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October 2024 Vol 46 No. 10

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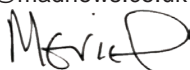


Contact Steve:
07894 983801 / 01865 331501
cotswolds@greensleeves-uk.com

Dear Readers

If you would like to see another issue of MADNews, please help the new team to produce it! Email editor@madnews.co.uk for more details

Until next time... maybe



TEMPORARY PUBLISHER / EDITOR

Meriel Lewis

c/o Marcham Village Shop
16 North Street, Marcham OX13 6NG
Email: editor@madnews.co.uk
Website: www.madnews.co.uk

ADVERTISING

Fran Russell: adverts@madnews.co.uk
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Paula Utting and Claire Wright
13 Parkside, Marcham OX13 6NN
Tel: 01865 391443

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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PCSO Rich Osborn C9323 for Marcham
Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.police.uk
Tel: 07980 924693

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Marcham

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

October 2024

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

PLAY AREA

Progress is being made with the installation of the new play items in the Anson field. This project, aimed at enhancing the recreational facilities for our community, has been eagerly anticipated by residents of all ages. The installation has been carried out by a team of professionals who have ensured that all equipment has been set up according to the manufacturer's guidelines and relevant standards. At the time of writing, a post installation inspection will be required, once everything is complete to ensure safety for public use. The equipment should be accessible soon. Two picnic benches, and a seat are also being added.

VOLUNTEERS FOR SPEEDWATCH

Would you like to help manage traffic speed in the parish? Community Speedwatch is a national initiative where proactive community members, with the support and supervision of local police, record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices.

The small team in Marcham needs more volunteers to join them. Once trained, you'll go to selected locations in the parish with a speed detection gun to record vehicle speeds and registration numbers. Details of those exceeding the speed limit are given to the police, who then contact the vehicle's registered keeper.

If you can spare an hour or so occasionally and are willing to help with the Speedwatch campaign, please contact James Plumb at Jamesplumb22@gmail.com or call 07779 386205. You can also speak to your local parish councillor.

MEETING WITH OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Some Parish Councillors, Clerk, and the County Councillor met officers from the County Council's highway engagement team to talk about road matters, and to show them the issues such as overhanging hedge growth, potholes, and obscured vision at road junctions that Marcham residents face. General discussion took place too about the A415, speeding traffic, and the new entrance into Bloors site and the crossing for cyclists. The County Council took away with them a note of various points that they were going to investigate. The Highways Engagement Team is newly formed, and is dedicated to enhancing the quality of our highways to ensure a smoother, safer journey for all. The visit allowed them to better understand the local concerns, assess the situation on the ground and they will work with the Parish Council to find the best solutions to the local problems. If anyone has a highways issue, then please continue to use Fix My Street, as items listed there are transferred to the new team.

ALLOTMENT RENT COLLECTION

The Clerk will soon be collecting allotment rents for the year 24/25. It would be helpful if, in due course, tenants could arrange

to transfer the rent amount due straight into the Council's bank account via online transfer. Details of the amount payable will be available shortly. Any tenant not having online 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.

APPEAL TO BE CONSIDERATE TO NEIGHBOURS

As Halloween approaches, children may be eager to go out trick or treating. While this is usually a fun activity, it can be unsettling for some residents who receive unexpected visitors. If you plan to go out, please respect those who do not wish to participate.

For those who receive unexpected callers, ensure your door chain or bar is secured before opening the door. Only allow entry to individuals whose identity you are comfortable with. For police assistance, call 101 or dial 999 in an emergency.

Fireworks - Although it is only October, fireworks night in early November is fast approaching. Please plan ahead and be considerate of your neighbours and the many pets and animals in the village when setting off fireworks.

GRANTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL – LAST CHANCE TO APPLY

The Parish Council reviews grant requests annually during its November meeting. If there is a deserving and needy organisation that benefits Marcham residents and is considering applying for a grant, please use the application form available in the publications section on the Council's website: www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk. Be sure to include a copy of your organisation's accounts. The Council's grant policy is also available on the website. **The deadline for submissions is 15th October, 2024.** Applications received after this date or not submitted on the application form will not be considered.

ADVANCE NOTICE – A415/CHURCH STREET/NEW ROAD

On Sunday, 10th November 2024, Remembrance Sunday, there will be a road closure affecting the A415, Church Street, and New Road. This closure is to facilitate the parade to the War Memorial following the church service. The closure is expected to be in effect from approximately 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. During this time, the diversion route will be via North Street, Sheepstead Road, Faringdon Road, and the A338. Please plan your travel accordingly. Thank you for your understanding.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P24/V1335/FUL Erection of new dwelling at 85 Howard Cornish Road. The Council had concerns regarding the proximity to the grade II* listed Hyde Farm House and its barns, and requested that comments from the conservation officer be obtained. It also requested that checks be made to ensure that parking provision and garden amenity space for both properties met with the required design standards.

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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED

P24/V1824/HH Demolition of single storey extension, and replacement, plus addition of new ground floor opening on side elevation at 8 Kings Avenue. The Council had no objections..

DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 14th October 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.

Councillors: Mark Harvie (Chairman), Sheena Bigden, Sandra Hill, Mike Hoath, Ruth Mander, Joe Withers.

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

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

In late July we sadly lost **Ann Southwell** of Abbots Grange. Ann moved to Marcham in 2015; having grown up in the East Midlands & living most of her adult life in Central Oxford. She moved here partly to be close to her partner, Richard, who lives at Bridge House in Abingdon, but also to indulge in her major passions of gardening and golf. She played at Frilford Heath for many, many years and served as ladies captain in 2011. She regularly worshipped at All Saints & was an active member of the Marcham Society.

The service to celebrate Ann's life was very well attended with Oxford Operatic Society members leading the singing to some of her favourite hymns and musical tunes; at a lunch held afterwards at the Marcham Centre many stories were shared about Ann.

Her cousin David and his family have been hugely comforted by the countless messages of condolence they received and to know she meant so much to so many. They ask that we all remember Ann fondly and give thanks for the full and colourful life she led.



Ann and her partner Richard celebrating in style at Frilford Heath

MARCHAM AND DISTRICT POPPY APPEAL 2024

This year's Poppy Appeal will run from 24th October
with Remembrance Sunday being 10th November

As per previous years there will no longer be any door-to-door collections
but donation boxes will be located at:

- Marcham Village Shop & Post Office
- The Marcham Centre
- All Saints Church
- The Crown
- Appleton Shop & Post Office
- Budgens (Frilford)

Collection points will be available in Garford village, Local Pubs in Appleton & Eaton as well as Millets and Webbs Garden Centre. Pin Badges can be reserved/ordered by messaging me on 07342812801 and collected from Longfields in Marcham.

Your support and generosity last year helped us raise just under £5,000. This is a tremendous amount and we thank you in advance for your donations for this year's Poppy Appeal. All your donations are invaluable in enabling the Royal British Legion to provide life-long support to serving and ex-serving members of the British Armed Forces and their families.

Thank you

Jamie Butcher



An Oxtrail event took place this summer and artificial oxen which could be found 'grazing' in and around Oxford were finally rounded up in the Westgate centre (see photo). 40 large, medium and miniature sculptures were then sold at auction for Sobell House hospice and a **moovellous** £155,000 was raised. The single ox (see photo) will be on permanent display in the hospice and amongst the names painted on it is Pam Scoble's who lived in Marcham and spent her final days in Sobell House this year.



Photos courtesy of John Scoble

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Volunteers Needed Help Support Our Community

Our community flourishes thanks to the dedication of volunteers. We extend our gratitude to everyone who has contributed their time and energy over the years. Whether it's supporting the Parish Council, participating in working groups, organising local events, or helping out at Thirsty Café and The Community Centre, volunteers are the backbone of our village.

To sustain these activities, we need more volunteers. If you have an interest in local governance, event organisation, or other projects like MAD News, the play area, footpaths, or Speedwatch, there's a role for you. Volunteering is not only crucial but also fulfilling. It's an excellent way to meet new people, acquire new skills, and make a significant impact in our community.

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

Thank you to all our current and past volunteers—you are the reason our community is such a good place to live.
marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk



**Stamp prices are set to increase on
Monday 7 October**

Letters

1st Class Letter up 30p.
1st Class large Letter up 50p.
No increase to 2nd Class or Large Letters

Small Parcels

1st Class & Tracked 24 up 20p
2nd Class & T48 up 6p

Medium Parcels

1st Class 0-10kg up 30p, 10-20kg up 70p
2nd Class 0-10kg up 26p, 10-20kg up 56p
Tracked 24 0-10kg up 20p, 10-20kg up 60p
Tracked 48 0-10kg up 16p, 10-20kg up 46p

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- Groceries
- Local produce e.g. beer, honey, preserves, flour
- Fresh meat to order from Hedges



- Fruit and vegetables
- Sandwiches and snacks
- Sweets and chocolates
- Drinks – alcoholic and soft
- Tobacco products
- Baking products
- Baby food
- Toiletries
- Household products
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- Newspapers and TV guides
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- Fresh coffee and cakes
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- Free cash withdrawals
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- Moneygrams
- Postal orders
- One4All gift cards
- Parcel collection, deposit and returns from carriers Royal mail, Parcelforce and DPD
- And even more!



We've started bringing in stock ready for Christmas (yes, really!), and we've already sold most of it! However, keep your eyes open as we will be getting more. The cold nights have also arrived which means that Hallowe'en and Bonfire night are fast approaching. So, for the trick and treats, we have bags of sweets at £1 a bag. Come and grab yours before they all go.

We look forward to seeing you soon, and thank you, as always, for your continued support. We currently have no volunteers in reserve, so if you're looking for a little side-line ie no more than 2 hours per week then we have availability. But we could also offer on an ad-hoc basis, particularly holiday or sickness cover. Please leave your details in the shop.

Marcham Village Shop Shares

If you would like to become a share-holder and get an invitation to the next AGM, fill in the form and support your local shop!

THANK YOU, AS ALWAYS, FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

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MARCHAM WI

Monday 21st October 2024,
7.30pm at Marcham Centre

How colour can be transformative

Tori Johnson is coming to speak with us about how the colours we wear can alter how we feel - and how to make the most of this!

Visitors always welcome

marchamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk



Marcham Society Midweek Walk

The next Midweek Walk will be on Thursday 3rd October from The White Horse, Stonesfield. A super walking area and our route drops down to where the Roman Road, Akeman Street, crosses the River Evenlode and then follows the river to Ashford Bridge

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

The Astronomy Group

Thursday 17th October 2024 at 7pm in the Small Hall, Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, OX13 6TY
A round-up of astronomy sightings during September, followed by "Biodiversity/evolution effects of bolide impacts" by Julian Parfitt



An asteroid: image found at whatifshow.com

The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE



**Wednesday 16th October,
10.30am and 2.00pm
Abbey Cinema, Abbey Close,
Abingdon OX14 3JD**

The Brilliance of Brunel: the man who built the modern world

Ian Swankie

We are still living amongst the infrastructure created by Isambard Kingdom Brunel in the 19th century. He changed the face of the English landscape with his ground-breaking projects including railways, bridges, tunnels, ships and grand buildings such as the magnificent Paddington Station. He merged art with engineering and science and was a pioneer and a revolutionary. And he was brilliant! We look at the man, his background, his work and his legacy.



Isambard Kingdom Brunel
bronze statue - Temple
Wicki Commons

The lecture will be held at the Abbey Cinema at 10.30 and 2pm. For further information please contact us at info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk.

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

Fungi of Oxfordshire's Golden Triangle

Judy Webb

7.15 for 7.45pm Monday 28th October

Main Hall, Marcham Centre OX13 6TY

Members free of charge, Guests welcome at £5

Fungi come in a multitude of forms; from mushrooms, toadstools, brackets and boletes to puffballs, stinkhorns, coral fungi, rusts, smuts and mildews. Many are essential to plant and tree growth, some cause disease, many are important in decay and re-cycling. All sorts in many colourful forms are to be found in the exceptionally wildlife-rich area on the Jurassic Corallian sands of the Marcham – Cothill – Frilford area, the 'golden triangle'.

Judy Webb is a local ecologist who has been fascinated by fungi for many years and leads surveys for the Fungus Survey of Oxfordshire which is a local group who love fungi and are concerned with recording fungal species for conservation purposes. She rarely eats wild collected fungi and will happily tell you why.

For more information contact
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

Facebook: marchamsociety

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

This month we have welcomed 18 new families into pre-school and we've enjoyed getting to know the children as well as their parents. It's been lovely to watch new friendships develop and to support the children as they learn their way around. One of the many social skills we encourage with the children is to be a kind helper and it's great to see this in action as they help one another on the play equipment. Our term so far has been filled with nursery rhymes and traditional tales as well as learning and sharing some of our less-known favourites!



If you would like to find out more about Marcham Pre-school please get in touch on 01865 392101 or by emailing marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

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



August is always an emotional month for us as we wave off our eldest angels to school. We loved celebrating their journey during our **Graduation Ceremony**, they have grown their wings and flown to their next adventure. However, with the new season upon us we welcome many new children to our little angels family and we are so excited to begin this journey with you!



We have enjoyed getting outdoors in all weathers this summer from making mud cakes at Forest School to picking blackberries for afternoon snack. We are now looking forward to learning all about Autumn as the season changes going for crisp walks collecting fallen leaves and pine cones.

We are proud to announce we are the new sponsors of **Kingston Colts F.C Under 8's!** We have sponsored them and they now have a brand new football kit with our logo. The boys are absolutely delighted with their kit and we are so happy we could do this for them. Dream big footballers you can achieve anything you want!



This month we held another of our Development Days for our team in which our amazing childcare professionals had time to share best practice, learn and grow as a family. We wish the same with our little angels as our team we wish to 'Nurture their quest for knowledge'.

A couple of congratulations to our Team...

We want to say a BIG well done to our amazing Ella who works at Marcham Little Angels for completing The Great North Run Half Marathon! We are so incredibly proud of her, what an incredible achievement. She worked so hard training and did not give it up when it got tough, what a role model she is for our Little Angels!



We also welcomed some new very small Little Angels this month. Emily our childcare professional from Teal Room welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Aurora to the world. Mummy and baby are both doing well. We wish Emily, Josh and Aurora all the best as a family of three.

If you are Level 2 or Level 3 qualified in childcare we would love to hear from you as our team is ever growing. Please drop us an email at info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk
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 Instagram @Little_Angels_Childcare_Group



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 The oxme.info website is provided by 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.

Better Housing Better Health

is here to help keep Oxfordshire residents warm and well at home

Free help

I have heating and hot water again! I can't tell you how happy and relieved me and the kids are.

Find out how they can help you.
 Call 0800 107 00 44



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 next meetings are 14th & 28th October, 11th & 25th November.

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

A Message from Daisy

Hello everyone, my name is Daisy, and I live with my herd of ponies and horses. I was hoping to ask if you would have any time to come and help look after me? All of us in the herd have a really, really important job to do, we have riders who are disabled. Together with our human helper friends we help them with an endless list of good things, their physical balance and strength, stretching, emotional wellbeing, and sometimes just walking, as some of our riders' legs don't work as well as mine.

Most of all I love my riders! And they love me back and I do my very, very best to give them a great ride, that is fun but helps them get stronger and better too.

We can't do this though without our human helper friends as we need to keep everyone safe. We live all together very close to Southmoor and need help, well most of the week actually, certainly mornings and evening for lessons and making sure our coats are clean and shiny, our stables are tidy and that we get to the right arena or field at the right time!

Please come and help us, we are very well behaved (mostly!) and even human helper friends who don't know about horses can come and love us because our other helper friends will show you what to do. Or come for a visit, see what goes on down that long drive next to our fields at the end of Southmoor. We will always be pleased to see you!

Please contact my friend Karen karen_i_stubbs@yahoo.co.uk and she will be in touch.

With love and best wishes

Daisy



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A Young Naturalist's Safari

The other day, a young voice, wise beyond her years, posed a question that left me pondering the wonders of our garden's wildlife. "What creatures can be found in gardens during Spring, Summer, Autumn, and my favourite, Winter?" she asked, her eyes sparkling with curiosity.

Spring: The Awakening

Spring in the garden is like a grand opening of a nature-themed Broadway show. The ladybirds are the first to take the stage, their red and black polka-dotted costumes dazzling under the sun. Tadpoles wiggle in the pond, rehearsing their transformation into frogs. Birds, the ultimate DIY enthusiasts, flit about collecting nesting materials, while humans, the perennial garden spectators, emerge from hibernation to marvel at the spectacle.

Summer: The Buzzing Bonanza

As the temperature rises, so does the garden's activity. Greenfly, the tiny troublemakers, throw a garden party, much to the dismay of the plants. Foxes, the stealthy night-time visitors, leave behind clues of their nocturnal escapades. Grasshoppers, the garden's musicians, provide a constant background score with their chirping. And of course, humans, armed with sun hats and lemonade, bask in the glory of summer.

Autumn: The Cosy Gathering

Autumn brings a sense of cosiness to the garden. Hedgehogs, the prickly yet adorable guests, scurry around preparing for their winter slumber. Bats, the mysterious night flyers, swoop through the twilight sky. Badgers, the garden's burrowers, make their presence known with their distinctive tracks. Humans, wrapped in scarves and sipping hot cocoa, enjoy the crisp air and the vibrant foliage.

Winter: The Silent Symphony

Winter, the young naturalist's favourite season, transforms the garden into a serene wonderland. Redwing birds, with their striking plumage, add a splash of colour to the bare branches. Squirrels, the acrobats of the garden, perform daring leaps in search of hidden nuts. Deer, the gentle giants, occasionally grace the garden with their majestic presence. And humans, bundled up in layers, marvel at the quiet beauty of the winter landscape.

The Common Thread

Can you see the commonality across all seasons? Humans are a dominant force in our own ecosystems, and we are part of it, not separate from it. We like to remove ourselves from it, and it's something we've done for millennia. Aristotle and the like all wrote about it. It's not a perception we can turn around overnight.

I'm sure you can come up with another seasonal list that resonates with you. Mine came to me at the time, but ask me the same question next month and I might say something completely different. Regardless of the list, we're all part of the greater picture of a healthy and fully functional ecosystem. All playing a part, all having a place.

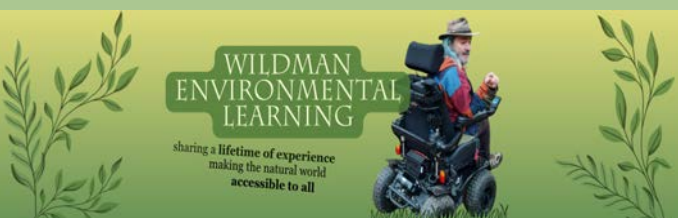
So next time you step into your garden, remember, you're not just an observer. You're a participant in this grand, ever-changing play called nature.

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 Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 9am to 11:30am. As the seasons change, we hope you enjoy popping in to enjoy our warm drinks, home cooked food and friendly faces.



Duke of Edinburgh

Signed up to do the Duke of Edinburgh? Come and do your volunteering hours with us. We have lots of experience supporting people through this fantastic programme. Email us at hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk to find out more.

Natural Bread

On 14th September, our bread supplier, Natural Bread, joined us at the cafe to showcase their wide range of breads and pasties. It was a fantastic success with many families signing up for fresh bread deliveries. [photo below]



Millet's Fun Run

We had a lot of fun at our annual fun run on 22nd September. Thank you to Tesco's, Millet's Farm, Hedges, the Dogs Spot, Marie with Scentsy, Kingdom Coffee, Marcham Village Shop and PO for donating prizes and goodies. Thank you also to the army of volunteers who cheered everyone on and made it run smoothly. A particular thanks to Millet's Farm for hosting us. It was a great morning and helped us raise valuable funds. You can find out more about the day on our website.

Membership and Annual General Meeting

Thirsty Café is a Community Benefit Society. This means it is a membership organisation, owned and run by its members. On Thursday, 26th September we held our Annual General Meeting. This is a valuable opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the past year and share our ongoing vision. Membership is open all year round. Find out how to become a member on our website.

Dates for your diary

- Wednesday, 2nd October: Stay and Play 9-11:30am
- Wednesday, 9th October: SEN session 9-11:30am
- Wednesday, 16th October: community lunch 12-2pm

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

MARCHAM COMMUNITY GROUP AGM AND OPEN MEETING – THURSDAY 31ST OCTOBER



MCG, the charity running Marcham Centre under a long lease from Marcham Parish Council, is holding its AGM and Open Meeting at 7:30pm on Thursday 31st October in the Small Hall at Marcham Centre.

This is an opportunity for local people to find out about how the facility is run and used, its finances and the way forward. Although only MCG members will be able to vote in the AGM part of the meeting, including the election of trustees, there will be a Q&A session open to everyone.

This is a community facility, so please join us and let us know what you think and ideas you may have for how we can extend what we offer and the facilities we provide.

For those who are not yet members, we are keen to bring you on board and support us. Please use this QR code to download a membership form for 2024-25.



MCG Community Investment Fund (derived from the gift-aided profits from Marcham Community Trading, which operates the bar) is able to provide funds for other local groups. If your club or group activity needs support to further the interests of our community, please email admin@marcham.org for further details and a grant application form.

Events

- Friday 4th October: Quiz Night: Adults only 7:30 for 8pm prompt start.
- Friday 18th October: Family Bingo: Eyes down at 7:30pm.
- Indoor short-mat bowls at Marcham Centre: 2pm on Wednesdays. New bowlers will be welcomed.

Volunteers

We rely heavily 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.

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?

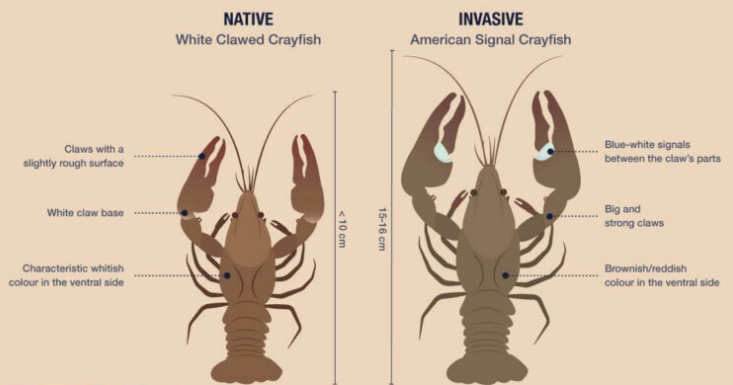
If you wish to book a room at Marcham Centre, please use the booking request system on www.marchamcentre.org or contact our Coordinator: coordinator@marchamcentre.org.

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

Operated by Marcham Community Group (MCG)
Registered in England 7470307 Charity No. 1144407



Could you recognize them in nature?



#SpeciesOfTheMonth

A crayfish spotted at the bottom of an Anson Close garden

Have you spotted any interesting wildlife or got a picture to share? Email editor@madnews.co.uk

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Do you enjoy gardening, art, crafts or woodwork?
- Are you interested in mental health and helping others?
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- 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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WWW.RESTORE.ORG.UK | 01865 455822

Do you want your work to make a difference every day?

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Our PCSOs are the face of the police within local communities. In this diverse role, you will police our neighbourhoods, work to reduce crime and disorder, and build strong relationships with our communities and partner agencies.

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you want to see

More information about the PCSO role is available on our TVP Careers website, on the PCSO page: tvpcareers.co.uk/roles/pcsos



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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Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain (Psalm 127:1). If you have walked past All Saints Church recently then you will have noticed that we have some work going on: Building for Community. At the west end, under the gallery, the kitchen is being enlarged and refurbished, with a new wide serving opening into the main body of the church. There will be a new universal access toilet on the ground floor with baby changing facilities, and a new toilet installed on the first floor next to the church office. It is the most significant reordering work at the church since the 1980's, and we hope it will significantly enhance the welcome we can offer to the parish for all church and community events. None of the work would be possible were it not for generous donations from the Anson Trust, Oxford Historic Churches Trust, Thames Water and many individual congregation and community members. Thank you. We have managed to raise £75k in grants and £45k from individual donors. The church council (PCC) also pledged up to £50k. It turns out that grants and donations will cover the cost of the internal works. This means that the PCC is able to fund repairs to the porch roof that suddenly became urgent over the summer. Classic Builders are doing both projects at the same time this autumn, and the work should be completed by Christmas. We look forward to inviting you in to enjoy the new facilities

Sunday October 6th - Our all-age service will be at 10.30am at the Marcham Centre

Regular Sunday services

10.30am: Morning Service at AS

6pm: Evening Service

Wednesday Holy Communion

10.30am at Duffield Place

Contacts:

Rev'd. 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 is open for quiet prayer 11am-12pm on Sundays with no morning service.

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

Sunday 27 October, 6pm Memorial Service/Service of Light for loved ones - Rev'd R. Siebert

Sunday 3 November, 10.45am Patronal Service - Rev'd M. Dilly. The Patronal Service will begin at 11.00am, preceded at 10.45am by a prayer and dedication of the church bell which was restored and re-hung earlier this year. Parishioners, and especially children, will then be very welcome to ring the bell to announce the 11.00am service.

News from St. Luke's

Our Harvest Service on 1st September was very well attended with a multigenerational congregation of around 50 from Garford, Marcham and beyond. The vintage tractor and plough were very popular with the young (and young-at-heart) and the church was beautifully decorated, all emphasising the importance and tradition of giving thanks and celebrating Harvest in our rural community. Generous food donations were collected and taken to the Abingdon Food Bank.

Contact: st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

RESERVOIR

Like many local residents and fellow council members, I was deeply disappointed by the news that the government has approved Thames Water's Water Resource Management Plan 2024 (WRMP24), thereby accepting the need for a 150 billion litre reservoir to the south of Marcham. The leader of the Vale, Cllr Thomas, had previously written to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Steve Reed MP, to ask for a meeting to discuss the reservoir and alternatives. The SoS has not even responded to the letter, never mind agreeing to the meeting. I wrote in last month's report that the government had made positive noises about building a better relationship with local government: when it comes to them turning words into deeds, this has not been a good start.

As for the next steps, there is currently an Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping consultation in progress. Thames Water is preparing a Development Consent Order (DCO) application for submission in 2026, which will again be decided by central government.

JOINT LOCAL PLAN

Residents may remember from my earlier reports that the Vale's emerging Joint Local Plan (together with South Oxfordshire) was due to go out for a final consultation in early 2025 so that it could be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in April 2025. Owing to changes in circumstances, the decision has since been made to accelerate this process by 4 months so that the JLP can instead be submitted in December 2025. Following approval by both cabinets (South and Vale) and both full councils in mid-September, the final consultation will therefore now open on 1st October. This consultation is a final check on the soundness and legal compliance of the draft JLP, rather than an opportunity for further major changes.

Amidst the dry process of the approval process, it's easy to lose sight of the significance of this JLP. It really is something we're immensely proud of, that will deliver tangible benefits to the region over the next 15 years or so. The improvements in accessibility of affordable housing, climate action, filling many of the 'gaps' in building, and so much more will be dramatic – not only compared to the Local Plans that we have now, but also compared to other Local Plans across the country. We are now just a few months away from (hopefully) reaching the finish line – wish us luck!

DR ROBERT CLEGG

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



COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

It is with pleasure that I write my first column for the monthly magazine. I apologise upfront for the late start – I was elected councillor back at the end of June, and then promptly went on holiday with my family, followed by the normal summer holidays through to the end of August, which has meant that I am only really coming up to speed now in September. However, I have now attended the council meetings for all of the six parishes in my division, as well as sitting on two full county councils and three committees that scrutinise council work. Public life as a councillor is quite different from my normal work, lots of wordy reports to read and more formalities – but more formal for a good reason to ensure everyone gets their democratic say, so worthwhile and rewarding.

In terms of news, we are waiting to hear about the new HIF road and bridge across the Thames in between Appleford and Sutton Courtenay. I spent a lot of time over the summer trying my best to help resolve issues with school buses which have faced considerable challenges over the holidays to prepare for the new school year. I visited the massive landfill site in between the two villages, where I saw what action is being taken to prevent bad smells re-occurring from leachate problems over the past year, and I have asked to visit the waste transfer site there to find out what they are doing to minimise their impact on us.

I am trying to support the new pavilion for the football club at Milton through planning difficulties. I will be trained on the legalities of planning before being allowed to join the county planning committee in November, where I will then scrutinise plans for the landfill site, gravel pits, waste transfer stations, the HIF road, and other infrastructure and large new local developments, to try to get the best deal for local residents and long term outcomes for communities.

At county, district, and parish level, we objected to Thames Water and their proposed SESRO mega reservoir, and I continue to feed into the consultation to improve their strategic plans for the Thames, improving resilience to flooding, harnessing flood waters, stopping leaks, stopping sewage spills, and improving water recycling, as well as safe-guarding water supplies.

This week, I am going to meet the county highways team at Marcham to discuss improving the roads, and to find out what steps they are taking to make the repairs to pot holes last longer and be more resilient to the climate changes increasing their prevalence.

I am also being briefed on the master plan to redevelop the Dalton Barracks next to Abingdon, and will find out more about the new Joint Local Plan ahead of next month.

More next month, until then enjoy the last of the summer sun.

PETER STEVENS

County Councillor for Sutton Courtenay & Marcham

peter.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk



OTHER REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Frilford Garford Jill Rayner jill.rayner@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Tubney Mark Coleman mark.coleman@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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

RESERVOIR NEWS

Reservoir Update from Thames Water

Thank you

Thank you for participating in our summer 2024 consultation and events on our proposal for an essential new reservoir for the South East. This project aims to secure future water supply for 15 million people, including you and your neighbours here in Oxfordshire.

The 12-week consultation period has now closed, and we're reviewing your feedback. We'll share any design updates and publish a formal response to the consultation early next year.

You'll have another chance to have your say in our 2025 public consultation. In the meantime, please stay updated via our website: www.thames-sro.co.uk/sesro

If you have any queries, please email us on: info.SESRO@thameswater.co.uk.



Women's health services in Oxfordshire

Tell us your views

healthwatch
Oxfordshire

Fill in our survey



Have your say on women's health services in Oxfordshire!

Healthwatch Oxfordshire would like to hear about your experiences of getting help for women's health issues, such as perimenopause, periods or cervical screening, as well as your experiences of health services more generally.

- What works well and what could be better?
- Is there anything that makes it difficult to get the help you need?
- What ideas do you have for how women's health services could be better?

Please share your experiences and views by completing an anonymous online survey at www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/womenshealthservices/

The survey will be open until 31st October.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire is an independent charity for people who use health and social care services. It finds out what matters to local people and makes sure their views are heard by the people who make decisions about those services.

It will use your feedback about women's health services to help shape support and improve services.

If you would rather talk to someone about your experience, or would like a paper copy or translated survey, please contact Healthwatch Oxfordshire on 01865 520520 or at hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk

To find out more about the work of Healthwatch Oxfordshire see www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk



Kennington Memory Club

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

October Monthly News Blog

We are now well into autumn and it's the season of conkers, windfall apples and autumn leaf colours changing the natural landscape from the greens of summer to the oranges, reds and browns of autumn. October also heralds in Halloween with pumpkins galore. Although we can all enjoy the colours and fruits of the season in the moment, some of those with dementia lose their sense of the bigger picture of the seasons changing as the year progresses. Each season will trigger memories for us all. Playing in the crispy, dry fallen leaves and jumping into the piles as they are raked up is one of my abiding memories of helping in the garden in autumn with my dad. Reminiscences like these are so important in providing connections with our past and reinforcing our family relationships as we get older. This is why Kennington Memory Club puts a great store in recalling past events and personal memories, encouraging our members to remember the highlights of their lives and share their experiences.

If you'd like to know more about the Club and Day Centre for people who are living with dementia, or to arrange for someone to come along for a visit or a free taster day, email the Club Organiser kay.organiser@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk or phone her on 07852 883496. If the phone is not answered straight away, please do leave a message and she will always get back to you very shortly. More information can also be found on the website www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk. We look forward to welcoming you to the Club.
Isobel Birse *Chairman, Kennington Memory Club*

Time to try a different type of exercise?

Zumba classes at Marcham Centre

Thursday Nights

18.30 – 19.30



email gill.malloy@yahoo.co.uk
to book a place or just come along



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0800 555 111

Call anonymously with information about crime

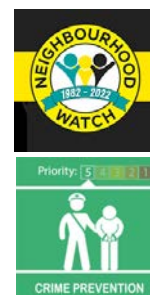
Tell them what you know, not who you are

Have you been asked to donate money to help people of recent disasters? Please protect yourself with the following information:

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

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

You can donate safely to Disasters
Emergency Committee (DEC) at the Post
Office using cash or a card



OCTOBER 2024

The number in brackets refers to the page number where you can find more details

Abbreviations:

AS All Saints' Church, Marcham, **SL** St Luke's Church, Garford

DP Duffield Place, **MC** Marcham Centre

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	DP Games 10.30 (11)		MC Thirsty Café Stay & Play 9-11.30am (13) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short-mat Bowls 2pm (15)	Marcham Society Midweek Walk 12.30pm (9) Millets Farm Classic car meet 9.30am-noon	MC Quiz Night 7.30pm for 8pm start (15)	MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (13)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
MC All-age Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17) SL Songs of Praise 6pm (17)	Stamp and parcel prices rise MC Bridge 6.50pm		MC Thirsty Café SEN Session 9-11.30am (13) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short-mat Bowls 2pm (15)			MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (13)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	DP Games 10.30 (11) MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Parish Council Meeting 7.30m (3)	Parish Council Grant Deadline (3)	MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (13) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Community Lunch 12-2pm (13) MC Short-mat Bowls 2pm (15) Arts Society Abingdon 10.30am & 2pm (9)	MC Astronomy Group 7pm (9)	MC Bingo 7.30pm (15)	MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (13)
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17) MADNEWS DEADLINE 5PM FOR NEXT ISSUE	MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham WI 7.30pm (9)		MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (13) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short-mat Bowls 2pm (15)	Poppy Appeal starts (5)		MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (13) Clocks go back 1 hour at 2am o
27	28	29	30	31		
Clocks go back 1 hour at 2am AS Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17) SL Memorial Service – Service of Light 6pm (17)	DP Games 10.30 (11) MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Society Meeting 7.15pm (9)		MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (13) MC Short-mat Bowls 2pm (15)	Healthwatch Survey Deadline (19) MC MCGAGM 7.30pm (15)		

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