

# MAD News

[www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk)

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May 2024 Vol 46 No. 5

Your Independent Local News Source



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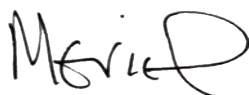


Contact Steve:  
07894 983801 / 01865 331501  
[cotswolds@greensleeves-uk.com](mailto:cotswolds@greensleeves-uk.com)

Dear Readers

As you can imagine, it was a terrible shock to hear about Paul. However, I am in a position to continue the production of MADNews until a more permanent solution can be found. A group has been set up to look at the options and if you are interested in joining it, please email [editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk) and we will be in touch. I will be keeping some of Paul's innovations with the design but let me know what you think. You don't have to join a committee to let us know what you want from MADNews!

Until next time



**TEMPORARY PUBLISHER / EDITOR**

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**ADVERTISING**

Fran Russell: [adverts@madnews.co.uk](mailto:adverts@madnews.co.uk)

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13 Parkside, Marcham OX13 6NN

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**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 from Marcham Village Shop. 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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**POLICE**

PCSO Rich Osborn C9323 for Marcham

Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.police.uk

Tel: 07980 924693

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

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TBC

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

**Marcham and Shippon**

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

Tel: 07784225290

[robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

For other councillors go to

[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Annual Meeting for Electors**

A meeting for everyone in the parish to attend and learn more about what is happening in the area and how you can help. See advertisement on page 9.

**Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, Thursday 2nd May, 2024 – ID Requirements**

Please remember your photographic ID when going to vote. This can be your passport, driving licence or blue badge, bus pass, voter ID document, or certain other government issued documents.

You will need to show your photographic ID before being issued with a ballot paper. **You will not be able to vote unless you have proof of ID with you.**

**20 mph limits**

Residents will have noticed that the 20 mph speed limit signs have been erected, and white line painting has been done. Oxfordshire County Council is just processing the Traffic Regulation Order and then the 20 mph will be fully enforceable. When driving around the village, please check the speed at which you are travelling, and make sure the new limit is observed.

**Planning applications considered at the last meeting**

P24/V0609/HH Single storey infill extension and front entrance porch at 42 Harding Way. The Council had no objections.

P24/V0580/HH Existing vehicle access dropped kerb extended at 87 Howard Cornish Road. The Council had no objections

P24/V0403/HH Demolition of existing single-storey structure to the rear elevation and

the construction of a single-storey extension and internal alterations at 16 Fettiplace Road. The Council had no objections.

Section 73 application for the continuation of development, without complying with certain Conditions as to the order of mineral working, at Hills Aggregate mineral extraction site on the A338. The Council required water flows to be properly monitored and reported on owing to the proximity to the Special Area of Conservation.

**Vacancy for Councillor**

Marcham Parish Council can have a maximum of 10 Councillors. At present the Council is looking to fill vacancies by co-option. Individuals who are on the electoral register, or own or occupy land in the parish, or work in the parish or live within 3 miles of the parish boundary can be considered for co-option. If you are interested in working in a small team to contribute to local life, taking forward projects which benefit people across the parish, then please contact the Clerk.

**Date of Next Council Meeting**

Monday 13th May at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Barrow Close OX13 6TY.

The Council meetings are open to the public, and the Council welcomes anyone who has issues to raise on parish matters to attend, or speak to their local parish councillor

**Please check the Council's website in case arrangements change**

**Clerk to the Council:**

Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road

Tel: 01865 391833

[clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

[www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Bank Holiday 2024 Waste Collections**

~~Wednesday 8 May~~ **Thursday 9 May**

**Green, Food & Garden Waste**


~~Wednesday 29 May~~ **Thursday 30 May**

**Rubbish, Food Waste & Small Electricals**

Check with Vale for details [whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://whitehorsedc.gov.uk)  
or Contact Biffa

03000 610610 (Text phone users add 18001 before dialing)

[admin.vale@biffa.co.uk](mailto:admin.vale@biffa.co.uk)



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Cover image: Orion Nebula – visible in the southern sky through the winter and just visible in mid-April low in the west after sunset (imaged from Marcham by Jim Asher with an 8 inch reflector telescope and colour astro camera, using software to stack multiple images)

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Photo by Louis Hansel on Unsplash

Friday 10 May  
**Gin Festival**  
starting at 5 pm  
in the bar



**MARCHAM BIG WEEKEND**  
**MARCHAM CENTRE**  
**Saturday 11th May 2024**

**Fete 12 noon to 4pm**

Lots of stalls and things to do including Bake Off!

Live entertainment from:

CanDo Martial Arts, Alpha Academy, Amanda Alder Dance, Abingdon Morris Men, Abingdon Brass Band, Harmony Inspires Choir, and Magic Peter

Food available (12-4) from Thirsty Cafe, Baldies Bites and Howes Fish and Chips and from 5pm Pizza

Bar will be open from noon



**4pm onwards**

Live Music from  
Back in the Red  
Shakedown Prophets  
Tom Seth Johnson  
Studio Six



Raffle prizes include:

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**This is a FREE family community event.**  
some stalls may be cash only!



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[www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk](http://www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk)

If you have an event to promote  
email [editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk) with the details  
Deadline is the 20th of the month before publication

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**TEAMS OF 4**  
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Not your 'ORDINARY' Quiz!  
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**Friday 17th May**  
**7:30 PM**

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Drinks are available from the Bar  
Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, OX13 6TY

Tickets available from the Village Shop  
**More information**  
[marchamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:marchamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

# HOUSEHOLD SERVICES



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## MARCHAM VILLAGE SHOP AND POST OFFICE

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Facebook: marchamvillageshop

OUR  
**MVS**  
MARCHAM VILLAGE SHOP

POST  
OFFICE

Monday – Friday: 0830-1700  
Saturday: 0830-1200  
Sundays &  
Bank Holidays: Closed

It is with great sadness that we have recently lost two of our loyal shop volunteers and we send our condolences to the families of **Pam Scoble** and **Paul Harwood**. They will be missed.

Our current contract with our main supplier changed at the start of April and we are now getting supplies from the same supplier but a different depot. This new contract has some issues, so please bear with us during this change-over time.

With spring in the air, we can provide you with all the cleaning products that you need for that big tidy up. In addition, we have a limited supply of **Ocean Saver** products – specialised products designed to help protect the ocean which are plant-based, non-toxic, refillable, child and pet friendly eco-cleaning products. We are selling our individual bottles containing one pod and one refill for only £2.50. Amazing value, we can't find them cheaper anywhere else nearby.



Check us out for our gift ideas too, including that last-minute present. We stock some luxurious boxed chocolates, specialist wines, scarves, gloves and other ideas just waiting to be bought. Great presents, and all specific to our lovely little shop and not available in the larger supermarkets.

Hedges Meats are still playing a big part of us supporting local suppliers. Order your weekly meat directly through the shop.



Order forms are available from the shop and orders should be placed by 5 pm on Wednesdays ready for collection between 12 noon on 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.

We provide most Post Office products and services including cash withdrawals, cash deposits and cheque deposits (especially now that so many high-street banks have closed, Abingdon Lloyds being the latest closure announced). Holiday season is looming, and you can order your foreign currency from us or online, and, we keep a good supply of Euros in store.



THANK YOU, AS ALWAYS, FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

### CPR / Defibrillator training Sunday 19th May 10.00 a.m. Marcham Centre

A free community awareness training session in the use of the village defibrillators and CPR will be held on Sunday 19th May, 2024 from 10.00 a.m. in Marcham Centre. Places are limited, so please **email [clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)** or telephone 01865 391833 to put your name down, if you would like to attend.

**Please do not just turn up without prior notification.** A waiting list will be created and a second course can be arranged, should the current event be over subscribed.

There are defibrillators outside Marcham Village Shop, North Street, outside Marcham Village Hall, Barrow Close, outside Marcham Primary School on Morland Road and at Abingdon Prep School, Kingston Road. You can find one nearest to you at <https://www.defibfinder.uk>

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**MARCHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
Public Notice**

Notice is hereby given that this year's Annual Assembly for the Parish of Marcham is to be held at Marcham Village Hall, Barrow Close, Marcham on Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

The Members of the Parish Council would like to use this meeting as an opportunity to engage with Marcham residents and listen to their views on local concerns, bring forward new ideas and to obtain feedback.

Everyone is welcome to attend and ask questions, and the registered Local Government Electors for the Parish will be entitled to vote at the meeting should the need arise.

*You are invited to take part*



**Marcham Society Midweek Walk  
12.30pm Thursday, 2nd May**

For more details contact  
e.dunford@btinternet.com 01865 391439



**The Astronomy Group**

**7.30pm Thursday 16th May 2024  
Small Hall, Marcham Centre**

Member contributions and a new film about our Astronomy Group (Battle of the Tripods?).



**The Lost Abbey of Eynsham  
Steve Parrinder**

**7.15 for 7.45pm Monday 27th May  
Main Hall, Marcham Centre**

Eynsham Abbey was in continuous use from the late Saxon period to the Dissolution. Its first Abbot was the internationally renowned scholar and teacher, Aelfric. It was frequently visited by medieval kings and achieved fame in the 12th century with the Vision of the Monk of Eynsham and later with the acquisition of the arm of St Andrew. Following the Dissolution the huge structure was demolished and nothing of the Abbey now remains above ground. Steve Parrinder read History at Kings College London. For 30 years he taught History and Archaeology at Richmond-upon-Thames College. He is an active member of Eynsham History Group and has written a number of articles for the Eynsham Record.

For more information contact [membership@marchamsociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@marchamsociety.org.uk)

[www.marchamsociety.org.uk](http://www.marchamsociety.org.uk)

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



The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE

**Wednesday 15th May,  
10.30am and 2.00pm  
Abbey Cinema, Abbey Close, Abingdon OX14 3JD**

**Gustaf Holst  
the planets and beyond**

**Roger Askew**



This lecture is in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth in 1874 of Gustav Holst. "The Planets" is one of the most popular and most recorded work in English music, and yet, apart from the tunes for the hymn "I Vow to Thee my Country", and the carol "In the Bleak Midwinter" most of Holst's other music is neglected, unjustly so .....

The lecture will be held at the Abbey Cinema at 10.30 and 2pm. For further details please contact us at [info@theartssocietyabingdon.org](mailto:info@theartssocietyabingdon.org) Visitors are very welcome to attend this lecture, cost £6.00. A link to Zoom will be sent to every member 24 hours before the scheduled talk for those members unable to attend in person.

Please email [info@theartssocietyabingdon.org.uk](mailto:info@theartssocietyabingdon.org.uk) for further information on the venue, any latest changes and updates. Lectures last 1 hour but allow extra time for announcements etc.

**For more information on future lectures and other activities see** [www.theartssocietyabingdon.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietyabingdon.org.uk) or email [info@theartssocietyabingdon.org.uk](mailto:info@theartssocietyabingdon.org.uk)



Marcham-based classes  
11.00-12.00 Thursdays

Contact Christine Robichez  
07771 686195  
for more information

**Advanced French Conversation Classes**

**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL**

Last month, some of the children in Pre-school wanted to carry out a 'litter pick', so armed with pickers, bags and gloves, we set out to see what needed to be cleaned up...



Unfortunately, they were sad and disappointed to find lots of litter (particularly around the MUGA) and we talked about the danger to wildlife of leaving bags, cans and paper... as even a glass milk bottle thrown into the hedge! Our message from pre-school is "please take your litter home or put it in a bin".

We're looking forward to the coming month involving bus trips, The Gruffalo and exploring caterpillars and butterflies!

If you would be interested in joining Marcham Pre-school please get in touch by emailing [marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk). We are currently holding a waiting list for September 2025 and beyond! It's never too early to register your interest, no registration free to pay and no obligation if your needs change.



**Fundraising for  
Abingdon Riding for the Disabled Group  
Plant sale, fete and refreshments  
on Sunday May 5 2024  
10am to 1pm  
at Lower Lodge Riding Centre,  
Charney Road, Southmoor OX13 5HW.  
Plant donations welcomed.  
Contact Sarah at [sarahwilkinson123@gmail.com](mailto:sarahwilkinson123@gmail.com)  
[www.rda-abingdon.org.uk](http://www.rda-abingdon.org.uk)**

May is a very exciting month for Little Angels, as we are preparing to open a brand new nursery just down the road in Southmoor! We have been very busy training up our new team members and making sure the building and environment is just right so that we can nurture even more children on their quest for knowledge in our new setting! If you would like some more information about our Southmoor setting please email [Southmoor@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk](mailto:Southmoor@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk)



We are also busy getting ready for the Marcham Big Weekend! The team are so excited and will be offering face painting, you will be able to make a flower crown or wand and there will be a raffle to win some babysitting vouchers! We can't wait to see lots of you there! Some of our Little Angels will be out and about in the village looking for pretty things to make flower crowns and wands with, so do say hello if you see us out and about!

Here at Marcham Little Angels, we currently do not have space for any more Little Angels to join us right now! But if you are thinking about adding a new Little Angel to your family, please contact us sooner rather than later!

T: 01865 819992E: [info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk](mailto:info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk)  
[www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk](http://www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk)  
follow us on Facebook: [littleangelsmarcham](https://www.facebook.com/littleangelsmarcham)



**MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS**



*"Hello Wembley!"...*

It does sound good, doesn't it! Our school choir, along with many other school choirs from across Britain, took part in a concert at Wembley Arena on Wednesday 20th March. Over 6000 children came together to sing and bring joy to themselves and to the parents and supporters who joined us as the audience. It was a magnificent night: there was dance and lights and a wonderful atmosphere, with excited and talented children and young people singing together. The event was in support of pupils who are adopted or are in care, and any money raised went to this worthy cause. Find out more at <https://voiceinamillion.com> Marcham School choir were, of course, fantastically well-behaved and totally committed in their singing and their participation. It was a real pleasure and honour to be with them and to be a part of it. Many, many thanks to Miss Taylor and Miss Priddle for their co-ordination of the event and work with preparing the choir and to Jill Rowe and Miss Field who accompanied us.

It was a joy to be a part of the **Easter celebrations** in church on Thursday 4th April. The children's contributions were fabulous: they were thoughtful and well delivered. They sang with sensitivity - when required - and enthusiasm and it was lovely to see parents and other members of the congregation dancing away during the livelier tunes. Special thanks to Rob and Tamsin, Nick Weldon (with Boris the monkey) and Jill Rowe for her faithfulness and commitment to ensuring this service went well. Thank you all!

**And another Easter** Thank you to **Marcham Village Shop** who kindly donated creme eggs for our Easter egg hunt on the last day of term. They were gratefully received by the school – and eagerly consumed by the pupils! Thank you, Marcham Post Office. How very generous of you!

At the time of writing, we are at the end of our first week back in school and we've had a wonderful 'Visions Day' today, where we spent time looking at our school story – **Noah's Ark** – and how our school values can be seen in Noah's actions and attitude. It's a story that is special to Christians, Jews and Muslims and can be found in all their sacred texts and so it is special for many people around the world. For some the story might be about new starts and chances to begin again. For others it's about being together, working together and being in community with each other. Or it's about doing our best to get on with others - even when it might be difficult - and for some it might be about hope for the future. We have:

- Been engaged in team-building games
- Made a Noah's Ark and rainbow from paper plates
- Found out some 'extreme' facts about animals
- Made up some songs about the Ark and the School Values
- Thought about how our School Values are seen throughout the story
- Thought about our own futures and what our hopes are

And we ended the day with the whole school dancing to **"We're all in this together"** from High School Musical, having learnt the dance in one of our sessions. It was all great fun and it was clear that the children enjoyed it so it should have a positive effect on our school community.

To see what else the school has been up to go to [www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages/](http://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages/)



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

Thirsty Café was very sad to hear the news that Pam Scoble and Paul Harwood had passed away.

Pam had been a volunteer in the café for several years supporting and working in front of house, as have all her family.

Paul was a regular customer with Rosemary his wife and latterly helped the café with MAD News articles. They will both be missed.

March has been a busy month. We are as usual very reliant on our wonderful volunteers, on Wednesday 10th April we could not open as we were short staffed. We are looking for volunteers who can help us on a Wednesday morning. It is a day where Mothers and young children can come and enjoy each other's company. As well as groups who can get together and talk over coffee and cakes.



On the **Marcham Weekend** the Café will be running a barbecue and a cake and drinks stall during the day as well as doing pizzas in the evening.

**Dates for Diary Stay and Play 1st May | Marcham Weekend May 11th**

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

**Website:** [www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk](http://www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk)

**E-mail:** [hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk](mailto:hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk)



## If You Hear A Robin Humming 'Eye Of The Tiger'

If you've ever strolled around the Global Retreat Centre in Nuneham Courtenay, Oxfordshire—like a spiritual detective on a quest for inner peace —you'll have clocked those 20 new birdboxes. Proper posh ones they are.

Now, the plan was to get more birds and birdsong closer to the house. But it wasn't just a case of sticking 'em up willy-nilly. There was a strategy. A proper tactical operation.

Some were slyly hidden near doors and windows. Why? So visitors could soak up the bird vibes without actually spotting the little feathered maestros. It's like VIP access to the avian orchestra.

I chipped in this year by putting up 20 new ones. My gift to the house: an upgraded natural sound experience. Forget whale songs; we're talking Blue Tits, Robins, bats, and owls.

We've got a grand total of 93 boxes (only 2 have done a runner in my 15 years of box babysitting). Each box has its own clientele: Blue Tits, they're like the regulars at the local pub; Robins, they're the hipsters who nest in hedges; bats, they're the night shift crew; and owls, well, they're the tree-dwelling professors.

But too many boxes ain't the answer. We're not running a bird Airbnb without planning permission here. We don't want to artificially inflate populations like a dodgy stock market. And let's face it, high-rise living can lead to bird drama—feathers flying, squabbles over prime real estate, and the occasional bird flu gossip.

So, next time you're sipping your herbal tea and contemplating life, spare a thought for those 93 boxes. They're like the feathered tenants of a swanky avian apartment block. And remember, it's quality over quantity—just like a good biscuit selection.

And if anyone asks, tell 'em: "Yeah, I've seen the birdboxes. Proper posh they are. Makes the whole place feel like a feathered version of Downton Abbey.

We're not just slapping up birdboxes willy-nilly. It's not a DIY frenzy where you grab a hammer and shout, 'Build it, and they will come!' Nah, we're more strategic than that.

We've got the Blue Tits. These little divas need their boxes high up in the tree, like they're attending a posh rooftop party. No facing the prevailing winds mind you—these birds want a view, not a wind tunnel. And no branches blocking their hole; they're not playing hide-and-seek.

Now, the Robins—they're the stealthy ones. Their boxes? Buried in hedges or trees, practically invisible. They're like the secret agents of the bird world. And get this: they prefer a low-altitude approach. None of that high-flying nonsense. They swoop down, do a U-turn upwards, and voilà! Nest secured.

And don't even get me started on the bats. These nocturnal creatures are pickier than a food critic at a fancy restaurant. They need their boxes in groups of 3, like a cozy bat condo. Why? Temperature control. If one box gets chilly, they can shuffle to a warmer suite. It's like a bat version of a holiday resort.

So, next time you see a birdbox, remember: it's not just wood and nails. It's a carefully curated avian real estate market. And if you hear a Robin humming 'Eye of the Tiger' while nesting, you'll know they mean business.

We've got more birdboxes than a magpie's got nicked trinkets. Seriously, it's like the avian version of a property boom. Worth a mention, we've got the bat box on the historic chapel. Roof missing, right? But I'm not playing Bob the Builder here. Why? Because there should be three of these bad boys at every site, not just one, so hardly worth repairing. It's like the Three Musketeers, but with wings.

Now, brace yourself for the owl boxes. These ancient cribs are perched so high up the trees, you'd need a Sherpa and a telescope to spot 'em. Back in the day, they were like ground-floor flats. But these conifers grew taller, like they were on some botanical steroids, and now the owl penthouses are sky-high. Solid as a rock though—built to last.

We've got room for 20 more Blue Tit and Robin boxes along the Thames boundary. But it's not a case of 'could we?' Nah, it's 'should we?' Like deciding whether to add extra biscuits to your tea break.

But wait, there's more! House Sparrow boxes—three chambers so they nest communally, like a bird B&B. Problem is, our local Sparrow population is about as active as a sloth on a Sunday, they're just not there. So, it's like inviting guests to a party when your fridge is empty. I just don't put them up.

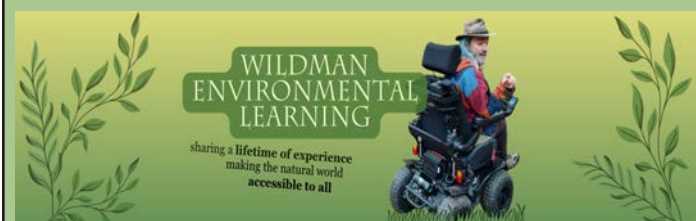
And finally, Swift boxes which we don't currently have. These birds are pickier than a Michelin-starred chef. To attract 'em, you'd you need to fool them into thinking we have a well established colony already. You'd need audio devices blaring their calls every 40 metres, from their nearest site, to here, as they arrive from Africa in May. It's like hosting a Swift karaoke night. But trust me, even with the 200 speakers I estimate to be needed, passing birds are more likely to roll their eyes and fly off.

So, next time you're strolling the grounds, keep your peepers peeled for those 93 boxes. And start with the two ninja bat boxes on the Pollard Memorial. They're like the James Bonds of the bird world—silent, mysterious, and probably ordering martinis.

**Happy Gardening!**

**Stuart Mabbutt**

**01865 747243 [www.wildmaninspires.co.uk](http://www.wildmaninspires.co.uk)**



# SOCIAL & COMMUNITY



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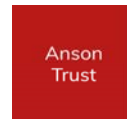
14 seats plus your driver  
(The driver needs to be aged between and their licence MUST cover driving a minibus)

A standard donation is requested for each booking to cover diesel/maintenance.

Contact Marion Belcher on 07507 797757 for more information

## THE FRIENDS OF THE BBOWT COTHILL RESERVES

The Cothill area is extraordinarily rich in wildlife, from the internationally important Cothill Fen, with its ancient fen, to Dry Sandford Pit with its intriguing young fen and Hitchcose Pit, formerly a quarry, now a haven for rare solitary bees and wasps. The Friends were founded in 1987 in memory of gifted local botanist Jeremy Milton. Members receive information about the Reserves and enjoy expert led walks. There is no membership fee and no obligation to carry out work on the Reserves. The Friends is not a fund raising body. If you would like to know more about the Friends please contact [secfcr@gmail.com](mailto:secfcr@gmail.com)



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For more information on our grant application process please visit [ansontrust.org/grant-giving](http://ansontrust.org/grant-giving) or email us at [ansontrustenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:ansontrustenquiries@gmail.com)

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**Playworker Vacancy for  
Breakfast and After School Club at  
Marcham C of E Primary School  
(can be split for part-time work or as job-share)**

Do you enjoy working with children and having fun? Are you a good team player and do you love to support children in their learning and development through play? This position would be to support the existing breakfast club team in preparing and serving breakfast as well as supporting the children's play before starting school in the morning.

Vicky's After School Clubs are privately owned and Vicky will ensure you receive the training you will need to succeed in your role and encourage you to be the best you can be. We are seeking an engaging, reliable, caring and enthusiastic Playworker to work with children between the ages of 4-11.

You will be working in a fun and engaging environment as part of a fantastic team.

Hours are: Breakfast: 7.30 – 8.45am Monday-Friday  
After School Club: 2.45-5.45 pm Monday-Thursday (Term Time only)

Salary dependent on experience and qualifications.

Full training will be given

Minimum age 18 years (Ofsted requirement)

Please note that an enhanced DBS check will be undertaken as part of the recruitment process.

**If you are interested and would like further information, please contact:**

**Vicky Hickman Tel No: 07887711454**

**Email: [info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk](mailto:info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk)**

**website: [www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk](http://www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk)**



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**AUNT SALLY RELAUNCH**

The bar now has two 'Aunt Sally' teams, with the first match launched on 4th April. The teams will be playing matches on the patio area at Marcham Centre on Wednesday nights throughout the summer starting at 8.30pm. Spectators are welcome – please come and find out more about this traditional game still played around Oxfordshire!

**MEMBERSHIP – IT'S TIME TO RENEW!**

Our members form the backbone of Marcham Community Group. They elect and support its trustees in investing in our community and in operating Marcham Centre. Membership runs from 1st April each year, so it is that time again when we will contact you to renew your membership. For those who are not yet members or whose membership may have lapsed, we are keen to bring you on board and support us. Please use this QR code or go to [marcham.org/join](http://marcham.org/join) to download a membership form for 2024-25.



**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](mailto:jim.asher@btinternet.com), if you are able to help. You could be making a real difference!

**EVENTS AT MARCHAM CENTRE**

**Quiz Night:** Friday 3rd May: Adults only - 7:30 for 8pm prompt start.

**Big Marcham Weekend:** Friday 10th and Saturday 11th May – Events, activities, food and refreshments for everyone (please see [page 5](#) for details). If you have newly moved here, this is a great introduction to Marcham and its community groups and a chance to meet people and find out more about what is available. Please remember to come to the MCG stall on the day and find out more about what we do.

**Indoor short-mat bowls** at Marcham Centre is now closed during the summer outdoor season. It is planned to re-start on 18th September (please look out for an update in the September MADNews).

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

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY  
[enquiries@marchamcentre.org](mailto:enquiries@marchamcentre.org) [www.marchamcentre.org](http://www.marchamcentre.org)  
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**EASTER FUN AT MARCHAM CENTRE**

The Easter Egg Hunt and Bonnet Competition was great fun, thanks to everyone who came along to join in, especially the Easter Bunny!

Ella was the winner with her Helter Skelter bonnet



Runners up in the Easter Bonnet Competition



**MARCHAM WI**

Monday 20th May 2024,  
 7.30pm at Marcham Centre

**Shelley Chocolates**

In May, Shelley will demonstrate the art of chocolate making and give us a glimpse into the world of artisan chocolate making

Everyone will sample, share, taste and enjoy a selection of delicious flavours.

Evening includes themed raffle and refreshments.

Visitors always welcome

(£5 for visitors as we have a max number for this event – please email to reserve your place!) [marchamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:marchamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)



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a place to relax

### Spring

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –

When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;  
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush  
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring  
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;  
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush  
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush  
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?

A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning  
In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,  
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,  
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,  
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS



# ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKES CHURCHES

[www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk](http://www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk)



As many of you will know **Paul** Harwood sadly died recently. He was just finishing his editing of last month's edition of MAD News when he was taken unwell and he died in hospital a few days later. He contributed lots to the village and we all miss him, not least the men's group at All Saints Church. The thoughts and prayers of many in the community are with Rosemary and their sons Matthew and Neil at this time. Sadly, Paul is not the only person we have lost recently. As well as the service for Paul, there are services in All Saints Church for Gordon Bendall, Ann Brill and Ruby Russell. At the time of writing, I have just taken **Pam** Scoble's funeral and it was wonderful to see the church full of people gathered to celebrate her life and give thanks to God for her. **Gordon** has lived in Marcham with Val for over 40 years. He was a former church warden and bellringer at All Saints. **Ann** used to live with her husband in Chancel Way until moving to a care home in 2018. She was an active member of the WI and ran the Busy Bee newsagent in Abingdon. **Ruby** was 103! Still coming to church here until just a few weeks ago, Ruby served the Lord with passion and prayerfulness for all her long life. She was a great woman of God, touching the lives of many, and always with that wonderful smile on her face. Amid the inevitable sadness and poignancy of looking back over people's lives and helping the bereaved to say goodbye, it is always a privilege to come alongside those left behind to offer comfort and gospel hope in Christ. As it says in the funeral service, "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through Jesus." He is the one that helps us grieve in hope.



May 9-19th 2024

THY KINGDOM COME

Join the worldwide church in 10 days of prayer  
between Ascension Day  
and Pentecost.

See our website for more information

## Contacts:

**Revd. Nick Weldon** Vicar [vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org) 01865 391962

**Rob Finch** Youth Worker [youth@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:youth@allsaintsmarcham.org)

**Jill Rowe** Children and Families minister [families@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:families@allsaintsmarcham.org)

**Tamsin Gilbert** Parish Administrator [info@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:info@allsaintsmarcham.org)

## Regular Sunday services

10am: Morning Service at AS

6pm: Evening Service

**Wednesday Holy Communion**

10.30am at Duffield Place

## St. Luke's, Garford

Sunday mornings (when no service):  
church open for quiet prayer 11am-12pm  
Sunday 26 May, 11am: Pentecost Service  
Contact: [st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org)

## News from St Lukes

After a few false starts we pulled together at the last minute to have a beautiful Eastertide singing evening. Our wonderful choir sang a madrigal in perfect harmony followed by favourite hymns and readings. See opposite for a spring poem.

## REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

#### JOINT LOCAL PLAN (JLP)

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed towards the consultation on South and Vale's draft JLP, which has now closed. Over 1,200 individuals and organisations commented – either to the full survey or to the In-a-Nutshell version – and officers are now busy incorporating the consultation findings into the 'full' draft JLP, which will then be published later in the year for review & comment by the community, before finally going to the national Planning Inspectorate.

#### HEART OF THE VALE

The Vale's proposal for a new 4-year Corporate Plan (the 'Heart of the Vale') is currently open for discussion. This establishes our vision, ambitions, and priorities for the district council over the next four years and has three key threads: providing the home people need; supporting climate and nature recovery; and creating healthy, sustainable, and inclusive communities. Do please share your thoughts via [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/HeartOfTheVale](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/HeartOfTheVale) or via paper copies at council buildings, such as Abbey House in Abingdon.

#### WILDFLOWERS

Residents may already be aware of the Vale's Let It Bee initiative, to support wildflowers and so pollinators by reducing the frequency of grass cutting on targeted sites owned and maintained by the Vale. The sites chosen do not impact on sightlines for drivers, and are also near areas of shorter grass and pathways. I'm delighted that a site in Marcham has just been added to the list of Meadow Areas: a stretch of verge between Howard Cornish Road and Hydes Copse. This will be monitored over the year and further sites may be added in 2025.

#### CLIMATE ACTION FUND (CAF)

Another round of the Vale's CAF is due to open on 3rd May, with a new maximum grant size of £10,000 (double that previously permitted). Local non-profit community organisations are encouraged to apply, whether directly or in collaboration with the Parish Council.

#### FRILFORD JUNCTION

The Vale's planning team recently approved an application for improvement works to the Frilford Junction (A415-A338), including widening of the road in places and extra path space for pedestrians and cyclists. To see the plans, search for application P22/V1757/FUL on the Vale's planning portal.

#### OXFORDSHIRE INCLUSIVE ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP (OIEP)

South and Vale have recently signed the OIEP's charter, and so pledged to (1) account for the social value to the local community when assessing suppliers, alongside the value/financial cost of the contract; (2) buy from purposeful local organisations wherever possible; and (3) support council employees to volunteer on local community projects.

#### DR ROBERT CLEGG

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07784225290

or [robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)



### COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

#### ONE FINAL ARTICLE....

Although my record keeping is far from accurate, I calculate that sometime in 2024, I attended my one thousandth Parish Council meeting. Like many, I came to local government in later life following a life as a teacher. I can honestly say that, far from regretting the last 19 years, I have found local government enormously rewarding. I have met many people for whom I have the utmost admiration – even when I have disagreed with them.

Whilst knowing when to step back is never wrong, a recent and unexpected bout of ill health is forcing me to step down a little earlier than originally intended. As a result, this will be my final

contribution to Parish newsletters and I will be stepping down as District and County councillor at the end of this month. There is a list of outstanding issues – some big – some small – which I will be handing over to my successor – whoever you elect at the forthcoming bi-election.

Looking back, there have been successes and achievements. Some of those in which I take most pride being:

Helping (together with my wife) to deliver Marcham Village Hall; Encouraging Parish Councils to institute 20mph zones thereby saving lives; Reducing speed limits on some of our most dangerous local roads; Being involved in the delivery of the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan – the first in the Vale.

But there have also been failures, frustrations and disappointments. These must include:

That the Reservoir is still a live issue; a failure to persuade colleagues that building new roads such as Hif1 is an old fashioned solution to increasing gridlock; the painfully slow delivery of the sporting facilities in Drayton; the persistent problem of noises and smells in Appleford and Sutton Courtenay.

Call me an optimist but the first list has always far outweighed the second if only because the battles involved in the second list are far from over and my successors will continue the fight.

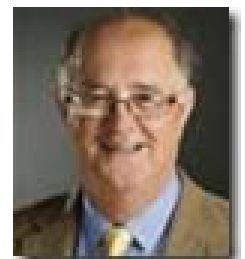
If I may be allowed the privilege of one final moan. Parish council meetings are often very poorly attended by members of the public. The exception is when a group of concerned residents appear to raise a particular issue. Most are very well meaning and public spirited, and their contribution helps to make their parishes better for all residents. However, once their issue has been addressed, too often they are never seen again. Local democracy is at a stage of crisis at present. Elected representatives, be they MPs, County, District or Parish councillors have to take much blame for everything that is wrong with the world and being involved in local democracy can become dis-spiriting. As a result, many worthy people are put off from standing as Councillors and there is a growing shortage – particularly of Parish Councillors. This puts ever more strain on the shrinking number who are prepared to stand. I would like to appeal directly to all residents – but particularly all new residents to our Parishes - to make our local communities better places for all by considering joining their Parish Council. Becoming a Councillor is rewarding and very worthwhile. Please consider being part of reviving faith in local democracy.

Good luck and best wishes.

#### RICHARD WEBBER

Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

Phone 0754 657 1521 or email [Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto:Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com)



#### MP'S REPORT

Along with the other Conservative MPs in Oxfordshire, I wrote to the CEO of **Thames Water** to demand that more action is taken to tackle sewage pollution in our waters, and have secured a meeting with him.

The Government has taken decisive action to address the sewage issue, including putting in place the strictest ever legally binding targets, which I was proud to vote for; increasing the monitoring of sewage discharges in England to 100% (up from 7% in 2010 under Labour); ensuring fines against water companies are unlimited; and requiring Thames Water and other water companies to deliver the largest ever infrastructure investment of £56 billion to fix this problem. However, people are rightly very angry about this issue, as am I, and I expect Thames Water to act with far greater urgency – which I will make clear during my meeting with the CEO.

I met with the new Chief Superintendent of **Thames Valley Police** for Oxfordshire and discussed local policing and my campaign to tackle anti-social behaviour, which I know is a huge concern for

## REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS, GARD & ADVICE

local people. Thames Valley Police has now recruited 784 more police officers since 2019 (which has meant more officers overall than ever before) thanks to extra Government funding and tackling this should be a priority for them.

I met with the **Roads Minister** to discuss my campaign to improve our roads and the results of my Local Roads Survey. The Government has given Oxfordshire County Council millions of extra pounds (a 30% funding increase this year) to improve our roads and fix our potholes. We discussed how they should use this money effectively, including filling potholes correctly and not in a way that means they reappear within weeks, as we all know often happens on our local roads.

**Autism Family Support Oxfordshire** provides vital support to parents across my constituency. Local families wrote to me after Oxfordshire County Council announced they were going to cut their funding which would have had a huge impact. I wrote to them on behalf of all my constituents who rely on this vital service and was glad to hear that the Council have (finally) listened and reversed their funding cut which will be a relief to many families.

I am hosting a **fair for families of children and young people with special educational needs**. It will take place on Tuesday 28 May at Didcot Civic Hall from 12:30pm to 4:30pm and will be attended by various local and national organisations who help SEND families. Please register on my website at [www.david-johnston.org.uk](http://www.david-johnston.org.uk) **SEND** if you plan to attend. I look forward to seeing you there!

Visits this past month included to Drayton Community Primary School to present Local Hero Awards to four pupils who secured help for an unconscious woman and meeting Kathleen Law in Wantage, at the invitation of her son David, to wish her a happy 100th birthday.

As ever, if I can help with anything then do please get in touch via [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)

**DAVID JOHNSTON** OBE MP, Member of Parliament for Wantage, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
Phone: 0207 219 3858 Email: [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)



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

### News from GARD

Thames Water have been in the news a lot this month, none of it good. We still have no decision from the Secretary of State for DEFRA (Steve Barclay) either on GARD's call for a Public Inquiry, or on Thames Water's reservoir plans. You can still write to the Rt Hon Steve Barclay, Secretary of State at [water.resources@defra.gov.uk](mailto:water.resources@defra.gov.uk), label your email 'Public Inquiry into Thames Water's WRMP and copy to your MP.

Sign our Petition: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/stopTWreservoir> or see the QR code. The Petition asks the Secretary of State to "Stop Thames Water's costly mega-reservoir – fix the leaks!" Please sign and share as widely as possible. Paper Petition: *Marcham: you will find a poster, slips and petition box in Marcham Village Shop.*

GARD is continuing exciting research into Biodiversity and Habitat on the Reservoir Site, moving on to hedges and water ways as well as the trees described in the last Newsletter. If you have some knowledge on the subject of biodiversity and would like to help GARD with this for the Public Inquiry, please contact us [gard.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:gard.secretary@gmail.com)

**On Friday 24th May 2024 GARD's Annual General Meeting will be taking place in Steventon Village Hall at 8pm. Please come for a full update on our campaign.**

Details for contacting your MP: David Johnston [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)

Please copy [gard.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:gard.secretary@gmail.com) into any correspondence and see the website for developments [www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk/](http://www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk/) **DEREK STORK**, Chairman GARD .

For more information [www.gard-oxon.org.uk](http://www.gard-oxon.org.uk)

Facebook: [@abingdonreservoir](https://www.facebook.com/abingdonreservoir), Twitter [@GARD\\_OXON](https://twitter.com/GARD_OXON)



### Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service – keeping Oxfordshire safe and well

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

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

They can also provide advice and signposting on alcohol use, staying well and warm, and scams and doorstep crime prevention. If you work or support vulnerable people in their own homes, you can refer someone for a safe and well visit on the county council's website here:

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/fire-and-public-safety/fire-and-rescue-service/safe-and-well-visit](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/fire-and-public-safety/fire-and-rescue-service/safe-and-well-visit)

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

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

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



## Kennington Memory Club

Providing safe and supportive day care for people with dementia and respite for their carers



Scan here for more information

Kennington Methodist Church

Upper Road, Kennington, Oxford OX1 5LR

Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 am to 3.00 pm

Tea and coffee plus hot meal available

Only 12 members to allow for individual attention and support £27.50 per day (financial help may be available)

If you'd like to know more about the Club and Day Centre, or to arrange for someone to come along for a free taster visit, full information can be found on the website [www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk](http://www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk), phone or email the Club Organiser Kay on 07852 883496 or [organiser@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk](mailto:organiser@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk), or scan the QR code. We look forward to welcoming you to the Club.

# MAY 2024

The number in brackets refers to the page number where you can find more details

June 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am Stay and Play (13) Aunt Sally 8.30pm (15)	<b>2</b> Marcham Society Midweek Walk 12.30pm (9)  Vale Elections (3)	<b>3</b>  Quiz Night 7.30 for 8pm (15)	<b>4</b>  Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (13)
<b>5</b> Morning Service 10am (17) Abingdon RDA Sale 10am-1pm (10) Evening Service 6pm (17)	<b>6</b> <b>Bank Holiday</b>  Marcham Village Shop & PO closed (7)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (13) Aunt Sally 8.30pm (15)	<b>9</b> Revised waste collection (3)  9-19th 10 days of prayer (17)	<b>10</b>  Marcham Big Weekend Gin festival 5pm (5)	<b>11</b>  Marcham Big Weekend (5)
<b>12</b> Morning Service 10am (17) Evening Service 6pm (17)	<b>13</b> Marcham Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm (3) Marcham Bridge Club Marcham Centre 7pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (13) The Arts Society 10.30am & 2.00pm (9) Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm (9) Aunt Sally 8.30pm (15)	<b>16</b>  Astronomy Group 7.30pm (9)	<b>17</b>  Big MaD Quiz 7.30pm (5)	<b>18</b> Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (13) Abingdon Air Show (5)
<b>19</b> Morning Service 10am (17) CPR/Defibrillator training 10am (7) Evening Service 6pm (17)	<b>20</b> <b>MADNEWS DEADLINE 5PM</b> Marcham WI 7.30pm (15) Marcham Bridge Club Marcham Centre 7pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (13) Aunt Sally 8.30pm (15)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  GARD AGM 8pm (19)	<b>25</b>  Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (13)
<b>26</b> Pentecost Service, St Lukes 11am (17) Evening Service 6pm (17)	<b>27</b> <b>Bank Holiday</b> Marcham Village Shop & PO closed (7) Marcham Society 7.15pm (9)	<b>28</b>  SEND Fair 12-3pm (19)	<b>29</b> Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (13) Aunt Sally 8.30pm (15)	<b>30</b>  Revised waste collection (3)	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>  Oxford Wood Recycling Open Day 9am-3pm (8)

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



## PAUL HARWOOD – EDITOR, MADNEWS 2023-2024

Paul had somewhat reluctantly taken up the baton as Editor of MADNews but he thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and had worked tirelessly on the publication over the past few months.

Born in Kent in 1951, music and cars were his passion although these could not compete with his beloved team Crystal Palace FC where he had been a season ticket holder until quite recently.

Paul loved living in Marcham, the camaraderie of the village shop, The Crown and Marcham Community Centre. The regular All Saints men's breakfasts and beers were rarely missed too.



Rosemary, sons Neil and Matthew thank you all for your kind messages of sympathy and support: his love and support will be greatly missed.