

Marcham & District News

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

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



DECEMBER 2019 VOL: 41 NO: 12

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ The Great Marcham **Pumpkin** Competition see page 7 ▲



▲ Little Angels: adding to the total of the **Poppy Appeal** see pages 5 and 15



▲ Pre-school and their donated dressing-up clothes see page 15



▲ Denman Lake in the snow
Photo by Rosemary Harwood



and a merry christmas

Diary for December

4 Wed	Deadline for applications for a proxy vote for General Election	13
5 Thu	Midweek Walk: Punch Bowl, Woodstock 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	7
5 Thu	Late night shopping in Abingdon, 17.00-20.00	15
5 Thu	MCG Public Meeting and AGM, Marcham School, 19.30	9
5 Thu	Music at the Unicorn: The Sandy Denny Project, 19.00	17
6 Fri	Deadline for A415 speed limit consultation	3
6 Fri	Marcham School PTA Christmas Fair, 18.00-20.00	15
10 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30	7
11 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
12 Thu	Polling Day! Denman College, 07.00-22.00	13
12 Thu	Marcham WI: Denman College, 19.30	7

13 Fri	Carol Singing at The Crown, 19.30	7, 20
15 Sun	Deadline for next MADNews, 17.00 editor@madnews.co.uk	
15 Sun	Carols by Candlelight, All Saints' Church 18.00	20
18 Wed	Last posting for 2nd class mail	5
20 Fri	Last posting for 1st class mail	5
22 Sun	Carols Around Marcham, starting at Sweetbriar 16.00	2
22 Sun	Carols in Garford, 17.00	20

January

8 Wed	Christmas Trees collection at Marcham Textile Bank	3
11 Sat	Christmas Trees collection at Millets	3

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

THINGS TO DO

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Christmas Carol Singing around Marcham
On Sunday 22nd December a group of enthusiastic singers of all ages from All Saints' Church will be singing Christmas carols around Marcham in the hope of spreading some Christmas cheer. If you would like to come and hear us, sing along to a few carols, or just grab a free mince pie and a cup of mulled wine, do join us at one of the four following locations:

- 4-4.30pm Post Office/Sweetbriar
- 4.30-5pm The Pastures (Plantation Avenue)
- 5-5.30pm Marcham Primary School
- 5.30-6pm Willow farm (Pointer Place)



St Andrew's Church, Hagbourne Christmas Tree Festival



7th - 20th December

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If you are holding an event within or near the MADNews area, please contact the editor for more publicity! 01865 391725 or editor@madnews.co.uk



Christmas

At St Lawrence Church, Tubney
Saturday 14th December - 10.30 am
Decorating the church with Ivy, Holly and Candles

Sunday December 15th - 4.00 pm
Candlelit Carol Service
followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Parking in field off Coach Road
but take care crossing the A420

Wednesday December 25th - 9.00 am
Christmas Day Holy Communion with two hymns.

Services in 2020 will be on the Third Sunday of the Month at 10.30 am using The Book of Common Prayer

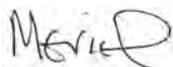
Dear Readers

I hope you didn't groan too much at the festive greeting pun on the cover!

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas time, whether you are working to keep the country going, far away from loved ones, snug at home or travelling hopefully!

Don't forget the next deadline is a bit earlier than normal, and if you feel like writing, we haven't had many letters recently...!

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 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
Oxfordshire County Council Consultation
– Reduction of Speed limit A415**

The Parish Council has requested a reduction in the speed limit along the A415 from the village to the A34 interchange. The proposal is to reduce it from 60mph to 50mph, and this should be extremely helpful for the pedestrians and cyclists who use the footway, with traffic travelling past at slower speeds. The County Council is seeking comments on the proposal to reduce the speed limit, and your views can be logged before 6th December at <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/MarchamA41550mph/consultationHome>

Christmas Tree Recycling

For those of you who have real Christmas trees, and are signed up to the District Council's garden waste service, your trees, when you no longer need them, can be put out next to the brown bin provided they are less than 6ft or 1.8m. They need to be cut into sections if taller than this. If you do not have a brown garden waste bin, then your real Christmas tree can be placed by the Salvation Army Textile bank in Howard Cornish Road (opposite Duffield Place), or taken to Millets Farm Garden Centre, and the District Council will pick them up for composting. The collection from Marcham will be on Thursday 9th January, so all Christmas Trees will need to be by the textile bank by the end of the day on Wednesday 8th January, 2020, or by Saturday 11th January if you are taking it to Millets Farm.

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 they wish to nominate and the reasons why the person should receive the award. The list of past recipients can be found on the Council's website at www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk Or MADNews February 2018 for photos

Grant Applications

Applications for grants were considered at the November meeting of the Parish Council. The Council was pleased to be able to support the following organisations: Marcham Parochial Church Council – Children's Friday Club, and welcome pack - £450
South and Vale Be Free Carers Centre – £150
Marcham Cricket Club – £500
Marcham Community Group - £1800 for field maintenance costs
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - £120
South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau - £1000

School Admissions

Reminder that the deadline for receipt by the County Council of applications for school places, is 15th January 2020. Information is at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/infant-and-primary-school>

Planning Applications considered by the Parish Council

P19/V2478/FUL Demolition of existing garage, replacement new parking, amenity space and associated dwelling on land off The Farthings. The Council objected to this application on grounds of being detrimental to the street scene, loss of amenity for neighbouring properties, and inadequate parking provision.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 11th December 2019 at 7.30p.m. **in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.** Please check the Council's website in case arrangements change.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833
clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Council wishes everyone a happy Christmas

Holiday Waste Collection Changes

Wednesday 25 Dec	Friday 27 Dec	
Recycling and Food Waste		
Wednesday 1 Jan	Friday 3 Jan	
Rubbish and Food Waste		
Wednesday 8 Jan	Thursday 9 Jan	
Recycling, Food and Garden Waste		

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CONGRATULATIONS TO GRACE...

I was recently very honoured to be nominated and to receive a Vale of White Horse Community Award for my work with older people in the village. I have and always have had a passion to come alongside and care for and provide companionship for those who need that extra help. It was a privilege to receive the award.



Also Nominated

The Marcham Community Minibus organisers and drivers who help transport villagers and local community groups for trips around the county.

MINIBUS SERVICE TO TESCO



There is a **weekly run on Mondays to Tesco** for any residents with transport difficulties. Leaving Duffield Place at 9.45am (and other places by arrangement) and returning from Tesco at around 11am - you just pay a voluntary contribution (minimum £2) to cover costs.

Do you have a couple of hours free every few weeks to join our rota - or would you like to join the passengers ?

Contact Marion Belcher on 07507 797757 to make your booking, volunteer as a driver or for more information

Planning a night out with friends?
A birthday trip with the kids?
A family trip to the beach?

Whatever your plans, why not use the Community Minibus!!

14 seats plus your driver (aged between 25 and 70)

(you will need to ensure that your licence covers driving a minibus)

A standard donation is requested for each booking to cover diesel/maintenance.

Thank you to everyone who brought raffle tickets from me for the Abingdon Community Hospital League of Friends.

Sorry you couldn't all win!

RUTH MANDER

On behalf of the **Royal British Legion 2019 Poppy Appeal** we would like to announce that in the villages of Marcham, Graford, Frilford and part of Cothill we collected £6,950.00 towards the national total.

May we thank everybody for the generous donations and a special thank you to our collectors and businesses that allow us to place donation boxes.

We never cease to be amazed by the collective support we get when arranging the annual appeal.

In addition to the Royal British Legion total we were able to send a donation of £525.00 to the Blue Cross and War Horse Memorial Trust from the sale of the "Purple "Poppy Pins

Thank you **Malcolm and Christine** Local Organisers



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Saturday: 08.00 - 12 noon
Sunday: 08.00 - 10.00



Holiday Opening Hours

December: 24th 08.00 - 12 noon • 25th & 26th CLOSED • 27th & 28th 08.00 - 12 noon • 29th 08.00 - 10.00 • 30th & 31st 08.00 - 12 noon
January: 1st CLOSED • 2nd back to normal 07.30 - 5.30

Last acceptance time for post:
Mon-Fri 16.45 & 10.15 on Saturdays

Lots of lovely Christmas goodies now on sale in the shop

panettone in tins, chocolates and more.

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 .



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

Last posting dates for Christmas 2019

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
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UK Inland Services

Wednesday 18 December	2nd Class and Royal Mail Signed For®
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Monday 23 December	Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed®

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Marcham WI

Date: Thursday, 12th December
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Denman College
Topic: Christmas Party



Our December Christmas Party is on Thursday 12th December. To get you into the festive spirit we have a fun evening planned and we very much look forward to seeing you all there. Don't forget to wear something Christmassy and bring a contribution for the Bring and Share supper. We'll also be having a bottle raffle, so donations of wrapped bottles would be much appreciated.

Once again we will be having a collection of non-perishable Christmas treats for the food bank, perhaps wrapped in cellophane so the item can be seen, or decorated with ribbon. There will also be a donations box for charity rather than exchanging Christmas cards. So come and join us for our Festive evening and don't forget the December meeting is on the **2nd Thursday** of the month, not the 3rd.

New members and visitors are always welcome

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



In its second year, **Marcham Pumpkin Competition** got underway on 27th October in Longfields with pumpkins from six adults and six children. It was a great turn out of people in the cold weather – soon warmed by the mulled cider and competition. Congratulations to Cameron Walker 1st in the Adult category. Every child got a packet of sweets for entering.

Great work by all! See you next year

JAMIE BUTCHER

FRIDAY CRAFT MORNINGS

Don't let the grey skies get you down!
 Brighten up your autumn by bringing along a craft project to our new Friday craft mornings. There is no charge and it's a great way to chat to old friends or make new ones. No experience needed and all very welcome. If you don't know where to start pop along for a coffee and see what others are doing for some inspiration.

We currently have people Christmas card making, knitting, sewing, jewellery making and even the most exquisite lace-making!
 Fridays 10-12 Marcham Baptist Hall

NB people 16+ only
 due to the pins, needles, scissors etc!



MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK:

Thursday, December 5th

For this short winter walk of about 3½ miles we will be eating at the Punch Bowl, 12 Oxford Street, Woodstock (Map Ref: SP446167, OX20 1TR). We will meet at the usual time of 12.30 for lunch and start the walk at 1.30. The District Council's car-park in Hensington Road is very close and is free. We will be having a stroll through the grounds of Blenheim Palace west of the Lake, via the 'back door'.



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.



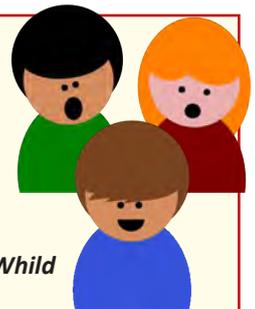
SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Tuesday 10th December

From 2 – 3.30pm in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place

- Sing a wide range of popular songs
- Get to know fellow villagers and forget your aches, pains and woes!

Phone 391270 for more details *Christine Whild*



Come and join us for carol singing in The Crown on Friday 13th December

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

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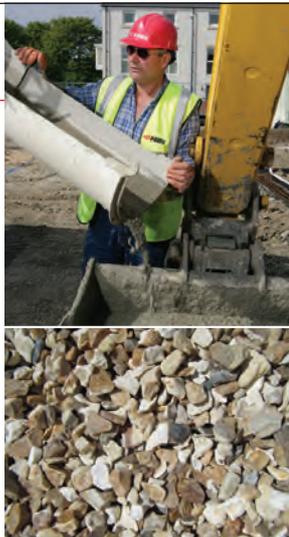
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Membership
Voting: 102 Junior: 22

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NEWS: Abingdon Waitrose will be supporting funding for our new facilities for the month of December!

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. The meeting will include an illustrated summary of the project and fund-raising progress to date, and plans for how the new facilities will be operated.

Everyone is welcome—please come and hear all about the MarchamCentre project. It is your chance to ask questions about this major project for Marcham and District.

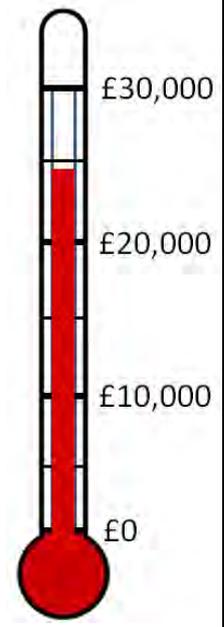
MCG members will be able to vote on election of directors and other MCG matters. We have a vacancy on the trustee board. If you are interested in becoming a trustee, please contact jim.asher@btinternet.com to talk about what is involved.

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.



Building progress

Our new village hall building continues to make good progress — the external brickwork and cladding has been completed and a new patio area has been laid to the west of the building (facing the cricket field). Work continues on internal walls, electrical and plumbing systems.



Public Meeting and AGM : 5th December 7:30pm at the school

Moonrakers Concert—Saturday 22nd February 7:30pm

The next big fund-raising event is a concert by Moonrakers (an Oxford-based folk group—see www.moonrakers.net) on 22nd February, to be held in Marcham Church at 7:30pm . Tickets (£15 each) will go on sale in Marcham Village Shop from 2nd December. MCG will be providing refreshments. Please put the date in your diary now and buy your tickets before they are sold out!



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

MCG wishes all members and everyone in Marcham and District a very Happy Christmas and an exciting and interesting New Year as the opening of the new facilities approaches.



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CHRISTMAS AROUND MARCHAM



Merry Christmas



Photo by Tina



**Have you seen the crib in Mill Road?
It is surrounded by Santons and there is even a
step for little ones to stand on to see it!**

A leveller



I was out in nature the other day, sat on top of Shotover Hill, watching families play in the sun, dog walkers passing by, an artist painting and a birdwatcher making notes.

Out in nature, it doesn't matter who we are, or where we're from. Rich or poor, a housing developer or dustman. A solicitor or window cleaner. Nature's a leveller, we're all the same, with nature deep in our DNA, and we all connect with something when we take time to enjoy the world around us.

A reader has said recently these words are written by an educated man. A number of my followers have said recently that I inspire them. The truth, I'm an ordinary guy, just sharing thoughts, doing my best, as we all are.

When I was sat there on Shotover, viewing the scene before me I was thinking what a struggle it is for many of us, and for me personally. Many readers know over the last few years I've received discrimination in relation to my health conditions, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Asthma, Eczema, Fibromyalgia, Osteoarthritis and more recently Epilepsy.

Sat in nature I quickly realised that we all have issues that challenge us, but nature's a leveller. It bonds us all together. Sat there watching the scene, I saw ability and disability is often unseen, we just see each other as people enjoying nature. This is a release in so many ways.

Although in many ways I can feel my light fading, and some of our loved ones' lights may have gone out completely but all our lights burn brightly out there in nature, even when we've passed. A little piece of us always remains, especially in the gardens and plots of land we leave behind.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

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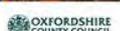
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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**Purdah and the election**

As we are now in that peculiar period before an election called *Purdah*, we, as district councillors at the Vale, are heavily restricted with what we can do or say. Nothing political is allowed when wearing our councillor's hat! So, I thought I would update you on some useful information.

Firstly, your poll cards and postal packs. So long as you registered to vote by 26th November, you will receive your poll cards by 6th December. For those who applied for a postal vote before the 8th November, postal packs will be posted on 26th November; those who applied between the 8th and 26th November will receive their packs between 3rd and 6th December. If you haven't received your pack by then you need to ring 01235 422528 to request a replacement. If you need a proxy vote you need to apply before 4th December.

I am happy to report that the Vale has arranged for the polling station to be in Denman College instead of the Baptist Hall, which many people found very difficult to access.

Free Car Parking

To encourage shoppers to support our local towns over the Christmas period, free car parking has been arranged in the following places:

South Oxfordshire

Didcot – Mondays (9, 16, 23 December)

Goring – Saturdays (7, 14, 21 December)

Henley – Tuesdays (3, 10, 17 December)

Thame – Saturdays (7, 14, 21 December)

Wallingford -Thursdays (5, 12, 19 December).

Vale of White Horse

Abingdon – Saturdays (7, 14, 21 December)

Faringdon – Saturdays (7, 14, 21 December)

Wantage – Saturdays (7, 14, 21 December)

Give a Gift

The Christmas Season is upon us and you might like to know of two charities, Sleigh2Give and Charity Secret Santa, which collect Christmas gifts to give to the county's hospitals, hospices and charity run centres. New toys, scarves, toiletries or books are favourites to give as gifts (NB not second hand), and you can deposit them in large boxes which will be set up in the kitchen areas of Milton Park offices. Gifts will be gratefully received up to 13th December.

Request for help to reach EU Nationals

At the last full Council meeting, a motion was passed to help EU nationals understand exactly where they stand and what they can do to remain in the UK after Brexit, as well as to let them know how the Council want to support them. Thousands of letters were sent out to EU residents in the South and Vale Districts, but for data protection reasons not all relevant residents were reached. If you know of any EU resident who has not received such a letter, please can you alert them to contact the appropriate council. Thank you. *See also p. 17.*

A Life-saving App

A new potentially life-saving app can tell emergency services the precise location they need to go to when someone needs assistance and Thames Valley Police is recommending everybody installs it on their smartphone. What3words divides the entire globe into 57 trillion 3m x 3m squares – if someone needs assistance it will then provide a specific three-word code for where they are, making it a lot easier for the emergency services to find someone in a rural area or unfamiliar location. The app, which is used by emergency services across the country, is free and doesn't require an internet connection to use – for more information please see the what3words website what3words.com

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

December 2019

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**Expressway**

Much is made of the idea of the Oxford-Cambridge 'Arc'. For some, it represents the future for Oxfordshire, presenting an opportunity for increased economic growth, based on the established 'knowledge spine' and reputations of the two universities, and our centres of scientific research. To others, it represents a threat to rurality and the climate - with a potential Expressway linking the area paid for by vast quantities of extra housing.

But the 'Arc' is, in reality, simply an idea. As a major net contributor to the national exchequer, the idea of stimulating further growth in the area and attracting further investment, is hard to argue against. This does not necessarily mean that an Expressway is inevitable, however. Indeed, several of Oxfordshire's Councils have come out firmly against the Expressway. The latest of these is the County Council itself, who, in November, passed a motion rejecting the idea outright - 'whatever the route' and a letter was sent to Highways England to that effect.

It is argued that connecting up the Arc could be done just as effectively (and at much lower cost) by improving and completing the East West Rail link provision. It is also argued that the carbon output in building the new road would make achieving our reduction targets almost impossible. It seems that this is going to become a major bun fight in the next few months.

The School Run

We are all noticing just how stressed our local road system is at present. The 10 mile journey from Drayton to Oxford can take 90 minutes at some times of the day. Yet at half terms and school holidays, it can be done in under 30 minutes. There are daily tailbacks at Culham Bridge and around Frilford crossroads. Major congestion caused by roadworks and accidents somewhere in the system are increasingly common. And even the rat runs are becoming congested. School Travel Plans have been around for many years, but clearly, something more is needed. And spare a thought for parents trying to get their children to school on time when bus services are often not good enough. Not much wonder that many parents are prepared to risk the wrath (and these days the possible financial consequences) of taking children out of school in term time. Is it possible that the solution lies in the coming together of the education system, our transport bodies and even the travel industry? – variable term times? – variable starts to the school day? There is certainly a need for some fresh thinking.

And please vote.

If you are reading this before December 12th, please make sure that you remember to exercise your democratic right and cast your vote. Then have a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

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PTA ROUND-UP

Many thanks to everyone - children and adults - who came along to November's School Disco. You raised £285, which as far as we can tell is a record for a school disco, so thank you one and all. All funds raised by the PTA go towards supporting the school in providing the best education for our children.



Parent Teacher Association

If you receive this issue of MADNews *before 29 November* ... Our next event is the Family Christmas Magic Show on Friday 29 November. Great fun for all the family, and now including Water Pistol Russian Roulette! We may still have a few tickets left, and if we do they're available from Lisa Newport (lisa_newport@hotmail.co.uk) or Peter Kidd (peterkidd2708@gmail.com).

If you receive this issue *after 29 November* ... Thank you to everyone who came along to our Family Christmas Magic Show on Friday 29 November. I hope you all had a great time. I'll let you know how much money you raised for the school as soon as it's been counted.

Our final event of the year is the **Christmas Fair, from 6pm to 8pm on Friday 6 December** – always a great event with loads to interest the whole family. Come along to enjoy all the usual fun and games, as well as some new attractions to test your skill and luck. Hope to see LOADS of you there.

We'll have more family fun and shenanigans next year, but until then, a very Merry Christmas to you all, thank you for all your support during 2019, and we'll see you in the New Year.

See you on the school run.

Peter Kidd

PTA Chair 07708 251312 peter.kidd61@btinternet.com



mostlyBOOKS

The Mostly Books team is having a late-night shopping event! Join us for a drink, a browse and some great discounts from 5pm – 8pm on Thursday 5th December.

The staff will be on hand to provide recommendations and to have a chat about all things books. You'll be offered a complimentary glass of bubbles or soft drink to enjoy as you browse and, even better, all purchases made between 5-8pm that evening will include a 10% discount – What's not to love?

No need to book, just turn up and enjoy a relaxed browsing experience.

A number of other businesses will also be opening their doors for late night shopping on the same evening. Keep your eyes peeled for posters around town.

These include Eileen, Clarks Shoes, Robert Gatward Jewellers & Helen & Douglas House Shop.

www.mostly-books.co.uk

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

What a fabulous village we have! After a post online asking for 'dressing up for drama' clothing, we were so pleased with the response, and would like to thank everyone who donated items for the children to use ... what better than the sight of young children in oversized jackets, floral dresses, hats and baskets ... off to play at being grown-ups ... each day brings something new and our resources continue to grow ... a big thank you from everyone at Marcham Pre-school!



If you enjoy hearing about what we get up to at preschool, and how our activities support the children's learning and development please look out for our new Facebook page coming soon! We look forward to being able to share more of our adventures with you soon.

If you have a child under 4 and might be considering a place at preschool in the future, please get in touch NOW - places are limited, there is no obligation but to be considered for a place in September 2020 or beyond it's important to join our waiting list as soon as possible

Nicky Sanford,

Early Years Teacher, Marcham Pre-School

01865 392101 Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

We are very excited to have started working with Flexicare, a wonderful local charity which provides free babysitting to families with disabled children in Oxfordshire. They are a charity very close to our heart as they support one of our wonderful Marcham families. Our children have been busy this month making beautiful Christmas decorations for the families who are supported by Flexicare, spreading some Christmas cheer in our community.



We had a fantastic **Pyjama day** at nursery for Children in Need where we all came in wearing our pyjamas and slippers. We had lots of fun in our onesies, and enjoyed various Pudsey themed activities such as making Pudsey masks, and our babies created spotty masterpieces with their paints.

Our Pre-Schoolers have been busy selling poppies for the Royal British Legion at Café, where we have lunch with the community every Wednesday. They also made sure they sold some to the builders from the community building site on their way back to nursery.

We have been putting our singing voices into action ready for our nativity this month. The children have been enjoying learning the Christmas story, and have had a great time dressing up as their characters ready for their big performance.

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

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the Little Angels family.



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The government has set up a programme called the EU Settlement Scheme which is intended for you. There is no charge for applying to this scheme. Citizens of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland can also apply. It is important that you apply NOW, without waiting until the UK actually leaves. You can begin the process here: <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status>

If your application is successful you will be able to continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021. You will also have the right to work in the UK, use the National Health Service, get access to benefits and pensions if you are eligible, and travel in and out of the country. There is more information about your rights on the government website.

The new deadline for the UK to leave the EU is 31 January 2020 but it is still unclear exactly how it will take place, especially in view of the general election in December.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, you will need to be living in the UK BEFORE it leaves the EU in order to apply. Check the Citizens Advice website at: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/immigration/staying-in-the-uk-after-brexit>

South Oxfordshire District Council also has up-to-date advice on www.southoxon.gov.uk/brexit

You can visit Citizens Advice in person or call us on Adviceline (0300 330 9042). For locations of offices and opening hours see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

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<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/>

If you would like to discuss these volunteering roles, please email Jon Bright, Director: jon.bright@osavcab.org.uk

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Bothy Vineyard has signed up to the UK's only natural wine cork recycling programme – Recorked UK. For every cork collected Recorked UK will donate at least 1p to nominated charities. They also recycle corks and supply free corks to various charities and schools for use in craft projects. Please help us gather corks so that we can benefit local wildlife charity – Wild Oxfordshire (www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk), which builds active and innovative partnerships for wildlife.



Corks – only natural corks please – can be deposited at the front door of the Bothy Shop (Frilford Heath) or at the Marcham Shop.

Many thanks, **BOTHY VINEYARD**

www.bothyvineyard.co.uk

PET CARE

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01865 391864
www.townfurlong.co.uk*



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SHARING A LIFE CAN CHANGE A LIFE

The Shared Lives scheme matches people who need additional support to be independent, with carers and their families. Sharing a family's life means that people who need support can choose to become part of an ordinary household, instead of staying in residential care or being looked after by a team of support workers. Could you give someone the chance to learn and grow, develop new skills and gain the confidence to become as independent as possible in a family environment? Become a Shared Lives Carer in a home based, paid role oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives



Neighbourhood Team Newsletter for Marcham from Rich Osborn

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter [tvpsouthandvale](https://www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale) for regular updates

from the South and Vale neighbourhood teams. Sign up to our alerts system at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk to receive information related to crime in your area.



Priorities

Burglary: We have received reports of burglaries in the Abingdon area. We are appealing for witnesses so if you can check any CCTV if you live in the areas listed or have any information please call 101 or report online www.thamesvalley.police.uk/report-a-crime and quote the reference numbers:

- 8th October - Shelly Close, Abingdon. Jewellery was stolen, ref. 43190311741
- 12th October - Wick Close, Abingdon. Entry gained but nothing taken, ref. 43190316987
- 22nd October - Northcourt Road, Abingdon. Jewellery was stolen, ref. 43190329255
- 30th October – 4th November - Alexander Close, Abingdon. Jewellery was stolen, ref. 43190343565
- 7th November - Lumberd Road, Abingdon. Jewellery was stolen, ref. 43190348374

Anti-social behaviour (ASB): Following an increase in reports of ASB, the neighbourhood team have drawn up several Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) for the young people involved. The contracts are designed to help the young people think about their behaviour, any breaches are then recorded and further work carried out if necessary. Home visits have also been carried out along with letters to parents to address the poor behaviour.

We have also received reports of ASB in Andersey Way. The team have increased their patrols of the area. Please continue to tell us about all ASB by calling 101 or reporting it online www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Violent crime: At around 9.45pm on Tuesday 8th October a 16-year-old boy was approached by a group of youths and assaulted by a boy from the group in an unprovoked homophobic incident at Abingdon Street Fair at the junction of Conduit Road and Ock Street. The victim then ran away and was assaulted again by a second boy on Tower Close. The victim was punched multiple times in the face resulting in a broken nose. If you have any information on this please report in by calling 101 and quoting reference 43190312410.

At around 5.25pm on Saturday 19th October a fight broke out between a group of four or five people outside the College Oak Public House in Peachcroft Road. Do you have any information? Please call 101 and quote reference 43190325756.

County Drugs Lines (CDL)

Country Drugs Lines is when organised crime groups exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and

they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons. PCSO Moquet and PCSO Wright visited hotels around Abingdon to give advice on this. The hotels were educated on the suspicious behaviour to look out for and how to deal with it and report it if they suspect that this is happening in their hotels.

Offenders brought to justice

- A male was arrested and charged with two counts of criminal damage after he caused damage to two vehicles that were parked in West St Helen St on Thursday 31st October. The male has been bailed and is due to attend court in a few weeks' time.
- On Wednesday 16th October a male was arrested after being found by PCSOs to be in breach of his Community Behaviour Order by being in Abingdon and drinking alcohol. The male was charged and remanded to prison for 56 days.
- On 14th October a car was stolen from Hawkins Way, Wootton. On the 15 October a male was arrested and charged with this offence and other offences.

Stolen bikes

PCSO Moquet and PCSO Wright seized approximately £10,000 worth of suspected stolen bikes from an address in Abingdon. We are currently investigating the thefts and have already re-united some of the bikes with their rightful owners. It is important to report it if you have a bike stolen so if it's recovered we can get it back to you. Take photos of your bikes, take down frame numbers and security mark/register them.

Abingdon Street Pastors

On Friday 5th October, the neighbourhood team were invited to attend a meeting with the Abingdon Street Pastors. The Street Pastors were recently given a donation of money by Thames Valley Police from the 'Police Property Act' fund and attended a ceremony at Sulhamstead. The neighbourhood team have worked closely with the Street Pastors, who care for, listen to and talk with people on the streets of Abingdon at night, for several years. The Street Pastors offer help to individuals by providing practical assistance if required and help to keep people safe until they return home. The Street Pastors are currently looking for people to join them out on the streets and as 'prayer pastors' back at their base; if you are interested or for more information, please visit their website: <https://streetpastors.org/locations/abingdon/> or email abingdon@streetpastors.org.uk.

Crime prevention event

PC Bryant and PCSOs Haynes and Atkins will be holding a crime reduction event at **Kennington Village Centre on 14th December** from 9am – 12.30pm. Please come along to find out more about securing your home over the Winter.

Contact us:

E-mail: AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Twitter: [@tvpsouthandvale](https://twitter.com/tvpsouthandvale)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale

Phone: 101

Website: www.thamesvalley.police.uk.

How to reduce the risk of becoming a burglary victim this Christmas

The Christmas and New Year period is a time when Thames Valley Police, and other forces around the country, experience an increase in residential burglary.

If you are celebrating at home over Christmas or at New Year, you can help to protect your property by taking a few simple steps:

- Don't leave presents on view under the Christmas tree.
- Cut up packaging for any expensive items so that it will fit inside your refuse bin, never leave boxes next to the bin where they can be seen.
- Remember to mark your valuables using a UV pen and register them on the national property register at www.immobilise.com.
- If you are going away, you can deter burglars by making your home appear occupied:
- Double check that you have locked your windows and doors before leaving.
- Light up your living room using timer switch. A TV simulator can also be used to make give the appearance of a TV screen being used.
- Invite a neighbour to park on your drive while you are away.

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HOME SECURITY GUIDE

thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/advice/home-security-guide/

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Dear Friends,

I wonder how you would sum up what Christmas means?

'Just for the children', 'a reason for a good party', 'an extravagant expense', 'not sure'?

At heart the celebration is about real events in real time. Yes, we may not be quite sure of exact dates for those events, but those events took place, and the 'unpacking' of what was going on has been thought about and debated ever since.

In some ways the world at the time of the birth of Jesus wasn't so very different from the world we know today - the political scene was in turmoil, there were international tensions, there was a lot of social unrest. And it was into that world that Christ came - a hurting, broken, stressed world, where human cruelty was commonplace under an oppressive foreign power.

"Why did he come?" we might ask. The answer, from a Christian perspective, would be along the lines "He came to make a world of a difference, to demonstrate the presence and reality of God, and to effect reconciliation between God and humankind." His coming demonstrated that God continues to care for the world, and for us, as faltering, flawed human beings.

Over the centuries since his birth, the Christian Church has celebrated this pivotal moment in history. And there are many people today, from all walks of life and ethnic backgrounds, who know for themselves the real difference that Jesus Christ makes in daily life. Being in touch with God amid that strains and stresses of our fast-moving and changing world, is both wonderful and challenging.

What motivated God to send his Son into the world? The simple, and most profound answer is 'love' - love for each of us, love that flows from his heart to our hearts, the love of his living Being to us as living beings, of love of being in touch in the frequently tough and ever-changing circumstances of life, and so that you and I might know that he loves us, that we are on his heart.

I was recently talking with a couple who mentioned that it was when they verbally expressed their gratitude to God for his love in Jesus, and asking him to come and be real in their experience, that their lives were changed by his presence. Have you done a similar thing? 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in ...' said Jesus. [Revelation 3:20]

I hope you and those you love enjoy very special Christmas this year. The greatest gift is Christ himself - 'the reason for the season'. I hope you can find a quiet moment in the 'much-doing' to verbalise your own gratitude to God, and to receive Christ into your own life.

With my warmest seasons greetings,

Richard

Happy Christmas!

Christmas Programme

Friday 13th December

5.30pm: 'Beasts of Bethlehem'

7.30pm: Carols at the Crown

Sunday 15th December

10am: Christmas Praise

4pm: Carol service at St. Luke's, Garford

6pm: Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 18th December

6.30pm: School Carol Service (KS2)

Sunday 22nd December

4-6pm: Carol Singing round the village

5pm: Carol singing in Garford

Christmas Eve

4pm: Crib Service

11pm: Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

10am: Christmas Family Service

10.30am: Christmas Communion Service at St. Luke's



Regular events: Sunday services at 10am & 5pm, Toddler Group, Tuesdays 9.30-11.30am
Wednesday mid-week communion, 10.30am in Duffield Place Lounge. Friday Club, 5.30-6.30pm at All Saints' Church (primary-age)

Contacts:

Rev. Canon Richard Zair 391319 vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org **Jill Rowe** Children's and families Minister 390885 families@allsaintsmarcham.org **Rosemary Siebert** Associate Priest 07763330113 **Rob Finch** Youth Worker 07888331708, rob@marchamyouth.org **Tamsin Gilbert** Parish Administrator 391319 info@allsaintsmarcham.org