



Marcham & District News

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

Your Independent Local Newsheet – www.madnews.co.uk

MAY 2022 VOL: 44 No: 5

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Christine Whild page 5



▲ Details on page 7



▲ Artwork at the Centre page 9



▲ Designing at Preschool page 11



▲ What's going on at the shop? page 15



▲ The Easter Bunny in Marcham

Save the date
All Saints Church
Holiday Club
Tuesday 30th August
to Friday 2nd
September.
More details next
month!

Spring Holidays 2022 Waste Collection

~~Wednesday 4 May~~

Thursday 5 May
Rubbish and Food Waste



Diary for May

| Date | Event | Pg |
|---------|---|----|
| 2 Mon | Marcham Village Shop closed | 3 |
| 7-29 | Artweeks | 17 |
| 7 Sat | Milton Hill Bowling Club Open Afternoon, 14.00 – 17.00 | 9 |
| 8 Sun | Plant Sale, Frilford Road & Prior's Corner | 9 |
| 8 Sun | Flexicare Community Walk, E Hendred | 17 |
| 9 Mon | Heart Health, Abingdon Market Place, 09.00 – 14.00 | 17 |
| 9 Mon | Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Marcham Centre. 19.30 | 3 |
| 13 & 14 | The Big Marcham Weekend | 7 |
| 14 Sat | Isis Chamber Orchestra, All Saints' Church, 19.30 | 9 |
| 15 Sun | Closing date for prescription survey | 11 |
| 16 Mon | A338 Closed | 3 |
| 16 Mon | Marcham WI: Dews Meadow Farm Marcham Centre, 19.30 | 7 |
| 17 Tue | Annual Marcham Parish Meeting, Marcham Centre, 19.30 | 7 |
| 18 Wed | Arts Society Abingdon, George Stubbs 10.30 & 14.00 | 7 |
| 20 Wed | Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email editor@madnews.co.uk | |
| 23 Mon | Marcham Society: Scandal, Marcham Centre, 19.15 | 7 |
| 28 Sat | RDA Plant Sale, Open Day and Car Boot, Southmoor, 10.00 – 13.00 | 17 |

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

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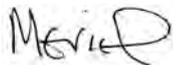
Dear Readers

We have gathered together some memories and photos of Christine Whild to celebrate her life – she will be much missed. Thanks to Bartle for the older photos!

Milletts Sprouts Play Barn competition – the winner is Eileen Donnelly. There were LOTS to count and varying ideas of how many eggs were hiding in the picture on page 14 and whether Eggbert counted as an egg or not!

We will have another competition next month.

Until next time



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

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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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Tel: 01235 534001

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon
Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
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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

A meeting for all in the parish to attend and learn more about what is happening in the area. See advertisement on page 7.

Parish Council Vacancy

Following a resignation from the Council, there is a vacancy to be filled for a short while until the next formal elections in May 2023. The Parish Council invites applications from members of the public interested in being co-opted onto the Council. A good opportunity to see what Councils get up to, before deciding if a full term of office is for you.

Grass Cutting

It is that time of year when we are all out cutting grass and managing our gardens. The Council would remind you that the Vale of White Horse District Council provides a successful recycling and waste collection service for all its residents in the district. In addition the recycling centre at Drayton is open all week from 8.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. on all days other than a Thursday when it is open even longer until 8.00 p.m. Please do not fly tip grass and garden waste on highway verges, private land, paths, in the Arboretum and Anson playing field, as such action interferes with the enjoyment of these areas and can result in composting grass odours which in turn are a nuisance to those who live nearby.

Vale of White Horse District Council – Car Parking Charges

From Monday 4th April, the Vale of White Horse District Council introduced changes to the car parking in town centres to make them more sustainable to manage. Free parking is still available, but is now reduced to one hour a day. New fees apply if you want to stay for more than one hour. Other fees have increased by 40p. New and renewed parking permits are now only valid for the specific car park for which they are issued, and they are no longer transferable. Where previously on offer, free parking remains available on Sundays.

A338 road closure

The County Council has received a request for a temporary road closure to apply to the section of the A338 at Hanney whilst puffin crossing works are carried out. This means that the A338 through Hanney is planned to be closed from 16th May up to and including 20th May, 2022. This is a 24 hour road closure. Access will be maintained for emergency services, and those frontages within the closure area. The diversion route is via the Hanney - Steventon Road.

20 mph limits in Marcham

The Parish Council has applied, with the support of Cllr. Richard Webber the County Councillor, for the County Council to consider Howard Cornish Road, and the section of the A415 which runs through the built up area of the village, for a reduction in speed limit to

20 mph. The first is a residential area, route to school, village hall and private nursery. It has more than one bend, and restricted vision for motorists. The second is an air quality management area, and now that there are quite a few new houses on the southern side, is used more and more for residents to cross to access the village facilities.

In order to obtain local views on the proposal, please contact your local parish councillor or the clerk should you have any comment to make or particularly have any objection to the proposals.

Planning Applications considered by the Parish Council

P22/V0770/HH Single storey infill extension linking house to garage at 7 Anson Close. The Council had no objections, but did query whether an outbuilding forward of the building line needed formal permission.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council is **Monday 9th May, 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

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References Available

Proprietor: Mr A Bunce

CHRISTINE ELIZABETH WHILD
8th September 1931 - 29th March 2022
 Please make charity donations to
Sobell House Hospice Charity
www.sobellhouse.org/donations

Christine was a huge part of Marcham life and will be much missed. These photos show a fraction of an incredible life.

Christine was the Castaway at the WI Desert Island Discs evening in September 2018

We are so sad to report the death of our member, Christine Whild. Christine was our longest standing member, having been President on several occasions and very active in other committee roles. Christine moved to Abingdon in 1966, and was one of the founder members of Fitzharrises WI in Abingdon, before moving to and joining Marcham WI. She was a Denman tutor and gave many talks around the



county, especially on the history of Christmas traditions. She opened her lovely garden frequently for Denman events, and for Marcham WI parties. Christine loved the WI and could always be relied upon to play the piano at any event given half the chance. She especially enjoyed the grand piano at Denman. As a member of the Combined Arts committee, she led the Christmas Songs in Oxford Town Hall many times, even when she had to have tinsel threaded into her thinning hair during her treatment for cancer. She was always one of the first to volunteer for anything and everything. She loved the jokes we have at the end of our monthly meetings and laughed longer and louder than anyone else. Christine was a wonderful lady inside and out, and we will miss her greatly.

CAROLE SANDS - Marcham WI

Christine's cake for the coronation in 1952



SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!



Christine's music group, 1989



1989 Yellow Peril film – Christine as a traffic warden!



Christine recorded a video in 2015 on her hobby of decorating eggs that you can see here: <https://vimeo.com/118395242>



We'll Meet Again cast, May 1994 (Photo Stuart Brighton)
 May 2022

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Marcham WI

Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 16th May 2022

At the Marcham Centre

Jane Bowler: Dews Meadow Farm

We had originally hoped to have this month's speaker in 2020, but sadly had to cancel due to being in lockdown.

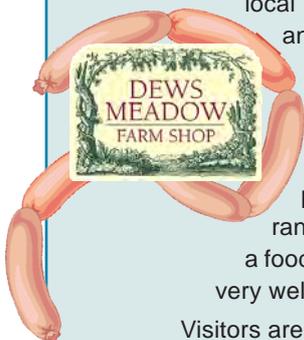
So, we are now delighted to be able to welcome Jane Bowler from Dews Meadow Farm, a local family farm producing specialist food and sausages, made and sold locally, including in Marcham Village Shop.

Dews Meadow Farm is an independent, family-run butchery and farm shop based in East Hanney, producing their own high welfare, free-range food on site. We will also be having a food themed raffle, so any donations will be very welcome.

Visitors are always welcome.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



The
Marcham
Society

Monday
23rd May
7.15 for 7.45pm
Marcham Centre



Scandal in High Society Oxfordshire

Secret love affairs, murder, blackmail, poisoning and extortion: most of us enjoy a good scandal. And it's even more fun when it involves our so-called 'betters'.

Julie Ann Godson will present a selection of tales of Oxfordshire toffs in trouble, from the Tudor period right up to the modern age. Few will fail to be impressed by the sheer variety of ways in which the upper classes of the county have contrived over the centuries to behave badly – and often to get away with it.

All Julie's Oxfordshire history books are available on Amazon.

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

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MARCHAM PARISH MEETING

This year the annual meeting for electors will take place on **Tuesday 17th May** at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall, Barrow Close. This is the meeting, open to all registered electors of Marcham, where you can raise issues about the village or wider parish, and discuss any local topics. The guest speaker will be Mr. Richardo Rios from the Vale of White Horse District Council who will talk about what it means to create a Neighbourhood Plan for Marcham and some of the tasks involved.

Light refreshments will be available.

You are invited to take part



The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE

Wednesday 18th May, 10.30am and 2.00pm

George Stubbs 1724 - 1806:

The English Leonardo

by Christopher Garibaldi

Many art historians and critics have compared the work of Stubbs to that of Leonardo da Vinci, one even christening him the 'Leonardo of Liverpool'. The comparison can seem hubristic until one considers the intense scientific method and investigation that lay behind the production by Stubbs of his world-famous Anatomy of the Horse published in 1766 This lecture looks at the life and work of this country's greatest animal painter. It focusses on his depiction of equestrian subjects, but also looks at the broader themes he addressed.

Visitors are very welcome to attend this lecture, cost £6.00. Please email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk for further information on Venue, any latest changes and updates. Lectures last 1 hour but allow extra time for announcements etc.

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

Friday and Saturday

13th and 14th May

The Big
Marcham
Weekend

Events Line up

- Friday 13th May – Gin & Beer Festival 4pm to 11pm
- Saturday 14th May – Fete 12 noon to 4pm
- Various Stalls including: Thirsty Café Tea and Cakes, Scentsy, Crafts, Jewellery, Sweets, Jo Jo Baby Massage, Bouncy Castle, Alpha Academy, Marcham School PTA, Face Paints, Ice Cream, Fish & Chips, BBQ, Punch & Judy, Bouncy Castle, Teddy Stall, Flamingo Cards, Pimms Tent, Gin & Beer
- Various Acts performing throughout including Magic Peter, Abingdon Belly Dancers, Alpha Academy, Jo Jo Baby Massage Demonstration
- Summer Dance 7.30 - 11.30pm. Adults only. Dance the night away to "The Reset". Tickets £5 on sale from Marcham Village Shop or from behind the bar at the Marcham Centre.

To register your interest in taking part in the Carnival, being a stall holder or taking part in Marcham's Got Talent, please email coordinator@marchamcentre.org

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Marcham Centre

The bar area has been fitted out with carpet tiles and our bar customers are already noticing the difference – it is more homely and less noisy.

Artwork Project

The third and final part of the artwork project, a panel display to show a reduced-scale replica of the sculpture at the site entrance, with introductory text and a 'quiz' for now, has been installed in the entrance foyer of the hall. We would be very happy to have your feedback on the new display.

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.

Easter egg hunt

The egg hunt of Easter Saturday was a great success and warm sunshine brought out large numbers of children (of all ages). The bar and patio were well used in the afternoon and early evening. A big thank-you goes to the Events committee for their work organising it.

Coming events at Marcham Centre

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 and details of the whole weekend on page 7.

Big Jubilee Lunch – 5th June

A Big Jubilee Lunch celebration (as part of the national events to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee) will be held on Sunday 5th June at Marcham Centre. There will be a church service in the Large Hall, starting at 10:30am, and a community-wide lunch (hopefully outdoors) with a Barbeque and bar from 12 noon. 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 other activities to enhance the day, please contact us – we would welcome it. Final details in the June edition of MAD News.

Indoor short-mat bowls finished at the end of April. 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.

Marcham Community Group is looking for a volunteer to take on light secretarial tasks for the MCG trustees, such as taking minutes at the (currently) monthly trustee meetings. If you are interested in helping, please contact jim.asher@btinternet.com to find out what is involved.

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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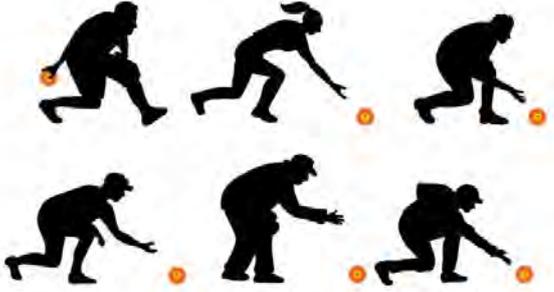


ANNE SMITHSON AND SHEILA DUNFORD
WILL BE HOLDING A
PLANT SALE ON SUNDAY MAY 8TH
 There will also be plants for sale at their gates from then on at 18 Frilford Rd and Prior's Corner, Priory Lane respectively. The charity they will be supporting this year will be the gardening charity **Perennial**.

 **MILTON HILL BOWLING CLUB**
www.miltonhill.go-plus.net 

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ISIS Chamber Orchestra

Date: Saturday 14th May, 2022 at 7.30pm
 Venue: All Saints Church, Marcham
 Conductor: Caroline Hobbs-Smith
 Benjamin Britten - A time there was...
 Debussy - Petite Suite - Claire de Lune
 Debussy - Danse - Tarentelle Styrienne
 Faure - Masques et Bergamasques - Pavane

Ravel - Mother Goose Suite - Pavane pour une infante defunte.
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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

It's been a busy month with lots of eggs! Painting... exploring. and hunting...

The children have also been constructing the most amazing buildings... this type of play has evolved greatly over the last few weeks and has led to learning about shapes, space, measurements, quantities, balance, comparisons and so much more... Groups of children have worked together and constructions have been saved and extended over several days... not an easy task around lots of young children. Each day has brought something new and with some amazing vocabulary too! We have a whole generation of architects and designers in our midst.

Nicky Sanford, Early Years Teacher

Call 01865 392101 Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk
www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

It's Easter-time! Hurrah! It does seem to have been a very, very long term indeed. Looking at some of the children, and speaking to them too, it's quite clear that they are looking forward to a break and some rest. There has been so much turbulence and disruption in many parts of the school due to COVID and other factors that it will be good to take a deep breath, recharge batteries and return on 25th April ready for an active and exciting final term in the year.



Our Easter Celebration

To mark Easter in our school this year, each class has decorated a box which represents a key section of the Easter Story. During our Easter Service, the boxes were constructed to form a cross, which will be on display in All Saints Church over the Easter period and thereafter in our school entrance hall. Each class worked incredibly hard and, collectively, the scenes form a powerful symbol of reflection for our school community. Credit for each scene goes to the following classes: Palm Sunday – Leopards, Jesus visits the temple – Wolves, The Last Supper – Tigers, The garden of Gethsemane – Kangaroos, The arrest and trial – Meerkats, The Crucifixion – Wolves, The Resurrection – Giraffes.



Marcham Open Gardens

The Marcham Moldova Lifeline team are planning another Village Garden open afternoon on Saturday June 18th. The volunteers who opened their gardens last year said how much they enjoyed it! So, if you have a garden you love – it doesn't have to be pristine or weed free – and would like to share it with others, please get in touch sheila.dunford@btinternet.com 01865 391439



What is it like getting prescriptions from your pharmacy?

Healthwatch Oxfordshire would like to hear about your recent experiences of getting prescriptions from a pharmacy.

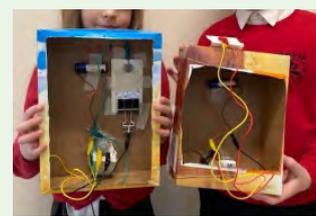


Have you had problems or delays getting your prescriptions, or has it been easy? Please share your experiences with Healthwatch Oxfordshire by completing a short, anonymous survey at www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Gettingprescriptions

For a paper copy or a translated survey, or if you would prefer to talk about your experiences, please call Healthwatch Oxfordshire on 01865 520520. Please note the survey closes on 15th May. To find out more about Healthwatch Oxfordshire see www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk



A special mention to Year 4 Science Pupils who have been making circuits in science lessons with Mrs Hill. Ellie-Rose and Kieron were explaining to me how they made the clowns' bow ties spin round and round.



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

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parkinsons.me/community-garden-west-lockinge

If you are looking for a pleasant place to visit but not too far from Marcham, then the Parkinsons.ME community garden in West Lockinge just off the A417 is certainly worth a trip. The garden provides something of interest for everyone and enhances the lives of those with Parkinson's. Entry is free but donations welcome and plants are usually available to purchase too.

ROSEMARY HARWOOD

Nature's Story Is Our Story

The hidden benefits of gardens and green spaces don't seem so hidden this year. It seems so many of you are more readily noticing nesting birds locally to you this year and being moved to tell me about your discoveries. Maybe even more so than you normally do?



What I personally take from that is not only is there a joy in sharing your garden or your local area with nature. There's a tangible joy in sharing that experience with others, especially since the Covid situation that we've all been through.

I don't claim to be an expert in the emotions around joy, but what I observe, maybe anecdotally, is that the initial joy brought about by nature is very engaging. Making the ecosystem around us, part of daily life is a significant first step to starting to care about our environment, Which I've said many times.

Humanity seems to be transitioning to a more sustainable way maybe, and even those who don't care about the environment, are likely to be dragged along with that sustainability shift, whether they like it or not.

Let's hope this this new found sharing of the nature we discover continues, and we can all play a part in ensuring that it does. In the next month, I set you a challenge, let's all share our joy of nature with five of your friends. Let's keep passing our joy on. Nature's story is our story though, let's not forget that.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

Yellow Room The last month has seen the toddlers and babies exploring the garden and in particular the plants in the troughs, trays and pots with seeds to grow. Along with the stories of the hungry caterpillar these activities enriched the children's knowledge and understanding of bugs and insects. The months moved onto Easter and Easter egg printing, songs and hot cross buns to eat. Little chocolate nests and colouring and paintings completed the month of springtime for the toddlers and babies.



Teal Room The children in Teal were very busy enjoying a new layout of the room with a wonderful new set up of the home area. A small comfy chair and wonderful wooden kitchen allowed the children to really embrace their role-playing creativeness. Dolls, pots and pans along with food were all used to create everyday life, this was also taken to the next level by the Teal room who extended the play into working roles, recreating being builders with hard hats, high-vis jackets and they built and mixed sand into paste and created a brick wall along with going around the Teal Room pretending to repair things. All these combined created not only social skills but good manners too. The Teal Room also created Easter cards and activities with games of Easter egg hunts around the garden and singing Easter songs and hopping bunny races. The story of The Last Supper was discussed and crosses and understanding of the Easter religion was held in discussion with the children – a full and fun packed month.

Green Room The Green Room have been busy exploring growing things. An area was designated as a planting station and children could take turns and spend time planting watering and exploring the seeds and plants available. Books about plants and growing gave the children a visual insight into the natural environment and activities reflected this through the month. The growing was not only left to plants but to the children as well, but each child was measured to see who was the tallest, feet and hand sizes too, along with growing from a baby to an adult. In the garden the children explored the wildfire that help plants to grow and bird boxes along with insect boxes were put up on the garden fence. The Green group also enjoyed the Easter activities including the Easter egg hunt in the garden and hot cross bus along with making Easter cards and crosses.

VISITORS TO NURSERY

The whole nursery was lucky to have the police come to visit with the police car. The police officer read the children a wonderful story and allowed the Little Angels to have a look in the police car, the sirens were put on and the blue lights were flashing. The Fire engine also came this month with its Fire crew and each Little Angel was taken in small group taking turns sitting inside, watching the water hoses and the blue flashing lights along with the sirens.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SERVICE FOR THEIR VISITS IT WAS AMAZING!



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MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB – 2022 SEASON

The club is looking forward to a season of near normality following the last two of Covid impacted. The club has two teams in the Cherwell Cricket League, playing matches on Saturdays from the beginning of May until the end of August.



As usual the club is looking to welcome any new players, irrespective of age, experience and abilities. In fact a number of local players have started with us with virtually no experience, other than at school some years ago. Though not having a youth team, we encourage any youngster of 14 years of age to our net sessions and to play in the teams. Nets are regularly held at the ground on Friday evenings from 6.45pm.

The club is based in the centre of the village at the new Village Hall complex. It therefore has brand new changing facilities and a bar for after match reflections, irrespective of them being good or bad! So, if you play or have played the game, or are starting doing so, then why not contact us and find out more. This can be done by visiting a net session, by coming to a match and introducing yourself or just by contacting **Matt Ainsworth – Club Secretary on 07807 770888** or **Trevor Hill on 07748 696733**.

Upcoming BBQs Join us at the **Big Marcham Weekend** on Saturday, 14th May from 12 noon to 4pm. Thirsty Café will have a BBQ and a tea, coffee and cake stand. No need to prebook. The regular café session in the morning will be closed.



Celebrate the **Platinum Jubilee** on **Sunday, 5th June** with a lunchtime community BBQ at Marcham Centre. The Marcham Centre bar will be open. Prebooking via our website is advised.

Planned closure The pop-up café will be closed on Saturday, 14th May for the Great Marcham Weekend festivities and on Saturday, 28th May as we don't have enough volunteers.

Volunteer with us As a community café we rely completely on our fantastic volunteers to open each week. We would love for you to join our team, either as a regular, ad-hoc or back up volunteer. There are a variety of roles across Wednesday and Saturday sessions. Please speak to a member of the team, email, or call us if you'd like to get involved.

Thank you to Wednesday Lunch Club A big thank you to Wednesday Lunch Club whose generous donation has funded the new food preparation counters in the Marcham Centre kitchen. Thirsty Café would love to restart a lunch time service but we need more volunteers first. Please get in touch if you could help – it doesn't have to be on a Wednesday.

Café open Wednesday and Saturday, 9 – 11:30 am

Website: www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

Email: hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

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

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL – VACANCY

The Council has a vacancy for a councillor. It is the tier of local authorities closest to the people and provides local services within the parish. It meets 11 times in the year to discuss matters relating to the village and immediate surrounds. If you are interested in local issues that affect Marcham, and wish to help make the decisions that affect the area in which you live, then please contact the Clerk to the Council by emailing clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk



Update from Marcham Village Shop

In July this year **Marcham Village Shop** will celebrate



10 years

as a community-owned and volunteer-run Shop and Post Office. This has been mainly due to the help of willing volunteers and paid staff, which has enabled the shop to remain open, even during the height of the Covid19 lockdowns.

Sadly, given the growth in population of Marcham, our turnover has gradually declined over the years, but our running costs have increased. In the same token, our volunteer pool has shrunk and new volunteers have not been forthcoming. If this continues, it will have a major impact on our opening hours.

The Post Office and Shop provide all the things you would expect, including some extras such as dry-cleaning, gifts and cards. We are the sole retailer of Marcham honey, we sell preserves from Hanney, eggs from Fyfield, beer from Abingdon, flour from Wantage and the last of the wine from the Bothy vineyard. And, as a commercially viable organisation, we have made donations in the past, which have included helping to fit out the new **Marcham Centre** and providing the **Marcham Colt Football kit**.

We sincerely believe that the village shop is a vital resource for the community, particularly for those residents who are not so mobile. So, we would like to ask all residents to support the shop in its long-term survival by:

- **Using the shop (use it or lose it);**
- **Become a volunteer (only 2 hours per week).**

Residents can also become a share-holder for just £10. This will enable you to have a vote at the annual meeting and have a say in how the shop is run. If you are interested, please complete the form which can be found in the Shop.

We thank all the residents of Marcham who already support us, and we look forward to having more supporters in the future.

THE SHOP COMMITTEE

**We will be closed for the
May Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May
Usual Opening Hours**

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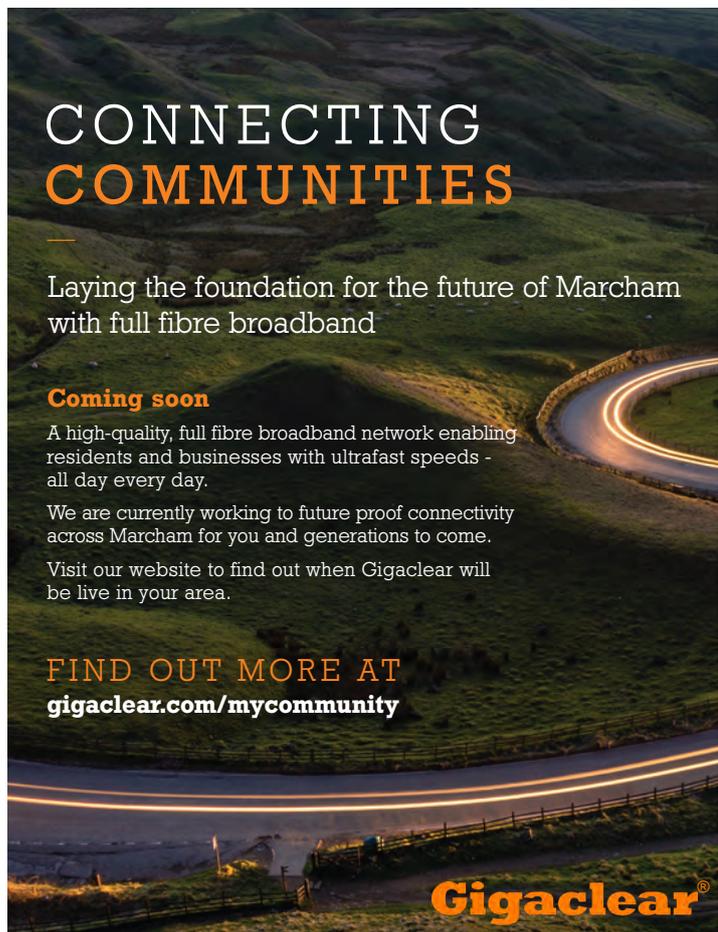



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If you would like to know more about the Friends please contact secfcr@gmail.com



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**UKRAINIANS UPDATE**

I know that many of you are keen to host Ukrainian refugees and have signed up to do so on the government scheme Homes for Ukrainian refugees which the Vale is supporting collectively with other councils across Oxfordshire. Indeed, I was approached about an idea of asking the WI if they would consider housing a large number of Ukrainian refugees in Denman College in Marcham, but, unfortunately, as it is up for sale their legal team have advised against this idea. However, the latest information is that the government has published a welcome pack for arriving refugees to signpost people to the help that is available, including advice about accessing universal credit and job support. The councils' joint team will be supplementing this with local information as well as providing clear signposts to help and support online.



The county council's website www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukrainesupport is being used as the central host for this information. Sponsor information has been published on this site along with local information for Ukrainian guests. South and Vale's website will signpost people to these pages. A useful link published by the government is a set of frequently asked questions for sponsors and individuals applying to the scheme.

All councils are progressing the scheme by making first contact phone calls to hosts, distributing letters to them explaining next steps and initiating the accommodation and safeguarding checks required...on average it takes an officer a day to complete 4 host offers, so many officers have had to be diverted onto this scheme.

NEW OFFICE BASE

As you may know, The Vale has to vacate its offices in Milton this summer and will be moving to a "bridging location" in Abbey House, Abingdon, until a medium-term location can be found. The Vale will occupy the ground floor of Abbey House which is not used by the County Council

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

The government has announced a further £500m to support households struggling to afford essentials, though the Vale is still awaiting guidance on how this will work, including detail on how much can be allocated and the timescales.

In the meantime, the Vale is in discussion with voluntary sector partners and the county council to prepare for the re-launch of the scheme which is now closed in both districts.

I hope you enjoyed the Easter break and are all keeping well.

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**CARS**

As a member of two Councils, each with a top priority of doing what they can to address climate change, I am amazed at how much of my casework revolves around the problems of cars. Parking, neighbourhood disputes, potholes, traffic speeds and congestion – at the heart of all these issues is the motor car. Now I am as guilty as anyone. I own two cars. One is a much loved old Citroen Saxo – high mileage in its early years – reliable and cheap to run in spite of high road tax due to its relatively high emissions. I know it is coming to the end of its days but it will be sad to say goodbye after 20 years of reliable service. The other



one is a 9 year old Seat – with, at one stage, what seemed like low emissions, low road tax and more mpg than the Saxo. However, like so many of us, I am wrestling with the guilt that in the interests of a healthier world, I should be reducing to one electric car and finding a way of financing it.

My generation has never known a world without cars. The US grid layout of cities is down to the motor car. Our own cities and towns were built for the horse and cart. Adapting them for the motor car has been a problem for more than a century. I was recently shown two photographs of New York streets – the first in 1908 (only horses and carts in sight) – the second in 1913 (nothing but cars). The change was both dramatic and complete within 5 years. Major changes in transport can happen in a very short time. Are we now on the verge of such a dramatic change?

We all expect to own at least one car and to drive between 5000 and 15000 miles a year. Cars require roads and there is a common acceptance that as more and more cars appear, we need more and more roads to accommodate them.

INDUCED DEMAND

Since 1913, the evidence has been growing that building more roads itself generates more traffic. In our congested little island, this has now become a problem we ignore at our peril. More roads – more cars – more roads - in a never ending cycle. There is also mounting evidence that, if a new road is built, the temptation to use our cars (rather than walking or cycling or using public transport) increases with induced demand. As all our roads become ever more congested, many are now arguing that we need to break this cycle and that road building is not the solution. Our resources might be better spent on maintaining our present system and repurposing our roads to positively encourage alternatives to car transport whilst actively discouraging the use of the car. I am always being charged with being anti-car. Guilty as charged. If I am sitting in a traffic queue whilst regular buses in a dedicated bus lane are overtaking me, am I more likely to choose bus travel? If there is a safe, dedicated footpath and cycle way, will I choose to walk or cycle? At present, too many bus timetables are disrupted by car traffic. If my bus is held up in car and other traffic, I am much more likely to travel by car. Many young people in London choose not to own a car because public transport is quicker, easier and journey times more reliable. Discouraging single occupancy, congestion charging, toll roads will have to be considered alongside measures to make public transport and active travel more attractive for everyone.

LOCAL ISSUES AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The proposed new HIF Rd designed to alleviate traffic congestion, reduce environmental damage and provide for further growth in our area, is being argued over as I write. It may be that we have to have this road to address immediate and past problems however, conversations and studies over longer term planning are likely to move us all away from new road building as a solution. Our money would be better spent on bus and rail, cycle and pedestrian lanes and so on. Is it just possible that this road might be the last built in Oxfordshire? Because if we want our children to enjoy a healthier, happier world, my generation may well have to accept that car ownership was a privilege we once had but it can no longer be treated as a right.

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

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MP'S REPORT

Since I last wrote, I have given two speeches on two very different topics, but they have one thing in common. The first was about rape conviction rates in this country. I talked about the fact they're too low and shared cases from constituents anonymously to highlight how the system doesn't work well enough for the victims. I shared stats I'd been given about public attitudes to rape that a constituent

had given me and I stressed the need to educate boys about the right way to treat girls so they grow up to be men who behave in the right way towards women.

The second speech was about the lack of GP practices for the number of houses we've had built. Yes, I know, a regular theme I talk about, but I've joined forces with colleagues who have similar issues in their constituencies to maximise our campaigning efforts. I set out in detail the level of housebuilding we've had, the fact that years and years have passed without additional, promised GP practices being built and I talked about what I thought should happen, including infrastructure going in first and setting a maximum number of patients per GP or practice (surprisingly, there isn't one at present).



What the two very different topics have in common – apart from being longstanding issues – is that no one organisation is responsible for solving the problem. Both are of course significantly affected by what Governments do (or don't do). But the failure to see enough rape prosecutions is also partly about what the police, the CPS and judges do, as well as about societal attitudes, which affect jury decisions. And on GP practices, it's partly to do with the actions of housebuilders and developers, councils, the Clinical Commissioning Group and national NHS bodies. People understandably look to Government to solve problems, but authority in this country tends to be well dispersed – and for good reasons – so, unfortunately, no one lever being pulled in Westminster will quickly solve them.

My Climate Summit this year will be on the 27th June, 9am – 1.30pm via Zoom, with Alok Sharma as the keynote speaker. One topic I know I want to cover is energy policy. We're having an important debate at the moment about our use of oil and gas, the cost of living and what role, if any, there is for things like onshore wind and nuclear power. As with the issues above, there isn't a simple answer. Sign up on my website www.david-johnston.org.uk to take part.

Alongside my usual surgery appointments and visits to schools, businesses, charities, etc, I had a fantastic visit to 11 EOD & Search Regiment in Didcot. They work tirelessly to keep us all safe and almost nothing they do will ever make it into the papers, but we should be very proud to have them in the constituency.

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.

ABINGDON RESERVOIR – LATEST FROM GARD

We would again like to express our thanks to everyone that responded to the Water Resources South East (WRSE) plan and the other many forms of support such as leafleting.

The articulate objections from our two local councils and the individual Councillors have resulted in a united and strong campaign, just as we have always hoped.

The next key stage in the process is WRSE's feedback and we anticipate having further news in June.

In the meantime for further information, contact details and updates visit: **www.gard-oxon.org.uk**, **Facebook: @abingdonreservoir**, **Twitter: @GARD_OXON**

David Johnston OBE MP invites you to the

WANTAGE AND DIDCOT 2022 CLIMATE SUMMIT

with keynote speaker
COP26 President
ALOK SHARMA

27th June 2022
09:00am – 1:30pm via Zoom

Join me and our local and national experts as we discuss the big issues and how we can build on the commitments made at COP26!

Register at: www.david-johnston.org.uk

CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime

Tell them what you know, not who you are

BASIC GUIDELINES FOR HOSTING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

If you are one of those who have generously offered to host Ukrainian refugees, you need to know what is involved.



The government hasn't yet released complete details of how the "Homes for Ukraine" scheme will work, but as of the time of writing (mid-April 2022) the following guidelines apply:

First, you can volunteer for someone from the Ukraine to come to the UK and live with you. If you know of specific Ukrainians whom you wish to host, those people can apply to come to the UK. If you don't know of any particular people you want to host, you can sign up to be matched with one or more people. In either case, your local council will pay £350 per month per sponsor or property.

You must be able to provide the right kind of accommodation: it can be a spare room or an empty property, but it must be safe, suitable and large enough. The local council will visit you to make sure that the living space is appropriate. In addition, safety checks will be carried out on both hosts and guests, including police and criminal records checks.

Before you apply for the scheme, do check with your mortgage provider and/or your home insurance company, if applicable, to ensure that they have no objections.

You must be willing to let the refugee(s) stay with you, or in your separate accommodation, for at least six months - the longer the better. You may not charge them rent. Your guests will have the right to work and study, claim benefits, use the NHS, go to school and attend free English classes.

Citizens Advice can help with claims for benefits and other necessities. Our website at **www.citizensadvice.org.uk** has relevant information which is constantly updated as new rules are publicized. You can also telephone the Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale Advice line on 0808 278 7907.

ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKES CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk



Men's Breakfast has returned! Our new-style Men's Breakfast takes place on the first Saturday of the month in the Marcham Community Centre. The next dates are 7th May and 4th June. The morning begins at 8.30am with coffee and croissants after which there will be a short talk. A cooked breakfast is served at 9am over which we chat through some questions relating to the talk. But as you might expect there is plenty of banter and laughs too. Let's just say, we take a lot of things seriously at Men's Breakfast – faith, work, idle chat, football/rugby results, the quality of sausages, DIY fails and who looks the most worn out, all in the context of genuine brotherly care and support. To bed in these themes under the new style, we are tending to go for locally sourced speakers (and sausages) at the moment from among our number to give the talks. So someone talks for a bit about some aspect of their life or work and what impact their faith in God has had within it. It's about making new friends, eating food, and supporting one another. Men's Breakfast is for church men and non-church men alike.

The cost of the breakfast is £8 (with cooked breakfast) or £3 (coffee and pastry) and we do ask all who are able to make an appropriate donation. This can be done by bank transfer in advance or by cash on the day. The cooked breakfast will be provided by Thirsty Cafe and will include a pastry and hot drink on arrival, followed by a cooked breakfast... bacon, sausage, egg, beans, toast, butter, marmalade and a hot drink.

Please sign up to secure your seat and breakfast by the Monday before each event, using the sign up on the All Saints' Church website (Church Life > Men's ministry). But if you haven't signed up for a breakfast and find yourself available, please come anyway. Thirsty Café is always open next door on a Saturday morning anyway, so you can order from their standard menu (not a full breakfast) and join in with us. We'd love to see you.

Regular services

1st Sunday of the month

10am: All age service at MCC

6pm: Evening Service at All Saints'

Other Sundays

10am: Morning Service at All Saints'

11am-12pm: Open church at St. Luke's

6pm: Evening Service

Wednesday Holy Communion

10.30am at Duffield Place

From the Registers:

Funerals

Christine Whild

Baptisms

Finn Boers, Henry & Charlotte Chase

Heidi Prescott, Lily Kane

Special Evensong at St. Luke's Garford with Hertford College Choir.

Sunday 8th May, 6pm

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