

# Marcham & District News

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Your Independent Local Newsheet – [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk)

OCTOBER 2020 VOL: 42 NO: 10

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ ThirstyCafé –delivering to a doorstep near you! see page 13



▲ Why was salt so very important? Where was it found? How was it traded? see page 5



◀ Marcham Village Hall is now open! see page 11



## Diary for October

Date	Event	Page
3 Sat	Safe Cycling Sessions, Abingdon, 10.30	18
10 Sat	Safe Cycling Sessions, Abingdon, 10.30	18
12 Mon	Marcham Village Shop AGM, online, 19.30	13
14 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, online, 19.30	3
15 Thur	Deadline for grant applications to Marcham Parish Council	3
20 Tue	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email <a href="mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk">editor@madnews.co.uk</a>	
25 Sun	Music from Vienna, St Denys' Church, Stanford-i-t-Vale, 15.00	9
26 Mon	Marcham Society Lecture: The Use of Salt, online, 19.30	5

Please note the date of the Parish Council Meeting was incorrectly printed as Thursday 15th when it should be Wednesday 14th



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

▲ Don't forget ... clocks go back on 25th October



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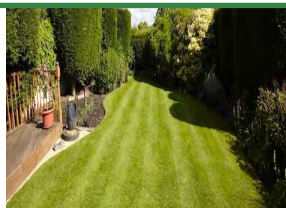
- \* small garden designs \* flower beds tidied/shrubs/bulbs planted
- \* tree work - pruning/lopping/shaping etc \* patios laid /cleaned
- \*fencing & gates erected/repaired/painted \*sheds erected/repaired

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- \* guttering/replaced/cleaned \* house removals& clearance

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Dear Readers

October is the month that autumn really starts, leaves coming down, it gets a bit darker and there's a nip in the air. It is my favourite time of the year with the fabulous colours of the trees changing and those wonderful blue skies and cold days!

Congratulations to Janet Frere on her 90th birthday last month – it seems to be a very popular age this year!

*Until next time – keep safe*



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**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.

**POLICE**

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For other councillors go to

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**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
New Chairman of Marcham Parish Council**

At the September meeting of the Parish Council, David Walton stepped down as Chairman of the Parish Council. In his place the Council elected Michael Hoath to be the new Chairman until the next annual meeting of the Council.

**Play Area – Dogs**

Reports have been received that dogs are being taken into the play area in the Anson Field. The Council would remind residents that this is not permitted, and the sign at the entrance indicates this. There are health hazards associated with a dog lifting his leg on the play equipment, and also with dog faeces, particularly toxocariasis, a serious illness caused by a parasite that lives in dogs' digestive systems. The parasite can stay in the ground for a very long time, and young children can become unknowingly infected. Children can also be scared and frightened by a dog. Please would dog owners, kindly not take them to the play area.

**Footpaths within Monk Walk**

When the planning application for the Monks Walk development was approved, it had been agreed that the paths around the site would be constructed of tarmac. Unfortunately the paths were installed as gravel/hoggin so are forming ruts, have weeds growing through, and are not suitable for pushing push chairs or wheelchairs. The Vale of White Horse District Council has recently advised the Parish Council that the developer has now agreed to install a tarmac surface as originally envisaged.

**A415 Zebra Crossing**

A large vehicle has hit the Belisha beacon bracket at the zebra crossing over the A415 near The Crown Public House. This has been reported to the County Council as highway authority, so that repairs can be undertaken.

**Allotment Rent Collection**

Owing to Government Guidance in regards to Covid, and advice from the National Association of Local Councils, the annual allotment rent collection will be in a different format this year, and there will not be an evening set aside as in previous years specifically for allotment rent collection. The Council is currently working on a plan to ensure that the method for allotment rent collection is safe for everyone.

**Grants**

A reminder that the Parish Council considers annual grant requests soon. If there is any organisation wishing to apply to the Council for a small grant, then please complete the application form available on the Council's website under publications, and return it to the Clerk at [clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk) together with a copy of your latest accounts. The deadline for applications is Thursday 15th October.

**Electric Blanket Testing**

The County Council is offering free electric blanket testing as they do every year, but because of Covid restrictions the process will be a bit different.

They'll post a special plastic bag to the address for residents to put their electric blanket in, and then someone will come and collect the blanket from their homes, take it away to be tested and then return it once it's done. The tests will be carried out across Oxfordshire in October. Book now by calling **01865 895999 Option 1** or emailing [communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**Planning Applications considered by the Council**

P20/V1849/LB Taking of core samples from the arch barrels of Noah's Ark Bridge A338 Wantage Road. The Council had no objections

P20/V1820/HH Oak timer framed shed/office sat on saddle stones at 3 Mill Road. The Council commented that there appeared to be conflict between the location plan and block plan as to the siting of the building. There was no information as to the overall height, and no assessment of the impact on the adjacent listed building.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is Wednesday 14th October 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 Road  
Tel: 01865 391833

[clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

*Marcham Parish Council wishes to thank Wendy Quigley for her work as the interim Parish Clerk over the last few months.*

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

**Claud Butler  
Gents Upright Bike**

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## Get help with home repairs

There are services and funds available to help people (owners and private tenants) stay independent, safe and well in their homes, and Oxfordshire County Council has developed a referral service to help residents (or carers) access the right organisations in their area, to get the help they need.

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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Dear Editor

**ATTENTION DOG OWNERS**

Like many of you, we enjoy going for walks in the countryside around our village. However, on a recent walk in the field next to Leas Lane, my two young sons and I had a serious issue: an off-leash dog ran at my four-year-old. The owners did absolutely nothing to intervene, claiming that the dog 'just wanted to play'. My terrified and screaming son clearly did not want to play. They left without apologising, or even a hint of concern or remorse for my two very distressed children.

While the majority of dog owners we meet are very responsible, can we ask everyone to remember that the countryside code asks each of us to both respect others, and keep our dogs under reasonable control – not every child is okay with a strange dog approaching them. In a time of social distancing, it is even more critical that we avoid times where a dog has to be physically removed from the presence of others. I keep my children next to me the entire time we are near others when we walk the fields, I ask the same respect from dog owners. Will it take an accident or injury to get people to take this seriously?

Name and address supplied

Dear Editor

**Sharing the footpath on the A415**

The footpath along the A415 to Abingdon is used by many people – walking, pushing prams and buggies, with dogs and of course, cyclists.

I have been surprised several times by cyclists coming behind me without warning and trying to get past me and my dogs. It would be better if they had either a bell or called out before trying to pass me. There have also been cyclists without lights which makes them impossible to see until they are nearly on top of you.

This is a busy road with cars moving at 50mph and we should try and be considerate to each other when we are using the footpath.

Name and address supplied

**From The Highway Code**

[www.gov.uk/browse/driving/highway-code-road-safety](http://www.gov.uk/browse/driving/highway-code-road-safety)

**Rule 60:** At night your cycle MUST have white front and red rear lights lit. It MUST also be fitted with a red rear reflector (and amber pedal reflectors, if manufactured after 1/10/85). White front reflectors and spoke reflectors will also help you to be seen. Flashing lights are permitted but it is recommended that cyclists who are riding in areas without street lighting use a steady front lamp.



**Rule 62:** Take care when passing pedestrians, especially children, older or disabled people, and allow them plenty of room. Always be prepared to slow down and stop if necessary.



**Marcham WI**

Unfortunately, we are still not permitted to restart our monthly meetings, but will be in touch with all our members to let them have the details as soon as we are able to do so. Once allowed, we are looking forward to meeting in the new community centre on the 3rd Monday of the month.



We hope that all our members have been receiving the Oxfordshire Federations's newsletter. 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. Further information can be found on their website: <https://www.oxfordshirewi.co.uk>

Also, Denman College online are now running lots of talks and courses for a small fee, mostly £5 a session, so do have a look at their website and perhaps try something new. For further information, please contact: Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 [pippahoath@gmail.com](mailto:pippahoath@gmail.com)



**The Use of Salt in Prehistoric and Roman Britain**

*Dr Janice Kinory*

*(Oxford University, Institute of Archaeology)*

will be broadcast live online on Monday 26th October at 7.30pm

**Why was salt so very important?**



**Where was it found? How was it traded?**

Members will automatically receive an email invitation to join using Zoom. Non-Members wishing to receive an invitation should email [membership@marchamsociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@marchamsociety.org.uk)



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## Denman College

It is with great sadness that we now confirm that Denman College will be formally closing. Unfortunately, despite great efforts from NFWI staff and trustees and the Denman staff, we were unable to identify any viable alternative options to ensure we could address the immediate financial challenges and resume the operations of the College. We are genuinely heartbroken at this outcome, and know that you will share this sadness with us.

We hope that many of you will continue to join us on the great variety of online courses through 'Denman at Home' as we develop our new educational model. These can all be viewed on our website: [www.denman.org.uk](http://www.denman.org.uk)

**ANUPREET JEETUN, HEAD OF DENMAN**



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## Oxford back on amber alert as local coronavirus cases mirror national rise

People in Oxfordshire are being advised to only get tested for COVID-19 if they have symptoms as the level of positive cases in Oxford mean the city is once again on amber alert.

The number of cases in the city currently stands at 25.6 per 100,000 of the population. The figure for the whole of Oxfordshire is 14.3 per 100,000

The figures for Oxford rose to amber alert level in mid to late August but then fell back again. An amber alert happens when cases rise above 25 per 100,000 of the population.

Ansaf Azhar, Oxfordshire County Council's Director for Public Health, said: "Since Oxford's cases last rose to amber, there has been a large rise in cases across the entire country. Locally, if we want to avoid the tighter restrictions that we have seen in the north-west, our best strategy is to follow the rule of six to the letter and to keep doing those basics – wash your hands, keep your distance and wear a facemask. Collectively, the situation is in our own hands - as individuals, families, colleagues and neighbours."

Meanwhile public health teams at councils across the country are aware of well-publicised issues regarding the availability of COVID-19 testing. There is a national issue with testing capacity, which is due to rising demand, and it is affecting all parts of the country.

To supplement national resources in Oxfordshire, a local testing site has been set at Oxford Brookes University campus site in

Headington. The facility is available for residents as well as Brookes students and staff. The Regional testing site at Oxford Parkway is still open every day for those able to access testing with private transport. People are advised to pre-book by calling 119 or registering online.

It is essential that people do not turn up at their local A&E asking for a test.

There are hopes of securing an additional local testing site in Oxford as well as further sites across the county.

Ansaf Azhar added: "Oxfordshire has had among the highest rates of testing in the south-east region. However, as with other parts of the country, we do have an issue with rising demand. We are therefore actively urging people not to book a test if they are not symptomatic. If you don't have COVID-19 symptoms, please do not book a test - you could be taking a test away from someone who really needs it."

Booking slots are made available the evening before for morning appointments, and on the morning for afternoon appointments. There are times therefore during the day where test booking may not be available. Booking slots are released continuously, so people who are symptomatic should come back later to the website or 119 service and re-attempt their booking.

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**FLU VACCINATION**



Pharmacies in Oxfordshire are preparing for their most challenging flu vaccination season ever, in an effort to ease pressure on the NHS this winter.

Eligibility for free flu jabs, which are also offered by GPs, has been expanded this year to protect more vulnerable groups and prevent an influx of ill patients coinciding with any second wave of coronavirus.

The chief medical officer, Chris Whitty, has asked health professionals for a 'concerted effort' to achieve at least 75 per cent uptake across all eligible groups, as well as 100 per cent of frontline health and social care workers.

David Dean, chief officer of Thames Valley Local Pharmaceutical Committee, said flu season 2020 was 'almost like a dress rehearsal' for coronavirus.

He was speaking in a webinar to pharmacists across the region as they prepared to tackle the unique challenges this year and the role pharmacists can play.

Across the Thames Valley, 3,800 patients have already received a free NHS vaccination from community pharmacists in the first week of September.

Initially, priority is being given to people in high-risk groups and those aged 65 years or over. The full list of those eligible for free NHS flu jabs is:

- All people aged 65 years or over
- People aged from 18 years to less than 65 years of age with one or more serious medical condition(s) outlined in Appendix A in the PGD (pages 17 & 18 in this downloadable leaflet)
- Pregnant Women
- Shielding Patients and their household
- Care Home or Long Stay Residential Home Residents
- Carers Immunocompromised Household Contacts
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- "Healthy" 50-64yr olds – timing to be announced later.



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I would like to thank very much indeed all those people who so kindly sent me a birthday card on the occasion of my 90th birthday.

Knowing that I was remembered by so many people in the village made a special occasion even more special.

I had a lovely day with family which I enjoyed very much.

**Janet Frere**

**Janet opening one of her presents**



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## Marcham Centre Hall opened on Monday 14th September for regular group hirers and as part of the staged opening process.

Using the Hall has become a reality for some established organisations with regular bookings and which offer activities permitted under Covid rules.

Once regular bookings have all been confirmed and timetabled, the online booking system will be available to use. Until then, to make an enquiry or ask any questions about bookings please email: [enquiries@marchamcentre.org](mailto:enquiries@marchamcentre.org)

**Covid-19** All organisations will be required to have a Covid-19 safety policy and operate within Covid-19 guidelines set by the trustees and agreed in advance with the Hall Committee (responsible for running the hall operations). We are continuously monitoring the evolving regulations and will communicate any notable changes.

Keep an eye on the Marcham Centre Facebook page, the website: [www.marchamcentre.org](http://www.marchamcentre.org) and the next edition of MADNews for updates.



**Dave Walton**, having moved to Gloucestershire earlier this year, has now resigned from the Parish Council and his role supporting MCG. The trustees are hugely grateful for the work he has done over many years on the Marcham Centre project, in raising capital funds for the building, in finding ways through a myriad of issues, and for his work on MCG committees. We give him massive thanks and wish him and Sue a happy and less frenetic retirement.

**Marcham Centre Coordinator** The trustees are pleased to announce that Natasha Kingsbury will be starting the new part-time job of Marcham Centre Coordinator on 5th October. We are looking forward to having her on board.

**Tennis** Coaching for children and adults began on Tuesday 7th September on the MUGA in both sunshine and under the floodlights. Feedback was really positive. Places are very limited and must be booked in advance. If you are interested contact [craigstenniscoaching@gmail.com](mailto:craigstenniscoaching@gmail.com)

**Where have your funds been spent?** We continue to purchase items for the hall. This month we have bought safety signs, high chairs, coatstands, hangers, wall clocks and mirrors. Some items are delayed by shortages due to Covid, so there is more still to come. Thank you again for your donations – they make an impact. If you want to donate to our funds, you can still 'sponsor a brick' at Marcham village shop.

Next month on this page we will be focussing on MCG membership and its benefits. This is another way of supporting Marcham Centre.

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

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**Marcham Village Shop AGM**

This will be held on Monday 12 October at 7.30pm via Zoom. All shareholders are welcome to attend.

If you are not currently a shareholder and would like to support MVS, pick up a form from the shop – the minimum investment is £10.

**Dress Up Fridays**

Thank you to everyone who came along in all the amazing costumes over the summer.

You certainly brightened up our Fridays!



**ThirstyCafé – Marcham Community Café**

We are working on opening in a building and will let you know as soon as this becomes a reality. In the meantime, you can enjoy our delicious food and drink with one of our fully customisable afternoon teas.

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Marcham Community Café Limited is a registered Community Benefits Society, society number 8384



As the local organisers of the appeal it is regretful that we must announce there will be **no door to door collections this year** for obvious reasons. This is an especially important part of the annual collection and we would like to say a huge thank you the collectors that give so freely of their time to collect in the locality in the past and hopefully again in the future.

We will setup unmanned collecting points in the area including the Post office and shop and at local business centres such as Millets and Frosts. We will also supply collecting boxes at schools and local hostelrys. We will limit the offering to the standard remembrance Poppy. Remembrance crosses will be made available for those that wish to mark a loved ones service

For those that want to donate to this important charity an online facility will be set up nationally and if you cannot get to a local collection point, we would be grateful for your online contribution. We will be obtaining a quantity of the annual pin badges and will sell them via the Village FB page or by contacting us on 01856 391497. The suggested donation will be announced nearer the time. Like all charities, CORVID-19 has severely reduced the opportunity to fund raise but we know the people of Marcham, and district will rise to the challenge and offer as much support as possible.

We will keep you informed of any changes

**Thanks for your support as always**

**Malcolm and Christine 391497**

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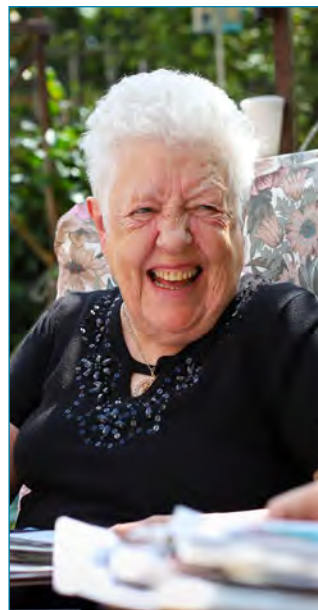
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**PTA ROUND-UP**

Two of the classes at school are now sitting at desks and on chairs purchased by your generous support of the PTA. Thank you so much for coming to our discos, fetes, quizzes, bingo nights and every other fundraising event we've put on. As you can see from the photo, the new classrooms look fantastic and will be a great learning space for the school's pupils for years to come.



Dear Peter Kidd,

This is your quarterly AmazonSmile donation notification. Your chosen charity, **Marcham Ce (Vc) Primary School Parent Teacher Association**, recently received a quarterly donation of **£35.26** from AmazonSmile, thanks to customers shopping at [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk) or with AmazonSmile turned ON in the app.

To date, Amazon has donated a total of:

- £102.43 to Marcham Ce (Vc) Primary School Parent Teacher Association
- £4,621,862.95 to UK charities

Some more good news amongst all the gloomy Covid headlines. I received an email from Amazon this week telling me that they have now donated more than £100 to Marcham School through their Amazon Smile website. If you haven't joined the scheme, here's how.

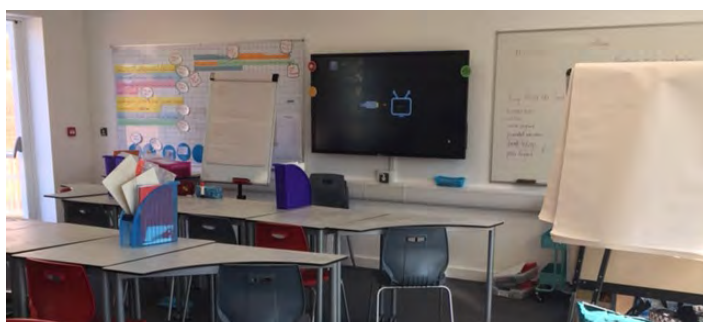
Instead of using the AMAZON.CO.UK website to make purchases, use the SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK website instead. The first time you use it, you'll be asked to select your chosen charity. Choose "Marcham Ce (Vc) Primary School Parent Teacher Association". And that's it. Every purchase you make from the Amazon Smile website from then on will send 0.05% of your purchase price to the Marcham PTA bank account. For every £100 you spend, they'll give us 50p.

The more of you that sign up, the more money Amazon will donate to our school. It's as simple as that. So if you buy from Amazon, please buy from SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK instead.

See you on the school run.

**PETER KIDD**, PTA Chair

07708 251312 peterkidd2708@gmail.com



**We have a new youth football team in Marcham!**

Marcham Colts Under 7s have entered the Oxfordshire Youth Football League. They had their first league match on Saturday 12th September against Cumnor Minors U7's and won 4-3! It was a fantastic match and all the players thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We train on **Wednesday evenings 5:30-6:30pm** on the field next to The Marcham Centre. Year 1s and Year 2s (ages 5-7) are welcome to join us: we don't turn anyone away and no prior experience is needed. Year 2s mainly play in the matches on Saturday mornings and we invite a few year 1s along each week to get some match experience.

We currently have about 20 players attending training and we plan to continue to grow our club to enter the Under 7's and Under 8's league next season.

Please contact Zoe Barnes on 07452944949 for more information.  
**ZOE AND DAN BARNES**



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**Nicky Sanford**,

Early Years Teacher, Marcham Pre-School

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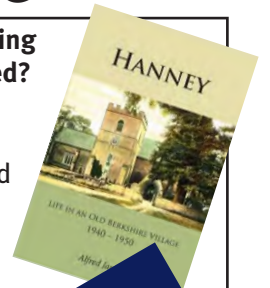


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## Polarized Views, Where's The Truth?

I personally face another mini 'lockdown' as last week I came into relatively vague contact with someone who tested Covid positive. So, I'm spending reflective time in my garden again, as many of us have been in 2020.



I've been reflecting on polarized viewpoints, and where the tipping points are that lead to the solutions to the arguments and debates. Wildlife gardening and traditional gardening is a great case in point. Many wildlife gardeners are considered as eccentric new age hippies and idealists. Traditional gardeners considered 'stick in the mud's' and habitual control freaks. Well, those are maybe the inaccurate stereotypes we tell others and ourselves.

When we make the effort though and get to know the person behind the stereotype, we realise, like us, they're ordinary people. If we get to know the person, their polarized views in comparison to our own can often seem less impenetrable, less extreme, as we start to really listen to what they are saying.

During my reflection's I've also been drawing parallels like this with the environmental protestors on the streets of London in early September 2020. Many people dismissing their disruptive actions by attacking them personally, as middle class, or unwashed hippies. Attacking the perceived hypocrisies, and ignoring the actual issues being highlighted by the protests. Though paradoxically one could argue, the issues have still been put in the public eye, by the sheer fact the wider public are engaging by attacking the messengers. I don't know, just thinking aloud!

I've been thinking that environmentalists, like climate change deniers, are all seemingly locked into the same systems we have to live by, and that's not someone else's problem, it's a problem we share. It's not about totally doing away with all the mod con's, otherwise one can be accused of being a hippy (which doesn't suit everyone),

and if environmentalists have all the mod con's then they are called middle class hypocrites. This is all a distraction from the core debate around what is sustainable. It's not about what we do, it's about the energy and systems contained in the production, supply and running of the mod con's. For example, it's not just that we should travel less, it's how we travel, and how that's fueled that should be looked at. Often environmentalists are accused of not living by what they preach, and live totally zero carbon lives, but it's not that black and white. Protestors have been accused of not walking to and from the protests, having been seen on gas guzzling public transport, whereas the real issue is, let's move away from running public transport in that way, and not just accept the status quo. There are some big moral issues here though. Environmentalists are highlighting how hard it is for anyone to live in a zero carbon way, and sustain quality of life. This is all about quality of life, and how we support everyone in the transition to more sustainable ways of living that still sustain choice. The current systems make us all hypocrites, frankly, and few can deny that, whatever side of the environmental debate we are on, when you look how we could all live cleaner and greener. Environmentalists morally should use mod con's more sparingly, but they are though, more aware of the energy and systems that are hidden behind daily life, than the blind consumerists out there.

If both sides in any argument, whatever it is, stopped, and debated, the common ground might just be found that both parties share. From there clear pathways forward maybe, just maybe, could be found?

The middle ground could be mediocre and beige, but the truth is often found somewhere between these opposing views.

Us gardeners, be we traditional or wildlife gardeners, equally can learn from one another. It doesn't matter what camp we are in, we're all gardeners, enjoying the nature around us.

**Happy Gardening!**

**Stuart Mabbutt**

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## The Lost Words for Oxfordshire Competition



The Lost Words for Oxfordshire and Oxford Poetry Library present a competition inspired by the spellbinding book, The Lost Words by Robert Macfarlane

and Jackie Morris. Macfarlane and Morris wrote this collection in response to the 2007 edition of the Oxford Junior Dictionary which introduced new words such as "broadband" and "blog" while words from the natural world (acorn, wren, otter, willow, to name a few) were lost. They recognized this as a sure sign that children are losing touch with nature.

Enter "The Lost Words"! This is a magical collection of acrostic poems by Robert Macfarlane, gorgeously illustrated by Jackie Morris, which re-conjures these words,

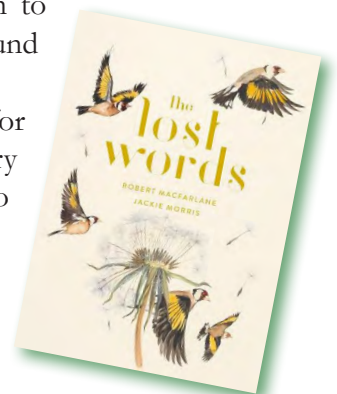
October 2020

brings them back to our hearts and minds, and helps children to discover the natural world around them.

Now, The Lost Words for Oxfordshire and Oxford Poetry Library are inviting you to submit your own Lost Words spell, created using one of these Activity Packs, to be in for the chance to win your own copy of The Lost Words, its sequel The Lost Spells, or your own led Lost Words workshop.

**The deadline is 2nd November.**

**<https://oxfordpoetrylibrary.wordpress.com/the-lost-words-for-oxfordshire-competition/>**



**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT****Lioncourt Development and Marcham**

I am writing this in Dumfries, on the way to a short holiday in Scotland. As we travelled through the beautiful countryside from the Lake District northwards, I was struck by the openness of the rolling hills, often peppered with sheep, and couldn't help reflecting on how crowded parts of the Vale has become with housing. And this made me think of the development for 700 houses in Fyfield....The Lioncourt development.

This development affects Marcham directly, most particularly its AQMA. The inspector put forward two important conditions on agreeing to this application, as he said it would generate a lot of traffic on our already congested roads. The developers must put forward acceptable solutions to mitigate the already congested traffic movement at the Frilford lights crossroads and to avoid increasing the air pollution in the AQMA. Both of these have been problem areas for a long time, and with this development will come approx. 2,500 additional vehicles per day through Marcham and the additional burden on air quality would be equivalent to the construction of 300 to 500 houses in Marcham. In response, the developers have suggested that all HGVs should be directed along Faringdon road from the Dog House pub through Gozzards Ford, by the airfield and out onto Abingdon road near the A34 intersection.

I will let the County Councillor respond to that suggestion.

**My new cabinet role**

There is a grand reshuffle going on in the Vale cabinet and 7 councillors are taking on themes rather than the traditional silo portfolios....this is to encourage members to be more aware of the work going on across the Vale and therefore to work together to find solutions or put forward creative ideas. My old role was Planning, which has now been divided up into several themes; instead I am now taking on the role of Cabinet member for Tackling the Climate Emergency and the Environment but inevitably this will cross overplanning issues. It will also mean working closely with CEAC (Climate Emergency Advisory Committee) who have been doing a brilliant job during this last year. I have to admit that I am really looking forward to this challenging theme.

**COVID news**

The Vale has been made aware of a worrying trend of people turning up at our hospitals in Oxfordshire, asking to be tested for Covid-19. This is possibly as a result of the national issue with testing capacity, where people have struggled to book a test online. We are therefore supporting our NHS and Public Health colleagues in pushing out the extremely important message that people with symptoms must NOT go to a hospital. Testing does not take place in hospital settings and by turning up people are putting extra strain on resources by having to turn people away and also potentially putting vulnerable people at risk.

If you're aware of anyone struggling to book a test online the advice is to keep trying as it's only possible to book a slot when one becomes available. Slots become available throughout the day so it may take a few attempts at different times of the day. The other key message is to only book a test if you're displaying symptoms. You can book a test by calling 119 or by registering online via [gov.uk/getting-tested-for-coronavirus](http://gov.uk/getting-tested-for-coronavirus).

**Help for residents struggling financially because of COVID-19**

The government has given the Vale some emergency assistance funding to support any of our residents who are struggling financially as a result of the pandemic.

We are working closely with local information and advice centres to help us identify residents who might be in this situation and to help provide support.

If you become aware of anyone in this situation, please signpost them to one of the following:

- Citizens Advice – 0300 3309042
- Wantage Independent Advice Centre – 01235 765348

It's important we manage their expectations as there is strict criteria that residents must meet to receive support, and it's important they're aware that any support they receive is emergency support while we work with them along with other relevant agencies to put in place an ongoing package of help.

It is also worth noting that these are limited funds, which we're expected to spend by 31 October 2020 at the latest

**Electric Blanket testing**

The county council is offering free electric blanket testing as they do every year, but because of Covid restrictions the process will be a bit different.

They'll post a special plastic bag to the address for residents to put their electric blanket in, and then someone will come and collect the blanket from their homes, take it away to be tested and then return it once it's done.

The tests will be carried out across Oxfordshire in October. Book now by calling 01865 895999 Option 1 or emailing [communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk) – there's more info in the attached flyer.

**Cycling support**

Continuing our cycling theme for this month, we are supporting some free 'Safe Cycling' sessions taking place in Abingdon over the coming weeks for novice or nervous riders over the age of 16.

The sessions take place on the following Saturdays at 10.30am:

- 3 October
- 10 October

If you know of any residents or groups in your area that could benefit from these courses, please do share the details. They'll need to book by contacting Ashley from our Active Communities team, [ashley.chapman@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:ashley.chapman@southandvale.gov.uk).

The activities are Covid-safe and are being regularly assessed.

Take care and stay well!

**CATHERINE WEBBER** Cllr VWHDC -

DC for Marcham Ward

01235 534001 or [catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

**MP'S REPORT**

I spent the parliamentary recess visiting as many individuals and organisations as I could. I met with the founders of innovative companies like Rosemor and Aquobex, whose cleaning and flooding solutions respectively attract custom from around the world. I visited hotels like the Bear and Milton Hill House, hotels being one of the sectors of the economy that has been particularly badly hit by lockdown, with some people being more reluctant to return to their previous way of life. At gyms like tfd Health and Fitness and Fitness Space people are keen to get back their previous way of life – and as a gym-goer myself I understand them! – they just have to book in advance and adhere to a higher standard of hygiene than perhaps they did previously. No bad thing, in my book.

At Farmer Gow's I saw not just what a great family day out the farm is for young and old, but also met the proprietors of successful businesses that Anne Gow has as tenants on the site, from LissieLou, the cake decoration business, to Bark and Berry Dog Grooming and the Oxford Yurt, a pretty impressive glamping site – I've never been glamping myself, but if you like doing so I'd check them out. I was pleased to make my first visit to the Westmill Wind and Solar Farm and delighted they were successful in their bid for Government funding for a new visitors' centre that will increase the number of visitors 6-fold.

Along the way there were lots of other independent businesses, like Didcot Glass and Glazing, Emma's Vintage Style, 30 Something and Bob's Butchers. Charities too, like Children Heard and Seen, which supports the children of prisoners – more on that in a future column. On my Facebook page (davidjohnston4wantage) you'll see I've started 'three questions' with the owners of different organisations to spread the word about organisations people might not have heard of.

On my week off, we went to the Lake District, but unfortunately I crocked my knee on a crag and am currently on crutches! It's my first real experience of having restricted mobility and it does bring home quite how many places are inaccessible for those who need to use crutches or a wheelchair to get around, something I've understood only theoretically before. Parliament is probably one of the worst examples, although I'm grateful I've temporarily been given an office nearer to the House of Commons to reduce the walking I have to do. As ever, if I can help with anything then do get in touch via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

**DAVID JOHNSTON** OBE, MP for Wantage (Conservative)

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Call: 0207 219 3858

Email: david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

**POLICE NEWS**

**Covid-19 – New Measures**

On Monday (14/9), new measures were put in place to help suppress the spread of coronavirus.

These new measures mean that people in England can only meet in groups of no more than six, indoors and outdoors.

Those that choose to congregate in larger groups will be dispersed and could be fined or even arrested.

Thames Valley Police officers will continue to work with our communities and will follow our approach to engage with, explain and encourage people to follow the new regulations.

Assistant Chief Constable Christian Bunt said: *“Preventing the spread of coronavirus is a shared effort and we at Thames Valley Police will play our part. Our officers will be in the community engaging, explaining and encouraging people to follow the regulations. We will disperse groups of more than six people and will issue fines to those who refuse to comply. However, there are a range of enforcement options at our disposal, and this does not always involve fines being issued. Members of the public can expect to see officers out on patrol but we ask that everyone takes personal responsibility so police involvement is a last resort.”*

**What the team have been doing**

On Saturday 1st August, PCSO Selene Moquet and PCSO Adi Wright were called to an elderly male in Peachcroft who had forgotten where he lived. With the help of the public and lots of investigation, they finally managed to find a number for his son. He was returned home safely.

PCSO Maddie Highmoor has conducted visits to individuals, who have been reported to have breached the Government Guidelines on isolation, in relation to COVID-19. Please remember to follow the guidelines set out by the Government. The guidelines are there to protect yourself and to protect others. On the Wednesday 12th August, PCSO Selene Moquet and PCSO Adi Wright were called to an elderly male in Abingdon who had forgotten where he lived and was quite distressed. They took him back to the Police Station where he was well looked after. When his daughter came to collect him, he said he had had the best time and wanted to stay!

On the 24th August members of the Abingdon Neighbourhood Team attended an address in Abingdon following reports of



concerns over the welfare of two dogs that had been left inside a property. The dogs were found to be malnourished, covered in faeces and urine and suffering with infected sores. The dogs were brought back to the Police Station and handed over to the RSPCA who are subsequently conducting an investigation.

Officers from the neighbourhood team conducted a successful Licensing Operation on Friday 28th August. They accompanied both Vale of White Horse District Council and Thames Valley Police licensing officers and visited seven pubs in Abingdon to carry out checks relating to Covid-19 compliance, as well as reviewing general licensing matters. They were pleased to find that there was a high level of knowledge and compliance around this subject from the pubs visited, and both staff and customers were pleased to see officers out and about doing these checks once again.

**Have Your Say meetings**

Due to the current social restrictions in place, face to face 'Have Your Say' meetings are currently not being held until it is safe to do so again. Please use the details below to contact the team about any concerns you have.

**Contact Thames Valley Police:**

E-mail: AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Twitter: @tvpsouthandvale

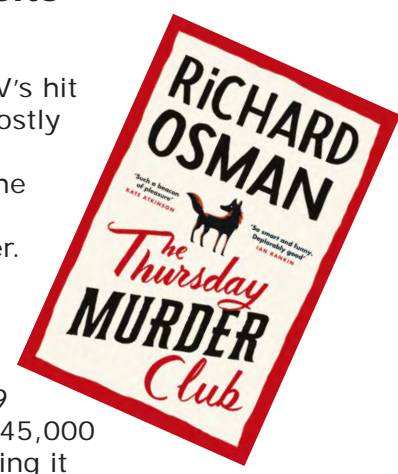
Facebook: www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale

Phone: 101

Website: www.thamesvalley.police.uk.

**Richard Osman Visits Mostly Books**

Richard Osman, host of TV's hit show, Pointless, visited Mostly Books in Abingdon to sign copies of his new book, The Thursday Murder Club, on Wednesday 9th September.



Richard's book was published on 'Super Thursday', 3rd September along with 599 other titles and sold over 45,000 copies in three days, making it the fastest selling debut Crime Fiction Novel since records began.

The Thursday Murder Club is brilliantly written comic novel about a group of octogenarian sleuths investigating a murder on their doorstep. Thrilling, moving and laugh out loud funny, The Thursday Murder Club will appeal to readers of all ages and is a perfect book club read.

Mostly Books (www.mostly-books.co.uk) has a limited number of signed copies available, get in touch to request a copy.

Mostly Books, 36 Stert Street, Abingdon OX14 3JP  
Tel: 01235 525880  
www.mostly-books.co.uk  
@mostlyreading  
books@mostly-books.co.uk



# ALL SAINTS' & ST LUKE'S CHURCHES

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



***Wake up, O Lord! Why do you sleep? Get up! Do not reject us forever. Why do you look the other way? Why do you ignore our suffering and oppression? Psalm 44 v 23-24***

Did you know it's OK to shout at God? To be angry, to protest, to be sad and disappointed. The Bible, particularly the book of Psalms is full of poems doing just that.

The world feels more uncertain and mixed up than usual at the moment. Many of us have faced loss, sadness, injustice, frustration and disappointment in the past 6 months and may well have questions of a God who allows such chaos and pain. It is OK to feel that way, to say to God that we are not happy, that we don't understand, that it's not fair – to be honest with him.

When we do that, we can know that God hears and cares. He will hold us in his arms and cry with us. The Bible does not promise that God will fix everything in this life or that it will be pain free, but it does promise that God is always with us; in the very depth of our despair and sorrow, he is there and feels it with us.

If you want to hear more then you can listen to the Archbishop of Canterbury speak on lament here:  
<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/exploring-prayer/2>

Our church building is open every morning for personal prayer and if you want to come and shout at God or question him in a quiet place, you are always welcome to do so. Or if you'd prefer to talk to someone about God or anything else, please do get in touch with our Chaplain, Mark at [chaplain@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:chaplain@allsaintsmarcham.org)

**Back to church?** We have now resumed live services in church. Our morning services will also be live-streamed on the YouTube channel below for those unable to attend. In order to keep services as Covid-safe as possible we are asking people to sign up for our morning services online (though we will always keep a couple of spaces free for visitors). Evening services do not need to be signed up for. This is open to all and can be found under the 'services' tab on our website. There is also more information there on what to expect as services are different.

## YouTube Church

10am Sunday morning on our YouTube channel and then available to watch anytime.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzLePXEjyP7\\_WRWfyHr1rmg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzLePXEjyP7_WRWfyHr1rmg)

## The Marcham Covid-19 Hardship fund,

administered by the church is still open for applications. If you are struggling to make ends meet because you have lost a job, or life has been made more difficult by the pandemic please do contact us. More information is available via our website.

## Contacts:

**Mark Newman** Chaplain to the Parish [chaplain@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:chaplain@allsaintsmarcham.org) **Jill Rowe** Children's and families Minister 391168 [families@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:families@allsaintsmarcham.org) **Rob Finch** Youth Worker 07888331708, [rob@marchamyouth.org](mailto:rob@marchamyouth.org)  
**Tamsin Gilbert** Parish Administrator & Churchwarden [info@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:info@allsaintsmarcham.org) **Neil Rowe** Churchwarden 391168