



Marcham & District News

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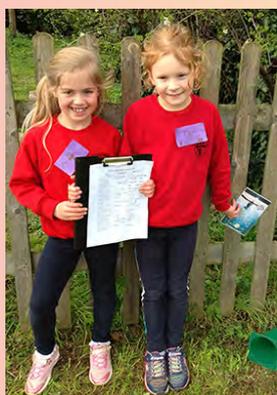
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MAY 2021 VOL: 43 NO: 5



▲ It's Artweeks! see page 7

▲ Easter service at St Luke's see page 9



▲ Marcham Primary treasure-hunting on World Book Day see page 13

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Fairies in Marcham see page 13



▲ The bar's open! see page 11

May Bank Holidays 2021 Waste Collection Changes

~~Wednesday 5 May~~ Thursday 6 May

Rubbish and Food Waste

~~Wednesday 2 June~~ Thursday 3 June

Rubbish and Food Waste



Diary for May

Date	Event	
1-23	Artweeks across Oxfordshire	7
1 Sat	Thirsty Café, Marcham Centre, 09.00-11.30	7
5 Wed	NO WASTE COLLECTION – it will be on Thur 6 May (Rubbish and Food Waste)	
5 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, online, 19.30	3
6 Thur	Local Elections, 07.00-22.00	3
8 Sat	Thirsty Café, Marcham Centre, 09.00-11.30	7
8 Sat	Milton Hill Bowling Club Open Afternoon, 14.00-17.00	15
15 Sat	Thirsty Café, Marcham Centre, 09.00-11.30	7
15-16	Feathered Glass Open Studio, Marcham 10.00-18.00	7
17 Mon	Marcham WI: Misba Khan, 19.30	17
19 Wed	Arts Society: Genius of Beethoven, 11.00 & 14.00	19

20-23	Feathered Glass Open Studio, Marcham 10.00-18.00	7
20 Thur	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email editor@madnews.co.uk	
22 Sat	Thirsty Café, Marcham Centre, 09.00-11.30	7
22-23	Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Bowls Club Open Days, 11.00-15.00	19
22 Sat	Thirsty Café BBQ, Marcham Centre, 17.00	7, 11
24 Mon	Marcham Society: LiDAR, Ed Peveler, 19.30	9
28 Fri	Abingdon Bowling Club Open Evening, 17.30	7
29 Sat	Thirsty Café, Marcham Centre, 09.00-11.30	7
30 Sun	Abingdon Bowling Club Open Morning, 10.00-12.00	7

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

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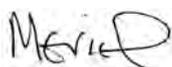

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Dear Readers

There are plenty of opportunities to try out bowling this month – three local clubs have open days and a new indoor session is starting in Marcham Centre!

It is wonderful to see the Centre opening up for all sorts of activities, from bacon butties and beer to toddlers and table tennis – and lots in between!

Until next time



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Jane Mander
DEADLINES

Advertising: 5pm 15th month
Other copy: 5pm 20th month
except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

ADDITIONAL COPIES

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

DISCLAIMER

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

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

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Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

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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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May 2021

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

HRH Duke of Edinburgh

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, councillors, staff and residents of the parish has offered condolences and sympathy to all members of the Royal Family on the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip.

Parish Council Meetings

Owing to the period allowed for public mourning and the notice period required for the calling of Council meetings, the usual April meeting was postponed, and a meeting to deal with urgent business only was called for the end of the month. At the time of writing, the Council is waiting for a decision of the High Court as to how meetings in the future can be held as legislation passed to enable Councils to meet remotely for up to one year, is soon to expire. Details of future Council meetings will be on the website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Local Elections - Reminder

County Council elections plus Police and Crime Commissioner elections are being held on Thursday 6th May. For those who have not applied for a postal vote, and are voting in person, the polling station will be the new village hall in Barrow Close, off Morland Road. Social distancing and hand sanitising measures will be in place, and you will be required to wear a face covering. Please remember to take your own pen or pencil.

Oxford Cambridge Expressway

The Parish Council has been following the progress of the Oxford Cambridge Expressway plans, and has sent a representative to local meetings to be involved in discussions on how it might have affected our local area. As residents may have heard, the government has now cancelled the project. The government in continuing to work with the Highways Agency to consider where targeted localised road investment could be needed in the Oxford/Cambridge arc.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Council is considering whether this meeting should take place in 2021 owing to ongoing concern for public safety and face to face meetings. Information regarding this will be posted on the Parish Council's website.

Grass Cutting

It is that time of year when we are all out cutting grass and managing our gardens. In previous years, the Council has had reports of dumping of grass cuttings, and unfortunately again this season cuttings have been spotted on highway verges and on private land and paths. The Vale of White Horse District Council provides a successful recycling and waste collection service for all its residents in the district. In addition the recycling centre at Drayton is open 8.00a.m. – 5.00p.m. 7 days a week and to 8.00p.m. on Thursdays. (Limits on the number of vehicles at once and social distancing rules are in place). So there

should be no excuse for fly tipping.

Planning Applications

P21/V0564/FUL Improvements to existing access and creation of an agricultural track. Field adjacent to the war memorial, south of the A415. The Council requested a condition, should the application be approved, that it be used solely for agricultural purposes.

P21/V0700/FUL Demolition of existing house and garage, and replacement house and garage at Kernanderry, Faringdon Road. The Council commented on visibility for the exit onto a busy road and impact on parking and traffic, and the need for screening.

P20/V1388/O Outline application for residential development of up to 90 dwellings on land south of the A415. Amended information on drainage and traffic lights at Frilford. The Council maintained its concerns regarding the impact of additional dwellings on drainage and traffic in the area.

P21/V0530/HH Second storey side extension at 10 Chancel Way. The Council had no objection.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

A provisional date has been set as Wednesday 5th May, at 7.30 p.m., but please check the Council's website for the latest information as regulations as to the holding of meeting are changing..

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road
Tel: 01865 391833
clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk



POLLING STATIONS THURSDAY 6TH MAY

If you are unsure of where you should vote, you can go to: electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/your-election-information to find where to go.

This is a short list of local polling stations, but please check before you go.

- Scout Hall, Dry Sandford (for Cothill)
- Cox's Field Sports Pavilion, Frilford
- Village Hall, Garford
- Marcham Centre
- Church Hall, Shippon
- White Hart, Fyfield (for Tubney)

Wear a face covering and take your own pencil!

In unforeseen circumstances, such as you having to self-isolate, you can use an emergency proxy vote by contacting the electoral team before 5.00pm on election day

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/democracy/elections-2021-all-you-need-to-know-about-voting-on-6-may/

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Dear Editor

I wonder if I am alone in wishing for a speed limit of 30mph on the road leading from Marcham Village through to domestic housing before Cothill School.

At Cothill School, I would welcome 20mph as school children cross from one playing field to another. During "lockdown" we have played host to walkers, cyclists, joggers and families out on bikes together, along the Cothill Road from Marcham Village to Cothill.

The Cothill Road plays host to domestic housing, school playing fields and leads to a junction and blind corner once entering Cothill Village.

For the safety of those who live on Cothill Road and use this road I would wish to request a 30mph sign at the commencement of Cothill Road from Marcham Village to ensure the safety of all.

Sincerely

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Abingdon & District Volunteer Centre has re-opened the office in the Baptist Church at 35 Ock Street. We are looking for office volunteers and driving volunteers as several of our drivers have retired. Call Abingdon (01235) 522438 and the office is staffed (hopefully) from 10am to around midday. Anybody interested in offering their services can mail me at malvin@ic24.net.
MALVIN DRAKLEY



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1st - 23rd May 2021
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Saturday 1st - Sunday 9th May: in North and West Oxfordshire
 Saturday 8th - Sunday 16th May: Oxford City
 Saturday 15th May - Sunday 23rd: South Oxfordshire & the Vale of White Horse

Pip, our local glass artist, is having an **open studio** - read all about it below

FE Feathered Glass
 Kiln formed glass by Pip Stacey

OXFORDSHIRE **ART WEEKS**

Artweeks.org Open Studios are Back and I'm joining in!
 All are welcome to pop in for a chat and a nosey.
 See what I make and my new studio space any time between 10am & 6pm
 15-16 & 20-23 May 2021 .
 Covid safe visit, appointments can be made, contact Pip below
 T: 07977460919
 E: featheredglass@yahoo.com
 Pear Tree Cottage, 7 Packhorse Lane,
 Marcham, OX13 6NT

We Are Re-Opening!

We are re-opening our **pop-up café** on Saturday mornings from 1st May from 9am–11.30am. There will be bacon and/or egg butties, cakes and drinks on offer on the Marcham Centre patio. We are also excited to announce our **first BBQ evening** on Saturday 22nd May from 5pm on Marcham Centre patio. Further details on our website.



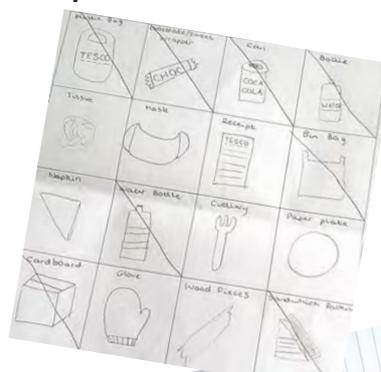
If you are interested in **volunteering** for our pop-up café, please do get in touch. There are a lot of opportunities to help.

Website: www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk
 Email: hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk
 Phone: 07871 208811, Mon–Fri, 9am–12 noon

Abingdon Bowling Club will be holding two open days on Friday 28th May from 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 30th May from 10:00 to 12:00. If you are interested why not come along and have a go. All you will need is a pair of flat shoes, the club will provide the bowls. For further information call Christine on 07990508072 or visit our web site at abingdonbowlingclub.co.uk.



Marcham Guides have been playing Litter Bingo! They designed a bingo card with items they thought they might find around the village and then went out on a litter-pick!



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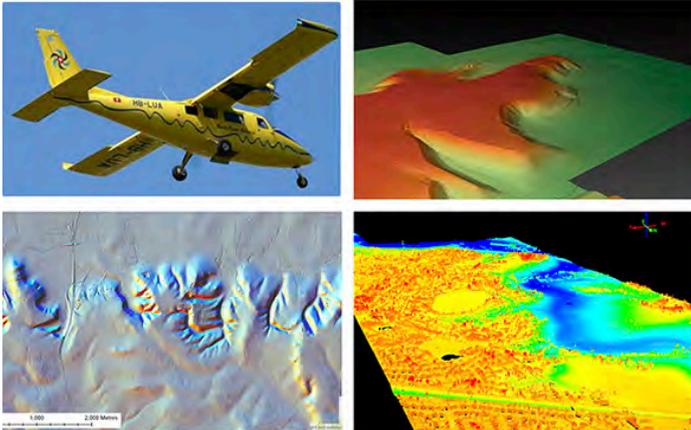
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**Beacons of the Past, LiDAR,
and woodland archaeology
in South Oxfordshire**
by Ed Peveler



For four years Ed of the Chilterns Conservation Board has been managing the project called “**Beacons of the Past**” which has featured on BBC’s Countryfile and has attracted thousands of volunteers searching online for previously unknown archaeological sites in the Chilterns.

Ed will explain how LiDAR (Light, Distance and Ranging) has helped in both our interpretation of the historic landscape and our understanding of the past. He will also give a new view of various archaeological sites in Southern Oxfordshire. 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:
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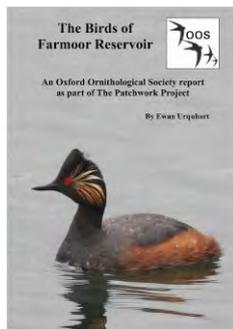


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THE BIRDS OF FARMOOR RESERVOIR

If you occasionally walk round the Farmoor Reservoir you may be aware of the many different birds that can often be seen. This brand new 64-page booklet gives a brief history and background to the reservoir and a list of all 250 species of bird recorded there, with over 100 full colour photos.

A small number of copies is available in Marcham Post Office and Shop priced £7.95, but further copies can be obtained from Eric Dunford (e.dunford@btinternet.com - tel 01865 391439) if they are sold out.



There are other books and booklets on sale in the shop, including Marcham Society's **Coral Rag** and **Gateway to the Gods** (about the dig on Trendles Field) – *have a look next time you are in...*

GARFORD ST LUKE'S



Watercolour of St Luke's by Miss Joan Carter

Since our last appearance in MADNews in February, St Luke's – along with All Saints' Marcham – has arranged a number of events and services for the benefit of Garford villagers during lock-down. On Mothering Sunday, every woman in the village received a primrose of varying hue, something which was much appreciated. We held a snowdrop-planting service whose purpose was to populate the churchyard with these early spring plants which are so emblematic of hopefulness. In addition we continued with our weekly services of music and meditation.



We are very grateful this month to villagers for donations which have allowed us to purchase a new bench, now proudly positioned opposite the church's entrance and which has already proven to be very popular. We hope visitors



(and their dogs!) from the area will feel welcome to visit and maybe try our new bench, like Sally Viney and Pam Carter (photo).

Easter was celebrated with a trio of services. Good Friday saw a quiet, hour-long meditation entitled 'Giftings for Growth', led with great sensitivity by Rosemary Siebert. It included a mixture of biblical readings, music and contemplation encouraging us to pause before the celebrations. On Easter Day itself there was an early start for those of us who gathered for a 6.30am 'greet the dawn' service. It was wonderful to stand outside the church, chilly yet beautiful, and witness the gradual change from dark to light accompanied by a chance flock of flying geese and a lone deer. Later that day, Garford children who had completed our Easter quiz met in the churchyard to receive a haul of chocolate so mountainous it will no doubt last until our Pentecost service (on 23rd May, 6pm).

It has been great to see the community come alive despite the stresses of covid lockdowns. Joan Carter's watercolour depicting our small church is a pretty reminder of the importance it has played in our village over the last year, and we hope it will continue to do so post-lockdown.

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Marcham Centre

Marcham Centre is very pleased to be opening up for a range of community activities in May. As before, Marcham Community Group (which operates Marcham Centre) is keen to make the facilities available with the right balance between proper use for the well-being of local people and maintaining Covid safety with observance of Government rules. All the openings listed below from May 17th are subject to confirmation of the move into step 3 of the road map out of lockdown.

Marcham Centre Bar opened on Friday 30th April from 4pm - 11pm; and will continue on Saturday 1st May from midday - 11pm; on Sunday 2nd May from midday - 4pm. This is for outside table service only.



Regular Bar opening times as from Wednesday 5th May are as follows:

Wednesday evenings 7pm - 11pm;
Friday afternoons / evenings 4pm - 11pm;
Saturday afternoons / evenings 4pm - 11pm;
and Sunday midday - 3pm.

The opening times will develop over coming weeks and months depending on demand. Watch the marchamcentre.org website for more information.

We have been asked about bar stock. Draught ales include Bitters: Marstons Pedigree and Wainwright; Carling Lager and Warsteiner Premium Lager; Kingstone Press Cider; Guinness; a wide range of spirits, particularly gins; wine; soft drinks and savoury snacks.

Thirsty Café is opening on Saturday 1st May for outside table service and continuing throughout the five Saturdays of May. Opening times 9 - 11:30am. (How about a bacon bap followed by a drink at the newly-opened bar on May 1st?)

Thirsty Café is also hosting a BBQ on Saturday May 22nd from 5pm on the Marcham Centre patio. Details are on www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk.

Pilates and other exercise classes will resume from Monday 17th May. Additionally a **Karate** class is starting for children after school on Tuesdays. For more information contact georgetoogood@ostma.co.uk

Toddlers A new baby and toddler group called Hartbeeps started on Tuesday 20th April. For more information contact gemmabelle@hartbeeps.com for details.

Bowling and Table Tennis (starting in June) Short mat indoor bowling will be on every Monday 2pm - 5pm and on the first Monday evening of each month 7pm - 10pm. Table Tennis will be on Wednesday evenings 7pm - 10pm. Both of these events are MCG initiatives and we encourage all age groups and beginners as well as experienced players.

August Bank Holiday Weekend The MCG Events team of Hayley Cousins, Andy Berry, Natasha Kingsbury, Paula Utting, Claire Wright and Trevor Hill are busy making preparations for a bank holiday weekend full of fun activities for all. So please keep this whole weekend free in your diaries. More information to come – see page 17 for the advert.

The **MUGA** is now open from 9:00 am until 9:00 pm for people playing sport or other physical activities or coaching. It is not available for social gatherings. Maximum two households. 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, email zoe_1110@hotmail.com

Cricket matches will restart from Saturday 8th May.

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.

So there is certainly lots to look forward to.

Keep safe, keep well and be ready!

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY
enquiries@marchamcentre.org
www.marchamcentre.org
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WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE CRICKET A TRY?

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

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News from MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL ...

This month we were delighted to be nominated as a community group to receive a blossoming cherry tree from Frosts at Millets to celebrate their 75th Anniversary! The children were excited to see the tree planted and to watch it grow and blossom.



We've had a busy term and have enjoyed welcoming back all of our children.... and we're looking forward to some exciting Olympic sized activities next term!
We have only 1 or 2 spaces available for September 2021 and so if you have a child over the age of 2 please get in touch as soon as possible...



We are running a waiting list for future years and look forward to speaking to any prospective parent. If you'd like to find out more please contact us by phone or email.



Nicky Sanford, Early Years Teacher, Marcham Pre-School
01865 392101
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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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Puzzle Corner

??

TEA TIME TEASER This month all the expressions are to do with time...

1. M Y live I I T
2. B T I of M
3. T D H I just B D
4. N C A C till M I O
5. A M as A M H
6. T I another D
7. O S doesn't M A S
8. R W built I A D

Answers to last month's expressions and sayings:

1. To Make A Mountain Out Of A Molehill
2. Looking For A Needle In A Haystack
3. A Bird In The Hand Is Worth Two In The Bush
4. Don't Count Your Chickens Before They Hatch
5. The Early Bird Catches The Worm
6. Birds Of A Feather Flock Together
7. To Beat About The Bush
8. To Go On A Wild Goose Chase

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

As a continuation of our World Book Day celebrations once we were all reunited, and in order to promote physical fitness and well-being, we held a 'Story Strideathon' in school. Children made badges at home relating to one of the books that they had enjoyed in class this year. They wore them attached to their PE kits for a day that involved a variety of physical challenges. It was also a fundraising opportunity in order to enable teachers to buy books for their class libraries that will be enjoyed by everyone.

On the day, the school field was permanently in action. On the cover are some photos of the Kangaroos enjoying their book-themed treasure hunt, as well as Megan from Giraffes giving details of the day and the books that she loves:

Tell me about the 'Strideathon':

'In one race we had to run to a hoop with letters in it. The letters were mixed as an anagram which we had to rearrange into a word. Mrs Lowe based the anagrams on the book we have been reading in class called 'Gargantis', the sequel to 'Malamander' (which was a book Mrs Lowe shared with us on Googlemeet when we were in lockdown).'

And what book badges were there?:

'The best badges that I remember were by Ava and Isabelle, because they're both amazing at drawing. Isabelle made four badges overnight, two of them being based on 'Malamander' and 'Nevermoor'. I made one badge based on two books ('Malamander' and 'Crater Lake') but I'm sure anyone could tell that I am not very artistic!'

What has been your favourite book from your studies in class and why?:

'My favourite book series in school has been the 'Podkin One Ear' series. There are five books so far, with a new instalment due in October. The first book starts with a bard walking into a burrow on Bramblemass Eve. He has come to share his stories with a tribe of rabbits... the stories have unique characters and there are twists at every turn. When I read the first book it blew my mind because the ending was so subtle yet effective. I have read the next four books in the series and I can't wait to get the sixth in October. When you dive into the world of the author's imagination you don't know what's coming next.'

It was a wonderful event. And it is wonderful to hear when students are excited by the books they read.

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



In April a little part of Marcham was transformed into a fairy wonderland by Isla, Rosie and Sophia for children and their families to enjoy.

*"Come and see the fairy trees,
Flowers, creatures and, I think you'll agree
The colours, sparkle were such a delight,
To share with you all during this time of plight,
Fairies, unicorns, animals galore,
Wow.....it really had something for all,
Now make a wish, and count to 10
And maybe the fairies will come back again."*

See the cover for fairy photos

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Andrea Buckingham

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Take The Rubbish Home!

With the third UK Covid lockdown easing, during March 2021, we've seen hundreds of people gathering in parks and green spaces, desperate to get their long missed fix of the great outdoors.



Enjoying the sun on their backs, the breeze on their faces, and good company. Aided by outdoor food and drink. Good times! Well, for some.

After being hidden away in our homes, we've largely come to appreciate our gardens, and the wildlife therein. People are saying that the whole lockdown experience has made them seek out local green spaces, and enjoy them more too.

Then, why I have to ask, has so much litter been left by the crowds now visiting our parks and green areas? They wouldn't leave such vast amounts of rubbish in their own gardens, or on their doorsteps. Though, maybe, I'm wrong to assume they wouldn't?

Whether or not there are enough bins available for rubbish, is irrelevant. The discarded material was originally taken to the park etc, so it can easily be taken home again too. It's lighter, as most of the contents have been eaten, so what's the problem?

It's been said, it's mainly young people, university age, who have gathered and have left the litter. The same young people who are shouting that their futures are being impacted by the ecological and climate crisis we face. I'm not going to say and make a blanket statement that it is the young who are littering. What I will say is, maybe the council shouldn't be so efficient in clearing up our mess, maybe leaving it for a few days, so when the litterers return (and they will) to enjoy the green space again, they will see and experience the true scale and impact that their littering has. Especially as they won't find anywhere to sit until the litter is cleared.

Most of us wouldn't litter in our own backyard as it impacts our enjoyment, and many would be worried about the dangers and impacts on the wildlife nearby. So, maybe, we should all start seeing our shared parks, and green areas in the wider community, as our backyard too? Something we're all custodians of.

So, this year, instead of having positive impacts on your own garden, let's try and have positive impacts on our wider community too.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

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.

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Entrance: Adult day ticket:

Early Bird (before 26/6/21) £8; after 26/6/21 £10; Two day ticket £16. Includes free wine tastings, tasting glass, programme. Children under 18yrs free but must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets available in advance online and on the day.

Tutored Wine Tastings: £5 per head, bookable and payable on the day (limited numbers)

Activities: wine tastings and sales, tutored wine tastings, local artisan hot and cold food, pay bar, vineyard walk, meet the producers, local vineyard information.

www.englishwineandfoodfestival.co.uk

MILTON HILL BOWLING CLUB

Potash Lane, Milton Heights, OX14 4DR
(next to Football Club)

The club is holding an **open afternoon** between 14:00 – 17:00 on **Saturday 8th May 2021**. Come and try your hand at Green Bowling, no booking is required, just turn up. Bowls are for all ages and a fun way to keep fit and flexible. No experience is necessary! We would prefer you to wear trainers, but overshoes can be provided. See our website for more details or contact Colin Trinder 01865 391718



www.miltonhill.go-plus.net



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From Jam & Jerusalem to Beer & Burlesque – the WI has a lot more to offer than you might expect!

It may come as quite a shock to many people – but the WI is not just a bunch of ‘old ladies’ sitting around singing Jerusalem and drinking tea! There are many different groups as unique as the women who are members of them.



I joined the WI when I was 34 – With a 6 week old baby asleep in her stroller, I entered the meeting room at Denman College. This was the first time I had been to Denman, and the first time I had been to a WI meeting – I was a little nervous!

I had been invited along by someone I’d met at a local toddler group and thought, well, nothing to lose, so I went along...with baby in tow! I was greeted with a warm welcome and the rest of the evening was a blur...that was 13 years ago!

Since then, I’ve had 2 more children and been involved in hundreds of meetings – which have covered everything from crafting (making our own Christmas decorations and painting our own masterpieces) to talks from a wide variety of amazing and interesting people. From Mercy Ships, GBBO participants, Wartime Housewives, Dancing & Zumba, Authors, Murder Mysteries, Smugglers, Bomb Disposal, taster evenings to Blood, Babies & Bikers – we try to cover it all! ... Along with the monthly meetings, we have groups who meet for book clubs, crafting, pub lunches (when we are allowed!), rambling and more ...

Visitors are welcome to all our meetings and we have an open meeting once a year, when you can bring your significant other, or anyone else for that matter! We know that not all WI’s are alike and encourage you to visit as many as you need to find the one that fits you – after all, you’ll have a lovely evening, refreshments and opportunity to meet some amazing women in your community. Foremost, the WI is interested in building a friendly and welcoming environment for our women and allowing them to learn new skills, grow in confidence and make new friends.

The WI was founded in 1915 to involve women in food production during the war effort and revitalise rural areas – today food and community spirit remain deeply engrained in the fabric of the organisation, simply in a more modern form. You may not realise that the WI have been involved with so many political campaigns over the years and in making positive change – something women are still interested in. In 1954, the WI actually started the ‘Keep Britain Tidy’ campaign, as well as the Fairtrade Foundation in 2002. Every year, The WI has a resolution; an issue that they will talk about and support where possible and we, as individual groups, try to do the same. This year is all about raising awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer.

Marcham WI meets on the third Monday each month at 7.30pm and will be moving to Marcham Centre when we start up face to face meetings again...search Marcham WI on Facebook for further information. This year we are offering a £10 discount to our annual membership - £34!



JEN BROWN

Aussie Mum of four, swimming teacher, personal shopper, part-time mermaid & President of Marcham WI!

Marcham WI



Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 17th May 2021
via Zoom

Speaker: Misba Khan – An all women Euro-Arabian North Pole Expedition 2018.

We are really looking forward to welcoming Misba Khan to our Zoom meeting in May. Misba will be telling us about the experiences of a group of 10 women, diverse in age, experience, background, culture, occupation, family and perspective. The intention was to create a truly representative group of women to take on the challenges of the Arctic together. We hope this will be a truly inspirational talk and hope you will join us for the evening.

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

POLICE NEWS

Crime prevention advice

If you would like any crime prevention advice, including a home security assessment, please contact the team by emailing AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk Alternatively, you can download our free Home Security Guide by visiting <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/advice/home-security-guide/> **Contact Thames Valley Police:** E-mail: AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk Twitter: @tvpsouthandvale Facebook: tvpsouthandvale Phone: 101 Website: www.thamesvalley.police.uk



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

For this month's report, I thought I would focus on a variety of issues.

THE ELECTIONS

There are several elections happening in the Vale and South on Thursday May 6th:

- a) The Police and Crime Commissioner election: 4 candidates - Matthew Barber (Cons), Laetisia Carter (Lab), John Howson (LibDem) and Alan Robinson (Independent)
- b) County Council election.
- c) District Council and Parish Council by-elections/neighbourhood plan referendums

All registered voters will receive either one or two poll cards, depending on which ballots they are eligible for:

Poll card 1 covers the Police and Crime Commissioner election and the County Council elections.

Poll card 2 will only cover those areas where there is a neighbourhood plan referendum and/or a local by-election.

On May 6th, the polling stations will be open from 7am - 10pm and Covid-safe procedures will be in place. Unless you have chosen to vote with a postal vote or with a proxy vote, Marcham voters will be voting at the Marcham Centre and Shippon voters at Church Hall. In an emergency or in unforeseen circumstances, such as you having to self-isolate, you can use an emergency proxy vote by contacting the electoral team before 5.00pm on election day.

The counts will be as follows:

Friday 7th May (TBC) - local by-elections and Neighbourhood Plan Referendums.

Sunday 9th May - Oxfordshire County council Elections.

Monday 10th May - Police and Crime commissioner election.

WASTE

As the Vale is in the process of upgrading their financial management system, they are unable to make changes to existing garden waste customer accounts until mid-April and are aiming to accept new customers in early May. However, anyone can register their interest on the garden waste pages on the Vale website.

NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME DROPPED

The government has confirmed that it will not be pursuing a plan to change the threshold for affordable housing to be provided. Currently, any site larger than 10 homes requires affordable houses to be included. The government had intended to increase this number to 50, but in the government consultation last year, councils raised their concern that the loss of affordable housing would far outweigh the benefits of the scheme. So, it has been dropped.

DIDCOT PARKWAY STATION CYCLE HUB

Didcot Parkway Station has just opened its new cycle hub with space for an extra 600 bikes. The hub caters for standard and non-standard bikes to be securely parked and it is fitted with CCTV motion sensor LED lighting and bike repair stands. Good news for bikers wanting to cycle to catch a train.

TIPS TO HELP REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

This month's tips ...

- 1) Turn down the heating. By putting on a warmer jumper and turning down the heating by a degree, you can reduce your energy consumption by as much as 8%! Good for your purse and for the environment! Remember to turn off or lower the heating when you go out.
- 2) Ditch bottled water. Try to get in the habit of taking your own reusable bottle (preferably metal) and avoiding buying single use plastic alternatives.
- 3) Utilise extra time to avoid traffic jams. By leaving for and from work half an hour earlier or later can help reduce your time stuck in (and contributing to) congestion and therefore your commute's carbon footprint. Whilst stuck in traffic, your car

produces 3x the emissions for the same distance compared to an empty road.

- 4) Work from home. Have you thought of eradicating your commute entirely or perhaps work from home once a week? A 5miles congested commute produces 22kg CO2 each day, so annually you would be saving a tonne of carbon!

Good luck with these tips. I would love to hear how you are getting on with them...or some of them.

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
PURDAH!**

There are strict rules around the election period and editors will rightly not publish anything that is political. I generally try to avoid being party political in my contributions to local newsletters but I am sure political zeal occasionally gets the better of me. So here goes with some thoughts that, I hope will offend no one.

THE ARTS

Those who know me best, will be aware that I am an ardent arts fanatic. Indeed I have three children involved in the arts – an artist, a cellist and an actor – so I write with some feeling. The past eighteen months have been a trial for all of them with events cancelled and venues closed. The artist has come through least scathed while the cellist has been able to continue with private tuition and performance opportunities are beginning to resurface. The actor has kept going with a second career whilst awaiting the reopening of venues, some of which may not survive.

Most of us have depended for the past year on potted entertainment provided by the likes of Amazon and Netflix, but the opportunities for new talent to emerge have shrunk dramatically. We wait to see how live theatres and concert halls will manage in the unlocking from Covid process. There is a worry that the public will be reluctant to visit such venues in time to save some of them.

New building developments demand contributions towards sculptures, mosaics and murals from developers. There is no such long term provision for live arts – theatre, music, dance etc. If and when Covid restrictions allow, those of us who appreciate live arts will need to reengage as soon as possible if the industry is not to suffer long term damage.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

All of us involved in politics at any level need to know we have the support of the people we represent – most local elections are won on a 35% turnout or less. Democracy cannot thrive long term with that level of involvement and so, for all those who have fought and died for it ... *please vote.*

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

MP'S REPORT

So far, so good, on reopening post lockdown. I spent most of the first full Friday I could visit shops and pubs who were, as you can imagine, pleased to have reopened – despite that snow on day 1! Just before the retail visits, I'd been at the Sylva Foundation and the Earth Trust in Little Wittenham and been inspired by what both are doing. Make sure you check out the brand-new Earth Lab the latter has been building, which will open in the near future, not least to admire its construction. It is built with glulam beams and has a rammed earth wall, straw insulation and a wildflower roof – I got a sneak peek and was very impressed.

I am among the MPs who returned to parliament Monday-Thursday each week (parliament only sits on occasional Fridays). It's not exactly lively yet – many MPs are continuing to participate

virtually and there are so many restrictions in every part of the building, including the continuation of the 50 person limit in the House of Commons, that you don't see many people in the way you used to. But important business continues to proceed, including the Domestic Abuse and Finance Bills.

Much continues to be by Zoom however. It has been a pleasure to continue to attend meetings of parish councils, most recently that of Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe. I am always impressed with the dedication of people who sit on parish councils as there is not a lot of glory to the posts, but they're vital to ensuring that very local issues get the consideration they should. And, of course, parish councils played a key role in the community's response to Covid. I also continue to take searching questions from school children via Zoom – as I did just before Easter with Sutton Courtenay primary school. Some of the questions children ask you are tougher than the ones adults do.

The constituency and Oxfordshire have done very well from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund, with Didcot Railway Centre, Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra and Origin Technical Productions receiving a combined £400,000 in the latest round and 31 organisations receiving over £5 million overall – I hope we see them all flourish when they can get back to normal.

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

INDEPENDENT DIABETES TRUST



PO Box 294 Northampton NN1 4XS Telephone: 01604 622837

The last 12 months have been a very difficult time for everyone and especially so for people living with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, some of whom have not been able to have their routine health checks. In addition, some people have not been able to obtain the support and information they need, especially those who have been recently diagnosed.

Not only can this be worrying for people but they feel that they do not have enough information to manage their diabetes themselves. We produce a range of FREE booklets with lots of information about diabetes and how to manage it.

Our booklet 'Diabetes – Everyday Eating' contains 28 days of menus of everyday, affordable meals to help people manage their diabetes. 'Understanding Your Diabetes' gives general Information about Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes and 'Type 2 Diabetes – Management and Medication' is especially useful for people with Type 2 diabetes. In addition, exercise is an important part of the treatment of diabetes and it is also important for our mental health, so we have a booklet 'Exercise and Diabetes' which also provides helpful information on armchair exercises for those who are less mobile.

All our booklets are FREE, you can obtain copies of all the above booklets by contacting IDDT: telephone 01604 622837, email jenny@iddtinternational.org or write to IDDT, PO Box 294, Northampton NN1 4XS

JENNY HIRST, Co-Chair, IDDT

www.iddtinternational.org

Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor Bowls Club, like all other active sports clubs, has spent a large part of the last twelve months with its gates firmly shut. We join the general relief at the success of the vaccination programme, and gradually getting back to a 'normal' life!

The great majority of bowls clubs have not been hugely inconvenienced by the lockdown which began in the New Year, because they would have been closed for the winter anyway. At KB&S, however, we have an all-weather green, rather than grass, and we would normally have been playing all through the winter (heavy frosts and snow excepting) – and indoors as well, as we have a short mat in our Clubhouse.

So by 21st June we expect to be playing all our friendly and league matches, as well as Club competitions and casual roll-ups. But before then we hope to introduce the game of bowls to people who have been limited to walking for exercise, carefully keeping two metres away from everyone, and who might like rather more variety (and sociability) in their exercise – less strenuous than some, but exercise it certainly is.

On Saturday and Sunday, 22nd and 23rd May, we are holding Open Days at our green on the Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize, next to the Millennium Green

(the turning close to the new Hinds Head Co-op). Everyone is welcome, young or old, men and women. Our members will be on hand to show visitors the Club, and to introduce them to the rudiments of the game. No one needs to book a place – just turn up at any time between 11 am and 3 pm, on either day (or both). And because no one is going to do more than scratch the surface in a short visit, we are also offering follow-up coaching on Friday evenings following the Open Days weekend. There will be no charge for the coaching, and no commitment to join the Club.

We look forward to lots of visitors. If anyone wants to know more, please phone Tom on 01865 391430.



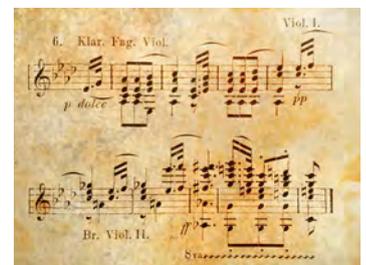
The Arts Society Abingdon (ex ADFAS) are presenting an ONLINE Webinar on

Wednesday 19th May 2021, 11.00am and 2.00pm

The Genius of Beethoven

by Peter Medhurst

A man of extreme exactness and discipline in his wider life, the details of his music are often so subtle that we aren't always aware of its presence. Beethoven's genius as a writer of music is explored in this lecture against the backdrop of 19th century warfare, revolution, and dramatic social change. It is 250 years since his birth.



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. (approx. 48 hours before the lecture along with Arts Society Members)

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

ALL SAINTS' & ST LUKE'S CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk



I'm sure many of you, like me, were struck by the funeral of HRH Prince Phillip. Whilst there was a stripped back ceremonial aspect to the service, it was at its heart about a grieving family saying goodbye to somebody they had lost and loved dearly. It was a poignant and remarkable occasion, which acknowledged the presence of both grief and hope.

When conducting funerals I am often asked to read Psalm 23. I am always delighted to do so, as within this poem we see again that grief is recognised and hope is promised.

'“ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.'

The promise offered is not only a future hope, but a present hope, 'The Lord is my shepherd'. That despite our grief and present troubles, whatever they may be, we too can hold onto the hope and promise that God is also right there with us.

Revd. Mark Newman

Face-to-face services

We are now running face-to-face services in line with government restrictions at 10am and 6pm.

For morning services we ask that you book via our website. For evening services you can just turn up.

Face coverings are required and we ask that you remain in your family bubble and maintain appropriate social distance from other households at all times.

Please see our website for further details

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.

If you would like to chat further with one of our wardens or our chaplain then please do get in contact using the details below.

Contacts:

Mark Newman *Chaplain to the Parish* chaplain@allsaintsmarcham.org **Rob Finch** *Youth Worker* 07888331708, rob@marchamyouth.org **Jill Rowe** *Children and Families minister* families@allsaintsmarcham.org **Tamsin Gilbert** *Parish Administrator & Churchwarden* info@allsaintsmarcham.org **Neil Rowe** *Churchwarden* 391168