

# 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.**

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**Plus much more!**

## Startop Farm Maple Takes a Star Turn in New Narnia Film

A familiar landmark from Josie Kempster's farm is set to appear on the big screen later this year — though its journey to stardom first began many months ago when it was spotted at Marsworth Steam and Classic Vehicle Rally.

Last September, a team from Shepperton Studios quietly arrived to purchase and remove the distinctive dead maple tree that stood at Startop Farm in the hedgerow of the old rally field.

Known locally for its twisted, scarred silhouette, the tree was carefully dismantled by contractors, with some branches cut and numbered so it could be reconstructed exactly on set. At the time, the production it was destined for was still under wraps.

Now we can finally say where it's headed: the tree will feature in *Narnia: The Magician's Nephew*, Netflix's major new adaptation of C. S. Lewis's classic. The film will be released in cinemas in November 2026, with a Netflix premiere on Christmas Day. It is directed by Greta Gerwig and stars Emma Mackey, Carey Mulligan and Daniel Craig and filming finished at the end of January.



The story marks the beginning of the Narnia saga. It follows two children, Digory and Polly, who discover a mysterious woodland called **the Wood Between the Worlds** - a quiet, dreamlike place filled with pools that act as portals to other universes. Their travels take them to the ruined world of Charn, where they accidentally awaken the future White Witch, and later to the moment Aslan creates Narnia itself, according to Wikipedia.

*This article continues, turn to page 20 to read more*

# Marsworth News

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

Marsworth News also available online at Marsworth.org.uk

## Marsworth Village Hall Hire of rooms

**Main Hall** - available for parties and special occasions.

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

**Upstairs room** - available for meetings or activities.

Can seat 24 for smaller functions.

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

## The Bucks Herald

Please send items about upcoming events, or of local interest, to: Kate Andrew

01296 668727 / 07963 180466 or kate.andrew@btinternet.com

## Last postal collections (Marsworth)

Church, Hall and Startups:

Mon-Fri: 9.00am / Sat: 7.00am

**Tring Post Office** - 5.30pm

**Ivinghoe Post Office** - Open:

Mon- Sat: 7.30am - 8.30pm

Sun: 9.00am - 4.00pm



# Editorial

By Lynn Mildner and Zoë Card

Throughout February like many others I have been enjoying watching the Winter Olympics, as the games come to a close it feels rather fitting that they mark the end of winter and a look forward to spring. March always feels like a month of promise: the days stretch a little longer, buds begin to open, and with any luck the weather starts turning and we see a little less rain. British Summer Time just around the corner, so don't forget to adjust your clocks on the 29th.

This month is also a very special one in our village calendar, with a number of holy services taking place at our parish church. It's a time for reflection, community, and renewal. You can see these on page 4 and in our new calendar feature on page 5.

As well as new features, you may notice a few small changes in the pages of this newsletter as we look ahead and think about how best to serve our readers. We'd really value your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions about what you'd like to see more of in future issues. Please complete our short survey by scanning the QR code, or send us your suggestions directly to the inbox: [editor@marsworthnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@marsworthnews.co.uk).

Wishing you all a bright and hopeful start to spring.

Reader Feedback



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# Parish Council meeting precis - February 2026

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



Parish Clerk's Report following the Marsworth Parish Council (MPC) Parish meeting held on 9 February 2026

## Consultation on Buckinghamshire's Local Plan – Have Your Say

There has been a call for sites in Buckinghamshire culminating in 90,000 dwellings being identified to build on various sites across Buckinghamshire. There is a consultation until 16 March 2026 on the areas identified. Please go to <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/planning/2aa4b313/consultation/intro/> to have your say. Please see full article on page 12. Please also come along to our next Parish Council meeting on 9 March at 8pm if you would like to discuss. Please let the Parish Clerk know if you are attending.

## Parish Clerk's new email address

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

## Railings at Startops

The replacement railings at Startops have finally been installed, complete with reflective strapping.

## Lighting in Marsworth

MPC has been reserving monies over the last 3 years to replace our ageing street lighting in the village. In the next few months, new LED street lights will replace the 19 old lamps in Marsworth (excludes Lower Icknield Way which is considered a highway and is managed by Buckinghamshire Council and FixMyStreet). The lamps outside the village school, Old School House, the Church and the Red Lion will be 'heritage style' lighting. An example of this can be seen at Aldbury on the village green by the Post Office. The LED lighting will significantly reduce running and maintenance costs.

## Vacancy for Parish Councillor

There is a vacancy for a parish councillor. Interested candidates should come forward for consideration by emailing the Parish Clerk by Monday 6 April 2026. See notice on page 3.

## Vacancy for Trustee of Marsworth Charity

Marsworth Charity has a vacancy for a Trustee. See notice on page 8.

## Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 13 April

The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Monday 13 April. Please do join us from 6.15pm for a 7.00pm meeting. See page 8.

## Marsworth Parish Councillors

<b>Bob Kennedy</b> (Chair)	07962 002250
<b>Giles Monks</b> (Vice-Chair)	01296 662104
<b>Christine King</b>	01296 660019
<b>Ray Brown</b>	01296 661211
<b>Robert John</b>	07768 004337
<b>Steve Smith</b>	07753 744437
<b>Caroline Smith</b> (Parish Clerk)	
Email: <a href="mailto:clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk">clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk</a>	075572890949

## Next Parish Council meeting

Monday 9 March at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

## Food Bank Funding

We have received the disappointing news that Buckinghamshire Council will not provide funding for the Marsworth Food Bank beyond 31 March 2026. The Marsworth Food Bank is considering other funding options and the Steam Rally has offered its assistance.

## Recreation Ground Flooding

Following MPC's Chairman's letter to the Canal and River Trust indicating extensive documentation regarding CRT's ownership of the strip of land between Bridgeways and the Recreation Ground, MPC is still awaiting CRT's comments.

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

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

## Next MPC Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on **Monday 9 March at 8.00 pm**. Any items for the agenda need to be submitted to the Parish Clerk by Monday 2 March. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting, but please let the Parish Clerk know in advance if you intend to be present by email: [clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk).

## Marsworth Parish Council

07557 289049 [clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk)

## Councillor Vacancy

Are you interested in your local community? Would you like to put something back into your local community?

Interested candidates should come forward for consideration by emailing the Parish Clerk by Monday 6 April 2026. Parish Clerk email: [clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk)

The matter will be determined at the Parish Council meeting to be held at 8pm on Monday 13 April in the Millennium Hall at Marsworth.

# All Saints Church

From the Vicar,  
James Grainger-Smith



## A New Vision of God

This year Palm Sunday arrives in March. Here activist and theologian, Brian McLaren, speaks about how Jesus - as the image of God - changes our understandings of who God is:

If we believe that Jesus reveals what God is like then we find that God (as known in Christ) is not the stereotypical Supreme Being of traditional "omni-theology." That Supreme Being of Christian theology was characterised first and foremost by controlling, dominating, dictatorial power... not limited by any law except the will of the Supreme Being Himself: omnipotence.

In sharp contrast, the God imaged by Jesus exerts no dominating supremacy. In Christ, we see an image of a God who is not armed with lightning bolts but with basin and towel, who spewed not threats but good news for all, who rode not a warhorse but a donkey, weeping in compassion for people who do not know the way of peace. In Christ, God is supreme, but not in the old discredited paradigm of supremacy; God is the supreme healer, the supreme friend, the supreme lover, the supreme life-giver who self-empties in gracious love for all. The king of kings and lord of lords is the servant of all and the friend of sinners. The so-called weakness and foolishness of God are greater than the so-called power and wisdom of human regimes.

In the aftermath of Jesus and his cross, we should never again define God's sovereignty or supremacy by analogy to the rulers of this world who dominate, oppress, subordinate, exploit, scapegoat and marginalize. Instead, we have migrated to an entirely new universe, or, as Paul says, "a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17) in which old ideas of supremacy are subverted.

If this is true, to follow Jesus is to change one's understanding of God. To accept Jesus and to accept the God Jesus loved is to become an atheist in relation to the Supreme Being of violent and dominating power. We are not demoting God to a lower, weaker level; we are rising to a higher and deeper understanding of God as pure light, with no shadow of violence, conquest, exclusion, hostility, or hate at all.

We might say that two thousand years ago, Jesus inserted into the human imagination a radical new vision of God - non-dominating, non-violent, supreme in service, and self-giving... Maybe only now... are we becoming ready to let Jesus's radical new vision replace the old vision instead of being accommodated within it. Could some sectors of Christian faith finally be ready to worship and follow the God that Jesus was trying to show them [and us]?

Keep saying your prayers!

## Who's Who at All Saints Marsworth

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



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

**Churchwardens:**  
Neil Kennedy 01296 660973 [n.kennedy@btinternet.com](mailto:n.kennedy@btinternet.com)  
Richard Hares 01296 663652 [rhares@aol.com](mailto:rhares@aol.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)  
John White 01296 662252 [horse.71shoe@sky.com](mailto:horse.71shoe@sky.com)  
Gill White 01296 662252 [horse.71shoe@sky.com](mailto:horse.71shoe@sky.com)  
Jenny Sheils 01296 668230 [sheils.j@btinternet.com](mailto:sheils.j@btinternet.com)  
(Treasurer)  
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)

## March Services for Marsworth

(at All Saints' Church unless otherwise stated)

<b>1st Mar</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	Holy Communion
<b>6th Mar</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	Women's World Day of Prayer Slapton
<b>8th Mar</b>	<b>8.30am</b>	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>15th Mar</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	Mothering Sunday Holy Communion
<b>22nd Mar</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Evensong (BCP)
<b>27th Mar</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>	Memorial Service of Margaret Johnson
<b>29th Mar</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Palm Sunday Holy Communion
<b>30th Mar</b>	<b>8.00pm</b>	Holy Week Night Prayer Ivinghoe
<b>31st Mar</b>	<b>8.00pm</b>	Holy Week Night Prayer



## Beacon Villages Community Library

Run by the community for the community

### Opening hours

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

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



# Upcoming Events

## March



<b>01 Sun</b> 9.15am Holy Communion - All Saints' Church	<b>16 Mon</b> From 6pm woodfired pizza and full menu at The Anglers Retreat
<b>02 Mon</b> From 6pm woodfired pizza and full menu at Anglers Retreat	<b>17 Tue</b> Howe & Co Fish and Chips 6.25pm - 6.45pm 07753 223959
<b>03 Tue</b> Howe & Co Fish and Chips 6.25pm - 6.45pm The Crescent, Vicarage Road, Lukes Lea 07753 223959  7.30pm Marsworth Ladies, Village Hall	<b>18 Wed</b> Food & general waste collection
<b>04 Wed</b> Food & general waste collection 8.30pm Marsworth 100 Draw, Village Hall	<b>19 Thu</b> 7.00 Open Mike Night at Anglers Retreat
<b>05 Thu</b> 7.00 Open Mike Night at Anglers Retreat	<b>20 Fri</b> Howe & Co Fish and Chips Lunch time. 07753 223959
<b>06 Fri</b> Howe & Co Fish and Chips Lunch time. The Crescent, Vicarage Road, Lukes Lea 07753 223959	<b>22 Sun</b> 6.00pm Evensong (BCP)
<b>08 Sun</b> 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	<b>23 Mon</b> From 6pm woodfired pizza and full menu at The Anglers Retreat
<b>09 Mon</b> From 6pm woodfired pizza and full menu at The Anglers Retreat  8.00pm Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall	<b>24 Tue</b> Howe & Co Fish and Chips 6.25pm - 6.45pm 07753 223959
<b>10 Tue</b> Howe & Co Fish and Chips 6.25pm - 6.45pm 07753 223959	<b>25 Wed</b> Food & mixed recycling collection
<b>11 Wed</b> Food & mixed recycling collection  Quiz Night at Red Lion. Booking required	<b>26 Thu</b> 7.00pm Open Mike Night at Anglers Retreat
<b>13 Fri</b> Howe & Co Fish and Chips Lunch time. 07753 223959	<b>27 Fri</b> 1.00pm Memorial Service of Margaret Johnson  Howe & Co Fish and Chips Lunch time. 07753 223959
<b>15 Sun</b> Mothering Sunday  9.15am Mothering Sunday Holy Communion	<b>29 Sun</b> Clocks go forward for BST  10.00am Palm Sunday Holy Communion

# 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)

Send us your dates – [editor@MarsworthNews.co.uk](mailto:editor@MarsworthNews.co.uk)



## Wilstone Reservoir Works

Debbie Ludford

Repairs to the reservoir's culvert, used to draw off water in emergencies, are still underway.

The stone used to create the temporary access road needed for the works is being removed, with a large amount reused locally.

Work continues to improve public access to the reservoir, including:

- levelling and resurfacing the reservoir crest footpath, along with a 200-metre section of the wooded area on the north side of the reservoir;
- installing new steps from Wilstone Reservoir car park, with a resting platform half-way up;
- resurfacing the car park; and
- nine seating areas are being created on the top of the steel pile caps along a 200-metre section of the south west embankment.

The car park and footpath are due to re-open at the end of March. All the works are expected to be completed by the end of May.

Once the works are completed, a series of biodiversity improvements are planned, including reed bed enhancements within the Wilstone Reservoir nature reserve area and gap planting in the reservoir's hedgerows.

## Lock Closure

Kate Andrew

Winter works are continuing in Lock 42 of the Grand Union Canal, Marsworth, stopping navigation. This is part of a project to replace the top and bottom gates on Lock 42 and replace the bottom lock on Lock 43. On Lock 44 the bottom gate is being replaced, and the top gate repaired. A specialist boat with a crane is working in the locks. The closure started on January 6 and runs to March 13 at 4pm. The towpath is open.

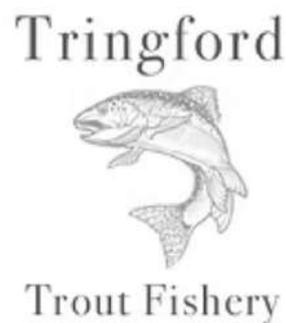


## Tringford Fly Fishers

Bob Menzies

Tringford Flyfishers held their annual Spring gathering at the Anglers on the evening of February 16th. Members and friends got together to socialise and plan for the 2026 season which starts on April 1st. Despite the foul weather and lingering illness about, there was a good turnout and the raffle raised over £300. Of note, a new development committee was set up to be chaired by a Marsworth resident.

The fishery, started in the 70s by the local estate, is run by local volunteers to provide a service rather than be a business. Fishing, by fly only, is readily available on a pre booked basis (call Bob on 07802805236). Day tickets, memberships and group days (catered if required) are the options. The bulk of the fishing is from boats that are provided free with life jackets. Children up to 16 fish free with a parent or an accredited person. With warning, tackle can be lent or alternatively picked up quite cheaply sometimes at Tring Auctions or on Ebay. There is a reserved car park at the site and hot drinks are normally available. Finally, instruction is available call Paul on 0788573311.



# The perfect opportunity to make or update your will

Local homelessness charity, DENS, has confirmed the return of its popular Make A Will Month initiative this March.



Berkhamsted solicitor firms, Harrowell & Atkins and Machins, are generously volunteering their time for free to write or update a Will in return for a donation to DENS.

The charity provides a range of integrated services to help local people experiencing homelessness, poverty and social exclusion. Last year saw unprecedented demand for their support, including 3,379 stays at their emergency accommodation and 127,923 meals provided by their Foodbank.

Lauren Parker, Supporter Relationships Manager at DENS, said: "Over half of UK adults don't have a valid Will in place, but it's such an important document. This is the perfect opportunity to get that job done, while supporting the life-changing work of DENS."

Verity, a DENS supporter who previously took part in the initiative, added: "The process was very simple. Not only did it prompt me to get my Will sorted, but it was also a charity I was very happy to support. I love my community and love that DENS are so much a part of it."

Limited DENS Make A Will Month appointments are available. To find out more and secure your slot, visit [www.dens.org.uk/mawm](http://www.dens.org.uk/mawm).

## Marsworth Village Hall 100 Club



### This Month's Winners

February £20 - 100 Club winners

- No:49 - John Kelly - Lukes Lane
- No:161 - Clare Hill - Wagtails
- No:167 - Andrew Screech - Aspens Farm
- No:113 - Shaun Lane - Norvic Road
- No:57 - Lee Jordon - Lower Icknield

Congratulations to this month's winners and thank you for everyone's continued support.

Next month's draw will take place on Wednesday 4th March, during the Committee meeting from 7pm, to be held at the Millennium Hall.

Good luck for the next draw!  
Stephanie Hurley

## Local Treasures

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

It should be within a 15-mile radius of Marsworth.

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

**Say it with a Smile**  
Charity No: 1203759

**Tring Garden Centre**  
In partnership, we bring to the Chilterns

**Pop by for a cuppa, a bite to eat, and enjoy a warm & welcoming space**

**At: Tring Garden Centre**  
Bulbourne Rd, Tring HP23 5HF

**At: 11.30am - 2.00pm**

**From Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February**  
**Every first Wednesday of the month**

Created for those living with dementia, memory impairment, their families and carers  
**email: [sayitwithasmile.org.uk](mailto:sayitwithasmile.org.uk)**  
**[www.sayitwithasmile.org.uk](http://www.sayitwithasmile.org.uk)**

**The Gardener's Retreat Restaurant**

**Smile Table**

**Smile**

**Smile**

## Postal services

### A National Issue

*Stephen Wooler*

Many villagers may have experienced a variation in frequency of post in recent months. In the article below Stephen Wooler explains this is not a local issue and what is happening at a national level. Our wonderful local posties are still providing us with the best service they can.

In recent months, local social media group posts have increasingly suggested deteriorating postal services – in particular the bunching of mail when a lengthy period with no mail was followed by an avalanche through the letter box, with many letters having clearly spent a long time in the system. Much dissatisfaction related to delays Christmas mail. Marsworth was no exception despite of the goodwill and helpfulness of our local postie.

It is now clear from a national survey that the Tring area was by no means alone.



Citizens Advice – the charity better known for its help to those with problems – is also the statutory watchdog for post. In January, it commissioned its annual survey of over 2000 adults across the UK. The findings were stark. The number of people experiencing delays over Christmas has increased by 50% since 2024 when 10.7million people faced postal delays. Within that, an estimated 5.7 million people missed vital letters about matters such as health appointments, fines and benefit decisions.

Some of the downturn in the latter part of 2025 may be attributable to changes authorised last year by Ofcom (the postal regulator). As of July 28th, 2025, Royal Mail has been required to deliver 2nd class post on alternate weekdays, instead of six-days-a-week, Monday to Saturday. These changes have not yet come into full effect across the UK, so we do not know how much our area has been affected and whether more is to come.

More generally, Royal Mail has a poor track record of performance against its delivery targets and was fined (by Ofcom) £21m in 2025, £10.5m in 2024 and £5.6m in 2023 for breaching its obligations in the corresponding financial years. Since then, the regulator has lowered Royal Mail's headline delivery targets under its universal service obligations so that from April 1st 2026, Royal Mail will be required to deliver 90% of first class mail within one working day (instead of 93%), and 95% of second-class mail within three days (instead of 98.5%).

## Annual Parish Meeting



### Marsworth Parish Council Notice

The Marsworth Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 13 April 2026 at 7.00 pm in the Main Hall at the Millennium Hall, Marsworth.

Wine, beer and fruit juice will be served from 6.15 pm.

All residents welcome.

Thames Valley Police will be available from 6.15pm to 7.00pm to speak to residents about any concerns they may have around the village

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.

Please let the Parish Clerk know if you will be attending the meeting. [clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk)

## Plan some socials

*Kate Andrew*

Marsworth Village Hall Committee is busy planning upcoming events at the Village Hall but needs your input first.

From a Summer Ball or Barn Dance to a Hog Roast, Quiz Night or a Christmas Market - what would you love to see happening at the Village Hall this year?

The committee has posted a short questionnaire on Everything Marsworth and it will only take a minute to complete. It's a chance to help them plan events that the whole community want and can enjoy!

## Marsworth Charity

*Kate Andrew*

The small group of trustees is seeking a new member, following a resignation. An election will take place at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday, April 13 at 7pm at the village hall. Contact the parish clerk for details [clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk).

# Memories of Margaret Johnson 1946-2026



Photo: Margaret at the dedication of choir runners worked by WI members - Elsie Beesley

*Elsie Beesley, Margaret's friend*

Margaret and I were both born in Marsworth, two years apart, but as youngsters, our paths did not cross as we went to different grammar schools and did our nurse training at different hospitals.

I served on the PCC when Margaret was Church Warden with Joan Dutton and remember how well they worked together. I believe her love of children helped make her running of the Junior Choir so successful. They all called her Auntie Margaret which she loved.

It was in 2001 when our annual holidays started with Heather Magowan, Julia Pugh and Neil Gurney. Our first one was to Dublin and then touring Southern Ireland; what laughs with the locals we had. One evening, whilst looking for an overnight stop, we were getting desperate and found a house with a "vacancies" sign. I will never forget Margaret showing us the toilet which had been wallpapered the same as the walls. She was in hysterics.

Over the ensuing years we visited Cyprus, Scotland, Ireland, Anglesey, Northumberland, Suffolk and the Yorkshire Dales. She did not like staying out late and if we went out for an evening meal, as soon as we had finished eating she would say "Time for bed said Zeberdee" and we would return to our accommodation where her nightly routine was to have a bath then bed. Margaret was not much of a walker and if we were out and about she would find a seat and say "you go off and I will be here when you get back".

She was very generous and kind and one year she organised a surprise birthday present for myself, Heather and Neil. She gave driving instructions as we made our way to Yorkshire where she had paid for a B&B and organised a trip on the Settle to Carlisle steam train. It was a wonderful experience and typical of her generosity.

Over the years I tried on many occasions to get Margaret to join the WI with no success. However, once she retired, she relented. What a breath of fresh air she was, with her ideas for special events and the playlets she wrote for us to entertain the members at our annual party. On one occasion the committee had to put on tutus and perform a ballet routine she had written. She was an excellent Treasurer and kept us all well informed with her spreadsheets.

Our holidays together came to an end when Margaret suffered her stroke. She was always so pleased to see visitors saying "Hello darling how are you today?" Always concerned for others. She had some frustrating times and I did see her low moments which were upsetting, but she tried so hard to be positive and cheerful. She had great faith which, I am sure helped her to cope.

I miss you Margaret, may you rest in peace.

Margaret's memorial service takes place at All Saints Church, Marsworth on Friday 27 March at 1.00pm and after at the Millennium Hall.



Photo: Margaret is dressed in post war gear celebrating Marsworth WI's 70th birthday - Elsie Beesley

*Bren Pearson, Margaret's cousin*

Margaret was my cousin and together we attended Marsworth C of E School and later Aylesbury Technical High School now known as Henry Floyd. Some of my earliest memories are of playing in the back drive of her home which led on to Vicarage Road. Half way along there was a tiny patch of four leaf clovers. Margaret, myself and two other friends (Marilyn Stillwell (now Nelson) and Sandra Pearce (now Seabrook) decided to form a club called the four leaf clover club and we each pressed and dried one of the four leaf clovers. We often met at Margaret's house and played for hours in her very large garden and orchard, which has long since been replaced by part of Lukes Lea. Somehow the sun always used to shine in those days and I can remember getting tummy ache after eating too many plums from the orchard.

That orchard also featured in one of the best events of the year (at least in our minds) Bonfire Night. We would build an enormous bonfire in the orchard, at a reasonable distance from the trees and my Auntie Win, Margaret's Mum, would bake large potatoes in the ashes which we ate after the display had ended. It was the highlight of the year, with the exception of Christmas.

Even at a young age Margaret was excellent on the stage and I can remember performing with her in many school plays and pantomimes. The one which particularly stays in my mind is a pantomime called Cinderella with a Difference, where I was Buttons to Margaret's Cinderella, the "difference" was that Cinderella was carried off to the ball in a space ship!

When I was eleven and went off to the "big" school I was very glad that Margaret was also there. It was a great help to have someone you knew already there who could show you the ropes, especially when moving from a small village school to a large senior school.

Margaret was always bright, cheerful and great fun. She had a wonderful imagination and could invent games which no one else could ever have dreamed of.

## Marsworth Ladies

Chris King

After all the Christmas excitement, and because there is no meeting in January, we ladies were looking forward to our meeting in February, which was a Sing-Along with The Kensal Duo. The two ladies that produce our programme have made some excellent choices for our entertainment and this duo were no exception! The duo consisted of a lady, whose voice is exceptional, and a gentleman who played the 12 string guitar beautifully. He has played with many well-known artists from the past, I'm sure he could tell us lots of interesting things. We were each handed a song sheet and I, for one, was relieved to know that all of the songs were well known favourites, from the past to current hits. Several of our members are in choirs, so when so many of us all sing together it really does sound very beautiful. Our voices soared into the high-ceilinged village hall and I think we all enjoyed the experience of singing together, something that rarely happens. Of course we were accompanied by the very experienced duo which helped! All this followed by delicious cake made by the tea ladies on the rota! What a lovely evening.

Several trips out have been organised. We are going to the newly re-opened Frogmore Paper Mill in March. They suffered an arson attack several years ago, so I am delighted they are open for visitors again.

In addition, a wonderful Thames Champagne Lunch River Cruise from Windsor to Maidenhead has been organised for the summer.

We also hold a Summer Tea Party annually at the home of one of our members, the idea being we have fun and raise money for charity. Other events are in the pipeline, including holding a jumble sale in the near future. Our Supper, Book and Craft clubs run throughout the month and the first one is our Supper Club. This month we headed to the Swan at Ivinghoe Aston. As soon as we walked in, we had a very warm welcome from the locals and Penny the landlady. Each one of us chose a different meal from the menu and were all equally pleased with our choice. Home cooked food in a friendly warm and welcoming local pub with a great atmosphere. You really do need to pay it a visit. Something to note is that it caters extensively for coeliac/ GF diet.

We are a ladies' group that like to have fun, listen to interesting speakers and enjoy chatting to our friends, so if you feel like coming along to a meeting to see if you would like to join us, please do.

We meet in the village hall at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month.

## Bridge Club at Marsworth

New members welcome.

Come and join us.

First and third Mondays of the month at 13.30pm in the Mike Frost (upstairs) room at the Village Hall.

Contact: Mike Mullally  
zen40567@gmail.com or 07984 409035.



## Local names and numbers

**All Saints Marsworth** - See Church page

### Bucks Councillors for Marsworth

Chris Poll - [chris.poll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.poll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

Peter Brazier - [peter.brazier@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:peter.brazier@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

### Canal & River Trust -

Customer Services: 03030 404040

[enquiries.southeast@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.southeast@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

### Crime Stoppers

0800 555 111 / [crimestoppers-uk.org/](http://crimestoppers-uk.org/)

### Marsworth Archive

Jonny Taylor - [marswortharchive@gmail.com](mailto:marswortharchive@gmail.com)

### Marsworth Bridge Club - Mike Mullally,

[zen40567@gmail.com](mailto:zen40567@gmail.com) or 07984 409035

### Marsworth Craft Club

[marsworthcraftclub@hotmail.com](mailto:marsworthcraftclub@hotmail.com)

### Marsworth Infants School - Office:

01296 668440 / [office@marsworth.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@marsworth.bucks.sch.uk)

**Marsworth Ladies** - Christine King - 01296 660019

**Neighbourhood Watch** - [MarsworthNHW@gmx.com](mailto:MarsworthNHW@gmx.com)

**Parish Council**—See Parish Council page

### Police - Wing & District Neighbourhood

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

To report a non-urgent crime, telephone 101 or visit [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/)

For non-urgent enquiries, email:

[WingNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk](mailto:WingNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk).

In an emergency dial 999

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

FixMyStreet - [fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk](http://fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk)

For street lighting: [clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk)

**Village Hall bookings** - See page 2

### Windmill Pre-School

Emma McEnteggart - 01296 661031

[Manager@windmillpreschool.co.uk](mailto:Manager@windmillpreschool.co.uk)

# Bucks Councillors Report February 2026



Chris Poll  
Councillor for Ivinghoe ward  
Chairman of East Bucks Community Board

My report to you this month is all about the Buckinghamshire wide Local Development Plan.

We, as a planning authority are required by central government, to develop a plan for the next period, in this case 2025-2045, for housing and employment development. This will be the first of its type for Bucks as a whole, since the creation of the Unitary Authority. We have in this area an existing plan, known as the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, but as a county we do not.

The "Call for Sites" revealed proposals with enough land for 600,000 dwellings which does give us options. It is proposed that no development should happen within the Green Belt at all and that the new "Grey Belt" designation can be almost completely discounted.

Work has been going on by officers at Bucks Council as required by order from central government and we are now at the stage of having site specific proposals across the county. The interactive map can be viewed at: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4551b49742e846a4a4f0dad74e08635e>

The key for the map is:

- Red outline but otherwise empty are sites which have been discounted.
- Green shaded areas would go forward unless there are good reasons to not do so.
- Blue shaded areas are due to have further analysis and may not necessarily go forward.

Under the last government it was successfully argued that this should be a needs-based assessment which had a figure of 65,000 dwellings over the plan period. Since the new government came to power in 2024 this has been changed to a central directive of 95,500 dwellings, an increase of 43%. Disappointingly this comes with no evidence other than a desire to build more homes. Furthermore, there will be no funding from central government for infrastructure. It is suggested by those that have given this figure, that infrastructure will come from the charges to developers upon completion of individual sites or projects.

From a personal point of view, I have always argued that infrastructure should come before significant development even if costs are then reimbursed to government or local authority. Experience teaches us that developers may agree to a certain level of funding for affordable housing, foul and fresh water connection, electricity grid and transport infrastructure, health services and education provision for example, but that too often they successfully negotiate down after the fact due to economic constraints. To build so many new dwellings within Bucks with no infrastructure plan in place and funding secure could lead to many problems in the future.

Please do look at the online map for your area of work, home and leisure and comment via the Your Voice Bucks portal at: <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/planning/2aa4b313/>

Finally, you may have seen a letter written to Bucks Council and published by the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government appearing to reprimand Bucks Council for a lack of progress in developing its plan. This is entirely inappropriate and inaccurate as Bucks Council is following the timetable set out by and agreed with the government. We must however keep to this timetable as failure to do so will mean government will take over the process and this will inevitably lead to even greater numbers being required.

*The Bucks Council announcement follows on page 12*

## Pitstone Green Museum

Vicarage Road, Pitstone, LU7 9EY



## Serving the village and parish of Marsworth

## Micro-volunteering: Big impact in little time

Short on time but still want to make a difference?  
We have volunteer roles that fit your schedule!

Your time, big or small, can make a real difference. So, whether you'd prefer to help from home, contribute to your local community, or assist from your phone, we've got flexible options for you. Get involved and make an impact, no matter where you are.

Community Champion

Just 2 hours can make a difference! Help with a local collection, put up posters, or nominate Connections Support for a supermarket token scheme.

Crafting Champion

You could create scarves, gloves, and hats for homeless people and their dogs, or use your crafting skills to design items for events or to sell.

Digital Champion

Engage with our posts by sharing, liking, or leaving a positive comment. Your support helps us grow our community and reach more people.

If none of those excite you, that's okay. We're on the lookout for anyone with skills or interests that can be used to make a difference.

SCAN  
ME



Scan the QR code for more information and to tell us how you could help.

Get in touch

☎ 01665 711267

✉ [enquiries@connectionsupport.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@connectionsupport.org.uk)





# Buckinghamshire Local Plan

## Local Plan for Buckinghamshire sites survey

This survey gives you the opportunity to comment on the availability and suitability of a site identified as being potentially suitable for development under the Local Plan for Buckinghamshire's plan-making process.



### Have your say by Monday 16 March

Buckinghamshire is updating its Local Plan in line with national planning requirements ahead of the December 2026 deadline and we are currently engaging with partners and infrastructure providers to help shape the plan, ahead of publication in July.

Having conducted detailed land suitability work, including a Grey Belt Assessment, and a review of more than 1,300 sites identified by communities and the Council, over 400 sites have been identified as potentially suitable.

The Council is now liaising with landowners and infrastructure providers to confirm ongoing site availability and understand the capacity of supporting infrastructure.

Having a Local Plan in place is the best defence against speculative development and ensuring new infrastructure is adequately planned for. Once adopted, Buckinghamshire's Local Plan will provide a clear framework for the county's future development. It will address needs and opportunities relating to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure, while also conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and securing well-designed places for decades to come.

The plan-making process is well underway with 1,335 residents, businesses and community partners already having shared their views via a formal consultation. The sites that have been assessed on suitability for development can be found on an interactive map at <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4551b49742e846a4a4f0dad74e08635e>. When using the map, select the icon in the top left corner (the middle button, with three dots). Sites included in the potential housing and employment supply are shown in turquoise, sites requiring further assessment are dark blue, and sites within the grey belt that are not included in the potential supply are shown in grey.

Before responding to the survey, please also look at the supporting documents and information on the Local Plan for Buckinghamshire web page.

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/local-planning/buckinghamshire-local-plan/>

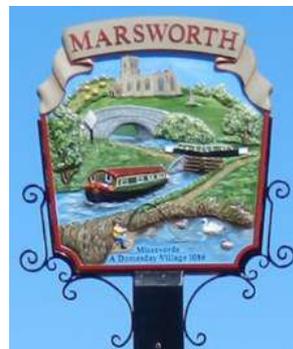
### How to have your say

Complete and return the on-line survey <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/planning/2aa4b313/consultation/intro/>

If you are a landowner of one or more of the sites deemed suitable and you haven't received a direct written correspondence from us, please email: [planningpolicyteam.bc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicyteam.bc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

Please tell us your views by 11:59pm on Monday 16 March 2026.

The links will be available on our Marsworth Parish website <https://www.marsworth.org.uk/planning-matters/>



### Marsworth Charity: Trustees Wanted

The Marsworth Charity was established in 1986 to manage a small parcel of land know as Gravel Pit Meadow and to use the income generated from it for charitable purposes for the inhabitants of the parish of Marsworth.

The charity is run by a small group of trustees, two of which represent the parishioners of Marsworth, other trustees represent the Church, the Village School and the Parish Council. A meeting of the trustees is usually held once a year, the post is not onerous and the post is held for three years before new trustees are elected.

**An election for one of the two parish trustees will take place at the Marsworth Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 13 April 2024 at 7pm at the Village Hall, following the resignation of the present incumbent.**

If you would like to stand for the Trustee position, or if you would like to nominate someone, please notify the Parish Clerk in advance. [clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marsworth-pc.gov.uk)

Further details about the Annual Parish meeting can be found on the village website:

<https://www.marsworth.org.uk/marsworth-parish-council/annual-parish-meeting/>

# Marsworth Neighbourhood Watch



## Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH)

On January 14th there were reports of a fundraiser knocking on doors asking for people to sign up to making regular donations to Great Ormond Street Hospital, the world renowned centre of excellence for children's medicine. They have canvassed us before the last time being December 2024.

It is very difficult to verify on the doorstep if callers are legitimate, even if they have an identification badge. It also goes against everything the Police and fraud services promote and that is do not give any personal details to a stranger and especially a cold caller. If you wish to donate use the relevant website or contact the charity direct.

Marsworth NHW contacted GOSH and questioned whether the fundraiser was genuine and highlighted we are a No Cold Calling village, with signage at various points. This is their response:

"Thank you for your email regarding our fundraising. I am so sorry to hear that our fundraiser called at your property, despite it being within a No Cold Calling Zone. Our fundraisers are trained on how to look for and recognise No Cold Calling signs and should not be calling at these properties. If they call by accident, they should politely apologise and walk away so please accept my apologies that this did not happen on this occasion.

We are carrying out door to door fundraising at the moment as Great Ormond Street Hospital is facing new challenges at this current time and needs the support of the charity more than ever. Door to door fundraising is a very important and effective part of our fundraising. It enables us to engage with people across the UK to raise awareness of the cause and the work we do, as well as finding new supporters whose donations have been vital in supporting the hospital's work.

Door-to-door fundraising is particularly successful in recruiting supporters who would like to speak to someone on a one-to-one basis before they make a donation, but we appreciate not everyone likes this method of fundraising.

Under the guidelines set by the Fundraising Regulator, which we strictly adhere to, fundraisers can call at residences up to 9pm. This is to make sure that we can reach people who may be at work until later in the evening.

We train all our fundraisers to be respectful and cautious when fundraising at all times, particularly in the evening and especially during the darker months, so as not to upset or unduly worry anyone."

From our contact with GOSH in 2024 they recommended having stickers on your door not only saying "No Cold Calling" but also "No Fundraisers" and "No Charities". These are available cheaply online.

# Laughing Gas is no laughing matter!



Thames Valley Police is aware of a rise in the recreational use of nitrous oxide, often referred to as "NOS" or "laughing gas,". Although some young people believe it is harmless, inhaling nitrous oxide can cause dizziness, confusion, fainting, and dangerously low oxygen levels, which may lead to long-term health problems. Medical and safety guidance also warns that inhaling gas directly from a canister can damage the throat and lungs because the gas is extremely cold and released under high pressure. These risks are even greater for children and teenagers, whose bodies and brains are still developing, making them more vulnerable to harm even from a single use.

We are also concerned about discarded nitrous oxide canisters appearing in parks, play areas, and other places where young people should feel safe. We are asking residents to support us by reporting any use or suspicious activity they witness so that we can keep our neighbourhoods safe.

Discarded Nitrous Oxide Cannisters from BBC



## 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://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/helping-hand)
- 01296 531 151

Our phone lines are open:

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

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



Buckinghamshire Council



## Planning News

Kate Andrew

### White Lion Dwellings

Site owner Nick Webb has put in an application for the erection of four semi-detached dwellings with associated car parking, garden space, waste provision and cycle storage, on the site of the former White Lion.

The application was validated on January 26 and the standard consultation expiry in February 18. It appears the development would be known as White Lion Gardens. The ref no on the Bucks Planning Portal is PL/25/6009/FA.

Meanwhile the pub conversion looks near finishing and garden fencing has been erected at the back of the site. Recently Nick said he was expecting a planning decision on the conversion imminently. It was held up by the Kingswood SANG process.



Fencing has been erected at the back of the site - Kate Andrew

### Red Lion

The Red Lion bar is very much open. The Red Lion is finally due to receive listed building consent shortly from planners for internal and external repairs including roof and ceiling repairs, commercial kitchen repairs and replacement internal finishes and decorations, following last May's fire.

A planning notice has gone up outside the pub, dated February 12, 2026, with a 21-day period for comments. The reference is PL/25/5721/HB.



Scaffolding at the Red Lion for roof repairs - Kate Andrew

### Land at Lower End Sold

The land at Lower End that was part of John Keen's estate has been sold and a villager who asked at estate agents Michael Anthony was told that it was bought for 'agricultural purposes.'

There were two plots, one including farm buildings and the other opposite Lower End Garage being marketed as suitable for a large house. The land was put up for sale to enable a probate conclusion, says Parish Council Chairman Bob Kennedy.

### Marshcroft last Chance

Tring Residents Association says there is a final opportunity to stop the 46 per cent growth of Tring. In the first two weeks of March, the third and final stage of the Government appointed Inspectors 'Examination in Public' of Dacroum's Draft Local Plan takes place. The Association (GFRA) is appealing to people to help it fight the massive development proposal by becoming a member or making a donation at [protecttring.org](http://protecttring.org).

### Glebe Land Behind Stepnells

With Bucks Council needing to meet Government targets for 95,000 homes over the next 20 years, it seems Marsworth is being targeted for some of them.

The Glebe land behind Stepnells, owned by Oxford Diocese, is on the draft Local Plan. Parish Council chairman Bob Kennedy has confirmed that part of the Glebe land has been earmarked for housing by Bucks Council. And while he doesn't expect the whole of the Glebe land to be developed, it's likely that some of it will.

The Parish Council will be discussing the draft Local Plan at its next meeting on March 9 in the village hall.

Bob says: 'It is a relief that the airfield (at Lower End) was deemed unsuitable, but my guess is they will try to link it to the Cheddington expansion, with a road out northwards in due course.'

Residents are invited to provide feedback on the draft Local Plan for Buckinghamshire before March 16.

You can comment on the proposed Marsworth site at: <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/planning/2aa4b313/>



Church Square, High Street, Tring

From 9.00 am to 2.00 pm

Saturdays

14 and 28 March

11 and 25 April

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

# LIDL Opens

Kate Andrew

Lidl in Icknield Way, Tring is now open! The long awaited new supermarket has been greeted with great enthusiasm by many, who say they are finding it an excellent shopping experience.

And, indeed, it is an impressive addition to the town, with a wide range of products at a reasonable price.

The opening weekend was very busy. The self-service tills seemed rather oversensitive, but this is probably just a teething issue.



Parking at Lidl was hard to come by at the weekend, although there are more than 99 spaces. But this was probably due to so many people wanting to try the new supermarket.

Shoppers are being encouraged instore to download the Lidl app, where there are various offers and a Lidl Plus loyalty card which can be scanned at the checkouts. You need to scan your receipt to get out of the self-service area, where there is a barrier.

There is plenty of fresh produce, an instore bakery and a changing range of Middle of Lidl goods, with fitness products from the 19th. Most of the 40 staff have been recruited locally.

However, some residents in Roman Park have said on social media that they are unhappy about the increased traffic and parking on Sears Drive.

There was collision between two cars on the junction of the 50mph Icknield Way and Sears Drive on Saturday afternoon.

No one was seriously hurt in the accident, but there have been comments that a mini-roundabout or at least a 30mph limit would be helpful at the junction.

And hardware shops Grace's and Metcalfe's in the High Street have banded together to make a humorous post reminding people on social media that they sell many useful goods, as they now face extra competition from the 'Middle of Lidl' hardware section.

## For Sale

### Old prints of Marsworth—framed

From John Hassell's "Tour of the Grand Junction" 1819



View from Marsworth Village

Showing Red Lion Bridge and canal from opposite Bridge House and Red Lion. 24 x 19 cm (framed).



Marsworth from the Reservoirs—Bucks

Showing artist's impression of Startops and Marsworth Reservoirs, with All Saints Church in the distance. 22 x 27 cm (framed)

£20 each, Tel: 07519 851604

**2026 TRING FAMILY FUN DAY**

PLEASE HELP TRING'S HEART STAY STRONG!

**SAVE OUR WALLS**

**TRING BREWERY Co. ADMISSION FREE**

**CALLING ALL FAMILIES - THE TEDDIES FLY AGAIN!**

**SATURDAY 9TH MAY**

**11AM - 3PM ST. PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH & CHURCHYARD**

Teddy 'Wings' Zip Wire • Tower Tours • Bouncy Castle  
 Tring Brewery Bar • Splendid Tombola's • Lunchtime Barbeque  
 Choirs & Musical Entertainment Programme • Big Prize Raffle  
 • Includes our best ever Farmers Market •

**OPEN TO EVERYONE ALL WELCOME!**

**FREE ENTRY TO ALL**

TRING'S HERITAGE HEART | Tring Churches & Churchyard | SAVE OUR WALLS | gofundme | fotch-save-our-walls

**Preserving the Heart of Tring for Everyone's Future**

For further information contact Grahame Senior on 01442 822770

# Looking ahead in 2026: Serving Marsworth and our villages

Laura Kyrke-Smith MP

I hope Marsworth News readers have had a very happy and healthy start to 2026. As your MP, I'm looking forward to serving you and all residents across Marsworth this year.

I've been really enjoying continuing to meet the many talented and determined people who make up our communities across Marsworth, Aylesbury and other villages.

I had a wonderful visit to Marsworth C of E Infant School. The children asked thoughtful and curious questions about how Parliament works, what MPs do, and how decisions are made - their enthusiasm was infectious. When I asked them what they would like to change about the world, their answers were truly heart-warming. Many spoke about wanting to help others, making sure no one feels lonely, and finding ways to make the world a kinder place. There was also a popular suggestion for sweets for everyone - a policy I suspect would have wide support! A huge thank you to the teachers and staff for welcoming me, and to the children for such inspiring ideas. It's always a joy to see young people so engaged in the world around them.

I was also delighted to present my recent Community Champion awards to Jake Crane at Aylesbury Foodbank for his dedicated volunteer work supporting families in need, and to Amy Scullard, for her work organising a perinatal mental health support group for local parents. If you know someone in Marsworth making a real difference in your community, I encourage you to nominate them for a future Community Champion award via my website.

In February, I am welcoming my latest cohort of young people to my "Your Voice, Your Future" work experience programme. It gives local students aged 16 and over the chance to learn about government and politics, including a day in Westminster, and I always learn a lot from working with them. Applications for the summer programme in July will open soon via my website, and I welcome applications from young people in Marsworth.

In local news, I welcomed the Government's announcement that Buckinghamshire Council will benefit from an above-inflation increase in funding over this Parliament. This funding recognises the challenges of delivering services in our area, and I hope it will be used to protect vital services and support our communities.

On the state of our roads, which many people raise with me, I'm pleased that the Buckinghamshire lane rental scheme has been approved by the Government, allowing the Council to charge companies doing road works and helping to reduce the delays and frustrations.

On a national level, I continue to raise the issues that matter to constituents in Parliament, including reducing driving test waiting times and improving our bus services. I welcome the Government's Animal Welfare Strategy,



which will see important changes from banning caged hens to curbing low welfare dog breeding.

I look forward to continuing to work with you throughout 2026, and as always, I welcome your feedback and am here to support you in any way I can.



**Save lives in  
your community**

**Become a First Aid volunteer**  
Support local events, fundraising campaigns  
and educate your community to save lives.



To find out more, scan the QR code  
or contact:  
stephanie.martin@sja.org.uk



Serving the village  
and parish of Marsworth

# Remember a Loved One This Spring with a Sunset Rose

This spring, Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity has partnered with the magnificent Waddesdon Manor to create a beautiful new Forever Flowers tribute. In April, the Rose Garden at Waddesdon Manor near Aylesbury will be transformed by a stunning temporary display of 1,200 bespoke metal Sunset Roses, each symbolising the life, love and memories of someone special.



Members of the community are invited to dedicate a Sunset Rose in honour of a loved one. Those who make a dedication will also be invited to a private viewing of the installation on Monday, 27th April, while the grounds are closed to the public. The display will then be open to visitors for three weeks, before each dedicated rose is returned to its owner as a lasting keepsake.

By dedicating a Sunset Rose, you will be supporting Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity to continue providing compassionate local hospice care for patients and families across Buckinghamshire and its borders.

To dedicate a Sunset Rose, visit <https://fnhospice.org.uk/foreverflowers> or call 01296 429975 for more information

*AN EVENING WITH*  
**JOHN CAMERON**

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

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

TICKETS £15 (children free) in advance from Lindsay Hewlett - 07986 009157  
[beaconcommunitychoir@gmail.com](mailto:beaconcommunitychoir@gmail.com)  
[www.beaconcommunitychoir.co.uk](http://www.beaconcommunitychoir.co.uk)

*Beacon*  
communitychoir



## Health and social care when living in rural Bucks

**Healthwatch Bucks latest project looks at how those living in the rural parts of Bucks access health and social care.**

Project Manager, Alison Holloway says: "We know that people living in rural areas may experience health and social care services differently from those living in towns in Buckinghamshire. It's important for us to learn more about any difficulties these communities might encounter."



The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) define a rural community as people living in areas with fewer than 10,000 residents. So, if you live in a village or a rural area, please tell Healthwatch Bucks what works for you and what could make it easier for you to access any health or social care such as dentists, hospitals, and respite care.

People can share their feedback in confidence via their online survey via this QR code, or on their website <https://bit.ly/4jVz2HB>

The survey closes on 31 May.

Healthwatch Bucks would also like to have small group discussions with 6 to 12 people, especially if you're not comfortable using a computer to fill out our survey. Please call them on **01494 324832** if you would be interested in hosting a group to talk in more detail about this subject.

Healthwatch Bucks will write a report summarising what they have been told. It will include recommendations about what would make accessing health and social care rural in Bucks better.

Zoe McIntosh, Chief Executive of Healthwatch Bucks, says: "Our goal is to make sure local people influence the health and care services that residents of Buckinghamshire use. It's very important that those living in the countryside feel heard and can easily get the care they need. We will share what we find out so we can help to bring about positive change where it's needed."

## Marsworth News

We want your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions for future content in the newsletter.

Please complete our short survey or send us your suggestions directly to the inbox:  
[editor@marsworthnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@marsworthnews.co.uk)



# Let's All Grow Together

## Lindengate's Impact in 2025 and What's Ahead

At Lindengate, we believe that spending time in nature, alongside others, can improve wellbeing and change lives. Every day in our gardens we see how connection to green spaces supports mental, physical and social health - and the impact of our work continues to grow.

### A Year of Growing Need and Growing Impact

2025 has been a year of increasing demand across Buckinghamshire, with more people of all ages experiencing mental health challenges, isolation and uncertainty. Lindengate has remained a place of calm, connection and acceptance, where people can feel safe to be themselves and begin to feel hopeful again.

Mental health challenges affect people of all ages across Buckinghamshire. Local data shows that common mental health disorders affect around 1 in 8 men and 1 in 5 women; the number of under-18s in contact with mental health services has doubled in five years; and more than 7,200 people locally are living with dementia, including those diagnosed under the age of 65. Behind these figures are real people, families and communities - and it is this human reality that drives us. We know that poor mental health often brings isolation, and that connection is a powerful part of recovery.

Over the past year, we welcomed children, adults and families through our wellbeing programmes, volunteering opportunities, community events and open garden sessions. We expanded our work with young people, developed new horticultural programmes, and strengthened partnerships with schools, charities and health services to ensure more people could access Social and Therapeutic Horticulture.

In 2025, Lindengate supported 3,840 people through programmes, volunteering, events and open garden sessions - a 31% increase in beneficiaries.



Green Volunteers making fat balls during an education session



**Join Climate Action Wendover's screening of the film 'Six Inches of Soil' and expert Q&A to learn about more sustainable food systems**

St Anne's Hall, 7B Aylesbury Rd,  
St Annes Close, Wendover, Aylesbury HP22 6JG  
Friday, Mar 6 from 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Climate Action is pleased to screen the documentary film 'Six Inches of Soil' at St. Anne's Hall in Wendover from 7:30pm on Friday 6 March. This is the inspiring story of British farmers transforming the way they produce food - to heal the soil, benefit our health and provide for local communities. The documentary produced by Colin Ramsay has been seen worldwide including at COP 28.

After the screening, a panel of experts with in-depth local farming knowledge will answer questions about issues raised in the film and how they apply to local food production and regenerative farming in general. Refreshments available

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/film-six-inches-of-soil-screening-st-annes-hall-in-wendover-tickets-1982394395000>

## Potter's Corner

Jobs for March

- \* Finish pruning roses (early)
- \* Plant lilies and summer-flowering bulbs in borders and pots
- \* Tidy up borders by removing new and established weeds
- \* Deadhead your spring flowers
- \* Give birds access to high calorie foods for nesting birds
- \* Add nectar and pollen-rich plants as bees return from their winter slumber
- \* If you are lucky enough to have them provide food for hedgehogs



**Tring Music Partnership**

A night of music and dancing  
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**Saturday 14 March**  
Victoria Hall, Akeman Street, Tring HP23 6AA  
Doors 7.30pm | Carriages 11.00pm

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- Raffle

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Images courtesy of www.gametheatre.co.uk

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£60.00 pp, includes a 3-course meal and 2-hour interactive show  
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The Chilterns are under intense and growing pressure from over-development, and we urgently need more local people to help protect our nationally important landscape.

**Planning Volunteers Needed – Protect the Chilterns**

The Chilterns are facing unprecedented development pressure. Housing targets and weakened planning protections are putting the Green Belt, landscape, and local character at risk.

The Chiltern Society's **Planning Group** challenges detrimental planning applications, whilst supporting appropriate development. Our work is respected by planning authorities and is often included in decisions.

**We can currently cover only 60% of parishes. That is not enough. We need more local volunteers - WE NEED YOU!**

No planning experience is required. We provide training, support and expert guidance. All that's needed is a passion for your local area.

**If you care about the Chilterns, this is your chance to make a real difference.**

**For more information or to get involved please contact us today**

**Call:** 01494 771250

**Email:** [getinvolved@chilternsociety.org.uk](mailto:getinvolved@chilternsociety.org.uk)

Thank you for your support.

**Serving the village and parish of Marsworth**

**Change lives by volunteering**

Help to prevent isolation in your community by becoming a befriender today

We all need a helping hand or a listening ear from time to time, and by becoming a befriender, you can be that support for someone in need. By offering a couple of hours week to volunteer with Connection Support, you can have a real impact on someone's life.

We have different volunteer roles available, so visit our website for more information.

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🌐 [connectionsupport.org.uk/volunteer-opportunities](http://connectionsupport.org.uk/volunteer-opportunities)



*Continued from the front page*

The Wood Between the Worlds is one of the most atmospheric settings in the entire series: still, eerie and full of trees that seem half asleep. It's easy to see why the production team were drawn to Josie's maple. Its dramatic, sculptural form would sit perfectly in a magical forest or a desolate, otherworldly landscape.

Josie says "The tree has been here forever; it just died and continued to stand there. It was spotted by a member of the production team at our steam rally in June."

With Shepperton Studios in Surrey now one of the world's largest film complexes, it's exciting to think that a piece of our local countryside has found its way into such a high profile production.



## Looking Back Ivinghoe Race Track

*Howard Wright and Stephen Wooler*

In September 2020, Marsworth Village News carried a contribution from Stephen Wooler about the ambitious plan reported in the February 1933 edition of Motor Sport for a large-scale road racing circuit at Ivinghoe. That item, complete with artist's impression, can be found at [www.marsworth.org.uk/the-marsworth-news/mn-archive/](http://www.marsworth.org.uk/the-marsworth-news/mn-archive/) and sets out the support given by Buckinghamshire County Council and the local opposition. It noted that construction never materialised although the reason was not known - the trail had gone cold.

A chance conversation 5 years later shed light on the matter. David Wright of Slapton (whose son, Howard, lives opposite Stephen in Vicarage Road) joined what was then Tunnel Cement in the 1950s and subsequently became the manager. His early colleagues included the group of staff who oversaw and operated the works when production started in 1938. What brought about the change? Impending war.

David understood that the British government had identified the need for increased cement production. A Danish company called F H Schmidt was commissioned to do geological studies in many parts of the country to identify where potential new cement works could be built. F H Schmidt were regarded as world leaders in the field and owned Tunnel Cement whose main works were then at West Thurrock in Essex.

Pitstone stood out because the core sampling etc indicated that the quantity and composition of the minerals were perfect for the making of cement. Its location, connections to the region, the good availability of power together with government plans to build many airfields, many locally to Pitstone, were all favourable. At this time many airfields were grass including Heathrow, and much of the subsequent production went to create Heathrow's first hard runway. Another factor in favour of the location was the large underground water reserves that could be easily tapped via bore holes.

Following government intervention, the national interest took precedence over the proposed racing scheme. F H Schmidt were commissioned to plan, engineer,



construct and supply the equipment, machinery and the personnel to run and manage the works from quarry to the lorry.

They moved their headquarters from 105 Piccadilly in London to Pitstone and were accommodated in temporary buildings behind the art deco office block (now a listed building on the corner of Marsworth Road and Westfield Road in Pitstone) and moved back to London in the mid-fifties. The original team moved from West Thurrock to Pitstone to oversee the project included Bill Rumley who became a resident of Marsworth for many years.

David found plans for the proposed circuit in a drawer in the surveyor's section of the main office. They confirmed what he had been told by colleagues who had been in at the outset. The proposed racing track and its design was also intended to include a horse racing track and the necessary facilities. The scheme was backed by Lord Rothschild and Lord Roseberry. Mentmore was extremely important at that time with its stud and racing yards. Their ambition was to have a facility to compete with Goodwood and Newmarket.

None of that came to pass. Tunnel Cement was subsequently sold and became Castle Cement.

Pictures taken from the original February 1933 edition of Motor Sport [www.motorsportmagazine.com/archive/](http://www.motorsportmagazine.com/archive/)



SUNDAY 30TH MARCH 2026

# Mothers Day Afternoon Tea

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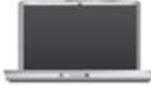


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Please send your photos to [editor@marsworthnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@marsworthnews.co.uk)



Fancy Ducks - Ginny Lewis



Marsworth Reservoir - Ginny Lewis



Wilstone Reservoir - Kate Andrew



The Aylesbury Arm reopens for navigation - Kate Andrew