

MARCH 2022 VOL: 44 No: 3

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Burns Night Supper at Marcham Centre see page 9



▲ The Airshow is back, tickets on sale now see page 5



▲ Marcham Society Lecture: The Lost Villages of Oxfordshire see page 7



▲ Marcham PreSchool go Tartan for the Highland Games see page 13



▲ Mothering Sunday gifts all wrapped up at Marcham Village Shop see page 5



▲ Little Angels: a library for all and a garden reading room for the children see page 13

Diary for March

Date	Event	Pg
14 Wed	Deadline for Reservoir Consultation	19
14 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Marcham Centre. 19.30	3
14 Wed	Start of 6 week application period for Climate Change Grants	18
16 Wed	Abingdon Arts Society: STEAM, Online, 11.00 & 14.00	7
18 Fri	Deadline for Flexicare Manager applications	17
18 Fri	Gin Festival and Bingo, Marcham Centre, 19.30	11
20 Sun	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email editor@madnews.co.uk	
21 Mon	Marcham WI: Puddings & Quiz, Marcham Centre, 19.30	7
25 Fri	Quiz Night with Trevor, Marcham Centre, 20.00	7
26 Sat	Table Top Sale, Marcham Centre, 10.00-12.00	7
28 Mon	Marcham Society: Lost Villages, Marcham Centre, 19.15	7
31 Thu	Deadline for CPRE Trustees applications	15

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

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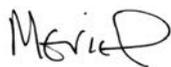
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Dear Readers

It's spring! Yes, the snowdrops have been out for a few weeks, daffodils are *dancing in the breeze* and the birds have been tuning up as well, getting ready for the full orchestral manoeuvre!

There are lots more events at our lovely new centre to enjoy including gin and Easter eggs, what a combination!

Until next time



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Jane Mander

DEADLINES

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

ADDITIONAL COPIES

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

DISCLAIMER

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

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Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk for Marcham
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Richard Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
Tel: 01235 534001

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon
Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
Tel: 07357 464699

catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL Functions of the County Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and Parish Council

With so many different Councils including Boroughs and Unitary Authorities, it can often be confusing as to which Council has responsibility for what items. In Oxfordshire there is the County Council, 5 District Councils and over 300 parish/town councils and parish meetings. To help guide residents to find who to contact when they have an issue, the following information may be helpful. The County Council manages county wide services such as education, social care, highways, fire services, some strategic planning and overall waste management. In our area the District Council is the Vale of White Horse, and that Council, whilst managing some of its functions jointly with the adjacent South Oxfordshire District Council, is responsible for planning applications, collecting the council tax, recycling and waste collections, environmental issues, housing, some benefit assessments, and licensing. A Parish Council helps with a number of local issues and in Marcham, manages the cemetery, the allotments, the play area and undertakes grass cutting in the village. It also owns the new village hall which it has leased to Marcham Community Group.

If you have a query relating to local government matters then you can contact your local elected representatives.

For **county** matters your local county councillor is Richard Webber email Richard.Webber@oxfordshire.gov.uk or telephone 01235 534001

For **district** matters your local district councillor is Catherine Webber email Catherine.Webber@Whitehorsedc.gov.uk or telephone 01235 534001

For **parish** council matters please contact your local parish councillor whose telephone details can be found at www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk or via email at clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Annual Meeting of Electors

This is a public meeting open to all electors in the parish. They are entitled to attend and ask questions or raise issues affecting the parish. There is usually a guest speaker on a topic of local interest and reports from local village organisations such as the Parish Council and Primary School. Unfortunately, the meeting has not been able to be held for the past 2 years owing to Covid. The Council is currently looking at arranging the event for this year, and has provisionally booked the village hall for **Tuesday 17th May** at 7.30 p.m. So please put this date in your diaries.

Consultation Documents

The Parish Council is taking part in consultation by the County Council on its

Transport Connectivity Plan, and by the District Council on its joint design guide with South Oxfordshire, and has submitted comments on both documents. In regards to transport, it seemed unclear how local businesses would be supported, as a major push for using public transport would impact trades who use vehicles for work. The document also did not take into account the fact that there may be no practical reduction in the actual number of vehicles, or new types of vehicles such as electric. Residents would still use vehicles for essential visits to supermarkets, hospitals etc.

In regards to the planning design guide, it was thought that adequate parking spaces should be a key focus as should electric charging capacity. There seemed to be no reference to local styles being included to allow for slight differences in different parts of the Vale. There seemed to be no recognition of an increase in working from home, and therefore no recognition of the need for pre-installed electrical connectivity such as fibre, or electrical charging capacity at new dwellings. It was thought that housing should be located close to office hubs and employment areas. No reference was made to recognise the impact of flooding such as designs for water absorption to reduce fast run-off. There was no reference to acknowledging Neighbourhood Plans in the design process, and the need to take these into consideration from an early stage.

Planning applications

The Council has considered the following planning application:

P21/V3498/HH Single storey, flat roof, garden room comprising sauna, changing room and toilet/shower, with decking at Beechfield House, Woodside. The Council requested that the tree screen remain, and that the building be used solely as ancillary to the main dwelling.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is Monday 14th March, 2022 at 7.30p.m. Please check the Council's website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk for the latest information in case arrangements change.

Clerk to the Council:

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

SAVE THE DATE

Frilford Parish Meeting AGM
at 7pm on Wednesday, 20th April

More details to follow

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Proprietor: Mr A Bunce

Liz Buckingham

Last November we were sad to say goodbye to our good friend Liz Buckingham. She had lived in and around Marcham for over 30 years although she grew up in Africa and always considered this to be her real home.

When she was old enough Liz joined her older sister in England to start her nursing career in Oxford which only ended when she was physically unable. Liz, or Lil, as many of her friends knew her, was always the life and soul of any party or gathering and even though she suffered from the effects of early onset multiple sclerosis she was still determined to enjoy life with great stoicism. She was a loyal and thoughtful friend and felt particularly close to "My church family in Marcham" as she always referred to them.

Her interests included: Riding for the Disabled with her beloved horse William, sailing with friends and swimming when she felt free to move around in the water without the constant fear of falling.

Anyone who visited her in the final months of her life will have had no doubt of the pleasure and pride that she enjoyed with family visits especially with the grandchildren. We remember Liz with affection and for all the times we laughed together enjoying her generous outlook on life

K J & T H



Saturday 10 September 2022

Abingdon Airfield/Dalton

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Online tickets available from end of March

www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk

2022 Prices:

Adult £20; Senior Citizens (60+) £10;

Children 5 - 15yrs £5; Under 5s Free

All online tickets are subject to a transaction fee set by the ticket provider.

SUNDIAL



Dear Editor

The Institute site was sold before the sundial from the old Institute building was lost / stolen. The Anson Trust therefore has no legal right or means to intervene and as the Anson Trust has not suffered a loss of property itself there is no basis for it to make any sort of insurance claim.

CHRIS HILLIER, Director

The Arthur Anson Memorial Trust Ltd.



The winner of February's Wordsearch is

Mori Neshat

Congratulations

The hidden phrase was: Millets Farm Centre Field Family Fork! Hidden in plain sight!



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Saturday: 08.00 – 10.30

Sunday: Closed

With Mother's Day on 27 March and Easter Sunday on 17 April, we have a lovely selection of drinks, chocolates, biscuits and cards to give as gifts to your friends and loved ones. We can also gift wrap too, just give us 3 days' notice.

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Marcham WI

Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 21st March 2022

At the Marcham Centre

Annual Meeting, Puddings and a Quiz

March is our Annual Meeting and we'll be starting at our usual time of 7:30pm. Once the business of the meeting is concluded, when you will be voting for the **President** for the next year, we'll be having a sociable evening with puddings to eat and a fun *quiz* with prizes.

If you would like to bring along a *pudding*, already portioned, or cut up ready to share, that would be much appreciated.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



The
Marcham
Society

Monday
28th March
7.15 for 7.45pm
Marcham Centre



The Lost Villages of Oxfordshire Dr Muriel Pilkington

The Lost Villages of Oxfordshire is based on the fact that there are nearly one hundred Oxfordshire villages mentioned in Domesday Book and in the records of the 12th and 13th centuries which have been lost. They have completely disappeared or are now just preserved in the name of a street or a few buildings—sometimes a church, a farm or just some ruins and ridges.

Muriel Pilkington will try to explain why this has happened and she will look at the main reasons why rural Oxfordshire remained a poor county right into the 19th century. It is really only in the recent past that it has become relatively more prosperous.

Muriel read History at Oxford and then taught the subject for over 30 years, becoming head teacher of Wycombe High School. In her partial retirement, she has maintained her keen interest in the local history of Oxfordshire.

For more information contact
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk
www.marchamsociety.org.uk
Facebook: marchamsociety



The Arts Society Abingdon are presenting a LIVE ONLINE Webinar **Wednesday 16th March, 11.00am and 2.00pm**

Tinted S.T.E.A.M.: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths in the Work of J.M.W. Turner by Nicola Moorby

Turner's lifetime coincided with an age of scientific discovery and technological advances. This lecture explores the ideas and events which informed his paintings, and the interesting intersection between art and science in nineteenth-century intellectual circles. We will look at Turner's fascination with the forces shaping the landscape, and examine the way he addressed the complicated, evolving relationship between humans and the natural world, particularly within his images of steam-powered technology in Industrial Revolution Britain. The talk ends with an intriguing question. What would Turner be painting today?.

Non-Members welcome, £6.00, **PLEASE BOOK** via email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk, links to the online lecture will be sent out a day or two before.

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

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QUIZ NIGHT- ALL WELCOME
FRIDAY 25 MARCH – VILLAGE HALL



A Quiz night will be held on the last Friday of the month in the Main Hall in Marcham Centre, starting at 8.00 pm

Questions are on a range of subjects and aimed at everyone's ability! Teams of up to five people. £10 per team.

Everyone welcome, just turn up on the night for a friendly evening of fun and banter.



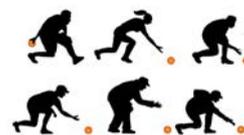
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Marcham Centre

Work continues to improve and equip the facilities at Marcham Centre. We are now working on the décor and acoustics in the bar and hub areas. Most of our regular hirers are back using the facilities and it is encouraging to see more activities taking place. If you have any new activities you would like to see happening in the centre, please let us know, as we are keen to encourage an even wider range for all ages and stages of our local community.

Burns Supper

After two years of postponement, we were delighted to hold our first Marcham Centre Burns Supper on 5th February – and all tickets were sold. Although a few people had to drop out because of positive covid tests, we had an enthusiastic turnout, even if the bagpipes set off the auto fire door closers! Much haggis was eaten, a little whisky was consumed, and Scottish dancing rounded it off. A huge thank-you to all who helped in any way and to all who donated food for the evening, which has raised over £750 towards facility projects. (see cover for photo)

Coming events at Marcham Centre

Friday 18th March: Gin Festival evening; Bingo from 7:30pm – see page 11

Friday 25th March: Quiz Night 7.30pm to 11pm (Adults only, max 6 per team) – see page 7

Saturday 16th April: Easter Egg Hunt from 3pm (all welcome) – page 11

Indoor short-mat bowls in the Large Hall on Wednesday afternoons 2pm–5pm – contact Colin Trinder (391718) or just turn up. Beginners and experienced players are equally welcome.

Table Tennis the table tennis table is available to hire, for periods of an hour or more. This can be made by booking a slot in the meeting room via the www.marchamcentre.org website. Please note: this room is used for other purposes, so you will need to book and pay the 'local user' fee of £8 per hour. Whilst the room may not be quite large enough for the serious league player, it has proved fine for social games. Please give it a try and let us know your views.

Look out for our new information panel in the foyer with a replica of our new sign – coming soon.



If you wish to book a room at Marcham Centre, please use the booking request system on www.marchamcentre.org or contact our Coordinator: coordinator@marchamcentre.org

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY
 enquiries@marchamcentre.org www.marchamcentre.org
 Operated by Marcham Community Group (MCG)
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Meeting with friends, getting a job and going on holiday are experiences that everyone should be able to enjoy, however, for people with learning disabilities and autism these experiences are met with challenges.

YELLOW SUBMARINE

believe people with learning disabilities and autism deserve to live life to the full. They run projects that focus on building social skills, confidence and independence for people with additional needs in Oxfordshire from the age of 11.

The South region has seen the largest growth and now comprises 40% of Young People and 30% of Adults in Yellow Submarine's membership. With such high demand, it is difficult to support members in the South region and with a predicted surge in referrals, it is essential there is a dedicated space to carry out projects.

Yellow Submarine are soon going to be taking occupancy of the ground floor of the 'Charter' in central Abingdon. The intention is for this space to become a Community Hub, housing Yellow Submarine, but also meeting the needs of the wider community. They will be using the Charter as an opportunity to collaborate with local like-minded organisations and build relationships.

For more information or to be involved please contact ella@yellowsubmarine.org.uk or visit www.justgiving.com/campaign/abingdon



PLANTS FOR SALE

As well as holding a plant sale on Sunday May 8th, Anne Smithson and Sheila Dunford will be putting out plants for sale at their gates. (18 Frilford Rd and Prior's Corner, Priory Lane respectively). The charity they will be supporting this year will be the gardening charity **Perennial**.

Perennial is the UK's only charity dedicated to helping everyone who works in horticulture, and their families, when times get tough. Formed 180 years ago, Perennial provides free and confidential advice, support and financial assistance to people of all ages working in, or retired from horticulture. This help extends to spouses, partners and children.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE MARCHAM CENTRE**Friday 18th March 2022**

Gin Festival & Bingo



Buy a drinks voucher for £15 and get 5 x gins and mixer

Eyes down for Bingo at 7.30pm

Saturday 16th April – 3pm start (Bar opens at 3pm)

Easter Egg Hunt – All welcome

Free event, prize for each child

Please email coordinator@marchamcentre.org to register your child/children's place**MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS**

Last month we introduced The School House Captains and since then they have been very busy! They organised and held a competition for the whole school – everyone was asked to create a poster or write a paragraph about “Why Marcham School is amazing”. Well done to all the children that entered. Everyone who did received House points for their houses. The House Captains shortlist to 8 winners, two from each House, KS1 and KS2:

Anson - Olivia W (KS1) and Daisy-Sue S (KS2)**Denman - Zara G (KS1) and Jacob R (KS2)****Duffield - Heidi W (KS1) and Ruth H (KS2)****Morland - Chloe L (KS1) and Kristina B (KS2)**

2 overall winners were also decided: KS1 – **Zara G** (Denman) and KS2 – **Kristina B** (Morland). Well done to them both – they were awarded a £10 book voucher for their amazing hard work and efforts. Look out for their masterpieces on the school website and Facebook page. The children will also see them displayed in the school hall. Well done, also, to our fabulous House Captains: **Bella, Daniel, Emily, and Scarlett** for organising the event. Next month we will introduce you to members of our Worship Committee

The School Councillors were also busy this month, and organised with staff our involvement in an NSPCC ‘mega-Maths’ fundraising day on Friday 4th February. What a great day we had! We pitted our mathematical wits against other schools nationally and had great fun dressing up as Rock Star characters in order to raise money for and support the NSPCC, who do such great work supporting children who find themselves in need.

The maths event itself was extraordinary. Phenomenal. Amazing. I am soooo very proud... 60, 240 classes across the country took part up – each competing against each other at their own levels. I knew, with Marcham's mathematical skills, that we could be contenders... Well, the whole school scored within the top 15% of all the classes nationwide, and the Giraffes (year 6) only just missed out on being within the top 1% of scores. It's brilliant! It's magnificent! Well done to them all!

To see more about what the school has been up to go to <https://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages/>

VIV HUTCHINSON, HEADTEACHER

Well it was another quiet year for the PTA, sadly we haven't been able to do our usual fundraising events. With the Covid cases increasing locally, we decided not to hold the Christmas Fayre in December, instead we decided to organise a rainbow raffle. We would like to thank everyone for all of the fantastic donations for the raffle and to all of those who bought raffle tickets. We raised an amazing £478.16!!!! Well done to all of the lucky winners!

We know the children had it tough again last year and so the PTA gave them all a little gift which we hope they enjoyed.

The PTA are always on the lookout for new committee members. If you have a child at Marcham Primary school and would like to join the committee then please do contact me.

We know that this has been a difficult year again and many people are choosing to shop online during these current times, did you know that you could still support the school in other ways?

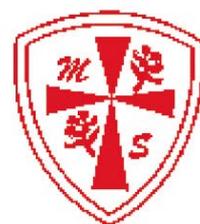
If you are thinking of making any purchases from Amazon, you could help the school by signing up to ‘Amazon Smile’. With every purchase you make from the Amazon Smile website, they will send us 0.05% of your purchase price to the Marcham PTA bank account! How great is that! Please go to: [SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK](https://www.amazon.co.uk/smile), if it's your first time using it you will be asked to select your chosen charity. Please choose ‘Marcham Ce (Vc) Primary School Parent Teacher Association’.

You can also shop using ‘easyfundraising’. They have an app which you can download for free, every time you shop using easy fundraising they will also donate money to Marcham primary school pta. If you choose to sign up please choose ‘Marcham C of E Primary School PTA’.

The PTA would like to thank you all for your continued support.

LISA NEWPORT, PTA Chair

lisa_newport@hotmail.co.uk

**Parent Teacher Association**

Who knows where the time goes....

*Just a line to say I'm living
And not among the dead
That I'm getting more forgetful
And mixed up in my head
I've got used to my arthritis
To my dentures I'm resigned
I can cope with my bifocals
But goodness, I miss my mind.
Sometimes I can't remember
Why I'm standing at the stair
If I should be going up for something
Or have just come down from there
And stood before the fridge so often
My mind is full of doubt
Now did I just put some food inside
Or did I just take it out?
Don't let me get you worried
Or put your mind in doubt
Stay peaceful, calm, collected
There's a lot of us about!*

*Source unknown
courtesy of Jean Creasy*

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The type of help that can be provided are services such as new boilers, repairs to boilers, loft or cavity wall insulation, access to a local and trustworthy repairs service and general advice on how to stay safe, well and affordably warm in your home.

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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

Despite having a rather bumpy start to the year, we have been pleased to offer a range of unusual and exciting experiences for the children.... we had a Chinese feast as we celebrated Chinese New Year... listened to bagpipes, donned our kilts and held our own highland games competition. We have been getting physical with balancing, running, dancing and ball games, as well as using our senses to explore a range of fruits and vegetables! For Valentine's Day the children were helped to sew their own little bags. This is all in addition to maths games, construction, painting, drawing, role play, forming friendships, mud kitchen, singing, stories ... and so much more!

We will be allocating places for September 2022 very soon, if you have a child who is turning two in 2022, please get in touch to join our interest list.

Please contact us for more information or for an application form.

Contact us 01865 392101

Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



Lucky bags for Chinese New Year

福袋



The Little Library

The Little Library outside the Little Angels Nursery is available for everyone in the village to use. Please feel free to come and have a look at a range of books from adult novels, teenager and older children to under 5s. If you would like to donate books please bring them over and pop them into the library and take a new one away to enjoy, it is a great way to share the wonderful world of books in our village community. **Happy reading.**



February has been full of learning opportunities and culture in all areas of the nursery. In the yellow and green/teal gardens the children have been exploring their new reading garden, which have been created for them with cushions, flower boxes filled with rosemary, thyme, and lavender to help them explore and relax with the aroma which these herbs give. It is proven that they are good for the children's wellbeing and mindset. And give the children a cosy area to embrace the world of books.

Yellow Room In the yellow room the children have been focusing on Chinese New Year, they created lanterns and used stencils to create some wonderful Chinese writing. They explored the Chinese New Year with books and photos and watched a dragon dance performed by the older children in the nursery.

Valentine's Day was focused on the shape of a heart, with painting hearts, collaging with heart stickers and of course every child made a card. Heart shaped fruit was provided throughout the day to add to the Valentine's experience.

Green Room What a February the Green room have experienced, Chinese New Year was celebrated in style, the room was transformed with Chinese dragons, tigers, woks, chopsticks and noodle play to name just a few. They created a dragon and danced around the nursery to Chinese dragon dance music allowing all the nursery to watch, they explored the animals of the Chinese New Year and read books. Every child made a mask of the animal relating to the year they were born and one of the highlights for the children was recreating the celebration fireworks by using glow stick in the garden when it was dark, photos and videos were taken so that the children could look back at their creative glow stick display, such fun for all.

Valentine's Day was celebrated again with card making and heart shaped fruit and sandwiches along with discussions reflecting on how we care for each other. Red rice and hearts were in the sensory tray along with heart shaped paper and varied materials for collaging,

Teal Room The Teal Room's Chinese New Year celebration throughout the month have been led with a variety of reading books including a day spent on the Julia Donaldson book "The Magic Paintbrush" looking at rhyming words e.g., fish and dish along with exploring a magic paintbrush of their own. Rice play in the sensory tray and Chinese writing along with lanterns have added to the Chinese New Year experience for the Teal Room.

HIGHLIGHT – CHILDREN'S CHINESE TAKE AWAY

The Teal and Green rooms both experienced a great activity. Two children set up a counter and had a menu to with two selections of Chinese food, the children all lined up and choose which food they wanted, the children made marks and when everyone had chosen, counted how many for each was required. The adult dialled the number to the local Chinese takeaway (OUR KITCHEN) and the children spoke on the phone and ordered the food which arrived 30 minutes later. Such fun and all the children had fortune cookies and Chinese food for tea. It was great to see all the children make choices, communicate by phone, take turn and wait and use maths to get the takeaway..

If you are interested in securing a place for your child please contact us:

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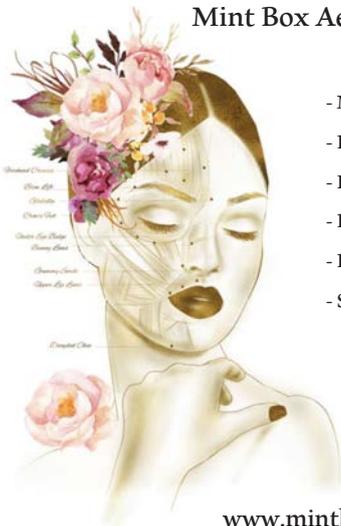
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Can You Care More?



Are the colours you are attracted to out in your garden, fixed each year, and always the same? Or flexible, and annually altered? Are you a creature of habit when gardening, or always looking to do new things? Whatever your approach, does either option mean you are obsessive or indecisive?

I don't really think either label, and that's what it is, a human-centric label, needs to be attached to us, however we choose to garden, but we are all creatures of habit, even if we see ourselves as adaptable.

There's room for all sorts of approaches in gardening, a little of everything is a healthy and balanced thing. If you are a first-time gardener, or a long-in-the-tooth gardener, this coming season, just get out there and give it a go.

Whether you do the same thing as all previous years, or try something new, or maybe even try gardening for the first time, just give it a go.

The approach, enjoyment and outcomes, are as varied as the nature your efforts attract, or even dissuade. All I ask, is consider everything you do, or don't do, has positive and negative impacts on the ecosystem around us, that we're part of and not separate to.

It's impossible to always know the true and measurable impacts we'll have, and interpreting it all is another major challenge. Just being aware of the hidden intricacies is a good first step though, to us all starting to care that little bit more.

Do you care about the environment? Do you not care at all? Could you care just that little bit more?

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

JEFF BURLEY

16th October 1936 to 27th December 2021

Jeffery "Jeff" Burley was born in Portsmouth, and attended Portsmouth Grammar School and later Oxford and Yale Universities.



After a period working in Africa and then in the British army, he spent much of his professional life back in Oxford, as Professor of Forestry, a Don of the University and Fellow of Green Templeton College. He was President of IUFRO, the world forestry body, for five years. He was a prolific author and editor and his heavyweight contributions to global forestry can be found on shelves around the planet. Amongst his multiple recognitions, he was awarded a CBE by the Queen for services to forestry. He worked in over 100 countries during his career.



Jeff took home life seriously too, including his contributions to the local community. A stalwart of Tubney Church, he and his wife Jean, who survives him, were also involved with the local council and neighbourhood watch. The door to their historic house in Frilford was always open to friends, and to visitors who had a particular matter to discuss. Jeff's wise head and acute political acumen often allowed folk to leave with a solution to hand.

Jeff had known for two years that he had cancer spreading and bore the entire horrible process in a wholly dignified and uncomplaining manner. He died peacefully at home with his family by his side. His funeral and cremation were held on the 20th January at Tubney Church and Garford Crematorium respectively. His ashes will be interred at Tubney.

When you dispose of any face masks, snip off the ear straps before you throw them away. Hundreds of tangled animals have had to be rescued from them.
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We are looking for someone who:

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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**FULL COUNCIL...16TH FEBRUARY**

You may remember that when the present administration took over the Vale of the Whitehorse District Council in 2019, it inherited a large deficit (£3m+ over the medium term Financial Plan)- not a happy position to be in. So, at full council on 16th February, it was very pleasing for the leader to announce:

"One of my top priorities has been getting this council's finances under control. Despite a backdrop of real terms cuts in government funding (6.2%), ongoing Covid related costs and losses, the budget for 2022/23 as approved this evening is a significant step towards financial stability. Our medium-term financial plan no longer runs out of money in 2024."

"Officers and Cabinet members have worked together to identify significant savings without impacting delivery of services to the public. I am really pleased that this work will enable us to invest more in our corporate plan priorities and infrastructure such as leisure and open spaces for residents across the district."

PROJECTS

Spending has been allocated to areas identified as important to residents in the Vale's new Corporate Plan and will be funded through a combination of housing developer contributions (CIL and S106) and the council's own reserves. Projects include:

- £525,000 on environmental projects including a 5year programme of Climate Change grants and for tree planting across the Vale
- £1,572,000 for leisure projects in Faringdon, Wantage, Abingdon and Botley
- £450,000 on improvements to play areas and open spaces
- £185,000 to upgrade CCTV to state-of-the-art technology
- £328,000 for resurfacing and better lighting in public car parks.

As cabinet member for Climate Emergency and the Environment, I am particularly pleased that we have signed off a Climate Action Plan, setting out steps we are taking to make this council carbon neutral by 2030. Also, we have allotted £50,000 to our new Climate Action Fund this year and are planning to put this same amount in the next 4 budgets. This grant will be open for applications from Wednesday 14th March and will run for 6 weeks, so if you have a project which will help combat the Climate Change and increase people's awareness and knowledge of the Climate emergency, please do apply for funding via your parish council. The work could focus on areas such as the natural environment, energy, waste and consumption, or transport and travel. For example, you may want to plant a patch of ground for community vegetables which are appropriately labelled. And do let your friends and neighbours know about this grant.

COUNCIL TAX

It is never an easy decision to raise the council tax, but after much thought and discussion it has been decided to raise it by £5 this year. The Vale has one of the lowest council tax rates in the country for a district council, charging only £146.69 per annum to each Band D household for the services it provides, which is more than 25 per cent lower than the national average.

CAR PARKING

Important measures to make parking more sustainable in the Vale of White Horse will be introduced. Council taxpayers have been subsidising district council car parks for many years now, with the service typically running at a loss of about £300,000 a year. The shortfall has now risen to almost £450,000 following the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, it has been agreed to take a significant step to reducing our car parks deficit and to move towards making this service financially viable. Like South Oxfordshire, the Vale carparks will now offer one hour of free parking, a reduction from the current two hours each day, so local businesses will still remain

supported. A new charge of £1.50 will apply for up to a further two hours (except for Southampton Street car park in Faringdon). Current fees across all car parks will also rise by 40p.

It is worth pointing out that the Vale's fees remain cheaper than many other areas, including Oxford, Swindon and Newbury, and usage of the carparks will be monitored to see if these changes have any impact on the number of people visiting our towns.

As a final point on carparks, to improve the management of them and help meet demand, all new and renewed permits will be non-transferable and therefore only valid for the specific car park for which they are issued.

I hope you are all keeping well and please do not hesitate to contact me if there is a problem with which you think I might be able to help.

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07357 464699

or catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

For the past 15 years, my colleague, Cllr Bob Johnston of Kennington and Radley has been trying to persuade me to explore Thrupp Lake as a haven of peace and wildlife. This last Valentine's weekend, my wife and I went on a bicycle ride to see if he was right. In spite of the mud and rain, we thoroughly enjoyed the journey and would recommend it to anyone on foot or bicycle. Living next door to Sutton Wick gravel pits, as we do, still a major active quarry site, it was great to imagine how our area might look after many years of restoration.

Havens of peace are in short supply in my own area at present. With the threat of the Thames Water Reservoir, whose banks may well cast early evening shadow over Drayton, and the proposed HIF1 Road between Sutton Courtenay and Appleford potentially affecting traffic, noise and air quality in both villages, peace, quiet and wildlife could all become distant memories. The two projects together have a cost tag amounting to billions and dwarf any other projects in the whole of Oxfordshire. It begins to feel that the infrastructure gods have got it in for us. Decisions on both will be made in the next few months.

In the case of the Reservoir, it is important that all those of us who have views on the need and advisability of the scheme should engage with and support GARD* – the group of scientists who believe there are better options, and also respond to the Thames Water consultation. Silence from local residents can be used as acquiescence by those who wish to see these schemes coming about.

In the case of the HIF Rd, please engage with your Parish Council and write in to OCC**, the planning authority, with your views on this scheme. I am aware, from residents who contact me, that there is a great deal of concern over already growing noise disturbance from Appleford Sidings. Few complaints have been received by the environmental health team so far, so please write in to them with your concerns if you have them. Given the potential addition of noise from the HIF road together with any reverberation from the banks of the proposed flyover, it is essential we have a full understanding of the present baseline noise levels before we inflict any more on local residents. In the end, it will be the data which decides if, when and how these massive projects materialise. The more data we can give them, the more we will be heard.

Points of contact for any of the above:

**To register your response to the TW Reservoir consultation:

wrse.uk.engagementhq.com (you only need to answer the questions you wish in this overlong document).

If you cannot cope with the questionnaire, email your response/feelings to: contact@wrse.org.uk and please copy your email to

your MP and local Councillors

*To contact GARD with help/IT expertise/Video modelling:

Gard.secretary@gmail.com

For full details on the HIF1 scheme and how to make comments on the planning application, go to: **Oxfordshire.gov.uk** / Current planning applications / Planning application reference number :R3.0138/21

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

Phone 01235 534001

or email Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com



MP'S REPORT

I took part in a productive meeting regarding the proposed Abingdon reservoir (which continues to be an odd name for it given where it is actually proposed to be located) with GARD and other local politicians. I know that not everyone who writes to me feels the same about the proposal, but it continues to be true that Thames Water have failed to adequately make the case for the reservoir, or to demonstrate they have properly considered alternatives or to show they have truly measured the environmental impact of it. I'll be using my platform in Parliament to try and ensure we can get better answers to the questions local residents have.

I'd much prefer to spend all of my time on infrastructure that people actually want, like Grove Station and improved health facilities. I'm having discussions in Parliament about how to fix the fact that our population has fast outgrown our infrastructure, particularly our GP surgeries. This is a constituency-wide issue although it's particularly frustrating to hear the long-overdue GP surgery on Great Western Park is still no further forward, despite assurances I'd be given by local health leaders at a meeting I chaired in September. It's very difficult to understand what is so difficult to deliver this, as both council leaders and health leaders say they're supportive and it was part of the original proposal for the development. It won't solve the problem we have by itself but it is the minimum we need to ease a bit of the pressure in the Didcot area.

For what it's worth I think we should be very proud of the role the UK has been playing in trying to support Ukraine in this period. No-one wants to see a war and if one happens it will be due to unprovoked aggression from Russia, rather than anything Ukraine has done. In addition to warning Putin of the consequences should he attack, we've been providing training and capacity-building through Operation Orbital which has helped to train over 20,000 Ukrainian personnel as well as provide anti-armour weaponry and encouraging other countries to take a more robust response. Having attended a session with the Ukrainian Ambassador in Parliament, I know our efforts are appreciated.

It's not often one of our councils makes it into the national news and for Oxfordshire County Council, it's unfortunately not for the right reasons! I have nothing against anyone deciding to choose veganism if that's what they want to do, but eating vegan meals should be just that, a choice. It does not help the environment if we shun locally reared meat in favour of imported meat or imported avocados. We have many farmers in this constituency and across Oxfordshire who produce high-quality meat yet often struggle to make a living. I regularly visit farms and it is very hard work for small profits; they are frequently subject to theft and abuse/vandalism from animal rights activists. They deserve our support and I hope the Council will reconsider.

As ever, if I can help with anything do get in touch via **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



GARD is a local community group formed to campaign against Thames Water's proposals to build a reservoir south-west of Abingdon.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Thank you to everyone who came along to our public meetings. It has been great to be able to update you on the latest plans and to get your ideas on more ways to fight this mega reservoir.

Meetings with MPs and Councillors

Huge thanks to Councillor Sally Povolotsky for pulling together a zoom meeting with MPs David Johnston and Layla Moran and a multitude of councillors from the Vale of the White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire County Council. All voiced support for GARD and it was great to hear the leader of OCC, Cllr Liz Leffman, update us on the ways in which OCC plan to make sure local government and residents views are properly reflected in water plans for the region.

THE CURRENT CONSULTATION

The southeast water plan is being developed by Water Resources Southeast (WRSE – a group comprised only of water companies). Unsurprisingly, the plan favours their profits over customers and local residents. After years of saying the Thames Valley is the most water stressed region of the UK, WRSE now plan to sell water out of the region for profit – so the reservoir isn't just for London as we have always been told.

We asked the adjacent grouping, Water Resources East, why they weren't offering water transfer to the southeast. Their answer: WRSE had independently concluded they didn't need it. How can it be cheaper to spend £2-3 billion on a reservoir than simply connecting to WRE?

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We need everyone to respond to the consultation to tell WRSE that their plan is not fit for purpose and must be rethought:

- Register at wrse.uk.engagementhq.com and complete the consultation by 14 March
- Email gard.chair@gmail.com for a PDF to help you, or find facts at www.gard-oxon.org.uk
- If you don't have a view on a question, "no comment" is fine
- A few questions start 'Do you agree..?' The answer is always no. Boxes for 'other comments' are a chance to say you oppose the reservoir as unproven and unsuitable
- Once completed, please email your MP david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk and local councillors (Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com and catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) to tell them you oppose the reservoir. Contact details are on our website and please cc: gard.secretary@gmail.com

If you prefer not to complete the consultation, email contact@wrse.org.uk direct:

- You oppose the WRSE plan as not fit for purpose
- You believe the environmental, carbon and financial cost of the reservoir is unacceptable
- The plan is not adaptable or transparent
- Calculations of population increase, and sustainability reductions are not credible
- Please cc: your email to your MP and councillors and gard.secretary@gmail.com

For more information go to www.gard-oxon.org.uk and Facebook [@abingdonreservoir](https://www.facebook.com/abingdonreservoir).

ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKES CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk



FLIPPING OUR MINDSET

March sees the beginning of the Christian season of Lent which runs until Easter. Tuesday 1st is Shrove Tuesday and marks the day before the season begins. Historically this was the last opportunity to use eggs and fats before a period of fasting – and a tradition of making pancakes came about.

I love to flip pancakes. My success rate is not 100% and I will often have to eat a ball of bundled dough made palatable with a showering of sugar and lemon. However, there is something satisfying about executing the perfect flip. Beyond a celebration of pancakes and favourite toppings (Biscoff spread, anyone?), Lent has always been a time of reflection where Christians will often undertake special study or prayer, undertake a positive habit, give to charity, or forego particular luxuries.

As a church, this year we are focusing on a particular Bible verse;

Romans 12:2 *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

For Christians, Lent offers a golden opportunity to pursue this verse wholeheartedly. Allowing ourselves the time and space, even in a busy and hectic life, to pray, read and to open our minds and spirit to God.

Nationally, the Church of England is running a campaign called *LiveLent2022*, and encourages us to reflect on the world's injustices and ask what God wants us to do about them. You can find out more about the campaign at churchofengland.org/livelent along with details of a companion iOS and Android mobile app.

This Lent, I will be engaging with these resources and asking what in my thinking and actions needs to be challenged and flipped. As great as it is to land the perfect pancake flip, it will be much greater to do a flip that helps to love and serve victims of injustice whether that is in our local community, nationally or around the world.

For the diary

15th April, Good Friday

10am: Family Event (details tbc)

2pm: Service of prayer & reflection at St. Luke's

17th April, Easter Day

6am: Sunrise Service at St. Luke's

10am: Easter Family Communion

6pm: Easter Communion

From the Registers:

Funeral

Paul Kentish

*All Age service

Sunday 6th March

10am at Marcham
Community Centre

All welcome

(No morning service at
church, 6pm as usual)

Contacts:

Revd. Nick Weldon vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org 01865 391962, 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