

Marcham & District News

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

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



NOVEMBER 2021 VOL: 43 NO: 11

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Thirsty Cafe Volunteers meet them at Marcham Centre on Wednesdays and Saturdays see page 9

▲ Pre-School's Scarecrow see page 15

SEND YOUR CHRISTMAS PARCELS EARLY AND AVOID THE RUSH



▲ Last posting dates see page 5



▲ 2021 Christmas Stamps see page 5

◀ Richard Venables, High Sheriff see page 7

Diary for November

Date	Event	Pg	Date	Event	Pg
2 Tue	Christmas Stamps go on sale, Marcham Post Office	5	15 Mon	Marcham WI: Christmas Crafts, Marcham Centre, 19.30	7
5-7	Abingdon Traditional Craft Fair, Abbey Buildings, Abingdon	16	16 Tue	Neighbourhood Watch Survey closes	17
8 Mon	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Marcham Centre, 19.30	3	17 Wed	Abingdon Ars Society: Budapest, Trinity Church, Abingdon, 10.30 & 14.00	11
9-10	Drayton Recycling Centre Closed	3	18 Thu	Mostly Books: Anton du Beke, Amey Theatre, Abingdon, 19.30	17
10 Wed	Extra-large Garden Waste Collection	11	20 Sat	CRUK Christmas Bazaar, Hanney WM Hall, 10.00-14.00	15
11 Thu	Marcham Village Shop AGM, Marcham Centre, 19.30	5	20 Sat	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email editor@madnews.co.uk	
12 Fri	Family Bingo Night, Marcham Centre, 19.30-21.30	11	22 Mon	A415, Kingston Bagpuize Closed until 3rd December	3
13 Sat	Last day of Poppy Appeal 2021	7	22 Mon	Marcham Society: High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, Marcham Centre, 19.15	7
14 Sun	Remembrance Service, All Saints', Marcham, 10.00	20	29 Mon	Last Posting date for Operational BFPO	5
14 Sun	Act of Remembrance, Wayside Cross, Marcham, 11.15	20	30 Tue	Healthwatch Oxfordshire Board Meeting, online, 16.30	19
14 Sun	Act of Remembrance, Garford War Memorial, 12.00	20			

Maddie the Monkey © Muhammad Desta Laksana/Shutterstock.com

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

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No Job Too Small!

Dear Readers

Oh dear, the 'C' word* is back - where did that year go?!

Have you spotted our new MADNews mascot on the cover? Please let me introduce

Maddie the MADNews Monkey**

She will be appearing around the pages for anyone, young or old, to find – no prizes, just some fun to pass the time.

Until next time



* Christmas

** Thanks Nicky

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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.

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PCSO Rich Osborn C9323
Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk for Marcham
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Richard Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
Tel: 01235 534001

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon

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

catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

New Councillor

The Council was pleased to co-opt Suzanne Saunter to the Parish Council to fill a casual vacancy that had occurred. Suzanne lives in Packhorse Lane, has been in the village since 2019. The Council wishes Suzanne success in her new role.

Remembrance Sunday 14th November, – Road Closure A415 Frilford Road, Church Street, New Road

The Parish Council has applied to the Vale of White Horse District Council for a road closure order on Sunday 14th November, to close New Road, Church St and the section of the A415 between North St and Church St between 10.45 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. At the time of writing the Rev. Nick Weldon has yet to start at All Saints' Church, so arrangements for Remembrance Sunday have not been confirmed. Should the closure be required, there will be minimal disruption to bus services. Anyone attending any event held at the war memorial will be required to observe the latest Covid restrictions on gatherings, whilst in the vicinity of the war memorial and whilst wreaths are laid.

Oxfordshire County Council – Highways

The County Council has been trialling a system in parts of the county whereby a “super user” can raise works orders for fixing potholes and kerbing issues on unclassified roads of less than 30 mph. An appointed volunteer would assist highway officers by being the eyes and ears locally. This scheme has now been extended and the Council has agreed that parish councillor James Plumb acts as the local **super user** for Marcham. James will have to undertake a training course, as not all issues can be raised directly with the works team operatives. However, once his training is complete, residents will be able to contact him to report a serious pothole. James will check the problem, and if it meets the relevant criteria, he will be able to issue a direct works order to have it fixed. His contact details will be given once the new system is up and running.

Drayton – Recycling Centre

Drayton Recycling Centre will be closed on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th November to carry out a deep clean, jet washing, and essential maintenance. If you have any items to dispose of that you would usually take to the tip, then these can be taken to another site on those dates.

Fireworks

Again, the annual reminder for those of you who may have purchased fireworks and intend letting them off in your garden, please be considerate for neighbours, the many pets and animals, and wildlife in the village. Please notify others when any fireworks are going to be lit so that villagers are aware and arrangements can be made to keep pets indoors.

Garden Waste Collection

The normal garden waste collection schedule in Vale resumed on 25 October so customers can put their brown garden

waste bins out on their normal collection day in their recycling week every fortnight. To make up for the disruption to the service the District Council is extending customers' current subscription to the service by three months. Garden waste customers will also benefit from the scheduled Extra Garden Waste Week commencing 8th November, when customers are entitled to put out one extra bin's worth of garden waste that week. There is more information at: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Kingston Bagpuize Road Closure

The Parish Council has been advised by the County Council that Atterbury Properties Development have applied for a temporary road closure to a section of the A415, Witney Road at Kingston Bagpuize, whilst essential installation of new sewer pipes and connection works are carried out. This will operate from Mon 22nd November to Fri 3rd December. This is a 24 hour road closure.

Dalton Barracks – Future Development

The Vale of White Horse District Council is creating a supplementary planning document for future development on Dalton Barracks. This will shape how the site will contribute to the area. The first draft has been prepared and it is now out for public consultation. The statement can be viewed on the District Council's website under the planning policy section, and a comment form too can be completed. The deadline for receipt of comments is Thursday 18th November, 2021. A hard copy of the document is available in Abingdon library.

Planning Applications considered by the Council

P21/V2651/LB Retrospective application for damp proofing and new partition works. Repair and restoration works to the rear lean-to roof, including replacement rainwater goods at 44 North Street. The Council had no objections.

P21/V2597/PDH Single storey rear extension to incorporate a plunge pool. Depth 4.5m, height 2.7m at 3 Barrow Close. The Council had concerns regarding the adequacy of the local drainage system in regards to emptying a large volume of water.

P21/V23520/Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 6 bed dwelling for people with highly complex difficulties (planning use class C3b). Revised access, parking and ancillary works at the Baptist Church, Packhorse Lane. The Council had concerns regarding the relocation of the access, buildings within the air quality management area, footpaths, drainage and materials to be used.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Monday 8th November 2021 at 7.30pm in Marcham Village Hall, Barrow Close.

Please check the Council's website 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

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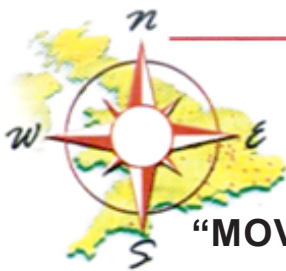
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Hidden Heroes

I would like to nominate
Christine Whild to be a
Hidden Hero

A lovely lady who has done so much for the village of Marcham. The wonderful *Son et Lumiere* productions she directed in the village some years ago. Her Church life, her work in the WI over many years as chairman and a member for so many years of The Village Choir and her wonderful hospitality. Christine's contribution to Marcham village's life has been amazing !!
VC



We are looking for more nominations for your Hidden Heroes. 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 or drop a note through the editor's door at 8 Orchard Way.



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Sunday: Closed

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Christmas Goodies in Stock

Gin Snow Globes

Pannetone

Pretty Prosecco

and more to come ...!

Marcham Village Shop AGM Thursday 11th November 7.30pm Marcham Centre

The Shop Committee cordially invites all share-holders to the Annual General Meeting of Marcham Village Shop Limited.

The meeting will be a live meeting and is your opportunity, as shareholders, to review how your community shop is performing, what the plans for the future are and have your say on shop matters.

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Christmas Stamps will be on sale from Tuesday 2 November



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Monday 6 December	Australia, Greece, Italy, New Zealand and Portugal
Wednesday 8 December	Africa, Central and South America, Asia, Far and Middle East
Friday 10 December	Cyprus, Malta and Sweden
Saturday 11 December	Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia), Turkey
Monday 13 December	Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Poland and USA
Thursday 16 December	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland

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Marcham WI

Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 15th November 2021

At the Marcham Centre

Christmas Crafts

We were very sorry that we had to cancel our October meeting and very much hope to see you all again in November, when we will be having a Christmas Crafts evening.

We hope to make it a relaxed, social evening with plenty of time to chat and catch up with friends old and new.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



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.

Boxes are located at:

- Marcham Post Office and Shop
- Marcham Centre
- All Saints' Church

Donations can also be left at 10 Kings Avenue.

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

Pin badges We have the 2021 Pin Badges and a small quantity of '100 Years of the RBL'. For those that collect the Annual Pin Badge you can reserve them by e mail - malcolm_denton_954@msn.com We suggest a donation of £4. They will be reserved and held for your collection

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 until Saturday 13th Nov

Malcolm and Christine - 01865-391497

CALLING ALL E-BIKE RIDERS

Mol Smith (ex Frilford, now based in Wantage) has started a new group **E-Vale Riders**. Joining is open to anyone in the Vale Of The White Horse, any age, any sex, any creed, etc.. The only caveat being is they must own an e-bike. We are not accepting normal cycle riders for the time being as they seem adequately catered for already. Hopefully, our small group might allow older folks, or those with difficult health issues to form friendships and share some small adventures together. See the website e-vale-riders.net for more details.



The
**Marcham
Society**

**Monday
22nd November
7.15 for 7.45pm
Marcham Centre**

High Sheriff of Oxfordshire Richard Venables

Richard Venables DL, High Sheriff of Oxfordshire 2018/19, will talk about his year of office, the historic context of this little understood role which dates back to Saxon times and the relevance of a 'man in tights' in the 21st Century.



For more information contact
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

Facebook: marchamsociety

Date for your diary – 11th December

Marcham Moldova Lifeline is making plans for a Punch and Pie morning to raise much-needed funds. Life in Moldova is particularly difficult at the moment because of Covid19 and we are keen to help more.

Please put Saturday 11th December in your diary and we will confirm details in next month's MADNews.

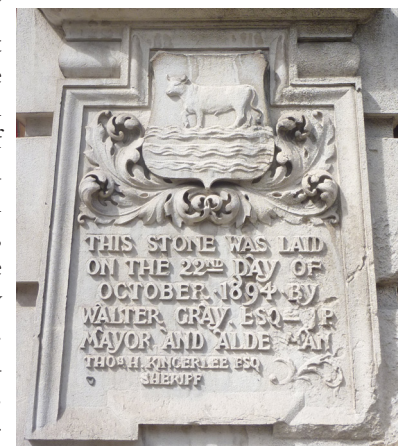
We hope you will join us in December and enjoy a fun morning for a good cause.

DENISE ASHER 391727



**Marcham
Moldova
Lifeline**

Local historian Liz Woolley will be running her popular 10-week course "The City of Oxford 1850-1914" from January to March 2022. A great opportunity to learn more about the social, cultural and economic history of Oxford's 'town' (as opposed to 'gown') in the Victorian and Edwardian periods, and to set that history in the context of contemporary national development. Further information and booking at <http://lizwoolley.co.uk/teaching/city-of-oxford-1850-1914>



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- Saturday 9-11:30am



Millets 5k

On 2nd October, an enthusiastic group met for the annual Millets 5k to help raise funds for the café. The wet weather didn't dampen the spirits of runners, walkers, and buggy riders at the fun filled morning. Thank you to everyone involved – the participants, marshals, Su from SuPilates, Gemma Gerring Photography, Oxon First Aid Response, and those that donated prizes – Zest Podiatry & Physio, At the Farm, Millets Farm, Jake's Sweet Shop, Bothy Vineyard, and Marie's Marvellous Melts. Thank you also to Millets Farm Centre for hosting the event. Visit our website for more details and photos.

Aaron Simpkins and Will Jackson storm the finish line



Stay and Play

On October 6th we hosted our first Stay and Play alongside our regular café session. This involved a special corner set up with a play kitchen, train track, colouring in, baby toys, and extra highchairs. It was a great success and it will continue to run on the first Wednesday of every month.

Thank you to Wednesday Café

We would like to thank Wednesday Café for their tireless work serving the community over the last 22 years and for their incredibly generous donation to Thirsty Café. We would love to restart a regular lunch service but need more volunteers first. Please get in touch if you could help.



Volunteer with us

As a community café we rely completely on our fantastic volunteers to open each week. We would love for you to join our team. There are a variety of roles across Wednesday and Saturday sessions. Please speak to a member of the team, email, or call us if you're interested in getting involved.

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The Prices team would like to express our sincere thanks to all the wonderful customers who have supported us over the years. We have made many friends during our time in Abingdon and will miss you all.

Thank you all once again

Anil, Kalpana, Karen, Lesley and Jackie

Stay safe



Interested in turning The Crown into a community pub?

Share your thoughts with crowncommunitypub@gmail.com

Soha has launched a major project to involve Soha residents, their neighbours, staff and more.



'Playing with Words' is a series of professionally-led free workshops to encourage creativity on the theme of 'community' in poetry, prose or music. Six months of in-person and online sessions with Kevin Campbell of The KCD Collective will culminate in a performance in July 2022 at Didcot's Cornerstone Arts Centre to celebrate Soha's 25th anniversary.

The invitation to get involved with 'Playing with Words' is offered in 8 languages to inspire as many people from all cultures and backgrounds as possible to participate.

Find out more and where to catch a workshop near you by calling Andrea or Liz in Soha's Resident Engagement team on Freephone 0800 014 15 45 or emailing ri@soha.co.uk.

More details also on Soha's website: soha.co.uk

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The Arts Society Abingdon (ex ADFAS) is holding its monthly lecture on **Wednesday 17th November, 10.30am and 2.00pm**, at Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DB

A Hungarian Metropolis: Art and Culture in Budapest

by Gavin Plumley

Budapest was formed in 1873 by the unification of Buda and Pest, situated on either side of the River Danube. The new capital was the focus of resurgent Hungarian nationalism, which found expression through lavish new buildings, the continent's first underground railway system and myriad local paintings. Placing these endeavours in a historical context, Gavin's talk explores how the Hungarians came to understand national identity through cultural means.



Non-Members welcome, £6.00. The lectures are one hour long, but leave extra time for announcements etc.

For more information on future lectures and other activities see www.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk or email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk

GARDEN WASTE SERVICE UPDATE – OCTOBER 2021

Dear Garden Waste customers,

We're pleased to announce that our garden waste service is now returning to its normal fortnightly collections.

That means your next garden waste collection will take place on your usual collection day as scheduled in our normal annual waste collections calendar.

Every time it's recycling week you'll be able to put your brown bin out when you put your green wheelie bin as normal.

As the service is returning to normal, we won't be able to collect anything that doesn't fit in your brown bin – however, don't forget that our annual extra-large autumn garden waste collections will be taking place as scheduled in the week commencing 8 November.

We'd like to apologise once again for the disruption to the service and to thank you for your patience and understanding. We have extended your subscription by three months to make up for the disruption.

Garden waste is an optional paid-for garden waste service. For £51.50 per year customers get their garden waste such as hedge clippings, grass cuttings, dead leaves etc collected regularly from their home using one of our brown wheeled bins. Garden waste is collected on the same day as your recycling. To check when this is please see waste calendar

If your bin is broken or missing please contact the council's contractor Biffa directly on 03000 610 610 or admin.vale@biffa.co.uk.



Marcham Centre

Although life is really returning almost to normal at **Marcham Centre** as regular village meetings and gatherings, we are also taking the recent local Covid outbreak seriously. A few groups are not holding meetings for a short while just to be in the safe side.

The Moonrakers concert in October was very well received by those present. We'd have liked to see more attending of course, but we enjoyed a convivial evening with excellent eats and a splendid drinks table.



More dates for your diary from the MCG Events Team are

- **October** Saturday 30th Halloween Family Disco – 6pm to 9pm (Children's Fancy Dress Optional; Free Entry)
- **November** Friday 12th Family Bingo Night – 7.30pm to 9.30pm (Ticket Price TBC)
- **December** Friday 10th Quiz Night – 7.30pm to 11pm (Adults only, Team Entry Fee TBC)
- **December** Friday 17th Family Christmas Party – 7pm to 9pm (Free Entry)
- **December** Friday 31st New Year's Eve Dance – 7.30pm to 12.30am £5 per ticket, Gaffer Tape Band and Disco (Adults only, Tickets available from 1st November)

The proposed date for The Grand Opening has been postponed into the New Year because of rising Covid levels.

The Events Team would like to thank **Henry and Caroline Hyder-Smith** for the extremely generous donation of some *fabulous disco equipment*. This equipment will enable the events team to put on a number of events for the community. This equipment is also available to hire for parties that take place in the hall. For more information please contact coordinator@marchamcentre.org

Marcham Community Group will have vacancies for election of new trustees at its AGM later this year (date to be confirmed). Please contact Jim Asher (391727) if you are interested and would like to know what is involved.

Remember, 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 and/or contact our Coordinator, **Tash Kingsbury**, on coordinator@marchamcentre.org

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY
enquiries@marchamcentre.org
www.marchamcentre.org
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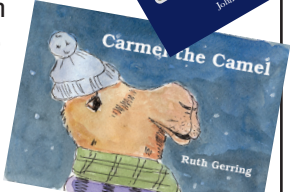
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MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



Thank you for the Harvest.

Thank you for Your goodness.

For all of the fruit and vegetables

And the wonderful things that grow...

We like to celebrate at Marcham School and Harvest is a great time for us to show gratitude and thankfulness for all that we have. This year we were once again delighted with magnificent and generous contributions to the Abingdon Foodbank from our school community.

We have a reputation at the foodbank for producing gift boxes that are beautifully decorated – and this year we didn't disappoint! The boxes were fabulous. The photos show a selection of just a few of the offerings but thank you to all of those who contributed to our Harvest gifts. When we see what difficulties can be experienced in other places – many of them not far from our own doorstep – it is important to remember we have a great deal to be thankful for.

In addition to our usual Harvest celebrations, we were pleased this year to be able to support Asylum Welcome with toiletry gifts and some food items. Marcham School prides itself on its social conscience and awareness so we got thinking about the concept of 'home'. Some Year 6 students shared with us their poems about what home means to them:



Home is where you're happy,
 Home is where you love,
 Home makes you feel joyful,
 Full of warmth and hugs.
 Home is where you're comfy,
 Home is where you're safe,
 Making you feel fuzzy,
 In your special place.
 Home is with family,
 Home is where you care,
 Full of thrill and laughter,
 That's up in the air.

By Steph

Home is where the happiness is born,
 At home there is no need to mourn.
 Home is the place you are most shielded,
 At home all evil things have yielded.
 Home is a protection from the vicious gale,
 Home is a stronghold that will never fail.
 Home is a place of love and kindness,
 Home is a place that is ok with shyness.
 Home is where you learn about living,
 Both arguing and then forgiving.
 Home is full of laughter and tears,
 And is the one place the devil fears.
 God is in our home and harvest,
 God's love will always reach the farthest.
 When life is filled with pain and sadness,
 Look to God and he'll give you gladness.

By Daniel

https://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages/VIV_HUTCHINSON,HEADTEACHER
www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk



Home is a place where I can be my best,
 Home is a place where I can finally rest,
 Home is a place I can laugh and smile,
 I can cry and frown but that won't last a while.
 When things go extremely downhill,
 Home is a place where all things turn still,
 Home is a place of warmth and love,
 It makes me thankful for our creator God up above.
 Home makes me feel enriched and safe,
 Home is my happy place,
 It's the place where I feel free,
 and love is everything to me.

By Ruth

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**Awareness,
A Powerful First Step**



As we face another Winter of collective unknowns, with more potential Covid – Brexit – Supply Chain problems etc etc etc, the main consistency, the main reliable friend, the main supportive crutch we can call on, as we did during the lockdowns, is nature. In all its forms, in all its locations, in all its glory.

It's sometimes hard to have our consciousness opened to it, it's even harder to keep our awareness open to it. It's just so easy to go back to the comfort of old habits, old mindsets, old ways.

Awareness of all that though is a fantastic initial step. If you have a garden, keep making that effort to be aware that nature's active out there, even in the depths of the coming Winter.

If you don't have your own garden, or access to a garden, utilize your local greenspace, and observe the natural local soap opera that plays out there.

I'm writing this in a café near Reading rail station, looking out of the window and watching the wildflowers growing out of the cracks in the pavement, bobbing about in the wind.

Remember, us, we, you, are part of nature too, not remote from it. So, get out there, and take an active role in the ecosystem you're part of. If you can't get out in it, just being aware it's there and it's your ecosystem is very powerful, trust me.

Our pets, our cattle, our animal companions, are all part of that ecosystem too, so we need to think about how and when we introduce them, or even, if we should?

It's easy to forget we have a micro ecosystem of animal companions around us, let alone that micro system forms part of the giant ecosystem out there. It all mainly starts with awareness, though. Start by considering how we are impacted, and how we impact on the ecosystem out there in our gardens, our local shared greenspace, and our communities.

We all face the same uncomfortable truths going forward in these unknown times. Rest assured though, nature is there consistently, reliably and supportively. We're all part of that too, so let's support it and ourselves, it's a mere cycle.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

Over the last few weeks we have been exploring a number of Harvest themes... including learning new songs, exploring plants and crops, growing our own peppers plants (with seeds that we harvested ourselves from a pepper), using a microscope to explore fruits and vegetables, and making our very own pre-school scarecrow! (See cover for photo.) We have discovered lots of facts about farms, tractors, harvest and growing. We can't wait to see our plants germinate and start to grow....

*"Hello Mr Sun, hello, hello, hello Mr Sun, hello....
Shine down, shine down and make our peppers grow!"*

If you would be interested in finding out more about Marcham Pre-school please get in touch



Contact us 01865 392101

Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

Autumn is upon us, but at Little Angels we celebrate the change of season with our pre-school children looking



Little Angels
Marcham

at how conkers grow, the change in leaves and exploring the world around us! We ventured outside to find the fallen leaves on the floor and lots of big sticks so we could look at the different sizes – then used them to create worlds for our play animals, hear the noise of crunch when we feel them! We even used the conkers in paint to see what marks they make.

Our pre-schoolers have been busy constructing this month with a range of items; we made a car out of old plumbing pipes, flooring and blocks. A fire station from pine cones, cardboard boxes (which we put together ourselves), beds for our play babies out of blocks and cushions – everything we found in the room that we could build with we did! Playdough has been a big part of our play and we have been counting the different size balls we made, using scissors to cut them into sections and compare quantities. Our Playdough has been made with spices too, so not only counting, we were using our sense of smell.

Kaye and Kelly attended a prestigious gala award ceremony at the Barbican in London for the UK Nursery World Awards 2021 as Little Angels were finalists for the second year running for an award. This time in social media, which we use to highlight the nursery activities and day-to-day running, along with helpful tips and ideas for parents to support their needs. Kaye and Kelly had a great evening and felt very honoured to be finalists again.



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

T: 01865 819992E: info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

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Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

Catastrophe at Kut -

an Oxfordshire regiment under siege in Iraq, 1916
An Online talk by retired Colonel Patrick Crowley.

The Siege of Kut, Mesopotamia (Present day Iraq) in 1916 was one of the greatest defeats the British Army ever faced in its history. 13,000 were taken prisoner, 4000 would die in captivity.

The talk includes quotes and personal accounts from soldiers and officers of the Oxfordshire county regiment

The event is free to view on the museum website, sofo.org.uk no registration required, but donations welcomed.

The lecture is given by retired Colonel Patrick Crowley and covers the story of the dramatic Great War siege of Kut, a fort in a small town in what is now Iraq. Just a simple town in between Basra and Baghdad, Kut al Amara was the site of a First World War conflict that is less widely known than others that took place in 1916, such as the battles of the Somme and Verdun, but one which would have a similarly catastrophic human cost.

Though initially successful on campaign in what was then known as Mesopotamia, as Allied forces pressed towards Baghdad, poor logistic support, training, equipment and command left them isolated and besieged by Turkish forces.

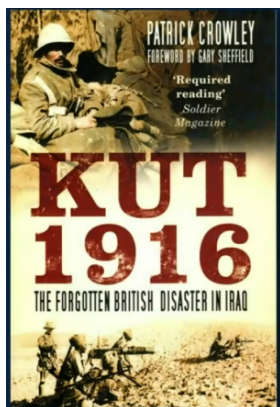
Numerous attempts to relieve those under siege at Kut would fail, and on 29 April 1916 the defenders were forced to surrender and the British Army suffered one of the worst defeats in its history.

Over 13,000 troops, British and Indian, were taken into captivity; around 4000 would not survive their incarceration, while others would undertake elaborate schemes to escape. Thousands more would be killed or wounded in the siege itself or in one of a number of ill-fated attempts to relieve those trapped at Kut.

In this online talk, Patrick Crowley recounts the dramatic tale of the Siege of Kut and its terrible aftermath, while shedding some light on the personal experiences of the men of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry's 1st Battalion. Hear stories of both the besieged themselves, and those involved in attempts to relieve them.

In one battle at Sannaiyat, part of a third attempt to relieve Kut, the Oxfordshire regiment suffered an astounding 88% casualties.

Patrick Crowley is a historian and battlefield tour guide, now retired from the Army after 34 years' service in the Queen's Regiment and Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. He was awarded the American Meritorious Service Medal for his own service in Iraq.

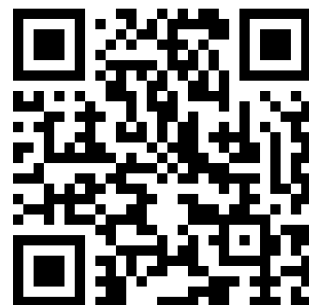


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Mostly Books presents: An Evening with Anton Du Beke!



With Strictly Come Dancing having returned 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

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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**COP26 – WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY?**

When we are all being asked to do our bit to address the Climate Emergency, a very common reply is “there is little point – only governments can solve the problem.” There is a small and thankfully shrinking minority who deny that there is a problem at all. But what if they are right and we continue to spend so much time, effort and money to mitigate the Climate Emergency? Well, we will have wasted a lot of time, effort and money. However, what if we do what they want (ie nothing) and they turn out to be wrong? We will have wasted more than time, effort and money – we will have wasted the planet. Climate deniers are playing a very risky game. Thankfully again, almost every government in the world now accepts that we have a problem. Most want to do something about it, or at least be seen to be doing something about it.

COP26 Conference in Glasgow, which runs from 31st October to 12th November 2021, is a major UN summit bringing together 190 world leaders to try to get agreement on urgent action to tackle the Climate Emergency. It is going to be a very public display of governments' commitments and puts our own government's prestige on the line – we are chairing it. All eyes will be on such issues as which countries are still using coal for energy and have no strategy to phase it out...it will be interesting to see what China, India, Australia, and the USA have to say and how countries are tracking their carbon emissions realistically to reach carbon zero by 2050.

An overwhelming number of UK councils have now declared a Climate Emergency and are anticipating some of the commitments and targets likely to come out of COP26. Those that do not follow suit may well find themselves increasingly isolated.

As you know, at the Vale I am the Climate Emergency cabinet member whose main role is to find as many ways as possible to reduce the Vale's carbon footprint. We aim to become a carbon neutral council by 2030, with a 75% reduction in emissions by 2025, and a carbon neutral district by 2045, with a 75% reduction in emissions by 2030. We have already taken such decisions as replacing a gas boiler at Faringdon Leisure Centre with an air source heat pump (using a government green grant); putting 60 new EV chargers in 5 of the Vale carparks in Faringdon, Wantage and Abingdon; creating a Tree policy to allow volunteer groups to plant suitable trees on Vale owned land; and on a district level we have been working with SODC to understand the best way to retrofit houses. These are just some of the things we have been working on. The last one is extremely difficult to achieve and depends on government to come up with the necessary funding, which is why, at the last full council, we passed a motion to join UK100, a group of more than 100 District councils with a big voice to lobby government.

On an individual level, we too can make a difference, which is why I have been putting forward weekly suggestions from Friends of the Earth in my monthly article. By doing them we encourage local and National government to remain committed and to achieve targets and even to set more ambitious targets. This will encourage other governments to follow suit. It is a world crisis! To solve it, we all need to be involved at all levels and to stay involved. Glasgow COP26 may well be one of the most significant world initiatives in our lifetime.

TIPS ON REDUCING YOUR PERSONAL CO₂ FOOTPRINT FOR THIS MONTH

Glass bottled milk 5.5 litres of milk are produced in the UK each year, 97% of which are packaged in plastic bottles. For those who are unable or unwilling to switch to dairy free alternatives, you can still reduce the impact of your milk consumption by replacing the

plastic bottles with glass. These glass bottles can be reused up to 25 times before being recycled, making the most out of the resource.

Avoid Mail On average, each letter thrown away is worth around 30gCO₂ (reduced by around half if fully recycled) and the average unwanted catalogue has a much larger footprint as they are delivered wrapped in plastic. You can prevent this unwanted post from piling up and increasing your environmental impact by simply asking the supplier to stop sending them. For the mail that you do want, why not go paperless and ask for your statements, bills and newsletters to be sent by email or be made available online. This will help to reduce your carbon footprint and your demand for resources.

Biodegradable Glitter - If you've ever used glitter before, then you'll know that it has a habit of getting everywhere and staying there. Many people are unaware that most glitter is actually made out of plastic and that its seemingly eternal presence is not connected to just your houses and clothing. Once washed down the drain, glitter becomes another of many single use micro plastic pollutants that harms marine life for hundreds of years. However, there are biodegradable alternatives that are available. Made from natural compounds that are degraded over a couple of months, they enable you to sparkle guilt free. Unfortunately, plastic glitter can also be found in many cosmetics, so consider trying to avoid sparkly cosmetics, unless the glitter is stated to be biodegradable.

Eco-friendly Sun Cream - You may be aware of the ban on sales of products containing microbeads in the UK, but you may not know that this only refers to rinse-off products, so that leave-on products, such as sun cream, are not included. Sun creams can further harm the environment as they often contain Oxybenzone, which has been found to contribute to coral bleaching which kill corals and is toxic to other marine life, such as algae and mammals. Fortunately, once again there are eco alternatives available to help you protect your skin and marine life. So, before you go swimming in the ocean, check that your sun cream is coral reef safe and that it does not contain plastic microbeads.

Thank you for reading this. I hope you have a chance to tune into some of COP26.

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**Home to School transport**

This is a topic that raises its head every year as parents struggle to understand and navigate their way through the rules and regulations. Every year there are complaints of unfairnesses in the system as some parents are faced with bills for hundreds of pounds they were not expecting. I thought it would be useful to get a County expert on this issue to explain the rules. For those short of bedtime reading, the result is below ...

It is only in a minority of cases that children are eligible, under the law and Oxfordshire's Home to School Transport Policy, to free travel to school. If children move to an address outside the administrative area of Oxfordshire County Council, the responsibility for determining and, where appropriate, providing free or assisted travel passes to the child's new home authority.

The legal basis for the provision of home to school transport is set out in sections 508A, 508B, 508C, 508D and 509AD and Schedule 35B of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by Part 6 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006) and, where appropriate, the Equality Act and English and European case law. In addition, local authorities are under a statutory duty to have regard to the Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance and the Post-16 Transport and Travel Support to Education and Training guidance. Both sets of statutory guidance were issued by the Department for Education.

Normally eligibility for free travel is determined at the time that a school place is allocated through:

Oxfordshire County Council's Coordinated Admissions Scheme for entry at the normal points of admission; and/or, the issuing of an Education, Health and Care Plan; and/or, the operation of the Fair Access Protocol; and/or, the In-Year Coordinated Admissions Scheme.

Children are eligible for free travel if they attend the nearest available school or educational placement to their address, if the distance from home to school is over the "statutory walking distance" of 3 miles if aged 8 or over or 2 miles if less than aged 8 and of school age. If the nearest school is outside Oxfordshire, children are also eligible for free travel to the nearest school in this council's area, if the distance from home to school is over the "statutory walking distance" of 3 miles if aged 8 or over or 2 miles if less than 8 and of school age.

In addition, children attending the nearest available school to their address, even if it is less than the statutory walking distance, are eligible for free travel if it would not be safe for a child, accompanied by an adult, to walk from their home to the school. If the route is subsequently determined to be safe to walk the parent will be given up to 6 weeks' notice of the withdrawal of free transport. At the end of that period, free transport will be discontinued.

Also children aged 11 to 16 who are eligible for free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit and who attend one of their three nearest suitable schools (or places other than school at which they might receive education under section 19(1) of the Education Act 1996), are eligible for free travel where they live more than 2 but not more than 6 miles from that school. The 2 mile distance is measured by "walking route" and the 6 mile distance is measured by road route. This entitlement applies to all children of the relevant age for the schools concerned, and applies whether a child does or does not have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

However, there is no statutory entitlement to free travel based on living in a catchment area or parental preference. The Home to School Transport Policy did provide free travel to the catchment school, subject to the address being beyond the statutory walking distance, up until 2014 but this was removed for new entrants from September 2015 after a large scale public consultation. If the policy had remained unchanged, given the increasing academisation of schools, the council would have lost control over this element of public expenditure. Essentially academies can set or amend a catchment area and could therefore quite legitimately expand their catchments and so, if there had been no change of policy, expand the financial commitments of the council.

If you have managed to wade your way through that, I reckon you deserve free home to school transport for your children! For most of us, the regulations are a minefield and most parents choose schools for their children without realising the financial implications.

Suffice it to say, I am pushing for a clear summary of the above to be issued to all parents together with school application forms.

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

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Healthwatch Oxfordshire Board Meeting on Tuesday 30th November



Would you like to find out more about the work of the county's independent health and care watchdog **Healthwatch Oxfordshire**?

If so, you're welcome to attend its next board meeting being held online, via Zoom, at 4.30pm on Tuesday 30th November.

During the first hour of the meeting members of the public will be able to hear an update on **Healthwatch Oxfordshire's** activities over the last three months and ask questions about its work.

Details of how to join the meeting will be available at www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk a week before, or can be sent out to you if you call 01865 520520 or email hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk

Healthwatch Oxfordshire is always keen to hear your views on health and care services. See www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk to find out how you can complete a survey on a current research project or leave a review of local services, including GP surgeries, hospitals, pharmacies, dentists and care homes.

Your voice counts
Share your experiences of using health and care services in Oxfordshire.
Leave your reviews of hospitals, GPs, pharmacies, care homes and dentists at www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk
@HealthwatchOxfordshire @HealthwatchOxon

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service – keeping Oxfordshire safe and well

Safe and well visits offer practical advice to older and vulnerable residents about the risks in their home that could lead to falls, fire, or any source of harm.

Firefighters or dedicated advisers will talk to residents about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms (or fit them) and about how they can keep themselves safe in the event of a fire.

They can also provide advice and signposting on alcohol use, staying well and warm, and scams and doorstep crime prevention.

If you work or support vulnerable people in their own homes, you can refer someone for a safe and well visit on the county council's website here:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/fire-and-public-safety/fire-and-rescue-service/safe-and-well-visit

If you have spotted any of the following, then consider a referral:

- There are no working smoke or carbon monoxide alarms in the property.
- The resident may find it difficult to react quickly in the event of a fire or emergency.
- They are using electrical equipment with trailing leads, lots of extensions or possible unsafe wiring.
- There are large amounts of post or other indications that the resident is being targeted directly by possible scams.
- The resident has made comments that they have concerns about staying safe.

There's no cost for a safe and well visit. It's just practical advice and peace of mind.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk
Working for you

CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime
Tell them what you know, not who you are



ALL SAINTS' & ST LUKE'S CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Remembrance Sunday - 14th November

10am: Service of Remembrance in All Saints' Church
(Also live-streamed on YouTube)

11.15am: Act of Remembrance at the Wayside Cross

12pm: Act of Remembrance at Garford War Memorial

Revd Nick Weldon writes...

It's November, which for many people is often associated with darker evenings, first frosts, and hanging in there until life gets more exciting in December. Actually, I've always quite liked November, and it's not just because *Strictly* is on. The colours can be beautiful, fireworks and bonfires are fun, and it's the season of Remembrance, which always has a special poignancy to it. (Jane and I also got married in November on a bright and chilly autumnal day in the same month England won the Rugby World Cup, not that that mattered of course!). So it's the season of remembering, and although it will be for the first time for me here, we look forward to gathering again as a community in both Marcham and Garford for prayer and reflection on Remembrance Sunday (details above). For obvious reasons, any service of remembrance since March 2020 has a new and special feel to it now. The sacrifices of the last 18 months have been significant for us all, and truly immense for some. Sadly those sacrifices look as though they will continue at least in part into another winter. But there is hope for us all too, and we need to remember that hope as well. I believe that at the heart of all reality is a sacrifice greater than any other: Christ's sacrifice. Any sacrifice human beings make is an echo and reminder of that great sacrifice for us. And remember, his was a sacrifice with ultimate purpose, eternal worth, and a very happy ending. In the spirit of the Kohima Epitaph, for our tomorrow he gave his today.

St. Luke's has been busy recently. Our Harvest Festival was well attended, and our choir was fab. Nine children from the village brought harvest offerings which they delivered beautifully. You were all brilliant. During our final hymn the whole congregation paraded out to the vintage tractor and plough, parked in the churchyard! It was a spectacular end to a wonderful service.

Our generous villagers donated a full car-load of much appreciated goodies for the Abingdon Foodbank. Thank you....all of you.

Our Patronal Evensong was a beautiful service and for which we thank Rosemary.

Thanks this month must also go to Neil Whiting (Carolyn's husband) who has repaired our keyboard....so we are back in full song. *PCM*

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 at Duffield Place



Contacts:

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