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December 2024 Vol 46 No. 12

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Last month's cover photograph was taken by Bartle Frere at Stowe Gardens



This month's cover photo is of the collection of little knitted angels made by May for Little Angels - see page 10

Dear Readers

I hope you all have a great December, whatever you are celebrating!

Until next time...
maybe



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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

December 2024

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CHRISTMAS – VILLAGE GREEN

To bring the joy and festive spirit of the season to our village, the Council is delighted that Andrew MacLean of ADM Trees at Frilford has again agreed to provide a Christmas tree for the village green. We extend our gratitude to Andrew for his generosity. Councillors will decorate the tree with lights. Our thanks go too to the Councillors who have volunteered to arrange this.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

The Vale of White Horse District Council is again recycling real Christmas Trees in January. When you no longer need your tree, it can be put out next to the brown bin at the kerbside provided it is less than 1.8m or 6 ft tall. If larger than this it will need to be cut into sections. If you do not have a brown garden waste bin, then your real Christmas tree can be placed by the Salvation Army Textile bank in Howard Cornish Road (opposite Duffield Place). Again, please cut it into sections if it taller than 1.8m (6ft). The last day for depositing your Christmas tree at the textile bank will be by the end of the day on Tuesday 14th January, 2025. Trees left after this date will not be collected. Please do not obstruct the textile bank, or more particularly the bus stop, when leaving your trees. Also there is to be a Christmas tree collection from Millets Farm, so this is another opportunity for local residents to recycle their tree. Trees need to be dropped off at Millets by the end of Saturday 11th January. Again, trees left there after that date will not be collected.

PLAY AREA

The Council is pleased to be able to confirm that phase II of the play area is essentially complete. The Council is planning for a new bench seat inside the fencing, new signage, and is looking to repaint the older items to blend in. It will need to seek quotations for the painting, and is mindful that paint suitable for play areas will need to be used, as well as suitable preparation carried out. The Council would invite anyone who is knowledgeable and who could help write a specification of what is needed, to contact the clerk or your local Councillor. The intention is to clarify and document what needs to be done, and to write a structured specification to enable quotations to be sought. Any work would obviously be carried out in the better weather next year. So please speak to your Councillor or clerk if you can help.

GRANTS

The Parish Council annually awards grants to local organisations, in accordance with local government legislation, where there is benefit to some or all of the residents of the parish. Applications for grants were considered at the November meeting of the Parish Council. The Council was pleased to be able to support Marcham Community Group towards the expenses of the Anson field maintenance, the Marcham Parochial Church Council to support its running of the children's club and outing for village children, Marcham Society for the reprinting

of the jubilee walks map, the South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau who have helped quite a few local people over the past year, and the Abingdon Bridge which supports youngsters and their families, and is visited by some from Marcham. The Council also supported the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, making a donation to them.

DALTON BARRACKS GARDEN VILLAGE

In the District Council's Local Plan there are proposals for a residential led mixed use new development at Dalton Barracks. Public consultation about the development is being undertaken by WSP on behalf of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation. As things progress, more information will be added to the website at www.daltonbarracks.com. There have been some exhibitions in November, with more planned in early December. The exhibition will be in Marcham Centre on Thursday 28th November between 3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. and again on Friday 6th December from 5.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.

Regular updates will be prepared as things progress. If you wish to receive the updates direct, then please register your details at the Dalton Barracks website mentioned above. WSP are keen to work with local people in the planning of this new community. So please visit the exhibition and the website, and make your views known.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE WAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS CAN BE ARRANGED

The law currently allows for Council meetings to be only held face-to-face, as the attendance of councillors at local authority meetings is part of the democratic process and is integral to members carrying out their role effectively. Meetings which are open to the public enable residents to attend and listen to debates, and bring things to the attention of the local Council too. However, it may not always be possible for all councillors to attend all of the meetings, all of the time, and central government is undertaking national consultation on whether it would be helpful to be able to have remote meetings, as were permitted during Covid, and to allow voting by proxy. Marcham Parish Council has not formed a collective view on this, but has asked councillors to submit their own individual responses. The consultation is open to the public, so if there is anyone who wishes to take part then the details can be found at the gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings>

ENTRY TO PRIMARY OR INFANT SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2025

If you are a parent or carer of a child 3 or 4 years old then you need to apply for a primary school place now. This is for children born between 1st September 2020 and 31st

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Email: theshop.ws@gmail.com
www.TheShop.ws



August 2021 (inclusive). You still have to apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to your preferred school. For further information and to apply online go to Apply for a school place | Oxfordshire County Council. The closing date for applications is 15th January, 2025.

Planning Applications considered by the Parish Council

P24/V1335/FUL Additional plan showing parking arrangements for existing dwelling at 85 Howard Cornish Road. The Council had no comment.

P24/V2061/HH Replace defective flat roofs to porch (front elevation) and study/garden room (rear elevation) with pitched, tiled and insulated roofs at 11 Haines Court. The Council had no objections.

DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is Monday 9th December, 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall. In addition, it is proposed to hold a separate meeting on **18th December** to discuss next year's budget. 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.

P24/V2113/HH New oak framed conservatory. Internal alterations at 60 North Street. The Council had no objection in principle, but was concerned about parking during construction as the property was off a narrow section of North Street without any footway.

P24/V2098/LDP Part single storey rear extension including internal alterations at 13 The Farthings. The Council had no comment.

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

The Council wishes everyone a happy Christmas.



**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
MARCHAM AND DISTRICT
POPPY APPEAL 2024
THANK YOU!**

This year the collection from Marcham, Frilford, Garford, Tubney and Appleton raised a tremendous **£4,061.17**

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

**Bank Holiday 2024/25
Waste Collection Changes**

Wed 25 Dec	Friday 27 Dec
Wed 1 Jan	Friday 3 Jan
Wed 8 Jan	Thursday 9 Jan

If you are new to Marcham, come and visit Thirsty Café in the Marcham Centre on a Wednesday or Saturday morning between 9am and 11.30am. Come and meet us and our community, enjoy hot drinks, homemade cakes and, on a Saturday, cooked food.



The Café is always in need of volunteers either helping in the café or behind the scenes baking cakes etc.

Natural Bread now has a mini-stall on a Saturday morning in the centre between 9 and 11.30am. You can pop by and buy some baked goods or order from their website by 2pm the Wednesday before.

A new Administrator has been employed to start at the beginning of December.

Dates in December

- On Wednesday 4th December there is Stay and Play where parents can bring their young children to the café and chat to other parents.
- Wednesday 11th December SENIASS support session and a PCSO visit with Age UK to chat on scams.
- Wednesday 18th December is the next Christmas Community lunch. (pre booking is essential) in the café or on our website.
- Saturday 21st December is the final session of 2024.

Everyone in Thirsty Cafe the Manager, Volunteers and Committee would like to thank everyone for your continual support and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

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

Website: www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

E-mail: hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

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As Christmas looms closer, please be aware of the last posting dates for parcels and letters to guarantee delivery by the 25th. You can buy Christmas stamps from the Post Office, and if you still have stamps without barcodes, you can swap them by sending them off to Royal Mail, who will exchange them for new ones. Forms are available in the Post Office. Special picture stamps, however, are still valid even without the barcode.

Last posting dates for Christmas are listed below

UK Inland	Wed 18 Dec	Thu 19 Dec	Fri 20 Dec	Sat 21 Dec	Mon 23 Dec
Royal Mail	2nd class 2nd class signed for 1st class signed for		1st class 1st class signed for Tracked 48	Tracked 24	Special delivery guaranteed
Parcel Force		Express48	Express24 ExpressAM		
DPD				Next Day and Next Day by 12*	

**excludes certain post codes -see list in PO*



If you are posting abroad, remember that you can fill in your customs forms (typically CN22) online, in the comfort of your own home – postoffice.co.uk/ICDC or scan the QR code. We can then print the customs form for you at the Post Office - this will make the process at the Post Office much quicker.

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE. If you are sending parcels overseas with Royal Mail or ParcelForce in time for Christmas, please check online or in the Post Office for last posting dates.



Don't forget that the Naughty Elf will be in the shop being as naughty as the Naughty Elf can be. We have a quiz for the younger visitors to our shop, where we ask you to tell us where the Naughty Elf has been hiding each week during December. Quiz forms are available at the counter and the Elf will find a new location on each Monday in December. There will be prizes for all children who have correctly completed the quiz form and returned it to the shop by 6 January 2025.

Christmas orders are now being taken in the shop and the Christmas order price list is available from the counter. Christmas orders will be available for collection between Friday 20th 1200-1700 hrs, 0830-1200 hrs on Saturday 21st, 0830-1700 hrs on Monday 23rd and 0830-1200 hrs on Tuesday 24th December. If there is anything specific that you would like, not listed, please ask and we will do our best to help. In addition, you are still able to order Hedges meats from the shop on a weekly basis.



Last month, the Shop took a stall at the WI craft fair. It was a very busy and interesting day and we met lots of lovely people. All the staff that work in the shop, and at these types of events, are volunteers and give up 2 or more hours per week of their free time. If you are interested in being part of this voluntary community, please leave your details in the shop and we will get back to you.

Finally, signing off for 2024, we would like to say to:

- all those that donated to the Poppy Appeal. This year the shop collected **£460.13** – all for a very worthy cause;
- Tracy for our lovely Christmas window display again this year;
- ALL OF YOU, for your loyal and continued support – **we wouldn't be here without you.**



Thank you!

Christmas Opening Hours

- Monday 23 December – 08:30-17:00
- Tuesday 24 December – 08:30-12:00
- Wednesday 25 December – CLOSED
- Thursday 26 December – CLOSED
- Friday 27 December – CLOSED
- Saturday 28 December – CLOSED
- Sunday 29 December – CLOSED
- Monday 30 December – 08:30-17:00
- Tuesday 31 December – 08:30-12:00
- Wednesday 1 January 2025 – CLOSED
- Tuesday 2 January – 08:30-17:00



*On behalf of Marcham Village Shop & Post Office,
 we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year*

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MARCHAM WI

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Christmas Crafts and Party

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Marcham Society Midweek Walk

will be on **Thursday 5th December** setting out from the
Horse and Jockey Pub, 25 Faringdon Road,
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For more details contact
e.dunford@btinternet.com 01865 391439

The Astronomy Group

Thursday 12th December 2024 at 7pm
Small Hall, Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, OX13 6TY
A round-up of astral sightings during November and
December with a fun *Christmas Astronomical Quiz!*

Meetings will resume in January 2025
For more information contact
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk
www.marchamsociety.org.uk
Facebook: [marchamsociety](https://www.facebook.com/marchamsociety)

Volunteers Needed Help Support Our Community

Volunteers Needed: Please Help Support Our Community

Our village flourishes thanks to the incredible energy and dedication of our volunteers. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has generously given their time and effort over the years. Whether it's supporting the Parish Council, joining working groups, organizing local events, or lending a hand at Thirsty Café and The Community Centre, our volunteers are the heartbeat of our community.

To keep these wonderful activities alive, we need more volunteers. If you're interested in local governance, or projects like MADNews, footpaths, or Speedwatch, or if you have new ideas to suggest, there's a role waiting for you. Volunteering is vital and deeply rewarding. It's a fantastic way to meet new people, learn new skills, and make a real difference in our village.

If you're keen to volunteer or want to learn more about getting involved, please speak to 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 significant impact.

Thank you to all our volunteers, past and present – your help is the reason our community is such a good place to live.

marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

If you have an event to promote
email editor@madnews.co.uk with the details
Deadline is the 20th of the month before publication
(except the Jan issue when it is 15th December)

Marcham Road Health Centre PPG



Are you a patient at this practice? This article is written for you

The Health Centre has a newly-formed Patient Participation Group (PPG), which is working with practice staff to ensure patients' needs and suggestions are heard. The PPG members are all volunteers and patients at the surgery.

Their purpose is to ensure patients are involved in decisions about the range and quality of services provided by the Practice, across non-clinical areas. One of their roles is to provide a channel for patients to communicate their views on matters that interest or affect them including the clarity of information provided to patients, by the Practice.

The PPG will relay information about patients' views and needs to the Practice and provide information to patients about any planned changes. We are keen to hear from patients who would like to communicate with us or who may even be interested in joining the PPG to expand our team.

For more information, or request to be involved, please contact:

MRFHC.PPG@nhs.net

www.marchamroadhealthcentre.co.uk and search for PPG
Or if you prefer, please drop a note into reception marked:
For the attention of the PPG, with your contact details.

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

During November we celebrated **World Diabetes Day** with a 'Superpower day' as the children created a wonderful display of all their superpowers, dressed up as superheroes, evaded lasers and flew around the setting... We also created Diabetes UK blue ribbons, and learnt our own song about Diabetes to help all the children understand the care that is needed in managing diabetes.



Well done to all the children for learning so much and for understanding and accepting the needs of their friend. You are all amazing and make me very proud.



If you are interested in your child joining Marcham Pre-school (from age 2), please email your details to marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk and I will be in touch. Admissions will be finalised in February... And spaces are filling fast!
Nicky Sanford
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 01865 392101
www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



November brought colder days, crisp evenings and plenty of magic at our nursery! Our Little Angels kicked off the month with our much-loved Soup and Sparklers evening to celebrate Bonfire Night. Bundled up and beaming with excitement, families gathered to savour delicious homemade pumpkin soup while the children's faces lit up with the thrill of sparklers. It was a night of wonder, warmth, and joy for all!



Throughout the month, our little ones have been busy learning about fire safety in our Forest School sessions, where they discovered how to safely enjoy open flames and even tried their hands at creating fire – a thrilling adventure they embraced with enthusiasm and care.

For **Remembrance Day**, the children crafted beautiful poppy wreaths, and everyone joined together in a respectful two-minute silence. We were incredibly lucky to have the dad of one of our childcare team play The Last Post on his trumpet. Hearing live music made the moment even more powerful, and our children watched in awe, creating a truly memorable experience.



Now, with the festive season upon us, excitement is in the air as we prepare for our Nativity performance – an unforgettable first for many of our little stars! The children have been learning all the songs, retelling the Christmas story, and getting into character with costumes and props. We can't wait to see them shine on stage!

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for a magical Christmas season packed with joy and laughter culminating in our fabulous feast and Christmas party. A sprinkle of Christmas magic has been brought to life by the wonderful May and her team of festive elves! They've been working tirelessly all year, crafting beautiful knitted angels for the Little Angels at our nursery. These enchanting creations may even arrive with a very special delivery from the man in red himself – Santa! Every moment promises to be as magical as it is memorable.

*From all the children and staff at Marcham Little Angels, a twinkling **thank you to May** for filling our Christmas with wonder, warmth and a touch of festive magic. You've truly made this season sparkle!*

For more information:
 T: 01865 819992
 E: info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk
 Website www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk
 Facebook @MarchamLittleAngels
 Instagram @Little_Angels_Childcare_Group

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

At Marcham school we aim to look at our curriculum through a number of lenses:

- Experience
- Social context
- Global dimension
- Physical and technological literacy
- Critical thinking



We do this so that we can make our curriculum more relevant to the children and we encourage them to think about how what they learn affects our world today. More about this can be found on the school's website: www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/curriculum/

One of the lenses in use a lot at school recently has been the lens of Experience. Children have been to Oxford and to The Earth Trust at Wittenham Clumps as part of their learning within the last few weeks. However, one visit has been particularly noteworthy: the Year 6s and some of the School Councillors were able to visit the Houses of Parliament recently.

There was a tour of the building, including Westminster Hall (where Queen Elizabeth lay in state) and the Central Lobby, where politicians are often interviewed on the TV. They were able to listen to debates both in the House of Commons and in the House of Lords as well as meeting with our local MP, Layla Moran. It was all very exciting.

She asked the children if they had any questions. Here is what they asked:

- What are your main goals for making the world a better place?
- What is the hardest thing you do as an MP?
- How did you feel when you found out that you were an MP?
- Are you wanting to make Marcham, the UK or the world a better place?
- What was the first thing you did as an MP?
- What's the best thing about being an MP?

Some of these questions did give Layla food for thought. The last question asked was about the process for becoming an MP. Layla said that it took her 10 years. She said that she'd received some advice from her grandfather about it. When she told him that she wanted to be an MP, he said to her, "You'd better learn how to lose!" She said that it prepared her to be resilient and to not give up and to persevere.

How very "Marcham School!" that is! Photos from this trip can be seen on the school website.

This week in **Giraffes**, we visited the Houses of Parliament. We travelled there on a coach. When we arrived, we walked to see the outside of Westminster Abbey. When we were walking back, we stopped and listened as Big Ben chimed 1pm. After lunch, we had to pass through a security scanner before our tour. We were then shown round the Houses of Parliament. We saw inside the House of Lords where they were debating online child safety. Inside the House of Commons, we saw the speaker sat in his chair. We completed a lesson on how a law is made. Then Layla Moran (our MP) came to see us for a Q&A. *Jamie*

This week on Monday, we drove to the Houses of Parliament, and we had a great time. We learnt about how house laws are made, and we visited both the House of Commons and House of Lords. After that, we met our MP (Layla Moran), and we asked her some interesting questions. *Sanaya*

Many thanks to the prospective parents who came to visit the school on our Open Morning on 5th November. It isn't always easy on occasions like that to speak individually with parents about their children, but I hope you got a sense of our vision and values and saw passion in the children for making Marcham School the best it can be. Our next Open Morning will be taking place on Thursday 9th January between 9:30 and 10:30am. Hoping to see many of you then!

To see what the school has been up to go to

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

VIV HUTCHINSON



COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN MORNINGS FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS OF NEW PUPILS

Including a welcome from the Headteacher, tour of the school and Q&A sessions starting at 9.30am Thursday 9th January 2025

Contact office.3235@marcham.oxon.sch.uk or ring 01865 391448 to reserve your place.

We look forward to welcoming you and showing off what we think is the BEST school in the world!

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Harmony InSpires is a successful Barbershop Chorus based in Marcham who perform songs in four-part harmony in a wide variety of styles, from musicals and pop classics to beautiful ballads.

We formed in 2007, and have since grown to around 50 members from all around Oxfordshire. Our singers come from all walks of life but are united in an enjoyment of music making.

Harmony InSpires operates primarily using funds from members' subscriptions, however, this year, with the rising cost of living we have taken the decision to reach out for some much needed financial assistance. We hope to boost our funds generally so that in the future we can buy new performance costumes, acquire a new set of risers to meet our expanding chorus, and buy music to perform. Thank you for taking the time to read this and if you are able to make a donation of any amount, it will be very much appreciated.

www.gofundme.com/f/fundraising-to-purchase-additional-risers



www.harmonyinspires.org



**£75,000 IN GRANTS APPROVED IN 2 YRS
AND ANOTHER £5,000 STILL AVAILABLE**

**Does Your Local (to Marcham) Organisation, Society,
Group or Club Need Help with Funding?**

**IF THE ANSWER IS "YES" TO THIS QUESTION THEN THE
ANSON TRUST MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU**

For more information on our grant application process and policy please visit ansontrust.org/grant-giving or email us at ansonstrustenquiries@gmail.com
Reg'd Charity No. 1107174

**Would you like to advertise your
business or service in MADNews?**

MADNews is delivered to all homes in the Marcham area including Garford, Tubney, Frilford, Cothill and Gozzards Ford. 1500 copies printed each month.

Contact adverts@madnews.co.uk for details

SPORT REVIEW

MUGA

MUGA can be a MULTigated Acquisition scan - an imaging test to see how your heart pumps blood (<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diagnostics/17247-multigated-acquisition-scan-muga>), a Deeper Indian Yellow paint colour (<https://www.paintandpaperlibrary.com/muga>), a particularly fine Spanish red wine (<https://www.bodegasmuga.com/en/muga-reserva/>) or a Multi Use Games Area.



Marcham has an example of the latter nestled neatly next to the Centre surrounded by a 5 metre high fence.

As the name implies it provides an opportunity for a variety of different sporting activities to take place within an enclosed area. The MUGA was part of the original plans for the Centre area, the intention being to provide a recreational area for children and adults. At the outset the Community Facilities Steering Group (CFSG) supported the concept which was championed by the late Chris



Ricketts who believed that the children of Marcham deserved such a play area. Section 106 funding for the project required that the plot be large enough to support tennis. Therefore, the layout and surface of the MUGA had to be suitable for tennis. One benefit of the artificial surface is that it does not need mowing! As it is an 'all-weather' facility and, by implication, allow for 'all-season' activity, floodlights were necessary. In addition to Chris, Trevor Hill and Dan Barnes were involved with the planning. The MUGA was installed by Charles Lawrence Tennis Courts

The surface is marked for basketball, netball, tennis and for football, with a 'five-a-side' sized goal at each end. There are flood lights to illuminate for evening use. There are reserved times for the Colts football, there is tennis coaching for a variety of levels at specific times, and open use at weekends. It is not available for booking by any outside clubs to ensure it is a facility for local use. The goal lines have had to be re-drawn due to heavy wear, and the basketball backboards and hoops have been replaced as the original boards did not cope well with Marcham weather, and the hoops with slam dunking. It has added immeasurably to the quality of resource available at the Centre.

Football

Marcham Firsts continue to prove strong opponents; they have beaten O AFC Grove Firsts 5 – 0, Long Wittenham Athletic Firsts 5 – 0 in the Cup, and a resounding victory against the same opponents 9 – 1 in the League, and Stanford in the Vale Firsts 6 – 0. They have two up-coming Cup games against Didcot Town Youth and Watlington Town Reserves (both away). On 30th November they play Sutton Courtenay Reserves at home in the League.



Marcham Vets held Abingdon Town Vets Exiles to a nil-all draw at the end of October and a 2 -all draw against Bicester Town Vets First at the beginning of November. They lost 1 – 2 to Icarus Veterans Masters, but have an opportunity for revenge on 27th November. *Max, Simon and Dan with the Colts Under 11s football team* Colts teams continue to play regularly scattered across various playing fields in the area, and Saturday morning football continues behind the Centre with the children showing great enthusiasm for the game and obviously having fun.

RICHARD OLIVER



I would like to thank everyone who sponsored me for the Zumbathon in aid of Heather & Gill's Wing Walk raising money for the charity Mind. I raised over £200! Thank you

Ruth Mander



INDEPENDENT DIABETES TRUST



PO Box 294 Northampton NN1 4XS Telephone: 01604 622837

Diabetes at Christmas

Christmas is approaching and it is a busy time with preparations and thinking about extra food. As a charity for people with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, we know that it can be a difficult time for people with diabetes, especially if it is their first Christmas living with diabetes. It can be a time of temptation, unpredictable or delayed meals, extra nibbles, excitement and stress, all of which can make managing their diabetes more difficult.

We have just published our FREE December Newsletter and we also have a FREE booklet, 'Diabetes at Christmas' to help families who live with the condition. This booklet gives various options for Christmas dinners, a recipe for homemade, lower carbohydrate and calorie Christmas pudding and many other tips. We also have two booklets which may be useful, 'Diet and Diabetes' and 'Diabetes – Everyday Eating'. We hope that the Newsletter and these booklets will help to make life easier over the festive season.

All our booklets are FREE and we are happy to send out these to anyone, just contact IDDT email enquiries@iddtinternational.org, call 01604 622837 or visit www.iddt.org

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY



SAUNA AT THE FARM

A wild spa experience in the heart of Frilford, Oxon.

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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, 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 PUBLIC MEETING AND AGM

Marcham Community Group (MCG) held a well attended AGM on 31 October. The accounts for the year 2023/24 were approved unanimously by members. Geoff Dix was re-elected as a Trustee for another three year term and Jenny Pam was elected, having been previously co-opted as a Trustee during the last year.

Jim Asher stepped down as a Trustee and MCG Chair, having completed the permitted years of service according to MCG rules. As most know, Jim has been the driving force within MCG since its inception, from the early days of developing ideas, with other main parties, for the development of a new village hall. Together with MCG members, Jim and wife Denise orchestrated much-needed fund raising for purchasing the hall's internal needs, such as tables, chairs, curtains, speakers etc. As a mark of appreciation from MCG's membership, Jim and Denise were presented with suitable vouchers.

The board of MCG now comprises of: Trevor Hill (Chair), Adam Grady (Vice Chair), Mike Hoath (Finance Director), Dan Barnes, Geoff Dix, Ruth Mander, Jenny Pam, Colin Trinder and Mark Harvie (Parish Council Representative). All of these would be very interested to receive any feedback and ideas from anyone on how the village hall is managed or could be improved for individuals or groups, especially potentially new initiatives. The board currently has a trustee vacancy and has the ability to co-opt a further two persons onto its board. So please contact any trustee if you're interested in helping in some way, we're a friendly bunch!

The AGM also provided the opportunity to reflect on the 2023/24 accounts for Marcham Community Trading Company (MCT), the village hall bar. Trevor and Geoff are the voluntary Directors, so ably supported by approximately 25 volunteer bar staff. The meeting heard that the bar made a profit of £23,300 on the year, which, along with balances from previous years, is available for grant giving to any organisation in the village and its immediate surrounds.

The general meeting received a review by Jim of matters dealt with by MCG during the past year, including community events.

MARCHAM CENTRE CLOSURE

This year the Centre will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. However, bookings will not be available for private hire between Sunday 22 December and Friday 3 January inclusive. Regular hirers (eg Pilates, Zumba and community groups) will be able to continue with the regular bookings throughout the period, if they decide to do so. The individual hirers will no doubt advise their attendees if and when they are operating.

VILLAGE HALL BAR CLOSURE

At the time of writing the bar will be closed on completion of business on Sunday 22 December, reopening at 5pm on Friday 3 January. This is to enable our wonderful group of bar volunteers to have a well-earned break. However, any change to these dates will be published on the village Facebook page. (Some of the volunteers may be getting withdrawal symptoms!)

QUIZ NIGHT – FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER

Adults only, 7.30pm for prompt 8.00pm start. (Time to get a drink or two in before 8pm!) Teams of up to six, with bottle of wine or similar for each winning team member. Normal quiz rules apply, plenty of banter *and the quiz master is always right!*

INDOOR SHORT MAT BOWLS

Held every Wednesday this month at 2.00pm, except for some reason not on the 25 December and 1 January! Bowls will re-start on Wednesday 8 January 2025. For those considering a 'new year resolution', why not contact Colin Trinder (c_trinder@btinternet.com) to give bowls a 'go', whether existing bowler or a new recruit. Good opportunity to see whether you may like the outside version in the summer. Colin knows a good club!

TABLE TENNIS

The table tennis table is available for hire for periods of one hour or more. This can be made by booking a slot in the meeting room via the www.marchamcentre.org website. Please note this room is used for other purposes, so you will need to book the room and pay the 'local user' rate of £8 per hour. Please remember to bring your own bats and balls. If you wish to book a room at Marcham Centre, please use the booking request system on www.marchamcentre.org or contact our Coordinator: coordinator@marchamcentre.org.

MCG Trustees would like to wish everyone in the Marcham Community a

Very Happy Christmas

and

Prosperous New Year

We hope to see you in the Centre in 2025 and remember we are open to suggestions on how we may be able to improve the facilities for your use.

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



FRIDAY 31ST JANUARY & SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

BANKBUSTER PRODUCTIONS PRESENT



YELLOW PERIL



REMASTERED

This hour-long, action-packed feature film, shot in and around Marcham in 1989, has been restored over 3 years and can now be seen and heard as never before!

All Saints Church, Marcham, OX13 6NP

Friday 31st January & Saturday 1st February 2025

Time: 6.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. on both days.

Admission: Adults £5 — Under 18s £3

Tickets: On the door or in advance from **Marcham Village Shop**, North Street, Marcham, OX13 6NG

Post-film refreshments included in the ticket price.

Proceeds to All Saints Church



*Where has the traffic gone? What is going on at the mysterious Dreadall College?
Can Marcham be saved from the yellow peril? Come along and find out!*

To view the trailer, scan the QR code, or go to: https://youtu.be/5_N24DM7KyU

VISITORS COMING OR THINKING OF HOLIDAYS?

B&B Rafters



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Abingdon, Oxfordshire

OX13 6NU

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Tel 01865 391298

enquiries@bnb-rafters.co.uk

www.bnb-rafters.co.uk

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For a CHILD is born to us, a SON is given to us.

Isaiah 9 v 6



Christmas... ho ho ho! or No No No!?! Are you looking forward to getting into it? Or are you looking forward to getting through it? I think I'm looking forward to both. I'm looking forward to putting on my Christmas jumper. I'm looking forward to the decorations going up at home, the Christmas tunes coming on the radio, eating the first mince pie (done that already) and drinking the first glass of mulled wine (not yet). However, it's a pretty frantic time too, rushing around to lots of Christmas events, carols services, shopping, packing, cooking, wrapping, and travelling to see family. I am looking forward to it – really, I am; but bring on the “back to normal” of January 2025 as well. Most people love something about Christmas, but we all have something we Grinch about. For me that would be Christmas cake. Perhaps you loathe the commercialism of Christmas, or this time of year brings back painful memories from the past. Perhaps all you will be reminded of this year is someone who is no longer here to celebrate it with you. Whatever the case, seasonal feelings are very personal to each of us and very much at the surface for all of us. I'm struck again by the Bible's account of the various visitors that met the baby Jesus that first Christmas. None of them had either of the two Christmas reactions we're so accustomed to. No one at the time was looking forward to Christmas, neither was anyone dreading the prospect either, for no one on earth (besides Mary and Joseph perhaps) really knew what was about to happen in that insignificant little town of Bethlehem. But all the early visitors to the manger went away changed forever, and the world has never been the same again. The Wise Men returned to their country empty handed but full-hearted, having worshipped the baby with the finest of gifts. And the shepherds couldn't help but spread the news about him, glorifying and praising God. Christmas is so many things these days, love them or loathe them. But the heart of it is a baby who changed the world and who calls on each of us for a reaction. What will yours be?

Check out our Christmas services and activities on the card that comes through your door, or on our website www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

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

**Dec 1st -
All-age
service
at MCC
10.30am**

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

Sunday 1 December, 6pm Advent Carol Service - Rev'd O. Graham

Sunday 22 December, 5pm Lessons and Carols - led by Ben Skipp

Wednesday 25 December, 10am Christmas Day Service - Rev'd R. Siebert

Sunday 5 January 2025, 11am Epiphany Service

News from St. Luke's

It's been a month of contrast at St. Luke's, beginning with the serenity and comfort of a Service of Light to remember loved ones. A representation of Bethel, lit by a stairway of candles, set the scene for reflection on Genesis 28 and quiet music evoked poignant memories. The Patronal Service on 3rd November celebrating St. Luke and the veracity of his gospel was preceded by a robust rendition of 'Ding Dong Merrily on High' for the dedication of the restored bell, which was rung 160 times by parishioners in recognition of its age. A convivial gathering with refreshments before and after the service accompanied this important day in the St. Luke's calendar. Our Advent and Christmas services are listed above and we would love to welcome you to St. Luke's.

Contact: Carolyn Whiting st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

DALTON BARRACKS REDEVELOPMENT

Residents will likely have received a leaflet through their door informing them of an upcoming consultation for the Dalton Barracks site redevelopment. I encourage everyone to take a look at this: the building of 1,200 houses on the site is already included within the current Local Plan, rising to 2,750 once the emerging Joint Local Plan is approved. I have been in contact with the redevelopment team for some time, and my impression so far has been broadly positive – they appear genuinely receptive to local residents' views and keen to make this project a success for both new and existing residents alike. It is therefore important that they hear from you about the kind of infrastructure they should be planning for, and worth your time to engage with them: you can make a difference! More information can be found online at daltonbarracks.com and several in-person events are planned across the local area in late November and early December.

BUDGET

With the dust starting to settle on the new Labour government's budget, announced in late October, the Vale is working out the implications for the services we provide to residents. Residents may be aware that the budget contained extra funding for councils, and for the Vale this includes greater support for homelessness prevention. On the flipside, it is not yet clear whether the increase in National Insurance (NI) contributions by employers will apply to councils such as the Vale: there is a possibility that the Vale's funding could end up effectively decreasing in real terms. Answers are expected in the near future.

WASTE COLLECTION

The first electric food waste vehicle has begun food collections across the Vale and South Oxfordshire. This is part of a wider trial period to investigate the practicalities of converting all of the waste collection vehicles to electric over the coming years. Since each food truck travels around 26,000 miles per year, switching to electric is expected to save over 20 tons of Carbon Dioxide equivalent per year, per vehicle, and should also reduce operational costs.

JOINT LOCAL PLAN

The final consultation on the draft Joint Local Plan has now closed and so South & Vale's officers are preparing the final submission to the Planning Inspectorate. Thank you again to everyone who contributed their thoughts during consultations so far. Wish us luck!

DR ROBERT CLEGG

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07784225290

Email: robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk



COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Merry Christmas!

I am writing this shortly after the Remembrance Sunday memorial service, which I attended in Sutton Courtenay and was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the council. It was very moving to listen as the name of every soldier killed in World War 1 and 2 was read out and remembered individually. We were also asked to remember and pray for all those caught up in current conflicts across the globe, and my heart went and goes out to the two million displaced civilians struggling to stay alive in the Gaza Strip, and the number of innocent women and children killed as 'acceptable collateral damage' which of course is totally unacceptable, as is apartheid and genocide, if that is proven. Christmas is a time to remember Christian values and wish peace and goodwill to everyone. With the rhetoric of the incoming US government and increasingly militant views being witnessed in many places, I worry that further escalation seems almost inevitable, and I wish that to be avoided and that all sides seek lasting peaceful solutions particularly in the Middle East, Ukraine and Africa. Along that vein, I have asked the council to raise the United Nations flag on United Nations day at Abbey House, to remember the reasons for the creation of that global body after WW2, and its continued role for promoting peace amongst nations today. Christmas is a time to pray for peace for all. Back to local life, first snow has fallen now, and I remind residents

to protect against the winter weather. I am highlighting issues to Highways with the route taken by many Europa children from Sutton Courtenay across Culham to make that very busy route safer for children and parents. I am also showing the new place-making team in Highways the lack of a safe foot and cycle path from Peep-o-day Lane to Drayton, which many have pointed out previously. Although it may be a long term project, I think providing a safe route along Drayton Road beyond the cycle path to Abingdon is important to local residents and many who travel between the two villages. There are often accidents along that road, which deters cyclists and walkers and divides those who live along the road from both villages. Lastly, following the concerns raised by residents at Milton Heights about joining the A4130, new temporary lights will be fitted there during the roadworks to enable safe entry and exit to Milton Hill, and we intend to use this period to work out a more permanent solution.

Beyond highways, consultation on the new Joint Local Plan finished in November, and many have inputted to improve this new local planning document, including protection of green spaces between villages, along with better paths and transport links. Didcot Town are also now starting a neighbourhood plan and have asked our neighbouring villages to join them. Although most of our villages already have neighbourhood plans already, so do not need to join formally, close relationships are welcome. Similarly, public consultation is now starting for the major redevelopment of the Dalton Barracks brownfield site at Abingdon airfield, highlighted in the Joint Local Plan as a major contributor for meeting local housing needs. Your input is welcome.

Lastly, In the next few weeks, you may see Thames Water drilling and carrying out tests for the SESRO reservoir in the fields between Sutton Courtenay and Abingdon where they intend to build the new intake and offtake with the River Thames. We are still awaiting response on the added flood risk this creates for our district and our other considerable concerns with Thames Water and their strategic management of our water and waste. In the meantime, we must continue to hold them to account. For any sewer flooding, ring them on 0300 310 1111. For river flooding, ring the Environment Agency on 0345 988 1188, and for other local issues, please raise them on FixMyStreet.

The county council have prepared a flood toolkit, and guides for utility failures (like power cuts), clearing snow and other emergencies, which you may find helpful.

Enjoy the festive season and happy new year to all!

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





GROUP AGAINST RESERVOIR DEVELOPMENT

GARD is a local community group formed to campaign against Thames Water's proposals to build a reservoir south-west of Abingdon.

GARD News: we continue the fight. Join us!

GARD is a small organisation compared to Thames Water and it needs your support. Join GARD – you do not have to do tasks; counting you as a member is a service in itself. Helping is welcome too. Contact the secretary gard.secretary@gmail.com or see the website.

Would you like a poster to display in your window or car? Contact the secretary gard.secretary@gmail.com

We must continue the fight against the reservoir, preparing for either Legal Action or, if that fails, for an eventual Development Consent Order proceedings in 2027, where the final approval for the reservoir would be sought by Thames Water. So, GARD has formed an incorporated company SAFERWaterS – Sustainable Answers For Resilient Water Solutions. Any GARD member can become a member of the Company. We'll be providing details in the coming weeks.

In the New Year there will be a lot to tell. Right now we await responses from the Secretary of State to get an idea of our timetable.

Clear actions for us all now:

- Become a member of GARD – email gard.secretary@gmail.com
- Sign the petition if you have not yet done so (we have over 4400 signatures): here's the link [Stop Thames Water's costly mega-reservoir – fix the leaks! | 38 Degrees](#)
- Write to your MP
 - Olly Glover MP (Didcot & Wantage) olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk
 - Layla Moran MP (Oxford West & Abingdon) layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk
 - Charlie Maynard MP (West Oxfordshire) charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk
- Write to your Councillors (see GARD website for details) and Parish Council Chair. Please copy GARD into your letters email: gard.secretary@gmail.com

GARD will keep everyone informed about their plans: meanwhile, let's make a noise locally.

Numbers matter: any politician considering this will want to know our membership numbers and our petition signatures – please make your opposition plain.

DEREK STORK, Chairman GARD.
 For more information www.gard-oxon.org.uk
 Facebook: [@abingdonreservoir](#), Twitter [@GARD_OXON](#)



Kennington Memory Club

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



Scan Me

Happy Christmas and New Year, everyone

December is that month when we see the days get ever shorter, the excitement of the Christmas season mounts and we have the chance to catch up with family and friends. The lights and decorations can be enjoyed by all, even if those with dementia possibly can't remember what month it is and why everywhere looks more festive. The members who attend Kennington Memory Club will be getting into the Christmas spirit, enjoying a Christmas lunch and carol singing, in addition to all the usual fun and games, quizzes and activities.

If you know someone with dementia who would appreciate time at our Day Support Centre, or if their carers might appreciate the respite that attendance would afford, please do contact the Club Organiser by ringing **07852 883496** or emailing organiser@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk to find out more details.
www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk
 Isobel Birse *Chairman, Kennington Memory Club*

The Therapeutic Benefits Of Gardening: A Sanctuary In Nature

In an increasingly fast-paced and stressful world, finding effective ways to manage mental health and well-being is crucial to us all. This article explores the therapeutic benefits of gardening, emphasizing how regular engagement with nature can provide significant support and sustenance for individuals overwhelmed by life's demands on a day-to-day basis.

Modern life, with its relentless pace and a myriad responsibilities, often leaves us feeling overwhelmed and disconnected. Amidst this chaos, nature offers a sanctuary – a place where one can find solace and rejuvenation. Gardening, in particular, stands out to me as a practical and accessible means to reconnect with nature and enhance mental well-being.



© William Mankelov

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.... WH Davies

Gardening has been shown to have profound psychological benefits. Studies indicate strongly that spending time in green spaces can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression. The act of nurturing plants and watching them grow provides a sense of accomplishment and purpose, which can be particularly therapeutic for those feeling overwhelmed.

Beyond mental health, gardening also promotes physical well-being. The physical activity involved in gardening, such as digging, planting, and weeding, contributes to overall fitness. Regular gardening can improve cardiovascular health, enhance flexibility, and increase strength, making it a holistic activity that benefits both mind and body in obvious and not so obvious ways.

Gardening can also foster social connections and community engagement. Community gardens and the like, for instance, bring people together, creating a sense of belonging and shared purpose. These social interactions can alleviate feelings of isolation and build supportive networks, further enhancing mental health.

In conclusion, gardening offers a multifaceted approach to improving well-being. By stepping out into nature and engaging in regular gardening activities, we can find a sustainable way to support their mental and physical health. As the world continues to present challenges, the simple act of gardening can provide a much-needed respite and a source of enduring strength.

Happy Gardening!
Stuart Mabbutt
 01865 747243
www.wildmaninspires.co.uk










DECEMBER 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 Christmas at the Farm 10am-4pm (14) MC All-age Service 10.30am (17) SL Advent Carol Service 6pm (17)	2  Where's that Elf? (7) MC Bridge 6.50pm	3	4 MC Thirsty Café Stay & Play 9-11.30am (5) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short-mat Bowls 2pm (15)	5 Marcham Society Midweek Walk 12.30pm (9)	6 MC Dalton Barracks exhibition 5-8pm (3)	7 MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (5)
8 AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	9  Where's that Elf? (7) MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm (3)	10	11 MC Thirsty Café SENIASS support/PCSO/AgelJK Session 9-11.30am (5) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short-mat Bowls 2pm (15)	12 MC Astronomy Group 7pm (9) Milletts Farm Classic car meet 9.30am-noon	13 MC Quiz Night 7.30pm for 8pm start (15)	14 MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (5)
15 MADNEWS DEADLINE 5PM FOR NEXT ISSUE AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Carols by Candlelight Service 6pm (17)	16  Where's that Elf? (7) MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham WI 7.30pm (9)	17	18  Last posting for 2nd class (7) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Thirsty Café Community Lunch 12-2.30pm (5) MC Short-mat Bowls 2pm (15)	19	20  Last posting for 1st class (7) AS Firepit Carols 6pm (17) SL Carols on the Green 6.30pm (17)	21 MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (5)
22	23  Where's that Elf? (7) MC Bridge 6.50pm	24 Village Shop closes at 12 noon (7) AS Crib Service 4pm (17) AS Late Night Communion Service 11pm (17)	25 SL Christmas Day Service 10am (17) AS Christmas Day Service 10.30am (17) Village Shop closed until 30 Dec (7)	26	27 Revised refuse collection (from Wednesday 25 December)	28 MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (5)
29 AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) SL Lessons and Carols 5pm (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	30  Where's that Elf? (7) Village Shop open 8.30am-5pm (7)	31 Village Shop closes at 12 noon (7)	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 2025 Village Shop closed until 2 Jan (7)			

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