

Marcham & District News

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JUNE 2021 VOL: 43 NO: 6

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TUES 24TH – THURS 26TH AUGUST

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
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GET THE DATES IN THE DIARY AND WATCH OUT FOR MORE DETAILS.



▲ Welcome to MVS! see page 5



▲ Cricket at Marcham



▲ A cowslip lawn

Diary for June

Date	Event	
11-13	Atom Science Festival – Sci Cache, Abingdon	9
12 Sat	Oxfordshire Past 2021, online	9
16 Wed	Arts Society: Raphael – Painter of Perfection, 11.00 & 14.00, online	9
20 Sun	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email editor@madnews.co.uk	
21 Mon	WI: Sarah Dean Kelly – Harold Shipman, 19.30, online	7
23 Wed	Mostly Books Interview: The Island Home by Libby Page, 18.30, online	9
28 Mon	Marcham Society: Mark Davies – The History of the Oxford Botanic Garden and Arboretum, 19.30, online	7

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



The Big Marcham Weekend

.....
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August
27th, 28th & 29th 2021

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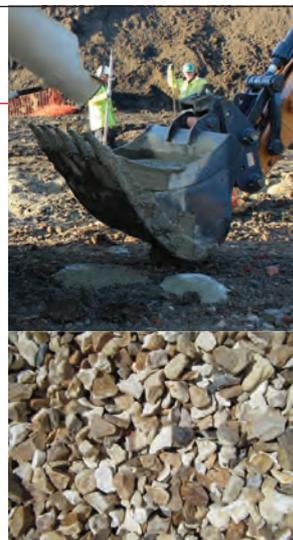
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Dear Readers

19th June marks the first anniversary of the handing over of Marcham Centre to the village – how time flies!



Until next time

Meriel

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PROOFREADING

Jane Mander

DEADLINES

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

ADDITIONAL COPIES

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

DISCLAIMER

We apologise in advance for any errors that may creep into MADNews (online or print), or omissions that creep out - we don't do it on purpose!
The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team, who are all volunteers.

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Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL Annual Council Meeting

The annual meeting of the Council was held on 5th May and Michael Hoath was elected Chairman and Ruth Mander Vice-Chairman. The following working parties were established: A “green” group dealing with footpaths and climate issues, a group to deal with the Anson Field matters and liaise in the first instance with Marcham Community Group now that the Parish Council is the owner of the hall and multi-use games area, an allotment working party, play area working party, and administrative groups such as those reviewing policies and the effectiveness of the Council’s internal audit.

Parish Meeting

There is usually an assembly of electors each year with a guest speaker on a topic of local interest, plus reports from the Parish Council, the District and County Councillors and the Primary School. Owing to concerns for public safety, and the impact of Covid-19, the Council has taken the decision to cancel the meeting this year. We look forward to arranging the next annual parish meeting which should be in spring 2022.

In the meantime, if residents have any parish issues they wish to raise directly with the Parish Council, then please contact your local parish councillor or the clerk. Contact details are on the Council’s website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Garden Waste Collection

The Vale of White Horse District Council is upgrading their garden waste systems and is bringing back in-house from an external provider, the exchequer finance services and invoicing for the brown waste bins. Until the new systems are up and running there is a temporary halt on new customers being able to join the brown bin scheme. Residents who wish to have a brown garden waste bin can express an interest in joining the service, by registering at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/GW

Further information is also available at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/garden-waste/

Anyone registered for a new brown bin will be contacted as soon as possible to set up their new account.

Longfields Bus Shelter

The bus shelter had debris on the roof and dirty windows, and the Parish Council arranged, and paid for a cleaning firm to visit in April to clean it all thoroughly, and brighten it up. Unfortunately, no sooner had this been done, then graffiti appeared on the windows and bench seat inside.

Planning Applications considered by the Council

P21/V0903/HH Single storey extension to form compensatory living room space, following conversion of existing living space at 15 Abbots Grange. The Council had no objections, but commented that permeable ground remaining should be sufficient to handle water run-off.

P21/V0967/LDP Erection of rear conservatory at 5 Barrow Close. The Council had no objections.

P21/V0983/HH Demolition of conservatory and erection of 2 storey rear extension to form new bedroom and ensuite. Extend existing bed 3 over garage and form ensuite at 4 Hyde Copse. The Council commented on the loss of permeable ground and drainage implications.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Please check the Council’s website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk 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

The BIG MARCHAM WEEKEND
27th - 29th August
Come one, come all to the Carnival!

- Be part of the Carnival procession
- Showcase your talent at Marcham's Got Talent
- Organise a stall to sell your products/advertise your business
- Dance the night away to the 'Torn of Strips' (Adults Only, tickets on sale soon)
- Register your interest at coordinator@marchamcentre.org

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**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL
- VACANCY**

The Council has a vacancy for a councillor. It is the tier of local authorities closest to the people and provides local services within the parish. It acts as a consultee on many issues putting forward the views of residents. The Council meets 11 times in the year to discuss matters relating to the village and immediate surrounds.

If you are interested in the life of your village, the local environment, traffic, recreational facilities, planning, housing, and want to make an active difference to your community, then please volunteer to join the Council and help make the local decisions that affect us all.

If you are interested in joining or just want to find out more about the role, then please contact Linda Martin, Clerk to the Council, on 01865 391833 or email clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

**ARE YOU READY TO
VENTURE OUT AGAIN?**

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

**Share your experience of getting
treatment for ear wax**

Have you sought help or advice from a GP in Oxfordshire about an ear wax problem in the last two years?

If so, Healthwatch Oxfordshire would like to hear about your experience, including what advice you were given, what treatment you received and how much this cost. Have your say by completing an anonymous online survey at www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/earwax-removal/

Healthwatch Oxfordshire will pass on what it hears to local health providers and commissioners to help shape the support people need and improve services.

To talk with someone about your experience you can contact Healthwatch Oxfordshire on 01865 520520 or at hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk Please also get in touch if you would like a paper copy or translated version of the survey.



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This is the guidance from Royal Mail:

Use BLOCK CAPITALS to complete the form

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- Write the currency if it is anything other than GBP, for example CHF for Swiss Francs.
- The overall totals should be added in the boxes.
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- Write your name and address on the CN22 if there's an allocated space for it, otherwise it should be written on the top left corner of your package. This is required by overseas customs authorities and will help us to return your item if they won't allow it into their country.
- Fix the form to the outside of your package.
- If you're using form CN23 for goods worth £270 or over, use the plastic wallet available from us.
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**Volunteers enjoying
the BBQ on the patio
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Marcham WI



Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 21st June 2021
via Zoom

Speaker: **Sarah Dean Kelly – Harold Shipman.**

We all very much enjoyed the talk by our speaker in April, Sarah Dean Kelly, who spoke about her trek to the Arctic to raise money for Manchester's Maggie's centre. So, we are delighted to be able to welcome Sarah again to our June meeting, when she will be talking on a completely different topic, Dr Harold Shipman.

In 1997, Sarah found herself in the eye of the storm, when she received a call at work to tell her that a local GP was being investigated by the police. Sarah was a Press Officer at Greater Manchester Police and she subsequently found herself managing the communications between the media and the police, for an investigation into Britain's most prolific serial killer and an inquiry that became international news.

We look forward to seeing you on the night
for an interesting talk.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



7.30pm Monday
28th June
on Zoom

The History of the Oxford Botanic Garden and Arboretum by Mark Davies

Mark Davies is an Oxford local historian, author, public speaker, guide, and publisher specialising in the history of non-University Oxford.



Oxford University's Botanic Garden is the oldest in Britain, founded in 1621 and so it is now 400 years old. Mark's talk is about the History of the Garden and those who have cared for it over the centuries. For example he will tell us about the first keeper who was Jacob Bobart, the 'German Prince of Plants', famed both for his horticultural skill and also his eccentricities.

So his talk will be about people rather than just about the plants and trees!

The Marcham Society plan a group visit to the Botanic Gardens mid-July. If you are interested, please email: shirley.marsoc@gmail.com.

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

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Puzzle Corner

????????????????????????????????????

TEA TIME TEASER This month all the expressions celebrate the reopening (we hope) of cinemas. The following are well known catch phrases from classic films. Can you work out what they are, and which films they come from?

1. D I F L? Well D Y P?
2. W S F B A A nice C
3. Y T to M?
4. H L at Y K
5. I G T make H A O he C R
6. W W G W don't N R
7. I L T S O N in T M
8. M T F be W Y!

Answers to last month's expressions and sayings:

1. May You live In Interesting Times
2. Beware The Ides of March
3. The Darkest Hour Is just Before Dawn
4. Ne'er Cast A Clout till May Is Out
5. As Mad as A March Hare
6. Tomorrow Is another Day
7. One Swallow doesn't Make A Summer
8. Rome Wasn't built In A Day

We Have Re-Opened!

Come and try our our **pop-up café** on Saturday mornings from 9am–11.30am.

There will be bacon and/or egg butties, cakes and drinks on offer at the Marcham Centre.

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

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Abingdon's #ATOM2021 Sci Cache Challenge

The **Sci Cache Challenge** will consist of a network of QR coded plaques at locations around the centre of Abingdon. Grab a map, locate the plaques, and scan each one to access an activity, website link or other information from our supporting organisations. The more stations you find, and the more activities you complete, the more points you'll get - and a chance to win a science-themed prize.



11 September 2021

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www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk



Oxfordshire Past this year will take place online on Zoom. It will be held on Saturday 12th June and it will include the OAHs Annual General Meeting, followed by short talks providing an overview of work and research that has been carried out in the county over the last year.

The speakers include:

- Geoffrey Tyack, OAHs President
- David Radford, Oxford City Planning Archaeologist
- David Clark, Oxfordshire Buildings Record
- Jacqueline Pitt, Oxfordshire HER
- Simon Townley, Victoria County History

It is free to attend – to book your place go to

oahs.org.uk/oxpast.php

THE ISLAND HOME - LIBBY PAGE

Mostly Books will be interviewing bestselling novelist **Libby Page** about her latest novel **The Island Home** which publishes on 24th June. **The Island Home** is a heart-warming and feel-good story about family, community, and place which will enthrall and soothe readers in equal measure. So join us for a chat with one of our favourite feel-good authors on Wednesday 23rd June at 6:30pm. Audience members will also have a chance to ask Libby questions about the book in a Q&A session.

Tickets are priced at £12.99* for the book & online event access, or £5* for online event access only. Mostly Books Cosy Club members have reduced price book & online access of £10.99. (*Plus booking fee).

Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/author-special-the-island-home-by-libby-page-tickets-152354681955>.

Mostly Books is an independent bookshop at 36 Stert Street, Abingdon OX14 3JP Call 01235 525880 or email books@mostly-books.co.uk



The Arts Society Abingdon (ex ADFAS) are presenting an ONLINE Webinar on **Wednesday 16th June 2021, 11.00am and 2.00pm**

Raphael: Painter of Perfection

by Paula Nuttall

Raphael was one of the greatest and most influential of all painters – a superstar even in his own lifetime, who remains a byword for classic perfection. Charting his astonishing artistic evolution from his early years in Florence, Paula looks at his meteoric rise to fame at the papal court in Rome, to his sudden death at the height of his powers aged only 37.



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

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Marcham Centre

The opening of the **Marcham Centre Bar** outside has been really successful and well supported by the village. There were plenty of positive posts and images on @marchamcentre.

Marcham Centre has now opened up for a range of community activities following the change in official Covid rules on May 17th (step 3 of the roadmap out of lockdown). Up to 6 people or 2 households can now meet indoors (and up to 30 people outdoors).

The Bar is now open indoors for table service, albeit with limited seating available. Table service will continue to be applied on the patio area. Regular Bar opening times are:

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

Thirsty Café is planning to open up further in June. Please visit www.thirstycafemarcham and @thirstycafemarcham for the latest information.

Indoor **Exercise classes** and **Activities** are now taking place, such as Pilates, Clubbercise, Karate, Cubs and Hartbeeps (parents with babies/toddlers). www.marchamcentre.org will soon be carrying contact information for all the Hall users. Short mat **indoor Bowling** is starting in June and will be on every Monday from 2pm-5pm and on the first Monday evening of each month from 7pm-10pm. **Table Tennis** will also be on Wednesday evenings from 7pm - 10pm. Both of these events are MCG initiatives and we encourage all age groups and beginners as well as experienced players. Turn up on the night with family or friends, or on your own, to play against whoever is there.

With **the Field** now open it is great to see so many people fully enjoying the space. Thank you for treating the field with respect and refraining from walking over the 'roped off' cricket square area, it is much appreciated. When **Cricket** is being played (usually a Saturday) please take care when entering the field from Tower Close. It would be good to see some of you as spectators (being particularly careful, of course, of flying cricket balls!).

The MUGA is 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 2 households. If you are keen to play **Tennis** and be part of the new tennis club, (better still, if you are also interested in helping to organise it in some way), please contact Zoe Barnes. zoe_1110@hotmail.com

Last but not least, don't forget the **August bank holiday Big Marcham Weekend** (27th, 28th, 29th August). The MCG Events team continue to make preparations for this bonanza weekend which will be full of fun activities for all.

Please keep safe by remembering to socially distance, wear masks indoors and use hand gel.

Hands – Face – Space - Air

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY
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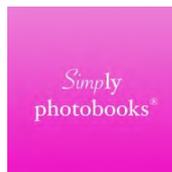
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MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you for the feedback to say you have enjoyed seeing what children at Marcham School have been up to. We send termly newsletters to the children's families to give an insight into what is being studied. They are also uploaded to our website. Please do take a look...



www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages

This term, Pandas (or reception class) are studying the topic 'Little People, Big Dreams' and have been exploring the lives of some extraordinary people who began life as children with dreams. They will be having a dress up day and come dressed as a profession they would like to be when they grow up. They will consider the roles of scientists, athletes, dancers, musicians, artists, policemen, doctors and many other occupations.



Tigers, year 2, are studying the topic 'How does your garden grow?' and their lessons follow this theme, for example in Science they are discussing the 7 life processes, understanding why an animal lives in a particular habitat and they have been creating food chains for animals in some of these.

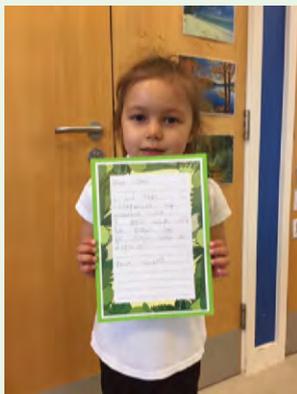


Meercats, year 4, are exploring the continent of Europe, paying close attention to the country of Spain. As part of this they have studied climate zones, discussed Spanish culture, tasted the delicacy of tapas, painted like Picasso and will partake in a Spanish festival. *No puedo esperar!*



Giraffes, year 6, are studying the Ancient Greeks. They are learning how Greek society was organised, about Greek warfare, daily life and have been considering the legacy of this ancient civilization.

We have shared some photos of the children's work with you here. All of the classes have been working hard and we will visit the others in the future.



The school is also looking for some people from our local community who may be able to lend their skills to our website and working with the governing body.

Photographer wanted!

Are you a keen photographer? Do you have the knack of capturing that moment that speaks volumes? We are looking for someone who would be willing to take some photos for our school website. We are keen to make this a really vibrant and welcoming information source and recognise that some of our photos are dated. If you think that is something that you could do, please contact the school office. We would be pleased to hear from you.

Clerk to the Governing Body

- Do you fancy a challenge?
- Would you like to contribute to the development of Marcham School?
- Do you want to be a part of making the school an even better place to learn and to grow?

Marcham has an active, supportive governing body whose main duty is to help raise the standards and performance of the school by supporting the work of the headteacher and the staff. The Department for Education regards the role of the clerk as crucial to governing body effectiveness. A clerk will contribute towards the efficient and effective functioning of a governing board and its committees by providing:

- administrative and organisational support
- guidance to ensure that the board works in compliance with the appropriate legal and regulatory framework and understands the potential consequences for non-compliance
- advice on procedural matters relating to the operation of the board

You may feel that you don't have the knowledge – and you may not - but you may have the skills that this role needs. There is training and advice available to equip you with the knowledge together with regular briefings explaining the latest governance developments from Oxfordshire County Council.

If this appeals to you, or you would like to speak to the existing clerk to find out more, please email Dalvinder at dalvinderhm@googlemail.com, alternatively please contact Jane Jefferies at office.3235@marcham.oxon.sch.uk

VIV HUTCHINSON, HEADTEACHER

News from MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

Another month through
 And time is moving on,
 But we still have so much to do
 Before this year is gone!
 We spent the month of April
 Collecting seeds and plants to sow,
 In May we watered all of them
 Cared for them and watched them grow.
 We drew plans of something we'd like to make
 And once the materials were selected,
 We set up our woodwork station (risk assessed -
 To make sure we were protected).
 We drilled and screwed and hammered
 And fixed together bits of wood,
 The children felt proud of what they made
 As they absolutely should!
 We love the things that pre-school do
 It's different and exciting,
 We create a programme of events
 That are thrilling and inviting.
 We aim to offer experiences
 That are different from the rest,
BIGGER, MESSIER, NOISIER...
 That's why we are the **BEST!**
 Please ring and talk to us
 If you'd like to find out more,
 We'll answer any questions
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Nicky Sanford, Early Years Teacher

01865 392101 Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk
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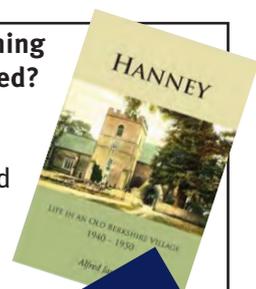
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Consciously Maintaining Our Awareness

It's been said to me quite regularly recently, that there are more birds around this year, and their breeding season is full of even more vigorous song this time too.



I don't know if I fully agree with these anecdotal statements, as I'm wondering if the restrictions on all our lives during the last year or so, due to Covid, has made us take more notice than usual of what's going on around us, that we may have missed engaging with during that lockdown time – bird song included.

Anecdotal evidence, though very useful, isn't scientific by any means. So, before we all believe nature is doing well coming out of the 3rd English lockdown, let's just think if it's our own awareness that's improved and kicked in? If it is, the skill is maintaining that going forward, and not going back into old habits, that is so easy to do. Old habits enabled us to walk like zombies, oblivious to the nature around us, just not noticing it. The art of consciously maintaining awareness is just that, pure art, and a metaphor for life.

If on the other hand, the birds are actually doing well coming out of lockdown, and it's not just down to increased awareness on our part, then let's see why that is scientifically, replicating that in future years. We're all custodians of the little bit of the environment around us, so we have a duty of care towards it.

I've always said, I don't have all the answers, as my job is to keep us all thinking about the big issues. Keeping them in all our consciousness, and these issues deserve our attention, and need talking about more often.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

This Spring we have been exploring the natural world around us, and having huge amounts of fun! We truly believe that learning from world around us gives our children the opportunity to thrive, and nurtures their quest for knowledge. We have taken steps to remove plastic resources through our nursery, replacing them with things you would find in the home, and natural items. This move has sparked our Little Angels' imaginations and has presented so many new learning opportunities. We have successfully now removed all plastic from our toddler room, and are working hard to remove plastic resources entirely.



This month we have been making sculptures with sticks and homemade playdoh, we have been painting with homemade grass paintbrushes, we have been learning about different flowers, baking cakes, and we have created a stage from pallets and junk-modelled masks to create show characters.

Our tiny angels have been exploring natural textures in their small world play with cocoa powder, oats, sand and water. Our bigger angels made a long jump in the garden with our wooden blocks, and Michaela has been creating, and taking part in obstacle courses in the garden with our pre-schoolers.

It has been wonderful this month nurturing their imaginations, and it's fantastic to see how creative our Little Angels are with the resources we provide.

We are Recruiting!!

We have been in our new building over a year now, and our family continues to grow. We are looking to expand our team with level 2 and 3 qualified and experienced team members in both full and part time roles.

If you would like to be part of our award winning team we would love to hear from you. Please email kaye@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk for more information.

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

E: info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

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



This summer will establish the direction of Oxfordshire for the next generation. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will define the development strategy for the county for the next three decades, including both the quality and quantity of housing and the broad locations for growth.

Time to take action.

This is our best, and possibly only, opportunity to influence development in Oxfordshire over the next 30 years – don't miss it! Waiting until actual planning applications come forward is too late – we need your help engaging now as policy is formed, so that we can give our countryside the best chance for the future.

CPRE Oxfordshire has prepared an Oxfordshire Plan 2050 2-page briefing, to help you engage and get involved in planning the future of Oxfordshire. Download a copy from our website here: <https://tinyurl.com/sm5dw2dk>



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POLICE NEWS

Electric Scooter advice



We have received several reports in relation to the use of E-scooters in the area. We would like to take this opportunity to clarify the law and rules surrounding the use of E-scooters:

- E-scooters are classed as a motor vehicle and so the use of them falls under the Road Traffic Act 1988.
- As private E-scooters cannot be insured, taxed or registered, as motor vehicles need to be, they can only be used on private land, with the permission of the landowner.
- Rental E-scooters as part of the government trials can be used on public roads but not on pavements. However, there are currently no government trials taking place in the Abingdon area.

Therefore, the use of an E-scooter is currently illegal unless it is being ridden on private land. Following the reports the team have received, PCSO Jamie Horner has written a warning letter to one rider and PCSO Clare Atkins has been carrying out enquiries, following a separate complaint.

Safety advice

Cyclists and runners should ensure they are visible when exercising in and around the villages. Bright or reflective clothing is recommended, along with front and rear lights for cyclists.

When exercising dogs, please ensure they are kept under control, especially around other dogs, people and livestock.

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:

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Bothy Vineyard has signed up to the UK's only natural wine cork recycling programme – Recorked UK. For every cork collected Recorked UK will donate at least 1p to nominated charities. They also recycle corks and supply free corks to various charities and schools for use in craft projects. Please help us gather corks so that we can benefit local wildlife charity – Wild Oxfordshire (www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk), which builds active and innovative partnerships for wildlife.

Corks – only natural corks please – can be deposited at the front door of the Bothy Shop (Frilford Heath) or at the Marcham Shop.

Many thanks, **BOTHY VINEYARD**

www.bothyvineyard.co.uk



Share your life, change a life

Could you give someone the opportunity to live the fullest life they can live? Help them grow in confidence? Encourage them to become more independent and do things they never thought they would be able to do?

The Shared Lives scheme matches people who need additional support to be independent, with carers and their families. The opportunity to share a family's life, as part of their household, gives them a valuable alternative to staying in residential care or being looked after by a team of support workers.

Becoming a Shared Lives Carer for Oxfordshire County Council will make a big difference to someone's life. If you love people, and are looking for something that is rewarding, paid and home-based - share your life, change a life - oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlivescarers

Help with long-term Covid



Over a million people in the UK are suffering from Long Covid, the accepted term for Coronavirus that lasts more than four weeks. And, sad to say, more than 70,000 people in this country have had Covid symptoms - fatigue, breathlessness, numbness, pain or partial hearing loss - for over a year.

If you are one of those affected, you should know that PIP (personal independence payments) may be available. PIP is financial support for those who have an illness, disability or mental health condition, making it hard for them to do everyday tasks or get around. Income, savings and employment status don't affect your PIP eligibility, and PIP can supplement any other benefits you might be receiving. To apply, you need to be aged between 16 and your state pension age, and you need to have had these health problems for at least three months and expect them to continue.

For help with applying for PIP, contact Citizens Advice Adviceline on 0808 278 7907 (for Oxfordshire South and Vale). There is more information about PIP at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/sick-or-disabled-people-and-carers/pip/>



Elections round-up

You can read all the elections results across the Vale, including details of the Neighbourhood Plan referendums, all of which were approved by voters, by visiting whitehorsedc.gov.uk/may2021elections.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES

You may be aware that tree planting is becoming more and more highlighted as a way of combatting the climate emergency by reducing our carbon footprint. Even the Prince of Wales is advocating that we plant a tree in our gardens to celebrate the Queen's 70th anniversary of her succession to the throne, and if that happens it will mean millions of trees could be planted in the UK. "Let's have a Treebilee to celebrate this Jubilee," says the Prince of Wales.

Eons ago, the whole of the UK was covered in trees and it was rich in biodiversity. Now the UK is ranked as one of the worst countries in the world for its biodiversity and tree cover, which is truly shocking. Only 13% of the UK is covered with woodland compared to the EU's 38%.

So how are we doing in the Vale? The harsh truth is that only 8% of the Vale is covered in trees, and we will need to plant 40million trees to double our tree cover by 2045, which Friends of the Earth are encouraging all councils to do if they can. Doubling tree cover across the UK could draw down 50 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, which is around 10% of current UK emissions.

By late Summer/early Autumn this year, the Vale will have a tree policy and strategy which will enable us to plant the right trees in the right places on Vale land, and, with encouragement, to persuade other landowners to do the same on their land. And that even means you and me in our private gardens.

You might ask what is it about trees that is so important in our quest to reduce our carbon footprint? Quite simply, trees absorb carbon and give out oxygen. Carbon will remain locked up in the wood for hundreds of years unless it is cut down and burnt...this releases the carbon back into the atmosphere. So now a new law is in force to require people with wood burners not to use wet wood on their fires but only kiln dried wood which releases very little smoke.

However, trees have other benefits.

- They offer shade for people and farm animals in hot weather. Here in the UK, farmers are being encouraged to plant trees in fields where their cattle graze as a way of giving them shade from the sun and protection from rain etc.
- They also absorb a lot of water and are used to help mitigate flooding and control erosion, so you will see many trees being planted in areas of regular flooding.
- They clean our air, so are often planted near roads to help reduce the pollution from vehicles.
- They are used in the timber industry for house building and all wood based businesses. Sadly, 80% of the wood we use is imported for economic reasons.
- It has been proven that trees are very good for our mental and physical health.
- Of course, fruit trees (including walnut trees) are a source of food for us and people with gardens are often advised to plant this type of tree(s) in them.
- Trees and woodlands create habitats that support hundreds of species of insects, birds and mammals.

In conclusion, trees are very valuable assets for all sorts of reasons, but there is no doubt that if we are serious in our ambition to reduce our carbon footprint we have to increase tree planting across the UK and more particularly on land in the Vale, starting with our gardens and council owned land.

THE NEXT 4 WAYS WE CAN HELP REDUCE OUR PERSONAL CARBON FOOTPRINT.

- 1) Reduce our dairy and meat consumption. 15% of global emissions come from the meat and dairy industry and by simply committing to reduce our consumption of meat and dairy products by perhaps going meat and dairy free for a day or two

a week will dramatically reduce your carbon footprint.

- 2) Avoid unsustainable palm oil. Unfortunately, *palm oil* is engrained in many products and difficult to avoid without carefully looking to see if it has no palm oil or has been sourced sustainably. But bear in mind that palm oil causes masses of deforestation when unsustainably sourced...the devastating truth is that 300 football pitches of forest are cleared every hour for palm oil.
- 3) Use a reusable coffee cup. In the UK we use 7 million disposable coffee cups each day and less than 1% are actually recycled due to the plastic lining used to make them waterproof. By using your own reusable cup, you not only help the environment but you could even earn a discount in some shops.
- 4) Use a bag for life. The plastic bag charge has already seen a fantastic 83% reduction in plastic bag use in the UK. Yet we still use over 2 billion single use plastic bags a year. Keeping a bag for life folded up in your bag or in your car will be convenient for the next time you need one and is a simple way of helping us to move closer to giving up single use plastic completely.

I hope this is useful for you and might give you some ideas on how each one of us can support the quest to combat the climate emergency.

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

POST ELECTION ARTICLE

Editors of the Parish newsletters and Parish Council Chairmen have been very patient and understanding after the upheaval at OCC resulting from the May 6th elections. For me, it has been a surreal few weeks resulting in back to back meetings and negotiations leaving me with little time or energy for anything else. Whilst I need to ask for the forbearance of the few people waiting for responses to various pieces of casework, (I will be catching up in the next couple of weeks), there are some things I should say now.

First, many thanks to all those who voted for me to be your County councillor for another four years. Secondly, a reassurance to those who did not vote for me, that I hope that I can reassure you that I will strive to represent everyone in my Division with equal commitment. Thirdly, to thank my political opponents for their participation and making it a very fair fight as these things go. And finally to reassure everyone that my main focus for the immediate future will be on those issues that affect my particular area which is under particular pressure from the impacts of new infrastructure.

And on a light-hearted note...

Of many doorstep conversations I have had over recent weeks, the one that gave me most cause for thought ran something like this...

"Hello, my name is Richard Webber. I am your County Councillor for the next two weeks anyway"

"Ah yes, good to see you. So you will be wanting my vote then."

"Er yes, I suppose that is why I am here. Is there anything you would like to discuss. Any concerns? Any problems? Any issues?"

"Well look then, will you promise to wash my car?"

"Hang on a minute, there are more than 2000 cars in this village."

"Well that's the point. You need to sort out your priorities."

I am still not sure what he meant.

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

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MP'S REPORT

We've had two Cabinet Ministers visit the constituency in the past month. First up was Priti Patel, Home Secretary, in support of Matt Barber's (successful) campaign to be the Police and Crime

Commissioner. She visited Great Western Park, where residents have had considerable problems of unauthorised traveller camps. This is something I have raised in the House of Commons on more than one occasion and something that Matt has campaigned against with people like Cllr Ian Snowdon. GWP residents appreciated meeting her as she is bringing forward the new laws on this problem.

The second was Kwasi Kwarteng, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). This came about after I told him about Johnson Matthey's new flagship site at Milton Park to develop and test the next generation of electric vehicle batteries; he said he'd be pleased to visit. After the official opening I took him to Greencore Construction's Springfield Meadows development in Southmoor. I have already brought the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation to see their impressive homes and set up Greencore to meet the Government's Net Zero Champion, too, but I am keen for as many in government as possible to see how they've built not just net zero but carbon-positive homes.

While on the subject of the environment, I am holding a pre-COP26 summit for constituents on 1st July at which we'll talk about some of the key issues we need to make progress on, showcase some of the great local organisations we have locally – including Greencore – and agree ideas to send to Alok Sharma, President of COP26,

ahead of the summit.

It has been good to be able to have more face to face meetings and visit more places as lockdown has eased. I have had very enjoyable visits to all sorts of shops, pubs (such as the Radnor Arms in Coleshill) and restaurants (such as *The Fish* in Sutton Courtenay). Other highlights have included *Tom Brown's School Museum* in Uffington, still in its original 1617 school building, and *Flowers from Molly* in Faringdon, which allows you to nominate someone to receive a bunch of flowers or a letter of hope if you think they could do with a lift.

I have secured the cross-party support I needed to be able to hold a debate in parliament on the performance of Royal Mail; it is clear we are not the only area that has been having problems. It is now just a question of when the debate can be scheduled. I read in the paper that in Wantage and Grove some residents have just received post from up to 13 years ago as a former postal worker had it in their home this whole time, but I don't think that accounts for the problems we've had!

As ever, if I can help with anything then do email david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

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#DoYourBitFor theVale

Hit the shops

TOUCH POSSIBLE as little as

Sanitise

FOLLOW DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

Pay contactless OR WITH YOUR PHONE

CHECK IN WITH TEST & TRACE

Wear a mask

IF YOU'RE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, PLEASE ASK OUR TEAM

PLEASE BE GENEROUS & KIND
our high streets need your support more than ever
North Street

Respect each other's SPACE
Everybody has to be somewhere

fresh air

KEEP YOUR VISIT SHORT
IF OTHERS ARE WAITING

OUR MVS MARCHAM VILLAGE SHOP

POST OFFICE

THIS MESSAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKES CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk



As lockdown lifts it is great to be able to see and meet people more easily, to once again share a meal or a chat face-to-face. As a church family we are also enjoying being together in person as well as in spirit! We are back to running regular in-person services and though we still cannot sing and we are still socially distanced, it is good to see one another over the face masks, to see smiling eyes, to listen to worship, to chat outside afterwards. For those unable to make in-person services we plan to continue to live stream the morning service on our YouTube channel for the foreseeable future.

Anyone is welcome to join us at our services – we are still asking that you book for morning services at All Saints' but you can just turn up to the evening service. St. Luke's church in Garford is open each Sunday between 11am-12pm. Though there is no formal service most weeks, this is an opportunity for prayer & reflection, to listen to music and to spend time with the local community. A list of services at St. Luke's can be found on our website under the St. Luke's tab.

If you would like to know more about our services or would like someone to call or visit you, please do get in contact using the details at the bottom of the page.

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.

Sunday Services

All Saints'

10am: please book via the 'Sign up for services' tab on our website

6pm: no need to book

St. Luke's – see website for further information on services.

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

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 07915527563