



Marcham & District News

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

APRIL 2021 VOL: 43 NO: 4

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



St George's Day - 23rd April

An image of the saint appears on the George Cross - the highest medal that can be awarded to a civilian - designed by Percy Metcalfe in 1940 and instigated by King George VI: "In order that they should be worthily and promptly recognised, I have decided to create, at once, a new mark of honour for men and women in all walks of civilian life. I propose to give my name to this new distinction, which will consist of the George Cross, which will rank next to the Victoria Cross, and the George Medal for wider distribution."



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▲ Overwintering Blackcaps (male - right; female - left)



▲ 'Please Keep off the Grass' see page 11



© Pippa Hoath 2021

▲ Nodding Star of Bethlehem



© Rosemary Harwood 2021

▲ Alpaca eating daffodils at Millets Farm

Diary for April

Date	Event	
1 Thu	Maundy Thursday Service, All Saints', Marcham, 18.00	20
2 Fri	Good Friday Walk, All Saint's, Marcham, 10.00	20
2 Fri	Giftings for Growth, St Luke's, Garford, 14.15	20
2-5	Marcham Village Shop & Post Office Closed	5
4 Sun	Easter Sunrise Service, St Luke's, Garford, 06.30	20
4 Sun	Easter Family Communion, All Saints' 10.00	20
6 Mon	Last day of Little Angels Easter Egg Hunt	5
14 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, online, 19.30	3
19 Mon	Marcham WI: Maggie's Charity – Sarah Dean Kelly, 19.30 online	7
20 Tue	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email editor@madnews.co.uk	

Date	Event	
21 Wed	Arts Society: Faces of the English Court, 11.00 & 14.00	9
26 Mon	Marcham Society: Pagans & Puritans – Tim Healey, 19.30 online	9
27 Tues	Thirsty Café Afternoon Tea Deliveries restart	7
30 Fri	Marcham Centre Bar Opens	11

May

6 Thu	County Council Elections	3
8 Sat	Milton Hill Bowling Club Open Day, 14.00 - 17.00	15
22-23	KBS Bowls Club Open Days, 11.00 - 15.00	19

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

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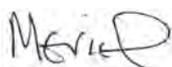
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Dear Readers

I am pleased to say that I, like so many people in the village, have had my first Oxford Astra Zeneca jab and am looking forward to my next one in June... and by then it looks as though we will have had our first drink at the bar in Marcham Centre!

A big thank you for all the photos that have been sent in – keep them coming!

Until next time



PUBLISHER / EDITOR

Meriel Lewis
8 Orchard Way, Marcham
Abingdon OX13 6PP
Tel: 01865 391725
Website: www.madnews.co.uk
Email: editor@madnews.co.uk

ADVERTISING

Fran Russell: adverts@madnews.co.uk
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Paula Utting and Claire Wright
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Advertising: 5pm 15th month
Other copy: 5pm 20th month
except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

ADDITIONAL COPIES

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

DISCLAIMER

We apologise in advance for any errors that may creep into MADNews (online or print), or omissions that creep out - we don't do it on purpose!

The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team, who are all volunteers.

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Marcham and Shippon

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

catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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April 2021

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Local Elections

County Council elections plus Police and Crime Commissioner elections are scheduled for Thursday 6th May. Only those registered on the electoral roll will be able to vote, so if you are new to the area and not yet on the voting register then visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote as the deadline for registration is 19th April. If you think you will need a postal vote or a proxy vote, then please visit www.electoralcommission.org.uk for further information. The deadline for receipt of these applications is 5.00 p.m. on 20th April and 27th April respectively.

Census 2021

A reminder that Sunday 21st March was Census day and everyone in the household should have completed their census form either via the online access code allocated to each household, or have requested a paper form. For those who have not yet submitted their information, help can be found at www.census.gov.uk The two closest telephone support centres are at Rose Hill and East Oxford Telephone 01865 749597 or 01865 792168. Those who have lost their access code can apply on line or by ringing 08001412021 for a new one to be sent in the post or via text.

Annual Meeting for Electors

The Council is giving consideration to this meeting which would normally be held in May. Currently, owing to Covid regulations and restrictions the usual format may have to change. Please look out for further details.

Climate Change

The Parish Council is considering setting up a working party to review climate change issues. This, once established, could look at any local issues and make recommendations as to what action the Parish Council can take. The Parish Council already requests car charging points when dealing with planning applications for new housing, and considers green energy. It has supported the control of emissions and the air quality action along the A415. If there are residents who would like to help by joining a working party to focus on environmental matters and help advise future decisions of the Parish Council then please let the Clerk or your local councillor know.

Councillor Vacancies

There are 2 vacancies on the Parish Council. Please see advertisement on page 7.

Planning applications

Variation of condition 6 of permission P19/V2137/FUL to change the timing of the submission of a European Protected Species Licence application at the barn, 12 Frilford Road. The Council agreed not to comment as it did not have the relevant experience in bat habitats to determine how they would be affected by building works.

P20/V1288/O Amendment to highway work proposals for the erection of 90 dwellings. The Parish Council reiterated its earlier concerns regarding the whole application,

as its points regarding air quality, access, sustainability and flooding had not been addressed.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is Wednesday 14th April 2021 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 Road
Tel: 01865 391833
clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

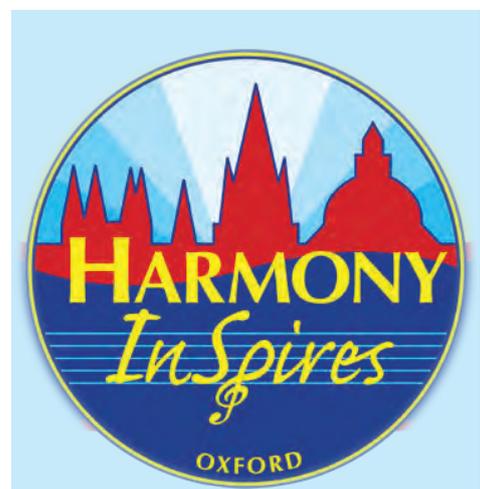
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CENSUS 1911

Now that we have all completed our census, it is interesting to look at what might come out when the figures emerge and to look for how Marcham has changed over the years. In 1802, Marcham had a population of 938. The population peaked at 1,197 in 1851 but by 1901 had declined to 687. The Vale estimates the current population at 2,407 – the census will give us a complete figure but it is clear that Marcham has grown substantially in the last 60 years.

The last census for which complete records have been released is that from 1911. The census recording method had changed since 1901 – in 1911 each household filled in its own form – previously the census details had been entered by an official. The 2021 change to on-line entry is another step in improving data collection.

The oldest person in the 1911 census, aged 86, was Giles Johnson (who lived in Hitchcops), a woodman who had been born in the reign of George IV, the youngest was **Florrie Stone** (age 6 weeks) who died in 2004 and will be remembered by many. Families with surnames like Stimpson, Dyer, Higgins are listed – family names that had been in the village for many years – and still are.

What was striking is that virtually everyone worked in the village. There was a handful of commuters– only one by car but he had a chauffeur. Agriculture was the main occupation for men, housework or domestic service the main job for women. Most left school (in Mill Road) at 12. Secondary education was not a generally available opportunity. Marcham’s people were local – 69% had been born in Berkshire and those that moved out didn’t move far – mostly staying within Berkshire or Oxfordshire – though a few had emigrated (notably to Canada). Marcham in 1911 is very similar to the picture in 1901 – little had changed over the years.

There are some intriguing details in the census. There are 4 from Marcham living near St Asaph in North Wales. The reason may be that Alice Anson, sister of the Ansons at Marcham Park was superintendent of a hospital there – and her sisters acted as recruiters. One of the interests of a census is being able to trace this sort of connection – the 1921 census should start to come available over the next year.

Summary data from the census will emerge over the next few years. The full details won’t be available for 100 years. The next census for which detailed results will be published is that for 1921. That will give us a chance to compare the Marcham we see today with the Marcham a century ago.

MIKE HOATH

April 2021



OUR MVS
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Good Friday 2nd April
Saturday 3rd April
Easter Sunday 4th April
Easter Monday 5th April

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Sunday:	Closed

This is subject to change and we will keep you informed.
 Your continued support & understanding is appreciated

ARE YOU READY TO VENTURE OUT AGAIN?

Abingdon & District Volunteer Centre has finally got the go-ahead to re-open the office in the Baptist Church at 35 Ock Street on the 6th April. We will be looking for office volunteers and driving volunteers as several of our drivers have retired. The phone number will still be the same, Abingdon (01235) 522438 and the office will be staffed (hopefully) from 10a.m. to around midday. Anybody interested in offering their services can mail me at malvin@ic24.net.
MALVIN DRAKLEY





MARCHAM LITTLE ANGELS VILLAGE EASTER EGG HUNT

29th March - 6th April

£1 Entry

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LOCKDOWN by Christine Whild

Like a child let loose in the 'Pick and Mix'
Freed to be foolish, alone -
Just the world and me;
Read a book, write a note to a friend,
Play the piano, and then realise
That two hours have gone by;
Another two hours among the weeds,
With a robin picking worms and seeds;
Or mowing the lawn,
Then sit idly in the summer house, just watching;
Wet day? I might pick up a duster,
Or eye the vacuum cleaner.

Lockdown - I love it,
But shouldn't say so out loud
There's misery out there, and a crowd
Of folks are dying each day;
I am aware that we are in a crisis
But there's only so much worrying that I can do.
And kindness and generosity abound;
God has reclaimed his world,
And let me be part of it;
Selfish as a toddler, heaven on Earth,
I feel privileged and
Allowed to be selfish -
By decree.

Marcham WI

Next Meeting:

**7.30pm Monday, 19th April 2021
via Zoom**



Speaker: Sarah Dean Kelly - Her experiences doing a trek in the Arctic for Maggie's charity.

We are delighted that at our Annual Meeting, which took place in March, Jen Brown was re-elected President of Marcham WI for a further year. We are continuing to meet monthly via Zoom, but are very much looking forward to when we will be able to meet again in person in the new village hall.

For our Zoom meeting in April, we will be welcoming our speaker Sarah Dean Kelly, who will be telling us about her experiences doing a trek in the Arctic for Maggie's charity. This sounds as though it was quite an adventure, while raising money for such a worthwhile cause and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible online for her talk,

For further information, please contact: Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



Afternoon Teas

Thank you for all your support in February and March.
Special Easter selection available 29th March to 3rd April. Details on our website or pick up a menu in Marcham Village Shop. From 4th – 26th April, inclusive, our volunteer chefs will take a well-deserved break. Deliveries will continue from Tuesday 27th April onwards.

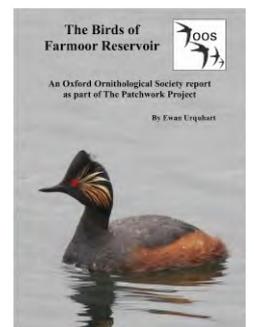
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PAGANS & PURITANS

the story of May Morning in Oxfordshire

by Tim Healey

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Tim Healey is a freelance writer and broadcaster who has presented many programmes on BBC Radio 3 and Radio 4. Marcham Society members will be sent the Zoom link automatically. There is a £3 donation for non-members wishing to join the talk.

To join us, please contact:
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk



www.marchamsociety.org.uk
Facebook: marchamsociety

IT'LL BE ALRIGHT ON THE NIGHT – OR NOT!

With the end of lockdown coming closer some members of the at present defunct Marcham Players are looking forward to reforming. With a view to encouraging interest within the village we have decided to publish some memories of past productions. One of the first I was involved in was “Just the Ticket” a 3-act play that revolved around a traffic warden brilliantly played by **Eddie Ahier**. I was usually involved backstage either as prompt or stage manager, and often making props. This play needed a stuffed ostrich big enough and sturdy enough to support Eddie while he carried out a hilarious drunken conversation with the bird. It also needed to be hollow as some burglars hid stolen jewels inside it – quite a challenge.

At the time **Janet Frere’s** brother was head of Perrot Hill Prep School in Somerset and as the play was suitable for the boys Marcham Players would take it on tour, staying either at the school or with villagers in North Perrot. I drove down with all the props in my car and on the way back the next day it was foul weather, tipping down with rain, I passed a young lad hitch-hiking. Taking pity on him I stopped to pick him up. I warned him as he got in that he would have to find room for his feet among the coal scuttle and fire irons in the foot well. I’d already shoved stuff off the seat into the back. After a few minutes he noticed the head of the ostrich in the back and I shall never forget the look on his face. I think he thought he was being abducted by a lunatic.

If you are a past member of Marcham Players and have some memories you would like to add please feel free. Roll on the day when we can once again perform for the village.
SHEILA DUNFORD



Puzzle Corner – answers next month
??

TEA TIME TEASER
from Cassington and Worton News

The following are expressions and sayings with a theme of the natural world.
Can you work out what they are?

1. T Make A M O O A M
2. L For A N I A H
3. A B I T Hand I W T In T B
4. D Count Y C B T H
5. T E B Catches T W
6. B O A F Flock T
7. T Beat A T B
8. T Go O A W G C

Easter Egg Hunt - how many Easter eggs can you find in this issue of MADNews - only for fun, no prizes!



The Arts Society Abingdon (ex ADFAS) are presenting an ONLINE Webinar on
Wednesday 21st April 2021,
11.00am and 2.00pm.

Faces of the English Court:
Hans Holbein at the Court of Henry VIII

by Justin Reay

In 1526 the German artist Hans Holbein the Younger arrived in London with a letter of introduction from Erasmus of Rotterdam to Sir Thomas More. With this contact Holbein came within the ambit of More’s intellectual circle and the royal court. During his second stay in England from 1532, he was appointed King’s Painter. His commissions included designs for festive tableaux, jewellery and architectural features, and portraits of members of the court, for which his delicate study drawings show Holbein’s changing approach to portraiture.



Visitors/non-members are very welcome to view this lecture, cost £6.00. If you would like to view online please email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk for further information on payment and to receive the link, which will be sent out approximately 48 hours before the lecture. (Members will automatically be sent a link)

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

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Marcham Centre

Marcham Centre is certainly looking forward to opening up after all this time and we set out the first stages below, all in accordance with the Government roadmap. Marcham Community Group (which operates Marcham Centre) is keen to make the facilities available with the right balance between proper use for the wellbeing of local people and maintaining Covid safety with observance of Government rules.

The **MUGA** re-opened on the 29th March from 9:00 am until 9:00 pm for

- 1) organised team sport (by constituted clubs), operating under Covid-safe arrangements
- 2) sports coaching by a qualified instructor, e.g. tennis coaching, with numbers determined by the coach operating under Covid-safe arrangements
- 3) informal use by people for playing sport, subject to a maximum of two independent groups of up to six persons each in the MUGA at any one time, with no social interactions.

The MUGA is reserved for people playing sport or other physical activities or coaching and is not available for social gatherings.

Arrangements for **Marcham Tennis Club**, reformed as an LTA club, will soon be announced. Please contact Dan or Zoe Barnes if you would like to help get this off the ground.

Also on 29th March, **Football training** for the colts and adult teams returned. (Please remember that spectators to any team sport and any other users of the field must respect social distancing rules and must not gather in groups of more than six people.)

These arrangements apply until notice of the next stage of 'opening up'.

Looking ahead:

Cricket matches will (provisionally) restart in Marcham from the 8th May.

In the Village Hall we plan to open the new **Bar** on Friday 30th April with outside table service on the patio and for inside table service from Wednesday 19th May.

Thirsty Café is hoping to open for Saturday mornings in May (outdoors only at first).

Pilates and other **exercise classes** may resume from 17th May.

All the above information is subject to change if Government guidelines dictate. Updated, more detailed information will be included in next month's MADNews and via social media.

Lastly

New grass The strip of ground by the patio has been re-dug, top-soiled and seeded. By the summer it should be looking good. Please help us by keeping off that area (including dogs) until the new grass is established, so the surface isn't damaged (see cover for photo).

Although there is a way through the fencing at the south end of the patio, the path will become worn rather quickly. If at all possible, please avoid going that way. That situation will improve when the main fencing round the field comes down in April.

Marcham Centre
enquiries@marchamcentre.org
www.marchamcentre.org
Operated by Marcham Community Group
Registered in England 7470307
Charity No. 1144407



ARE YOU A CRICKETER?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE CRICKET A TRY?

If so, and you are 14 years of age or over, regardless of experience or skill level, your village club would love to have you on board!

We are a club that plays matches on a Saturday, we have two teams, playing at differing levels of competition, that are about to benefit from the brand new facilities in the village hall, comprising of changing rooms, bar and patio area, outside practice nets and excellent playing facilities.

There will be a very friendly welcome for you and your family from a club that has been in existence on this site for 115 years, providing quality village cricket and social facilities.

Interested? Contact Trevor Hill (Club Secretary)
trevor3chancel@aol.com 1865 391321 or 07748 696733



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Marcham Cricket Club 

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We have been enjoying the start of spring here at the nursery with the arrival of warmer weather and lots of outdoor play. We have noticed that there have been a few residents move into our bug houses!



On 4th March we celebrated World Book Day with children attending nursery dressed as their favourite book character. We had such fun reading stories, playing with themed activities and playing make believe in our costumes.



The children all made beautiful Mother's Day cards with a flower theme. They loved getting creative cutting, painting, gluing and sticking to make something really special for their Mummy's.

We are looking forward to raising some money for Comic Relief and getting involved by all wearing red. We will send some pictured in the next issue!

Don't forget that we have our community Easter Egg Hunt around Marcham from 29th March - 6th April. If you would like to take part, please come to collect a map from the nursery for a £1 donation to our chosen charity Flexicare. One you have completed the hunt, there will be the prize of an Easter egg to collect!

If you are interested in securing a place for your child please contact us: T: 01865 819992 **Stay Safe**

E: info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk
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and follow us on Facebook: [littleangelsmarcham](https://www.facebook.com/littleangelsmarcham)

News poem from MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL ...

Children love a story
 Wherever it is read
 At home the cosiest place to read
 Is tucked up tight in bed.
 But this month in the classroom
 We've been sharing books and rhymes
 Not at the end of every day
 But at 'booky' breakfast times!
 Fresh fruit and drinks we've enjoyed
 With cereal and toast
 An early start for everyone...
 But who enjoyed it most?
 The children all came in with smiles
 The parents left with glee
 An extra hour is always fun
 And we were all very happy!
 So next time that you want to read
 Don't wait until night time
 Morning, night or evening
 Is perfect for a nursery rhyme.



Nicky Sanford, Early Years Teacher, Marcham Pre-School
 01865 392101 Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk
www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

'Oh, the sound of happy children, the buzz of excited learning, the examples of kindness and community! It is wonderful having everyone back in school. In our Zoom assembly shortly after our return, we talked about all the things that we were grateful for. These things kept coming up:

- "Being back in school"
- "Being back with friends"
- "Everyone being safe and well"
- "Being able to learn together and not in front of a screen"

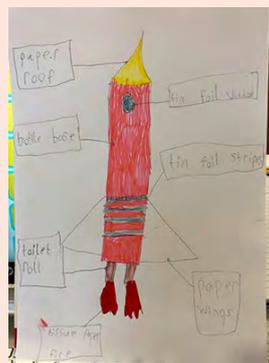
I am very grateful for the staff at Marcham Primary School. I would like to say a very special thank you to them for being just amazing throughout Lockdown and beyond. They've made extraordinary efforts to keep connected while children were learning remotely, and are now enabling a smooth and enjoyable return to school. It is so good that we can reconnect, rebuild and strengthen relationships, and continue to grow and celebrate together.

At the time of writing, we are two weeks into the return and there has already been so much to celebrate! The children are back in full swing so there is a lot of fabulous work going on. The Leopards wanted to share their learning about Space. They've made rockets and have lots of facts to share already:

- Romy: "I have been learning all about Neil Armstrong."
- Naia: "Neil Armstrong was the first man on the moon."
- Jacob: "Buzz Aldrin fixed a broken rocket with a pen."
- Mila: "People all over the world watched the men on the moon."
- Robbie: "I talked to my Gran about the moon because she saw it happen."
- Joe: "Chris Hadfield has played his guitar in space."
- Evie: "We made rockets using different materials."
- Noah: "I love learning about space. My favourite astronaut is called Chris."

If you want to find out more about what the students at Marcham are up to, we are continuing to update our website. Have you visited it lately? Take a look at the work on the class pages, for example.

www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages/
VIV HUTCHINSON, HEADTEACHER



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Andrea Buckingham

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www.miltonhill.go-plus.net

When you dispose of any face masks, snip off the ear straps before you throw them away. Hundreds of tangled animals have had to be rescued from them. Takes a moment, makes a huge difference

Reasons To Be Cheerful

The third British Covid-19 lockdown, has felt very different from the first one, in March 2020. Maybe because much of the current one has been during the long and dark winter nights. Whether Boris Johnson’s current exit roadmap will transpire, and whether the world looks and feels the same if and when we get through this, I don’t know. What I do know is, spring has sprung. The evenings are drawing out, my lounge window is ajar through the day, and how blissful it is to hear all the outside sounds, instead of the acoustics of my accommodation, and my own thoughts being the main soundtrack to my life over the past few months. People are clearly looking to the future as my phone is now ringing, with people asking when I will start to lead my guided walks in nature again, and when will I recommence with my wildlife gardening consultations? All in good time folks, all in good time. You don’t need me to be able to enjoy the slowly drying soil, the slight lawn growth, the sound of the birds, the buzz of the bees, the smells on a country walk, the feeling of the wind in your hair and the rain on your face. Nor the taste of the remaining winter harvests, if you have a veg plot. These little things, remind us life goes on, your gardens will awaken, and give you the joy you had during the first lockdown. The local green spaces will once again be the oasis to retreat to, as you did last year. The blue skies seen from your windows will trigger past memories, and visions of new memories you will build going forward. I will be back amongst you soon enough, but I’m currently still shielding, awaiting my shot at the vaccine. Get out there, even in my absence, and enjoy nature, in all its forms. We are nature, not separate from it. It sustains us, and we sustain it. Enjoy!



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

Marcham Guides have had another sleep over, here they are all ready for bed. The theme was to sleep somewhere unusual, so they slept in the car, under the stairs, in the summerhouse, on the bathroom floor, and some created dens using blankets and fairy lights!!



In the morning we made pancakes over Zoom and then the girls went away to do various egg challenges including projecting a cream egg down a slope using a domino run, sending a real egg down a zip wire, building a tower from cocktail sticks and plasticine to hold an egg for 30 seconds and dropping an egg 2m without it breaking! During the afternoon they had a scavenger hunt to find objects for the letters of SHROVE TUESDAY and created pictures to portray moods - happiness, calm and so on.



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Have you ever wondered where all the little brass 'saucers' for our church candles came from?

Until the turn of the 20th century, most villages in the southern departments of France raised silkworms as a cottage industry, keeping them on long trestle tables up under the eaves of their homes, feeding them on mulberry leaves. Once the worms had pupated, wrapping themselves in their chrysalises, the whole family would clear the loft and take the basket loads to the village 'filature' for spinning.

The girls and young women were the work-force - living in the silk factory in an almost boarding-school style, with some travelling up hill and down dale every day. Each girl sat beside a basket of cocoons with a bucket of boiling water nearby while a procession of little brass 'saucers', each with a pair of tiny wire whiskers, mechanically passing by. As the little saucers passed, the girls dipped the cocoons into the water to kill the worm, then threaded the silk onto the hooks either side of the saucer. The cocoons were 'unwound', round and round in the huge room with the little bobbins filling till they were snipped off, packed and sold.

The 'filature' in 'our' village eventually closed and has been turned into our village hub.

Donald and I found the little saucers in the basement of our house in France and brought them back to England where Donald, aided and abetted by **Richard Jones** and **Mike Carling**, turned them into our church candle holders for us all to enjoy!

JEAN CREASY

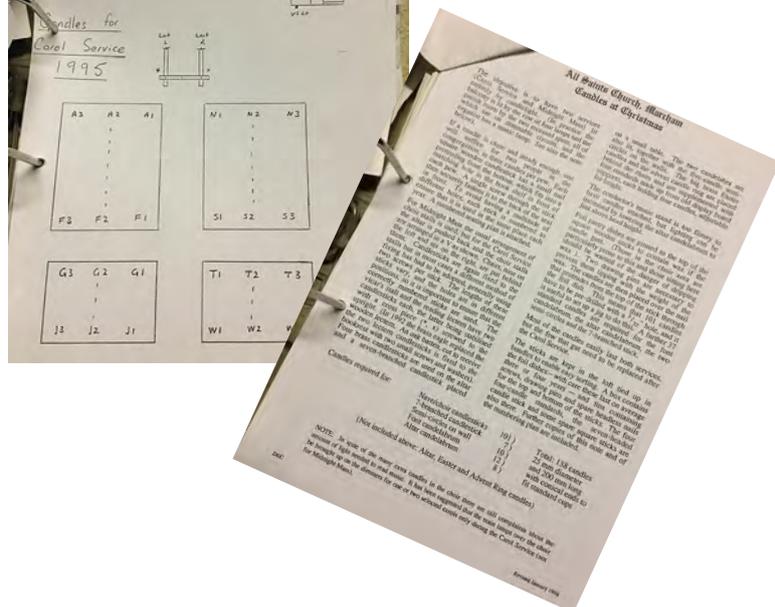
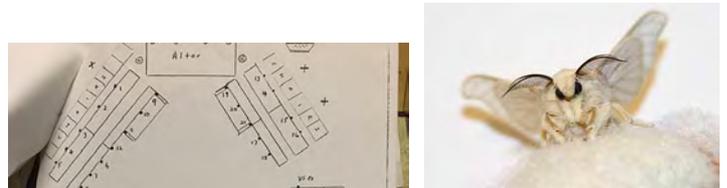


Donald also drafted the scheme for lighting the church at Christmas by candles – with a plan and including a note to warn the choir about dangers of dripping hot wax! **Silk Moth (*Bombyx mori*)** ▼

Jean and Donald at the door of their Orange Box ▶



▼ **Candle holders in use at All Saints'**



The lighting scheme needed 138 candles in total with 101 in the nave/choir, 7 for the branched candlestick, 10 for the walls, and 20 for the two candelabra

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**GOVERNMENT GRANTS**

Having talked to some of you in Marcham recently, I think it is important to clarify some misunderstanding about the process of accessing government grants.

First, the government makes a big, exciting announcement of giving out different types of grants, including business ones. Then, it passes on the responsibility of giving out these grants to the local District Councils. This where there is often a delay through no fault of the District Councils, as they cannot hand out any grants until the government passes on the money to them. This delay can last for weeks in some areas, much to the frustration of the District Councils and their residents! So please don't blame the District Council. Officers start rolling out grants as soon as they receive the money. At present these are the main grants available:

***Winter Support** grant which has been extended to 16th April. There are some additional funds to support residents with supermarket vouchers and fuel vouchers or the direct payment of energy or water bills. (Contact the Community Hub for help)

***Self- Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)**.... 2 new grants both with Cap £7,500

Grant 4: Feb-April self- employed to receive 80% of profits;

Grant 5: May-Sept tapered grant based on turnover decrease.

***One-off re-start grants** of £6,000 for non-essential retail businesses, and £18,000 for hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care, gym.

You can apply for a grant by contacting South and Vale Support Team and you can keep abreast of all new business grants as they appear by accessing the SVBS letters on www.svbs.co.uk.

WEEKLY TIPS ON HOW TO HELP REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Many of you have asked me how we, as individuals, can make a difference in helping mitigate Climate Emergency. So, I thought I would put 4 tips, provided by APSE Energy, on how to do this each month...so one a week. Here goes!

Week 1:

a) Measure your carbon to give you an idea what areas in your life you should focus on...Use an online free APSE calculator to get you started. ([/calculator.aspx](http://calculator.aspx))

b) Set yourself some targets which you feel you might be able to reach.

Week 2:**Plastic not fantastic:**

a) Say no to straws! 8.5 billion used plastic straws are thrown away each year in the UK (www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2017-11-09/cornwall-could-ban-plastic-straws-to-protect-beaches/),

b) Try to avoid plastic food wrappings. Where possible use paper bags.

Week 3:**Try some eco-friendly ideas:**

a) Turn down the heating by a degree from your usual setting and don a jumper. Remember to turn off the heating when you go out. You can save 8% of your heating use.

b) Ditch bottled water by taking your own water container, preferably metal and not plastic, with you.

Week 4:**From road rage to carbon save**

a) Utilise your time wisely to avoid traffic. Simply leaving for and from work half an hour earlier or later, and so avoiding congestions, can reduce your carbon footprint considerably.

b) Work from home ... many of you will be doing this already because of Covid. But you may be interested to know that a 5 miles commute produces 22kg of carbon each day, so annually you would be saving over a tonne of carbon!

So that's it! Good luck! There will be 4 new tips next month!

Stay safe and well!

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

01235 534001 or catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH**

For the last 10 years, the six ancient Oxfordshire villages of Appleford, Sutton Courtenay, Milton, Drayton, Marcham and Shippon that make up our County Division, have all been under pressure from rapid development and housing expansion. It is the same in many parts of the South of England, but our thriving economy has made us a focus of growth and need for more infrastructure. As a result we seem to need more roads, bridges, rail lines and reservoirs. And it all generates millions of tons of carbon and is making our targets to address climate change ever harder to achieve.

One such potential piece of infrastructure is a Marcham bypass, under consideration since the 1930s. Lack of willpower, lack of agreement but mainly lack of money have prevented it from being built ever since. It would take a development of many hundreds of houses to provide enough funds to make it happen. Furthermore, the Wallingford experience, (where a very costly bypass and new bridge over the Thames led to enormous pressure for the town to expand to the new boundary set by the bypass), suggests that we need to think carefully what we are wishing for. We would not wish to see Marcham becoming the next Grove.

The UK is chairing the Cop26 Climate Conference in Glasgow later this year and government is well aware of our responsibility and need to be seen as a world leader in attempting to solve the Climate Emergency. It seems very likely that we will have to reconsider how we balance economic growth and recovery from the pandemic with understanding and controlling the carbon footprint of so many infrastructure projects.

FLOODING AND DRAINAGE

A number of new estates in Sutton Courtenay and Marcham have experienced severe flooding issues recently. Sewage and drainage supplies have been coming under increasing pressure. Of course we have had some heavy rain but this cannot be the only reason. In our haste to build new housing estates, the schemes for coping with excessive rain and sewage have too often taken insufficient account of local knowledge and flooding experience. When it comes to which way the water tends to flow, and which fields flood regularly, the locals often know best. It is surely time for drainage and flooding to be given much higher priority when planning applications are considered and for truly independent expert advice to be given rather than that provided by developer appointees.

AND FINALLY TWO PIECES OF GOOD NEWS

First, the pressure on the Frilford junction and Marcham Air Quality were major reasons for a proposed major development at Fyfield being turned down by the Vale Planning committee recently. Secondly, the closure of Mill Road Bridge some years ago has been the source of immense frustration for country walkers and Marcham residents. The need for people to get out of the house and walk in the countryside during the pandemic has added to the frustration. OCC officers have been well aware of the frustration and have been working hard to unravel the many obstacles to finding a solution. At last a solution is in sight and a planning application is due to go to VWHDC in the next few weeks. All authorities and interested parties are working well together and it is expected that the bridge repair will pass the planning process and be complete and ready for public use this summer.

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

MP'S REPORT

I was delighted that 2,620 people responded to my survey regarding Grove Station within just 2 weeks – thank you if you did. Some 98% of people respondents supported it being reopened! Over 90% said they would prefer it to a new bus service and 89% said they would use their car less if it reopened. We have stiff competition as there are 85 different bids to Government for stations or lines to reopen, but I will keep bashing away until we eventually succeed. I continue to be frustrated with Royal Mail. Our postmen and women work hard but something is clearly not right as constituents have been complaining to me about mail deliveries for several months and the problem has been reported in the national news too. When I called a meeting with them last year they said they had gone from ‘a letter service delivering parcels to a parcel service delivering letters’ and it does seem to be the parcels they prioritise. Every fortnight I enter the ballot to have a debate in parliament about their service and hope I will be successful soon.

Unauthorised traveller camps were the subject of my speech in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill debate this month. The Bill has wrongly been accused of restricting our right to protest when actually the protest measures target actions we have seen by organised protest groups in the past year such as people gluing themselves to roads and stopping ambulances getting through, or shutting down printing presses because they don't like the editorial line of the papers involved. It is a wide-ranging bill that increases the sentences or time served for a wide range of violent and sexual offences, but it also clamps down on unauthorised traveller camps which are a regular source of distress in the constituency. At the time of writing, in 20 of the past 34 weeks there has been at least one such camp somewhere in the Vale or South Oxfordshire, frequently involving mess, noise, vandalism and other anti-social behaviour. The Bill will allow the police to remove such camps more quickly and impose stiffer penalties.

I had my first appearance on the BBC's Politics Live on 18th March, an interesting if slightly strange experience. Whereas you can see everyone's face when you watch on television, each of us panellists look into a black screen on our computers as we can't see anyone!

We discussed various topics including the EU's latest silly comments regarding the supply and safety of the AstraZeneca vaccine, which has again been confirmed as completely safe. Despite the noise, we shouldn't worry – we've now vaccinated over 25 million people, half the adult population, and remain on course to see every adult offered a jab by the end of July. As ever, if I can help with anything then do email david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

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



CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime

Tell them what you know, not who you are



Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Bowls Club

will be celebrating the relaxation of Covid rules by holding two



Open Days

on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd May from 11 am to 3 pm at our all-weather green at Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize (next to the Millennium Green).

Now that organised sport is allowed again, why not try your hand at bowls? We welcome new members of any age. Bring soft shoes (trainers are fine). We will provide the bowls on the day. Refreshments available. Drop in any time, either day – or both.

For those who wish to follow up this weekend, there will be a programme of training sessions on Friday evenings in June and early July.

For further information phone Tom 01865 391430.
www.kbsbc.co.uk

PACT CALLS FOR KEY WORKERS TO CONSIDER ADOPTION

Adoption charity **Parents And Children Together** (PACT) is appealing for people from key worker professions to consider adoption. The agency would really like to hear from key workers such as nurses, teachers, police officers, social workers, doctors, ambulance staff, childminders and those in the care sector, as given their professional experience and skills they typically make strong adopters, and they are particularly valued by local authorities looking to place a child.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, children have continued to come into care and the need for adoptive families is increasing. Over the last 21 months PACT's enquiries team has spoken with many people considering adoption and heard how this year has given people the time to consider their route to completing their families.

PACT is a warm, welcoming and professional agency open to a wide range of people including couples or single people, people from the Black and Minority Ethnic community and LGBT+, who can consider adopting children over four years old, sibling groups of two or more children, children with a black or minority ethnic background and children who may have physical or learning disabilities.

PACT holds regular information events where anyone considering adoption can find out more about what's involved in the adoption process and hear from an adopter about their own experiences. Currently these events are online and free to attend but please do book a place in advance by calling the friendly enquiries team on **0300 456 4800**.

You can also find out more about PACT and its adoption services at www.pactcharity.org



ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKES CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk



JOURNEY
TO THE
CROSS



Good Friday
Walk
10am-12pm
All Saints'
Churchyard



YouTube Church

10am Sunday morning on our YouTube channel and then available to watch anytime.

www.youtube.com/c/AllSaintsMarcham

This is a great way to see what our church services are like from the comfort of your own sofa.

Please check our website for more details of these services, including how to book for in-person ones.

St. Lukes, Garford – two of our Easter services are being held in Garford. Please check out our website for more details.



Other services at All Saints' in April

10am: Either in person or on YouTube. Please book online for in-person

6pm: In person only. No need to book

If you would like to chat to the parish chaplain or one of our pastoral care volunteers, please do get in contact.

Contacts:

Mark Newman Chaplain to the Parish chaplain@allsaintsmarcham.org; **Rob Finch** Youth Worker 07888331708, rob@marchamyouth.org; **Tamsin Gilbert** Parish Administrator & Churchwarden info@allsaintsmarcham.org;

Neil Rowe Churchwarden 391168