

Sage Person - John Rumble

"Every station should have a John Rumble - but you're not having ours!" - Tim Ashburner

After an appearance as a guest on our religious affairs programme, 'Faith Matters', John joined Marlow FM in late 2014. Since then, as well as producing and presenting a range of great programmes, he's become our go-to person for training, help, and an arm round the shoulder.

John's been a member of the management team since 2018, as our head of training, and a director of the company since 2021.

After John started working closely with new presenters, he set about formalising a training programme that would bring people up to a minimum standard required for presenting. As a trained teacher who worked with a range of needs over his career, he knows everyone learns in their own way. So the programme involves looking at how someone learns, finding out what their aspirations are, and then trying to plan the most appropriate pathway.

On the presenting side, John has been the coordinator and lead presenter of 'Faith Matters' since 2016. He's worked on some 140 two-hour live or pre-recorded episodes of the programme, and puts in a huge number of hours editing shows. He also co-presents 'Good Morning Marlow' once a month, and has put together several episodes of our 'Music Box' programme.

Graham Duthie, our managing director, says:

"John truly is the Sage of Marlow FM. He's always quiet and patient, and never loses his temper. He has an amazing ability to help even the most timid, nervous, or slow learners. And he's always available to help someone when they're having a meltdown in the studio!"

Tim Ashburner, founder of Marlow FM, says:

"John is one of the most positive and wisest people I know. As a former headteacher at a special school, he's an excellent trainer to both the young and the old, and has a patience and calmness that is unrivalled. Not even suffering a heart attack a few years ago has curtailed his energy and enthusiasm. He's a very supportive and reasoned voice on the management team, and any opinion is always delivered with wisdom and a light smattering of humour."

Mary Flavelle, coordinator of 'Good Morning Marlow', says:

"The quiet man with a big heart. John is the mechanism that makes Marlow FM tick - training presenters, editing evergreen shows, helping to provide a pre-record when a presenter drops out, even last minute. John is always there with the rescue life raft. Even during personal time

he hasn't let one presenter down. John's love of music and radio is second to none. We are immensely fortunate to have him in our family."

John has taken his radio training experience into the wider community, especially among younger people. Examples are:

- giving a year 6 pupil a studio session as a part of a school project
- supporting a first-year university student with a production and editing project
- supporting a year 13 student from a local school in putting together a portfolio of work to support his application for a degree in Creative Music Technology - the student got an unconditional offer from Bath Spa University

John's currently working with a year 11 student with autism, who's doing the service section for his Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. They're working on basic maintenance in a radio studio, checking that the equipment is properly set up, alongside learning how to produce and present a show.

To be honest, we don't know what we or others would do without John!