

MAD News

www.madnews.co.uk



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

December 2025 Vol 47 No. 12

Your Independent Local News Source



GARDEN & HOUSE SERVICES

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



LOCALLY GROWN CHRISTMAS TREES

SAT 6TH DEC
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

SUN 7TH DEC
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
(CHRISTMAS FAIR)

SAT 13TH DEC
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

WANT YOUR TREE EARLY?
WE'RE HAPPY TO CUT TO ORDER
FROM 1ST DECEMBER, JUST GET IN
TOUCH!
ADMCHRISTMASTREES@GMAIL.COM

COLLINS FARM, FRILFORD,
OX13 5NX



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



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



Carried out 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

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



Hi Everyone

Seasons Greetings to everyone. Enjoy the celebrations. **Thank You** to all the wonderful volunteers who keep so much going in the MAD area, including this magazine

Cheers

Kay

PUBLISHER / EDITOR

Kay McKeown

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

The MADNews Team

DEADLINES

All entries including articles, notices, reports and advertising:

5pm 15th of the month

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 and Cumnor

James Plumb

Tel: 07779 386205

Email: james.plumb@oxfordshire.gov.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon

Robert Clegg, 42 Harding Way, Marcham,

OX13 6FJ Tel: 07784 225290

Email: robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Other DCs

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

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

MP

Layla Moran layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

THAMES WATER – SESRO (SOUTH EAST STRATEGIC RESERVOIR OPTION).

Thames Water has launched its statutory public consultation into its proposals to build a new reservoir south of Marcham. A package of consultation documents is available on the Project website www.thames-sro.co.uk/sesro/statcon2025 Hard copies are available to view at Abingdon and Wantage libraries. The deadline for receipt of comments is 11.59 p.m. on 13th January 2026. At the time of writing, most of the public exhibitions have still to be held. Once all the latest information is available, the Parish Council will be very carefully considering it at a future Council meeting, debating the matter and submitting comments to Thames Water. If you have any particular points that you wish the Parish Council to take into account, then please contact your local parish councillor.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council considered grant applications at its November meeting, and has so far made the following awards:

- Marcham Community Group £2000 towards field/sports pitch maintenance for the 2026 season
- Citizens Advice Bureau Oxfordshire £1200 and The Abingdon Bridge £1600, towards their running costs in supporting Marcham residents.
- Marcham and Garford PCC £325 towards the running costs of Friday Club and their pantomime visit.

Applicants not yet receiving an award, were asked to provide additional information to support their applications, so that they could be better considered at a future date.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS – ENTRY TO PRIMARY OR INFANT SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2026

If you are a parent or carer of a child 3 or 4 years old then you need to apply for a primary school place now. This is for children born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 (inclusive). You still have to apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to your preferred school. For further information and to apply online go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schools/apply-school-place The closing date for applications is 15th January, 2026

AUTUMN / WINTER WEATHER

Autumn and Winter are times when there are shorter days, less daylight, and reduced visibility. In addition, paths can have leaf fall, and be icy, have snow build up, or be very wet during periods of heavy rainfall. Residents are reminded to take care when out and about, particularly as the weather becomes colder, being careful not to slip, trip, and fall.

OXFORD CONGESTION CHARGES

A reminder that the Charging Zones in Oxford City commenced on Wednesday 29th October, 2025. Various types of Congestion Charge permits are available for travel through these zones. These are

available for residents, hospital visits, blue badge holders, carers etc. Others may be exempt. Marcham residents are entitled to apply for a free permit which permits travel through the zones on 25 days each year. To apply online and find further information, visit the County Council's website www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/oxfords-temporary-congestion-charge-cars

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P25/V1928/HH Two single storey extensions, one at the rear to the ground floor, the second at first floor over existing side extension at 8 Packhorse Lane. The Council commented that it had no objections, but asked for assurance that there was adequate rear access for construction, owing to the property's location on the busy A415.

CHRISTMAS – VILLAGE GREEN

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

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

The Vale of White Horse District Council is again recycling real Christmas Trees in January. When you no longer need your tree, it can be put out next to the brown bin at the kerbside provided it is less than 1.8m or 6 ft tall. If larger than this it will need to be cut into sections. If you do not have a brown garden waste bin, then your real Christmas tree can be placed by the Salvation Army Textile bank in Howard Cornish Road (opposite Duffield Place). Please cut it into sections if taller than 1.8m (6ft). The last day for depositing your Christmas Tree at the textile bank will be by the end of the day on Tuesday 13th January, 2026. Trees left after this date will not be collected, as collection takes place early morning on Wednesday 14th January. Please do not obstruct the textile bank, or the bus stop, when leaving your trees. There will be a Christmas tree collection from Millets Farm, so this is another opportunity for local residents to recycle their tree. Trees need to be dropped off at Millets by the end of Saturday 10th January, 2026, if using this site.

DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 8th December, 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall, Barrow Close. In addition, it is proposed to hold a separate meeting to discuss next year's budget. **Please check the Council's website in case arrangements change.**

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road
Tel: 01865 391833

clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Council wishes everyone a happy Christmas

HOUSE & GARDEN SERVICES



Gary Drew

Electrical & Property Maintenance

- All aspects of electrical work undertaken
- NICEIC registration for your reassurance

07912 605 012

gary.drew@mail.com

www.facebook.com/GDElectrical



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



Wishing all readers of the MADNews

A very Merry Xmas & Happy New Year

Call Andy @ The Shop 07739 337562

Email: theshop.ws@gmail.com

www.TheShop.ws



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.



WASPS &
ALL INSECTS
SOLAR PANEL
PROOFING

**PEST
WIZARDS**
YOUR LOCAL PEST CONTROL SERVICE

PROMPT SERVICE

MARK DEARLOVE • 07446377816

01235 642689 • info@pestwizards.co.uk



RATS, MICE,
MOLES &
SQUIRRELS



Oxfordshire Mould and Damp Services

a good honest and reliable firm

Call today for a free estimate 07885 882689

Small Jobs Welcome • Discount for OAPs

Tel: 01865 392106 • Mobile 07885 882689

oxfordshireroofing@yahoo.co.uk

Volunteers needed for the Parish Council and a Nominated Trustee needed for Marcham Centre

Are you able to help your village?

Volunteers are needed to help the Parish Council make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect your local community. Residents are keen to have good facilities and services within the area, so if you have a little time to spare, to help Marcham as a community, please contact the Clerk, whose details are below. The Parish Council too nominates one of the Trustees to Marcham Community Group which manages the Marcham Centre. This does not necessarily have to be a parish councillor. The Trustees work together to lead and run the facilities, and to support the charity. So similarly, if you are interested in becoming the Council's nominee, then please contact the parish clerk in the first instance.

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road

Tel: 01865 391833 clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Marcham and Districts Poppy Appeal 2025

In Marcham district we raised

£5428.80

for the Poppy Appeal 2025.

Thank you to all who helped
and had collection boxes
with them this year.

JAMIE BUTCHER



Thirsty Community Café

continues with our twice weekly cafe session at the Marcham Centre on Wednesday and Saturday. Natural Bread is with us every Saturday morning, serving freshly baked goods.

As the most wonderful time of the year approaches, the team at Thirsty cafe like to make the most of it with our yearly Christmas community lunch. We will have a special Christmas menu, festive decor, and hopefully some seasonal music! Space is limited and the demand is high, so you need to book a space (for just yourself or for multiple people) in advance. Reach out to us via email or through our Facebook page. Please note that the price increases made across our prices last month will affect the cost of community lunch portions.

The Farmers Market will **not** be happening in December, but will be returning in January. We will be closed for the holiday season, with the final session on Wednesday 17th December and opening once again on Wednesday 7th of January. Our hardworking volunteers more than deserve the break!

We hope everybody has a wonderful Christmas and an even better New Year.

Our upcoming December dates are as follows:

Stay and play - Wednesday, 3rd Dec

Christmas community lunch - Wednesday, 10th Dec

Live music - Saturday, 13th Dec

Last session - Wednesday, 17th Dec

Contact hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk Nicci or Sasha will get back to you. We are very flexible with our dates and times!

Website: www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

E-mail: hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

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

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



Changes to the Waste Collections

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Wednesday 31 December	Friday 2 January
Wednesday 7 January	Thursday 8 January



Don't know where to turn?



Navigate your way to
FREE tailored advice on

- debt management
- benefits
- support services

and much more – one question at a time.

Local support
from local
advice teams

01865 410 660 oxfordshireadvicenavigator.org.uk



Oxfordshire advice
Navigator



Games Morning

Enjoy a chat over a friendly game of
Scrabble, Mexican Train dominoes,
Rummikub,...

All welcome!

Every Monday
10.30-12 noon
Duffield Place Lounge

No charge (optional small donation for
coffee/tea/biscuits)



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

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

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

Local Renewable Installers

MOSSINATOR®
ROOF CLEANING SYSTEMS

Roof Cleaning & Gutter Cleaning

Solar Panel Cleaning & Bird Proofing

Moss Removal

Chimney Repairs & Cowl Installation

info@mossinator.co.uk
01865 362797

SCAN FOR WEBSITE

PAES
ALTERNATIVE
ENERGY
SOLUTIONS
www.aespv.com
07739 313994

RECC
APPROVED CONTRACTOR
MCE

Solar PV • EV • Batteries

Gabi's Cleaning Service
www.gabiscleaningservice.co.uk

Cleaning at its finest
High quality, friendly and flexible
cleaning service.
Ironing ~ Carpet cleaning

07771391209 ~ gabipapp@icloud.com



THE MIDWEEK WALK

Thursday 4th December at 12.30pm

Please contact walks@marchamsociety.org.uk

THE ASTRONOMY GROUP

A round-up of astronomy sightings and recent news followed by a debate:

'How does Santa navigate?'



Wednesday 17th December at 7.30pm

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

Please contact: astronomy@marchamsociety.org.uk

We will soon be preparing our programmes for 2026/27
Suggestions for talks, enjoyable walks and interesting visits
are always welcome

Please contact: admin@marchamsociety.org.uk

Members free of charge, Guests welcome at £5

For more information contact
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk
www.marchamsociety.org.uk
Facebook: [marchamsociety](https://www.facebook.com/marchamsociety)

Can You Help?

We are looking for people to deliver MADNews for several areas in Marcham:

- Tower Close and Orchard Way
- Church Street, All Saints' Close and Abingdon Road (part only)
- the new development of Bloor Homes at Marcham Meadows

Please message Paula on 07709849788

Thank you

MARCHAM WI

Monday 15th December

7.30pm at Marcham Centre

Christmas Party 'Fun and Games'

Come along to our Christmas party and enjoy an evening of 'fun and games' to get you in the Christmas spirit. We hope to see all our members there.

Visitors always welcome

marchamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk



Christmas Quiz

1. The Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree is a gift from which city to London every year?
2. Which two of Santa's reindeer share names with meteorological terms?
3. In the Christmas comedy film *Love Actually*, who plays the British Prime Minister?
4. Which British band released the Christmas classic *Fairytale of New York*?
5. What is the name of the song performed in *The Snowman* when the boy and snowman fly together?
6. Which country is Europe's largest exporter of natural Christmas trees?
7. What colour were Santa's clothes before the iconic red suit popularised by Coca-Cola?
8. What gifts did the three wise men give Jesus (according to tradition)?
9. Which festive drink is also known as 'milk punch'?
10. In Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, how many ghosts visit Scrooge?
11. Which British band had a festive hit with *Last Christmas*?
12. At what time is the King's Christmas speech traditionally broadcast in the UK?

Answers on page 19

HOUSEHOLD SERVICES



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




Scan the QR code to visit our website

USE CODE
MARCHAM10
FOR 10% OFF

Trusted by homes in Marcham and beyond.

We fit flooring that lasts,
and we do it right.

LVT, carpet & wood
Expert supply & fitting
Honest advice, no pressure

Call us on 01235 376 096
or visit our website
athertonflooring.co.uk




**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.**

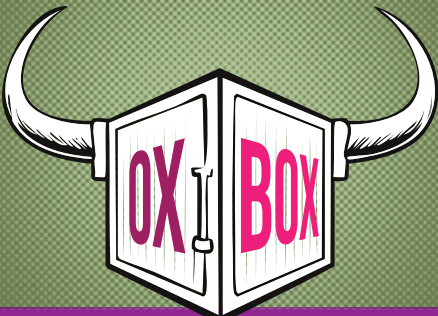
Call: 01235 763134
Email: contact@rowesnews.co.uk
www.rowesnewsmarket.co.uk
18 Wallingford Street, Wantage



Callum Hodnett
07588 337730

www.secure-electrical.co.uk
info@secure-electrical.co.uk

Installation & Maintenance - Inspection & Testing
Single & 3 Phase

OX BOX CONTAINER STORAGE

BEST VALUE STORAGE IN OXFORDSHIRE

NEW 20ft CONTAINERS
ANTI CONDENSATION TREATED
ON SITE 24h SECURITY
SECURITY GATES LOCKED OVERNIGHT
ACCESS FROM 8am-8pm

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF SHORT OR
LONG TERM, CLEAN & SECURE STORAGE
FOR YOUR PERSONAL POSSESSIONS
CALL TODAY: 07799 183119

PRICES FROM ONLY £110/MONTH



Elevate Your Style with
Luxurious Flooring



Call today for
a free quotation!
07824617809
info@stuartsflooring.co.uk
stuartsflooring.co.uk

Experience the difference of premium flooring solutions for your space

Bringing a wide selection of flooring options directly to your doorstep, we make transforming your home easier than ever. Whether you're looking for the comfort of a new carpet or the modern elegance of luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) for a sleek, stylish finish, we offer high-quality choices to suit every taste and lifestyle. Explore our collection and find the perfect flooring to complete your home.

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

Christmas is nearly upon us, so please don't miss the postal deadlines for the last posting dates for parcels and letters to guarantee delivery by the 24th. For DPD, please check in the Post Office. Christmas stamps are available to buy from the Post Office



Aargh... the **Naughty Elf** is back causing havoc in the shop, please, please, please help us find him. We have a quiz for the younger visitors to our shop, and, for the first four Mondays in December, the Naughty Elf finds a new hiding place – come and see where he's hiding, pick up a quiz form and write your answer. There will be a prize for all children who have correctly completed the quiz form and returned it to the shop by 5 January 2026.

Christmas meat orders are now being taken in the shop and the Christmas order price list is available from the counter. Christmas orders will be available for collection on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd between 0830-1700, and Wednesday 24th December between 0830-1200. This year Hedges are offering hampers at £49.99 for 2-4 people or £99.99 for 5-8 people – see the description in the shop. In addition, if there is anything specific that you would like, not listed, please ask and we will do our best to help. You will also still be able to order Hedges meats from the shop on a weekly basis (see Christmas opening hours above).



Last month, the shop held its Annual General Meeting in the Village Hall. The team of Committee Members was ratified and we now have a new Chairperson (**Michele Steele**) and a new member of the Committee (**Chris Steptoe**). The shop is surviving, considering the massive increase in fuel bills, rent and produce, and of course your support. BUT, to help us along, don't forget that you can always buy shares in the shop (from £10), and/or you can offer your services for 2 hours a week as a volunteer. Details are available from the shop. As a Community run organisation, we run a grant scheme for local businesses, organisations etc. If you feel that your business/organisation would benefit with financial support from the shop, please email a brief description of your request along with contact details to marchamvillageshop@gmail.com, and a member of the committee will get back to you.

Finally, at the end of another year, we would like to say thank you to

- All those that donated to the Poppy appeal. This year the shop collected £351.24 for a very worthy cause (see grand total on page 5)
- Tracy for our lovely Christmas window display again this year
- All of our staff and volunteers that keep the shop and post office running
- ALL OF OUR CUSTOMERS, for your loyal and continued support – we wouldn't be here without you.



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

Christmas & New Year Opening Hours

Monday 22 December – 08:30-17:00
Tuesday 23 December – 08:30-17:00
Wednesday 24 December – 08:30-12:00
Thursday 25 December – CLOSED
Friday 26 December – CLOSED
Saturday 27 December – CLOSED
Sunday 28 December – CLOSED
Monday 29 December – 08:30-17:00
Tuesday 30 December – 08:30-17:00
Wednesday 31 December – 08:30-12:00
Thursday 1 January 2026 – CLOSED
Friday 2 January – 08:30-17:00

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE. If you are sending parcels overseas with Royal Mail or ParcelForce in time for Christmas, please check online or in the Post Office for last posting dates. If you are posting abroad, you can complete your customs forms (typically CN22) online, in the comfort of your own home – postoffice.co.uk/ICDC. We will then print the customs form for you at the Post Office – this makes the process at the Post Office much quicker. The last posting dates for Christmas are listed below (for DPD, please check in the Post Office):

UK Inland services

Wednesday, 17 December	2nd Class and 2nd Class Signed For
Friday, 19 December	Royal Mail Tracked 48
Friday, 19 December	express48
Saturday, 20 December	1st Class and 1st Class Signed For
Sunday, 21 December	Royal Mail Tracked 24
Monday, 22 December	express10, expressPM and express 24
Tuesday, 23 December	Special Delivery Guaranteed

Free, safe & Anonymous

Topics: Anxiety, Am I normal?, Autism, Depression, Coming Out, Exams, Mental Health, + more

bacp Accredited Service

Transforming mental health outcomes for young people.

The **Tellmi app** has been specifically designed for young people and is available for free to 11-18-year-olds living or going to school in Oxfordshire.

It is a safe, anonymous app where you can talk about anything. From anxiety to autism, dating to depression, or self-harm to self-esteem, sharing your experiences with the Tellmi community.

Moderators check everything to keep you safe and their in-house counsellors are always on hand if you need extra support.

The Tellmi App can be downloaded from Play Store or Apple Store. You can also use Tellmi online.

<https://www.tellmi.help/>

HOUSEHOLD SERVICES

We Clean Ovens



...so you don't have to!

Call us today to have your cooking appliances sparkling, using our own eco friendly products.

Our oven cleaning experts will leave you free to enjoy your valuable leisure time.

oven
oven valeting service

Local | National | Affordable



Call TODAY for **01235 239938**
LOCAL Service: [oven.co.uk/oven_cleaning/south-oxon](https://www.oven.co.uk/oven_cleaning/south-oxon)



THE Oxford
WINDOW REPAIR
COMPANY

THE WINDOW REPAIR &
RENOVATION SPECIALISTS



Call **07880 560403** for a free estimate,

or for more information visit our website www.oxfordwindowrepair.com

TRIPLA

Travel as it should be

Your local Frilford based
travel agent

Every TRIPLA holiday begins with a
conversation.

By understanding what you truly
love, we create seamless journeys
that reflect your individual style with
every detail taken care of.

To discover more and start your travel planning
www.hellotripla.com/frilford
carsten.lund@hellotripla.com
WhatsApp 07822 034871
or call 020 3026 9936



MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

It's continued to be an action-packed term for everyone at Marcham Primary School, filled with learning, discovery, and community spirit.



Earlier this term, pupils from Year 4 enjoyed an inspiring trip to Chedworth Roman Villa.

The children were amazed to see the beautifully preserved mosaics and learnt about life in Roman Britain. They had the chance to handle artefacts, dress as Romans, and imagine what daily life might have been like nearly two thousand years ago. The visit really brought their history topic to life, and many pupils came back full of facts to share with their families!

We were delighted to welcome parents and carers into school for our half-termly Open Morning. Visitors had the opportunity to see pupils' learning in action and explore the wide range of work on display in classrooms. Children loved sharing their books and projects, and there was a real buzz of pride and excitement around the school. A huge thank you to all who came along and supported this lovely event.



Our Year 6 pupils had a fantastic time on their residential visit to Kilnrough Manor in Wales during the week of 3rd November. The week was packed with outdoor adventures, from rock climbing and canoeing to coastal walks and team challenges. The trip was a wonderful opportunity for pupils to build confidence, resilience, and collaboration – and despite some muddy boots, wet clothes and tired faces, everyone returned with big smiles and plenty of stories to tell!



Remembrance Day was marked with great respect across the school. Pupils took part in assemblies reflecting on the importance of remembering those who have served and sacrificed. The silence was beautifully observed, and poppies made by the children were displayed around the school and at the Wayside Cross as a symbol of remembrance and hope for peace.

It has been a wonderful term so far, filled with memorable experiences and community connections. We look forward to many more exciting events as the year continues!

LINDSAY PRIDDLE

To see what else the school has been up to go to
www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages



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

Including a welcome from the Headteacher, tour of the school and Q&A sessions starting at 9.30am Wednesday 14th January 2026

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

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

November wrapped our village in crisp air and rosy cheeks. Our Little Angels have loved brisk morning walks around beautiful Marcham, spotting winter birds, crunchy leaves, and puddles that begged for a good splash. Come rain or shine we are out in the garden, coats, hats, and wellie boots on, turning cold days into bright adventures.



Bonfire Night lit up our creativity. The children swirled, dotted, and splattered paint to make fireworks that fizzed across the paper. Every canvas felt like a night sky full of colour and joy. We also marked Remembrance Day with gentleness and respect. The children created their own poppies and we paused together to think about the brave people who kept and keep us safe.

Inside, a gentle buzz is building as we get ready for the festive season. Rehearsals are in full swing for our Nativity. Little voices are learning songs by heart, lines are being practised and costumes have been tried on with twirls and giggles. It is the most magical time of the year and we feel lucky to share it with our Little Angels as their curiosity grows and their confidence shines.

From frosty play to twinkling rehearsals, November has been full of wonder. We cannot wait to welcome families to celebrate with us and see the sparkle the children have been saving for the stage.

The Marcham Little Angels Team

For more information:

T: 01865 819992

E: joinus@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

W: www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

Facebook @MarchamLittleAngels

Instagram @Little_Angels_Childcare_Group

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

www.nspcc.org.uk

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

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

This month, Marcham Pre-school and the school Reception class joined forces to promote Stroke Awareness. The children shared their smiles, practised balancing, tried tongue twisters... and learnt the important signs of recognising a stroke.

Would you know what to look for? It was an amazing day and the children went home with a fridge magnet (please contact Marcham Preschool if you would like a free magnet!)

We had a whole week of activities to show how amazing our brains are and raise almost £300 for Stroke Awareness UK. You can support this amazing group via www.justgiving.com/page/nicky-sanford-2

Please do get in touch if you'd like to discuss a place at Marcham Preschool.

admissions.mps@outlook.com.

Nicky Sanford, Early Years Teacher

Marcham Pre-school

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

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



PTFA UPDATE

Movie Night – A Huge Success!

Thank you to everyone who braved the rain and joined us for our Movie Night! It was a fantastic cosy evening, lots of popcorn, and some brilliant dance moves – particularly during *I Like to Move It Move It* from Madagascar.

A special thank you goes to MCG for their generous grant which covered the hall hire, and to Jim Asher for setting up the AV equipment so everything ran smoothly.



We're excited to announce our next PTFA event:

Family Christmas Party

Date: Friday 5th December

Venue: School Hall

Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm

Featuring: DJ Biddy bringing festive fun and favourite tunes!

Music Requests: Add your song requests to our Spotify playlist

Ticket Prices: £5 per child – includes a drink, snack, and party bag • £2 for over-12s

Please note that spaces are limited due to hall capacity, so early booking is recommended.

Payment link will be shared on Facebook and ParentMail.

Christmas Raffle – Tickets Coming Home Soon!

Keep an eye out in school bags for this year's raffle tickets. We have some amazing prizes up for grabs, including:

Cash prizes of £25 and £50 • A tour of Loose Cannon • Entry to Snakes and Ladders

Thank you for your continued support. Every event helps raise funds for activities and resources that benefit all our children.

PTFA TEAM



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



SLIM WITH GRACE

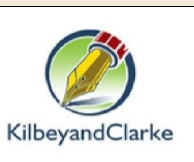


At Preston Road Community
Centre, Abingdon
Mondays 5.30pm and 7.00pm

At Marcham Centre
Tuesdays 5.30pm and 7.30pm

CALL GRACE 07807 707925

Kilbey & Clarke
Will Writers and Estate Practitioners



- * 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



21-27 Coxeter House Abingdon OX14 5AJ

Tel 01235 530577

www.abingdonchiroprody.com

HCPC Registered Chiroprodists & Podiatrists

Surgery and Home Visits available. Free Parking in Coxeters Yard



£85,000 IN GRANTS APPROVED IN 3 YRS
AND ANOTHER £10,000 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 ansontrusenquiries@gmail.com

Reg'd Charity No. 1107174

THE DOG'S SPOT
DOG GROOMER
*GROOMING
APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
NOW
COFFEE SHOP
THE DOGSSPOT.CO.UK
2 HIGH ST, ABINGDON, OX14 5AX
01235 797386
*free delivery over £60,
same-day local delivery



Breakfast and After School Club
now open at Marcham Primary School
Providing quality, affordable and accessible
childcare for children aged 4-11 years of age

We offer your child ...

A happy, safe and secure setting, allowing them to learn and
develop freely within the play centred environment,
the opportunity to take responsibility
for themselves and their actions

07.45 – 08.45 Breakfast Club
15.15 – 18.15 After School Club
Monday-Friday, term time only

Vicky Hickman Tel No: 07887711454
Email: info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk
website: www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk

**Playworker Vacancies available
please get in touch for more information**



Marcham Centre

VOLUNTEERING AT THE MARCHAM CENTRE

The Marcham Community Group (MCG) is the charity responsible for the Marcham Centre, the village hall, the playing fields, and the MUGA. We are a hub for village life, but we can only operate with the help of volunteers.

Why Volunteer?

Volunteering isn't just about work; it's about community.

- **Meet People:** Whether you are new to the village or a long-time resident, it's the best way to make friends and connect with neighbours.
- **Revive Village Life:** We aim to provide a warm, safe environment for everyone. By helping out, you keep that spirit alive.
- **Give Back:** Profits from the bar are reinvested into the community via small grants. Your time directly funds local projects!

Roles for Everyone

We have opportunities to suit all interests:

- **Get Practical:** Help maintain the grounds and playing fields.
- **Get Organized:** Develop skills in leadership or finance by joining the committee or helping with admin.
- **Stay Active:** Support events or help with general maintenance.
- Whether you can spare a few hours a month or a few hours a week, you can make a real difference. If you'd like to help, please contact admin@marcham.org

MEMBERSHIP & GRANTS

If you would like to become a member of the Marcham Community Group, please email membership@marcham.org

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

Did you know that profits from the volunteer-run bar are reinvested into the village? The MCG Community Investment Fund is available to support local groups. If your club or activity needs financial support to further the interests of our community, please email admin@marcham.org for details and a grant application form

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- **Quiz Night – Friday 12 December**
Adults only. Doors open 7:30 pm for a prompt 8:00 pm start.
- **Indoor Short-Mat Bowls – Wednesdays at 2pm**
Hosted at the Marcham Centre. New bowlers are always welcome!

SAVE THE DATE

Marcham Big Weekend: 8th and 9th May 2026

BOOKINGS

To book a room at Marcham Centre, please use the request system at www.marchamcentre.org or contact our Coordinator at coordinator@marchamcentre.org

BAR OPENING TIMES

Our bar hours are changing slightly for the football season - here's when you can join us:

Wednesdays	7pm until 11pm
Fridays	5pm until 11pm
Saturdays	3pm until 10.30pm
Sundays	Midday until 6.30pm

The bar staff look forward to seeing you.



Looking for your next great read? Or perhaps you've finished a book you'd love to share? Marcham Centre is delighted to remind you about our Community Bookshelf, a wonderful resource for everyone in our area.

These books have been kindly donated by local readers for use by anyone in our community who may like to read them. It's a simple, free system built on sharing. Please feel free to take or borrow any of the books on the shelf. To keep this lovely resource replenished for all, we also invite you to bring other books you no longer need.

How you can help our Bookshelf thrive

To make this project a success for everyone, we have a few simple guidelines for donating:

- **Share your stories:** To keep the shelf well-stocked, please only bring books in good, clean condition.
- **We are looking for adult fiction only.** For now, we'd prefer that you don't bring non-fiction or children's books.
- **How to donate:** If you wish to bring a book or two, please fit your books directly on the shelf. We try to keep them in alphabetical order by author, so your help with this is much appreciated!

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



Love dogs? Have time to spare? Why not become a Volunteer Puppy Trainer?



Hearing Dogs for Deaf People is urgently looking for kind-hearted dog lovers in and around Marcham who would be interested in volunteering to care for and train a puppy who will go on to transform the life of a deaf person.

All costs are covered. No experience is necessary.

Visit hearingdogs.org.uk/volunteer/ or call 01844 348129

PERSONAL & SOCIAL

Town Furlong Cattery



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

YOGA CLASSES MARCHAM

Come and join our growing Marcham Yoga community, and experience the profound benefits of yoga for the body and mind.



50% OFF YOUR FIRST CLASS WITH PROMO CODE WELCOME!
REDEEMABLE AGAINST GROUP CLASSES ONLY

Monday 6pm Evening Flow
Marcham Centre

Friday 9.30am Nourishing Flow
Marcham Centre

Saturday 7.30am Sunrise Flow
The Dove Loft Marcham

Plus private and small group classes

HOW TO BOOK

Visit www.ginacyoga.com
Or email ginacram@live.co.uk

Gina C
YOGA
Marcham, Abingdon

ALL OF MY CLASSES ARE SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS

CLASSES £13.50, OR SAVE 10% WITH A 5 CLASS PASS

PRIVATE AND SMALL GROUP LESSONS £55

The right care, in the home you love.

L A Care provides personal, round-the-clock live-in support that puts **dignity, continuity** and **warmth** at the heart of every day.

Also offering trusted hourly home visits across Oxfordshire.



01235 606 200
enquiries@lacare.co.uk
www.lacare.co.uk



WINNERS
Care employer of the year

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

Specialist Live-in Care

At Mumby's Live-in Care, we are passionate about providing outstanding care. We believe everyone deserves to live safely in the comfort of their own homes. Our bespoke live-in support is designed to maintain independence, dignity, and personal routines.

Dementia | Respite Care | Complex Care | Palliative Care

Speak to us today:

01865 391 187
info@mumbys.com



If you have an event to promote
email editor@madnews.co.uk with the details
Deadline is the 15th of the month before publication

SPORT REPORT

After a very dry summer, with the ground similar to concrete in its consistency, the recent change in the weather has allowed some give in the playing surface which is much safer for the players. It is also pleasing to see that the grass is mostly recovered leaving only a few bare patches in the high traffic areas.

The football season has continued at pace for all the colts teams. Lots of games, lots of learning and lots of fun. They now head into cup matches and will be dreaming of silverware before Christmas. The adult teams have had a great start to the season. Building the club back to having 2 teams was this season's aim and so far so good with more people being provided with the opportunity to play competitive football for the village. Big thank you to the MCG for sponsorship of the Marcham Reserves. Marcham Vets had to wait until the beginning of November for their football season to start, but having got going their first five games follow a sinusoidal curve: lose one, win one, lose one etc. The first team, after a couple of early stumbles have won their last five games resulting in being team of the month for the North Berks League and sitting top of the league at the point of writing. This includes a convincing win at the beginning of November against Kingston Colts Men's team in the North Berks Charity Shield.

Marcham Reserves are following the pattern shown by the Vets, i.e. lose one, win one etc. In the North Berks War Memorial Cup they have won one game and lost one game, and continue to look the part in their new kit (see picture below).

Anyone interested in playing is welcome to get in touch and all welcome on a Saturday to watch and grab a drink at the bar.



Oxfordshire Artweeks
Christmas Season 2025

OXFORDSHIRE
art
WEEKS



Events throughout November & December
www.artweeks.org/christmas



**Kennington
Memory
Club**

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



Scan Me

Kennington Memory Club Blog for December

Deck the hall with boughs of holly, Tra, la, la, la, la, La, la, la, la.
'Tis the season to be jolly, Tra, la, la, la, la, La, la, la, la.

Yes, it's that time again. December has come round and Christmas festivities and decorations are the order of the day. But how jolly and festive can we feel if we ourselves have a diagnosis of dementia, or we are caring for a loved one in that situation? Life is much harder under these circumstances.

At Kennington Memory Club we try to help ease that burden. Our Day Centre provides fun, laughter, music and Christmas cheer for our members and a brief breather for carers while their loved ones are safe at the Club, enabling them to have a chance to get on with Christmas planning, present buying, food preparation, etc. If you are that carer or know someone in that position who would like to find out more about the respite Club attendance for the person with dementia could give them, not just for the Christmas season, but on into the New Year, do get in touch with the Day Centre Organiser, Kay, on 07852 883496 for more information.

Our members, those attending the Day Centre, always love the special activities, carol singing, Christmas lunch, and everything that goes with the Christmas cheer provided at the Club.

Wishing everyone a

happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

For more information, please visit the website, www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk or contact the Club Organiser, Kay, by email organiser@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk or telephone **07852 883496** (if no reply, please leave a message). It might just be the catalyst to make those with dementia and their carers feel less like the 'forgotten army'...

Isobel Birse Chairman, Kennington Memory Club



**Oxford temporary
congestion charge**

**Starts
Wednesday
29 October 2025**

**Apply for
your permit**



Building connections, expanding opportunity



Go to the Council website to apply for a permit
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

FOOD AND DRINK

THE CROWN FREE HOUSE

1 Packhorse Lane, Marcham, OX13 6NT



**REAL ALES
STREET FOOD
LIVE MUSIC
CRAFT BEERS
WEEKLY QUIZ
BEER GARDEN
DOG FRIENDLY
EVENTS & WORKSHOPS**

www.crownmarcham.com

facebook.com/CrownMarcham

Crown@oaktaverns.co.uk

01865 259333

Oak Taverns

Millets
FARM CENTRE



FIELD | FAMILY | FORK

Outstanding
Christmas Meat!



Don't forget to place your Christmas meat order online or with our expert butchers at the butchery counter!

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

EVENTS

The Music At The Unicorn (MATU):
IOTA – 4th December



For more information see our website
www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk

Here's a bright idea – Recycle your old lightbulbs!



Every lightbulb contains valuable materials like glass and precious, finite materials that can be reused again and again. So while it may be a bit more effort than recycling other electricals, taking that extra step helps save resources and protect the planet.

And here's the good news. Retailers that sell lightbulbs are legally required

to take back old ones for recycling. If you're having trouble recycling them in-store, let us know and we'll pass this on - your feedback will help make it easier for everyone to recycle their bulbs.

- Take them to your local Household Waste Recycling Centre, most will accept all types of lightbulbs
- Drop them off at your nearest B&Q, IKEA or Robert Dyas

There are of drop-off points listed on our locator, so it's easier than ever www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk

📍 **FITNESS AT THE FARM**
**CHRISTMAS
MARKET**
AT THE FARM

**BOOZE & FOOD
LOCAL CRAFT
STALLS
WREATH MAKING
SAUNA & HOT TUB
CHRISTMAS
TREES**

**SUNDAY 7TH DEC
10 AM - 3 PM**

COLLINS FARM, FRILFORD, OX13 5NX

Wildlife Wonders on the Allotment: A Tale of Tiny Friends

Nestled between rows of runner beans and raspberry canes, the allotment was more than just a patch of cultivated earth—it was a bustling haven for wildlife. While gardeners came and went with wheelbarrows and watering cans, a secret society of creatures thrived beneath the leaves and among the soil. At the heart of this miniature world were four unlikely companions: Sophie the Centipede, Lizzy the Labrador, Sophia the Snail, and Julia the June Bug.



© William Markelov

Lizzy the Labrador: The Gentle Guardian Lizzy belonged to Mr. Jenkins, the kindly allotment Site Manager. With her golden fur and wagging tail, she patrolled the paths each morning, sniffing the air and greeting every gardener with a friendly bark. But Lizzy's true passion lay in watching over her tiny friends. She never chased or barked at them—instead, she'd lie quietly in the shade, her nose twitching as she observed the comings and goings of the allotment's insect residents.

Sophie the Centipede: The Soil Explorer Sophie was a curious centipede with a hundred legs and a thousand questions. She loved burrowing through compost heaps and weaving between carrot roots. Her favourite pastime was mapping the underground tunnels that crisscrossed the allotment like a secret subway system. Sophie was the unofficial walking tour guide of the soil, often leading other bugs on expeditions to discover new wormholes or hidden caches of decaying leaves.

Sophia the Snail: The Philosopher of the Patch Sophia moved slowly, but her thoughts ran deep. With her spiral shell glistening in the morning dew, she'd perch on cabbage leaves and ponder the mysteries of the universe. Why did the sun rise so early? What made strawberries so sweet? Her musings were legendary among the allotment's residents. Julia the June Bug often joined her for philosophical chats, especially when the moon was full and the air smelled of mint and marigolds.

Julia the June Bug: The Sparkling Storyteller Julia was the most dazzling bug on the plot, her iridescent wings catching the light as she flitted from flower to flower. She had a flair for drama and loved recounting tales of daring escapes from bird beaks and heroic rescues from puddles. Every evening, she'd gather the bugs for story time beneath the broad leaves of the rhubarb patch, her voice buzzing with excitement as she spun tales of adventure and friendship.

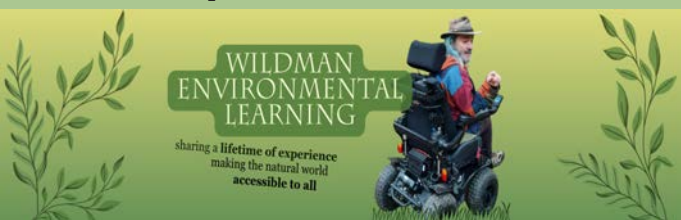
A Symphony of Life Together, these four formed a unique alliance. Lizzy kept watch from above, Sophie explored below, Sophia offered wisdom, and Julia brought joy. Their presence reminded the gardeners that an allotment wasn't just about growing food—it was about nurturing life in all its forms. From the tiniest beetle to the tallest sunflower, every creature had a role to play.

As autumn approached and the leaves began to turn, the allotment buzzed with preparations for winter. But beneath the surface, the friendships forged between fur, shell, and exoskeleton remained strong. And so, the allotment continued to thrive—not just as a garden, but as a sanctuary for stories, soil, and the secret lives of its wild and wonderful inhabitants.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt, Wildlife Gardening Specialist
01865 747243

www.wildmaninspires.co.uk



ALL SAINTS' & ST LUKE'S CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk



Christmas with

Marcham Garford
All Saints - St Lukes

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas. Have you got your Christmas tree up yet? We're (still) a real Christmas tree household. One of the treasured pre-Christmas rituals for us is going out to buy the tree. It's quickly brought home and erected in the sitting room. Of course, that whole process produces the inevitable annual negotiations: where to buy tree, height of tree, position of tree, and which is the best side of tree. You fake tree people are really missing out. Then someone has to tackle the lights, because the lights always go on first, don't they? And even though you swear blind that you packed them away neatly last January, somehow the loft pixies have been at work over the year and they now look like an entangled plate of fir-green spaghetti. And will they work? The lights have to work, or it's off to buy more lights. Christmas is all about light, one Light, the true Light who came into the world, Jesus. Many people try to go without Jesus the Light at Christmas, but that's just like putting up a Christmas tree without lights on it – missing the key ingredient. The Light of Jesus in our lives can of course get faded and tangled through the ups and downs of life. But Christmas is the time to dig out the Light again, put Him back in central place, gaze and wonder. But there is a crucial difference with Jesus the Light. He can stay lit all year round. Come and rediscover the Light at all our Christmas services and events.

REVD NICK WELDON.

Contacts:

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

Rob Finch Youth Worker youth@allsaintsmarcham.org

Jill Rowe Children & Families minister families@allsaintsmarcham.org

Tamsin Gilbert Parish Administrator info@allsaintsmarcham.org

Website: www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Regular Sunday services at AS

10.30am: Morning Service • 6pm: Evening Service

Wednesday Holy Communion 10.30am at Duffield Place

ST LUKE'S, GARFORD

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

Sunday 7 December, 6pm Advent Carol Service led by Ven. David Tyler

Sunday 21 December, 5pm Carol Service

Tuesday 23 December, 6pm Carols on the village green

Thursday 25 December, 10am Christmas Day Service

The Service of Light to remember loved ones at the beginning of November was punctuated by reflective music from the choir to offer comfort and honour the prayers and memories of the congregation. 'May our singing be music for others and may it keep others aloft' were particularly apt lyrics from Whitacre's 'Singing Gently'.

The traditional elements of the well attended Service of Remembrance at the Garford War Memorial were underpinned by poems and extracts which, together with the names of the fallen, were beautifully read by Garford residents.

We have several Advent/Christmas services and events in Garford in December (listed above) and we would love you to join us in celebration.

Contact: st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT RESERVOIR NEWS

Following on from my report in September's MADNews, the Vale's full council subsequently passed a motion urging Thames Water (TW) and the Government to consider alternatives to the proposed reservoir to the south of Marcham (SESRO) in light of the hugely increased estimate for construction (~£6.5 billion, up from ~£2.2 billion). This cost would be passed onto water customers, including Marcham residents, despite the option of a much-cheaper Severn to Thames Transfer (STT) pipeline being available.



TW is pushing ahead with SESRO despite the cost rise and has now launched its statutory consultation for a Development Consent Order submission: essentially a planning application that will be decided by central government. I urge you all strongly to look at what TW is proposing and to respond to the consultation. Although I support the Vale's position in opposing the design of SESRO, there is a little good among what TW is proposing: I cautiously welcome the active travel and biodiversity enhancements, for example, although I sympathise entirely with the shock that local landowners may have at the thought of having their land compulsorily purchased. Without local voices calling for the good and against the bad, however, there's every risk that TW will try to wriggle out of the former and do only what works for them.

NATURE RECOVERY

On a more positive note, it was fantastic to see the launch last month of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Oxfordshire. Although the development of the LNRS was led by the County Council, district councils contributed and I was involved through my role as Chair of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (which also includes nature recovery within its remit). The LNRS firstly captures a snapshot of the current state of biodiversity across the county, then describes the potential state that we could achieve in the mid-term future, and finally sets out routes to achieving this. Of course, support will likely be needed from central government in the forms of funding, and cooperation from landowners, but the LNRS provides a solid framework for our requests. With strategising completed we're onto the next step: delivery!

CLLR DR ROBERT CLEGG

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07784 225290

Email: robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Since being elected back in May, I've been really keen to push for improvements to our local roads, specifically on the A415 through Frilford and Marcham. Whilst I'm slowly discovering that local government doesn't always work as quickly as I'd like at times, there have been some positive updates in this space. Local residents have long raised concerns about traffic volume and HGVs travelling along the A415 and I recently invited the Cabinet Member for Transport Management at Oxfordshire County Council to Marcham to discuss these, alongside representatives from the Parish Council. I'm pleased to say that the meeting was positive, and the Cabinet Member agreed to give these concerns further consideration. I am still awaiting a formal response on next steps, but it was good to be able to draw these issues to the attention of a key decision maker at the County Council and I'm hopeful we will be able to deliver improvements to the road. I was also pleased to see the installation of new junction protection markings on both the Mill Road and North Street sides of the A415 through the Marcham, after residents raised concerns about unsafe parking. I'm hoping these will deter parking near the junction and in turn reduce the associated safety risks, but I'll continue to monitor the impact of the markings and push for further measures if necessary.



A project that is progressing painfully slowly however is the long-awaited improvements to the A415/A338 Frilford Lights. The planned scheme aims to increase capacity at the junction, whilst also improving safety for pedestrians, cyclists and road users. Despite being promised updates on this several times now and having raised the issue at full council, at the time of writing I am still yet to receive further information on the proposals. However, I want residents, especially those in Frilford, to rest assured that I will continue pushing for information on the scheme, as I know how important these improvements are.

As always, if you'd like to stay up to date with what I'm doing around our division, do follow me on Facebook where I post regular updates www.facebook.com/JamesRPlumb

I wanted to close by December column by saying again what an honour it was to have been elected as your County Councillor earlier this year. I've really enjoyed my first six months or so in the role and look forward to delivering more in 2026 and beyond. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

JAMES PLUMB

County Councillor for Marcham and Cummor

Email: james.plumb@oxfordshire.gov.uk

MP'S REPORT

STANDING UP FOR THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

This month I raised the Government's decision to withdraw funding for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme in Parliament. The move is deeply disappointing and will hit schools like Europa School particularly hard. Although Europa lies just outside our constituency, I'm aware that this decision has a real local impact for many families in Marcham. Having taught the IB for over a decade, I know just how transformative it can be. It gives students a global perspective, encourages compassion and curiosity, and nurtures the kind of critical thinking our world desperately needs more of. Cutting funding for such a successful programme, particularly without consultation or assessment, is short-sighted and damaging. I've urged the Government to rethink this decision and to protect state-funded IB places so schools like Europa can continue offering this world-class education.



SESRO CONSULTATION

Many residents in and around Marcham have contacted me about Thames Water's proposal for the Abingdon Reservoir (also called SESRO). The consultation is open until 13th January 2026, and I know there are strong feelings locally about the potential impact such a large development could have on our villages, roads and environment. I share residents' concerns about the scale of this proposal and the serious questions it raises about water management, sustainability and transparency. It's vital that Thames Water properly listens to local communities, takes environmental evidence seriously, and provides clear answers about the alternatives. If you would like to have your say, you can find more information by searching online for *SESRO consultation* or visiting Thames Water's project website. I'll continue to follow developments closely and make sure the voices of Marcham residents are heard throughout this process.

IMPROVING LOCAL BUS CONNECTIONS

I know how important reliable public transport is for people living in and around Marcham. It's encouraging to see improvements being made to Oxford's bus network, with more frequent and faster services around the city.

There are also improvements planned for routes serving the Park & Rides, the city centre and the hospitals, routes that could be very useful to those local residents who use Redbridge Park & Ride. The funding for these, and the free bus travel from Park & Rides, comes from the trial congestion charge.

I'll continue to press for better, more affordable public transport so that our villages stay well connected to jobs, schools and essential services.

As ever, if you have any issues we can help with, please email us at: layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

For regular updates you can follow me

Bluesky: @laylamoran.bsky.social

Facebook: LaylaMoranUK

OTHER REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

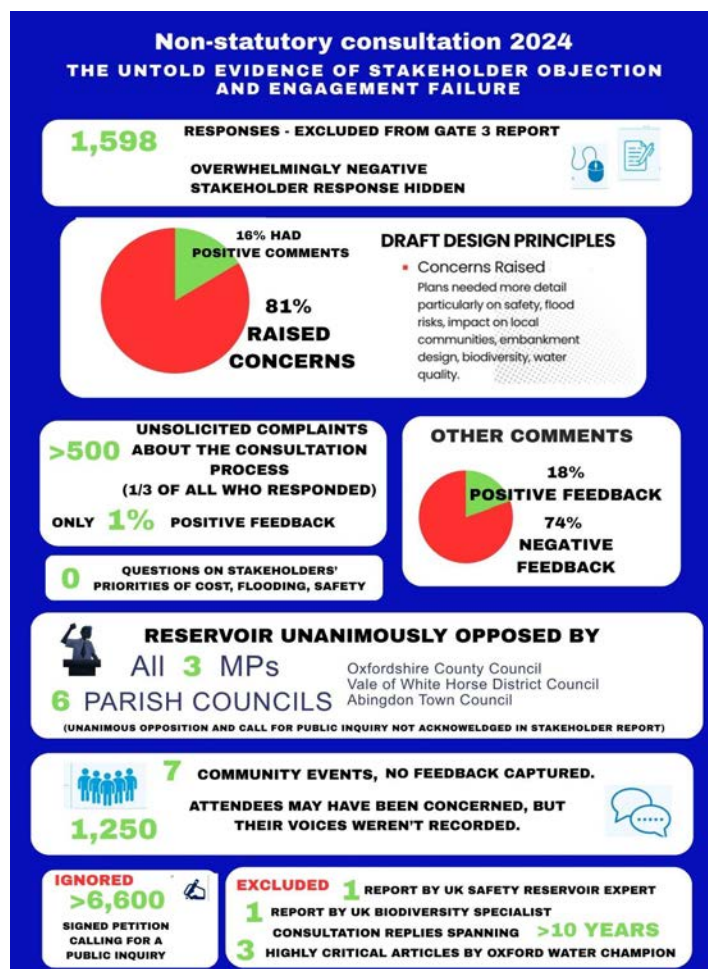
Tubney Mark Coleman mark.coleman@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
MP

Witney (for Frilford, Garford and most of Tubney)

Charlie Maynard charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk



Tell them what you know, not who you are



ACT NOW: reply to Thames Water's DCO consultation with your eyes open. For more info on how to respond:

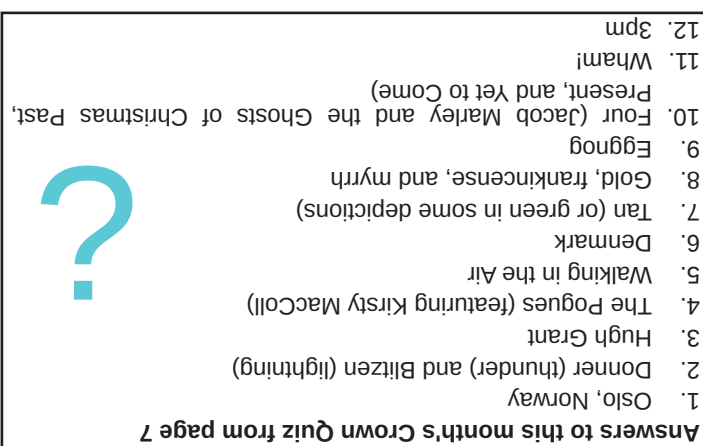
<https://groupagainstreservoirdevelopment.org/>



For more information www.gard-oxon.org.uk

Facebook: @abingdonreservoir

Twitter @GARD_OXON



INDEPENDENT DIABETES TRUST

PO Box 294 Northampton NN1 4XS Telephone: 01604 622837

Diabetes at Christmas

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

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

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

Powered by **metis**

Say hello

to your new Energy Saver App

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

This month's cover photo

by
Annie Spratt
unsplash.com

DECEMBER 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  Where's that elf? (9) DP Community Games Group 10.30-12.00 (5) MC Bridge 6.50pm	2	3 MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (5) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short Mat Bowls 2pm (13)	4 Millets Farm Classic car meet 9.30am-noon Marcham Society Midweek Walk 12.30pm (7) MATU: Iota (16)	5 Marcham School PTEA Family Christmas Party 6.30-8.30pm (11)	6 MC Thirsty Cafe with Natural Bread 9-11.30am (5) Christmas Trees @ Collins Farm 10am-4pm (2)
7 Christmas Market @ Collins Farm 10am-3pm (2 & 16) AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) SL Advent Service 6pm (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	8  That elf must be somewhere... (9) DP Community Games Group 10.30-12.00 (5) MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm (3)	9	10 MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (5) MC Community Lunch 12-1.30pm (5) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short Mat Bowls 2.30pm (13)	11	12 MC Quiz Night 7.30pm (13)	13 MC Thirsty Cafe with live music 9-11.30am (5) Christmas Trees @ Collins Farm 10am-4pm (2)
14	15  On the shelf? (9) MADNEWS DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE DP Community Games Group 10.30-12.00 (5) MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham WI 7.30pm (7)	16	17 MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (5) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short Mat Bowls 2pm (13) MC Astronomy Group 7pm (7)	18	19 AS Firepit Carols 6pm (17)	20 MC Thirsty Cafe with Natural Bread 9am-12noon (5)
21 Winter Solstice AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) SL Quiet Prayer 11am (17) AS Carols by Candlelight 6pm (17)	22  Last chance to find the elf! (9) DP Community Games Group 10.30-12.00 (5) MC Bridge 6.50pm	23 Carols on Garford Village Green 6pm (17)	24 Christmas Eve MVS will close at 12 noon (9) AS Crib service 4pm (17) AS Communion 11pm (17)	25 Christmas Day MVS CLOSED (9) SL Christmas Service 10am (17) AS Christmas Praise 10.30am (17)	26 MVS CLOSED (9)	27 MVS CLOSED (9)
28 MVS CLOSED (9) AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) SL Quiet Prayer 11am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	29	30	31 New Year's Eve No Waste Collection (5) (next one on 2 Jan) MVS will close at 12 noon (9) MC Short Mat Bowls 2pm (13)			

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