



Marcham & District News

COTHILL – FRILFORD – GARFORD – GOZZARDS FORD – MARCHAM – TUBNEY

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APRIL 2022 VOL: 44 No: 4

READ & RECYCLE!

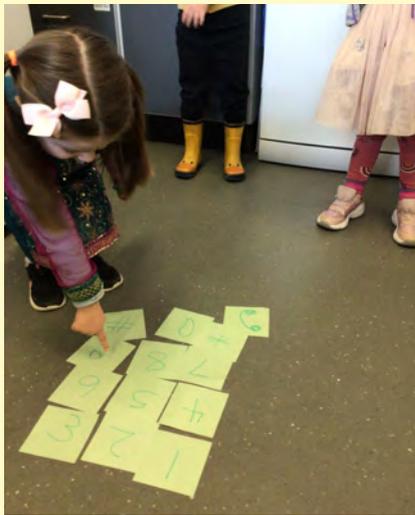
FREE



▲ Self portraits of Marcham School's Worship Council see page 11



▲ Bess of Hardwick: Arts Society Lecture on 20 April see page 7



▲ Pre-School have learned how to get help in an emergency see page 11



▲ Easter at Marcham Centre see page 9



▲ Oakley can't wait to read MADNews every month!



▲ How many eggs, chicks and bunnies can you count in this issue? see page 13



▲ Get Active with Eggbert page 11

Diary for April

Date	Event	Pg
11 Mon	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Marcham Centre. 19.30	3
15 Fri	Deadline for the MADNews Easter Competition, midnight	13
16 Sat	Easter Egg Hunt, Marcham Centre, 15.00	9
18 Mon	Marcham WI: What is a Magistrate, Marcham Centre, 19.30	7
20 Wed	NO WASTE COLLECTION – it will be on Thursday	5
20 Wed	Abingdon Arts Society: Bess of Hardwick, 10.30 & 14.00	7
20 Wed	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email editor@madnews.co.uk	
20 Wed	Frilford Parish Meeting AGM, Abingdon Prep School, 19.00	3
20 Wed	Nick Higham: The Mercenary River, St Nicolas Church, Abingdon, 19.00	13
21 Thur	Black bin and food waste collection	5
25 Mon	Marcham Society Members' Evening, 19.15	7
28-30	ADC Presents: Dick Whittington, Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon	15
29 Fri	GARD AGM, Steventon Village Hall, 19.30	19
29 Fri	Marcham Centre Quiz Night, 20.00	7

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

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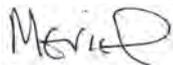
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Dear Readers

It's competition time again! Millets have offered one family a pass to their Sprouts Play Barn – see page 13 for the full details.

There is some good advice about avoiding scams on page 19 – especially now when requests for donations are very much in our minds.

Whatever you are celebrating this month Fools Day, Easter, Passover, Earth Day, Shakespeare, St George, Penguins or even Jazz have a happy time...



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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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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

Annual Meeting of Electors

The Annual meeting of electors currently is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday 17th May, 7.30 p.m.** in the new village hall. The guest speaker this year is Mr. Ricardo Rios, a planning policy officer, from the Vale of White Horse District Council who will outline ways that communities can influence the planning of the area in which they live and work. The talk should provide a very interesting introduction to Neighbourhood Planning, as communities can have direct power to develop a shared vision for their area. There is more housing proposed for sites near Kingston Bagpuize and at Dalton Barracks, plus long standing topics such as a by-pass for Marcham and Thames Water's reservoir at the south of the parish. So it is very timely to think about what happens in the parish and the immediate area beyond it.

Tanya Rosenfeld - Resignation

The Council was sorry to hear of the resignation from the Council of Tanya Rosenfeld. The Chairman has thanked Tanya for her valued contribution to the Council and village. Her efforts on behalf of the community were much appreciated.

Casual Vacancy

Following Tanya's decision to step down from the Parish Council, there is a now a vacancy to be filled. Whilst the Council is currently waiting to hear whether a formal parish election is required or not to fill the seat, it is inviting anyone interested in joining the Council to contact the Parish Clerk whose details are below, for further information about the role. Anyone appointed would serve until May 2023 when the next Parish Council elections are due to take place. So this is an opportunity for one year to learn more about what goes on in the area and to contribute to the community.

Oxfordshire County Council – Highways

A reminder that Parish Councillor James Plumb acts as the County Council's trained "highway super user" who can raise direct works orders for fixing potholes and kerbing issues on unclassified roads of less than 30 mph, provided the issue meets certain criteria. The alternative way of reporting those matters, and other highway issues, is via "fix my street" www.fixmystreet.com

Planning applications

P/22/V0252 2 storey front extension and single storey rear extension at 29 Kings Avenue. The Council had no objections
P22/V0159/LB Repair and restoration works to lean-to roof including rainwater goods at 44 North Street. The Council had no objections
P22/V0246/FUL Erection of open fronted steel frame portal building with walls and roof clad in steel box profile sheeting. Land adjacent to White Hart Wood, Blackgate Lane.

The Council expressed concerns regarding the access along a narrow byway, possible damage to trees and old dry stone walls, the size of the building and impact on the public footpath, and access off the highway.

P22/V0348/FUL, P22/V0351/LB, P22/V0352/HH and P22/V0353/LB Conversion of barn to new 3 bed dwelling and formation of new access drive with erection of 2 bay open port garage at 12 Frilford Road. Council had no objections provided the applications were the same as previously approved.

MW.0014/22 S. 73 application for the continuation of development without complying with condition 1 on MW.0119/15 for the extraction and processing of soft building sand to enable amendments to the sequencing of working in field 2 at Hills Aggregates Quarry. The Council expressed concern regarding the impact on the Site of Special Scientific Interest and the Cothill nature reserves.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council is **Monday 11th April, 2022** at 7.30p.m. Please check the Council's website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk 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

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



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BOB COPE

A big thank you to everyone who attended the funeral of **Robert (Bob) Cope** and or who sent cards and lovely thoughts to the family. Thanks to you all, Sobell House received £150 in donations. Our thanks also go to William Cumber, and Dian at The Crown for organising a lovely wake.
Debbie, Lesley, Amy, Paul, Reece, Roxie, Ruby and Robbie



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 Sunday: Closed

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 Facebook: marchamvillageshop

Where did March go? **Easter** is now just around the corner, the clocks have gone forward and we're looking forward to a summer that we haven't had properly for the last 2 years. The shop stocks all of your daily necessities and a bounty of extras. We have a lovely selection of local beers, a variety of wines, chocolates, biscuits and cards to give as gifts to your friends and loved ones. We can also gift wrap too if you give us a bit of notice. And, the **Post Office** can help you with delivering that special parcel with parcel bags and boxes of all sizes.

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~~Wednesday 20 April~~ **Thursday 21 April**
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Marcham WI

Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 18th April 2022

At the Marcham Centre



Tim Pocock: What is a Magistrate?

As the October 2021 meeting was cancelled at the last minute, we are delighted to have been able to re-book our October speaker, Tim Pocock, for our April meeting. Tim Pocock, former Chairman of the Oxfordshire Bench, will be giving us an insight into 'What is a Magistrate'. We often hear about the Magistrates Court, but most have little knowledge about this fascinating role. His talk also includes a short quiz on the work of a magistrate and a sentencing exercise, so we'll have the opportunity to participate as we learn more.

Visitors are always welcome.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



**Monday
25th April
7.15 for 7.45pm
Marcham Centre**

Marcham Society Members' Evening

Marcham Society now has over 130 members and meets on the 4th Monday of every month in the Village Hall to hear talks on topics of interest in our local area. It is the custom that once a year the Society holds a Members' Evening to hear talks on subjects of interest to some of our individual members and at this meeting we depart a little from the usual format.

Sheila Dunford will begin with a talk on the content of the archives, describing some of the stories they uncover. This will be followed by an interval with drinks, wine, teas and coffees, and cake to enjoy whilst members can peruse some of the archives we hold. We have a collection of old Marcham photos, stories and letters, all showing the rich history of the village and the characters who used to live here.



Silver denarius (dated to 106 AD) from Trajan's reign found at 'Trendles'

Simon Blackmore will end the evening off with a talk on Roman coins that have been found locally in Oxfordshire.

If you are new to the village, this will be a wonderful opportunity to discover more of Marcham and meet some of its residents. We look forward to seeing you.

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



The Arts Society Abingdon are presenting a LIVE LECTURE **Wednesday 20th April, 10.30am and 2.00pm**

Bess of Hardwick: 'a woman of masculine understanding and conduct'

by Gillian White

Bess of Hardwick is one of the most fascinating women of the sixteenth century. Four times married, she survived scandal and disgrace, and, through ambition and ability, climbed the social ladder to become England's premier countess and, arguably, the second richest woman in the kingdom. She was by turns a builder, a dynast and an intriguer. A friend of Elizabeth I, sometime gaoler to Mary, Queen of Scots, and grandmother to a potential queen, Bess moved deftly in and out of the pages of Elizabethan history. This lecture tells Bess's story: the story of a woman who simply did not know her place!

Lectures last 1 hour but allow extra time for announcements etc. Visitors welcome, £6.00, **please email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk**, for further information on venue and any latest changes and updates.

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

Have you got your copy of Coral Rag 11 yet?

It is available in Marcham Village Shop at just £6 or email membership@marchamsociety.org.uk

Articles include:

- Vertebra of an Ichthyosaur *Eric Dunford*
- The Population of Marcham, Garford and Frilford Over The Last 2000 Years *Mike Greig*
- Marcham In Domesday 1086 *Simon Blackmore*
- Marcham Charities *Christine and Malcolm Denton*
- Public Health in the Later Nineteenth Century *Peter Steere*
- Professor Sheppard Frere *Bartle Frere*
- Life in the Sand *Judith Haworth*
- Memories of Bernard Higgins Part 2 *Sheila Dunford*
- Local Wartime Invasion Defences *Murray Maclean*

CORAL RAG 11

The Journal of The Marcham Society



**QUIZ NIGHT- ALL WELCOME
FRIDAY 29 APRIL – 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

The next stage of work on the bar area will be the fitting of carpet tiles to make it feel more homely (and also to make it less noisy when the bar is busy). This has been ordered and should be done soon. We are also going to fix dado rails in the hub area and paint the section below the rail, as we have done in the bar area.

If you have ideas for any new activities you would like to see 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. We have booking capacity available, particularly for some mornings and afternoons.

Coming events at Marcham Centre

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday 16th April – 3pm start (Bar opens at 3pm) Free event, prize for each child – All welcome
Please email coordinator@marchamcentre.org to register your child/children's place

Big Marcham Weekend 13th & 14th May, with events for all the family during the day and a Summer Dance on the Saturday evening featuring 'The Reset band'. Ticket information to be circulated soon along with details of the whole weekend in the May edition of MADNews.

Big Jubilee Lunch Sunday 5th June A group of people from across Marcham are planning a Big Jubilee Lunch celebration (as part of the national events) to be held on Sunday 5th June at Marcham Centre. This will include a church service and a community-wide lunch (hopefully outdoors) with a barbeque and bar. We hope that as many people as possible from Marcham (those not away on holiday) will be able to join in. If you wish to help, or if you have ideas about activities that can be added to enhance the day, please contact us – we would welcome it. More details in coming editions of MADNews.

Indoor short-mat bowls in the Large Hall on Wednesday afternoons 2pm-5pm until the indoor season closes at the end of April – contact Colin Trinder (391718) or just turn up. Beginners and experienced players are equally welcome. The season resumes in September.

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. Please remember to bring your own bats and balls.

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
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ANNE SMITHSON AND SHEILA DUNFORD WILL BE HOLDING A PLANT SALE ON SUNDAY MAY 8TH

There will also be plants for sale at their gates from then on at 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.



Plant sales helped to brighten up this area of our garden – nearly all the plants came from these sales.

Thank you to all involved **ROSEMARY**

MILTON HILL BOWLING CLUB

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

The club is holding an **open afternoon** between 14:00 – 17:00 on **Saturday 7th May 2022**. Come and try your hand at Green Bowling, no booking is required, just turn up. Bowls are for all ages and a fun way to keep fit and flexible. No experience is necessary! We would prefer you to wear trainers, but overshoes can be provided. See our website for more details or contact Colin Trinder 01865 391718



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LETTERS FROM LIBERATION

Commemorating the Liberation of Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp

Dr Myfanwy Lloyd
ONLINE TALK - LIVE Q&A
7PM - 14 APRIL 2022



www.soho.org.uk/whats-on/lettersfromliberation/

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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

Over the last month we have been looking at some very serious subjects.... as the children have been participating in a First Aid course. We are learning about how to care for people who have had an accident or who are very ill and need an ambulance, how and when to ring 999. We have also been learning about the heart and brain and how our body works. We have been role-playing how to help and how to ring 999 (see cover for photo).



The children (aged between just 2 and 4) have been very engaged and understand how important it is to keep safe and know what to do in an emergency. The staff (aged slightly older between 34 and 58) have been extremely impressed with their focus and involvement. We hope the children will never have to use these skills but it's been amazing to watch them practise.

If you have a child turning 2 or 3 this year, please get in touch now... we are quickly filling places for September 2022 and our admissions will soon be closing. Please ring or email for more information and to receive an application form. 01865 392101 or marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

We are also accepting applications for future years - it's never too early!

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Role-playing an emergency

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



In the same way as we previously did for the House Captains, we wanted to properly introduce our Worship Council members, who have been elected by their classes this year. They are Toby (Year 1) Clara (Year 2), Florence (Year 3), Ellie-Rose (Year 4), Reigan (year 5) and Stephanie (Year 6). Together with Mrs J Finch, the worship committee have met and have some big plans for the school. They told me all about them...

Why did you want to be on the Worship Committee?

The children are all enthusiastic about their new roles. They considerably listened to one another while each shared their ideas. Some of their reasons for putting themselves forward were:

- 'I wanted a responsibility'
- 'I wanted to learn more about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit'.
- 'To help others'
- 'It is important to tell people all about God and what he has done'.

What does worship at school look like and why is it important?

The school had just met together for assemblies again prior to our meeting – one for all Key Stage 1 classes and another for Key Stage 2. The children were really excited about this:

- 'It was really nice to see everyone in person'
- 'People from Church (Rev Nick Weldon and Jill Rowe) came to talk to us'
- 'We sang *Our God is a Great Big God* with all the actions!'
- 'We said the school prayer, as well as a new one'

In future assemblies, it will be the role of the worship committee to help prepare aspects of the assembly. They help to choose the songs, choose or prepare a prayer and get the worship table ready.

What have you done in the role so far? What do you talk about in meetings?

In their first meeting together, they '*made badges and a poster about the committee*'. They also had the chance to plan out some ideas to '*change and improve the old swimming pool area*'.

- 'We have been planning the Worship area'
- 'We plan to make a new and special garden to relax and pray in'.

There were so many ideas for this which included: a tyre planter as a centre piece, lots of flowers, a cross-centred feature to focus thoughts, a bench, a weather-proof or covered area, stories from the bible or a painting and even a vegetable garden. Another important idea was on '*how to improve our focus in school on worship*' so the children have decided '*to make a space for this*' and also have '*a box in which we can leave our prayers, like letters to God*'.

Well done to them all! We are excited about what they, and other pupil voice groups, will continue to do to make Marcham School an even better place to learn, to grow and to thrive.

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

Eggbert's Adventures



Looking for things to do in the holidays? Eggbert has some free activities for children of all ages!
eggbertsadventures.com/activities



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**Riding for the Disabled
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Saturday 28 May 2022
10am-1pm**



We will be holding this fundraising event at Lower Lodge Riding Centre, Charney Road, Southmoor OX13 5HW. Refreshments will be available. For further information about the event or giving donations of plants etc, please contact Sharon Chowns on sharonchowns@aol.com



What a busy, blustery and sunny month March has been – spring is on its way. You may have seen that the library is currently out of order, in the high winds we had earlier this year our library roof was blown off and is being fixed by a local hero in the community. It will be back soon!

Yellow Room

Our youngest angels have been enjoying exploring our local community. You may have seen us with our brand new pushchairs, they are very big, allowing us to visit different areas of Marcham to see the local nature and the different houses and vehicles we can see.

They have also been exploring all the wonderful colours while celebrating the festival Holi. We have been mixing different colours with bubble wrap printing, spray paints, coloured yoghurt and coconut play. All the children have been showing us their categorising skills by placing the right colour items in the matching colour boxes.

Especially enjoying our indoor reading garden and new outside reading dens, where we have been going on bear hunts and seeing the hungry caterpillar turn into a butterfly.

Green and Teal Room

Our older toddlers and pre-schoolers have been learning about the people who help us. We had a very exciting visit from our local PCSO, who talked about how we help others and even visited us with his police car! The detective skills we have learned had to be used when we arrived one morning to a crime scene - our bikes were missing! All the children used the clues to identify where they had been and found them!

We also had a visit from our local fire fighters, who showed us their fire engine, what they use to put out the fires and even put the sirens on for us! It was an amazing morning for everyone. We then made our own fire engines and put out all the fires here at nursery (they were not real of course!).

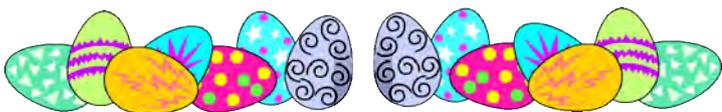
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Family Competition
Win a family pass to the Sprouts Play Barn with Millets Farm Centre

Just count the number of **eggs, chicks and bunnies** in this issue and send your answer to editor@madnews.co.uk by midnight on Friday 15th April. All correct answers will go into the draw to find the winner!

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We are pleased to reveal the details of our forthcoming event with **Nick Higham** and his non-fiction title, **The Mercenary River:**



Wednesday 20th April, 7pm, St Nicolas Church, Market Place, Abingdon, OX14 3JD.

For centuries London, one of the largest and richest cities in the world, struggled to supply its citizens with reliable, clean water. The Mercenary River tells the story of that struggle from the middle ages to the present day. Based on new research, it tells a tale of remarkable technological, scientific and organisational breakthroughs; but also a story of greed and complacency, high finance and low politics. Nick will be giving an illustrated talk about the research and findings of the book, followed by audience questions.

Ticket options are as follows and can be bought via our website where you will find more details, or you can enquire in the shop. Standard ticket: £10

Premium ticket (with book): £24

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What's Eating At You?

With all that has been going on, is going on, and will be going on in Ukraine, we can sometimes be left feeling emotionally moved in some way. That emotion, in and of itself, is a clear indication that something isn't sitting easy with us, there's something in there we're not happy with maybe.



A while back, completely out of the blue, I had a personal message via Facebook from an old school friend who I hadn't heard from for a few years. This friend raised a long-forgotten disagreement I'd had with another school friend, a good number of years ago. The message quite nastily suggested I look at myself as the cause of the disagreement, and not blame the friend I'd had a disagreement with.

As I say, this criticism came from nowhere as I'd not spoken to the critic for 4 years, and part of me wanted to defend myself a tad, and I still do in part in some strange way. I didn't get bogged down in the issue though, as it seemed my critic had some need to be nasty after all this time, but like the Ukraine issue, the criticism didn't sit easy with me. So, was there something in there I wasn't happy with?

Was there some truth in the criticism I wasn't acknowledging, causing me unease, and a need to defend myself? Or something else?

What's all this got to do with Wildlife Gardening, which is what these articles are meant to be about? Well, a client said to me the other day that she felt guilty she didn't do more for wildlife in her garden than she did last year. I suggested that she sit with that unease and find what didn't sit easy with her, and find what was making her unhappy. Then, more importantly, do something positive with that new found knowledge. Hopefully, out of that, the ecosystem in her garden will thrive even more in the coming season.

What's eating at you currently? Maybe take some time out in nature to reflect. Good luck.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk



Abingdon Drama Club (ADC) are now enrolling for their Juniors Drama Classes with their new teacher,



Leon Witcomb

Leon will be running the drama classes every Saturday during term times, starting in January 2022.

Juniors 1 Ages 9-12 Saturdays during term time from 10.30am – 11.30am

A combination of drama games, improvisation and scene work. A fun way to make new friends and start to learn the fundamentals of theatre and performance. .

Juniors 2 Ages 13-16 Saturdays during term time from 11.30am – 1pm

This class focuses on building drama skills including voice, movement, action, objective, subtext and characterisation. In-depth study of plays and playwrights supports learning, particularly for those enrolled in GCSE Drama.

Cost per term is £90.

“Acting is essentially telling the truth using someone else’s words. As actors we are storytellers. Our job is to engage the audience and the best way to do this is through truthful performance.”

Drama Classes

Enrolling now for 2022.

Email: juniors@abingdon-drama-club.com or abingdondramaclub@gmail.com

Abingdon Drama Club Proudly presents Dick Whittington By John Morley Directed by Mike Ward

Sorry we had to postpone this from January

Thursday 28th and Friday 29th April at 7.30pm

Saturday 30th April at 1.30pm and 6pm



Abingdon Drama Club (ADC) brings pantomime back to the beautiful Unicorn Theatre, with this classic tale of a young lad going to London to seek his fortune.

Dick Whittington (Rosie Clarke), alongside his best friend Tommy the cat (Bex Wright), battle hordes of sinister rats with the help of an assortment of colourful and hilarious characters.

Tickets: £10, £8 concessions (60+, Under 12s, students, ADC members)

Group Bookings: Groups of 10 and over – All tickets £8 (£8.55 when booked online – just select the concession rate ticket and choose the number you require). Please let us know if you have any problems with your booking.

Tickets available from:

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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

FOOD WASTE

Did you know that it is estimated that 70% of all food that is thrown away in the UK comes from ordinary households?

Did you know that it is estimated that an average family of four could save £720 a year by NOT putting food into our black bags? What a waste of money, let alone the damage the carbon from wasted food is doing to the atmosphere.

So, how can we become more vigilant with food wastage? Some Vale officers were out and about during the Food Waste Action Week (7th - 11th March) giving some practical advice to residents.

Love Food Hate Waste offer some excellent tips to help us, which can be achieved from our own kitchens:

- Make a list! Buy only what you need and then eat what you buy.
- Use or freeze leftovers – cooked too much for tonight's dinner? It could be lunch tomorrow (or in a month's time if you use your freezer).
- Turn your fridge down – keep it to 5 degrees or lower to keep your food fresher for longer.
- Freeze what you won't eat – you can freeze items up to and including their **use by** date.
- Talking of which – Keep an eye on date labels – the main one to look out for is **use by** as this refers to safety issue. You should not eat food past **use by** date. This is not the same as **best before** which refers to quality and **sell by** which is a note for retailers.

Two more points which could help reduce food wastage are:

- If you have food waste you cannot use such as fruit and vegetable peelings, tea bags and coffee grounds then you could try home composting and use it to improve the soil in your garden.
- If you have in-date excess food that you cannot use, then you could donate it to a local community fridge or food bank.

I hope these tips are useful and maybe you might have others which could help us. Do let me know so that I can spread the word.

CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Here is a really exciting opportunity for any group, young or old, which is interested to 'do its bit' to help tackle climate change. The Vale of White Horse is setting up a new grant of £50,000 to help voluntary groups with their projects, and they can access anything from £250 to £5,000 per project. The basic rules are:

- Projects must take place within Vale of White Horse district for the benefit of Vale residents.
- You can apply for revenue costs or capital items.
- We can fund up to 100 per cent of the total cost of a project (budget permitting).
- The project must complete within 12 months of the award decision.
- Any unallocated budgets at the end of the financial year will return to the council's general reserves.
- The scheme will be open for one round.
- A decision will be made within approximately six weeks of the scheme closing

If you are interested to set up a project to help mitigate climate change in such areas as the natural environment, energy, waste and consumption or transport and travel, please do so by going through your parish or town council. You might want to organise a community clothes/toy/household items swap and/or loan scheme to support waste minimisation. Or to build a community wild flower garden with signage to explain the importance of wild flowers and biodiversity to the environment. Or to replace existing flood lighting to LED lighting at local tennis courts. Or to set up



cycle racks by local shops or services. I'm sure you will have lots of ideas. You can access more information on climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk

Stay safe and well and Happy Easter

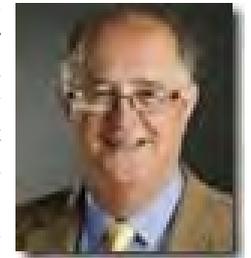
CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07357 464699 or catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

As I write the Thames Water/Water Resources South East consultation on (amongst other things) the proposed 4 square mile, 30m high reservoir is about to close. Thanks largely to the efforts of GARD (Group against Reservoir Development) there have been hundreds of responses from individuals, organised meetings and presentations in all the villages immediately affected + questions and a debate in the House of Commons. It is rare to find such unanimity of feeling from well informed residents, Councils and MPs against a major infrastructure proposal. This will be the third attempt by Thames Water to get this proposal through. Each time it has cost the public purse millions. At least this time around the arguments against are better funded and well organised. The "gated" process for decision making may go on for many months more, but hopefully the final decision will finally remove the threat of Europe's largest above ground reservoir supplying water to London and Southern Water being built in Oxfordshire.



The proposed new road (HIF Rd) between Didcot, the Thames and the Golden Balls roundabout, is the other major hot topic for local Councils of all levels. Decision time is almost upon us and there is still some disagreement about the best way ahead. Originally conceived more than 10 years ago as a means of alleviating the traffic congestion – present and future – generated by so much housing development around Didcot and the surrounding area, there have been many changes and events which have made many doubt the original assumptions. Changes in population forecasts, the arrival of new Local Plans, changes in Council administrations, increasing awareness of the Climate Emergency, Covid and (yes) Brexit have created a very different world. Are roads and new road-building the best solution in a world fighting climate change? Urgent discussion of alternatives – better bus services, more focus on Active travel, possible Light Rail lines – are all being considered. Everyone wants to find a 21st century solution that fixes the problem for the foreseeable future and one that is flexible enough to cope with rapidly changing demands.

On the plus side, and just at the moment there is a distinct lack of plus sides, our local science and technology and its development continues to be the envy of most of the country. Advances at Harwell and Culham and MEPC continue to make world news while Milton Park is leading the way on local traffic initiatives.

With a Ukrainian son-in-law, I am painfully aware of how events in Ukraine are on everyone's mind. It is extraordinary how it has brought the West together and how local people are accepting that the world economy will take a hit, but that is nothing to what Ukraine, its residents and its President are coping with. While we wait for Government to get a workable system together, people wishing to offer help and accommodation are encouraged to contact VWHDC who have a growing list of those interested.

And, together with all the above, Councils and Councillors are working hard to address all their regular issues – parking, roads and highways, environmental health, housing and *never forget dog poo*.

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

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or email Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

MP'S REPORT

I am writing this at home, having caught Covid. I am pretty sure I had it right at the start of the pandemic, in early 2020, but it was before the testing regime we developed so I can't know for sure. This time, I've definitely had the 2 lines, confirmed by a PCR. It isn't pleasant but I've had all 3 jabs and so I mostly have symptoms of a head cold and fatigue.



I have a partner but being at home alone all day makes me think of 2 things: firstly, how hard it must be to be on your own all the time. If you can, please volunteer for organisations like the Didcot Good Neighbour Scheme, through which I see a widower each week. The second thing I'm reminded of is what a vital job all the various community groups did during the pandemic to support their neighbours.

You may or may not know that PMQs are predominately allocated by electronic ballot the week before they take place. Having been drawn for only 1 PMQ in my first 25 months, I was then drawn for a further 2 in just 3 weeks. The first I used to raise the lack of new GP surgeries we've had to support all the new houses that have been built. The second I used to raise the reservoir proposal, a shadow of uncertainty over the Steventon, Hanneys and Drayton area for over 2 decades now.

For all the yah boo politics PMQs has long been criticised for, it remains the best place to raise a local issue as it a rare occasion when the House of Commons is full, people outside parliament are watching on tv and it means the Prime Minister's office swings into action to help deal with the issues you're having.

It was very moving to be in the House of Commons for President Zelensky's address to MPs, as it has been to watch him and the Ukrainian people resist the brutal invasion Putin has launched of their country, with support from the UK and its allies. I know people have been frustrated by the pace at which refugees are being brought to the UK and I agree the system did not move fast enough at the outset. It is now moving much faster, and we have several generous strands for entry. It is important that we know we can put in the right support the refugees that we take – we still have Afghans in hotels in Oxfordshire because we don't have houses for them – and so we have to make sure we have the right health, education and pastoral support in place as soon as possible, which the Government is working hard on.

One final thing: Grove library is 50 years old this year and has a great collection of items from 1972 (or thereabouts) on display for a month!

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

ABINGDON RESERVOIR – LATEST FROM GARD

What an extraordinary month for people power. As GARD has delivered our public meetings, awareness across the Vale has grown enormously. Your support has resulted in:

- David Johnston MP raising the issue in Prime Minister's Questions
- Layla Moran MP securing a parliamentary debate in Westminster Hall
- All political parties support us against the reservoir
- County and District Councils unanimously against the reservoir
- Newspaper articles in several local and county wide publications as well as BBC South East
- Volunteers and several residents' groups linked to GARD emerging across villages
- A huge response to the WRSE consultation from concerned residents

Thank you to everyone who responded to the consultation - there is no way that the water companies or regulators can ignore such a response. But it's a long game, with several more steps to go through before we get this monstrous mega-reservoir binned. We look forward to meeting you at future events, chatting to you while delivering leaflets and, most importantly, hearing from you about how YOU can help GARD make a difference.

- Join GARD (just £10 lifetime membership, helping fund leaflets and meeting hall fees): gard.membership@gmail.com.
- To offer help: gard.secretary@gmail.com

Watch out for our BANNERS - coming to a road near you soon! Keep an eye on www.gard-oxon.org.uk and Facebook @ [abingdonreservoirfor](https://www.facebook.com/abingdonreservoirfor) the latest information.

The GARD AGM: Friday 29th April, 7:30pm
Steventon Village Hall

Have you been asked to donate money to help people of the Ukraine or another disaster? Please protect yourself with the following information:

- Scammers will pretend to be legitimate well-known charities, creating their own charity names, and impersonating people impacted by the war in Ukraine.
- Scammers will be cold-calling, direct messaging and creating fake websites and pages on social media to raise funds. Avoid clicking on links or downloading attachments in unsolicited emails, texts or social media messages. They may attempt to lure you into unwittingly downloading malware onto your device or take you to a fake website to steal your money and personal information.
- Do not donate via fundraising pages on platforms that do not verify the legitimacy of the fundraiser or that do not guarantee your money will be returned if the page is determined to be fraudulent.
- Be careful about crowdfunding requests as these may be fake and also come from scammers.
- Check the terms and conditions of funding platforms and ensure you are dealing with official organisations. If you are unsure, make your donation to an established charity instead.
- If you think you have paid money to a scammer, please contact your bank immediately.

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/charities>

You can donate safely to DEC at the Post Office using cash or a card



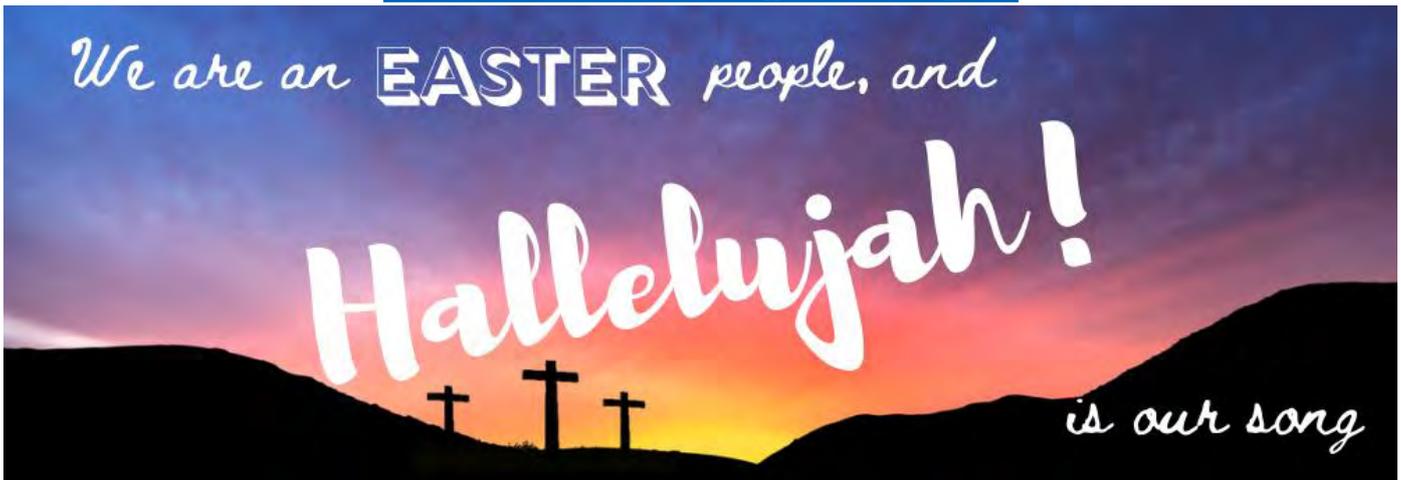
Callers don't have to give their name or any personal information and calls are not recorded and cannot be traced.

Tell them what you know, not who you are



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Easter Hope

It is either true or it is not true, this Christian thing. It cannot be partly true, or true when we want it to be and not when it is inconvenient. And I guess Easter is where the rubber really hits the road. Did Jesus bodily rise again or not? What do you think? Because if he did not rise from **death** then everything he said and did hardly matters. Jesus becomes just another relatively important historical figure who had some interesting things to say and died tragically. He is not Saviour and Lord any longer. And as for any hope he might offer...? wishful thinking. Christianity stands or falls on the resurrection of Jesus. And the Bible itself is clear about that: "if Christ has not been raised your faith is futile" (1 Cor. 15:17). A former Prime Minister famously once said his faith was "like Magic FM in the Chilterns - tends to fade in and out" - an experience of faith shared by many, no doubt. But if that is our experience, where does the problem lie? Is it with the broadcaster (God) or the listener (us)? Surely it is with us. If God is real, and he has revealed himself in the Bible and in the person of Jesus as Christianity claims, then surely he has provided enough evidence for people to believe. So why don't more people believe? One way of answering that question would be... eyes need to be opened, hearts must be set on fire, and only God can do these things. True. But another way would be to say that many people have simply not given sufficient time to the claims of the Christian faith. Also true. Faith wavers because we waver. We live in troubling times. The last two years has been dominated by a pandemic that has caused so much pain. We have the twin crises of the cost of living and mental health surrounding us; and in late February a democratic European nation was invaded by Russia causing measureless suffering. The world cries out for hope. But where does hope lie? Many across the world will cling to Easter hope again this April, especially our brave Eastern Orthodox cousins in Ukraine. But perhaps for those of us whose faith tends to waver we might make this Easter a time to fully consider if Jesus really did rise again or not. In doing so, I believe you will be knocking on the door of true and lasting hope. See below for lots of opportunities this Spring for all ages to explore this Easter hope. You would be most welcome.

For the diary – see our website for more details

15th April, Good Friday

10am: Reflective Family Event

2pm: Good Friday Meditation at St. Luke's

17th April, Easter Day

6am: Sunrise Service at St. Luke's

10am: Easter Family Communion at All Saints'

6pm: Easter Communion

From the Registers:

Funerals

Bob Cope

Brenda Sowden

***All Age service**

Sunday 3rd April

10am at MCC

All welcome

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

Contacts:

Rev. Nick Weldon Vicar 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