

marlow museum

Court Garden, Pound Lane, Marlow SL7 2AE
www.marlowmuseum.org Reg. Charity No. 1187853

Affiliated to the Association of Independent Museums
Working Towards Accreditation with Arts Council England

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023



Congratulations to our new King, Charles III

We hope members and families enjoyed the coronation weekend's events. If you're still feeling regal, why not come and get in the frame:



Next Volunteers Get-togethers

Wednesdays May 24th and June 28th at 2pm in Court Garden Café. (4th Wednesday in the month.) All volunteers or potential volunteers very welcome.

Stewards

I'm delighted to say we have recently had one or two new volunteers, but unfortunately we are still having to close the museum from time to time, or work shorter hours, because of the lack of stewards to welcome visitors. This is a shame, particularly in the spring and summer when the town is full of visitors.

Visitors may be a little surprised at first to find our museum is so small, but once you talk to them about our history and points things out, they really enjoy their visit, give positive feedback in the Visitors' Book and go away very pleased with their experience. Email contact@marlowmuseum.org to know more.

Things to do in 2023

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| 18-21 May | Pub in the Park |
| 10 June | Marlow Town Regatta |
| 17 June | Museum Street Collection
<i>(Collectors needed please)</i> |
| 17 June | Marlow Literary Festival |
| 24 June | Rock Bottom |
| 18 July | Museum AGM, Liston Hall 7.30pm |
| 22 July | Lace-Making at the Museum |
| July 29-30 | Bucks Culture Weekend at the museum: 'Our One World' |
| August | Children's activities at the museum |
| 8-17 Sept. | Heritage Open Days |
| 16 Sept. | Marlow Carnival |
| 31 Oct. | Halloween |
| 27 Nov. | Medieval Day at Duke of Clarence |
| 3,10,17,24,31 Dec. | Christmas Sundays at museum |

**** Marlow Museum Community Survey ****
– Results are conclusive!

Marlow Museum would like to thank the nearly 250 people from a wide cross-section of the community, from 16 to over 65, who completed the Museum's recent Community Survey. The survey was promoted on various Marlow Facebook groups, as well as featuring in The Marlovian and Marlow Bottom's Valley News, and paper copies being available in the museum, the library, Court Garden's

M Café and the Tin Town café in Marlow Bottom. Thanks go to all these organisations and businesses.

- **Over 90% of respondents said that a place like Marlow should definitely have a museum.**

It's clear the museum is welcome and needed in Marlow.

- **88% of respondents who had visited the museum thought it should be in a bigger building.**



The museum has been in the small Peacock Room building at the entrance to Court Garden Leisure Centre since 2009. It is rented from Buckinghamshire Council; the museum's trustee board have not yet been able to find bigger premises that the charity can afford, in spite of having many artefacts they cannot currently display. There is certainly community support for a bigger museum:

'In such cramped premises it must be very difficult to curate each new themed exhibition in a suitable and engaging manner to draw in tourist visitors, as well as maintain local interest.'

'It needs to be a "destination" when you visit Marlow (we have lots of coach trips to the town). When I go to other towns I will always seek out the museum to get some history.'

Some respondents think it's the Town Council's responsibility:

'Marlow possesses a rich history. With the best will in the world, this cannot be accommodated as a permanent feature within the existing space. I believe fresh approaches need to be made to Marlow Councillors with a view to Marlow Museum receiving Council funding on an annual basis. It is ludicrous that the Council overlooks this cultural-historical

asset to the town. The Council needs to cast the scales from its eyes and provide the Museum with much larger premises. How many Councillors have actually set foot inside the Museum, one wonders?' There is still some uncertainty about why the museum isn't in the library:

'I do not know why it was not put in the library when they had a refit.'

Unfortunately at that time insufficient space could be found in the library building for the museum to remain an independent organisation. The museum is working towards Accreditation with Arts Council England: it could not be accredited if it was reduced to a few display cases in a corner of the library.

- **Of those who had visited the museum, 66% thought it should have a refit to make it more attractive.**

The trustees are planning to give the museum a makeover and wanted to have community support for this, which it has certainly received. Those who disagreed thought it was already doing a good job in difficult circumstances.

One said:

'It is wonderful as it is, but needs and deserves more space.'

Another:

'Due to the small cramped space, several of the windows have been blocked out in order to give more display space. Unfortunately, this lack of daylight adds to the closed-in sense while looking around at the exhibits. I am certain a larger space with more adequate lighting would give so much greater opportunity to enhance the many themed exhibitions on local history, or of local people, or artists or photographers that Marlow may like to focus on.'

- **69% of those who had visited said it should be open more often.**

The trustees would dearly like to make this happen. The museum has been run successfully by volunteers since 2009 and is well regarded by its visitors who often comment on the helpful, friendly stewards. The opening hours are only restricted by the number of volunteers available: many older volunteers have felt unable to return after the pandemic. The trustees are currently actively recruiting volunteer

stewards and can be reached on contact@marlowmuseum.org for more details.

There was an optional entry into a **prize draw** associated with the survey. The winning name was drawn by Town Clerk, Hilary Martin.



Hilary Martin, Town Clerk

The prize was won by local resident **Louisa Brammer**. Louisa was very excited to receive her prize. 'But I never win anything!' she said.

She brought her daughter with her to collect the prize of two tickets to Pub In the Park on the evening of Thursday 18th May. Marlow Museum is very grateful to Tom Kerridge and Brand Events for donating these.



Louisa Brammer and daughter Bethany

17th June: Annual Street Collection

Collectors wanted please for a one or one and a half hour time slot. Please email conatct@marlowmuseum.org or phone Mike or Della if you can help. Thank you very much.

Young volunteers' contribution

We have been fortunate to have several young (14 - 18 years) volunteers helping us over the past few months.

- Reuben contributed to our Managing Collections team work and now
- Maisy has taken over that role.
- Sophie created several very successful Children's Activities for use when children visit the museum. The treasure map and the quiz have been very popular with our young visitors.
- Ethan & Nikolai are taking their Duke of Edinburgh Award and have been working with Dave Part on planning an exhibition.

All of them have made or are making a positive contribution to the museum. **Thank you all.**

New Volunteer Opportunities

- We are seeking a person to help with **fund raising**. Assistance will be given to get started.
- We also need someone who is confident with **social media** to be our **Communications Manager**.

*Best wishes for an enjoyable Spring
and Summer
from Mike, Della and all the Trustees*

See you at the AGM on 18th July!