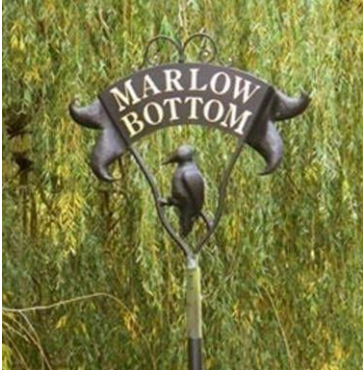




Marlow Bottom Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 1st June 2026 at Burford School commencing at 7:30pm

Council members present: Cllrs. Barnes, Collingwood, Cripps, Hill, Robinson

Present: There were 33 residents present, including Buckinghamshire Cllrs: A. Crabtree, C. Heap

Cllr Barnes opened the Meeting at 19:32 and welcomed everyone to the seventeenth Annual Parish Meeting to be held in Marlow Bottom.

APM 1/26 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Batten, A Steele – MBPFMC, T Horler, V. Tight, Sally Clark - Arboriculture Team Leader

APM 2/26 Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29 May 2025

These were reviewed and then proposed for approval by Cllr. Collingwood, seconded by Cllr. Cripps which was unanimously endorsed and then signed by Cllr Barnes.

APM 3/26 Annual Report by Cllr. Dominic Barnes, Vice Chairman of Marlow Bottom Parish Council

APM 4/26 Report from Buckinghamshire Council Cllr. Alex Collingwood

APM 5/26 Report from Lantern Church by Revd Graham Watts

APM 6/26 Report from Marlow Bottom Village Hall Committee by Cllr. Stephen Robinson, Chairman of Trustees

- A question was posed by Revd Graham Watts about the source of funding for the village, to which Cllr. Robinson explained that this was mainly drawn from two sources, namely ground rent from the Barn Club, as the village hall owns the site and hire of the hall including from the school.
- In response to Cllr. Robinsons' request for information about the history of the village hall, it was suggested that contact should be made with Tin Town Café and the Marlow Museum, which may be able to assist.

APM 7/26 Report from The Barn Club by Cllr. Phil Cripps Chairman of the Barn Club Management Committee

APM 8/26 Report from Thames Valley Police by Acting Police Sergeant Caitlin Neal

APM 9/26 Report from Neighbourhood Watch by Mr. Geoff Pegg

- APM 10/26** Report from Rebellion Brewery by Mark Gloyens, Director
- Cllr Robinson asked if the Brewery had discussed the opening of their pizza oven, with the proprietors Da Luca, as there was a possible issue of competition, to which Mark responded by explaining that whilst the issue recognized, it was considered to be very minimal as the food offer at Da Luca is so much wider and encompasses the entire range of Italian cuisine which Rebellion are not proposing to offer.
 - Mrs Dodgson remarked that she understood the Brewery at one time undertook a significant charitable event during which significant amounts of beer were given away with donations being collected for charitable purposes. Mark acknowledged this and explained that it had continued up until the Covid pandemic but not continued afterwards, although significant charitable activities and events were supported by the Brewery with new ones being continually identified.

APM 11/26 Report from Scouts by Nigel Lewis, Scout Leader.

- APM 12/26** Report from Rotary Club of Marlow Thames – Past President, David Sutherland
- Cllr. Barnes enquired how support for the delivery of freshwater is achieved in foreign locations, to which David advised that it was generally done by working with Rotary Club members and affiliated organisations in the affected counties or areas. How they support organisations for the delivery of freshwater
 - The parish Clerk asked how the filter works and produced such startling results, to which David explained how a system of fine filters was embedded within the body of the device which works very effectively with minimal maintenance but there is a process of ‘back flushing’ which must be done, with clean water to remove the impurities.

APM 13/26 Report from Valley Plus (BOPAG) by Ivan Mant, Chairman

APM 14/26 Report from Marlow Valley Lodge (8974) – by Cllr. Phil Cripps

APM 15/26 Report from Great Marlow School by Mark Bilsborough, Chair of Governors

APM 16/26 Members of the Public To Raise Any Question, Not Included Above, Relating to Other Parish Matters

There were no general questions posed by residents following agenda item APM 16/26; however Mary Nash Editor of Valley News was given leave by the Chair, to invite those present to consider providing their contact details to Valley News, if they wished to include articles in the publication, about their activities, in the future.

Other Matters In addition to the above, reports were provided by the following organisations, although not presented during the meeting:

- Marlow Bottom Playing Fields Management Committee
- Marlow Bottom WI

Copies of all reports including those not presented during the meeting are attached to these minutes

Following the conclusion of formal business, residents and speakers were able to continue informal discussions over light refreshments.

Meeting concluded: 21:48

Signed: _____ (All other pages to be initialed)

Date: _____

Welcome to the 2026 Annual Parish meeting for Marlow Bottom.

We have a few newly appointed councillors who have joined the council since last year's Annual Parish meeting. They Cllr. Phil Cripps and Cllr. Joel Scurlock. The other members of the council are, Chairman Cllr. Jason Batten, who sends his apologies, Vice Chairman Cllr. Dom Barnes (me), Cllr. Alex Collingwood, Cllr. Tony Hill and Cllr Stephen Robinson.

In addition to the new councillors we also have a new Clerk to the Council, Mr Phillip Hynard, who is here to keep us all in order and is the first point of contact for any Parish matters. As the councillors are dotted about the room can I just ask them to stand up and make themselves known to you all.

I would like to start by thanking all of the Councillors for their contribution over the past year and also to our previous Clerks Nabeela Rana and our former, former Clerk Angela Batten who has helped handover the not insignificant amount of information, skills and knowledge required by Phillip to take over the role.

Over the past year the Parish Council have undertaken a number of projects and these include the launch of Parish grants scheme and the presentation of our first grant under the scheme to Tina's Stupa Troopers.

We have provided further funding for the improvement of the playing fields and play area, with half of the new play area fencing being funded by the Parish Council and the remainder being paid for by MBPFC and a donation from Rebellion Brewery.

Protective bollards have now been installed at the crossing point opposite the entrance to Burford school to support the safety of the parents and children.

We have installed, or should I say our contractor has installed new LED street lamp heads for the roads that fall under the Parish Councils control, they being every road other than the main Valley Road. The new lighting heads provide improved lighting and energy efficiency and replaced old heads that were at the end of their lifespan.

The Parish Council website has had a bit of a revamp and long-awaited updates are being applied, If you have anything you or the valley organisation you are representing would like added to the site please either give your details to the Clerk or send him an email.

We are aware that parking, pavement parking and increased traffic is a growing issue within the valley, especially around school start and finish times and we will be looking to meet with representatives of Burford School and it's new Academy managers to discuss potential ways that the issue could be improved. The issue has and will become more apparent as the school will be required to expanding further its catchment given the reducing birthrate in the immediate area.

We are also aware of other bottle necks and potential danger zones around Brucewood Parade, One Stop and some other junctions in the Valley and again we are actively working with Bucks Council to explore ways these areas can be made safer.

The purpose of tonight is show case all of the valley organisations and what they have been doing in the past year as well as an opportunity for residents to meet with their Parish Councillors, ask

questions and make suggestions of what they would like to see done by the parish council over the coming year.

So over to you for any comments and questions from the floor.

Marlow Bottom Annual Parish Meeting

Buckinghamshire Council – Cllr. Alex Collingwood

Key Issues raised:

- Change in political balance with potential impacts.
- Increase in Buckinghamshire Council precept 4.99%.
- Marlow Bridge Phase 1 Works in train.
- Launch of hardship fund eBook.
- Marlow Library – now open 8am to 8pm 6 days a week.
- Higginson Park Centenary 20th June (Ceremonial Planting of Oak Tree).
- New era of Parking enforcement from 1st June – Now 3 to 4 wardens (previously 1).
- Proposal for Marlow Fire Station to be upgraded.
- Increase in neighbourhood coordinators – 6 Marlow Bottom.
- Agreed 4 year highways maintenance programme - Priority Marlow Bottom 2027 with footpaths 2027/28
- Police focus on anti-social behaviour, drugs, speeding, rogue traders.
- 100 new trees to be planted Cedar Drive due to Ash die back.

Good evening everyone.

It's been quite a year for The Lantern Church — and I think the overriding feeling as we look back is one of gratitude, encouragement and real expectation for what God is doing among us.

One of the real highlights of the last year has been welcoming Rev Tom his wife Annie and their family to the Church. Tom has made such a strong start as part of the clergy team. Tom and Annie have already become part of village life, particularly through Burford School, where Tom is now a Governor and where their eldest child has started. The family have brought warmth, energy and encouragement to church life.

In July, last year we said goodbye to our Children's and Families Worker Katie, as she finished in her role to return to full time teaching in school. But then in January this year we welcomed Jo Keyes as our new Children's and Youth Worker. Jo has absolutely hit the ground running. The amount of connection already happening with children and families is genuinely exciting. Through our Baby & Toddlers group, schools work, after-school events, Community Corner, Easter activities and Sunday groups, we're seeing lots of new relationships forming with families in Marlow Bottom.

Both Tom and Jo's arrival has brought a real sense that we are building bridges into the community again and creating spaces where people feel welcomed, known and able to explore faith naturally.

And that really captures the "feel" of church life at the moment. There's a growing sense of momentum. A sense of openness. A sense that people are willing to step forward, serve, invite others and pray expectantly for what God might do next.

Last May we celebrated the church's 60th anniversary, which was a wonderful occasion. It reminded us of God's faithfulness over many generations. Over the last year we have also run Alpha Courses which give people chance to learn and discuss more about the Christian faith, we have continued the Lantern Youth group and Baby & Toddler group, seen Community Corner our ministry that brings Toddlers and Seniors together grow, we've strengthened links with local schools and community groups, and continued to welcome new people into Sunday services.

Our numbers on Sundays have grown slightly over the last year, but most importantly there's been movement — new people arriving, families beginning to connect, and others exploring faith for the first time.

One of the biggest parts of this last year has been Project Shine. And what an extraordinary year that has been. Project Shine is our plan to knock down our existing church building and

replace it with a new building to benefit the church and local community. Planning permission was given in December last year and the fundraising phase has begun in earnest.

The congregation have already given incredibly sacrificially and generously toward the project. It's been deeply humbling to see. Alongside that, grant applications are being written, community connections are growing, and conversations are beginning with potential supporters beyond the church as well. We are so grateful for the support we continue to receive from the other churches and individuals in the 4U-Team.

When we put all the gifts, grants and fundraising together we have around £600,000 on our journey to £1.7m.

But perhaps even more importantly, Project Shine has become about more than a building. It's increasingly become a vision for mission — for serving Marlow Bottom, welcoming families, supporting community life and creating space for future generations to explore faith, build community and receive love and support.

We had a great time recently with our “Marathon Challenge” fundraiser for Project Shine. It brought together all ages and lots of community groups to get sponsored to do a “challenging 26”. The W.I., Burford School, Valley Plus, Rainbows, Brownies, our Baby & Toddler group and a vast array of individuals all put the effort in and an amazing £16k was raised. We really do hope that Project Shine can be seen as a community project as well as a Church one. We were very thankful for the kind words of support the Parish Council put in the Wycombe Planning Portal in response to our Planning Application.

In all areas of church life as we look ahead the overwhelming tone is hopeful.

We feel grateful.

We feel expectant.

And we feel ready for the next chapter God has for us.

Above all, we give thanks to God for his faithfulness to us through another remarkable year.

Marlow Bottom Annual Parish Meeting

Marlow Bottom Village Hall Committee – Cllr. Stephen Robinson

Stephen highlighted the following matters:

- Bookings continue to be strong and the Village Hall is used extensively.
- A programme of refurbishment and renewal is in train and work has and continues to include:
 - The replacement of the boiler with an air conditioning system that will provide both heating and cooling.
 - Remediation of drains and wiring
 - Upgrade of the WC
 - Work during the summer 2026 will be undertaken to improve access to the chair storage area.
 - There is ongoing discussion amongst the Committee for further modernisation.
- In addition to the above work is to be undertaken during June to reduce the height of some trees which are currently shadowing the Barn Club patio area and reducing enjoyment for those who use this space.
- Discussions are ongoing with the Barn Club to improve / clarify the locations for accessible parking and associated signage.

Stephen concluded his presentation with a request for any information that may be available amongst resident about the history of the Village Hall, some of which is already well known but some further details would be appreciated.

THE BARN CLUB

A friendly members' club at the heart of Marlow Bottom

Welcome to The Barn Club

The Barn Club is the social hub of Marlow Bottom, offering a welcoming space to relax, meet friends, enjoy regular entertainment, and celebrate special occasions. With a long-standing place in the community, the club combines local history, great value, and a warm atmosphere for members and guests alike.

Our Story

In 1949, the Village Hall was established in a building originally known as "The Witches' Barn Café". Next door stood a Nissen hut, which had been used as a canteen by Land Army girls during the war.

Because alcohol could not be consumed in the Village Hall itself, the neighbouring hut became a separate social venue: The Barn Club. This is where the club's name and distinctive witch's hat logo originate.

In 1962, The Barn Club moved into newly built premises beside the Village Hall. Over the years, the club has grown and been extended into the much-loved community venue it is today.

Membership & Guest Access

The Barn Club is a members' club. Guests are welcome to visit up to three times, after which membership is encouraged.

Membership offers excellent value, including a 20% discount on drinks and use of the facilities for occasions such as birthday parties, baby showers, wakes, and club meetings.

- Up to 20% discount on drinks
- Use of club facilities for private and community events
- Access to a welcoming social space in the heart of Marlow Bottom

Member Savings on Drinks

Drink	Standard Price	Member Price	Saving
Pint Fosters	£5.63	£4.50	£1.13
Pint Rebellion IPA	£5.63	£4.50	£1.13
Pint Rebellion Lager	£7.00	£5.60	£1.40
Pint Guinness	£6.25	£5.00	£1.25

Entertainment & Events

There is always something happening at The Barn Club. From tribute nights and themed live music to quizzes, bingo, BBQs, and Shelley's popular Sunday roasts, the club offers regular events for all ages and interests.

- Tribute bands and themed live music events
- Monthly quiz nights
- Regular bingo evenings
- BBQs and seasonal social events
- Shelley's well-loved Sunday roasts

Membership Fees

Membership Type	Fee
Joint / Family (2 co-habiting adults + children under 18)	£50
Single Adult (18+)	£38
Joint Seniors (2 co-habiting adults aged 60+)	£38
Single Senior (60+)	£28
Student (18–21 in full-time education)	£28

At the Heart of the Community

Our aim is to be a true community hub by providing a safe, friendly, and welcoming environment for members and guests. We are proud to support the local area in every way we can and to play an active role in community life.

That community spirit has been recognised locally. In the 2025 Hidden Gems awards run by [Marlow FM 97.5](), [Shelley Robson]() of [The Barn Club]() was named joint winner of the "Services to the Community" award, and the club was also runner-up in the "Best Pub in Marlow" category.

DEFIB.

Come and See Us

If you have never visited The Barn Club, or have not been in for a while, we would be delighted to welcome you. Come in for a drink, meet our friendly team and members, and discover what makes The Barn Club such a special part of Marlow Bottom.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Marlow Bottom Parish Council Meeting 01/06 7:30

Attendance P8207 Sergeant Neal Marlow Police Station

Contact caitlin.neal@thamesvalley.police.uk

Crime Summary in the last 12 months

I have sent a presentation I believe was spoken about at the last meeting and have updated in the last month

Since last month

Person has passed away

Information of a suspicious person- group of youths on e-bikes smoking cannabis

Neighbourhood dispute

Our 'team' priorities are ASB, Drugs and Speeding

What have we been up to?

The Marlow team covers around 25 miles- Marlow – Bourne End- Medmenham

I also cover Princes Risborough and their hamlets so apologies for visibility

Engagement with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

Coming up we are attending The Regatta, school talks, fetes, fairs, doing partnership working, attending councils, BA fly day and focusing on your priorities

Speed enforcement – community speed watch, social media TVP Wycombe and TVP South Buckinghamshire – Wendover Road

High visibility patrols in areas where there have been crime issues

How can you help us?

Tell us if you have an event coming up you would like us to come to my email is above

Tell us if you have any schools or groups we have missed engaging with

Report everything- TVP 'report a crime webform' 72hr NHPT contact portal or 999, 101 might be the bit of information we need!



Little Marlow - Occurrence data

Data Period:

01/04/2025 – 06/05/2026

Requested by:

C9776 Bis

NH Marlow

Bucks LCU

C5059 Craig Lambert

Problem Solving Analyst

Bucks LCU

06/05/2026

OFFICIAL



Explanation of Data

The data captured for this report includes all reports received by police in respect of incidents and activities recorded at various postcodes [SL7 & SL8] across the neighbourhood area of GF Marlow between 01/04/2025 - 06/05/2026.

Specifically, SL7 3RD, SL7 3RP – 3RW, SL7 3RJ - 3RL, SL7 3RH, SL7 3SD – 3SF, SL8 5PS, SL8 5PN, SL8 5NS-T & SL8 5PA-B.

Key findings;

Since 01/04/2025, there have been 31 varying reports made to police. These include reports concerning; Action Fraud, ASB, Assault with injury, Assistance to other agencies [SCAS / Fire], Criminal Damage & Theft.

Other less notable reports include Road related incidents, Bail offences, concern for safety, Making off without payment and Suspicious incidents.

A full breakdown can be seen in this report

**A caveat with a view to the data gleaned from Niche is to draw attention to the accuracy of the data. Niche recording is not infallible and sometimes misses key information from some offences, as well as occasionally detailing some offences being recorded under the incorrect occurrence type.*

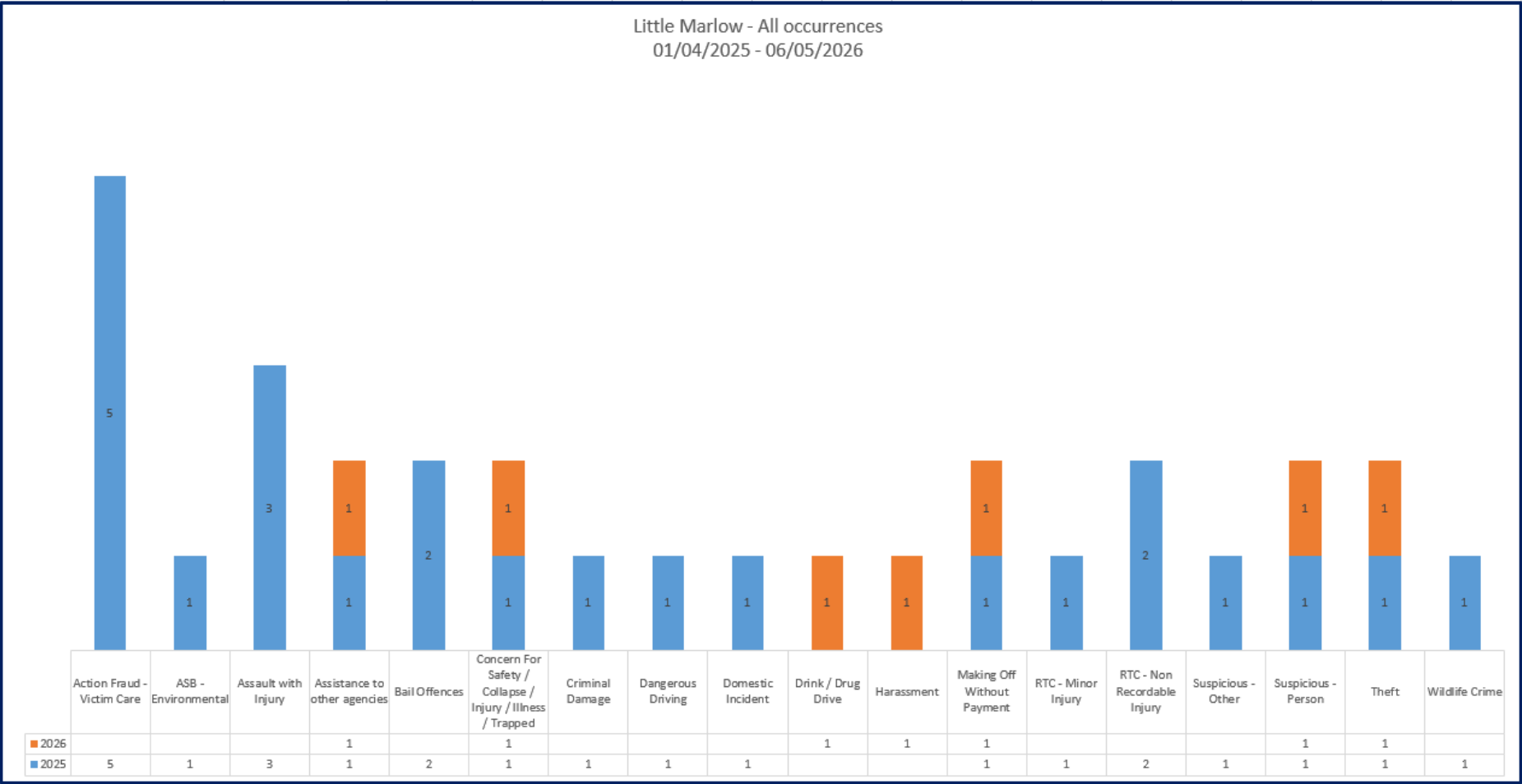


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Protecting Our Communities

All Reports





Protecting Our Communities

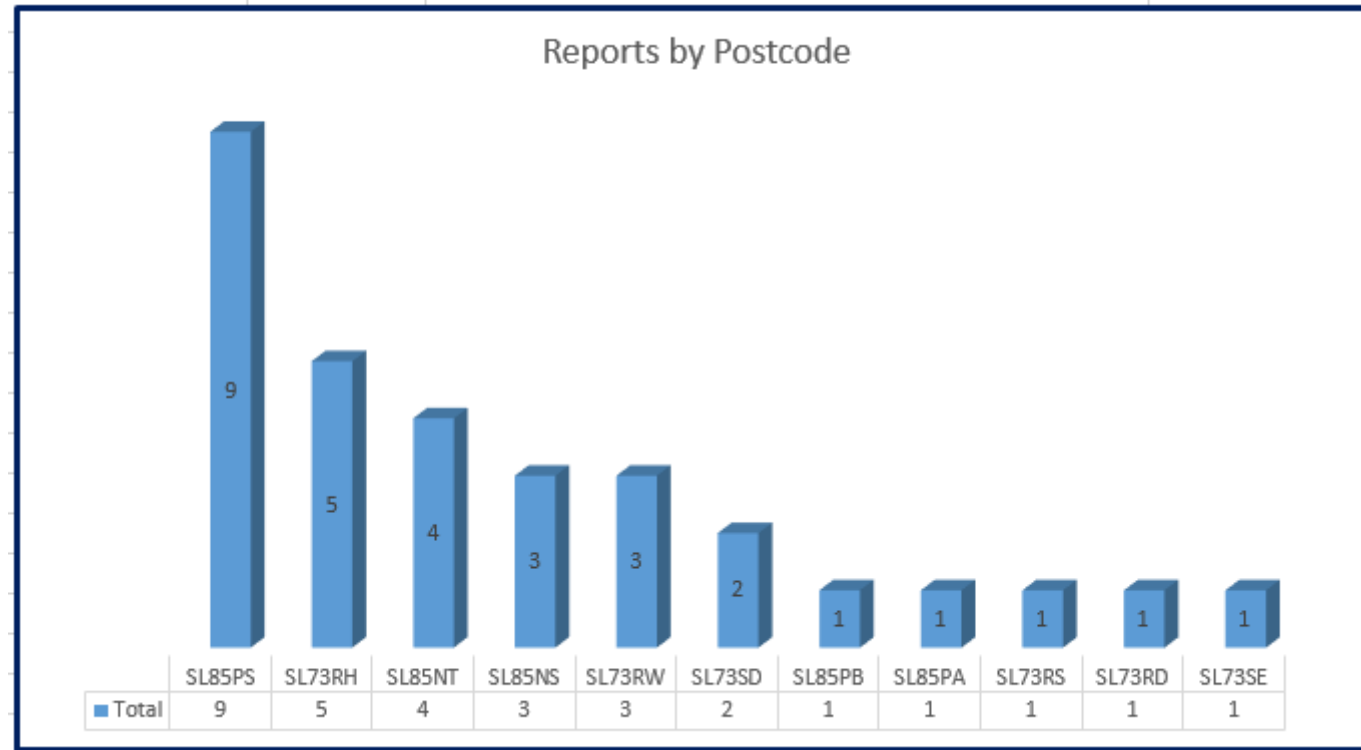
All Reports

Count of Occurrence Type	Column Label		
Row Labels	2025	2026	Grand Total
Action Fraud - Victim Care	5		5
ASB - Environmental	1		1
Assault with Injury	3		3
Assistance to other agencies	1	1	2
Bail Offences	2		2
Concern For Safety / Collapse / Injury / Illness / Trapped	1	1	2
Criminal Damage	1		1
Dangerous Driving	1		1
Domestic Incident	1		1
Drink / Drug Drive		1	1
Harassment		1	1
Making Off Without Payment	1	1	2
RTC - Minor Injury	1		1
RTC - Non Recordable Injury	2		2
Suspicious - Other	1		1
Suspicious - Person	1	1	2
Theft	1	1	2
Wildlife Crime	1		1
Grand Total	24	7	31



Protecting Our Communities

Reports by postcodes





Protecting Our Communities

Highest demand - Coldmoorholme Lane SL85PS



Marlow Bottom Annual Parish Meeting

Neighbourhood Watch – Geoff Pegg

Geoff began his talk explaining how he originally became involved in Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) in May 1998 when he was appointed the Co-ordinator in charge of a new scheme for the 44 houses along the road where he lived in High Wycombe and which was suffering from frequent petty crime and anti-social behaviour incidents interspersed with a few more serious incidents. Fortunately, the NHW scheme was the key to eliminating these problems.

Since 2000, Geoff has started 524 new schemes in the Wycombe District involving 913 Co-ordinators and has also signed up many new Co-ordinators to add to existing schemes. He pioneered the idea of general NHW meetings with invited speakers on key crime and well-being topics and has arranged 47 of these meetings since they started in 2001.

The following issues were then highlighted:

- Whilst initially this was heavily focussed on burglary and car crime, it now includes so many other areas of criminal activity including 'scams and cons' and the growth and impact of drug related crime.
- Encourage resident to report crime to police because what may appear as an isolated incident so often is found to link to other crimes.
- Be aware of the continued growth of online criminal activity.

Geoff concluded by remarking on the relatively small number of Neighbourhood Watch groups in Marlow Bottom and encouraged residents to volunteer and become involved as there are no costs and enormous potential benefits.

Geoff also provided an array of literature and preventative measures that could be purchased at extremely low cost to reduce crime risk.

Parish Council Annual Residents Meeting – Presentation by RBC

Date:- Monday 1st June 2026

The brewery has been a resident of Marlow Bottom now for 33 years and during this time we have built up a close relationship with the local community. Our success has been built on the support we have received from people living in the local area and especially here in Marlow Bottom.

We've grown from a business involving just the two founders Tim Coombes and Mark Gloyens brewing and selling about 2000 pints per week in 1993 to what it is now employing about 70 staff producing around 70,000 pints per week. Since we moved to Bencombe Farm from the Rose Business Estate in 1999 we have received considerable support from the Parish Council and residents whenever we have applied for planning permission to expand and grow for which we are extremely grateful. We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the long standing and ongoing support of the Jameson family who own Bencombe Farm. Whenever we have needed more space they have been forthcoming and we have now taken over nearly all the old farm buildings. But we like to think that our presence has supported them to continue farming and contribute to food production in the area and we plan to continue to buy barley from the farm to turn into malt which we use to brew our beers. Our strategy to sell all our beer if possible within a 30 mile radius of Marlow means that we have grown to the optimum size for the brewery and therefore any future development is likely to be very limited with a focus on improving quality and the service and offering we provide rather than volume of beer produced. Selling all our beer within 30 miles of Marlow is better for quality, better for the environment by reducing beer miles and also better for the ongoing profitability of the brewery.

We hope that the Tap Yard offers a welcoming place for residents of the valley to come to enjoy a drink, some food and various entertainment including comedy and quiz nights, and recently we have extended to opening on Sundays as well. We hope this is a welcome addition to the valley after the closure of the Pegasus/TJ O'Reillys and the Three Horseshoes.

We are now looking to build a pizza oven to be able to provide our own home made pizzas in the Tap Yard throughout the week to compliment the rotating food vans at the weekend.

Residents may have also seen some improvements to the verge and fence line along the road into the valley. We have repaired the flint wall and tidied up the brickwork. We have planted a screen of laurel trees and tried to clear the verge of weeds and brambles and sow more grass and we have taken on the responsibility to mow the verge and generally

improve and maintain the appearance on our side of the road. This work is ongoing and we are looking to cut back or remove some of the overgrown trees along the boundary running round to the entrance to the farm before replacing them with an evergreen hedge to provide an attractive and manageable screen. We are working with the Jameson family to keep the grass triangle on the corner mowed and looking good with the Olympic Rowers sign clear and visible.

Over the years we have enjoyed being able to give hundreds of local young people their first taste of work and it is something we aim to continue to do despite this government's actions which genuinely make it harder to make it commercially viable to employ as many young people as we have done before.

We have invested over £3 million pounds over the past 10 years to build a state of the art brewery and we have done this without external equity investors or borrowing. Because we are debt free and not answering to investors who want a short term profit we can always take a long term view for the business and follow a strategy based on what is best for the long term future of the brewery. Our strategy going forward is focused on continuing to respond to changes in the market and improve on what we are already doing. We have for example just launched a low alcohol beer, Mar-Low Pale 0.5% which is selling really well.

We are very optimistic about the future of the brewery as we feel we have laid the foundations of a very sustainable business built on the loyalty and support of the people of Marlow for which we are extremely grateful.

1st Marlow Bottom Scout Group – MB Annual Parish meeting

The 1st Marlow Bottom Scout group continues to thrive in Marlow Bottom.

We currently have 3 sections, Beavers – for 6 to 8 year olds, Cubs – for 8 to 10 year olds and Scouts – for 10 to 14 year olds.

Our Beaver colony has 18 young people and 4 leaders, our Cubs have 26 young people and 7 Leaders and the Scouts has 25 young people with 4 Leaders. Our numbers are great and we are working near to our capacity in each section and have a great number of leaders supporting the young people on a weekly basis.

All 3 sections run active programmes especially through the summer term where being outdoors is very popular with the young people. Last weekend we attended the County Carnival Activity Camp in Penn Street, Amersham and all the attendees had a great weekend despite the heatwave. This term the young people will be kayaking at Taplow lake, lighting fires, Geo Caching, Woodland games, Paddleboarding, Bowling, Den building ,

With lots of activities and learning of new skills, all sections have ample opportunity to earn badges and receiving a badge is one of the most exciting things our young people look forward to, although, not the sewing of the badges onto their uniforms. In our Scout section we have a number of the older Scouts who have almost achieved their top award, the Gold Award.

Our Cub pack has had one evening working together with Wycombe Refugee Partnership where they got together and had an evening of Games, crafts and Activities and have one evening planned for each of the next 2 terms. All young people enjoyed themselves and shared their experiences and skills with one another.

Rotary Club of Marlow Thames presentation to Marlow Bottom Parish Council

1st June 2026

By David Sutherland

Good evening and thank you for this opportunity to tell you a bit about Rotary and my club, Marlow Thames in particular.

Rotary is worldwide in over 200 countries and with over 1.2 Million members. The overall objective is to deliver Service above Self. This is done internationally with many campaigns and projects designed to eradicate Polio and other diseases, dealing with children's literacy, education and poverty, improving maternal health, provision of clean water, supporting the environment and promoting peace.

We as Marlow Thames contribute financially to these major projects but we are mainly focussed on meeting local requirements. We are 49 men and women who meet weekly to organise events, to hear outside speakers, many from local charities or to just have a good chin-wag. Each year we demonstrate Service Above Self by giving our time and energy to over 20 of our own events or to other organisations' events.

For instance, we're helping set up Rock Bottom, we listen to 6 year olds read at Foxes Piece school, we assist with disabled people having boat trips on the river, we volunteer to be marshals at events and we're helping at Marlow Town Regatta. Our own events include tea parties for pensioners and delivering Xmas hampers. We're particularly proud of the activity and food day we put on for Bucks Young Carers. These are families where a child is a main carer in a family where a parent is long term disabled or ill. Our event is the only day in the year when some of those families go out together. Our International involvement is relatively modest although we have made sizeable donations to Ukraine causes and to a few schools in South African townships.

All this would not be possible without raising funds. We've just held our 4th Marlow Tastes progressive supper in Marlow. With 470 participants and 9 restaurants we raised over £20,000 and gave many people a memorable and enjoyable evening. Our other significant fundraiser is Santa Fun Run which with 3000 participants, last year raised over £106,000 for charities. Both these events could not happen without a significant number of the members enjoying each others' company, deploying their impressive array of skills, working together and delivering something rather special. These events not only give a huge amount of enjoyment to the community but also provide the funds to support over 50 charities a year and also make a contribution to the international projects I mentioned earlier.

Let me end with a bit of magic. Imagine you've suffered an earthquake or a hurricane has wrecked your community or you are in a war zone such as Ukraine and all you have to drink is polluted water. Water that has Cholera bacteria in it and which will kill you if you drink it. And then somebody from Rotary gives you one of these, a water filter which will remove most water borne diseases from the polluted water.

Demonstration of removing pollution from water using a Rotary Aquabox filter.

Thank you for listening and if anybody would like to know more, or be a guest at a meeting, please contact me.

David Sutherland
Rotary Club of Marlow Thames
Dmsdms44@gmail.com
07798 718109



Marlow Bottom Valley Plus
'Bringing people together'

Annual Report 2026

Marlow Bottom Valley 50 Plus is an over 50's club, we have over 150 members and we are a social and activity group bringing people living in Marlow Bottom together, especially if you are recently retired and find time on your hands. We can help you to make new friends of both neighbours and other residents in the Valley, we provide members with Monthly Members Meetings with presentations, organised events and we also give you a voice on local and national issues. On behalf of our membership we also support and donate to several local charities.

Our regular monthly meetings have interesting guest speakers and this year these have included **Kathryn Harkup on Agatha Christie 'A' for Arsenic**, **Tom Harwell top TV Cameraman on filming wildlife**, **Bob Savage on 'growing up in wartime London'** and several local speakers on what's available to assist people with living life.

This year our organised visits to places of interest, theatre and concert trips etc., have included **'Brick Lane Music Hall'**, **The Mill At Sonning theatre**, **'The Great Gatsby' at The Coliseum Theatre**, **'Les Miserables' at The Sondheim theatre**, **Bath Christmas Market**, **The City of Canterbury**, **Swindon Railway Museum** and **Shopping Outlet and several museums**.

We organise social events such as **group dinners, quizzes, music bingo, games, films and tea parties** and other functions. A new activity for us this year, was to take a group of forty members on a **'Warners Hotel weeks holiday'** near Hereford, which included several trips to interesting places.

In the coming year we have already planned monthly Members Meetings with talks which includes a presentation on **'Non Alcoholic Wines'** and hopefully a meeting with our **Local MP**. Our visits include **Shuttleworth House** for the **'Flying Proms Show'** plus a visit to their vintage aircraft and car museum. We will again have trips to the popular **Brick Lane Theatre** and **Mill at Sonning** plus much more.

As a group we are keen to liaise and interact with other groups in Marlow Bottom.

On behalf of the committee,
Ivan Mant Chairman.

MARLOW VALLEY LODGE No. 8974

Good evening everyone,

I'd like to say a few words about Marlow Valley Lodge, but first let me give a brief introduction to Freemasonry and what it stands for.

Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest social and charitable organisations, with roots in the traditions of the medieval stonemasons who built many of England's castles and cathedrals. It is founded on four core values:

Integrity – honesty and moral conduct
Friendship – building supportive relationships
Respect – valuing diversity and different beliefs,
Service – charitable giving and community support

Freemasons also make a significant contribution to charitable causes across England and Wales, donating nearly £1 million a week to support both national and local charities. (£51.1 / year)

That spirit of service is reflected not only nationally, but also in communities like our own.

Marlow Valley Lodge was founded in 1981 by a small group of local Freemasons, several of whom were residents of Marlow Bottom. In fact, the very first meeting was held in Marlow Bottom Village Hall.

We are a small but very active Lodge, raising funds for both local and Masonic charities. Over the past 12 months, we have supported Tina's Stupa Troupers, who care for the stupas at the end of the Valley, and the Marlow Opportunity Playgroup, which provides specialist support for pre-school children with additional needs.

We meet five times a year at the Marlow Masonic Centre in St Peter's Street, and we are always pleased to welcome new members, as well as Freemasons who have moved into the area and would like to join a local Lodge. So, if anyone would like to find out more about Freemasonry in general, or Marlow Valley Lodge in particular, please do get in touch. I have a few leaflets with me, so please feel free to take one — my contact details are on the back.

Thank you very much.

Great Marlow School

Some key facts:

- 11-18
- Approx. 1,400 students including nearly 300 in thriving 6th form
- Famous ex-pupils Steve Redgrave, Tyrrell Hatton
- **Exam results generally better than national average** – despite being a non-selective school in a selective school area.
- **Ofsted GOOD** – (last report 2023)
- **Strong reputation for helping disadvantaged students** – over 70 at the school on the SEND register (for comparison, only 3 at Borlase)
- An Academy school – not controlled by the Local Authority
- Prides itself on its community focus.
- Strong on **behaviour management**: very low suspension levels, calm, orderly school.
- Very **experienced staff and very low staff turnover** – signs of a capable, happy team,

What's new?

- Now part of the **Marlow Education Trust** (MET) along with Sir William Borlase Grammar School, Burford (joined in April), Beechview (High Wycombe) Spinfield and Marlow Church of England School.
 - Opportunities for a whole Marlow focus for education – shared values, shared approaches, more integrated provision.
 - Learn from the best, support the weakest.
- **New OFSTED framework** – judgements no longer condensed into a single assessment grade. Now offers **detailed report cards**. Primary areas are:
 - Curriculum and teaching
 - achievement
 - Attendance and behaviour
 - Personal development and well-being
 - Leadership and governance
 - Safeguarding.
- **NEW SEN framework**: new **universal offer of support** to all students and further support for people with additional needs: **targeted**, **targeted plus** and **specialist**. **Fewer students will be on EHCPs** (education, health and care plans) as most needs will be met by the new, enhanced system which will involve **Individual Support Plans**. All existing EHCPs will remain.
- **Mobile phones ban**.

- **Schools White paper** signals future trends. Big focus on **inclusion, SEND reforms and attendance**.
- **Exams tweaked this year** – changing completely in 3-4 years time.

Marlow Bottom Playing Fields Management Committee

Annual Report June 2026

The Marlow Bottom Playing Fields Management Committee is pleased to present its annual report, highlighting the improvements, maintenance activities, and community fundraising efforts undertaken during the past 12 months.

Improvements and Projects Completed

Over the last year, the Committee has continued its commitment to providing a safe, accessible, and enjoyable environment for local families and visitors.

Key projects completed during the reporting period include:

- * Installation of new perimeter fencing around the children's play area, improving safety and security for all users, Many thanks to the PFC for part funding this project.
- * Replacement of access gates, including the installation of a wider entrance gate designed to accommodate double pushchairs, wheelchairs, and other mobility aids, ensuring improved accessibility for all members of the community.
- * Introduction of a new early-years play tractor, replacing the failed crawling tube and providing an engaging and age-appropriate play feature for younger children.

Maintenance and Safety

Alongside these improvement projects, the Committee has continued to carry out essential general maintenance across the playing fields and play area. Regular upkeep helps ensure that the facilities remain welcoming, functional, and safe for all users.

The Committee has also ensured that all required statutory inspections have been completed throughout the year, maintaining compliance with relevant safety standards and supporting the ongoing safe operation of the site.

Community Fundraising

The Committee would like to express its sincere thanks to everyone who has supported our fundraising activities throughout the year.

The projects and improvements outlined in this report would not have been possible without the funds raised through Rock Bottom and the annual Fireworks Event, both of which are organised and run entirely by the Playing Fields Management Committee, supported by dedicated volunteers and the wider community.

These events continue to play a vital role in generating the income needed to maintain and improve the facilities for current and future generations of residents.

Looking Ahead

The Committee remains committed to preserving and enhancing the playing fields as a valued community asset. We will continue to seek opportunities for improvement while ensuring that the facilities are maintained to a high standard and remain accessible, safe, and enjoyable for everyone.

Finally, we would like to thank all committee members, volunteers, supporters, and local residents for their continued commitment and support over the past year.

We hope to see you at Rock Bottom 2026 on Saturday 20th June.

Kind Regards

Allen Steele

Chairman of MBPFMC.

MARLOW BOTTOM WI ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

As many of us wonder where the last year disappeared to? we could blame it on getting older OR preferably being a member of MBWI. Our reputation of being busy has continued throughout this year and deciding which of our 14 sub-groups to join can be challenging. And that's before we consider outings, parties, workshops...

Monthly meetings are well attended (evident in the noisier it gets) and despite the headache of finding replacements at short notice the diversity of speakers is superb. Who thought volcanoes could be so interesting? This year's NFWI conference was virtual using Zoom for the first time and the chosen resolution 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' was thought provoking, realising women have less chance of survival than men. It 'shocked' us into action. Working in partnership with TVAA enabled us to spread the word to our wider community and organised 6 sessions for people to attend.

Our AGM provides an insight to all the sub groups activities displaying the amazing talents within our WI. Examples are screen printing by the craft group, the art group and use of colours, dishes to sample by the 3 food groups. Plus, reports from our intrepid walking group and reviews from the 3 book groups. Inspired to learn a new skill or revive an old one? But it's also a great way to socialise too.

Socialising is a speciality of our Wi, including the reintroduction of our film afternoons, the competitive Beetle Drive, afternoon tea at Henley Management College, the joint cookery summer lunch at the same venue and the relatively new monthly Sunday Lunch Club is another success. Seems that food is a common theme! Our parties are always popular with members enjoying a selection of puddings in the summer as they viewed items from the archives of our Wis past 83 years which we later celebrated in October with afternoon tea and cake. Our Christmas party is always a fitting end to our year.

In a variety of ways, we combine socialising with learning, through our outings such as our tour of the Houses of Parliament by a very entertaining guide and 'Christmas shopping' in Warwick was brightened with the display of 72 decorated trees in the Church. Visiting gardens remain popular and Stoke Poges Memorial Garden was informative and the sunshine was a bonus. And a later visit to Dorney Garden Centre was another success. Some members did a workshop enabling individuals to learn a new skill to craft their own rings to wear whilst others enjoyed an evening learning about (and tasting) wine. Another line dance session in July kept us on our toes (physically and mentally) and a Zumba class in October introduced a fun way to keep active and fit. The theatre productions we have attended have all differed - a play at the local theatre, a Musical in London and Shakespeare in Stratford.

Being involved in our local community continues with our litter picks, book exchange and the new daffodils bulbs brightened the entrance to the Valley.

Our WI is fortunate to be able to make significant annual donations and 5 charities were chosen in May, including a hospice, disease research, mental health and TVAA. A coffee morning in a member's garden raised funds for Ovarian Cancer and our collection of Christmas gift bags for a local baby bank reflects the generosity of our members. An appeal from a hospice for members to make patient material bags was amazing as the buzz of sewing machines joined the sound of the knitting needles of our Knitters 4 charity group who continue to make items for the London homeless and Oxford SCBU.

Our donations corner remains busy including items for the Food Bank and it's a surprise we don't all rattle with the binbags of empty pill blister packs we accumulate.

Finally, it's never easy to summarise our year and ensure everything is mentioned. So, this year deciding to go with the trend and check what AI (Artificial Intelligence) has to say

"Being a member of the Women's Institute means joining a unique, democratic, and inclusive organisation for all women, that offers friendship, opportunities for lifelong learning and self-development, and campaigning on a wide range of social issues. Maybe there is a future for AI.

Vivienne Tight, Secretary, Marlow Bottom WI