

# **THE MARLOW SOCIETY**

Registered Charity No. 262803

**TRUSTEE'S REPORT**

**AND**

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

**THE MARLOW SOCIETY**  
Registered Charity No. 262803

The trustees present their report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

**The principal address** of the charity is c/o 22 Rookery Court, Marlow, SL7 3HR

**The trustees** of the Society are:

Michael New OBE  
Richard Parker  
Geoff Wood

The power to appoint trustees is vested in the Executive Committee of the Society.

**Governing Document**

The charity is administered and managed subject to and in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution, the current version of which was approved in May 2010. Minor revisions were approved at the 2017 AGM.

**Objects of the Charity**

These continue to be for the protection and improvement of the environment in the Marlow area, which consists of the parishes of Great Marlow, Little Marlow, Marlow Town, Bisham and Medmenham by:

- 1) Working to protect features of historic or public interest and improve the environment.
- 2) Educating the public in the geography, history and architecture of the Marlow area.
- 3) Promoting high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the Marlow area.

**Trustee Participation**

The Trustees have continued to oversee the Society's assets and its legal obligations, including reporting to The Charities Commission, by attending Executive committee meetings. The President has been kept informed of the Society's activities

**Main Activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to the objects**

To further its objectives the Society's Executive Committee met with local councillors on ten occasions, using Zoom technology, to discuss matters of planning, transport, river issues and environment. This enabled the constructive exchange of information and opinions that has characterised the sound working relationship established over many years.

Mindful of its origin as the Bridge Preservation Society the Marlow Society continued to demand that the Buckinghamshire Council introduce comprehensive measures to prevent overweight vehicles crossing the Marlow Bridge. There has been an ongoing dialogue throughout the year involving our Member of Parliament, Bucks councillors and the engineering team at Highways for Bucks. We recognise the value of current repair programme but are concerned at the length of time they are taking.

### **Achievements**

The Society monitored all local planning applications submitted throughout the year and the Society submitted its comments to the Planning Authority where appropriate. Advice has been proffered to members when sought. The Society has sought the advice of its members on the approach to be taken to the Marlow Studio Project located in the Green Belt. The Society contributed financially to an independent study into the impact on traffic as a result of the Studio plans. The study confirmed that the plan would have a major deleterious impact on traffic flows. A decision on the application was deferred and will now be reconsidered by Buckinghamshire Council in March.

The Society's Local History Group has continued its research into the local history of Marlow and its surrounding parishes. Many requests for information come in from around the world and Group members have been able to answer most of them. In person and online presentations were given by guest and society speakers.

The Society made representations to Sorbon Estates and the local council authorities to the plans to bring the condition of Liston Court, a part public-owned commercial and garden, up to an acceptable standard. The works are now complete and the provision of improved footpaths and security are much welcomed.

The Society has launched a new website providing updated information about its activities for its members and local people. There has been an ongoing partnership with Marlow Archaeological Group.

The Society has been prioritising increasing membership by the use of email, leaflet distribution and attendance at the Marlow Carnival. As the result the Society's membership has increased by 63 and now stands at 727 members.

The Executive Management Committee has met every month throughout the year with the exception of January and August and has received regular reports from its sub-committees and officers. Nominated Executive members participate in the 4 action groups of the South West Chilterns Community Board

The Society has published and distributed three editions of Newsletter during the year to all members. The Newsletters were made available to the public at the Bucks Council's Information Centre in the town.

These activities were undertaken by volunteers: there are no employees.

**Financial Report**

The financial report of the Society has been prepared as a Receipts & Payments Account as was the case last year. This provides members with a clear statement of the Society's cash resources.

The accounts for the year have been the subject of an Independent Examiner's Report. The examination has been carried out by Elizabeth Horton ACA FCCA of Seymour Taylor Limited.

There was a deficit of £2,276 which compares with a surplus of £904 for the previous year.

**Reserves Policy**

At the end of 2023, the Society had reserves of £22,659 which compare with £24,935 for the previous year. The Executive Committee is comfortable with the level of reserves that the Society has and although not excessive would give us access to a judicious amount of legal advice in the furtherance of its objectives should the need arise.


**Independent Examiner**

The thanks of the members of the Society have been passed to Elizabeth Horton for carrying out the examination of the accounts.

Seymour Taylor Limited have indicated that they are willing to act as examiners for 2024.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



R.H. PARKER.  
8 March 2024

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Marlow Society**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on page 4.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

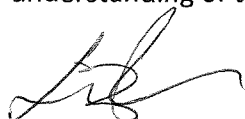
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Elizabeth Horton ACA FCCA

Seymour Taylor Limited  
First Floor  
North, 40 Oxford Road  
High Wycombe  
Buckinghamshire  
HP11 2EE

Date 6 March 2023

**THE MARLOW SOCIETY**  
**Registered Charity No. 262803**  
**Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2023**

	£	£	12 Months to 31 Dec. 2022	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
Subscriptions	4,147.25		3,037.25	
Activities: net surplus/deficit generated - Note 1	471.73		-182.17	
Gift Aid refunds	445.04		477.16	
Interest	705.30		187.51	
Restoration of Bridge in Higginson Park: net surplus - Note 2	168.18		-	
Donations	-		140.00	
	<u>5,937.50</u>		<u>3,659.75</u>	
<b>Payments</b>				
Committee & sub-committee expenses - Note 3)	-2,600.56		-1,259.96	
Newsletters and reports	-667.02		-618.00	
Web site costs	-1,470.00		-	
Insurance	-341.82		-341.82	
Annual General Meeting	-138.53		-36.00	
Society Storage Facility	-		-500.00	
Contribution to traffic impact study of the Marlow Film Studio	-4,000.00		-	
	<u>-9,217.93</u>		<u>-2,755.78</u>	
Funds absorbed/generated from general activities	-3,280.43		903.97	
Received from Marlow/Budavar Town Twinning Association (MBTTA)	1,004.57		-	
Total funds absorbed/generated during the year	-2,275.86		903.97	
Total accumulated funds brought forward	24,935.15		24,031.18	
<b>Total accumulated funds carried forward (of which £1,004.57 is a restricted fund for MBTTA use)</b>	<u>22,659.29</u>		<u>24,935.15</u>	
<b>Represented by:</b>				
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash at Bank - Current Account	6,526.43		9,507.59	
Cash at Bank - Deposit Account	16,132.86		15,427.56	
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>22,659.29</u>		<u>24,935.15</u>	
	<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	

	£	£	£	12 Months to 31 Dec. 2022		
	Receipts	Payments	Net	Receipts	Payments	Net
<b>Note 1 - Activities</b>						
Heritage open day	181.00	-55.90	125.10	0.00	-61.38	-61.38
Town & river walks	178.00	0.00	178.00	177.00	0.00	177.00
History group talks etc.	1,611.17	-1,135.44	475.73	0.00	-348.79	-348.79
Events - Marlow Carnival	0.00	-50.50	-50.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Garden party	409.00	-792.00	-383.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sales of publications	126.40	0.00	126.40	51.00	0.00	51.00
	<u>2,505.57</u>	<u>-2,033.84</u>	<u>471.73</u>	<u>228.00</u>	<u>-410.17</u>	<u>-182.17</u>

<b>Note 2 - Project to restore the bridge in Higginson Park</b>	£	£	£
Donations received for the project		4,500.00	-
Less: Carpentry work & memorial plaque		-4,331.82	-
Surplus		<u>168.18</u>	-

<b>Note 3 - Committee &amp; sub-committee expenses</b>	£	£
Information & publicity	-1,324.50	-194.00
Executive & secretarial expenses	-1,276.06	-1,065.96
	<u>-2,600.56</u>	<u>-1,259.96</u>

<b>Note 4 - Asset retained for Marlow Society's use</b>	£	£
Historic Delivery Bicycle: £500 cost now written off	0	0

Prepared by Raymond Gule TREASURER  
Date 6th March 2024

**THE MARLOW SOCIETY**  
**Registered Charity No. 262803**  
**Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2023**

12 Months to 31 Dec. 2022

<u>Receipts</u>	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions	4,147.25		3,037.25	
Activities: net surplus/deficit generated - Note 1	471.73		(182.17)	
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Interest	705.30		187.51	
Restoration of Bridge in Higginson Park: net surplus - Note 2	168.18		-	
Donations	-		140.00	
	<u>5,937.50</u>		<u>3,659.75</u>	
<b>Payments</b>				
Committee & sub-committee expenses - Note 3)	(2,600.56)		(1,259.96)	
Newsletters and reports	(667.02)		(618.00)	
Web site costs	(1,470.00)		-	
Insurance	(341.82)		(341.82)	
Annual General Meeting	(138.53)		(36.00)	
Society Storage Facility	-		(500.00)	
Contribution to traffic impact study of the Marlow Film Studio	(4,000.00)		-	
	<u>(9,217.93)</u>		<u>(2,755.78)</u>	
Funds absorbed/generated from general activities	(3,280.43)		903.97	
Received from Marlow/Budavar Town Twinning Association (MBTTA)	1,004.57		-	
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Cash at Bank - Current Account		6,526.43		9,507.59
Cash at Bank - Deposit Account		16,132.86		15,427.56
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<u>22,659.29</u>		<u>24,935.15</u>

12 Months to 31 Dec. 2022

<u>Note 1 - Activities</u>	£	£	£	£	£	£
	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Net</u>
Heritage open day	181.00	(55.90)	125.10	0.00	(61.38)	(61.38)
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History group talks etc.	1,611.17	(1,135.44)	475.73	0.00	(348.79)	(348.79)
Events - Marlow Carnival	0.00	(50.50)	(50.50)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Garden party	409.00	(792.00)	(383.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sales of publications	126.40	0.00	126.40	51.00	0.00	51.00
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Executive & secretarial expenses	(1,276.06)	(1,065.96)
	<u>(2,600.56)</u>	<u>(1,259.96)</u>

<u>Note 4 - Asset retained for Marlow Society's use</u>	£	£
Historic Delivery Bicycle: £500 cost now written off	0.00	0.00

Prepared by *Raymond Lee* ..... TREASURER  
Date *6th March 2024* .....

Approved by *JM* ..... TRUSTEE  
Date *8th March 2024* .....