



Marcham & District News

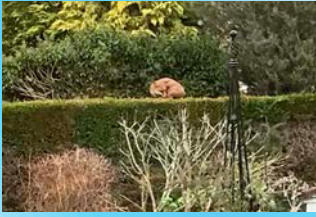
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JANUARY 2022 VOL: 44 No: 1

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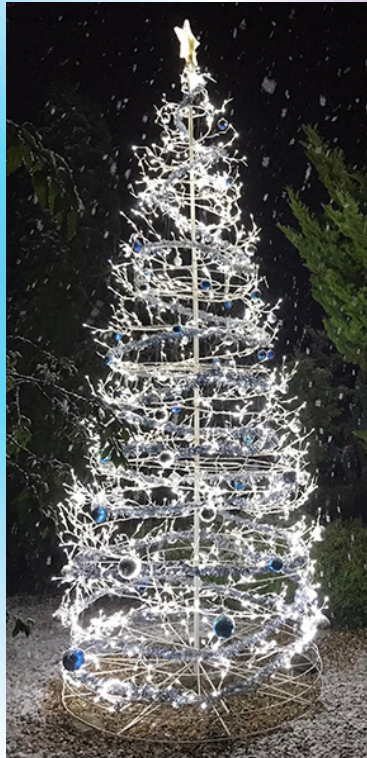
▲ A visiting fox see page 5



▲ Rainbow over Abbots Grange



▲ The grand unveiling see page 9



▲ The Parkside Christmas Tree



▲ The Art of Breugel page 7



▲ Anyone for panto? page 15



Wishing
you all a very
happy new
year

Diary for January

Date	Event	Pg
2 Sun	Changes to bus services	3
4 Tue	Marcham Village Shop and Post Office reopens	5
7 – 15	Abingdon Drama Club presents Dick Whittington, Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon	15
10 Mon	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Marcham Centre, 19.30	5
17 Mon	Marcham WI: An Introduction to Belly Dancing, Marcham Centre, 19.30	7
19 Wed	Abingdon Arts Society: Breugel, Trinity Church, Abingdon, 10.30 & 14.00	7
20 Thur	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email editor@madnews.co.uk	
24 Mon	Marcham Society: James Gilbert, Marcham Centre, 19.15 for 19.45	7
28 Fri	Quiz Night at Marcham Centre, 19.45 for 20.00 start	7

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

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Dear Readers

Happy New Year!

Yes, we have finally gone bananas! We are continuing with the monkey theme this year – see page 17 for a bit of colouring in fun and a 'count the bananas' challenge.

I hope you all managed to celebrate in some form over the holidays, there are lots more events coming up: Tu B'Shevat, Burns Night, Chinese New Year, St Valentines Day and Maha Shivaratri to name just a few!

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.

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Tel: 01235 534001

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon
Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
Tel: 07357 464699

catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Christmas Tree – Village Green**

A very big thank you goes again to **Andrew MacLean**, of AD MacLean Tree Management Ltd of Kingston Rd Frilford www.admtrees.co.uk for the very kind donation of the Christmas tree on the village green. In addition to donating one which can be decorated this year, he has planted a small one, which in time will grow, and which can be decorated every year. It certainly has been a very unusual year again, and the tree helps brighten up the village during the current climate when many are feeling low and anxious for a variety of reasons. The Council is very grateful to him for his generosity. The grateful thanks of the Council also go to the family and friends of parish councillors **Sandra Hill** and **Ruth Mander** who helped decorate the tree.

Christmas Tree Recycling – Reminder of where to take your tree

Real Christmas trees for recycling can be taken to Millets Farm by Saturday 8th January, or left on the hardstanding by the Salvation Army textile bank in Howard Cornish Road – opposite Duffield Place by Wednesday 19th January in order to meet the collection dates. If taking your tree to the Howard Cornish Road location, please do not obstruct the textile bank, or the bus stop area.

Predictions are that it will be a cold and possibly snowy winter, so keep an eye on the District Council's website / social media for any collection updates.

Please also remember to observe the Government's Covid 19 regulations in force at the time when in public areas.

Bus Changes

As from 2nd January, there will be changes to the bus services in our area.

The S8 Wantage to Oxford via Marcham will cease to be operated by Stagecoach, and will become the X1 service operated by Thames Travel. At the time of writing the new timetable is awaited, but will be able to be found on www.oxfordbus.co.uk. Most journeys will be extended to Headington to provide connections between Oxford City Centre and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre.

The S9 Wantage to Oxford via the A338 Frilford will continue to be operated by Stagecoach and journeys will run every 20 minutes Monday to Saturdays, every 30 minutes in the evenings, and every 30 minutes on Sundays. The new timetable can be found on the Stagecoach website www.stagecoachbus.com

Parishioner of the Year

The Council is again considering the possibility of an award to be presented at the annual meeting of electors should one be able to be held in spring next year. The Award recognises the efforts of local people who have, at any time, significantly contributed to life within the parish. Previous nominations have been carried forward, however the Council would invite anyone who wishes to put forward a new suggestion, to submit a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to whom they wish to nominate and the

reasons why the person should receive the award. All nominations to be emailed to the Clerk at the email address below. Owing to Covid 19, the Council, was unable to give an award for the past 2 years, and the names of those previously nominated will be carried forward and considered this year along with any new nominations.

Allotments- Cow Lane and Parkside

If you have an allotment you are reminded that allotment rent collection for the 21/22 financial year is taking place. For those who have not paid, please transfer the sum due to the Council's bank account (details available from the Clerk if needed), or let the Clerk have a cheque payable to Marcham Parish Council. Those in arrears with rent or found not to be utilising their plot could lose it by the service of a Notice to Quit.

Council Tax 2022/23

The Parish Council will be carefully considering the budget for 2022/23 at its meeting to be held on Monday 10th January. Once finalised, the Council will set the amount of council tax that comes to the parish from the total amount paid by residents to the Vale of White Horse District Council.

Grant Applications

Grant applications deferred from the last meeting were considered. The following sums have now been awarded:

- **Marcham Community Group** £41 for maintenance within the recreation field area
- **Be Free Young Carers** £150 towards their running costs.

Primary School Admission September 2022

A reminder too that the closing date for applications for primary school admission in the county is 15th January, 2022. Go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primary admissions for further information.

Planning Applications considered by the Council

P21/V3081/N4BPrior approval for the change of use of an agricultural building to create a dwelling at Hitchcopse Farm, Cothill Road. Council did not wish an independent unit to be created, and expressed concerns regarding possible drainage into Parsonage Moor.

P21/V3185/HH Erection of log stores at 17 Parkside. Council requested that there should be no change to the colour and materials, that the ground be left permeable, and that the stores should not be used to support a business.

P21/V3297/FUL Erection of 2 storey 4 bed detached dwelling at Greystones, 8A The Gap. Council objected as it considered the proposal to be overdevelopment of the area.

P21/V3164/HH Erection of 2m high wooden fence along boundary at The Old Bakehouse, 4 North Street. Council had no comment on the change of hedging to fencing.

P21/V3227/FUL Erection of 4m ball stop netting on south of football pitch and 6m netting on east boundary of the football pitch in Barrow Close. Council sought assurance that the fence would be removed out of season, and pointed out that the route across

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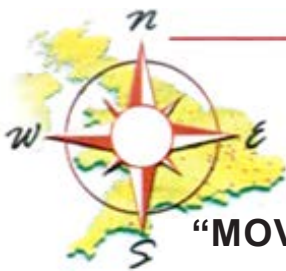
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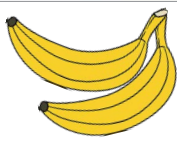
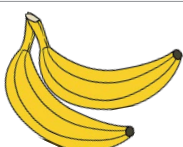
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the grass for pedestrians to the public footpath which ran alongside the Anson field would be restricted.

P21/V3312/HH Change of use of garage to form family/breakfast area incorporating existing utility store. Formation of new lean-to roof at 4 Hyde Copse. Council had no objections.

P21/V3355/LDP Erection of single storey conservatory to the rear at 5 Abbots Grange. Council had no objections.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Monday 10th January 2022 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

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Council wishes everyone a happy New Year

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

Dear Editor

I was visiting my grandmother on Frilford Road in December, and we watched an interesting encounter with a fox in her garden which she thought could be of interest. *See photos on cover.*

It was of particular note as it was an odd time of day to see a fox, an odd position for it to be in, and my grandmother was not aware of much fox presence in the area. It's always exciting to view and interact with wildlife in our own gardens!

As a trainee ecologist, it is always fascinating to see how species interact with our urban environments, and this fox was no exception.

I hope you find this as intriguing as we did!

EMILY SIMPSON

Letter Reprinted from January 2020

Dear Editor



Where has the sundial from the protected facade of The Institute gone?
A CONCERNED RESIDENT

Neil Rowe replied in 2020:

I can report the sundial is safely in storage to protect it from damage or theft. It will be restored to its rightful place at the end of the rebuild.

Response in 2021:

Unfortunately, the sundial was stolen from the on-site storage at The Institute building site. The Anson Trust has confirmed that the site had been handed over to Thomas Homes by then and so the sundial was the responsibility of Thomas Homes. They were approached but would not comment.

Hidden Heroes

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.

New Year Holidays 2022 Waste Collection Changes

- ~~Wednesday 5 Jan~~ **Saturday 8 Jan**
Recycling and Food Waste NOT GARDEN
- ~~Wednesday 12 Jan~~ **Friday 14 Jan**
Rubbish and Food Waste
- ~~Wednesday 19 Jan~~ **Thursday 20 Jan**
Recycling and Food Waste & GARDEN



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Any unwanted presents? You can send your parcels back through the Post Office – just get the returns label sorted out and come and see us!

And if you get the replacement delivered to us, you can pick it up when it is convenient for you!

Don't forget to shop for events coming up:
Burns Night
25th January
Chinese New Year
1st February



Marcham Village Shop AGM
Did you miss it?

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Wishing all our customers and volunteers a Happy and Safe New Year

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Marcham WI

Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 17th January 2022

At the Marcham Centre

An Introduction to Belly Dancing

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

Come along to the January meeting and have fun while burning off some of that excess from eating and indulging over the Christmas and New Year period. None of us know how to do it, so having a go at belly dancing is guaranteed to get us all laughing and having a great evening!

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



The
**Marcham
Society**

**Monday
24th January
7.15 for 7.45pm
Marcham Centre**

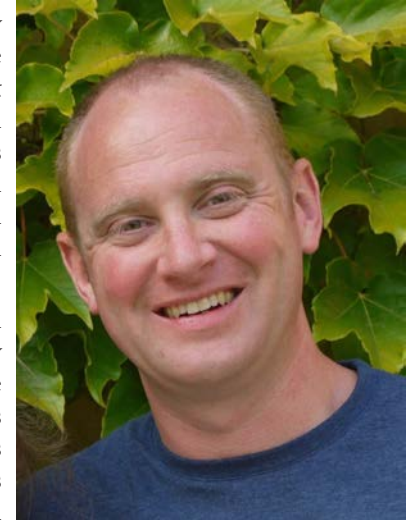
My Life and Work as a Consultant Transplant and Vascular Access Surgeon

James Gilbert

James Gilbert is a Surgeon at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust. He is a specialist in kidney & pancreas transplantation and vascular access surgery. He has an interest and expertise in patients with central vein pathology.

James has a Masters in Education and regularly teaches health care professionals in the fields of transplant and dialysis access. He contributes to several international developmental courses and he is currently the President of the Vascular Access Society of Britain & Ireland.

When not frantically working, he enjoys cooking, triathlons, armchair sporting punditry and spending time with his family.



For more information contact
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

Facebook: marchamsociety



The Arts Society Abingdon is holding its monthly lecture on **Wednesday 19th January, 10.30am and 2.00pm**, at Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DB

BRUEGEL

Peasants, Proverbs and Landscapes

by Paula Nuttall

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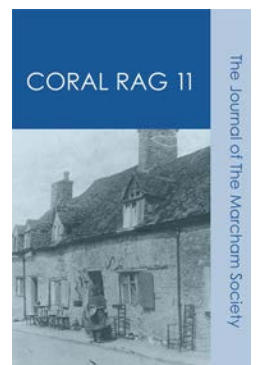


Non-Members welcome, £6.00. The lectures are one hour long, but leave extra time for announcements etc.

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

Have you got your copy of Coral Rag 11 yet?

It is available in Marcham Village Shop at just £6 or email membership@marchamsociety.org.uk



Articles include:

- Vertebra of an Ichthyosaur *Eric Dunford*
- The Population of Marcham, Garford and Frilford Over The Last 2000 Years *Mike Greig*
- Marcham In Domesday 1086 *Simon Blackmore*
- Marcham Charities *Christine and Malcolm Denton*
- Public Health in the Later Nineteenth Century *Peter Steere*
- Professor Sheppard Frere *Bartle Frere*
- Life in the Sand *Judith Haworth*
- Memories of Bernard Higgins Part 2 *Sheila Dunford*
- Local Wartime Invasion Defences *Murray Maclean*



**QUIZ NIGHT- ALL WELCOME
FRIDAY 28 JANUARY – VILLAGE HALL**



A Quiz night will be held on the last Friday of the month 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.

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Marcham Centre Art Unveiled!

It was a great occasion on Saturday 11th December. The new artistic sign for Marcham Centre and the new Marcham Village Hall sign were unveiled by **Margaret Crick**, Chair of the Vale of the White Horse District Council, with many other guests joining the celebration.

After a welcome by Jim Asher, Meriel Lewis described the project and the team who brought it to fruition. Suzanne O'Driscoll, the artist who designed it, thanked the local team for being a key part of this achievement. She explained each image and why it featured within the sign. She wanted visitors to Marcham Centre to feel welcome and 'drawn in' to the place by the way the sign is designed.

A big 'thank-you' to Carolyn Blackmore and to Meriel for their driving force to make this happen and to everyone who came out to join us.

Marcham Community Group AGM and Open Meeting

The MCG AGM, held on Friday 3rd December in the village hall, reported on a year of change (up to 31st March 2021) as we moved from fund-raising to operation of the new Marcham Centre facilities, and in a challenging year due to Covid despite which, finances are healthy. We thanked **Carolyn Blackmore**, who had resigned as a trustee, for her hard work, especially on marketing, pulling together the imagery and style for Marcham Centre and heading up the art project. We welcomed **Geoff Dix**, elected by the members as a trustee and look forward to having him on board.

After the AGM, we reviewed progress since March as we moved gradually out of lockdown and use of the facilities grew. Thank you to everyone who came to the meeting and those who contributed proxy votes and questions – your support is hugely appreciated.

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY
enquiries@marchamcentre.org www.marchamcentre.org
Operated by Marcham Community Group (MCG)
Registered in England 7470307 Charity No. 1144407



Coming events at Marcham Centre

Friday 28th January: **Quiz night** 7:30pm-11pm – Marcham Centre (adults only)

Friday 11th February: **Valentines Disco** 7:30pm – 11.30pm (adults only)

Burns Supper—Saturday 5th February 2022

We are planning a Burns Supper at Marcham Centre on Saturday 5th February at 7:30pm, subject of course to Covid rules. Tickets (£20 per person), available from mid-January on a first-come first-served basis, cover the traditional 3-course meal and entertainment, drinks and Scottish dancing.

If you have been to a Burns Supper, you will know how we celebrate the famous poet. We will be delighted to welcome anyone who has not been to one before. Proceeds will go to support Marcham Community Group.



For further information and to book tickets, please email **jim.asher@btinternet.com** or call Jim or Denise Asher (391727). We will also welcome offers of help to prepare for the event.

Indoor short-mat bowls in the Large Hall on Wednesday afternoons 2pm–5pm – contact **Colin Trinder** (391718) or just turn up. Beginners and experienced players are equally welcome.

Citizens Advice is here to help you

At the darkest time of the year, it's good to know that Citizens Advice is there to support you. If you're in difficulties and need help or advice over New Year, you can call us on 0808 278 7907 (Adviceline). The line will be open from 4 January onwards.

If you normally pick up supplies at a Food Bank, remember that the opening hours could change over the holidays. It's a good idea to check with the Food Bank before you set out.

Also bear in mind that if you have a pre-payment meter for your energy supplies and can't afford to top up, you can get temporary credit. Your supplier might add this credit automatically, but if they don't, ask for it. Check the supplier's website and go to <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy> for more information.



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GROUP AGAINST RESERVOIR DEVELOPMENT

GARD is a local community group formed to campaign against Thames Water's proposals to build a reservoir south-west of Abingdon.

Abingdon Reservoir – Latest from GARD

Progress this month - opposition from all levels of local government.

On 8th December, the Vale of the White Horse District Council debated a motion opposing the reservoir. The motion was proposed by Councillors Andy Cooke and Richard Webber and in the public session there were very strong speeches by Dr Chris Wilding, Chair of Steventon PC, Cllr Sally Povolotsky, Hendreds & Harwell (includes Steventon) OCC, and our own Dr Derek Stork, Chair of GARD. The motion was passed unanimously, so the reservoir is now opposed at all levels of local government. Well done to everyone involved.

The next consultation and upcoming local meetings

The next steps are to see what is released in January as part of the next consultation. Cllr Sally Povolotsky has kindly helped with some funding for us from the Councillor Priority Fund, which will help us produce some leaflets and hire some local village halls so that we can hold public meetings in the local villages. We expect these to start in February and early March so that we can pass on the results of our analysis of the next consultation round. Our first meeting is already booked for **Friday 4th February in Steventon Village Hall** (more details to follow). We fully expect the reservoir to still feature in the water companies plans, so please be ready to come and show your support and get ready to write response letters. See you there!

To find out more about the reservoir, GARD's opposition and the alternatives, visit www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk or on Facebook [@abingdonreservoir](https://www.facebook.com/abingdonreservoir)






Walking in Nature

Have you felt lonely recently? Would you like to join others for a walk in nature and explore your local green space?

Thanks to funding from OCF (Oxfordshire Community Fund) Earth Trust are running a series of mindful walks at 3 of our beautiful greenspaces.

Walks are run by an Earth Trust tutor and supported by our volunteers.

Walking within nature will be the main focus of the walks, but there will be time to chat and get to know each other.

Walks will happen even when raining but might be slightly shorter!

Spaces are limited, so booking is essential
Over 18s only please

Sign up at earthtrust.org.uk/walking-in-nature





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MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

At the time of writing, we are completing all of our exciting Christmas activities. It would be fair to say there have been uncertainties surrounding these due to COVID 19. At Marcham C of E Primary, we are very aware of the importance of the cultural and social milestones for our children and have worked hard to retain their Christmas Experiences.

Reception and Year 1 classes recorded their nativity plays as a video and shared them with parents. Year 2 took the brave decision to sing to an audience outside (the weather was kind, the children sang beautifully and it was glorious) and we held the Key Stage 2 carol service in All Saint's Church.

We have been able to come together and celebrate in some new creative ways over the last few weeks. Mrs Hookham organised a school community Christmas Card scheme where each family designed and made a card for another family. Some wonderful examples are pictured.




We have retained the much-loved school tradition of a Christmas lunch. Key Stages 1 and 2 sat together in the hall to eat their meals - with all the trimmings - whilst wearing their Christmas jumpers and finery.

Plus The PTA have organised a **Rainbow Raffle** – more details on this from them in another issue.

It has been a wonderful few weeks of 'Christmas buzz' in the classrooms. We wish all of our families and wider school community a **very Happy New Year**.

And lastly, I wanted to mention another exciting venture from the end of this term - the year 5 swimming lessons. We took a different approach this year, and rather than going for ½ hour slots over 10 weeks, we have had one hour slots over the period of a week – a more intensive course. What a difference it has made to the children's experiences! The progress for some children was extraordinary. Staff were buzzing with pride as they watched the pupils' confidence grow. This is what some of the children said:


It was adventurous and fun because I started to learn. I couldn't swim on my back and now I can. Raphael

Swimming was great. I couldn't swim before and now I can. I like swimming underwater. We listened to the teachers and they told us what to do. Amelia

It was really hard to swim with pyjamas on... Daisy-Mae

If you want to know more, you can contact us on 01865 391448 or email office.3235@marcham.oxon.sch.uk

To see more about what the school has been up to go to <https://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages/viv-hutchinson>, **HEADTEACHER** www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk



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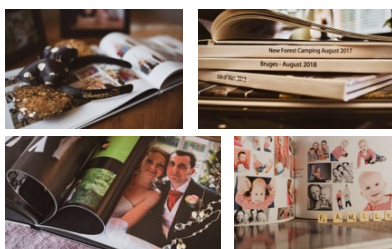
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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

The decisions to 'save Christmas'...

After much soul-searching, we decided that the safest way to celebrate this year would be to present our Nativity over Zoom this year..... and to limit the risks any further.... this would take place outside so that we could all safely sing our hearts out! And gosh - did they sing!

You may have heard the children singing 'no - go away!' as Joseph and Mary searched for a place to stay... or jumping and cheering as Jesus was born on the first Christmas day.... it was amazing... the children had such fun and were watched online by parents and grandparents.... there is nothing more special than a pre-school Nativity



As we move into 2022 we are excited about the year ahead and what this might bring - whatever form it will take.....

It won't be long before we are allocating our places for September 2022 - please don't miss your opportunity - scan the qr code and get in touch now!



We wish you all a safe and healthy new year

Contact us 01865 392101
 Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk
 www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



Little Angels have all enjoyed a very festive December. Christmas dinner was a delicious meal of turkey with all the trimmings along with Christmas pudding and custard which each of the rooms and the children of all ages enjoyed. They made party hats and had fun and games in the afternoon.



Santa arrived with his grotto ready to see all the children including many from the village.



We also had a wonderful time delivering gifts to elderly members of the community with gingerbread houses along with gift cards to remember that we are thinking of them this Christmas time – we hope they all enjoyed their gifts

We look forward to having a great new year of 2022

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

T: 01865 819992E: info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk
 www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk
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Pop-up Café Find us in Marcham Centre at the usual times:

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

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.

Website: www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk
Email: hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk
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stu-zumba@hotmail.co.uk

Drop-ins are welcome, See you In class!!

The Habitat You Prefer

At this time of year, it's easy to become reflective, and more tangibly experience the passing of time.

To remember those visits and appearances during the last year of the various parts of the ecosystem that inhabits our gardens with us is all part of that personal reflective experience, at this time of year.

Planning how to encourage a wider range of life in the coming year is an opportunity not to be missed at this time either.

Whatever you want to attract, if it's in your area of course, it just needs water, shelter, food, somewhere to roost, breed and hibernate. Populations of your chosen species need to be in your vicinity though. By just putting the habitat in place, doesn't mean anything will find it. It needs to be there, in your area, to be able to discover it. Some basic research on local species, their likes and dislikes, is some extra homework you could take on during this reflective time too. It all helps get the ball rolling ready for next season.

Can I suggest you also reflect and churn on the point that you are part of the ecosystem too, and not separate from it?

Reflection on the habitat you yourself prefer, and how you impact it, both positively and negatively, by just being there and active in it, might bring about some realisations too - opening your mind to what's possible. A big philosophical question, but one we have time for during the long dark evenings ahead.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk



Abingdon Drama Club (ADC), one of the oldest drama clubs in the country, has been providing drama classes for young people for over 35 years and are proud to announce the appointment of their new juniors drama classes teacher, **Leon Witcomb**. Leon will be running the drama classes every Saturday during term times, starting in January 2022.



The classes and planned start times are as follows:
 Juniors 1 Ages 9-12 Saturdays during term time from 10.30am – 11.30am

A combination of drama games, improvisation and scene work. A fun way to make new friends and start to learn the fundamentals of theatre and performance.

Juniors 2 Ages 13-16 Saturdays during term time from 11.30am – 1pm

This class focuses on building drama skills including voice, movement, action, objective, subtext and characterisation. In-depth study of plays and playwrights supports learning, particularly for those enrolled in GCSE Drama.

Cost per term is £90.

“Acting is essentially telling the truth using someone else’s words. As actors we are storytellers. Our job is to engage the audience and the best way to do this is through truthful performance.”

Drama Classes

Enrolling now for 2022.

Email: juniors@abingdon-drama-club.com or abingdondramaclub@gmail.com

Abingdon Drama Club Proudly presents Dick Whittington By John Morley

Directed by Mike Ward
Evenings 7.30pm:

Friday 7th, Saturday 8th, Thursday 13th, Friday 14th, Saturday 15th January

Matinees 12.30pm:

Saturday 8th, Sunday 9th, and Saturday 15th January



Abingdon Drama Club (ADC) brings pantomime back to the beautiful Unicorn Theatre, with this classic tale of a young lad going to London to seek his fortune.

Dick Whittington (Rosie Clarke), alongside his best friend Tommy the cat (Bex Wright), battle hordes of sinister rats with the help of an assortment of colourful and hilarious characters.

Tickets: £10, £8 concessions (60+, Under 12s, students, ADC members)

Group Bookings: Groups of 10 and over – All tickets £8 (£8.55 when booked online – just select the concession rate ticket and choose the number you require). Please let us know if you have any problems with your booking.

Tickets available from:

The Bookstore, The Abingdon Precinct (15 Bury Street), Abingdon or online at

Website: www.abingdon-drama-club.com

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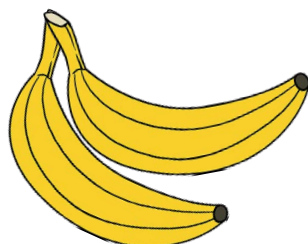
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Did you find all the pictures of Maddie last month and did you work out her name?

This month she has hidden her bananas around the pages - can you help her find them?

Here are two to get you started.
How many did you find?



Here is picture you can colour in.



Maddie

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**ENVIRONMENT BILL... "its ambition is to leave the environment in a better state than when inherited"**

This seems to be a good topic to start the year with as it will directly affect everybody in the Vale and covers environmental areas from waste to biodiversity. In this article, I will focus on Waste and briefly on Air Quality.

WASTE

You will see a major shift of priorities in collecting Waste in the future as the emphasis will be upon Reduce, Reuse and Repair before Recycling. So the aim is to reduce the amount of stuff we put in Waste; to reuse and repair articles wherever we can looking for help from Repair Cafés and advice on repair websites, and only then consider recycling ... this is a major shift in our way of thinking.

Recycling is low down the waste hierarchy as it is not carbon neutral and remember we are trying to reduce our carbon footprint in the Vale to be carbon neutral by 2045. Collecting, sending for sorting, then re-manufacturing items that are then placed back on shelves is far less efficient than either the public refilling containers directly themselves, using less packaging and/or buying fewer new items to start with.

What will the Environment Bill mean for waste services in South and Vale?

The type of waste collected and the quantities of waste collected will change at the kerbside. This will be achieved through:

A Plastic Tax. This is being introduced this year and manufacturers using less than 30% recycled content in plastic products will have to pay. This should drive up the value of recycled plastic as well as encouraging manufacturers to switch to non-plastic alternatives; already some single-use plastic products, such as straws, have been banned.

Extended Producer Responsibility. This is also a measure targeted at the manufacturers, taking in all packaging, not just plastic. The aim is to make the companies who produce packaging pay for the costs of having to either recycle it or dispose of it. This new arrangement will run from 2023. A new body will be appointed to oversee the whole thing. This 'Scheme Administrator' will check what is in the waste we collect and pay us back the cost of collecting the packaging waste element of it. This will reduce the amount of packaging by between 3 and 9% over time, as packaging producers change packaging to get around the charge.

Deposit Return Scheme. Some of you will remember in the past collecting tins or glass bottles to take to a shop where you could claim money in return for these items. A similar national high tech scheme is being rolled out for glass bottles by 2025.

Depending on how many items get included in the scheme, kerbside-collected recyclate will reduce by between 11 and 19% with the public returning most bottles directly to shops. Hence waste in your recycling bin will reduce.

Garden Waste There is a proposition that garden waste collections will be free for every household but it is controversial and may not happen. We will know more later this year.

AIR QUALITY

This Bill requires the government to set and meet an air quality target for fine particulate matter (fine particles caused by cars braking and the friction of rubber tyres on the road) and the Vale is ahead of the game as it is piloting a particulate monitor in Marcham's AQMA. It starts monitoring particulate measurements this month and will continue to do so for a year.

How to reduce our personal carbon footprint. As you know I have concluded all my articles by putting forward 4 different ways of reducing our personal carbon footprint each month (ie one a week). I wonder how useful this has been and would be grateful if you could let me know if you would like me to continue doing so this year.

Help for Essentials

There is a new Voucher Scheme to help struggling residents. It is a scheme paid for by the Government Household Support Fund to help cover the cost of food, energy, water bills and other essential costs, and it is not just for people on benefits but also for others who fit the criteria of a "struggling resident". They can contact Citizens Advice on 0808 278 7907; or Vale Community Impact on 01235 765 348; or email help@vci.org.uk

May I wish you all a **HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR 2022!**

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07357 464699

or catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**The Season of peace and goodwill**

There is much uncertainty and anxiety in the media at present over Covid, over the Climate Emergency, house building, planning, the state of the UK and the state of the world. However, in the spirit of seasonal peace and goodwill, I will endeavour to stay positive.

Reservoir

Thanks to the expertise and determination of GARD (Group against Reservoir Development) together with the unanimously agreed motions passed by OCC and VWHDC, the residents of Oxfordshire have made their views clear that the proposed TW Reservoir is not wanted and not needed. There are cheaper, better and far less environmentally damaging solutions to potential future water stress in the south east of England.

COP26

Whilst there are some who were disappointed that the conclusions and decisions of COP26 did not go far enough, much was achieved. – not least an agreement to accelerate the timetable for future COPs and agreement that coal and a reduction in the world's dependence on it would, for the first time, be firmly on the agenda. Those dragging their feet on such issues are going to be increasingly exposed to world disapproval, as are the wealthy countries of the world to finding ways of compensating poorer countries for the costs of carbon reduction policies. More locally there is a need for better coordination between national and local government's actions on tackling the climate emergency.

HIF1 and Active Travel

There is much conversation going on at OCC over the right way to tackle traffic congestion. More roads lead to more traffic in the long term, but past housing growth means we need to reduce gridlock fast, particularly around Didcot and surrounding villages. Like it or not, most are agreed that the new road and Thames bridge are needed. Given that there are problems over increasing materials costs together with costs of reducing the impact on Appleford, there are urgent discussions going on between OCC and government over how to bridge the sizeable funding gap. Meanwhile OCC is wrestling with the problem of how to encourage more people out of cars and into using foot, cycle and public transport – and all on a tight budget.

Parish Councils

Whilst many of our local Parish Councils have vacancies for more councillors, in most cases there has been a welcome influx of new, energetic and young councillors. With both Sutton Courtenay and Marcham working on Neighbourhood Plans, there is much work to be done. Congratulations and thanks to all the new arrivals, and please consider getting involved if you have not already done so.

Planning Issues

With a new Minister for local government and a new focus on "levelling up", some substantial changes are on the horizon. The Oxford/Cambridge Arc is likely to take more of a back seat, whilst the pressure on our area to produce ever more likely housing and

growth is likely to reduce – or at least be diverted elsewhere. Hopefully, this will divert the major developers from exploring and capitalising on gaps in the planning system. As with the Thames Water Reservoir (now in its third iteration), there are examples of developers engaging in a planning war of attrition in which the same application returns again and again. This causes untold anger in village communities.

But I said at the start I wanted to stay positive. So I will wish everyone a very **Happy New Year** – even developers large and small!

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.
Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

MP'S REPORT

I'm delighted to have secured a debate in Parliament on the role of developers, housebuilders and management companies. I could talk for hours and hours about the complaints I receive – to the games developers play to outfox the system, to the low-quality of homes that are built and how bad they often are for the environment, to the lack of affordable houses to the extortionate service charges people are paying for communal areas to be maintained. I'll be covering all of this and more – get in touch if there is something in particular you think should be raised.

Following the success of my pre-COP26 summit for constituents in the summer, I've decided to make it an annual event. I'm very pleased that Alok Sharma, who remains President of COP for another year, has agreed to speak at it. I will share further details as and when they're confirmed in the coming months.

I write this just after the House of Commons has had to vote on so-called Plan B regarding Coronavirus. I share the frustrations of those who don't want to see restrictions re-introduced but I voted for the measures that were proposed as I believe they are proportionate and sensible. I will be as pleased as anyone if Omicron turns out to be much less of a concern that it is right now, but the Government is right not to take the risk.

The particular controversies were over what were described as 'vaccine passports' and the requirement for NHS workers to be vaccinated. Both are sensitive issues, but given you can show a negative lateral flow test (or exemption) instead of proof of vaccine, I do not believe what has been agreed can be described as a vaccine passport as commonly understood. And for decades there has been a requirement for NHS staff, depending on where they work, to have a number of vaccines including MMR, Influenza, BCG and Hepatitis B.

I am a patron of 3 of our local organisations – Play2Give, SecretSanta365 and Team Mikayla – all of which were out in force over Christmas. I was pleased to deliver presents with the first 2 and visit the fantastic Christmas lights display (30,000+ lights!) of Team Mikayla. Those of you who are familiar with them will know what great work they do – those of you who are not should go and check them out!

Finally, I had another great Christmas Card competition with entries from primary school children right across the constituency. It is always a very tough decision, so I end up with several runners-up. Congratulations to Ollie, age 4, from Hagbourne C of E school, who won; Nicholas from Fir Tree Junior School; Avril and Gil from Uffington C of E; and Myah who were runners-up. Special mention to Millie from Charlton Primary School, who did a pretty good drawing of the PM!

Here's to a better 2022 than 2020 or 2021. As ever, if I can help with anything do get in touch via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk
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Team Mikayla's Christmas Lights 2021

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.



ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKE'S CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk



Revd Nick Weldon writes...

Happy New Year! I wonder what the story of 2022 will be for you? Such is the influence of modern media these days, various seemingly all-powerful narratives have dominated the public sphere in the UK in recent years. These include Me Too, Brexit, Climate Change, Anti-colonialism, Black Lives Matter, Gender Equality and Wokeness. Each is driven by the influence of social media. They have been unavoidable and highly charged. Most relate to the secular holy-trinity of equality, diversity and human rights. Of course, the pandemic has been the dominant plotline of the last two years. Meanwhile, you and I try to get on with our day... shower, coffee, school run, work, whatever. So, who or what is going to set the narrative for you in 2022? The Christian is called to positive cultural engagement, but we are also called, as the Apostle Paul writes, to "not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). I think that's a good Bible verse to meditate on at the start of 2022 with its spaghetti junction of competing narratives. The verse could be paraphrased as... refuse to allow the dominant cultural narratives to have the last word in your life. Or as one commentator has written, "don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God remould you from within." My new year's resolution is to pray that for myself, my family, this community and the nation everyday throughout 2022. Let's hope Covid's influence hugely subsides in 2022. I hope what is rotten and self-centred about the secular holy-trinity is left aside too, filtered by true kindness, graciousness and a passion to serve. Overall, in the year ahead, I'm looking forward to further immersing myself in God's great story of redemption. That, for me, is the great lens through which all reality comes into proper focus. So far, it has never been anything less than thrilling to me. It captures the heart, fills me with hope, and drives me forward. I hope you feel the same, or at least will give it some thought if you don't.

From the Registers:

Baptisms & Dedications

Julien Brace
Kieran Lunn

Funerals

Liz Buckingham
Lee Brown

Regular Services

Sunday

10am: Morning service at All Saints
11am-12pm: Open church at St. Luke's Garford
6pm: Evening Service at All Saints

Wednesday Holy Communion

10.30am at Duffield Place

All Age service

Sunday 2nd January

10am at Marcham
Community Centre

All welcome

(No service in church)

Contacts:

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