

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 2024



The '15th Birthday' Makeover

Thank you to everyone who helped us box up and empty the museum on February 3rd. The Children's Shoe Company donated boxes. Geoff Wood found us a temporary home for Hunt's bicycle. Stuart Moran found us space for our heaviest items nearby. Nicola Allen allowed us to display the Higginson Drum inside the Leisure Centre.

Particular thanks for the clearance go to Teresa, Sue, Bruce, Ross, Geoff, Alan, Rick and Mike. I hope I've not forgotten anyone. We also paid Callum to help us with the heavy stuff. He worked ceaselessly for 4 hours up and down stairs and into the vaults. It was amazing and scary to see the museum just an empty shell again. Here, after the lighting was changed:



New Look Planned

We planned new lighting and flooring; a smaller specially-commissioned reception desk and matching bookcase for reference books; a small office where we'll keep all the necessary clutter we need to hide from the public. We planned new equipment too to make things easier and better for both volunteers and visitors.

We also planned to install insulation and double glazing, with clear windows at the front so that people could see what we offer and black out blinds when needed. Other plans included a better retail area and a contactless donations box for visitors to donate their chosen amount easily by tapping their card, without needing help from volunteers.

No plan without glitches!

Things were not entirely straightforward. When we took down the display boarding, we found extensive rot in the timbers of the west wall. We took immediate action to remedy this, so the refurbishment wouldn't be held up too long. We informed our landlord, Bucks Council, and they inspected the work, approved, and asked for some more to be done. We were very pleased to hear they will reimburse us for that work. It has all meant several weeks' delays, so it was not possible to re-open as originally planned at Easter.

6th April 'soft' opening

After over two months' closure, Marlow Museum was delighted to reopen gently on 6th April after an extensive refurbishment.

With the support of **Buckinghamshire Council** and funding from the **SW Chilterns Community Board**, **Marlow Town Council**, **The Shanly Foundation** and **SE Museums Development**, the building has been transformed. We are very grateful for the additional support we received from our neighbour Court Garden Leisure Centre, and the many companies who worked to help us make the building more energy efficient and sustainable.

We have replaced the old fluorescent tubes with LED lighting, insulated the loft and walls, double glazed the windows, redecorated and put down new flooring. This has made the museum feel much warmer and more comfortable for everyone. After removing clutter and putting admin items into a side room, it also feels much more spacious. A new

reception desk, reference shelves and retail area complete the new look. Outside, we have installed vinyl overlays on the windows to make the museum more eye catching and make our opening hours clearly visible. Marlow Mayor Cllr David Brown kindly agreed to apply the vinyl overlays for us, using his professional experience. He even brought his chain of office along so that we could get some photos for our archives.



New Display

Our current temporary exhibition is a display of 'Twenty Remarkable Marlovians' through the ages. Come and see whether you've heard of them all. The photo, right, shows it only part complete.

Still to do

There are still one or two things to complete. Passers-by will have noticed the rotten wood on the outside back corner, which we've been waiting and waiting for a spell of dry weather to replace. Once all's done, we can continue with our work towards becoming an Accredited Museum, which we hope to achieve next year.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



AFTER



Building Bird Boxes

The refurbished museum opened on Saturday 6th April with a children's activity of Building Bird Boxes from 10am to 2pm outside the museum with *Wild Marlow*. A constant stream of families tried the activity and visited the museum too. We had forty visitors that day, including some from Leicestershire, Colchester, Wembley, New Zealand and California.

Thank you, Wild Marlow.



OPEN DAY for NEW VOLUNTEERS

On **Weds 24th April** from **10-12 and 2-5pm** at the Museum. Anyone can drop in and find out about volunteering for the museum. Please pass it on. Come and join our team!

OFFICIAL REOPENING AND 15th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

22nd MAY 2024 4pm - 6pm

On 22nd May we will complete **15 years** running Marlow Museum in Court Garden. We will be inviting members, supporters and friends to a reception with refreshments at the museum that afternoon. Exact times to be confirmed.

Please save the day.

Another important date for your diary:

**marlow
museum**

presents

The BBO Big Band

(Berks., Bucks. & Oxfordshire)

Charity Event for Marlow Museum



The Royal British Legion Hall, SL7 1NT
(next to Marlow railway station)

Thursday May 30th 2024 from 8.15pm
The very best in Big Band Swing & Jazz

Bar & Raffle

Marlow's hot ticket!

£10 on the door, cash & cards accepted
Or book online at TicketSource

Table reservations: 07444 177257

* Volunteers' News *

• **Monthly Volunteers' Get-togethers**

In Court Garden Café 2-3pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month: The next one is April 24th when we will be looking at what training is needed, after all the changes of the makeover. It also coincides with the Open Day for new volunteers.

• **Volunteers' Rota**

We have now resumed the rota and there are still gaps from about 20th April onwards. Have a look at the rota on our website and then please tell Barbara your availability by phone 01628 523444 or email rota@marlowmuseum.org

Volunteer of the years!



Volunteer and chairman of trustees, Mike Hyde, deserves a long-service medal. He has been with the Museum since it was just a gleam in his eye, when the first feasibility study was undertaken in 1995. Here he is celebrating the Museum's 5th Birthday, while now we are about to celebrate its 15th!

He's still as enthusiastic as ever and still working to ensure the Museum remains a key feature of Marlow into the future. He has taken the makeover in his stride, when everything was being taken to pieces, just focussing on when we could reopen and greet visitors again. Thank you, Mike, for all you've done to help develop Marlow Museum.

After 15 years, a change in subscriptions.

During the Management Committee meeting in March we were expecting a rather large operating deficit for the year 2023-24. Our current Fundraising Plan acknowledges that we cannot rely on getting grants to cover ordinary running costs, we can only get them for specific projects like the makeover. This means we need to raise more of our own income through subscriptions, sales, donations, and fundraising social events, to cover our £10k a year running costs.

Having kept Membership subscriptions at the same level since 2009, the Management Committee has decided that we should raise them for the year 2024-25, starting in May. We also decided to recombine Members and Friends, since a Friends' fundraising social group has never really developed as originally intended.

So from May 1st 2024, individual membership will become £20 a year, family membership will be £30 and corporate membership will be £100. A Friends organisation could develop again in the future, if there is enough support. We are sorry these increases have become necessary, but hope that you will understand and continue to support your Museum. New members are very welcome.

Finally, thanks to all the people involved in carrying out the Makeover Project:

- Harry Smith of Dr Sparky – electrical work
- Callum Smart – urgent timber work & other help
- Paul the Fixed Price Plumber – plumbing
- Scott Oakley of Oakfields Drylining - insulation
- Greg Toms – decorating
- John Gaskin - flooring
- Ray Scott of Stagecraft Display – reception desk
- Colin Booth – carpentry
- Paul Rockell of Marlow Glazing – double glazing
- Globe Print Ltd – outside window vinyls
- Sun-X (UK) Ltd – blinds and window UV film
- Amersham Museum – retail unit
- Philip Kersey – exhibition display
- Della Fitzgerald – project management
- Alan Fitzgerald – general help
- Rick Krajewski – technical assistance

Best wishes to all our supporters for a sunny Spring and Summer ahead, from Mike, Della and the Trustees.

contact@marlowmuseum.org