

# Marlow Spring 1916

May - June 1916

While the War continued to rage both on land and at sea, extracts from the South Bucks Free Press give some insight into events in Marlow during the spring of 1916. Here are some of the news items from the time.

## Shading lights and air raids

Because of the fear of night-time bombing raids from Zeppelin airships, people were required to shade their lights. In May, Daniel Jacovon from London was fined 10 shillings for having an unshaded light on his motorcycle in Chapel Street, Marlow. Although Marlow was not bombed, the threat was very real and both the Wethered Brewery and local church took out insurance against bomb damage.

## Aeroplane descends in Marlow

On a Sunday evening at the end of May, an aeroplane caused considerable excitement in the town when it landed in a farmer's field between the Bisham Road and Quarry Woods. Local police and men from the Royal Engineers had to be called to stop crowds trampling over crops in the field to see the bi-plane which was flown by a distinguished French officer. Having landed safely, the officer had dinner with friends at the Compleat Angler before flying off again shortly before 9 o'clock.



A French biplane from World War One.

## Fine weather on the river

Brilliant spring weather brought many people to the river and generated a brisk demand for hiring pleasure boats. Many people came to Marlow by motor car despite the appeal of the Government 'for pleasure motoring to be given up'. The first trout of the season was caught in May by Miss Holton who landed a fish of 2lbs. Marlow Rowing Club took advantage of soldiers being home on leave to put an eight out on the river for the first time since August 1914.



A view of damage to homes in Brixton, following a raid by 12 German airships on the night of 23 - 24 September 1916. Photo courtesy of the Imperial War Museum

## What women should wear for the farm

As more and more women were employed in farm work, the question of what they should wear seems to have generated some discussion.

In May, Arthur Scott wrote in the newspaper that 'quite the most suitable dress is undoubtedly breeches and gaiters...skirts would be a possible danger to women who really mean to be useful and not merely ornamental.'



A woman agricultural worker from the First World War. Photo courtesy of the Imperial War Museum.