

# Marcham & District News

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

JULY / AUGUST 2021 VOL: 43 NO: 7/8

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE

## The Big Marcham Weekend

.....  
A weekend full of fun!

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

SAVE THE DATE

▲ Big Weekend! see page 5



## ANCHORED

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TUES 24TH - THURS 26TH AUGUST

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH  
HOLIDAY CLUB IS BACK!

SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS BEING LIFTED.

GET THE DATES IN THE DIARY AND WATCH OUT FOR MORE DETAILS.



© Rosemary Harwood

▲ The Strawberry Thief



▲ The benefits of a no-mow June!  
Pyramidal Orchid and Viper's Bugloss

## Diary

July		
Date	Event	Pg
10 & 11	English Wine and Food Festival, Brightwell Vineyard, 11.00-17.00	9
10 Sat	Little Angels Recruitment Day, 10.00-13.00	15
19 Mon	Marcham WI: Garden Party, Marcham Centre, 19.30	7
21 Wed	Arts Society Abingdon Online: Ealing Studios, 11.00 & 14.00	9
23 Fri	Thirsty Café BBQ, Marcham Centre	7

August		
2 Mon	Deadline for Constituency Boundary Change Consultation	18
7 Sat	Thirsty Café BBQ, Marcham Centre	7
18 Wed	Arts Society Abingdon Online: Dumfries House, 11.00 & 14.00	9
20 Fri	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email <a href="mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk">editor@madnews.co.uk</a>	
24-26	Anchored – All Saints' Church Holiday Club	
27-29	The Big Marcham Weekend	5

September		
1 Wed	NO WASTE COLLECTION – it will be on Thu 2 Sep (Green, Garden and Food Waste)	
4 Sat	Abingdon HealthFest, Market Place 10.30 – 14.30 featuring Harmony InSpires!	17
11 Sat	Abingdon Air & Country Show	9
18 Sat	Thirsty Café BBQ, Marcham Centre	7



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

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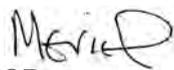
Dear Readers

I was very sad to hear of the death of Tony Blackler in June. Jo and Tony managed the collation and distribution for MADNews for many years and retired at the same time the previous editor, Martin Thorne hung up his pen.

There were strict instructions from Tony to the next delivery team of Judith and Peter to not accept any more than 10 pages, and I have tried very hard to stick to it over the years!

Have a happy summer

Until next time



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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.

**POLICE**

PCSO Rich Osborn C9323  
[Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) for Marcham  
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Or just dial 101 (non-emergency) and omit the C from his number

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Tel: 01235 534001

[Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto:Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com)

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

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

[catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

For other councillors go to [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

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**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**New Parish Councillor**

The Council was pleased to be able to welcome Mark Harvie to the Parish Council to fill one of the vacant seats that it has. Mark has lived on the parish boundary towards Frilford for some 10 years. His particular interests are environmental matters, health and well being, and education. Mark attended his first meeting in June, and the Council wishes him success in his new role.

**New Direction Signs to Village Hall**

New highway signs are on order from the County Council. These are being funded by the County Council with some of the money coming from the Priory Fund budget – a sum set aside for Cllr. Richard Webber to allocate the spending within his County Division. The Parish Council is very grateful to him for agreeing to this. The signs, once erected, should enable visitors and newcomers to the area and find Barrow Close and the new hall more easily.

**Call for Evidence – Transport Connectivity**

England's Economic Heartland has brought to the attention of the Council studies aimed at improving transport connectivity in Oxfordshire. The Council is looking at these and putting its views forward.

**Planning Applications considered by the Council**

There were no planning applications considered at the June meeting of the Council. Applications considered previously under delegated powers include:

P21/V1190/HH Single storey extension to the kitchen at rear with parapet wall to match

style of property at Sheepstead Folly. The Council had no objections.

P21/V1238/FUL Single storey rear extension to Children's Nursery Building, Barrow Close. The Council had various concerns regarding increased numbers of children, greater need for parking, access into the site off Morland Road, previous landscaping conditions to be taken into account, and a drainage assessment needed owing to loss of permeable land.

P21/V0837/A Erection of free standing sign, and sign on hall building at Marcham Centre. The Council supported the application.

P21/V1351/HH Erection of oak framed garage replacing existing garage at Redlands, Rowleigh Lane. The Council asked that materials used were compatible with existing buildings, and asked for a condition to ensure that the garage could not become a separate dwelling. Checks to be made too to see if green belt policies applied.

P21/V1303/LB– Structural repair and conservation of Grade II listed two arch masonry bridge 50m south of Marcham Mill, Mill Road. Notification of this application has just been received, and the Council will shortly be making its comments to the District Council.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

This is currently being arranged, please check the Council's website [www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://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](mailto:clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)



**▲ Marcham Parish Council meeting in the new hall**

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**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
VACANCIES**

The Council has 2 vacancies for councillors. 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

**Step into Oxford**  
Not been out for a while?  
Feeling a little nervous about  
stepping out again?



We have just the thing for you: a gentle 45-minute stroll through the stunning and uplifting sights of Oxford, led by a professional guide and, accompanied, if you wish, by a volunteer helper.

Age UK Oxfordshire has teamed up with the Oxford Guild of Tour Guides and the Oxford Hub to get you back 'out there'. The FREE morning or afternoon walk is followed by an opportunity to sit and chat with others over a cup of tea or coffee. What could be better?

Walks are open to anybody over 50.

*Dates in July*

Tuesday 6th July 10.30am, Thursday 15th July 10.30am, Tuesday 20th July 2.00pm, Thursday 29th July 2.00 pm

*Dates in August*

Tuesday 3rd August 10.30 am, Thursday 12th August 10.30 am, Tuesday 17th August 2.00pm, Thursday 26th August 2.00 pm, Tuesday 31st August 10.30am

Contact: Petra (Age UK) on 01235 849434 to book your place.

Photo: Ed Nix

**The Big Marcham Weekend**  
A weekend full of fun!  
**August**  
27th, 28th & 29th 2021

- Summer Dance 7.30pm -midnight. Dance the night away to the "Torn of Strips". Adults only, Tickets on sale from 1st July, available from Marcham Community Shop and Marcham Centre Bar or any of the events team. £10 pp (incs Jacket Potato)

**Sunday 29th August**  
**Family Picnic 12 noon to 4pm**

- Preorder a picnic basket from Thirsty Café or bring your own
- Family Sport Games

To register your interest in taking part in the **Carnival**, being a stall holder or taking part in **Marcham's Got Talent**, please email [coordinator@marchamcentre.org](mailto:coordinator@marchamcentre.org)

**Events Committee Members:**  
Trevor Hill, Hayley Cousins, Natasha Kingsbury, Andy Berry, Paula Utting, Claire Wright

**Friday 27th August**

- Gin & Beer Festival 4pm to 11pm

**Saturday 28th August**  
**Carnival 12 noon to 4pm**

- Carnival procession 12 noon including Carnival Royalty Presentation
- Various Stalls including:  
Thirsty Café Tea and Cakes, Scentsy, Crafts, Jewellery, Sweets, Bouncy Castle, Alpha Academy, Marcham School PTA, Face Paints, Ice Cream, Fish & Chips, BBQ, Punch & Judy, Bouncy Castle, The Shop Classic Car Restoration Company, Teddy Stall, Flamingo Cards, Pimms Tent, Gin & Beer
- Marcham's Got Talent 2pm

There is a Covid Vaccine Passport scam email going around that purports to be from the NHS and informs recipients that they can apply for their **"Digital Coronavirus Passports"** Clicking on the link within the email, takes you to a convincing but fake NHS website that asks for personal and payment details **for an admin fee** The website has since been taken down, but it is likely that similar emails/websites will appear.

Vaccination status is obtained FREE through the NHS App, website or by calling the NHS on 119.

More information can be found on the gov.uk website;  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/demonstrating-your-covid-19-vaccination-status-when-travelling-abroad>

**Any Phishing scams can be reported to SERS (Suspicious Email Reporting Service):** [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

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# Marcham WI



Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 19th July 2021

Garden Party Meeting

Meet outside at the Marcham Centre

Bring your own picnic

We are very much hoping that for our July meeting we will be able to meet in person for the first time since early 2020. We are planning to meet at the new Marcham Centre, for an outside meeting and picnic on the patio. This will obviously be subject to postponement if government rules and advice change before then and we will confirm arrangements to all our members before the day. Please bring your own picnic and we'll all look forward to having the chance to have a good social evening with friends that we may not have seen for a long time. Let's hope for a fine and sunny evening!

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



Thirsty Café pop up café open at Marcham Centre:

- Wednesday from 9-11am
- Saturday from 9-11:30am

Serving a range of drinks and homemade cakes and on Saturdays we also serve bacon and egg butties. If you are interested in volunteering, please do get in touch. There are a lot of opportunities to help.

### BBQ

Back by popular demand, we will be hosting more summer BBQs at Marcham Centre:

- Friday 23rd July
- Saturday 7th August
- Saturday 18th September

Find out more and pre-order via our website.

### The Big Marcham Weekend

Join in the fantastic weekend of fun. Find us on Saturday for drinks, cake, and BBQ food. Take the whole weekend off and pre-order one of our special picnic hampers for Sunday's family picnic.

Website: [www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk](http://www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk)

Email: [hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk](mailto:hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk)

Phone: 07871 208811, Mon-Fri, 9 am-12 noon

## Puzzle Corner

??

**TEA TIME TEASER** For this teaser is can you work out these phrases from Shakespeare and which plays they come from?

Answers in September!

1. T C O true L N D R S
2. T B, O N T B: T I T Q
3. N I T W O our D
4. I T A D which I S B M
5. A that G I N G
6. U L T H T wears T C
7. S A B G, S A G, A some H G T U T
8. W I A N? A R B any O N W S A S

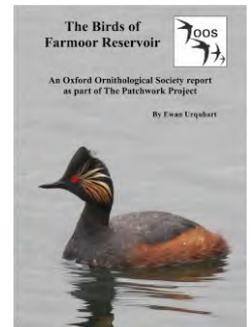
Answers to last month's expressions and sayings:

1. Do I Feel Lucky? Well Do Ya Punk? *Dirty Harry*
2. With Some Fava Beans And A nice Chianti *Silence of the Lambs*
3. You Talkin' to Me? *Taxi Driver*
4. Here's Looking at You Kid *Casablanca*
5. I'm Going To make Him An Offer he Can't Refuse *The Godfather*
6. Where We're Going We don't Need Roads *Back to the Future*
7. I Love The Smell Of Napalm in The Morning *Apocalypse Now*
8. May The Force be With You! *Star Wars*

## 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](mailto: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...*

## 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](mailto:malvin@ic24.net). **MALVIN DRAKLEY**

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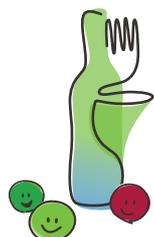
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The 2021 show will be an "all-ticket" event and will comply with the latest government guidelines, continually consulting with Public Health England and local Authorities as planning is ongoing. We aim to provide a COVID secure event and adapt the show accordingly to help us stage this annual show.

Please remember you cannot gain access to the show without a prior purchased ticket.

For tickets and more details go to [www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk](http://www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk)



The Arts Society Abingdon (ex ADFAS) are presenting 2 LIVE ONLINE Webinars  
**Wednesday 21st July 2021,**  
**Live at 11.00am and 2.00pm**

### Cinema from the rubble: the post-war politics of Ealing Studios

by Benedict Morrison

Ealing Studios are often hailed as the most quintessentially English of all film studios, reaching their zenith in 1949 with the release of Passport to Pimlico, Whisky Galore, and Kind Hearts and Coronets. Celebrated for these films, and the other magnificent comedies that followed, the studios' films have a reputation for cosiness, whimsicality and gentle subversiveness set amongst the ruins of post-war Britain. Benedict's lecture revisits these films and reads them again - viewed as comedies of rubble they take on a far more serious set of meanings than their whimsical reputation suggests!



**Wednesday 18th August 2021,**  
**Live at 11.00am and 2.00pm**

### Dumfries House an Ayrshire Renaissance

by Charlotte Rostek

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Visitors/non-members are very welcome to view this lecture, cost £6.00. If you would like to view online please email [info@theartssocietyabingdon.org.uk](mailto:info@theartssocietyabingdon.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.theartssocietyabingdon.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietyabingdon.org.uk) or email [info@theartssocietyabingdon.org.uk](mailto:info@theartssocietyabingdon.org.uk)

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## MARCHAM GUIDES

This term we were thrilled to finally be allowed to meet outside as a group and we certainly have made the most of it, from playing games, learning new skills and lots of chatting and laughter.



We have learnt how to build a fire and what is the best wood to use. We started by boiling water in a can, cooking spaghetti enough to be able to tie a knot in it and toasting marshmallows. We then planned our own 2 course menu for our patrol to cook the next week. These was very varied, pasta and sauce, omelettes, pancakes, baked bananas & chocolate, "camp donuts" (sandwiches filled with jam or chocolate spread dipped in pancake batter then fried!) cheese scones cooked on sticks.

*No-one went home hungry that night.*



## Marcham Centre

We wish it could be better news. However, as the Government has delayed the full opening up in England until at least July 19th, it does mean that although social gatherings in groups of 6 (or 2 households) are allowed indoors in the Marcham Centre village hall, unfortunately they are not permitted in larger groups. Some of the events booked at **Marcham Centre** cannot take place for the moment (for example, birthday parties). There are some exemptions so the Hall Committee is looking at all events on a case-by-case basis.

If you do have any questions, please contact [coordinator@marchamcentre.org](mailto:coordinator@marchamcentre.org)

The **Marcham Centre Bar** continues to be well supported by the village. A selection of Euro 20 football matches are being screened indoors in Covid safe conditions.

The Bar is open outdoors as well as indoors for table service. Regular Bar opening times are as follows:

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

Short mat indoor **Bowling** and **Table Tennis** will not be held in the halls until further notice. This is following current Government guidelines.

The August bank holiday **Big Marcham Weekend** (27th, 28th, 29th August). The MCG Events team continue to make preparations for this action-packed weekend which will be full of fun activities for all. There is more information on page 5.

**Thirsty Café** see page 7 or visit [www.thirstycafemarcham](http://www.thirstycafemarcham) and @thirstycafemarcham for the latest information.

The **MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)** 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. **07452 944949**

MCG Trustees wish to thank **Will Cumber and the Cumber family** for their very kind donation of ten outside picnic tables for use on the Hall's patio area. This has proved to be an extremely useful asset to the facilities, as they are used by patrons of the bar, Thirsty Café, and the community generally. We are sure the tables add greatly to all their enjoyment and experience of the area.

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

## Hands – Face – Space - Air

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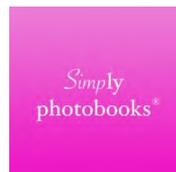
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**MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS**

In the last issue, we gave an insight into what some of the classes have been studying. "And what about the other children?" Everyone continues working with interest on their curriculum topics:



**Leopards** (year 1) have begun a new topic on "Castles". They are immersing themselves in medieval design with bow and arrows, making catapults and finding the best materials for building their own castle.

**Kangaroos** (year 3) are studying the continent of Europe. Children have learnt how to say 'hello' in different European languages during registration. Languages have included French, Spanish, German and Polish. Miss Probert (one of the class' Teaching Assistants) is also teaching French to the children.

**Wolves** (year 5) are studying the Ancient Greeks. They have been engaging in Greek myths and the Twelve Labours of Heracles. The class are writing a shared biography for the goddess Hera and then each child will be writing a biography for a God/Goddess of their choice.

In addition to their learning, perhaps the highlight for the children after their half term break has been the construction of a new playground and trim trail area at the Key Stage 2 end of the school! One child looked at it, sighed and whispered, "It's beautiful!". We are really pleased with it, and after a few finishing touches (such as the large sail which provides some shade), the children have been able to explore and play.

As this issue covers both July and August, the school looks forward to updating you on end of term news and our plans for the new academic year in September. In the meantime, we hope you all have a fantastic summer.

**VIV HUTCHINSON, HEADTEACHER**

[www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages](http://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages)

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SCAN ME



**News from MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL**

We'd like to share our news with you  
 To tell you what we did in May  
 It's been quite an exciting time  
 As we began our Torch relay!  
 The Olympics are coming to Marcham  
 I can hear the spectators cheer!  
 It has to be one of the best events  
 That we have seen all year!  
 The children have prepared for games  
 To test their skills and more  
 Each team is trying every day  
 To get the highest score.  
 Cycling, football  
 Lifting weights  
 Surfing, javelin  
 And ice skates....  
 Countries from around the world  
 Their flags are flying high,  
 Tension is rising, who will win?  
 "My team" - I hear you cry!  
 It's been a really special time  
 We've love the games we play  
 Head over to our Facebook page to see  
 Marion and Nicky on the bobsleigh!!!!



**Nicky Sanford, Early Years Teacher**

01865 392101 [Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk)  
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### Controversial, Shocking, Maybe Even Madness



I don't think it's any of them, though some people I've encountered think it's controversial, others say it's shocking, whilst others claim it's pure madness, lunacy even. Personally, to me, it's a mere conversation starter, at best, an evolving piece of creative art, a statement piece.

What on earth is it I'm talking about? Well, it's my hair, it's on fire! Well, not exactly on fire, but it's now flame coloured. Whether you believe in manmade climate change or not, this planet's temperatures and balance is changing. Some say the planet is on fire, so I dyed my hair bright red, orange and yellow to signify the colour of fire, and to keep the big issues in all our collective consciousness.

As the wind blows through my hair, the colour palette alters, like fire. I'll be adding shades of green over the coming weeks and months to keep the conversations going, and to show how nature can recover. Humanity can too, as we are nature and nature is us. Nature's story is our story. By Christmas I'll be a walking Brussel Sprout (as my Grandfather once said back in the 1990's when I dyed my hair bright green) as my hair will be completely green again. What after that, wait and see!

Anyway, the point of this article is how can we use our gardens, how we design them, what can we plant in them, what can we place in them, how can we use them, to kick-start other conversations about how we can all live more sustainably, with consideration.

Time to get creative and cultivate optimism, and do share ideas with me about how you get conversations started when friends and relations see your garden, that's if you try this new approach. If you try this it'll be interesting to hear about what influences and changes have occurred within you too. Some may of course be unexpected.

This is a totally different way to garden, granted, but there is always room for freedom of expression and fresh ideas out in the garden. Even a touch of controversy and madness maybe?

**Happy Gardening!**

**Stuart Mabbutt**

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



How healthy are the hedgerows in your corner of Oxfordshire? Take part in the 'Great British Hedgerow Survey' run by the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES): <https://hedgerowsurvey.ptes.org>. This survey provides a health check for your hedges and gives tailored management advice to help ensure this precious habitat can thrive in the future and don't forget to submit your records to TVERC ( [www.tverc.org](http://www.tverc.org) ) as well.

If you are surveying or enhancing your parish's hedgerows, we would love to hear from you [roselle@wildoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:roselle@wildoxfordshire.org.uk)

It's so great summer is here!

We hope you're enjoying the weather as much as we are.



We have a football coach who trains our toddlers and pre-schoolers football skills each week. We have been so excited to get back out onto the field for our training this month, and the children have been thrilled to get to have such a wonderful space to learn football and run around.

We have been going on bug hunts both in our garden and on the field this month, exploring many different creepy crawlies and learning about their habitats. The children have been seeking for bugs under logs, in the trees and on the flowers and have learnt all about bees, ants, ladybirds and butterflies.

Our older children have been having a wonderful time role playing restaurants in their rooms. They have been preparing the food with delicious dishes such as mud porridge, sand stews, and playdoh cookies. All the children have been getting involved adopting their roles as chefs, customers and waiters. They have been having great fun being creative with their resources.

Our littlest angels have been perfecting their fine motor skills with home resources such as light switches, locks and door handles. They love exploring the world around them, and household items are always of great interest to the tiniest minds. We love creating treasure boxes for the babies with surprise items which they can explore and spark their imagination.

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We welcome new members to join us in our hobby and would love the chorus to keep growing so that as many ladies as possible can have the fun we have. If you would like to hear our latest recording or read more about the choir go to our website

**[www.harmonyinspires.org](http://www.harmonyinspires.org)**

**Abingdon Healthfest 10.30 - 2.30 Saturday 4 Sept**  
Healthy Abingdon ([healthyabingdon.org.uk](http://healthyabingdon.org.uk)) brings together community groups with health service providers with the aim of improving the health and well-being of people in the town. On Saturday 4 September we are taking over the Market Place for **Abingdon Healthfest** which will showcase some of the many great groups available in the town.

Some of the community groups with stands will be active in walking, cycling, yoga, singing and athletics. Health service providers will cover areas like mental or dental health and much more. You can also hear about the social prescribing services now provided by GP practices. There will be some demonstrations in addition to being able to engage with people on the stands.

The event is sponsored by Penlon.



**A report from our recent 'Love to Sing' course**

**Week 1** An advertisement in the May edition of MADNews caught my eye about a 3 week singing course for Harmony InSpires and, after some deliberation, I decided to sign up. Feeling surprisingly nervous on the first night, my fears soon disappeared with the warm welcome I received by the friendly group on Zoom. The evening went very quickly and not only did we learn a good song with a catchy tune but, satisfyingly, a number of useful skills for singing. I am certainly looking forward to next week's session and will even do a little homework too.

**Week 2** I joined the second session with some trepidation as despite my best intentions, any plans to look over last week's notes had been left until the last minute; however, I was made to feel most welcome by the group again, and indeed the 90 minutes passed very rapidly. We went over the previous week's work, voice warm ups and singing, but with a few extra challenges added in, e.g. trying out a 4 part harmony and we were even shown a diagram of the throat to help us understand its anatomy. We discussed the story behind the rather lovely song we are learning "[Lean On Me](#)" - it's a song which feels most appropriate for the times but also sums up the group's ethos very well. Following this most enjoyable evening, I can't wait to join next week's session.

**Week 3** Success! A certificate dropped into my inbox this morning congratulating me on completing the course. This was most unexpected but certainly a confidence booster. What a pleasant surprise to the end of an interesting and engaging course and perhaps the start of a new adventure. Hopefully, the group will be meeting up weekly at the new Marcham community centre from September which is an added bonus.

**ROSEMARY**

Other singers comments ...

"Goosebumps"

"I want to be in your gang"

"So lovely"

"Can't wait to join"



Overcoming Anxiety & Depression Together

The last year has been anything but normal for many of us. COVID-19 has affected every single person in the world in many ways. However, we know being 65+ means you might have been subject to shielding, loneliness, grief, feeling down and worrying. Whilst the news of vaccinations and lockdown ending can provide a lot of hope for people, it can feel really overwhelming for people too after the last year. You or someone you know may still be feeling very affected by everything that's happened.

**TalkingSpace Plus** can provide support for those of you who may feel down or worried, or just out of sorts. They are a free NHS service who provide evidence-based talking therapy treatments to help with these problems.

You can self refer via the website [www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/talkingspaceplus/](http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/talkingspaceplus/) or calling directly on 01865 901222. Or you can ask your GP to help you.



**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

**COVID UPDATE**

You will realise that cases of Covid have increased over Oxfordshire and our numbers equate with those of last February. In the Vale, the rates of cases are 49.3 per 100,000 population, a little below South Oxfordshire. We are keeping a special eye out for cases in nearby areas like Reading, where surge testing is taking place in several postcodes. The Vale continues to encourage regular testing and for residents to take up the vaccine. So far 96,289 people in South Oxfordshire and 85,513 in the Vale have had their first jab while 67,944 in the South and 60,068 in the Vale have had their second. This week all over 25 year olds have been invited to book their first jab. For a breakdown of cases, vaccinations and the financial support available you can go to the South and Vale Community Hub infographics.

**Move Together**

A new initiative, "Move Together", was launched this week to help people who are clinically vulnerable and who have been shielding or any residents whose health has been affected by the lockdowns over the past year. The aim is to provide personalised support, such as befriender service, exercise sessions or home activity packs.

People can contact the service directly or partner organisations might refer individuals over the next year. There is a special webinar on Tuesday, 6th July for organisations and interested partners to find out more about the scheme. For more information go to The Active Oxfordshire website.

**Parliamentary Constituency Boundary changes**

The government is planning to change boundaries across England with the aim of making populations in each constituency more equal. If this interests, you can find out more about the proposed changes for the South East on the Boundary Commission website, in particular look at numbers 28 and 41-45 for details of Oxfordshire proposals. The number of constituencies in Oxfordshire will increase from six to seven, and Marcham will go into OXWAB (Oxford West and Abingdon)

You can take part in the eight week consultation (finishes on 2nd August) by submitting your views via the Boundary Commission for England website: [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk)

**Abbey Meadow Outdoor Pool**

Great news for families and swimmers in the Vale - the Abbey Meadow outdoor pool in Abingdon will reopen on Monday 12 July in plenty of time for the summer holidays.

Vale of White Horse District Council has been working hard with its leisure contractor GLL to get the pool open and allow local residents and visitors to enjoy the popular riverside pool this summer.

The pool will remain open throughout the school holidays until early September, ensuring it can be enjoyed by families, youngsters and tourists visiting the Vale, as well as the pool's regular outdoor swimming enthusiasts.

Obviously some Covid-19 social distancing measures will be in place to ensure the pool can be used safely, and so visitors will need to book in advance via the Better UK smartphone app or on the Better UK website - <https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/vale-of-white-horse/abbey-meadows-outdoor-pool>.

The pool will run with a reduced capacity while government Covid-19 restrictions remain in place, and a one-way route will be in place in the changing rooms.

**WEEKLY TIPS ON REDUCING YOUR PERSONAL CARBON FOOTPRINT FOR THIS MONTH**

Did you know that, sadly, in the UK less than 50% of our waste is recycled? However, the Vale is the fourth best recycling council in the UK but we could do better. So, I am highlighting 2 areas of recycling.

1) **Food recycling** Each year we create 7 million tonnes of food

waste from our homes. If thrown in the black bin and sent to landfill this waste creates methane, a greenhouse gas 25 times more potent than CO2. By putting waste food into the food bin, the food can then be turned into soil fertiliser or even a source of energy with an anaerobic digester.

- 2) **WEEE recycling** (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment). You can put out used batteries on the Green bin to be collected, and larger appliances can be dropped off at local collection points and recycling centres. (Some electrical appliances can even be repaired in Repair cafes.) Recycling WEEE waste means that the metals and materials can be recovered and reused and so avoid going to landfill!
- 3) **Switch to a Green Energy provider.** Reducing your demand on fossil fuels and helping to encourage the investment in renewables is often easier and cheaper than you may think by switching to a green energy supplier. If you do so, be wary and be sure that the supplier is truly selling what it says it is selling.
- 4) **Turn off appliances when not using them.** This may sound obvious, but ensuring you turn off your lights, TV and computers once you have finished using them really can make a difference. Similarly, consider other appliances like dishwashers, washing machines and speakers which can also save carbon.

**The White Horse Community Lottery**

The Vale of White Horse District council committed to launching its own lottery as a fun and creative way for voluntary and community groups to raise much needed funds. The lottery enables people to support the causes they care most about in the district, and also helps good causes to connect with their supporters.

Players of the lottery can choose which local good cause(s) they want to support when they purchase tickets and prizes range from free prize draw entries to a weekly £25,000 jackpot. Tickets cost just £1 with 60p from every ticket sold going to support charities and community groups across the Vale of White Horse.

The White Horse Community Lottery is free for organisations to join. The council would love to see as many good causes in the district benefitting from the funding raised. If any VCS and community groups would like to get involved, they can do so by:

- by emailing [communityenablement@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communityenablement@southandvale.gov.uk)
- visiting the council's website [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/communitylottery](http://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/communitylottery)
- taking a look at the official website [whitehorselottery.co.uk](http://whitehorselottery.co.uk)

Once organisations have registered, their details will go onto the official website and players of the lottery can choose to support them when they buy their tickets.

Hope you have managed to get through all this.

*Stay safe and well!*

**CATHERINE WEBBER** Cllr VWHDC

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

01235 534001 or [catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)



**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Since the May elections, much has been happening – not least the need for the new administration to get its feet under the table as it picks up a mass of issues across the County.

Below is an update on just some of the issues affecting our area.

**Hanson Sidings noise**

Many residents have been affected by the increased activities and noise emanating from Appleford Sidings. The issue has been taken up with Hanson and with the Environmental Protection team at VWHDC. The departure of the long serving and trusted Hanson Rep on the Local Liaison Committee has been an added source of frustration. However, we are promised a replacement and this should

ensure more rapid responses to village concerns in the future.

**Rights of Way**

The Liaison Committee, together with the Parish Councils of Sutton Courtenay and Appleford have met with FCC\* and OCC Pathway officers to arrange work on outstanding issues of overgrown and poorly maintained pathways and byways on FCC land. Not everything is agreed yet, but work will be started imminently on improving and maintaining the many rights of way. This will be welcome news to walkers and horse riders.

**HIF1 Road\*\***

The change in administration at OCC has allowed a review of these proposals. There are, we are told, a number of constraints that we cannot change. These include:

The Government time limit on the delivery of the road (completion by the end of 2024).

The threat of speculative housing application all across the wider area to the District Local Plans if the scheme falls through.

In meeting the deadlines, the planning application must be submitted for consultation by September 2021 and brought before a planning committee in February 2022. Even then, the timetable for delivery will be tight. Moving the road and flyover to the west over old land tip would, we are told, be prohibitively expensive involving digging out the area and replacing soil. It would also introduce a further delay to the delivery of the scheme. The good news is that both the strategic and the detailed traffic modelling data on which the whole scheme is based will be released for public scrutiny in the next few weeks. There will also be a number of public engagement events in all areas affected before the planning application goes in. This will, at least, give residents and Parish Councils some say in the process.

**Solar Farm**

The FCC application for a large Solar Farm is causing much concern amongst local residents over its potential visual impact and its impact on present rights of way. The opportunity for people to comment has been very limited. I have requested that the application must go before the planning committee where further public comment and opinion can be presented before any decision is made.

**A34 Drayton Roadworks.**

Roadworks are taking place on the A34 at Drayton. Details attached. These are to adjust the former slip road in an official layby.

**Marcham and Frilford Junction traffic**

Work is going on to consider options to address these issues. All options and their implications are on the table including a possible Marcham Bypass, investment in public transport, cycling and active travel. Trying to predict the needs of a transport system beyond a few years is an enormous challenge. Balancing the impact of new technologies Electric autonomous vehicles and the climate emergency against the needs of a prosperous growing area is staggeringly complex. I am hoping that once the immediate constraints of Covid are behind us, we can set up a brainstorming session with interested residents in the new Marcham Community Centre to get some input into the OCC considerations.

**RICHARD WEBBER** Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

\* FCC Environment is the waste and resource management operation beside Didcot A Power station.

\*\* HIF1 is the £0.5b project to build a new link road and bridge over the Thames between Appleford and Sutton Courtenay.

**MP'S REPORT**

Significant change is being proposed for Oxfordshire by the independent Boundary Commission. They say create a seventh seat in the county at Bicester; move the Faringdon, Kingston Bagpuize, Stanford and Watchfield & Shrivenham wards from the Wantage constituency into the Witney constituency; move the Marcham division from Wantage into Oxford West and Abingdon;

and move the Sandford and the Wittenhams division from Henley into Wantage, which will get an official new name: Didcot and Wantage (I have continued my predecessor's habit of including Didcot in the name but it isn't official!).

The purpose is to give each MP roughly the same number of electors as, at the moment, constituencies in England range from 55,000 to 100,000 people. Wantage and Didcot is 91,000, so I knew they would propose a chunk being taken off somewhere; the proposal would make it 71,000. We're strongly urged not to give an opinion as these are proposals subject to consultation, but you can give yours up until 2nd August on their website.

I have launched a new project with my colleague, Claire Coutinho, to research and propose practical recommendations to close what we're calling the Opportunity Gap for young people from different backgrounds and areas of the country. We'll look at everything from the resources parents have (financial and non-financial) through to the recruitment processes employers use, praising those doing good work to help and calling out those who could do more. Readers will know my pre-politics career was entirely spent working with disadvantaged young people and in the post-Covid world, it's a topic that is more important than ever.

One of the most valuable things I think I can do in my job is raise issues that affect constituents in the House of Commons. Recently, I've been pleased to raise a series of concerning issues, including the case of a constituent who has been waiting 3 years for her rape case to reach court, and what looks to be a worrying rise in the prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs to dementia patients who don't have a diagnosis of psychosis. I also took the opportunity to raise the lack of GP services to serve our growing population – and am pleased the Health Minister has agreed to meet to discuss this further. On this topic, my debate on the performance of Royal Mail is this month and I will put my speech – and other local issues I raise in the meantime – on my Facebook page (www.facebook.com/davidjohnston4wantage)

A few weeks ago I was delighted to become the first patron of the Childrey charity, **Team Mikayla**, set up by the inspiring 14 year old Mikayla, who has had a long and difficult fight against Cancer. I was delighted to subsequently hear they received a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, alongside other great local organisations such as the **Ray Collins Charitable Trust** in Wantage and **Farcycles** in Faringdon. In other good news, **Anna Richards** of Maymessy in West Challow received the Prime Minister's Points of Light award too. Congratulations to them all.

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



Callers don't have to give their name or any personal information and calls are not recorded and cannot be traced.

**Tell them what you know, not who you are**

# ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKES CHURCHES

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

## New Beginnings

One might think that this is a better title for our January message, rather than July, but it feels right, somehow, that we should talk about new beginnings this month for two reasons;

Firstly, it has been so good to restart our face-to-face children's work at All Saints. Friday Club, our weekly club for all primary aged children, has begun again, and we have welcomed back more than 25 children. We are meeting outside in the church yard, and the children have been so excited to be back enjoying all the activities we provide and interacting with each other. We are thrilled that so many Young Leaders have wanted to come back (young people, secondary school age, who volunteer with the younger ones). They are a credit to our community!

We have also restarted our Sunday Kids group. Again, we are meeting outside in the church yard whilst the adults continue to worship inside. We are enjoying the concept of Outdoor Church and learning to really appreciate God's incredible creation. We have recently been excited watching caterpillars grow into Chrysalids, and then hatch into beautiful, "Painted Lady", butterflies.



When talking to the children about the process they were quick to see the similarities with Jesus. The caterpillar appears to die and is encased in a "tomb like" shell, before emerging a few days later, full of life as a beautiful butterfly. Jesus died on the cross, was placed in a sealed tomb, and rose to new life 3 days later.

The second reason for the title "New Beginnings" is that we have good news for the whole community. Last month interviews took place for a new vicar for the parish of Marcham with Garford, and we are pleased to announce that in the autumn Rev. Nick Weldon will be coming with his family to lead and serve us as our new vicar.

We are looking forward to welcoming them all to All Saints and St Luke's, but also to our amazing village community.



*Hello Marcham folks! We're really looking forward to moving into the community in the autumn when I will take up the role as Vicar of Marcham and Garford. We look forward to meeting lots of people and getting to know you all in the months ahead. I am married to Jane, and we have three children, Samuel (12), Emily (10) and Olivia (6).*

*We will be moving from North Tawton in Devon where we have been living for the last 10 years. I am vicar of a rural benefice of four churches, and Jane works as a part-time GP at Okehampton Medical Centre. We have been married for 17 years, having met at church in Bristol as students. I then had three years as a church youth worker in Gerrards Cross before training for ordained ministry at Oak Hill in London. I served my curacy in Moreton-in-Marsh in the Cotswolds, where Samuel and Emily were born. So, although Marcham and the Abingdon/Oxford area will be pastures new for us, we have lived nearby before.*

*As a family we love to be outdoors and active. I love running, skiing, listening to music, and watching rugby (Exeter Chiefs and England). Jane enjoys running, but not as much as tea and cake, and she organises much of the ministry to families at church. Samuel is very sporty. He plays rugby and football, and is good on the drums too. Emily and Olivia are happiest when in the company of horses or dancing.*

*We are all really looking forward to making new friends in Marcham very soon. It's a big but exciting move for us.*



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