

Marcham & District News

COTHILL – FRILFORD – GARFORD – GOZZARDS FORD – MARCHAM – TUBNEY

Your Independent Local Newsheet – www.madnews.co.uk



JUNE 2020 VOL: 42 NO: 6

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



VE DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
8-10 MAY 2020

Photos: J Asher



▲ VE Day! see pages 6 & 7 for photos
▼ and answers to the quiz on page 5



Photo: P. Hoath

▲ Bluebell Time in Cothill Woods

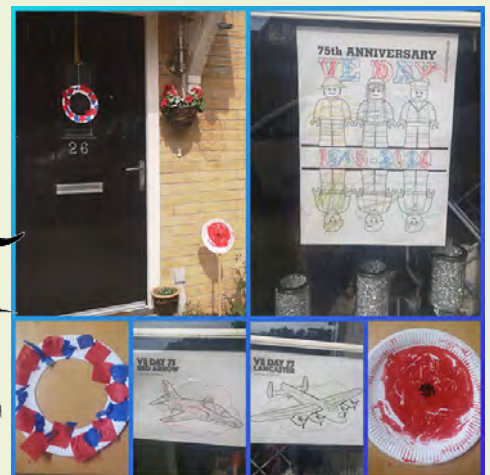
Diary for June

Every Thursday	Clap for our Carers, 20.00
9 Tuesday	Marcham Society: Canal Restoration via Zoom 19.30 see page 13
20 Sat	Deadline for the July /August issue of MADNews, 17.00 editor@madnews.co.uk



▲ Oliver, Year 6

▼ Ethan age 3



▲ Pre-school is Online! see page 11

▲ Marcham Shop: May Days, VE75 Day and Dress-up Fridays!

HELP AND ADVICE

DO YOU NEED YOUR PRESCRIPTION DELIVERED?

AbiMeds volunteers will bring your medicines to you. Starting with Jhoots and Boots pharmacies but hoping to get Lloyds on board soon and then most pharmacies in Abingdon. We will deliver to Marcham and beyond. This service is for anyone who needs a prescription delivered, whether isolating, shielding, or not and is free of charge! Call **01865 818351** 9am to 4pm - speak to an operator, leave the patient's details and we will do the rest. Please don't leave a message, but call back if you can't get through to a person. Deliveries will be Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.



MARCHAM

There are volunteers who are available to help for each area. If you don't know who to ask, please contact Jude or Jacqui by email marchamhelpers@the-kraken.co.uk or call MADNews on 391725

MARCHAM COMMUNITY LARDER

Providing food parcels for those in need during the current situation. For full details see page 13

FRILFORD

If you don't know who to ask, please contact Shaun or Christine by email frilfordparish@gmail.com or call MADNews on 391725

Message from

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group PRACTICE NURSES – YOUR COUNTY NEEDS YOU! Oxfordshire's Patient Care during Coronavirus programme is asking experienced practice nurses to join the teams in our dedicated COVID-19 clinics across the county. If you are not currently working in one of our Oxfordshire practices but are interested in helping care for patients during the pandemic, please complete this quick availability survey and we will contact you. Thank you and please share this link with your networks <https://surveyhero.com/c/e7684979>

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



Current Opening Hours
Mon - Sat: 08.00 - 10.00
Sunday: Closed



With the outbreak of Covid 19 the Shop and Post Office reduced its opening hours to 8 - 10 am Monday to Saturday.

It will be sometime before we are able to be back to normal, but we hope to increase the hours by additionally opening 3 - 5.30 pm Monday to Friday with effect from 15th June.

When this is confirmed we will publish this information at the shop, on the Post Office Branch Finder website (postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder) and Marcham's Facebook pages. *Please check for details.*

The committee would like to thank our customers and staff for their support during these unusual times and for following Government guidelines.

If have difficulty getting to the shops, please contact the local volunteers to help get your essential supplies to you.



Do you need some help while self-isolating?

If you, or someone you know, needs a hand with collecting shopping or prescriptions, or just wants someone to talk to, our NHS Volunteer Responders are here to help.

Join the thousands of others throughout England who are already receiving support – even if it's just for a friendly chat.

Call 0808 196 3646 or visit nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk

Help is available if you have a medical condition which makes you vulnerable to COVID-19, especially if you are over 70. You also qualify if you are pregnant or have a disability.

Royal Voluntary Service is a registered charity 101998 (England and Wales) & SC03924 (Scotland).



Little Angels Library see page 11

Dear Readers

The MADNews inbox is bursting with photos, pictures, video and songs from VE Day! It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying the sunshine, catching up with new and old friends – from a safe distance of course.

There is a collage online on the MADNews website and a recording of *Run Rabbit Run!* from the school.

And we are so pleased that we can start getting a copy of MADNews to everyone again ... thank you to all our deliverers.

Until next time – keep safe



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Abingdon OX13 6NN Tel: 01865 391443

PROOFREADING

Jane Mander

DEADLINES

Advertising: 5pm 15th month
Other copy: 5pm 20th month
except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

ADDITIONAL COPIES

These are available free from Marcham Post Office or the Editor. 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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Tel: 01235 534001

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon
Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
Tel: 01235 534001

Webbercatherine1@gmail.com

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Resignation of Malcolm Denton

The Council was sorry to hear of the resignation from the Council of Malcolm Denton. Malcolm has given a significant amount of his free time to the Council and village activities over many years, and he has now decided it is time for a rest. The Council expresses its gratitude to him for his commitment and long service to the community.

Casual Vacancy

Following Malcolm's decision to step down from the Parish Council, there is a now a vacancy to be filled. Whilst the Council is currently waiting to hear whether a formal election is required or not, it is inviting anyone interested in joining the Council to contact the Parish Clerk whose details are below, for further information about the role. The Council meets 11 times in the year and has a wide range of powers relating to local matters. So if you are interested in making decisions about the area in which you live, and supporting the community, then please contact the Clerk.

Annual Council Meeting

This is the meeting of the Council where usually the Chairman, and Vice-Chairman are elected for the following year, and appointments made to various working parties and groups. Legislation has allowed Councils to defer this meeting for up to one year owing to the difficulties currently experienced in meeting in person. The Council has therefore decided to postpone this meeting and agreed that David Walton and Ruth Mander will remain as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively, and will continue in post, until such time as it is possible to hold the Annual Council meeting.

Diversion of Footpath 5 – part of Upwood Quarry

Hills Aggregates, the firm that operates the sand extraction facility off the A338 has applied to the County Council to temporarily divert footpath no. 5 which runs through the site, to 20th September 2028 to allow sand extraction to continue. The Parish Council had no objections to this, but wanted the water levels in the nearby Cothill Fen monitored as the sand extraction works progressed.

Village Green – Horse Chestnut Tree

The pink flowering horse chestnut tree on the village green which was planted to commemorate the coronation of George VI unfortunately has some disease and deadwood in it. Works are required to the tree, and Notice has been given to the District Council, as the tree is within a conservation area. Works will be carried out as soon as possible.

Planning Applications

The Council has not received any applications for comment this month.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is Wednesday 10th June, 2020 at

7.30 p.m. To be held virtually via Zoom. However, please check the Council's website for the latest information.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833
clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Any member of the public is most welcome to attend any of our meetings. There is a section near the start of each meeting for public participation, where any member of the public is able to speak about any topic which is relevant to the work of the Parish Council (for a maximum of three minutes). Members of the public are also welcome to observe some or all of the rest of the meeting.

Dear Editor

A HUGE THANK YOU

I would like to thank the staff at our village Shop and Post Office for taking on the task of serving the village at such a difficult time through lockdown. I for one would have been lost without these ladies (Ruth and Tash) for their commitment to all residents of Marcham; always happy and helpful. Plus a huge thank you to Paula and Claire for crowd control outside the shop. Thank you all for looking after the village people.

Looking forward to welcoming back all the other staff, I've missed them all.

CATHERINE T DANNFALD

Dear Editor

As a resident of Parkside, who uses the pathway that comes out onto North Street, I would like to say thank you to the people who live in the cottage. They have spent time clearing and tidying the bushes and weeds that often blocked the path. They've done a wonderful job.

MICK WRIGHT

RECYCLING CENTRES RE-OPEN FOR ESSENTIAL USE

Oxfordshire County Council have re-opened Household Waste Recycling Centres for waste that cannot be stored at home, or would cause harm to health if stored. There will be new site rules to ensure social distancing and the safety of residents and site staff. This includes reducing opening hours to 8am – 4pm to allow for cleaning, limiting the number and size of vehicles coming in and contactless payments only.

Queues are likely, so if it can wait, please do. If it's waste that can be disposed of legally and responsibly in another way, such as weekly kerbside collections or district council collection services, please do that.

Full information about the changes to recycling centre rules can be found on the website - www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastereopenquestions

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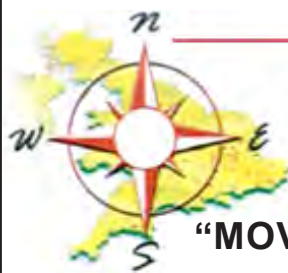
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Thank you to everyone who has sent in photos, pictures and poems from VE75 Day. You can see a selection of photos on pages 6 & 7, artwork on the school page and more online on the MADNews website madnews.co.uk/veday

VE day poem
Molly Simpkins
 Please peace come.
 No more blackouts please.
PLEASE PEACE COME.
 Air Raid sirens whining so loud, so deafening.
 Fathers fighting, brave I call them.
 Air Raid shelters so small, so cramped.
 Children leaving, fathers fighting, mothers left alone.
 Trains steaming away, food is rationed.
PLEASE PEACE COME.

 Finally peace has come.
 We have light.
 Food is being shipped over to us.
 No more bombs.
WE HAVE WON THE WAR.
 Dads are coming home.
 Children are back with their families.
 Life is calm again.
 The sky is clear.
 Love is spreading in the world more than ever.
PEACE IS HERE.

VE Day Poem
Alexander Hillis
 And so the day finally came which we now know as VE Day.
 On the 8th May 1945 people celebrated their new lives.
 The War in Europe was no more.
 People sang, held parties and took to the dance floor.

VE Day
Charlotte Wilson, 1st Marcham Guides
 We remember those,
 Who died fighting,
 We remember those,
 Who brought about the end of the war,
 We remember those,
 Who made VE Day possible.
 We thank them greatly.

VE day
Aaron Simpkins
 The terror,
 The loneliness,
 The sadness,
 The anger,
 All of these kept me from my friends and family.

But now we can be ourselves again,
 Peace has come,
 War has ended,
 My dad came home,
 Reunited with my Family,
 All the violence faded away.

I now feel happy,
 joyful,
 loved and
 Fearless.

How did you get on with the VE75 Quiz and Word Search?? The answers are below but if you didn't get a copy they are still available in the shop or to download from the VE75 webpage!

- The letters left over formed the phrase We'll Meet Again ... Like You Always... and you should have then sung ".do 'Till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away" !!
- Word Search**
- 10 Plane
 - 11 Adolf Hitler
 - 12 Swastika
 - 13 Pearl Harbor
 - 14 Blechley Park
 - 15 Enigma Machine
 - 16 Doodlebugs
 - 17 Demob Suits (Non-austerity)
 - 18 HMS Belfast
 - 19 Women's Voluntary Service
 - 20 Air Transport Auxiliary: Delivering aircraft
 - 21 Colditz
 - 22 Mosquito
 - 23 Ministry of Health, Whitehall
 - 24 Trafalgar Square
 - 25 Piccadilly Circus
 - 26 WH Smiths stall outside Houses of Parliament (still there!)
 - 27 Stephen Cooper
 - 28 Lancaster
 - 29 Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers & Miners
 - 30 Leonard Cheshire
 - 31 Maternity hospital
 - 32 Gun barrels
 - 33 The Germans wanted it as their UK capital
 - 34 To protect industry in the Midlands
 - 35 Herbert Masey
 - 36 Germany
- VE Day Junior Quiz Answers**
- 1 1939-1945
 - 2 U.K, USA, France, Russia (1941 onward)
 - 3 Germany, Japan, Italy
 - 4 The Blitz
 - 5 Evacuated to the countryside
 - 6 Rationing
 - 7 Air-raid shelters, Underground tube stations
 - 8 The Luftwaffe
 - 9 Neville Chamberlain and Winston Churchill
 - 10 Plane
 - 11 Adolf Hitler
 - 12 Swastika
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Marcham WI

Unfortunately, due to current government instructions, we are still unable to hold our monthly WI meetings. Meanwhile, if you have not already done so, we would encourage all our members to sign up for the Oxfordshire Federations's newsletter on their website:



<https://www.oxfordshirewi.co.uk>

These special editions of the News and Views monthly magazine contain lots of information, including the opportunity to sign up for a range of fascinating, upcoming Zoom talks, which are free for all members.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

NEW DISTRIBUTORS FOUND!

Paula Utting and Claire Wright have volunteered to take over managing the delivery of MADNews every month

Many of you know us but for those of you who don't we are Paula and Claire. We're sisters and have lived in the village all our lives. You've probably seen us walking our dogs around the village. We have taken over the distribution of MADNews. We know we have some big shoes to fill and hope that we can do as good a job as Judith and Peter.



SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Sorry no more singing together until further notice but keep singing on your own or out of the window!



← 2 metres →



WILFRED SLEATH

My name is Chloe Isaac and I would like to see if I am able to trace down some very precious pen and ink drawings that my Great-Grandfather would have drawn.

I did some Googling and the Marcham Newsletter came up with the only search result, featuring one of my Great Grandpa's illustrations in an issue from May 2019, where you were celebrating your 40th anniversary of the Newsletter! There, very unmistakably was one of his drawings that was originally printed in a newsletter in 1996 ... My excitement was bubbling out of me!

Grandpa was an excellent artist and took the "hobby" up to take his mind away from deeper troubles in life, such as the war. He and his wife Mabel lived in Marcham for many years before they both sadly passed away.

There are so many drawings that we have never had the chance to lay eyes upon, and it would be a pleasure if some were to be found that we could see for the first time!

So, if anyone may have one, or even several in their homes, I would love for you to contact me, and when the Coronavirus is safely depleted, to arrange to see them.

I live in Wantage myself, so only a short 10 minutes away by car. If anyone has originals, copies of originals or even photograph prints or digital images of these very precious illustrations, please contact me - I would love to hear from you and arrange to see them somehow. I would also love to hear any stories you might have about Wilf and Mabel.

These illustrations and drawings, may well hold a special place in some members of my wider family's hearts if they are of places and buildings outside of Oxfordshire - these would be likely be of other family members home towns etc.

I look forward to hearing anything that anyone may have to say or show!

Please feel free to contact me by email or phone, details below:
Klo26@hotmail.co.uk or 07856271232

CHLOE ISAAC

These low-resolution images are from the MADNews archive



The Bends



The Crown



All Saints' Church



Gozzards Ford



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We are missing all our Little Angels Families dearly and we hope to see them again very soon. We have been staying active and providing lots of fun opportunities for Home Learning as well as activities for our local community to enjoy during these uncertain times.

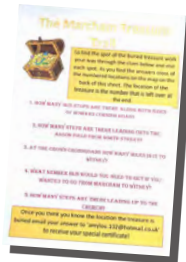


Rainbow Village Library

We hope you have visited our community Rainbow Village Library, we have received lots of lovely messages from families who have paid a visit and chosen a book to read! You can find the Rainbow Village Library located outside Marcham Little Angels, you can choose a book and return and swap it whenever you wish. Lots of families said they enjoyed this during their daily exercise walk!

Marcham Treasure Trail

Our wonderful practitioner Amy created a Treasure Trail around the village, you can find the clues and maps to take on your adventure next to the Rainbow Village Library outside Marcham Little Angels! If you are yet to go on the Treasure Trail why not have a go this weekend, its fun for all the family!



VE Day

We had to think a little bit differently this year, as we were planning a big tea party at the nursery, things changed a little but it did not stop us! We celebrated in style, sharing VE Day Home Learning Packs full of colouring, recipes and party decorations! We joined in with the village by having a tea party on our doorsteps. There was a wonderful atmosphere in Marcham and the whole community came together!

YouTube Channel

We have been creating lots of videos of Home Learning activities for everyone to have fun with at home! Helen's daily Storytime has been a big hit! Each day Monday to Friday at 3:00 pm Helen reads a different story with her furry friend Oscar and suggests some fun home-based activities. You can rewatch all our Videos at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx1vLZQj9M8F0rPffqZ28Cw?view_as=subscriber

Youtube Channel: Little Angels Childcare Group

If you are interested in finding out more about us, you can now request a Virtual Tour by email.

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Web: <http://littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk/>



MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

Well... here we are another month on. Times are changing and so are we! Marcham Preschool remains open for our Key Worker children but we also have children attending preschool from home! Zoom has become the new way of working and we link up each day to carry out some of our daily routines - it's been amazing!



We are looking forward to welcoming a few more children through our doors soon and will continue to provide as much 'normal' as we can - hand-washing, hygiene and health will be our key-words, **total isolation will not.**

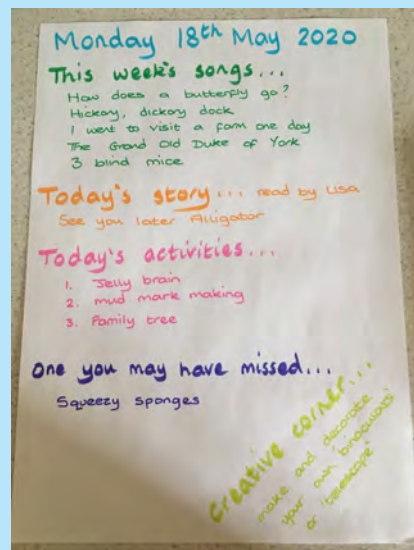
I am proud of the staff team who have travelled through this period with such optimism and hope. We will continue to follow the guidance while supporting children in their social and emotional needs - encouraging distance when appropriate but ensuring fun and learning continue to take place - at least we'll have more room to meet our vision of being **BIGGER, NOISIER and MESSIER** than ever before!

Nicky Sanford,

Early Years Teacher, Marcham Pre-School

01865 392101 Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



VE DAY PICTURES FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL



Finley Year 3



Jay Reception



Leah Year 5



Ollie Year 3

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Life and The World Has Changed



During the Covid-19 lockdown in the UK, I'm hearing people are generally becoming more aware of nature and wildlife.

Building on that, how many of you have seen life slow down, and maybe you're spending a bit more time in your garden and local green spaces? I'm sure you're now noticing more readily the wild life that's all around us, in all its forms. All parts of the food chains.

Life and the world at large has changed, and though we're waiting for things to get back to 'normal', things have changed forever and we'll all have to start reimagining ourselves in the 'new normal' ahead.

Its been said to me, when we get out of this lockdown, we'll soon forget our appreciation of nature. Yes, if we choose that, in the long term we might? In the short and medium terms, I really don't think we'll readily forget.

Many of us will want to get outdoors and acquaint ourselves with friends and family, and these shared experiences won't quickly be forgotten, or the role nature has played in the lockdown.

So, over the coming days, if you haven't already started to notice the nature around you a bit more, take a moment and join many others who have.

Together we can ensure this awareness will continue after lockdown. Making the nature in our gardens and communities' part of daily life is the first step, to caring for it.

Happy Gardening!
Stuart Mabbutt

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

Our thanks for supporting the plant sales available from outside the gate at No 18 Frilford Road (Anne) and at Priory Lane (Sheila).

We have raised over £500 now and still have plants to sell!

More tomatoes, courgettes, beans, peppers, chillies and other bedding plants will be available by the end of the month. Do remember to keep the plants covered if the nights continue to have very low temperatures. Many thanks for returning the flower pots, we have enough now stored up for using next year!



All donations for the plants will go toward village facilities and can be made at the Post Office, open between 8.00am and 10.00am, Monday to Saturday.

Enjoy your gardening.

SHEILA DUNFORD AND ANNE SMITHSON



Canal Restoration:

Benefits to Wildlife and the Environment

Martin Buckland

(originally scheduled for 14th April 2020)

**will now be broadcast live online on
Tuesday 9th June at 7.30pm**

Members will automatically receive an email invitation to join using Zoom.

***Non-Members wishing to receive an invitation should email Simon Blackmore
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk***

www.marchamsociety.org.uk



What is the Community Larder?

A collaboration between the charity Sofea, All Saints' Church and Marcham Volunteers to provide food parcels to those in need during the Covid-19 Crisis

Who is it for?

The food parcels can be supplied to any household in need in the Parish of Marcham during the Covid-19 Pandemic

What is in the food parcel?

It will vary from week to week but will include both dry and fresh produce

How do I get a box?

You will need to complete the online form at https://marcham-with-garford.org.uk/Groups/340357/Community_Larder.aspx

If you do not have access to the internet, you can call Rachel on 07910484936

Before you order, please do read the full information at the link above or email:

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The type of help that can be provided are services such as new boilers, repairs to boilers, loft or cavity wall insulation, access to a local and trustworthy repairs service and general advice on how to stay safe, well and affordably warm in your home.

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Lockdown eases slightly and the project makes progress...

Work resumed on site (at an understandably slower rate) and construction of the building has been completed (including the main snagging). The MUGA top surface has been applied. The green polymer topcoat has been sprayed on and the line painting was completed on 17th May. Work has started on landscaping works around the new hall, including tree and other plantings around the car park area.



Since the end of April, a digger and bulldozer have been working on the field. The top soil was pushed back to form a new range of hills, the sub-soil was levelled and the hills of top soil pushed back. The grading work finished on 15th May, and there is now a nicely flat surface ready for cultivation and grass-seeding.



The next stages

We will keep you posted on when handover will occur, although we are clear that the new facilities will not be open for business until government CV-19 restrictions are lifted—that is likely to be still some time away. There is fitting out work to be done after handover and MCG trustees are already starting to plan how the facilities can be operated safely for all when the time comes that we are able to open.

Your support really matters

Sheila Dunford and Anne Smithson have been busy selling plants from their garden gates and have already raised over £500 this year for the new facilities. A big thank-you to them and to all who have supported them by buying plants. There are still lots available—see page 13. You can also keep donating to Sponsor-a-Brick at the shop, and please keep sending in your spare 5p coins. It all helps!

A reminder again to renew (or to take out) MCG membership — it will make your support even more meaningful and helps us with ongoing finances. Please contact jim.asher@btinternet.com for more details or visit our website.

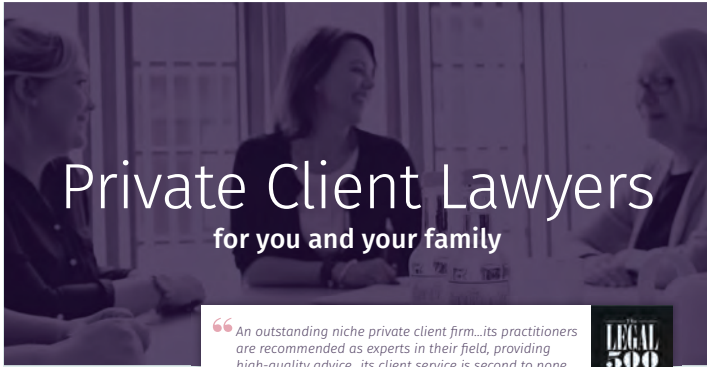
We will keep you updated on progress here, with updates, photos and posts on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/marchamcentre/ or [@marchamcentre](https://www.instagram.com/marchamcentre), and our website, www.marchamcentre.org. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.



Lockdown eases slightly and the project makes progress...



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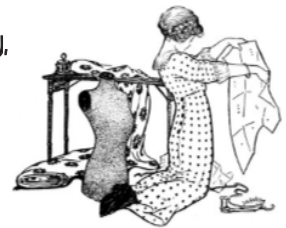
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Thank you, from Anil, Kalpana, Karen, Lesley and Jackie.

Please stay safe

* depending on stock available

Neighbourhood Team Newsletter for Marcham Anti-social behaviour (ASB):



We have received reports of antisocial behaviour relating to one property in Caldecott Road and another in Preston Road, Abingdon. PCSO Clare Atkins has been patrolling the areas and has made contact with the residents, to try encourage them to report the behaviour so the problems can be tackled.

PCSOs Selene Moquet and Adi Wright have been making enquiries into reports of ASB in Spinneys Close, Radley and Hean Close, Abingdon to gain an understanding of the issues.

Burglary: We are pleased to report that there has been a decrease in burglaries over the last month. However, we have received calls about door handles being tried and doors being opened in Bowler Gardens, Abingdon. Please ensure you keep windows and doors locked, even when you are home, and especially if you have a rear garden you are using when the weather is fine. Also make sure that access points such as gates are also secure and sheds and garages remain locked when not in use.

Report any suspicious behaviour by calling 101, or 999 in an emergency. If you would like any, Contact the team by emailing: **AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk** for crime prevention advice including a home security assessment

Offenders brought to justice

On Thursday 30th April, five people were arrested from an address on Vineyard, Abingdon following a report of several people being inside a property. The group were arrested for several offences including possession with intent to supply Class A drugs, possession of Cannabis, being found on a premises with intent to commit crime and COVID-19 breaches.

On Sunday 3rd May, two males were issued COVID-19 fixed penalty notices following reports of a group of people gathering in the nature reserve on North Hinksey Lane, Oxford.

On Thursday 16th April PCSO Ali Blood and PCSO Sully Jawed responded to a report of a disturbance in The Market Place, Abingdon. Whilst there a man not involved in the original disturbance assaulted PCSO Blood. The man was promptly arrested has subsequently been released under investigation.

Current crime trends

Between 19th and 23rd April, we received five reports of theft from vehicles in the Wootton area. Two of these occurred in Huxley Close, two occurred in The Old Pound and one on Fox Lane, Boars Hill. Please ensure you lock your vehicle when parked and remove all valuables including small change.

There have been seven bicycle thefts reported in recent weeks from across the area, this is an increase on previous months. Please lock your bike securely and register it online to help reduce theft.

Neighbourhood team engagement

PCSOs from the neighbourhood team have been responding to reports of COVID-19 breaches and checking our known hot spots across the area. We have been targeting our patrols in areas where we are getting the most reports of people breaching the social restrictions, these have included parks and open spaces including Thrupp Lane and Radley Lakes.

Florence, who lives at Old Station House, Abingdon celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday 3rd May. PCSOs Ali Blood and Maddie Highmoor had the pleasure of dropping off a gift and card to be passed on to Florence. They gave her a wave and birthday cheer from Abbey Close.

Have Your Say meetings

Due to the current pandemic, face to face 'Have Your Say' meetings will no longer be held until it is safe to do so again. Please use the details below to contact the team about any concerns you have.

Contact us If you want any advice or to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 or if it is an **emergency then dial 999**. You can also contact us via email **AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk**.

To view information on your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: **www.thamesvalley.police.uk**. Receive

free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk. The Thames Valley Police Twitter account is kept up to date with what we are up to; please follow us @TVPSouthandVale

USE NEW FAST-TRACK REPORTING FOR SUSPICIOUS EMAILS - CITIZENS ADVICE

Scam emails, one of life's most tiresome phenomena, are becoming so smooth and sophisticated that even computer experts can be deceived by them, and the rest of us are in constant danger of being taken for a ride.

citizens
advice

There is no need to feel isolated with the problem, though. If you are suspicious of an email or simply unsure, you can use a new, dedicated reporting service which is very quick and convenient: forward the email to **report@phishing.gov.uk** and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) will investigate it.

How does a scam email work? The usual methods are persuading you to divulge sensitive information, like bank details, or urging you to click on certain links. If you click on those links, you could be directed to an unsafe website which might download viruses on your computer or steal your passwords or data.

It's crucial to bear in mind that a scam email is designed in such a way as to get you to act quickly and without thinking, so NEVER give way to that pressure.

How do you spot a phishing email? This is very tricky, since many of them look just like the real thing. Scammers are quite capable of producing professional quality graphic design with pleasant pastel colours, for example. This makes the email look authoritative and trustworthy and thoroughly up to date. However, and fortunately for us, if you examine a scam email carefully it will reveal its true nature. *Remember these key points:*

First, it is very unlikely to be a message you are expecting.

Second, the language of most scam emails has an uncompromising toughness that isn't characteristic of the average business email. It might try to rush you into making a decision or threaten you with legal action or financial losses, telling you that you have to act right away to avoid them. The email might claim to be from a bank, a government department or the Inland Revenue, perhaps saying that a warrant has been issued for your arrest.

The email could also be from a company that doesn't normally contact you or from an organisation that you normally deal with in a different way, e.g. TV Licensing or the district council - which, it might strike you, have never emailed you before.

Beware too of topical scams: an email might offer you a cure for coronavirus or encourage you to donate to a related cause.

Always check the sender's email address because this is the only part of the message which can't be beautified. There will be something peculiar about it for sure. For instance, it might be extremely long and complicated with lots of numbers and letters, or the country code might be unfamiliar.

If you are in any doubt, don't open the email and don't click on any of its links, but forward it right away to **report@phishing.gov.uk**. The NCSC says it acts on every message received, analysing it and the dubious websites it links to. Government specialists can then block the criminal's email address and instruct hosting companies to remove the websites from the Internet.

For essential reading see <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/report-suspicious-emails> or ring Citizens Advice Adviceline on 0300 330 9042.

CITIZENS ADVICE NEEDS IT VOLUNTEERS

Last year, our 160 volunteers in Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale helped 11,209 people to resolve their problems. Effective IT is absolutely essential to our service.

We need more volunteers to help with IT support in Abingdon and Didcot (and remotely during lockdown).

Ideally we are looking for volunteers to commit to eight hours per week over one or two days. But we can be flexible.

citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer

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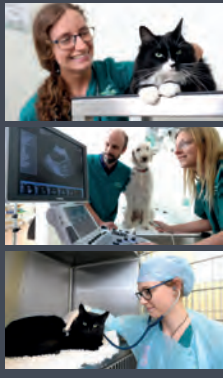


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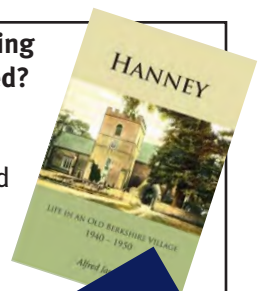
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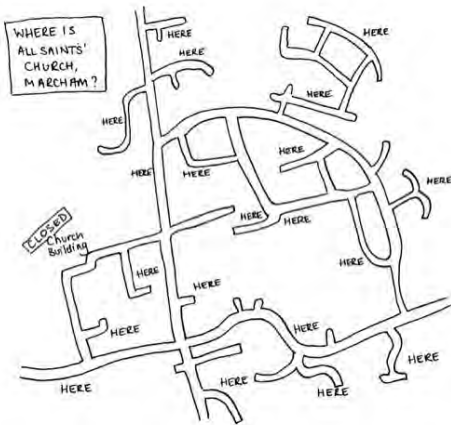
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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Our church building remains closed and we have not yet had any further guidance from the diocese that will allow us to open it up. Once we know more, we will endeavour to let people know. In the next week we will be mowing a **labyrinth** into the grass in our churchyard – perhaps you can have a go yourself? We will publish more information about the labyrinth and how to walk it on our church website.



Our building is currently closed, but the church is still alive and active. Whilst we value the incredible heritage of our building, the real church is made up of people who live throughout Marcham and the surrounding villages. We are trying to be Jesus' hands, feet and voice to our neighbours – perhaps this is you! Sunday services are only a small part of what being church means but, like many churches we are continuing to meet virtually in our own homes for a service via YouTube. Please do join us at 10am on a Sunday morning on <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzLePXEjyP7WRWfyHr1rmg-> either as the service is streaming or you can catch up later in your own time.

Marcham Covid-19 Hardship Fund

What is this fund? All Saints' Church has been given some money to help those within the village or church in need during the Covid-19 pandemic. The fund will be administered by the Standing Committee of the Marcham with Garford PCC which will meet approximately every two weeks to review any applications.

Who can apply? This fund is available to any individual or family based in the parish or on the electoral roll of the church.

What can I get funds for? As this is a fast-moving and uncertain situation, each application will be considered on its own merits. It may be to help pay household bills, to pay for a week's shop or some other reason. A key thing that the committee will be looking at is the hardship being a result of the current pandemic crisis.

How do I apply? Please complete the online form on the church website under the 'Marcham Covid-19 fund' tab

How soon will I hear whether my application has been successful? The standing committee will aim to meet approximately every two weeks, so you should hear within a fortnight.

In collaboration with the local charity Sofea, Marcham Volunteers and All Saints' Church we are able to distribute food parcels to households in need in Marcham during the Covid-19 pandemic. These boxes will contain both perishable and non-perishable produce and will vary on a week to week basis. In order to receive food parcels, you will need to become a member of Sofea (this is free during the Covid-19 crisis but does require that you complete a form). To receive a box you ideally need to complete the online form on the church website or you can call Rachel on 07910484936 who will take your details and complete the form for you.



Contacts:

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