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

JANUARY 2021 VOL: 43 NO: 1

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ One of the Little Angel 'Kings' see page 15

HAPPY NEW YEAR



▲ Marcham's Christmas tree on the village green see page 3

▲ Talented photographers of Marcham

Top: Flower with Dew, *Ruth Atkins*

Bottom: Sparrowhawk, *Jim Asher*

Diary for January



Date	Event	Pg
6 Wed	NO WASTE COLLECTION – it will be on Fri 8 Jan (Recycling and Food Waste NOT Garden)	
9 Sat	Christmas Tree Recycling, Millets Farm	3
13 Wed	NO WASTE COLLECTION – it will be on Thur 14 Jan (Rubbish and Food Waste)	
13 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, online, 19.30	3
15 Fri	Deadline to register for a primary school place	3
18 Mon	Marcham WI: 'From Eggheads to Mastermind', online, 19.30	7
19 Tues	Christmas Tree Recycling, Howard Cornish Rd	3
20 Wed	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email editor@madnews.co.uk	
25 Mon	Marcham Society Annual Lecture: Chris Brotherton, 19.30, Zoom	9



Winnie-the-Pooh Day on 18 January ▲

▼ Burns Night on 25 January



Thomas Faed

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

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Dear Readers

Well that was an interesting year, and I expect 2021 will have quite a few surprises up its sleeve too!

There is one notable date in January - Monday 18th is Winnie-the-Pooh Day! No, I didn't know either but I expect I will celebrate AA Milne's birthday by having some honey and NOT getting stuck in Rabbit's front door.

Wishing you all a very happy 2021

Until next time – keep safe



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

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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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January 2021

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Christmas Tree Recycling– Reminder

The Vale of White Horse District Council has arranged a collection of real Christmas trees from the area adjacent to the Salvation Army textile bank in Howard Cornish Road. (opposite the junction with Duffield Place). Trees left here will go for recycling. All Christmas Trees will need to be by the textile bank by the end of the day on Tuesday 19th January, 2021. Trees left after this date will not be collected. For those of you who have signed up to the garden waste brown bin service, they can also be left next to your bin provided they are less than 1.8m (6 ft.) tall. Otherwise they will need to be cut up to be put in your bin.

New Parish Councillors

The Parish Council was pleased to co-opt Tony Mackelworth and Sheena Bigden to the Parish Council to fill two vacant seats. This now takes the Council to its full complement of 10 members. Tony lives in Barrow Close and Sheena in Howard Cornish Road. They are keen to get involved in the community. The Council welcomes them both to their new roles in the parish and looks forward to working with them.

Allotments - Cow Lane and Parkside

If you have an allotment you are reminded that allotment rent collection for the 20/21 financial year is taking place. For those who have not paid, please transfer the sum due to the Council's bank account or let the Clerk have a cheque payable to Marcham Parish Council. It has been noticed that some allotment holders are not working their plots. The Council again has a waiting list. Regular inspections of the allotment sites are being undertaken, and those found not to be utilising their plot could lose it by the service of a Notice to Quit.

Council Tax 2021/22

The Parish Council will be carefully considering the budget for 2021/22 at its meeting to be held on 13th January. Once finalised, the Council will set the amount of council tax that comes to the parish from the total amount paid by residents to the Vale of White Horse District Council.

Parishioner of the Year Award

Last chance to nominate someone for the Parishioner of the Year Award. Please contact the Clerk by the end of the month, with your nomination suggestion, explaining why the person should receive the Award, and how they have significantly contributed to life within the parish.

Primary School Admission September 2021

A reminder too that the closing date for applications for primary school admission

in the county is 15th January, 2021. Go to <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primary> admissions for further information.

Planning Applications considered by the Council

There were no new planning applications considered this month. The Council, however has commented on further on traffic and air quality issues from the proposed developments of new housing in Kingston Bagpuize and 90 new dwellings next to The Willows, south of the A415 in Marcham.

Christmas Tree – Village Green

A very big thank you goes to **Andrew Maclean**, of AD Maclean Tree Management Ltd of Kingston Rd Frilford admtrees.co.uk for the very kind donation of the Christmas tree on the village green. It certainly helps brighten up the village during the current climate when many are feeling low and anxious for a variety of reasons. The Council is very grateful to him for his generosity.

The grateful thanks of the Council also go to Bill Pointer who made the tree support and to the family and friends of parish councillors Sandra Hill and Ruth Mander who helped on the day to put up the tree and decorate it

Date of Next Council Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is Wednesday 13th December 2021 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

The Council wishes everyone a happy new year

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.



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Dear Editor

A Farewell to Marcham

Ruth and I arrived in the village in 2008 but have now returned to Norfolk, where we first met. After several years in ministry, Ruth and I arrived in Marcham, setting up a blinds and curtains business, as I had in Norfolk, but this time successfully from home with no staff. After two years here, I felt God's call to get involved with and subsequently pastor Marcham Baptist Church, which for many years had no pastor. Sadly, it eventually became evident that we should close the church doors for the last time.

However, during that period, connections with All Saints' strengthened and we often worshipped and prayed together. In recent years, the church, MCG, Parish Council, Anson Trust and others worked in unity towards the establishment of the Marcham Centre, which for many years had been an unfulfilled vision. It's a joy to see it completed, with so very many giving of their time and talents to bring the project to reality.

Ruth and I will miss the village. Volunteering in the village shop, looking at the daily offers of help on the Marcham Facebook page and frequently seeing folk stopping to chat with each other, the sense of community is palpable. With a long, military background, I have never lived in one place for so long and have loved being a part of this village.

So we leave here with a heavy heart - but in the twofold knowledge that we go to be near Ruth's family and that God is calling me into a new ministry - writing of the logical world view that this finely balanced, intricate world in which we live, the immense cosmos in which it sits and the intelligent information in every living cell, are testament to an Almighty, intelligent and loving Creator God, who knows us intimately and has opened the door for us to know Him in Christ.

Every blessing -

RUTH & KEITH MERSH

Dear Editor

Christmas Post 2020

Every year the Marcham Post Office is busy at Christmas time and Ruth prepares the team of volunteers for the extra parcels that need processing and the large quantities of seasonal stamps that are sold. This year, it has been even busier because of the pandemic and government restrictions and the public have had to rely on the Royal Mail, buying online rather than in the shops and delivering to distant families, knowing that they would not be able to hand over their presents in person.

So there have been an enormous number of sacks going out from the village shop and often not enough room in the mail vans at collection time. As volunteers working our shifts behind the Post Office counter, we have had many friendly Thank Yous and lots of cheery compliments but there are two other groups of people who deserve equal if not higher praise.

Firstly our customers for their patience - they have been queuing outside on the pavement in the cold, socially distanced, waiting for their turn without a grumble. So a warm thank you to all those that use the village Post Office and show such loyalty - because without the customers, as a village, we would lose a service that is vital to our community.

Then who deserves more praise than our Postmen? Especially when it is winter and they arrive for work in the cold at four in the morning. This Christmas they have had even more to do and their vans have been bulging with letters and parcels. We have all been concerned with the risks of Covid19 and yet, as part of their job, they have visited all our houses, rung doorbells, filled letterboxes.... and, at such a special time when we have not been able to travel to meet our friends and families, they have kept us in touch with them and helped make our Christmas!

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Sunday: Closed**

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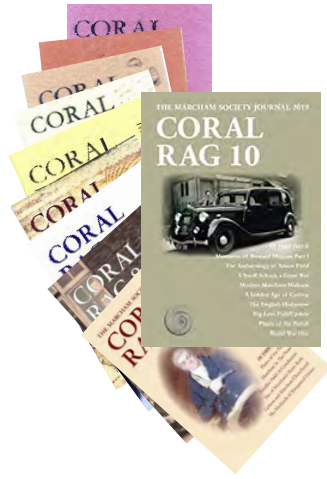
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Since 2001 the Marcham Society has published ten volumes of 'Coral Rag' containing articles covering topics of local interest, including Natural History, Geography, Archaeology and History. Coral Rag 10 was brought out for the 'Great Marcham Weekend' in 2019 and copies are still on sale in the Village Shop.

Our intention is to bring out a further volume during 2021 and we invite anyone with an interest

in a particular aspect of local history to submit an article for the next issue.

For more information or to express an interest, please email Sheila Tilley : sheilajtilley@gmail.com.

Alternatively please follow this link to the Marcham Society website: www.marchamsociety.org.uk/contact.php

Marcham WI

Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 18th January 2021
via Zoom



Speaker: Sally Mabey 'From Eggheads to Mastermind'

Thank you to all our members, and to those in the village, who contributed to our collection for the **Abingdon Foodbank**. All your contributions were very welcome and gratefully received, thank you.



We are hoping that everyone has a very Happy and Healthy New Year. Let's hope that 2021 is better for all of us and we can start to resume meetings in person.

Meanwhile, we are continuing with our Zoom meetings and are looking forward to welcoming **Sally Mabey** for our talk in January, when she will tell us the story of how she took a WI team to the BBC programme Eggheads and how that led to them being invited to audition for Mastermind.

For further information, please contact: Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



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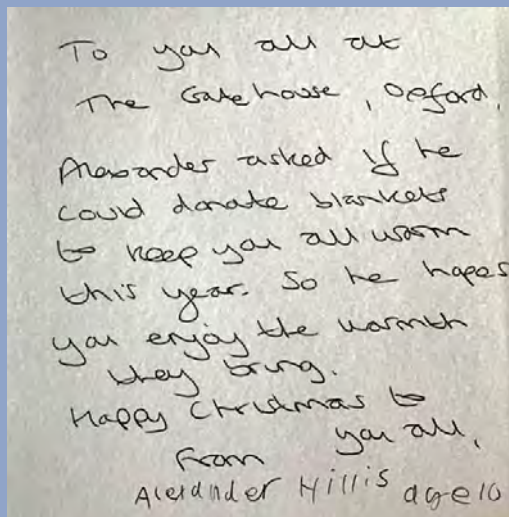
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Keep safe Thank you

A couple of months ago Alexander Hillis asked his mother....

"What are the homeless people going to do this Christmas as it's lockdown and so cold, I would like to collect blankets and deliver them to a charity so they can be warm and safe Mummy"

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REPORTS FROM PREVIOUS MARCHAM SOCIETY LECTURES

The Marcham Society always holds a members evening series of talks in November of each year. This November, Simon Blackmore (our Membership Secretary) and Sheila Dunford (who was the previous Chair) provided their talks over Zoom, which has become the normal practice in these times.

Marcham in Domesday Book by Simon Blackmore

Simon's talk was on the theme of Marcham in Domesday Book. The talk was well structured, starting with the historical context and why William I commissioned the project as a way of taking stock of his conquests 20 years after the initial victory at the Battle of Hastings. Simon then moved on to look at the county of Berkshire, of which Marcham was a part, and then where Marcham was placed in the importance of villages within the county. There were examples of Old and Middle English in the manuscripts as well as Medieval Latin, which are indecipherable to the modern eye.

There was also an exposition of the feudal hierarchy as the Normans imposed it, similar to the Anglo-Saxon hierarchy that had gone before. Marcham was part of the holdings of Abingdon Abbey and the parish boundaries as described in 965AD remain virtually unchanged today so there is confidence that what was meant as Marcham in Domesday Book correlates well with current Marcham. Domesday Book language was written in a type of Latin, the administrative language of the day, but there was very considerable use of abbreviation, so the manuscript version is very difficult to read.

The last part of the talk concerned some of the people of Marcham using information gleaned from different contemporary sources close in time to Domesday Book. The impression that was left was that for nearly 1,000 years Marcham had been a settled farming community, and only in the last 100 years or so has it changed and now grown from around 150 people in 1086 to over 2,000 inhabitants today.

PETER STEERE



▲ Men ploughing the land from an 11th Century Calendar (British Library Collection)

Hyde Farm, Marcham ►

Notable Houses of Marcham by Sheila Dunford

When Berkshire turned into part of Oxfordshire in 1974 Marcham village took a deep breath and found a new postcode, but not much else changed. The dedicated research done by Sheila Dunford, Elizabeth Whitehouse and Claire Bolton found evidence that the foundations of the settlement remain, described through the history of some of the older houses in the village.

Four venerable buildings that Sheila described in her talk are:

3 Church Street is made of limestone rubble with rough cast front, and all openings have decorative plaster surrounds. It was thought to have been owned by a Mr Watts and was listed as the Manor House, Marcham. Various farm buildings were on either side. Mr Watts died in 1769 and in 1818 George Elwes bought it and plastered the front to disguise changes to the windows. The house was let until 1901 and then separated into two dwellings. In 1982 the plasterwork was redone professionally and in 2000 it was returned to one dwelling.

Tithe House is by the church gate. This grade 2 L-shaped building dating to 1580 was extended in 1646.

Hyde Farm (photo below) dates to 1290 and was originally a single hall, with original beams blackened with wood smoke as evidence for this. The first ceilings were probably put in during the late Middle Ages. The chimney came in 1600. An extension was put on in 1625. Above the fireplace there are incised plaster signs, partly to ward off witches. It is now a Grade 2* listed building. Mr Busby who farmed nearby in modern times said that their well had water with healing properties – patients came from the Oxford Eye Hospital to benefit from this.

The Priory was originally a small rectangular building in the grounds of a farm. It was a retreat for the (Abingdon) Abbot and originally a source of the monks' food supplies from the Dovecotes for example. This was the first talk by Sheila on Notable Houses of Marcham and she promises others in the future. She has entered the details of these houses into the Marcham Society's Archives now held in the new Village Hall.

JEAN CREASY



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Marcham Centre

What a Year it has been

2020 began full of promise The building of our new Centre was going well, MCG was working towards a grand summer opening and everyone was full of optimism. So, what could possibly go wrong? Well...Since handover on 19th June, MCG has taken on the running of Marcham Centre facilities and hasn't stopped working hard to prepare for full opening, whenever that may be, as well as keeping the facilities as safe from Covid as possible for the limited use it has had.

Behind the Scenes (part 2) The Hall Committee continues to work hard on finessing the services that will be provided (when we are allowed to), such as the installation of high specification wi-fi and connectivity and building the bar shuttering in preparation for fully equipping the new Bar.

At the same time **the Field Committee**, under the chairmanship of a multi-tasking Dan Barnes, has a full to-do list as well as an impressive have-done list. This Committee is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the MUGA, opening and closing, checking flood lights and (regularly) the condition of the MUGA environment. This includes potential hazards as well as making sure works are carried out to finish the patio area and grass. They are a very practical bunch and more than anyone cannot wait for all sports including the cricket and football clubs to be in full swing here in Marcham next year.



December in the Halls Post Lockdown2 and moving into Tier 2 has brought more challenges. Fortunately, after a thorough checking of the rules, some fitness classes have been able to re-start, while the choirs might be able to have limited sessions. The good news is that Thirsty Café has been able to open, finally, at Marcham Centre for three sessions a week.

Looking ahead to 2021 We will still probably be limited by Covid rules for some time. Nevertheless we hope that groups and organisations can begin to use the halls with the confidence that comes with a high standard of preparation for Covid-19 safeguards that the Hall Committee and MCG Trustees have undertaken, in partnership with users' own standards and commitment. We look forward to welcoming village groups such as the Guides and Cubs when they feel ready.

To keep informed about what is and what isn't happening in the halls go to marchamcentre.org where you will find the calendar. If you wish to find out more about the classes (for instance) email enquiries@marchamcentre.org for more details.

And no doubt Thirsty Café's opening hours will be of interest in January, so have a look at thirstycafemarcham.co.uk or follow them on Facebook @thirstycafemarcham.

The Trustees of MCG and all the Committees would like to wish you a very Happy New Year and better times ahead in 2021.

Marcham Centre enquiries@marchamcentre.org www.marchamcentre.org

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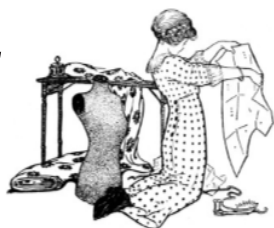


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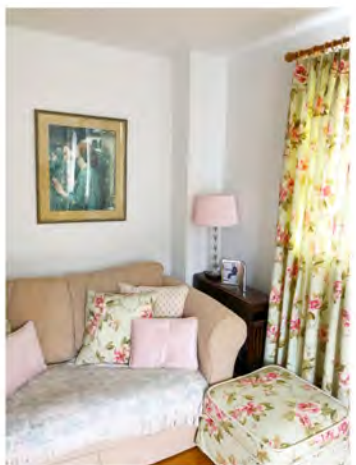


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PTA ROUND-UP

The past year seems to have flown by so quickly, I think most of us will be glad to see the back of this one. Hopefully next year we can begin to get back to some sort of normality, the PTA are already thinking of new ways of fundraising for next year.

The PTA felt that the children at Marcham primary school all deserved a little treat this year, and so, on their Christmas jumper day we surprised them all with selection boxes. It wasn't much but it put a smile on their faces and that's what mattered the most.

The PTA are always on the lookout for new committee members. If you have a child at Marcham Primary school and would like to join the committee then please do contact me.

We know that this has been a difficult year especially with Christmas fast approaching. Many people are choosing to shop online during these current times, did you know that you could still support the school in other ways?

If you are thinking of making any purchases from Amazon, you could help the school by signing up to 'Amazon Smile'. With every purchase you make from the Amazon Smile website, they will send us a percentage to the Marcham PTA bank account! How great is that! Please go to: SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK, if it's your first time using it you will be asked to select your chosen charity. Please choose 'Marcham Ce (Vc) Primary School Parent Teacher Association'.



You can also shop using 'easyfundraising'. They have an app which you can download for free, every time you shop using easy fundraising they will also donate money to Marcham primary school pta. If you choose to sign up, please choose 'Marcham C of E Primary School PTA'.



We also now have our own social media page on Facebook, please look for our group 'Marcham Primary School PTA'. Here you will find updates about events we will be holding and also information on what the money raised is being spent on.

The PTA would like to thank you all for your continued support. We would also like to wish you all a Happy New Year!

LISA NEWPORT, PTA Chair
lisa_newport@hotmail.co.uk

ThirstyCafé – Marcham Community Café

Thanks to all those who have supported our pop-up café so far. It has got off to a great start and we have loved meeting all the people who have come in to visit and hope they will return for more.

We are taking a break for Christmas and New Year, but hope to be back with the pop-up café on the **12th January**

Our Afternoon Tea Service is also taking a break in January to give our amazing volunteer cooks a break and to train up some new ones.

If you are interested in volunteering for our pop-up café please do get in touch. There are lots of opportunities to help email us at hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk
www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

Find us on Facebook and Instagram
Marcham Community Café Limited is a registered Community Benefits Society, society number 8384



MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

What an exciting time we've had at pre-school! Santa wrote to us and asked if we could help him by recruiting some new Elves to step in to cover his helpers who were self-isolating!

And do you know? The children found 5 adults who they thought would be ideal to fill the positions!

So on Saturday 5th December the Elves Messaging Centre was opened and the children were able to Zoom in and leave messages for Santa... the Elves then helped to deliver a package of gifts to each child ready for Christmas!

It was a fantastic afternoon and we were able to raise £270! Thank you to everyone who joined us.... Santa also planned some special video messages!

It's been a wonderfully, exciting term... and an opportunity to put COVID out of our minds for a while.

We'd like to wish all the MADNEWS readers and families everywhere, a very happy and a healthy 2021.

Nicky Sanford,

Early Years Teacher, Marcham Pre-School
01865 392101 Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk
www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



Ho! Ho! Ho!
It's Santa Claus
Taking a break
From all my chores
I'm busy making
Toys and games
And checking my list
For all your names!
So much to do
You won't believe -
What's still to be done
By Christmas Eve!
All these jobs
Just could not wait
But so many elves
Still isolate....
I called on the
Most amazing team
And it went so well
Just like a dream!
Now you may have
An elf on your shelf
But none are as good
As my Messenger Elf!
Marion flew round
To deliver your pack
And she really deserves a
Pat on the back

Angi stepped in
With paper to wrap
Your present, so now
Let's give her a clap!
Lisa shared food
For my group of reindeer
For Rudolph and Vixen
Please give her a cheer!
The craft packs and biscuits
Nik handed out
A difficult task
So give her a shout!
Writing out messages
Was Nicky's role
Magically sending them
To the North Pole
I now have all
That I need for my task
I'll deliver some presents
(while wearing a mask)
You've all been amazing
This year has been tough
But Marcham Pre-school
I can't thank you enough!
It's not long to wait now
The scene is all set
This Christmas will be
The BEST EVER YET!!



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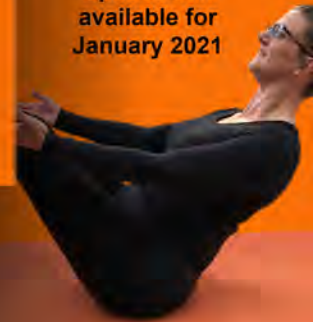
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We have had a very festive December at Little Angels, and we had such fun creating the Little Angels Nativity Film! We sent all our families a goodie bag with popcorn, hot chocolate and cookies to enjoy the film as a family at home. Our children performed a wonderful nativity, and we also recorded them singing Christmas songs which they sang beautifully.

Santa came to visit us just before Christmas so all of our children were able to meet him, and his elves helped to hand out presents. The children really enjoyed visiting his grotto and meeting his elves. Sadly the reindeers were unable to join him as they were training for their big night back at the North Pole, but Santa did bring a nice photo of Dasher with him.

On the lead up to the big day our children were very busy decorating their nursery rooms with the crafts they had created through the month. Each room also had their own individual Christmas tree which they loved decorating. We made beautiful presents and cards which the children gave to their families as well as members of the community.

We have missed our Wednesday café this year so much and have missed all the wonderful people we normally see there. We are hoping we will eat together again in 2021, but in the meantime we delivered handmade mince pies and cards for all the people from café that we have been apart from to let them know we have been thinking of them.

We have a new Little Library at the front of our building which is for the whole community to enjoy, so please pop over and borrow some children's books, and read them at your leisure.

In this challenging year for everyone we want to thank you all for the wonderful support you have given us in 2020, and we wish you all a wonderful new year with great hope for 2021!

We would like to wish you all a wonderful new year, and we all hope 2021 will bring joy, and a bit more predictability!

If you are interested in securing a place for your child please contact us: T: 01865 819992

E: info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

and follow us on Facebook: [littleangelsmarcham](https://www.facebook.com/littleangelsmarcham)



Abingdon Carousel is the local charity formed to bring Children's Centre services back to Abingdon after they were shut down by the County Council.

In summer 2018 we signed the lease of the Family Centre building on Caldecott Chase. With the support of the whole Abingdon community, volunteers turning up to help with refurbishing the garden and centre, we reopened in September 2019 and started to run Play Sessions, Healthy Cooking, Saturday Club, Baby Weighing Clinic and Breastfeeding Support. Many other services followed and, as we went into our second year none of us realised the turbulent times that lay ahead. 2020 was a strange time for all of us. We opened, we closed, we opened again with social distancing, we closed again for lockdown 2. Our staff planned and replanned and we changed our services constantly to keep up with what we were allowed to do. Our Saturday Club became a live event every week on Facebook with videos of stories, singing, crafts and activities. When lockdown 2 came we used the time to get our staff onto higher level training so that they can offer more services when our full timetable returns. Enough of 2020! What's happening now? In this brand new year of 2021, we are opening on January 11th with socially distanced Play and Support sessions for parent and baby. In order to manage numbers and keep the sessions as safe as they can possibly be, we do need parents to phone up and book themselves onto the next session. Instructions are on the home page of our website and on our Facebook page or phone us on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 10am and 11am to find out more.

Meanwhile the staff and Trustees have to find ways to get our charity finances back on track. Our business plan was based on using the centre to generate room hire income which fell off very sharply in 2020 and we have an operating shortfall of £8000 to make up before the end of July. We need donations of any amount at this time from local people, organisations and businesses. Please email us on admin@abingdoncarousel.org.uk if you are able to help with fundraising work or a donation.

The work we do has never been more needed. Many Abingdon parents with young children have spent almost a year in various degrees of isolation and for some of them it has been incredibly hard. They have been telling us how much they need somewhere to come to and how much they value our Play and Support Sessions. We want 2021 to be a year of recovery and growth, for us and for local families.

Please email us on admin@abingdoncarousel.org.uk if you are able to help with fundraising work or a donation.

Website: <https://www.abingdoncarousel.org.uk/>

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Abingdon Carousel recently receiving a donation from one of the Masons groups in Abingdon

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Forgotten Nooks And Crannies

This month, out in the wildlife garden, as Autumn moved into Winter, I've been sat thinking about attachment to the familiar, something we can all experience from time to time.

2020 has challenged us all, in many and various ways, breaking some long-held habits and rituals in us all.

Gardening never stopped for many of us, whether that was hands in the soil stuff, or plans for what we will try and do in the garden, whenever we eventually got out there and got the supplies needed, to build that new reality.

Lockdown for me, was a chance to explore all the unseen or forgotten nooks and crannies in my garden, that wildlife inhabits and colonises.

Much of the summer I was alone in the garden, with my wild friends, but lately, some of the closest people to me, have come to enjoy my garden too. They are seemingly enjoying the garden in new ways, that they didn't before, when they visited. Whether that's the work I've put in that's improved their enjoyment, or their own appreciation, that's been enhanced by their own version of lockdown, is kind of irrelevant. Whatever is going on, most of us are realising that the outdoors is a good place to be. A few years ago, this would have been readily discarded as 'hippy rubbish', but this 'hippy rubbish' has become mainstream, viral even.

Building new homes is often done with developers not allowing space for gardens, forgetting they are building communities, and that gardens help make communities happy.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk



If you are staying at home over the festive period:

- Don't leave your presents in view
- Don't leave packaging next to your bin
- Don't advertise your gifts on social media
- Register your new presents online

If you are going away:

- Lock your windows and doors
- Don't advertise you're away on social media
- Invite a neighbour to look after your house
- Light up your home using a timer switch

If you would like any crime prevention advice, including a home security assessment, please contact the team by emailing AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Alternatively, you can download our free Home Security Guide by visiting <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/advice/home-security-guide/>

Offenders brought to justice

On Monday 9th November, Martin Cox was arrested in Abingdon town centre for breaching his Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO), and was sentenced to 56 days in prison.

On Wednesday 25th November, PCSO Sue Haynes conducted an area search following a report of a shoplifting from a store in Didcot. Sue spotted the vehicle and asked for assistance. Officers stopped it in Steventon, where four females were arrested and their vehicle seized. After searching the vehicle officers, found over £2,000 worth of stolen items.

PCSO Ali Blood stop-checked three people in The Abbey Gardens and detained them for searches under the Misuse of Drugs Act. An officer from Party 5 carried out the searches and drugs were found on one male.

Rural crime Over the last few weeks, there has been an increase in rural crime across the area. This has included burglaries to farms, hare coursing and livestock worrying. PCSO Rich Osborn has been visiting farms across the area and speaking to land owners. One of their biggest concerns has been people using their land inconsiderately to exercise on during lockdown. Whilst there are many permitted paths through the countryside, we would like to take this opportunity to remind people to keep dogs on leads when in a field containing livestock and clean up after your dog, ensure gates are closed / locked after passing through them and stick to marked footpaths so to not trample and disturb wildlife margins. Please continue to report incidents of hare coursing and livestock worrying by calling 999.

Cold Callers - 'Nottingham Knockers'

Door-to-door traders who try to sell goods on the doorstep, often cheap household items have been reported in Marcham. They will often claim to be on a rehabilitation scheme trying to find work and may have a false trading permit or other forms of ID. They are not part of any recognised rehabilitation scheme. The government-backed Community Payback scheme does not involve door-to-door sales. Do not feel you have to open the door. Don't feel pressured to buy from them and do not let them inside your property.

Please report it to us online at <http://mymsg.eu/77ki> (or call 101) if you believe you have been a victim. Call 999 if you feel threatened.

Have Your Say Meetings

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

We would like to wish you a peaceful start to 2021.

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

POLICE NEWS

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

PCSO Maddie Highmoor has been conducting targeted patrols along Thrupp Lane, Radley, due to reports of people acting in an anti-social manner, as well as causing criminal damage to the property of local businesses.

Burglary Overnight between Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th November, a garage in Tullis Close, Sutton Courtenay was broken into and a motorbike was stolen.

On the evening of Wednesday 4th November, an attempted burglary occurred in Welford Gardens, Abingdon. Tool marks were discovered on the front door where an attempt had been made to force the door lock.

At approximately 8.30pm on Wednesday 11th November, a burglary occurred at Denton Close, Botley. The occupants were home at the time and the offenders gained access via a rear door before carrying out a messy search of the property. Two males were arrested in relation to this offence, one has been released under investigation and the other has been released with bail conditions.

On Thursday 12 November at 6.10pm a property in Anna Pavlova Close, Abingdon was broken into. The occupants were threatened by 3 people who searched the address and stole items from inside. Enquiries into this burglary are ongoing at this time.

There will always be those out looking for opportunities to commit crime.



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**SWIMMING IN SEWAGE!**

I apologise for starting this year with this smelly subject, but I am doing so for two reasons. One, because there is the second reading of an important Bill on Sewage in Inland Waters coming in front of Parliament on January 15th and, two, because many people are using our rivers much more for recreation. Indeed, last month at Full Council we passed a motion urging Thames Water and relevant partners to stop polluting our rivers with sewage so that bathers, canoeists, Kayakers, paddle boarders, fishermen can enter the water assured that it is safe.

At the moment UK water companies are allowed to release raw sewage into our waterways in specific circumstances, under license from the Environment Agency (EA). Regulators rely on self-reporting on the part of the water companies, and there is no way for river users to know in real time when these Controlled Sewage Overflows (CSOs) happen.

In 2017, Thames Water received the largest fine ever handed to a water utility for an environmental disaster after it spilled raw sewage into the Thames, with the judge stating that the company had a history of non-compliance. But, still the issue of water cleanliness persists. Clearly the fines are inadequate. Data from the River Trust revealed that Thames Water sewage treatment works continued to spill raw sewage into the upper Thames, between Lechlade and Reading, more than 1,300 times in 2019 for 17,000 hours in total.

The river Thames now has fewer safe places to bathe than ever before. It has falling biodiversity as sewage pollution stimulates eutrophication, that is algal and fungal growth, cutting out light and encouraging a thick anaerobic layer of decomposing matter on the river bed resulting in fewer species of all types, fewer fish, foul smells and a loss of areas suitable for recreation. This loss of biodiversity leads to a loss of ecosystems' stability so increasing the chances of the spread of pests and disease.

But we can do something about this. Hundreds of beaches around the UK have Bathing Quality Water status which ensures that the EA monitors and reports on water quality throughout the bathing season. We can do the same for our rivers! So, we are asking the following:

- 1) Vale officers should work with appropriate partners, such as the Environment Agency, the Rivers Trust and Surfers-against-sewage to start the process of applying the Bathing Quality Water status for the River Thames in the Vale.
- 2) Work with appropriate groups and councils, like SODC (South Oxfordshire District Council), to promote our aim for cleaner rivers.
- 3) Ask the leader to write to Thames Water to draft and implement an action plan a) to eliminate CSOs across its sewage treatment network and b) to provide real time publicly available information about CSOs into the Thames and its tributaries.
- 4) Ask the leader to write to the Vale's two MPs asking them to support Phillip Dunne MP's Sewage Bill (Inland Water) when it has its second reading on 15th January 2021.
- 5) To build on opportunities to influence Thames Water's practices, such as our successful application to become a strategic partner in Thames Water's Surface Water Management Programme for 2020-2025.

What can you do? Can I suggest you write to our MP urging him to support Phillip Dunn's Sewage Bill's second reading on January 15th.

Remember to recycle your Christmas Tree!

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC -

DC for Marcham Ward

01235 534001 or catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

As I write, it is the beginning of a very strange festive season. Rather than a list of moans and problems, I will confine myself to some positive messages in the hope that 2021 will be a better year.

At the December OCC full County Council meeting, a very significant motion was passed, that henceforth our County will be moving towards making all built up areas 20mph zones including villages. It will take time and money to achieve. Whilst there is an argument that petrol and diesel cars produce more pollution at 20 than at 30, the latest evidence is that. Traffic flows more smoothly and this, in itself, reduces pollution. This, together with improved pedestrian and cycle ways together with the move to electric vehicles should make villages like ours, safer, healthier and more pleasant places in which to live and work.

At the same meeting there was an undertaking to focus on clearing back vegetation from footpaths. This would be part of making walking and cycling safer particularly for push chairs and wheelchairs.

Secondly, the new street lamps being installed all across the County are going to save money. However many people are concerned at their brightness causing unnecessary light pollution. There is a plan to review how well the new lights are working and, where required replace the white bulbs with gentler, warmer ones.

The latest spending review contained better news for County Council finance which has been under sustained pressure from austerity for many years. Indeed, at the risk of being proved completely wrong, there will, for the first time in many years, be some room for manoeuvre (and political argument) in the next budget. At least that gives local government some choices to make rather than the relentless round of 'what to cut next'!

The message from the Director of Public Health and his team is clear. Whilst there is much better news on the horizon with the expanding Covid vaccination programme, to avoid a third spike in cases, we all need to keep to the guidance for the next few months at least. So, in the meantime **Hands, Face, Space and be patient!**

With very best wishes for 2021

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

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CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime

Tell them what you know, not who you are



A small group of Abingdonians are producing a charity calendar for next year.

The calendar will be different ... It will be about the pandemic ... It will be about Abingdon and in this most painful of times, it will be about fun.

Goodness knows we need some right now. But above all the calendar will be about respecting what people have gone through and are going through in these unprecedented times.

ALL proceeds will go to The Abingdon Food Bank and The Abingdon Bridge (TAB)

In November Marcham Guides thought of words that reminded them of Remembrance Day, Jill Rowe then challenged them to use as many as they could to create a poem. Here are some of the results.



Silently we stand,
A nation united
A quiet recognition
A reminiscence of the fearless

We walk,
A sea of red pinned to us,
Clutched in our hands,
We remember,
Their pain,
Their lives.

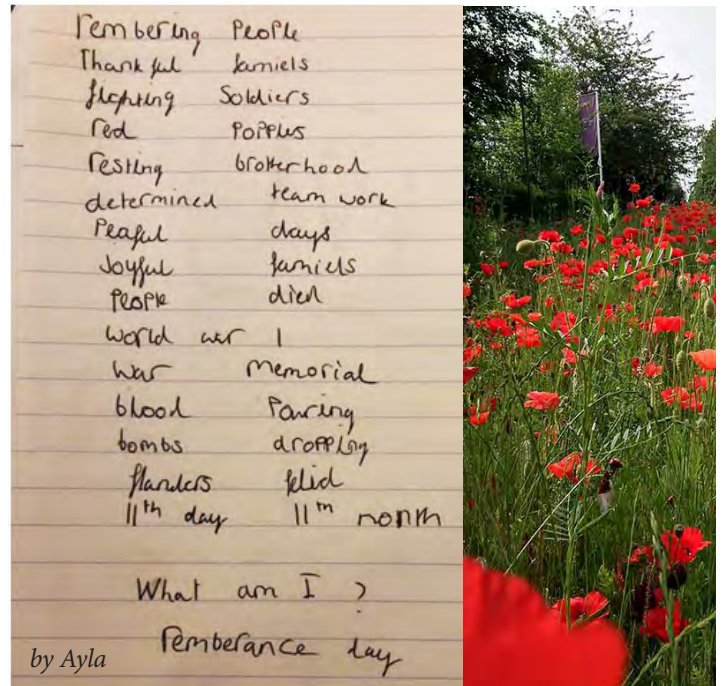
Silently we stand,
Rivalry's forgotten
Everyone together
A nation stood as one

by Aoife

Remembrance Day Poem

Remember those who gave their lives whilst fighting for our freedom
Eager, determination, teamwork, wanting peace and joy once more
Memorial crosses decorated to signify our losses and
Everyone laying down poppy wreaths to remember the brave and gone.
Memories of fallen soldiers cherished and not forgotten
But below the skies in the battle fields now grass grows long
Even though the war is over, let us never forget, so
Remember those who restored our world and remember the 11th November

by Orla



Citizens Advice can guide you through a claim for benefits

As the cold weather closes in with biting frosts and long, depressing hours of darkness, the combined effects of the pandemic and financial problems threaten to drive us into a pit of total despondency. But if lack of money is your problem, take heart because there could be a way to take control of the situation: you might be entitled to receive benefits and Citizens Advice can help you all the way.
If you are unemployed, have a low income, an illness or disability, or are caring for somebody, you could get Universal Credit. This also applies to the self-employed. The amount you might get depends on your individual circumstances. Always do a benefits check before starting an application. Don't forget that if you need help with paying Council Tax you need to apply to the District Council.
Even if you are not a UK citizen you might be able to get some benefits, and if you already receive benefits, you could get more because of Covid-19.

All the information is on the Citizens Advice website <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>. Also have a look at the government website www.gov.uk where benefits rules are signposted on the home page. There are some reliable online benefit calculators like benefits-calculator.turn2us.org.uk
In order to apply for benefits you will need to assemble all the relevant information: details of your bank or building society accounts; your income, e.g. payslips and savings; and proof of identity.
Citizens Advice has a dedicated "Help to claim" team to get you started on claiming benefits.
Phone us on 0800 144 8444 (Mon-Fri 0800 to 1800) or use webchat (same hours).
Appointments in person are not available at present.



ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKES CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights. Habbakuk 3 v 19



As we enter a new year, we are all probably hoping that 2021 has better things in store. 2020 is a year we may want to forget, and yet we probably never will – the events of 2020 have changed us, our society and the world around us in so many ways.

2020 was remarkable for us as a church family – we said goodbye to a vicar, we closed the building for public worship, we learnt to live stream services on YouTube and have developed new ways of being church to one another and to those around us.

2021 is likely to be another year of change as we learn to adapt to new ways of doing things and even more so as we look for a new vicar. We have started the process and we hope and pray that we will have appointed one before Christmas next year.

The verse above from the book of Habbakuk comes just after the prophet saying that even though life appeared to be bleak and there was no hope, that he would choose to rejoice in God. Even when we are facing difficult challenges we can look to the Lord for strength; like a deer in the mountains, he gives us a sure footing and agility to negotiate difficult paths.

If you'd like to read the Bible for yourself there are now lots of Bible readings apps with easy daily readings. The Bible app is a commonly used one: <https://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app/>

Face-to-face services

We are running some face-to-face services in line with government restrictions.

For morning services we ask that you book via our website. For evening services you can just turn up.

Face coverings are required and we ask that you remain in your family bubble and maintain appropriate social distance from other households at all times.

Please see our website for further details

YouTube Church

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

www.youtube.com/c/AllSaintsMarcham

This is a great way to see what our church services are like from the comfort of your own sofa.

If you would like to chat further with one of our wardens or our chaplain then please do get in contact using the details below.

Contacts:

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