

# 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. No issue in August or January.**

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**Plus much more!**

## The 'diamond sign' is back!

This sign, which had been a feature of Marsworth for over 100 years and had something of a place in the hearts of local people, was stolen from its concrete post by the White Lion Bridge on 13th October 2023. It is now back in place, looking even better than before.

Paul Rance, who undertook to refurbish it during 2016, has been its 'minder' since it was recovered under somewhat mysterious circumstances on 25th October 2023. Paul still has no idea what happened to it during those twelve days, or who might have taken it. It had sustained a certain amount of damage while being removed, and Paul decided to refurbish it once again.

Paul reports that the wording on this unusual sign, which itemises weight limits on the bridge, amounted to over 400 characters, each of which was painstakingly repainted; luckily the white background had been powder-coated in 2016 and only needed a good clean.

Helping Paul with the task of replacing the sign, estimated to weigh some 50kg, was a stalwart band of five young men:

Tom Folley, Blake Moorcroft, Jack Rance, Luke Johnson and Sam Messenger.

The two vehicles involved were able to partly pull off the Icknield Way so that the traffic flow over the bridge was unaffected.



Job done! - Paul Rance centre

# Marsworth News

editor@marsworthnews.co.uk

## Production team

Editor:

**Sandra Costello**

Advertising Manager:

**Annie Sandon** - 01296 660327

advertising@marsworthnews.co.uk

Treasurer

**Annie Sandon** - 01296 660327

Distribution:

**Caroline and Steve Smith**

07557 289049 / 07753 744437

Print: **Harlequin 52 Ltd.**

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### Items for *Marsworth News*

Please send items preferably well before Copy Date - 18th of the month (other than July and December).

*Marsworth News* is also published online on the Marsworth Parish website. Back copies from November 2021 can also be viewed here: <https://www.marsworth.org.uk/the-marsworth-news/>

## Village Hall defibrillator

Guidelines for usage of the defibrillator at the Hall are available on the Marsworth website: [www.marsworth.org.uk](http://www.marsworth.org.uk)



## The Bucks Herald

Please send items about upcoming events, or other items of local interest, however small, to: Kate Andrew  
01296 668727 / 07963 180466 or [kate.andrew@btinternet.com](mailto:kate.andrew@btinternet.com)

# Diary Dates - February 2024

12th Monday 8.00pm Parish Council meeting

25th Sunday 11.00am Litter pick - see page 9

## Coming events

20th March Bag2School collection (by 19th March please)

## Editorial

By *Sandra Costello*

I have been looking forward for some time to when we would be able to report the reinstatement of the 'diamond sign' which was done quickly and efficiently recently, and Paul Rance is to be applauded for all the work he put into refurbishing it and for his personal involvement at every stage of its recent history. Here's hoping there will be no repetition of it 'going AWOL'!

Unfortunately we were not able to get an obituary for Gary 'Pixie' Cella, who sadly drowned by his narrowboat last November. Obituaries are tricky things, and you can't just conjure them up unless you have a suitable contact to ask. However we have included the comprehensive account which our local journalist Kate Andrew prepared for the Bucks Herald soon after the event.

This month we have a new feature on page 16, called '**Local Treasures**'. The idea is for readers to put forward suggestions of places they go to regularly - or even occasionally - because they are enjoyable, offer a useful service and/or are great value. Please do send in a contribution of somewhere that you think others would enjoy or be glad to know about. If you are not up to doing the write-up yourself, you could always offer a 'How about ...?'.

## Recycling information

For your own bin collection day, go to: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/find-out-when-its-your-bin-collection/>



## Marsworth News

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

**Help us make Marsworth News!**

Send to [editor@marsworthnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@marsworthnews.co.uk)

## Marsworth Food Bank

We are extremely grateful for all the donations that have been received.

We would very much welcome donations of:

- Tins of soup, fruit, rice pudding, custard, baked beans, etc.
- Tea, coffee and biscuits.

Donations may be left in the box in the porch of All Saints church or at 'Karibu', Vicarage Gardens.

**Thank you on behalf of the Marsworth Food Bank Team.**



9.00am-12.30pm

### Dates for 2024

10 and 24 Feb	10 and 24 Aug
9 and 23 March	14 and 28 Sep
13 and 27 April	12 and 26 Oct
11 and 25 May	9 and 23 Nov
8 and 22 June	7 and 21 Dec
13 and 27 July	

# Parish Council meetings 11th December 2023 and 8th January 2024 - precis



For full Minutes of all meetings, future agendas and much other information go to [www.marsworth.org.uk/marsworth-parish-council](http://www.marsworth.org.uk/marsworth-parish-council).

## Precept

It was agreed by MPC that the precept be set at £23,000 (an increase of 5.54%) resulting in an uplift for Band D residents from £61.88 in 2023/24 to £64.57 for 2024/25, an increase of £3.52 per annum. Parish Council budget for 2024-2025 is available on the Marsworth website: <https://www.marsworth.org.uk/marsworth-parish-council/annual-accounts/>.

## New bench for courtyard at the Village Hall

The small remaining balance of the Section 106 funding from Marsworth Wharf will be used to purchase a bench for the courtyard at the Village Hall.

## Footpath sign at the recreation ground

This will be relocated to allow an increased turning circle for vehicles at the end of Watery Lane by the Recreation Ground.



## Caravan illegally parked at Startops Car Park

Canal & River Trust has set a legal process in place to remove the caravan.

## Pitstone Quarry restoration

The Clerk and Cllr Steve Smith from MPC attended the drop-in session on 28th November. The first phase will be completed 18 months from planning consent. This development will form part of the SAC (Special Area of Conservation) mitigation strategy in relation to protecting Ashridge.

## Transport to School Policy

The council was advised that Buckinghamshire Council is changing its Transport to School Policy. The consultation period on this ends 31st January. The MPC is to write to Bucks to ensure current options are maintained. Parents are advised to review the new policy, which is still in consultation stage: <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/integrated-transport/home-to-school-2024/>.

## Next MPC Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 12th February. Any items for the agenda should be submitted to the Parish Clerk by Sunday 4th February. Members of the public are welcome to attend but please let the Parish Clerk know in advance if you plan to be present [parishclerk@marsworth.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@marsworth.org.uk).

## Marsworth Parish Councillors

<b>Bob Kennedy</b> (Chairman)	01296 661533
<b>Ray Brown</b>	01296 661211
<b>Denise Cornwall</b>	07501 783807
<b>Giles Monks</b>	01296 662104
<b>Chris King</b>	01296 660019
<b>Steve Smith</b>	07753 744437
<b>Robert John</b>	07768 004337

**Caroline Smith** - Clerk to MPC - :07557 289049  
email: [parishclerk@marsworth.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@marsworth.org.uk)

## Parish Council meeting dates 2024

8.00pm in Village Hall

12 February	8 July
11 March	12 August
8 April (Easter Mon 1 April) inc Annual Parish Mtg	9 September
13 May (Bank Hol. 6 May) inc Annual Mtg of Council	14 October
10 June	11 November
	9 December



Part of The Red Lion being re-thatched, January 2024

# Marsworth News



## Special Award

This award goes to **Paul Rance** for his ongoing involvement with the White Lion Bridge sign - his work on refurbishing it (twice) and returning it each time to its rightful place.

Also for his involvement for many years in master-minding the fireworks at the annual Bonfire Night and for his involvement in the Steam Rally.

*This award is to recognise the efforts and achievements of local individuals who have done something recently for the benefit of Marsworth.*

**If you think someone in Marsworth deserves this award, please contact [editor@marsworthnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@marsworthnews.co.uk).**

## All Saints Church



At this time of year, we look back to 2023 and forward to 2024. The year of 2023 was for my family a very, very sad, difficult year. Following a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer in March 2022 our daughter Sarah died at the age of 58 in March 2023. The grief experienced by everyone who knew her was hard to bear. Christmas proved to be a considerable challenge since Sarah always produced a truly memorable celebration. However, for Christmas 2023 we and Sarah's family decided that a change of venue might help and we all went to stay with our son and his family in North Wales.

This proved to be a welcome respite from our grief with the company of young folk and surrounded by lovely mountains and beaches which we enjoyed visiting - the younger ones even venturing into the sea on Boxing Day! For us personally a service in Bangor Cathedral for Carols and Midnight Mass, a very High Church occasion conducted in Welsh, English and Latin was a very special, wonderful experience. I make no apologies for the personal nature of this part of the church newsletter.

Returning to Christmas in Marsworth, earlier in December the church was floodlit once again and remained so into January. As usual the church was traditionally decorated for the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols conducted by James. Thanks must go to those who decorated the church and Christmas tree and assembled the stable, manger and figurines, and also for the dismantling of same on 6th January 2024.

I understand that all the services held over Christmas were well attended. The Crib Service was held by Rev. Roger Hale on the afternoon of Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day Roger returned to All Saints to lead the Christmas morning Holy Communion Service. Thank you Roger for your much appreciated help. James conducted the Christmas Midnight Mass Service.

Moving on into the new year of 2024, the first event after the birth of Jesus at Christmas is the Feast of the

### Services for February 2024

#### Sunday 4th February

9.15am Common Worship, Holy Communion

#### Sunday 11th February

8.30am B.C.P. Holy Communion

#### Sunday 18th February

9.15am Common Worship, Holy Communion

#### Sunday 25th February

4.00pm Evensong

Epiphany on 6th January whereby the Infant Christ is introduced to the world as Saviour. The first to recognise the Christ Child were the shepherds who visited his place of birth at Christmas, and these were followed some days later by the Magi, or 'Three Wise Men' as known to us. These three travellers presented the baby with symbolic gifts and then departed. King Herod was perturbed by this new arrival of a baby who could possibly challenge his position, so he authorised the slaughter of every male child two years old or under within Bethlehem. Joseph and Mary, having been warned of this impending massacre, took their baby son Jesus to Egypt, only returning to Nazareth when it was safe to do so.

Within our own church, with James firmly established, we look forward to renewed and new growth and fellowship in the coming year. Hopefully this new year will see new faces within All Saints Church. Already we are seeing much more of the school children who are getting involved with services in the church, and we must thank James for his regular input in this field.

On the social front, the usual ramble took place on New Year's Day with 15 enjoying lunch afterwards in church. Thanks to Steve and Caroline Smith for organising the ramble. We have the Helpers' Party in The Red Lion on Friday 9th February as a way for the PCC to thank all those kind folk who give so much of their time to keeping All Saints Church and its environs looking shipshape throughout the year.

*John White, Churchwarden*

### Who's Who at All Saints Marsworth

[www.achurchnearyou.com/All-Saints-Marsworth](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/All-Saints-Marsworth)



Find us on Facebook

**Vicar:** James Grainger-Smith 01296 297915 [j.grainger-smith@sky.com](mailto:j.grainger-smith@sky.com)

**Churchwarden:** John White: 01296 662252 [horse.71shoe@sky.com](mailto:horse.71shoe@sky.com)

#### PCC members:

Ken Longhurst 01296 660711 [k.c.longhurst@talk21.com](mailto:k.c.longhurst@talk21.com)

Gavin Merrylees 01296 668046 [gavin.merrylees@gmail.com](mailto:gavin.merrylees@gmail.com)

Gill White 01296 662252 [horse.71shoe@sky.com](mailto:horse.71shoe@sky.com)

(Treasurer) Jenny Shiels 01296 668230 [sheils.j@btinternet.com](mailto:sheils.j@btinternet.com)

Ruth Monks 07751 430323 [ruthmonks@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthmonks@btinternet.com)

#### Church flowers:

Gill White 01296 662252

[horse.71shoe@sky.com](mailto:horse.71shoe@sky.com)

#### Food Bank:

Richard Cooper 01296 661725

[richard.bennettcooper@outlook.com](mailto:richard.bennettcooper@outlook.com)

#### Bellringers tower captain

Richard Booth 07850 038197

[rbooth.maffers@talktalk.net](mailto:rbooth.maffers@talktalk.net)

#### Church mowing:

Gavin Merrylees 01296 668046

[gavin.merrylees@gmail.com](mailto:gavin.merrylees@gmail.com)

#### Choir:

Neil Gurney 07732 721953

#### Church cleaning:

Elsie Beesley 01296 668492

[elsiebeesley@aol.com](mailto:elsiebeesley@aol.com)

## SAINT BARISTA POP-UP CAFE

ALL SAINTS, MARSWORTH

WED | THUR | FRI  
11.00am – 3pm

*A warm welcome awaits you!*

## Seniors' Christmas Lunch

The large team helping to put together the Christmas lunch for 32 of Marsworth and Slapton's senior citizens were up early on Monday 18th December. Potatoes to peel, parsnips, carrots, peas and Brussel sprouts to prepare. Turkeys to be made ready for the oven with pigs in blankets. Tables to set out and made festive with beautiful decorations and crackers. Presents to wrap, pass-the-parcel prizes to be wrapped, raffle prizes to be set out and Santa's sack filled. Drinks and glasses ready.

Now all that is required is our guests. Everyone arrived in good health and spirits ready for fun. Glasses were charged by Tony Harvie and Jo Bethell-Rance with mulled wine, sherry or orange juice and seats chosen.

Not surprisingly dear Kitty Pinnock – 'I'm 105 in February you know' – was the oldest and she sat next to the youngest – our guest of honour, Revd James Grainger-Smith, who started



proceedings by saying grace but before this a mad game of pass-the-parcel was played and noise levels matched that of any children's party.

Crackers were pulled, hats worn and dreadful jokes told. Anna Swannell and her superb choir sang carols and Christmas songs with many joining in as orders were taken and plates filled by the immensely slick team in the kitchen. Helena Winter-Brown, who oversaw the whole operation, carved with Ruth Monks, Ali Wade and Jo Bethnal-Rance serving vegetables. Annie Sandon, Lisa Cooper, Di Harvie and Sam Lawrence waited on the tables. Second helpings were enjoyed by many and all the plates came back spotless.

Some of the eagle-eyed guests noticed a red hat going past the windows – they were quite correct. Father Christmas (Paul Barber) was making a special visit to give everyone a personalised present. As always, he was hugely popular and had a cheeky comment or kiss for them all.

Goodbyes to Santa were said then Christmas pudding or trifle was served followed by tea or coffee. The raffle was drawn with everyone having been given a ticket and a prize for all of them including plants, wine, biscuits and sweets.



Chatter and laughter continued until well into the afternoon when they made their way home with broad smiles, full tummies and gifts. Eventually all the helpers sat down for a very late lunch and well-earned glass of wine.

We were hugely helped by donations from Tony and Di Harvie, The Marsworth Charity, Fancy That Tring, Waitrose Aylesbury, Tesco and M&S Tring.

*Richard Cooper and Helena Winter-Brown*

## Wendover Canal News, Winter 2024



### Wendover to Halton towpath upgrade June-November 2023

The upgrade of the 2.7km / 1.7 mile towpath from Wendover to Halton was completed at the end of November. Wendover Canal Trust first initiated this upgrade work in December 2020 at the suggestion of Wendover Parish Council. WCT then negotiated the funding for it over the next two years and worked with Canal & River Trust who managed the project last year.



The resulting all-weather, 1.5m-wide path along this green corridor has been universally praised by pedestrians, runners and cyclists. Large numbers of children are now using the path to get to and from the schools on the Wendover Campus at Wharf Road. Wheelchair users are delighted as this is the first time ever that they have been able to go down this beautiful stretch due to its previous muddy and uneven condition.

Likewise, there have been excellent reactions on social media – this post on our website over the New Year is typical: "Huge thanks to all at the Wendover Arm Trust for the restoration of the towpath between Wendover and Halton. It makes a very pleasant walk an absolute breeze for people of all abilities. It is also very popular: we walked it Boxing Day and found that by midday it was full of people enjoying themselves. Well done!"



The upgraded towpath will be formally opened via a celebratory walk, with associated entertainment and refreshments, on Friday 28th June.

Three related projects will be completed by our volunteers prior to June: the fitting of new railings at Wharf Road, the building of a new brick wall for these on the pavement-facing side, and the fixing of new signage in CRT format along the towpath between Wendover and Halton. 90% of the funding for this project has come from the HS2 Chiltern AONB Review Group.

## New Footpath at Bulbourne?

**Would you use a footpath between Bulbourne Wharf and Westfield Road, Pitstone - giving circular walk options from Marsworth via Bulbourne to Castlemead and offering various return routes?**

Pitstone Parish Council is looking at the feasibility of a new footpath from the roundabout at Folly Farm at the Westfield Rd/Upper Icknield Way junction towards Bulbourne. Marsworth Parish Council supports this proposal and encourages Marsworth residents to complete the online questionnaire (see link below).

Currently there is no footpath from the Bulbourne Wharf development, the end of the College Farm/College Lake bridlepath and the roundabout, preventing safe circular walks from Marsworth via Bulbourne and Castlemead/Pitstone. This short section of footpath would open up a number of alternative circular walk options as well as providing pedestrian access from the Bulbourne direction to the planned restoration of Pitstone Quarry.

Buckinghamshire Council's Community Board has advised that such a path would not qualify for grant funding via the Board, so it would need to be funded locally or via grants from other sources, if such exist.

Before further investigative work can be undertaken Pitstone Parish Council need to assess how many people already walk this route, would utilise a new path, where you are trying to access, what other routes you currently use, and whether residents feel that this would be a good use of local council tax funds. If you have any views, for or against, please complete the online survey at <https://pitstone.co.uk/path-to-college-lake/> by the end of February. If you don't have computer access and would prefer a hard copy, please email [parishclerk@marsworth.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@marsworth.co.uk) or telephone 07557 289049 and we will provide a printed version.

Buckinghamshire Council has advised that it will be consulting in 2024 on its Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) so if you are keen to see such a path installed, please keep be on the lookout for that consultation and make sure you have your say.

## Marsworth Village Hall 100 Club



**100 Club draw results for December and January.  
Our congratulations to the winners.**

### December Draw

#### £100

- 31 Ken Longhurst, Vicarage Road
- 114 Isabel and Matt Drew, Nordic Road

#### £50

- 178 Grace Gilbert, High Drive, Tring
- 170 Peter Dean, Lower End

#### £20

- 157 Byron Fulcher, Bluebell Cottages
- 54 Bob Kennedy, Lower Icknield Way
- 48 Stephen and Paula Rawlinson, Lower Icknield Way
- 02 Liz and David Rollinson, Church Lane
- 59 Miranda Wild, Startops End

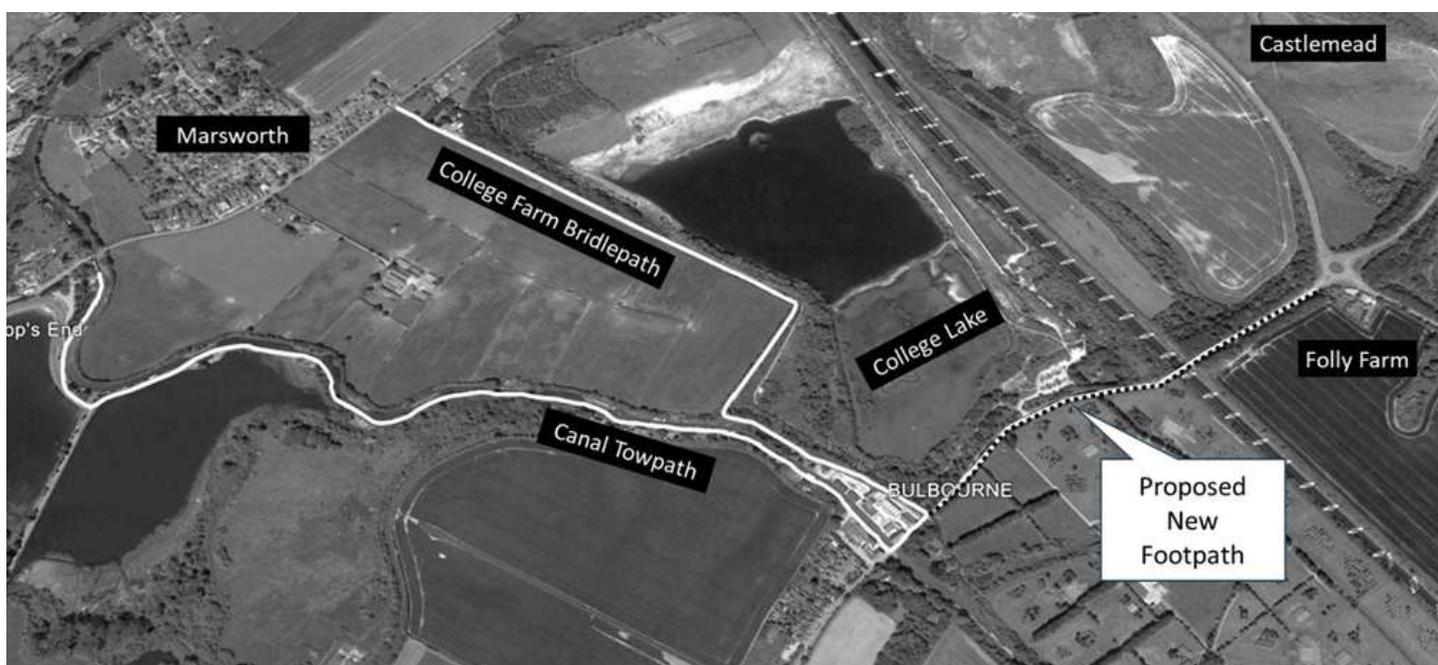
### January Draw - £20

- 126 Paul and Chris Hobart, Vicarage Road
- 75 Mavis Gates, Lower Icknield Way
- 88 Bob Holland, Stepnells
- 146 Don Spearpoint, Lukes Lea
- 85 Steve Smith, Stepnells

The next draw will be in February for our regular five £20 prizes, to be drawn at the Hall Committee meeting, Wednesday 7th at 7.30pm. If you would like to join the committee, please join us at the next meeting.

Happy New Year to you all from the Millennium Hall Committee, and good luck for the next draw.

*Stephanie Hurley*



# Old Manor changes

## Conservation and restoration of The Old Manor and Old Manor Barn.

Two of Marsworth’s oldest properties dating back to the early 1600s are undergoing much-needed repair works to conserve their integrity and restore many elements that will ensure their survival for decades to come. Niki and Will Ward (with their two children) and their parents Mark and Silvia Robinson moved to Marsworth in 2021 In search of quiet village life.

After falling immediately in love with Marsworth and the two buildings, they took on the daunting task of beginning the repair works and navigating the complex planning processes associated with Grade II listed properties. It took almost 18 months to achieve this, but they were delighted to begin the restoration work in late 2022.

The Old Manor began with having its roof insulated and restored and works have now commenced to repair the gable end of the house facing Church Lane. Over many years the property has undergone several repairs to try and rectify the issues to the timber frame and prevent it subsiding down the bank and into the road. Sadly, those repairs were unsuccessful, and some were even accelerating the issues. The photos show the stages of repairs to date which are now around 75% complete. Another photo gives an impression of what the exterior will look like when finished in traditional green oak and lime render.

The Old Manor Barn has undergone a somewhat different but intentional approach to restore the old but marry it with the new. It too is around 75% complete and Mark and Sylvia look forward to joining our community around April time. The works celebrate many of the original features such as the old thatched roof and simple black timber cladding, but the building will also incorporate some of the latest technologies to ensure it is highly energy efficient and suitable for modern sustainable living.

We look forward to sharing more photos when the works are complete in the Spring.

*Will and Niki Ward*

Jan 2024 - Timber frame and brick infill panels complete



Nov. 2023 - Old, rotten timbers removed, retaining as much original fabric as possible. Replacement green oak beams starting to be installed



Traditional lime render



Nov 2023 - Completed roof works with new lead flashing



Jan 2024 - the Barn

# Marsworth CE Infant School

Tel: 01296 668440

[www.marsworthschool.co.uk](http://www.marsworthschool.co.uk)



## February 2024

### The School's vision

For many years now, we have been working on embedding our school's vision of *'Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives'* so it is rooted in everything we do, from the teaching and learning, to developing life skills and independence, to fostering the children's curiosity and supporting them on their journey to becoming respectful and compassionate young people. We are passionate about developing the whole and uniqueness of each child who attends our school. This is important for the children themselves to understand and apply. To make it easier we have created a short strapline that defines our vision. It is Learn, Live, Remember.

### Swimming and parking

As many of you will be aware, the school has been taking all the children swimming every Wednesday morning for many years. We are very fortunate to be able to do this with such young children, which makes us different from most local schools. We believe that swimming is an invaluable life skill. It also teaches children about water safety and how to stay safe in a different environment to school.

The children also learn about road safety and how to stay safe using transport. Staff try to promote positive behaviour by being respectful role models. However, it is sad to announce that there have been several occasions where the children have witnessed staff and the coach driver be verbally abused with inappropriate language from drivers who haven't been able to pass straight away. I am sure you will agree this is not pleasant for all involved.

Could I please ask, that on a Wednesday morning, cars are not parked opposite the yellow zigzag lines, therefore allowing the other traffic to pass, avoiding further confrontations. I have also asked parents to do the same. Thank you for your support in this matter.

### Fundraising

The school is now registered with Easyfundraising, so you can raise FREE donations for us when you do your everyday online shopping.

All you have to do is find the brand you want to shop with on the Easyfundraising website or app and they will donate to us when you make a purchase – at no extra cost to you! Sign up for free at:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/marsworthcofeinfantschool/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=rm-sch-n3](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/marsworthcofeinfantschool/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-sch-n3).

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Christmas Sing-a-Long. It was lovely to see both families and people



from the community, despite the cold and wet weather. The mulled wine went down a treat and we raised £162.20! This will be used towards the cost of coaches, trips and workshops that have been booked to enrich the curriculum and provide opportunities to develop curiosity in the children's learning.

### Bags2School

Thank you to everyone who donated towards the Bags2School. We raised £35. There will be another one on 20th March. Please could bags be dropped off to the school office the day before or left outside the office (weather dependent) before 9.00am, as they usually collect the bags early.



### Water safety

On 19th January we had a visit from the Canal & River Trust, to reinforce the children's understanding on the importance of water safety. The children took part in a visit to the canal and learnt about the importance of locks and how they work. We feel this is incredibly important, given the location of the school and of our families being in close proximity to the canal and reservoirs.

Life in school is always so busy and varied with lots of learning opportunities taking place.

**Mrs Polatci**

Headteacher

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# Marsworth Litter Pickers

Posting on *Everything Marsworth*, 7th January 2024

**Joanna Mayers (Bethell-Rance)**

The Marsworth Litter Pickers had a very productive hour this sunny winter's morning; 15 of us, including little six-month-old Maisie on her 'maiden pick'!

14 full bin liners of rubbish, as well as hub caps, wood, a drawer piece, a yoga mat!  
(As Jenny said, maybe someone's New Year's resolution has already been abandoned!). Plus four reports of fly tipping on 'FixMyStreet' along the canal.



The dog poo bags are just depressing. Makes me so sad that dog owners who are likely to be out a couple of times a day in nature think it's ok to dump little plastic bags of poo by the canals, reservoirs, footpaths. Four of these were thrown into the brambles under the White Lion footbridge - retrieving these was not a pleasant experience in many ways.



It was lovely to catch up over a cuppa afterwards too.

We are now back to the last Sunday of the month for our regular 'pick', so our next one will be February 25th, 11am. We're always pleased to have more help.

If you'd like to be added to the Litter Pickers WhatsApp group, phone Joanna on 07525 323725.

Joanna Mayers sent these photos, with the message 'Whilst walking today I came across this notice. Such lovely people that live in our area! - lock cottage walking towards the Wendover Arm (Lock 42).

**DOG POO BIN  
BUT!**

CRT HAVE TAKEN ALL BINS  
AWAY PERMANENTLY

SO IF YOU CANNOT TAKE  
YOUR BAGS AWAY

WE WOULD RATHER COLLECT  
THEM HERE

THAN SEE THEM DECORATING TREES  
OR WORSE PERHAPS!

# Marsworth News



I would like to nominate **Joanna Mayers** for her work in the community. Joanna enthusiastically organises a happy band of volunteers to pick up litter on our streets, by our canals and hedgerows each month.

I would also like to nominate **Ruth Monks**. She is one of our unsung heroes who dedicates a significant amount of her life and time to the village. Bell ringing, member of the PCC (Parochial Church Council), coordinating the tea tent raising money for the Steam Rally and coordinating the church Flower Festival catering. She also raises money for All Saints Church through the Advent Calendar window scheme and much much more.

Helena Winter-Brown

*This award is to recognise the efforts and achievements of local individuals who have done something recently for the benefit of Marsworth.*

**If you think someone in Marsworth deserves this award, please contact [editor@marsworthnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@marsworthnews.co.uk).**



Lock 42, Grand Union Canal - Jeremy Whitehead



## Bucks Councillor's December and January reports – extracts

Councillor Derek Town  
01296 661637

derek.town@buckinghamshire.gov.uk  
**Buckinghamshire Councillor,  
Ivinghoe Ward**



The full report can be found at [www.marsworth.org.uk](http://www.marsworth.org.uk).

### Keeping roads safe this winter

When temperatures plummet, Buckinghamshire Council's trusty fleet of gritters rolls into action, salting key roads across the county to make them safer for motorists. Salt bins are also provided for people to freely use to make their roads and pavements safer during icy weather.

The bins are filled with a mixture of salt and sand and are available at multiple locations across the county for drivers and pedestrians to treat public roads and pavements in their local area. They are located in targeted areas known to be affected by icy conditions which the gritting routes don't cover.

### Fly tipping penalty increase

Those caught fly-tipping in Buckinghamshire face paying a higher penalty following changes to the law which have been adopted by the council.



Earlier this year the government increased the maximum Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for fly-tipping from £400 to £1,000. The penalty for Failure in Householder Duty of Care has also been raised from £400 to a maximum of £600. This penalty relates to people who have waste removed by a third-party waste carrier. By law householders have a duty to check that the carrier they are using is legally authorised to carry out the work and will do so responsibly. If the waste they have given the carrier is found dumped illegally, the householder is deemed to have failed in their Duty of Care regarding their waste and can be liable for prosecution.

Report fly-tipping in Bucks via our website:  
<https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk>

### Fraud Awareness

The council's Fraud Team tackles housing benefit cheating, council tax scams, cybercrime and more. Losses from fraud cost taxpayers thousands of pounds yearly.

Recent action by the Fraud Team includes a joint operation with Parking Services aimed at targeting Blue Badge misuse. Investigators caught several people using expired badges or overstaying time limits in disabled parking bays. Offenders were issued a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) for their parking contravention and sent warning letters.

Councillor Derek Town

## Changes to household DIY waste disposal



Residents in Buckinghamshire are now able to dispose of small amounts of DIY waste for free at Household Recycling Centres (HRCs).

The changes have been brought in by central government and will make it easier for people to freely dispose of small amounts of waste created at home from DIY projects.

Following the change in law, a digital e-permit for DIY waste is now required, any resident wanting to dispose of household DIY waste at an HRC will need to have an **e-permit printed or on a portable device**.

Go to: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres-permits-and-waste-facilities/apply-for-a-permit-to-dispose-of-diy-waste/>.



The DIY e-permit will allow residents to dispose of one load of DIY waste each week for free. One load of DIY waste is no more than 100 litres of loose DIY waste, or one large item no bigger than 2m x 0.75m x 0.7m such as one bathtub, one door or one kitchen unit. Staff will scan the permit and check the resident's address, after which the e-permit will expire. It can be renewed after seven days, to allow residents to dispose of another load of DIY waste for free.

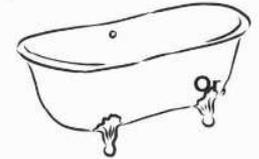
Free allocation of up to one load per week. No more than

100L loose waste, which must fit into two 50L bags



or

One bulky or fitted item, no larger than 2m x 0.75m x 0.7m



Anyone wishing to dispose of more than one load of DIY waste in a week will be able to do so but will be charged, using the same price list which has been in place for the past four years.

The changes will only apply to DIY waste. Residents bringing garden waste, electricals, general and other types of waste commonly brought to HRCs will not be affected and can continue to use the sites in exactly the same way as before.

Commercial traders, landlords and residents disposing of waste produced by traders will still need to pay for commercial waste disposal.



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# Marsworth Women's Institute

By Denise Cornwall

## WI Report for January

First thing is to wish all who read about our WI a very 'happy and healthy' year.

2024 is looking to be another fun year for us with a packed schedule of speakers, trips out, social evenings and lots more. We're off to a good start with our first speaker talking about Medical Detection Dogs. Fred Martin, a resident of Marsworth, will be giving the talk. You will hear all about this in my February update.

Well done to all who braved the wet, cold, and windy weather to turn out for our December meeting, the last one of 2023. We arrived at a warm hall to the smell of mulled wine and mince pies.

Co-President Chris King started the meeting with a welcome to all and a welcome to Shannon Taylor who has recently moved into Marsworth. Shannon came along to see what we were all about and we were assured by Shannon that she had had an enjoyable evening with us.

We then discussed the WI fees for the coming year, along with various other topics that we need to speak about each month. Every year the WI countrywide campaigns the government to consider their views on a topic of our choice. We then call upon the government to fund/research our chosen topic. These topics are then voted on by each WI member and an overall count decides which one we are going to put forward.

This year's topics were, 1) Dental health matters, 2) Impacts of poor housing conditions, 3) Say "No" to gambling advertising, 4) Improving outcomes for women in the criminal justice system. Lynne Allen, our secretary, records Marsworth WI votes and forwards them to our WI federation. At some time in the future we will be advised which of these had the most votes country-wide. Then our campaign with the government begins. I will advise in a future WI update which one was chosen.

We then gave gifts to our leaving committee members, Sylvia Frost and Bren Pearson. Both ladies have been active committee members and given a lot of their time and support to Marsworth WI and we thank them very much for all that they have done.

After all that it was mulled wine and mince pie time. Each year I buy extra ingredients to make more and more mulled wine. Each year I think I will beat them and there will be some left! Nothing changed this year, only a little bit left in the ladle. No surprise to any of us on that topic is there. Entertainment while drinking and eating was a game where the name of a famous person was stuck on your forehead, you then had to ask questions of your team members to try and guess who it was. The prize for the winner was a tub of chocolates. Well, it turned out to be a little bit chaotic with a lot of noise and laughter and the scoring just didn't happen. That might have been done on purpose because without a winner the chocolates were shared out to everybody. They're not daft, these WI ladies!

During our meeting we were advised to take a lavender bag from a basket placed on our raffle table. This



lavender was our lovely Evelyn Barber's and Niki Powell had made little lavender bags from it for us. I will treasure this and although she is no longer with us, I will look upon this as my Christmas gift from Evelyn.

The Supper Club was not held in December. The January Supper Club will be at The Red Lion in Marsworth. We have had supper clubs there before and had a good time. We look forward to trying out their new menu.

The Book Club is successful and as I reported last month, they celebrated reading 150 books. I have been thinking about this great achievement and as you know I call our book club 'the Book Club Bake Off' as they always have a cake. If they have read 150 books then they have also eaten 150 cakes. They didn't report that, did they!

The December Craft Club was very social; we had festive drinks and nibbles. Along with that we made little elves to hang on a tree or as a Christmas decoration. Mine had to be put on top of my clock - one of our little dogs Bramble has her eye on it so it had to be placed out of her reach.



## The Marsworth WI Jubilee Garden tidy-up for the winter at the Rec.

We picked a fine morning for it. Many thanks to all the ladies and also to Will for all his help

Jayne Tree-Booker



Kaye McCausland, Lynne Allen, Jayne Tree-Booker, Sue Wright and Chris King. Also Will Barnes who gave invaluable help with his truck and huge garden bags



Before ...



... and after

## Advent windows

Just a few days before December we learned that advent window displays had not been organised for the village. As time was short my husband Steve and I leafleted all those who had kindly created windows previously and gently cajoled others. Thanks to the enthusiasm of numerous Marsworth residents we were up and running by 1st December and with further support during the next couple of weeks we finally had one window for every Advent day by the 22nd!



The draw was made at the Red Lion on Saturday 23rd December. Many thanks to Michael Brake for hosting us, for allowing us to raise more funds from customers in the bar and for making the draw, and to Iain Puddephatt, one of the pub consortium, for his enthusiasm in supporting our cause and getting the word out.

A total of £215 was raised on the Just Giving Site, with a further £65 raised in the bar of the Red Lion. Richard and Julie Hares won the prize of a festive hamper from Wilstone Community Shop which contained home-made items, including Deborah Chalmers' excellent Christmas cake, home-made marmalade and chutney, along with other festive items including a bottle of pink fizz.

Thank you so much to everyone who made the effort to create a window and to all those who supported the fund-raising. The monies will be split between All Saints Church and the Pre-School in Marsworth.

*Caroline Smith*

*For windows in colour, see back page.*



## Digital Voice - UK landlines go digital

The technology used to make land line calls is changing from analogue to digital as part of an industry-wide shift and by December 2025 most calls will be made over a broadband line.

**Digital Voice**  
for communities

BT is rolling out its new home phone service, Digital Voice, on a regional basis. For most customers, it's as simple as plugging their existing home phone into the back of their broadband router rather than the socket on the wall. The new digital service provides clearer call quality and prevents most scam calls.

BT will be contacting some broadband customers in England, inviting them to switch their landlines to digital voice in advance of local and regional campaigning in their area. Most customers will be contacted four weeks before making the switch, and those customers who have disclosed any additional needs, have a healthcare pendant, no mobile signal, or only use landlines won't be proactively switched over during the initial stages of the rollout.

### Ensuring no one is left behind

We understand that for many, particularly people with additional needs, the landline is a lifeline, and we want to be sure everyone remains connected.

We've established and continue to work with our Digital Voice advisory group – an association made up of charities and representative groups – who've been advising on the needs of customers most affected by the switch. Through this group we're working with organisations like the National Farmers' Union (NFU), Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), and Rural Services Network (RSN) to ensure rural communities get the support they need and remain connected.

Additional support and services are available, including the ability for customers to nominate a family member, friend, or carer who will receive the switching information on their behalf. When customers with additional needs start to make the switch, they'll automatically receive equipment and an engineer appointment.

For peace of mind in the event of a temporary power cut, BT will provide additional resilience to those who need it most.

BT will ensure that those without access to broadband or good mobile coverage will continue to have the connectivity they need and will contact them when they can move to Digital Voice.

If customers have any issues, questions, or concerns, contact <https://www.bt.com/broadband/digital-voice>.

We will be visiting the South East in March 2024.



## Rural Rambler By Steve

A series of walks around Marsworth and the local countryside. All the walks in this series can now be downloaded from the Marsworth website: <https://www.marsworth.org.uk/the-marsworth-news/rural-rambler>.

### New Year's Day Ramble – Monday 1st January 2024

On New Year's Day a group of ten enthusiastic walkers, comprising Marsworth residents, friends from local villages and four dogs met at All Saints Church to blow the hangovers away with a walk around the local countryside. Given the incredibly wet weather we had been subjected to over the previous couple of weeks we were all relieved to see the weather had set fair with no further rain forecast until at least that afternoon.

We set off at 11.30am and followed the canal towpath to Startops car park, then around Startops and Tringford reservoirs to the old pumping station at Little Tring. Taking the very muddy path between the fields and carefully crossing the road (with many thanks to the couple of considerate drivers who stopped and let our small party cross safely) we made our way to the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union, heading west along the towpath. The restoration team of the Wendover Canal Trust have done an excellent job of improving some 200m of the towpath and we were out of the mud for a while.

On reaching Bridge 4, which marks the canal crossing point of the old Drovers Road used historically to move animals to market in Tring, we took a short detour further along the canal to the old Whitehouses site where we discussed some of the technical issues with restoring the canal and associated infrastructure. (see the Wendover Canal restoration website for more information on the heritage and restoration of the Wendover Canal: <https://wendovercanal.org.uk/>).

Returning to Bridge 4 we turned down the route of the Drovers Road to the rear of Wilstone reservoir and then onwards round the reservoir to the footpath down the embankment, coming out on the B489 adjacent to



Mead's Farm Shop. We crossed the road at Wilstone Green and took the footpath besides Mead's Orchard to make our way across the fields and back to Church Lane. The walk had taken about two hours and covered roughly four miles.

The party then adjourned to the Church where Gill and John White laid on an excellent lunch with homemade soup, mulled wine, a selection of cold cuts and home-made cake, all for voluntary contributions to church funds. We were joined here by other friends and relatives of the intrepid ten and it made an excellent end to an enjoyable morning and a sociable start to the New Year.

Steve will not be sending in any more 'Rambler' items for the time being, having done so for all last year.

Very many thanks to Steve for his interesting and comprehensive descriptions of walks, with useful maps and photos.

## Thames Water charges

Posting on *Everything Tring* by John King, 6th January:

Having just received my Thames Water bill two months late and far higher than any I had received before, I decided to investigate.



The meter had not been read and the bill was estimated. Thames Water are required to read meters at least once every two years. The last time my meter had been read was in April 2021.

I know that it is always open to customers to submit their own readings, but up until then the estimates had never been greatly increased from previous bills so I had not bothered, believing that this latest bill would have been following an actual reading as per their legal obligation.

I read my meter and submitted the reading. My bill had been inflated by nearly £250.

I will be interested to hear if there are others who have had a similar problem.

For further postings on this subject, go to *Everything Tring*.



Part of Watery Lane at Gurneys being re-surfaced - Before and After Photos - David Rollinson

# Marsworth and District Miscellany

Items for *Bucks Herald*, by local journalist *Kate Andrew*. Some of these get fuller treatment or have been covered elsewhere in this issue.

## Death of Gary 'Pixie' Cella

Many people were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Gary 'Pixie' Cella, who lived on a boat close to Red Lion Bridge, Marsworth. Pixie was seen on CCTV collapsing or falling into the water as he got back to his boat, *Dodona*, on Tuesday, November 28 at about 9pm. The weather had turned very cold. He was not found until Wednesday lunchtime, although many walkers had passed within feet. One stopped to look closely, resulting in a 999 call and an alert to the pub.



Thames Valley Police has released the following statement: "Officers attended the canal near to The Red Lion public house in Marsworth on Wednesday (29/11) and very sadly located the body of a man in the water. The death is being treated as unexplained but not suspicious and a file is being prepared for the coroner. The man's next of kin have been informed and our thoughts are with them at this very difficult time."

Gary, who styled himself 'Pixie Wiccan Druid', went to Tring School and had brothers living locally. He ran a gardening and garden clearance business, Underhill Services, which received very positive reviews on Facebook. He also did some window cleaning. He was a regular at the Red Lion pub and had many friends and acquaintances in the village.

'Pixie' had recently repainted his narrowboat, which is topped by a distinctive model owl he named 'Sump Pump' – and often posted about how much he enjoyed the scenery, boating and walks on local canals.

Villagers posted tributes on *Everything Marsworth*, including: 'He was a really kind soul', and 'He was a lovely man who always had time for a chat.' Another said: 'So sad, Pixie was an absolute diamond. He did so much work on my boat when we were restoring her'.

Sadly, there have been several drownings locally over the years, often involving people who missed their footing while returning to their boats at night in the dark.

## DIAMOND SIGN

The Diamond Sign, showing Edwardian weight restrictions on the White Lion Bridge, near Startops, is firmly back in place after repairs by Paul Rance.

The sign was stolen last year and then recovered after a tip-off. It's a real landmark in Marsworth and marvellous news that it is back.

## RESERVOIR TREES

Canal and River Trust will be removing 26 more trees at the reservoir – on the boundary between Startops Reservoir and Ennis & Brown, Tringford Road. The reason being given is new government legislation regarding trees and reservoir banks.

## REPAIR CAFÉ

The next Repair Café will be on Saturday 24th February from 9.30am to 12.30pm at Pitstone Pavilion. Bring along clothing and fabrics to mend, household items, furniture, laptops, phones, tablets and more. No charge for fixing, but donations are welcome. (See notice on page 27.)

## ARTISAN BAR

The new Artisan Bar at Cow Roast is now open, specialising in flame-grilled food.

## DUNSLEY FARM

The farm shop at Dunsley Farm, near Tring Tesco's, has just had a soft reopening after the previous tenants left. It is linked with a special educational needs college in Aylesbury, which has a smallholding in Wigginton, where students learn about animal care and horticulture. The farm shop will be used to help the students learn all about the world of work, from gaining real life retail experience, to learning about customer service. The café will reopen in the spring.

## Reservoir tree-felling

Posting on *Everything Tring* by Debbie Brown (at furniture shop Ennis & Brown), January 14:

### TRING RESERVOIRS

We had an onsite meeting with an engineer from the Canal and River Trust last week when they informed us that they are removing 26 trees on the boundary between Startops Reservoir and Ennis & Brown, Tringford Road. There are two or three trees on our side of the stream which they cannot touch.

We have been fighting to keep all of these trees for the past seven years but now they are going to be removed within the next four weeks. The trees are not diseased, and they are not dangerous; the reason being given now for their removal is new government legislation regarding trees and reservoir banks.

Does anyone know anything about the legislation they are quoting?

There were many subsequent posts. To see these go to *Everything Tring*.

## New to Marsworth

We welcome **Shannon Taylor** and her partner **Archie Gibbon** to Lower Icknield Way, Marsworth. They have moved here from Aylesbury with their two sons, Dresden and Monty, who has a life-limiting genetic illness.

Both the boys are attending Marsworth Preschool and Shannon has joined the WI and village craft group.

As a family they want to be involved in village life.

# Marsworth Neighbourhood Watch



It is over two and a half years since we revitalised Marsworth NHW! Have you moved into the village since then? Did you know every road has a NHW co-ordinator? You will have seen the stickers and signs. We are hoping by the end of January to have made contact with all our new residents. All we need is your email address, mobile number and if you have CCTV/video doorbell.

Thankfully Marsworth is a very low crime area, but should something happen or even be in the process of happening, we can cascade a message around the village quickly. If you have any concerns or information to pass on, then your co-ordinator is your point of contact.

Should you wish to become a member and have not received a visit from your road co-ordinator yet, please email us on Marsworth [NHW@gmx.com](mailto:NHW@gmx.com).

## Protect your Pa\$\$w0rds

Home security doesn't just mean locking your doors and windows but also protecting your digital devices to keep yourself and your personal data safe.

Creating a strong password is paramount and there is a lot of information online how to do this.

Your email account should have a separate password, as this is the gateway to your other online accounts, like banking, social media and shopping. The National Cyber Security Centre recommended way is to build your password from three random non-associated words, for example 'panieliontable'. You can add numbers and symbols to this too. It advises against words associated with you personally like pet names or numbers like your date of birth.



Another layer of security you can access is Two Factor Authentication. When you log in, as well as your password another piece of information is required, like a code that is texted to your phone. This reduces the risk of being hacked even if the cyber criminals have your password. Please be aware that scammers can now also offer codes to be used. Be suspicious! If in any doubt, ring your provider on a number you source for example from the back of your card, statement or letter and always on a different phone.

Visit [www.ourwatch.org.uk/passwords](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/passwords) for more information.

*Everyone Welcome*

## Thursday Coffee Morning and Drop-in

**At Beacon Villages Community Library  
Old Town Hall, Ivinghoe**

**10.00am - 12 noon**

Free tea, coffee  
and biscuits

Come along for a chat and friendly support.

## Early Police technology

### Original use of technology by the Police

The telegraph was invented in the 1820s and revolutionised communication, as the Internet did in the 1990s. The first documented use of the telegraph system to solve a crime was in 1845. An operator at Paddington railway station received a message from Slough to say a suspect, wanted for the murder of his mistress by poisoning, had boarded a train bound for Paddington. He was seated in the last compartment of the second-class carriage. Unluckily for the suspect he was traveling along one of the only stretches of railway lines in the world at that time that had the telegraph lines running beside the track.

The Police were alerted and waited for the train's arrival at Paddington where the suspect was arrested. He was subsequently found guilty of the murder, thanks entirely to that telegraph message!

## South East Aylesbury Link Road



Buckinghamshire Council will start work shortly on Phase 2 of the Southeast Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) scheme.

SEALR will see the construction of 1.1 miles of dual carriageway including three new roundabout junctions designed to ease congestion in Aylesbury and provide an easier route for traffic to flow without going through the town centre. The new link road will join the A413 Wendover Road with the Stoke Mandeville Relief Road, which is being constructed by HS2.

The council is coordinating the SEALR scheme with the project moving forward in two phases. Phase 2 will connect the B4443 Lower Road to a new roundabout junction with both the Stoke Mandeville Relief Road and future South West Aylesbury Link Road.

Work recently started on Wendover Road roundabout and Phase 2 works are scheduled to start in March 2024.

For more information on SEALR, visit: [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/sealr](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/sealr).

People in Marsworth will be more affected when the Link Road is extended to connect with the A41.



Map showing Phase 1 and Phase 2 of SEALR

## Local Treasures

### The Rex Cinema, Berkhamsted

Most local people know of The Rex cinema in Berkhamsted, but if you haven't yet experienced it, it is wonderful. As if stepping back in time, it is gorgeous inside with its art deco style, and very comfortable seating with masses of leg room.



Designed in the art deco style, the cinema opened to the public in 1938. After 50 years of service it closed in 1988 and became derelict. It was totally refurbished in its original style and re-opened to the public in 2004 as a 350-seat single-screen cinema at the rear of The Gatsby bar/restaurant facing Berkhamsted High Street. The Rex shows films 362 days a year. These include latest releases, acclaimed foreign films and classics.

'The Rex has one huge screen set in a glorious 1938 art-deco proscenium with the sharpest film projection and clearest non-booming sound anywhere in the world. Throughout, its seating is big and soft. It has been called luxurious. It is better. It is civilized. It reminds us of what we have long stopped expecting from public buildings.'

Tickets are remarkably inexpensive compared with other cinemas:

Evening prices: Upstairs: £11.00/ Downstairs tables: £13.00. Concessions -£1.50 (over 60/full time student).  
Matinee prices: Upstairs: £6 / Downstairs tables: £7.

The next month's list goes on sale on the Saturday around a week before the end of the month at 10.30 am from the Box Office (coffee available while queuing) and from 5pm online. Programmes are available free, online, and a limited number are available at Tring Library around the first week of the month.

Drinks and snacks can be bought at the bar in the foyer and taken to your seat, or a cheese board ordered at the bar is delivered to your seat; there is also a convenient holder for your drink. Seating downstairs is laid out around small tables and is close to the screen.

Disabled access is from the High Street and an induction loop is available.

There's also a set menu at The Gatsby – below the cinema - for either lunch or early dinner prior to the screening and a bar menu, again set in opulent art-deco surroundings and with great food.



The Rex from the High Street, with The Gatsby in front

*The Rex*, High St, Berkhamsted HP4 2FG.  
Tel: 01442 877759. <https://therexberkhamsted.com/>.  
*The Gatsby*, 97 High Street, Berkhamsted, HP4 2DG.  
Tel 01442 870403. <https://www.thegatsby.net/>.

Pianist James Reader plays at The Gatsby every Saturday evening from 7.30 – 10.30pm and every Sunday lunchtime from 12.30 – 3.30pm.



#### Do you have a 'local treasure' you could share with readers?

Perhaps a favourite eatery, a garden nursery, somewhere special for tea-and-cake, somewhere where you can listen to music? It should be within a 15-mile radius of Marsworth. Just a few lines and a location would do. Please send to [editor@marsworthnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@marsworthnews.co.uk).

Suggestions have already been made of one of our local community shops at Wilstone or Wiggington, and the Repair Café at Ivinghoe-Pitstone..

## Marsworth News

Send us your:  
**Photos** - artistic or snapshots.  
**Articles** and items of interest  
(700 words maximum)  
**Reports** on events.

**Help us make Marsworth News!**

Send to [editor@marsworthnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@marsworthnews.co.uk)

### Are you struggling with food, fuel, bills and finances?



If you or your family are in need of support, on low income or experiencing a financial emergency or crisis, find out what help is available.

#### Let us know if:

- you are struggling to afford food or fuel
- 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://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.



Buckinghamshire  
Council



# Chilterns Chalk festival

January to April 2024

From January to April 2024, the Chalk, Cherries and Chairs scheme is celebrating the special chalk bedrock of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) with a festival of events, Chilterns Chalk. There are all kinds of things planned, from wildlife talks to practical habitat management, river-dipping to geology walks, all ending with a big celebration of everything chalky at the Chinnor and Princes Risborough Heritage Railway. Why not pop along to an event near you and find out more about this special rock?

## Celebrating Chilterns Chalk

### A wild walk on the chalk

Friday 9th February, 10.00am-1.00pm

Start at Buckmoorend Farm Shop, Butler's Cross, Aylesbury, HP17 0UT. Price £5.

<https://www.chilternsaonb.org/chalkcherrieschairs/events/grassland-guided-walk/>.

### Lend a hand to chalk grassland!:

Saturday 24th February, 10.00am-1.00pm.

Location: Whiteleaf Cross Chalk Figure, Peters Lane, Princes Risborough HP27 0LH. Free.

Join The Chiltern Society on the chalk slope at Whiteleaf Cross to get involved in some chalk grassland restoration!



Learn about the importance of managing chalk grassland by getting involved in the clearance of scrub material (small bushes) on the chalky slope of this iconic Chilterns spot. Enjoy the stunning views while getting physical and meeting new people. All your hard work will help to reduce soil enrichment and shading on the grassland, benefiting special chalk grassland flowers and the animals associated with them.

Please dress appropriately for working outside. Tools will be provided on the day. Please bring refreshments for the day.

### Microscopic algae to Mammoths

Sunday 24th March, 10.00-12.00. College Lake, B488 Tring HP23 5QG. £5.

Join the BBOWT team for a guided geology and wildlife walk around College Lake.

We start our journey 100 million years ago as the Cretaceous seas in which thick sequences of chalk were deposited. It is the chalk bedrock which influences the distinctive landscape of the Chilterns. We shall also consider the evidence for climate change over the last 2.5 million years, before discussing the recent past and the chalk extraction in the 20th Century. Bring your binoculars and walking boots! There will be a hot drink to enjoy at the end!

<https://www.chilternsaonb.org/chalkcherrieschairs/events/guided-walk-college-lake>

### For more events go to:

<https://www.chilternsaonb.org/chalkcherrieschairs/our-work/people/chilterns-chalk/>.



The Red Lion re-thatch - Jeremy Whitehead



The Library in Ivinghoe will be open on Wednesday mornings between 10am and 12 noon. We are pleased to have been able to bring back this time slot which many users have found to be useful.

### Opening hours

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



A returns box is available in the foyer at other times.

General enquiries: [info@bvcl.org.uk](mailto:info@bvcl.org.uk), 01296 387890.

# The Tring Anglers

Firstly, Tring Anglers have received a bonus belated Christmas present courtesy of the Canal & River Trust fisheries team.

Major works are taking place at Brent reservoir in NW London, known as the Welsh Harp, which also feeds the Grand Union Canal. All the fish have to be removed and M.E.M Fisheries, the CRT contractors, have delivered free of charge 1000lb\* of yearling roach and bream, estimated to be 180,000 one-inch fish, to Redhouse on the Aylesbury Arm - a long pound with many areas of rushes and tree cover to maximise the fish survival rate.



The club still plan to use MEM to move fish from the Aylesbury basin in March or April and hopefully boost the fishing in the Dixon's Gap pounds.

The Welsh Harp is a Site of Special Scientific interest; sadly, unlike our own reservoir group, angling is not permitted. It will be restocked under the instruction of Natural England, though maybe not with carp and bream as these fish are not in favour with this organisation.

Serious floods have prohibited angling on our sections of the River Thames and the Thames has also suffered. As soon as it stopped raining the frost set in, which quickly reduced river levels but again made fishing difficult. The canal provided patchy sport with some bream on the Red Lion section and Redhouse winding hole. Consistent sport with plenty of bites was again at Redhouse in the rushes area beyond the winding hole. 4oz was a big roach or bream with 100 plus fish needed to win the Old Codgers and other matches. At least the float kept going down, keeping your interest level up in the cold conditions.

Any of you who fished the Aylesbury Arm over the past years, or even just walked the towpath will remember Tony Bradbury, best known as 'Tony the Hat.' Sadly he lost his fight against cancer over Christmas. He will be sorely missed by Tring Anglers, the club he contributed to as a long-serving bailiff, coach, committee member and all round great character. It has been a privilege to have fished alongside Tony on occasion, but more often as a coach: It is impossible to count the number of youngsters who are fishing because of his coaching. He was a natural teacher who had no formal training; he did not waste his gift - you can't ask for more than that.



No mistaking Tony the Hat

Dick Pilkinton

\* The fish are weighed in a large net about 40-50lb per netful. 1000lb is the capacity of the oxygen tanks on the lorry. The estimated value is £6000-7000.



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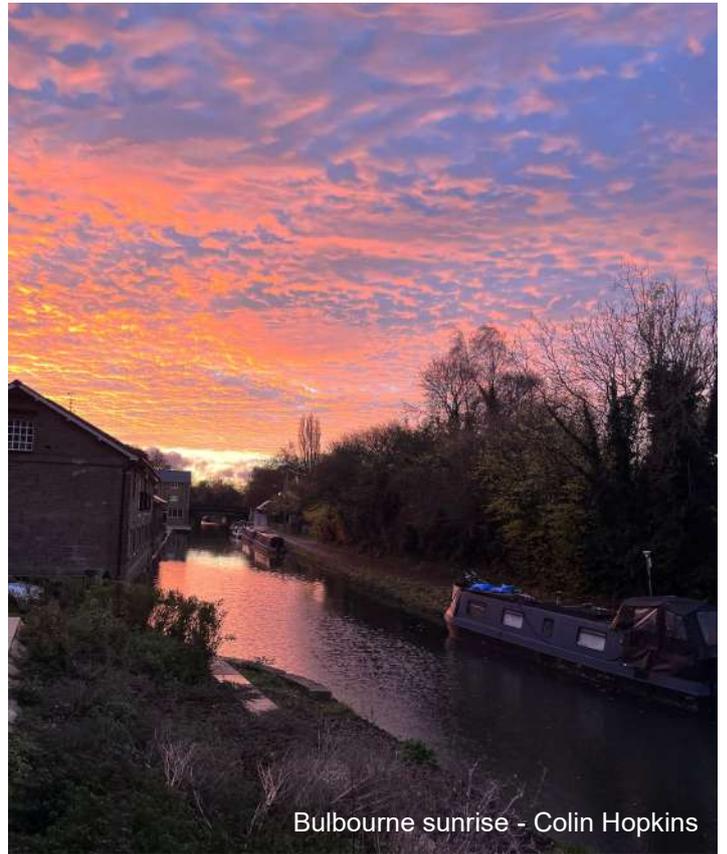
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# Marsworth Photo Gallery

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