

# Marcham & District News

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

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



MAY 2020 VOL: 42 NO: 5

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE

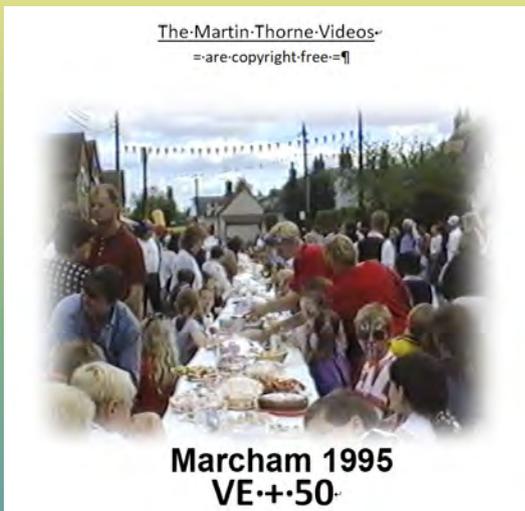
## Diary for May

Thursdays	Clap for our Carers
8 Fri	Commemorate VE Day
20 Wed	Deadline for next MADNews, 17.00 <a href="mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk">editor@madnews.co.uk</a>

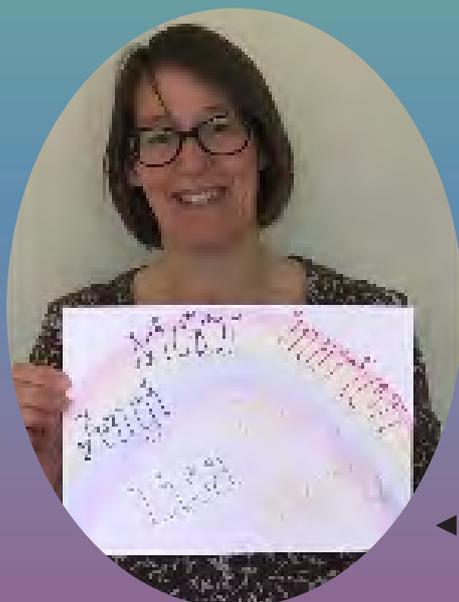


▲ Rainbow Village Library see page 7

- ▲ Commemorate VE Day at Home! see pages 4 & 5
- ▼ Do you remember VE Day in 1995



▲ What have Marcham Guides been up to? see page 15



Do need some plants?  
see page 13 ►



◀ A special message  
from Pre-school  
see page 11

# HELP AND ADVICE



## DO YOU NEED HELP BECAUSE OF THE CORONAVIRUS?

Here's what you should do

### FIRSTLY - IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP

There are lots of reasons people need help right now. Some people can't get to the shops for their groceries or to the pharmacy to pick up their prescription.

Some people need help walking their dog or just want somebody to talk to.

It's okay to ask for help. There are lots of people out there ready and willing to help. We're here to help too.



### STEP 1



Speak to your friends and family. They might not know you need help and will be keen to do whatever they can.

If you don't have anyone nearby, speak to a neighbour you can trust - please only do this safely while following the guidelines on social distancing.

### STEP 2

If you have no family nearby or neighbours you can turn to, check to see if there are any local volunteer groups helping out in your area, or get in touch with any charities you are already involved in as they could help.



### STEP 3



If you've tried Step 1 and Step 2 and you still need help, please get in touch with us. We can put you in touch with a community group or help you directly.

Call 01235 422600

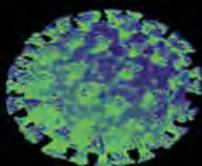
Email [communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk)

[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news-events/coronavirus-covid-19-information](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news-events/coronavirus-covid-19-information)



**CORONAVIRUS  
STAY AT HOME  
SAVE LIVES**

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



## MARCHAM

There are volunteers who are available to help for each area. If you don't know who to ask, please contact Jude or Jacqui by email [marchamhelpers@the-kraken.co.uk](mailto:marchamhelpers@the-kraken.co.uk) or call MADNews on 391725

## MARCHAM COMMUNITY LARDER

Providing food parcels for those in need during the current situation. For full details see page 7

## FRILFORD

If you don't know who to ask, please contact Shaun or Christine by email [frilfordparish@gmail.com](mailto:frilfordparish@gmail.com) or call MADNews on 391725

## Marcham Village Shop & Post Office

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.*

## DO YOU NEED YOUR PRESCRIPTION DELIVERED?

AbiMeds volunteers will bring your medicines to you. Starting with Jhoots and Boots pharmacies but hoping



to get Lloyds on board soon and then most pharmacies in Abingdon. We will deliver to Marcham and beyond. This service is for anyone who needs a prescription delivered, whether isolating, shielding, or not and is free of charge! Call **01865 818351** 9am to 4pm - speak to an operator, leave the patient's details and we will do the rest. Please don't leave a message, but call back if you can't get through to a person. Deliveries will be Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The Farm Shop is open 7 days a week  
Monday-Saturday: 9am - 5.30pm Sunday: 9am-4pm  
With procedures in place to ensure safe shopping

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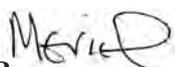


Dear Readers

We were unable to distribute the April issue of MADNews and I am not sure when full delivery will return. In the meantime, copies can be collected from Marcham Village Shop, Budgens and from outside 8 Orchard Way.

I am delighted that Claire and Paula have offered to take over the distribution (as well as their marshalling duties at the shop!). I am sorry to say goodbye to Judith and Peter but I think they deserve a bit of time off after 17 years!

Until next time – keep safe



**PUBLISHER / EDITOR**

Meriel Lewis  
8 Orchard Way, Marcham  
Abingdon OX13 6PP  
Tel: 01865 391725  
Website: [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk)  
Email: [editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk)

**ADVERTISING**

Fran Russell: [adverts@madnews.co.uk](mailto:adverts@madnews.co.uk)  
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Paula Utting and Claire Wright  
13 Parkside, Marcham  
Abingdon OX13 6NN Tel: 01865 391443

**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](mailto:Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) for Marcham  
07980 924693  
Or just dial 101 (non-emergency) and omit the C from his number

**CRIMESTOPPERS**

Call 0800 555 111 (anonymous calls)

**NHS NON-EMERGENCY**

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](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 Annual Meeting of Electors**

In light of government recommendations, and the restrictions on gatherings to help ensure public safety, the annual meeting of electors will not take place on Thursday 21st May as planned. The Parish Council will keep the situation under review, as it may be possible to arrange such a meeting much later in the year.

**Parish Council Meetings**

New legislation passed by government has allowed parish councils to continue to meet virtually, rather than having to meet in person. The Council held its first virtual meeting in April. Access for the public to observe is maintained in the same way as previously. Information for each monthly meeting will be on the Council's website.

**Covid 19 – Support from volunteers**

The Parish Council would offer a huge thank you to the volunteers who initiated the support group within the parish, and all those who have come forward to offer assistance where required, including the initiative from the Church, and MADNews which has published all the relevant contact information needed. Many people would be struggling were it not for the available support. It is good to know that Marcham is such a community minded village.

**Salvation Army Textile Bin – Howard Cornish Road**

The Salvation Army has temporarily closed the textile bank in Howard Cornish Road, as it is unable to collect the donations of clothes which are usually left there. The textile bank is currently full, so please do not leave plastic sacks alongside on the ground. Please keep your items at home until the collections can commence again.

**Play Area – Anson Field**

The play area is closed. This was initially due to the preparation of the new pitch area, but is also due to the coronavirus situation, it remains closed and is behind the Heras fencing with no public access.

**Dog Waste Bin – Anson Field – off the path near Baptist Church**

The dog waste bin off the path rear of the Baptist Church is behind the Heras fencing. This bin is not currently being emptied, so please do not throw your dog waste bags over the fence. Dog waste can be placed in your domestic black waste wheelie bin at home. If there is no accessible dog waste bin lined with a blue sack in the area where you walk your dog, then please take the waste home for disposal.

**Planning Applications**

The Council has considered the following applications:

P20/V0676/HH Demolition of single storey outbuilding and erection of new single storey rear and side extensions. Widening front porch and alterations at

5 The Gap. Council requested materials to match existing as the site was close to a conservation area, and also wanted a construction traffic plan as there is vehicle congestion within The Gap. Comments were made about drainage, and the height of the land above North Street.

P20/V0210/DIS Revised information for the Travel Plan, and charging points at the MactaggartMickel site, north of Harding Way. Council sought confirmation that fibre broadband was to be installed to each property as the Travel Plan indicated encouragement for home working. Confirmation was sought that as cycling was encouraged, that areas allocated for cycling were to have tarmac surfaces. The Council requested that all properties on the development should have electric charging points.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is Wednesday 13th May, 2020 at 7.30 p.m. To be held virtually via Zoom. However, 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](mailto:clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

*Republished from The Week/Daily Telegraph*  
SIR – Kate Humble (Travel, April 4) quotes Bill Bryson, who wrote: “To connect with our own parts of the world, to see them with fresh eyes, to notice small joys.”

I take my daily walk in the evening and I have been overwhelmed by the profound silence, the clear sky with its myriad stars, Venus in the west and the Moon rising.

Is it selfish to say that I am loath for this part of our current situation to end?

**CHRISTINE WHILD**

*Republished from The Oxford Mail*

Dear Madam,

I would just like to pay tribute to three 'unsung heroes' in our village of Marcham. Firstly, Ruth Manders and Natasha Kingsbury, who are responsible for running and keeping our wonderful village community shop and Post Office open during these 'surreal' times.

Also Michael Wright, who without fail goes in before the shop opens every morning to mark up the newspapers before they go on sale.

It is wonderful people like them who make these awful times more bearable!

They are keeping the shop open for the very many people who cannot get 'online' deliveries, or even feel daunted going to the large grocery stores and maybe cannot drive.

Essential!

**VIVIENNE CRIPPS**



# VE Day Word Search

See if you can find the words listed below in the grid. The letters left over form a phrase connected to VE Day - then see if you can finish the phrase!

If you want to make your own word search, there are plenty of sites on the internet, or you can do it the old fashioned way with a pencil and paper!

- |           |           |             |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| BLITZ     | EUROPE    | ROOSEVELT   |
| BRITAIN   | HOMEGUARD | SPITFIRE    |
| BUNTING   | HURRICANE | STREETPARTY |
| CHURCHILL | LANCASTER | VERALYNN    |
| DDAY      | RATIONING | VICTORY     |
|           |           | WOOLTONPIE  |

H	T	W	Z	E	L	L	M	E	E	T	A	N	G	G
O	A	L	I	T	N	D	O	N	T	K	N	I	O	N
M	W	W	E	V	I	H	E	R	E	Y	D	A	O	I
E	N	T	K	V	E	L	N	O	T	W	W	T	H	N
G	N	E	N	B	E	R	B	R	U	T	I	I	K	O
U	N	A	R	E	T	S	A	C	N	A	L	R	O	I
A	W	W	C	E	L	P	O	L	L	M	E	B	C	T
R	E	T	A	I	T	G	A	O	Y	I	N	H	S	A
D	Y	S	O	E	R	M	E	S	R	N	U	U	P	R
N	R	N	E	Y	D	R	A	Y	K	R	N	E	I	E
P	O	R	Y	A	D	D	U	S	C	M	I	L	T	I
N	T	E	U	R	O	P	E	H	G	T	H	R	F	O
S	C	U	G	H	G	N	I	T	N	U	B	J	I	U
S	I	T	W	O	O	L	T	O	N	P	I	E	R	L
I	V	K	E	Y	L	O	U	A	L	W	A	Y	E	S

## We'll Meet Again *get ready to sing along!*

We'll meet again  
Don't know where  
Don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day

Keep smiling through  
Just like you always do  
'Till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away

So will you please say hello  
To the folks that I know  
Tell them I won't be long  
They'll be happy to know  
That as you saw me go  
I was singing this song

We'll meet again  
Don't know where  
Don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day

Repeat as required!

Songwriters: Hughie Charles / Ross Parker Sung by Vera Lynn

## VE 50 – May 1995

Were you living in Marcham in 1995? Maybe you, your parents or grandparents remember the VE 50 celebrations.



Martin Thorne, the previous editor of MADNews, took a video of the events which included a bring and share lunch, Morris Men, Punch and Judy (yes, Uncle Brian - you were there!), bouncy castle, and an amazing range of items from the war on display in The Institute!

There is a copy of the video on YouTube on the MADNews channel - <https://youtu.be/sOCLRJFaqzg> . Or you can click the link on the VE75 page [madnews.co.uk/veday](http://madnews.co.uk/veday)

**Can you spot anyone you know in these (rather fuzzy!) screen shots?**



Dear Editor

Amongst all else that is going on, we should not forget that this is the 75th anniversary year of the end of World War 2. On the 8th May 1945 the War in Europe ended and on 15th August 1945 the War in the Far East ended. In that War, four people from Marcham died and are remembered on our memorials. This letter is to remember those four and to ask if anyone has more information that we can use to record for posterity in our village as much as possible about their lives.

The first to die was Dennis Lawrence. He died in India on 7th October 1943 in India. In 1939, he had been a Grocer's Errand Boy living in The Gap with his parents, James and Louisa. Dennis married Lilian Walters in April 1942. The Lawrence family had a long connection with Marcham. James Lawrence had been born here in 1885. James and his wife were living in Parkside in 1960.

Peter Bennett was killed over Holland on 25th April 1944, age 20, while serving as the pilot of a Lancaster bomber. His father had worked in Rio de Janeiro (and Peter Bennett may have been born there). Peter Bennett was educated at Dauntsey's School in Wiltshire. In 1939 his family was living at Long Acre, Frilford.

Harry Dore was killed in Normandy on the 18th August 1944 while serving as a Lance-Corporal with the Queens Regiment in the 7th Armoured Division. He had been born in Chipping Norton. In 1939, his parents were living at Manor Farm Cottages, Garford. Harry Dore had had a long war starting at Dunkirk, through Alamein, until he landed in Normandy.

The fourth, and last to die was Stephen Thorp Cooper on 27th April 1945 in Burma. He was serving with the Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners in the Indian Army. His connection with Marcham comes through his father, a Civil Engineer, who had been working for the Air Ministry, possibly being based at Marcham Park with the family living at Frilford Heath.

Does anyone have any information on the four on our memorial, or know of others that we should remember? If so, I would be delighted to have details so that I can put together a full record. I can be contacted at 27 Kings Avenue, at mikehoath@aol.com, or on 01865 391349.

**MIKE HOATH**



**Lord Woolton Pie**

**VE DAY - madnews.co.uk/veday**

Even if we can't all get together in person on 8th May, we can still commemorate Victory in Europe (VE) Day together but apart!

Suggestions include:

- Draw and colour in flags of all nations and make a display for your window
- Have a wartime Stay-at-Home Picnic
- Decorate a Cake
- Quizzes for all ages
- Virtual Fancy Dress
- Cook up some Wartime Recipes
- Re-dress your teddy in 1940s style
- Sing songs from the 1940s - the words to We'll Meet Again are opposite.

Send in your photos of what you have done and links to any videos you have made to [editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk) so they can go on a VEDay webpage. You can also read more and follow links online at [madnews.co.uk/veday](http://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! The weekend of 15-16 August has been suggested by Royal British Legion for communities to hold events postponed from May.*



**WARTIME RECIPES FROM CHRISTINE WALLACE, BAKE OFF FINALIST - WWW.BAKERCHRISTINE.CO.UK**

**Lord Woolton Pie**

- ½ a large cauliflower
- 3 medium parsnips
- 3 large carrots
- ½lb potatoes
- ½ med swede
- 1 med onion
- 2 tsp of Marmite or a stock cube
- 1 tbsp of oatmeal
- 500 ml vegetable stock

**METHOD**

Use pre cooked vegetable stock (or a stock cube) and stir in the marmite. Chop up the vegetables into chunks with those that take longest to cook into smaller pieces. Place in pot with the oatmeal add the stock and just enough water to reach 3/4 of the way up the veg in the pot, bring to simmer . Add salt and pepper and cook until tender and most of the water has been absorbed. Mix the bisto to a paste with a little water and add the pot. Simmer for a further 5 minutes. Place in your pie dish and sprinkle the chopped parsley over the top.

Leave to cool

Make the pastry by mixing the flour with the baking powder and salt and then rubbing in the fats. Mix the mashed potato in to form a dough and knead (add a little water to the mixture if too dry). Roll out to form pie crust and place on top of your vegetables, decorate then brush with milk.

Place in oven at 190°C Fan for 30 minutes or so until top is firm and browned. (you can make "crisps" by baking the peel with salt and flavouring eg paprika)

**Rolled Oat Macaroons**

- 3oz (85gm) margarine
- 2oz (55gm) sugar
- 4oz (115gm) S.R. flour
- 1 level teasp baking powder
- 4oz (115gm) rolled oats
- 1 teaspoon almond essence
- 2 dessertspoons of golden syrup.

**METHOD**

Set oven at 180°C Fan

Cream together the margarine, sugar, syrup

- 2 tsp bisto powder.
- Salt and pepper to taste once cooked.
- Parsley (fresh or dried)

**For the pastry**

- 8oz plain flour
- 4oz mashed potato - cooled
- 3oz either margarine or lard or a mixture
- 2 tsp of baking powder
- couple large pinches of salt
- Dash of water if needed.

and almond essence.

Sift the flour and baking powder, add to the mixture with the rolled oats.

Mix thoroughly, if the mixture is too dry add a little milk just to bind the mixture together

Roll into 12-16 balls and put on a baking tray lined with parchment leaving a little space for spreading.

Bake for 15-20 minute until golden brown.

Cool on baking tray before removing.

## HOME & GARDEN

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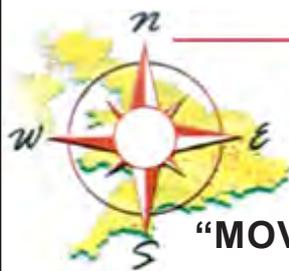
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Painters & Decorators

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Mobile: 07775 690523

*References Available*

Proprietor: Mr A Bunce

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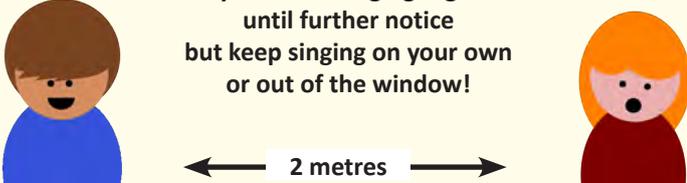


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T: 07977460919 E: featheredglass@yahoo.com  
Pear Tree Cottage, 7 Packhorse Lane, Marcham, OX13 6NT

**SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!**  
 Sorry no more singing together  
 until further notice  
 but keep singing on your own  
 or out of the window!



← 2 metres →

## Marcham WI

Unfortunately, with the ongoing lockdown and advice on social distancing, we will be unable to hold our May meeting. We hope that everyone is keeping well and safe and look forward to seeing you all again as soon as possible.



For the latest news from the Oxfordshire Federation, please have a look at their website:  
<https://www.oxfordshirewi.co.uk>

*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*

## NEW DISTRIBUTORS FOUND!

After 17 very enjoyable years, we've decided the time is right to step down as MADNews distributors. We shall miss our loyal band of deliverers, who turn out in all weathers to deliver MADNews in and around Marcham.



Editor Meriel has been very supportive and tolerated our senior moments with great good humour; she turns out a great issue every month and makes it look easy. A special thank you must go to **Marge, Sandra and Jackie**, who did all the collating and stapling for a long time when Peter was ill. We are very grateful to **Paula and Claire** for taking over distribution and wish them all the best.

**PETER & JUDITH FONTAINE**

*Dear Editor*

### Marcham Walking



Those of us in Marcham who like to walk have been very fortunate. Not only do we have a number of footpaths and bridleways but – thanks to the generosity of Manor Farm – for many years we have had the use of several excellent permissive paths.



**MARCHAM  
 COMMUNITY  
 LARDER**  
 Providing food parcels  
 to households  
 in need

### What is the Community Larder?

A collaboration between the charity Sofea, All Saints' Church and Marcham Volunteers to provide food parcels to those in need during the Covid-19 Crisis

### Who is it for?

The food parcels can be supplied to any household in need in the Parish of Marcham during the Covid-19 Pandemic

### What is in the food parcel?

It will vary from week to week but will include both dry and fresh produce

### How do I get a box?

You will need to complete the online form at  
[https://marcham-with-garford.org.uk/Groups/340357/Community\\_Larder.aspx](https://marcham-with-garford.org.uk/Groups/340357/Community_Larder.aspx)

If you do not have access to the internet, you can call Rachel on 07910484936

**Before you order, please do read the full information at the link above or email:**  
[communitylardereallsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:communitylardereallsaintsmarcham.org)

However since 2013 the bridge over the Ock at the end of Mill Road has been closed and remains in need of repair. We are given to understand that no-one can afford to pay for the necessary repair work to be carried out. The loss of the bridleway over the Ock cuts us off from many paths and bridleways on the south side of the Ock. Since 2013 the number of us living here has grown substantially and – in the present circumstances – the need for more walking routes is greater than ever. Might the Parish Council consider approaching – inviting – other owners of land around Marcham to set up some additional temporary permissive paths – with restrictions on their use as required eg no cycling, no dogs? Perhaps – temporarily – some of the Stewardship Margins could be “re-purposed”.

There is another public bridleway over the Ock. It starts just east of the south-east corner of Trendles Field (grid ref SU 446 062). Access though is hindered by a locked gate. The bridleway heads south over the Ock and then peters out very near to a track that goes east and leads to the paths we used to be able to reach by going over the Ock at the end of Mill Road. The southern end of the bridleway is just beyond our parish boundary. Nevertheless the Parish Council no doubt could contact the landowner and also if necessary the neighbouring parish with a view to linking the bridleway to the track. Such a route would benefit both parishes.

**JOHN GUAST**

*A map of the Jubilee Permissive paths can be obtained in Marcham Village Shop (Monday - Saturday 8 - 10am) , downloaded from [madnews.co.uk](http://madnews.co.uk) or from the Marcham Society Website, [www.marchamsociety.org.uk](http://www.marchamsociety.org.uk)*

# HOUSEHOLD SERVICES

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## Still in lockdown, but making progress...

All work had stopped on the building site after 23rd March due to CV-19 rules. In early April, some limited work restarted on the MarchamCentre site. The multi-user games area (MUGA) lights are in place, building work on the hall is essentially complete and snagging/completion survey checks are under way. We still have work to finish on finalising lease agreements (nearly there) and arrangements for insurance, utilities and many other details need to be settled. Our committees are meeting by videoconference (we are becoming skilled at using Zoom) to keep project momentum going even during these strange lockdown times.



Those of you looking in at the field will have seen the large yellow/brown patches where the grass has been sprayed before topsoil is moved. We expect ground works to start before the end of April and they may even be underway by the time you read this.

We will keep you posted on when handover will occur, although we are clear that the new facilities will not be open for business until government CV-19 restrictions are lifted—that is likely to be still some time away yet.

### 5p coins

Denise wishes to give a thousand thanks to everyone who has donated their 5p coins to the fund. After an appeal to MCG members in April, the latest batches of coins we have received has brought the total past the 10,000 mark. That means we have raised over £500 from 5p coins alone! Well done everyone who has helped. Inspired as we all are by Captain Tom Moore, Denise will keep collecting until the new hall opens, so further batches of coins are still welcome.

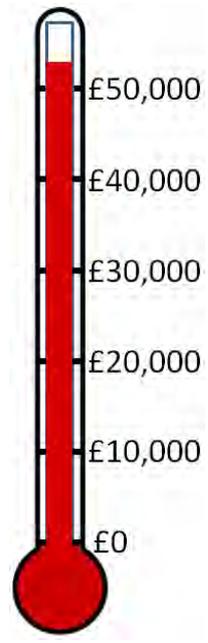


### Membership

For existing members, subscriptions are due for the year beginning 1st April. Thank you to all who have already renewed and for donations made at the same time. For those of you who have not yet joined, we would welcome your support by becoming a member—it is £5 for individuals, £8 for families. If anyone is in financial difficulty renewing or joining at this time, please let us know and we can defer your payment until things become easier.

Fund-raising to fit out the new facilities continues as a few additional needs emerge. MCG is very grateful to the Ricketts family for the generous donations made at the funeral service in appreciation of Chris, totalling £1815 towards MarchamCentre funds. We will let you know when we have made a decision, with the family, on the plans to mark her memory.

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/](https://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.



Still in lockdown but making progress...



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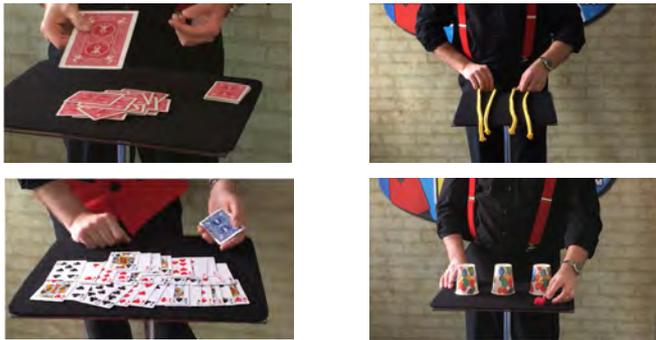


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**PTA ROUND-UP**

Extraordinary times, eh? How's the home-schooling going? Anyone been put in detention yet?  
 As I reported last month, we have cancelled all PTA fundraising events for the time being. Hopefully things will begin to return to normal in the next few weeks, but obviously we will not be organising any events until we can be sure that doing so will not risk anyone's health. Until then, you can continue to support the PTA 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. 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 when it welcomes back all the children. 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.

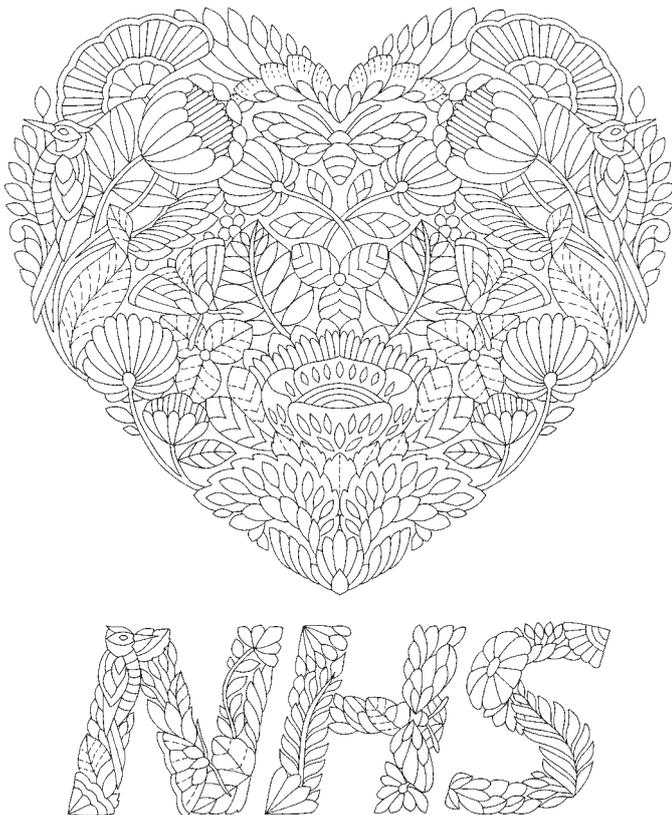


Best wishes to you all during these difficult days.

*See you when all this is over.*

**PETER KIDD**

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### Isolation, Adaptation and Covid-19



I'm writing this on day 12 of my own personal Covid-19 isolation. I'm informed my medication will make me vulnerable to the virus as it reduces my immune system, and though I'm told I need to isolate for 90 days, it's likely to be a lot longer! Once the infection rate is reduced, I will still need to isolate to a degree, until the virus is brought under control and understood. So, in this shared experience I thought I'd try and set you an alphabetical nature challenge, to occupy some of your time. If you are able to get out into your garden or your local community for your daily exercise, or just looking out of the window, try and be aware of the nature you can see and discover.

Each day pick a letter and use that to engage and occupy yourself with nature for a while.

- A Awareness. Become aware of the nature around you.
- B Behind. Notice the nature that may be behind your shrubs and trees, or behind the plant on your windowsill.
- C Call. Become aware of the bird calls in your local area. Don't worry about identification, just enjoy the sound.
- D Do. Get your hands into nature by doing some weeding and remove dead leaves from your house plants. Nature is about touching it, not just seeing it.
- E Everywhere. Nature is everywhere, if we care to look.
- F Fly away. Look up to the sky and imagine for a while what it would be like to fly like a bird. See the world from above, the bigger picture.
- G Goldfinch. See if you can spot these lovely little birds. 30 years ago, it was a challenge, but these days they are more abundant.
- H Hear. Often, we just hear the birds when out in nature. What other natural sounds can be heard though?
- I Ignore. Ignore that inner voice that can offer up a negative narrative during times of crisis. Focus on the nature around you and know this won't last forever.
- J Joy. Take energy from the joy the trees, wind, birds and sky offers.

- K Kite. In Oxfordshire, Red Kites are now a common sight. Look up, see if you can spot one.
- L Ladybird. Can you see any ladybirds? An absorbing pastime as they are often tucked away.
- M Mauve. Colour is a big thing out in nature, so try and find things that are mauve.
- N Numbers. What's your favourite bird species? How many other species can you see? The number of species can often be astounding.
- O Observe. Observe patterns of behaviour and habits going on out in nature.
- P Photography. Try and take a picture of the nature around you, that in itself wakes us up to what we've not noticed before.
- Q Question. Find something in nature that interests you, then question how much you really know about it. Try researching it and finding out something new.
- R Relax. During the isolation we need to relax, use all your senses to use the nature around you to relax.
- S Starling. Starlings aren't as common in gardens as they once were. They are great mimics though, so have a listen to their calls.
- T Try. It can be demoralising having our lives impacted by Covid-19, but keep trying to get through. Try and find one new thing in the nature around you that you've never seen before.
- U Unsure. Many people are unsure what the plants and animals actually are that surrounds them. Don't let that impact on your appreciation of it. We don't need to know what everything is all the time.
- V Value. Value everything out in nature, it all plays its part.
- W Weather. Enjoy the weather, whatever it is.
- X Xplore. Explore the nature you can see, hear, touch and smell etc.
- Y Yellow. Try and spot how many yellows you can see at this time.
- Z Zoom. Zoom in and have a close look at all the nature around you.

*You may have other words to focus on for each letter, but you get the idea.*

**Enjoy and Happy Gardening!**

**Stuart Mabbutt**

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

A big **THANK YOU** to all those people who have been buying plants from Sheila Dunford's gate in Priory Lane. This is instead of the usual plant sale due to the current situation.

So far donations have totalled over **£150** and new plants will be appearing as they become ready.

If you have any plants you would like donate, please label them and leave them by Sheila's gate.



There will also be a range of garden plants at the double gates of 18 Frilford Road. Tomatoes will be available for sale from week commencing Monday, 27th April.

In a few weeks we will have plenty of new plants including vegetables ready to plant out.

It would be great to get close to the £300-400 that we have raised in the past.

*All donations for the plants will go toward village facilities and can be made at the Post Office, open between 8.00am and 10.00am, Monday to Saturday.*

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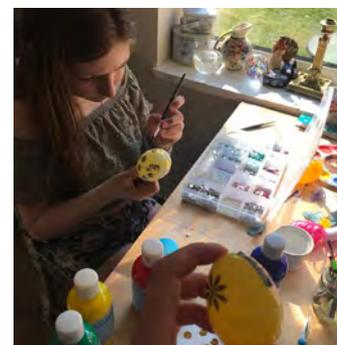
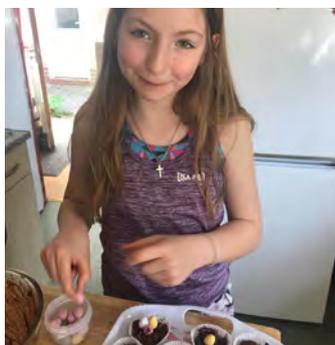
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We've been very busy working on badges; doing an Easter egg challenge which involved making egg nests to give to a neighbour, making mini eggs using a mould and blowing eggs to decorate and hang on a tree. Our challenge this week has been to make up small bags of goodies including soap, shampoo, shower gel and chocolate for nurses at the JR. Girls have been busy sewing and packing.

Who knows what we'll get up to next!!



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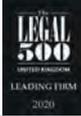


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## Neighbourhood Team Newsletter for Marcham Anti-social behaviour (ASB)



Anti-social behaviour (ASB): The neighbourhood team have been working in partnership with two local housing associations to tackle ASB in Abingdon. Recently, absolute possession was granted by the court for one property on the Vineyard and another at Southmoor Way, Abingdon. These possession orders follow months of work by officers on the neighbourhood team and demonstrate that reports of ASB are taken seriously and we will do our best to tackle and reduce these sorts of incidents.

There have been reports of drug use in the Carse Close area of Peachcroft. This is being closely monitored by PCSO Moquet.

**Burglary:** On Tuesday 24th March, a property on Bowyer Road, Abingdon was burgled. The victim was assaulted by being pushed inside her property, but was unhurt during the incident. Three offenders entered and searched the property before being chased away by the victim's neighbours.

An attempted burglary occurred on Saturday 7th March on Mill Road, Abingdon. The offender was disturbed by one of the occupants and did not steal anything from the property.

If you have any information in relation to the above burglaries, please call 101.

Please report any suspicious behaviour by calling 101, or 999 in an emergency. If you would like any crime prevention advice, including a home security assessment, please contact the team by emailing AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

### Offenders brought to justice

Following a report from a member of public, PCSO Selene Moquet identified a vehicle parked in the Peachcroft area that had no tax or MOT. Working with the on-duty Vale of White Horse CCTV operator and officers from the Abingdon Roads Policing department, the driver was stopped after the operator saw the driver leave the area in the vehicle. The vehicle was then seized by officers.

PCSO Selene Moquet and PCSO Adi Wright spotted a male using his mobile phone whilst driving. Information about the vehicle was passed over the police radio. A short time later, a Roads Policing officer caught up with the driver and he is facing a possible 6 points on his licence and a £300 fine.

### Neighbourhood team engagement

Whilst the current situation surrounding the COVID-19 virus is unsettling and people may be feeling anxious about the social restrictions in place, the neighbourhood team will continue to police the community including spending time on foot patrol offering reassurance. The neighbourhood team have attended several incidents where people have been struggling with their mental health during the lockdown. If you need help and someone to talk to, speak to your GP, call 111 or contact a charity such as Mind. You could also consider the following:

- Keep in touch digitally - make plans to video call people or groups that you would normally speak to.
- Keep a routine - plan how you will spend your time and try to follow your ordinary routine as much as possible.
- Try to keep active - build activity into your daily routine. This could include seated exercises or dancing at home.
- Get as much sunlight and fresh air as you can - open a window or spend time in your garden if you have one.
- Find ways to spend your time - including relaxing and being creative.
- Manage your fears - write them down or talk them through with someone.
- Don't watch too much news - distract yourself with another activity.

Unfortunately many of our planned engagement opportunities have not been able to take place over the last few weeks. However, the team have been out and about practising social distancing whilst on foot patrol. We have been supporting the local businesses that remain open, ensuring that people are polite and respectful to the key workers who are carrying out essential work during these difficult times.

### Have Your Say meetings

Due to the current pandemic, face to face 'Have Your Say' meetings will no longer be held until it is safe to do so again. Please use the details below to contact the team about any concerns you have.

### Staff changes

PCSO Jason Bauer leaves the team this month to begin his training, after joining up to become a police officer. We wish him the best of luck in his new role.

**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](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk). Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://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

## COUNCILLORS' REPORT

### Is there a bright side to COVID 19 emergency?

It seems almost impossible to avoid bad news at the moment. The daily diet of depressing and dire predictions for society, the UK and the world give very few grounds for optimism. As a result, it is very easy to feel gloomy and depressed.

But it isn't all bad news! There are some silver linings! We have all been learning some valuable lessons from the pandemic. Many potential opportunities are presenting themselves.

- Locally, we have discovered the vast number of caring volunteers in our communities prepared to give their time to make things better for the most vulnerable – we have found dozens of community organisers; we have seen great work being carried out by the church; we have found hundreds of food and medicine deliverers.
- Families are benefitting, as parents working from home have more time to be with their children. Many have become very creative in using their time well and discovering new talents in themselves, for example cooking.
- Air is less polluted as less traffic is on the roads and less aircraft are flying.
- People are becoming much more aware of nature – the sound of birds is not drowned out by traffic and planes.
- Many people are finding that working from home is efficient and more productive. Perhaps this will change the way business works in the future.
- Councils are discovering how to use IT better to save money, save time and save the environment.
- Government is discovering that the people of this country have retained the ability to pull together and endure hardship and that things are often done best at a local level.
- Globally, there may well be opportunities to make a better, fairer, more united world.

Let's hope that, when it's all over, we make best use of the opportunities these extraordinary times are offering.

*Best wishes and keep well*

**CATHERINE WEBBER** Cllr VWHDC - DC for Marcham Ward  
01235 534001 or [Webbercatherine1@gmail.com](mailto:Webbercatherine1@gmail.com)  
**RICHARD WEBBER** Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.  
[Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto:Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com) or 01235 534001

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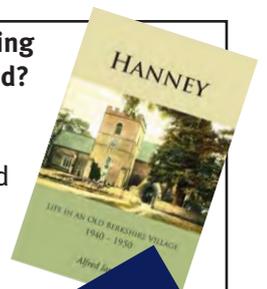
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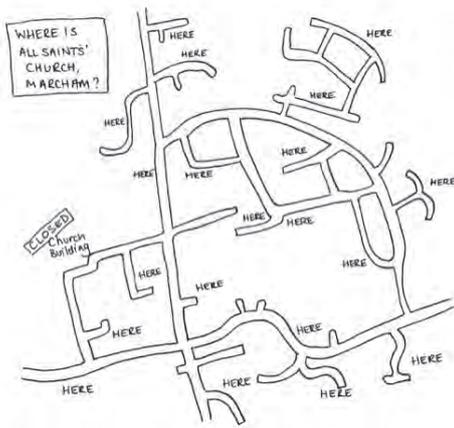
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# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

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



Our building is currently closed, but the church is still alive and active. Whilst we value the incredible heritage of our building, the real church is made up of people who live throughout Marcham and the surrounding villages. We are trying to be Jesus' hands, feet and voice to our neighbours – perhaps this is you! Sunday services are only a small part of what being church means but, like many churches we are continuing to meet virtually in our own homes for a service via YouTube. Please do join us at 10am on a Sunday morning on [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzLePXEjyP7\\_WRWfyHr1rmg-](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzLePXEjyP7_WRWfyHr1rmg-) either as the service is streaming or you can catch up later in your own time.

## Marcham Covid-19 Hardship Fund

**What is this fund?** A generous donor has given some money to help those within the village or church in need during the Covid-19 pandemic. The fund will be administered by the Standing Committee of the Marcham with Garford PCC which will meet approximately every two weeks to review any applications.

**Who can apply?** This fund is available to any individual or family based in the parish or on the electoral roll of the church.

**What can I get funds for?** As this is a fast-moving and uncertain situation, each application will be considered on its own merits. It may be to help pay household bills, to pay for a week's shop or some other reason.

**How do I apply?** Please complete the online form on the church website under the 'Marcham Covid-19 fund' tab

**How soon will I hear whether my application has been successful?** The standing committee will aim to meet approximately every two weeks, so you should hear within a fortnight.

**If I want to make a donation to the fund, can I do this?** Yes – details can be found on the website



In collaboration with the local charity Sofea, Marcham Volunteers and All Saints' Church we are able to distribute food parcels to households in need in Marcham during the Covid-19 pandemic. These boxes will contain both perishable and non-perishable produce and will vary on a week to week basis. In order to receive food parcels, you will need to become a member of Sofea (this is free during the Covid-19 crisis but does require that you complete a form). To receive a box you ideally need to complete the online form on the church website or you can call Rachel on 07910 484 936 who will take your details and complete the form for you.

**Richard's retirement:** Richard's last Sunday with us was the 26<sup>th</sup> April and due to the lockdown, we were unable to celebrate as we had hoped. He and Sylvia will remain in Marcham for a few more months as their house move is on hold, so we hope that we can say goodbye properly once lockdown is lifted sufficiently to do this safely. If you wish to contribute a message to a book we are compiling, then please contact Debbie Flint on 01865 391056.

### Contacts:

**Jill Rowe** Children's and families Minister 391168 [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 & Churchwarden [info@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:info@allsaintsmarcham.org) **Neil Rowe** Churchwarden 391168