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Opening hours:
Mon - Thurs 15.00 to 23.00
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Sun 12.00 to 22.30

The portfolio of Oak Taverns has now been extended to include The Crown in the heart of Marcham. After an extensive refurbishment to bring the building up to current standards, it is now open to serve customers. With a range of craft ales and ciders, wines, spirits and soft drinks, as well as a selection of low and no-alcohol options, there is something for everybody. Those wanting hot drinks are not forgotten either. So that staff can encourage as wide a clientele as possible, there will be no pool or darts fixtures, though table games are encouraged.

Rick and Laura are our new hosts and will provide you with a warm welcome.

At the time of writing, the interior is still a 'work in progress' project, but images will be shown in next month's issue.

Where's MyDiary?

Your diary of events now appears on the back page, and in a new and user friendly format.

It enables readers to add their own entries for a complete monthly agenda.

I hope that you will find it easy to use, and that it will become your go-to reference for the month.



Editors Column

Oh dear! The September issue was not without it's errors and omissions. The most obvious of which was a failure to express our gratitude to Meriel for all her work in putting MAD News together for the past 18 years. I am sure that all our readers offer Meriel thanks and best wishes for her future.

The thing that fell to Earth

To call it a weather balloon is a bit wide of the mark. The balloon had deflated and the parachute took over, lowering the stricken weather station rather inconveniently into an open field beyond the allotments south of Cow Lane. Launched from Bath University and in conjunction with Croydon High School, its short 64 mile flight was curtailed as the escape of helium necessitated a thankfully gentle descent, leaving the instrumentation intact. The data collected will now go back to Bath University for analysis together with that collected by a sister weather balloon launched from the same site at the same time.



Johann Ting (l) and Badshah Kazi (r) with the rescued weather station after it 'got into trouble'.

And now for something completely different...

I have been asked if I could include Births, Deaths and Marriage entries.

I can only do so with your input.

Please forward details to editor@madnews.co.uk, if you wish such information to be published.



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Jane Mander

DEADLINES

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

ADDITIONAL COPIES

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

DISCLAIMER

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

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Robert Clegg, 42 Harding Way, Marcham, OX13 6FJ Tel: 07784225290
robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
For other councillors go to
www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

GARD Newsletter for October 2023



Thames Water proposes 150 billion litre reservoir – the largest possible!

Thames Water finally published their Water Resource Management Plan on August 30th. It is not good news. The saga of the Reservoir has been going on so long now that people may feel like giving up – PLEASE DON'T! It has never been more important to act.

Thames Water has decided to go ahead with the 'Abingdon Reservoir' – with key developments:

- although we were all consulted on their 100 billion Litre proposal, they have enlarged this to 150 billion Litres - that's 150 million tonnes of water sitting above us, with no apparent room for flood mitigation
- They have ruled out the quicker, we believe cheaper and more environmentally adaptive Severn Thames Transfer, designed to bring fresh water from the Northwest to the more drought-prone Southeast
- Southern Water, planned beneficiary of 2/3 of the reservoir capacity, is challenging the cost and logic of the water transfer scheme from the reservoir
- Thames Water has essentially rejected GARD's and probably your objections too, including the need to challenge the inaccurate population forecasts say they are forced to use.

The Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, could agree for Thames Water to proceed within weeks with no further consultation necessary. However, with Thames Water now accused of illegal sewage dumping and their own financial health in doubt, everybody should take action!

Lobby your MP:

We have support of the Vale of White Horse and Oxford County Councils, and we lobby within the industry, but you can still help:

- If your MP is David Johnston, Wantage (covering Grove, Steventon, East and West Hanney, East and West Hendred, Ardington, Drayton, Garford, Milton, and Sutton Courtenay) you can contact him on david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk It is important to ensure that he actively opposes the reservoir and lobbies Thérèse Coffey
- If you live in Abingdon, you can support your MP Layla Moran's opposition – and seek her support at layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

Please copy gard.secretary@gmail.com into any correspondence and see the website for developments <https://www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk/>

Derek Stork
Chairman GARD

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Marcham Pre-school have opened again for a new school year, and the children have settled in beautifully. It promises to be a fantastic year! Already, we have been exploring castles, construction, monster trucks, painting, nursery rhymes, Owl Babies, and Our Family. It's an exciting time as we get to know our new families and find out about changes for our existing families. We very much follow the interests and needs of individual children and this means that every day brings something different and we never know what it is going to be! We also plan specific areas that we know will widen children's knowledge and experiences, such as road safety and autumnal changes.

When one of the children wanted to build a car from our Outlast Blocks, it soon involved lots of children (SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT), we had to make our car big enough for everyone to sit on (MATHS), we had to decide where we were going to go in our car (LANGUAGE + THE WORLD), we all climbed aboard and pretended to travel along (IMAGINATIVE PLAY) and even visited the drive through when everyone had to give their order (MARK MAKING).... It was a wondrous day... but who knows what the blocks will become tomorrow!

We are currently taking applications for September 2024 for children who will be aged 2 years or above, living in Marcham, Frilford or Garford.

If you would like to find out more, arrange a visit or request to join our waiting list, please get in touch via marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

Nicky Sanford

Early Years Teacher - Marcham Pre-school

01865 392101

Little Angels

Our summer has been all about Graduation and our school leavers! We had the most wonderful graduation ceremony on Friday 14th July where we celebrated with cake, tears and laughter as we said goodbye to those Little Angels who are leaving us to go off to school! The weather was very soggy but we were not going to let a little bit of rain stop us from celebrating! Luckily a last-minute change of location meant the show could still go on! The Little Angels team pulled it out the bag if we do say so ourselves, and everyone agreed the hall looked great! September is always a busy time of year for us and this year is no exception!

On 1st September The Little Angels team received a day of Makaton training from the wonderful Libby from Hands Aloud. The team had such a fun day learning lots of Makaton to support our Little Angels communication skills, thank you Libby!

As we ended August by saying goodbye to lots of our families and we began September by saying "welcome!" to even more new ones! Our Little Angels family is growing bigger and bigger and we really hate to disappoint families, but we are currently full until September 2025! Unfortunately, we have no guaranteed spaces before then so if you are thinking about adding a new Little Angel to your family, please contact us sooner rather than later!

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MCG Public meeting and AGM 17th Oct 19.30

Marcham Community Group (MCG) will be holding a public meeting and brief AGM at 7:30pm on Tuesday 17th October in the Small Hall at Marcham Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend (although only MCG members will be able to vote on the AGM resolutions). Current MCG members will have received a formal notice and agenda for the AGM, with report and accounts and details of the director elections. This is your opportunity to learn more about MCG, and ask questions about the way that Marcham Centre is run, and also more information about the MCG Community Investment fund and how the trustees are supporting local community groups and activities.

MCG Community Investment Fund

If your club or other group activity needs support to further the interests of our community, and you are interested in making an application for investment funding, please email admin@marcham.org for further details and an application form.

MCG Membership

Marcham Community Group relies on its members to support what we do – running Marcham Centre and the MCG Community Investment Fund. Please do your bit to support us by becoming a member of Marcham Community Group (£5 for single membership, £8 family). You can download an annual membership form from the MCG website (www.marcham.org) or by sending an email to membership@marcham.org. You may also join (or re-join) at the AGM.

If you are already a member, but have not yet renewed your membership for the current year (April 2023-March 2024), please do so as soon as possible. Your support really counts!

Volunteers

Marcham Community Group relies heavily on volunteers to support the operations of Marcham Centre. As well as support for hall operations and volunteers for the bar, we are looking for volunteers with finance experience to assist us with day to day book-keeping. Please contact jim.asher@btinternet.com, if you are able to help. You could be making a difference!

Indoor short-mat bowls at Marcham Centre are held every Wednesday 2pm. Please contact Colin Trinder c_trinder@btinternet.com or just turn up.

Table Tennis - the table tennis table is available to hire, for periods of an hour or more. This can be made by booking a slot in the meeting room via the www.marchamcentre.org website. Please note: this room is used for other purposes, so you will need to book and pay the 'local user' fee of £8 per hour. Please remember to bring your own bats and balls.

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

Marcham Village Shop and Post Office

Opening hours

Monday-Friday – 08.30-17.00 hrs

Saturday – 08.30-12.00 hrs

Sunday and Bank Holidays - closed

Where has the time gone? Summer seems to have passed us by and Hallowe'en and Bonfire night are fast approaching. Lookout for seasonal treats and gift ideas in the shop. We're always trying to introduce new products, including Christmas gifts and more gardening products. Check us out or visit our Facebook page.

Hedges meats are now available to order in the shop. You will be able to order various cuts of meat, sausages, steaks etc. Come and see for yourself. Orders should be placed by 5 pm on Wednesdays ready for collection between noon on the following Friday and noon on Saturday. Payment will be taken at the time of ordering, and if there are any issues/queries with your order, you will be informed on the Thursday. Unfortunately, any non-collections will not be refunded, however, cancellations and refunds will be available up until 5 pm on the Thursday.

Royal Mail has announced that they will be increasing some of their prices. From 2 October, the key changes will be implemented as follows:

- 1st class letter stamps will increase by 15p – the new price will be £1.25;
- Large letters (1st and 2nd class) will increase between 30-55p except for the heaviest weight band;
- Up to 2kg Special Delivery prices will increase by 50p;
- Over 2kg Special Delivery prices will increase by £1;
- Parcelforce Worldwide will increase in price by 17-23% for inland services;
- All other services, including international, will remain the same.

Remember you can buy your stamps from us before they go up!

**A note for your diary:
Last posting dates for Christmas.**

Monday 18 December	2nd class & 2nd class signed for
Tuesday 19 December	1st class & 1st class signed for
Wednesday 20 December	Pre-paid Royal Mail Tracked 48® (not available to purchase at PO)
Thursday 21 December	Pre-paid Royal Mail Tracked 24® (not available to purchase at PO)
Friday 22 December	Special Delivery Guaranteed®

The electrical work that needed to be done in the shop has now been completed. We hope that the ½ day closure did not inconvenience you too much. Thank you for supporting your local Village Shop and Post Office and we look forward to seeing you again very soon. And, if you're interested in volunteering, we only require 2 hours of your time a week. Please come into the shop and let us know if you're interested.

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

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Thursday 19th october 2023

**19.00 In the small hall at the Marcham Centre
“When the Chips Are Down” – a talk by Chris Frost**

A talk to be given to the astronomy group. All members welcome, guests £5

A talk about ‘**the effect of extra-terrestrial radiation on modern electronics**’
to be given to the Astronomy Group. All Members welcome, Guests £5

Monday 23rd october 2023

**19.15 for 19.45 in the main hall at the Marcham Centre
‘It’s a Bat’s Life’ by David Endicott**

The talk with a Powerpoint slide show describes a year in the life of bats from birth to hibernation
and work done by the Oxfordshire Bat Group.

David will describe the bats and will discuss the populations in Oxfordshire,
their conservation needs, activities and surveys carried out at roost sites.



David works with the Oxfordshire Bat Group which provides a rescue service
for grounded, sick or injured bats, with the aim of getting them back into the wild whenever possible.

Captive injured bats will be shown after the talk,
including ‘Norman’, the noctule rescued from Cothill Woods.

All members welcome, guests £5

For more information:

Email : marchamsociety@gmail.com

Website : www.marchamsociety.org.uk

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The All Saints & St Lukes Church pages

Contacts:

Revd. Nick Weldon 01865 391962
vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org

Jill Rowe
Children and Families minister
families@allsaintsmarcham.org

Rob Finch
Youth Worker
07888 331708,
rob@marchamyouth.org

Tamsin Gilbert
Parish Administrator
info@allsaintsmarcham.org

Poppy Appeal

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for details

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10.00: Morning Service at All Saints'

18.00: Evening Service

Wednesday Holy Communion 10.30 at Duffield Place

The Courage of Faith

"Faith is being sure of what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. For Christians, it is about trusting God and acting upon them. By doing because Jesus died on a cross for us, of Christianity. I didn't see him. But over time I have become convinced accordingly. This is why most people are opposed to one another. Relying on faith. Make-believe says there is no being persuaded that there is no evidence. However, faith does not believe that the bridge will hold. It leaves the runway. I have no power of falling is not welcome, but a fall doesn't really bother me. For me, it's its job, so I put my faith in them. Of Jesus, I think what the Bible says. My experience of life, and so I put my faith in it. It's been said, "you should do something everyday that scares you". Once or twice a year we should sum up. There is a tendency in many of us to see and do nothing that scares us for fear of the lesser for it and we can miss out on the risk averse times, and in my experience, deeper spiritual enquiry too. So, in autumn before the year is out, it's a direction in your career. It could be a time to explore with the seasons approaching?"





the hope for and certain of what we do not see,” so
ans, faith is about believing in the promises of
y faith, I believe God has forgiven me of my wrong-
a cross in my place. It’s one of the central aspects
die or rise again with my own eyes. I wasn’t there.
onvinced of the evidence, and I try to live my life
Christians tend to reject the idea that faith and reason
reason and make-believe are, but make-believe is not
are fairies living by the pond in my garden. Faith is
in fact a frog living there, because I have seen the
take courage; it always does, like the courage to
d as I walk across it, or that the plane will fly when it
problem with heights or flying. I like both. The prospect
as long as I feel safe at height the distance to earth
ne, reason dictates that the plane or the bridge will do
m. Likewise, when it comes to the person and work
e says about him holds true, it resonates with my
my faith in him.

one thing a day that scares you”. I’m not sure doing
es you is particularly good advice, but maybe once
up the courage of faith and go for it. I think there is
ek to live unchallenging and unchallenged lives: to
ear of failure or exposure. I think we are often the
ut on what life has to offer in God’s world. We live in
xperience, this seems to affect our courage towards
o I challenge you to take an adventure of faith this
It might be some new venture in life or a change of
ld be an adventure into faith itself, and what better
ns of Remembrance, Advent and Christmas fast

St Lukes

Sunday 1st October, 11.00: Family Service
Sundays Oct 8,15,22,29:
Church open for quiet prayer 11.00-12.00.
Sunday 22nd Oct, 18.00: Service of Light for loved ones.
Contact: Carolyn Whiting
st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org



The Bring & Share Lunch



Our Harvest Festival service was well attended on delightfully sunny day.
The choir sang For The Beauty of The Earth (Rutter). It was stunning.
The service was followed by a pet blessing attended by various village dogs some of which
needed more blessing than others!!!!
And after all that we had a bring and share lunch that finished as the sun went down.
A special thank you to Lucy, Rosie, Jan and Otto who represented the children in our village by
bringing offerings of fruit and vegetables for our service.
All goodies were taken to the Abingdon food bank.

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Thirsty Cafe / Community Events

It was nice to welcome back new and regular customers after our summer break. For those who have not yet visited the cafe we are at the Marcham Centre on a Wednesday and Saturday mornings 09.00 to 11.30. We sell a wide range of cakes and now with our new coffee machine a wide range of coffees, as well as sausage rolls on a Wednesday and bacon, sausage and egg baps on Saturdays.

Once a month we have a community lunch in partnership with Little Angels everyone is welcome. Lunch is served between 12.00 and 14.00 with a vegetarian option available. The cost is £8 for adults and £4 for children. The next lunch is on 25th October.

Our new coffee machine is proving to be a great success with people appreciating having a wider coffee menu. We had our AGM on Thursday 14th September where we saw it had been a year of growth, with Men's breakfast, Stay and Play, Community lunches, Live music events, 5K Millets run and private events. The Café has employed 2 part time managers and been able to give out community grants. Hopefully with your support we will be able to continue to grow this next year.

We are volunteer led, we are keen to have more volunteers. It is a great way to meet people in the community. There are all sorts of ways people volunteer and you can give as many hours as you want. We especially need someone to help put up the tables and chairs at the beginning of the morning and help to take them down.

If you are thinking about doing the Duke of Edinburgh award we provide volunteering opportunities in the village. We have lots of experience in supporting the young volunteers. Please contact us to know more. We would like to thank Millets Farm for hosting the 5K and everyone who donated prizes.

Marcham WI

The 16th October is our open meeting with everyone welcome, so please come along and bring your husbands, partners, friends and neighbours to listen to our speaker, Ann Ford on 'Morris Minor in the Media'.

We all remember the Morris Minor - that cute, round, little car from over 50 years ago. Recently, it has had a change of personality and is now a star of movies, advertising and weddings. Ann Ford owns several of these charming old ladies. Come and hear about its transformation from frumpy car to super star!

Wine and Cheese will be served following the talk. We hope to see you there for a sociable evening with friends old and new from 19.30.

All visitors are welcome - £5, including cheese and wine. For any further information, please contact:
Pippa Hoath: 01865 391349
pippahoath@gmail.com

The Gardening Column

Are the Seasons and Years really passing by faster?

So, another summer season is over, and if like me, it feels like the seasons and years are getting shorter and going faster, then like me you'll need to remind yourselves that largely, the only thing that changes, is we ourselves are getting older. That realisation reminds us that time is short for us, and so are the years and seasons.

What doesn't change is that nature's routines and cycles largely remain the same, although it is true those cycles can be disrupted by unpredictable seasons and weather.

We need to keep reminding ourselves to appreciate what's right there in front of us, and stay in the moment. We gardeners are as guilty as anyone for living in the future, as we plan, peruse and plant things that reward us in the coming years.

Enjoying the moment, enjoying what's in front of us, and giving our garden a thorough dose of 'looking at', is something easily neglected. Busying ourselves may seem a productive use of our time, but my accountant regularly reminds me, "you can be a busy fool".

Just sitting and looking, listening and feeling, can make us realise what we're missing, what we're not appreciating, and maybe even the time to give us fresh ideas, and perspectives. Maybe even an enhanced sense of reality, if there is even such a thing.

That all may give us a fresh impetus as to how to make the garden better, and not forgetting it may get us to allow ourselves more times to be in the moment, more often. After all, what are we really running away from, apart from ourselves.

Happy Gardening
Stuart Mabbutt

Wildlife Gardening Specialist
01865 747243
www.wildmaninspires.co.uk



Parish Council News

Grants

The Parish Council considers any requests for grants at its November meeting. Grant requests are considered usually just once a year. Therefore, if there is any worthy and needy organisation where Marcham residents benefit, which is considering applying to the Parish Council for a grant, and has not yet done so, then please note the deadline for submissions is 15th October, 2023. Applications received after that date will not be considered.

The Council's grant policy and grant application form are available in the publications section, on the Council's website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk. Please complete the application form and return it to the clerk – details are on the form. Please also enclose a copy of your organisation's accounts.

Allotment Rent Collection

The Clerk will soon be collecting allotment rents for the year 23/24. It would be helpful in due course, if tenants could arrange to transfer the rent amount due straight into the Council's account via online transfer. Details of the amount payable will be available shortly. Any tenant not having on line banking can still send a cheque payable to Marcham Parish Council for the amount due to the Clerk's address at 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham.

Planning Applications / Street Trading Licence applications considered by the Council

P23/V1880/FUL and P23/V1881/LB Change of use from residential college to single family dwelling at Denman College. Council had no objections to the application, but did request a construction management plan, traffic plan and details of hours of working, to ensure that the conservation area, and nearby households were not affected. It requested that water run off from the site was not to go into the public sewer system, any historical carved stone blocks to be preserved, and a maintenance plan for trees near to and overhanging public footways and paths to be created.

Street Trading Licence applications have been considered. These were from various street food vendors in connection with Oak Taverns, to trade, one at a time, between the hours of 12.00 to 21.00 Monday to Sunday, from the yard at The Crown Public House, at the corner of North Street and Packhorse Lane. The Council made comments about litter, and the need for an appropriate receptacle.

Play Area

Work to construct the new adventure play area in the Anson Field began in August. The playground provides a range of facilities to cater for children of all ages and abilities and offers a variety of different themes for play. The Council thanks everyone for their understanding and patience during the construction period when it could not be used. At the time of writing, inspections of the installation are taking place, and any queries being dealt with. The new play area will open as soon as possible. Any information about the re-opening date, or other matters will be posted on the Council's website. The Council has a working party now looking at the items for outside the fence, together with landscaping and seating.

Oxfordshire County Council - 20 mph proposal for village roads and extension of 30 mph limit to Cow Lane

The County Council's Cabinet Member for Highway Management reviewed the proposals for the extension of the 30 mph limit northwards along Sheepstead Road up to Cow Lane, and the 20 mph limits put forward by the County Council for the village centre. He listened to all the comments and concerns that had been submitted. The policy of the County Council is that lower speed limits are safer, and he deemed that the schemes met the policy as set out. A request had been lodged by one correspondent that even more lower speed limits should be created, and the officers dealing with the matter were asked to keep this in mind. The schemes for both the 20 mph limits in the village centre, and the extension of the 30 mph limit along Sheepstead Road have therefore been approved.

Advance Notice - A415/Church Street/New Road

As Sunday 12th November, 2023 is Remembrance Sunday, a Road Closure will apply to the A415, Church Street and New Road to allow the parade to the War Memorial following the service in Church. The timings are currently being finalized but will be approximately between 10.45 a.m. to 12.15p.m. The diversion during this period will be North Street, Sheepstead Road, Faringdon Road and A338.

Trick or Treat - 31st October

It is approaching that time of year again when children can be tempted into going out trick or treating. Normally it is a harmless pastime for children, but it can also be both frightening and intimidating for some residents who have unexpected knocks on their doors. If you go out at Halloween, please respect the wishes of anyone who does not wish to participate.

If you do get an unexpected caller, make sure the chain or door bar is on before you open the door. Do not let anyone in your house unless you are happy with their identity.

If you need to talk to the police call 101 or dial 999 in an emergency.

Parish Council News cont'd

Fireworks

Whilst it is only October, fireworks night at the beginning of November will soon be upon us. A reminder to please think ahead and to be considerate for neighbours, and the many pets and animals in the village when letting off your fireworks.

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

Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 9th October 2023 at 19.30 in the Village Hall, Barrow Close. Please check the Council's website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk in case arrangements change.

NB Office Services

Qualified Bookkeeper with over 10 years' experience in Office Management and PA

Telephone: 01865 392866

Mobile : 07775 690522

Email: Nicola.bunce@nbofficeservices.co.uk

THE FRIENDS OF THE BBOWT COTHILL RESERVES

The Cothill area is extraordinarily rich in wildlife, from the internationally important Cothill Fen, with its ancient fen, to Dry Sandford Pit with its intriguing young fen and Hitchcopse Pit, formerly a quarry, now a haven for rare solitary bees and wasps. The Friends were founded in 1987 in memory of gifted local botanist Jeremy Milton. Members receive information about the Reserves and enjoy expert led walks. There is no membership fee and no obligation to carry out work on the Reserves. The Friends is not a fund raising body.

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



- Moss Removal
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info@mossinator.co.uk
www.mossinator.co.uk

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Marcham Centre

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The Arts Society Abingdon

Pins & Poking Sticks

Decoding dress in Shakespeare's time with Jacqui Ansell

A contemporary of Shakespeare informs us that 'a ship is sooner rigged by far than a Gentlewoman made ready'. In The Winter's Tale, Autolycus peddles 'pins and poking sticks of steel', seductive smocks, perfumed gloves, bugle beads and other irresistible items. What were these objects and what was their role in the 'art' of dress? In this lecture Elizabethan and Jacobean portraits will be decoded, focusing on the life and death of Prince Henry, and the sartorial splendour of his sister's wedding in 1613.

The lecture will be held at the Abbey Cinema at 10.30 and 14.00 on 18th October. For further information please contact us at info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk

Holidays

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246

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Helen Carter
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Web: www.helencarterphotography.co.uk

Email: helen@helencarterphotography.co.uk

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MP's Report

I was honoured last month to be appointed the Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing.



It's particularly special for me to be placed in the Department for Education given my pre-politics career was spent running organisations for children and young people. It often surprises people when I tell them that, before I became an MP, I had never been in politics before, whether as a councillor, advisor, or candidate.

In my new role I have responsibility for a wide range of areas such as early years and childcare – including the delivery of the Government's new commitment to provide 30 hours a week free childcare from when a child is 9 months old until they start school - as well as Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), children in care, adoption and kinship care – vital areas that help support some of our most vulnerable young people - not to mention mental health.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to work on giving children across the country the best start in life.

It was also a delight to attend the unveiling of the new Agatha Christie statue in Wallingford, a place she lived for 42 years. The architect has done a really great job and it was a pleasure to meet her grandson, Matthew, who did the actual unveiling. I recommend a visit to see it when you have time!

Some other recent visits made by me included meeting with a group of unpaid carers in Wallingford, facilitated by Val Wolsey and Carers Oxfordshire, to talk about their experiences and listen to their concerns, attending an Innovator Day at Harwell Campus where I gave a speech and talked to staff and investors about the world-leading work that Harwell is doing, and visiting SeeAbility in East Hagbourne who provide support services for people with learning disabilities, many of whom have sight loss.

I have been campaigning to see Grove Station re-opened since I was elected nearly 4 years ago and have now launched a petition of Parliament. This is something MPs can do on matters that are important to their constituents and I've done so to keep the pressure up. I am delighted that 1,750+ people have signed so far and the more signatures we collect, the stronger the message we send to the Department for Transport – so please do sign if you are able to and encourage your friends and family that live in the constituency to do so too.

cont'd overleaf

St Michael's Church Christmas Fair

Saturday 11th November 2023

10 am – 2 pm

Gift Stalls	Games	
Tombola	Books	
Cakes	Plants	Paintings
Jewellery	Bric-a-Brac	
Prize Raffle	Refreshments	

Proceeds in aid of church funds and the Archway Foundation

Enquiries to jheff@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk

St Michael & All Angels' Church, Park Road, Abingdon

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Suitable for all the family

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Craig

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and friends...

All Saints Church, Marcham

Saturday 28th October

Donations on the door. Pizza/BBQ@5pm Concert@6pm

Profits to support Community Health work in Mozambique

MP's Report cont'd

You can sign on my website at: www.david-johnston.org.uk/GroveStation.

If you read this in time, do attend or spread the word about my Pensioners' Fair at the Beacon in Wantage on Wednesday 27th September from 12:30pm to 4:30pm. I am grateful that so many local and national organisations will be in attendance including the Department for Work and Pensions, Age UK Oxfordshire, Barclays Bank, My Vision Oxfordshire, and Vale Community Impact. Details on my website www.david-johnston.org.uk/PensionersFair.

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

However, I wanted to commend on behalf of all Sutton Courtenay residents, the enormous amount of effort over many months put in by the Parish Council, their advisors and many well known residents with particular knowledge and experience. Whatever the outcome, it has been a pleasure to work with them.

GigaClear Box at Parkside, Marcham

Walking down New Rd in warm weather, it is impossible to ignore the noise of the cooling fans and the disturbance caused to residents of Parkside. A number of public spirited residents have helped monitor the situation and, together with officers from VWHDC, OCC, and District and County Councillors, pressure is being exerted on the installers to address the problem. With District responsible for noise measurement and County responsible for internet provision, there has been a need for a coordinated effort.

County Councillor's Report

OCC Children's Services

As you may have read in the Press, a recent Ofsted report listed Oxfordshire's Children's Services (along with others) requiring improvement. There is particular criticism of the lack of support given to children and parents of children with special needs. We have a number of families who have been affected by this. The Council has accepted the findings of the report in full and has already begun to take actions to rectify the problems including increased funding (with consequent pressure on the budget). I will give further details on the actions to be taken in my next report.



20mph zones

I am disappointed that this issue is becoming a political football for a minority of residents. Just to make it clear, I was elected to take decisions some of which might be contentious. I repeat that the overwhelming number of people who have contacted me support the proposals. Rather than write separate emails to the 7 people who have contacted me opposing the initiative, I am restating my position here. 20mph zones are Parish Council proposals but I fully support them. There is mounting evidence that lives are saved and that the quality of life in our towns and villages is improved by 20mph zones – with or without enforcement.

Hobbyhorse Lane Appeal

The third attempt to get this application (turned down by planning committee several times) approved is currently being heard by a planning inspector. As such, it would be improper for me to express an opinion here. There will be time for that later.

Accidents and the Young

With the recent tragic accident in Marcham involving young people in mind, I have signed up to a task and finish group of the Police and Crime Commissioner Scrutiny Committee. This will allow me to raise the issue of education of future young drivers in schools and colleges. Education in schools has made a considerable difference in the approach of young people to drugs, smoking and alcohol. As a self confessed attendee of a speed awareness course, I am convinced that education is the most effective way of changing behaviour.

Hif1

Leaving aside the fact that the country is divided on whether or not road building is a solution to congestion, a decision on the future of this project is now in the hands of the Secretary of State. He has "called in" the decision of the Planning Committee to refuse the application. We should hear the result in the early new year.

MEPC

One of my roles as an elected councillor, is to Chair regular meetings of the. MEPC Liaison committee involving local parish councils and MEPC reps. Of all the meetings I have to attend, these are the most informative and constructive.

We are fortunate in this area to have such a successful and environmentally aware commercial operation in our midst. It is clearly a great place to work. I can recommend the bus services and the coffee. And, in case you are wondering, I do not have shares in the operation.

Richard Webber Cllr
richardwebber777@gmail.com
07546 571521

Cont'd...

District Councillor's Report

In the run-up to the local elections in May, a concern that I heard often on the doorstep was the state of Abingdon town centre: many of the local shops of years past had closed down, and there was an impression that what replaced them did not compare to Abingdon's former charm. In between getting up to speed on the District Councillor role and grappling with some urgent issues that have sprung up since I was elected, I have been looking into this:



The Central Abingdon Regeneration Framework (CARF) was published in February, following a process that included consultation with residents. The CARF is a long-term plan for regeneration of downtown Abingdon, aiming to revive the high street and promote active travel in and around the area. There is no magic bullet in here, but the CARF describes the long-term ambition for Abingdon that will help inform decisions over the coming years, both directly and through its impact on the upcoming Joint Local Plan and other development plans.

The Charter car park in the centre of Abingdon has been partially closed since March 2021, as the building's structural integrity was found to be unable to safely support the combined weight of vehicles on the higher floors. There has been some recent activity on the car park, with procurement of a specialist concrete contractor for repairs underway, but there are not yet any timelines known for changes to the car park's capacity.

After several years of sitting empty, Old Abbey House was bought by a local, family-run business in 2021, with the intention of converting it into a hotel. Renovation work has been underway since then and is now approaching completion: I look forward to the day when it reopens, and the business contributes towards tourism in the area and to Abingdon's regeneration.

The 'other' Abbey House, which is temporarily the headquarters for VWHDC and for South Oxfordshire District Council, and also hosts some staff from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and the Citizens Advice Bureau. South and Vale should one day be moving to a new headquarters in Didcot, freeing up space that could be put to use for community or retail purposes.

Upgrades to the White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre, in east Abingdon, are upcoming. These include heat pumps and solar panels to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions, and refurbishment of the outdoor tennis courts.

Finally, a County matter rather than a District one, but worth mentioning anyway: the much-needed extension to the Lodge Hill A34 junction, adding slip-roads to the south, has been approved by OCC Planning. The OxWAb MP, Layla Moran, is applying pressure on central government to ensure they transfer the budgetary contribution they pledged, so that work can hopefully soon begin.

Cllr. Dr. Robert Clegg
District Councillor for Marcham Ward
Phone: 07784 225290
Email: robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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How much easier can that be.

You will never be left alone. There is always someone with you who knows how to do it if you get stuck.

It is good fun and you get to meet people in the village you haven't had chance to talk to for years or to make new acquaintances.

Come along and give it a try. You will love it.

Just fill in the form on the reverse and drop it into the shop. We will arrange the rest.

October 2023

Deadline day >>>

November 23						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Postal charges Go up: See p7	3	4 Ladies Coffee Marcham Centre 10.15	5	6 Family Bingo Marcham Centre 19.30 Men's Night Latin American & Quiz All Saints - 19.30 Friday Club - as below	7
8	9 Games Morning Duffield Place: 10.00-12.00	10	11 Ladies Coffee Marcham Centre 10.15	12	13 Friday Club Marcham Centre 17.30-18.30	14
15	16 WI Talk 'Morris Minor in the Media' Marcham Centre - 19.30	17	18 Ladies Coffee Marcham Centre 10.15 Arts Society Lecture Abbey Cinema 1030 & 1400 Community Lunch Marcham Centre - 12.00	19	20 Deadline for November issue editor@madnews.co.uk Friday Club Marcham Centre 17.30-18.30	21
22	23 Games Morning Duffield Place: 10.00-12.00	24	25 Ladies Coffee Marcham Centre 10.15	26	27 Friday Club Marcham Centre 17.30-18.30 Quiz Night Marcham Centre - 19.30	28 An Evening of Music Parish Church: 19.30 See p13 Clocks go back
29	30	31	1 Ladies Coffee Marcham Centre 10.15	2	3 Friday Club Marcham Centre 17.30-18.30	4
5	6 Games Morning Duffield Place: 10.00-12.00	Forthcoming Events: November 18th - Christmas Craft & Gift Fair - Marcham Centre				

Calling all groups, organisations and individuals - everyone!!

Remembrance day is fast approaching and we would love to make a very visual statement as a way of remembering the fallen and all who fight to keep our country safe and free.

We're asking for poppies, lots of poppies (and I mean LOTS!), and we will string them down from the church tower.

Poppies will need to be:

WATERPROOF
(paper plates wont work!)

Easy to attach to a wire or string

Size - between 10 and 20cm



Poppies will need to be completed by Friday 27th October and delivered to the church porch or 21 North Street, with a waterproof name / organisation label.

Let's make a fantastic display, people of Marcham and District!!

More details - contact Jill Rowe 07811 165351