



Marcham & District News

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

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

JUNE 2022 VOL: 44 No: 6

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



Everyone in Marcham and District is invited to join the national Big Lunch to celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5th June at Marcham Centre see page 5 for more details



▲ Marcham Primary School Eco Council self portraits page 11 ▲



◀ Help Maddie get to the middle of the Maize Maze page 9



All Saints' Marcham with Garford
Holiday Club
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What's My Gift?
 Tuesday 30th August - Friday 2nd September
 For children aged 4 - 11 years
 Booking details next month.

Diary for June

Date	Event	Pg
2 & 3	MVS and Post Office CLOSED	5
5 Sun	Jubilee Celebrations, Marcham Centre from 10.30	5
11 Sat	MVS and Post Office opening until 12 noon	13
13 Mon	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Marcham Centre. 19.30	3
15 Wed	Abingdon Arts Society: Westminster Hall, Abbey Cinema, 10.30 & 14.00	7
17 Fri	Deadline for Millets Maize Maze Competition	9
19 Sun	Marcham Open Gardens, 14.00 – 17.00	7
20 Mon	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email editor@madnews.co.uk	
20 Mon	Marcham WI, Marcham Centre, 19.30	7
23 Thu	Deadline for comments on the Joint Local Plan	3
27 Mon	Wantage and Didcot 2022 Climate Summit, Online via Zoom, 09.00 – 13.30	19
27 Mon	Marcham Society: Kingston Bagpuize House, Marcham Centre, 19.15	7

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

Jubilee Holiday 2022 Waste Collection

~~Wednesday 8 June~~

Thursday 9 June

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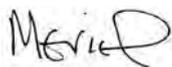
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Dear Readers

Crowns and Sceptres ready? It's party time for the Jubilee – see page 5 for your invitation to the Big Lunch.

Competition – help Maddie get to the centre of maize maze on page 9. I did have a slight worry about Maddie driving tractors but she assures me it is ok if it is only in a puzzle! Thanks again to Millets for the prize.

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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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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June 2022

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Council Meeting

The annual meeting of the Council was held on 9th May and Michael Hoath was elected Chairman and Ruth Mander Vice-Chairman. The following working parties were established: A 'green' group dealing with footpaths and climate issues, a group to deal with the Anson Field matters and liaise in the first instance with Marcham Community Group, an allotment working party, play area working party, and administrative groups such as those reviewing policies and the effectiveness of the Council's internal audit.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Council was pleased to see so many people from the village attend the annual parish meeting, and to welcome **Ricardo Rios and Robyn Tobutt**, from the Vale of White Horse District Council, to talk on Neighbourhood Planning. A Neighbourhood Plan contains planning policies which guide future development. They explained the benefits of a community undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan, and explained the process and support available. If you would like to help plan the future of Marcham, then please register your interest with the Clerk by emailing clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Reports too were given by **Cllr. Richard Webber** and **Cllr. Catherine Webber** on their activities at the County Council and Vale of White Horse District Council. **Viv Hutchinson**, Headteacher at the primary school too provided an insight into life in the school during Covid.

Potholes

During the Parish Meeting questions were asked about the state of the roads, paths and white lines which appeared around some potholes. Last year the County Council trialed a system in parts of the county, whereby a 'super user' could raise works orders for fixing potholes and kerbing issues on unclassified roads of less than 30 mph. An appointed volunteer assists highway officers by being the eyes and ears locally. The scheme was extended, and Marcham has its own 'super user' **James Plumb**. James has undergone a training course, as not all issues can be raised directly with the County Council's work team operatives. Residents can contact James directly regarding serious potholes. He can check the problem, and if it meets the relevant criteria, he will be able to issue a direct works order to have it fixed. He can be contacted on **07779 386205** or via email at jamesplumb22@gmail.com

Oxfordshire County Council – Survey of Parish Councils on Electric Vehicle Charging Points

The Parish Council has been approached to complete a survey about possible electric vehicle charging points in the parish. As

one potential location, should any ever be installed, is the village hall car park, the Council is seeking the views of Marcham Community Group before responding.

Road Closures

The County Council is proposing the following road closures:

A section of the A415 Kingston Road from its junction with A338 at Frilford over a 24 hour period for carriageway patching. 11th July, 2022 to 12th July, 2022

Packhorse Lane, Marcham from 26th July to 8th August over a 24 hour period for GigaClear works.

Blackhorse Lane, Cothill on 27th July 9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. for carriageway patching.

Street Lighting

As part of Oxfordshire County Council's LED street lighting replacement schemes, contractors are looking to carry out lighting replacements within Marcham Parish from the 30th May 2022. These works include replacing all street lighting columns which are over 25 years of age and replace the street lighting lanterns with new low energy LEDs.

Vale of White Horse District Council / South Oxfordshire District Council - Joint Local Plan Consultation

The two District Councils are working together on a new Joint Local Plan. They want to hear your thoughts on the main issues affecting the districts and how the Local Plan could address them. More information is on the District Council website. The consultation runs until Thursday 23rd June, 2022 and comments can be lodged at storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/54bfecae245242d9b3b7cd1e6b049388

No Planning Applications have been received for consideration by the Council

Date of Next Council Meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council is **Monday 13th June, 2022** at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Barrow Close OX13 6TY. 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
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References Available

Proprietor: Mr A Bunce

Hidden Heroes

This month we have unknown Hidden Heroes. We have received this letter:

Dear Editor

I would like to express my thanks, via MADNews, to all those people of Marcham who in some way or another helped to recover our spaniel 'Mollie', who slipped away without warning from our Saturday walk across the playing field. One kind lady posted a notice on Facebook and someone else, unknown, brought Mollie home safe and sound.



What a kind and generous community we live in, thanks to all. **JEREMY COLLINS**

We are looking for more nominations for your Hidden Heroes. Send a name (plus a photo if you want) and a short description of why you want to nominate them – email editor@madnews.co.uk or drop a note through the editor's door at 8 Orchard Way.

Dear Editor

Tuesday is a happy morning for Marcham toddlers playing in the church. Do any of your readers know where the name 'Tiddlypeeps' comes from? As a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, I'd not come across it till we came to live in this area and met these 'tiddlypeeps'!

JEAN

Dear Editor

A small group of Ukrainians and Belarusians, living in Marcham, would like to thank Rosemary, Grace, David and everybody who baked cakes and made knitted dolls to help with organising a cake stall at the Big Marcham Weekend in aid for Ukraine.

We raised amazing £188.54 which have been donated to United24 - the fund launched by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy as the main venue for collecting charitable donations in support of Ukraine. We chose the medical aid part of the fund.

A big **Thank You** to everybody who made their contributions!

TATYANA ROSENFELD



Dear MADNews Readers

I have this blanket almost ready to send to Ukraine and have a few squares towards the next one but am running out of wool. If anyone has spare bits and pieces they won't use I would love to have it. I can collect or it can be dropped off at Prior's Corner, Priory Lane or into the shop. Even bits as short as a metre can be of use.

SHEILA DUNFORD

Tel: 391439 Email: sheila.dunford@btinternet.com



You are cordially invited...

Everyone in Marcham and District is invited to join the national Big Lunch to celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5th June at Marcham Centre

10:30 - Open-air church service marking the jubilee – open to everyone

From 12:30 - Bring-and-share picnic lunch

There will be tables and seating available outdoors, but as spaces will be limited, please help by bringing a folding chair or blanket, if you have one, to help seat as many as we can.

- Thirsty Cafe will be running a BBQ outside the hall, selling burgers and soft drinks (see page 11 for details)
- No 12 Jazz band will be performing on the patio
- Marcham Centre bar will be open from 12:30
- Marcham Classic Car Club will be showing a selection of classic cars in the field from 12:30

Please come and help us celebrate this unique occasion

All Saints Marcham Marcham Community Group
Platinum Jubilee Celebration

Many congratulations to **Claire Wright** on receiving her Good Service Award from Scouts Oxfordshire. Claire has officially assisted in running Marcham Cubs for 25 years (unofficially 27 years). When our dear Chris passed away Claire stepped up and became the pack's Akela. Claire has helped and watched many, many boys and girls develop in their confidence, practical skills, friendships and take on challenges that sometimes took them out of their comfort zone. What an amazing achievement.

Well done Claire – you are such an inspirational woman.



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Marcham WI

Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 20th June 2022

At the Marcham Centre



Come and create your own mini flower arrangement

At our June meeting, two of our members will be demonstrating a mini flower arrangement and we will all have the opportunity to have a go at making our own version. So, come along and bring a small container, like a tea cup, small dish, or basket and some flowers and greenery and have a go to see what you can create. More details will be sent round to all our members in advance of the meeting..



Visitors are always welcome.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



The
**Marcham
Society**

**Monday
27th June
7.15 for 7.45pm
Marcham Centre**



The History of Kingston Bagpuize House by Virginia Grant

Visitors to Kingston Bagpuize House often comment on the welcoming atmosphere when they walk into the Entrance Hall and observe that it's clearly a home and not a museum. Set in the Vale of The White Horse and surrounded by its beautiful garden and parkland, the house is open for the public to visit and is also a perfect and exclusive venue for wedding celebrations, corporate functions and filming.

At the helm of the Estate today is **Virginia Grant**, who cares for the house with passion and determination. She will talk about the history of the house, the challenges she has encountered and how her legal training has helped her to run a historic home.

For more information contact
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk
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The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE
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The Story of Westminster Hall by Caroline Shenton



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Visitors are very welcome to attend this lecture, cost £6.00. If you are unable to come in person, you can view on Zoom. Please email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk for further information on the 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

Marcham Open Gardens

2-5pm Sunday 19th June 2022

Tickets and Maps available on the day from 7 Tower Close (via the cricket field) or Priors Corner (Priory Lane)

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Marcham Centre

With the advent of warmer weather and sunshine, more people are using the facilities at Marcham Centre. The patio has been particularly popular and for Thirsty Café openings and at weekends.

We had a great turn-out for the **Big Marcham Weekend**, with lots of people and an active program of events – coverage on page 17. A big thank-you goes to the MCG Events Team for all their carefully organised hard work putting this fantastic event together – they were due a well-earned rest by the end of it! Thank you also to everyone who supported it.

Coming events at Marcham Centre

Big Jubilee Lunch – Sunday 5th June

See page 5 for your invitation and page 11 for the BBQ options – please come and enjoy the celebration.

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. We are also looking for someone to help with book-keeping, especially for the Trading Company, which runs the bar. 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

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Millets
FARM CENTRE

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Millets Competition
Win a group pass for 4 people to Millets Maize Maze

Can you help Maddie find her way to the centre of the maze? Which colour tractor should she use? Send your answer to editor@madnews.co.uk by midnight on **Friday 17th June**. All correct answers will go into the draw to find the winner!

The maze is a complex grid of red walls and white paths. It features several illustrations: a brown monkey in the top left, a yellow tractor, an orange tractor, a blue tractor, and a green tractor. There are also several ears of yellow corn scattered throughout the maze. In the center of the maze, there is a small green sign that says 'Millets Maize Maze'. The maze is surrounded by larger illustrations of corn plants and tractors.

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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

We are thrilled to have received a tree which we planted as part of the 'Queen's green canopy' ... many thanks to Frosts for their generous donation. Our Hornbeam has been planted on the school field right next to pre-school (and our cherry blossom tree, also donated by Frosts) and we are looking forward to growing our own canopy for the whole school community to enjoy.



Gardening has been a hot topic this month and, having been gifted seeds, planters and compost from a lovely relative, the children have been planting seeds and waiting for the plants to sprout ... the seedlings have started to show ... and we've even discussed photosynthesis ... the children run outside each day to check the progress, measure the growth and count the leaves!

We have created a whole generation of green-fingered gardening experts.

We are so grateful to everyone that has supported Marcham pre-school... it makes a huge difference and strengthens the community feel that we are so very proud of.

Nicky Sanford, Early Years Teacher

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

- 'We should turn off taps when we are not using them and not keep them running while we wash our hands'
 - 'Pick up litter and use recycling bins'
- All of the committee are keen to keep the message in the forefront of everyone's minds by designing posters to display around school. They also have plans to ensure the recycling bins are in use. Well done to all of them!
- To see more about what the school has been up to go to <https://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages/VIV HUTCHINSON, HEADTEACHER>

SHEILA DUNFORD AND ANNE SMITHSON

received a charming letter from the charity 'Perennial' outlining their work helping horticultural workers in need. This was in response to their donation of £200 raised at their recent plant sale. They raised a further £200 at the Big Marcham Weekend which will go to support Ukraine, and would like to thank everyone who bought plants at the sales and from their respective gates.

You can find out more about the charity on their website: perennial.org.uk



Join us in celebrating the Jubilee with a community BBQ on Sunday 5th June 12:30-3pm at Marcham Centre.



Grab a table on the patio and enjoy music from No12 Jazz Band or bring a picnic blanket for Anson Field and admire local classic cars. Inside seating available. Marcham Centre bar will also be open.

We recommend pre-ordering so you can guarantee your food. Preorder at www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk. Payment is made on the day. If a BBQ is not your thing, you are welcome to bring a picnic and join others on the field.

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MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

This month, in the same way we have for the other student voice groups in our school, we will properly introduce our **Eco Council** members. They are Chloe L (Year 1) Zara G (Year 2), Ruby R (Year 3), Dexter W (Year 4), Oliver E (Year 5) and Tiarna L (Year 6). They have a clear focus on encouraging the school community to focus on environmental issues. They told me all about it...



Why did you want to be on the Eco Committee?
 All of the children could speak about the importance of caring for the environment. Chloe and Zara focused their attention on the effect of human behaviour on animals. Ruby and Tiarna both mentioned their care and concern about the world. Oliver loves trees while Dexter wants us to conserve water.

- 'I care about the animals and their habitats. When we litter it can hurt them'
- 'Looking after the water is really important. There is too much rubbish in the sea and it harms animals'
- 'I love trees! We have to stop wasting paper'
- 'The Earth needs looking after'
- 'We have had an amazing focus on this in Cubs. And I was on the eco committee in years 2 and 3 as well'

What have you done in the role so far? What do you talk about in meetings? The students have taken an assembly in school to focus everyone on how to help the environment. I asked them how we could do that:

- 'Turn off lights!'
- 'The teachers need to turn off their laptops when they are not using them – and put them on standby'

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A Look at Fungi

It's been suggested to me I review some books that readers might like to read that expands all our connections with the natural world around us.

One book I've read, which is worth reviewing is: **Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds and Shape Our Futures** by Merlin Sheldrake.

This is a potentially perspective-altering book, and at times remarkable, linking science and lived experience. This book quickly reveals the natural world, that we are part of, is more extraordinary and more intricate than we could imagine. The science is often explained in simple terms, but I think there could have been more of a focus on it, and less focus on magic mushrooms and drug-taking subject matters.

At times the text lacked direction, and I felt I could get a more concise explanation via a good Google search, but at other times the text was entralling.

It's a good read, helping give fungi the understanding and relevance they really should have. Though if you are looking for illustrations and images on each page, this isn't a book for you, as it may not engage you. Many people are engaged by images first, and then read the text and this is very much a text-dominated book.

There is a bit too much repetition for me, but it does reinforce some of the points the book rightly raises. The book is on the whole inspiring, and exercised my mind, by developing new thoughts and ideas about my own experiences in nature, and made me think about how so much of the world around us is interrelated, and reliant on hidden structures and processes.

If humanity learnt more about the unseen, and undiscovered species in the natural world, then we may just start to realise what we are at risk of losing, and convert that into actively trying to protect it.

There are end notes in this book, ideal for a reader who wants to do further exploration.

If anyone out there has read this book as well, I'd be interested in hearing your thoughts.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

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Jubilee Celebrations

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Old Bank Notes

Have you got any of the old paper £20 or even £50 notes stashed away? Now is the time to bring them into the Post Office as they will stop being legal tender on 30 September 2022. This includes Scottish notes as well.



Support your local shop

Residents can become share-holders 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

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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

The Council has a vacancy for a councillor. It is the tier of local authorities closest to the people and provides local services within the parish. It 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

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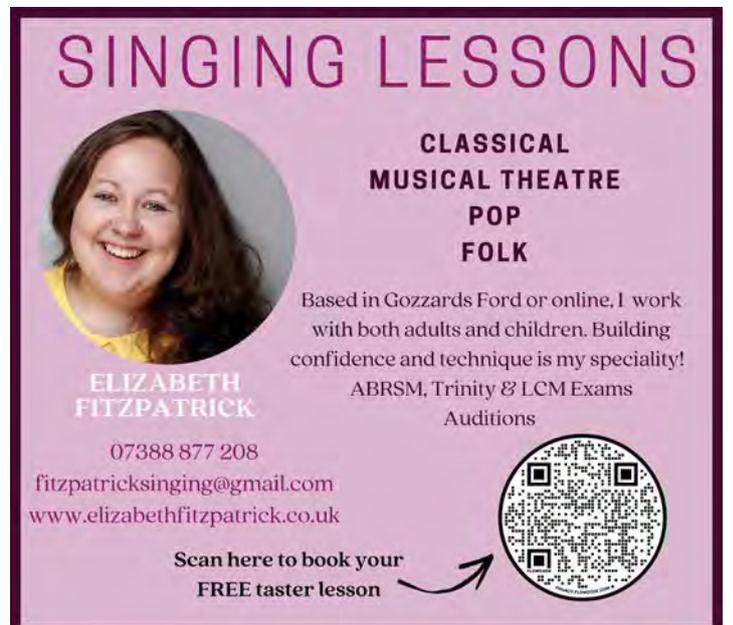
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AN EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN

The family have been overwhelmed by the many good wishes we have received since Mum passed away. The following words stand out in the cards, letters, emails and social media posts:-

determined, caring, positive, inspiring, welcoming, adventurous, creative, willing, talented, generous

I'd like to sum up all these words when I think about Mum's life and the impact she had on others. Mum has always had a love of writing, keeping a diary since a young age and producing many accounts of her life, some of which have been published and have won prizes. It is from a selection of these writings and my own personal memories that I have written this tribute to her.

Mum's childhood in Nottingham was dominated by the war. Living in an industrial city the threat of air raids was ever present. An air raid shelter was built in the family cellar, furnished and frequently occupied in the early years. Mum left school at sixteen in her own words "having scraped the school certificate" and got a job at the Ministry of Works, meeting future husband Victor who also worked there. They say office romances never last but Mum definitely thought he was a keeper and they were married in 1952. Dad's job with the UK Atomic Energy Authority took him to several sites ending up at Harwell and an Authority house in Abingdon. Mum was a full-time housewife at the time bringing up her three boys. The house we had was a little small and the search started for a bigger one. Dad worried whether they could afford a move but Mum had other ideas and looked for ways to move up the housing ladder.

Mum trained as a teacher to boost the family wage, attending Culham College. After leaving teacher training college Mum got a job at Larkmead School. Mum loved teaching, passing her knowledge to generations of kids and in her later years loved to be approached by pupils she had taught, some of whom had been inspired to teach themselves or had learned a musical instrument or joined a choir, but also by the more 'unruly' element of kids who confessed they had been disruptive but held her in respect for her can-do attitude and her enthusiasm for teaching the subject she loved. Teachers at the school were amazed at the determination she showed in getting pupils of all abilities involved, giving them the confidence to sing in choirs and act in school musical productions. With the extra money coming in from her teaching job the family were house searching and we found our present family home in Marcham. When we moved there over 50 years ago, Mum and Dad wasted no time in integrating themselves in village life, contributing to many social events such as the Marcham Son et Lumiere, Old Tyme Music Hall, plays and pantomimes. Mum was devoted to all aspects of church life at All Saints, playing piano at services and leading the church choir.

In Abingdon, Mum was a founder member and first President of WI Abingdon Fitzharris Branch. She joined WI in Marcham and using the extensive facilities of the college literally on her doorstep, let her art and crafts creativity run riot. Mum really was multi-talented – egg decorating, making corn dollies, pottery, brass rubbing, embroidery, watercolour painting, it seemed there was nothing she wouldn't try.

My father Victor suffered with dementia from 1982 until his death in 1999. For nearly twenty years, Mum was his devoted carer. She displayed great courage and patience in looking after him at home. Mum pored over research articles into the disease. Using her musical and organisational skills, she got heavily involved in fundraising events for the Alzheimer's Society. She took time to support and befriend fellow carers. She appeared on TV and Radio several times during this period of her life, contributing to documentaries on the subject to help raise understanding of this cruel disease.

During the later years of Dad's illness, Mum had to retire from teaching but her thirst for learning was still strong. She studied for several years with Open University on top of caring for Victor, achieving a BA with Hons in Humanities and winning a National Award for adult learning through the WI. She has also studied successfully for the Licentiate of the Royal Academy of music (LRAM), a very prestigious qualification. Mum was a keen environmentalist and joined Abingdon Carbon Cutters in her later years becoming their oldest and most active member. The environmental imperative to act on climate change before it is too late for future generations was her main focus. Mum was a pretty resilient woman, having survived breast cancer, pneumonia, a minor stroke and a very bad fall over the last twenty years or so but unfortunately her latest cancer diagnosis and subsequent treatment was to overwhelm her and severely restrict the busy life she had led until then. She became more reliant on home care but was determined to live independently in the house and village she so loved.

I would like to thank those close to her who helped her through her last few months and all of the love displayed by people in the village.

MARTIN WHILD

POEM

Written by Christine Whild and read by John Howden-Richards at her funeral service in an unforgettable performance!

In this modern age, we don't stop the clocks,
We don't put a wreath on the door,
We don't wear black veils and mourning dress,
Mostly, life carries on, just as it did before:
But nevertheless, it's a sombre occasion,
For someone we love isn't here anymore.

Life is fragile; just flesh, bone and thought,
Present one day – the next, slipped away;
Memories shared, good times enjoyed,
Too late now, for things we always meant to ask, or to say.

The music is silenced; the poems no longer read,
And we're feeling rather empty and blue:
The old world has vanished, spent, and gone,
With a yearning ache sending us slightly askew.

We may be weeping a few tears today,
As we gather in this Holy place;
But the Good Shepherd knows, and cares, and waits –
For the soul is eternal, by God's grace; and

New eyes will open on familiar fields,
New young hands will till the soil;
New pieces will be played on the old piano,
Service, joy and mirth will uncoil.

This old world will spin, as it always has,
Stars will twinkle and shine above;
The darkest house will come before the dawn,
But, above all, there will be new birth and love.

A full version of Martin's tribute and John's appreciation of Christine can be found on the MADNews website



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Wow what a weekend! The sun was shining and the Marcham community came together to enjoy the festivities. Firstly the **Bin and Real Ale Festival** on the Friday evening saw the patio alive with fun and laughter (as well as the queues for the bar)! The **Fête** on Saturday brought the community together, enjoying the entertainment, their purchases from the stalls or bouncing on the bouncy castle. The **Summer Dance** was so much fun, lovely to see people being able to dance and enjoy themselves. Big shout out and a huge thank you to the bar staff, hall committee members, events team, stall holders and entertainers whom without you all, these events could not take place. Thank you to everyone that helped move tables and chairs, man the doors, collected a glass or two and a really big thank you to The Reset, you were fabulous

Marcham Centre Events Team



Photos © Jim Asher 2022

▲ It's Magic Peter!



▲ Alpha Academy Oxford



▲ Ashnah dancers from Abingdon

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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

I thought I would start this report by highlighting a few recent Vale press releases which you might have missed.

FLY TIPPING MAN FINED

Following a successful prosecution, a man was fined £2,700 for fly-tipping a load of household waste in Shrivenham, including car seats, laminate flooring, a fire extinguisher and a dog basket. The Vale is keen to ensure that nobody is fooled by rogues, offering to remove your large waste, by following the SCRAP code:

S – Suspect all waste carriers – don't let them take your waste until you know they are legitimate.

C – Check they are registered waste carriers.

R – Refuse any unexpected offers to have your rubbish taken away.

A – Ask what will happen to your rubbish.

P – Paperwork – ensure you get an invoice, waste transfer note or receipt.

NEARLY £600,000 ALLOCATED TOWARDS A NEW PAVILION IN KINGSTON BAGPUIZE

You will all be aware of the large number of homes that have been built in Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor over the last few years, so it is good news that some of the money (nearly £600,000) collected from developers to build these developments is helping to fund a new pavilion in Kingston Bagpuize. Work on the new pavilion started in December 2021 and completion is expected over the summer. When complete, it will have a new function room with kitchen, together with changing and shower facilities to accommodate both home and visitor teams.

£500 FINE FOR COUNCIL TAX FRAUDSTER

A Grove resident has been fined after fraudulently claiming a reduction on her Council Tax. She claimed £3,500 in Council Tax reduction between 2016 and 2019, even though her circumstances had changed when her partner moved into her property. She will have to pay this money back as well as the fine. It is very important that you let the council know of any change in your circumstances if you are claiming council tax support, as not to do so is fraud. And if you know of anyone who is doing so, you are asked to call the confidential 24-hour fraud hotline on 01235 422483

ABBEY MEADOW OUTDOOR POOL'S FUTURE SECURED FOR FUTURE SUMMERS

This is an exciting piece of news for families and swimmers, as it has been confirmed that an agreement has been made with GLL, the company responsible for running the pool and splash pad, to open the pool in the Summer holidays despite spiralling costs that have closed more than 200 pools across the country. This outdoor pool has always needed to be heavily subsidised, even when at its busiest. Heating costs for the pool alone this season are expected to be around £107,000, compared to £47,000 in previous seasons. To help address these financial challenges, last year the council agreed a financial package with GLL which ensures that the pool is open every Summer holiday until 2026. So, this year, the pool is scheduled to open on 25 July and will remain open for six weeks throughout the holidays. The Abbey Meadows splash pad will also be opened, but a few weeks earlier than the pool, from Saturday 28th May ahead of the Platinum Jubilee long weekend, the same time as the splash pad in Wantage. *So, get your swimming things out ready for the Summer holiday!*

Other interesting news from the Vale**JOINT LOCAL PLAN (JLP)**

The Vale and SODC have been working hard on a Joint Local Plan in which there is a strong commitment to the climate emergency



and enhancing the environment (my portfolio until recently (May 2022), when I resigned from the cabinet for family reasons). The Vale is keen to encourage as many people as possible to take part in a new consultation which has just been launched..... an innovative new, digital approach to this consultation This allows people to explore some engaging interactive online content related to the Local Plan and answer quick and easy questions about what they think the key issues are that we should tackle. There is also the more traditional way of responding to the consultation which is found on the Joint Local Plan webpage. **If you have views about the next JLP, why not try to take part in this consultation?**

ENERGY REBATE

As you know, the news is full of the cost of energy and you might be interested to know that the Vale and South have already paid out over £8million in energy rebates to more than 54,000 households who pay their council tax by direct debit. From 16th May, letters will be sent out to the remaining 22,000 eligible households which will prompt them to complete an online form to confirm their bank account details so that they can receive their rebate. Households will have until 13th June to do this, and once their eligibility has been confirmed they should receive their money by 4th July. If you would like to know more about this, please look on the Vale's website whitehorsedc.gov.uk/counciltaxrebate.

So, that's it! I hope you have found something interesting in this month's report and do contact me if there is anything you want to query or talk about.

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07357 464699/ 01235 534001 or catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT B4016

This has been the subject of much discussion for many years now. Indeed, my first piece of casework when elected in May 2013, was to try to get proposals for a buildout to happen. After months of arguing over first the costing, then the type of buildout and its positioning and finally changes to Highway policy and Covid, the scheme was put on hold. Happily, a change in administration last year breathed new life and money into the proposal such that it will now happen this year. What this scheme, and others have taught me is that it is impossible to get unanimous agreement on Highway schemes.

Concerns about speeding and safety along the whole stretch of this road between Sutton Courtenay and Drayton have been around as long as the buildout. Indeed, I remember walking the road with our MP and OCC Highway officers some years ago to discuss what could be done to prevent any further fatalities. The two new mobile speeding signs have now been commissioned but there have been further disagreements over the siting of the poles to support the signs. In an effort to get things moving, I have agreed with Highway Officers on the initial sitings of the poles, but there is no reason why other poles could not be put up in the future. There is an increasing case for speed signs around Marcham – particularly Sheepstead Rd.

Drayton and Sutton Courtenay and Marcham Parish Councils are considering applying for 20mph zones within their villages.

Finally, if the HIF1 road scheme goes ahead (and there remains some uncertainty), the traffic modelling suggests that the new road would take away a proportion of the traffic currently using the road. It may be little more than a mile of road, but at last things are happening. Hopefully, many of the proposals will make the B4016 a safer road to live beside.



NOISE

Electric vehicles may well reduce traffic noise, but the amount of commercial activity in our area is giving rise to increasing numbers of noise complaints over lost sleep and impact on mental health. The trouble with noise is that it comes and goes so unless the measurements are taken at the worst time, the evidence is difficult to pin down. However, it is becoming apparent that the impact of heavy traffic is not just its effect on air quality and physical human health, but increasingly on mental health. It is not clear what can be done about this but it is something Councils need to be taking more seriously.

ELECTIONS

For many years, Oxfordshire has been a hotbed of political dispute. At first glance, last month's local elections might seem to have heated the atmosphere even further. There is one positive in that politicians across the County are realising the need for compromise and the need to take account of all opinions if they wish to get things done. This has to be a good thing.

HOLIDAY SEASON

It seems we may be in for a long, hot summer. For those able to afford them, holidays postponed or curtailed thanks to Covid are at last possible. With the world in its current state, some time in the sunshine, time to reflect and reorganise, may be just what we all need.

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

Phone 01235 534001 or email Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

MP'S REPORT

I recently passed over 25,000 constituent cases dealt with since I was elected in December 2019 (to those who don't like it when they don't get a fast reply, I hope this helps you understand why!). One of the first things to strike me when I became an MP was how the correspondence you get is so different from that in almost any other job, in a good way. Many MPs are councillors before they enter parliament, but even then, my ex-councillor colleagues might have represented 10,000 people at county or equivalent level and typically had a narrow range of topics they were contacted about. MPs represent tens of thousands – Wantage and Didcot is one of the largest constituencies at near 100,000– and are written to about every issue under the sun; during the pandemic, veteran MPs said the rate of correspondence we received was 3 times the level they'd ever seen. But the more people who contact me with problems the better, as being able to help them is the most rewarding part of the job.



Alongside individual cases I've been supporting 4 campaigns recently. One is continuing to help the local AEAT Pensioners obtain redress and I am pursuing something that I hope will give them an avenue for this. Another is to help Didcot resident, Sharon Gaffka, with her campaign on spiking. The Government recently moved the GHB drug – used in the majority of spiking cases – up a category so that the prison penalties for carrying it or producing it are increased. I took Sharon to meet the Safeguarding Minister so that she could explain what else she wants to see happen, including better education of young people.

I'm then supporting the Epilepsy Society's Zach's Law campaign to punish people who – believe it or not – send those with photosensitive epilepsy flashing images online in the hope that they will induce a seizure in the recipient. We're hopeful the Online Harms Bill will clamp down on this. I was also pleased to join 70 colleagues in calling on companies not to digitally alter body proportions in pictures, which give people – particularly young people – an unrealistic body image to aspire to, with negative consequences for their mental health.

Visit highlights since I last wrote include Faringdon Junior School, June 2022

where I took tough questions and learnt about dragons; the new Kingsgrove Cafe; the fabulous charity Mission Motorsport, which supports those affected by military operations over in East Challow; and being in Wallingford for the first day of Wallingford Radio's FM license (tune in at 107.3FM!).

Don't forget you can sign up to my Climate Summit on 27th June at www.david-johnston.org.uk.

As ever, if I can help with anything do get in touch via **David Johnston** david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

DAVID JOHNSTON OBE MP, Member of Parliament for Wantage House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
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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

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
The GARD AGM was well attended with some great discussion and ideas to support our campaigns planned for summer and autumn – thank you to all that came.

A 'Water Summit' has been scheduled by Oxfordshire County Council in Oxford for **11 June**. GARD will be co-chairs and the summit will seek to form a unified response from all levels of local community, environmental and political opinion. We will share how you can watch the summit (and perhaps even join) via video link once details are confirmed.

WRSE Draft Regional Plan consultation – WRSE's response to all the comments made on the plan are anticipated 20 May; we will keep you posted. WRSE have commented (but TBC) that the significant Oxfordshire response (almost 20% of responses across the whole South-east) could weigh heavily in the way the plan develops. Thanks again to all those who responded, we were copied into approx. 200 individual responses.

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

ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKES CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk



Jubilee Celebration Services, 5th June

10.30am: Marcham Community Centre
followed by a Thirsty cafe BBQ on the field

10.30am: St. Luke's Church, Garford

Long to reign over us, God save the Queen. We've all been singing that for years and God has certainly answered our prayers. It is 70 years since Queen Elizabeth II acceded to the throne in February 1952. Since then, it feels like so much has changed. In June 1953 27 million people watched the coronation on television. There were only 36 million adults in the country at that time. Perhaps one or two of you were there. Lots were. 8,000 people were in the Abbey, 29,000 members of the armed forces lined the route (nearly as many as in the whole Royal Navy today), and 3 million were on the streets of London. So much has changed in 70 years. Motorways, air travel for the masses, pop culture, space exploration, the internet, mobile phones.... The NHS was only 4 years old in 1952. The Beatles were still 8 years away. And Everest would not be conquered until just before Coronation Day.

It was a different world back then, but not in every respect. In 1952, much of Western Europe was still in the grip of post-war austerity with families struggling to feed their children. The end of rationing was still two years away. There was the growing threat of the Cold War, which would dominate foreign and defence policy for the next 35 years, and strike fear into many Brits as we worried at what Russia might be capable of. Not such a different world then. But amid all this, one person has remained the same. With steady, gracious, faithfulness the Queen has served this country through 70 years of triumph and trial. In that way she is respected by millions the world over, even by those who don't care much for monarchy. She has shaken the hand of thousands of people, the destitute as much as the distinguished, and she has poured tireless energy into the hundreds of charities and good causes of which she is patron.

But it is the Queen's steady faith in God that impresses me most. She is one of the most famous Christians in the world, unashamed of her personal trust in God. She is the Sovereign lady to whom everyone in the country bows; yet she herself bows the knee to Jesus. In her 2011 Christmas message she said, *"Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God's love."* She's right. Long may she reign! Details of local Jubilee events are in this issue of MAD News, including services of thanksgiving outdoors at Marcham Centre and at St Luke's Garford.

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

Graham Johnson

Henry Harpham

Baptisms

Henrietta France



Platinum Jubilee Community BBQ

Run by Thirsty Community Café

12-3pm, June 5th

Pre-book your food to guarantee getting it! Go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/platinum-jubilee-community-bbq-tickets-342037933667?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

....for full information

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