

“Working in, with and for the community.”

Do you have a project or issue that you want to bring to our attention? Please contact the MADT office in Wagon Yard and let us know.



MADT

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Chairman – Martin Cook

Vice-chair—Peter Davison

Message from the Chairman

In these recession fuelled times, families are finding life difficult for a range of reasons. It isn't only households where redundancy or unemployment has visited that are being careful about the family budget. The announcement that Tesco, the low cost supermarket chain, intends to lodge a Planning Application to build a grocery only supermarket on the Marlborough Business Park has met with mixed reactions. The store would be 15 000 sq ft, have 120 free parking bays, be next to a bus stop and provide 100 jobs. At first glance, this looks like an answer to the prayers of all those who have travelled out of Marlborough to grocery shop ever since the closure of Somerfield in the High St.

Also in the Business Park, respected Marlborough dentists Taylor, Russell and Denning have started to build one of the region's most exciting health care developments for many years; a £1.5m 8- surgery Dental Practice offering jobs, NHS dentistry – again with free parking virtually next door to the proposed Tesco.

Are High Street Traders right to be concerned about this flurry of development on the edge of Marlborough? Surely, these two enterprises will open the flood gates for further retail activity and service provision, drawing people away from the town centre and trigger economic decline? I'm not convinced that this image of doom and gloom is the likely result of these developments.

We live in a society riddled with contradictions; we expect to work little and spend freely to feed a materialistic desire fuelled by competitive marketing and cheap credit. At the same time, we expect Government to provide services for free with little thought about how subsidised services are actually paid for. This is an unsustainable situation.

Our area has the second highest average house price in Wiltshire and a Deprivation Index figure of 25 out of 28 where 1 is the most deprived. Yet roads to Hungerford, Swindon and Devizes are heaving on a daily basis with local residents heading off in search of cheaper food shopping. Surely the twice weekly market and our independent traders cater for the needs of all budgets? As in society, opposites are hidden. Low income families do live in Marlborough and many more live in the surrounding villages. It is the shortage of free parking and the high cost of using what is available which keeps families looking elsewhere, not the cost of groceries in Marlborough.

It is a long time since Marlborough's High Street provided amenities that truly reflect the demography of its residents. It's not the threat of edge of town development that will affect High Street trading in the long run, but the continuation of exorbitant parking fees and the lack of suitable alternatives that will hurt most.

Martin Cook, Chairman MADT

Parishes in the Marlborough Community Area

Aldbourn

Avebury

Baydon

Berwick Bassett

Broad Hinton

Chilton Foliat

East Kennett

Froxfield

Fyfield

Marlborough

Mildenhall

Ogbourne St Andrew

Ogbourne St George

Preshute

Ramsbury

Savernake

West Overton

Winterbourne Bassett

Winterbourne Monkton



*The MADT office in Wagon
Yard, London Road,
Marlborough is open from
Monday to Thursday between
9.30 & 12.30*

Preshute School Garden

MADT are delighted to have been able to apply for and provide a grant of £950 to Preshute School's gardening club towards restoring their pond and building a new quiet garden.

Local garden designer Julie Jackson donated her design services and has managed the project, which is turning an underused pocket of land behind the classrooms into a pretty garden with a pond for the children to use at playtimes.

The children have come up with lots of different ideas for the new garden, which will include a willow tunnel and a new seating area next to the pond. The pond will be planted with water-loving plants and the children will be able to use it as an outdoor learning space in the summer.

Preshute is a popular village school with limited outdoor space, which has been very imaginatively used to give the children a variety of spaces to play in, this new quiet garden will be a great addition to their environment.

The project is now well underway, the path and structure have been completed and the next stage will be to fill the bare earth with plants and flowers, a task with which the children will be helping.

Annual Dinner 2009

Following the great success of the networking dinner in 2008, MADT and Marlborough & District Chamber of Commerce are again joining forces to hold an event in 2009.

This year the dinner will be held on Thursday 3rd December at the Ogbourne Downs Golf Club, Ogbourne St. George near Marlborough. There will be plenty of opportunity for networking with other guests so remember to bring your business literature and get ready to swap plenty of contacts.

Complementary drinks will be served on arrival, after which a full bar will operate to purchase your own drinks should you wish to do so.

The three-course menu has already been designed by the golf club chef and is available to download from the MADT website.

Invitations and booking forms will be sent out in early November, but please reserve the date in your diaries or for early bookings contact Gill at the MADT office (01672) 515715.

Forthcoming Events

September:

*13th—We Love
Marlborough Art Market,
Brewin Dolphin car park
10am to 4pm*

*17th—Riverbank film
night “The Young Victoria”
at the Town Hall,
Marlborough*

*25th – The Locrian
Ensemble at St. Peter’s
Church*

October :

*7th — film “The Age of
Stupid” climate change
hits the big screen! 8pm
at Marlborough Town Hall*

*21st—The 27th Annual
Marlborough Lecture at
(see article on back page)*

*23rd—Riverbank &
Watermill touring
theatre—BU88LE5,
7.30pm at Marlborough
Town Hall*

*For all Riverbank events contact
the KVAT office: 01672 516480*


riverbank

So MUCH to do in Autumn!

Summer holidays might be over, but there’s plenty to keep families entertained in Marlborough during September, according to arts and culture promoter We Love Marlborough.

The not-for-profit organisation’s what’s on guide – at www.welovemarlborough.co.uk – lists a staggering 50 events during September.

And the trend looks set to continue, where currently only a few days during October when nothing is on.

Event organisers can log on to the website and upload their own arts and culture events. Visitors can browse the diary by date or location to find something to do. They can also join the mailing list and receive a free monthly what’s on newsletter for the Marlborough area by email.

During July, the site – which has received funding from the Marlborough Area Development Trust and Marlborough and Villages Community Area Partnership – was visited nearly 1,100 times by 780 different people.

The August Art Market attracted local artists selling oils and watercolours, photography, ceramics, wood sculptures and gifts. One young artist, Ellie Payne (15), a student at St John’s School in Marlborough, took £150 by selling spray painted canvases inspired by graffiti artist Banksy.

Pictures from the August event can be viewed at www.welovemarlborough.co.uk

The art markets have been made possible by kind permission of Brewin Dolphin and MZA, on whose premises the art markets are held.

In November another Art Market is planned to complement the switch on of the Christmas Lights.

The Big Switch On of the Christmas Lights will be accompanied by a full-blown extravaganza **We Love Christmas**. A wide variety of events are planned to suit all ages including late-night shopping, Santa’s Grotto, street performers, a disco for 12 to 16 year olds and a gala concert by renowned opera singer Maria Jagusz. Visit the website for more details.

www.welovemarlborough.co.uk


We Love Marlborough

MADT –

- *Is working with partners to investigate the possibility of establishing a Community Open Space.*
- *Is supporting the We Love Marlborough cultural and arts initiative.*
- *Is working with Action for the River Kennet to extend the Trout in Schools project.*
- *Is supporting the creation of a wildlife garden at Preshute School.*
- *Is continuing to support the Marlborough River Restoration Scheme, in partnership with ARK and others.*
- *Supports History Alive to bring interactive historical information and learning to groups of children in the Marlborough Community Area.*

If you have a project or an idea for a community involvement in which we could help, either to facilitate meetings, enable or source funding or in some other way; send us an e-mail in the first instance and we shall see what we can do to make it happen.

MADT
Marlborough Area Development Trust
Working in, with and for the community

Coopers Meadow Project Wins national Award

The Cooper's Meadow Habitat Restoration Project has won a prestigious national award. The Association of Rivers Trusts gives an award annually to a project that has benefited Britain's rivers. The award was presented to Charlotte Hitchmough, director of Action for the River Kennet, at a ceremony in London on Monday. Arlin Rickard, Director of the Association of Rivers Trusts said 'I am delighted that you have won this award which is a fitting tribute for your widely acclaimed community environmental work. We congratulate you on your success.'

Charlotte Hitchmough said 'I'm thrilled to receive this award on behalf of ARK and all our project partners and funders, the Cooper's Meadow project is a true community endeavor and we could not have achieved by ourselves. My particular thanks to MADT and Marlborough Town Council, as well as the pupils of St Peters School, St John's School and Community College, Marlborough College and all the other volunteers who helped us get the work done.

The project is ongoing, with further work planned for the coming months to improve the habitat and install some interpretive panels to explain to visitors more about the River Kennet and the water meadow.

27th Annual Marlborough Lecture

This year the Marlborough Lecture will be given by H. E. Kamallesh Sharma, the Commonwealth Secretary General. He is the fifth person to hold this post and is an alumnus of St. Stephen's College, Delhi and Kings College, Cambridge. His talk will be entitled "thecommonwealth @ 60—serving a new generation".

This will be the 27th Annual Marlborough Lecture organised by the Marlborough Brandt Group and the Marlborough Christian Aid Committee.

Admission is free and demand for seats is bound to be high; previous speakers have included HRH the Princess Royal, Archbishop George Carey and Jonathon Porritt. There will be a retiring collection and Gift Aid envelopes will be provided. The event starts at 8pm at St. John's School Stedman Building.