budget scrutiny committee for the whole of the second week of January; more background to which can be found in the following paragraphs. It does not make for happy reading I am sorry to say. Central Government has pushed Local Government budgets for years and despite what some may say, this year is no exception. In Buckinghamshire, we are facing unprecedented financial pressures. The central government's recent Fair Funding Review means we face a reduction in funding in real terms.

Budget

The settlement for local authorities was announced in the middle of December and, as expected, Buckinghamshire has suffered a reduction in funding. The forecast figure was an anticipated cut of £42.5 million over the financial settlement period. This was made more difficult given the lack of clarity provided by Government, but it proved to be broadly correct – the actual figure is a reduction in funding of £44.5 million.

As costs rise and the demand for statutory services like adult social care and special educational needs support for children continue to grow, currently approximately 73% of our entire budget, we need to make some very difficult decisions in relation to spending in the year ahead.

Following the public consultation we ran last autumn, we have now developed a draft budget for 2026-27. This will go before our Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Task and Finish Group in mid-January. If you have a question you would like to be considered for discussion by the Committee about a specific aspect of our proposed budget, please email it to: budget.scrutiny@bucks.gov.uk before 12pm on 11 January 2026.

This is obviously unwelcome news and the further £2 million reduction from the forecast serves to place even greater pressure on our finances.

Government have claimed that the "Core funding power" for Bucks has been INCREASED by 14.1%. This is completely misleading. The actual measure should be called "Core Spending Power" (CSP) which relates to the non-ringfenced money available to this council, including the INCREASES in Council Tax that the "Fair Funding" formula forces us to account for.

The actual increase in CSP, including the rises in Council Tax for the 3-year settlement period is 8.1%. The average across England is an increase of 15.1%. So Bucks, even with a 5% per annum council tax increase,

only sees half the core spending power gain of the rest of England. This figure does NOT account for inflation – so the reality is that the small CSP increase will largely be inflated away and yet the demand for services continues to rise. Without the increases to council tax there would be an overall REDUCTION in CSP of approx. 5% - worth around £30m.

Government is claiming this is a 14.1% increase because, inexplicably, they have chosen to use LAST YEAR as their baseline comparison and not this current year!

The headline message is that Buckinghamshire residents will see increases in Council Tax and money will be sent to other parts of the country, overall Bucks will have £44.5 million less as a county.

There is, however, some good news within our own budget. There has been an increase in the expansion of our Council Tax base. This has provided additional resources into the budget which means fewer cuts will need to be made than previously assumed.

As a result, the budget proposals have been changed to 'buy back' some options, a number of which are relatively minor and non-resident focused but the key resident ones are.

Therefore, we will retain weekly frequency of bin collections, the increases in road and transport investment, the retention of all Household Recycling Centres and keeping public toilets open!

Other Councils in the country are squeezing these areas and making swingeing cuts or changes to services. Despite the targeted attack on rural county and unitary authorities by the Government a history of strong, sound and prudent control of our budgets in Buckinghamshire has meant we can adjust to provide a balanced budget.

The reality is that Government are also reducing grants and investment in other areas – such as the cancellation of the previously promised SEND school. Plus, we also don't yet know what the SEND reforms will result in. The fact is that the funding provided is not sustainable over the long term.

I am sorry to be the bearer of such news but this is the reality every year when funding announcements are made.

Buckinghamshire housing plan

The initial proposals for the new Buckinghamshire wide housing plan will be announced soon. With Government seeking 1.5 million homes to be built in this parliament it is inevitable that we will see large scale development in Bucks. Where these will be proposed is not yet clear but we will expect to take our share within the ward. It is simply not possible to accommodate all of this in small sites or infill, there will inevitably be new larger developments.

I have always said that the arbitrary figure announced within their manifesto would be impossible to deliver. It now seems that statistics are showing this to be the case. Current projections are that between 700 and 800,000 could be built. There may well be 1.5 million permissions given but finances and skilled workforce are just not there to enable delivery.

(continued from page 11)

Finally.

As always, we attend almost every Parish Council meeting throughout the year, unless a meeting at Bucks council clashes, where we can be approached by residents or we welcome any communication by email at any time.

Once again, we wish you a very happy and prosperous 2026.

Kind regards, Chris Poll

Councillor for Ivinghoe ward.



Tring Local History Museum

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The history of Tring and the local area

Open: Fridays and Saturdays
10am to 4pm

The Museum is entirely volunteer run and entrance is FREE.



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Let us know if:

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- you cannot keep on top of your bills
- you are in debt
- you are struggling to pay for essential goods in your home

Get in touch

- [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/helping-hand](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/helping-hand)
- 01296 531 151

Our phone lines are open:

- Monday to Thursday (9am - 5:30pm)
- Friday (9am - 5pm)

In an emergency our out-of-hours team can be contacted on 0800 999 7677.



Marsworth Neighbourhood Watch



Have Your Say Meeting

Our designated PCSO Mike Coker met with villagers at The Red Lion in November. This was an opportunity for anyone to discuss issues that affect the village. We are lucky that crime in Marsworth is very low, so the major topics were speeding and inconsiderate parking. The car meets at the roundabout were also discussed, along with anti-social behaviour at the Startops Reservoir car park.

PCSO Coker was keen to raise awareness of fraud crime and deception. The operatives are so professional anyone can be caught out. He stressed please report anything suspicious, odd or you just have a feeling something is not right. Contact details for the Wing Local Policing Team are under "Local names and Numbers" in the newsletter, but always in an emergency dial 999.

Do not leave it to someone else or regret you didn't report something.

Contact telephone Number : 0300 123 2040

Report Fraud

Since December Report Fraud has replaced Action Fraud as the place to tell the Police about cyber-crime and fraud by reporting online or phoning their contact centre. It is run by the City Of London Police working alongside Report Fraud Analysis Services ensuring your report reaches the right place. The website helps you to report your incident and gives advice on how to protect yourself from 77 different types of fraud including pension, romance and credit card frauds.

They also offer a dedicated and specialist victim support service.

According to the 2023 Crime Survey for England and Wales, 1 in 17 adults were victims of fraud, equating to 4.6 million people a year affected in the UK. Anybody can be at risk of fraud, no matter your background, age or race. Fraudsters use manipulative tactics to exploit their victims and lower their defences, so nobody is immune to fraudulent behaviour.

Burglary at Lower End Garage

Sadly, in December SMT Automotive at Lower End experienced a burglary, where three cars were stolen and others damaged. To read the full report please see Kate Andrew's article on page 7 in this newsletter.





Church Square, High Street, Tring

From 9.00 am to 2.00 pm

Saturdays

Dates for 2026

14th & 28th February	11th & 25th July
14th & 28th March	8th & 22nd August
11th & 25th April	12th & 26th September
9th & 13th May	10th & 24th October
13th & 27th June	14th November
5th and 19th December	

*Apple Parade Day and Special Apple Fayre Market

To be held at The Market Place, Brook Street,

A message from Mike Coker



Be Car Safe!

As the New Year begins, many people are embracing resolutions that involve getting outdoors, walking and exercising in the fresh air. Countryside car parks are popular starting points for these activities, but they can also be a target for opportunistic thieves. To keep your car safe, it's important not to leave valuables or new Christmas presents, such as phones, iPads, coats, or bags on display inside your vehicle. Even a small item left visible can attract unwanted attention, so taking a moment to store belongings out of sight or leaving them at home helps ensure your day out in the fresh air isn't spoiled by a break-in.

Your Marsworth Neighbourhood Policing team

Road Gritting

Check to see which roads are gritted



We will generally grit priority roads when road temperatures drop below 0.5 degrees Celsius. Our priority roads include:

- all A and B roads
- some C roads
- other roads

You should still take extra caution during icy conditions and still treat the network as if it were untreated.

Heavy snowfall

In the event of heavy snowfall, we may focus on the county's most strategic routes - around 22% of the overall network. This will continue as long as it snows during which time only some A and B roads will be gritted. Once the snow has cleared, we will go back to the priority routes as soon as possible.

When we grit

We grit based on:

- weather forecasts
- road surface temperature and dampness
- air temperature and humidity

When we grit, we try to do so either before the ice has set or once the snow has settled.

Why roads may still be icy

This can be because:

- temperatures can fall after rain
- high winds or rain can take the salt off the road
- in weather below -8°C, ice will still form

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/check-to-see-which-roads-are-gritted/>

Saturday 28th
February 2026
 9:30-12:30
 Pitstone Pavilion
 LU7 9AP

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- ♻️ All electrical items
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Buckinghamshire Council proposes balanced budget plan



Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet has agreed its updated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) setting out budget proposals for the coming financial year. The council has once again put forward a balanced budget, as it is legally required to do, but warns that it is doing so under increasingly difficult national funding conditions, including the recent 'Fair Funding Review', which diverts vital resources away from Buckinghamshire.

Central government's 'Fair Funding Review' has resulted in Buckinghamshire losing out by £44.4 million, placing even further strain on the local council's finances at a time when demand for statutory services continues to grow. Also, government formulas explicitly include in their calculations an increase of 4.99% per year in Council Tax. Even with this rise in local tax, the overall 'core spending power' - the total funding available to Buckinghamshire Council - rises by only 8.1% in the coming three-year period, barely above expected inflation and well below the national average increase of 15.1%. Without the 'baked in' 4.99% Council Tax rise, Buckinghamshire would face a further £30m budget gap.

Ultimately, due to the government's approach, less money is available to Buckinghamshire and money as funds are instead being sent to other areas of the country.

Additionally central government has withdrawn funding from key local services and infrastructure, further shifting costs and responsibility onto local taxation. In recent weeks this has included the cancellation of a new Special Educational Needs (SEN) school which would have provided 152 new SEN places, leaving Buckinghamshire Council to fill the gaps.

Despite these changes the MTFP outlines in more detail the significant investment in services and priorities that residents outlined during the budget consultation last year.

These include:

£120 million for strategic highways maintenance and a further £98 million invested in other transport priorities including bridge maintenance, footways, drainage, streetlighting and bus infrastructure improvements, meaning a total investment of nearly £220 million

£49.7 million on Special Educational Needs provision and a further £107.7 million on Primary and Secondary schools, and school improvement projects

£108.2 million on strategic infrastructure in Aylesbury via the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF)

£46.8 million investment in waste, including a new household recycling centre and vehicle replacement

£28.1 million to support housing and homelessness including affordable housing to reduce temporary accommodation costs, and disabled facilities grants

£11.6 million on climate change and flood management.

Buckinghamshire Council Leader Steven Broadbent said: "This is an extremely challenging national context in which we have put forward our budget proposals. That said, I am proud that we are still able to focus investment into the priority areas our residents want their local tax to be spent on – roads, community facilities and services to help people who need extra support."

AN EVENING WITH

JOHN CAMERON

The Beacon Community Choir are proud to celebrate the music and achievements of multi-award winning, Oscar and Emmy nominated composer John Cameron. Renowned for his versatility, and originality, John's music spans genres and styles over a 60+ year international career working with the world's most renowned musicians. The programme, introduced by John himself, will include pop & rock, film music, extracts from musicals and classical compositions, and also music written especially for the Beacon Community Choir. Supported by a 10 piece instrumental ensemble this is a chance to encounter a musical legend both in person and through his music.

SATURDAY 16TH MAY 2026 @ 7.00
SUNDAY 17TH MAY 2026 @ 4.00

TICKETS £15 (children free) in advance from Lindsay Hewlett -
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Mains

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Paired with your choice of sauce, served with skin-on fries & a hearty portobello mushroom

Sauce Options

Garlic Butter or Peppercorn

Sides £5.50

Creamed Spinach, Onion Rings, Tenderstem Broccoli

Pan-seared Salmon Fillet

Served with a creamy garlic sauce accompanied by potato dauphinoise and steamed asparagus

Risotto

Pearl barley risotto infused with fresh herbs and seasonal vegetables

Desserts to Share

Have a Piece of My Heart

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Themes

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October *Out of the Mist*
November *Get with the Programme*
December *The Fourth King*
January *Deja Vu*
February *Roses*
March *Going to the Mattress*
April *Bun Fight*
May *Countdown*

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Respect
Courage
Compassion
Curiosity



Teach children how
they should live and
they will remember
it all their lives.

Proverbs 22:6



Healthy School

01296 668440
office@marsworth.bucks.sch.uk
marsworthschool.co.uk



**Ofsted
Good
Provider**

Ivinghoe site last inspected:
March 2024



**Windmill
Pre-school**

Ivinghoe & Marsworth

"The children are so happy to
run in everyday, that says it all!"




**Windmill Pre-School are enrolling now at our
Ivinghoe and Marsworth settings!**

We have TWO wonderful settings
Windmill, Marsworth takes children from 9months+–School age
Windmill, Ivinghoe takes children from two years old–School age




Ivinghoe contact:
ivinghoe@windmillpreschool.co.uk
01296 661031
Brookmead School site,
High street Ivinghoe
LU7 9EX

Funded hours
Both settings accept all funded hours
(the term after your child is eligible)
Fee paying sessions are also available from the day they
can join us!

Marsworth contact:
marsworth@windmillpreschool.co.uk
01296 821101
Marsworth Millennium hall,
Vicarage road, Marsworth,
HP23 4LR

Contact Area manager, Emma on
manager@windmillpreschool.co.uk to book your tour
of either/both settings NOW!

"We are so happy with the care our children have had at Windmill
Pre-School. The quality of teaching and learning here is second to
none and all of the staff show a genuine happiness of their job"

"All the little extras that Windmill offer, mean the world. Our
children have learnt so much during their time here and we are so
sad they have to leave to go to School"

Marsworth Photo Gallery

Please send your photos to editor@marsworthnews.co.uk



A winters day – Sara Wood



Sunrise – Max Lucas, 13



The White Lion and new signage - Simon Whitehead



Wilstone Reservoir—Kate Andrew



Charlotte's Tree, December -
Iain Puddephatt