

Marcham & District News

COTHILL – FRILFORD – GARFORD – GOZZARDS FORD – MARCHAM – TUBNEY

Your Independent Local Newsheet – www.madnews.co.uk



NOVEMBER 2019 VOL: 41 NO: 11

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ See centre spread for GMaD Photos

Marcham PreSchool find out about the post see page 7



▲ Marcham Guides go camping see page 5 ▲



▲ Marcham School Harvest Gifts ▶ see page 7

AUTUMN

Diary for November

7 Thu	Midweek Walk: Bat and Ball, Cuddesdon lunch 12.30 / walk 13.30	9
8-10	Abingdon Traditional Craft Fair, Abbey Buildings, Abingdon	2
10 Sun	Remembrance Day Service All Saints' Church, 10.00. Wayside Cross, 11.00	3 & 20
12 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place 14.00-15.30	9
12 Tue	Marcham Society: Members' Evening, All Saints' Church, 19.30	5
13 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
14 Thu	Music at the Unicorn: Ric Sanders & Vo Fletcher, Abingdon, 19.00	15
14 Thu	Sunningwell Gardening Club, Sunningwell Village Hall, 19.30	5
15 Fri	School Disco for KS1 and 2, Marcham School	9
16 Sat	Cancer Research UK: Table Top and Car Boot Sale, Hanney WM Hall, 10.00-14.00	19
16 Sat	Wantage & Grove Lions: Jumble, East Hanney BL Hall, 13.30	15

19 Tue	Abingdon National Trust, Trinity Church Hall, Abingdon, 14.30	19
20 Wed	Arts Society Abingdon: Van Gogh & Gauguin, Trinity Church Hall, Abingdon, 10.20 & 14.00	2
20 Wed	Deadline for next MADNews, 17.00 editor@madnews.co.uk	
21 Thu	Marcham WI: Make-up for the Party Season, Denman College, 19.30	9
23 Sat	Wantage & Grove Lions: Christmas Cash Bingo, Grove Village Hall, 18.45	15
26 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place 14.00-15.30	9
29 Fri	Coffee Morning, 62 North Street, 10.30-12.00	3
29 Fri	Family Magic Show, Marcham School, 17.30	9
30 Sat	Christmas Craft Morning, All Saints' Church, 09.30-12.30	15
30 Sat	Oxfam Pop-Up Christmas Store, Abingdon, 10.00-16.00	2
30 Sat	Music and Readings for Advent, Crown Singers, All Saints' Church, 19.30	20

Details of events may change after publication, please check with the relevant organisers before attending events

THINGS TO DO

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The Arts Society Abingdon (ex ADFAS) is holding its monthly lecture on **Wednesday 20th November, 10.30am and 2.00pm**, at Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DB.

Van Gogh & Gauguin "A Terrible Lucidity"

by Douglas Skeggs

1888 found Vincent Van Gogh in the old Roman town of Arles where he hoped to set up a fellowship of artists. He was joined by Paul Gauguin and, although the two artists admired each other, it was a disastrous combination of personalities as they were irritated, maddened and exasperated by each other. Respect and loathing became one and within two months Van Gogh was on a path to the confines of a hospital cell in which his final and most memorable paintings were made.

Non-Members welcome, £6.00. The lectures are one hour long, but leave extra time for announcements etc.

For more information on future lectures and other activities see www.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk or email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk

From 10 till 4 on Saturday November 30th, Oxfam Abingdon will be holding a one day only **Pop-Up Christmas store at St Ethelwold House**, 30 East St. Helen Street, Abingdon. Along with Christmas music, there will be vintage stalls, Fair Trade food, lots of new and nearly-new gifts, wreaths and stocking-fillers, wrapping paper and Christmas cards.



Come and take a picture in our twinkling festive sleigh!

St Ethelwolds will also be providing teas, coffee and cake throughout the day. As an extra Christmas treat, anyone bringing a flyer for the Pop Up Store (you can pick one up at Oxfam shop at 30-32 Stert Street) with their name and telephone number written on the back to St Ethelwold House between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on November 30th, will be entered into a special Prize Draw.

OPEN first Tuesday each month **noon - 2pm**

Long Furlong Community Centre

BlueSkyEcoCafe.org.uk



Over 70 people in Oxfordshire die by suicide each year, 4 men to every woman. Tell us your views so we can improve our suicide prevention strategy. Please complete our anonymous survey www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/suicidepreventionsurvey

Dear Readers

What a wonderful Great Weekend we had – despite the weather! There are some photos on the centre pages showing the huge range of activities that was on offer. We are bit nearer being able to kit out the new centre, but don't relax, there are still bricks to be sponsored and more funds to be raised! The MADNews year of celebrations for our 40th birthday is nearly over, but if you have any reminiscences or old photos, please send them in – either by email or drop them in the envelope in the shop.

Until next time

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PROOFREADING

Jane Mander

DEADLINES

Advertising: 5pm 15th month
Other copy: 5pm 20th month
except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

ADDITIONAL COPIES

These are available free from Marcham Post Office or the Editor. Postal copies are also available – contact the Editor.

DISCLAIMER

We apologise in advance for any errors that may creep into MADNews (online or print), or omissions that creep out - we don't do it on purpose!
The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team, who are all volunteers.

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Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk for Marcham
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Richard Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
Tel: 01235 534001
Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon
Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
Tel: 01235 534001

Webbercatherine1@gmail.com

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Remembrance Sunday – Road Closure A415 Frilford Road, Church Street, New Road

A Road Closure Order for the section of Frilford Road between Church Street and North Street, Church Street itself and New Road has been obtained from 11.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. on 10th November, although access is being maintained for emergency vehicles.

This is to allow the parade from the Church, after the Church service, to the War Memorial in Frilford Road, in order to lay wreaths. Please note that the diversion will be along North Street to St. Peter's cross roads, then left to the junction with the A338, and left again to the Frilford Service Station.

New Parish Councillors – Co-opted

The Parish Council has now filled the remaining 2 seats on the Parish Council which were left vacant after the elections earlier in the year. The Council is pleased to welcome Caroline Garvey from Kingston Road, Frilford, and Keiran O'Leary from Parkside to serve as members of the Council until the next election.

Parishioner of the Year Award

The Parish Council is again inviting nominations for the Parishioner of the Year Award. This is to recognise the efforts of local people from anywhere within the parish who have contributed to local community life. Marcham Parish covers the wide area from the A420 in the north to the River Ock in the South and from the A338 in the West across to and including most of Gozzards Ford in the East. The Council gives the award to anyone who, at any time, has significantly voluntarily contributed to life within the parish. The certificate is presented at the annual meeting for electors each year. Would anyone who wishes to submit a nomination please contact the clerk, whose details appear below, sending a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to whom he/she wishes to nominate and the reasons why the person should receive the award.

Fireworks

Please be considerate for neighbours and the many pets and animals in the village when letting off your fireworks. Please notify others when any fireworks are going to be lit so that villagers are aware and arrangements can be made to keep pets indoors.

School Admissions

Parents or carers of children born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016 inclusive need to apply for a primary or infant school place for their children. From 1st November 2019 you can apply online for a primary or infant school place. The deadline for receipt of completed school applications is 15th January 2020. Please note, if the application is late, it will be processed later in the year, and a place at one of your preferred schools is less likely. Further information can be obtained from

Oxfordshire County Council <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/infant-and-primary-school>.

Planning applications:

There were no new planning applications to consider this month.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 13th November 2019 at 7.30p.m. **in the residents' lounge,**

Duffield Place. Please check the Council's website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

in case arrangements change.

The Noticeboard outside the Institute is not accessible during the building works.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833

clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Any member of the public is most welcome to attend any of our meetings. There is a section near the start of each meeting for public participation, where any member of the public is able to speak about any topic which is relevant to the work of the Parish Council (for a maximum of three minutes). Members of the public are also welcome to observe some or all of the rest of the meeting.



Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire is looking for new volunteers to support local families with young children who are experiencing difficulties. Are you a parent, or have experience working with young children, and can spare 2-3 hours per week giving friendly practical and emotional support? Full training and on-going staff support given. Please contact 01235 511152 or admin@homestartso.org for more information.

Nyakabungo Girls' Secondary School, Kanugu, Uganda.
You are invited to a coffee morning in aid of the school to be held at
62, NORTH STREET,
MARCHAM
on
FRIDAY, 29th NOVEMBER
from 10.30 until 12.00
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Home & Garden Maintenance

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- * small garden designs * flower beds tidied/shrubs/bulbs planted
- * tree work - pruning/lopping/shaping etc * patios laid /cleaned
- *fencing & gates erected/repaired/painted *sheds erected/repaired

Most property maintenance covered

- * painting / decorating including outside
- * tiling * all indoor jobs covered * small carpentry work
- * guttering/replaced/cleaned * house removals& clearance

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The Annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal is taking place until Sunday 10th November. There will be the normal house to house collection and we

will have collecting boxes in local business premises so please sort out all that loose change and have it ready!!

Thanks for your support as always
Malcolm and Christine 391497

SUNNINGWELL & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Talk by Andrew Humphris on
Wollerton Old Hall

Thursday 14th November at 7.30pm
at Sunningwell Village Hall.

New Members welcome
Entrance fee: Members £2 Non
Members £3

Including refreshments
www.sdgc.org.uk

Do you remember that gorgeous weekend in the middle of September? Well that's when Marcham Guides went camping. Here are some of their comments

"It was a great learning experience, and really fun to build tents and cook meals for camp"

"I loved camp because we did fun activities like swimming"

"It was really fun, we did loads of amazing activities that got us out and about, and the food was soooo GOOD!"

"The food was amazing at camp"

"Guide camp was so fun as we got to stay for 2 nights"

See the cover for photos



The
Marcham Society

Members will talk about their research:

Murray Maclean: Frilford Barns

Sheila Dunford: The Changing Village

Simon Blackmore: LIDAR

All Saints' Church, Marcham

7.30 for 7.45pm

Tuesday 12th November

Non-members always welcome £3
Further details: Peter Steere (391030)
or Sheila Dunford (391439)

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

Marcham Village Shop & Post Office

16 North St, Marcham OX13 6NG

Call us: Shop 391993 / PO 391940

Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 17.30

Saturday: 08.00 - 12 noon

Sunday: 08.00 - 10.00



Last acceptance time for post:

Mon-Fri 16.45 & 10.15 on Saturdays

If have difficulty getting to the shops, call us on 391993 and we will get your essential supplies to you

OR join the weekly Tesco minibus trip - call Marion for details 07507 797757.

£10,000 - Yes £10,000!!

We recently held the AGM of the Marcham Shop and Post Office and we are able to report a sound financial position has been reached since we first opened. It has always been in our remit, for the village to benefit from our success, and we are pleased to announce that a sum of £10,000 has been awarded to help provide fixtures and fittings for the new village facilities. May we thank all the regular customers that support the shop and may we appeal for all people in the village to use the shop and post office so we can continue to thrive and grow.

Why not consider helping in the shop as a volunteer or perhaps buy some shares?

We are a shop and Post Office run by the community for the community.

Thank you all for your support.

Marcham Village Shop Committee

**It's November: Time to have a look at the sweet jars and find a new favourite!
Only 60p a quarter**

Last posting dates for Christmas 2019

International Standard (formerly Airmail) and all International Tracking and Signature Services (formerly Airsure® and International Signed For®)

Monday 9 December	Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Central and South America, Far and Middle East
Tuesday 10 December	Cyprus, Malta
Wednesday 11 December	Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia)
Thursday 12 December	Australia, Greece, New Zealand and Turkey
Saturday 14 December	Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Poland, Sweden, USA
Monday 16 December	Austria, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland
Wednesday 18 December	Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg

International Standard HM Forces Mail - British Forces Post Office® (BFPO)

Monday 25 November	Airmail to Operational HM Forces
Friday 13 December	Airmail to Static HM Forces

UK Inland Services

Wednesday 18 December	2nd Class and Royal Mail Signed For®
Friday 20 December	1st Class and Royal Mail Signed For®, Royal Mail Tracked 48®
Saturday 21 December	Royal Mail Tracked 24®
Monday 23 December	Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed®



Wednesday 12pm
in the Baptist Hall
All welcome - young and old!
It's a wonderful way to catch up with old friends or make new ones and have a delicious light lunch!

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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

Over the last couple of weeks, we've been following two very separate interests with the children ... but have managed to combine them very nicely thanks to Southern Gas Network!



Firstly, letter writing, The Jolly Postman and stamps have gained the interest of many of our children, so what better than a 'walkabout' to the Post Office to explore and discuss what happens when we write a letter... we sent a letter home to one family... and we've received a letter from a different family! All with much excitement - as you can see from the photographs ☺

We'd love to receive a letter from anyone willing to write in - and we know that the MADNEWS reaches much further than Oxfordshire, so who knows where we might get a letter from! If you'd like to get in touch, please write to 'The Children of Marcham Pre-school', Marcham Pre-school, Morland Road, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxon, OX13 6PY.

On our walks we've touched on yet another interest - building sites, diggers and roadworks! And we were delighted when the work gangs from SGN took the time to answer some questions, and allow the children to watch as the cement was poured in and the tarmac put down the following day! The children decided "they are all working very hard", and needed some biscuits - from our lovely Village Store!

What a fantastic way to engage in our own Community. Thank you to everyone. We love being a central part of the village. If you would like to find out more about Marcham pre-school, please get in touch. We take children from 2 years of age, and already have a full-looking waiting list for September 2020! So don't delay, ring, email or write today!

We look forward to welcoming you aboard ... come and see the fun we have ...

Nicky Sanford,

Early Years Teacher, Marcham Pre-School

01865 392101 Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

Harvest News from Marcham School

This year our harvest festival at school was all about Food for Thought.

Panda Class told us about The Very Hungry Caterpillar and whether the food the caterpillar ate was healthy or unhealthy. The children in Leopards Class thought about how important it is not to waste our food. They thought about how you could make banana muffins out of old bananas.

Tiger Class thought about Hurricane Dorian. They showed us what would be in a hurricane survival pack.

The children in Kangaroo Class told us about the rationing in World War 2 and the rations given to Syrian refugees. Meerkats told us about what makes a balanced diet and then they compared our diet to the diet of people in Ethiopia. We were surprised to learn that Ethiopians have a much more balanced diet than we do. Wolves thought about food miles and looked at arguments for and against buying food from other countries. They left it up to the listener to decide what they thought.

Giraffes have been working on the 17 Global Goals for sustainable development. They made some pledges for the Goal that meant the most to them.

'Life on land is the most important to me because if we don't protect nature trees could die. Trees produce oxygen which we need to breathe. I pledge to water the plants when my mum needs me to.' Aaron

'To stop pollution, I could think that instead of using tin foil, I could use a sandwich box. If everybody did these little things it could change the world.' Luke

'Climate action is the most important goal to me because if

November 2019

we destroy our world then we have nowhere to live and no way to achieve the other goals. I pledge that I will save electricity by turning off our lights when they don't need to be on'. Samuel

'Clean water is the most important to me because without it we would die. So I pledge to not leave taps running in the future'. Olivia, Uri, Freya

The children brought in decorated food boxes which were later taken to Abingdon Food Bank.

BYAMALA, AYLA, AVA AND HARRISON

See next page for Governors Wanted advert

We have had a brilliant month at Little Angels.

We were lucky enough to open the doors of our new nursery to the village as part of the Great Marcham and District Weekend. We saw a huge amount of support on the morning from our lovely community, the Anson Trust and of course Thomas Homes. It was brilliant to see so much support and excitement for our new facilities, and we cannot wait to share this incredible building with the village in the new year.



We have been preparing for our move by splitting into age groups for certain activities, ready for our move, but we don't want to lose our family feel, so Michaela, one of our baby room teachers, has been getting all our children on their feet with dancing time in the afternoons, giving us all an energy boost after lunch, and providing some lovely time as a big group.

Baby Room We like to take our babies out as much as possible, and this month we have been enjoying the swings at the park. We have also been experimenting with new textures in our sensory tray, from jelly to shaving foam to sticky spaghetti. Excellent fun!

Toddler Room We have been practising our counting with lots of fun games and materials, and our toddlers have thrived from this introduction to maths. We have also been having lots of fun and making lots of mess with shaving foam paint, and increasing our fine motor skills with our new matchstick shape sorters.



Pre-School Room Our pre-schoolers have been settling into their new roles as the 'big ones' in the nursery and have been enjoying their teacher sessions with Helen to start their preparation for school next year. We have been spending time outside performing shows to one another which has been a joy to watch and has built the children's confidence while challenging their use of language.

If you would like to be part of Little Angels Family, where our home is your home, please contact us on 01865 819992, marcham@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk and follow us on Facebook: littleangelsmarcham

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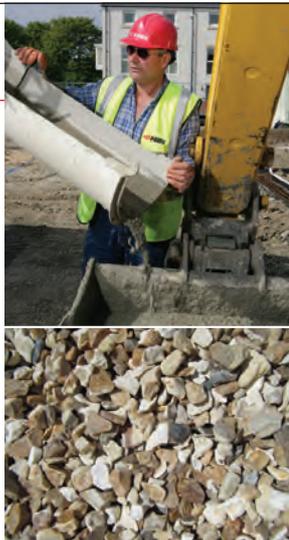
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Marcham WI

Date: Thursday, 21st November
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Denman College
Topic: Make up for the Party Season



Wondering about how to look your best in the Party Season? Come along, bring a friend and find out more from Jodie Burton who will be sharing her tips on 'Make Up for the Party Season'. We are planning a relaxing, fun pre-Christmas evening and hoping you will too.

Marcham WI had a very successful afternoon at the Great MaD Weekend, when we organised the Produce, Flower & Craft show and served tea and cake in the school. In all we raised over £250 to go towards the new village community centre.

New members and visitors are always welcome

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



Parent Teacher Association

PTA ROUND-UP

As I type this report for our editor, construction workers are erecting fencing in preparation for the work of building two new, much-needed classrooms for our village school. The cost of building the structure is covered by government funding, but the cost of fitting it out with the furniture and equipment needed to actually EDUCATE children in the building is not.

So the school faces an enormous challenge of finding the funds to buy desks and chairs, whiteboards, computers, and all manner of items to turn the shell of a building into a living, breathing place of education. We on the Parent-Teacher Association stand ready to help.

However ...

The building work comes at a time when the school PTA is weaker than I can ever remember it. We have fewer people now working to raise funds for the school than at any time since I joined the team five years ago. I have made a plea for volunteers in the school newsletter. I have made a plea for volunteers on the village Facebook pages. I now make the same plea in the village magazine. If we aren't able to attract more parents to assist with the PTA's work, we won't have the numbers to organise and run fundraising events to equip the new classrooms. We will do our best, but our best may not be good enough.

Please help.

If we can, we aim to run three events between now and Christmas. The first, on **Friday 15 November**, is our **School Disco** for children attending the school - KS1: 6.00-6.50pm; KS2: 7.00-8.00pm. £3 per child, which includes refreshments.

Last year we staged a family magic show in the run-up to Christmas, and it proved very popular, so we'll be doing the same again this year. The show will take place from 5.30pm on **Friday 29 November**. Tickets will be £5 and will be on sale shortly. Watch this space.

And then, between 6 and 8pm on **Friday 6 December**, we'll hold one of our biggest annual fundraisers: **The Marcham School Christmas Fair**. Loads of fun for all the family, and we'll be giving out more details next month.

So put those dates in on your family calendar: 15 November; 29 November; 6 December. Fun for all the family.

In order for these events to be a success and raise significant sums of money for the school, we REALLY DO NEED new members to come and help us. Without a larger PTA team, the events will raise less money than they should. I hope you can help ...

See you on the school run.

Peter Kidd

PTA Chair 07708 251312 peter.kidd61@btinternet.com

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Tuesdays 12th and 26th November.
From 2 – 3.30pm in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place

- Sing a wide range of popular songs
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Phone 391270 for more details *Christine Whild*



MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK:

Thursday November 7th.

For this month's walk we will meet at The Bat and Ball Inn in High Street, Cuddesdon, OX44 9HJ (Map Ref: SP599028) at 12.30 for lunch and 1.30 for the walk of about three and a half miles through the pretty hamlet of Denton to Garsington.

Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for further details and car-sharing, especially if you are not on our email list as sometimes late changes have to be made. Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers.



Wanted

Marcham School Governors
 We are currently looking for people to join our friendly governing body.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who:

- Is interested in children's education and the performance of the school
- Is community spirited and would like to represent the community
- Has spare time and the energy for the role
- Is able to work well as part of a team
- Has an enquiring mind and the confidence to ask questions and debate issues that affect the school
- Can consider matters objectively and make informed judgements.

If you are interested, please contact the Headteacher, Mrs Hutchinson at head.3235@marham.oxon.sch.uk, or the Chair of Governors, Rob France at MarchamChair@gmail.com for further details.

MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

The Marcham Senior Citizens Club, due to lack of members and personal circumstances, was closed on 30 November 2018. Despite considerable effort by the committee, no increased interest was forthcoming within Marcham village.

A preliminary closing meeting was held on 31 January 2019 to discuss the disposal of Club assets. At this meeting it was decided, as a token of appreciation for their support over many years, to give donations to Age UK and Sobell House.

This meeting then decided that the residue of monies should be held in the bank for a period of 12 months (until 31 January 2020), to enable the rejuvenation of the Senior Citizens Club by any interested villagers.

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS CLOSURE AND HAVE A KEEN INTEREST IN RESURRECTING A SENIORS CLUB IN MARCHAM PLEASE CONTACT

John Woods (Secretary) 391705

MOLDOVAN GALA EVENING

Ninety guests, including the Her Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova, our local County and District Councillors, and Vice-Chair of Marcham Parish Council, celebrated the tenth birthday of the Marcham Moldova Lifeline at a ‘Moldovan Gala Evening’ in the village on 28 September.

After canapés and a sit-down dinner at All Saints’ Church, cooked and served by volunteers of all ages, the guests heard how people in Marcham first learnt about the needs of this poorest country in Europe. When a drought afflicted Moldova in 2006, a Harvest collection was sent out from Marcham which helped two Moldovan villages get back on their feet again. It was after a group from our village went out to see the results of this that the Marcham Moldova Lifeline (MML) was born. In the ten years since then, through the generosity and fund-raising of local people, MML has been able to give emergency assistance and support small-scale development projects, particularly in remote villages where the needs are greatest.

One of the highlights of the Gala Evening was the presence of a number of friends from Moldova in their beautiful traditional dress. They described how the funds raised in Marcham have been effectively put to work in a variety of projects, like giving much-needed training in sign language to members of the deaf community; giving further professional training to teachers in some village schools, and up-to-date equipment for their students. Alicia



Davies, who had just returned from a working trip to Moldova with her Dad, Paul, described their visit to a new community launderette financed by MML, and to a school that had received professional assistance with help from Marcham: it was inspiring to see the difference this had made, she said.

Proceeds from the Gala Evening had been designated to help equip a Community Kitchen in a remote Moldovan village that provides Meals on Wheels to the elderly and disabled, and meals for needy children. Thanks to generous donations for the Gala Auction and fantastic local sponsorship of some of the food for the dinner, final funds raised from the Evening came to over £3100. This amazing result will enable MML not only to support the Community Kitchen, but also to supply winter food parcels to at least 100 Moldovan households who are officially identified as being in acute need.

The Moldovan Ambassador, Ms Angela Ponomariov, later observed that the Marcham-Moldova partnership was a ‘truly impressive’ example of how ‘with small steps everybody can help to change someone’s life for the better’. The MML team would like to thank most sincerely all those who have helped make this a reality.

MARY EMBLETON

Marcham Guides enjoyed serving teas in Christine Whild's garden:

"I enjoyed serving the cakes to people and preparing cups for the tea. The downside was it was raining"

"It was good to serve others, it was fun"



Some photos from the Great Weekend – see if you can spot the event and make up your own captions!



If you would like a copy of any of the photos taken at the weekend, contact Jim Asher

Thank you to all those who took part in the **2019 Sunflower Growing Competition**, we hope you have had fun tending your sunflowers over the summer. It has been lovely to see so many growing as you walk and drive around the village, and we certainly have some talented photographers as well as gardeners in Marcham. Some of the photos you have submitted are as stunning as the plants themselves.

The entries have now all been judged by Daren Fisher, the Development Manager at Millets Farm and a full list of winners is shown below.

Category	Winner	Judges Comments
Tallest Sunflower Grown in the Ground	Charles Gaisford	Super and Straight too!
Tallest Sunflower Grown in a Pot	Lewis and Jamie Berry	Good to see the plant in situ and in full
Widest Seed Head	Charles Gaisford	Super Head and clear to see the measurement
Smallest Sunflower	The Wilson Family	Small and Gorgeous
Best Multi-Head Sunflower	Anne Smithson	Looking proud
Prettiest Sunflower	Anne Smithson	Our Favourite!
Best Group Display	Bothy Vinyard	Love the simplicity and thought in planting in a line
Best Fancy Dressed Sunflower	Christine Whild	Hands Down Winner



BEST FANCY DRESSED



TALLEST SUNFLOWER IN POT



BEST MULTI HEAD SUNFLOWER



BEST GROUP DISPLAY



PRETTIEST SUNFLOWER



LARGEST SUNFLOWER HEAD



SMALLEST SUNFLOWER



TALLEST SUNFLOWER IN GROUND

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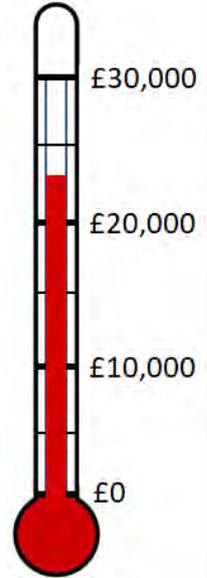
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GMadW raised over £5,100 — a massive thank-you!

A massive thank-you to all who helped/supported the Great Marcham & District Weekend (GMadW) events at the end of September. As a result of your generous donations, we have raised **£5,103** over the weekend for furniture and fittings in our new hall. The centre page spread of photos (page 10-11) shows highlights of the weekend events. If you would like a copy of any of the photos, please contact Jim and offer a donation!

For those who were away, you can still donate towards much-needed funds, for example by sponsoring more bricks at the village shop. Since July, we have raised over £2,500 so far from Sponsor-a-Brick (run by the shop volunteers) with further to go (the target is £4000). We were delighted to hear that at their annual meeting, the shareholders of Marcham Village Shop voted to donate **£10,000** from profits to the MCG furniture & fittings fund—another big step forward for this project. This brings our total funds raised to **£23,100**. We continue fund-raising to provide our new MarchamCentre with the equipment we need to operate the facilities fully. We need to raise at least £35,000 for basic equipment when the new hall opens. Further donations will be very welcome.



MarchamCentre progress

Our new village hall building continues to make good progress—the roof is complete (with lightning conductor) and work is progressing on finishing the internal walls and fitting building services. Demolition of the back parts of the Institute building has been completed ready for new construction work to start.



Moonrakers Concert—22nd February 2020 at 7:30pm

The next big fund-raising event in the pipeline is a concert by Moonrakers (an Oxford-based folk group—see www.moonrakers.net) on Saturday 22nd February 2020, to be held in Marcham Church. Tickets will go on sale at the end of November. Please put the date in your diary now!

Public Meeting and AGM : 5th December at the school

MCG is holding a Public Meeting and short AGM at 7:30 pm on Thursday 5th December in Marcham School. Everyone is welcome—please come and hear about all about the MarchamCentre project. MCG members will be able to vote on election of directors and other MCG matters.

Please help us by taking out membership of MCG (or renewing your memberships). Your support and help is really important now to raise funds to equip our new building.

We will keep you updated on progress here, with updates, photos and posts on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/marchamcentre/ or [@marchamcentre](https://www.facebook.com/marchamcentre/), and our website, www.marchamcentre.org. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.



GMadW raises over £5,000 for hall funds—a massive thank you!



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At an EAP appointment our advisers, depending on your particular problem, can do one or more of the following:

- Help you understand energy companies' tariffs and bills.
- Provide information and support on switching tariff or supplier, identifying any savings you might make.
- Give advice on energy efficiency measures and list any grants available to pay for these.
- Carry out benefit entitlement checks and help you claim any benefits to which you might be entitled. We can help you apply for the Warm Home Discount and the Priority Services Register, if applicable.
- Assist with any customer service complaints you might have against your energy company.

The Citizens Advice website www.citizensadvice.org.uk will give you more information. You can also telephone our Adviceline on 03 444 111 444 or visit a local branch of Citizens Advice during opening hours. Details of office locations are on www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

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Christmas Craft Morning
Saturday 30th November
9.30am - 12.30pm
All Saints' Church

Come along and have a go at making a wreath for your door, a table decoration and more. You do not need to be artistic or crafty—there will be people to help you create something amazing!
 No charge for this event but donations welcome.
 All are welcome.
 Refreshments will be provided.

Wantage & Grove Lions are having a **JUMBLE** on Saturday 16th November at East Hanney British Legion Hall doors open 1.30pm *Great Bargains* AND a **Christmas cash bingo** on Saturday November 23rd at Grove Village Hall Doors open 6.45pm, eyes down 7.30pm *Grand Raffle*



Garden Explorers

On a very recent weekend, a friend and I walked the section of The River Thames Path from Goring to Reading, passing through many habitats, and glimpsing various styles of gardens in the Pangbourne and Caversham areas particularly. As the walk progressed, I started to contemplate that the routes we take seldom vary, and we really are creatures of habit.



When we walk around our own gardens, regularly we stick to the same routes, and the same viewpoints, often even gardening at the same time of day consistently. Sometimes changing things, even subtly, can make us aware of new things, and the nature that shares the garden with us. We're not the only inhabitants if we care to look.

The creatures out there are creatures of habit too. Maybe even creatures of habitats? Once we become aware of specific parts of the ecosystem, we see it without even trying. Once seen it often hard to unsee.

So I set you a challenge for the coming month. Try to become a garden explorer. Discovering new species inhabiting your garden. You probably won't discover a new species unknown to science, but it will be unknown by you until that point.

The pleasure our gardens bring is not just in the act of constant gardening, but in observing too.

Happy Gardening! Stuart Mabbutt
 01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

Experienced Gardener Required

We are looking for a person for about one day a week to help look after our garden, part of it is a formal garden. Knowledge of pruning, particularly roses, essential. Some areas still need further development. If interested please contact: Neil Walker, H Walker & Son, Manor Farm Garford OX13 5PB Tel: 01865 391374 Mob: 07860 917980.

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Do you buy from **amazon**? Do you want **amazon** to make a bigger financial contribution to society? Well, you can. Each time you make a purchase from **amazon**, you can have them make a payment to the Marcham School PTA, money that will go towards the education in Marcham School. "How?" I hear you ask. It's easy. Instead of using the **AMAZON.CO.UK** website, use the **SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK** website instead. The first time you use it, you'll be asked to select your chosen charity. Choose "**Marcham Ce (Vc) Primary School Parent Teacher Association**". And that's it. Every purchase you make from the **amazon smile** website from then on will send 0.5% of your purchase price to the Marcham PTA bank account, money that we will be put to good use by the school. How many pounds do you think you'll spend at **amazon** this Christmas? If you spend £100 at **amazon smile** instead, they'll give us £5.



PETER KIDD, MARCHAM SCHOOL PTA
 (NB At present Amazon Smile is only available via the **SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK** website and the Amazon Android app. It is not yet available via the iOS Amazon app, so if you use an Apple device, please use the Amazon Smile website, not the Amazon Apple app.)

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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**Full Council: Local Plan Decision**

On Wednesday 9th October, the Vale held its full council and took the big decision to adopt LPP2. It was a very difficult decision for us Lib Dems, as the new administrators in the Vale, to take, because for 8 years we have been against this plan, largely because it is based on unsubstantiated house numbers from Oxford City to meet their unmet needs, it has allowed building to happen in areas we would not have chosen without the necessary infrastructure to support it and it has removed places out of the Green Belt which we think should stay in. But after seeking much legal advice and looking at all the options, we came to the conclusion that to withdraw or not adopt the LPP2 we would lose the protection of our 5 year land supply within a year, which in turn would leave the whole of the Vale at the mercy of speculative developers. You would have seen houses springing up all over the place as the Vale would have few legal reasons to stop them. So, reluctantly we adopted LPP2.

Now that the decision has been taken, we can look forward to the future and our next Local Plan 2050. Already we are rewriting our Corporate Plan, putting in strategies which we feel are more relevant. Beneath these will be the policies of the different portfolios and we would very much like to hear from you, the public, with any policy ideas which you want to champion, please do contact me.

Motions

Four motions were passed at full council.

1) You may be aware that in Oxfordshire there are many non-UK EU nationals who are our husbands, wives, parents, friends and colleagues and who play an integral part in our thriving district. In 2016, they were promised again and again that "there will be no change for EU citizens already lawfully resident in the UK and will be treated no less favourably as they are at present." BUT, after three years of living in limbo, their homes and livelihoods are yet again being threatened by further uncertainty brought about by a possible no deal Brexit and the real confusion of the European Settlement Scheme (EUSS).

As a result, Council agreed that officers would be asked for more information on what can be done locally to mitigate adverse impacts on the right of non-UK EU nationals and for the leader to write to the Home Secretary to ask for clarification on the EUSS:

- a) To provide a clear deadline for application to the EUSS in case of a no deal exit from EU.
- b) To provide physical proof of settled status that can be used to access services
- c) To confirm that there will be no changes to the rights of settled non-UK EU citizens that they currently have by ratifying the Immigration Bill as primary legislation before the exit day.

2) This motion was all about rerouting traffic along minor roads when the A34 is closed for works. It focussed on Wantage and Charlton Ward and how the residents' lives have been blighted by rerouted traffic shaking their houses throughout the night. Residents in Marcham are only too aware of how such closures on the A34 often result in traffic blighting the lives of those on Packhorse Lane, Abingdon Road and Frilford Road, when Marcham is used as a rat run to get to the A420 when it used to be the preferred route to use during any A34 closure. It was agreed that the Scrutiny Committee would consider inviting relevant parties, such as Highways England, Thames Valley Police, Kier Group plc and Wantage Diversion Group to attend to hear the dreadful impact on residents with rerouting traffic.

Two other motions were passed. One on encouraging council to work with other Oxfordshire authorities, regional colleagues and the Government to deliver growth, where it is sustainable, and to

provide housing that meets residents' needs. Strategies and plans to achieve this should be based on fourteen pertinent positions (see VWHDC website). The other motion was asking that the Oxfordshire Pensions Committee should recognise the Climate Emergency by investing in a passive low carbon fund now that one is available and generates similar returns to the wider investment market.

It was a busy evening, and now that the big decision has been taken and motions passed enthusiastically, we can look forward to an exciting future in the Vale. Please remember to contact me with any policy ideas you may have.

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC - DC for Marcham Ward
01235 534001 or Webbercatherine1@gmail.com

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

This has been an eventful month for Oxfordshire's Councils. There is much concern that the actions of one council could affect others. At its recent Council Meeting, after much anguish, VWHDC finally agreed to adopt its Local Plan. The good news is that, for the moment at least, the area should be protected from speculative planning applications which have plagued us for some years. The downside is that all Oxfordshire Councils are working towards plans with greatly increased housing numbers. Though not as bad as some, VWHDC is already slipping behind its target allocation and this could see the return of speculative planning within a very few years.

Did I say "all" Oxfordshire Councils? The problems of South Oxfordshire's Local Plan have been in the news on many occasions over recent years. They have been unable to agree where their housing allocations should go. Indeed, the argument has seen the disintegration of one administration and culminated in May of this year in the installation of a new one. The SODC Local Plan was always well behind the Vale's and, in the short term, they are under less threat from speculative planning. In order to make adjustments to their Local Plan, last week their Cabinet was about to ask the Council to withdraw their plan. A simple enough decision you would have thought - but nothing in planning is ever simple.

Many months ago, Oxfordshire Councils collectively signed up to a "Growth Deal" with Government where, in return for £250m, the Councils would together deliver 100,000 new homes by 2031. In addition, OCC made a successful "HIF" (Housing Infrastructure Fund) bid for a further £150m needed to pay for a link road and river crossing from Didcot. OCC argued that this was needed if the roads supplying the many thousands of houses proposed for Valley Park, Didcot were to be built. The problem was that the VWHDC local plan depended on the successful delivery of those houses and that this government money was contingent on all Local Plans being in place.

So, (in the hope that you are still with me!) it seemed that the non-adoption of the SODC Plan could well upset the whole VWHDC Plan. Or alternatively that Government would have to agree to a different source of funding to pay for the new link road and bridge. Last week SODC received an email from the Housing Minister, Robert Jenrick MP, *ordering that SODC must not discuss its Local Plan until he had made a decision.* This notice went to all Oxfordshire Councils and the press and it raises many questions. Here are a few:

1. Is the Housing Minister using the right Act of Parliament to justify his decision?
2. Is the VWHDC Plan now in place or not?
3. Given how essential it is to Government that Didcot should grow, could the money not be found from some other source?

continued on next page

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4. There has been enormous pressure from other Councils on SODC not to withdraw its local plan and accusations of bullying. Is this right?
5. Is the Minister's decision a flouting of local democracy? In May, SODC residents voted in their new council in part because they did not like their local plan – where does the Minister's decision leave them?

And we all thought Brexit was a complicated business!
RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.
 Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

MP'S REPORT

Locally there have been two major successes in the past few weeks (I write at the beginning of October.) As the population of the local area increases so does demand for essential services. Key among these is the demand for excellent schools. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) predicts that primary schools across the county will require an extra 25,000 places by 2031.



I was therefore dismayed earlier this year to hear that schools across Oxfordshire were having trouble expanding their facilities, in particular classroom space, to meet the increase in demand. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) had asked the Department for Education (DfE) for permission to expand their classrooms and they were refused, on the basis that the sacrifice of playing field space at the schools would be too great.

I was asked to intervene by parents and staff of schools in my constituency. I visited one of the schools myself, Marcham Primary, and after a successful intervention by MPs across Oxfordshire I was delighted to receive news last week that the applications for expansion across the county have been approved.

A further cause for celebration is that NHS England have confirmed that not only will PET-Scan services at the Churchill be protected and remain in the hands of Oxford University Hospitals (there were fears earlier this year that they may be lost to a private operator) new scanning services will be provided at other Hospitals serving the constituency, including the Great Western in Swindon following intervention by Oxfordshire MPs.

Once again these issues go to show what can be achieved if communities, local councils, MPs and Government work together to achieve the best outcomes.

Finally, the Government is rolling out a new rural broadband scheme from which you may benefit; more information can be found at <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>

Contact Ed Vaizey MP by	
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E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
News	Sign up at http://bit.ly/EdVaizeyMP
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MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB NEWS



The playing season drew to a close on 7 September with the first team defeating bottom club Dorchester at Clifton Hampden. In doing so, we retained our division three status for next year, finishing a mid-table sixth of ten, winning 7 of our 18 matches. The win was necessary, for if we had lost and results elsewhere went against us, relegation could have resulted.

However spin duo Stuart Armstrong (Geordie) and Ethan Davie continued their exploits of the season to ensure relegation was not an issue, by removing eight of Dorchester's batsmen in a score of 143. We claimed victory within 30 overs, for the loss of 5 wickets, Geordie scoring 31 not out, and Ed Warwick making his top score of the season with 38. It just proves that perseverance does pay dividends ultimately. Ed just needs to tour South Africa or 'down under' this winter to ensure peaking at the start of our season, next May!

The Club's presentation night took place on 25 October, so more about that in next month's issue. In the meantime, however, Ethan Davie has won the OCA League's 'Young Player of the Season' and is 'Best Youth Bowler of the Year'. Ethan will collect these awards at the OCA presentation night on 15 November at Oxford City Football Club, when ex England player, Ronnie Irani will present them. Congratulations to Ethan for well-deserved recognitions, having scored 496 runs, at an average of 33.07 (top score 75 not out); and bowling 175 overs, taking 48 wickets for 679 runs, at an average of 14.15.

The second team's season unfortunately saw them 'propping up' its division table. However, there was much to be gained from a difficult season of change, which saw some new recruits to the club enjoying the matches along with a few 'old stagers!' Enjoyment was the main outcome, very well skippered in every way by Chris Webb, though his top score for the season was made whilst on first team duty! But he was excellent in the 'Oxfordshire Yeoman' at our 'home' venue of Freeland. Always a good sign of a losing skipper with post-match motivation, in the form of 'what's yours?' Next season will see us playing our 'home' games again at Clifton Hampden and Freeland, whilst the new football pitches, covering a large chunk of the cricket outfield, are prepared. We are hoping that both teams will be as successful in their temporary 'homes' as this year, which saw the hosts work extremely hard to accommodate a very demanding need.

For more news about next season, please contact Trevor Hill – Club Secretary at trevor3chancel@aol.com.

National Trust: Abingdon & District Association
2.30-3.30pm Tuesday November 19th
Trinity Church Hall, Abingdon



Dr Tim Sellers: The Mysteries of Migration

This talk will throw some light on the knowledge we have and what still remains a mystery about migration. Migration is a critical part of the annual cycle of many animals and the most spectacular are found among birds. Only recently have we begun to understand the wide range of movements made, and the effort involved in achieving them. It turns out that the phenomenon is very complex and is really part of the whole life of an individual. Dr Sellers has a long-term interest in promoting science to the general public and has given science courses and lectures in many countries to RSPB and similar groups for over 30 years..

Everyone is welcome and non-members of the Abingdon & District National Trust Association are asked to donate £3. Refreshments are available after the talk. For more information, phone Ruth on 01235 524119.

TABLE TOP & CAR BOOT SALE
Hanney WM Hall
10 till 2pm Sat 16th November

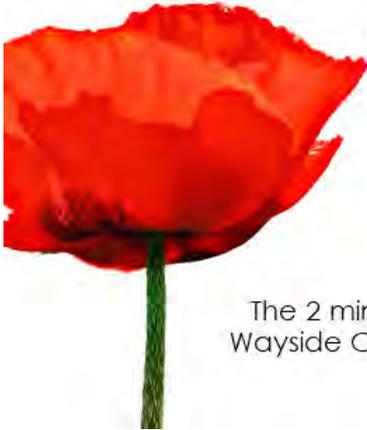


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Remembrance Day Service

Sunday 10th November, 10am
All Saints' Church

The 2 minute silence is observed in church, then we make our way quietly to the Wayside Cross for about 11.15am where we have a further Act of Remembrance. All are welcome to join in. The road is closed for the occasion.

Dear Friends,

What a great weekend we enjoyed at the end of September! And congratulations to all concerned for enabling the events to go so well!

And now we are into November! This month contains some important occasions: from Remembrance Day [Sunday 10th] to coming to terms with whatever Brexit finally ends up with, and the necessary changes that might ensue! We are living in turbulent times, which can be quite unsettling for many.

In the Church calendar, November contains the celebration of Christ the King [Sunday 24th]. This is a salutary reminder that we are invited to look up to God in both times of trouble as in times of celebration. The special prayer [known as a 'collect' in church speak] for October 13th included these words: 'Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are unsettled [restless] till they find their settledness [rest] in you ...'

It is the experience of many across thousands of years in every generation and continent, that our state of heart and mind can be 'settled' - resting - when we allow ourselves to look up to God in trusting faith, and recognise Christ as Lord. It's like a coming home from a long journey. The Christian faith recognises that as human beings we are created to be in relationship with God, our Creator, and until we are willing to turn and embrace this for ourselves, we will be 'unsettled'. God is not going to force his way into anyone's life, but simply invites us into a place of trusting faith, through all he has accomplished in Christ.

November leads us into Advent - the season when we look forward to the coming of Christ into our hurting and wounded world. These occasions can be signs and occasions of hope, of life, of reconciliation, and new beginnings. They are occasions of good news.

May November this year be a month of hope and renewed faith.

With my warmest best wishes and prayers,
Richard

Dates for the diary

Saturday 30th November, 9.30am – 12pm: Christmas Craft Morning

Saturday 30th November, 7.30pm: Music and Readings for Advent by the Crown Singers. Tickets £10 on the door.

Regular Sunday services at 10am & 6pm **Youth Drop-in** 5.30-8pm on Wednesdays **Wednesday mid-week communion, 10.30am** in Duffield Place Lounge. **Village Cafe**, Wednesdays 12pm at the Baptist Hall **Friday Club**, 5.30-6.30pm at All Saints' Church (primary-age)

Contacts:

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