

Marcham & District News

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

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

DECEMBER 2022 VOL: 44 No: 12

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Can you spot the Elf in Marcham Shop? see page 5 ▲



MAD News
NEEDS A NEW
EDITOR!
COULD IT BE YOU?
SEE PAGE 3



December Diary

Date	Event	Pg
2 Fri	Marcham Primary School PTA Christmas Fayre, 18.00-20.00	7
2 Fri	Quiz Night at Marcham Centre, 20.00	9
3 Sat	The Crown Open Meeting, Marcham Centre, 19.00	13
8 Thu	Marcham Society Astronomy Group, 19.00	9
4 Sat	Didcot Festive Market, Orchard Centre Didcot	7
8 Thu	Marcham Society midweek Walk, 12.30	9
9 Fri	Christmas Tree Celebration. Lighting Ceremony, All Saints' Church, 17.30	7
10 Sat	Mini Christmas Market, Bothy Vineyard 10.00-16.00	7
12 Mon	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Marcham Village Hall, Marcham Centre. 19.30	3
13 Tue	OAHS Lecture: The Old Ashmolean, Rewley House, Oxford 17.30	17
15 Thu	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email editor@madnews.co.uk	
15 Thu	Deadline for Millets Wildside Competition, 17.00	17
15 Thu	Deadline for Solar Farm Consultation	18
17 Sat	Harmony InSpires Christmas Harmony Concert, Abingdon, 17.00	5
17 Sat	Family Christmas Party, Marcham Centre, 18.00-21.00	15
19 Mon	Last posting for 2nd class inland mail	5
19 Mon	Marcham WI: Christmas Party, Marcham Centre, 19.30	9
21 Wed	Last posting for 1st class inland mail	5

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



▲ 10 years of Marcham Post Office!
The team received an award and certificate to celebrate their achievement



▲ Little Angels having fun for Children in Need see page 11

Merry Christmas



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Dear Readers

The time has come! I will be stepping down as Editor of MADNews in the spring after nearly 19 years! So I am looking for someone willing to take MADNews to the next level, whatever that may be!

It is a voluntary position with great opportunities to learn so much about the people and places in the MAD area... and beyond.

I have really enjoyed my time as Editor – could you be the next? Get in touch if you would like to find out more.

Merry Christmas



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PROOFREADING

Jane Mander
DEADLINES

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

ADDITIONAL COPIES

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

DISCLAIMER

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

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

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

For other councillors go to www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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December 2022

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL Christmas Tree Recycling

It's that time of year to begin to think about Christmas trees again, and how to dispose of them once the festive period is over. The Vale of White Horse District Council will be running its Christmas tree recycling scheme this year. Trees can be taken to Millets Farm or placed on the hardstanding by the Salvation Army textile bank in Howard Cornish Road (opposite Duffield Place). Please do not obstruct access to the textile bank or the bus stop though. Trees will be collected from Millets Farm on Sunday 8th January, 2023, and from Howard Cornish Road on Wednesday 18th January, 2023. Trees will need to be left, at the latest, the day before collection. In case of changes please keep an eye on the District Council's website/ social media for any collection updates.

Parishioner of the Year

The Council is again considering the possibility of an award for 2022. The Award recognises the efforts of local people who at any time have significantly contributed to life within the parish during that year, or at any time prior to 2022. Nominations from previous years 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 wishes 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.

Grant Applications

Applications for grants were considered at the November meeting of the Parish Council. The Council awards grants, subject to certain conditions, where there is benefit for the residents of Marcham. The Council was pleased to be able to support the following organisations:

- Marcham Parochial Church Council - £250 towards the costs of running Friday Club
- Vale of White Horse and Ridgeway Archaeological and Historic Trust - £1000 towards roof repairs on their archive facility.
- Marcham Community Group - £2900 towards grounds maintenance on the field
- My Vision - £250 towards running costs
- Abingdon Carousel Family Centre - £300 towards running costs.
- South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau - £1000 towards running costs
- Be Free Young Carers - £150 towards running costs
- Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - £150

Community Speedwatch Group

A Community Speedwatch Group is a partnership between the community, the Local Authorities and Police, and gives local people who are concerned about traffic speeds in their area the chance to become actively involved in road safety. The Council has agreed to start a speedwatch group for Marcham, and two parish councillors, James Plumb and Warren Brooker have

undertaken training. We now need a team of local residents who are willing to volunteer a small amount of time on a regular basis, to be trained and use the speed detection equipment to check traffic speeds in areas where it is thought vehicles are travelling in excess of the permitted limit. Drivers of vehicles observed speeding will be sent a warning letter. If found to be a persistent offender, further Police action could follow.

If you are interested in becoming part of Marcham's Speedwatch Group then please let the Clerk or your local Parish Councillor know.

Christmas Tree – Village Green

To bring seasonal cheer to the village, the Council is again planning to site a Christmas tree on the village green. It is very grateful to Andrew MacLean for providing the tree again this year. Andrew has also very kindly offered to provide a bare rooted tree which can be planted to grow gradually for future years. Sadly the tree planted last year did not survive the high winds.

Primary School Admission September 2023

– Is your child 3 or 4 years old? If you are a parent or carer of a child born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 (inclusive) then you need to apply for a primary school place. You still have to apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school. For further information and to apply online go to <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/reception-applications>The closing date for applications is 15th January, 2023. If you do not have immediate internet access, then you can access the internet at many of the County Council's libraries when they are open.

Planning Applications considered by the Council

P22/V2562/PDH Extension at Brushwood, Woodside. The Council had no objections
P22/V2421/FUL and P22/V2422/LB Installation of photovoltaic panels on garage roof along with ground mounted air source heat pump at Denman College. The Council had no objections in principle, but did not wish to see any impact on the listed wall adjacent, and noise from the pump in the sensitive conservation area setting. More information about this was requested.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 12th December, 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

The Council wishes everyone a happy Christmas.

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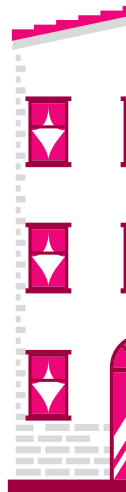
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Dear Editor

The recent much-needed rainfall brings an unpleasant and hazardous after-effect. Thames Water is again releasing untreated sewage into the rivers. This takes up to four days to clear and is obviously a hazard for all those who use the rivers. Anyone interested in when/where and how long these releases happen can sign up to Thames Water for alerts via email. Also for those interested, there is an organisation WASP (Windrush Against Sewage Pollution) where the dedicated Ash Smith campaigns tirelessly to highlight the problem. It's about time the water companies were made accountable for this practice.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

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<https://theriverstrust.org/key-issues/sewage-in-rivers>
<https://twitter.com/OxThamesSewage>
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<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/performance/river-health/oxfordshire-notifications>

MARCHAM WAR MEMORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANNED CONSULTATION



This month many people attended the Remembrance Service at the Church and War Memorial. The structure, described as a wayside cross, was first dedicated on the 25th June 1920 and was bestowed to the Parish by Mr and Mrs Gore-Browne of Oakley House.

Marcham has changed significantly since 1920, not least the amount of traffic along Frilford Road passing by the Memorial. Accordingly, to recognise the changing face of the village there is some discussion as to whether the current location of the War Memorial is the most suitable. Therefore Marcham Parish Council would like to announce the intention to begin a consultation process, commencing in the New Year, involving the residents of Marcham, Frilford and Garford to understand views, concerns and wishes for the War Memorial. More details of the consultation process are to follow and will be outlined in future editions of MADNews.

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Facebook: [marchamvillageshop](https://www.facebook.com/marchamvillageshop)

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

Saturday 24th 8.00-12.00
 25th to 27th Closed

Wednesday 28th 8.00-12.00

Thursday 29th 8.00-12.00

Friday 30th 8.00-12.00

Saturday 31st 8.00-12.00

1st Jan & 2nd Closed

Tuesday 3rd Jan

Open as usual 8.00-17.30

Leading up to Christmas we have on offer some lovely gift ideas that cannot be found in your local supermarket! Come and have a look – there are gifts for all ages, and some interesting Gin ideas for those that fancy the odd tippie. All this, and of course your traditional and daily needs in the grocery and household department.

Thank you to **Tracy** for a fabulous Christmas window display – doesn't it look good? And, we have a **naughty Elf**. This year the Elf will move around the shop on a weekly basis. We have devised a little quiz for those aged 10 years and under, and the details can be found in the shop. Each Thursday, until Christmas, the naughty Elf will find a new position and remain there for one week – find the Elf each week, write your answers on the quiz sheet, and hand into the shop by Friday 23 December. All correct answers will be given a prize, so the next time you're in the shop after Christmas – please ask and we will let you know the result.

We are also holding a **Christmas raffle** – for any age! You will love this – a sumptuously huge **Baylis and Harding gift set**. Raffle tickets can be bought from the shop and will cost £1 per strip. The draw will take place on 24 December and the winner will be notified. **Come in and have a go!**

This year, the shop will be joining in with other local voluntary organisations to decorate trees and our theme will be the **12 Days of Christmas**. The tree lighting-up ceremony will be at the church at 6pm on Friday 9 December.



Can You Help?

Marcham Post Office needs more **volunteers** to keep it running. You will get full training and support from all your colleagues, so if you are friendly and comfortable using a touch screen, come and have a chat!

Old stamp deadline extended to July 2022

Use up your old non-barcoded stamps on your Christmas cards this year... and if you have some left over you can swap them with Royal Mail - go to www.royalmail.co.uk for more details or ask for a form at the PO. Sorry, you can't swap them with us.



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- Mon 5 Dec** Remaining Caribbean destinations
- Wed 7 Dec** Africa, rest of Asia, Central and South America, Far and Middle East
- Thur 8 Dec** Cyprus and Malta
- Fri 9 Dec** Greece, Eastern Europe
- Sat 10 Dec** Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Poland, Sweden, USA
- Mon 12 Dec** Austria, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland
- Wed 14 Dec** Belgium, France, Luxembourg
- Fri 16 Dec** Royal Mail Bulk Mail Economy
- Mon 19 Dec** 2nd Class, 2nd Class Signed For, Royal Mail 48®
- Wed 21 Dec** 1st Class, 1st Class Signed For, Royal Mail 24®, Royal Mail Tracked 48®**
- Thur 22 Dec** Royal Mail Tracked 24®**
- Fri 23 Dec** Special Delivery Guaranteed®

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Thank everyone for the great response to
Christmas Tree Celebration

Lighting Ceremony will be
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 Festive Refreshments served from 5.30, short service and
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Marcham WI

Next Meeting: Christmas Party Evening

7.30pm Monday, 19th December 2022

At the Marcham Centre



To really get you in the festive spirit, wear something Christmassy and come along for some fun at Marcham WI's **Christmas Party**. We'll be having a bring and share supper, so please bring along a plate of sweet or savoury food to share while enjoying everyone's company.

We'll be having a Christmas bottle raffle again this year, so it would be much appreciated if you could bring along a contribution – it could be a bottle of anything, so wrap it up to add to the surprise.

There will also be a collection of non-perishable treats for the food bank, unwrapped so they can see what has been donated, but they could be decorated with cellophane or some ribbon to look festive.

We hope to see you all there for a fun evening.

Visitors are always welcome.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349

pippahoath@gmail.com



History came to life for the Marcham Society in November with a well attended visit to the house of **Oscar Nemon**. Who? I hear you ask.

Nemon, as he always referred to himself as, was an early twentieth century sculptor of considerable talent.

Born Oskar Neumann in the town of Osijek in present day Croatia, he developed his skills during his teenage years. Later, he settled in Belgium to study at the Académie de Beaux Arts in Brussels; however, Nemon was born to Jewish parents and it became increasingly clear that he would have to escape mainland Europe to keep one step ahead of the growing influence of the Nazi party.

Ultimately, Nemon settled in Oxford in 1942, and sculpted in his studio, Queen Elizabeth (The Queen Mother), Churchill, Freud, Truman, Eisenhower and Macmillan among many other notables during his time there.

He lost many of his family during the war, and created an area of remembrance in his garden, where, at 1100 on the 11th November we stood in reflective silence.

Our visit there was truly interesting, enhanced by our enthusiastic and at times, emotional guide, Alice, who is the daughter-in-law of Nemon, to whom we are all thankful for a day that we will remember for many years to come.

For more information: oscardnemon.org.uk



© Rosemary Harwood

Marcham Village Shop requires a Company Secretary



Are you winding down in your job or retired and looking for a new interest?

Marcham Village Shop is looking to recruit a volunteer Company Secretary/Director. The job is part of the shop management team, helping shape the future of the shop. You will be responsible for ensuring that management routines and statutory requirements are carried out.

The job would suit someone who is organised, has strong attention to detail and an interest in helping the community.

For more details please contact

Mrs Christine Munro (Chair)

on 01865 391624 or 07818 201973

QUIZ NIGHT – ALL WELCOME
FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER – VILLAGE HALL



A Quiz night will be held in the Main Hall in Marcham Centre, starting at 8.00 pm

Questions are on a range of subjects and aimed at everyone's ability! Teams of up to five people. £10 per team.

Everyone welcome, just turn up on the night for a friendly evening of fun and banter.



Bar Open, for those interested!

More dates: 3 Feb, 3 and 31 March

For further information call Trevor Hill on 01865 391321

Upcoming Events

Thursday, 8th December 12.30pm - **Marcham Society Midweek Walk** - contact e.dunford@btinternet.com

Thursday, 8th December 7pm - **Marcham Society Astronomy Group** - contact jim.asher@btinternet.com.

For more information contact membership@marchamsociety.org.uk

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

Facebook: [marchamsociety](https://www.facebook.com/marchamsociety)



Here's Maddie with a letter for the December Millets competition
See page 17 for full details

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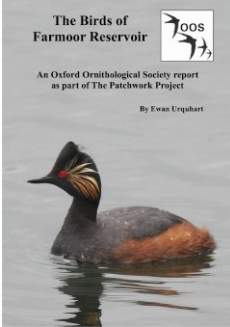
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THE BIRDS OF FARMOOR RESERVOIR

If you occasionally walk round the Farmoor Reservoir you may be aware of the many different birds that can often be seen. This brand new 64-page booklet gives a brief history and background to the reservoir and a list of all 250 species of bird recorded there, with over 100 full colour photos.

A small number of copies is available in Marcham Post Office and Shop priced £7.95, but further copies can be obtained from Eric Dunford (e.dunford@btinternet.com - tel 01865 391439) if they are sold out.





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**RBL Poppy Appeal for
Marcham, Frilford and Cothill**



We are delighted to announce the Poppy Appeal Collection for 2022 has raised **£5,081.15** from the villages of

Marcham, Garford, Frilford, Eaton and Appleton We would like to thank all the premises and businesses that supported us with collection points. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

Christine and Malcolm Denton

PS This is our last year as local organisers and we will be handing over to some willing volunteers for next year's appeal. Watch this space for further announcements. Your support to us over the last 11 years has been deeply appreciated and we look forward to making the handover as smooth as possible.

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL
There have been a lot of changes within pre-school, if you would like to find out more please visit www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com or contact us at marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk, 01865 392101



CORAL RAG

Since 2001 the Marcham Society has published eleven volumes of 'Coral Rag' containing articles covering topics of local interest, including Natural History, Geography, Archaeology and History. Copies are on sale in the Village Shop.



We invite anyone with an interest in a particular aspect of local history to submit an article for a future issue.

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

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

Bank Holiday 2022/3 Waste Collection Changes

Wednesday 28 Dec	Friday 30 Dec
Rubbish and Food Waste	
Wednesday 4 Jan	Friday 6 Jan
Recycling and Food Waste NOT GARDEN	
Wednesday 11 Jan	Thursday 12 Jan
Rubbish and Food Waste	



Yellow Room

At the start of the month the Yellow Room had pumpkins to play with and to carve. The adults helped scoop out the inside using great hand/eye coordination and the children felt the textures and smells of the Halloween tradition. The children have been using their senses again experiment ing with colour mixing and firework pictures. They have been going for walks around the village looking out for Tommy the Soldier who has been placed at different locations, and visiting the local park using the swings.



In the Yellow Room the children have been spending time with a dinosaur world, with large soft dinosaurs and natural materials of water, leaves, fir cones to create the dinosaur world. A wonderful adventure and environment for the children's imagination.

Green and Teal Room

At the beginning of the month the preschool children have been experimenting with colours creating and mixing paint, glitter, stars to create firework pictures of their own. The children were taught safety of fireworks and the firework code and how important it is to be always with an adult. They created bonfire pictures with leaves of varies colours and mixed it with paint and sticks to create the most amazing 3D collages.

In November the Little Angels had a visit from Tommy who sat outside the front door to welcome everyone in. The children were taken out to meet Tommy and the preschoolers were taught a little history about how important the special soldiers were who gave their lives to make sure we had somewhere safe to live. The children looked at the poppy flower and created their own poppies resulting in a large poppy wreath to lay on Remembrance Day. Every preschool child added their own personal poppy to the wreath.

The preschoolers also had fun on **Children in Need Day**, making Pudsey bear pictures and even our own little Pudsey got to play with other animals in the Green Room, having fun riding on a giraffe. The children really express their imaginations in so many ways.

Preparations have also been well on the way with the children practising the nativity songs and finding their costumes for the nativity play. The excitement is building, and we are looking forward the performance in December.

Soup and Sparklers Night

To celebrate fireworks night, we organised a SOUP and SPARKELRS night. This was well attended by parents and children, who all enjoyed a mug of hot soup along with the fascination and wonder of sparklers. We hope you all enjoyed your evening; I know we all did.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

All the Little Angels joined together in the garden on 11th November at 11am and David Burfitt kindly played the Last Post on his trumpet, stood on our little hill. The Little Angels listened well and sat quietly for 2 minutes silence which was followed by the laying of their poppy wreath.



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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Challenging Times



Every now and then, a health scare hits us, our friends, a family member, or someone connected with us. Sometimes, the best form of support we need, or others need from us, is consistency, and for us or them, to just be there. Words aren't always needed at such times, just that connection, that reliability, and that consistency that I mentioned before, is all that's required.

So often we turn to nature, wildlife, the garden, and the green environment at these kinds of times. Its different for all of us, and what a connection to nature means to us is as individual as we are. The answer to that question is as varied and individual as the challenges and solutions we all face. What we turn to though, when we turn to nature, is that consistency, even if we don't truly understand it.

A connection to nature could manifest in being in the physical presence of it, or psychologically, when we reminisce with the memories of being out there amongst nature.

I'm in the middle of one of those health scares as I write this, but I won't list my ailments here. What I can say though, is for a while there, it was felt I could have had lung cancer, but after numerous explorations shall we say, it's been narrowed down to lung disease, either caused by Rheumatoid Arthritis or Tuberculosis.

During the medical procedure, I visualised my favourite place in nature, to try and divert my thinking away from the doctor rooting around in my chest, whilst I was awake and she took the biopsy. After the procedure I've been regularly thinking about times spent in nature with loved ones, and as we reflect and reprioritise at times like these, I've noticed how thoughts of nature creeps in there.

During the Covid lockdowns we all reflected on what was important to us, and became more aware of how caring for and appreciating nature is. Collectively though maybe, we've slipped back to some old habit since then, and when fresh challenges arise, we are maybe only then reminded of the importance of nature? So I propose we set up a new international day, a **Remember Nature Day**, with the subheading of, **We Are Part Of It And Not Separate To It**. It's just a thought. Anyway, enjoy the season, and remember to allow time to reflect now and then on what matters. Notice how an appreciation of nature increases in us at challenging times.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk



As you may have noticed **The Crown** is up for Sale!

Your opportunity to have a say on its future. Residential conversion, or Community Pub? Your Chance to Save the Last Pub in the Village.

Open meeting at the Marcham Centre

Saturday 3rd Dec 7.00pm

Come and have your say. **Cheers**



Climate Change

How can you help?

...and reduce your energy bills too!

Exhibition and Presentations

**Saturday 7th to Sunday 15th of January
at the Marcham Centre**

This climate exhibition will be in the form of short texts, cartoons, photos and graphs. It will look at the evidence of climate change, its causes, impacts, and responsible sectors and the many solutions already available .

It focuses on the actions we, the citizens, employees and consumers, can take on all levels. It will point towards local climate and environmental initiatives and groups already active.

It will offer expert advice and contacts on how to both save the climate and money, finding out about energy efficiency, insulation, renewable energy like air source pumps, wind farms and solar panels, on a private or community-led level.

Beside the varied opening times you can see on the Marcham centre website (marchamcentre.org), the exhibition will be staffed by the organisers Julian Parfitt (environmental consultant and former lecturer) and Beatrice Hoffman at those times.

- Saturday 7th+14th January: 9 - 1
 - Sunday 8th + 15th January 12 - 5
 - Tuesday and Friday 10th +13th January 6 - 9
- Feel free to bring your questions and discussions!

Two presentations

- Tuesday 10th Jan 7 - 8: Saving money and the planet – insulation and renewable energy around your home and car
- Friday 13th Jan, 7 - 8 Farming, food-supply and the climate



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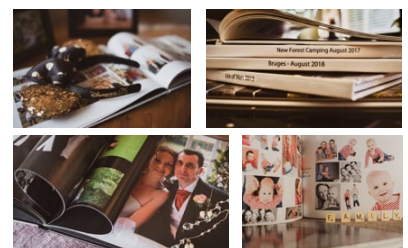
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The Old Thatch, 15 North Street, Marcham OX13 6NG

Come and join us on Saturday 10th December for Christmas cheer and live music . It is our last cafe before the New Year and we would love to see you all.

We reopen on Saturday 7th January.

Community grants: Our community grant scheme is open. We have already given a few grants of £300 within the community. The full details on how to apply are on our website.

Volunteering Your local cafe depends on volunteers, it is a way of meeting people and being part of the village community. Just a few hours a month would really help us . Get in touch via e-mail or on line or come and speak and meet us.



We have been kindly gifted a hand-crafted **Dolls House** by Bill for us to raffle . Money raised will go towards us being able to buy a coffee machine for Thirsty Cafe. Tickets will be on sale in the cafe to be drawn on 10th December.



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

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Marcham Centre

The trustees of Marcham Community Group wish to thank everyone in Marcham who continues to support our Marcham Centre facilities and helps underpin the success of our community venture.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

MARCHAM CENTRE – HOLIDAY CLOSURE

Please note the trustees have arranged a planned temporary closure of the hall building for hires between 11pm on 24th December and 5pm on Friday 6th January. During this time, necessary re-decoration and maintenance work will be carried out. The MUGA will be open as usual for sport activities over that period. This will also be a welcome break for the volunteers who open and lock the building and for the team of two dozen volunteers who give up their time to provide the popular bar facility. We look forward to seeing you all again after the break.

We have a longer-term need for volunteers for various tasks involved in running Marcham Centre and Marcham Community Group, the charity which operates the facilities. If you are interested, we would love to hear from you – by email to admin@marcham.org

COMING EVENTS AT MARCHAM CENTRE

- Friday 2nd December: Quiz Night: Adults only - 7:30 for 8pm prompt start
- Saturday 17th December: Family Christmas Party - £1 per child - 6-9pm
- Friday 20th January: Family Bingo - 7.30pm for eyes down at 7.45pm

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.

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.

The original table, which had broken irreparably, has been replaced with a new one. This has a slightly different structure. To avoid damage, please do not try to move it or fold it away until you have been shown how to do so safely.

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
enquiries@marchamcentre.org www.marchamcentre.org
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FOOD AND DRINK



Join us on the first Tuesday of each month between noon and 1.15pm for a delicious **lunch** in a friendly atmosphere at **Long Furlong Community Centre, Abingdon**.

Our facilities are easily accessible with onsite parking.

Also **Saturday Brunch** second Saturday in the month 9.30-11.30

We serve exciting vegetarian and vegan recipes using unusual pulses, beans, grains and interesting spices. We hope to convince meat-eaters that a vegetarian meal can be a delicious and exciting taste experience that will not disappoint!

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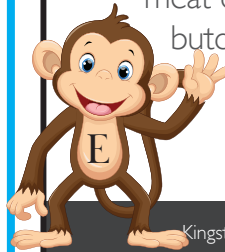
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ANSON TRUST GRANT FUND OVER £40,000

Following the successful reorganisation of the Anson Trust's finances over the last few years the trustees are delighted to confirm that over £40,000 in grant funding is now available to support Marcham and its surrounding hamlets.

We are also very pleased to have been able to make our first financial grant in over 20 years to Marcham Pre-School and it is our hope that this is the first of many such grants that we will make over the coming months and years to support local community-based organisations, groups and clubs.

We will consider grants of £250 or more and whilst we will normally review grant applications on a quarterly basis (Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct) we will look to review any urgent applications within four weeks. For more information on our Grant Making Policy and a copy of our Grant Application Form please go to www.ansontrust.org/grant-giving.

Our charitable objectives are fairly broad in terms of community support and we are particularly keen to support non-commercial initiatives, schemes and projects that:

- Help provide, maintain or expand new activities or services whether that be the acquisition of new equipment/kit, subsidy of group educational and self-development trips, part funding of larger projects, etc.
- Build stronger local organisations through training, awareness programmes and the promotion of diversity and inclusion

In short, we're here to help so please let us and if you are not sure if you would qualify for a grant then by all means email us at ansontrustinquiries@gmail.com and we will let you know on a non-committal basis if your idea is the sort of thing that we could support.

CHRIS HILLIER

On behalf of the Trustees of the Anson Trust



Are you looking for information or advice on health or social care services in Oxfordshire? If so, Healthwatch Oxfordshire can help!

We are the independent champion for people who use health and social care services in Oxfordshire.

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

We also want to hear what you think about your local health and social care services - including what could be improved.

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



Our next Competition is to win tickets for 2 adults and 2 children to **Millets Wildside Falconry and Wildlife Centre...** just find Maddie who is hiding



some letters in this issue, then rearrange those letters to make the name of the heaviest owl at the centre – have a look on their website for clues! milletswildside.co.uk

Send you entry to editor@madnews.co.uk before 5pm on 15th December

November's Competition

Voucher for Farmyard Golf

And the winner is....

**** Deborah O'Brien ****

Did you get the GOLF BALL into the HOLE?



One solution is this, but there are others!

- | | |
|------|------|
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| GULF | BALE |
| GULL | HALE |
| BULL | HOLE |
| BALL | |

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OAHS FREE Lectures take place in the Lecture Theatre at Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA on Tuesdays starting at 5.30pm. **All are welcome.**

- **13 December** - Geoffrey Tyack: The Old Ashmolean: Laboratory, Lecture Room and Museum



Bookings for our 2023 lecture series will open in December - more details can be found online: oahs.org.uk/lectures

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Despite all the tempestuous, disturbing national news, not least the very serious position the world is in as far as Climate Emergency is concerned and the very high risk now that we will exceed our global temperature target of 1.5 degrees, councils have to keep going and do the best as possible for their residents. Below are the latest updates of what is happening in the Vale:



SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLING RESIDENTS

The Community Hub at the Vale and SODC have set up support and advice for those who are really struggling at this difficult time. They have sent out a leaflet with all the information which you will find on the Marcham website or you can contact them on 01235 422600.

The sort of things that are covered is advice on food support; housing support, including help with renting, housing advice and homelessness; mortgage payment support; help with home improvements and utility bills; council tax; debt advice; health and well-being advice. So please don't suffer in silence. Check out the website or contact the Vale.

UKRAINIAN SUPPORT

Residents who are still supporting Ukrainian families after the initial 6 months will be eligible to receive an increase in their funding from £350 to £500 payable in arrears from 1st December.

WASTE COLLECTIONS

The re-routing of bin lorries to make collections more efficient has been rolled out with little disruption. Where there have been a few issues, the waste team has responded quickly and efficiently. Also, residents have been encouraged to report any missed bins in the usual way by calling Biffa on 030000 610610. If you need to check your collection details you can visit Binzone at: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/binzone

CROFTS COURT IN BOTLEY

The Community Led Housing development on Crofts Court in Botley is now underway and recently featured in a report on BBC South Today. This exciting project is made up of five one bedroom and three two bedroom flats which are available to those on the Vale housing register to apply for. The Oxfordshire Community Land Trust (OCLT), which is a non-for-profit organisation, has funded the homes and is now keen to find further sites and to work with town and parish councils across our districts.

SOLAR FARM PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A developer has launched a public consultation for proposals for a large solar farm in the Vale, West Oxfordshire and Cherwell. The developer proposing the Botley West Solar Farm advises that it is large enough to be considered a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project', which means it will be determined by a government appointed Planning Inspector. The Vale will be responding to the applicant's consultation and will be encouraging local residents and businesses to do the same. The project developers have posted consultation leaflets to over 22,000 homes and are publicising the consultation to the wider area. The deadline to submit any comments is the 15 December and there will be public events taking place across the area from 19 November – 5 December.

COMMUNITY GARDEN AWARDS – THE NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Some of you will know about the CARF scheme at the Vale which is up and running again and encouraging residents to apply for a grant of up to £5000 to realise their climate focussed project. If you remember, Neil Rowe and his church group won £5000 towards

rewilding and landscaping part of the churchyard.

However, that scheme closes on November 25th 2022, but enthusiasts might like to apply for The National Garden Scheme which provides grants of £500 to £5,000 for the creation of a garden or a similar project (such as an allotment) with horticultural focus for the benefit of the local community.

Community groups, either a charity or Community Interest Company (CIC), can apply and each application must itemise the details of the costs they are planning to cover. Eligible costs could include, for example, site preparation (including hire of small mechanical tools such as rotavators), hand tools, plants, trees, shrubs, containers and seating. Applications will be accepted until 31 January 2023. Further details can be found if you search Community Garden Grants - National Garden Scheme (ngs.org.uk)

Can I wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year!

Please do contact me if there is any subject you want to raise concerning VWHDC.

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07357 464699/ 01235 534001 or webbercatherine1@gmail.com

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT CYCLING

Since the first lockdown, like many, I have been moved to use my bike to get around much more. Whenever possible, I cycle to my Council Offices for meetings. I am past the age of being a member of the Lycra brigade, and as a result of pressure from family and wiser colleagues, I am now wearing my crash helmet. My car usage has dropped dramatically and I am becoming an expert on understanding how and why the X2 bus timetable behaves the way it does. Living in Drayton, I am fortunate to be close to a regular half hour bus service in most directions. Many people are not so lucky. If/when the buses are late, it is almost always because they have been held up in car traffic. It is all very well for the likes of me to bang on about encouraging people to use their cars much less, but so often the major obstacle to this is the unreliability of our public transport together with the safety of our cycle network. Here and there, we have stretches of well made, dedicated, safe and attractive routes for cyclists (Peepoday Lane being the classic example). Very few of these join up properly at present and the cyclist too often has to take his/her life in their hands as they try to negotiate busy roads and fast traffic.



Last Saturday, we decided to try a longer trip to a cup of coffee. Only about 20 miles + hills, but even after careful planning, it involved some stretches of busy roads. Most car drivers are very aware of the need to give cyclists (particularly those not in the flush of youth) plenty of room as per the new Highway Code. However, a significant number seem to find cyclists little more than an irritating obstruction. While we cannot afford to join up safe cycling routes as quickly as we would like, and so many of our roads are too narrow for dedicated cycle lanes, all of us – cyclists, pedestrians and car drivers have to accept the need for sharing the roads. In the past 30 years, the number of cars on our roads has doubled. That cannot be sustainable. Last Saturday, we decided to get off main roads wherever possible and explore usable byways. This involved carrying the bikes at various points and negotiating gates and even stiles at one point.

On the way home, we took on the roads again and risked the traffic. Summing up our day, we agreed that it had been a beautiful day

and we were fitter than when we started and we were still alive. But was it enjoyable? Nowhere near as enjoyable as it should have been. Having been overtaken by two electric cyclists, even older than us, shooting up Steventon Hill, we are seriously considering the latest electric adaptations to normal bikes – less than half the price of new electric bikes. We wonder if by going a little faster on shared roads might actually make us safer.

A recent VWHDC publication caught my eye recently. “The councils intend to encourage sustainable active transport methods like walking and cycling, and to make maximum use of green spaces and the districts’ waterways as it’s widely recognised that spending time in the natural environment is beneficial for mental health and wellbeing.”

Meanwhile, OCC is heavily involved in a “Vision Zero Summit” on road and cycling safety. Bring it on.

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

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

MP’S REPORT

My work experience campaign has been a great success and I’m very grateful to all of the employers who offered placements to local young people this year. I visited a number of the young people participating while they were on their placements and they had all enjoyed their time. They found the workplaces friendly and felt they had learned new things. The whole point of this campaign was that work experience placements had dried up as a result of Covid and lots of people working from home – but they remain a vital way for young people to learn the skills the workplace needs.



It was standing room only in Westminster for the first meeting of the Community Energy All Party Parliamentary Group, which I chair and which is sponsored by Power for People. As readers know, I am the lead sponsor of the Local Electricity Bill, which is designed to remove the barriers to local generators of renewable energy selling that energy to local people.

The bill now has support from 311 MPs, within touching distance of half of the House of Commons. There was a great atmosphere in the room with people having come from as far as Scotland to attend! The bill has changed significantly as a result of conversations between the campaign team and civil servants and we remain hopeful of seeing it incorporated into other legislation.

Another issue I have campaigned on is anti-social behaviour. In my first couple of years, most of the complaints I received were about anti-social behaviour from unauthorised traveller camps. This is something I raised in the House of Commons as it was frequently accompanied by local people being subjected to abuse, theft and damage to their properties.

In the past few months, I have received increasing complaints about broader anti-social behaviour and crime, including drug dealing and business burglaries. I have made visits to businesses that have been burgled – sometimes repeatedly – and I held a crime summit in Wantage for local people to raise the experiences they’ve been having directly with Thames Valley Police. See my Facebook page (www.facebook.com/davidjohnston4wantage) for updates about the outcomes of this.

We also saw Back British Farming Day this month. I am a regular visitor to the constituency’s first-rate farms – and a regular consumer of their meat and dairy products! – and I see first-hand how hard our farmers work. We should do all we can to support them, not least by buying local wherever possible.

I’ve continued my visits to every kind of organisation we have in the constituency – including sports clubs. I am a big sports fan and

have recently been to both Grove Rugby Club and Wantage Town FC games. We have lots of sports clubs in the constituency. They are almost all run by volunteers and act as a great resource for the community – do visit the ones near you when you can.

As ever, if I can help with anything then do please contact me via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

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
0207 219 3858 Email: david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

The Wootton Players present

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

By Ben Crocker

February 2nd, 3rd & 4th 2023
at WADS Community Centre

Supported by The National Lottery

tickets available from
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wootton-players>

ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKES CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk



What spells Christmas to you? Maybe it's the family gathered around the tree, mountains of food, mulled wine or mince pies. Maybe it's a trip to the panto or a Christmas market, a midnight church service or Carols from Kings. Maybe it's a quiet few days off at the end of another long year. What's the crux of Christmas for you? Commercial Christmas has been well underway for a few weeks already. Yet again, marketing departments everywhere decided that as soon as we lost interest in Halloween we all now must be interested in Christmas, desperate to spend. Aren't you? Haven't you bought your new Christmas jumper yet? Surely this year, of all years, is a Christmas to scale back a little. Wear last year's jumper. After all, the first Christmas was pretty simple. It's nice to see lights going up everywhere, especially as the evenings get darker. I don't even mind a bit of jangly music in the shops. And what's not to like about a Christmas market (apart from the prices)? But commercial Christmas is not the crux of Christmas. Commercial Christmas is credit-card Christmas – consumer Christmas. The crux of Christmas is Christ. Culinary Christmas is not the crux of Christmas either. Christmas dinner may be the much-loved centrepiece of your family Christmas. It certainly will be for mine. But the foodie indulgence at this time of year is off the scale. Does the turkey really need to be that big? No - don't let culinary Christmas stuff your Christmas. Leave room for the Christ of Christmas. The final C is the crisis of Christmas. There is nothing like the pressure of Christmas to reveal the cracks in life. Perhaps it is the memory of past happier Christmases when a special someone was still around. Many-a-Christmas is spent in hospital, or working, or alone, or dealing with some crisis. Some use Christmas to fend off a crisis too, a few days spent in boozy denial, only for the crisis to return in the New Year. Well, when Christ came at Christmas he was born not into happy, healthy, perfection or privilege. He came as God into the reality of life in all its ups and downs, to redeem it and remake it. He alone is the crux of Christmas. So leave some room under the tree for Him. We'd love to see you at St Luke's and All Saints this Christmas.

Christmas at All Saints' & St. Luke's

Saturday 3rd December, 9.30am-12

Christmas Craft Morning

Friday 9th December, 6pm

Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 11th December, 6pm

Advent Reflections

Tuesday 13th December, 10am

Tiddlypeeps Christmas Celebration

Friday 16th December, 5.30pm

Carol singing at MCC

Sunday 18th Dec, 12pm

Crib Service at St. Luke's

Sunday 18th December, 6pm

Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday 20th December, 7pm

Lessons & Carols, St. Luke's

Wednesday 21st Dec, 10.30am

Daytime Carols at Duffield Place

Christmas Eve, 4pm

Nativity Service

Christmas Eve, 11pm

Late night Communion

Christmas Day, 10am

Family Communion Service at AS
Holy Communion at St. Luke's

Sunday 1st January, 10am

Holy Communion

Contacts:

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Tamsin Gilbert Parish Administrator info@allsaintsmarcham.org