

# Marcham & District News

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Your Independent Local Newsheet – [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk)



FEBRUARY 2020 VOL: 42 NO: 2

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Pre-School meet a bearded dragon from Zoolab



▲ Little Angels in their new home! ▲



▲ How are you feeling? Lots of ideas to keep well this winter see page 19

## Diary for February

1 Sat	Funeral Service for Chris Ricketts, All Saints' Church, Marcham, 11.30	5	19 Wed	Abingdon Arts Society: Influences in Photography, Trinity Church, Abingdon, 10.30 & 14.00	2
8 Sat	Wantage and Grove Lions Cash Bingo and Raffle, Grove Village Hall, 18.45	7	20 Thu	<b>Deadline for next MADNews, 17.00</b> <a href="mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk">editor@madnews.co.uk</a>	
11 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30	17	20 Thu	Marcham WI: Treasures Beneath our Feet, Denman College, 19.30	7
11 Tue	Marcham Society: Birds and Wildlife of Withmead and Beyond, All Saints' Church, 19.30	7	22 Sat	Moonrakers Concert, All Saints' Church, 19.30	9
12 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3	25 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30	17
13 Thu	Midweek Walk: King William IV, Hailey, 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	7	25 Tue	National Trust: The Oxfordshire Drama Wardrobe, Trinity Church, 14.30	7

*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 19th February, 10.30am and 2.00pm**, at Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DB.

### Influences in Photography

by Arts Society Lecturer Charlie Waite

Rarely is a photograph made which is not subject to past influence. From sculpture to photography and everything in-between, the photographer is reinventing images that subconsciously reside in the vast reservoir of past images seen, be it photojournalism, repertoire or classic landscape. Charlie explores these themes based on his experiences as a leading landscape photographer.

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](http://www.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk) or email [info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk](mailto:info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk)**



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## WANTAGE GROUP

Youth Challenge Oxfordshire (YoCO) is looking for young people to join our Wantage group starting on **Monday evenings in March** at Sweatbox, (King Alfred's Academy site).

This is a chance to take part in an exciting 15-month programme including workshops, skills-based activities, a residential weekend away in Youlbury Camp and a life-changing trip to volunteer with the Nasio Trust Charity in Kenya.

We are looking for young people aged 14-21 who face challenges such as pressures of social media, bullying, mental health issues, trouble at school or work, and/or peer influence to take unnecessary risks. We will work with you over 15 months to overcome these challenges and improve your confidence, skills and aspirations for your next steps.

**CONTACT [KAT@YOCO.ONLINE](mailto:kat@yoco.online)  
TO GET INVOLVED**



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## Open Days

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> April • 11<sup>am</sup> to 3<sup>pm</sup>

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Why not visit us and try your hand at bowls? We welcome new members of any age.

Bring soft shoes – trainers will do. Bowls provided on the day. Refreshments and bar. Drop in any time, either day – or both

**We offer year-round outdoor bowling, and short-mat bowls indoors during winter months. Coaching is always available.**

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## LAUNCHING THE 2020 MUSIC IN THE VALE CONCERT SEASON

### Springtime Variations

Chamber music by our favourite baroque composers

Anna Brigham - baroque violin

Chris Terepin - baroque cello

**Where:** St. Denis' Church, Church Green, Stanford in the Vale SN7 8HU

**When:** 3.00pm Sunday 15th March

**How much:** £12.00

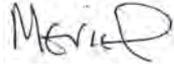
To book tickets, to become a **Friend of Music in the Vale** or to join our mailing list and obtain advance information on future concerts please email [DJPedderDPA@btinternet.com](mailto:DJPedderDPA@btinternet.com) call 01367 718420 or visit [www.musicinthevale.net](http://www.musicinthevale.net)



Dear Readers

Marcham's new facilities are off the starting blocks with Little Angels moving into their new home, the houses with roofs on and our new centre looking almost ready. It is such a tribute to Chris and everyone who has worked so hard that we are now at the stage of choosing curtains and cups. Only a few years ago it seemed as if we would never find a solution. So it proves you *can* do almost anything if you try.

Until next time



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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.

**POLICE**

PCSO Rich Osborn C9323  
[Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) for Marcham  
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Or just dial 101 (non-emergency) and omit the C from his number

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Richard Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ  
Tel: 01235 534001  
[Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto: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](mailto:Webbercatherine1@gmail.com)  
For other councillors go to

[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

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**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Former Parish Councillor –  
**Christine Ricketts**

It was with great sadness that the Council learned of the passing of former Parish Councillor Christine Ricketts. She had served on the Council for several years in the 1990s and early 2000s, and was respected by her colleagues, not only for her work on the Council but for the many other roles she undertook in the parish. She will be greatly missed by everyone.

**Council Tax 2020/21**

The Parish Council, at its last meeting, considered the budget for the next financial year, from 1st April, 2020. It is requesting £67,600 from the Vale of White Horse District Council to help with the costs of the parish. This sum is shared between the council tax paying properties in the parish. This element of the Council Tax is currently £71.77 per band D property. This will rise slightly by an increase in the region of £1.78 next year making the amount payable £73.55 The budget can be found on the Council's website [www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk). As well as needing to undertake regular maintenance, and grass cutting within the village, the Council has set aside funds for consultant's fees in regards to the construction of the community facilities. Whilst the hall should be complete, there will be the monitoring of the construction of the multi-use games area, and legal work to be completed.

**Parishioner of the Year Award**

Thank you to all of you who have taken the time and trouble to write to the Council to put forward nominations for the Parishioner of the Year Award. The Council has a working party that is now considering all the nominations in order to prepare a shortlist for the Council to consider in due course.

**North Street – pavements at the southern end on the eastern side**

Concerns have been raised about the uneven state and poor condition of the footpaths at the southern end of North Street, on the eastern side of the road. These have been reported to the County Council on more than one occasion over the past few months, and it is very much hoped that action and repairs can take place in a timely fashion.

**Planning applications considered by the Parish Council**

R3.0128/19 Travel Plan for Marcham Primary School pursuant to condition 3 of R3.0008/19 the erection of two classrooms at Marcham Primary School, Morland Road. The Parish Council raised questions as to the monitoring and enforcement of the Plan.

P19/V2478/FUL Demolition of the existing garage, replacement new parking, amenity space and associated dwelling (amended plans and information) on land at 13 The Farthings. The Council continued to object to the application, as the amendments did not resolve all the concerns previously raised by the Council.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

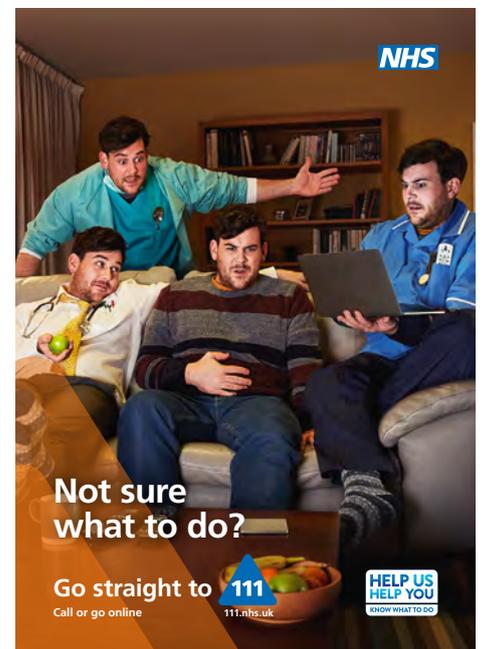
Wednesday 12th February at 7.30p.m. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place. Please check the Council's website in case arrangements change.

**Clerk to the Council:** Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833  
[clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

[www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://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.

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](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk)

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Dear Editor

When I handed over to you as editor of the Madnews I vowed to keep from commenting on items as much as possible, having had a good stretch of imposing my options on village life. I cannot however let the passing of Chris Ricketts without saying a few words. Chris and I worked together on many village activities, the main being the Marcham Cubs musical performances. She was a devoted villager and we have all gained from her tireless efforts in so many of our lives.

It may be a consideration to name the new Marcham Centre after her as a fitting memorial to a lifetime of devotion to us all. Thank you Chris. Rest in peace.

**MARTIN THORNE**

Dear Editor

As someone who has lived in the village my entire life, as have generations of family before me and whose father was a founder member of the Ex-Servicemen's Club, I just want to say what a sad upsetting sight our Institute now is. All that history demolished with total disregard and also to the generosity and trust of the Anson family. Not to mention the future impact on the already ridiculously congested North Street!

**SH**

**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 - a voluntary contribution (min £2) to cover costs. Can you spare a couple of hours every few weeks to join our rota - or would you like to join the passengers? Contact Marion Belcher on 07507 797757 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.

**We have been truly overwhelmed with all of the wonderful messages about Nanny Chris.**

**We invite you all to the funeral which will be held at All Saints' Church, Marcham on Saturday 1st February at 11:30 am, followed by a service at South Oxfordshire Crematorium at 1pm, for family and invited friends.**

**The family will then meet you at Denman College after the service for refreshments. Denman will be available after the Church service. All attendees of the funeral are allowed to park in Denman College throughout the day.**

**We'd like it if everyone could add something colourful/floral to what you wear on the day.**

*Thank you all for your kind messages and condolences  
 Nigel, Keith, Tom and Family*



**ABINGDON MARKETS IN FEBRUARY:**

- Monday 3 February
- Saturday 8 February Country Market (formerly WI)
- Monday 10 February
- Monday 17 February
- Friday 21 February Farmers' Market
- Monday 24 February
- Saturday 29 February Local Excellence Market



*All in Market Place except Country Market which is in West St Helen Street*

**Nominate now for the 2020 Community Policing Awards.**

The Community Policing Awards is now in its nineteenth year, providing an opportunity to recognise and nominate the work of officers, staff and volunteers who have made the greatest contribution to their community over the past year. Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond in their role? Someone who has made a difference to you or your community? If you can provide examples of this, nominate for the Community Policing Awards today.

There are nine categories this year:

- |                                 |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Community Police Officer</b> | <b>Volunteer</b>             |
| <b>PCSO</b>                     | <b>Community Volunteer</b>   |
| <b>Special Constable</b>        | <b>Problem Solving Award</b> |
| <b>Diversity Champion</b>       | <b>Response Officer</b>      |
| <b>Cadet</b>                    |                              |

Don't miss the chance to nominate your local hero, nominations close on Monday 24 February. For more information, please visit our website: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/about-us/corporate-events/community-policing-awards/>.

**Marcham Village Shop & Post Office**  
 16 North St, Marcham OX13 6NG  
 Call us: Shop 391993 / PO 391940  
**Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 17.30**  
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**Sunday: 08.00 - 10.00**



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**It's February - are you ready for Valentine's Day??**

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## Marcham WI

**Date:** Thursday, 20th February

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Venue:** Denman College

**Topic:** 'Treasures beneath our feet'



We are looking forward to welcoming **James Mather** to our February meeting. James will be telling us about his discovery, in 2015, of the Watlington Hoard, a collection of Viking silver buried in the 870s. You never know what you might find under your feet! Do come along and listen to his talk to find out more.

*New members and visitors are always welcome*

*Visitors £5, members free*

*For further information, please contact:*

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

## MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK:

**Thursday, February 13th**

This month's walk we will meet for lunch at 12.30 at The King William IV, Hailey, Ipsden, (Map Ref: SP 6420858; OX10 6AD) about 2 miles from the Wallingford/Henley road, A4074. We will start our walk of about 4 miles at 1.30 through quiet, undulating Chilterns country with no steep inclines, passing Ipsden and along part of the Icknield Way.



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.



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!*

### Dates for this Term

5th February	4th March
12th February	11 March
19th February NO CAFE	18th March
26th February	25th March



The  
**Marcham  
Society**

**Birds and Wildlife of the  
Ridgeway and Beyond**  
Roger Wyatt

*All Saints' Church, Marcham*  
**7.30 for 7.45pm Tuesday 11th February**

Non-members always welcome £3  
Further details: Sheila Dunford (391439)

[www.marchamsociety.org.uk](http://www.marchamsociety.org.uk)

Wantage & Grove Lions are holding a  
Cash Bingo and Great Raffle  
at Grove Village Hall on Saturday 8th Feb  
Doors open 6.45pm eyes down 7.30pm  
*hope to see you there*



**National Trust: Abingdon & District Association**  
2.30-3.30pm Tuesday February 25th  
Trinity Church Hall, Abingdon  
The Oxfordshire Drama Wardrobe



**National  
Trust**

On Tuesday February 25 2020, after a very short AGM, Lynda Hart and some of her colleagues will tell us about **The Oxfordshire Drama Wardrobe: A Treasury Of Costumes**. It includes a brief history of the Wardrobe and how it works, as well as showcasing and telling the history of costumes from Victorian and Wartime eras, 2 of their most popular collections. They will bring some examples of costumes as well as showing photos. If you were at the Heritage Day parade in Abingdon last September, you will have seen some of their costumes in action. 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 Barry on 01235 521372 or Ruth on 01235 524119.

## Marcham Bridge Club

Do you play Bridge?

Or do you want to learn?

Marcham Bridge Club meets

Monday nights at 7pm

at Manor Farm, Marcham.

All are welcome NO partner needed

Contact Joe Featherstone 01865 391426

or Bob Hall 01865 391626



## Don't miss out! Nominations for the Oxfordshire Care Awards 2020 close on 14th February 2020

The purpose of the Awards is to recognise and celebrate individuals, organisations, and companies who have demonstrated excellence within the care sector in Oxfordshire.

The organisations involved are Action for Carers Oxfordshire, Age UK Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers (OACP). Working together in partnership is at the heart of this new Awards initiative, bringing together statutory and independent care providers, the community/voluntary sector and unpaid carers.

There are ten categories: **Newcomer to Care Award, The Care Home Worker Award, The Unpaid Carer Award, The Community/Home Care Worker, The Care Team Award, The Care Employer Award, The Long-term Service Award, The Leadership Award, The Inspiration Award and Josie's Award.**

To nominate, or for more information, visit <https://oacp.org.uk/oxfordshire-care-awards-2020-inspiration-for-all/> or email [awards@oacp.org.uk](mailto:awards@oacp.org.uk). Alternatively, please call 01235 520463. Postal entries can be sent to Oxfordshire Care Awards 2020 c/o Age UK Oxfordshire, 9 Napier Court, Barton Lane, Abingdon, OX14 3YT.

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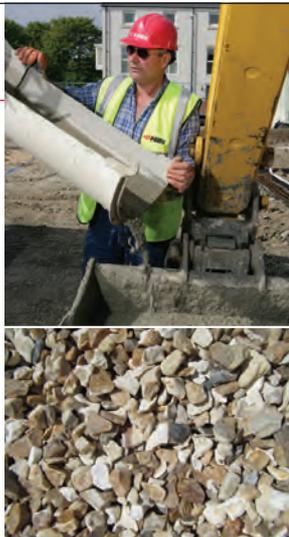
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## In memory of Chris Ricketts

MCG was deeply saddened to hear of the tragic loss of Chris Ricketts. She played such a key role in MCG as a dynamic trustee and as chair of the Hall Committee, and in many other village activities over many years, from Playgroup, Pre-School and Cubs to the Village Shop and the community minibus, to name just a few.

Chris touched the lives of so many people in Marcham over the years and will be hugely missed. We were delighted that Sponsor-a-Brick, run by the shop volunteers, passed the £3,000 mark in late December—this was Chris Ricketts' idea and she made it work. It is currently standing at over £3,100.

We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded a grant of £9701 from the VoWH New Homes Bonus grant scheme towards the purchase of new chairs and tables for the new hall. Along with other fund-raising, the total raised for furniture and fittings has now reached £37,000. We have still a gap to close, but we are moving in the right direction.

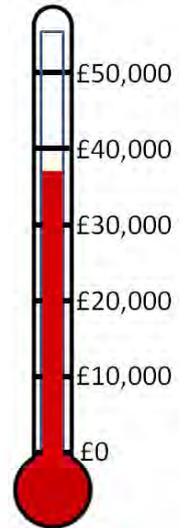


### Building progress

Our new village hall building continues to make progress to plan, as internal work moves on. The earth mound is being shifted away and the old nursery building will be removed in late January.

Work will start soon on grading the playing field for the new pitch positions. During this time large areas of the field will be fenced off over several months for ground work and grass-seeding. It will still be possible to

cross the field. We hope that regular field walkers will be patient over this time.



## Moonrakers Concert—22nd February

Marcham Church 7:30pm

The next big MCG fund-raising event is a concert by Oxford-based Moonrakers ([www.moonrakers.net](http://www.moonrakers.net)) with Celtic traditional and contemporary songs and tunes.

*“An uplifting journey”* (BBC); *“startlingly talented musicians”* (Oxford Times); *“The real deal”* (The Living Tradition).

MCG will be providing refreshments. Tickets (£15 each) are on sale in Marcham Village Shop. Please put the date in your diary and buy your tickets now while they remain available. We need your support!



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



Marcham Community Group—in memory of Chris Ricketts



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**Australian Fires, Literally.**

Our friends in Australia are on fire, quite literally. The bush fires, as seen on TV, show the seriousness of the situation, quite literally.



Here in Britain, between Christmas and New Year, many of us enjoyed some quite stunning glowing sunsets. I've been wondering if they had their stunningness enhanced by those Australian fires, quite literally?

The smoke has spread high into the atmosphere, and I wonder if it has spread around the globe? I'm left wondering if this smoke, in part, is having an impact on our very own sunsets?

What's this got to do with gardening and wildlife, which is always the angle of my monthly jottings?

Well, here's the link. When you are all out there tending your gardens, what's the residual effect of that activity? What effect does it have locally, nationally, internationally?

None of us exists in isolation. Our gardening habits can impact on us, on wildlife in it, on our neighbours and community. We can impact nationally and internationally if a critical mass buy into new and old habits, quite literally.

So as the nights draw out heading towards the new growing season, take a step back and consider what impact your garden has had, is having and will have?

It might inform what you do and don't do during the 2020 growing season.

**Happy Gardening!**

**Stuart Mabbutt**

01865 747243 [www.wildmaninspires.co.uk](http://www.wildmaninspires.co.uk)

**Join Stuart and William on their next nature walk Friday February 21st, 3pm to 5pm, £20 per person**



We've called it

"Small Is Beautiful" and it's an exploration of Florence Park and Surrounding Area in Oxford.

Bring the week to an end as we head into the weekend with this gentle Friday afternoon walk. February may at first glance still seem barren of much life as Winter comes to an end, but there's still plenty to see, hear and touch. Maybe even smell? Much of the nature at this time of year is often small and overlooked, which is why we've called this walk 'Small Is Beautiful'. William will use photography to make us aware of what we are walking past, and Stuart will use his wildlife watching knowledge to make us even more aware of everything that's around.

For tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/small-is-beautiful-a-photography-and-wildlife-workshop-tickets-86402826179>

**Flu Vaccine for Children**

For most children the flu vaccine is not an injection, just a quick nasal spray. Children can be badly affected by flu, especially those aged 2 and 3. Don't put it off, ask your GP about the free flu nasal spray today.

**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL**

Marcham Preschool had some added excitement for the new year ... a visit from Zoolab UK. The children met a variety of animals and learn all about how they move, the foods they eat and how they live... Well done everyone for such great listening and being brave enough to handle the animals! We met a bearded dragon, a giant cockroach, a tarantula, a grass snake and a gerbil! The animals were all very well behaved too! If you would like to find out more about Marcham Preschool please do get in touch, we will be looking at our admissions for September 2020 soon! Please ring 01865 392101 or email [Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk).



**Nicky Sanford,**

Early Years Teacher, Marcham Pre-School

01865 392101 [Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk)

[www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com)

What an amazing start to 2020 it has been! We have moved into our brand new Nursery! We want to say a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped us with the move; you may have seen us carrying toys across the field, we made it!



All our Little Angels have been settling into their new home so well! The babies have been loving all the space to explore and their new sensory areas! Our toddler and preschool children now have their very own rooms bespoke to their needs, it has been magical to watch them all grow in our new home! Our family has also been growing with lots of new children joining Little Angels.

One of our favourite areas in our new setting is our garden! We have a big sand and mud play area, a shaded quiet area to chill out under, wooden beams to climb and balance and even our very own mound with a tunnel and slide! The smiles on the children's faces make all the hard work so worthwhile! We are so excited for what this year will bring!

**Make Today Great**

**Our spaces are filling fast! If you would like some information about a space for your baby, toddler, or pre-schooler please just give Gina a call on 01865 819992 to arrange an appointment.**

[www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk](http://www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk)

and follow us on Facebook: [littleangelsmarcham](https://www.facebook.com/littleangelsmarcham)

**PTA ROUND-UP**

A Happy New Year from everyone in the PTA. I hope you all had a great Christmas and are ready for another year of great PTA events.

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair in December, those who manned the stalls and those who spent money at them! You raised more than £1,600, money the school will use to augment the education of the parish's children. Thank you, one and all. Our next event will be the first school disco of the new decade on **Friday 7 February** – full details will be publicised in the school newsletter and on Facebook.

If you'd like to join our merry band, we're always looking for new faces to add to the team, so don't be shy – drop me a line or give me a call.

Best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

*See you on the school run.*

**PETER KIDD**

PTA Chair 07708 251312 [peter.kidd61@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.kidd61@btinternet.com)



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Oxfordshire knitters have raised £10,000 for Age UK Oxfordshire by taking part in the national Big Knit campaign. This amount was part of the national total of 1.5 million hats – a total of

£375,000 fundraised for Age UKs across the country. A total of 40,000 hats were knitted locally for Age UK Oxfordshire – a massive 15,000 more than the Charity's original target of 25,000 hats. Following sales of smoothies, this means that £10,000 was raised for Age UK Oxfordshire. This money will help support local older people who have no one else to turn to, including those facing poor health, financial difficulties or loneliness.

Innocent are already planning for the next Big Knit, so you don't need to put your knitting needles away just yet! Every hat is important, and anyone can learn to knit, so whether you knit one or loads, you'll be making a difference. If you already have knitted hats ready to go, you can drop them off or post them to Age UK Oxfordshire, 9 Napier Court, Barton Lane, Abingdon, OX14 3YT. For further information on the Big Knit, please call 07827235405 or email [sophiedyer@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:sophiedyer@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk).

## CITIZENS ADVICE CAN HELP YOU THROUGH RELATIONSHIP BREAKDOWN



There is no storm quite like an emotional storm, and the trauma of a separation from a loved one can be devastating and overwhelming. Some people say it feels as if the ground is falling away beneath their feet. It helps if you know there's somewhere you can go right away for help: Citizens Advice.

If you and your partner or spouse have decided that separation is inevitable, you should try to work out the practical details between yourselves. But bear in mind that you might eventually need to consult a solicitor as well to enshrine your agreement in law, especially if you have assets or children. Going to court should be regarded as a last resort.

Discuss with your ex-partner where you will live, where your children will live, and how to split any money or belongings. If you and your partner are too upset to talk to each other calmly, wait and talk later, or use a mediator.

If your partner makes you feel threatened, get help. Call Refuge or Women's Aid on 0808 2000 247. There is also a Men's Advice Line on 0808 801 0327.

If you have children with your partner, you are both responsible for the cost of looking after them when you separate, even if you are not married. The parent who moves out might have to pay maintenance to the parent who looks after the children.

Consider any outstanding debts or loans that you might have, and think about who needs to be informed about the separation. If you pay council tax, or receive benefits or tax credits, get in touch with the relevant people and tell them about your new status.

Citizens Advice can help you find the ground beneath your feet so you can move on. Call Citizens Advice Adviceline on 0300 3309 042 or come and see us in person. For locations of offices and opening hours visit <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale>

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Many people who come to us face difficult and sometimes frightening problems that threaten to overwhelm them. In 2019 we helped three quarters to resolve their problems. For volunteers, we offer a welcoming office environment and an opportunity to gain new skills, meet new people and make a real and valued contribution to your local community, It's up to you when you volunteer. We normally ask for two half days a week but can be flexible. If you are interested, please go to [citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/) or email Jon Bright, Director: [jon.bright@osavcab.org.uk](mailto:jon.bright@osavcab.org.uk)



**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 making cards, jewellery and exquisite lace, plus knitting and sewing !

Fridays 10-12 Marcham Baptist Hall

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

### Denman Faberdashery Sale

The Faberdashery Shop volunteers are now working hard to make sure that the next sale planned for **Saturday 21st March 2020** at Denman has lots of different items for our visitors to browse and maybe purchase. Bring your fabric to match our extensive range of roll-ends in extremely useful sizes.

We also have **dark red polyester fabric** in assorted sizes - mostly 60" wide - ranging from half a yard to 6 yard lengths. It would be most suitable for a drama group / choir / to make matching skirts or accessories.. Suggested donation price is £2 yard.

Also available 'Holiday Goody Craft Bags' suitable to occupy everyone during the Easter holidays or rainy days.

Non-crafters can enjoy a coffee and a look around the grounds of Denman - the spring flowers should be out - whilst our crafters are busy finding those essential bargains.

**Although children are very welcome, the College grounds contains a lake so the responsibility of the supervision of the young ones is with the parents not Denman.**

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**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

As you will all be very aware, the climate emergency has become of paramount importance to the whole world. We are told by three global agencies- Nasa, NOAA and the UK Met- that the last 10 years, to the end of 2019, have been confirmed as the warmest decade on record. Indeed, last year was the second warmest on record dating back to 1850, 2016 being the warmest. Last year also saw two major heat waves hit Europe in June and July with a new national record of 46° C set in France on 28th June. New records were also set in Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and in the UK at 38.7C. In Australia the mean summer temperature was the highest on record by almost a degree. Now parts of Australia are beset by terrifying, spontaneous fires reminiscent of those in California last year. So it is vital that every country recognises this emergency and does something about it.

I am spending a few weeks in California (where my daughter and her husband live and who are about to have their first baby), and I have been struck by the progress it has made on putting in procedures to mitigate against global warming and the strong policies it has implemented. For example:

1) **Planning policies**

- all new builds have to be built to zero carbon footprint. So no gas is permitted....only electric is used.
- solar panels or solar windows or solar tiles have to be installed so that each new house provides enough electricity for itself throughout the year.
- rainwater tanks are installed below ground to collect grey water from gutters for the gardens, car washing etc
- instant hot water systems are used instead of hot water tanks.
- most houses are factory built to zero carbon levels.

2) **Transport changes**

- strong incentives are put forward to encourage people to buy electric cars
- retail businesses have to install electric chargers. To encourage shoppers to use their business, free electric charging is often offered
- utility companies offer a year's worth of free power if you buy an electric car
- electric scooters and golf carts are provided in cities (rather like Santander Cycles in London), where the average journey in the US is under 2 miles.

3) **Recycling** has become a major industry and new laws are being put in like the abolishment of one-use plastic.

4) **Technical advances** continue to be made.

At the Vale, the Planning Department is working hard to devise as many good strong policies as it can in its new Local Plan, with the help and support of all departments and the new Climate Emergency Committee. Unfortunately, it takes roughly 4 years to make a new Local Plan and so 4 years before we can implement new policies. We are looking at other possible ways of introducing policies earlier by, for example, tweaking SPDs (supplementary planning documents) and such like. As Greta Thunberg has been trying to warn us, all institutions like District Councils must recognise the signs of Climate Change and act now!

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

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

2019 was, for many of us, a tumultuous year. With District Elections in early May, Euro Elections (remember those?) in late May, and a General Election in December – Brenda from Bristol was not on her own. Hopefully, 2020 will be an opportunity for things to settle down – nationally, at least.

On the local front, the year presents at least three main challenges

and uncertainties. The first is, of course, Council budgets. For the first time in many years, the Oxfordshire County Council budget has a reasonably healthy look with no major cuts on the horizon. It may be that the Councillor Priority Fund (£15K to each Council Division) is a drop in the ocean of the overall £500m+ budget, but it is very good news that it is to be continued for another year. Doubtless there will be arguments over how any spare money should be spent, but that there should be any to spend is something of a novelty.

The VWHDC Budget does not, as expected, present such a happy picture. Many years of failing to raise District Council tax in line with most other Councils, together with an over-reliance on New Homes Bonus, and a reduction in business rate contribution, has produced a perfect storm facing the new administration. VWHDC is not alone with such problems. As a result, Unitary Local Government is very much back on the table. Nobody wants a repeat of the Northamptonshire debacle.

The second major challenge for 2020 is our local planning and infrastructure. The government drive for growth in Oxfordshire has put enormous pressure on our infrastructure - particularly our road system. Promises of government money have depended on Local Plans being in place. Understandably, residents want infrastructure before more housing. With the possibility of a change in focus to infrastructure in the North of England, we wait to see the impact on our area. There is no doubt that the proposed road from Didcot over the Thames is an essential part of future growth in our area – without it, the local road system will not take any more housing.

The third challenge, and the most important, is the Environment. Whilst everyone knows that it is changes in China, India and the US which will make the big difference, the UK and Oxfordshire should be demonstrating what can be done to reduce carbon output. This means changes in building and planning policies. Changes in what we eat, what we wear, and how we travel. There are growing signs that these things can be achieved without damaging our economic growth.

My family has an end of year game in which we each put into a box 3 predictions for the next year – one national, one local and one for the family. The box is opened at the end of the year. Not many of us got much right for 2019. But that will not stop me from wishing everyone a Very Happy 2020.

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.  
Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001



**Get help with home repairs**

There are services and funds available to help people (owners and private tenants) stay independent, safe and well in their homes, and Oxfordshire County Council has developed a referral service to help residents (or carers) access the right organisations in their area, to get the help they need.

The type of help that can be provided are services such as new boilers, repairs to boilers, loft or cavity wall insulation, access to a local and trustworthy repairs service and general advice on how to stay safe, well and affordably warm in your home.

**For more information or to make a referral visit**  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homerepairs](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homerepairs)

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Oxford Harmony is a male, four part harmony chorus and we're looking for new members.

Email John Carter ([pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk](mailto:pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk)) to register your interest. Experienced, returning or new singers are all welcome unless currently the subject of a noise abatement order.



**Oxford Harmony**

Rehearsing from 7:30pm to 10:00pm every Wednesday at Seacourt Hall, 3 Church Way, Oxford, OX2 9TH  
[www.oxfordharmony.co.uk](http://www.oxfordharmony.co.uk)

Oxford Harmony Club is a registered charity, number 1141617

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For further information please contact Christine on **07787 831831** or email [tickets@harmonyinspires.org](mailto:tickets@harmonyinspires.org)

Limited number of places so early booking advisable!



## DRAYTON SEQUENCE DANCE CLUB



Dancing Thursday Nights at Drayton Village Hall  
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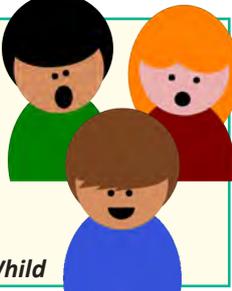
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## SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Tuesday 11th and 25th February  
 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*



## Abingdon Reservoir – Latest News from GARD



Ofwat has published its response to the water companies' plans. The bottom line is that Ofwat remains unconvinced by the proposals and now requires the companies to work on a study to inform fresh plans for water resources across the south-east. They are also demanding much more effort on leakage reduction. The companies now have three years to complete the study and publish their findings.

This does not mean that the reservoir is off the table. It remains a threat to our area. However, it will be judged alongside other schemes, such as Severn-Thames water transfer, long advocated by GARD.

Ofwat are allowing £450 million for this study. This colossal sum will be raised from customers' bills. We all have an interest and duty to see that it is spent wisely and that the study won't be manipulated to rubber stamp the plans of private investors in the water companies.

It is clear that Ofwat have been listening to the views of local communities and other stakeholders. We need to ensure that this continues to be the case. GARD is working now to ensure that all of the local councils affected by the reservoir proposal work together to coordinate their objections. Acting together, we will be stronger. In the meantime, thanks to a generous donation from a local trust, we will be commissioning a Flooding Risk Study of the reservoir project.

**If you wish to support GARD in our endeavours to protect our communities, please contact [gard.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:gard.secretary@gmail.com)**

**[www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk](http://www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk)**

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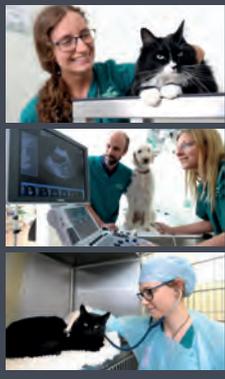


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**Patients urged to help the NHS help them this winter**



Winter is traditionally the busiest time of year for the NHS, and so patients are being reminded to only use Emergency Departments in Oxford and Banbury in an emergency. There are a range of alternative options available for non-emergency situations to ensure you get the appropriate care you need, and save an unnecessary trip to the A&E.

**What's available?**

- Self-care is the best choice for minor illnesses and injuries – a range of common winter ailments can be treated at home with a well-stocked medicine cabinet. Having a winter plan – such as keeping stocked up on medicines, keeping your home warm, and looking out for neighbours – can also be beneficial.
- Local pharmacies can give advice on several conditions, such as coughs, headaches, upset stomachs and skin conditions, as well as advise on stopping coughs and colds from getting worse.
- NHS 111 has call handlers who can help you choose the right health services for your needs, as well as a website. NHS 111 can put you in touch with a clinician, a GP, book you an appointment at your nearest minor injuries unit. You can also use NHS 111 online 111.nhs.uk
- Minor injuries units can treat deep cuts, small burns, sprains, sports injuries, and infected wounds. To find out your nearest MIU please visit the Oxford Health website
- Your local GP may offer extended opening hours into the evening or at the weekend.

Most importantly, only attend Emergency Departments when there is a genuine emergency, such as loss of consciousness, suspected heart attack or stroke, severe breathing difficulties, or severe bleeding that cannot be stopped.

	Grazed knee. Sore throat. Cough. Stock your medicine cabinet.	<b>Self-care</b>
	Unwell? Unsure? GP surgery closed? Need help?	<b>NHS 111</b>
	Diarrhoea. Runny nose. Painful cough. Headache.	<b>Pharmacy</b>
	Vomiting. Ear pain. Stomach ache. Back ache.	<b>GP surgery</b>
	Choking. Chest pain. Blacking out. Blood loss.	<b>A&amp;E or 999 Emergencies only</b>

**'Staying Well This Winter' – new winter booklet offers advice to older people**



Age UK Oxfordshire has once again joined forces with local partners to provide advice to older people on staying healthy and well during the winter. Brought to you in partnership with Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust and Oxfordshire County Council, Age UK Oxfordshire is encouraging older people to create a personalised winter plan. As we get older, it can be harder to stay healthy in winter, so it is vital that everyone is well prepared when the weather takes a turn for the worse and the season for flu, coughs and colds really kicks in.

'Staying Well This Winter' is full of tips and advice on how to look after ourselves and others. This might include having a list of emergency phone numbers by your phone, getting repeat prescriptions in plenty of time or having a free flu vaccination if you are in an 'at risk' group. This useful booklet also includes a handy checklist of items you may need as part of your winter plan.

Ruth Swift, Head of Community Development at Age UK Oxfordshire, said: "We hope that you will find our winter booklet useful. Please pass it on to a friend or neighbour so that as many of us as possible can stay well this winter."

You can download the booklet via [www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire). Alternatively, you can receive a printed copy by contacting Age UK Oxfordshire by phone on 01235 849 434 or email [network@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:network@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk).



The beginning of a year is a time when TV programmes and the newspapers contain articles about getting back in shape after Christmas – eating more healthily and taking more exercise. If you have diabetes so this is particularly important but you also have to manage medications as well as diet and exercise.

We know that this can be difficult, especially when salads seem less appetising in winter and we feel we need something more substantial. Our booklet, 'Diabetes – Everyday Eating' will help you to get back on track with meals and provides inexpensive menus for breakfast, lunch and evening meals. There are 28 days of menus which help you to know what you can eat, rather than what you can't! We also have a booklet, 'Diabetes and Exercise' to help you with your fitness and mobility.

We hope these booklets will make life a little easier for people with diabetes and their families.

To receive copies of 'Diabetes – Everyday Eating' and 'Diabetes and Exercise' free of charge just contact us on 01604 622837, e-mail [jenny@iddtinternational.org](mailto:jenny@iddtinternational.org) or write to IDDT, PO Box 294, Northampton NN1 4XS

# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

[www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk](http://www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk)



Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Psalm 23 v 4

Dear Friends,

Many of us in our community have been shocked and deeply affected by the sad news of dear Chris. Ricketts' death several weeks ago. Chris had a deep concern for village life and for people and in so many ways this concern was expressed in caring and practical action, here and overseas. Her involvement in the village shop and as a trustee of the Marcham Community Group were both illustrative of her heart for the community. It was Chris who suggested the sponsor-a-brick initiative for the new community building, which has been so successful, and she headed up the Hall Committee for the new building. Her leadership of Cubs and our uniformed organisations, were illustrative of her heart for young people. Her death leaves a big hole, not only in the lives of her family, but at the heart of Marcham. **The funeral service takes place in All Saints' on Saturday February 1st at 11.30am.**

Sudden and unexpected death comes as a jolt to all of us. In many ways such incidents come as a 'wake up call' to us. Life is fragile and at times, hard and deals a curve ball, which we might find hard to cope with. Such occasions remind us of how important human relations are, and friendships in particular.

The reaction of Martha to the death of her brother [John chapter 11] is such a natural and normal reaction of so many of us: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died!" We so often cry out to God in these times "God, where are you? If only you had been here." The natural and normal expressions of grief kick in, and we question the faith that may have so often been a source of comfort, help and inner strength.

The most profound unfolding of that particular incident in Jesus' life, includes two important elements: firstly, that Jesus sobbed at the news of his friend's death. I find this both comforting and amazing. Christian faith believes that Jesus is God [the Son of God], and here he is sobbing at the death of someone he cared for and loved. He enters into grief and allows that loss to move him deeply. It means that he enters into our griefs and bereavements with us, shares our tears, and understands how we are affected by the deaths of those close to us.

Secondly, Jesus asks Martha a searching question: "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. ... Do you believe this, Martha?" Jesus offers us real hope beyond the grave. He is the one who offers us life after death, and his own resurrection underlined and proved that. Martha's answer is "Yes, Lord ... I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God ..." I share that trusting faith, even though the actual grief processes can be both painful and distressing.

So, dear Friends, as we walk through the valley of the shadow of Chris's death, may I encourage us to hold on in faith to the promises of Christ, for He is with us, to guide, give comfort, and courage in the present, and to help us look to higher and brighter horizons that lie beyond the gate of death.

With my prayers, and warmest gratitude,  
Richard

**Regular events: Sunday services at 10am & 5pm, Toddler Group, Tuesdays 9.30-11.30am Wednesday mid-week communion, 10.30am in Duffield Place Lounge. Village Café, Wednesdays 12pm in the Baptist Hall until March Friday Club, 5.30-6.30pm at All Saints' Church (primary-age)**

## Contacts:

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