



THE GREYHOUND



**Autumn
Issue**

**The Official Newsletter of
Marlborough Town Council**

MAYOR'S VISIT TO MARLBOROUGH MASSACHUSETTS

At the beginning of 2010 the Mayor received an invitation to attend the 350th birthday celebrations of the City of Marlborough, Massachusetts to be held over Labour Day weekend in September.

The Mayor and Mayoress Cllr and Mrs Andrew Ross, and Cllr's Nicholas and Edwina Fogg accompanied by the Mayor's Ceremonial Officer Mr David Sherratt flew out to attend what proved to be three very full days of celebrations and lavish American hospitality.

On the first day a Civic welcome was held in the City Hall attended by City Councillors and chief citizens. Also welcomed was the Mayor of the City of Akiruno, Japan attended by a dozen officials. Printed proclamations and other gifts were presented to the Marlborough and Akiruno Mayors. This was followed by a guided tour of the historic sites of Marlborough including the tower containing John Brown's bell which was rung at Harper's Ferry to signal the start of the first skirmish beginning the American Civil War in October 1859. A tour of the equivalent of our Merchant's House, the Peter Rice Homestead concluded the tour. Brochures advertising our Merchant's House were given to the Homestead staff.

In the evening of the first day a Starlight Ball was held, attended by over three hundred citizens at which both mayors were again welcomed and mementoes of the Anniversary were presented by the chairperson of the 350th Anniversary Committee and the City Mayor.

On the Sunday the Mayor attended the unearthing of a time capsule buried in 1960.



Mayor Nancy Stevens presents the Mayor Councillor Andrew Ross with a gift commemorating the 350th celebrations



Councillor & Mrs Ross, Councillor Mrs E Fogg and the Mayor's Ceremonial Officer Mr David Sherratt prepare to walk the two & a half mile parade.



Mayor Stevens with The Mayor & Mayoress of Marlborough and Takashi Usui the Mayor of Akiruno City Japan who the city have had a special link with since 1994.

The documents and items in it included a greeting from the then Mayor of Marlborough, Wiltshire.

A City Councillor (who closed two streets for the occasion) then held an American-style 'Cook Out' in the grounds of his house.

After this gargantuan feast a concert featuring traditional American patriotic songs, was followed by a massive fireworks display.

The main event of the last day was the Labour Day Parade. A walk of over two miles in 78 degree temperature and 80% humidity tested both the Mayor and the mayoral robe's endurance as did being seated in the sun on a reviewing dais but the Parade was vastly impressive with re-enactment societies—the American Revolution, the American Civil War, schools, charities, bands politicians glad-handling the crowds and horse-riders took over two hours to pass the podium. In the evening the City Mayor gave a farewell dinner for the Mayor and Mayoress, the Japanese delegation having left after the Parade.

Three very full days of engagements, great hospitality—girths increased by half a stone—and the great energy and enthusiasm of the City's hosts was at all times evident and to console ratepayers that might be concerned about who paid for this civic visit, the answer is: those who went on the trip.

It is hoped that the wish of the City Mayor to visit Marlborough in 2011 can be fulfilled, cementing a relationship which has been rather tentative in the past but which could be improved with exchange visits between groups and organisations from our town.

HELP TOMORROW TAKE SHAPE

2011 census coming to letterbox near you.

On 27 March 2011 all residential households in the United Kingdom will be taking part in a census. Since 1801 a day has been chosen every ten years for this purpose (except in 1941 during the war). The census provides an excellent source of information about the population. This enables central and local government, health authorities and many other organisations to identify need for housing, education, health and transport services for years to come.

Did you know that supermarkets use census statistics to work out the kind of foods they need to sell to keep local communities stocked up with their favourites? Water companies use the census data to plan the pipes for clean and wastewater – to make sure there's enough for everyone. Fire brigades and the police use census data to help communities, putting fire alarms and crime prevention measures in specific areas. The benefits are far reaching.

Flooding News

Fortunately Marlborough's vulnerability to flooding is not great. The Kennet catchment area upstream is fairly small, and is well wooded and grassed to slow down run-off. Groundwater welling up has only rarely caused problems. Rainwater flowing down Kingsbury Street has occasionally been sufficient to cause flash floods in the High Street – but not often. Our major exposure to risk is the river, and generally only when the water table is high following a wet autumn and winter – January, February, March and April are the most dangerous periods. Though not the only ones!

If you are worried about flooding and have access to the internet, the Environment Agency has a very good Floodline website (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodline), which has an (almost) real time status report on the upper Kennet.

The census statistics also feed into the allocation of funding for local authorities and play a major part in identifying need for local services in communities, so it is crucial the population estimate is as accurate as possible.

When the questionnaire envelope comes through the door you'll easily recognise it by the purple 2011 Census logo. Take care of it. If, like many people, you want to complete the questionnaire online, your individual internet code is on the front of the questionnaire.

The 2011 Census doesn't want anyone to fall behind – so there is a wide range of help options available (such as language guidance booklets, large print format, Text Relay and census field staff on hand, as well as online help and telephone call centres).

More information about the 2011 Census can be found at: www.census.gov.uk

The recently revised icons showing the alert status are shown on the attached panel. The site also has links to various providers of products to keep out floodwater (such as www.floodangel.com) – by blocking airbricks, or complete doors, and the new improved sandbag replacement, filled with expanding absorbent material like disposable nappies

In case of flood, the Town Council is the first link in the official chain of responders, which includes Wiltshire Council, the Fire Service, the Police and the Environment Agency. If flooding is likely we plan to ensure that all the hatches are open to hurry the water on its way downstream, and we hold sand and sandbags in the Fire Station yard to help protect properties,

Alexander Kirk Wilson
Flood Warden - MTC

LOCAL RESIDENTS CAN HELP SAVE LIVES






St John Ambulance and the Great Western Ambulance Service (GWAS) are launching a campaign to set up three new Community First Responder (CFR) groups in Marlborough, Pewsey and Mere.

Community First Responders are members of the public living within a designated area who are trained in crucial life-saving first aid by St John Ambulance. Equipped with a defibrillator, oxygen and a first aid kit, the groups respond to high priority calls in their local area. They are dispatched at the same time as the emergency services, but are often able to reach casualties more quickly as they are already in the vicinity. "The first few minutes can often be crucial" says Steve Smith, CFR Support Officer for St John Ambulance in Wiltshire.

If someone's heart stops, they are 60% more likely to survive if their heart is defibrillated within three minutes of collapse".

Anyone interested in joining their local scheme should call Steve Smith on 07827 956366.

Our New Flood Warning Service

	Key Message	Timing	Actions
 Online flood risk forecast	Be aware. Keep an eye on the weather situation.	Forecasts of flooding on our website are updated at least once a day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check weather conditions. Check for updated flood forecasts on our website.
 FLOOD ALERT	Flooding is possible. Be prepared.	Two hours to two days in advance of flooding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be prepared for flooding. Prepare a flood kit of essential items. Monitor local water levels and the flood forecast on our website.
 FLOOD WARNING	Flooding is expected. Immediate action required.	Half an hour to one day in advance of flooding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move family, pets and valuables to a safe place. Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if safe to do so. Put flood protection equipment in place.
 SEVERE FLOOD WARNING	Severe flooding. Danger to life.	When flooding poses a significant threat to life and different actions are required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay in a safe place with a means of escape. Be ready should you need to evacuate from your home. Co-operate with the emergency services. Call 999 if you are in immediate danger.
 Warning no longer in force	No further flooding is currently expected for your area.	Issued when a flood warning is no longer in force.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood water may still be around and could be contaminated. If you've been flooded, ring your buildings and contents insurance company as soon as possible.



Councillor Martin Houlden

My name is Martin Houlden, I'm 37 years old, married with 2 young children.

I'm a member of the Marlborough Chamber of Commerce and have been running my own technology business from my offices in the town centre for the last four years. I moved to Marlborough in 2005 and although we recently sold our house and are temporarily living in Burbage, I'm still here every day.

I'm proud of our town and want to ensure it continues to be a vibrant and caring community and I think my local knowledge and business experience will be a useful addition to the Town Council.

As a Trustee of The Friends of Savernake I will continue to support local residents and our MP, in the fight to restore much needed services to our hospital.

Amongst my other responsibilities of being a dad and a company director, our family also has three (occasionally well-behaved) dogs – all of whom look upon me with a mixture of adulation and respect, and think my ability to write a final sentence comprised entirely of wishful thinking, is richly deserved!



NEW STILE

"The Council are delighted to have installed this new stile (see photo above), to provide access for everyone onto our water meadow that is sandwiched between Rabley Wood View and the River Og.

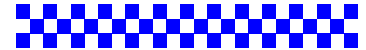
"The stile can be found half way along the Rabley Wood View public footpath that borders the Council's field."

Action for the River Kennet (ARK) hope to improve the Og's river bank to make the area eco-friendly for a diversity of fish, plants and small creatures, in addition to providing further delight for everyone who visits this special space. In the meantime, everyone please enjoy this community facility. The horses will remain in the field for the time being - care should be exercised when near them.

**Cllr Bryan Castle
(Open Spaces Committee) "**



**MARLBOROUGH
BEAT**



Summary of Crime

Since the beginning of the summer the amount of purse thefts reported to the Police have declined. However it is coming up to Christmas and people will be out doing their Christmas shopping so this makes each and everyone a target for the thieves.

Shoplifting has been on the increase over the last few weeks with offenders coming into our town from other areas stealing large amounts of alcohol and other items.

I am please to say we have caught several of these offenders and with your help hope to catch many more.

Successes

Underage drinking and drug taking is nothing new. We take both very seriously and as a result several people have been arrested using drugs in the town centre and alcohol has been taken from underage drinkers.

Police have also issued £80 fines to people illegally purchasing alcohol for underage drinkers.

Consultations

Come along to the following locations to let us know your concerns:

27th November 2010 – Library
10.00am-11.00am

29th November 2010 – Jubilee
Centre 10.00am-11.00am

18th December 2010 – Library
10.00am-11.00am

20th December 2010 – Jubilee
Centre 10.00am-11.00am

29th January 2011 – Library
10.00am-11.00am

31st January 2011 – Jubilee Cen-
tre 10.00am-11.00am

The Police Station Enquiry Office is also open at Marlborough during the week.

CIVIC DINNER

Marlborough Town Council held its Annual Civic Dinner on Friday 5th November. The 4 Military Intelligence Battalion who have recently returned from Afghanistan were guests of Honour.

During the course of the evening a collection took place and £1,007 was

raised for Help for Heroes

The Mayor would like to thank all those who attend the dinner for their generosity.

Also a very special thank you to Primrose Lane, 5 Star Security and Marlborough College for their donations towards the evening.

WINTER IS COMING!
Winter is Coming! but
not necessarily Icy
Pavements



Following on from justifiable concerns and complaints by the Community of Marlborough over the conditions of the pavements in icy weather last winter; questions were asked of Wiltshire Council by representatives of the Town Council.

An authoritative reply has been received from the *Insurance and Risk Manager* at the Council.

"Wiltshire Council as Highway Authority has a statutory duty to reasonably prevent the formation of frost and ice on the highway and to clear snow from the highway. Because of our strict duty any liability claim for injury to another party (for example from slipping on pavement ice) would be made against the council irrespective of who may have carried out the work/maintenance.

Furthermore the council would not bring a counter claim against a member of the public if they were assisting us to clear ice or snow from the public highway such as a pavement. In events such as those experienced winter (2009/2010), Wiltshire Council welcomes the contribution made by residents and local communities"

The Town Council will also, within its limited manpower resources, endeavour to help Wiltshire Council and the community to keep pavements free of ice and snow.

Councillor B Castle
Vice Chairman Open Spaces & Amenities Committee

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YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS

The Mayor

Councillor A. R. Ross 512169

The Deputy Mayor

Councillor A. Kirk Wilson 513861

Councillor S. R. Dobson 513181

Councillor G. Francis 519067

Councillor B. Castle 513955

Councillor

Mrs E.M.Hannaford-Dobson 513181

Councillor Mrs Peggy Dow 512074

Councillor N. Fogg 512656

Councillor Mrs E. Fogg 512656

Councillor R. Notton 513747

Councillor Mrs M. Rose 515500

Councillor T. Spranger 516338

Councillor G. Loosmore 513185

Councillor R. Pitts 516978

Councillor Mrs C Jackson 515700

Councillor M Houlden 516564

GRANTS AWARDED

At the Finance and Policy meeting held on Monday 8th November the following grants were awarded:

Marlborough Downs Movies	£ 500
Relate Mid Wiltshire	£ 250
Home Start Kennet	£1000
Vitalise	£ 200
Age UK Wiltshire	£ 500
Bluz 'n' Zuz	£ 500
St Peter's Breakfast Club	£ 500
MADJA	£1000
St John Ambulance	£ 400
Phoenix Brass Training Band	£ 200
Greatwood Charity	£ 500

TOWN COUNCIL NEWS IN BRIEF

CEMETERY

Work is nearing completion on the new section in the cemetery. Once completed this will ensure enough space until approximately 2015.

SKATE PARK

The Skate park is being extremely well used especially over the school holidays. A portaloo was provided by Marlborough Town Council. Following an initial act of vandalism this worked well over the school holidays.

The final leg of the Skate Jam was recently held at the skate park which was a great success.

COOPERS MEADOW

The Horse and Dog troughs currently sited on the Common and the London Road War Memorial are to be reunited and sited in Coopers Meadow. A system that would facilitate filling the troughs with water from the head-race above the mill site with no need for pumping is to be investigated

UPDATE ON DISABLED

ACCESS TOWN HALL STEPS

The 30 day statutory consultation period on the stopping up order application commenced on the 30th September 2010 Wiltshire Council have requested a revised planning application to vary the width of the pavement. The application has been submitted on our behalf by Andrew Bumphrey.

The next edition of The Greyhound will be available in the Winter. It is distributed free of charge to households in the Marlborough Parish as an insert with the Adviser. Further copies are available from the Library and the Town Council Office.