

# marlow museum

Court Garden, Pound Lane, Marlow SL7 2AE

[www.marlowmuseum.org](http://www.marlowmuseum.org) Reg. Charity No. 1187853

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

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025



### Opening Hours

March – October opening hours are:

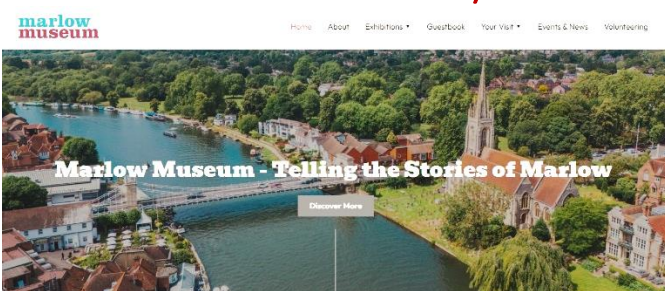
Wednesdays 2-5pm; Fridays 10-2pm;  
Saturdays & Sundays 1-5pm.

The extra Friday opening has been made possible by our new freelance staff, Alice and Philip. We hope volunteers will be eager to try out a new shift with them on Fridays: 10-12 or 12-2pm.

### VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY REQUIRED

Could you spare 2 hours a week to help welcome visitors? No special knowledge needed – training given. Please email [contact@marlowmuseum.org](mailto:contact@marlowmuseum.org) or call in.

### New Website this year



at [marlowmuseum.org](http://marlowmuseum.org) We hope you like it.

### New staff:



Alice, our Museum Development Project Manager and Philip, our Exhibitions & Displays Designer, are building on work done in 2024 and developing what the Museum offers for local families, schools, older people and tourists too.

### Current Exhibition:

**LACE: From Sir William Borlase to Pamela Nottingham MBE**

5<sup>th</sup> April – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Our new exhibition celebrates 400 years of Lace in Marlow. Introduced to England in the 1570s by Huguenot refugees, lace quickly became a status symbol, with wealthy patrons adorning their clothes with its intricate designs. In 1624, Sir William Borlase established one of the first lace schools in the country, teaching poor girls the skill of bobbin lace-making. This delicate craft provided much-needed income for rural families, though the makers - often women and children - earned little for their painstaking work. By the late 19th century, machine-made lace was responsible for the industry's decline. However, Marlow's lace heritage saw a revival in the 20th century, thanks to our own Pamela Nottingham, MBE (1934–2023). Her groundbreaking book *The Technique of Bobbin Lace* brought renewed interest to lace-making worldwide. Pamela's legacy, including her lace bequest to Marlow Museum, ensures this intricate and beautiful skill will remain celebrated for generations to come.



## A sincere thank you



Heather Adams has now researched and written two very successful exhibitions for us – *Writers of Marlow* and *Lace*. With Philip's design experience and Heather's literary skills, they have produced two of our best-looking exhibitions ever. She has written two fast-selling booklets and a literary trail, and will have given two fascinating talks for the Marlow Society. She has presented the exhibitions to our volunteers and has provided accompanying materials to help them talk to visitors about the subjects. She has also taken members of the public on Literary walks around the town. We are lucky to benefit from her enthusiasm and energy. Many thanks, Heather.

## Family Activities at the Museum

24th May 2-4pm

Inspired by the Lace exhibition we'll be creating characters from Marlow's lace making past. You could take home your own model lacemaker or Sir William Borlase! £2 per child, no booking required.



## Welcome to our new volunteers

Peter, Ray and Mary have come direct from Wycombe Museum to organise, photograph and log our collections. We were delighted to welcome them. Welcome to James too, who will also be working behind the scenes. We have recently had contacts from two or three people who would like to be Welcome Volunteers – we very much hope they will enjoy volunteering with us.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Marlow Regatta 14th/15th June

Our stall will be there on both days and there may be some surprises! Don't miss seeing us. Please contact Alice or Della if you can help on the day.



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### Folk Concert Celebrating our Lace Heritage

Saturday 5th July 7-9pm

at All Saints Church, Marlow



This is a celebration as well as a fundraising event and will feature **multi award-winning contemporary folk duo Jackie Oates and John Spiers**. Jackie was the lady with the beautiful voice who sang at the opening of the Lace exhibition and John Spiers is one of the leading melodeon players of his generation. It promises to be a night to remember. More details and tickets from Dave Part and the Museum.

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### AGM

Thursday July 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm  
in the Garden Room, Liston Hall.

With refreshments and a speaker to follow

We will be electing a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman, possibly welcoming new Trustees to the Board, and announcing the members of our Management Committee for 2025-26.



## Thank you

to Rebekah Blazey for 18 months' volunteering work on the Collections; and to Barry Wilson for his major contribution to establishing the rota on Three Rings. He will still be volunteering, but in different ways.

### Could YOU be our new Rota Coordinator?

Now Three Rings is running smoothly, we just need someone to keep an eye on it and prompt people to sign up when there are gaps. It's probably an hour a week – could you do it for us?

### Seeking new Trustees

We are seeking people with relevant skills and experience, willing to bring energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the role, who will broaden the diversity of thinking on our board.

We are particularly seeking people with experience in **Museums; Law; Human Resources; Fundraising; or Communications**. You do not need previous governance experience – we will provide an induction and training. For more details see:

[https://www.marlowmuseum.org/\\_webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/Vacancy%20for%20Trustees%20April%202025.pdf](https://www.marlowmuseum.org/_webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/Vacancy%20for%20Trustees%20April%202025.pdf)

### At a recent Volunteers Get-together



## MEMBERSHIP

Are you a Member of the Museum? If so, you probably already know that your annual subs are due on May 1<sup>st</sup>. It's £20 for individual members and £30 for Family Members (two people living at the same address). We also offer Corporate Membership at only £100 per annum, which is a small sum for businesses to make a vital contribution to the continuation of the Museum.

What do you get for being a Member? Well, there are four newsletters a year, free admission to the museum all year of course, invitations to the launch parties of new exhibitions and to any social events we put on. Most of all, you get the chance to vote at the Annual General Meeting of Members and to decide how the Museum develops. You can support, or oppose, propose changes and contribute ideas and advice to make a vital difference to the Museum's progress.

If you are not a Member already, why not? We have 50 Members, but we'd love to welcome lots more. Find the membership form online on our website at:

[https://www.marlowmuseum.org/\\_webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/Membership%20Form%202025.pdf](https://www.marlowmuseum.org/_webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/Membership%20Form%202025.pdf)

There will be changes at the AGM in July, so please put the date in your diary:  
Thursday July 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.

Keep an eye on our website for all the details about our upcoming events programme and other news about what's going on at your museum. [www.marlowmuseum.org](http://www.marlowmuseum.org)

*With best wishes from Mike Hyde, Chairman,  
Della Fitzgerald, Accreditation Trustee, and  
Alice Le Page, Museum Development Manager.*