



◀ The Guides on an outing to Shotover see page 7

SEE PAGE 5 FOR LOCAL HELP



▲ Little Angels learning about hand-washing see page 11



▲ St George's Day is on 23 April

Go online and find out who else George is the patron saint of.... you might be surprised!



◀ Pre-school meet Buhusi and hug trees see page 11



Diary for April

Every day	Wash your hands and keep your distance!	
8 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Baptist Church Hall, 19.30 To Be Confirmed	3
20 Mon	Deadline for next MADNews, 17.00 editor@madnews.co.uk	
22 Wed	Frilford Parish AGM, Abingdon Prep School, 19.00-21.00 To Be Confirmed	3



▲ see page 7

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

HELP AND ADVICE - AND SEE PAGE 5 FOR LOCAL HELP



www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news-events/coronavirus-covid-19-information



NEW TELEPHONE SUPPORT SERVICE FOR OLDER PEOPLE



A new telephone support service has been launched by Age UK Oxfordshire, offering advice and assistance to older people concerned during this time.

Call **01865 411 288**, leave your name and phone number and you will get a call back as soon as possible.

Assistance includes a friendly, weekly call to see how you are and to problem-solve if you are facing practical problems.

Elderly & Vulnerable Priority Shopping Hours	
	Thursday - the first hour of opening.
	Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9am - 10am. (except Express stores).
	Friday - from store opening until 9am.
	Monday and Thursday - the first hour of opening.
	The first hour of opening, every day.
	Monday to Saturday, 9am - 10am.
	The first hour of opening, every day.
	Check local stores.
	Check local stores.

NEED OUR ADVICE? CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

From Wednesday 18th March, Citizens Advice will no longer be offering face-to-face appointments to try to reduce the spread of Coronavirus. Previously booked appointments will be changed to a telephone appointment. You will still be able to talk to our advisers by telephone.

Advice line: 0300 330 9042
Monday to Friday 09:00 to 17:00
www.caox.org.uk



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Please don't leave it to someone else. Most people can give blood. If you are generally in good health, age 17 to 65 (if it's your first time) and weigh at least 7st 12lb you can donate. You can give blood every 16 weeks, and it only takes a few minutes.

To find a session contact
www.blood.co.uk 0300 123 23 23
If you are already a donor, why not take a friend next time!



RECYCLE CORKS FOR WILDLIFE

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.

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TOURS and TASTINGS have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. We hope to open our grounds to the public from late April, with strict control of numbers - if government guidelines allow):
Please check website for updates

01865 390067 office@bothyvineyard.co.uk
www.bothyvineyard.co.uk Facebook: bothyvineyard

Dear Readers

Conditions are moving quickly with regard to the Covid-19 situation. So any adverts and notices may not be applicable by the time this gets printed and distributed.

Page 5 gives details of people who can help if you are isolated, if you can't find anyone to help you can email or call MADNews - see the details just below.

Until next time – keep safe



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14 Tower Close, Marcham
Abingdon Tel: 01865 391275

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.

POLICE

PCSO Rich Osborn C9323
Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk for Marcham
07980 924693

Or just dial 101 (non-emergency) and omit the C from his number

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Call Free from any phone - 111

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

Annual Meeting of Electors

The Annual meeting of electors currently is scheduled to take place on Thursday 21st May, at 7.30p.m. in the school hall. The guest speaker this year is Mr. Tom McCulloch from Community First Oxfordshire, who will outline ways that communities can influence the planning of the area in which they live and work. The talk should provide a very interesting introduction to Neighbourhood Planning. However, please read the next issue of MAD News and check the Parish Council's website for the latest information, as it is possible that arrangements may have to change.

Drayton Household Waste Recycling Centre

At the time of writing, the Drayton recycling centre will be closed on Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th April, 2020 to allow for cleaning and essential maintenance at the site, such as jet washing and repainting lines. This is part of the County Council's planned approach to maintenance, and is carried out annually in order to keep the site safe. If it is not possible to hold on to your waste until the site reopens, provided the County Council is keeping these sites functioning, the ones at Redbridge and Stanford in the Vale will be available.

A420 Traffic - Meeting 6th March with David Johnston MP

Parish Councillor James Plumb attended a meeting of parishes representing areas along the A420. David Johnston MP was present and had attended to listen to concerns regarding the excessive volumes of traffic, excessive speed, unsafe conditions for pedestrians and cyclists, and road noise affecting properties. Marcham was particularly concerned with the diversion of traffic along the A415, and it was noted that the Police needed to reconsider diversion routes following accidents or road closures. There was a shared objective between the parishes regarding traffic and the problems with which we all identified.

David Johnston is tabling an Adjournment Debate which would enable him to speak on the issues of the A420 and require a minister to respond. see page 15.

Faringdon Road and Gozzard Ford – Road Works and Closure

The County Council has informed the Parish Council that from 8.00p.m. – 6.00 p.m. from 3rd April for approximately 5 nights, the road from Gozzards Ford to the end of Barrow Lane will be closed to facilitate crack and joint sealing works. In addition from 17th April to 23rd April between 4.00a.m. – 6.00p.m. the road

nearer The Dog House public house will have restricted stopping and waiting owing to resurfacing works.

Marcham Play Area

Currently the play area in the Anson field is closed as work to create the pitches progresses. This aspect of the work should be finished around mid April. Once the pitches are finished, fencing will be erected around them to ensure that they can develop properly without disturbance. The access from Tower Close and the Southern side of the field will be restored, and the play area will be usable again.

Planning Applications

The Parish Council has not received any planning applications for consideration this month.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Parish Councils, under normal circumstances make their decisions at meetings open to the public and the press. In view of the coronavirus, the Council is considering plans on how to keep functioning if it is unable to meet in public. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday 8th April, 2020 at 7.30 p.m. in the Baptist Church, Packhorse Lane, but please check the Council's website for the latest information.

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

Frilford Parish AGM will be held at Abingdon Prep on Wednesday April 22nd, 7pm-9pm - unless the PHE coronavirus advice changes. Please contact Shaun at frilfordparish@gmail.com if you have concerns and see page 5 for local help.

MINIBUS SERVICE TO TESCO

The weekly run on Mondays to Tesco has been cancelled until further notice. Please see the notice on page 5 for help with shopping and essential services

Dear Editor

Both my parents and I knew Chris well, she taught me to drive and let me smoke! She served for many years with Dad on the parish council. (Not a lot of people know about the contribution we made) but as such I would like to put my own case forward for it being named after Chris. Marcham Community Hall is shorter but let's just not have memorial in the title! I think the Chris Ricketts Hall sounds good.

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If you are self-isolating due to corona virus (Covid-19) then there are many neighbours in the village willing to assist you. If you need shopping collected or just a friendly call, we are here to try and help. Marcham Helpers has been formed to try and support everyone in our community through this extraordinary time. Hopefully you will have had a leaflet from one of your neighbours already. If you would like to help, please search for 'Marcham helpers COVID19' on Facebook or if you need help please email marchamhelpers@the-kraken.co.uk and we'll put you in touch with people who have volunteered on your street. See opposite for the full list.

JACQUII AND JUDE

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 16 North St, Marcham OX13 6NG
 Call us: Shop 391993 / PO 391940
Due to the current situation we have had to restrict the opening hours to protect our volunteers and customers
Mon - Sat: 08.00 - 10.00
Sunday: Closed

If have difficulty getting to the shops, please see the table on right for your local volunteers to help get your essential supplies to you.



For more information locally, see the District Report on page 15 or see the website for the Vale: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news-events/coronavirus-covid-19-information

Tesco Notice: We want to help everyone through these uncertain times, especially those who need extra help. So from today, all our stores (except Express stores) will be Prioritising the **elderly and most vulnerable for one hour between 9am and 10am every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.** Every **Sunday**, all Tesco stores will prioritise a **browsing hour before checkouts open for NHS workers**, giving them dedicated time to shop for their essentials.

MARCHAM		
Abbots Grange	Helen Amatiello	Marie Scoble Simpkins
All Saints Close	Jacqui John	Rachel Gaisford
Anson Close	Becky Hibbert	Laura Elizabeth Gorley
Chancel Way	Amanda Davies	Chrystal Poon
Church Street	Jacqui John	Rachel Gaisford
Duffield Place	Ellie Wright	Ryth Wilson
Fettiplace Road	Sarah Leese	
Frilford Road	Jude Brown	Caroline Manders
Haines Court	Michaela Rollinson	Ellie Wright
Harding Way	Brandy Coote	Peter Kidd
Howard Cornish	Jacqueline Ward	Alex Alsworth
Hyde Copse	Andrew Berry	Louise Butt
King's Avenue	Amanda Davies	Chrystal Poon
Long Fields	Katherine Meutcheye	Chris Barrett
Mill Road	Lesley Anne Cope	Katie Dearing
Monks Walk	Sarah Lunn	Marie Scoble Simpkins
Moorland Road	Elizabeth Norman	Lucy Stevens
New Road	Jacqui John	Rachel Gaisford
North Street (inc Sweet Briar)	Lesley Anne Cope	Sam Towers
Orchard Way	Ruth Marsh	Anna Braithwaite
Packhorse Lane	Laura Gates	Jackie King
Park Side	Jacqui John	Rachel Gaisford
Pastures	Katherine Meutcheye	Chris Barrett
Pointer Place	Jill Rowe	
Sheepstead Rd	Claire Ridgeon	
The Farthings	Christine Brown	
The Gap	Lesley Anne Cope	Anna Byrne
The Green	Laura Youngman	
Tower Close	Lucy Stevens	Anne Wilson
Willow Farm	Jill Rowe	Natalie Seamer

There are other volunteers who are available to help for each area so if you can't contact the person shown, please contact Jude or Jacqui by email marchamhelpers@the-kraken.co.uk or call MADNews on 391725

FRILFORD		
Faringdon Road	Christine Antoun	
Oxford Road	Claire Boers, Sarah Mitchell	Elaine & Oliver Boorer Celia Sykes
Kingston Road	Alison & Shaun Forrestal Fran & Charles Russell	Kate Jackson, Araminta Morris, Hannah Williams

If you can't contact the person shown, please contact Shaun or Christine by email frilfordparish@gmail.com or call MADNews on 391725

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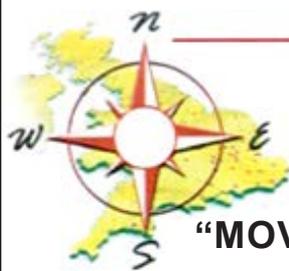
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NEW DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED!

After 182 (give or take a couple) issues of MADNews, Judith and Peter Fontaine are stepping down as the distributors. Each month they take in the copies, count them out and bundle them up. Then they take them to each deliverer so that month's issue can get delivered to your door. They also keep a note of all the deliverers and find new ones as and when required.

Before our current process of getting the issue printed professionally, they also collated each copy by hand on their dining table and stapled it! A quick calculation makes that nearly 2 million sheets of paper.

So, it isn't surprising that they would now like to hand on the task to someone else.

Nowadays it is much easier. The issues come ready stapled in boxes so you just need to be able to count and then get each bundle to the deliverers.

If you think you would like to take this on, please contact Judith and Peter on 391275 for a chat and see how it is done.



On the Monday of half term Guides went to Shotover Country Park to do some activities including orienteering. Despite the wind and rain, we managed to go on a nice walk through the woods, looking for orienteering posts. By the time we were back out the woods, we were all rather wet and muddy and ready for some hot chocolate and enjoyed it with lovely home-made biscuits. After that we looked for what natural things we could find and headed back for a final game of Ambush. Overall, it was a fun, successful trip that everyone loved. Games, songs (and even getting stuck in a tree) were all thoroughly enjoyed and we look forward to more amazing opportunities like this in the future. *See cover for photo*



AOIFE MARAH

Anne Smithson and Sheila Dunford are hoping to hold a plant sale in May and if anyone has any small (3") flowerpots they don't want could they please let us have them. Please drop them off to Prior's Corner, Priory Lane or 18 Frilford Rd. If you aren't able to get out, please ring Sheila on 391439 to arrange collection



VE DAY

Plans are being made for some weather-proof virtual activities to commemorate Victory in Europe (VE) Day on 8th May. Things we can do together but apart!



Ideas so far include:

- Flying flags of all nations
- A cut out and colour in Union Flag
- A Stay-at-Home Picnic
- Sing-along online
- Decorated Cakes Competition
- Quiz
- Virtual Fancy Dress
- Cook up some Wartime Recipes and share the photos



If you have any ideas, please email Jill Rowe jill.rowe.ycm@googlemail.com and we will compile a programme to publish in next month's MADNews and online at madnews.co.uk/veday.

And if all goes well, we may be able to get together in person to commemorate Victory in Japan (VJ) Day in August!

Marcham WI

Date: Cancelled

Following current advice from the government over Coronavirus, we are sadly going to have to cancel our April meeting on Thursday 16th April.



This would have been a speaker from the Children's Air Ambulance. When a child is fighting for their life, they need expert medical treatment fast. The Children's Air Ambulance can fly medical teams and equipment to them from across the UK, turning their local hospital into a specialist centre.

We very much hope that we will be able to rearrange this talk at a later date and will keep you all informed as to when we are able to recommence our meetings. We hope it will not be too long before we see you all again and meanwhile hope you all stay healthy.

New members and visitors will be welcome when we are able to meet again

Visitors £5, members free

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK:

No Group Walks this month

But if you can get out in the fresh air safely, you should! Spring has sprung, the flowers are blooming, the trees are blossoming, the birds are singing and the frogs are definitely here!



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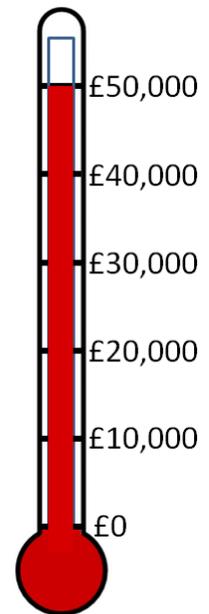
Nearly there...but when will we be able to open?

The good news is that we are currently expecting a handover date for the new Marcham Village Hall in the last week of April. Building work on the new hall building and fitting of all internal installed equipment is essentially complete and construction of the MUGA is also nearly complete. Over the next few weeks, surveys will be carried out to identify any snagging issues that need to be resolved before handover. Our solicitor is working with the Parish Council solicitor to complete the lease agreements that we need to have in place for handover to occur. We will then be able to start our furnishing and fitting work.

The not-so good news is that we don't know if Covid-19 will impact on these final stages. We don't have control over the virus or government responses to the risks. We think it is highly unlikely that we will be able to open the hall to users groups for some time after we complete our fitting-out. The delay is likely to be many weeks or months as we are coming to realise. This is a community facility and we need to safeguard people as a high priority.



Large areas of the field have now been fenced off for ground work and grass-seeding on the new pitch areas, and access to the field is currently very limited to the small area in the north east corner accessible from Tower Close. We know that people are being patient over this period and we are grateful for your understanding.



We have had very good news on fund-raising for furniture and fittings. The Moonrakers concert raised a very welcome **£1154**—thank you again to all who came and supported the concert. Sponsor-a-brick, run by the village shop volunteers, has now reached a total of **£3500**. We are making a last push to make it to the target of **£4000** before the hall opens—please help us do this, even in these difficult times! We would also like to get our 5p total up to 10,000—so check your pockets and purses and drop them off to Denise, please.

We were delighted to hear that our grant application in November to the National Lottery Community Fund was successful—they liked what we told them about our project and are funding our application in full! They have awarded us a grant of **£9920** towards our furniture and fittings project, taking us much closer to our target. We have already received the cash in our bank account.



Watch this space over the coming issues of MAD News as the picture unfolds further. 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.



Nearly there...but when will we be able to open?



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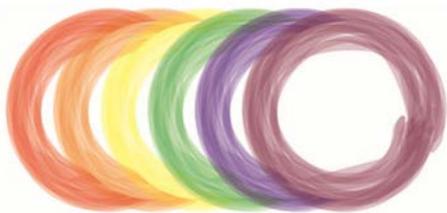
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PTA ROUND-UP

I hope you're all well, because we are living in extraordinary times. The Coronavirus and the government's medical advice to avoid all unnecessary social gatherings means that we need cancelled all our planned PTA fundraising events for the foreseeable future. Naturally, we will monitor the situation, and as soon as the advice changes we'll be back, bigger and better than ever.

But that does not mean we have suspended our fundraising, and the PTA is thinking creatively about how we can raise funds without needing to gather people together. Of course, we are aware that the current situation will be causing many people severe financial hardship, so we need to be sensitive in what we do. If you have any ideas, please let us know.

One way you can continue to help us is by using Amazon Smile. Instead of using the AMAZON.CO.UK website, use the SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK website. You'll be using your existing Amazon account, so you'll see all your saved lists, all your order history, all your preferences. You'll see all the same Amazon products and pay exactly the same prices as if you were shopping on the regular Amazon site. But Amazon will be giving us 0.05p for every £1 you spend. So if you spend £100 at Amazon Smile instead, they'll give us 5p. How much does the village spend at Amazon over 12 months? Thousands and thousands of pounds, I'm sure. Every time you buy from Amazon Smile, Marcham School will benefit. You have to do nothing other than make your purchases from SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK; the rest is automatic. You can find out more about Amazon Smile at <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/gp/chpf/about/>.

The first time you use it, you'll be asked to select your chosen charity. Choose "Marcham Ce (Vc) Primary School Parent Teacher Association". And that's it. Every purchase you make from the Amazon Smile website from then on will send 0.05% of your purchase price to the Marcham PTA bank account, money that we will be put to good use by the school.

Please switch now. Replace your bookmark for AMAZON.CO.UK with one for SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK and make Amazon contribute to the future success of Marcham School. The School, the PTA and Marcham's parents will be very grateful. Best wishes to you all during these difficult days.

See you on the school run – as long as we have one!

PETER KIDD

PTA Chair 07708 251312 peter.kidd61@btinternet.com

IT SEEMED LIKE IT MIGHT NEVER HAPPEN

Here we are, approaching the time when we need to furnish and fit out the two new classrooms at Marcham Primary School. The school governors and the parent-teacher association are working together to ensure sufficient funds are available to purchase what's necessary to provide the very best learning environment for our children. It would really help if we didn't need to employ contractors to carry out the installation work, because then all the funds could be spent on creating a cutting edge collaborative learning space fit for the future.

So, we'd like to build a team of people who can install these items. Are you an experienced tradesperson? Do you have skills we could use in constructing and installing the fixtures and fittings?

We'd like to hear from you. Please contact the team at marchamclassrooms@gmail.com if you can lend your expertise and spare a little time this summer. You'll be helping to deliver a project that will benefit the children of Marcham and the surrounding villages for many years to come. Thank you.

KYLE LANGMAN, GOVERNOR & PETER KIDD, PTA



Parent Teacher Association

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

Wouldn't it be fantastic if we could rewind a month? Just a short few weeks ago we started the term with hope and joy! And a lot of wonderful activities planned 😊😊. We explored St. David's Day with daffodils, leeks and dragons. This was followed by Marti bracelets to welcome in spring (thank you Corina Goodale to sharing your tales from Moldova). Sport's relief was very energetic - thank you Zoe Barnes - so some calming tree hugging was in order. We carried out a science experiment with Skittles (and hunted for Leprechauns and a pot of gold) and fitted in a breakfast session... a curiosity cube containing a dog toy brought much discussion - thank you to Marion Belcher and Buhusi (what a well-behaved dog). It's definitely been a community effort this term. The pictures show such joy and happiness... so I promise that we will return and this journey is TO BE CONTINUED..... with love!

Nicky Sanford,

Early Years Teacher, Marcham Pre-School

01865 392101 Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



It is a challenging time for us all at the moment, but we have been trying to keep our spirits up at Little Angels making some wonderful Mothers' Day gifts, learning all about Easter, and most importantly, learning how to wash our hands properly!!



Amy had been teaching our children the importance of washing our hands with plenty of soap to keep ourselves healthy. Our creative team are always thinking up new ways to teach our children, and Amy did just this with an activity to show the children how germs stick. She had black pepper representing germs in one bowl, soap in another, and showed how if you stick your finger directly in the germs they stick and stay on your finger. If you put your finger in the soap first, then into the germs bowl, the germs move away from your finger as germs are scared of the soap. This really stuck with the children and they have been putting it into practice telling each other the importance of using soap. Have a look at our facebook page to see the video!

www.facebook.com/littleangelsmarcham

We have been very sad to close our doors to the majority of our families, and cannot wait to welcome everyone back once we are able to do so. We have ensured our children's learning does not have to be put on pause just because they are not attending nursery at moment. All of our children have been sent a 'learning at home' pack which contains their next developmental steps, fun ways to work on these their family, and healthy recipes and ways to keep fit and healthy. We cannot wait to see what fun they get up to at home. We continue to engage with our families and community through our social media as we don't want to lose contact in this time. We are so pleased to have been able to support our key worker families in a partial opening.

We wish everybody well, and we would like to say a huge thank you all the key workers across the NHS and other critical roles, and all those who are pulling together and looking out for our community at this difficult time.

We are currently taking enquiries for September onwards and would love to hear from you. Please call us on 01865 819992 if you would like to find out more about Little Angels.

www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

and follow us on Facebook: littleangelsmarcham

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 LATER IN THE YEAR**

FRIENDS RIDGEWAY DAY

Regrettably, given the present circumstances and Government recommendations with regard to the coronavirus, we have concluded that the Friends Ridgeway Day including the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize and associated exhibition on 18 and 19 April 2020 in Uffington plus the additional exhibition in Monks Risborough on 25 and 26 April 2020 cannot go ahead as planned. Additionally the Friends of the Ridgeway AGM cannot go ahead. However, if at all possible we would like to be some form of exhibition either postponed to the autumn or a virtual exhibition on our web site or both. We will re-arrange the AGM as soon as possible, perhaps as a virtual online AGM. As soon as possible we will finalise plans.

It is most disappointing to have to cancel the Ridgeway Friends Day and associated events.

ANTHONY BURDALL

Chairman, Friends of the Ridgeway

**DIDCOT AND SURROUNDING AREA
 INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

Oxfordshire County Council is holding an online consultation to update local people on our latest transport infrastructure plans within Didcot and the surrounding area:

- A4130 Widening
- Science Bridge
- Didcot to Culham River Crossing
- Clifton Hampden Bypass

Work on these infrastructure improvements follows the successful funding announcement for £218 million from Government in March 2019 known as the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). Although the funding for the transport improvements has been announced, Oxfordshire County Council is currently in the final stages of negotiating the details of the funding agreement with Government. Since the previous public exhibition events in November 2018, Oxfordshire County Council has been working to address previous comments and updating the design work.

The online public consultation will start on Thursday 19/03/2020 and ends on Thursday 30/04/2020 (closing at 11:59pm). More information, including the plans and feedback form, is available at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/didcotupdate

As part of this consultation, public exhibitions were planned across various locations in the local area over the last two weeks in March. Unfortunately, due to the advice from Government with respect to Coronavirus (COVID-19) these have been cancelled.

For more information

Email: HIF1project@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 07392 318945 or 07833 401067

Surprises And Messages

As spring heads towards us, pretty fast, our thoughts quickly move towards the first time we see things returning. The first ladybird, the first bee, the first butterfly, the first swallow. The first, the first, the first...



The warm glow of their anticipated return isn't dissimilar to the emotional rollercoaster of meeting and reacquainting ourselves with an old friend or loved one. Visualisations, of what's going to happen, who's going to do what, and when. Memories of past meet ups. The excitement of the impending physical contact, without which we can feel lost, disconnected, isolated. The hoped for reaction from them in return, reflecting that they are as moved to see you, as you re to see them.

When the inhabitants of your garden return this spring, will they be pleased to see you too? Where will you find them? What surprises and messages will they bring with them this year?

Enjoy and Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

CITIZENS ADVICE CAMPAIGNS HIT THE TARGET IN 2019

People often see Citizens Advice as a "quick fix" centre, rather like the garage that changes your car tyres – you pop into our office or ring Adviceline or you check the facts on our comprehensive website. But there's more to Citizens Advice than quick fixes.



"Research and Campaigns" (R and C)

is a part of Citizens Advice with a different task, a long-term one that demands much effort and patience. It has the job of collecting evidence on emerging social problems and then directly petitioning the people or organizations - including ministers, local MPs and government departments - that have the power to solve or alleviate them.

These campaigns have been remarkably successful, often making use of the media to put their point across. In 2019 R and C contributed to the surge of action that led to the scrapping of tenant fees. It also submitted a "super-complaint" on the Loyalty Penalty, whereby long-standing customers in some services (e.g. insurance) often end up paying more than new customers for the same service. Noting the rise in demand for food vouchers, R and C highlighted the issue of pressure on household budgets because of slow payment schedules for Universal Credit. R and C also issues occasional publications such as "Putting the house in order", which described failings in the housing market.

Would you like to become one of these dedicated and hard-working volunteers, or work for us in a different role? Visit www.caox.org for further details.

For more general help see our website www.citizensadvice.org.uk, call Citizens Advice Adviceline on 0300 3309 042. For locations of offices and opening hours visit <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale>

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The Milton Council offices have closed but there will still be a few officers there to handle emergencies see their website for more help: .

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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**Coronavirus or Covid-19**

I think we have all been shocked by the speed with which this virulent virus is moving across the world from China and into our local communities, and we talk about little else. Every day the government is announcing new measures to try to control and contain the virus, to mitigate against its devastating effect on everybody's lives and to highlight how we can all protect our families, friends and ourselves from getting the virus. I am proud of the fact that the Vale were ahead of many councils by taking robust action on Monday 16th March and ordering "all staff who could" to work from home, and to use phone/video calls for individual meetings and to set up conference calls or Skype business calls for bigger meetings. In this way, the Vale is carrying on doing business as usual and it is prepared to put into action any new, clear and precise government dictates. The Milton Council offices have closed but there will still be a few officers there to handle emergencies see their website for more help and advice www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

Good Food Oxford have been working in conjunction with Oxfordshire Public Health to develop a **Food Services Access Map** to signpost the most vulnerable in our communities to community food services such as Foodbanks, Community Kitchens and Food Surplus cafes. <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/foodservicesmap>.

Age Concern Oxfordshire has announced a new **telephone helpline** to support anyone worried about Coronavirus – there's more information on their website here: www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/about-us/news/coronavirus/

I am copying some advice we councillors have received which you may find useful:

The Beacon and Cornerstone

As of today, we have cancelled all public events and activities taking place at the Beacon and Cornerstone until further notice. This is in light of the government advising people not to visit theatres, bars and other public places. We have also closed Nourish, the café at Cornerstone and The Coffee Shop at The Beacon. This is as a precaution and not because of any confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19. From Tuesday, 18th March, we will be closing the centres to the public but will remain open for key staff (including tenants). We are currently implementing our business resilience and communications plans that we already had prepared to manage situations like this effectively. We will of course be offering credits or refunds for tickets and room bookings and will continue to pay casual staff as if it the centres were operating as normal. Once closed to the public, we'll arrange for the centres to be deep cleaned and ensure key staff have the means to be able to work from home if they can.

Planning applications

Until further notice, Planning is moving to a paperless system and therefore will not be accepting paper applications, paper representations/comments. We will continue to accept applications online via the Planning Portal - www.planningportal.co.uk, and the public and consultees will still be able to comment on applications on our websites by searching the reference number for the application and using the comment now button. They can also email registration@southandvale.gov.uk

Anyone wishing to make a payment for an application should call our customer services team on 01235 422600.

Taxi licensing

To respond to the latest government advice on social distancing, we have taken the decision to stop licensing appointments until further notice. Unfortunately, this means that we are unable to accept any renewals at this time, and licences may expire over the coming months. We are also not able to accept any new applications.

We will be offering appointments again as soon as we are able to. Taxi drivers and operators are asked to check the website for updates.

Waste collections

Our waste collections are currently running as normal. To help protect our crews and stop the virus spreading we are asking people to follow these guidelines from Public Health England about how to dispose of their waste if they suspect they may have the virus. This guidance states:

Personal waste (such as used tissues) and disposable cleaning cloths should be stored securely within disposable rubbish bags.

April 2020

These bags should be placed into another bag, tied securely and kept separate from other waste. This should be put aside for at least 72 hours before being put in your usual external household waste bin. Other household waste can be disposed of as normal.

Land charges

We're asking residents to submit any searches electronically as will not be accepting any postal applications until further notice.

Community, parish and voluntary sector

We are working collectively with partners, the voluntary and community sector, and town and parish councils to assist with direct community support work. As time goes by and as our residents' needs increase, we will be increasing the number of staff focused on this area, which makes an important contribution to public welfare." I would like to end by encouraging all of you to look out for those vulnerable residents who may need your help and advice, but at the same time to keep yourselves safe by following the advice of distancing and washing your hands.

Keep well and speak to you next month.

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**Water, water everywhere**

(but not enough to drink if Thames Water are to be believed).

Over the past 30 years, Thames Water (TW) have been arguing that, in the near future, we are going to be desperately short of water and much the best solution is a giant reservoir between Steventon, East Hanney, Drayton and Marcham. Indeed, if their predictions had been correct, we would have been facing severe drought many years ago.

To be fair (and I am struggling here), the population and global warming have been increasing steadily throughout that time and TW can argue that we need to be looking at the evidence of need yet again. But with TW's history of poor and somewhat alarmist predictions, it must be right to question their latest evidence via a public enquiry. There is evidence and science on both sides of the argument - evidence and science that needs to be argued in public.

With repeated Environment Agency flood warnings in recent months, and as I look out at muddy paths, sodden ground, full rivers and streams, with full and apparently merging lakes replacing gravel pits, drought hardly seems an immediate threat. TW and their reservoir surely have something to prove.

I confess I am not an angler or a sailor, but I can see that the recreational benefits of the reservoir are tempting. The potential nature conservation opportunity is also appealing - assuming that security issues do not forbid access to the reservoir area.

However, the overriding issue for me is undoubtedly the carbon output of building Europe's largest above ground reservoir over more than 10 years. Our chances of hitting our ambition to be Carbon neutral by 2050 would be very small if TW was to have its way. Add in large scale housing and road development and the chances are nil.

That is why I remain implacably opposed to the reservoir – at least until TW have demonstrated for the first time in 30 years that the case for need is overwhelming and there is no better solution

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

NEWS FROM DAVID JOHNSTON

About a month ago, most MPs still had a wide variety of different things on their desks. There were a range of interesting debates taking place in parliament and meetings on areas from climate change to homelessness. Our Fridays – and at least parts of our weekends – were the usual mixture of 6-7 engagements a day, seeing local businesses, charities and community groups and finding out how you can help. I spoke in the budget debate about a brand new government investment to create a new research and storage facility for the Natural History Museum at Harwell and spoke in



continued on page 17

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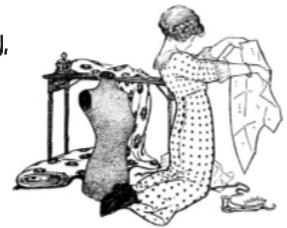
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**Neighbourhood Team
Newsletter for Marcham
Anti-social behaviour (ASB)**



Anti-social behaviour remains a priority and the team continue to proactively patrol the ASB hotspots in the area. Please report any incidents of ASB by calling 101 or 999 in an emergency.

A partial closure order was obtained by the neighbourhood team for a property on Wilsham Road, Abingdon following reports of anti-social behaviour at the address. The closure order only allows permitted named people to be there, anyone found to be in breach of the order will be arrested.

Burglary: There has been an increase in reports of residential burglaries in both the inner and outer areas of Abingdon over the last month, including in Botley and Kennington. On most occasions, entry has been gained via the rear of the properties and jewellery has been targeted.

We would like to remind residents to think about their home security and use our top 10 burglary prevention tips:

1. Look around as you leave your property. Are there any suspicious vehicles or people?
2. Lock all doors and windows.
3. Consider installing CCTV cameras or a camera enabled door bell.
4. Don't advertise your whereabouts.
5. Change your routine where possible.
6. Don't leave keys in windows and doors.
7. Leave a variety of lights on during the evening.
8. Target harden your back garden - is there anything in your garden that could be used to force a door or smash a window? Make sure your sheds are secure.
9. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for crime updates (details below)
10. Sign up for Thames Valley Alerts (www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) to receive crime updates for your area.

Two garages were broken into on Kimmeridge Road, Cumnor in February. On both occasions bicycles were stolen.

Staff changes

PCSO Lewis Quarterman left the team in February to begin his training after joining up to become a police officer. We welcome PCSO Shafiul Islam to the team, who has transferred to Abingdon from Marlow

Contact us If you want any advice or to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 or if it is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

To view information on your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk. Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk today. The Thames Valley Police Twitter account is kept up to date with what we are up to; please follow us @TVPSouthandVale

a private members' bill debate on a bill designed to cut the cost of school uniforms.

But as the month wore on, one issue began to take over. All of the meetings and events with external people at parliament ceased and we were advised to avoid public engagements. I am still conducting my surgery appointments, but by phone, rather than in person. And the high volume of email that we usually get on a whole multitude of subjects is now just on one subject. It is completely understandable that COVID-19 has taken over in this way as it is a global public health crisis the likes of which we have not seen. Rather than talk more about the nature of the virus and the actions we have to take – which you are hearing 24/7 on the news – I wanted to highlight 2 things which I hope are of interest at this time.

The first is the huge community response that has taken place. Spend a couple of minutes on Facebook and you will find lots of groups across the constituency that have sprung up to support their neighbours. Sometimes these have been set up by people like Gareth Clarke, Chair of the Residents Association at Great Western Park. At other times they work in partnership with charities, as is happening in Wantage with the Ray Collins Charitable Trust. One is being run by Sofea, using its established Community Larder programme. The Community Larder already provided a weekly grocery supply to 700 individuals and families, feeding up to 2000 people in Oxfordshire, as part of a membership which also provides additional support and discounts on things like utility bills. They've now repurposed their efforts to support those self-isolating as a result of COVID-19. These initiatives all need people who can make calls, make visits, drive, help package up supplies and, of course, donate. Please help if you can.

The second thing I wanted to highlight is Open University's free to use learning platform, **OpenLearn**. It has over 15,000 hours of online courses to help people improve their knowledge and skills. Given so many of us are going to be spending a lot more time at home, I thought a break from the news would be welcome.

DAVID JOHNSTON OBE, MP for Wantage
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Call: 0207 219 3858 Email: david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk



Abingdon Reservoir – Latest News from GARD

GARD intended to hold its AGM in Steventon Village Hall on 28th April. However, with the worsening Corona virus epidemic, and the expert advice that the situation is likely to persist for some months, we have decided to postpone the AGM until a time in the Autumn. We feel that this is the responsible course of action, in order to play our part in minimising non-essential gatherings and helping stop the spread of infection. We hope that all members will understand the reasons behind our decision.

We will send out the Chairman's Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts to members in April. If you are a member who is not on our mailing list then please email sharron.jenkinson@gmail.com and we will be happy to add you. We wish everyone a safe time over the next months.

www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk



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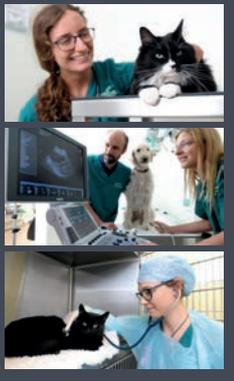


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**Abingdon Air & Country Show
will now take place on**

Monday 31 August (to be confirmed)

Abingdon Airfield / Dalton Barracks. 10.00am - 5.30pm

Following the Government's announcement regarding mass public gatherings, the event planned for Sunday 17th May has been postponed until the last bank holiday weekend in August.

We hope to hold the show on Monday 31st August, but this however is dependent on whether the social gathering restrictions have been eased by then.

Anyone who has purchased a ticket up until 18 March 2020 either online or from one of the four outlets locally we will honour those tickets for the Monday 31 August event.

Please be aware as to our policy of no refunds.

We are closely monitoring the situation and will post updates here and via Facebook and Twitter.

We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding.

Our 21st annual show takes place with something for all the family. Once again any profit will go to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance who do a wonderful Job, to date we have raised over £80,000. There will be Helicopter and Aircraft displays, and static also. Helicopter rides, classic and vintage cars, military vehicles, funfair, trade and craft stalls, Food area, animal petting area, Husky dogs, live music tent and arena displays something for all the family! For more information, ticket prices etc. go to

www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk

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Type in your postcode and the name of any item to find out whether it can be reused, repaired, donated, recycled, if it needs to go into a specific bin or can be disposed of at a Household Waste Recycling Centre - oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard



INDEPENDENT DIABETES TRUST



PO Box 294 Northampton NN1 4XS Telephone: 01604 622837

After the awful wet and stormy weather, we hope that spring is on the way so that many of us will be going for walks and working in the garden. These are excellent and pleasant ways to be more active and this is particularly important for people with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes to help them to take better control of their blood sugar levels. However, people with diabetes do need to take extra care of their feet but we have found that many people are not aware of this. Many diabetes-related amputations take place every week in this country alone, mainly as a result of foot ulcers but 80% of these are avoidable with proper foot care. So, people with diabetes should have their feet checked at least annually by a trained healthcare professional and should also be taught how to look after their feet themselves.

To try to reduce the risks of foot damage and amputations, the InDependent Diabetes Trust (IDDT) has a FREE booklet called 'Diabetes - Looking After Your Feet'. This is designed to help people to know how to look after their feet, what to look for and when to seek treatment to keep their feet healthy and avoid foot ulcers which if left untreated, can eventually lead to amputation. This drastically changes a person's quality of life.

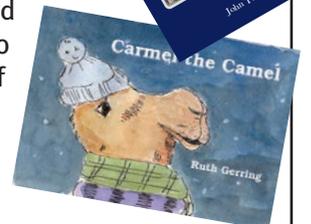
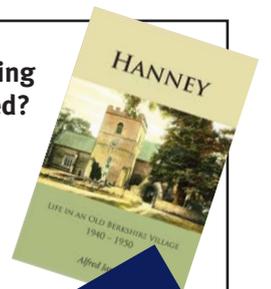
A more active life in the spring can also mean a change in eating habits, so our booklet, 'Diabetes - Everyday Eating', which contains 28 days of menus of everyday, affordable meals and much more, is also useful to help people manage their diabetes.

All our booklets are FREE. To obtain a copy of 'Diabetes - Looking After Your Feet' and 'Diabetes - Everyday Eating' contact IDDT: telephone 01604 622837 or email: jenny@iddtinternational.org

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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

In keeping with the guidance from the Archbishops, we are not holding public services until further notice. The church building however is open for private prayer and there are prayer stations to help you as you pray and reflect. Please ensure you clean your hands on arrival and do not visit if you are displaying symptoms of Covid-19.

We are hoping to make use of technology and hope to provide a live feed that people can tune into on Sunday mornings at 10am. Please go to our website and click on the FaceBook feed to find the link to a live YouTube channel.

Please also note that CCTV has now been fitted in church and monitors both the churchyard and the interior

Dear Friends,

What an extraordinary situation we find ourselves in with the COVID-19 outbreak, here in the UK and across the world! I hope you, and those you love, are keeping well and safe. Unusual times like these can draw out the best in us, as we care for one another and those in our communities. Although public worship services in the Church of England have been put on hold for the time being, All Saints' will be open in daylight hours for prayer, or simply a quiet space to reflect. We simply ask you to observe the hand washing guidance on entry and exit.

Well, 'The time has come ...' said the Walrus in Lewis Carroll's poem. Yes, it is time to say a big 'THANK YOU' to you all for 11 years of ministry here in the Parish, and to say a fond 'farewell' as I retire very soon. My last service in All Saints' is the last Sunday morning in April. I can't believe how quickly the months have flown by!

It has been an enormous privilege to serve here, and Sylvia and I are deeply grateful for all the fun, laughter, tears and answers to prayer we have enjoyed together with you. It has been great to work in the community on various projects over the years, culminating in the superb new community facilities that are nearing completion. This building is a huge milestone for the whole community, and will be an exciting facility, helping to facilitate lots of events and sports for all age groups.

This month is one of the most significant months in the life of the church: Lent culminates in Holy Week, which itself concludes with the celebration of Easter Day, and the joy of Jesus' resurrection. It is a month that both recognises the hard realities of human life, and yet also celebrates the depths and wonder of new life, of resurrection, and the hope that we have in God Himself!

As human beings we are, of course, relational beings, and that in itself reflects in part that we are designed to be in relationship with God, who is also relational [hence the Trinity]. Jesus offers us all the real possibility of being in relationship with God, and that it is this particular relationship that lies at the very heart of what it means to be truly human. It is a friendship of love and trust that undergirds who we are individually, providing a deep sense of self-worth and belonging, in a world where such foundations are frequently absent or at best damaged.

When Thomas, the disciple who doubted the reality of the resurrection of Jesus, saw and touched Jesus, he cried out "My Lord, and my God!" As the great apostle Peter was later to write 'You love Him even though you have never seen Him. Though you do not see Him now, you trust Him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.' [1 Peter 1: 8] That place of joy comes as we actively trust the Lord in the realities of each day, and it is a joy that is deeply life affirming and nourishing.

May the wonder and joy of the risen Jesus touch your hearts this year in a new way this coming Easter, and may God bless and guide you, and those you love in the great adventure of life.

With my warmest gratitude,
Richard

Vicar

Richard is retiring!

His last Sunday will be the 26th April. Though we were hoping to hold a special service and an afternoon tea to say goodbye, this may not now be possible. If you wish to contribute a message to a book we are compiling, then please contact Debbie Flint on 01865 391056.

Contacts:

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