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September 2024 Vol 46 No. 9

Your Independent Local News Source



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Dear Readers

If you have taken a fabulous photo that could grace the MADNews cover, send it to editor@madnews.co.uk

Until next time



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PROOFREADING

Jane Mander

DEADLINES

Advertising: 17.00 15th of the month

Other copy: 17.00 20th of the month

except for the Jan edition when it is 15th Dec for both.

ADDITIONAL COPIES

These are available from Marcham Village Shop. Postal copies are also available – contact the Editor.

DISCLAIMER

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

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Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.police.uk

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Peter Stevens

peter.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon

Robert Clegg, 42 Harding Way, Marcham, OX13 6FJ

Tel: 07784225290

robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

For other representatives see page 18 or go to www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL CLOSURE – SHEEPSTEAD ROAD

A temporary road closure for a section of Sheepstead Road just north of Harding Way is being planned for 7th September to 19th September. This is to allow for excavation for water services works. The route for Harding Way properties will be through the village. Those houses further along Sheepstead Road will have access from the north, off the Faringdon Road.

Please note therefore that the Cow Lane allotments area is unlikely to be accessible by car if you approach from the south, should the road closure become operative.

PLAY AREA

The Parish Council has been working with the playground manufacturer, following completion of phase 1 inside the fence, to progress the play area plans shown initially in May 2023 which included 2 items of equipment just outside of the play area fence. All the comments received at that time were taken into account, and the plans reworked. The manufacturer's revised drawings were exhibited at the annual meeting for electors this year, and displayed in the Post Office. Comments received subsequent have also been fully debated.

At the time of writing, installation of the additional items is expected soon. The location of the items is the best achievable bearing in and the need to protect all users of the field, protect the sports pitches, and occupants of housing, whilst providing facilities for a fast growing village.

VOLUNTEERS FOR SPEEDWATCH

Do you wish to help control the speed of traffic in the parish? Community Speedwatch is a national initiative where proactive members of local communities, with the support and supervision of their local police, join to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices. There is a small team in Marcham that needs more people to join them to go out, once trained, to selected places in the parish, with the speed detection gun, and to record speeds and registration numbers of vehicles. Details of those exceeding the speed limit are given to the Police, who then write to the registered keeper of the vehicle. If you can spare an odd hour or so from time to time and are willing to help with the Speedwatch campaign, then please contact James Plumb at Jamesplumb22@gmail.com or by telephoning 07779 386205, or contact your local parish councillor.

GRANTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council considers any requests for grants at its November meeting. Grant requests are considered 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, then please use the application form available in the publications section, on the Council's website. www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk, and enclose a copy of your organisation's accounts. The Council's grant policy too can also be found there. Details of where to send the application are on the form. The deadline for submissions is 15th October, 2024. Applications received

after that date, or not on the application form, will not be considered.

PATHS ON MONKS WALK

The Parish Council is pleased to see that the paths on Monks Walk have now been tarmacked by the developer and the link through to The Willows has now been installed. There is a gate on the link with a latch which may be difficult for those with disabilities to open, so this is being monitored.

WINTER FUEL PAYMENT – MESSAGE FOR PENSIONERS

If you are concerned about the announcement from the Chancellor Rachel Reeves regarding the change in the qualifying rules for the Winter Fuel Payment, then organisations such as Age UK, Citizens Advice Bureau and Vale Community Impact in Wantage can help. They have trained advisors who can help with benefit checks, budgeting and debt management, or can point you in the right direction for advice. Please do not worry in silence. The organisations are there to help and support you.

Their contact details are on the respective websites, or for assistance please speak to your local councillor.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED

P24/V1299/FUL Proposed change of use from residential dwelling to registered children's residential home at 8B The Gap. The Council had various concerns regarding the need for support from the County Council, safeguarding policies, the stated number of employees at the site being 14, and likely numerous traffic and transport movements in The Gap.

P24/V1326/FUL Erection of new 3 bed dwelling at Blackgate Lane (off A338). The Council objected to development in the green belt, access off the A338 which crossed public footpaths, the overshadowing effect on those paths, lack of parking, and the effect on the special areas of conservation which were close by.

P24/V1359/HH Single storey, part rear and part side, extension at 6 Pointer Place.

The Council had no objection. P24/V1513/HH Two storey rear extension at 13 North Street. The Council had no objection in principle, but asked that the materials used be in keeping with the remainder of the building in the conservation area, and that in view of the increase in the number of bedrooms and therefore occupants, that there be adequate on site parking to prevent vehicles being left in the narrow North Street.

Date of Next Council Meeting

Monday 9th September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Barrow Close OX13 6TY.

The Council meetings are open to the public, and the Council welcomes anyone who has issues to raise on parish matters to attend, or speak to their local parish councillor.

Please check the Council's website 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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Dear Editor

We just want to thank the Anson Trust for the funding they provided to us, to visit Moldova with All Saints Church in July. It was such an enriching experience for us, as we were able to view the beauty and sites of Chisinau to understand their culture and provide us with an incredible opportunity to deepen our faith. It was amazing to see the impact the holiday club had on the children and how much they engaged with our bible teaching and activities. We could see the level of the children's excitement and engagement due to them asking when we would return.

Thanks,

Olivia and Nathan

The Winter Fuel Payment will now only be paid to people receiving certain benefits. It's more important than ever to check if you're eligible for Pension Credit.

CHANGES TO THE WINTER FUEL PAYMENT

Did you know that the Government announced changes in July, meaning that from this year the Winter Fuel Payment will become means-tested?

This means that you will no longer receive the Winter Fuel Payment unless you are in receipt of certain benefits.

WHAT IS THE WINTER FUEL PAYMENT?

The Winter Fuel Payment is an annual tax-free payment for households that include someone born on or before 23rd September 1958 (for 2024-25) designed to help cover heating costs in winter, with households receiving up to £300. Previously, the payment was not means-tested, but now only those in receipt of certain benefits will receive the contribution to heating costs.

HOW CAN I CONTINUE TO RECEIVE IT?

Pension Credit is the primary way people of pension age can continue to receive the Winter Fuel Payment, and with an estimate of more than 4,000 older people across the county not claiming the Pension Credit to which they're entitled, it's more important than ever that you check whether you might be eligible.

Pension Credit is an income-related benefit that tops up weekly income to £218.15 for a single person and to a joint £332.95 for a couple.

You can apply for Pension Credit online www.gov.uk/pension-credit or by calling 0800 99 1234.



Marcham Open Gardens 2-4.30pm Sunday 1st September

Marcham Moldova Lifeline
Raising money to help refurbish a
community facility in rural Moldova

Tickets and maps available on the day from
All Saints' Church and Priors Corner (Priory Lane)



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Service Changes

from 1st September 2024



15 (Pulhams)

Pulhams service 15 will be replaced by new service X15, operating an improved hourly daytime service. Please see below for more details.

X1 & X15

There are new links from Witney, Ducklington, Standlake and Southmoor to Abingdon and Oxford City with service X15. Buses will operate up to every hour into the heart of the city with earlier and later trips than the current service 15.

Services X1 and X15 will continue to provide a half hourly service from Oxford Rail Station to North Abingdon, Marcham

and Frilford. Service X1 will operate up to every hour onwards to East Hanney, Grove and Wantage.

New timetables are available on buses or online at <https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/>

MyBus offers almost unlimited bus travel across the county – all on one ticket.

With access to over 150 bus services run by 12 different operators, MyBus offers a simple, joined-up travel solution for Oxfordshire residents and visitors. Whether you want to explore new places, or simply make your journey to work a little easier, the MyBus ticket offers daily or weekly travel around the county for a fixed price.

Sunday 8th September
Stanford in the Vale Village hall, (off Hunters Field)
3.45pm for talk at 4.00pm by the author

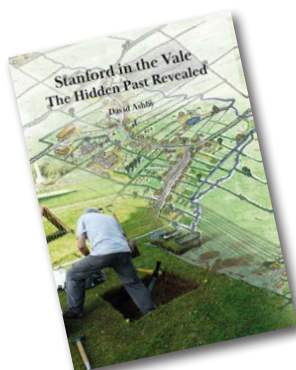
Stanford in the Vale & District Local History Society
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Stanford in the Vale: The Hidden Past Revealed
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www.stanford-in-the-vaile.co.uk/events.php



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**Volunteers Needed
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What matters to you in your
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*Are you looking for a worthwhile
and rewarding way to help your
local community?*

Our community thrives because of volunteers, and we owe a huge thank you to everyone who has given their time and energy over the years. From supporting the Parish Council or the working groups, to organizing local events, Thirsty Café, The Community Centre and others, volunteers are the heart of our village.

However, to keep these activities going, we need more volunteers. Whether you're interested in local governance, organising events, or helping with other projects, for example MADNews, the play area, footpaths, or speedwatch, there's a place for you.

Volunteering is not only essential but also rewarding. It's a great way to meet people, learn new skills, and make a real difference in our community.

If you're interested in helping out or want to learn more about how you can get involved, please contact your local councillor or the Parish Clerk. Contact details on the Parish Council's website marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk. Even a few hours of your time can make a big impact.

Thank you to all our current and past volunteers – you are what makes our community such a great place to live.



**ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW
SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2024
10.00AM – 5.00PM**

Abingdon Air & Country Show has lots to see and do, don't miss out on a great family day out. On the ground we have Ex-military, classic vehicles, lorries and buses. Craft marquee over 20 stalls selling a wide range of products, over 50 Trade and Exhibitors stands including garden ornaments and furniture; the ever popular Husky dogs; flight simulators and amusements; Zorbs; mini go-karts; live music with Lissie Allsopp, 1940 / 60s music, Radio Days Swing and Dance Band, Travellin' Light plus friends; Caroline Priestly, saxophonist; flying displays including C17 Globemaster, Aircraft cockpits and simulator; onsite caterers plus bar selling local ales. Free parking. Tickets on www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk

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**Is summer over?
When did that happen?**

We hope that you all had a lovely break and that you've now settled back into that normal routine. The last few weeks have been steadily busy and we've had a few new items to tide us over the summer period. The Belvoir drinks have been a big hit, and we also had some lovely hand-soap dispensers – great for presents! Apparently, our boxes of Twinings teas are cheaper than a lot of the big supermarkets. We will endeavour to continue stocking a variety of items and, hopefully, keep the price as low as possible.

As in previous years, we stocked a selection of plants over the summer. These included Echinacea plants, begonias and hanging baskets. In addition, some of the volunteers who are keen gardeners have been donating their excess fruit and vegetables to the shop. And, for a small donation, some lucky people have enjoyed home-grown produce.

All donations to the shop are kept separate from the main shop and Post Office takings. We use these funds to help support groups and organisations around the village, such as the Colts football team and the school etc. And, we always include details of latest ventures that we have supported in MADNews and the Shop – we think that you like to know where your donation-tin money goes.

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Hedges are still providing fresh meat to order. Order forms and prices are available in the shop, and orders should be in by Wednesday evening for delivery Friday lunchtime. If there is anything specific that you would like, not listed, please ask and we will do our best to help.



Last month, we got as many of the volunteers together as possible as a massive thank you for all those that give us their time and help us on a regular basis. It was a lovely evening with some good food and beverages supplied by The Wright Buffet. Without the volunteers, there would be no shop! Please keep supporting your local village shop.

**THANK YOU, AS ALWAYS, FOR
YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT**



Marcham Village Shop Shares

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MARCHAM WI

Monday 16th September 2024,
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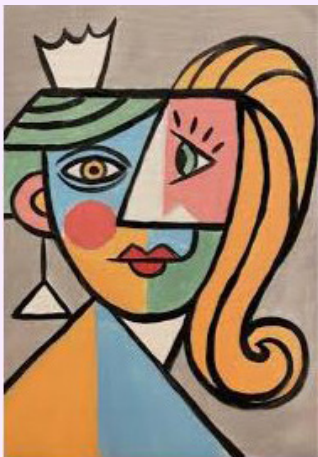
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The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE



Wednesday 18th September,
10.30am and 2.00pm
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Charles Rennie Mackintosh: more than just a tearoom

Stella Lyons

Did you know that when Charles Rennie Mackintosh died, his entire estate was valued at just £88? Glaswegian-born Mackintosh, and designer, architect, and artist, was the foremost Celtic exponent of Art Nouveau, and had a considerable influence on European art. But he is an even more enigmatic figure today than when he was alive. Both Mackintosh's, and his wife Margaret Macdonald's, work has a distinctive character, one that captures the transition between the Victorian era and the modern age.

Visitors are very welcome to attend this lecture, cost £6.00. Lectures last 1 hour but allow extra time for announcements.

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



Art Nouveau Woman -
1900



The
Marcham
Society

Marcham Society Midweek Walk

The September Midweek walk will be on Thursday 12th September meeting at The Trout Inn, St John's Lock, Faringdon Road, Lechlade, GL7 3HA (SU223991) at 12.30 and start the walk, as usual at 13.30. We will be visiting the remote hamlet of Inglesham, with its Saxon church, to the Thames and back down the river.

For more details contact
e.dunford@btinternet.com 01865 391439

The Astronomy Group

Thursday 12th September 2024 at 7pm in the Small Hall, Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, OX13 6TY

A round-up of astronomy sightings over the summer months, followed by a short film titled 'Lost Alignment' presented by Aaron Simpkins



An aurora over Cow Lane, Marcham

England's Oldest Town? The Archaeology of Abingdon

Roger Thomas

The meeting will include a short AGM
7.15 for 7.45pm Monday 23rd September
Main Hall, Marcham Centre OX13 6TY

Roger is a professional archaeologist who grew up in Abingdon. He spent most of his career working in archaeological roles at English Heritage (now Historic England). He is also currently chairman of the Abingdon Area Archaeology & History Society (AAHS).

Abingdon famously claims to be 'the oldest town in England' – the oldest continuously occupied town in the country. Taking this claim as a starting point, Roger's talk will look at the impressively rich archaeology of Abingdon and its environs, which has major sites and discoveries of every period from prehistory onwards. The talk will also consider the relationship between the archaeology of Abingdon and that of Marcham, including the important Roman temple site at Manor Farm, Marcham.

For more information contact
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

Facebook: marchamsociety

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

At the time of print, we will be preparing for lots of new children joining pre-school as well as looking forward to welcoming existing children back for another year of exciting experiences and learning opportunities!



It was with much emotion that we celebrated the achievements and adventures of the children leaving us to join 'big schools'. We enjoyed an evening event with memories, future predictions and a staff performance followed by the chance to chat and enjoy a drink in the beautiful village that is Marcham.

We wish all our "leavers" and their families the very best for their futures!

If you would be interested in submitting an application for September 2025 or beyond, please get in touch as soon as possible. Admissions for next year will be completed in February/March 2025!

Nicky Sanford
 Early Years Teacher
 Marcham Pre-school
 01865 392101

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

To see what the school has been up to go to

www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages



For more information:



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Have you heard about the news website for young people?
 The oxme.info website is provided by of Oxfordshire County Council's Early Help Children's Services and Public Health. This website helps young people stay in learning, access suitable learning and training opportunities, access targeted youth service support and other information and services including health.





Marcham Community Games Group is for anyone who likes to meet with others to play table games and enjoy chatting over a cuppa. About a dozen people of different ages meet every other Monday - 10.30am to 12midday - in **Duffield Place Lounge**. Some play Scrabble, others Rummikub (a numbers game) but we're open to playing cards or other games. There's no charge to join the group; but from time to time, we ask for a voluntary donation to cover cost of refreshments.

If you're a resident of Duffield Place or Marcham village and beyond, you will find a warm welcome. Why not come along and try us out? We play for the fun of being together - no experience necessary.

Our first meeting, after the summer break, is on Monday 2 September – then 16th & 30th September, 14th & 28th October, 11th & 25th November.

**For more info please contact Heather Sandiford
07985 048198**



We're looking for Oxfordshire residents aged 60+ to take part in a photography session to help us better represent local older people and the ways in which we provide support.

- Tuesday 17th September 2024 (2 hour slot between 10am - 4.30pm)
- Sandford-on-Thames Village Hall, OX4 4YN
- Participate in professional photographs with members of our team
- A fun and friendly environment, with hot/cold refreshments and cake!
- No experience necessary

WHAT SORT OF PHOTOS ARE WE TAKING?

We want to represent what our organisation does every day. This might include photos that show us supporting people at home, taking people shopping, helping people get online, running exercise classes, social groups and information fairs.

HOW WILL WE USE THEM?

We might use the photographs in different ways. In printed materials (e.g. leaflets, magazines, banners) or online (e.g. on our website or on social media). We will use images for five years from the date that they are taken, unless we receive your permission to extend the use.

You can change your mind at any time and we will stop using the photos. Do remember that even if we stop using your photos, other people may still be able to see them on the internet or in old publications and leaflets.

If you would be happy to take part please sign up below. Alternatively, you can email media@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk or call **07827 235 405**. If you know anyone else who might be interested, please share this information with them. They do not have to be connected with our organisation in any way.



An evening with Kate Atkinson

Tuesday 10th September, 6.30pm,
Trinity Church, Abingdon, OX14 1DB

£12* / £25 including book (*£2 redeemable against the cost of any book purchased on the night)

Join us on Tuesday 10th September as we welcome celebrated author Kate Atkinson to Trinity Church, Abingdon, to discuss her new Jackson Brodie novel, Death at the Sign of the Rook.

Food for Menopause with Dr Linia Patel

Wednesday 18th September, 6.30pm, St Nicolas' Church OX14 1DB
£10 / £20 including book

Join us at St Nicolas' Church, Abingdon, on Wednesday 18th September as we welcome Dr Linia Patel to discuss her new book, Food for Menopause.

Boozy Books: Cocktails

Thursday 19th September, 7pm, The Topsy Mercer
£25 (alcohol free) / £30 (low alcohol) / £35 (alcohol)

Join us at The Topsy Mercer for an evening of delicious cocktails and recommended reads. Each ticket includes one paperback book from our selection, plus three different drinks.

Storytime with Farrah Riaz

Friday 11th October, 10am, Mostly Books
Free

Picture book author Farrah Riaz will be joining us for our weekly storytime session on Friday 11th October. Come and join the interactive storytelling fun, and meet the author of The Twirly Wiggly Dance! Booking essential.

Boozy Books: Wine

Thursday 21st November, 7pm, Mostly Books
£30

Join us at Mostly Books for an evening of good wine and recommended reads. This £30 ticket includes one paperback book from our selection, plus tasting of three wines. Wines will be selected by Jill Carver from Added Ingredients.

Caroline Quentin: Drawn to the Garden

Friday 22nd November, 7pm, Trinity Church, Abingdon
£10 / £20 including book

Join us at Trinity Church on Friday 22nd November for an evening with Caroline Quentin, as we hear about her beautiful book, Drawn to the Garden.

INFORMATION ABOUT ALL OF THE ABOVE CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE: mostly-books.co.uk/events/

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Birds and Their Quirky Nesting Habits: A Comedy of Twigs and Feathers

A young Reader sent me an interesting question to churn on this month, and I wonder what you think the answer is? Not sure I gave a great answer, but it was humorous.

The question, "why do different birds use different types of nest design?"

Ah, the age-old mystery of avian architecture! Why indeed do birds have such wildly diverse nest-building preferences? Let's dive into this feathered conundrum with all the seriousness of a penguin trying to fly.

Picture this: a Wood Pigeon perched on a branch, surveying the world with its beady eyes. It glances at the nearby nest, a haphazard collection of twigs that looks like it was assembled by a tipsy squirrel. The pigeon shrugs, mutters, "Good enough," and settles in for a cosy night's sleep. Meanwhile, the Long Tailed Tit is inside its mossy ball, sipping herbal tea and reading "Nest & Garden" magazine. Clearly, these birds have different interior design tastes.

The Minimalist Approach

Wood Pigeons are the Marie Kondo of the bird world. Their philosophy: "If it doesn't spark joy, chuck it off the branch!" Their nests consist of a few twigs, a leaf, and maybe a lost sock. They're the original tiny-house enthusiasts. When asked about their design process, Wood Pigeons reply, "We're going for that 'rustic twig chic' look."

The Hipster of Nests

Goldfinches are the hipsters of the avian world. They use horsehair, because nothing says "trendy" like repurposing equestrian accessories. Their nests perch atop small trees, looking like bristly beards. If you listen closely, you can hear them discussing obscure indie bands with their nest neighbours.

The DIY Enthusiasts

Blue Tits are the MacGyvers of nest-building. They find a hole (preferably in a tree), gather moss, twigs, and a dash of optimism, and voilà! Their nests are cosy, energy-efficient, and equipped with Wi-Fi. When predators approach, Blue Tits activate their secret defence mechanism: they play dead. It's like a Shakespearean tragedy with feathers.

The Twig Collectors

Blackbirds are the hoarders of the bird world. Their nests are like miniature art installations made from twigs, leaves, and existential dread. They take indirect routes to confuse predators, leaving breadcrumbs (literally) to their nests. When asked about their design inspiration, Blackbirds say, "We're going for a 'chaotic yet thought-provoking' vibe."

The Urban Architects

Pied Wagtails are the urban dwellers. They build nests in dry stone walls, like tiny real estate moguls. Their motto: "Location, location, location!" When a predator approaches, they perform a synchronized dance routine to distract it. It's like "Riverdance" meets "Property Brothers."

Ground-Level Innovators

Chiffchaffs are the rebels. They nest on the ground or low in trees, defying gravity and common sense. Their nests resemble cosy burritos made of dried leaves and grass. When asked about their design philosophy, Chiffchaffs say, "We're all about that 'groundbreaking' aesthetic."

McMansion Builders

Mute Swans are the real estate tycoons. They construct massive nests on riverbanks, complete with infinity pools and walk-in closets. Their nests are so opulent that other birds apply for timeshares. When predators approach, Mute Swans hiss, "You shall not pass!" (Yes, they're secretly Gandalf fans.)

Conclusion

So, why are bird nests so diverse? Perhaps it's because birds, like humans, have unique tastes, personalities, and Pinterest boards. Or maybe they're just messing with us. Next time you see a nest, remember behind those twigs and feathers lies a world of architectural drama, rivalling any reality TV show. And as the sun sets, the Wood Pigeon nods approvingly at its twiggy abode, thinking, "Home sweet home... until the next gust of wind."

And that, my feathered friends, is the secret to avian interior design: a dash of chaos, a sprinkle of creativity, and a whole lot of bird-brained brilliance.

Disclaimer: No birds were harmed during the writing of this article. However, a few puns suffered minor injuries.

The views expressed in this article are purely fictional and not endorsed by the Audubon Society or any serious ornithologists. For accurate bird-related information, consult an actual bird (preferably one with a PhD).

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt, 01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk



Thirsty Café is a pop up café that takes place in the Marcham Centre on a Wednesday morning 9am-11.30am and on a Saturday morning 9am-11.30 am. We have been closed during August so that our wonderful volunteers and bakers could have a well earned rest. The café also thanks our Manager Nicci and Administrator Jennamarie who work hard in the café and behind the scenes. We look forward to seeing all our regular and new customers back in the Café.

The first Café in September will be on Wednesday 4th September and on Saturday 7th September. There is Stay and Play on the first Wednesday of the month and a Community lunch on the 3rd Wednesday between 12 noon and 2pm; everyone is invited but please book your place either in one of the Cafés or by e-mail hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk.

This is the time of year for the Duke of Edinburgh awards. Please get in touch if you would like to volunteer in the Café as part of the scheme.

The **Cup of Love** is now up and running, please come and join us in the café for coffee cake etc.

Dates for Diary

- 5k run on Sunday 22nd September at Millets Farm.
- AGM Thursday 26th September, Marcham Centre 7.30pm.

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

Website: www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

E-mail: hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk



SOCIAL & COMMUNITY



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Vicky's After School Club

Playworker Vacancy for Breakfast and After School Club at Marcham C of E Primary School (can be split for part-time work or as job-share)

Do you enjoy working with children and having fun? Are you a good team player and do you love to support children in their learning and development through play? This position would be to support the existing breakfast club team in preparing and serving breakfast as well as supporting the children's play before starting school in the morning.

Vicky's After School Clubs are privately owned and Vicky will ensure you receive the training you will need to succeed in your role and encourage you to be the best you can be. We are seeking an engaging, reliable, caring and enthusiastic Playworker to work with children between the ages of 4-11.

You will be working in a fun and engaging environment as part of a fantastic team.

Hours are: Breakfast: 7.30 – 8.45am Monday-Friday

After School Club: 2.45-5.45 pm Monday-Thursday (Term Time only)

Salary dependent on experience and qualifications.

Full training will be given

Minimum age 18 years (Ofsted requirement)

Please note that an enhanced DBS check will be undertaken as part of the recruitment process.

If you are interested and would like further information, please contact:

Vicky Hickman Tel No: 07887711454

Email: info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk

website: www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk

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Marcham Centre

After a relatively quiet spell over the summer holiday, with several hirers taking a break, Marcham Centre is back in full action again with a strong programme of user bookings as we head into the autumn season. We still have slots available in our schedule, so if you have any ideas about starting a new club or activity, please make contact to see how we can help.

The MCG Community Investment Fund (derived from Marcham Centre bar profits donated by Marcham Community Trading Ltd) gave a grant to Marcham School to enable them to buy an awning for their community garden, installed in June. The Fund also provided a grant to the Sweetbriar Residents Association to buy seating and tables for their new communal meeting room ("The Shed"), which had its official opening party on Friday 21st June led by Tina Hill, Chair of the Residents Association.

EVENTS

Indoor short-mat bowls at Marcham Centre will re-start on Wednesday 18th September at 2pm. New bowlers will be welcomed, along with previous participants.

VOLUNTEERS

You may not be aware how much we rely on volunteers to run Marcham Centre, supporting hall operations, opening and locking the building, routine maintenance, organising events and volunteering to run the bar. We are looking for volunteers with finance experience to assist us with day to day book-keeping. We also have vacancies on the trustee board of Marcham Community Group and we are looking for people with some time available who may be interested in becoming a trustee.

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY
enquiries@marchamcentre.org www.marchamcentre.org



Please contact jim.asher@btinternet.com, if you are able to help, even in what may seem like little ways - it could be making a real difference. What can you do to help?

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.

Operated by Marcham Community Group (MCG)
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ANSON TRUST GRANT NEWS: THE SHED

On Friday 21st June, the Anson Trust was delighted to attend the grand opening of Sweetbriar Residents' Association's new community meeting room, "The Shed". Led by Tina Hill, the Residents' Association submitted a request for grant funding last October for a much-needed communal meeting place within easy reach of the residents.

The Anson Trust, along with a number of other local organisations, was delighted to be able to support the request and it was great to be able to meet the residents, share their enthusiasm for The Shed and sample some fine home cooking on a lovely summer's evening.

We have no doubt that The Shed will soon become an established and much appreciated facility for the residents of Sweet Briar. Thanks to all the residents for the opportunity of helping make it happen and for a delightful opening evening.

The Shed is just one of dozens of grant applications that the Trust has received and approved over the last couple of years and in upcoming issues of MAD News we hope to bring you news of some of them.



In total we have approved nearly £75,000 of grants and we still have £5,000 available for new grant requests and expect to be able to steadily add to this total over the coming months.

If you would like to help us support our local community by joining us as a trustee then please feel free to contact us at ansontrustmarcham@yahoo.co.uk.

CHRIS HILLIER, On behalf of the Trustees of the Anson Trust



Abingdon's Heritage Open Days are a highlight of the late summer. This year they are on **Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September** and the theme is "Transport, Routes and Connections." You can see exhibitions about Abingdon's history at the hub of a network of roads, paths, rivers and a canal – and its brief time as a railway town. There will be interesting facts to discover, family activities, a historic vehicle display, the usual open historic buildings, walks and trails – and much more. You can find the full programme at <https://www.abingdonheritage.org.uk/festivalprogramme> or pick up a leaflet from our Market Place stall at the weekend.

Abingdon Heritage Weekend 2024

14th - 15th September



abingdonheritage.org.uk



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you enjoy gardening, art, crafts or woodwork?

Are you interested in mental health and helping others?

Would you like to join a friendly, welcoming team?

Can you spare one day a week?

Restore is looking for volunteers who can help in our friendly Recovery Group in **Didcot**.

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We'd love to hear from you!



VOLUNTEER@RESTORE.ORG.UK

WWW.RESTORE.ORG.UK | 01865 455822

Don't forget about The Little Library

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



VISITORS COMING OR THINKING OF HOLIDAYS?

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There were so many wonderful sporting achievements to celebrate at the Olympics Games this summer, and shortly there will be the Paralympics to enjoy as well. But a name from the past has been mentioned alongside all the present-day athletes who have been competing in Paris. It is 100 years since Eric Liddell famously won the 400 metres in 1924, a moment immortalized in the 1981 film Chariots of Fire; cue Vangelis music. Liddell represented Scotland at rugby as well, but he kept a promise to God, and to his sister, to cut short his sporting career to go back to China, the country of his birth, to serve as a Christian missionary teacher. He died tragically young of a brain tumour in 1945 in an internment camp. Perhaps mainly due to the film (and the music) his story, and that of his friend and rival Harold Abrahams, lives on. "I believe that God made me for a purpose. But He also made me fast, and when I run, I feel His pleasure." It's stirring stuff. Pleasure... we dedicate so much energy seeking pleasure for ourselves in the way we spend our time and our money. But what about God's pleasure in us? Do we aspire to know his pleasure in us by living our lives in the manner and for the purpose he designed them? This seems to be the promise of Jesus when he said that he came so that his followers could live lives to the full (John 10:10). This requires two simple acts of faith, to trust Jesus that he knows best, and to be prepared to surrender our self-will. Perhaps this is what the swimmer Adam Peaty meant when he said recently: "I'd rather have my faith and my relationship with Jesus and come second than have gold."

NEW SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE TIME IS 10.30AM. MML celebration service Sunday 29th September. Next Service in Marcham Centre on Sunday 6th October at 10.30am.

Regular Sunday services

10.30am: Morning Service at AS

6pm: Evening Service

Wednesday Holy Communion

10.30am at Duffield Place

Contacts:

Rev. Nick Weldon Vicar vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org 01865 391962

Rob Finch Youth Worker youth@allsaintsmarcham.org

Jill Rowe Children and Families minister families@allsaintsmarcham.org

Tamsin Gilbert Parish Administrator info@allsaintsmarcham.org

St. Luke's, Garford

St. Luke's is open for quiet prayer 11am-12pm on Sundays with no morning service.

Sunday 1 September, 11.30am

Harvest Service - Revd. J. Radford

As always we will be blessing our vintage plough, which will be on show in the churchyard. To celebrate the harvest, our children will be bringing food donations to present at the service, all children are welcome to participate. Additionally, non-perishable food donation boxes for the Abingdon Food Bank will be placed in the church porch the week before the service.

Sunday 6 October, 6pm Songs of Praise led by Ben Skipp

News from St. Luke's

On 4th August we enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship, music and readings. The Lammastide Service was followed by refreshments and the opportunity to bid farewell to Matt and Char Pearce who will be greatly missed by St. Luke's and the wider village as they move away. Thanks also to the choir,

readers and guest musicians from Garford and Marcham for such a harmonious service.

Contact: st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

I hope that residents have enjoyed the summer, despite the decidedly mixed weather. Huge amounts have happened since I wrote my report for the July issue, so I will try to distil the most important matters into the space available!

ALL CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT

The incoming Labour Government has already announced its intention to "reset" the relationship between central government and local authorities. The overall positive tone is very welcome, with Deputy PM Angela Rayner committing to working with local government on a cross-party basis, but it is not difficult to imagine potential disagreements over the details which may test this noble ambition. Much of this will emerge over the coming months and I will do my best to update you on matters that impact local residents the most.

RESERVOIR

I hope that readers were able to attend one of the SESRO events put on by Thames Water (TW) over the summer; the Marcham event was certainly well attended when I visited. The non-statutory consultation has now closed; the Vale submitted a 'robust' response to this, highlighting the lack of crucial information provided, among other concerns. The leader of the Vale, Cllr Thomas, has also written to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Steve Reed MP, to request

- a pause in the approval process for TW's draft Water Resource Management Plan,
- for serious consideration to be given to alternatives – such as the Severn to Thames Transfer – and
- for a meeting together with our local MPs.

FOOD TRUCKS AT THE CROWN INN

Many residents will remember the 'kerfuffle' between the Vale and Oak Taverns, owners of The Crown in Marcham, over licensing of food trucks operating from their premises. The Vale has a statutory duty to license such activities, under the 1982 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, and so could not lawfully ignore these. That said, the Vale's Joint Street Trading Policy (together with South Oxfordshire) has seen little revision since its adoption in 2014, and much has changed in that time – most notably, the pandemic and associated shifts in economic behaviour.

I have been pushing behind the scenes for a rethink on this and so am delighted to pass on news that the Policy is due a substantial rewriting, news which was first announced in response to my formal question to the relevant cabinet member at July's full council. The new draft policy should go out for consultation soon and I encourage residents to respond.



DR ROBERT CLEGG

District Councillor for Marcham Ward
Phone: 07784225290 or robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

With the latest changes to the boundaries for we now have more MPs and councillors and, due to the summer break we haven't heard back from everyone so far (apart from Robert above) so this is just a list of contacts. We won't have room for reports from all of them every month but we will work something out!

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Frilford Garford Jill Rayner jill.rayner@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
Tubney Mark Coleman mark.coleman@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Marcham Peter Stevens peter.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Frilford Garford Juliette Ash juliette.ash@oxfordshire.gov.uk

MPS

OxW & Abingdon Layla Moran layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk
Frilford Garford Charlie Maynard charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk

Did you try the wordoku over the summer?
Here is the answer - visit www.inverhythe.co.uk to see our range of puzzle books.

Solution: MADNews79

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w	A	s	M	D	N	e	9	7
M	N	e	w	9	7	A	s	D
D	9	7	s	e	A	w	N	M



Kennington Memory Club

Providing safe and supportive day care for people with dementia and respite for their carers

September Monthly News Blog

Out and about during sunny summer days a loved one's dementia may not seem much of an issue. But moving into the shorter, colder days of autumn and winter can change the perspective and a carer may begin to feel the burden of looking after their loved one. Just a few hours respite, knowing their loved one is in safe and supportive environment could make all the difference. It's for this very reason Kennington Memory Club came into being. The club's staff and volunteers provide a fun filled day for the person living with dementia and much appreciated respite for their carer - we know because they tell us.

If you and your loved one might benefit from joining, please don't leave it too late. There's an understandable inclination for a carer to keep going, even whilst their loved one's dementia deteriorates. Being further down their dementia journey can prevent someone settling at the club and being able to attend, which is such a shame. For more details about the club and what a typical day might include, take a look at the website www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk or call the Organiser Kay on 07852 883496 who will be happy to arrange for you both to come and have a look, or scan the QR code. We look forward to meeting you.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Club.
Kennington Methodist Church
Upper Road, Kennington, Oxford OX1 5LR



P.S. Look out for publicity about the LADDERTHON to be held on Saturday September 7th. This will be a unique fundraiser jointly for Kennington Memory Club, Oxford Brain Injury Services, and the MacIntyre Centre, all very important charities for the local area.

Make an Impact! Volunteer with Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale

citizens advice

Oxfordshire South & Vale

Are you looking for a new challenge, and want to contribute something to your community? Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice is looking for volunteer advisers and IT specialists to work in our friendly offices in Abingdon, Didcot, Henley or Thame. Citizens Advice gives people the knowledge and confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are and whatever their problem. In a typical year our 111 volunteers support around 10,000 people. Our volunteers play a vital role, ensuring that people receive the advice and support they need.

We are currently looking for advisers and IT specialists

Advisors will

- Receive extensive training and support to ensure they have the knowledge to help people move forward
- Learn about a range of issues that affect our clients including benefits, debt, housing and employment (no prior knowledge necessary)
- Give confidential advice over the phone and in person
- Make a real difference to people's lives, contributing to improving their wellbeing
- Have a sense of belonging to the community developed through working with people from all backgrounds

A new adviser training course begins in early October 2024, so apply now!

IT specialists will

- Help to maintain our IT systems and support the service
- Help staff and volunteers with day-to-day IT issues, for example with trouble logging on, connecting to Wi-Fi and locating files.
- Help to maintain our local Citizens Advice website.

We would like you to be available for two sessions per week, if possible, either mornings or afternoons or for a whole day. We offer a rewarding, flexible and supportive working environment. We also welcome volunteer receptionists, fund raisers, communication workers and HR administration.

To apply, please use this link:

<https://citizensadviceosav.org.uk/volunteering/>

Or, if you would like to discuss these volunteering roles, please email: recruitment@citizensadviceosav.org.uk and one of our team will contact you. **State which location you would like to volunteer in, and include your contact details.**



OXTRAIL AUCTION DATE IS SET! ART TRAIL SCULPTURES GO ON SALE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR SOBELL HOUSE HOSPICE

This summer more than 130 oxen have decorated the county as part of the charity's Wild in Art trail. The free-to-attend event has invited people from across the country to discover hidden ox designs in Oxford and surrounding areas.

With the art trail finishing at the end of August, the oxen will be moo-ving on to their forever homes – with 43 of the sculptures going to auction. The auction will be held both online and in person at the Saïd Business School, Oxford on **Friday, 13 September** at 7:30pm. The sale will feature a stunning selection of life-sized ox sculptures and mini oxen, all available for online bidding.

The event will be hosted by celebrity auctioneer, Bargain Hunt's Thomas Forrester. Those looking to attend can check out the online auction via the digital catalogue and register their interest today <https://oxtrail2024.co.uk/auction/>.

Resources for children and schools

There is a Mini-herd Learning Pack created by staff at Oxford Brookes to help Oxfordshire schools and community groups engage with OxTrail this summer.

There is a set of resources focusing on bereavement and designed for longer term use. This has been created by Hamilton Brookes, a publishing company at Oxford Brookes University which produces lesson plans and other resources for primary schools.

"It is a resource to help better equip children and give them the tools they need to process and understand grief and loss. The learning pack has been a fantastic contribution to the OxTrail event and will continue to be a vital resource long after the trail has ended."

The OxTrail learning packs are available for free download on the Hamilton Brookes website: <https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk/oxtrail-2024-follow-the-herd/>.



HOW SAFE IS YOUR ELECTRIC BLANKET?

FREE ELECTRIC BLANKET CHECKS IN OXFORDSHIRE
Make sure your blanket is safe to use this winter.

JOIN US and bring a friend for free refreshments and information about keeping safe and well.

Vale of the White Horse
Friday 20th September

BOOKING INFORMATION.

Call: 01865 895999 Option 3 or Email: duty.officer@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Online Booking: <https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/blankettesting>

(Pre-booked appointments only on a strictly first come first served basis)

FREE

CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime

Tell them what you know, not who you are

SEPTEMBER 2024

The number in brackets refers to the page number where you can find more details
 Abbreviations:
 AS All Saints' Church, Marcham, St. St Luke's Church, Garford
 DP Duffield Place, MC Marcham Centre

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 SL Harvest Service 11.30am (17) Open Gardens 2-4.30pm (5) Bus Service Changes (5)	2 DP Games 10.30 (11)	3	4 MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (13) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17)	5 Millets Farm Classic car meet 9.30am-noon	6	7 Sheepstead Rd Closure - 19th (3) MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (13)
8 AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17) Stanford+Vale Book Launch 3.45pm (5)	9 MC Marcham Parish Council Meeting 7.30m (3)	10	11 MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (13) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17)	12 Marcham Society Midweek Walk 12.30pm (9) MC Astronomy Group 7pm (9)	13 OxTrail Auction 7.30pm (19)	14 Abingdon Heritage Open Days (16) MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (13)
15 Abingdon Heritage Open Days (16) AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	16 DP Games 10.30 (11) MC Marcham WI 7.30pm (9)	17	18 MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (13) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Community Lunch 12-2pm (13) MC Short-mat Bowls (15) Arts Society Abingdon 10.30am & 2pm (9)	19	20 MADNEWS DEADLINE 5PM FOR NEXT ISSUE	21 Abingdon Air & Country Show 10am-5pm (7) MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (13)
22 Millets Farm 5k run (13) AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	23 MC Marcham Society Meeting 7.15pm (9)	24 AgeUK Photo Sessions (11)	25 MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (13) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17)	26 MC Thirsty Cafe AGM 7.30pm (13)	27	28
29 AS MML Celebration Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	30 DP Games 10.30 (11)					

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