

## **Volunteer of the Year - Jill Hickey, Marlow FM**

As a director, the head of 'people matters', and a presenter, Jill Hickey was already a valued - and very busy - volunteer at Marlow FM. But when the construction of our new studio building began, her commitment soared to a new level. We needed a project manager, but we didn't have the budget for one. Jill selflessly stepped into the role, demonstrating drive, integrity, and care - never once complaining or seeking recognition for her tireless work.

Jill was involved in the design and planning stages of the building project, which started early in 2024, and helped us find a suitable builder. Jill lived very close to the building site at Great Marlow School, and we didn't want her to feel obligated to take on the role of project manager simply because of this. But with her let's-just-get-it-done attitude, she rolled up her sleeves and got to work.

She dealt with contractors, managed timelines, monitored spending, and kept a close eye on progress - and the builders. She was the first to respond when the unexpected happened and was always calm, practical, and persistent. Nothing fazed her - not delays, supply issues, or last-minute changes. If something needed doing, Jill quietly got it done.

Jill was also our main point of contact with Great Marlow School and its executive headteacher, Kevin Ford - her two sons had gone there and she had been a member of the PTA. Kevin told us: "Being a school, we had specific design and health and safety requirements for the Marlow FM project. Jill dealt with the architect and builder, and made sure everything was taken care of. We knew we could rely on her, and she really took the pressure off me and my colleagues. What a star!"

Her oversight meant the building was completed successfully and within budget. Jill even picked up a paintbrush herself when needed, literally helping to put the finishing touches to the project. Thanks to her, the new Marlow FM studios opened on time in July last year.

But Jill's contribution didn't stop when the ribbon was cut. She created training guides from scratch - covering everything from unlocking the padlocked school gates to cleaning the loo. She personally trained every one of our nearly 100 volunteers on how to use the building and its facilities. She also put in place a cleaning rota, which, naturally, she put herself on.

Jill's been a member of the Marlow FM management team for several years. With a professional background in human resources and people development, she works with potential recruits, guides new joiners through their early days, and continues to offer support to the old timers. Jill's firm but fair approach makes sure that issues don't linger and get out of hand. Everyone at Marlow FM is grateful for her ability to keep us all on track, fostering a harmonious and productive environment.

And if all of that weren't enough, Jill is also a passionate presenter. She hosts 'Good Morning Marlow' once a month, bringing local stories and voices to the airwaves. Her love of musical theatre shines through in 'The Sound Of Musicals', which she presents once or twice a month. Jill often invites new presenters to join her as part of their training and to help give them confidence. She also co-ordinates the presenter teams for both 'The Sound Of

Musicals' and 'The Eclectic Light Show', making sure everything runs smoothly behind the scenes.

Jill and her husband raised their two sons in Marlow, and her deep connection to the town and Great Marlow School runs through everything she does - from her community-focused broadcasting to the long hours she's poured into the new studio building, which now benefits everyone involved with Marlow FM.

Jill Hickey is the embodiment of what community radio is all about. She brings energy, kindness, pragmatism, and dedication to everything she does. She's an example to us all, and an inspiration to anyone who volunteers their time and talents for a cause they believe in. We are lucky to have her - and proud to nominate her for this award.