

MAD News

www.madnews.co.uk



Marcham - Cothill - Frilford - Garford - Gozzards Ford - Tubney

January 2024 Vol 46 No.1

Your Independent Local News Source

2024

Happy New Year



Editors column

Now that Christmas is over and we are getting back to a normal life, there is one thing we must remember without fail...

...to put the correct year on our cheques!

Remember cheques?

Calling all Ukrainians

As we approach the second anniversary of the Russian invasion of your country, it might be worth a review of your stories, from the threat leading up to mobilisation, the experience of foreign troops on the territory, the flight to friendly countries of women and children, and of course your welcome here in Oxfordshire.

These are tough times, and I would not assume that settling in to a new country has been emotionally easy.

If you would like to tell your story -anonymously if preferred - please initially contact me by email or phone, in order that we can plan how to include your stories into the February edition.

I look forward to hearing from you. *Editor*

Dear Editor

Having finally made the break from Marcham... well mostly!... I am writing to say thank you to everyone in the village, past and present, for a wonderful 25 years. It has been such a pleasure living and working amongst you all. Marcham has achieved some amazing things in that time – Great Weekends, Marcham Centre, surveys and plans for the future, a shop and post office – to name but a few and I feel very privileged to have been a tiny part in those projects.

Now it is time for a new chapter but I will be back from time to time to catch up with all the news.

Best wishes to you all

Meriel

Former editor MAD News



Ring found in Marcham

Phone Editor - number in panel to the right.

This ring, and it is a nice one, remains unclaimed for over two months now.

Maybe one of your guests or relatives has mislaid it while visiting Marcham.



PUBLISHER / EDITOR

Paul Harwood

Tel: 07434 664343

Email: editor@madnews.co.uk

Website: www.madnews.co.uk

ADVERTISING

Fran Russell:

adverts@madnews.co.uk

Adverts are not endorsed and MADNews makes no guarantees as to accuracy or authenticity.

DISTRIBUTORS

Paula Utting and Claire Wright

13 Parkside, Marcham

Abingdon OX13 6NN

Tel: 01865 391443

PROOFREADING

Jane Mander

DEADLINES

Advertising: 17.00 15th of the month

Other copy: 17.00 20th of the month

except for the Jan edition 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.

© Marcham & District News 2023

The copying of any part of this publication without written authorisation is not permitted.

POLICE

PCSO Rich Osborn C9323

Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk for Marcham

Tel: 07980 924693

Or just dial 101 (non-emergency) and omit the C from his number to leave a message.

CRIMESTOPPERS

Call 0800 555 111 (anonymous calls)

NHS NON-EMERGENCY

Call Free from any phone - 111

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Richard Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ

Tel: 01235 534001

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon

Robert Clegg, 42 Harding Way, Marcham, OX13 6FJ

Tel: 07784225290

robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Marcham Pre-School

Marcham has expanded hugely over recent years, and I'm sure all readers of the MADNEWS will agree that the opportunities and facilities now available to the local community are incredible. As a community we are very fortunate to have such committed and caring local citizens that have helped to make this village so special.

Less than 18 months ago, a seed of an idea was planted to improve and develop the outdoor space for the youngest children of the school/preschool community. After a chance discussion with Adam Hopcroft of Kinglerlee Ltd, a plan began to build to transform the old, uninspiring playground/grass space into something where the children could play, learn and develop using all their senses and growing skills.

Staff from Marcham Pre-school and Marcham C of E Primary School were able to secure funding to enable the playground to be resurfaced (well overdue!), which would allow a fantastic 'blank canvas' on which to build this environment.

We have been so widely supported by local community groups as well as larger corporations and it makes me extremely honoured to have been part of this project.

With phase 1 almost complete, we would like to display all the facilities that have been put in place to date. Here's a small selection of the resources and equipment that are now available... and the people/groups responsible!



With grants received from Thames Water, Vale of White Horse Community Lottery, Tesco Bags of Help, Doris Field Charitable Trust, Bag2school collections we have been able to add the additional touches that have helped to transform this area into such a valuable learning space.

Planning for phase 2 has now begun, and a generous grant from Marcham Parish Council will see a 'high street' of role-play houses allowing the children to engage in imaginative play opportunities, mark making/writing opportunities, maths, physical development and so much more! What will they be? A hospital, school, fire station, shop, vet's surgery, police station, or a home.... We'll let the children decide!

So many people have been involved in this project and our thanks go to each and every one of you..... but particularly school and pre-school teachers and staff, including those in the school office who have had to manage the orders and deliveries!

This has become a community project in every sense of the word... and what an amazing community we have proven it to be.

If you have any ideas or think you (or your business/employer) can support us with our next phase of work please do get in touch... or just let us know what you think!

marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

Make New Friends Learn New Skills ☕



- FUN, EASY, STEP-BY-STEP
- Develop impressive new skills in a warm and friendly atmosphere
- 3 hour sessions, morning or afternoon, for 3½ months
- Learn how to make Art you can give as gifts or sell at craft fairs
- Get Arty and make The Seasons your favourite day of the week!



NEW COURSE CONTACT US TODAY

ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS TO IMPROVERS WILL LOVE THIS COURSE!



"It's brilliant, now I can draw my grandchildren!!!"
Sue, Shrewsbury



"It's so nice to meet such fabulous new people."
Liz, Poole



"Don't miss out. You will love this course!"
Gary, Newbury



STRICTLY LIMITED PLACES CALL NOW

**01793 780754
WOOTTON & DRY SANDFORD
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Foot Health With Love

Mobile Foot Health Professional
Helping you to have healthier feet.
Foot health assessments, nail cuts, treatments for corns, callus and fungal nail infections



Alison Love MCFHP MAFHP

07768276718

alison@foothealthwithlove.co.uk

www.foothealthwithlove.co.uk

Home visits within a 10 mile radius of East Hanney, Wantage.

DIRTY CARPETS, UPHOLSTERY, RUGS



Most carpets dry within the hour
Unbeatable results, removes almost all spots & stains

GRIMEBUSTERS

OXFORD 01865 726983
ABINGDON 01235 555533
WITNEY 01993 868924

www.grimebusters.co.uk

Whatever you want to store...

...for whatever reason - house sale and purchase not coinciding, travelling, house building work, paperwork overload or just "de-cluttering" to sell your house more quickly - we offer a friendly and flexible service at Kingston Bagpuize.

With competitive rates, secure storage all on one level, and hassle free 24/7 access, contact us now!

Only 10 minutes from Abingdon, Wantage, or Faringdon



01865 821250

www.barn-store.co.uk

Better Housing
Better Health

Free help

is here to help keep
Oxfordshire residents
warm and well at
home

me and the kids
are.

Find out how they can help you.
Call 0800 107 00 44

The Gardening Column

What Does A Garden Actually Look Like?

Interesting title to reflect on, 'What does a garden actually look like?'

Over the last 30+ years, I've seen, met, and experienced many types of gardeners and gardens, so when I was asked yesterday, what does a garden actually look like, it gave me plenty to reflect on.

I've seen urban gardens, rural gardens, woodland gardens and allotment gardens. Rose gardens, rock gardens, stump gardens, and gardens full of ornaments, suncatchers and gnomes.

I've met many gardeners too, and they too vary in form, as much as the gardens they tend.

What I came to realise, many years ago, was that assumptions are often inaccurate, and form deep rooted barriers in life, so assumptions are not a good barometer, or gauge, when considering what a garden actually looks like.

I think a garden and gardeners are something that is felt and experienced, not just something to look at. It seems to be more about a measurable connection between the garden and the wildlife, the features and the attractions therein, and the custodian. Note I say custodian, not gardener. Calling them custodians seems more apt, as do any of us really 'own' anything?

I see people give their gardens, balcony plants, or window boxes, the same amount of care, and see the same levels of connection, and appreciation exhibited in all of them.

I've even met guerilla gardeners, when they don't have their own area to grow in, surreptitiously sow seeds, plant seedlings, or give plants a helping hand, that grow in the parks, lanes and greenspaces we all share. I see the same connection and love in them as I do in people who have their own garden area.

So instead of putting our understanding of what a garden is in a box, and sticking a label on it, or categorising and stereotyping what a gardener looks like. Let's broaden the narrative and question, from what does a garden look like, to how connected are we with the natural world around us, on a daily basis? To be aware and connected makes us more likely to want to protect the environment.

Happy gardening
Stuart Mabbutt
Wildlife Gardening Specialist
www.wildmaninspires.co.uk
01865 747243



Professional Tree Management throughout Oxfordshire

Tree removal	Seasoned logs and kindling delivered
Crown thinning	
Crown reduction and lifting	
Sectional tree removals	£5M Public Liability Insurance
Fruit tree pruning	
Stump grinding	All work carried out to BS 3998:2010
Hedge cutting	

andrew@admtrees.co.uk
01865 391859
@admtrees

For a full list of services visit:
www.admtrees.co.uk

10 Years of Excellence
Proud members of Checkatrade.com Where reputation matters
CHAS
NPTC QUALIFIED WORKFORCE

Automotive Fabrication and Welding

Got a classic car in the garage, rusting away?
Get it back on the road with The Shop
From minor welds to full restorations

MOT welding
Rust repairs

Commercial or Domestic
From Classic Cars to Race Cars

Special projects
Family business
Fair pricing

Call Andy @ The Shop 07739 337562
Email: theshop.ws@gmail.com
www.TheShop.ws

The Abbey Chiropody Clinic

PJ, PA and TE Neighbour
HCPC Registered Chiropodists & Podiatrists
nail clipping, corns and hard skin
verrucae and everyday foot problems
manipulation/mobilisation of the foot and ankle
orthotics (insoles) and gait analysis
minor surgery, diabetes and wound care

Surgery and Home Visiting Practice
21-27 Coxeter House
Abingdon OX14 5AJ
Tel. 01235 530577
www.abingdonchiropody.com

1st CLASS TREE SURGEONS

☎ 07889 881 525 or 01491 651052
✉ quote@firstclasstreesurgeons.co.uk
🌐 www.firstclasstreesurgeons.co.uk

- tree removal • tree thinning • tree reduction
- dead wood removal • stump grinding
- landscaping
- £10 million public liability



Marcham Osteopathy
and sports injury clinic

Sarah Ingram
D.O., M.I.C.O., G.Os.C.

Tel 01865 673667
enquiries@oxfordshireosteopath.co.uk
The Old Thatch, 15 North Street, Marcham OX13 6NG



Find out what support is available to help keep you safe and well in your home.
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homerepairs



**Oxfordshire Roofing
and Building Services**
a good honest and reliable firm
Call today for a free estimate **07885
882689**

Flat Roofing
New Roofs
Guttering
Slating

Chimney Repointing
De-Mossing
Tiling
Facias

Small Jobs Welcome • Discount for OAPs
Tel: 01865 392106 • Mobile 07885 882689
oxfordshireroofing@yahoo.co.uk

Get help with home repairs

There are services and funds available to help people (owners and private tenants) stay independent, safe and well in their homes, and Oxfordshire County Council has developed a referral service to help residents (or carers) access the right organisations in their area, to get the help they need.

The type of help that can be provided are services such as new boilers, repairs to boilers, loft or cavity wall insulation, access to a local and trustworthy repairs service and general advice on how to stay safe, well and affordably warm in your home.

For more information or to make a referral visit
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homerepairs

Oxfordshire's best source of reclaimed wood

We care for our environment and transform lives



One stop wood shop for your DIY projects. Good quality hard and soft wood in many sizes. Scaffold boards, pallet wood, plywood, live edges and fabulous range of reclaimed wood furniture.



Find us at 4 Suffolk Way, Abingdon, OX14 5JX
Tel: 01235 861228
www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk



OXFORD
KITCHENS & BATHROOMS



☎ 01865 326009
✉ info@oxfordkitchens.co.uk

🌐 www.oxfordkitchens.co.uk
📍 1st Floor, Besselsleigh Road, Wootton,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX13 6DN

Marcham C of E Primary School

The school loves to celebrate Christmas – the children and staff are seen sporting Christmas jumpers, Christmas songs can be heard in all classes in the school and Christmas events fill the calendar.

On 8th December the PTA hosted the Christmas Fayre - What a wonderful evening it was! Thank you to the very many of the school community who supported the event by attending. There was a lot to see, do and buy – including cakes sold by Santa's helpers, Splat the Elf and various Christmas gift stalls in the classrooms. Many thanks Lisa Newport and the PTA committee for their sterling work for this event, which was extremely successful. It was also the first performance of the year for our School Choir who sang beautifully – and are expected to do so again at All Saints Church Carol service on Sunday 17th. The proceeds from the Fayre will be match-funded this year by the Anson Trust – to whom we say, "Thank you".

On 12th December we had a wonderful performance of the Yr1 & 2 Nativity – which was told from the perspective of the various animals and characters in and around the barn as Jesus was born. A cheeky cockerel kept attempting to wake him and the whole cast sang songs such as 'Don't wake the baby!' and 'Born in a Barn'. The children performed beautifully with support from their teachers – well done to all.

On 13th December we held the whole School Christmas lunch – we enjoy a traditional Christmas dinner and come together to give thanks for our many blessings, it is wonderful. Then the PTA held an evening Story Time with Santa. Children came back into school, wearing their pyjamas and snuggled amongst cushions and blankets, while staff read to them in front of a roaring fire. Some enjoyed a hot drink and could share stories with each other and ultimately enjoy meeting Santa Claus himself! **Every child left with a Christmas tree sapling and a sleigh bell - the jingling could be heard as they walked home. Magical!**

We still have our KS2 Carol service at All Saints Church to look forward to on 19th December. We come together as a wider school community and celebrate Christmas as a cultural and spiritual event. The children have worked hard to practise songs and readings so it will be a truly special occasion. Merry Christmas.



Marcham Parish Council News

Casual Vacancy

A vacancy exists on the Parish Council. There will be no formal election to fill the vacancy, so anyone interested in helping with the various village projects is invited to contact the Clerk for further details. Current projects involve preparing a Neighbourhood Plan which will give the community a direct power to develop a shared vision for the area and shape the development and growth, changes to the public footpath near the Church and out towards the Cemetery, and possibly reviewing the suggestion for lighting along the path from Harding Way to Howard Cornish Road.

Christmas Tree – Village Green

A very big thank you goes again to Andrew Maclean, of AD Maclean Tree Management Ltd of Kingston Rd Frilford <http://www.admtrees.co.uk/> for the very kind donation of the Christmas tree on the village green. A big thank you also to the Parish Councillors and residents who helped erect it and decorate it. It was looking very nice decorated with lights and helps to add to Christmas cheer for the village. The Council is very grateful to Andrew for his generosity, and to all those who have helped.

Christmas Tree Recycling – Reminder of where to take your tree

Real Christmas trees for recycling can be taken to Millets Farm by Saturday 6th January, or left on the hardstanding by the Salvation Army textile bank in Howard Cornish Road – opposite Duffield Place by Tuesday 16th January in order to meet the collection dates. If taking your tree to the Howard Cornish Road location, please do not obstruct the textile bank, or the bus stop area.

Allotments - Cow Lane and Parkside

If you have an allotment you are reminded that allotment rent collection for the 23/24 financial year is taking place. For those who have not yet paid, please transfer the sum due to the Council's bank account (details in the letter sent out, or available from the clerk if needed), or let the Clerk have a cheque payable to Marcham Parish Council. Those in arrears with rent, or found not to be utilising their plot could lose it by the service of a Notice to Quit.

Council Tax 2024/25

The Parish Council will be holding an additional meeting on Thursday 4th January 2024 to carefully consider the budget for 2024/25. Once finalised, the Council will set the amount of council tax that comes to the parish from the total amount paid by residents to the Vale of White Horse District Council. This meeting, owing to the closure of Marcham Centre, will be held in All Saints Church.

20 mph for most of the village

The County Council approved the scheme for most of the village roads to be 20 mph, and is currently planning to erect new illuminated poles on the Frilford Road. This is likely to take place early in the new year. Once the poles are up, the signage will follow.

Primary School Admission September 2024

A reminder too that the closing date for applications for primary school admission in the county is 15th January, 2024. Anyone with a child born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 should apply for a primary school place. Go to <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions> for further information, or telephone 0345 241 2487

Planning Applications considered by the Council

P23/V2087/HH Garage conversion and fenestration alterations at 3 Hyde Copse. The Council had no objections.

P23/V2608/HH Removal of existing lleylandii hedge, erection of hazel hurdles along west facing boundary of property, inside the stone wall on the border of the garden. Remove existing hedge and plant laurel hedging in its place at The Old Bakehouse, 4 North Street. The Council had no objections provided the hazel hurdles were set back from the stone wall, and a reasonably tall laurel hedge was planted closest to the road.

P23/V2522/HH Single storey front, side and rear extensions at 87 Howard Cornish Road. The Council had no objections, but commented on the loss of permeable land, and the fact that as the public sewer ran through the garden Thames Water should be consultee.

.....continued on next page

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

Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council is Thursday 4th January, 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in All Saints Church.
This will be the budget setting / council tax finance meeting.

The following scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is Monday 8th January 2024 In the village hall, but please check the Council's website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk for the latest information in case arrangements change.

The Council wishes everyone a Happy New Year

Thirsty Café

Christmas is coming and what an enjoyable time Thirsty Café has had, firstly hosting mince pies and coffee and homemade soup and roll in the Crown, thank you Laura and Ricky for welcoming us, it was nice to greet new and old customers over a lunch time in a cosy setting. Our Christmas Community lunch proved to be very popular with everyone enjoying themselves and the tables looked very festive with table decorations. The food went down well and the atmosphere was very jovial.



The next Community lunch will be in February 2024.

On our last Saturday before closing for Christmas we had Café live with music serenaded by Becky and Gig making it a very enjoyable fun session.

Although at times we have been short of volunteers the Café has continued to open, we have to thank everyone for supporting us and a large thank you to our manager Nicci, volunteers whether in the kitchen, front of house or our wonderful bakers and the Management Committee who do so much behind the scenes to make the café a success. The Café teams are looking forward to the New Year with some offers of help from new volunteers, they will be very welcome.

We are pleased to have appointed an administrator to work alongside our manager.

Next year we are looking for a new Treasurer as our wonderful treasure is retiring, it is a voluntary but rewarding job. Please contact us if you can help.

Our first date for the opening of the Café in the New Year is Saturday 13th January 2024.

Have a very Happy Christmas and New Year, we look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

Website www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

Email: Hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk



**Family Run Newspaper Delivery Service
Delivering In Marcham &
Surrounding Areas.**

**Get your favourite newspapers and
magazines delivered.**

**Please call or email us to start
your delivery.**

**If you are over 13 years old and would be
interested in delivering newspapers for
us please call or email us.**

**Call: 01235 763134
Email: contact@rowesnews.co.uk
www.rowesnewsmarket.co.uk
18 Wallingford Street, Wantage**

Martin Gilbert

Motor Repairs Ltd
Local Family Run Business

VEHICLE REPAIR & SERVICE CENTRE

For all Makes & Models

Hybrid & Electric Vehicle Repair & Service Centre

Cars & Light Commercial Repairs Including;

17 Seater Minibuses & Vans up to 3.5 Tonnes

Engine Management & Electrical Repairs



MOT's WHILE YOU WAIT



Carried out to a High Standard by Qualified Technicians

Tel: 01235 553055 - Radley Rd Industrial Estate

Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 3RY

www.martingilbertmotorrepairs.co.uk

E: richard@martingilbert.co.uk



GARD Newsletter for January 2024

At the time of writing (15th December) the Secretary of State for DEFRA (Stephen Barclay) has not made any decision on Thames Water's reservoir plans. So there is still time for you and our MPs to influence his decision. If you sent your complaints to Thames Water in the consultation, and you feel that they have not answered your points, or you want to write against the new, larger, project, then we urge you to follow GARD's example and write to the Environment Agency and/or Ofwat and complain about TW's attitude. This is the best way to get your point across now (before EA and Ofwat produce their advice for Stephen Barclay).

Email your complaint to:

Environmental and water quality issues:

water.resources@defra.gov.uk, or Water-Company-Plan@xn-environmentagency-0z2j.gov.uk

Costs to customers, leakage and water efficiency issues: wrmf@ofwat.gov.uk

Don't forget to copy to your MP.

Support from Councils and other organisations

Oxfordshire County Council have written to DEFRA citing unresolved issues from the consultation (see above), as have Steventon Parish Council and CPRE.

There was good support for the anti-reservoir demonstration, organised by East Hanney and Steventon's county and district councillor, Sally Povolotsky, at East Hanney, outside the Thames Water 'drop-in' event on the Reservoir on 10th November. Inside the drop-in at East Hanney Memorial Hall, it was the usual 'brochure stuff' from TW, no proper details of the design, or about the 10-plus years of disruption, but lots of pictures of butterflies and birds in unspecified locations. GARD remain absolutely convinced that there will be major damage to biodiversity by the reservoir project. We are taking legal advice on whether Thames Water's Environmental Assessment of the project, which we believe to be flawed and biased, is actually illegal, not meeting the standards set down by the government.

Both the County Council (on the 12th December) and the Vale of White Horse (on the 13th December) have passed unanimous council motions re-affirming opposition to the Reservoir, asking for talks with the Secretary of State, and for the reservoir plans to be suspended until issues have been resolved. GARD supports these calls. Thanks to those councillors who proposed and seconded the motions: at the County, it was Sally Povolotsky and deputy Council Leader, Peter Sudbury; at the Vale it was Robert Clegg (Marcham District Councillor) and Andy Cooke (Drayton District Councillor)

Details for contacting your MP

- If your MP is David Johnston, Wantage (covering Grove, Steventon, East and West Hanney, East and West Hendred, Ardington, Drayton, Garford, Marcham, Milton, and Sutton Courtenay) you can contact him at david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk
- If you live in Abingdon, you can support your MP Layla Moran's opposition – and seek her support layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

Please copy gard.secretary@gmail.com into any correspondence and see the website for developments <https://www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk/>

Derek Stork
Chairman GARD

PROFESSIONAL GARDEN SERVICES

Stephen R Matthews
Tel: 01235 766412
Mobile: 07796 532356
Email: stephenmatthews.pgs@gmail.com

All aspects of work undertaken, including:

- garden clearance and restoration
- fruit tree, shrub and rose pruning
- hedgcutting
- fencing and landscaping.



- Moss Removal
- Roof Cleaning
- Softwashing
- Patio & Driveway Cleaning

Contact Jake
01865 362797
info@mossinator.co.uk
www.mossinator.co.uk

MERRY MILLER

COTHILL NR ABINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE OX13 6JW
01865 390390 EMAIL:INFO@MERRYMILLER.CO.UK



OPEN WEDNESDAYS FOR LUNCH
THURS - SUN FOR LUNCH & EVENING MEALS

SUNDAY CARVERY • A LA CARTE MENU • SPECIAL EVENINGS
LIGHTER LUNCH OPTIONS
PRIVATE PARTIES, CORPORATE EVENTS & FUNERALS CATERED FOR



OUTDOOR GROUP EXERCISE CLASSES FITNESS AT THE FARM

Friendly, inclusive classes for all fitness levels. Reset your mind, grow your strength and enjoy the beauty of Collins Farm. No membership required, all classes can be booked on a PAYG basis.

BOOK ONLINE

Collins Farm
Kingston Road
Frlford
OX13 5NX



WWW.FARM-FIT.CO.UK

@FITNESSATTHEFARM



Suppliers of aggregates and concrete for every need

Our products include:

- ready-mixed concrete
- sand cement floor screed
- decorative aggregate
- sand, gravel and stone

Upwood Quarry open six days a week

T: 01865 390838



hills-quarry.co.uk

Andrea Buckingham

PILES, YOGA, MASSAGE

Supporting you **In Person** and **on Zoom** with a range of class times

Newcomers welcome

AndreaBuckingham.co.uk

07939 523083 Andreabkm@gmail.com

NB Office Services

Qualified Bookkeeper with over 10 years' experience in Office Management and PA

Telephone: 01865 392866

Mobile : 07775 690522

Email: Nicola.bunce@nbofficeservices.co.uk



Breakfast and After School Club
now open at Marcham Primary School

Providing quality, affordable and accessible childcare for children aged 4-11 years of age

We offer your child ...

A happy, safe and secure setting, allowing them to learn and develop freely within the play centred environment, the opportunity to take responsibility

for themselves and their actions

07.45 – 08.45 Breakfast Club

15.15 – 18.15 After School Club

Monday-Friday, term time only

Vicky Hickman Tel No: 07887711454


Email: info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk



website: www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk

**Playworker Vacancies available
please get in touch for more information**

All Saints & St Lukes Churches



**Faith is being sure of
what we hope for and
certain of what we do
not see. Hebrews 1 v 1**

“There are few emotions more powerful than hope.” That’s the opening line from an online course our churches will be offering this January. In a world where hope often appears lacking, real hope is what the Christian faith claims to offer. It is joyful expectation for the future, based on true events in the past, which changes everything about our present. That is the content of Christian hope, because it is based on Christ – the person of God come into the world to offer those who follow him a hope worth having. Modern life can often feel uncertain and confusing, sometimes depressing and often hopeless. But the Bible says that faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1) – our Bible verse for 2024. The point is, none of us can see the person of God, Jesus, with our own eyes. Neither can we see heaven in the future, nor what Jesus did in the past to give us hope. And yet many long for the eyes of faith to know that hope is not just wishful

Hope Explored

This is a three-week course that we will be running after Christmas that looks at the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We will be inviting people over the course of our Christmas services. If you know someone who you think would be interested in exploring more, please do invite them. It will take place on Zoom and further details, including a sign-up, can be found on the church website.

Dates for Hope Explored:

15th Jan, 20.00-21.15 on ZOOM ID 864 1237 7606

22nd Jan, 20.00-21.15 on ZOOM ID 864 1237 7606

29th Jan, 20.00-21.15 on ZOOM ID 864 1237 7606

Regular services at All Saints:

10.00: Morning Service

18.00: Evening Service

Wednesday Holy Communion

10.30: at Duffield Place

Contacts:

Revd. Nick Weldon 01865
391962
vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org

Jill Rowe
Children and Families minister
families@allsaintsmarcham.org

Rob Finch
Youth Worker
youth@allsaintsmarcham.org

Tamsin Gilbert
Parish Administrator
info@allsaintsmarcham.org



www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

St Lukes Garford

The advent service at St. Lukes was an absolute joy. At the centre of our worship is music...directed by Ben and organised and supported by Carolyn...it was exceptional. We now have a choir of 17 people singing beautiful pieces with 4 part harmonies, solos and musical arrangements that were emotive and powerful. Sally did all our flower arrangements and, with Andy, took care of our post service refreshments. Central to all of this was the attendance of our Archdeacon, David Tyler, whose sermon on darkness and light was clear and carefully delivered. He embraced the traditional style of St. Lukes and commented on the beauty of our little church. Thank you to all who attended. There was a spirit of kindness, care and love.



Sunday 7th January, 11.00:
Epiphany at St. Luke's
Sundays January 14th, 21st, 28th:
Church open for quiet prayer 11.00-12.00.

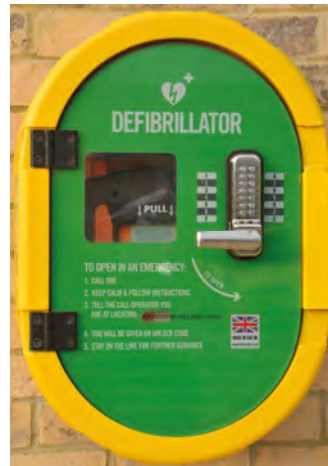
Contact: Carolyn Whiting
st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org





MCG Thank you

MCG would like to thank Suzanne Crafer (below) for her service as a trustee and her enthusiastic fund-raising since MCG was formed in 2010. Suzanne was a founder trustee and company secretary and set us up with Companies House, the Charity Commission, banking and accounts. The trustees presented her with a bouquet of flowers after she stepped down at the AGM.



Marcham Centre closure:

Marcham Centre will be closed for essential maintenance and decoration from 24th December to 5th January (see December issue of MAD News).

MCG Community Investment Fund

MCG is funding the replacement of essential parts of the defibrillator unit near the front door at Marcham Centre. The unit is available for the whole community. We must ensure it remains available for use if the need arises. In the event of an emergency, please follow the instructions on the outside of the box.

Volunteers

We rely heavily on volunteers to support the operations of Marcham Centre. As well as support for hall operations and volunteers for the bar, we are looking for volunteers with finance experience to assist us with day to day book-keeping. Please contact jim.asher@btinternet.com, if you are able to help. You could be making a real difference!

Dog fouling

Thank you to all responsible dog owners who clean up after their dogs. There are a few occurrences on the playing fields, where uncleared mess creates problems especially for children's sport activities. The Anson field is a shared space for sports, recreation and social activities. Please help us keep the field clear to ensure it is safe and pleasant for all.

Events at Marcham Centre

Friday 12th January: Family Bingo: Eyes down at 19.30.

Friday 26th Jan: Quiz Night: Adults only - 19.30 for 20.00 prompt start.

Indoor short-mat bowls at Marcham Centre are held every Wednesday at 14.00 (14.30 after Community Lunches) Please contact Colin Trinder (c_trinder@btinternet.com) or just turn up.

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 Village Shop and Post Office

HAPPY NEW YEAR

to all our lovely customers, volunteers and staff.
We hope that you had a peaceful and enjoyable festive break
and we look forward to seeing you again very soon.

Christmas has come and gone, and now we can concentrate on getting through January, eating and drinking more sensibly and possibly planning some holidays. All the lovely seasonal gift ideas we had in stock have now been sold, and we hope that these were enjoyed by the recipients. We will get our thinking caps on to come up with more new and exciting ideas to tide us over the next 12 months.

Thank you to all the children that followed the location of the Naughty Elf during December. We hope you had fun finding him. Thank you also to Tracy for the fabulous Christmas window display, and for making sure that the Naughty Elf behaved himself at least some of the time.



Hedges meat orders have been going well and we hope that those of you that have tried the goods have been happy with their products. The meat is very good quality and locally sourced, and we have had some favourable comments so far. Order forms are available from the shop and orders should be placed by 5 pm on Wednesdays ready for collection between 12 noon the following Friday and 12 noon Saturday (excluding bank holidays). Further details, including a price list, are available from the counter. If there are any meat products that you cannot see on the price list, please let us know and we will check availability and price for you.

Thank you, as always, for supporting your local Village Shop and Post Office. If you would like to increase your support you could become a shareholder. Shares cost £10 each and include an invitation to the Annual General Meeting where you will meet the Committee Members, hear how the shop is managing and have your say. Ask in the shop for further information.

Shop and Post Office Opening hours

Mondays – 0830-1700 hrs
Tuesdays – 0830-1700 hrs
Wednesdays – 0830-1700 hrs
Thursdays – 0830-1700 hrs
Fridays – 0830-1700 hrs
Saturdays – 0830-1200 hrs
Sundays – CLOSED
Bank Holidays - CLOSED

Marcham Village Shop: 16 North Street, Marcham, Oxon, OX13 6NG
Tel: 01865 391993 (shop)
01865 391940 (PO)



Abingdon & District National Trust Association

Abingdon & District National Trust Association will start their New Year on Tuesday 16 January 2024 with a very brief AGM & then a talk by Tim Healey entitled Sex, Drink & Death in the 17th Century.

This will be a romp through the pleasures and perils of life in this turbulent era, featuring bawdy frolics, alehouse revels, highway robberies, Civil War, fire and plague.

The talk also gives insight into evolving customs, of courtship, celebration, faith and burial, at the dawn of the modern age.

Tim Healey is a writer and broadcaster who has presented many programmes on BBC Radio and is a frequent contributor to, amongst others, the Oxford Times colour magazine, and leads the 17th-century costume band, the Oxford Waits.

You can enjoy this event at Trinity Church Hall, Conduit Road, Abingdon OX14 1DB at 14.30. Everyone is welcome; non-members of the Abingdon Ass'n. are asked for a donation of £4.

Abingdon & District National Trust Association For more information call Ruth on 01235 524119.



"Congratulations to Ellie and Angela who came back on their favourite Guide night to be presented with their Gold Awards! Christina's Christmas Fudge week is an annual favourite with all the girls"

B&B Rafters



Abingdon Road
Marcham
Abingdon, Oxfordshire
co.uk
OX13 6NU

Contact Mrs Sigrid Grawert
Tel 01865 391298
enquiries@bnb-rafters.

[www. bnb-rafters.co.uk](http://www.bnb-rafters.co.uk)

Join us and discover

Have you got a business that could benefit by being advertised to 1500 homes in the Marcham area every month?

**Contact us for more details
adverts@madnews.co.uk**

Kilbey & Clarke
Will Writers and Estate Practitioners



- * IHT Planning
- * Wills & Will storage from £145
- * Lasting Power Of Attorney from £195
- * Inheritance Protection
- * Probate
- * Guaranteed Funeral Plans
- * Local, friendly, professional with home visits

Nigel Kilbey Member SWW
07734051258/01235868266



www.kilbeyandclarke.co.uk
wills@kilbeyandclarke.co.uk

M&A ELECTRICALS - REPAIRS

*We specialise in the
restoration & repair of lamps
and other items
bespoke hand made lamps*

**ACCIDENTS HAPPEN, THINGS BREAK
IF YOU NEED HELP/ADVICE PLEASE
CONTACT ME [Peter] VIA THE E-MAIL
BELOW OR
PHONE 01235 762468**

sales@mandawantage.co.uk www.mandawantage.co.uk



21-27 Coxeter House Abingdon OX14 5AJ

Tel 01235 530577

www.abingdonchiroprody.com

HCPC Registered Chiroprodists & Podiatrists

Surgery and Home Visits available. Free Parking in Coxeters Yard

CONTAINER STORAGE

- 2 miles off the A34 Abingdon
- 24 hour CCTV
- Easy Access
- Clean, dry and secure

Tel: 01865 390267 or 07980
262210

Email: enquiries@oxonstorage.co.uk



£38,000 IN GRANTS APPROVED IN 2023

AND ANOTHER £40,000 STILL AVAILABLE

Does Your Local (to Marcham) Organisation, Society,
Group or Club Need Help with Funding?

**IF THE ANSWER IS "YES" TO THIS QUESTION THEN THE
ANSON TRUST MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU**

For more information on our grant application process and
policy please visit ansontrust.org/grant-giving

G T Property & Landscapes

- All Landscaping Covered
- Fencing & Sheds
- Property Maintenance Covered Inc
- Painting & Decorating Inside / Out

Tel: 01865 730 8 Mob: 07885 550075

Email: g.tierney@btinternet.com

Fully Insured / Free Quotes & Estimates

Christmas Craft Morning

Saturday 2nd December was messy, crowded and loads of fun. Around 150 people stepped into All Saint's church and waded through mounds of straw, greenery and Christmas bling to create the most amazing wreaths and table decorations. It was such a joy to observe many people who stated on arrival that they weren't creative, yet a few hours later leave with masterpieces in their hands.

To keep the energy levels up, hot spiced apple, tea/coffee and Christmas edible treats were kept flowing to maintain the pace and creative flow. Thank you to everyone who came and supported and your generous contributions. Once costs were covered an amazing £400 was split between the Church's nominated Christmas charities – TEAR-FUND and Abingdon Food bank.

Rachel Gaisford and team





The
Marcham
Society



"Go West, young man!" - the Annual Lecture
A talk about his professional life by Richard Oliver

**Monday 22nd January 2024 at 19.15 for 19.45 in the Main Hall,
Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, OX13 6TY**

This illustrated talk will cover the history of Newfoundland, the work of the International Grenfell Association, and Richard's activities and role as a travelling dentist caring for people on the northern Atlantic seaboard of the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland. (The picture below is of Roddickton in Newfoundland.)



Richard qualified from the London Hospital Medical College Dental School and spent two years working in and around the east end of London and Greenwich. He then moved to Canada for two years working as a dentist. He returned to the UK to undertake a Master's degree in Orthodontics at the Dental School in Cardiff where he is now an Emeritus Professor. When his wife retired in 2020 they moved to Marcham to be closer to their daughter and her family.

"Titanic... did the Moon sink it?"

A talk to the Astronomy Group by Barry Kellett



**Thursday 25th January 2024 at 19.00 in the Small Hall,
Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, OX13 6TY**

Barry Kellett has worked at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory at Harwell for over thirty years. He is an astronomer, space scientist and lunar expert.

Have you got a business that could benefit by being advertised to 1500 homes in the Marcham area every month? Contact us for more details adverts@madnews.co.uk

Frilford Decorators

Painters & Decorators
Decorative Treatments
Telephone: 01865 392866 (Frilford Heath)
Mobile: 07775 690523
References Available
Proprietor: Mr A Bunce

Town Furlong Cattery



Kingston Road, Frilford
01865 391864
www.townfurlong.co.uk



secure
pest management

- WASPS & ALL INSECTS
- RATS, MICE, MOLES & SQUIRRELS
- **PROMPT SERVICE**

MARK DEARLOVE

01235 239622 / 07446377816



GT Carpentry Ltd

Your traditional carpentry firm local to you, who cover all aspects of carpentry with just some examples mentioned below.

Stuart Gardner

07885 266965
01865 391110

Nick Trinder

07831 773804
01235 224177

ROOFING
LOFT CONVERSIONS
FACIAS & SOFFITS
WINDOW SITTING
BLINDS
UPVC
TIMBER
FLOORING
KITCHENS
DOOR HANGING
BESPOKE JOINERY
FENCING
DECKING

Give us a call today for a quotation.

Unit 116 Grove Business Centre, Wantage, Oxfordshire, OX12 9FA

www.gtcarpentry.com

JEM

CHIMNEY SWEEPING
COMPANY LTD

★ NO FUSS ★ NO MESS ★ NO PROBLEM ★
OXFORD: 01865 772996 DEDDINGTON: 01869 337500

GARY CUDDON

Painter and Decorator
Fully qualified with 30 years experience
Providing a high quality service
Free quotations and fully insured
Local and friendly service
07827 752904 garycuddon@aol.com

Sharman Roofing

GRP fibreglass flat-roofing specialist
tiling, slating, leadwork, guttering and fascias,
new builds, re-roofs, extensions and sheds
all work considered, call Mark on
07979 791075
msharmanroofing@gmail.com

MP's Report

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I particularly enjoyed attending the Wantage Dickensian Evening to kickstart the festive season. It was minus 2 degrees, but the atmosphere was very warm and everyone from the Wantage Silver Band to Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary to Team Mikayla was there to celebrate.

Looking back on the last year, I am pleased with the progress made on a number of my campaigns. We took another step forward on health services with my Health Services Survey, which thousands of you responded to and which was followed with me holding a debate in Parliament on health services in Wantage and Didcot.



My petition to re-open Grove Station was signed by 2,127 of you and I will be meeting the Rail Minister in the near future to discuss this again with him. Thank you to Andy Holding of the Wantage and Grove Station Supporters Group for providing the final signature. I will keep going until we are successful.

My campaigning for more renewable energy run by the local community, through my sponsorship of the Local Electricity Bill, led to the creation of the new £10 million Government Community Energy Fund which will hopefully benefit groups across Oxfordshire.

And my campaign for justice for our local AEAT pensioners resulted in me securing the first ever independent investigation into their case, as well as a Parliamentary inquiry.

I was also pleased to welcome so many constituents to Parliament this past year from schools to charities to members of the armed forces. I also hosted a local young person for work experience almost every month – thank you to all of them. If you are planning a visit to Parliament or would like me to arrange a free tour for you then do get in touch.

In 2024 I will be continuing campaigns on infrastructure issues like GP surgeries and Grove Station, as well as my other priorities like protecting our environment, tackling anti-social behaviour, and improving opportunities for children and young people.

Right now, as part of my campaign to improve our roads, I have my Local Roads Survey running so that you can tell me exactly where you are seeing issues on our roads that need to be resolved – including potholes, congestion, speeding and other safety concerns. Since being elected I have spoken in 13 separate debates about the need to improve our local roads, met with the Roads Minister to raise it with them, led a debate in Parliament on safety issues on the A34 and A420 and welcomed the £3 million for this year from Government to help fix Oxfordshire's potholes.

However, there is more to do and I want to hear from as many people as possible so that we have the best data to make the case for improvements, so please do take part on my website at www.david-johnston.org.uk/RoadsSurvey.

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



Helen Carter
PHOTOGRAPHY

Helen will meet you in your garden or in an Oxfordshire location to capture beautiful images of your pet. Photographs of your new puppy, kitten, horse or images of your older four-legged friend will look stunning on a wall in your home and provide you with everlasting memories. Action shots and portrait images are available.

Contact Helen on 07828153078
Web: www.helencarterphotography.co.uk
Email: helen@helencarterphotography.co.uk

Hopkins Home & Garden
Maintenance



Our Services
Minor electrical Mowing, hedge trimming
Plumbing Landscaping
Carpentry 07865492813
Decorating hopkinshomeandgarden@gmail.com

No Job Too Small!

Shaun Guard
TV & WIFI SERVICES



- Aerials - supplied, repaired and poor reception solved
- Satellite - Sky Q dish upgrades, disceet dish installations
- Internet / WiFi - blackspots cured, internal & external data cabling
- TVs - hung on your wall or set up & tuned

OXFORD AERIALS
www.oxfordaerials.co.uk shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk
Call Abingdon 01235 239622

District Councillor's Report

Joint Local Plan (JLP)

The time has arrived. In my report of July/August earlier this year, I mentioned that the new JLP for Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire was being prepared and that a draft would be put out for consultation. The draft documents have now been published (see <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/planning/preparation-underway-for-next-stage-of-joint-local-plan/>) and the consultation will likely be launched in January. Please take the time to look at this. I appreciate that the documentation is long and not terribly thrilling, but it is very important: we are putting forward an ambitious plan, which we strongly believe is best for local residents, local businesses, the local environment, and for the climate. Widespread engagement from residents will be vital in proving to the Planning Inspectorate that the JLP has democratic support.



As the draft notes, the number of houses in the Vale increased by 20% from 2011 to 2021: this is among the highest increases of any district in the UK over that period. We have long been constrained by the commitments made by the administration of 2012-2016, which signed the district up to this high level of growth without also planning for the necessary infrastructure to support it. This new JLP cannot undo the growth already committed to, but we are proposing no extra net growth across the region (South and Vale combined). That said, there has been a little re-jigging of site allocations and the proposed development on Dalton Barracks has increased from 1,200 houses to 2,750 (Policy AS10). The development would include facilities to support the housing, including healthcare, education, leisure, and employment opportunities. There would be no extra housing development in Marcham (beyond the development in the south-east that has already been approved).

The draft JLP would be, as far as we can see, the most ambitious in the country regarding nature and the environment. This is a vital opportunity to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Vale of White Horse, and your support in getting it implemented would be truly valuable.

There will be a consultation roadshow in early 2024, with events held across South and Vale. No event is planned for Marcham, but the closest events will be in Shippon Village Hall on 24th Jan and at Pablo Lounge in Abingdon on 3rd February. Exact timings to be published on the Vale website in due course, together with details about other events across the districts.

Reservoir

I proposed my first motion at the Vale's full council on 13th December, on the topic of the huge reservoir that Thames Water wants to build on the land to the south of Marcham. We continue to oppose the progression of the plans through the RAPID approval process while so many questions remain unanswered: would the reservoir cause subsidence to nearby buildings, the A34, the railway line? Would there be microclimate changes, with rolling fog leading to poor visibility on local roads? What would be the effect on the local flood risk? Thames Water needs to work this out, and to make the evidence public. Following a passionate debate, the motion was passed unanimously.

Cllr. Dr. Robert Clegg
District Councillor for Marcham Ward
Phone: 07784 225290
Email: robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

County Councillor's Report

There's no County Councillor report this month, but we are assured there will be a bumper edition forthcoming for inclusion next month!



In Aid of Flexicare

NIGHT IN THE MUSEUM 2024

Classical Music Concert

7 FOR 7:30PM, FRIDAY 15th MARCH



UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
PARKS ROAD, OXFORD



THE IVEL FLUTE TRIO

The trio will perform a variety of pieces, in a lovely and rare combination of Flute, Piano and Cello.

Tickets £35*, including drinks and canapés

available from <https://ticketstripe.com/events/1038177>

(* + £0.88 booking fee)

Or visit www.flexicare.org/events



Your support raises funds for Flexicare, a charity providing a specialised sitting and support service for families with a severely disabled child in Oxford, Abingdon, Wantage and the surrounding areas.

Flexicare (Oxford and Abingdon): Registered Charity No. 1172635
www.flexicare.org | 01865 321881 | admin@flexicare.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3 Short Mat Bowls Marcham Centre 14.00	4 Millets Motor Meet Millets Farm 09.30 Parish Finance Mtg All Saints 19.30	5	6
7	8 Games Morning Duffield Place 10.30 Parish Council Mtg Marcham Centre 19.30 see p9	9	10 Ladies Coffee Marcham Centre 10.15 Short Mat Bowls Marcham Centre 14.00	11	12 Family Bingo Marcham Centre 19.30	13
14	15 Guides Marcham Centre 19.00 Marcham WI Meeting Marcham Centre 19.30 See below	16 Quiz Night The Crown 19.30	17 Ladies Coffee Marcham Centre 10.15 Community Lunch Marcham Centre 12.00 Short Mat Bowls Marcham Centre 14.30	18	19 Friday Club Marcham Centre 17.30 Quiz Night Marcham Centre 19.30	20 Deadline Day editor@madnews.co.uk
21	22 Games Morning Duffield Place 10.30 Guides Marcham Centre 19.00 Marcham Society Marcham Centre 19.30	23	24 Ladies Coffee Marcham Centre 10.15 Short Mat Bowls Marcham Centre 14.00	25 Astronomy Group Marcham Centre 19.00	26 Friday Club Marcham Centre 17.30 Quiz Night (Adults) Marcham Centre 19.30	27
28	29 Guides Marcham Centre 19.00	30	31 Ladies Coffee Marcham Centre 10.15 Short Mat Bowls Marcham Centre 14.00	1	2	3

Have you got a business that could benefit by being advertised to 1500 homes in the Marcham area every month?
Contact us for more details
adverts@madnews.co.uk

Marcham WI - Monday, 15th January 2024

19.30 at The Marcham Centre
Pilates with Emma Malandain



We are going to start the New Year off with some exercise to get us moving, when Emma Malandain will be coming along to give us a session of Pilates (no, not Pie and Lattes!). Come along, wear something comfortable and join in with some seated exercises, try some floor exercises, or just come along and watch if you don't want to join in. If you have a pilates mat and would like to try some mat exercise, please do bring it along. Everyone is welcome and we will look forward to seeing you at the January meeting.

Visitors are always welcome. For any further information, please contact:
Pippa Hoath: 01865 391349
pippahoath@gmail.com