

# MAD News

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March 2025 Vol 47 No. 3

Your Independent Local News Source



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Dear Readers

We are hoping to introduce the new team in April's issue keep watching this space!

Until next time...



### TEMPORARY PUBLISHER / EDITOR

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c/o Marcham Village Shop  
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13 Parkside, Marcham OX13 6NN  
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### PROOFREADING

Jane Mander

### DEADLINES

Advertising: 17.00 15th of the month  
Other copy: 17.00 20th of the month  
except for the Jan edition when it is 15th Dec for both.

### ADDITIONAL COPIES

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

### DISCLAIMER

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

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### 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](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

March 2025

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS – THURSDAY 15TH MAY, 2025

This is a public meeting open to all electors in the parish. The purpose of the meeting is so that the Parish Council and other local organisations can explain what it has been doing over the last year. It also enables the electors to have their say on anything they consider is important to the people of the parish. The date of the meeting is Thursday 15th May, at 7.30 p.m. in Marcham Centre. Please put the date of the meeting in your diaries, and please let the clerk to the Parish Council know if you wish to request any item to be added to the agenda or wish to submit any questions.

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

The Parish Council currently has vacancies and would like to co-opt residents who have a little time to spare to help Marcham become a better place to live. There are various projects currently being undertaken, so if you want to find out about what a councillor does, and how you can help in the parish, then please contact the Clerk or an existing councillor for further information.

### PARKING

The Parish Council has had some comments regarding inconsiderate parking close to road junctions, which obstructs the vision of others. Blocking someone's line of sight can lead to accidents and near-misses. Please think where you leave your vehicle and do not block routes for other road users, pedestrians and cyclists. The highway code specifies that parking should not be within 10m of a junction, so please be courteous and considerate, and be careful where you park.

### ELECTIONS 1ST MAY 2025

County Council elections are planned for 1st May, 2025. You are reminded that you need to show photographic ID when receiving your ballot paper. If you do not have a passport, driving licence, older person's bus pass, or other form of acceptable photographic ID, then you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. Information is available on the Electoral Commission's website. [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id)

Don't miss your chance to vote by leaving things too late, if you need to apply for a Certificate.

### BROWN BIN - GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION

From 1 April 2025, a new permit scheme will change the way that you pay for your garden waste collection. The permits must be paid for in advance, and direct debit will no longer be available. Once the District Council has received your payment, you will receive a garden waste permit through the post. This needs to be put on the lid of the brown bin. After 1st April, bins that do not display the relevant year's permit sticker will not be emptied. Should you continue to present your bin without displaying a sticker, you will receive warning notices, and run the

risk of your bin being removed. Information is available on the District Council's website [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk) by searching for 'garden waste'.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

There were no applications this month.

### DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is Monday 10th March, 2025 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

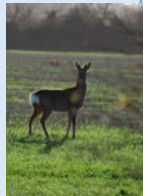
The Council meetings are open to the public, and the Council welcomes anyone who has issues to raise on parish matters to attend, or speak to their local parish councillor.

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

[www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### This month's cover photo

Deer on the field that is now Marcham Meadows  
by Richard Oliver



### MADNews 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.

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.*

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

## YELLOW PERIL 2025



### Those Appearing in Yellow Peril

#### THE AGENTS

Chief	Michael Barrett
BP	Matthew Hill
Aunty	Claire Russell
Brains	James Sewell
Charlie	Natalie Thorne
Jaws	Mark Pritchard
Minnie	Jacqueline Barrett
Titch	Alan Reed

#### DREADALL COLLEGE

Amos Scargill	Eddie Ahier
Chief Warden	Tina Hill
Warden Dripwell	Clare Sewell

#### THE WARDENS

Denise Asher	Cheryll Sewell
Janet Frere	Sue Sharland
Dianna Marsh	Sally Stow
Linda Reed	Val Watson
Christine Whild	

#### THE POLICE

Sergeant Bollard	Phil Stuart
First Constable	Kate O'Kane
Second Constable	Peter Talbot

#### THE ASSESSORS

John Armitage	Ken Page
Jim Asher	Andrew Smith
Brian Barrett	Martin Thorne

#### OTHERS

First job	Jeremy Denton
Second job	Nigel Sommerville
Third job	Sarah Pritchard
Fourth job	David Galley
Girls on skates	Kirsty Asher
	Nicola Simmons
Postman	Mick Neal
Vicar	David Pritchard
Girl with pram	Joanne Simmons
Baby	Sophie Cumber
Old lady	Hilda Palmer
Small boy	Philip Reed
Lady on doorstep	Tricia Pritchard
Gardeners	Doug Simmons
	Frances Simmons
Boy in street	Christopher Smith
Lady mowing lawn	Christine Whild
Man cutting hedge	Duncan Reed
Voice of Minnie's mum	Jenny Barrett

March 2025

*'A fun, action-packed adventure film for the whole family, Yellow Peril was originally shot here in Marcham back in 1989 with a large cast of local heroes and villains.'*

This is how the recently restored 1989 production of 'Yellow Peril' was heralded to our 2025 village in advance of the public screenings on the 31st January and 1st February in All Saints' Church. The four showings were very well attended, by both longstanding and more recently settled Marcham residents.

Pre-showing promotion included this taster: *'This hour-long, action-packed feature film was shot in and around the village of Marcham in 1989. The amateur sleuths of Marcham Investigation Unit (MI8) stumble upon a plot to deprive the village of Marcham of its long-awaited bypass in order to construct a new London airport. With the village policeman only interested in his stamp collection, the youngsters take it upon themselves to foil this plot. But how can they succeed?'*

How wonderful it was for this group of children to have the freedom to patrol the village on bikes and to assemble as the village investigation unit, MI8. Here they shared 'evidence', from the mundane (number plates of newly acquired cars) to the shocking: the discovery of a plot to thwart the building of the new Marcham bypass (yes! a hot topic even back in 1989). They were ready to take matters into their own hands and the adventure began.

This devious plot was carried out by the Yellow Peril; the military marching and ever vigilant Traffic Wardens (a scourge of our lives back in the day as well). Traffic was diverted so that wonderfully empty Marcham roads meant that smartly dressed officials looking to verify the bypass need were perplexed.... until the MI8 team removed the signs and the juggernauts returned.

The arch-villain and proponent of the new London airport (Marcham) resided in the Traffic Wardens' Dreadall College (aka Denman College, now Marcham Park). Once the plot had been uncovered, the drama of his escape in a light aircraft and the expert mid-air recovery and landing by the impressive child star of the show, Chief, made for a nail-biting climax.

(Perhaps you might substitute the new London airport (Marcham) with Thames Water's Reservoir and think, well, nothing much has changed.)

The showing was preceded by an interesting film that introduced us to the cast and crew though recent interviews. Hearing from their older selves was very illuminating. The creators, film crew and cast should be congratulated for all their hard work at the time, as must Bartle Frere be for this restored version; likewise, Malcolm Pearce for the freshly enhanced digital soundtrack, using as much of Christine Whild's original compositions as possible.

Thank you to All Saints' Church for generously hosting the screenings and to everyone in the village who came to see this glimpse of our village of 35 years ago.

#### CAROLYN BLACKMORE

**You can watch both Yellow Peril remastered and Yellow Peril Remembered in the comfort of your own home with these YouTube links:**



<https://youtu.be/IRoBw9fDke8>



<https://youtu.be/JGDH2lxyJ0s>

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The ATOM Festival of Science & Technology is back! This year the Festival runs from 15th to 26th March. Here are some of the highlights but please check the website as there are too many events to mention them all here.

The fun and interactive FREE family event, **ATOM's Science Market**, opens the programme on Saturday 15th March with science organisations exhibiting on Abingdon Market Place and geology activities in the Museum.

ATOM offers more workshops and activities for kids on the following day and also the following weekend. On 16th March kids can practice forensic techniques to analyse bone samples and on 22nd March the popular ibrick workshops by House of Fun are back. It is essential to buy tickets in advance for these workshops.

Meanwhile there is something for the grown-ups too with fascinating talks such as the "Whale-Human Interface" delivered by Mark Simmonds OBE who has spent a lifetime in conservation and study of whales and dolphins.

There are trips outside of Abingdon including two events at Harwell on March 20th: an 11am guided walk and a 6pm talk by the "Atomic Age" historian Lucy Jane Santos.

The Festival closes with the annual Peagram Lecture on 26th March, this year about quantum computing, given by Professor Tony Hey CBE.

Go to the Festival website for a full programme list or collect a printed programme from the Town Council offices.

<https://www.atomfestival.org.uk/festival-programme>

We are excited to announce a **Flower Festival** over the May Bank Holiday weekend 2025 to be held in All Saints Church Marcham. The theme of the festival is **Joy and Peace**.



In addition to the local flower clubs we have invited the children of the village to take part – Brownies, Guides, Pre-school etc as well as the WI.

The proceeds from ticket sales will be given to two worthy causes, Breast Cancer UK in honour of Jenny Allen who was involved in the initial inception of the festival before sadly passing away, and towards buying some equipment for the new church kitchen.

**Come and have tea and cake and enjoy the festival of flowers**

**Tickets £5 on door children under 16 go free**

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We hope that you had a good February and enjoyed some of the 'different' products that we had on sale to help with Valentine's Day and other celebrations.

This month, for the Welsh folk in the village we have St David's Day on the 1st, followed by Shrove Tuesday on the 4th – and we sell all the goods that you need to make that fantastic pancake. At the end of the month on the 30th it will be Mother's Day. We have cards and some lovely gifts for that special lady – chocolates, biscuits, drinks etc. We are always looking for different products and that 'something' special and we wouldn't want you to miss out – there is too much to list, so come and have a look and see if we can fulfil your needs.



In April, we have Easter. Again, we have lots of chocolate gifts, egg and gift-box shaped – come and see! However, please note that over the Easter period we will be closed as follows:

**Easter Bank Holiday**

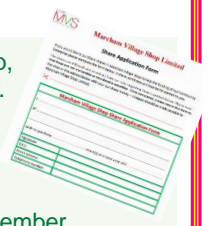
**We will be closed from Friday 18 April - Monday 21 April inclusive, re-opening on Tuesday 22 April at 08:30 hrs**



Order your fresh meat from Hedges through the shop to guarantee getting that perfect joint for that special day. Orders are delivered on a weekly basis and 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. (Note that for the Easter bank holiday period, orders will be ready for collection on Thursday 17 April from noon.)

If you need to post your **Mother's Day** and/or **Easter cards**, don't forget that our **Post Office** service is here for your benefit. We cover 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.



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# MARCHAM WI

Monday 17th March

7.30pm at Marcham Centre

## Annual Meeting

followed by 'some tasty fun'

Come along to the annual meeting and find out more about your local WI and how you can get involved. Following the business, we'll be having 'some tasty fun'

At our February meeting we had an excellent evening when we were joined by our speaker, Steve Wilkinson, Magician, Mind Reader and Mentalist, who showed us some defying logic mind reading. How he managed to perform the mind reading tricks we'll never know, but we were all spellbound and amazed!



Visitors always welcome  
[marchamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:marchamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)



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The  
Marcham  
Society

## The Midweek Walk

12.30pm Thursday 6th March 2025

Please contact [walks@marchamsociety.org.uk](mailto:walks@marchamsociety.org.uk) 01865 391439

## The Astronomy Group

Please contact: [astronomy@marchamsociety.org.uk](mailto:astronomy@marchamsociety.org.uk)

Thursday 13th March 2025 at 7pm

Small Hall, Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, OX13 6TY

A round-up of astronomy sightings during February,  
followed by

A History of the Calendar – What happened  
to the Missing Ten Days?

*Kevin Langley*



Images from Wikimedia

## THE MONTHLY TALK

Monday 24th March 2025 at 7.15 for 7.45pm

Main Hall, Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, OX13 6TY

A History of Christ's Hospital, Abingdon

*Jackie Smith*

This talk is designed to show the influential role played by Christ's Hospital throughout Abingdon's history. Christ's Hospital was incorporated before the town became a Borough. Jackie Smith has been a member of Abingdon Area Archaeology and History Society since 1969 and has been co-author of two books and a research paper on aspects of Abingdon's history, for example its pubs and Christ's Hospital.



Abingdon Bridge, Eliza Sykes, 1791

She was also a regular contributor to the *Heralding the Past* column in the local paper. She is Honorary Archivist to Abingdon Town Council and Archivist to Christ's Hospital. She is not a trained archivist but she worked in the local history collections in Oxford before she retired and receives help and advice from both the senior Archivist and Conservationist at Royal Berkshire Archives.

Please contact: [admin@marchamsociety.org.uk](mailto:admin@marchamsociety.org.uk)

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## MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

We are so grateful to be able to occupy a space within Marcham Primary School.... Each week we visit the hall with our youngest cohorts to use our fabulous soft play equipment. The children love to jump and climb and slide, building up their muscles and developing their spatial awareness. The older children have been exploring map-making and directional language - we've even been on a magical adventure searching for treasure and dinosaurs!



If you are interested in your child joining Marcham Pre-school please contact us on [admissions@outlook.com](mailto:admissions@outlook.com)  
**Nicky Sanford**  
 Early Years Teacher  
 Marcham Pre-school  
 01865 392101 email [marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com)

### Concerned about a child?

If you're worried about a child, even if you're unsure don't delay... Call the NSPCC helpline and speak to a professional counsellor - you do not have to give your name. Available for advice and support 24/7. Call **0808 800 5000** or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

Call the police on 999 if you think a child is in danger.



## Are you our next Nursery Manager?



Lara | Nursery Manager

*"My favourite thing about the role is that it entails a combination of looking after the team, and our families. I love providing care and support for the whole family during the everyday moments and the big moments!"*



Visit our website for more details: <https://www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk/careers>

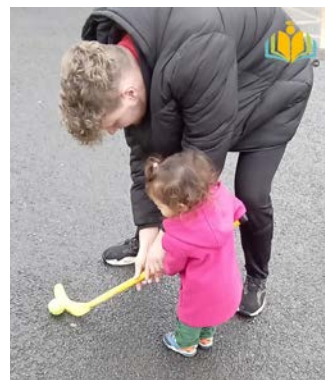


## February Fun at Marcham Little Angels!

February has been full of love, creativity, and adventure at Marcham Little Angels! Our Little Angels got stuck into making lots of beautiful Valentine's crafts, creating special keepsakes that we know parents will treasure forever. We even got creative in the kitchen, baking some delicious heart-shaped biscuits—there was certainly plenty of love (and sprinkles!) to go around.



Alongside all the Valentine's fun, our Little Angels have been enjoying fantastic football and hockey sessions with Serious4Sport. These sessions are not just about having fun; they help build confidence, coordination, and teamwork in an exciting and engaging way. It's been wonderful to see the children developing new skills while staying active and having a blast with Coach Tom and Coach Dec!



No matter the weather, we've been embracing the great outdoors this month—come rain or shine! One of the biggest highlights for our Little Angels has been watching the roadworks in action. Seeing the big diggers and machines hard at work has sparked plenty of excitement and curiosity. Who knew roadworks could be so fascinating?

We also have some exciting news to share—a huge congratulations to our lovely manager, Lara, who is expecting her second child! While we are over the moon for Lara, it does mean we are now looking for a Nursery Manager to join our team. If you or someone you know would be a perfect fit, please visit our website for more details: <https://www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk/careers>

At Little Angels, our vision is to be a trailblazer in early years education, constantly evolving to bring remarkable care and learning experiences that spark joy and curiosity in every child and their family. Our passionate, community-rooted team combines rich knowledge and creativity, crafting an approach that's both unique and inspiring. With a deep commitment to care, we empower each member of the Little Angels family in a cosy, home-like setting where we nurture a sense of wonder and a love for learning.

Here's to another exciting month ahead!

### The Marcham Little Angels Team

For more information:

T: 01865 819992

E: [info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk](mailto:info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk)

W: [www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk](http://www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk)

Facebook @MarchamLittleAngels

Instagram @Little\_Angels\_Childcare\_Group

## MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

We were inspected by the Church of England Education office on Thursday 6th February. Our SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) was a one-day inspection led by Mr Gary Price.



He looked at how the school lives out its Christian vision; how the school community flourishes through that and through Collective Worship; how our children can show 'courageous advocacy' and the impact of RE.

May I say a **big thank you** to those parents who were able to engage with him that day – at such short notice. It was appreciated. The report should be with us in about 3 weeks time and we will share the outcomes on the school website as soon as we have them.

### Science Week

From 27th - 31st January it was science week! Across the whole school there was lots of activity – experiments, scientists, even food tasting.

We had such a good time exploring how science fits into our world. We had visitors who all shared their passion for the subject. Every class had a visitor (or went on a trip).(a big thank you to those people who came in) We also had an afternoon for the whole school to mix up and explore different experiments.

We had walking water, exploring coke, lava lamps and more! Finally, each class was given a 'big question' to predict, explore, experiment and conclude the answers too. It was a fantastic week full of science. The children were brilliant and asked some interesting questions.

A big thank you to Miss Ball, Miss Priddle, Mrs Terry-Smith and Mrs Phillips. It wouldn't have been possible without your help. There are pictures and more information on the website so do take a look! **Miss Knowles**



## Leopards Class – Year 1

Leopards have been enjoying a very busy two weeks; Science Week gave us all lots of opportunities to watch, take part and comment on lots of different experiments. Using our senses to try and identify lots of different items was a great challenge and we found out how much we are often using two senses at a time. We had lots of fun on Thursday taking part in science experiments and found the fizzy fliers the most exciting experiment.



On Monday of this week, we took part in a yoga workshop and enjoyed bending and stretching our body before our busy week of learning commenced. Thank you to our visitors this week who have helped us learn about China. We have written great riddles about the animals which raced across the river to gain a place on the Chinese zodiac. On Thursday we took part in Chinese Day with the children from Pandas class, working in mixed groups we were able to participate in activities around Chinese New Year finishing with a dragon dance.

### What a week our Year 6 pupils had!

We are delighted that our Year 6s have had a marvellous time on their residential visit to Wales (Glasbury Outdoor Education Centre) on 3rd to 7th February. They were physically (and sometimes emotionally) challenged as they tackled activities that perhaps they had not done before. Photos will be on the website in due course. Many, many thanks to Mr Clayton, Miss Jarvey and Miss Priddle who went with the children and led, encouraged, guided and supported the children over the 5 days.

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

[www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages](http://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages)

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## SPORT REVIEW

After February's look at the possible future sporting stars growing up in Marcham we turn our attention to the grown-up football teams of Marcham and, in particular, the veterans' team together with the curiously named league in which they play. After a number of postponements and cancellations some games have managed to take place. Since the beginning of January, at time of writing, Marcham First Team, playing in Division 2 of the North Berks League, have won 2 (including a thumping 12-0 victory against Steventon Reserves) and lost 2 League games. Currently they lie 4th in the Table. They have also lost a North Berks War Memorial Cup game against Watlington Town Reserves (having beaten them just before Christmas).

Marcham Vets (also known as 'The Celery Men') have suffered 3 postponed matches since the beginning of January. They sadly lost the home match 0-1 against Witney Royals Vets on 5th February and the return away match on 12th February. Witney are currently top of the Table. The Vets play in the Hellenic League – a strange title for a football league in the middle of the UK. The full title is the uhsport Hellenic League Division 1 West, where the league table shows they have room for improvement.

### Marcham Vets in their Home kit (courtesy of Dan Barnes)



A Google search of 'Hellenic League' for football is not enlightening. The Hellenic League was formed in 1953 and in 2000 absorbed the Chiltonian League (an understandable title), which had been established in 1984. Abingdon Town Football Club was a founder member of the Hellenic League. The league logo has a distinctly Greek look about it with a crown of laurel leaves surrounding a female figure running (or possibly dancing) carrying a lighted torch:



<https://thehellenicleague.co.uk>

The original Hellenic League comprised of a number of states in the eastern European area that we know today as the country of Greece. Athens and Sparta were two of the principle states and who were traditional enemies. However they joined forces, together with other smaller states to form the Hellenic League. This league had the aim of repelling Darius and his successor Xerxes, who were both Persian kings and warlords. Darius and later Xerxes had extended their lands from India in the east to include most of modern day Turkey as well as Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Libya, northern Greece, Macedonia and parts of Ukraine. Their ambition was to move further west into Europe along the Mediterranean seaboard, starting with Greece. These conflicts lasted about 50 years starting from around 500BC and concluded with victory for the Greeks.

This does not help us understand why footballers in the central part of southern England should found the 'Hellenic League', unless they wanted to repel the 'barbarians from the east' – Millwall supporters perhaps! There are 151 teams in the Hellenic League including Abingdon United and Abingdon Town. As noted above, the latter was a founder member of the Hellenic League in 1953-54. They won the Hellenic League in 1956-57, 1958-59, and 1959-60, and are currently third in Division 1. If anyone has any information regarding the origin of the name 'Hellenic League' could they please contact the editor ([editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk)) and we will be happy to include this in the next issue.

And now for cricket. England have struggled against India recently, however there is some good news for our local teams. Marcham CC are looking forward to the start of the cricket season on the 10th May (hopefully accompanied by some sunshine). Following their promotion Marcham 1st will start the 2025 season in Division 7C, with the second team competing in the newly formed Division 9B, both teams competing in the Cherwell Cricket League. Indoor nets start on Friday the 7th March at 19.40pm at Radley College Sports Centre.

The club is always happy to welcome new players regardless of previous experience or ability. Anyone interested in joining can contact Matt Ainsworth on 07807770888 for more information.

*Next month we will concentrate on cricket and the start of the cricket season.*

## The Garden Awakens

One fine morning in a magical spring garden, a group of flower bulbs began to stir. They stretched their tiny green leaves towards the sun, yawning and grumbling just like a bunch of sleepyheads on a school day.

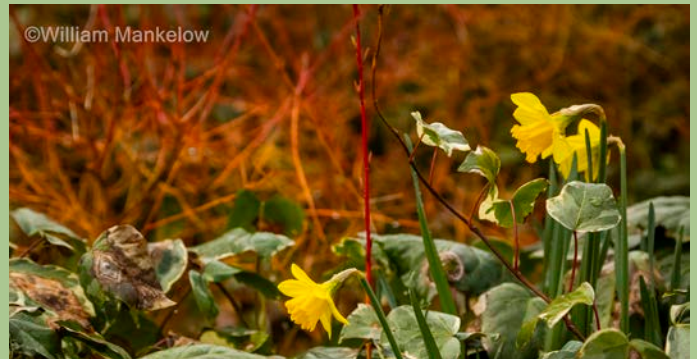
"Wake up, everyone!" called out Daisy, the leader of the bulbs. She was a bold and enthusiastic flower with a penchant for adventure.

The garden was alive with excitement as the bulbs began to sprout. Nearby, a group of dragonflies buzzed around, their wings shimmering like rainbows in the sun. They zoomed through the air, playing tag and showing off their acrobatic skills.

"Good morning, Dragonflies!" Daisy shouted. "Are you ready to help us welcome spring?"

The dragonflies twirled in delight. "Absolutely! We've been waiting for this all winter," said Dazzle, the most energetic of them all. "Let's wake up the rest of the garden!"

Daisy, Dazzle, and their friends fluttered around, spreading enthusiasm like confetti. They visited the sleepy tulips, who groggily opened their petals, and the daffodils, who stretched their golden trumpets towards the sky.



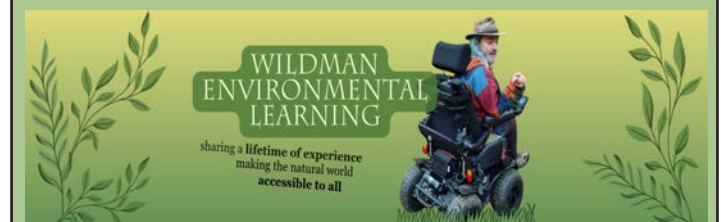
As they danced and sang, the entire garden came to life. Even the shyest of the bulbs couldn't resist the infectious energy. The bees started to buzz, the butterflies flitted about, and the birds joined in with their melodious songs.

The garden was now a symphony of colours and sounds, all thanks to the lively enthusiasm of the flower bulbs and their dragonfly friends. They laughed, played, and celebrated the beauty of spring together, knowing that their joyous spirit would keep the garden blooming all season long.

And so, in the magical spring garden, nature's wake-up call was not just a routine, but a grand celebration filled with laughter, adventure, and an unending supply of enthusiasm.

*Happy Gardening!*

**Stuart Mabbutt, Wildlife Gardening Specialist**  
01865 747243 [www.wildmaninspires.co.uk](http://www.wildmaninspires.co.uk)



## FOOD AND DRINK



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## WEEKLY POPUP BAKERY

Our Natural Bread 'Pop-up' shop runs alongside Thirsty Cafe in the Marcham Centre, every **Saturday 9:30 - 11:30am**.

Find us in the small meeting room, adjacent to the front door, where you will be greeted & served by our Master Baker & Managing Director Michal.

Since 2006 we proudly remain an Oxfordshire, family-owned artisan bakery. Handcrafting all our delicious breads, rolls, bagels & pastries from scratch without using additives.

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

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

Contact Marion Belcher on 07507 797757 for more information

## SOCIAL & COMMUNITY



**Breakfast and After School Club**  
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## Marcham Centre

### WE NEED YOU!!

**Marcham Centre Hall Committee is looking for volunteers to join the existing team.**

"I don't have time", "I don't want to take on any more work", "It's not for me" we hear you say. In a world where we are always busy, we thought we would give you an insight into the role of a committee volunteer from one of our existing committee members, Hayley.

After being the Treasurer for Marcham Preschool for several years and then a member of the PTA at Marcham School, I was asked to join the Hall Committee for the new Marcham Centre back in 2019.

Raising a family in a village setting, I think it is valuable to give something back to the community, providing a voice for my generation and for our children's future in the village.

The Hall Committee (not to be confused with MCG's Board of Trustees) meets between 5-6 times a year, with each meeting lasting around 2-3 hours. (That is only between 12-18 hours per year). We represent the Centre as a whole on many day-to-day matters, making decisions as a collective group, whilst identifying locally specific problems. We implement and monitor solutions.

Depending on the issues or concerns, some of us have actions to take away, but they are simple and honestly don't take any time at all. It is not a huge undertaking, but we do need more volunteers to join us, enabling the Centre to move forward, providing modern facilities and community services for everyone in the village to benefit from.

In addition to the Hall Committee, I also volunteer for a monthly bar shift on a Friday evening and am part of the events team that organise and run events at the Centre. Bingo, Easter Egg Hunt, Big Marcham Weekend etc.

There are benefits to joining the committee, we are an inclusive, supportive group, who together positively influence the community. We are all sociable, so irrespective of age (we would welcome younger members of our community) you will be welcomed, meet new people, and see the impact of your efforts on the community, providing a sense of accomplishment and pride.

Interested in hearing more? Come along to the next meeting on Tuesday 8 April at 7.00pm in The Marcham Centre. We would love to see you. In the meantime, you can contact me (Hayley) or Trevor (07748696733) to find out more.

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY

enquiries@marchamcentre.org [www.marchamcentre.org](http://www.marchamcentre.org)

Operated by Marcham Community Group (MCG)

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March 2025



A new facility is opening in the Hub at Marcham Centre for those who enjoy reading – from casual readers to bookworms.

The Bookshelf is set up on the wide shelf at the far end of the Hub. It has a selection of books that have been donated for use by anyone in our community interested in reading them.

Please feel free to borrow or swap any of these books and to bring other books you no longer need, in good clean condition, to keep this shelf replenished.

We encourage people who may wish to donate books to bring fiction rather than non-fiction, and adult rather than children's books as we get this new facility established.

If you wish to donate any books, please fit them on the shelf (we will try to keep them in alphabetical order by author). As we are not able to hold large numbers of books, please don't leave large bags of books in the Hub.

### GREAT MARCHAM 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.

**Easter Egg Hunt** - Saturday 19 April – 12 noon – 2pm. More information in next month's Madnews and on Marcham Facebook page.

**Quiz Night** – Next Quiz Night – Friday 4 April, 7.30pm for a prompt 8pm start.

**Race Night** – Friday 7 March, starting at 7.30pm for first race at 8pm. Adults and cash only event. Tables of six people £20, which includes a bottle of Prosecco. Contact either Hayley or Trevor on 07748696733.

### INDOOR SHORT MAT BOWLS

Held Wednesdays at 2.00pm in the main hall, except 19 March, when it will start at 2.30pm. Contact Colin Trinder (c\_trinder@btinternet.com) to give bowls a `go`, whether existing bowler or new recruit. Alternatively just turn up on the day. Summer is around the corner, so why not try indoor bowls before the `sun drenched` version arrives.

### 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](http://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.

# EVENTS



RACHEL JOYCE

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

- 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](http://www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk)





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The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE

**Wednesday 12th March,  
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Abingdon OX14 3JD**

**The Art of Stained Glass**  
Nicole Mezey

This lecture looks at the development of stained glass, its purpose, the process by which it was created and some of the extraordinary survivals. Concentrating on great medieval achievements from vast cathedrals to tiny chapels, we consider, too, the reasons for the decline in popularity of this once-preeminent art form and some of the projects in which it has been reconsidered and revived.



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](http://theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk) or email [info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk](mailto:info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk)

Image: Rose windows in Notre-Dame de Paris - Wikimedia Commons

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[www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk](http://www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk)



As more and more people today search desperately for new or deeper spiritual experiences, answers to life's most profound and pressing questions, and an inner peace amid the many challenges, pressures, and temptations of modern life, the Church's 'season of Lent', through its devotions and disciplines, offers a wonderful opportunity to take stock of our lives.

How? By focussing not on ourselves and our issues but on the person, teaching, and promises of Jesus. Lent challenges everyone to reflect on his or her response to Jesus' invitation to 'follow me'. Lent (the word coined from the lengthening of days as the season progresses), like Advent, is a season of reflection and expectation, both of which make clear to us that the spiritual journey is not an inward one but an outward one, one which has our Creator and not ourselves as the goal.

It was Saint Augustine who said, 'Our souls are restless until they find their rest in You.' In Jesus all who will open the door of their life to him and invite him in will discover not only the answers they are looking for but also the truth about themselves. Among His many wonderful promises and claims, one has always stood out for me: 'Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my 'yoke' (my teaching) to heart and learn from me, and you shall find rest for your souls.'

In Lent a person can discover, commit, or re-commit to the One who laid down His life that first 'Good Friday' for all people everywhere - regardless of their track record to date, and who offers 'life in all its fullness' to anyone who believes in Him.

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS ABOUT OUR EASTER ACTIVITIES!

### Regular Sunday services

**10.30am:** Morning Service at AS

6pm: Evening Service

### Wednesday Holy Communion

10.30am at Duffield Place

### Contacts:

**Revd. Nick Weldon** Vicar [vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org) 01865 391962

**Rob Finch** Youth Worker [youth@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:youth@allsaintsmarcham.org)

**Jill Rowe** Children and Families minister [families@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:families@allsaintsmarcham.org)

**Tamsin Gilbert** Parish Administrator [info@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto: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 March 2025 11am Rev'd Jan Radford

Sunday 30 March 11am Mothering Sunday - Rev'd Mike Dilly

### News from St. Luke's

Parishioners attending the Candlemas Service on a wintry 2nd February were met by the encouraging blooms of snowdrops which have been planted by villagers over the past couple of years. Work to tidy and enhance the churchyard in recent months will enable them to flourish and spread – an apt metaphor for the continuing development of worship at St. Luke's.

The team of volunteers who support the maintenance and services in Garford held a positive meeting to discuss the ongoing requirements in 2025, if anyone would like to join Team St. Luke's do please let us know.

Contact: Carolyn Whiting [st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org)



## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The preparations to re-organise local government continue, with Oxfordshire expected to be part of the second 'wave' of regions. A Unitary Authority for Oxfordshire is looking most likely, but not yet guaranteed. At the Mayoral Strategic Authority level, we are very likely to join with Berkshire but other potential partnering areas are less clear: Swindon is keen to join us, but most Oxfordshire councils are opposed; we would instead like to partner with Buckinghamshire, but the current council there is proving non-committal. If you have any opinions about any of this, please do get in touch with me - preferably via email, but phone or in-person are also welcome (*I'm usually at Thirsty Café on a Saturday morning*).



### BUDGET SETTING

At the Vale's full council on 12th February, we agreed a balanced budget for the year and beyond. The final budget of the Vale's Conservative administration in 2019 projected that the council would have exhausted its reserves about now, and so had to effectively declare itself bankrupt, so the complete turnaround of this situation has been a major success story of the last 6 years of Lib Dem leadership. The Vale's part of council tax will be increasing from April onwards, by £5 per year for a Band D property (to £161.69), which is roughly a 3.2% increase. As a reminder, the total council tax paid by residents includes not only the Vale's part (about 7% of the total), but also Oxfordshire County Council's (~78%), the parish council's (~4%), and the Police and Crime Commissioner's (~11%).

### GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION

As I mentioned in my MAD News report of April 2024, the way residents pay for the optional garden waste collection service is changing: you will now need to buy an annual permit instead of via Direct Debit. You'll receive a tamper-proof sticker with your address on it, which you'll need to put on the lid of your brown bin. Please visit [www.southandvale.gov.uk/GardenWastePermit](http://www.southandvale.gov.uk/GardenWastePermit) or call **01235 422422** to pay or for any other support.

### ROBERT CLEGG

District Councillor for Marcham Ward  
Phone: 07784225290  
Email: [robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR

### PETER STEVENS

County Councillor for Sutton Courtenay & Marcham  
[peter.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:peter.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

### DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

**Frilford Garford** Jill Rayner [jill.rayner@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:jill.rayner@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

**Tubney** Mark Coleman [mark.coleman@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:mark.coleman@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

### COUNTY COUNCILLORS

**Frilford Garford** Juliette Ash [juliette.ash@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:juliette.ash@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### MPS

**OxW & Abingdon (for Marcham & Cothill)**

Layla Moran [layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk)

**Witney (for Frilford, Garford and most of Tubney)**

Charlie Maynard [charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk)



**MILTON HILL  
BOWLING CLUB**

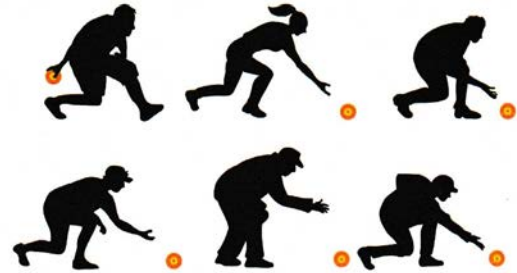


[miltonhillbowlsclub.wixsite.com/home](http://miltonhillbowlsclub.wixsite.com/home)

Potash Lane, Milton Heights, OX14 4DR  
(enter by Redrow's new Blaise Park)

## Open Week-End

13.30 - 16.30 Saturday 12th April



Bowls for all ages and a fun way to keep fit and flexible

**First year's membership free**

No experience necessary, just turn up

Flat shoes preferred, but overshoes can be provided

## TABLE TOP SALE

Hanney WM Hall

10 till 2pm Saturday 29th March

Crafts, knitted gifts, toys,  
tombolas, raffle, hot & cold food  
Something for Everyone!

Hanney Fundraisers for CRUK  
Supporting Churchill Hospital Research  
To book a table call 01235 868527



**CANCER  
RESEARCH  
UK**



**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**

**Riding for the Disabled, Bingo Night.**

Lower Lodge Riding Centre,

Southmoor OX13 5HW

**Saturday 5th April**

**Doors open at 6:45pm Eyes down at 7:30pm**

For more information

Contact Nikki Busby 07717 510410

For more RDA events, please follow us

Facebook and Instagram at Abingdon RDA



January and February were busy times for Thirsty Café, and we continue to appreciate you coming to our café sessions. If you have not been before, please come along, everyone is very friendly and so a great way to meet new people. Our volunteers are amazing, and our pop-up café would not be possible without them. Please think about volunteering at the café – we are very flexible with the hours you volunteer (from 1 to 4 hours) and as many shifts as you would like.



**Birthday parties** Do you love to gather at Thirsty for special occasions? Why not reserve your table in advance and make sure that you have space to do so! At Thirsty Café we welcome community celebrations, feel free to bring a cake and enjoy our wonderful barista coffee, cakes and butties at the same time. *Only food (except celebration cakes) that has been purchased at Café may be consumed whilst our sessions are running.*

**Games morning** In January and February, we started a games and jigsaw puzzle session during the café. We had one customer who had never played Scrabble before, and they said it was great to learn a new game at the same time as having a drink and a cake. Please do come along to games week, which is being held on the last Wednesday session of the month.



**Dates for March 2025**

Saturday 1st	Thirsty Café at the Marcham Centre from 9 – 11:30 Natural Bread with us
Wednesday 5th	Thirsty Café with Stay and Play from 9 – 11:30
Saturday 8th	Thirsty Café at the Marcham Centre from 9 – 11:30 Natural Bread with us
Wednesday 12th	Thirsty Café from 9 – 11:30 with Tina providing SENDIASS support
Saturday 15th	Thirsty Café at the Marcham Centre from 9 – 11:30 Natural Bread with us
Wednesday 19th	Thirsty Café from 9 – 11:30 Community Lunch 12-1:30pm If you plan to come along to the lunch it would be appreciated if you let us know by email <a href="mailto:hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk">hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk</a> or let us know via our Facebook page
Saturday 22nd	Thirsty Café at the Marcham Centre from 9 – 11:30 Natural Bread with us
Wednesday 26th	Thirsty Café from 9 – 11:30 with games and jigsaw puzzles
Saturday 29th	Thirsty Café at the Marcham Centre from 9 – 11:30 Natural Bread with us

**Website:** [www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk](http://www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk)  
**E-mail:** [hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk](mailto:hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk)  
**Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/thirstycafemarcham>  
**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/thirstycafemarcham>

**MARCHAM COMMUNITY GAMES GROUP**

The decision to meet every Monday is proving popular. New games have been introduced and enjoyed this term eg Mexican Trains (dominoes with a twist) and Quirkle (a colour & shape matching game) to add to old favourites Scrabble and Rummikub. In February, we celebrated 2 special birthdays - our two Rosemarys were 70 and 101 respectively!



We are grateful to one of our members, Bill, for designing, making and decorating a table extension, so we can now comfortably accommodate up to 20 players of different games.



New members are always welcome to join us on Monday mornings - 10.30-12 noon in Duffield Place Lounge. No charge, just occasional small donations requested, to cover costs of refreshments. For more information please contact: Heather Sandiford 07985 048198

**Every Monday from 10.30am to 12 noon in Duffield Place Lounge.** For more info please contact **Heather Sandiford - 07985 048198**



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



Scan Me

Snowdrops, crocuses, and daffodils have all appeared to announce the arrival of Spring, but is Spring really with us? We may have warming sunshine on some days to prove that the season is changing, but we can also still get some biting cold winter-like days as well. Remember the 'Beast from the East' storm bringing snow and ice a few years ago – that was in March.

People with dementia are sometimes not as good at judging what clothing will be needed to keep warm outside in this variable weather. The gloves and woolly hats may not be so evident by the door. Really warm jackets haven't been worn for a week or two, so are not the automatic choice. If you care for anyone with dementia, please ensure that they are appropriately clothed to go out if it is cold. But let us hope that we don't have too many more of the blood-chilling days which are the last throes of winter.

It is always comfortably warm at Kennington Memory Club's Day Support Centre and the welcome is also warm. If you know someone with dementia who would benefit from attending the Day Centre for fun, activities, laughter, company and a hot lunch, whilst giving their carer respite from their responsibilities for a few hours, do contact the Club Organiser, Kay, about a visit and a taster day on 07852 883496 or by email [organiser@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk](mailto:organiser@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk)

[www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk](http://www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk)

Isobel Birse  
 Chairman, Kennington Memory Club

# MARCH 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
<b>30</b> Mothering Sunday (7) AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) SL Morning Service 11am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	<b>31</b> DP Community Games Group (19) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm					<b>1</b> St David's Day (7) MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (19)
<b>2</b> AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) SL Morning Service 11am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	<b>3</b> DP Community Games Group (19) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm	<b>4</b>  Shrove Tuesday (7)	<b>5</b> MC Thirsty Café Stay and Play 9-11.30am (19) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short-rat Bowls 2pm (15)	<b>6</b> Milllets Farm Classic car meet 9.30am-noon Marcham Society Midweek Walk 12.30pm (9)	<b>7</b> MC Race Night 7.30pm (15)	<b>8</b> MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (19)
<b>9</b> AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	<b>10</b> DP Community Games Group (19) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm (3)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> MC Thirsty Café SEND/ASS support 9-11.30am (19) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short-rat Bowls 2.30pm (15) Arts Society Abingdon 10.30am & 2pm (16)	<b>13</b> MC Astronomy Group 7pm (9) MATU: Phil Beer (7)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  ATOM Festival 15-26th March MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (19) Mostly Books @ Trinity Church Abingdon, 6.30pm (5)
<b>16</b> AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	<b>17</b> DP Community Games Group (19) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham WI 7.30pm (9)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (19) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Community Lunch 12-1.30pm (19) MC Short-rat Bowls 2pm (15)	<b>20</b> <b>MADNEWS DEADLINE 5PM FOR NEXT ISSUE</b> MATU: Mishra (16)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (19)
<b>23</b> MATRIX Sutton Courtenay music classes (16) AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	<b>24</b> DP Community Games Group (19) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Society 7.15pm (9)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  MC Thirsty Café Games and Puzzles 9-11.30am (19) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short-rat Bowls 2pm (15)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (19) Hamney WI Hall Table Top Sale 10am - 2 pm (18)

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