

# Marcham & District News

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

OCTOBER 2021 VOL: 43 NO: 10

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Moonrakers Concert 9th October see page 11



◀ The WI meeting in September had an illuminating visitor!



▲ Who's got healthy smiles? see page 15



▲ Women's and men's football teams enjoying the new level (!) pitch at Marcham Centre



Clocks go back 1 hour ▶ on 31st October



▼ Little Angels having fun and learning too! see page 15



## Diary

| October |  |  | Date   | Event   | Pg |
|---------|--|--|--------|---|----|
|         |  |  | 20 Wed | Abingdon Arts Society: Sewn and Sown, 10.00 & 14.00   | 11 |
|         |  |  | 20 Wed | Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00<br>Email <a href="mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk">editor@madnews.co.uk</a> |    |
|         |  |  | 20 Wed | Licensing of Rev Nick Weldon, All Saints' Church, 19.30   | 20 |
|         |  |  | 22 Fri | Quiz Night at Marcham Centre, 20.00   | 7  |
|         |  |  | 25 Mon | Marcham Society: History of St John's College, 19.15 for 19.45  | 7  |
|         |  |  | 28 Thu | Start of annual RBL Poppy Appeal  | 5  |
|         |  |  | 30 Sat | Family Halloween Night, Marcham Centre, 18.30   | 11 |
|         |  |  | 18 Mon | Marcham WI: What is a Magistrate?, Marcham Centre, 19.30  | 7  |
|         |  |  | 4 Mon  | Short Mat Bowls, Marcham Centre, 19.00 – 22.00 (and every Monday 14.00-17.00)                                     | 5  |
|         |  |  | 9 Sat  | Moonrakers Concert, Marcham Centre, 19.30   | 11 |
|         |  |  | 11 Mon | Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Marcham Centre, 19.30   | 3  |
|         |  |  | 13 Wed | Garden Waste Collection re-starts monthly   | 11 |
|         |  |  | 15 Fri | Deadline for application for grants from Marcham Parish Council   | 3  |
|         |  |  | 2 Sat  | Millets 5k Fun Run, Millets Farm Centre   | 9  |

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

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Dear Readers

A thought-provoking Swedish proverb from Generation Games, Age UK Oxfordshire's physical activity service keeping older people moving ([generationgames.org.uk](http://generationgames.org.uk))

Fear less, hope more,  
Eat less, chew more,  
Whine less, breathe more,  
Talk less, say more,  
Hate less, love more,  
And good things will be yours.

Until next time



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Jane Mander

**DEADLINES**

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

**ADDITIONAL COPIES**

These are available free from Marcham Post Office or the Editor. Postal copies are also available – contact the Editor.

**DISCLAIMER**

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

**POLICE**

PCSO Rich Osborn C9323  
[Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) for Marcham  
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Or just dial 101 (non-emergency) and omit the C from his number

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Tel: 01235 534001

[Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto:Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com)

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

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

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

For other councillors go to

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

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**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**New Councillor**

The Council was please to co-opt Keely Ewart-Brookes to the Parish Council to fill a casual vacancy that had occurred. Keely lives in Morland Road and has been in the village for 12 years. The Council wishes Keely success in her new role.

**Grants**

The Parish Council considers any requests for grants at its November meeting. Grant requests are considered usually just once a year. Therefore, if there is any worthy and needy organisation where Marcham residents benefit which is considering applying to the Parish Council for a grant, and has not yet done so, then please note the deadline for submissions is Friday 15th October, 2021. Applications received after that date will not be considered.

The Council's grant policy and grant application form are available in the publications section, on the Council's website [marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Please complete the application form and return it to the clerk – details are on the form. Please also enclose a copy of your organisation's accounts.

**Garden Waste Update**

Fortunately garden waste collections are to resume following a temporary garden waste timetable. The brown bins will be emptied on the same day as the green recycling bins, but on a 4 weekly cycle. Marcham could be split into areas, so that not all households in Marcham with a brown bin will be emptied on the same day. The service is to resume from the end of September. The situation will be reviewed by the District Council in a few weeks time. Please see [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/gardenwastecollection/changes](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/gardenwastecollection/changes) for the latest information.

See page 11 for details of collections.

**Mill Road Bridge – Bridleway 17 –**

**Repair works**

The consents and permissions required from the various authorities such as the Vale of White Horse District Council and the Environment Agency have now been granted, and a contractor has been appointed to undertake the required repair works to the bridge. All parties involved were working on the assumption that works would progress in September, but unfortunately following discussions with various interested parties, a decision was made to postpone the start date, as water levels in the river Ock were expected to rise during Autumn/Winter, and there potentially could be a flood risk to neighbouring properties. The works are now due to start next Spring as soon as conditions permit. This will be disappointing news to those hoping that the bridleway would re-open this year. The Parish Council will be advised once a firm timetable for the repair work is finalised. In the meantime, the bridge remains closed.

**Noticeboard**

Now that the Institute has been converted into housing, the public Noticeboard that was

attached to the wall outside has disappeared. The Council is considering whether to replace this by erecting a Noticeboard elsewhere in the village. Could residents please let the Clerk or local councillor know if they would like to see a new board somewhere, and if so, where they think it would be best located.

**Allotment Rent Collection**

The Council has resolved to give notice to increase allotment rents, and to update the terms of the allotment agreements. Letters have been sent to allotment holders. Previously up to 2020, allotment rent collection has been face to face, but again as last year, owing to steps to try and avoid unnecessary contact, it would be helpful if tenants could arrange to transfer the rent amount due straight into the Council's account via online transfer. Any tenant not having on line banking can still send a cheque payable to Marcham Parish Council for the amount due to the Clerk's address.

**Planning Applications considered by the Council**

P21/V1846/O - Erection of semi-detached dwelling joined to 19 Mill Road. The Council sought clarification on various points and asked for amenity area and parking to be identified.

P21/V2345/HH New garage with office above at The School House, Oakley Park, Faringdon Road. The Council asked that any accommodation be used in association with the existing house, and that a new independent unit not be created.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Monday 11th October 2021 at 7.30pm in Marcham Village Hall, Barrow Close. Please check the Council's website [www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk) for the latest information in case of changes.

**Clerk to the Council:**

Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road  
Tel: 01865 391833  
[clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[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.

On behalf of Jo Blackler and family, we would like to thank everyone who kindly offered their sympathy and condolences regarding the recent passing of Tony Blackler.

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Dear residents

The parish council has reported to us that there is a growing dog fouling issue across our districts.

Although there are many benefits that come with owning a dog (especially during lockdown), there are also responsibilities which include cleaning up after your dog. Please be aware that it is an offence to not clean up after your dog or leave used dog waste bags anywhere other than an appropriate bin. Under the Dog Fouling of Land Act 1996, allowing your dog to foul can result in an on-the-spot fixed penalty notice of £50 and incorrect disposal of dog waste bags e.g. not putting them in the bin can result in an £80 fixed penalty notice. If fines are not paid, cases can be escalated to court resulting in **finest of up to £1,000.**

There are some council owned litter bins within your parish. These can be used for both litter and dog waste bags – you do not need to find a specialist dog waste bin. You can also put dog waste bags in your black general waste wheelie bin so if you cannot find a bin or bins are full, please take it home.

We know that most residents take a lot of pride in their local area and we encourage everybody to take extra steps in keeping your parish clean and tidy.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the waste team at [waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk)

Best wishes,

Waste Team

**Contact officer:**

[Waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:Waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk)

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**Thanks to all our volunteers we are now able to return to full time weekday opening hours for both shop and post office**

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**Products of the Month**

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Christine and I will be arranging the RBL Poppy Appeal for Marcham, Frilford and Cothill.

This year we will not be doing the door-to-door collections and therefore we will have Donations boxes spread around the area to gain as much footfall as possible.

It is our intention to have boxes located at:

- The Post Office and Shop
- Marcham Centre
- The Church

Donations can also be left at 10 Kings Ave.

Collection points will be available in Garford Village, local pubs, schools and of course Millets and Frosts Garden Centre.

**Pin badges** We will have the 2021 Pin Badges and a small quantity of '100 Years of the RBL'. Please look out for further information how to order your pin badges to avoid disappointment.

Your generosity in previous years has been outstanding and we thank you in advance for your generous giving to this important charity.

**The collection for 2021 will run from Thursday 28th Oct to Saturday 13th Nov**  
**Malcolm and Christine - 01865-391497**



**SHORT MAT BOWLS**

Marcham Centre will be opening on Monday afternoons for Indoor Short Mat Bowls from 2.00 until 5.00 p.m. and also on the first Monday evening of each month from 7.00 until 10.00 p.m. **No booking required, just turn up and join in.**

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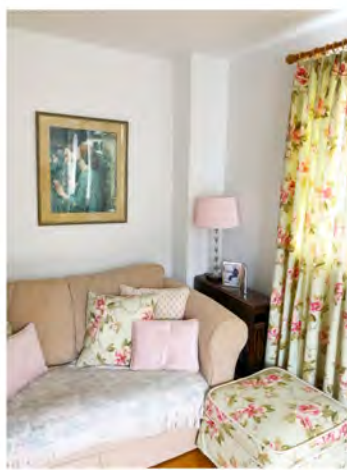
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# Marcham WI

Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 18th October 2021

At the Marcham Centre

Tim Pocock, 'What is a Magistrate'

At our October meeting, we will be joined by **Tim Pocock**, former Chairman of the Oxfordshire Bench, who will be giving us an insight into 'What is a Magistrate'. We often hear about the Magistrates Court, but most have little knowledge about this fascinating role. His talk also includes a short quiz on the work of a magistrate and a sentencing exercise, so we'll have the opportunity to participate as we learn more.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



The  
**Marcham  
Society**

**Monday  
25th October  
7.15 for 7.45pm  
Marcham Centre**

## The History of St John's College, Oxford *Alastair Lack*



Alastair Lack studied Modern History at Oxford University before working for the BBC for almost thirty years, making programmes for both television and radio. He then worked for Oxford University before training as a Green Badge Guide for the city of Oxford. As well as leading their general tours of the university and city, he gives talks on the History of the Colleges and he will tell us about St John's in particular where A.E. Housman, Philip Larkin, Tony Blair and Victoria Coren Mitchell were undergraduates.

For more information contact  
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk

**www.marchamsociety.org.uk**

**Facebook: marchamsociety**

**QUIZ NIGHT- ALL WELCOME  
FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER – VILLAGE HALL**



**A Quiz night will be held on Friday 22 October  
in the Main Hall in Marcham Centre, starting at 8.00 pm**  
Questions are on a range of subjects and aimed at everyone's ability! Teams of up to five people. £10 per team.  
Everyone welcome, just turn up on the night for a friendly evening of fun and banter.



**Bar Open, for those interested!**

For further information call Trevor Hill on 01865 391321

### Puzzle Corner

??

Answers to last month's summer song lyrics:

1. We're all Going On A Summer Holiday *Summer Holiday Cliff Richard*
2. I Got The Sunshine In My pocket, Got The Good Soul In My Feet *Can't Stop The Feeling Justin Timberlake*
3. In The Summertime when The Weather Is Hot, You Can Stretch right Up And Touch The Sky *In The Summertime Mungo Jerry*
4. Summertime And The livin' Is Easy *Summertime Gershwin*
5. Oh Island In The sun, Willed To Me by My Father's Hand *Island in the Sun Harry Belafonte*
6. If We took A Holiday, Took Some Time To Celebrate *Holiday Madonna*
7. Summer Dreams Ripped At The Seams But Oh Those Summer Nights *Summer Nights from Grease*

### Clerk to the Governing Body of Marcham Primary School

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- Do you want to be a part of making the school an even better place to learn and to grow?

Marcham has an active, supportive governing body whose main duty is to help raise the standards and performance of the school by supporting the work of the headteacher and the staff. The Department for Education regards the role of the clerk as crucial to governing body effectiveness. A clerk will contribute towards the efficient and effective functioning of a governing board and its committees by providing:

- administrative and organisational support
- guidance to ensure that the board works in compliance with the appropriate legal and regulatory framework and understands the potential consequences for non-compliance
- advice on procedural matters relating to the operation of the board

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Our main offices are in Abingdon, Didcot, Henley and Thame. Since March 2020 our volunteers and staff have been advising the public from home on our Adviceline service. Recently we partially re-opened our offices, in part to train new advisers.

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If you have eight hours a week to spare for the next two years or more and are looking for a satisfying and stimulating volunteer role in your local community, please contact us at:

[citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/](http://citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/)



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For more information or if you think you could help, please do get in touch! JOEL DRAPER 07707030220 - joel.draper@enrych.org.uk

Visit [www.enrychoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.enrychoxfordshire.org.uk) for more details



**Pop-up Café**

Find us in Marcham Centre at the usual times:

- Wednesday 9-11am
- Saturday 9-11:30am



**Community Membership**

Thirsty Café is registered with the Financial Conduct Authority as Marcham Community Café Limited (registration number 8384). The society is organised by a Management Committee drawn from the membership. Committee members are elected annually at the AGM. The Management Committee wish to encourage as much community participation as possible in this exciting venture and are pleased to offer membership shares to the community.

What your membership share(s) gives you:

- life membership of the Society – no annual subscription required
- an opportunity to vote in café business
- the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped to fund this community enterprise.

See our website for more information and membership application forms or scan this QR code.

**Milletts 5k Fun Run**

Save the date! Keep an eye out for sign up details for the annual Milletts 5k fun run. Hosted at Milletts Farm on Saturday 2nd October. Check out our video from last year's virtual 5k on our website.

See the Milletts website for more details:

<https://millettsfarmcentre.com/what-s-on/this-year/1190-mad-5k.html>

**Website:** [www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk](http://www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk)

**Email:** [hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk](mailto:hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk)

**Phone:** 07871 208811, Mon–Fri, 9 am–12 noon

**INDEPENDENT DIABETES TRUST**



PO Box 294 Northampton NN1 4XS Telephone: 01604 622837

According to National Guidelines, people with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes are supposed to have 9 key checks annually to protect their health and help to prevent long-term diabetic complications.

National Audits of the services people receive have shown that only around 50% of people actually have all 9 checks, although this number varies according to where people live and where they receive their care and treatment. The pandemic has made this situation even more difficult because many routine checks and face to face appointments have not been available. However, many people do not know they are supposed to receive these 9 checks nor do they know what they are, what they are for and how they are carried out.

The InDependent Diabetes Trust (IDDT) has published a new FREE booklet which explains what the 9 key tests are and why people with diabetes need them. It helps people to look after their diabetes and their future health by ensuring that they know what health checks they need and that they are carried out by the health professionals looking after their diabetes.

The booklet is entitled, 'Diabetes Care – Your 9 key checks' and we are happy send out this FREE booklet to anyone, just contact IDDT on 01604 622837, email [enquiries@iddtinternational.org](mailto:enquiries@iddtinternational.org) or write to IDDT, PO Box 294, Northampton NN1 4XS.

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The Arts Society Abingdon (ex ADFAS) are presenting ONLINE Webinars  
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Visitors/non-members are very welcome to view this lecture, cost £6.00. Please email [info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk](mailto:info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk) for further information regarding up to date Venue arrangements.

For more information on future lectures and other activities see [www.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk) or email [info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk](mailto:info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk)

## GARDEN WASTE SERVICE UPDATE – 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

Dear Garden Waste customers,

Firstly, please accept our sincere apologies for the disruption to your garden waste service this summer.

We are pleased to share the news that we have agreed a temporary arrangement with Biffa that will enable us to begin collecting garden waste again from 27 September.

The temporary arrangement is that fortnightly collections will change to take place **every four weeks**, but you will be able to leave **twice as much garden waste** out as normal.

We appreciate this is still not the service you expect from us so we will be extending your subscription this year by three months to make up for the collections that you have missed while the service has been suspended.



#### Contact us - Garden waste



**01235 422600**

(Text phone users add 18001 before dialing)



[gardenwaste@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:gardenwaste@southandvale.gov.uk)



135 Eastern Avenue  
 Milton Park  
 OX14 4SB

These are the planned collections for the area but please check online as things may change:

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/garden-waste/>

Marcham will have started with The Farthings and Oakley Park on 27 September and continue with:

Wed 13th October:

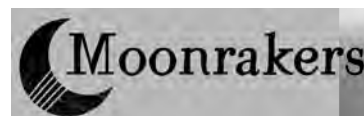
Cothill, Frilford, Frilford Heath (Faringdon Road, Oxford Road, Woodside), Garford, Gozzards Ford, Marcham (excluding The Farthings) and Tubney



Marcham Centre

Life is really returning almost to normal at **Marcham Centre** as regular village meetings and gatherings, private parties and keep-fit classes are now taking place with some light touch Covid restrictions in place. Although we do take these seriously, for the time being we are celebrating full village hall usage at long last. The Bar continues to be well supported and on the field the cricket and football teams are enjoying being back home.

The next MCG event being held in Marcham Centre is the **Moonrakers Concert** at 7:30pm on Saturday



9th October. Moonrakers brought exquisite traditional and contemporary folk music to Marcham in February 2020. Tickets for the concert are on sale in the Village Shop at £13 each. Please put the date in your diary now and get your tickets soon as numbers will be limited.

More dates for your diary The next three MCG events coming up at Marcham Centre are:

- Quiz night: Friday 22nd October at 7:30pm for 8:00pm start in the Large Hall
- Family Halloween Night: Saturday 30th October – provisional times: 6:30pm-9:00pm
- Family Bingo night: Friday 12th November – provisional start time 7:30pm

There is now a fully working audio-visual set-up in the Large Hall, with installation of a wall-mounted screen, along with a set of microphones and the existing audio mixer and PA speakers.

The defibrillator, kindly donated by Denman College when they closed, is now installed in the new external cabinet to the right of the front door of the hall. We now have three defibrillators in Marcham: at the Shop, at the School, and now at our Village Hall. We hope we will not need to use it, but it is there for use in an emergency.

Visitors and deliveries can now find Marcham Centre more easily thanks to the three new Village Hall signs. Thank you to the Parish Council and to our County Councillor, **Richard Webber** (OCC funding made them possible).

Finally, a reminder that if you wish to make a booking request for a room at Marcham Centre, please use the booking request system on our website [www.marchamcentre.org](http://www.marchamcentre.org) and/or contact our Coordinator, **Tash Kingsbury**, on [coordinator@marchamcentre.org](mailto:coordinator@marchamcentre.org)

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY  
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# HOLIDAYS



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## MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



We have settled really well into the start of the new academic year. Pupils are enjoying their new classes and are already being challenged in their learning. The theme this half term is Friendship (and being in community) and it has been lovely to see how well the children have been getting on and playing together.

There are things that we have not been able to do over the past 18 months which, in the past, would have strengthened our community bonds. It was therefore with much joy that we met together in the hall for Collective worship/assembly as Key Stages 1 and then 2 during the week commencing 13th September. The children cheered and cheered. It was a joyful time.

We have welcomed both new staff and new students to our community. One of our new members of teaching staff - **Miss Taylor** – introduces herself here...

*'I began my time at Marcham in September 2020 as a TA in Reception and Year 3. I had just finished my teacher training and wanted an interim year while I completed my masters (still ongoing!) As I was interviewed and appointed during the first lockdown, I did not have the opportunity to meet anyone in person or visit the site before my first day. I remember telling a parent how nervous I was and she replied that the Marcham community is so kind and welcoming that I would forget my nerves the moment I walked through the door; she was right.*

*I had so much joy in my first year that when it came to looking for a class teaching position it felt wrong to look any further than Marcham itself! I am now teacher of the Kangaroo class and learning more every day. I feel so blessed to be a part of a school with such a clear ethos of kindness, tolerance and respect. I am excited to continue my journey with you all this year and hopefully for many years to come!*

The new children in Reception (Pandas class) have also told of their favourite thing about school since starting at Marcham...

**Casey** said 'using his magic fingers to turn on the board'. **Holly** said 'drawing and playing with the blocks to build things'. **Amelie** likes 'the super-fast bike'. **Ella** likes 'cooking in the kitchen'. **Isla** said she likes 'playing in the kitchen outside because she can play with muddy water in it!'. **Megan** said 'playing on the rock wall'. **Florence** said 'playing with the water with sparkles in'. **Emily** said 'I like the toy cars and trains and the rock wall, and I like... everything!'. **Jacob** said 'playing with cars and on the bikes'. **Ethan** said 'the cars and playing in muddy puddles'. **Scarlett** said 'lunch' while **Alba** said 'Mrs Hillier'. **Harley** (and every **Panda** asked) said 'the climbing frame!' and 'playing with my friends!' They have all had a fantastic start and are settling wonderfully into our community.

We will update you on what other classes have been up to in future issues. In the meantime, all class pages have been updated for this term on our school website and indicate what the children will be learning this term. Please do take a look...

<https://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages/>

Lastly, the Governing Body are looking to find a Clerk... see the advert on page xxx

**VIV HUTCHINSON, HEADTEACHER**  
[www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk)



## Staff Vacancies for our Breakfast and After School Club in Marcham

### Manager role

We are looking for a highly motivated Manager to take responsibility for planning, organising and running the After School Club. At Vicky's After School Club we aim to provide a safe, secure and relaxed environment, offering a range of activities to reflect the interests of the children in our care. Our clubs are privately owned and Vicky herself will ensure you receive the best support and training to encourage you to be the best you can be.

First and foremost you must enjoy working with children aged between 4 – 11 years old. You must be prepared to plan and organise varied and creative play, taking the children's own interests into account. Are you responsible, enthusiastic and reliable? Are you a team leader? If this sounds like you, please do get in touch.

### Playworker role(s)

We are also looking for Playworkers. Do you enjoy working with children and having fun? Are you a good team player and do you love to support children in their learning and development? If the answer is yes, this could be the job for you.

We are looking for engaging, reliable, caring and enthusiastic members of the community who would love to be part of our team. You can bring your own ideas and vision to our new clubs in Marcham – you will be given the freedom to be creative with activities.



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Email: [info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk](mailto:info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk)

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## Some Trees Are Greater Than Others

As September arrived, I had already seen some leaves start to alter colour, or dry out on the trees. Just the odd one here and there, but they were there. I noticed I was trying to convince myself that it was just the trees drying out in summer, but who am I fooling? In all honesty, it's the first signs of autumn. We often say it's in the British culture to deny winter heading our way, but my view on culture is, it's a powerful influence if left unchecked, but we have the power to break away from it in part, through personal choice. Often we use culture as a convenient excuse or barrier, to enable us to maintain the status quo. We can break that! Every act, decision, idea, starts with one thought. So, my thought was, I want to be realistic going into this autumn and winter, and adapt better. Then, see where I end up.

Once I accepted the shock of seeing the passing of time right in front of me, I moved over to looking in awe at the trees before me. As we know, trees absorb carbon, and though some do absorb it via the leaves direct into its branches, much of the carbon absorbed stays in the leaves, ready to be dropped in autumn, which then rots into the soil below. Ultimately consumed by the tree roots, up into the trunk and branches etc.

I was walking through a local wood and saw a fallen Larch tree, blown over by the strong winds, its rootball pulled out of the ground in one piece. It made me realise how shallow some roots are, and how effective they are at absorbing each leaf fall that happens every autumn.

It again got me thinking how effective trees really are at absorbing carbon, if surrounded by concrete and tarmac in a car park or street scene? The roots just can't get at the rotting leaves on the surface, and Council workers diligently sweep up the fallen leaves and drive them to where they are composted, burning more carbon on the journey. Then dig out the rotted compost when it's ready (this digging process releases yet more carbon). They then drive that compost and deliver it where it's needed (again burning more carbon in that journey).

The message is, choose wisely where you plant trees, and try and leave the rotting leaves under trees untouched. If leaves can be just left to rot into the soil, undisturbed, it's a good thing, as carbon is locked into that soil and the trees. Soil and plants are the best carbon capture device we have, but often overlooked. It's a cultural thing this overlooking, and a culture we can change through personal decisions.

When you next see a tree struggling to survive, surrounded by concrete, soon to be replaced by a new tree, that in turn will likely struggle as well. Question whether all trees absorb carbon effectively? Trees absorb the stuff, yes, but they are most effective, and efficient, where soil is around the roots, and not behind by a barrier of tarmac.

It really is true, trees are great, but some can be greater than others if planted in better locations. Any old tree isn't always better than no trees at all.

**Happy Gardening!**

**Stuart Mabbutt**

01865 747243 [www.wildmaninspires.co.uk](http://www.wildmaninspires.co.uk)



## MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

We are pleased to announce that Marcham Preschool has been awarded the Community Dental Services 'Healthy Smiles' accreditation... for promoting oral health, healthy eating and a tooth friendly food policy.

The children have been enjoying a range of dental activities, stories and games.



Contact us 01865 392101

[Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk)

[www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com)



We have been out and about in the village in the last few weeks making the most of the lovely sunshine. We have been having picnics on Anson Field, playing in the playground, and enjoying the lovely footpaths in the village around the churchyard and the woods. Our children have been using the senses to smell the flowers, listen to the birds and walking through the long grass feeling the grass tickling their arms. It is so wonderful being out and about in the village enjoying the wonderful things it has to offer.

We have also been having lots of fun in the nursery too!

Our older children have turned our garden into a construction site with our giant blocks. We created cement with sand and shaving foam, and with this they were able to build walls which was great fun! They have also been getting creative. The children made their very own ice cream shop with cotton wool, pom poms and painted pictures of flavours for the menu! Making the most of our warm September weather, we have had some fantastic water play, one of which Kelly, our Training Manager was drenched head to toe, having to borrow clothes to get home in. The children thoroughly enjoyed drenching her!

We all enjoy learning to cook here at Little Angels, so Alicia has been setting our rooms up with baking activities which the children have loved. Even our littlest Angels have been stirring and mixing, and they have been engrossed watching how cakes are created.

Our babies have had a fantastic time playing in the sand with shells to create a beach, and have been enjoying the huge sunflowers in our neighbouring garden. They have seen how bath bombs can change the colour and smell of water, and they have been giggling at how our hanging ribbons tickle their necks when they crawl through them.

We love books here at Little Angels, and we always take plenty of time to share stories and explore the illustrations with our children. Our babies love story time!

If you are interested in securing a place for your child please contact us: T: 01865 819992E: [info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk](mailto:info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk)

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

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

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# FOOD AND DRINK

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**Mostly Books presents:  
An Evening with  
Anton Du Beke!**



With *Strictly Come Dancing* returning to our screens, we are thrilled to announce that the King of the Ballroom, **Anton Du Beke**, is coming to Abingdon for an evening of laughter and entertainment on Thursday 18th November, 7.30pm at the Amey Theatre. Celebrating the paperback release of his latest Buckingham Hotel feel-good romance, *A Christmas to Remember*, we'll be hearing all about Anton's life in the ballroom, on stage and TV. Tickets can be purchased from the Amey Theatre website.

[abingdon.org.uk/sports-and-leisure/amey-theatre/box-office-booking](http://abingdon.org.uk/sports-and-leisure/amey-theatre/box-office-booking)

Mostly Books has won the Muddy Stilletos Award for BEST BOOKSHOP in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire – so if you want to find out why, pop in and see for yourself at 36 Stert Street, Abingdon OX14 3JP  
[mostly-books.co.uk](http://mostly-books.co.uk)



October 2021

## Hidden Heroes

She really didn't have a clue  
That this is what I'd do  
When she and I were talking  
In the village postal queue.  
"I really love the MADNEWS,  
And reading it is great  
There's so much in our area  
That we should celebrate."  
As Meriel and I were talking  
Of people that we know  
And all the special things they do  
An idea began to grow.  
From helping out young children  
Or learning a new skill,  
To taking exams in later life  
Or helping neighbours when they're ill.  
Supporting local charities  
Keeping the village safe and clean  
Proving things for all to do  
And never being mean!  
Perhaps there's a special birthday  
(That ends in 5 or nought)  
Or a wedding anniversary  
That deserves a special thought.  
When someone does things for others  
Or supports a special cause  
Perhaps they do so quietly  
Without praise or applause.  
Now MADNEWS want to hear of them  
For a "HIDDEN HEROES" slot  
Please send news of someone special  
And let's see what you've got!  
I'll start by saying thank you  
For all that she has done...  
Your Editor, MERIEL has to be  
MADNEWS hero number ONE

*Poem by Nicky Sanford*

We are looking for nominations for your Hidden Heroes – Nicky has described who they might be in her wonderful poem, but you will know who your hero is. Send a name (plus a photo if you want) and a short description of why you want to nominate them – email [editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk) or drop a note through the editor's door at 8 Orchard Way. Deadline for the next issue is 20th October and we are looking forward to seeing some great Hidden Heroes!

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT****GARDEN WASTE...WHAT HAPPENED?**

I know that many of you are very frustrated by the suspension of the Garden Waste collection, especially as it is a paid for service and we gardeners are in the middle of one of our busiest times of the year, as far as garden waste is concerned.

As you will all be aware, the whole country is suffering from a huge shortage of HGV drivers, for lots of reasons including drivers going on holiday, some shielding, some discouraged to return to Britain from the EU because of visa issues etc. During July and August we were aware that the number of calls to the call centre complaining of missed bin collections had increased ... a sure sign that something was awry. On the 2nd August, the Biffa CEO looked out of his window to see that the number of bin drivers assembled in the yard was well down. On counting those there, he realised that a bin collection had to be suspended to allow the other collections to go ahead. And in consultation with the Vale and SODC, it was decided that the one that would affect the least number of people (44%) was Garden Waste, but that it would only be a temporary suspension of between 4 to 6 weeks. The other core collections, recycling, residual and food, affects 100% of our residents. So, the BCP (Business Continuity Plan) was activated and Garden Waste drivers were put on the other core collections. Since then there have been endless meetings and consultations going on as the Vale tries hard to find a solution with Biffa. The Vale is locked into a legal contract with Biffa until 2024, so much of what happened is tied up in legal confidentiality. What I can say is that every effort is being made to reach a reasonable solution and every garden waste resident can be assured that he or she will not be out of pocket. As soon as I have any more news I will let you know via the Marcham website.

**See the announcement on page 11**

**WEEKLY TIPS ON REDUCING YOUR PERSONAL CARBON FOOTPRINT FOR THIS MONTH**

The next 4 tips to decrease your carbon footprint

How are you getting on with these monthly suggestions? I hope that some appeal to you and that you are managing to keep some going. If not, perhaps these next 4 might appeal to you.

**Week 1** Plastic free cotton buds – we have already looked at how to reduce your consumption of plastic by giving up straws, plastic bags, and using reusable coffee cups and water bottles. But did you know that plastic cotton buds are one of the top ten forms of beach litter (Remember those awful pictures of beautiful sandy beaches covered in plastic waste?) Instead you can use biodegradable cotton buds.

**Download our Beginners Guide to Reducing Plastic Waste Poster** ([https://www.carbonfootprint.com/docs/pdf\\_plastic\\_poster.pdf](https://www.carbonfootprint.com/docs/pdf_plastic_poster.pdf))

**Week 2** Tree Planting. As you know the Vale is in the final stages of getting a tree policy out for those of you who are keen to plant trees on Vale land. Or you might like to join a group of enthusiastic volunteers who are keen to plant trees through Friends of the Earth programmes ([/treeplanting.html](#)), or even to add a tree or two in your own garden. This is a great way to support wild life, combat climate change or compensate for your own carbon footprint.

**Week 3** Harvest rain water. Make the most of rainwater by collecting it in a water butt. This water will help to reduce your water bills as well to reduce your carbon footprint and help to conserve water reserves.

**Week 4** Be bee friendly. Bees are essential for the environment, our crops and our economy (pollinating 80% of European wild flowers and providing at least £1.8 billion (<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/bees/why-do-we-need-bees>) to the UK economy each year through pollinating our crops), but their populations have fallen

significantly due to pesticides and loss of habitat. Do your bit to support bees by providing a source of water and bee friendly plants in your garden (such as lavender, crocus and marjoram). You could even consider going an extra step and let your grass grow a little longer and building a bee "hotel" out of bamboo sticks. Small actions like these can go a long way to aid in protecting bees and supporting the pollination of plants and crops alike.

**The latest on Afghan asylum seekers**

Many of you have expressed a desire to help Afghan asylum seekers and you will be pleased to hear that one family has now been settled in the Vale and SODC.

Those residents who would like to help can contact national charities now focusing on provision of aid to Afghanistan or more locally to such organisations as Asylum Welcome in Oxford or Care4Calais in Reading.

**Encouraging the uptake of the Covid Vaccine**

Better leisure is encouraging people between the ages of 16 and 30 to take the vaccine by offering incentives to vaccinated customers. A £10 voucher to be used against a Better operated leisure facility and a three day free pass to any of its leisure centres or gyms are yours if you get vaccinated and are within the right age bracket.

All you need to do is complete the form on the Better website <https://www.better.org.uk/healthy-communities> and to follow the simple instructions. Customers will need to present their vaccination card or alternative proof on their first visit to their local Better leisure centre or gym.

That's it for now.

*Hope you are all staying safe and well.*

**CATHERINE WEBBER** Cllr VWHDC

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07357 464699 or 01235 534001

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

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT****No Easy Answers**

I believe we have all noticed the increasing amounts of traffic on our local roads since lockdown ended. This together with increasing numbers of reports on speeding, particularly those coming to our villages from elsewhere, has made me want to focus on roads and speeding this month.

Some of the things I have learned over the last 16 years on these issues include the following:

1. The majority of excess speeding is carried out by locals and the residents themselves. This may well be that they know their roads best and believe they know where they can safely put their foot down.
2. The regular hold ups themselves lead to frustration and the temptation to speed to make up time.
3. The police, in my view rightly, deem that their major focus should be on keeping down crime.
4. The available police resource for enforcing minor driving offences (the sort that many of us have committed) is therefore limited. It may be that minor infringement being taken over by local councils as with roadside parking is where we will be in a few years.
5. There is an increasing dependence on voluntary support for trying to encourage us all to drive slower and with more care. "Speed watch", Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGS) and other initiatives do make a difference. For those who would like to get involved, details are in all Parish magazines and newsletters.
6. There are various speed reduction measures that have been tried over the years. These include: i) speed bumps – expensive to install, noisy and can damage vehicle suspensions. ii) Vehicle Activated Signs (smiley faces etc.) cheaper, but plenty of

evidence of a reducing impact as time goes on. iii) Speed Cameras – again expensive to man and maintain – many taken down after a few months as a result of public anger and only have an effect over a short distance. iv) Raised tables as per Drayton - but these need to have adequate warning signs and colouration for best impact v) Chicanes and build outs. Reasonably affordable and increasingly used. Some evidence of excess speeding being caused by the chicane itself. vi) Improved road design taking into account visibility and driver perception.

7. There are no easy answers and each area probably needs its own specific solution.

**So what can be done?**

Speeding and traffic behaviour on the B4106 between Drayton and Sutton Courtenay is an issue all down its length. Noise and building damage issues exist in both villages. Congestion at busy times of the day causes much aggravation not just to the through traffic, but also to vehicles exiting on to the road. The road has a known poor safety and accident record. The proposed build out/chicane at the edge of Sutton Courtenay – if agreed after the full, public consultation will, it is hoped, reduce the average speed – hopefully to well below 30mph. The new HIF Road between Didcot and the Thames, we are told, will reduce the overall volume of traffic on all the roads between our villages – certainly for 10 years. We have to hope the Highway Officers are right.

The A415 between Abingdon and Marcham is also experiencing increasing traffic volumes. The reduction to 50mph has helped, but there must be a question of the road becoming more suitable for a 40mph limit. Work has been commissioned to find options for a redesign of the Frilford crossroads – possibly with dedicated bus and cycle lanes and even, yes, the long promised bypass.

But ultimately, the only long term solution is to encourage people out of cars and to walk and cycle wherever possible, and provide regular, reliable public transport where that is not feasible. At present cycling on our local roads is a risky business whilst walking on many of the roads is even worse. Buses are too infrequent and many villages have no service. HGV traffic is another whole problem.

It may be that, in the future, computers will be able to drive more safely than humans – but not yet.

With the police, Local Councils and Central Government all under budgetary restraint, there is no alternative but to be inventive where possible, and as patient as possible – particularly behind the wheel.

**RICHARD WEBBER** Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

**MP'S REPORT**

I am writing this after the first full week of parliament's return, when all MPs have been present. While I had been going down to London Monday-Thursday once it was permitted again, some MPs have not been physically in the House of Commons for nearly 18 months. All of us who were attending physically had been subject to a socially distanced chamber with only a fraction of MPs allowed in and all committee meetings were on Zoom.

The place is now transformed, with much more atmosphere; proper debates where people can 'intervene on' (interrupt to politely make a counterpoint) each other; and I for one felt our first Education Committee meeting was much more focussed and better for being able to put ministers and their officials under scrutiny. Virtual parliament is better than no parliament, but a lot is lost.

With the exception of a few days in Yorkshire and a couple of days in Norfolk, I spent most of recess at home in Didcot. There were some great events just before we returned. One was the Longworth Church Fete, which had a good turnout and good weather, a very competitive dog show and classics like a tombola and coconut shy. Another was a tea party at the Almshouse of Robert Stiles

in Wantage, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Almshouse Association. Almshouses have existed in the UK for more than 1000 years and provide low-cost housing to the local community. They have something in common with fetes in that both are run by volunteers. And, as with the return of parliament, they give a taste of what's been missed through Covid.

I know that the pressure on GP services continues to be a bugbear. Over the summer, I met with both the Wantage surgeries and chaired a larger meeting of the Didcot surgeries, Clinical Commissioning Group, Patient Participation Group reps and the District Council in Didcot. The long-overdue expansion of Mably Way in Wantage has just had a step forward after a meeting of the CCG: the business case has been approved and the planning application has been submitted. In Didcot, there is both the particular short-term need presented by the new houses at sites such as Great Western Park and a longer-term need given the expected population growth. In broad terms there's agreement about what we need. My job is to do all I can to try and ensure we get it.

Other recent meetings of note were with some residents of Appleford and some residents of Sutton Courtenay. The Appleford meeting was specifically about the location of the relief road and the desire of the group to see it moved 200m to where Oxfordshire County Council were originally going to put it. I think there is a compelling case for this and have contacted the County Council with the points the group wanted raised. The Sutton Courtenay meeting was a broader one about the development that has taken place and promised improvements that have still not arrived – at my request, they're giving me a task list of things they'd like me to do! A final mention for a couple of charities. Adrian is an ambassador for the Stroke Association and runs a group in Grove. He can deliver free of charge presentations to groups of any age about the risk factors for having a stroke. The other is Root and Branch, near Shrivenham, which runs outdoor activities for those with mental health difficulties. I visited this month and they need volunteer blacksmiths/metal workers to help run classes for those that use the service. Do get in touch if you can help – or indeed, as ever, if you'd like to contact me about anything else: **david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk**

**DAVID JOHNSTON** OBE MP, Member of Parliament for Wantage House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
0207 219 3858 Email: david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk



*Healthwatch Oxfordshire  
here to help with health service queries*

Are you looking for information or advice on health or social care services in Oxfordshire? If so, Healthwatch Oxfordshire can help! We are the independent champion for people who use health and social care services in Oxfordshire.

One of our roles is to help people find the information they need about local health services, so if you have a question or query, please get in touch by calling 01865 520520 or emailing [hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk](mailto:hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk)

Last year we helped 147 people get the advice and information they needed on issues such as registering with a GP, accessing dental treatment and finding out more about the COVID vaccine. We also want to hear what you think about health and care services - including what could be improved.

Please share your views with us by taking a look at our website [www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk), where you can complete a survey on one of our current research projects or leave a review of local services, including GP surgeries, hospitals, pharmacies, dentists and care homes.

# ALL SAINTS' & ST LUKE'S CHURCHES

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



*Revd Nick Weldon writes... Poking my head out from under boxes and putting down my paint brush for a moment, I'm really excited to finally arrive as your new Vicar this month. I will be licensed at All Saints' Church at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20th October. My family and I come from Devon where we have been living and working for the last 10 years. Jane and I have been married for 17 years and our children are Samuel (13), Emily (10) and Olivia (6). You may have seen us around a little bit since September as the older two started their new schools at the beginning of term. Even before fully moving in, we have had a wonderful welcome from the church family and wider community. So many people have been kind to us in providing food whilst we have been flitting between here and Devon, and helping the children settle into their schools. Thank you. And thank you to all those who have carried both churches through the vacancy and the pandemic. I know lots of people have been working so hard. We arrive thrilled at the prospect of making new friends in Marcham, and serving Jesus here with the rest of the church family at St Luke's and All Saints'. Exciting times ahead.*

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm, All Saints' Church** – Licensing of Revd. Nick Weldon as Priest-in-Charge of Marcham and Garford. The service will be live streamed via our YouTube channel [youtube.com/c/AllSaintsMarcham](https://youtube.com/c/AllSaintsMarcham)



Following the lifting of restrictions, we have made a number of changes to the way we run our Sunday services. If you wish to attend a service, you no longer need to book – just turn up. We currently ask that people continue to wear a face covering whilst moving around the building when there is a service and use the hand gel provided. We are also singing again, but again, behind masks for everyone's safety.

#### **Our regular services are as follows:**

- Sunday 10am: Morning service at All Saints'
  - Sunday 11am-12pm: Open church at St. Luke's, Garford
  - Sunday 6pm: Evening service at All Saints
  - Wednesday 10.30am: Midweek Holy Communion
- YouTube: [youtube.com/c/AllSaintsMarcham](https://youtube.com/c/AllSaintsMarcham)

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*\* from 21<sup>st</sup> October*