

MAD News

www.madnews.co.uk

Cothill - Frilford - Garford - Gozzards Ford - Marcham - Tubney

February 2025 Vol 47 No. 2

Your Independent Local News Source



GARDEN & HOUSE SERVICES

1st CLASS TREE SURGEONS

07889 881 525 or 01491 651052

quote@firstclasstreesurgeons.co.uk

www.firstclasstreesurgeons.co.uk

- tree removal • tree thinning • tree reduction
- dead wood removal • stump grinding
- landscaping
- £10 million public liability
- City & Guilds Certified

A.D. Maclean TREE MANAGEMENT LTD



Professional Tree Management throughout Oxfordshire

Tree removal
Crown thinning
Crown reduction and lifting
Sectional tree removals
Fruit tree pruning
Stump grinding
Hedge cutting

Seasoned logs and kindling delivered
£5M Public Liability Insurance
All work carried out to BS 3998:2010



Proud members of
Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters



NPTC
QUALIFIED WORKFORCE

andrew@admtrees.co.uk
01865 391859
@admtrees

For a full list of services visit:
www.admtrees.co.uk

CONTAINER STORAGE

- 2 miles off the A34 Abingdon
- 24 hour CCTV
- Easy Access
- Clean, dry and secure



Tel: 01865 390267 or 07980 262210
Email: enquiries@oxonstorage.co.uk
www.oxonstorage.co.uk



Oxford Wood Recycling

We have your DIY wood needs covered - timber, tool hire, friendly advice and low prices.

"Simple, easy and makes the world a better place."
Morgan, Wood Shop customer



4 Suffolk Way, Abingdon, OX14 5JX
Tel: 01235 861228
www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk



Suppliers of aggregates and concrete for every need

Our products include:

- ready-mixed concrete
- sand cement floor screed
- decorative aggregate
- sand, gravel and stone

T: 01865 390838

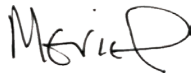
hills-quarry.co.uk



This month's cover photo
Marcham Sunrise
by Bartle Frere
See page xx for a chance for your photo to appear on the cover.

Dear Readers

We are making progress with a new team for MADNews and we hope to give you all an update next issue!



Until next time...

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
Adverts are not endorsed and MADNews makes no guarantees as to accuracy or authenticity.

DISTRIBUTORS

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.

© Marcham & District News 2025

The copying of any part of this publication without written authorisation is not permitted.

POLICE

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

Or just dial 101 (non-emergency) and omit the C from his number to leave a message.

CRIMESTOPPERS

Call 0800 555 111 (anonymous calls)

NHS NON-EMERGENCY

Call Free from any phone - 111

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

February 2025

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL
COUNCIL TAX 2025/26**

The Parish Council has now carefully considered the income and expenditure for the parish for 2025/26. The precept has been set at £81,500. This is part of the amount that is raised from the Council tax which you pay to the Vale of White Horse District Council. The parish element of the charge per band D property will be £82.52. The current charge is £80.05, so there is a very slight increase of less than £2.50 for the whole year. The Council is looking at various projects such as improvements to the path network, safety at the entrance to Barrow Close, and new bench and some repainting within the play area, as well as a noticeboard.

ALLOTMENTS - COW LANE AND PARKSIDE

If you have an allotment you are reminded that allotment rent collection for the 24/25 financial year is taking place. Thank you to those who have paid promptly, but for those who have not yet paid, please transfer the sum due to the Council's bank account (details in the letter sent out, or available from the clerk if needed), or let the Clerk have a cheque payable to Marcham Parish Council. If anyone has a query as to what is owed, then please contact the Clerk. Those in arrears with rent, or found not to be utilising their plot, could lose it by the service of a Notice to Quit.

PLAY AREA

The Council was disappointed to hear that yet more thoughtless action has taken place in the play area on the new playing equipment. Plaster has been mixed with water and poured down the slide and also thrown at the new play items. Graffiti too was written on the matting. The incident has been reported to the Police, who are carrying out regular patrols of the area. The Council would ask anyone with information to contact PCSO Rich Osborn or telephone 101.

Anyone using the play area should follow playground equipment rules:

- Look before using
- Be mindful of surroundings
- Take care when using, or even avoid wet equipment
- Wear appropriate clothing
- Play games away from playground equipment

The Council would like to thank everyone who helped clear up the mess. The play area is open and is widely used, and the Council wants to ensure it remains a safe and important facility for Marcham.

PARISHIONER OF THE YEAR AWARD – MARCHAM PARISH

The Council is again inviting nominations for the Parishioner of the Year Award. The award is given to a local person or persons, group or organization, who have devoted much time and energy volunteering within the community, and helping create the community that we all enjoy. There are many people and groups who would be worthy recipients, so if you have someone in mind, then please contact the Clerk, whose details

appear below, to send a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to the reasons why the person or group should receive the award.

SUPPORT FOR THE VILLAGE SHOP

The Parish Council has agreed to support Marcham Village Shop with its application to the Vale of White Horse District Council for funding for a new chiller unit in the shop. Funding was paid by the developer of Monks Walk to the District Council for the benefit of the community shop, and an application to draw down some of those funds is being made.

NEW NOTICEBOARD

The Vale of White Horse District Council has agreed to release some developer funds to provide a noticeboard for the Parish Council which is going to be fixed to the wall at the Marcham Centre. Now that the funds are available, the Council is working with the arts officer at the District Council, and the designer to finalise the project.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

There were no applications this month.

DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is Monday 10th February at 7.30p.m. in the village hall. **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 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.



Love.
That's what you need.

If you've got love to give, we'd love to hear from you
oxfordshire.gov.uk/fostering
0800 783 5724

FOSTERING IN OXFORDSHIRE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MADNews is online: www.madnews.co.uk

HOUSE & GARDEN SERVICES

Oxfordshire Bespoke Furniture
Custom built by hand, by head, by heart.

Offering a thorough and transparent approach to your joinery project.



Contact Sean Lewis via:
Mobile: 07932 303034
Email: o.bespoke.furniture@gmail.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556163747112>



Oxfordshire Roofing and Building Services
a good honest and reliable firm

Call today for a free estimate 07885 882689

Flat Roofing	Chimney Repointing
New Roofs	De-Mossing
Guttering	Tiling
Slating	Facias

Small Jobs Welcome • Discount for OAPs
Tel: 01865 392106 • Mobile 07885 882689
oxfordshireroofing@yahoo.co.uk

PROFESSIONAL GARDEN SERVICES
Stephen R Matthews
Tel: 01235 766412
Mobile: 07796 532356
Email: stephenmatthews.pgs@gmail.com

All aspects of work undertaken, including:

- garden clearance and restoration
- fruit tree, shrub and rose pruning
- hedgecutting
- fencing and landscaping.

If you have an event to promote email editor@madnews.co.uk with the details
Deadline is the 20th of the month before publication

Martin Gilbert
Motor Repairs Ltd
Local Family Run Business

VEHICLE REPAIR & SERVICE CENTRE
For all Makes & Models
Hybrid & Electric Vehicle Repair & Service Centre
Cars & Light Commercial Repairs Including;
17 Seater Minibuses & Vans up to 3.5 Tonnes
Engine Management & Electrical Repairs
MOT's WHILE YOU WAIT

Committed to a High Standard by Qualified Technicians
Tel: 01235 553055 - Radley Rd Industrial Estate
Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 3RY
www.martingilbertmotorrepairs.co.uk
E: richard@martingilbert.co.uk

Frilford Decorators
Painters & Decorators
Decorative Treatments
Telephone: 01865 392866 (Frilford Heath)
Mobile: 07775 690523
References Available
Proprietor: Mr A Bunce



theshop.ws
Classic Car Restoration & Race Prep

Automotive Fabrication and Welding

Got a classic car in the garage, rusting away?
Get it back on the road with The Shop
From minor welds to full restorations



MOT welding
Rust repairs



Commercial or Domestic
From Classic Cars to Race Cars



Special projects
Family business
Fair pricing



Call Andy @ The Shop 07739 337562
Email: theshop.ws@gmail.com
www.TheShop.ws

Dear Editor

Litter along roadside verge along Sheepstead Road

While walking to Sheepstead Crossroads on 31st December, the right hand verge had been littered from the new 30mph limit to the crossroads. Lots of locals pick litter along this pretty field verge, *thanks to all*. The new litter is all objects which can be recycled. I collected until my bicycle was falling over with the weight and was still in sight of the 30mph sign.



Here's to dry weather to collect some more.

ALICE NARRAMORE

MARCHAM BRIDGE CLUB – ANSON TRUST

Chris Hillier of the Anson Trust has presented a cheque for £144 to the Marcham Bridge Club to buy new bidding boxes.

The club meets on Mondays at 18.50 Marcham Centre.



Flexicare are delighted to host the **Ivel Trio** once again for a magical '**Night in the Museum**' classical concert. The trio, comprising of flute, cello and piano will perform amongst the dinosaurs in the stunning **University of Oxford Museum of Natural History on Saturday 1st March 2025**. Doors open at 7:00pm for a prompt 7:30pm start. The performance is followed by a drinks and canapé reception, included in the ticket price of £35.00. Tickets are available from **Night at the Museum - Classical Concert in Aid of Flexicare** (ticketstripe.com) or by emailing events@flexicare.org.



Flexicare is an Oxfordshire charity that has been providing a specialised, ad hoc sitting service for families with a disabled child in Oxford, Abingdon and Wantage and surrounding villages for 40 years. Your donations help us to continue to provide this unique, vital service. www.flexicare.org

MADNews announces its first photography competition,

We want to recognise our local photographers by showcasing their work on the cover of MADNews that reflect the beauty, the community and wonder of life in Marcham and District.

We are asking for photographers to submit a single A4 glossy print in the same orientation as the cover (vertical) with your name and contact details on the back. One entry per person, to be judged at the Big Marcham Weekend on Saturday 10th May. Entry box is in Marcham Village Shop and the deadline for entries is 5pm on Monday 7th April.

The judging will be done by public vote at the Big Weekend and the ones chosen will be contacted to provide a hi-resolution jpg/tiff of their image. They will be used for the cover of MADNews in the coming months.

You can see all the covers from the past 14 years on our website madnews.co.uk but we are looking for images to fill the whole cover like those since April 2023. Have a look at the photos you took last year and see what you can find!

Rules:

- Entries must be submitted by 5pm on Monday 7 April 2025
- One entry per person
- No age restrictions
- The photos must be your own work and not AI generated, but you may manipulate them to enhance colours, blur backgrounds etc
- They may show people but you must obtain written permission from each person featured.
- No obscene or violent images will be accepted

The MADNews Team reserve the right to disqualify any entries that do not abide by the rules.

mostly BOOKS BOOK CLUBS

mostly-books.co.uk



Chapter Hunters: Our book club for readers aged 9-12(ish). Meets bi-monthly. Next meeting on Tuesday 11th March. Tickets £8, including a copy of the book.

Shelf Care: Our adult's book club with a choice of three books. Meets monthly on the third Wednesday. Next meeting on Wednesday 19th February. Tickets £14, including a copy of your chosen book.

Don't forget **JOJO MOYES** will be with us at Trinity Church, Abingdon on Saturday 15th February as we hear about her new novel, **We All Live Here**.

Tickets (£15, or £25 including the book) are available from the shop, or online: <https://mostly-books.co.uk/event/an-evening-with-jojo-moyes/>

HOUSEHOLD SERVICES



GT Carpentry Ltd

Your traditional carpentry firm local to you, who cover all aspects of carpentry with just some examples mentioned below.

Stuart Gardner 07885 266965 01865 391110	Nick Trinder 07831 773804 01235 224177
---	---

ROOFING & SOFFITS
LOFT CONVERSIONS
FACIAS
WINDOW GLAZING
BLINDS
UPVC
TIMBER
FENCING
DECKING
KITCHENS
DOOR HANGING
FLOORING
BESPOKE JOINERY

Give us a call today for a quotation.

Unit 116 Grove Business Centre, Wantage, Oxfordshire, OX12 9FA

www.gtcarpentry.com

DIRTY CARPETS, UPHOLSTERY, RUGS



Most carpets dry within the hour

Unbeatable results, removes almost all spots & stains



GRIMEBUSTERS

OXFORD	01865 726983
ABINGDON	01235 555533
WITNEY	01993 868924

www.grimebusters.co.uk



WASPS & ALL INSECTS

SOLAR PANEL PROOFING



PEST WIZARDS

YOUR LOCAL PEST CONTROL SERVICE



RATS, MICE, MOLES & SQUIRRELS

PROMPT SERVICE

MARK DEARLOVE • 07446377816

01235 642689 • info@pestwizards.co.uk

Sharman Roofing

GRP fibreglass flat-roofing specialist

tiling, slating, leadwork, guttering and fascias,
new builds, re-roofs, extensions and sheds

all work considered, call Mark on
07979 791075

msharmanroofing@gmail.com





MOSSINATOR®
ROOF CLEANING SYSTEMS

- Moss Removal & Roof Cleaning
- Patio & Driveway Cleaning
- Render & Brickwork Cleaning
- Solar Panel & Skylight Cleaning
- Installation of Bird Protection
- Chimney Cowl Installation

Enhance the appearance of your property
with our quality assured friendly service

info@mossinator.co.uk - 01865 362797



OXFORD

KITCHENS & BATHROOMS



<p>☎ 01865 326009</p> <p>@ info@oxfordkitchens.co.uk</p>	<p>🌐 www.oxfordkitchens.co.uk</p> <p>📍 1st Floor, Besselsleigh Road, Wootton, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX13 6DN</p>
---	---

MARCHAM COMMUNITY GAMES GROUP

The group has proved so popular that, at our first meeting of 2025, the decision was made to meet **every Monday** (instead of fortnightly) from **10.30am to 12 noon** in **Duffield Place Lounge**.



New members are always welcome, if you like playing Scrabble or Rummikub (and we're open to other games eg cards or dominoes etc). We're a friendly group, so it's a good place to make new friends and enjoy a cuppa and chat. We play for the fun of being together - no experience necessary and it's FREE! We just ask for a small occasional donation to cover costs 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?

For more info please contact
Heather Sandiford - 07985 048198



Freegle

it's like online dating for stuff

Got stuff you don't need? Looking for something?

We'll match you with
someone local

All completely free

ilovefreegle.org

The Music At The Unicorn (MATU) 2025 programme of acts on Thursdays .

Phil Beer – 13th February
Mishra – 20th March
Sound of the Sirens – 3rd April
The Salts – 1st May
Iona Lane – 12th June
Roswell – 4th September
The Lost Trades -16th October
Chris Fox – 6th November
Knight & Spiers - 20th November
IOTA – 4th December

www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk



OUR
MVS
MARCHAM VILLAGE SHOP

**POST
OFFICE**®

**Marcham Village Shop
& Post Office**
16 North St, Marcham OX13 6NG
Call us: Shop 391993 /
Post Office 391940
Facebook: marchamvillageshop

Monday – Friday: 0830-1700
Saturday: 0830-1200
**Sundays & Bank Holidays:
Closed**

January has now passed, thankfully! However, isn't the weather a bit weird? We're not sure if it's going to be freezing cold, or slightly mild. So, to beat the cold, we have some basic car aids including de-icer, screen-wash and anti-freeze – be prepared in case we get another cold snap.

For all the youngsters that followed the Naughty Elf around the shop during December, we hope you picked up your prize – if not, please do come into the shop and ask at the counter... we know that there are a still a couple of winners yet to claim.



Looking ahead, we have a few celebratory dates to look forward to: Valentine's day on the 14th; Shrove Tuesday (Pancake day)

is on 4th March;
Mother's day on 30th
March and Easter in
April. We have lots

of lovely gift ideas available – some very good-priced boxes of chocolates, tea, coffee and chocolate sets, 'handbags' of prosecco and chocolates, gold bullion rum, bottles of fizz and wine and also flavoured gins. There is too much to list, so please come in and have a look. We are always looking for different products and that 'something' special and we wouldn't want you to miss out.



Fresh meat can be ordered from Hedges on a weekly basis. Instructions with order forms and price list are available in the shop. If there are meat products that you cannot see on the price list, please let us know and we will check availability and price for you.

Don't forget that our **Post Office** service covers most of your daily banking and posting needs. Everything from a basic stamp, withdrawal/deposit of cash, postage of parcels/letters right through to cheque deposits, foreign currency, bill paying, gift cards (All4One), mobile top-ups etc!

Marcham Village Shop is a community shop, run by volunteers on behalf of the Community. If you would like to volunteer (2 hours per week), or purchase shares at £10 per share (which will enable you to attend the AGM), we would be delighted to have you on board. Please come into the shop, talk to a member of the team or pick up a Shares leaflet. We look forward to welcoming you to our little community.



HOUSEHOLD SERVICES

Does your business need help with Book-Keeping?

Gemma is an experienced Book-Keeper in Marcham

Hourly rate Book-Keeping (anything from daily to annually)

Bank Reconciliations, VAT and CIS Returns

☎ 07766 078506 ✉ gemma@varen.co.uk

Shaun Guard
TV AERIAL & WIFI SERVICES

- Aerials - supplied, repaired and poor reception solved
- Satellite - Sky Q dish upgrades, discreet dish installations
- WiFi - blackspots cured, internal & external data cabling
- TVs - hung on your wall or set up & tuned

OXFORD AERIALS

www.oxfordaerials.co.uk shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk

Call us on 01235 642689

Architectural Design Services

Over 40 years experience in the Building Industry .

Plans and Specification prepared on Autocad for Planning Permission and Building Regulations Approval.

For all kinds of Building Work

Architectural Design Services

Contact Steve Lester
stevelesterads@gmail.com
Mobile 07818-751526



Family Run Newspaper Delivery Service
Delivering In Marcham & Surrounding Areas.

Get your favourite newspapers and magazines delivered.

Please call or email us to start your delivery.

If you are over 13 years old and would be interested in delivering newspapers for us please call or email us.

Call: 01235 763134
Email: contact@rowesnews.co.uk
www.rowesnewsmarket.co.uk
18 Wallingford Street, Wantage

ELECTRICIAN

DANIEL KERR
M: 07817 457 832
E: Daniel-Electrician@outlook.com
87, HAMFIELD, WANTAGE

KEEP IT LOCAL !
Discount For Neighbours & Over 65's

DK ELECTRICAL SERVICES

City & Guilds / Insured / 7 day Service / No Call-Out Charge / Emergencies / No Higher Rate For Sundays/B.Holidays

EVENTS

In collaboration with

ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

E.H. Shepard:
BEFORE & BEYOND
WINNIE-THE-POOH

SEE THE EXHIBITION
18 January - 31 August 2025

Pen and Ink illustration by E.H. Shepard of a soldier holding a black cat at arm's length, one of a series of animals in the barracks. © The Shepard Trust, 1929, from The Shepard Trust Archive, University of Surrey (Ref No. ST/8/5).

Pencil self-portrait of E.H. Shepard seated in his WWI officer's uniform. © The Shepard Trust, c. 1915-1916, from the E.H. Shepard Archive, University of Surrey (Ref No. EHS/G/17/28).

New E. H. Shepard exhibition to open at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, including original Winnie-the-Pooh illustrations

From 18 January to 31 August 2025, Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock will host a brand-new exhibition of artwork by E. H. Shepard, best known as the original illustrator for A. A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh and the 1931 edition of Kenneth Grahame's The Wind in the Willows.

The collection of Shepard's work, including some of his beloved children's illustrations alongside a wealth of his Great War sketches and comic art, come to the museum on loan from the University of Surrey Archives and The Shepard Trust - on show for the first time in Oxfordshire.

By the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, Ernest H. Shepard had already become a regular contributor to the popular Punch magazine, often drawing cartoons about the war for them among other publications. By 1915 Shepard had enlisted, going on to serve as an officer in the Royal Garrison Artillery, first in France's Western Front, and later Italy. From the start of his officer training in 1915, he began to document the war as he saw it, in pencil sketches, pen and ink drawings, and even watercolours. These ranged from humorous caricatures to detailed studies, capturing life in the trenches with his own unique style.

Alongside examples of his art, the exhibition will include some of Shepard's kit from his war service, such as his Royal Garrison Artillery officer's forage cap and identification tags. **sofo.org.uk**

MARCHAM WI

Monday 17th February

7.30pm at Marcham Centre

Defying Logic

Steve Wilkinson

magician, mind-reader and mentalist
be prepared to be amazed!

Visitors always welcome

marchamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk



ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PITS

Oxford University Department of Continuing Education
(OUDCE)



Following the recent Marcham Society talk by Jane Harrison on the Excavations in the village of Besselsleigh, we have been asked if a similar exploration would be possible in Marcham as it would complement Jane's research already done in Besselsleigh and Appleton.

Although the excavations at Manor Farm and on Anson Field have given us insight into Iron Age and Roman occupation there are few finds from other periods on record and we would hope to learn more about the medieval past of Marcham itself.

This would involve a one metre square test pits dug in selected gardens carried out by mature archaeology students as part of the OUDCE Certificate in Archaeology. The excavations would be supervised by professional archaeologists. Clearly we would prefer gardens that are situated in the older parts of the village rather than new developments where archaeological survey has already been carried out.

If you would be interested in receiving more information or even 'hosting' one of these test pits in your garden, please let us know by email marchamsociety@gmail.com



The Midweek Walk

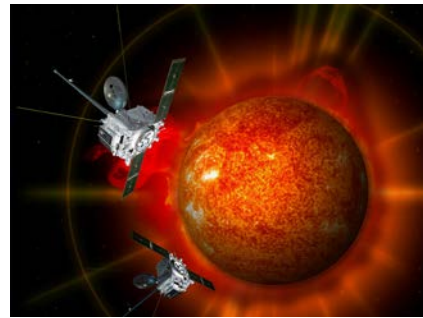
Upton to Chilton on Thursday 6th February 2025

Meet at The George and Dragon Inn, Reading Road, Upton, OX11 9JJ (Map Ref: SU512867) on the A417 between Harwell and Newbury at 12.30 for lunch and 1.30 for a walk of about 4 miles returning via the Lynch Way

For more details contact
walks@marchamsociety.org.uk 01865 391439

The Astronomy Group

Thursday 13th February 2025 at 7pm
Small Hall, Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, OX13 6TY



Artist's depiction of NASA's twin Solar TERrestrial RELations Observatory (STEREO) spacecraft. NASA / Jay Friedlander

A round-up of astronomy sightings during January, followed by *Solar missions and the role of RAL* a talk by **Richard Harrison**

THE MONTHLY TALK

Monday 24th February 2025 at 7.15 for 7.45pm
Main Hall, Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, OX13 6TY

Coleshill: Nerve Centre of British Resistance

Gillian Cane

Coleshill is now owned and managed by the National Trust. Today it is a very beautiful and peaceful spot in the Oxfordshire countryside. But it is here that you can still see the Guardroom where, during WWII, recruits were greeted for their training to become saboteurs who would help to slow down an invasion of the country by the Germans. Now their story can be told.

Gillian's love of history and her experience as an army officer have led her to appreciate the stories of bravery of those connected with the history of Coleshill.

Members free of charge, Guests welcome at £5

For more information contact
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk
www.marchamsociety.org.uk
Facebook: marchamsociety



MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

At pre-school we have been learning to use the giant parachute.... The children have developed their listening skills, left/right, clockwise/anti-clockwise, up and down and working as a team!



There's also the physical skills of being outside, running around, stretching up and marching around.... This is a regular part of our weekly timetable and the progress the children have made is amazing. We're looking forward to developing even more skills over the coming weeks.



We are now welcoming applications for September 2026 and would recommend that you register your interest as early as possible in order that we can be prepared for the future.

Nicky Sanford

Early Years Teacher

Marcham Pre-school

01865 392101 email marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



Happy New Year to all! It has been wonderful to welcome back our little angels after the festive break and see their excitement as we embark on a brand-new year together.

We started 2025 with a fantastic development day for our dedicated staff team. This day was filled with learning and inspiration, focusing on Loose Part Play and Makaton signing – both of which will help us enhance the experiences we provide for our little angels.

The frosty and icy January weather has added a magical touch to our outdoor activities, and our little angels have been thoroughly enjoying exploring the changing seasons. This month also marked the beginning of our weekly tennis sessions with Tom's Tennis Tots, where the children have been developing their hand-eye coordination, motor skills, and confidence through fun and engaging activities. We've already seen their enthusiasm and can't wait to see their skills grow week by week!

We also celebrated a special milestone this January: our amazing childcare practitioner, **Amy Burfitt**, reached her 10-year anniversary with the Little Angels Childcare Group! Amy has grown so much over the years, becoming a cornerstone of our team, and we couldn't be prouder of her achievements. Here's to the next 10 years of inspiring little angels, Amy!

This month, we also marked the retirement of our incredible Co-Owner/Director, **Helen**, who founded Little Angels back in 2004. Helen has been the heart and soul of our nursery, nurturing countless little angels and their families along the way. Reflecting on her time here, Helen shared:

"I am so proud of where the nursery is today, including the recent expansion to our second setting in Southmoor. We have an amazing team, and I am delighted to hand over the reins to my brilliant daughter and Co-Owner/Director, **Kaye**, who will lovingly care for our Little Angels Nurseries."

We wish Helen a restful and peaceful retirement. Spread your wings and fly, Helen – you've earned every moment!

As we enter 2025, we look forward to all the exciting moments and milestones this year will bring. Here's to another year of learning, growth, and joy at Marcham Little Angels!

The Marcham Little Angels Team

For more information:

T: 01865 819992

E: info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

W: www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

Facebook @MarchamLittleAngels

Instagram @Little_Angels_Childcare_Group



The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE

**Wednesday 12th February,
10.30am and 2.00pm
Abbey Cinema, Abbey Close,
Abingdon OX14 3JD**

Sir Anthony Van Dyck

Rosalind Whyte

Sir Anthony van Dyck (1599-1641) has been described as the greatest painter in 17th century Britain. His iconic portraits of King Charles I have shaped our view of the Stuart monarchy. This lecture will look at the life and works of Van Dyck, focusing particularly on works produced during his period in England.

The lecture will be held at the Abbey Cinema at 10.30 and 2pm.

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 theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk or email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk



Image: Lord John Stuart and Lord Bernard Stuart 1638 National Gallery

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Save the Children/Dave Thorne Bursary

The final figures are in from the collections on Christmas Jumper Day and our Christmas Carol service – we have raised **£389.52!** That's extraordinary! Thank you so much for your generosity. We will split the money equally between both charities – amounting to £194.76 each.



Our House Captains said:

"We appreciate the money. Every little helps!" – Bellah

"We appreciate people donating." – Ohemaa

"We never thought we'd have enough for two charities!" – Flo

"I'm glad that children around the world are getting help." – James

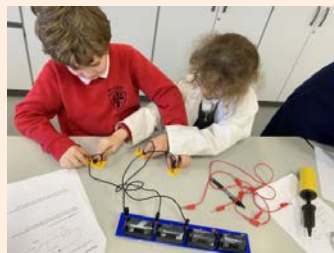
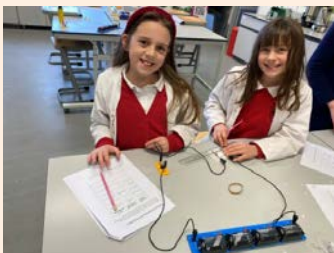
Meerkats class – Year 4

We had a lovely trip to Abingdon School on the afternoon of 10th January to experience a science workshop. We learnt about static electricity by rubbing balloons on our hair and making paper levitate! Then we made electrical circuits using bulbs, switches and wires. We made parallel and series circuits too! A big thank you to all the parents that gave their time to drive the children to this event.

To see what else the school has been up to go to

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

VIV HUTCHINSON



oxme.info

Have you heard about the news website for young people?

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.

January 2025 was a great month for Thirsty and it was lovely welcoming everyone back after the holiday season. **Natural Bread** pop-up is with us each Saturday and is proving very popular.



Our community lunches continue to be well-liked, and our next one is on Wednesday 12th February from 12-1:30pm. If you plan to come along to the lunch it would be appreciated if you let us know by email hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk



At Thirsty Café we love it when we get feedback, and these are a few we have had from a *Wednesday Café*:

"A lovely warm, cosy morning. My little boy was absolutely delighted to meet new friends. Thank you for chatting to him, and for his wee spin on the walking frame. He was delighted. Beautiful ladies." *Karen*

"Excellent company and food." *Brian*

From a Saturday Café:

"This is a great community café. Our cycling group has visited it a few times now – always very welcoming, good snacks and decent coffee." *Clive*

"It is so wonderful seeing the people who volunteer at Thirsty Café. The food and drinks are delicious, and we are always made to feel welcome." *Kate*

Dates for February 2025

- Wednesdays 4th (Stay and Play), 12th (SENDIASS support) and 26th (Games Café)
- Saturdays 1st, 8th and 22nd (CLOSED on 15th)
- Community lunch: Wednesday 12th

Thirsty pop-up café is open on a Wednesday and Saturday from 9-11:30am

Website: www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

E-mail: hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thirstycafemarcham>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thirstycafemarcham>

PERSONAL, SOCIAL & COMMUNITY

Mobile Foot Health Professional covering
10 mile radius around Wantage

Alison Love MCFHP MAFHP
Foot Health Professional
07768276718



Treatments include diabetic assesment
Corns Calluses Verrucas & Nails

alison@foothealthwithlove.co.uk

www.foothealthwithlove.co.uk



21-27 Coxeter House Abingdon OX14 5AJ

Tel 01235 530577

www.abingdonchirocopy.com

HCPC Registered Chiropodists & Podiatrists

Surgery and Home Visits available. Free Parking in Coxeters Yard

Kilbey & Clarke
Will Writers and Estate Practitioners



KilbeyandClarke

- * Wills from £175
- * Lasting Power of Attorney from £195, £350 for 2 LPAs
- * Inheritance Protection
- * Probate
- * Will storage: Annual or lifetime
- * Local, friendly, professional with home visits

Nigel Kilbey Member SWW
07734 051258 / 01235 868266



Safe to do
business with
Code Compliant

www.kilbeyandclarke.co.uk
wills@kilbeyandclarke.co.uk



£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 ansontrustenquiries@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 Gozards Ford.
1400 copies printed each month.

Contact adverts@madnews.co.uk for details

*GROOMING
APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
NOW

THEDOGSSPOT.CO.UK
2 HIGH ST, ABINGDON, OX14 5AX
01235 797386 *free delivery over £60,
same-day local delivery



MINIBUS

Planning a trip out? Why not use
the Community Minibus!!

14 seats plus your driver (aged between 25 and 70)
(you will need to ensure that your licence
covers driving a minibus)

A standard donation is requested for each
booking to cover diesel/maintenance.

Contact Marion Belcher on 07507 797757
for more information

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)

SPORT REVIEW

The weather at the beginning of 2025 has been ranging from warm(ish) and very wet to cold enough to freeze not just puddles overnight but to render the ground solid and unsafe for the players who may risk injury when falling. All this has meant that there is little to report relating to football.

All is not lost however, sporting activity continues in Marcham where they definitely start young. **Marcham Primary School** is a thriving example of the range of sports for all ages of pupil. I went to see 'Miss' to find out more. She told me that the school is lucky to have a large play area, part grass and part hard standing within the grounds. They also use the MUGA for some activities, including PE and tennis, especially during the winter months. Their pupils can get involved in Football, Netball, Swimming, Cricket, Tennis, and Dance. PE occurs regularly in their Hall.

Last summer Year 6 beat four other schools at an Athletics event held at St Helen and St Katharine School in Abingdon. The pupils have taken part in a swimming gala at Radley College, where the girls team won. There are taught dance classes with a modern Dance Festival for Years 4-6 together with many other schools.

A recent innovation (November 2024) is tennis tuition in a workshop organised by the Vale of White Horse. In the summer Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 play tennis and Years 5 and 6 play cricket. For many of these sports there are competitive matches against other local schools. Thanks to **Imogen Knowles**, Year 5 Class Teacher, PE co-ordinator, Science co-ordinator for her help and co-operation in the compilation of this report.

Starting even younger are the children who attend Marcham **Little Angels** nursery. Lara Law (Manager) told me how they have weekly coaching sessions (<https://serious4sport.co.uk/schools-nurseries-cpd/>) that involve the girls and boys from about the age of 2 years in football and hockey. They can be seen having a great time in the nursery car park (suitably barricaded) wielding hockey sticks which are often bigger than the child, and aiming mighty kicks at a football. At the beginning of this year Tom Finnie (<https://toms-tennis-tots.live.baluu.co.uk/>) has started tennis coaching in the hall in Marcham Centre once a week.

These two establishments show how sport is introduced at a young age and is fostered and promoted throughout their time there. They can form a springboard to sporting excellence in a variety of spheres and, who knows, may give Marcham their first Olympian or world champion.

RICHARD OLIVER

Free level 1 and 2 training for ages 9+

New Skills

Give your child a skill they will never forget and get them cycling confidently.

1. bikeability
2. bikeability
3. bikeability

OXFORDSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Hilarious Hidden Hiccups Under the Snow

Once upon a snowy winter's day, deep in the enchanted world of an everyday wildlife garden, there lived a mischievous little mole named Marvin. Marvin was known for his curious nature and funny hiccups that seemed to come at the most unexpected times.

One cold morning, Marvin decided to explore what was hidden under the thick blanket of Winter snow. As he tunneled through the soft, icy layers, he hiccupped loudly. "Hiccup!" His hiccup echoed through the snow, making him giggle.

Marvin's first discovery was a family of drowsy hedgehogs snuggled up in their cosy burrow. As he poked his head in, he hiccupped again. "Hiccup!" The hedgehogs woke up and started to chuckle, their prickly backs shaking with laughter. They thought Marvin's hiccups were the funniest thing they had ever heard.

Encouraged by the hedgehogs' laughter, Marvin continued his snowy adventure. Next, he stumbled upon a secret stash of acorns guarded by a very serious squirrel named Stella. Marvin's hiccups made Stella's tail twitch uncontrollably. "Hiccup!" Marvin went, and Stella burst into laughter, forgetting all about her serious squirrel duties.

As Marvin dug deeper, he found a sleepy turtle named Tim tucked away under a rock. "Hiccup!" went Marvin, causing Tim to wake up with a start. But Tim wasn't annoyed at all; instead, he joined in the laughter, his slow chuckles blending with the others.

The laughter spread through the garden, and soon all the animals were having a great time. Marvin's hiccups became the highlight of the Winter season, bringing joy and cheer to all the creatures hidden under the snow.

From that day on, every time the forest animals heard Marvin's funny hiccups, they knew it was a sign of fun and laughter to come. And Marvin the mole became the most beloved and entertaining character in an everyday wildlife garden.



Photo : William Mankelov

So why not head out into your garden or nearby greenspace and listen out for all the nature sounds out there. It can be quite a cacophony.

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

WILDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING

sharing a lifetime of experience making the natural world accessible to all

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY



SAUNA AT THE FARM

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

A secluded oasis with a wood fired sauna, hot tub, cold immersion tub, warm showers, changing facility, outdoor kitchen and bar. Available for rental for private events all year round.

Drop in Communal Sauna sessions available every week.

@saunaatthefarm



FOOD AND DRINK

Millets
FARM CENTRE



FIELD | FAMILY | FORK

(but a bit naughty)
“Beautiful breakfasts”



Farmhouse
KITCHEN

Kingston Road | Frilford | Nr. Abingdon | OX13 5HB
www.milletsfarmcentre.com

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

MY LOVELY POSTCARDS 2025

Calling all budding and professional artists! Submit up to three postcard-sized artworks to our art exhibition and auction, and use your talents to help raise vital funds for Sobell House.

My Lovely Postcards will be taking place this May as part of Oxfordshire Art Weeks.

The exhibition will raise money for Beth's Bursary Fund, set up in memory of Beth Foreman in 2017, which supports nurses to receive further training and education in palliative care. It's an important cause to get behind and we would love to have your support.

See the mini masterpieces in-person at our art exhibition between 3rd – 5th May at The Cloister Gallery at SJE, Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1EH. Bid on your favourites through the online auction from the 1st – 25th May.

sobellhouse.org/fundraise/my-lovely-postcards-2025/





Marcham Centre

Having made all those new year resolutions, perhaps some of the events that regularly take place in The Marcham Centre can help to continue them or perhaps reignite them for those that have already been compromised!

Here are some of the events that regularly take place, though popularity dictates that some are fully booked. So rather than contact providers direct, please address any enquiries to: enquiries@marchamcentre.org.

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Pilates		Guides Bridge
Tuesday		Karate for children	Slimming World Tennis Coaching
Wednesday	Thirsty café Pilates	Indoor Bowls	Brownies Harmony Inspires Marcham FC Training
Thursday	Pilates		Zumba Pilates
Friday	Pilates Zumba		
Saturday	Thirsty Café Marcham Colts	Marcham FC	

Other monthly interests include on a Monday evening Marcham WI and Marcham Society and on a Thursday evening Marcham Astronomy Group. A Men's Breakfast gathering takes place monthly on a Saturday morning.

From May, two Aunt Sally teams will be participating in Abingdon Aunt Sally League every Wednesday evening throughout the summer. New members welcomed. More information for contacts will be given nearer the time. Suffice to say though, anyone can play, over half of those playing last year were new to the game, and both teams finished near the top of their league!

Similarly from May, the cricket club holds its 'nets' weekly on a Wednesday evening, new players very welcome, irrespective of experience and ability. Two teams participate in the Cherwell Cricket League on a Saturday from May until mid September. More information as the season beckons.

VILLAGE HALL BAR OPENING TIMES UNTIL 31/3/2025

Anyone can use the village hall bar at any of the following times:

Wednesdays	7-11pm
Fridays	5-11pm
Saturdays	4-7pm (only if adult football team is playing at 'home') 7-11pm (only if a function is taking place)
Sundays	Midday - 6.30pm (including live Premier League football matches)

The openings or otherwise for Saturdays will be notified on the Marcham Village Facebook page on a weekly basis.

Sunday openings will include two Premier League football matches, which will also be advertised on Village Facebook.

MARCHAM BIG WEEKEND

Friday 9 and Saturday 10 May – Arrangements are being finalised for this year's weekend, including music on the Friday evening as well as the traditional Saturday. More detailed information on the family fun weekend to be shared nearer the time.

QUIZ NIGHTS

Fridays: 7 February, 28 February, 4 April

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!

FAMILY BINGO NIGHTS

Friday 28 March: Eyes down at 7.30pm

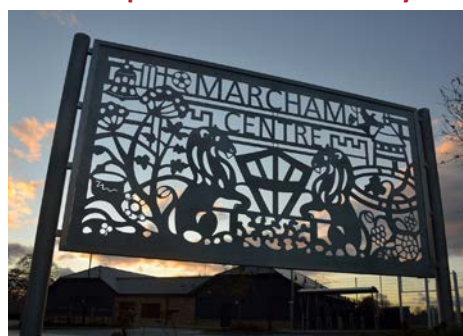
INDOOR SHORT MAT BOWLS

Held Wednesdays at 2pm, except 12 February, when it starts at 2.30pm. Contact Colin Trinder (c_trinder@btinternet.com) to give bowls a 'go', whether existing bowler or a new recruit. Alternatively just turn up on the day and give it a try! This is a 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.

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





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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you enjoy gardening, art, crafts or woodwork?

Are you interested in mental health and helping others?

Would you like to join a friendly, welcoming team?

Can you spare one day a week?

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

We provide full training & support.

We'd love to hear from you!



VOLUNTEER@RESTORE.ORG.UK

WWW.RESTORE.ORG.UK | 01865 455822

Have you got a business that could benefit by being advertised to over 1300 homes in the Marcham area every month?

Contact us for more details
adverts@madnews.co.uk

VISITORS COMING OR THINKING OF HOLIDAYS?

B&B Rafters



Abingdon Road
Marcham
Abingdon, Oxfordshire
OX13 6NU

Contact Mrs Sigrid Grawert
Tel 01865 391298
enquiries@bnb-rafters.co.uk
www.bnb-rafters.co.uk

**Join us and discover
a place to relax**

Town Furlong Cattery



Kingston Road, Frilford
01865 391864
www.townfurlong.co.uk

ALL SAINTS' & ST LUKE'S CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk



Work was completed in January to a new kitchen, new toilets and a new porch roof at All Saints Church. The latter was unplanned. It just so happened that last summer, as we were preparing to start work on the kitchen and toilets, tiles started slipping off the porch roof. It was a timely problem (if such a thing exists), because the builders whom we had already engaged to cover the internal works were able to repair the roof at the same time. It's really great to have a building that is now more welcoming and better suited to the range of church and community activities held there, but also with a key historic feature preserved for many years in our Grade 2* listed parish church. The kitchen has been designed to catering standards, and is more than twice the size of the previous one. Food and drink can be served directly into the main body of the church across a large servery. One of the toilets has been relocated upstairs to create more space for the kitchen, and there is a new universal access toilet on the ground floor. The project would not have been possible without charitable grants, and the prayers and generosity of many parishioners. We have also been able to reclaim VAT on the repairs to the porch roof, as we have done with all church repairs in Marcham and Garford in recent years. Let's hope the Labour Government doesn't do what they have suggested by scrapping the VAT reclaim scheme for works to historic buildings. Now that this project is complete, we are beginning to look at the east end of All Saints. We would like to improve the worship space and provide larger internal rooms for multiple users. The east end contains the majority of the historic features in All Saints Church, so the design will need to be "in keeping" whilst providing for the needs of contemporary worship in our growing parish. More details when we have them.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS ABOUT OUR UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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, GARFORD

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

Sunday 2 February 2025, 11am Candlemas - Rev'd Rosemary Siebert

Sunday 23 February 2025, 6pm Compline - led by Ben Skipp

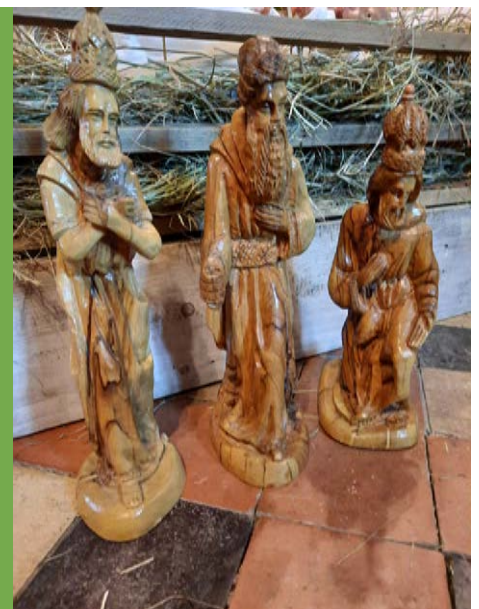
Sunday 2 March 2025 11am

News from St Luke's

Following a busy Christmas period which saw St Luke's bursting at the seams for the Carol Service, the service on 5th January enabled us to celebrate Epiphany and the journey of the wise men following the birth of Jesus. Young children helped to tell the story using the beautiful carved Magi figures which were kindly given to St Luke's by Margaret, a late parishioner and resident of Garford who is greatly missed by her friends in the village.

There are two services planned for February and all are very welcome to join us at St Luke's.

Contact: Carolyn Whiting st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Shortly before Christmas the Government released its English Devolution White Paper, setting out the largest reorganisation of local government in a generation. I'm not convinced that there is indeed much devolution on the table; rather, it appears to be a centralisation of regional power into the hands of fewer people, without any powers or budget transferred out of Whitehall. Despite the intuitive appeal of 'simpler' local government, there is little evidence that it runs any more efficiently or effectively than the two-tier structure we currently have in place.

With the Government's large majority in Parliament, however, there is little that councils can do to stop it and so we are instead focussing on making the best of the situation. Oxfordshire councils, including the Vale, have called for as early a transition as possible so that we can seize the initiative; to dither risks us being left with whatever scraps are left by other neighbouring regions. We'll continue to push for a settlement that best serves local residents and businesses, not government ministers.

PLANNING

The Vale's Joint Local Plan (together with South Oxfordshire) was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in early December, and two inspectors were appointed on New Year's Eve. At time of writing, we await dates for the examination. The Government's housing target for the Vale has increased from 633 houses per year to 949, but this shouldn't affect the Vale for many years due to the timing of the JLP submission and to the size of the Vale's existing Five-Year Land Supply.

The Environment Agency (EA) has announced an update to its flood risk assessment framework and so will update its flood risk maps soon. Local Planning Authorities, such as the Vale, must defer to the EA's flood risk maps when determining planning applications unless there is "strong" conflicting evidence: local knowledge is insufficient and would likely be overturned at appeal. Let's hope that the new maps better reflect the reality on the ground!

ELECTRICAL POWER SUPPLY

Lastly, a plea to all local residents and landowners: if any of your trees stand close to overhead power lines, please can you ensure that they are kept suitably trimmed back? As a resident of Marcham myself, I'm all too familiar with the frequent, short power cuts that occur during windy weather. I knew that these were often caused by trees touching the power lines, but I've only recently learned how little power* electrical supply companies have to enforce this. Please be a good neighbour to the village and surrounding areas.

* Here I mean legal power, not electrical!

ROBERT CLEGG

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07784225290

Email: robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk



COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

We are now in the midst of winter and freeze-thaw is giving our roads a beating again. I saw the County's special pothole filling machine past my home last week – if you see it, it is an excellent invention, as it allows highways to fill potholes on the go, literally taking minutes per pothole, avoiding the need for road closures, and enabling the team to do whole roads in a day. I watched as they did some terrible holes close to my home and talked to them. A mobile arm in front of the truck is positioned over the hole, then a machine blasts fire at the hole first to heat up and melt the surrounding tarmac, the truck moves forward and drops fresh hot tarmac mix in the hole, then the roller at the back of the truck, compounds the tarmac, binding it to the heated surrounding tarmac and levels it off. Two men control traffic around the truck for the 2-3 minutes this takes, then the truck moves on to the next hole up the road. I don't think the repairs are any more climate resilient than the old method, so holes may open up again as is often seen, but at least this repairs the roads much more quickly - a pleasure to see in action.

On other news, the HIF1 road and new bridge over the Thames between Sutton Courtenay and Appleford, enabling traffic to travel more easily and quickly from the A415 to the A34, has been given planning permission after several years of deliberation by the Secretary of State. The project now moves to detailed design, with more consultation locally to mitigate remaining concerns as much as possible, before starting work in 2026 with a planned completion date of early 2028. I know opinion is divided on the road, depending on where you live and travel, however, the road does provide an opportunity to improve routes for cycling and walking locally, as well as diverting HGVs and heavy traffic away from smaller roads, and it will accommodate extra traffic from new and planned developments around Didcot. It is well intended.

Closer to Marcham, Thames Water have been developing a trial site for the disputed SESRO reservoir. They have created a temporary access road from Hanney Road, removed the topsoil, and created a borrow pit to extract clay to test its suitability for the reservoir. In March, they plan to build a 3 metre high embankment to test the strength and sealing capabilities of the clay for holding water in the reservoir. I plan to visit the site in the spring to report on their work and plans. I still believe the strategic plan should be to manage our current water supplies and flood resilience better across the Thames basin before building new reservoirs which raise risks rather than reduce them, and I will work with Rob Clegg and others locally to further better alternatives.

Lastly, the government is engaging with local councils on plans to devolve power from Westminster locally. Both County and Vale of White Horse District councils have expressed support, as in theory locally devolved decisions means they are more likely to suit local communities. However, it is not yet clear what this means or how this will work, so I will report back in due course as it becomes clearer.

In the meantime, wrap up warm, check your homes and pipes are insulated, and good luck weathering out the winter months. The council publishes a Snow Guide, which may be helpful.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/roads-and-transport/snowguide.pdf>

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 (for Marcham & Cothill)

Layla Moran layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

Witney (for Frilford, Garford and most of Tubney)

Charlie Maynard charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk





Willowfields Energy Park

WILLOWFIELDS ENERGY PARK: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT PLANNING

Exagen Development Limited has submitted a planning application for the “Willowfields Energy Park,” a renewable energy project located between Frilford, Fyfield & Tubney, and Garford.

The proposed energy park will feature a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) array paired with a battery energy storage system (BESS). This will enable efficient energy storage and connection to the existing overhead power line within the site boundary. The project aims to contribute to the shift towards sustainable energy while being thoughtfully designed with input from local residents and planning experts.

The consultation period for the application runs from 14th January to 21st February 2025, with the Vale of White Horse District Council aiming to make a decision by 9th April 2025.

Everyone is invited to review the application and share their feedback. Details can be found on the Vale of White Horse District Council’s planning site by searching for **P24/V2698/FUL**.

More details can be found on the Exagen website <https://exagen.co.uk/projects/willowfields-energy-park/>

Are you a confident communicator, with strong relationship building and problem solving skills? If so then have you considered a career as a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)?

As a PCSO you will play an important part in protecting your community, in a role where no two days are the same. You can make a change and see the impact first-hand in the heart of your community.

Apply now > tvpcareers.co.uk/roles/pcsos/



Thames Valley Police

Police Community Support Officer

“A PCSO, with their neighbourhood team, are very proactive in their approach, and try to prevent crime before it happens”

PCSO Catharine



Emergency and Urgent Care in Oxfordshire

Tell us your views

healthwatch Oxfordshire [Fill in our survey](#)

Have you recently needed health or medical care immediately or the same day in Oxfordshire?

Healthwatch Oxfordshire would like to hear from anyone who has needed urgent or emergency care or help in Oxfordshire in the last two years. This might include calling NHS 111 or your local GP practice, going to a hospital Accident and Emergency (A&E) department, or contacting a mental health crisis team.

We’d like to know what you understand about these health services, what information you used to find out about services, and your experience of getting the right help quickly.

Your feedback will help us understand your experiences and identify areas for improvement.

To tell us about your experiences, please complete our short online survey at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/UECservices/> or by scanning the QR code.



The survey is anonymous and will be open for comments until Monday 17th February 2025.

If you would rather talk to someone about your experience, or would like a paper copy or translated version of the 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



At times we all need a little support

develop healthy relationships
build life skills
reach your potential

The Oxfordshire Targeted Youth Support Service is here for you.



oxme.info

oxme.info/tyss



FEBRUARY 2025

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 MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (11)
2 AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) SL Candlemas Service 11am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	3 DP Community Games Group (7) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm	4	5 MC Thirsty Café Stay and Play 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short-mat Bowls 2pm (15)	6 Millers Farm Classic car meet 9.30am-noon Marcham Society Midweek Walk 12.30pm (9)	7 MC Quiz Night 7.30pm (15)	8 MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (11)
9 AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	10 DP Community Games Group (7) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm (3)	11	12 MC Thirsty Café SENDIASS support 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Community Lunch 12-1.30pm (11) MC Short-mat Bowls 2.30pm (15) Arts Society Abingdon 10.30am & 2pm (10)	13 MC Astronomy Group 7pm (9) MATU: Phil Beer (7)	14 	15 MC Thirsty Café CLOSED (11) Mostly Books @ Trinity Church Abingdon, 6.30pm (5)
16 AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	17 DP Community Games Group (7) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham WI 7.30pm (9) Healthwatch Survey deadline (19)	18	19 MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short-mat Bowls 2pm (15) Mostly Books Adult Book Club (5)	20 MADNEWS DEADLINE 5PM FOR NEXT ISSUE	21 Deadline for Willowfields Energy Park Consultation (19)	22 MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (11)
23 AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17) SL Compline Service 6pm (17)	24 DP Community Games Group (7) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Society 7.15pm (9)	25	26 MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short-mat Bowls 2pm (15)	27	28 MC Quiz Night 7.30pm (15)	1 March Flexicare Concert 7pm (5) Oxford Museum of Natural history

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