

# 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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## Another Marsworth pub to close?

### Application to convert The Anglers Retreat

An application has been made for the conversion of The Anglers Retreat to a detached dwelling with associated works including demolition of existing side conservatory and replacement with single storey side extension, replacement roof to single storey rear extension and replacement windows. Demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of two detached dwellings, with associated driveway and private parking bays.

Consultation period at Buckinghamshire Council ends 26th March. Ref 24/00405/APP.

<https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/online-applications>

### From the application Heritage Statement:

The proposals are to retain all the facades and roofs of the existing public house, in particular the feature checkerboard facade which will be retained and remain undisturbed. The proposal is to undertake some upgrade works around the building.

All of the existing outbuildings barring the gents' toilets will be removed as a part of the proposed conversion of the site from a public house to residential accommodation. This will help to improve the overall visual appearance of this site and the retained public house building on the approach.

The pub is unable to continue to trade as a public house. The property has been on the open market since April 2023 for a significantly lower price than similar surrounding properties and there has been no interest, no viewings, and no offers to purchase the property as a licensed premise. The owners are not able to continue to run the business indefinitely and fear the long term consequences on the asset of closing the pub if it cannot be changed to an alternative use that will preserve its history and condition for future generations.

Two planning applications have previously been submitted for the site. The first in 2005 and a further application was made in 2010. In 2021 a pre application for the conversion of the public house and surrounding land to residential accommodation was made. The proposal was to split the public house into two flats, one at ground floor and the other at first floor and undertake some additional extension works at the rear of the building at first floor in order to accommodate this. This application was withdrawn.

**Objection to the application by Marsworth Parish Council - see page 3**



# Marsworth News

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**Thank you** To all our volunteer distributors who deliver *Marsworth News* to every home in the parish.

### 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 - April 2024

8th	Monday	7.00pm	Annual Parish Meeting
		8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting
27th/28th		10.00am	Floating Market - see p.14

## Coming events

12th May	Marsworth 10K Fun Run
18th May	Preschool Quiz
16th June	Marsworth Steam Rally

## Editorial

By *Sandra Costello*

This year for the Annual Parish Meeting it has been decided to print the reports from the various groups which help make Marsworth function beforehand in this newsletter. Hitherto this was not a very interesting part of the meeting, as each report was read out, and it is hoped that this way people will have a chance to see the reports beforehand and therefore perhaps comment on them at the meeting. See pages 8, 9 and 10.

It is also hoped that offering refreshments at the meeting might be another incentive to attend!

In this issue two of our 'old favourite' forthcoming events are heralded: the 10K Fun Run in May and the Steam Rally in June. These two events rather put Marsworth 'on the map' and are usually very well supported. On page 10 is a poster requesting help for the Steam Rally. This is a great way to get involved in a local event - and you even get into the rally free!

## Recycling information



For your own bin collection day, go to:

[www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/find-out-when-its-your-bin-collection/](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/find-out-when-its-your-bin-collection/)

## 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.**

## Marsworth News

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

**Help us make Marsworth News!**

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



9.00am-12.30pm

### Dates for 2024

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

## Parish Council meeting March 2024 - precis

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



### Matted Area for disabled parking at the Recreation Ground

Work will be starting shortly – by DWD Contractors - to provide an additional 15 metre area of disabled parking for organised and marshalled events. This will give a total of 30 metres.

### Format of Annual Parish Meeting on 8th April to be changed.

This year reports will be submitted in advance and taken as read at the meeting.

Notice of meeting and summary reports can be found on pages 8, 9 and 10 and full reports will be posted on the parish website: [www.marsworth.org.uk/marsworth-parish-council/annual-parish-meeting](http://www.marsworth.org.uk/marsworth-parish-council/annual-parish-meeting).

Reports from Canal and River Trust, Thames Valley Police, Marsworth CofE School, All Saints Church, the Village Hall Committee and our Buckinghamshire Councillors will be added to the website once received.

### Litter Picking

A decision on whether to instal a dog waste bin at Startup car park was deferred until next month's meeting. More on litter picking in next month's *Marsworth News*.

### New footpath at Bulbourne

Pitstone Parish Council advise that they received 460 online responses in relation to a proposed footpath from the roundabout at Folly Farm at the Westfield Road/ Upper Icknield Way junction towards Bulbourne.

### New Parish notice board

The Clerk will apply for a new noticeboard to replace the redundant board near The Red Lion.

### Next MPC meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 8th April, preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm. Any items for the agenda need to have been submitted to the Parish Clerk by Sunday 31st March. All members of the public are welcome to attend either or both meetings, but please let the Parish Clerk know in advance [parishclerk@marsworth.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@marsworth.org.uk) if you plan to be present especially this month for catering purposes.

*Continued from front page*

## Anglers Retreat application

### Objection to the application by Marsworth Parish Council

Marsworth Parish Council objects as it does not want to see a third public house in the village disappear in the space of 15 years. It believes the Anglers Retreat has the potential (as has been demonstrated in the past) to be a successful and lucrative business.

## 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

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

## Marsworth Parish Council Notice

**The Marsworth Annual Parish Meeting  
will be held on Monday 8th April 2024  
at 7.00 pm in the Main Hall at the  
Millennium Hall, Marsworth.**



The meeting is open to all parishioners and the Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to meet with residents to address matters of concern and to support local organisations.

In a break with previous formats, reports from local organisations will not be read out at the meeting but will be published, in summary form, in the April edition of *Marsworth News* and in full on the parish website. Parishioners will have the opportunity to question representatives of the organisations at the meeting and to talk to members of Marsworth Parish Council and our Buckinghamshire Councillors.

Wine, beer and fruit juice will be served.

Please let the Parish Clerk know if you will be attending the meeting: [parishclerk@marsworth.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@marsworth.org.uk)

The proximity to the canal and reservoirs is a strong attraction and the pub is often very busy with a noticeably different clientele to the Red Lion - the remaining pub at the opposite end of the village. While the existing owners may prefer residential development to continuing operation, this is clearly not an economic necessity. We feel sure that, as recently evidenced at the Red Lion, a fresh and enthusiastic management would significantly improve the volume of business.

We do not believe the economic non-viability of the location and buildings is a valid argument in this case.

## All Saints Church



We have to record the recent death of Bishop Alan, Bishop of Buckingham. Bishop Alan will be sadly missed across the county and he was a regular visitor to the churches within our benefice. We send our heartfelt condolences to his wife and family.

By the time you receive this April newsletter Easter will be behind us. However, the church year carries on although lacking the larger festivals of other times. I have been asked on occasions about the colours used in church at certain times of the year. What is offered here is a brief explanation of when various colours are used - on altars, lecterns, pulpits and priests' apparel, notably the stole, a garment similar to a scarf, although other significant vestments such as cloaks may be worn.

Commencing at Advent, the start of the church year which leads up to the festival of Christmas, the colours purple or blue are used. These sombre colours are also used during Lent to signify the times of solemn reflection and prayer during the period leading up to the Festival of Easter. Flowers are not generally used during Advent and Lent, to continue the sombre reflections. However, over the festivals of Christmas and Easter flowers in cream, white, yellow and gold and fresh greenery appear in abundance and arrangements continue throughout the seasons, matching colours where needed. Two other colours are also used: firstly red which is used on special occasions such as saints' days, All Saints Day among others, but is also suitable for Baptisms, Ordinations and Confirmations. And secondly green, which is the colour of Ordinary Times used between the major occasions.

As you will note from the Services listing, on 18th April we will be holding the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and I do not intend to stand as Churchwarden again. I have served All Saints Church for roughly thirty years, firstly on the PCC and then as Churchwarden, and it is now time to stand back. I hope to continue for some time on the PCC helping wherever and whenever I am called upon.

John White, Churchwarden

### Who's Who at All Saints Marsworth

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



**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)

## Services for April 2024

### 1st Sunday 7th April

9.15 am Holy Communion Common Worship

### 2nd Sunday 14th April

8.30 am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer

### 3rd Sunday 21st April

9.15 am Holy Communion Common Worship

### 4th Sunday 28th April

6.00 pm Evensong

### Thursday 18th April

7.30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the Frost Room, Village Hall.  
All welcome to attend.

## SAINT BARISTA POP-UP CAFE

ALL SAINTS, MARSWORTH

WED | THUR | FRI  
11.00am – 3.00pm

*A warm welcome awaits you!*



**Saturday 18th May**

**Marsworth Village Hall**

Doors open 6.30pm - Quiz starts 7.00pm

Just £10 per person

Lite bites provided  
Bring your own drink

Cash only Raffle

For tickets: Text Tracey on 07962 100256  
or email [admin@marsworthpreschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@marsworthpreschool.org.uk)

## Bucks Councillor's March reports – extracts

Councillor Derek Town

01296 661637

[derek.town@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto: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).

### A new vision for parking across Buckinghamshire

Buckinghamshire Council has unveiled its vision and ambition for parking across the county as part of a new Parking Strategy which sets out how the service will develop in coming years.

From embracing new technology to providing customers with greater choice and flexibility and from streamlining parking charges to promoting greater safety and reducing congestion, the document starts to align the different on- and off-street parking arrangements into one strategy which covers the whole county.

Key aims within the strategy include:

- A commitment to maintaining the upkeep of quality parking provision across the county.
- Working to ensure the council's parking operations are fully self-funded as is required legally.
- Exploring ways to give people flexibility in parking options across the county.
- Intelligent use of parking enforcement to ensure effective enforcement locally and county-wide.
- A gradual transition to online/digital payments for all parking, reflecting trends in payment preferences which have accelerated in recent years, whilst maintaining cash payments for as long as economically possible in existing locations.
- Ensuring residents and customers are kept fully informed of changes.

### Council investment in fixing roads

Buckinghamshire Council has pledged an extra £5 million of funding this coming year for repairs to roads across the county, adding to the £105 million already committed to the road network over the next four years.

The overall investment will go towards maintaining and improving the road network across the county, including a range of works and schemes, from the so-called 'Plane and Patch' programme, where whole sections of roads are resurfaced, to one-off large scale projects like Station Road, Cheddington and cleansing our 85,000 gullies.

As we move into warmer weather in the spring months the temporary repairs reduce in number so longer-lasting improvement works and bigger resurfacing projects can be undertaken.

### Creating an age-friendly Buckinghamshire for all

Buckinghamshire Council has outlined its commitment to helping older people in Buckinghamshire live healthy, active and independent lives as set out in its Healthy Ageing Strategy.

The document sets out how Buckinghamshire aspires to be a place for all residents to enjoy growing older in an age-friendly community. The strategy also includes an action plan of how the vision will be achieved.

"Healthy ageing means living a healthy and fulfilling life, being able to participate in activities and contribute to your community. It also encompasses having financial security and living in a suitable home in a safe and thriving community."

To become an age-friendly community, the strategy focuses on eight interconnecting areas outlined by the World Health Organisation (WHO):

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transport
- Housing
- Participation in society
- Volunteering and employment
- Communication and information
- Community support for health and wellbeing
- Respect and social inclusion

In the first year, the focus for Buckinghamshire will be on two priorities - outdoor spaces and buildings, and participating in society.

To oversee the implementation of the strategy a multi-agency Age Friendly Bucks Partnership has been set up with external partners including the NHS and voluntary sector organisations.

To further support the success of the strategy, Buckinghamshire Council has joined the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities which is run by the Centre for Ageing Better and affiliated to the WHO's Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities. Being a member of this network provides access to a range of additional resources including good practice guidance and advice. In addition, the council has partnered locally with Age UK Buckinghamshire to ensure a local focus is maintained.

## Pitstone Green Museum

Vicarage Road,  
Pitstone, LU7 9EY  
[www.pitstonemuseum.co.uk](http://www.pitstonemuseum.co.uk)

### Open Days for 2024

10.30 am until 4.30 pm

- Easter Monday 1st April
- Early May bank holiday Monday 6th May
- Spring bank holiday Monday 27th May
- Sunday 9th June
- Sunday 14th July
- Sunday 11th August
- Summer bank holiday Monday 26th August
- Sunday 8th September
- Sunday 13th October



## Wendover Arm winding hole closure



For some time there has been water arising in the land below our Phase 1 restoration between the Little Tring stop lock and the winding hole. Responsibility for this section was handed back to CRT in 2005. Tests by CRT have so far been unsuccessful in proving where the water is coming from, or even confirming that it is canal water rather than ground water. CRT have now had to instal stop-planks in the stop-lock at Little Tring, so that the water level between the stop lock and the winding hole can be slowly lowered to help trace where the water is coming from. WCT support CRT's action in doing this because it is the best way forward.



The closure at Little Tring with the stop planks in place

Unfortunately, while this is done, It means that the Wendover Canal reverts to its situation before 2005. Any boat entering the Wendover Canal can only turn if they are short enough to turn at the entrance to the Tring feeder; and since this location will not have been used much since 2005, it is likely to be more silted up than it used to be, further restricting the length of boats which can turn. The work is likely to take some time and CRT have not quoted an end date.

### Question – Is it closed to boats?

Not exactly. The winding hole at the end of the navigation is unreachable behind stop planks, but certain boats may still cruise the Arm.

**Is it closed to walkers, cyclists, etc using the towpath?** No. The towpath remains accessible as before (there is a diversion at Little Tring)

## Marsworth Village Hall 100 Club



### March Draw - £20 winners.

- 114 Isabel and Matt Drew, Vicarage Road
- 167 Eleanor Dean, Aspens Farm
- 69 David Hing, Startops
- 10 John and Judith Kay, Startops Haze
- 77 Rex and Carol Jeffery, The Crescent

The next draw is our first big draw of the year, with 2 x £100, 2 x £50 plus 5 x £20. Draw to take place on Wednesday 3rd April, at the Village Hall monthly meeting.

Good luck to you all.

Stephanie Hurley

# MARSWORTH STEAM & CLASSIC Vehicle Rally

Historic Steam Engines, Agricultural, Classic Cars, Bikes and Trucks

## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 11am-5pm

Treat dad to a fun day out on Father's Day!

### Family Entertainment, Rides and Attractions

Stalls galore!  
Charity fundraising  
Family entertainment  
Live music  
Crafts  
Working models

**Ice Cream  
Popcorn  
Candy Floss  
Fish & Chips  
Teas, Snacks and  
Homemade Treats  
Beer tent  
Local Real Ales**

Face painting  
Tring Fire Engine\*  
Steam Engine rides  
Bouncy castle and slide  
Kiddies fairground fun  
and much more!

**Startup Farm**  
Marsworth HP23 4LL  
B489 Ivinghoe to Aston Clinton Road

\*Subject to duty commitments

**Adults £8.00  
Children £3.00**  
FREE car parking at the showground

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO LOCAL FUNDRAISING AND CHARITIES

**www.MarsworthSteamRally.co.uk**

## Marsworth 10k Fun Run

### Sunday 12th May 2024

**10.00am start at the  
Recreation Ground**

Check the website for further details:  
[www.marsworthfunrun.co.uk](http://www.marsworthfunrun.co.uk)

**Raising funds for All Saints Church, Marsworth**

## Marsworth JUMBLE SALE

At the Millennium Hall

### Saturday 13th April

1.00pm

**MORE JUMBLE WANTED!**

Tel: 01442 825057

Sorry - no large items

## Marsworth and District Miscellany

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

### MUSIC FESTIVAL

There will be a Busking Music Festival on Sunday 19th May, from 12pm to 6pm at Cheddington Village Hall, with guest appearances.

### FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL

Tring Food and Drink Festival will be on 7th April at Silk Mill Way, with free entry and family fun between 10am and 4pm. It's a celebration of food and drink by local and regional producers. [enquiries@glory-bee.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@glory-bee.co.uk).

### TRING SUBURB REJECTED

Plans for a new garden suburb in Tring, with 1,400 homes, have been rejected by Levelling Up Secretary Michael Gove. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities said the project would "fail to conserve or improve the prevailing landscape quality, character and condition," and would harm green belt purpose 'a': to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas, and green belt purpose 'c': to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment, reported BBC News.

### QUIZ NIGHT

This will be on Saturday, 18th May from 6.30pm for 7pm start in Marsworth Millennium Hall, supporting Marsworth Pre-School. £10 per person, with light bites provided. Bring your own drink. Cash-only raffle. For tickets text 07962 100256.

### TOWPATH CELEBRATION

Wendover Canal Trust is getting ready for a Towpath Celebration on Friday, 28th June from 10am to 3pm. This is linked with the building of an all-weather towpath from Wendover to Halton Village. Make a date to be present when Wendover Canal Trust Patron Robbie Cumming of BBC Four's Canal Boat Diaries cuts the ribbon!

Wendover Canal Trust volunteers will be selling some of the amazing goods they fashion from discarded renovation materials.

### TABLE TOP SALE

There will be an indoor car boot sale at Pitstone Memorial Hall on Saturday, 20th April, from 11.30am to 2pm. Contact Nick at [pmhbookings@pitstone.co.uk](mailto:pmhbookings@pitstone.co.uk).

### FAMILY FUN DAY

The Tring family fun day will be on 11th May from 11am - 3 pm at St Peter's and St Paul's church.

### FILM NIGHT

Pitstone Memorial Hall's Picture House is screening *One Life* on Friday, 5th April at 8pm. £8 for adults and £6 for children under 14.

### LOCAL AUTHOR

Local author Dave Sivers, from Pitstone, was signing copies of his latest book, *Price to Pay*, at Our Bookshop in Tring on Saturday. His addictive crime novels are based in our area, with references and hints to lots of familiar villages, streets and shops.

## Marsworth News



We would like to nominate three members of the Litter Pickers who have all done extra picks this month:

### Alex Kennedy, Chris Kennedy and Angela Allen

- Proposed by Joanna Mayers and Linda Beardsley
- Alex and Chris have been members of Marsworth Litter Pickers since our first pick in honour of His Majesty the King's Coronation Big Help Out in May 2023.
- Angela recently joined us. All three are enthusiastic and proactive members. Alex and Chris realised that the recent strimming around the reservoir had shown up a lot of litter previously hidden and Alex has also been wading in the reservoir edges retrieving litter with his family's pond net.

- Thank you for keeping our village and surrounding roads looking good and safe for wildlife.

- 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).**

## Kitty at 105

Yes, she is still here - As I have said every year since her 100th birthday. My daily early morning call to Kitty always starts with "You're still here then!" and the reply is always the same, "Yes I am, and I'm going to be for a long time, just to annoy you" followed by a laugh. Well, she is certainly sticking to that, isn't she (though not the annoying bit!)?



Kitty's birthday treat

On 28th February Kitty was 105.

This makes her the oldest person to have lived in Marsworth (see Archive article on page 17). The poor postman must have been fed up delivering to Norvic Road; he even had to do a special trip to deliver her card from the King and Queen. As there were so many cards, Kitty opened the majority of them on Tuesday evening, the day before. Her birthday started with phone calls (not mine - I couldn't get through) and the opening of a few special family cards that she had saved especially for her birthday. Then she was off to her Wednesday coffee club at the Baptist church in Tring. Nothing will stand in her way or stop her going to that. Some of her friends took her for lunch to Opuz, a Mediterranean restaurant bar and grill in Aylesbury. She loved it, but said she would have been just as happy with a McDonald's or KFC - two meals that she really enjoys.

I asked her if she had enjoyed her day with everyone and her reply was "Thank you - I have had a lovely day, but I do wish I had been born a day later on the 29th of February. That would have made me a leap year baby and I would be half the age that I am!"

*Denise Cornwall*

## Reports from local organisations for the Annual Parish Meeting, 8th April 2024

### Food Bank and Senior Events Report

This year has been very stable for the Marsworth Food Bank. We deliver to nine people every week and I am hugely grateful to Helena Winter-Brown, Denise Cornwall and Jenny Sheils, who look after things the odd week I am away.

Buckinghamshire Council Helping Hand team continue to support the Food Bank with grants that have provided funding for 2023 to the end of March 2024; the amount received in 2023 was £9,237. I am indebted to Jenny Sheils and Caroline Smith, who liaise with the Helping Hand team, make applications and report back to Helping Hand. The Food Bank also receives regular donations from a few residents and last year received £275 kindly donated by the Steam Rally committee. All sorts of very useful foods are regularly left in the box at All Saints and I receive boxes of both dog and cat food every week.

Peter Dean and Noble Foods generously give us sufficient boxes of eggs for everyone to have at least six a week. P.E. Mead & Son Farm Shop are also wonderfully kind in providing a large box of fruit and another of vegetables on a weekly basis.

Together this all means that those in receipt of weekly deliveries have a significant amount of their total weekly needs provided. This makes a major difference to what they have to eat and their diets are healthier than they would be otherwise.

It has become more important over the years of providing this service to Marsworth in that it has become far more than a weekly food delivery. Lisa has frequently been called upon to help them when they have injured themselves or are not well, and her nursing expertise and natural caring manner is loved by them all. We have also been able to offer help in providing a new cooker for one when theirs had stopped working. In this I was yet again grateful to Caroline Smith, for liaising with Buckinghamshire Council's Helping Hand team. Additional help is given, when asked for, in dealing with forms, bills and other household administrative problems, which is most gratefully received.

In May we were able to host a special afternoon tea on the recreation ground as part of the village celebration for King Charles' coronation. For this we were indebted to the kindness of Mike and Rebecca Foxcroft, who generously donated the teas individually boxed so that everyone's individual tastes were catered for. Prosecco was provided to make a toast to our new king.

Yet again Helena, Lisa and I were able to put on a Christmas lunch for 32 of our seniors with generous funding from a local couple. To organise this event we had amazing help from a number of people in the village, who prepared the vegetables and two who kindly cooked the roast potatoes in their ovens. Tesco and M&S in Tring and Waitrose in Aylesbury all donated a wide range of food and the Marsworth Charity also gave a donation. Entertainment was provided by the Anna Swannell and her ladies choir, and Father Christmas (Paul Barber) gave out presents to everyone. There was also a free raffle with prizes for all and super table decorations could be

taken home by those who asked for them. The food was superb. This lunch has become an important part of Christmas to many, particularly those who would be spending the day itself on their own.

All financial donations and payments are administered by All Saints Church who provide financial governance for the Food Bank and Senior events, where applicable this means that donations can be gift aided adding 25% to the donation.

*Richard Cooper*

### Marsworth News report 2024

The newsletter seems to be going well, though without much in the way of feedback or suggestions it is hard to know whether what we do is 'just right' or 'could be better'. Suggestions are always welcome, and contributions from readers especially so.

I have now been the sole manager of the content and layout of the newsletter for some time, though if anyone else would like to have some input that would be very welcome. The aim is to ensure that the newsletter continues to be an important means of communication within the Marsworth community.

With regard to much of the content, I am greatly assisted by items supplied by Caroline Smith, the parish clerk, many from Buckinghamshire Council. I also regularly receive an assortment of small items of local interest from Kate Andrew who collates these for inclusion in the *Bucks Herald*.

Thanks to a regular supply of excellent photographs from readers, and the fact that the covers are printed in colour, it is possible to display these photos on the back page.

A key factor is our small team of proof-readers, especially Elaine Standen, who are invaluable in ensuring that the newsletter maintains its high standard of presentation.

Another important member of the team is Annie Sandon, as Advertising Manager and Treasurer. The newsletter currently has over 20 advertisers; the income generated from these advertisements covers the printing costs.

*Sandra Costello*

### Marsworth WI Report

We began another successful year on a high note with our vicar Revd. James Grainger-Smith coming to introduce himself to us and explaining about his life in Hong Kong before he came to our benefice. He was very interesting and chatty and we enjoyed talking to him.

Our Annual Dinner was held at The Bedford Arms in Chenies, a lovely venue, but the food and service left something to be desired unfortunately.

Once again we have had some wonderful speakers, notably Graham Laurie from the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and Errol Hendrix, a local man, a psychotherapist who gave a talk on 'Don't Act your age – a path to mental well being'. One of our evenings was handed over to our WI members. Their first choice for a speaker was from Whipsnade Zoo, but unfortunately, he was unable to come. His replacement, a lady from Mercy Ships told us all about her work on these ships

and the wonderful results achieved for the many people in the world who have little access to medical treatment. Fred Martin came along in February and talked to us about Medical Detection Dogs accompanied by Viking, a beautiful labrador.

At the resolutions meeting we agreed to support Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife.

Aside from our monthly meetings we had our annual tea party hosted by Elsie Beesley. What a brilliant afternoon we had – and with a donation of his speaker's fees from Errol Hendrix, the entrance fee and the raffle etc, we raised £500 which was donated to a breast cancer charity. Our Book Club, Craft Club and Supper Club continue to thrive.

The Jubilee Garden in the recreation ground was getting untidy and unkempt and now we have someone to organise a regular clean up and tidy. We will see what comes up this spring and fill in the gaps if needs be.

Our Annual Meeting was in November. I had wanted to resign but no-one came forward to take my place. However, Denise Cornwall offered to be co-president and this is working well. Bren Pearson, my erstwhile secretary, resigned and Lynne Allen has stepped forward to take her place. Things are going well. We are in a good financial position, which has allowed us to once again subsidise the yearly subscription fees.

We have had six new ladies join us, but sadly we have lost our dear Evelyn Barber.

*Christine King and Denise Cornwall*  
(Co-Presidents of Marsworth WI)

### **Marsworth Community Speedwatch**

As we approach the first day of Spring, we leave behind a period of reduced activity for the Speedwatch volunteers as a result of Christmas/New Year commitments, reduced daylight hours and appalling wet weather. Added to this, the Sentinel equipment required some replacement components which rendered it unusable for an extended period. These issues also affected the operations of Speedwatch in surrounding villages.

Activity has now resumed in Marsworth and has initially focused on the traffic in both directions on Lower Icknield Way. During a two-hour period in which traffic was monitored for one hour in each direction, no vehicles were recorded exceeding the speed limit out of a total of 424 vehicles monitored.

Ideally, this result would be attributed to those drivers who act responsibly and those who are deterred from breaking the speed limit due to the signs advising that Speedwatch operates within the village. However, there may have been other factors for vehicles not exceeding the 30 mph limit.

The appalling condition of the roadway on the White Lion bridge and on each of its approaches causes drivers to drive more carefully and slowly.

The volume of traffic is higher at the moment as a result of the diversions in place whilst the Upper Icknield Way is closed. This limits the opportunities for some to 'put their foot down'.

The continued parking of a vehicle on the road close to the village hall causes traffic in both directions to slow and/or stop, as it is located on a bend and is a potential hazard.

With the increasing number of daylight hours and less wet weather as spring and summer arrive, it should be possible to evidence that from time to time, Speedwatch will be operating at all five nominated sites within the village. With this in mind, we would welcome more volunteers who are prepared to give up a few hours each month to encourage safer speeds throughout Marsworth. Once set up, the tripod mounted video camera automatically records speeding vehicles and the information is passed to Thames Valley Police. Operators of the equipment are not involved in any follow up action.

If anyone would like to find out more about joining the Marsworth Group, please contact me at [ron@startops.co.uk](mailto:ron@startops.co.uk).

*Ron Busby*

### **Marsworth Charity Report 2024**

The Charity Trustees have had one meeting during the last 12 months. An annual report is submitted each year to The Charity Commission in accordance with Charity regulations.

Our objectives are to apply the income of the Charity for such charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Marsworth as the Trustees think fit. During the year we have had two requests for help, one of which was from the Marsworth Food Bank to support the Christmas Lunch for the older members of the village and the Trustees agreed to donate £100 for this purpose which has helped 32 people from the village. The other request was from the Marsworth School which we will be considering at our forthcoming Trustees Meeting. We have agreed with the Parish Council to work together if a project is identified that the Charity can assist with.

A major part of our time this year has been spent in going through the Parish Council records, the (former) AVDC records and working with the Charity Commission, trying to identify the history and legal title to the Gravel Pit Meadow which goes back to the Marsworth Inclosure Act 1809. I would very much like to thank Stephen Wooler for his recent research and work on this which is on-going.

In the meantime we continue to receive our income from our farm tenant of the Gravel Pit Meadow and our capital fund gradually grows.

*Matthew Carter*, Chairman of Trustees

### **Marsworth Preschool**

Another successful year has passed for Marsworth Preschool. A key highlight was our Ofsted Report in July. We were rated a 'Good' setting, maintaining our level for the last 5+ years, even through Covid.

We have seen the promotion of Zoe Wells to Deputy Manager and she supports our Leader of 20+ years Wendy. They are supported by the rest of the Preschool Team. In September we recruited Adam Kennedy, who is doing his Level 2 and hopes to do his Level 3 with us in Childcare too.

Combined, our dynamic team continues to provide excellent care and support to over 30 local children. Children attend from Marsworth, Long Marston, Cheddington, Ivinghoe, Pitstone and other local villages.

The staff are supported by a volunteer committee of which I am a Trustee. There are currently five of us, but we are looking for more members. This committee

works with a Fundraising Committee who co-ordinate fundraising events for the village and wider community. We also support the Steam Rally every year. Funds from these events allow us to purchase new equipment and resources for the children to enhance their early development.

You are all more than welcome to email me at [admin@marsworthpreschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@marsworthpreschool.org.uk) with any questions you may have, or look at our website [www.marsworthpreschool.org.uk](http://www.marsworthpreschool.org.uk) for more information.

*James Kennedy, Secretary*

## Steam Rally

Marsworth Steam Rally 2023 was held as usual on Father's Day, Sunday 18th June. Back into the swing of things following the huge success of the previous year, 2023 expected much. Marsworth as always did not disappoint. The weather for setup was probably a little too hot, Saturday the skies went dark but despite much thunder forecast, Sunday held clear until the end of the day and helped us run another fantastic event.

Support from our volunteers was stronger than ever - the committee had many to thank for their continued support. A special note of thanks to Lynda, one of our committee's long-standing supporters, 2023 being a farewell outing; Michael and Mel and the continued support from the Red Lion as well of course as the support from the Parish Council. Parking again in the recreation ground, an improvement on the previous year, this time we loaded car parks from roundabout and village hall approaches into the village, reducing as far as possible the levels of queuing so that visitors had more time to enjoy their day and those passing through were not unduly delayed.

The committee received lots of encouraging feedback, and have over recent planning meetings been busy putting changes and improvements into place for our next event. We will of course be making arrangements to trim the forthcoming spring growth in verges from the roundabout to the recreation ground. We're particularly interested in any innovations and efficiency measures that our volunteers and supporters put forward. If you hear of any, please do forward them to us as our committee will be meeting regularly on the preparation run to this year's event - Sunday 16th June 2024.

Each year we provide feedback in the form of a risk assessment and safety officer report to our authorising body, the National Traction Engine Trust. In return we receive suggestions for improvements, or at least items to monitor and check, based on incidents and recommendations from rallies across the nation. The NTET also provide updates drawn from the Purple Guide, which is used by event organisers of many categories.

Our web and Facebook sites host a gallery of images collected on the day - showcasing Marsworth and the surrounding countryside. The turnout was a pleasure to see, so many happy smiling faces all day, with everyone enjoying themselves. Thank you once again for your support - the committee is looking forward to hosting again in June. Hopefully the event will be as big as last year and the weather just as kind.

*Neil Kennedy*  
(Chair, the Marsworth Steam Rally Committee)

## Marsworth 100 Club

The Marsworth 100 Club is run by the Millennium Hall Committee and is open to ALL who live in Marsworth. The funds that are raised are used to support the Hall and other local events, for example the annual fireworks display in November.

Monthly draws take place during the Millennium Hall Committee meetings, held on the first Wednesday of each month, and regular draws comprise of 5 x £20 winners. Three times a year there are now big draws with prizes of up to £100.

It costs only £20 a year, per number, to join and you can have as many numbers as you like per household. There are currently 182 members in the club, for which we are very grateful. We have some wonderful volunteers who start collecting dues from July onwards to prepare for the new year of draws which start in September. Thank you to these people, who give up their time to help.

If you would like to help support your local village, this is a great way to contribute and maybe win a prize. If you are not already a member and would like to join, please contact me by email: [hurleys16@icloud.com](mailto:hurleys16@icloud.com).

*Stephanie Hurley*

**Reports from All Saints Church, the Village Hall Committee, Canal and River Trust, Thames Valley Police, Marsworth School, and our Bucks Councillors will be added to the website once received.**

**MARSWORTH**  
**STEAM & CLASSIC**  
**Vehicle Rally**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

We're looking for enthusiastic people to help on the day.  
Could you spare a few hours?

**will you HELP?**

See the website for further details:  
[www.MarsworthSteamRally.co.uk](http://www.MarsworthSteamRally.co.uk)



Plenty of water in the reservoirs!

Photos: Jeremy Whitehead

... but it was rather different in 2012.  
Below, the reservoirs in January 2012



## Marsworth Neighbourhood Watch



### New Officers for Marsworth

We have been informed that two new Aylesbury Vale officers have replaced our PCSO Megan Dean, who has moved onto a completely new career.

Our dedicated team are Neighbourhood Supervisor PC Dionne Edwards, PC Jake Bye, PCSO Tina Hobson and PCSO Connor Smith. All can be contacted on [greatbrickhillwingivinghoenhpt@thamesvalley.police.uk](mailto:greatbrickhillwingivinghoenhpt@thamesvalley.police.uk).

### Home burglaries

Unfortunately, Thames Valley is seeing a rise in burglaries and Buckingham Council Community Safety Team have issued the following simple steps to protect your home and reduce the chances of it becoming the next target.



- Don't leave your home in darkness. Invest in a timer switch for lamps or your TV. Perhaps purchase a simulated TV device, which has an array of 12 coloured LEDs that imitates the light patterns of watching TV. Someone eyeing up your blinds or curtains will see moving changing colours behind it, like you'd get from a TV. Available for under £20.
- Keep valuables out of sight and mark them with your house number and postcode using a UV pen.
- Register your valuables for free via the Immobilise webpage ([www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)) and keep an inventory list.
- If you have jewellery at home, photograph it for insurance purposes and consider storing in a suitable safe.
- Lock your doors and windows - remove all keys from locks and keep them out of reach.
- If you're going away on holiday, cancel any deliveries, set alarms and do not post on social media.
- Look out for your neighbours' houses, especially when they're not at home.
- Consider joining a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, if you are not already a member of Marsworth NHW please email [MarsworthNHW@gmx.com](mailto:MarsworthNHW@gmx.com) and your road co-ordinator will be in touch.

# Marsworth Women's Institute

By Denise Cornwall

## WI Report for March

I am not sure, but I think this was the first meeting of 2024 when we have not been met with torrential rain as we headed out to our WI meeting. The nights are getting lighter, and it was a pleasure to walk to the village hall and not battle with the weather.

This month's meeting was when we pay our yearly subscriptions or become new members of the WI. The subscription for our WI this year was £42 which works out at 81p a week. I personally think that's a bargain when you think of all that we do and is on offer. The committee were pleased to see a lot of members renew and some new ladies join us. The total of members now stands at 32.

This month some of our members and their husbands/partners went on a visit to Greatmoor Recycling Centre, based in Creighton, Aylesbury. This was our second visit to the site by popular demand. Everyone is in awe of the good work that is done there - absolutely everything is recycled, even the ash at the end of the process is turned into breeze blocks. You may recognise some fellow residents of Marsworth in the photo.



Greatmoor in action



Members were reminded that our Annual Dinner is booked at The Bell, Aston Clinton and will take place on May 7th. We now have the menu for that evening and will soon ask for pre orders of food and of course the very important item of a deposit.

On 20th November we are off to Milton Keynes Theatre to see 'Here You Come Again' (all about Dolly Parton) we have opened this up to members' husbands and partners and have had a good response; at the moment we have 31 going on this trip. Thank you Elsie for organising this for us.

Our Book Club, Craft Club and Supper Club continue to be well attended. Book Club are reading an excellent book ... well, that's what they are telling me (probably Paul Hollywood's cake baking). Craft Club have decorated flowerpots which you will see in the photo. Supper Club did not take place this month. This is where I have to admit that *I have failed*. I suddenly realised that Supper Club fell on my other half's birthday. I promise it will happen in April.



The decorated flower pots

This month's speaker was Geoff Travis,

whose talk was on 'My Time as an Officer at Customs and Excise'.

Geoff brought along quite a bit of memorabilia and as he emptied box after box on the table and then went to his car for some more, I began to wonder how long his talk was going to be and was he moving in for a few days!

As his talk progressed, he referred to different items on the table, along with sharing lots of historical facts and experiences. Some of them were very amusing. Especially when he told us about having to board a certain ship that had docked and the sailors on that ship had a particular liking for eating eels. All of them had fishing lines hanging out of portholes in the hopes of catching some. One particular line looked a little bit different from others. This made Geoff and his work colleague think Why? They pulled the line in and to their amazement found hanging on the end of the line a hot water bottle. Of course this was odd and had to be investigated. It turned out that the hot water bottle was full of very expensive watches that were being smuggled into the UK.

After a while Geoff was offered a job working at the new airport terminal being built and opened in 1969 called Heathrow. This meant a move south for him and his family. He said at the time Heathrow was no more than a largish, shed type of building. He was there for quite a few years and shared some stories of famous people that he had met. After Heathrow he took an office job and ended up living in Aylesbury where he lives today.

Geoff started his life in Filey, Yorkshire and was heavily involved in the Filey Lifeboat Association, a charity that he has supported and continues to support since 1954. He then went on to tell us that he had been giving these talks since he retired in 1991. I just could not work out how old he was, so I politely asked him. Geoff is going to be 88 this year, has no intention of giving up his talks and is enjoying life. Congratulations to you Geoff, and well done for giving us a very enjoyable and informative talk.



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**Beacon Villages Community Library**  
 Run by the community for the community

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.



## Local Treasures

### A local gem is the Natural History Museum at Tring.

Steve and I recently re-visited the Museum in Akeman Street, Tring. We decided to go outside of school holidays but even so there were a couple of school visits taking place; it was very busy and somewhat noisy, but the children seemed to be interested in the exhibits and the project papers they had been given to work through. It is preferable to book before you attend as only a limited number of walk-in spaces are available - and perhaps check if there is a school visit taking place!



Although some classes of exhibits (e.g. much of the butterfly collection) have been moved out of Tring over the years, the remaining exhibition is substantial with many curious objects - the dressed fleas from Mexico always delight. Although the Museum is criticised as a classic Victorian collection of dead animals, many were preserved and stuffed only after they'd died naturally.

The Annual Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition was running at the time we went and the photographs were of excellent quality and the children's prints stunning. If planning a visit, it would be worthwhile to see if there were any special programmes coming up.

### A generous bequest

Walter Rothschild had a lifelong interest in the natural world and undertook, or sponsored, a wide range of research projects. When he died in 1937 he left his

remaining research collections, the public museum, its contents and the surrounding land to the Natural History Museum in London. His collection is the biggest private natural history collection ever assembled by one person, and the largest bequest of specimens ever received by the Natural History Museum. Walter's butterfly collections were later moved to London, and Tring then became home to the bird research collection which is largely housed in a new, specialist building behind the Akeman Street car park. Today, Museum staff working at Tring look after more than a million bird specimens, nests and eggs. Researchers from around the world travel to Tring to use this important collection.



Walter Rothschild on his tortoise

There is a Museum car park in Akeman Street (currently closed for maintenance works) and free car parking in two car parks off Hastoe Lane. The first one, closest to the Museum, has 48 spaces, including three blue badge holder spaces and two parent-and-toddler spaces.

Caroline Smith

### 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 add a photo if you can. Send to [editor@marsworthnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@marsworthnews.co.uk).

## New Moon Morris

### A new Traditional May event in Ivinghoe

New Moon Morris will be holding a Maypole Dance on Ivinghoe Village Green from 7.30 – 8.30pm on Tuesday 30th April. Everyone is welcome, there will be Maypole dancing and Morris dancing from New Moon Morris. We hope that we will be joined by another Morris side.

Afterwards there will be tea/coffee in the Ivinghoe Town Hall until 9.00.

### How did the idea come about?

One of our musicians, Russ, was researching the history of folk and Morris dancing in Ivinghoe, and found that while there is no previous tradition of a Morris side, there is a history of a Morris tune, and Morris dance.

The tune "Buckinghamshire Poacher" was collected by R. Puddyfoot from George Paradine, a shepherd who lived in Ivinghoe and worked on the Beacon. George is buried in the churchyard in Ivinghoe. The tune was taken by Eynsham Morris who developed the dance



"Eynsham Poacher", which is danced by many Morris sides. It seemed sad to us that there wasn't a local tradition of dancing to this tune, so we have been developing a new dance "the Ivinghoe Poacher" which we will dance in public for the first time at this event.

After the dancing there will be tea/coffee in the Town Hall. Some of us will be going to the Ivinghoe churchyard to leave flowers and a short message from New Moon Morris in memory of George Paradine on his grave. If you would like to be involved with this, please bring a flower from your garden, or some greenery.

We hope that you will join us in this celebration.

New Moon is a Morris side based in Ivinghoe which formed in late 2014 and moved to Ivinghoe soon afterwards. Our dances are in a variety of traditional English Morris styles.

We welcome new members, both dancers and musicians. Dancers need no previous experience. Just turn up on Tuesday evening at Ivinghoe Town Hall at 8.15pm – wear sensible shoes and comfortable clothing. After the beginning of May we will sometimes be 'dancing out' and so not at practice on Tuesdays. You can message us at: Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NewMoonMorris](https://www.facebook.com/NewMoonMorris) Website: [newmoonmorris.co.uk/](http://newmoonmorris.co.uk/) Instagram: [www.instagram.com/new.moonmorris](https://www.instagram.com/new.moonmorris).

## The Tring Anglers

The river fishing season finished with the same weather in line with the rest of the winter, with severe floods. We need the winter floods to clean out the river and bring up the groundwater levels. However, you can have too much of a good thing! A few odd days when the river was safe to approach did see some excellent chub caught from the club's River Thames Fisheries. Also some large chub are being caught on the canal sections where they thrive, such as the area of canal near the Marsworth Red Lion pub. Also anywhere where the rivers Gade and Bulbourne join the canal, mostly south of Hemel Hempstead and towards Hunton Bridge.



A 5lb 12oz River Thames chub to end the season

We are looking forward to the Floating Market on the last weekend of April and hope the weather is kind to us. One advantage we anglers have is that the 'Refreshment' boat will be next door to our coaching stations. Also two of the major 'Waterways' players will be with us: The Inland Waterways Association and the Canal & River Trust. At this time when the future of our canals and rivers are needing our full support, please stop and have a chat with their representatives.

**RCTA**  
**Startups Marsworth Floating Market**

On the Grand Union Canal  
Startups End Marsworth, Between Lock 39 & 40 HP23 4LJ

**Sat 27th April to Sun 28th April 2024 10am-5pm**

Come along and support the Roving Canal Traders and Buy Something Unique from Our Members

@canaltraders #buyitoffaboat

On Foot what3words //cheer.immediate.houseboat  
Parking what3words //hnbcaps.spotty.wigly

We would not want to lose our navigations, when we should be improving canals with such ventures as the Wendover Arm Trust and The Buckingham Canal Society. Both are totally volunteer-based and have devoted many hours of their free time to the projects.

Many of you will have observed on the national and local media that many rivers and streams are declining in water quality. We need to take positive steps to keeping our waters as nature intended. Nothing is as sad as a stream with no insect and fish life. I spent many hours when I was younger catching water beetles, frogs and toads – not to mention minnows, sticklebacks and loaches, before I graduated to roach and chub.

Dick Pilkinton



**Saturday**  
**27th April**  
**9.30am-12.30pm**  
**Pitstone Pavilion**

### We can repair:

- ◇ Anything wooden, metal, ceramic, clocks, optical
- ◇ Software problems, mobile screens
- ◇ All electrical items      Clothing and fabrics
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No charge for fixing, but donations are welcome

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



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- @ivinghoepitstonerepaircafe



**2024 dates**  
**Saturdays 09.30-12.30**

27th April	Pitstone Pavilion
25th May	Ivinghoe Hub
22nd June	Pitstone Pavilion
27th July	Ivinghoe Hub
28th September	Pitstone Pavilion
26th October	Ivinghoe Hub
23rd November	Pitstone Pavilion

**Have you used this Repair Café?**  
**Please send a report to**  
**editor@marsworthnews.co.uk.**

## Letter to the editor

I have just returned from a day spent in and around Marsworth. I lived with my parents in Marsworth from 1951, when I was six years old, until 1968. We moved as a family from London into the village into newly-built 71 Lower Icknield Way, my father having been demobbed from the army in I think 1947.

I brought home a copy of Marsworth News for which I must thank you and congratulate you - it was full of interest to me.

I visited family graves in the churchyard as well as those of many neighbours fondly remembered.

A happy day - thank you.

Malcolm Frost

# Marshcroft/Grove Fields Development

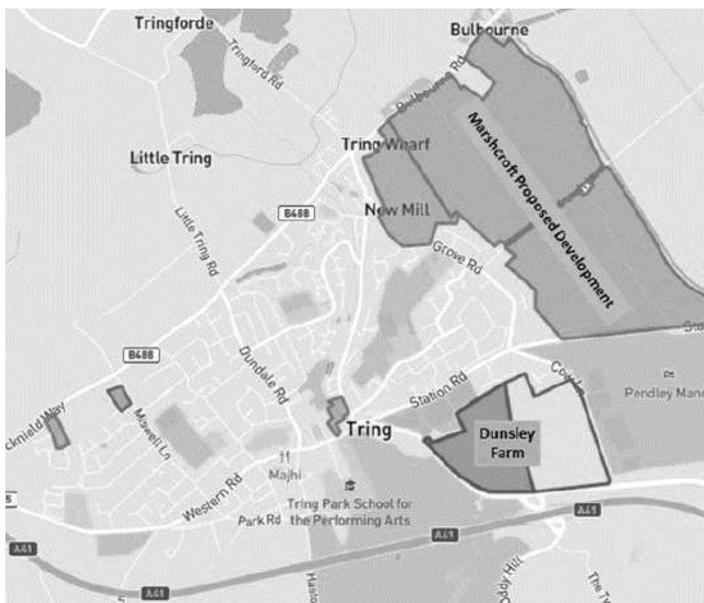
## – Redrow’s Appeal Rejected

This application for the development of 1400 houses on land between Bulbourne Road and Station Road went to appeal, subsequently to Public Enquiry and latterly to the Secretary of State (The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP) for a final decision.

The Secretary of State has dismissed the Appeal and refused planning permission. However, this is not the end as there are still circumstances in which the validity of the Secretary of State’s decision may be challenged by making an application to the High Court within six weeks of 15 March 2024. A judicial review is not a re-hearing, so the judges cannot substitute their own view for that of the Inspector but only check that the Secretary of State’s decision has been arrived at through correct legal process.

Full details of the Secretary of State’s decision can be found on [www.marsworth.org.uk/planning-matters](http://www.marsworth.org.uk/planning-matters).

Steve Smith



## 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](http://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



# Mentmore Arts Festival 2024

Saturday May 25th - Bank Holiday Monday 27th

We now showcase over 60 artists, twice the number from our opening year. There are painters, ceramicists, glassworkers, textile artists and jewellers to see. Many artists are returning year after year, but we are delighted to welcome new exhibitors again in 2024.

The weekend is an opportunity to have a family day with refreshments available including light lunches and tea, coffee and cakes. There is a bar selling local beer and Pimm's. We also have a raffle with some great prizes.

Do come and see us and help to support local charities whilst having a great day out.

See poster alongside.

**MENTMORE**

# Arts Festival

The 14th Mentmore Arts Festival will be held in Mentmore Church and Mentmore Village Hall. We're raising funds for Guide Dogs for the Blind, MK:ACT & St Mary's Church Mentmore.

**MENTMORE CHURCH & MENTMORE VILLAGE HALL – LU7 0QF**

**SATURDAY 25 MAY TO BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 27 MAY**

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# Marsworth CE Infant School

Tel: 01296 668440

www.marsworthschool.co.uk



**April 2024**

## Parking

Over recent weeks I have noticed on more than one occasion that the school's carpark has been used for people's personal use during half-terms and weekends. I and members of my staff have turned up on a Monday morning to park and are unable to. The school's car park is **NOT** for public use and therefore should not be used. There is potentially the risk of being fined for incorrect use. I would also like to add that should anything happen to the vehicle the school is not liable and you would not be covered for insurances purposes.

We have been keeping a record of the vehicles being parked on the school premises. I have encouraged our parents and staff members to park appropriately, may I encourage the villagers to do the same. Thank you for your support in this matter.

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 any unpleasant confrontations. I have also asked parents to do the same. Thank you for your support in this matter.

## Dog Waste

It has been brought to my attention that there have been a couple of incidents where dogs have fouled on the footpath by the entrance to the school. I myself have been out and cleaned it up. As much as we teach the children to look where they are walking, it is often too late and the children bring it into school. Please be a considerate dog owner and clean up after your dog.

## Bags2School

Thank you to everyone who donated towards the Bags2School. We raised £35. There will be another one on 20th March 2024. Please could bags be dropped off to the school office the day before, or left outside the office (weather dependent) before 9am, as they usually collect the bags early.

## Events

Before half-term the children were learning about Lent, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. The children made pancakes, took part in a sponsored pancake flip and some even took part in designing a new topping competition. Fun was had by all.

The celebration service included pupils learning about Ash Wednesday and part of the service included Rev. James marking a cross of ash on the foreheads of those who wished to have it done. The children learnt about reflecting on their actions, seeking forgiveness and ways of improving going forward.

The school website has photos of both events.

## Circus Workshop

On Tuesday 27th February the children took part in a circus skills workshop. They had an opportunity to be suspended from a hoop and also use a silk ribbon. The children demonstrated great curiosity and courage to have a go. Some of the moves were brilliant.

When not learning to be an acrobat they were learning to be jugglers. They experimented with balancing peacock feathers on the tips of their fingers, spinning plates and using ribbons. They even had to work as a whole team trying to make a hoop travel in and around their bodies in a circle. All of these were a lot harder than they looked!



The children's confidence grew immensely and it was lovely to hear the children buzzing when returning to school, 'That was the best day ever!' More photos can be found on the school website.

## World Book Day

This year the children participated in World Book Day. We had a focus on language and asked children to come dressed as a word. We held a Vocabulary Parade and had to guess what the words were.

Other activities involved having a story read by parents, staff and grandparents. The children listened virtually to an author and then created their own characters. KS1 pupils designed a new front cover for the story they are reading, 'The Wizard of Oz.'

As a whole school we listened to audio stories and created a story. We played the consequence game, each class took it in turns to add a sentence to the story. It was passed back and forth throughout the day and then we came together to read the finished story before going home. It was a very unusual and creative story!

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

Mrs Polatci, Headteacher



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# From the Marsworth Archive

## Marsworth's oldest resident

News of Kitty Pinnock's 105th birthday in February (see page 7) prompted an enquiry to the Archive as to whether Kitty is the oldest inhabitant in the records of the village. This is the kind of challenge the Archive thrives on, and we set to work scouring the available records to see if we could find the answer.

Alongside parish records, the obvious source to consult are the surveys of the National Census and, as we wrote in our previous article, Marsworth can take pride in being mentioned in the country's first census – the Domesday Book of 1086. The modern census, which is now run by the Office for National Statistics, dates back to 1801 when the government, worried that there might not be enough food to feed the country, passed the Census Act to establish the size of the population. One of the key questions asked in the early surveys was age and the 1821 census showed that almost half the population was under 20 years old, compared with around a quarter today.

But finding out the age of the population was tricky, as people were often reluctant to tell the truth. The Office of National Statistics writes "The 1881 Census report found a great deal of 'wilful misstatement of age' by girls and women, mostly depending on whether they were married. Even much later, in 1951, women were asked to be more honest about how old they were." This is hardly surprising given that the early census instructions read "For persons aged 15 years and upwards it is sufficient to state within what period of five years their age is, writing down the lowest number of that period: thus for persons aged 15 and under 20, write 15 - for 20 and under 25, write 20 ... but the exact age may be stated if the person prefers it."

1841 saw the first 'modern' census, led by the General Registrar 'Mr Lister', with forms filled out by households directly and it is the first census for which we have records in the Marsworth Archive. According to it, the eldest resident was Sicily Crop, aged 80, who lived in

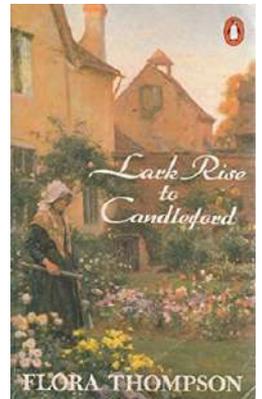
the household of Joseph and Elizabeth Chappin. Joseph is listed as a publican, and we are guessing he ran The Red Lion.

Looking through the records there are no references to any centenarians other than Catherine Bushell, who passed away aged 100 in 2020, having lived her later years at New Mill and then in a nursing home. We are indebted to Elsie Beesley for alerting us to Dick Duff and Hazel O'Connor, both of whom were aged 99. So, unless anyone has any other information, we are happy to proclaim Kitty as Marsworth's oldest resident and wish her many more years with the title!

## An interesting read

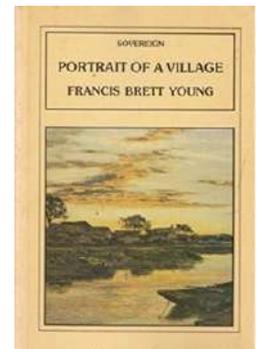
Moving to Marsworth from the city of St Albans has brought us to rural village life, a change of pace and scale, with a stronger sense of community. Villages are often sought out by weary city commuters who seek sanctuary, space and peace and are treasured by those with a sense of nostalgia, connecting with the past and resisting the fast-changing world beyond, even if original inhabitants of rural communities would view it more realistically.

There are many homages to rural life in literature and it appears that nostalgia and a reticence for change prevail through the works of authors such as H E Bates. Perhaps the most famous book of this type is **Lark Rise to Candleford** by Flora Thompson, which is set in Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire in the 19th century and has been made into a play at the National Theatre and a BBC Television series.



You might be interested in another two books, one dating from the 1930s at a time of great rural nostalgia as the clouds of war thickened over Europe, and a more modern work set in equally threatening times for residents of Buckinghamshire.

**Portrait of a Village** by Francis Brett Young was published in 1937 and describes life in the fictional village of Monks Norton.



The author focuses on a dispassionate description of village life, detailing it through geography and hierarchy in order to note the changes of the 1930s – it describes the saddler whose livelihood has been threatened by the onset of the bicycle and car, embodied by the garage down the street. Now his trade is in making leather collars for pets.



Only one individual gets an entire chapter – the village doctor (the author had been a doctor) – who is something of an unsung hero in the community. He is 'kind and honest and wise and courageous and merciful ... it would be difficult in Monks Norton to find a more happy man.'

City or Borough of \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish or Township of Marsworth Enumeration Schedule

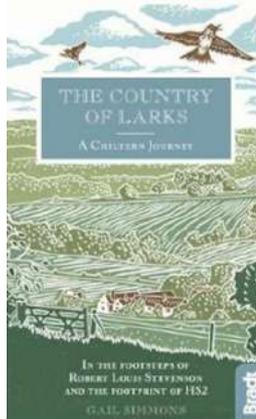
PLACE	HOUSES		NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born				
	Occupied or Partly Occupied	Unoccupied		M	F		England	Ireland	Foreign	Not stated	
Marsworth			George Smith	35							
			George Smith	15							
			Abigail Smith	9							
			Annabell Smith	7							
			Sophia Smith	5							
			Mary Smith	3							
			William Smith	9							
			Joseph Chappin	45		Publican					
			Elizabeth Chappin	45							
			Thomas Chappin	25							
			William Chappin	20							
		Sicily Crop	80								
		William Bates	60		Ag Lab						

1841 Census page for Marsworth showing Sicily Crop

With its rural setting and themes of change, the novel might appeal to residents of Marsworth who might see a lot of village life (and ourselves) in its pages. The early editions also have wonderful woodcuts.

**The Country of Larks: A Chiltern Journey: In the footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson and the footprint of HS2**  
by Gail Simmons (2019).

This is a travelogue in which the author revisits Buckinghamshire, the county of her childhood, as it falls beneath the shadow of HS2. She follows in the footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson who undertook his own three-day walk from High Wycombe to Tring via Great Missenden and Wendover and describes the changes in the landscape of the last 150 years, as well as talking to residents living with the prospect of destruction of the fabric of their area.



It is a moving book that we can all relate to as we will recognise her journey; and for those lacking in a rural background it helps to interpret the landscape around us. For anyone who has a love of the countryside and wants to know more about its evolution and (sadly) what has been lost from the past and in the future, this is an excellent read.

Jonny and Jo Taylor (marswortharchive@gmail.com)

## Arthritis Action



Arthritis Action is the UK charity offering an integrated self-management approach to help address the physical and mental health symptoms of living with arthritis.

Our self-management approach encompasses a wide array of services, including personal dietary and nutritional advice, as well as access to clinical appointments with approved practitioners. We also offer people the opportunity to take part in events and online groups. Through our approach, we help people with arthritis gain the knowledge and confidence to manage their condition themselves and enjoy a more active life with less pain.

We are now offering free community presentations and to online groups to help educate and empower people living with arthritis and to give information on ways to manage their condition. These are ideally done online, but where possible we can do them in person. To book one of these or for more information, go to [www.arthritisaction.org.uk](http://www.arthritisaction.org.uk).

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### Marsworth Parish Council

Chair - Bob Kennedy - 01296 661533

### Clerk to the Parish Council

Caroline Smith - [parishclerk@marsworth.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@marsworth.org.uk)  
07557 289049

### Bucks Councillor for Marsworth

Derek Town - [derek.town@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:derek.town@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

### Marsworth Infants School - Office:

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### Marsworth Preschool - 01296 661164

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### Neighbourhood Watch

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### Items for Bucks Herald

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### Marsworth WI

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### Canal & River Trust

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### Marsworth Craft Club

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volunteer run and  
entrance is FREE.

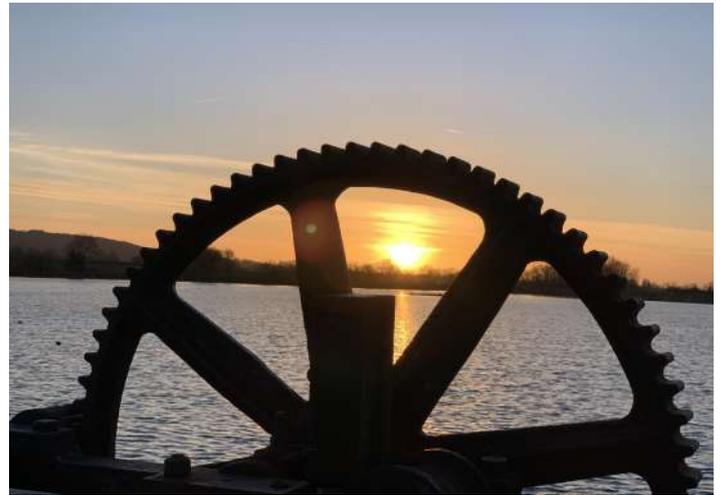


# Marsworth Photo Gallery

Please send your photos to [editor@marsworthnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@marsworthnews.co.uk)



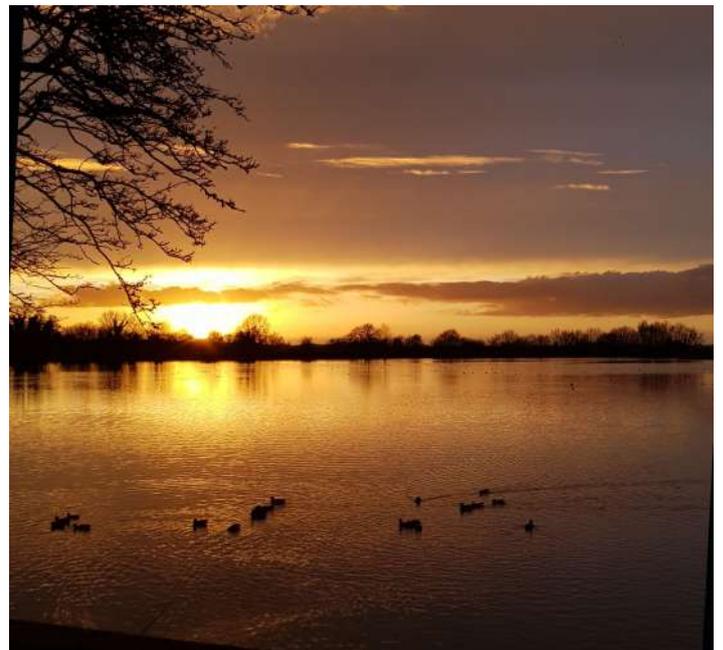
Tringford Reservoir - Niki Powell



Startops sunset - Jeremy Whitehead



Spring evening on the Grand Union - Sara Wood



Sunset over Tringford Reservoir - Niki Powell



Stars over Startops Reservoir - Martin Rance Photography