

Marcham & District News

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



JUNE 2019 VOL: 41 NO: 6

READ & RECYCLE! FREE



▲ Holiday Club page 5



▲ Pre-School visit the dentist page 9



▲ New shop display page 5



▲ Our Re-elected District Councillor Catherine Webber page 17



▲ Little Angels enjoying watermelon pizza and meeting the postman! ▶



▲ Thumbs Up to Marcham's litter-picking volunteers!



Diary for June

1 Sat	Sunningwell Annual Plant Sale, 10.00-12.00	19
1 Sat	Wantage and Grove Lions Bingo and Raffle, Grove, 18.45	19
1 Sat	Music in the Vale: Advent of the Baroque, St Peter's Church, Charney Bassett, 19.30	2
2 Sun	Plant Sale and Tea in the Garden, Priory Corner, Marcham, 14.00-17.00	3
8 Sat	English Wine and Food Festival, Brightwell, 11.00-17.00	2
11 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30	7
12 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
13 Thu	Midweek Walk: Queens Arms, E. Garston 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	7

13 Thu	Music at the Unicorn: Kevin Dempsey, Abingdon, 19.00	15
19 Wed	Arts Society: Treasures of the Black Tent, Trinity Church, Abingdon 10.30 & 14.00	2
20 Thu	Deadline for next MADNews, 17.00 editor@madnews.co.uk	
20 Thu	Marcham WI: Denman College, 19.30	7
23 Sun	CAP Service, All Saints' Church, Marcham, 10.00	11
25 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30	7
26-29	ADC Presents: 'Allo, 'Allo, Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon, 19.30 (29th Matinee 14.30)	2

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

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www.englishwineandfoodfestival.co.uk
www.thameschilternsvineyards.org.uk

MUSIC IN THE VALE PRESENTS

The Advent of the Baroque

The concert features ano/recorder player
Emma Murphy and lutenist Lynda Sayce playing
music by Monteverdi and his contemporaries

Where: St. Peter's Church, Charney Bassett SN7 8HU

When: 7.30pm Saturday 1st June

How much: £12.00

For reservations please call 01235 868782 or 01367 718420

Tickets are expected to sell rapidly so make your bookings in good time

www.musicinthevale.net



'Allo, 'Allo

By Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft
Directed by Terry Atkinson

Wed 26th - Sat 29th June

@ 7:30pm

Matinee: Saturday 29th @ 2.30pm

Tickets available from:

The Bookstore, The Abingdon Precinct (15 Bury St)

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

Email: tickets@unicornboxoffice.org.uk

Telephone: 0845 4636638

enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com

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

**Treasurers of the Black Tent
Antique Tribal Rugs & Dowry Weavings
of the Persian & Central Asian Nomads**

by Arts Society Lecturer Brian MacDonald

The journey begins - 5th century BC in Outer Mongolia, meeting the nomadic tribes of Turkey (the cradle of weaving), the Caucasus, Persia and Afghanistan and their woven rugs and dowry bags. Particular emphasis on the 19th century skills of women producing these exquisite works of woven art, demonstrating the primitive living conditions of these nomads.

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

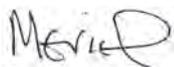
For more information on future lectures and other activities see www.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk or email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk



Dear Readers

It is wonderful to see all the progress on Anson Field, Marcham will soon (well certainly by this time next year!) have a place where we can meet in comfort and will belong to ALL the village. I can't begin to imagine how many hours it has taken to get this far, there has been so much hard work put in by so many people over the years. It shows what you can do when you work together.

Until next time



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Jane Mander

DEADLINES

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

ADDITIONAL COPIES

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

DISCLAIMER

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

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Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon
Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
Tel: 01235 534001
Webbercatherine1@gmail.com

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Annual Council Meeting

At the annual council meeting held on 8th May, Mr David Walton was elected Chairman for the forthcoming year and Miss Ruth Mander as Vice-Chairman. Various appointments to outside committees and internal working parties were made. The councillors will serve in these roles for one year until the annual meeting of the Council in 2020.

Annual Meeting of Electors – 15th May, 2019 – New Community Facilities

The annual meeting of electors took place on 15th May in Marcham Primary School. Reports were given by the Parish Council on its activities over the last year, with an explanation of the difference between the Annual Council meeting and the Annual Assembly of Electors where there can be some confusion. Reports were read from the County and District Councillors, and Marcham Primary School with a slide presentation showing the children enjoying the many activities in which they had participated. The guest speaker this year was Chris Brotherton who provided an update report and showed slides on the progress of the construction of new facilities within the Anson Field. There were various questions put to Chris which were duly answered.

Grass Cutting

As in previous years, the County Council, owing to its budget restraints, is restricting the number of times the grass verges alongside the roads are cut. The Parish Council is keeping a close eye on the sight lines when leaving Howard Cornish Road and joining the A415, as in previous years these had effectively disappeared owing to the length of the grass. The Parish Council will ask the County Council to ensure that this is kept at an acceptable height so that the junction does not become dangerous.

The Parish Council has taken on the two large public open space areas within Harding Way, and is now responsible for cutting these. The smaller areas of grass are still maintained by the Management Company, so residents in this area may see two contractors and grass cutting being undertaken at different times.

Planning applications

The Parish Council has considered the following applications:
P19/V0841/HH Single storey rear extension and reconfigure the ground floor of the property to increase the living area. New external door on the side of the property, at 7 Anson Close. The Parish Council had no objections.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 12th June 2019 at 7.30p.m. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place. Please check noticeboard outside the Institute and/or the Council's website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk in case arrangements change.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. L. Martin,
90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833
clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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



Planning a night out with friends?
A birthday trip with the kids?
A family trip to the beach?
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A standard donation is requested for each booking to cover diesel/maintenance.

There is a **weekly run to Tesco** for any residents with transport difficulties. Leaving Duffield Place at 9.45am and returning from Tesco at around 11am - voluntary contribution (minimum £2) to cover costs. Pick up from your door if required.

Do you have a couple of hours free every few weeks to join our rota - or would you like to join the passengers?
Contact Marion Belcher on 07507 797757 to make your booking, volunteer as a driver or for more information

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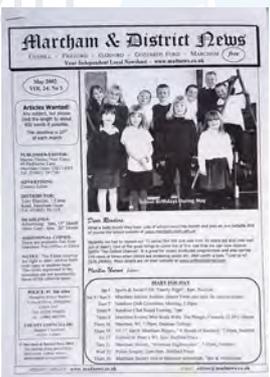
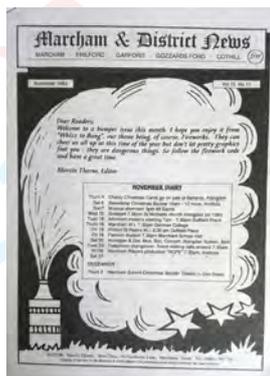
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families@allsaintsmarcham.org.

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We have new display shelves for the flour and bread - it looks great - see cover for photo.

If have difficulty getting to the shops, call us on 391993 and we will get your essential supplies to you OR join the weekly Tesco minibus trip - see page 3 for details.

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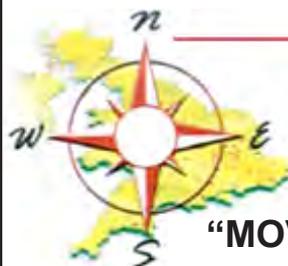
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MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB NEWS

The season is now well underway, though both first and second teams have had mixed fortunes to date. The firsts have won one and lost two games narrowly; whilst the seconds have won one and lost one. Details are as follows:



First Team 4 May – On a cold, miserable afternoon, we lost the opening game at Risinghurst. A result affected by rain and therefore a reduced over match saw Risinghurst post 183 for 9, which was later reduced slightly to a total of 177. Stuart Armstrong was the main wicket taker with his usual spin trickery, taking 3 wickets for 37 runs. He then top scored with 52 runs, supported by young Ethan Davie with 41. However, the team just failed to reach the adjusted target, scoring a total of 169 for 7, thus losing by eight runs.

11 May – The first match at our adopted home of Clifton Hampden saw a comfortable victory. Combe were the visitors and scored 143, being largely confused by the guile and spin of Ethan Davie, who took 7 wickets for only 19 runs. He then, with 39 not out, together with some typical clubbing (with the bat and not a glass!) of Tom Mooring's 54 not out saw us home, losing just three wickets. An encouraging first game at Clifton, including an excellent tea by Lucy and Tristan, and a bit of after match refreshment at our new 'home's' clubhouse to celebrate.

18 May – Once again a game affected by rain at Kidlington, when we scored 152 all out, with Stuart Armstrong scoring 37. The reduction in overs of the run chase for Kidlington meant our adjusted score being reduced to 137. Kidlington comfortably knocked these runs off for the loss of five wickets.

Second Team 11 May – A quirk in the fixture list means this match was the first of five continuous 'home' matches to be played at the 'seconds' adopted home of Freeland. Unfortunately it was a typical first rusty match of the season, with us being all out for just 90 runs, with 'tail ender' Andy Chalmers scoring 28 not out. Visitors Sunningwell were 13 for 3, before they settled and comfortably scored the runs required for the loss of just 4 wickets. At least the weather was fine, and the wedding taking place at the same venue enabled its guests to enjoy some typical village cricket, albeit attributed mainly by the visiting team! For our part, we still enjoyed a typical cricket tea in our adopted local pub, 'The Oxfordshire Yeoman', which has already welcomed us as if we were its own village team.

18 May – A better result than the previous week, beating Faringdon seconds, who had previously won their first two matches of the season. Faringdon batted first, scoring 150 all out. The pick of some tight bowling was Adam Grady, who took three wickets for 25 runs. We were doing well in reply, when a certain Marcham player, at the score of 125 runs for three wickets, said 'we are cruising this'. The very next ball a wicket fell, which started a run of six wickets falling for 20 runs. At 145 for 9, 'tail enders' Deepak Patel and Gary Butler somehow managed to score the remaining six runs for victory. The real contributors though were new player, Charlie Mason, who opened the batting, top scoring with 36; Steve Hill with 35; and a big hitting 34 from Adam Grady. So a welcome celebratory drink at 'The Yeoman' was enjoyed by all!

Please contact Trevor Hill at trevor3chancel@aol.com if you are interested in playing or to know more about the club. We are a friendly bunch, as I'm sure any new recruit would confirm.

We look forward to meeting any of you who may be interested in playing in our two Saturday teams.

Marcham WI

Date: Thursday, 20th June

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Denman College

Topic: Matt Williams

'Samaritans - Listening for Life'



In June our speaker will be Matt Williams, Director of Oxford Samaritans. We've all heard of Samaritans, but many of us do not know precisely what they do, or how they do it. Matt will give an insight into what it's like to listen and support those in distress, including those thinking about taking their own life, and explain how the simple act of listening can, literally, save a life. Do join us to find out more.

New members and visitors are always welcome

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

MARCHAM ROAD HEALTH CENTRE NEW APPOINTMENT SYSTEM

After a successful trial period, the practice is implementing a new approach to meeting patients' needs by introducing a telephone consultation system for every appointment. Patients are required to telephone the surgery on the day that they need to see a GP. They will receive a call back from the GP that they wish to see later that day and, after consultation, an appointment will be made for them as appropriate.

An explanatory leaflet has been produced for patients, and can be obtained from the surgery, downloaded from our website www.marchamroadhealthcentre.co.uk, or by sending a stamped self addressed envelope to the Practice Manager with a request for the appointment leaflet.

The Patient Participation Group has been involved in making these changes and is interested in your opinions and experiences of the new system. We can be contacted by sending an email to mrhc.ppg@nhs.net

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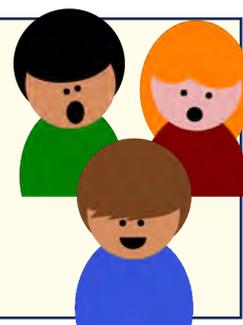
Tuesday 11th and Tuesday 25th June

From 2 – 3.30pm in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place

- Sing a wide range of popular songs
- Get to know fellow villagers and forget your aches, pains and woes!

Phone 391270 for more details

Christine Whild



MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK:

Thursday, June 13th

Join us for a summer walk in the Lambourn Downs. We will meet at 12.30pm for lunch at The Queens Arms (Map Ref SU366764; RG17 7ET) in East Garston, which is about two miles up-river from Great Shefford. Starting at 1.30, our walk will be about 4 miles, exploring some of the Downs above the village, passing some Neolithic Earthworks and walking a stretch of the Lambourn Valley Way by the river.

Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for further details and car-sharing, especially if you are not on our email list as sometimes late changes have to be made. Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers.



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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

We've been venturing out this month.... with visits by bus to the Abbey Ruins and to the dentist!

The children were extremely well behaved and we were proud to be seen out with them.... we had a fantastic time on both trips, firstly exploring the ruins and the gardens in Abingdon, and secondly hearing about the work done at the dentist - thank you to Gemma Samways and her fabulous team at the Ock Street Surgery.

Back in the classroom, we've been tasting different foods and exploring the sugar content on our lunch products.... we were all slightly shocked to see just how much sugar is in children's yoghurts and smoothie drinks!

We have also been preparing a 'Fungus Lab' (thanks Meriel for the link) - we were fortunate enough to win the opportunity to grow our own fungus and after allocating children to be 'pasteurisation experts' and 'mycelium dispersal experts' we are eagerly awaiting the next stage for the 'hydration co-ordinators' to take over.... we're also in competition with Pandas, Leopards and Tigers in Marcham Primary School - the competition is fierce.... It's fantastic to think back on where the children's interests have taken us over the month... and to take the time to consider what a wonderful and diverse class we have! It's been truly magical and we're looking forward to celebrating our achievements next term.

If you would like to join our waiting list, please do get in touch.

Nicky Sanford,

Early Years Teacher, Marcham Pre-School
 01865 392101 Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk
www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



WE NEED YOUR WASTE..

Don't bin it.... bring it.... into pre-school!

Marcham Pre-school and Primary School are collecting 'hard to recycle' household items to raise funds for a much needed playground refurbishment!!

We need all the following please..... plastic pots and lids, plastic bottle caps, plastic bottle nozzles, plastic pumps, single use face mask packaging, hair dye tubes, flexible plastic tubes, plastic gloves, flexible plastic packaging (for face wipes/baby wipes), trigger spray pumps, lip balm packaging, plastic roll-on deodorants, plastic sachets and tube caps.....

You can bring your cleaned items into pre-school, or drop them off in the collection box at Marcham Village Shop.

So before binning any of your bathroom or beauty products, please check the attached listing...

THANK YOU!!



PTA ROUND-UP

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Smarties Challenge over the Easter holidays. You raised a total of £322.55, money that will go towards supporting the school's work. For the competitive amongst you, here are the scores on the house doors:

- 1. Anson £115.69, 2. Morland £109.07,
- 3. Denman £77.06, 4. Duffield £64.73

But well done everyone. I hope you all enjoyed the Smarties and feel proud of yourselves for helping around the house over Easter. Next up is our big event of the summer, the Marcham School Fete from 6-8pm on Friday 12 July. So put a note in your diary now and come along to enjoy all the usual fun and games, as well as some new attractions to test your skill and luck.

Special thanks to Breckon & Breckon estate agents who are sponsoring the fete once again this year. We'll all be praying for a fine summer evening so that everyone can enjoy all the fun of the fete! See you there.

More news next month.

Peter Kidd

PTA Chair 07708 251312 peter.kidd61@btinternet.com



Friday 12 July



- Bouncy Castle |
- Tombola | Glitter
- Tattoos | Balloon
- Modelling | BBQ
- | Coconut Shy |
- Ice Cream Van |
- Homemade Crafts
- | Raffle
- And much, much more ...

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MAD community event – don't miss it!

Marcham Community Group and the local church community are jointly planning a Great Marcham & District Weekend on 27th-29th September 2019. This will raise much-needed funds to fit out the new Community Facilities. It will also mark Harvest Festival and celebrate 10 years of Marcham Moldova Lifeline with some funds going to projects in one of Europe's poorest countries



More details in future MAD News issues. For information, or to get involved, please contact jim.asher@btinternet.com (391727) or neil.rowe.nsch@gmail.com (391168)

Events for all ages of people in Marcham, Frilford and Garford will include:

- Sunflower-growing competition (see p. 15)
- Flower, vegetables and produce show (start planting up your seeds now!)
- Dog show
- Vintage/classic car rally
- Treasure hunt on foot
- Gala dinner
- Harvest Festival BBQ
- Teddy Bears' Picnic
- Historic walks and church tours
- Smart phone film competition
- Apple Day/juicing events
- Quiz night
- Pub games contests
- Fun run and family sports
- Archaeology exhibition
- Art and sculpture exhibitions
- Tea, cakes and ice cream



CAP Service – Sunday 23rd June, 10am, All Saints' Church Marcham

Please do join us whether you want to find out how you can help the work of CAP or if you would like help.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) was founded in 1996 by John Kirkby. Over the past 23 years CAP has grown into a National organisation which has over 600 centres in the UK and also operates in New Zealand, Canada, Australia and the United States. CAP has also been recognised as the largest organisation in the UK to give free, face to face budgeting advice. (We do what we say on the tin!)

The main local emphasis is in Money Management, where coming on a short course, operated locally and totally free of charge, you will be given skills to make and keep to a budget and also to look at day to day living costs in order to be able to manage your money effectively and even put money by in savings! In 2018 across all the services CAP run we helped 24,300 people. You could be one of our success stories for 2019.

The course is open to anyone irrespective of who they are or what they believe. All personal information given to CAP is kept fully confidential and will not be divulged to anyone (in accordance with FSA and GDPR guidelines) All our course leaders (money coaches) are trained in budget management. Problems of a more complicated issue such as problems with debt are handled by our staff in Bradford. Have a look on our website which is www.capuk.org or phone 01724 760720 to get more information on the range of CAP Services and find out how we can help you.

MARCHAM SOCIETY REPORT, 14 MAY 2019

Aspects of Hanney's History Part 1

For our final indoor meeting of 2018/19 we had a talk by Andy Robertson of the Hanney History Group.

There has been a settlement at Hanney for over 5,000 years. Archaeological surveys have uncovered items from the Iron and Bronze Ages, as well as the time of Roman occupation. In 2009 a metal detectorist found a Saxon brooch, which is now on display at the County Museum in Woodstock. Recent surveys following planning applications have yielded more finds. Expert opinion is divided as to whether the A338 is a Roman road.

The Saxons placed East Hanney within the Marcham Hundred and West Hanney within that of Wantage. Was that the start of the fabled feud between the two? The 12th century church in West Hanney had its tower removed and replaced in the early 1800s, as it was deemed unsafe. The church has a memorial to a woman who died at the age of 124!

Andy has agreed to return next year to tell us about the more recent history of the Hanneys. **JF**

For Sale

Two John Lewis glass and chrome side tables in a contemporary style. They are in very good condition with only minor signs of use. One table has a small scratch on the glass which is hardly noticeable.



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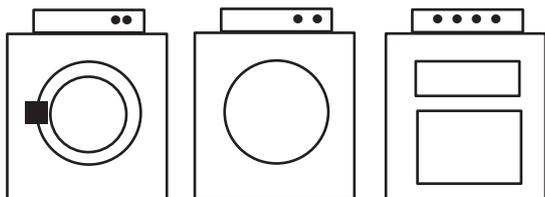


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MarchamCentre—our new hall starts to appear!

Over the past few weeks, the shape of the new hall has started to appear next to the open field, the shuttering complete and concrete poured for the foundations. The new nursery walls and roof structure appeared quickly after concrete was poured there. It will not be long before the walls of the hall rise up too.



The new building will be completed by Thomas Homes, hopefully within a year from now. Once the new hall is ready to open, we will need a range of furniture and equipment, including, for example, tables, chairs, curtains/blinds, audio-visual equipment, communications and security equipment, pans, crockery and utensils, much as you need to furnish and equip a new house. We have compiled a full list of what will be needed. In total, the draft costed list of everything we need to make it operational for all expected activities comes to over £60,000, of which we need about £32,000 for items essential for when we open on Day 1.

These are facilities for the whole community and we are seeking your help. At this stage, MCG has nearly £23,000 in the bank, with £10,000 allocated for equipment. We are preparing grant applications to external bodies and we are fund-raising within the local community to close the gap, firstly for the essentials for Day 1 and then for other items in priority order after that. We have a fund-raising team working on it and we are looking for whatever help you are able to offer—membership subscriptions, donations (small and large), ideas for events or other fund-raisers and for your support at those events already in the pipeline.

We are close to finalising our budget and after we have done so, we will be contacting organisations in Marcham to discuss bookings, hire rates, and how we plan to run the facilities. We have drafted a weekly timetable so we can identify possible clashes and discuss how we can resolve them. Please email any new requests to chris.ricketts47@btinternet.com or jim.asher@btinternet.com.

We will continue to keep you updated regularly on progress here. We also have updates, photos and posts on our MarchamCentre Facebook page www.facebook.com/marchamcentre/ or [@marchamcentre](https://www.instagram.com/marchamcentre) and on our website, www.marchamcentre.org. We are happy to answer any questions you may have as best we can.

Please help us by taking out membership of MCG (or renewing your memberships). Your support and help really is important now to raise funds to equip our new building.



MarchamCentre—our new hall starts to appear!



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Marcham Parish Council

There are vacancies on the Parish Council

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm in the Residents' Lounge of Duffield Place. Applications are invited from residents who wish to join the Parish Council and are interested in representing the community where we live.

Please send a letter of application or for further information email or telephone the Clerk

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

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 Tel: 01865 391833 Email: Clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Sunflower Extravaganza!

Have you planted your sunflower seeds yet?

Packs of free seeds and instructions are available from the shop for a short time more, but need to be planted soon. There will be a community competition for the best blooms at the end of the summer.

(For insurance reasons, it was not possible to drop off the seeds at every house, as previously advertised. Apologies for any inconvenience.)



Great MaD Weekend
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Marcham Moldova Lifeline

Thursday 13th June
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Wildlife charity **People's Trust for Endangered Species** (PTES) has been recording stag beetle sightings for two decades. You can report any stag beetle sightings to PTES at www.ptes.org/gsh. Now, PTES is calling for anyone who lives in a known stag beetle area to carry out a more in-depth survey as part of an ongoing study - the European Stag Beetle Monitoring Network - to build on the 21 years of records PTES has already collected for this species.



Taking part in this European study couldn't be easier - all volunteers need to do is walk 500 metres, on six occasions between June and July on warm, summer evenings, recording any stag beetles they see. Families, individuals, or groups of friends can all help - whether you're on your evening dog walk or walking to your local pub! To find out more, visit: www.stagbeetlemonitoring.org



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 - make sure you're safe to drive the morning after, you could still be over the drink drive limit, even if you feel fine

Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service have put together top tips to help you avoid the fatal four, and have created a handy 'don't get caught out the morning after' guide, go to:

365alive.co.uk/fatalfour

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ED VAIZEY WRITES...

The local elections saw the Conservatives lose our majority on both the Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council. I was very sad indeed to see so many hard working local councillors lose their seats, and new candidates who had been hoping to serve fail to achieve their goal.

The newly elected councillors will face similar challenges to those they are replacing, and there are no easy answers. I have always worked with politicians of all parties to get the answers we need locally, and will continue to lobby central government for the support that we need.

Many councillors who lost their seats will rightly blame Westminster. While local issues are very important, there is no doubt that voters use them to send a message to government. I will be taking the message of frustration felt on the doorstep of the campaign and at the ballot box back to Westminster: it is wrong that local politicians who have worked tirelessly for their local communities should bear the brunt of a Westminster failure.

I am working with the AEA Technology Pension Campaign to secure the pension rights of scheme members that may be otherwise lost because AEA Technology entered a pre-pack administration. If you are a member of the AEA Technology pension scheme, please contact my office for more info 01235 768 888 / dicksonce@parliament.uk.

In Parliament this month I was delighted to see Fitzwaryn School from the constituency at PMQs and have the opportunity to meet staff and pupils afterwards. Fitzwaryn School is an Outstanding school for SEN pupils in Oxfordshire and I asked Theresa May to support more high needs funding in rural areas.

In the constituency this month I was delighted to welcome HRH The Duke of York to the constituency to open Wave Optics New HQ at Milton Park, Oxfordshire.

On other constituency visits I met GWR Managing Director Mark Hopwood at Didcot Station, 6th Formers from Didcot with an interest in Politics, I attended a meeting of Didcot First at the New Marriott Courtyard hotel in Milton, I was interviewed by a local 6th form student as part of her International Baccalaureate project, and met with local residents and senior management of FirstPort at Alfredston Place in Wantage to discuss issues there.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Conservative)

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Oxfordshire is a major contributor to the national exchequer. It is understandable, therefore, that Government wishes to capitalize on the County's economic success. This push for further rapid economic growth has been behind the proposals for the Expressway, the Reservoir and, via the "Growth Deal", the push for accelerated housing growth. For many, it has seemed a little desperate – a push for growth at all costs and impossible or irresponsible to challenge. But two things have happened to change the argument. The first and most important by far was the UN Report on climate change. The impact on Carbon output of major road building, reservoir building and quarrying has been little considered up to now. It is now under a sharp spotlight. Major infrastructure projects will have to justify themselves in terms of carbon output. Some may well fail that test.

The second recent occurrence was our own local elections in Oxfordshire. Until then, Government had had a reasonably free ride with Councils, mostly of the same political persuasion, being ready and willing to accept vast infrastructure projects and accelerated housing growth in return for the £215m offered by the Growth Deal. With two of Oxfordshire's Councils changing hands, that assumed willingness is cast into doubt. Many questions will be asked, not least challenging the figures (the SHMA figures) on which all this growth is predicated. Every decision of the Growth



Board (the Leaders of all Oxfordshire's councils) will have to be scrutinized very carefully. The way the Growth Board operates (with major decisions being made out of the public eye) is likely to have to change.

With a government under so much pressure on other fronts, it is at least likely that there will have to be a pause for reflection on the "growth at all costs" agenda.

I have no doubt Oxfordshire residents will welcome that.

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Thursday, 2nd May was an extraordinary day when I realised that so many of you had made the effort to come out to vote for me (71% of the voters) to be your District Councillor again. Even the poor choice of the Polling Station, the Baptist Church Hall on the busy "bends" of Packhorse Lane, had not deterred you ... I heard that one family had walked on the road around the bends and been confronted by an HGV in the process! Fortunately, they were not hurt. I felt very humbled and can only thank you all so much. I will do my very best to represent all of you again, whatever your political persuasion. You might like to know that now the Lib Dems have taken control of the Vale, I have been given the job of being the Cabinet member of Planning, so this is where the hard work starts!

What happens to your vote? For this month's article, I thought you might like to know what actually happens to your vote once you have posted it into the polling box.

At 10.00pm, when all the polling stations in the Vale and South Oxfordshire were closed, all the boxes were sealed and taken to the main hall in Whitehorse Tennis and Leisure Centre. The hall had tables and chairs arranged into two huge circles with all the staff on the inside and the potential councillors, their agents, other political figures and the press restricted to the outside. No one was allowed to cross into the circles! The boxes were placed inside the circles and grouped together in their correct wards. Then each ward was "verified", which means that all the votes in each ward were emptied onto the tables and counted to verify that the total number of votes in each ward, including postal votes, matched the total number of votes that the polling station staff had noted on their paperwork. All this was carefully watched by those on the outside of the circles to make sure that no mistakes were made, and it took a very long time to go through 76 wards.

Eventually, at about 3.00 am, the actual count began and again was carefully scrutinised by groups of people on the outside of the circle. This is very important as quite often they spot a mistake when a vote has been put into the wrong pile. The votes for each candidate were carefully counted into groups of 10 and placed into the relevant trays. You can quickly tell how the count for your ward is going by the size of your pile in your tray! Once all the votes had been counted, the supervising officer checked again and then called all the candidates and agents of one ward together to show them any spoilt votes and those that they were prepared to accept. I saw a smiley face on one and a drawing of a three-leaf clover on another being accepted instead of a cross. So long as the intention of the voter is clear then it is deemed acceptable.

You can imagine that to repeat this whole process for 76 wards takes a long time. My count was not complete until dawn and it felt very special when the Returning Officer, Margaret Mead, finally called out the results of my ward.

I find it very reassuring that our democratic system of voting and counting is so open and fair, and I look forward to working for Marcham and Shippon again.

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC - DC for Marcham and Shippon
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Neighbourhood Team Newsletter for Marcham from Rich Osborn

Please follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale and

Twitter @tvpsouthandvale for regular updates from the South and Vale neighbourhood teams. Sign up to our alerts system at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk to receive information related to crime in your area.



Priority 1 – Burglary

There was an attempted break in at a building site on Arnolds Way, Botley overnight between 16th and 17th April. Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity especially outside of expected working hours such as weekends or late evenings.

Between midnight and 7.45am on 30th April unknown offenders broke into a property in Bagley Close, Kennington. It is believed that they entered by an insecure front door. They stole a wallet and keys and then stole a black Audi A3 S Line from the driveway. If you saw anything please call 101 quoting reference 43190128853. We would like to urge residents to ensure that doors and windows are locked when not in use and car keys are kept out of reach and preferably out of sight. Use garages where possible and install alarms and CCTV.

Due to the recent spate of shed breaks in Radley, the team ran an operation over the weekend of 27th and 28th April. This was followed up on Saturday 4th May by a mop up of locations that we were unable to get to. Residents of Sugworth Lane were issued with Smartwater (security marking kit) that was purchased with a grant from the Community Safety Partnership. As a result of this we are hoping this will become a Smartwater Street. Residents were also given crime prevention advice from the team at these events.

Please download our security advice leaflet here: www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/advice/home-security-guide/

Priority 2 – Violence

Following a Thames Valley Police investigation, a man has been jailed for 14 years after being convicted of grievous bodily harm with intent. David Evans, aged 50, of Turberville Close, was sentenced on Tuesday (30/4) at Oxford Crown Court after being convicted of one count of Section 18 GBH with intent at the same court, following a five-day trial. It relates to an incident on 1 October last year in Bath Road, Abingdon, when Evans assaulted the victim, a 58-year-old man, leaving him with multiple fractures to his skull, facial area and a serious brain injury.

Priority 3 – Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

ASB was reported at a school in the Botley and Cumnor area when an unknown person was seen to padlock the main gate shut late one evening. The person's motivation is as yet unknown but is suspected to be some sort of attempted prank. Fortunately, school staff were notified and were able to facilitate the removal of the lock resulting in only minor inconvenience and disruption. We encourage residents to report any suspicious activity especially around schools.

After reports were circulating on social media of ASB occurring in the Abbey Meadows, the neighbourhood team increased their patrols in the vicinity. The reports appeared to relate to older children being abusive and riding their bicycles in the play park. During our patrols over the last month we have only come across several groups of young people, we have engaged with them and advised them of the complaints being made.

There has been a small amount of ASB in Lady Place, Sutton Courtenay over the Easter holidays, where young people have been seen jumping over walls. Patrols have been increased.

It was also reported that there was some ASB outside Peachcroft shops, Abingdon. PCSO Selene Moquet has been visiting every shift to control the amount of people outside the shops and have since received no further reports.

We would encourage that if you suffer or witness any anti-social behaviour that you please do report it to us. We can then look at what actions we can take to deter and disrupt such behaviour.

Offender brought to justice

Following an investigation by Thames Valley Police a man has been given an adult restorative disposal following an incident of criminal damage. At around 1am on Sunday 24 March a man smashed a glass window of the Estate Agents on Bath Street. A 30-year-old man from Abingdon came forward and admitted to the offence. He was given an adult restorative disposal after paying for the victim's insurance excess.

Community engagement

- On April 10th PCSO Miles Miller attended Tiny Toes Day Nursery for a talk about 'People Who Keep Us Safe' with the pre-school kids.
- PCSO Ali Blood security marked over 40 bicycles at the Abingdon Cycle Festival which took place in The Market Place. If you wish to have your bicycle marked then please get in contact with the team via the details below.
- The team will be present at Fun in the Park and Music in the Park on Saturday 1st June at The Abbey Gardens.
- PCSO Clare Atkins and PCSO Lewis Quarterman attended a careers fair at Caldecott Primary School on 22nd May at 1.30pm.
- PCSO Clare Atkins and PCSO Lewis Quarterman visited Cygnet Court to talk about personal safety. The residents that attended were very appreciative. The talk will be put into writing and put onto an information sheet to be left for residents unable to attend.

Scams

We are still getting reports that people are being scammed. Please be aware that the police would never ask you any personal banking details and they would never ask you to help them by going into the bank to withdraw money. If you get any phone calls where someone is saying that your bank account has been compromised or money has been taken out of your account put down the phone and try and use a different phone to call your bank and the police (101) as they may still have the phone line open. Always tell someone that it has happened, if you need any more information please make contact with us.

Criminal damage

There has been a spate of criminal damage at the train station in Radley. The team are working closely with British Transport Police and patrolling with them to ensure this is stopped and any offenders who are committing offences are brought to justice. If you have any information on this please call 101.

Abingdon Bridge

The Abingdon neighbourhood team are delighted that the Abingdon Bridge have been awarded funding from the Police Property Act, this will enable them to carry on the vital work they do for the young people in our community. The Bridge is a charity that offers free advice and guidance for young people aged between 13-25 years. We have worked in partnership with them over many years to tackle underage drinking and anti-social behaviour and we look forward to this continuing.

Contact us:

- E-mail: AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
- Twitter: @tvpsouthandvale
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale
- Phone: 101
- Website: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

DRAYTON SEQUENCE DANCE CLUB



Dancing Thursday Nights at
Drayton Village Hall
7.30pm – 10.30pm
Admittance £2

Do you want to dance?
Friendly club seeking new members
Further information 01235 531701

Wantage & Grove Lions are holding a
Cash Bingo and Great Raffle
at Grove Village Hall on Saturday 1st June
doors open 6.45pm eyes down 7.30pm
hope to see you there



SUNNINGWELL & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

are holding their annual plant sale on
Saturday June 1st 10am - 12 noon
at Sunningwell Village Hall.

Please come and see us and buy all your
vegetable and other plants.

www.sdgc.org.uk

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Monday 3rd – Sunday 9th June – 'Thy Kingdom Come' week of prayer. We will be having Morning Prayer (8.30am) and Evening Prayer (7pm) Mon – Fri and there will be prayer stations focusing on Pentecost in church throughout the week. All are welcome to come in and reflect; the church building is open in daylight hours.



CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Service – Sunday 23rd June, 10am

Please do join us whether you want to find out how you can help the work of CAP or if you would like help yourself.

Sunday 30th June – Service of Celebration for the work of the Balsam Family Project

Sunflower Extravaganza – pick up your free sunflower seeds from the village shop, church or school to plant them in time for the GMaD weekend, 27-29 September

Dear Friends,

It is a milestone to see the new nursery and community buildings taking shape now, and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to everyone who has worked so hard to enable this project to move forward. The new buildings will become a focal point for our community in many ways, and we can look forward to the future with eager anticipation.

Looking forward could be the theme of this month as far as the church community is concerned as well. This month we celebrate two key events that focus our thoughts on two central truths of the Christian faith: Pentecost and Trinity. These two celebrations take us into the very character of God and His dealings with humanity over time, and how He has made Himself known to us. Pentecost is the wonderful occasion when we recall the coming of God in the Person of the Holy Spirit, in fulfilment of the promise of Jesus. This momentous event triggered the birth of the Christian Church, and we continue to live in the 'age of the Spirit'. Trinity concentrates and stretches our minds to grapple with the relational heart of God.

As well as these two key events, we are also giving thought to Christians Against Poverty (CAP), in recognition that there are many in our country struggling with economic hardship, and how we can help in very practical ways. Further details are on this page.

And on the last Sunday this month, we are planning a special service to mark the work of the Balsam Family Project. This started out as a venture of faith in Garford, and has subsequently grown and developed over the years, and has of late been based in Didcot. This Project has now fulfilled its original purpose, and is being wound up, and our special service will recognise this ending.

So this month is full of expectation in many ways. The Lord Jesus came to bring life in all its fullness, and June is wonderfully full of life, both spiritually and socially, and is certainly worth celebrating!

Wishing you a truly joyful June.

Richard

Regular Sunday services at 10am & 6pm **Youth Drop-in** 5.30-8pm on Wednesdays **Wednesday mid-week communion, 10.30am** in Duffield Place Lounge. **Village Cafe**, Wednesdays 12pm at the Baptist Hall **Friday Club**, 5.30-6.30pm at All Saints' Church (primary-age)

Contacts:

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