

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 Arts Council England

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2025



With thanks to MyMarlow

During February it's winter opening hours:
Sundays only from 2-4pm.

From Sat. March 1st our *new* summer hours will be: Weds 2-5pm; Friday 10-2pm; Saturday & Sunday 1-5pm.

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

Introducing our new part-time staff:



Alice Le Page joined us in January as our Museum Development Project Manager for two years. We are fortunate to have found Alice, an experienced museum professional, because in the other part of her week she is Museum Development Officer for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Philip Kersey, another experienced museum professional, has been designing our exhibitions voluntarily since 2009. He has now been appointed our Exhibitions & Displays Designer, to acknowledge the importance of this aspect of developing the museum.

An important Message from our Chairman

Sorry to start the New Year with sad news but I have to tell you that our former (and founding) Chairman, John Evans has died in Dorset aged 93. Many will remember him and his lovely wife Catherine; both worked tirelessly for the museum.

John and I served together first on the Marlow Society and its Local History Group. He persuaded me to join him in 1998 to try to activate a proposal to start a museum for Marlow. This idea gained public support at a meeting in Liston Hall a year later. However it was many years, with lots of activity and badgering, before the then District Council offered us the Peacock Room at Court Garden. There is a lot more detail I could enlighten you with one day.

Found on the Tunbridge Wells RFC website:
"VPs – A History" – John Evans



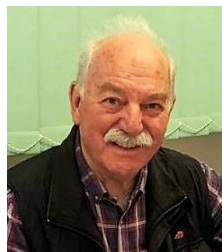
'I cannot find an interesting photo, but I have attached a caricature of myself presented to me by the Berkshire Referees Society when I left Marlow in 2011.' JE

For family reasons the Evanses moved to Kent, strangely to the town I had moved to Marlow from, decades before. He got involved with local matters there, but we lost John as a Chairman plus Catherine as a supporter. He was a determined and persuasive character, ready to turn ideas into action and to work hard to achieve a suitable solution. When he left, I found it difficult at first to try to fill his shoes and to keep up the pace he had set.

They later moved on to Dorset with daughter Caroline, when we unfortunately lost touch until now. So thank you John, we keep the pressure on to succeed and have many happy memories of your involvement. RIP

I had hardly digested this news before I was informed of the passing of Caroline Wesson, a steward and much appreciated volunteer at the museum. Caroline was also well known in the Community Association circle. She will be missed by many in Marlow, particularly at the museum. RIP.

Moving On.....



Not only with this newsletter but my role in the museum. I have decided it is time to move over and pass the Chairmanship of the museum to another.

For personal reasons I am not able to attend the museum as before, something I especially enjoyed; working with fellow volunteers and in particular meeting and greeting visitors from all over the country and the world. I could usually find a common talking point or a reference to their home, even abroad. I loved telling them about our famous town.

Additionally, I feel that the museum is entering a new chapter in its life and it is appropriate for someone else, with maybe different ambitions, to take the lead. It is with very mixed feelings I step down at the July AGM, but it had to come sometime if only to let my computer cool down.

Vice Chairman Dave Part is also taking a new path in April, although remaining a volunteer, so there will be 2 posts to fill.



If any member has the time and the energy to step up to either role, or you know a potential candidate itching to be a member and a Trustee, let it be known to our Secretary, Jacque at contact@marlowmuseum.org I am happy to chat it over with you or them.

Mike Hyde, Chairman

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Next Volunteer Get Togethers

All from 2-3pm at the M Café in Court Garden:

- * Weds 26th February
- * Weds 26th March
- * Weds 23rd April
- * Weds 28th May

Lace

- from Sir William Borlase
to Pamela Nottingham MBE

5 April 2025 – 7 September 2025

Our new exhibition will commemorate Marlow's internationally-famous lace maker and benefactor, the late Pamela Nottingham and also explore the harsh social history of lace through the ages.



NB. The museum will be closed for changeover of exhibitions from 31 March to 4 April.

Double Event: Weds Feb 19th 10am - 2pm

A DROP-IN DAY for NEW VOLUNTEERS &
A VISIT FROM BUCKS ARCHIVES
to publicise their move to Wycombe.

Everyone is welcome to drop in during the day:

- to meet our new Manager
- talk to the people from Bucks Archives and
- find out about volunteering at the museum.



Archive Drop-In at the Museum

Want to know how to research your family history? Been curious about local heritage? Come along to the museum to talk to your archive team and have your heritage questions answered!

Marlow Museum, February the 19th, 10am to 2pm

VOLUNTEER VACANCIES at the Museum

➤ Volunteer Stewards

We are currently recruiting people over 18 to join our volunteer team as stewards, to welcome visitors and show them round the museum, now with a choice of shifts from *four* days a week.

➤ Learning Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to work with children in our learning programme for local schools. You don't need to have been a teacher, just have some experience of working with children and an interest in local history.

➤ Event Volunteers

We hope to run a programme of events to raise our profile in Marlow and introduce the museum to more people in the community. We have an eye-catching gazebo and plenty of ideas, but we need people to be involved. This is an occasional commitment and can take into account people's holidays. We can accept volunteers over 14 to help with events. It's hard work but good fun. Could this be something for you?

Full details of all vacancies from
contact@marlowmuseum.org

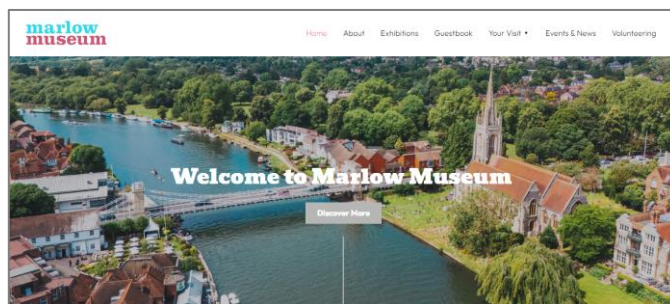
TRUSTEE VACANCIES at the Museum

The Museum would welcome people with experience and skills in any of the following areas to strengthen the Trustee Board:

- Human Resources
- Law
- IT
- Communications
- Marketing
- Education

Please email contact@marlowmuseum.org to find out more.

Our New Website!



Marlow Museum has a new website, presenting a fresh face and providing more information about us and our activities. We hope you like it.

It has a different URL (website address) too: marlowmuseum.org Please note, if you have saved marlowmuseum.uk in your favourites, you will be automatically redirected. However, this redirect will only last for a few weeks, so please change the address you've saved from .uk to .org

Tony Mitchelmore

ACCREDITATION NEWS



After 4 years' work and help and advice from several professional museum people – Kaitlin, Maddie, Emily, Brendan, Sarah, Philip and now Alice – the end is in sight! We have prepared all the policies, plans and procedures, made endless to do lists, and puzzled at length over the records of over 1,250 objects and archives in our collection, which are now transferred to a collection management system called Modes, accessible online.

Our deadline is February 23rd and it looks as if we're on track to complete before then. Those of us involved feel it's quite an achievement to have brought our little museum in line with national museum standards.

Alice said 'The amount of work you have put into this is something that needs to be shouted about and it will be a significant benchmark to achieve the standard.' Fingers crossed!

Della Fitzgerald

Being a Volunteer Steward

What should I say to someone who might be interested in becoming a Marlow Museum volunteer? "That's a great idea and if you become a volunteer, you will really enjoy it!"

Can anyone become a Marlow Museum volunteer?

Anyone interested in the Marlow area - past and present - who enjoys helping people, who wants to know more, or wants to share their own knowledge, is the kind of person we want as a volunteer. You don't have to have special knowledge or a qualification. You don't have to have been born and brought up locally. The Museum has a store of materials, artefacts and literature that can be used for volunteers to learn and to inform our visitors.

You aren't expected to work alone. We always have two people "on duty" when the Museum is open so you will have an experienced volunteer next to you.

What else should I tell them?

- Before you start, our volunteer manager will introduce you to the Museum, some of our systems, and match you with an experienced volunteer for support.
- If possible, we like volunteers to offer us at least two sessions a month, but we can be flexible about how this works. Two sessions per month will allow you to meet other volunteers and get a good sense of how the Museum works.
- Being involved with the Museum is good fun. Our volunteers come with a wide range of life experiences and are keen to help and support each other. We have a monthly volunteer's meeting - very informal! - to share knowledge, news and experiences.
- Our visitors come from all over the world as well as from nearer home. They are thirsty to know more about the Marlow area and very grateful for access to everything the Museum has to offer.
- Finally emphasise that the Museum is a growing entity. We have come a long way in a relatively short period but we want to do much more - and we need all the help we can get to achieve this.

If the person you know has an interest in learning more, make sure you get their contact details and pass these to me asap. Thank you.

Barry Wilson ringmer@gmail.com

Other Places where people find out about the Museum

Would you like to leave us a review, make a post, or add something on one of these?



<https://www.facebook.com/themarlowmuseum>



https://www.instagram.com/marlow_museum



<https://x.com/MarlowMuseum>



https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g315927-d12287288-Reviews-Marlow_Museum-Marlow_Buckinghamshire_England.html



https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Marlow+Museum/@51.5681589,-0.78733,15z/data=!4m1!1m2!2m1!1sThings+to+do!3m6!1s0x487689bcc1500415:0xc599044611c8edaa!8m2!3d51.5681589!4d-0.7770303!15sCgxUaGluZ3MgdG8gZG9aDilMdGhpbmdziHRvIGRvkgEGbXVzZ XVtmgEjQ2haRFNVaE5NRzluUzBWSlEwRm5TVU54YUMxMVJvdDNFQUXgAQ D6AQQIABA7!16s%2Fg%2F1pp2txvct?hl=en-GB&entry=tту&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MDIwMi4wIXMDSOASAFAw%3D%3D

*Best wishes from all at Marlow Museum
February 2025*