



Marcham & District News

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

JULY/AUGUST 2022 VOL: 44 No: 7/8

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Marcham celebrates the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II ▲



◀ The Olympics at Pre-school page 11



© Rosemary Harwood

▲ A snapshot from Marcham Open Gardens in June ▲



▲ Do you remember this day 10 years ago? page 5

All Saints' Marcham with Garford
Holiday Club

WONDERFUL

What's My Gift?

Tuesday 30th August - Friday 2nd September

For children aged 4 – 11 years

More details on page 11

Summer Diary July

Date	Event	Pg
2 Sat	Table Top Sale, Hanney WM Hall, 10.00 – 14.00	7
3 Sun	Full immersion baptisms, All Saint's Church, Marcham, 17.00	20
9 Sat	Final day for Donations to MS Society from Alan's Brave the Shave	5
9 Sat	Oxfordshire Past 2022, Banbury Museum, 10.00 – 16.00	17
11 Mon	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Marcham Centre. 19.30	3
15 Fri	Deadline for Millets Competition	15
15 Fri	Marcham Primary School Summer Fete, 18.00 – 20.00	7
18 Mon	Marcham WI: Summer Party, Marcham Centre, 19.30	7
20 – 23	Abingdon Drama Club Presents Nell Gwynn, 19.30 each day	15
20 Wed	Abingdon Arts Society: A Touch of the Sun, Abbey Cinema, 10.30 & 14.00	7

August

7 Sun	Community BBQ, Marcham Centre, 12.30	9
20 Sat	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email editor@madnews.co.uk	
30 Tue	All Saints' Holiday Club until Friday 2 Sept	11

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

August Bank Holiday 2022 Waste Collection

Wednesday 31 August

Thursday 1 September

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Dear Readers

At last! ... Marcham Centre will be officially open for all the events going on over the summer – BBQs, cricket, tennis and more!

Pop into the shop to help them celebrate their 10th anniversary and see what new products have been added to the wide range of goodies already in stock.

We get a break for the summer until the September issue but don't forget to enter the word search competition on page 15!

Until next time



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

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

DISCLAIMER

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

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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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July/August 2022

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

New Parish Councillor

The Council was pleased to be able to co-opt Warren Brooker to the Parish Council to fill one of the vacant seats that it has. Warren lives on the southern side of the village on the new Willows housing development. His particular interests are championing road safety, and building a young persons' programme of activities that appeals to the teenage population in the parish. The Council wishes Warren success in his new role.

Road Closure Packhorse Lane - GigaClear

The road closure in Packhorse Lane, planned for GigaClear works, at the time of writing, is still going ahead, although there could be last minute changes of course. MKJ, working for GigaClear, needs to close a section of the A415 approximately between The Croft and a point just west of the former Baptist Church, between 26th July and 8th August whilst installation of fibre optic cables, customer connection pots, backfilling and reinstatement works are carried out. Access will be maintained for properties in the closed section, but there will be no through-traffic permitted. As this is an 'A' road, the diversion route will be on to other 'A' roads, the A338 to Wantage, the A417 to Rowstock, then northwards to the A34, and similarly the reverse route.

Code of Conduct

The group of Monitoring Officers who deal with Oxfordshire, have agreed a new Model Code of Conduct which governs standards in local government, and sets out the framework within which Councillors must operate. The new Code is to be applied on a countywide basis, and which will provide consistency across all the tiers – County Council, the Districts and City Council, Parishes and Towns. This will enable all councillors throughout Oxfordshire to be subject to the same requirements. Marcham Parish Council adopted the revised Code at its meeting on 13th June.

Longfields Bus Shelter – Cleaning

The Council has booked a contractor to clean the Longfields Bus Shelter when the firm is next in the area. The “windows” are made from GRP and not glass, and unfortunately have scratches and scorch marks, so not all of what appears to be grime will be able to be removed.

Neighbourhood Plan

A Parish Council is responsible for leading on a Neighbourhood Plan and has recently decided on preparing a Plan for Marcham, as it wishes to manage the changes that might occur in the future on key local topics in the area, by documenting policies. There is currently a small group beginning to work on a Plan for the area, but they would like some support from more people. If there is

anyone who would like to have a say in local development or who has a particular interest then please consider joining the group. Further details are available from Cllr. Tony Mackelworth or the Clerk (contact details at www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Councillor Vacancy

Following Warren Brooker's appointment, the Council has just one vacant seat to be filled on the Council, and has been inviting anyone who has an interest in the wellbeing of the local neighbourhood and representing the community to put him/herself forward to join the Council. The vacancy will be an agenda item next month, so this is the last call for anyone who wishes to be considered, to contact the Clerk. As there are formal elections next year, any appointment will be until May 2023.

Planning Applications considered by the Council

P22/V1179/N4D Bothy Vineyard. Change of user from class R status to Flexible Use to microbrewery for making craft beer. The Council had no objection to the use of the building as a small microbrewery, but it did have concerns if this leads to changes to other use classes which could have greater impact on the area.

P22/1283/HH First floor extension at 27 Anson Close. The Council had no objection.

P22/V1269/FUL Erection of new dwelling on land rear of 21 Mill Road. The Council objected on grounds of potential flooding, and requested that a traffic review be undertaken, as well as a review of on-site parking. It continued to support its earlier concerns.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council is **Monday 11th July, 2022** at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Barrow Close OX13 6TY

Please check the Council's website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk in case arrangements change.

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road
Tel: 01865 391833
clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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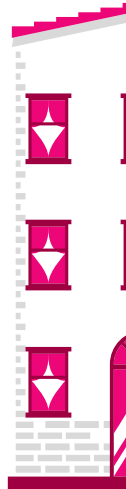
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Dear Editor

I read in MADNews that the Parish Council are considering reducing the speed limit in the village from 30mph to 20mph. While the primary driver is to improve road safety, part of the reasoning was to improve air quality.

Leaving the safety benefits aside and being a curious engineer, I wondered how driving at 20mph instead of 30mph would affect vehicle fuel consumption and hence emissions and air quality. Clearly driving at a lower speed increases the time the vehicle is in the area. Also, the lower speed requires a lower gear thereby increasing fuel usage. Finally I gave up on the theory and tried a practical test. I drove our car, an Audi A3 diesel, along a straight flat stretch of road at 20 and 30 mph on cruise control. Unfortunately the only readout the car could give was instantaneous fuel consumption. Fortunately the reading was fairly steady with relatively minor variations.

30mph	3rd gear	90mpg
20mph	2nd gear	63mpg
20mph	3rd gear*	110mpg

The current DVLA recommendation is to use 2nd gear in a 20mph limit, 3rd gear in a 30mph limit etc. The car was very unhappy driving at 20mph in 3rd gear with the dashboard telling me to change down.

As you can see, the car burned 50% more fuel to cover a set distance at 20mph compared to 30mph. Other effects of a 20mph limit are the additional braking and acceleration either side and increased journey times. The latter is rarely appreciated but, to tradespeople and delivery companies, time is money.

I hope you find the above interesting.

JOHN MANDERS

Dear Editor

Fibre Cabinet - top of Parkside: Hooray for faster Internet speeds

I live in Marcham and would like to canvass opinion on the cabinet recently installed at the top of Parkside. Please can you contact me regarding points as follows :

- Cabinet appearance
- Cabinet location

Please email me: samtowers@fastmail.co.uk

Thank you

SAM TOWERS

Dear Editor

We would like once again to thank all lovely people of Marcham for their support and empathy to Ukraine. The cake stall at the Big Lunch event has helped to raise a whopping £205 in aid for Ukraine. This time the money was donated to two small but vital charitable funds: one of which was created by a school teacher in Kyiv in support of a soldier who lost his limbs in the war; another one is a small charity which helps Ukrainian refugees at the Polish/Ukrainian border and also delivers necessary supplies to the citizens of Kharkiv, a city, which sustained heavy bombing and is still under constant attacks.



A big **Thank You** to the organisers of the Big Lunch for their kind help with setting up the stall and looking after us.

FROM OUR SMALL GROUP OF UKRAINIANS AND BELARUSIANS



Alan, our ex-postie,

**BRAVED
THE SHAVE**

and had all his hair shaved off
for his 70th birthday in aid of
Multiple Sclerosis Research
He has raised over £150 so far but you
can donate in Marcham Village Shop
until Saturday 9 July



Our 10th Anniversary

Your local village shop will celebrate 10 years of voluntary staff and opening hours at the end of July.

We hope we can provide you with your basic grocery necessities, and all of your Post Office requirements. We have regular 'specials', and we try to promote local businesses wherever possible ie Marcham honey, Bothy wines, Wantage flour, jams, chutneys and many more.

Please do pay us a visit and keep us going – we would love to be saying in 10 years from now '*help us to celebrate our 20th anniversary*'.

We have recently extended our Saturday opening hours – new times are as below

Monday – Friday:	0800-1730
Saturday:	0800-1200
Sunday and Bank holidays:	Closed

We will never have enough volunteers, so if you have a spare couple of hours a week and would like to contribute to the community, please let us know.....

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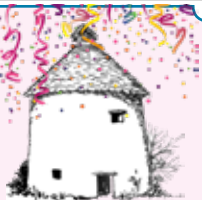
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Marcham WI

Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 18th July 2022



At the Marcham Centre

Summer Party - Fizz & Friends

We are looking forward to seeing you at our summer party on Monday 18th July at The Marcham Centre to enjoy an evening of fizz and friends.

We will be having a bring and share supper, so please bring along a plate of food for sharing. We will also be having a bottle raffle, which always proves popular.

So come along for a summer evening with friends.

Visitors are always welcome.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



Flower arrangements from the June meeting



The
Marcham
Society

The new 2022-23 programme for the Marcham Society begins in September and details of the talks, walks, outings and other activities will be available on the website:

www.MarchamSociety.org.uk

Subscriptions for membership follow the academic year and so renewals will be due on 1st September 2022. Reminders will be sent out to existing members but for information for new members, please email: membership@marchamsociety.org.uk

For more information contact
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk

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TABLE TOP SALE

Hanney WM Hall
10 till 2pm Sat 2nd July

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The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE
Wednesday 20th July, 10.30am and 2.00pm
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A Touch of the Sun by Sarah Lenton



The oddest 'star' in opera is the Sun. Its appearance in The Magic Flute triggers the finale, when everybody dances off bathed in happy, rational daylight. But other operas are more wary about the heat. It's the baking sun that precipitates the disastrous passions in Carmen and Aida, and what about that moment in the year when the sun is at its strongest - midsummer itself. The lecture looks

at operas like The Fairy Queen, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Faust, and especially Lohengrin – all set at this odd time of the year, when quiet English woods and respectable German towns find themselves on the edge of fairyland..

Visitors are very welcome to attend this lecture, cost £6.00. If you are unable to come in person, you can view on Zoom. Please email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk for further information on the venue, any latest changes and updates. Lectures last 1 hour but allow 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



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Despite the drizzly weather, there was a good turnout for the Marcham Community Big Lunch on Sunday 5th June as part of the National celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee along with the individual street parties also held that same weekend. A big **'Thank-you'** goes to Thirsty Café and Neil Rowe for organising the barbecue, catering and jazz band, and the Classic Car Club for its car and motorcycle exhibition. Thanks also to the bar volunteers for their hard work keeping the bar service going. It was the first opportunity to use Marcham Centre for a national celebration of this kind.

Official Opening

We will be holding the long-postponed Official Opening of Marcham Centre on Tuesday 5th July 2022. This will provide us with the opportunity to say a big 'thank-you' to our funders and supporters, show them what their input has achieved and to celebrate this properly.

We have sent invitations to the many volunteers involved in developing and running Marcham Centre and key volunteers running the various community groups using the facilities. We have also invited all members of Marcham Community Group who have supported us financially, some for over a decade! We would be delighted to have you take out membership of Marcham Community Group (£5 single per year; £8 family per year) – please contact jim.asher@btinternet.com for a membership form. It is also the time for existing members to renew subscriptions.

Coming events at Marcham Centre

We are approaching the holiday season, so many of the regular community groups will be taking a break. The events programme will be continuing in September, more details of the autumn and winter events will be included in the next MADNews edition.

Marcham Centre Bar Thank you to everyone who has, and continues to, support the hall's bar facility. Your support is much appreciated and will enable us going forward to improve and support the facilities and the community we all enjoy. The bar opening hours will be kept under review by the Trading Company's Directors Dan Barnes, Geoff Dix and Trevor Hill, primarily based on the demand for its openings and the availability of our wonderful band of bar volunteers, who provide such a competent and 'professional' service.

The standard hours during the summer will be:

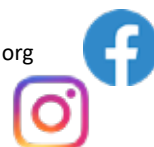
Wednesdays: 7pm - 11pm; Fridays: 5pm - 11pm; Saturdays: 7pm - 9.30pm; and Sundays: midday - 3pm.

These may be extended on occasions that dictate a need to open longer, such as a hall function or sporting activity (cricket or football). Whatever the reason, members of the community are welcome to use the bar whenever it's open. So, if you haven't already, give us a try during the summer - the patio and recreational areas await you!

Table Tennis The table tennis table is available to hire, for periods of an hour or more. This can be made by booking a slot in the meeting room via the www.marchamcentre.org website. Please note: this room is used for other purposes, so you will need to book and pay the 'local user' fee of £8 per hour. Please remember to bring your own bats and balls.

If you wish to book a room at Marcham Centre, please use the booking request system on www.marchamcentre.org or contact our Coordinator: coordinator@marchamcentre.org

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY
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Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Thank you to all the volunteers who made the Marcham Jubilee celebrations possible. *See cover for more photos*



Community grant scheme

Thirsty Café is delighted to announce it is now in a position to launch its Community Grants scheme. From 1 July 2022, any organisation or individual can apply for a small grant

(up to £300) for projects that benefit the Marcham community. Full details are available on our website.

As a Community Benefit Society, we exist to benefit the community. Distributing profits in the form of grants is just one of the ways we aim to do this.

Community BBQ – Sunday, 7th August

Join us at our final community BBQ of the summer from 12:30 on the 7th August. Pre-order via our website to guarantee your food and access a pre-order discount.

Millets 5k – Sunday, 25th September

Sign up to the Millets 5k on Sunday September 25th and help us buy a 'proper' coffee machine for the Café. This year there will be a 1 km kids loop in addition to the 5 km route. Full details and sign-up link on our website.

Café open Wednesday and Saturday, 9 – 11:30 am

**** Please Note: the café will closed during August ****

Website: www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

Email: hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

Phone: 07871 208811



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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

The Olympics have arrived in Marcham! Fencing, Archery, curling, cycling and equestrian events... with more to come AND a torch relay! It's been so much fun and we had some important spectators from around the world, cheering and waving their flags.... You may have heard the teams singing as they came marching in!!!



Nicky Sanford, Early Years Teacher

If you would like to join our waiting list please get in touch as early as possible Call 01865 392101
 Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

We had so much to celebrate as May became June...our **May Day** celebrations were held on Friday 27th May. It was wonderful to be able to welcome families back on to the school premises and to celebrate together. It was also great to have a variety of different dances this year, with English and Scottish country dances as a part of our programme. It really added to the day – and brought out some dancing qualities in some children we didn't know they had! Wonderful! The children had such fun. We include some photos which are pure joy.



And for the **Queen's Jubilee**, we had our own festivities on Friday 10th June. We had a whole school picnic out on the field and then we entertained each other with songs and information from each decade of the Queen's reign. Year 6 celebrated the 50's and the coronation, year 5 had the 60's, year 4 the 70's, year 3 were the 80's, year 2 performed as the Queen's Corgis, year 1 were the 90's and Reception had a dance routine to George Ezra's 'Shotgun' for modern day. The children beamed with enthusiasm and enjoyment, and there was some great singing and fabulous performances right across the school. A number of Year 3 pupils were brightly adorned in legwarmers and there were tie dye t-shirts in Years 4 and 5 (made in school). We have to commend George from Year 6, who was dressed up in a parka, balaclava, woolly hat and ski goggles as Sir Edmund Hillary conquering Mount Everest on possibly the warmest day of the year so far...



Well done to everyone! Thank you to parents and friends for all their support in coming along to be part of our celebrations. As one parent commented, "It's just so lovely to be able to be together again".

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

All Saints' Marcham with Garford
Holiday Club
WONDERFUL
 What's My Gift?
 Tuesday 30th August - Friday 2nd September

We are excited to be running holiday club again this year.

It is open to all children, aged 4 - 11 years old, so that includes those about to start and those about to move on to secondary.

The theme is loosely based on the film Encanto and we will be exploring what gifts God has given us, how we can use them, and discovering that we are all very special. There will be lots of colour, music and a South American vibe. We will have bible stories, games, crafts and much more, and we may even talk about Bruno!

The cost will be £10 per day or £35 for the 4 days 10am - 2pm each day.

Please ask if cost will be prohibitive and / or you have more than one child wanting to come

Please contact Jill Rowe by text 07811165351 or email jill.rowe.ycm@googlemail.com for a booking form, before the end of school term if possible.

looking forward to a fun filled week!

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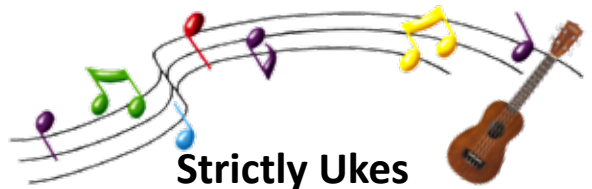
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Theories Behind Various Schools of Thought

This time I've been asked to review another book, after last month's book review was so well received. So, I'll focus on Peter Wohlleben's book, **The Hidden Life of Trees** (ISBN: 978-1771642484) - what they feel, how they communicate: discoveries from a secret world.

This is a book I wish I had read when I was younger. Not saying it's a life changing experience reading this, but it's a mind altering and expansive read, for sure.

In some shops, I've found this on the philosophy shelf. From the title, some assume before reading, this is the limit of this book, but it does have an environmental science influence.

The running order of the sections of the book, is a flowing series of interesting titles, and every chapter clearly covers the theories behind various schools of thought.

For me, at times, some of the contents seemed too repetitive, and too speculative for the average reader, who might be sceptical. For example, there's a lot of anthropomorphism in these pages, and some will argue, trees are not sentient beings, and should not be portrayed as such. People with experience in the field might be more receptive to some of the newer ideas written about. Whoever reads it though, it will certainly profoundly change the way you look at trees (and forests).

The author highlights areas where universal understanding of tree biology may be weak. We understand trees extract nutrients from the ground, but this book, surprisingly to some, maybe, reveals that we don't actually always know how they do it. Osmosis, capillary action, or transpiration cannot always account for the heights the nutrients reach.

I think how trees support the weaker specimens of the same species, hold metaphoric lessons for how humanity could maybe organise its societies better. The strong ones weaken themselves, to enable the weaker to strengthen, I don't think I'll ever forget Peter's writings about this. Everyone should make time to read this book.

A wonderful book, that's accessible, readable and clearly tells the story of the collaboration in a multi-species forest ecosystem. The writing style develops in the reader, empathy for the forest ecosystem and it's a book which subtly alters perceptions of reality. In many ways, the book is profound, maybe because when it was written, it wasn't meant to be?

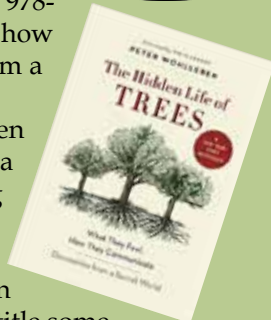
Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

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© William Mankelov



Jubilee Celebrations at Little Angels



What a wonderful time of Jubilee celebrations we have all had.

Painting Gallery of the children's *Our portraits of The Queen*

All our little angels looked at pictures of The Queen and thought carefully about the colours they used to paint our Queen portraits. It was displayed on the fence for everyone to enjoy. Bunting was coloured in, and we have been looking at the colours of the United Kingdom's flag during our Jubilee celebrations. The younger little angels created amazing handprint paintings using our flag's colours of red, white, and blue. We hope you enjoyed the gallery and decorations



The Queen came to visit the children at the nursery and brought her corgi with her and stayed for tea and cake. The children asked lots of questions: How old are you? where do you live? and many of the children were fascinated to see her. The children also took the corgi around the village to look for any decorations and flags that they could find.



The Little Angels also created a wonderful card for the Queen and took a trip to Marcham Post Office to make sure it was sent to Buckingham Palace on time for the celebrations. The card was so big they had to buy an envelope the right size to fit the card.



TREE PLANTING Our tree we planted at our Jubilee party is looking good! All the children took turns to add some soil and a special plaque to mark the occasion was mounted, a big thank you to Millets Farms for choosing us as 1 of 50 recipients to receive a tree.

THE PARTY held for all the children and parents was real fun with so many attending it was lovely to all be together. We played pin the crown on the Queen, a quiz for the adults and we sang songs and waved flags and socialized with each other. Of course, we had cucumber sandwiches, cakes with jelly and ice cream to finish.



Singing the National Anthem -

The children had been practising the National Anthem and stood together and sang **God Save the Queen** waving their flags. It was acknowledged with a huge round of applause with parents clapping and cheering. Every child and team member received a gift to keep of this momentous 70th Jubilee and a flag to take home and wave. We hope you all had as much fun as we did celebrating with family and friends!

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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FIELD | FAMILY | FORK

Competition

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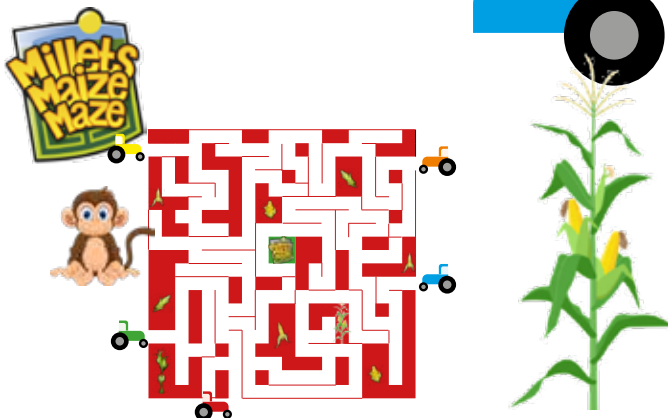
Solve the word search and find in the word that DOES NOT appear in the grid. Send your answer to editor@madnews.co.uk by midnight on Friday 15th July. All correct answers will go into the draw to find the winner!

A	H	T	Q	S	Y	G	O	K	S	K
E	A	Z	U	R	C	R	J	T	K	J
T	M	D	I	X	P	O	R	D	U	A
T	M	F	C	U	E	A	N	E	J	M
J	R	A	H	A	W	K	F	E	H	E
Y	R	R	E	B	P	S	A	R	K	C
E	O	O	E	R	Y	E	O	A	W	Z
O	G	R	S	K	C	E	C	E	R	M
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L	L	O	R	E	G	A	S	U	A	S

- | | | |
|---------|-----------|-------------|
| biscuit | ham | sandwich |
| cake | jam | sausageroll |
| cherry | lemonade | scone |
| cream | quiche | strawberry |
| egg | raspberry | tea |

* image for illustration only, may not be the cream tea you win!

Congratulations to Thomas Leeman, aged 4, who helped Maddie drive the blue tractor to the centre of Millets Maize Maze last month.



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Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society

Oxfordshire Past 2022



Oxfordshire Past this year will take place at **Banbury Museum and Gallery on Saturday 9th July** and will include the 2022 OAHS AGM and a diverse programme of talks (for more information see the website oahs.org.uk/oxpast). This enjoyable annual event in the Oxfordshire calendar is for anyone interested in local history, buildings and archaeology.

There will be a range of stalls and exhibits including the museum's exhibition Heroes of the Viking World (separate entrance fee) open throughout the day.

Tickets cost £10 and include tea/coffee during the breaks and may be purchased in advance from oahs.org.uk/oxpast or on the day (there is a limit to the number of places so book early to avoid disappointment).

Heroes of the Viking World

Sat 25th June - Sun 6th November 2022

In this age, where superheroes exist only in fiction, discover some of the real-life 'celebrities' of the Viking world, including Eric Bloodaxe – last Viking King of York, Lathgertha – warrior woman, and Harald Hardrada – the thunderbolt of the North. Delve into the world of Viking myth and uncover the superpowers of Viking gods such as Thor and Odin. Plus, immerse yourself in the smells and sights of the Viking Age when you step inside the impressive replica Viking tent!



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OWR is a lot more than a timber merchant. Although the Woodshop has been described as an Aladdin's cave of useful wood and quirky items, in fulfilling its mission to care for the environment and transform lives all of their business activities are solely for the benefit of our community.

Marcham and District residents may have seen OWR's caged trucks scurrying to and from domestic or commercial pick-ups of waste wood. At least 20% of the wood is reclaimed – the rest is recycled – resulting in 350-400 tonnes per annum of timber kept in circulation and available for DIY. Some staff started as volunteers at OWR before being offered permanent roles and they are rightly proud of the support provided to ensure that everyone develops and thrives. In 2021 with help from the Postcode Lottery 'Wood to Work' opened, a professional employability service serving individuals perhaps furthest from being able to compete in the jobs market. There have been fantastic early results with four of the first participants being offered employment in the past couple of months.

If you are popping in for some wood or just to look around, you will be warmly welcomed and be assured that the timber and furniture products are hard fought for and come with added value.

For more information see www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk

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STARTING AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

SCAN ME



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**EXTRA CLARIFICATION**

As various people have asked me why I stepped down from my cabinet position in May, I thought I would start this month's report with some extra clarification.

Simply put, I have an ever-expanding family who need my help with child care and other family demands. In fact, at this very moment Richard and I are in San Diego, California, helping my daughter and son-in-law with all the extra needs that arise from the birth of a second child (our 8th grandchild) ...



many of you will understand how difficult it is for the first child to accept a new arrival! So, after a lot of soul searching, I decided that family must come first and that I had to reduce my council workload. Furthermore, it would not be responsible to stay as a cabinet member if I could not give the necessary number of hours each week to my portfolio. However, that does not mean that I am reducing my work as your District Councillor.on the contrary, I will continue to represent you fully and am more than willing for you to contact me whenever there is a problem you think the District Council might be able to help sort out. (see contact details below)

GETTING FAMILIES ACTIVE

The Vale has launched YouMove, a new initiative providing low-cost or free activities for children and families who receive benefits-related free school meals in Oxfordshire. Activities include cricket, swimming and badminton and more information can be found on the Vale website: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/youmove

In addition to the above, our leisure provider, GLL, is offering refugees a free three-month Better Health Centre membership or a subscription to a course or lesson.

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND EXTENSION

More help has been extended for households who are struggling to afford energy, food and other related expenses. In June, the fund was opened to applications from residents who had not received support in earlier rounds. Information is available from the Vale website. And the Community Hub team is always available with help and advice.

DAMAGE TO PUBLIC TOILETS IN ABINGDON

Many of you will be aware of the dreadful damage that has been done to the public toilets in Abingdon, including doors being kicked in, tiles smashed and fixtures and fittings damaged.

The toilets at The Charter are now shut until the damage can be fully repaired, which is likely to take several months. As a result, residents and visitors are being asked to use alternative public toilets at Hales Meadow or Abbey Meadows. There is also a toilet for disabled users under the Archway by Abbey Cinema, and it is run by Abingdon Town Council. Access is via a RADAR key.

You may be interested to know that this year, Vale of White Horse District Council has already been forced to foot the bill for costly repairs following similar acts of destruction on facilities in Abingdon in April, as well as for repairs to the public toilets in Grove which have also been targeted by vandals. The council will now have to use more public funds to repair the Charter toilets, funds which could have been used for paying for vital services or to support vulnerable people in our community.

These vandalism incidents have been reported to Thames Valley Police, but if you see someone damaging public facilities, or know who is responsible, please contact the police on 101.

VACCINATION UPDATE

- People aged 75 and over, and people who are immunosuppressed are now eligible for a Spring booster vaccine. The NHS will contact those who are eligible to book an appointment. Visit

www.nhs.uk/covid-booster for more information. Please do not contact the NHS.

- The NHS will invite people as they become eligible for their Spring/second booster. This may be as soon as 3 months since their last dose this can be booked through the National Booking Service or by calling 119 Please do not contact your local NHS. To find out more, visit www.nhs.uk/covid-booster.
- Appointments are available for children aged 5 to 11. Parents and guardians can go online <https://www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination> or call 119 to book an appointment.
- If a child has had COVID-19 they will still get extra protection from the vaccine, but they will need to wait 12 weeks before getting vaccinated.
- The following will continue:
 - all individuals aged 12 and over should be offered a primary course of two doses (or three doses if severely immunosuppressed at the time of their 1st or 2nd dose)
 - those aged 16 and over and those aged 12 to 15 in a risk group should also be offered a booster dose

I hope you have found some of this useful or interesting, and, as MADNews does not have an edition in August, I wish you a healthy, happy August break.

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**SCAMS. -BEWARE.**

Scamming has become increasingly common in recent years. COVID has given scammers many new opportunities and it seems that our ability to tackle the problem is permanently lagging behind the ingenuity/criminality of the scammers. Most financial institutions have improved their security often seemingly at the expense of the customer's convenience and ease of use. Security phone calls and messages and an extra layer of complication to even the simplest of financial transactions. Until our systems have worked out how to trace scammers, we are stuck with the system as it is. It is now more important than ever that we protect the vulnerable and our family and friends from scamming and other types of sharp practice. My recent experience has taught me that it is not only the 'elderly and vulnerable' who can be very easily scammed. I have discovered the hard way that obtaining an 'ESTA' form for foreign travel to the US is open to such sharp practice.

The first contact details that appear on a Google search for ESTAs all appear to be bona fide government websites with all the official logos. When contacted, the applicant is invited to fill in a form (name, DOB, passport number etc) and an official ESTA will be returned in a couple of days. All for a charge of somewhere between £120-£150 per ESTA. What you are not told is that they are transferring the information to an official government ESTA service form – a form that is no more complex than the one you have just completed – and sent it in to the official government ESTA-issuing authority. It costs them (in my case) \$14 for this non-service. In other words they have pocketed well over £100 for doing something you can do for yourself.

I am still to explain to my wife why our visit to the US to greet our new grandchild has cost £280 more than intended.

20MPH INITIATIVE

There has never been an Oxfordshire County Council initiative more popular than the installation of 20mph zones in any village or town that wants it. True, there some hoops that have to be gone through to



qualify, but the process is straightforward. I am not aware of anyone who has failed. It would be a brave politician who tried to unravel or challenge the initiative now.

I have received a couple of enquiries asking exactly what is the justification for this initiative. It's a fair question, so here is my attempt to answer it. Obviously safety is the overriding justification. All Councils are trying to get people out of cars and make walking and cycling a more attractive and less risky option. The chances of death or serious injury are drastically reduced as speeds reduce from 30-20mph. With increasing numbers of electric cars, any concerns that 20mph produces more pollution are becoming less persuasive. Enforcement is an issue, but the safety benefits increase every 1mph reduction in traffic speeds. If some drivers are determined to drive at 30mph in a 20mph zone, other people are safer than if the same driver drives at 35mph in a 30mph zone. In other words, enforcement, in my view, should never stop us introducing speed limits. Every life saved, every injury less severe is progress.

Much will be happening in the autumn with decisions on the Reservoir and major local road building. So, wishing everyone a good holiday, free of Covid and, if possible free of travel disruption.

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

Phone 01235 534001 or email Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

MP'S REPORT

I've just launched a campaign to help young people at local state schools get work experience at the great employers we have in the constituency. This was part of what I used to do when I ran charities because most work experience goes to the relatives of existing employees or clients, meaning young people without connections struggle to get it. It's vital to get, because it gives you first understanding of the world of work, teaching you what to wear, how to interact with people, how an organisation fits together and giving you something you can put on your CV – as well as your first connections. It has almost disappeared as a result of the pandemic, so I'm leaning on the employers at Harwell and Milton Park, in particular. If your organisation can help, wherever it is, do please get in touch.



On 2 consecutive days we had debates that allowed me to raise some of the constituent issues I am most often contacted about. First, we had the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, which contains the Government's planning reforms. I am very pleased the Government has listened to those of us who raised objections to the zonal system that was being suggested. It is also going to put more weight on local plans and not require a 5-year land supply if your local plan is up to date – welcome news for us.

The planning process will be fully digitalised, and I asked again for hybrid meetings to be permitted (as well as measures to ensure the digitally excluded can still participate). I banged the drum again for my campaign for new houses to be built to the latest environmental standard, not the one when they got planning permission, which is often several years earlier. I also stressed there is still an issue with housing targets. South and Vale have typically exceeded their targets, but we continue to have an issue with the city of Oxford demanding the highest number of houses then hardly building any of them, meaning the burden falls on the rest of the county.

And, of course, I raised lack of infrastructure, which I did again the following day in a debate about Ofwat. The Government has just set new priorities for Ofwat, and I used a debate on these to talk about the sewage releases in Oxfordshire waters, the poor water infrastructure that often accompanies new homes and the objections to the reservoir proposal. You can find both speeches on

my website/Facebook pages.

I had a great 4 days of Platinum Jubilee celebrations including in Didcot, Faringdon, Wantage, Grove, West Hanney, Harwell and Wallingford. Along the way there was lots of food, plenty of games, Vikings, morris dancers, animals and an impressive array of classic cars – well done to everyone involved. God save our wonderful Queen.

As ever, if I can help with anything do get in touch via **david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk**

DAVID JOHNSTON OBE MP, Member of Parliament for Wantage, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
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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

The Water summit to be hosted by Oxfordshire County Council that was scheduled for June has been postponed until September. We will provide an update once the new date is confirmed. GARD have been reviewing the WRSE consultation response and points to highlight at this stage include:

- The Reservoir is the strategic project which had the most opposition - over 500 out of 1150 responses opposed the scheme.
- Whilst WRSE appear to acknowledge our response and criticisms (GARD is mentioned 25 times compared to Ofwat's 18), they have made little attempt to address our concerns now. Many of these concerns were shared in Ofwat's view of the plan, especially on lack of detailed cost, or environmental justification, or consideration of alternatives.
- WRSE state that they do not propose to provide a detailed response to the issues raised at this stage in the process but that more detailed information on the assessment of costs, benefits and potential environmental effects of the options will be made available in Autumn 2022, for the options selected in the draft regional plan, and for the alternatives. This will include a reasoned justification for the overall strategy in the draft regional plan, and for the selection of options within that strategy.
- The Severn Thames Transfer was the option with the biggest support (more than one in four of responses), including much support for the transfer to be done via the Cotswold canal.

It's clear GARD and all local residents who responded to the consultation have made an impact. Thanks once again to everyone who took part.

More encouragement came from our MP, David Johnston, who spoke against the reservoir plans (and Thames Water's appalling record on sewage) in a debate in Parliament. This was covered by the Oxford Mail, and you can view the debate at <https://fb.watch/dzvLwY5PZw/>

In the meantime for further information, contact details and updates visit: www.gard-oxon.org.uk, Facebook: [@abingdonreservoir](https://www.facebook.com/abingdonreservoir), Twitter: [@GARD OXON](https://twitter.com/GARD_OXON)



ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKES CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk



Work, Rest and Play

I grew up in the UK in the 1980's back when there were only four TV channels, changing them required exercise, and Mars Bars were good for you. So complete the following sentence: "a Mars a day helps you..." How can we have been so stupid? How could 260 calories help you rest? I can see how a Mars Bar might help you work and play. But rest? Perhaps this humble fat-inducing snack might hold some wisdom for us at this time of year when many will try to slow down and.... "have a break". (At least a Kit Kat contains only 107 calories!) Summer is here, and holidays may beckon. Perhaps, like us, you are looking forward to a first summer holiday abroad for over 2 years, just as long as cancellations don't scupper it. People with busy working lives, especially those with family commitments and responsibilities in the community, will often think in terms of trying to live a balanced life; attempting to strike some mythical perfect "work-life balance". But in village communities like ours, work and life are often intertwined, and in some cases inseparable. With many people now working from home more, and lots in our community serving faithfully in active retirement, life tends to be a mixture of work, rest and play. Perhaps the more constructive way of thinking is to seek a blended life rather than a balanced one. I think this is more realistic when commitments are multiple and overlapping. That's why I like the 80's Mars Bar slogan theory. It places work, rest and play in close relation to each other as they tend to be in reality. Maybe the image of a perfectly blended smoothie is more apt at this time of year? The right amount of fruit, a glug of milk, and a blob or seven of ice cream. So sustainable, fruitful living is a blend of hard work, mixed with a healthy dollop of rest, spiced with just the right amount of fun and spontaneity too.

The Bible is wonderfully practical when it comes to life and work. Genesis teaches that God created people for work, but also that he rested on the seventh day after completing his work of creating. He sits back and enjoys the fruit of his labour. Much of modern life has lost that pattern of weekly Sabbath rest, and I think we are generally more tired and stressed as a result. So I encourage you to take a break if you possibly can this summer. Get the blend right and take a lesson from the Mars Bar and the smoothie. As that great icon of the 80's, Ferris Bueller, said: "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

HOLIDAY CLUB Tuesday 30th Aug – Friday 2nd Sept – see page 11 for details.

Service of full immersion baptism 5pm Sunday 3rd July at All Saints' - all welcome!

Regular services (ALL WEEKS)

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

Wednesday Holy Communion

10.30am at Duffield Place

From the

Registers:

Baptisms

Jacob Cobban

Tobias Blenkinsopp



Contacts:

Revd. Nick Weldon Vicar vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org 01865 391962, **Rob Finch** Youth Worker 07888331708, rob@marchamyouth.org **Jill Rowe** Children and Families minister families@allsaintsmarcham.org **Tamsin Gilbert** Parish Administrator info@allsaintsmarcham.org