

# Marcham & District News

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

Your Independent Local Newsheet – [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk)



OCTOBER 2019 VOL: 41 NO: 10

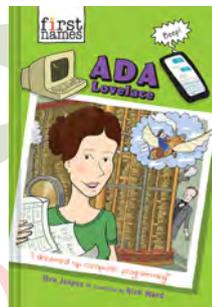
READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Sunflowers around Marcham ▲

▲ Pre-school and their new friend!



▲ The signs go up for the GMaD Weekend

▲ Ada Lovelace, the first computer programmer

▲ Little Angels Monkey Puzzle and inspecting the new nursery



▲ Trish Wagstaff takes to the skies again see page 5

## Diary for October

3 Thu	Midweek Walk: Fox Inn, Leafield 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	7
5 Sat	Mostly Books: Ben Jeapes, Abingdon, 10.00	11
5 Sat	Music in the Vale, St Denys' Church, Stanford-i-t-Vale, 19.30	5
8 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place 14.00-15.30	7
8 Tue	Marcham Society: Aspects of Hanney History, All Saints' Church, 19.30	5
9 Wed	Allotment Rent Collection, Residents' Lounge, Duffield Place, 18.30-19.30	5
9 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
10 Thu	Sunningwell Gardening Club, Sunningwell Village Hall, 19.30	5
12 Sat	Steventon WI Artisan Market, Steventon Village Hall, 10.30-16.00	2
15 Tue	Job Fair, Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot, 13.00-17.30	13

16 Wed	Arts Society Abingdon: Antonio Stradivari, Trinity Church, Abingdon 10.30 & 14.00	2
17 Thu	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	7
19 Sat	Didcot Model Railway Exhibition, Civic Hall, Didcot, 10.00-16.30	2
20 Sun	<b>Deadline for next MADNews, 17.00</b> <a href="mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk">editor@madnews.co.uk</a>	
22 Tue	National Trust Abingdon: Geoff Dunbar, Trinity Church, 14.30-15.30	5
22 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place 14.00-15.30	7
23 Wed	Mostly Books: Heather Morris, Our Lady's, Abingdon, 19.00	11
26 Sat	Start of Poppy Appeal until 10th November	5
26 & 27	Didcot Food Festival, Civic Hall, Didcot, 10.00-16.00	2

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

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The Arts Society Abingdon (ex ADFAS) is holding its monthly lecture on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 10.30am and 2.00pm**, at Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DB.

**The Genius of Antonio Stradivari**

by Toby Faber

After Antonio Stradivari's death two hundred and fifty years ago, his violins and cellos remain the most highly prized instruments in the world. Loved by great musicians and capable of fetching fabulous sums when sold, their tone and beauty are legendary - no one has succeeded in matching them. Based on his book, this lecture explores that mystery within a story that the New York Times described as 'more enthralling than any fiction could be'.

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](http://www.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk) or email [info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk](mailto:info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk)**



**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> &  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

**10 - 4pm**

**Didcot Civic Hall**

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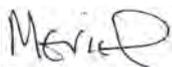
**Weekend Tickets £8.00, £7.00 in advance**

**Under 16s Free if accompanied by paying adult**

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Until next time



**PUBLISHER / EDITOR**

Meriel Lewis  
8 Orchard Way, Marcham  
Abingdon OX13 6PP  
Tel: 01865 391725  
Website: [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk)  
Email: [editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk)

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

**POLICE**

PCSO Rich Osborn C9323  
[Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) for Marcham  
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Richard Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ  
Tel: 01235 534001  
[Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto: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](mailto:Webbercatherine1@gmail.com)  
For other councillors go to

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

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**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Grants Reminder**

The Parish Council considers any requests for grants at its November meeting. Grant requests are considered usually just once a year. Therefore, if there is any worthy and needy organisation where Marcham residents benefit which is considering applying to the Parish Council for a grant, then please use the application form available in the publications section, on the Council's website [www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk), and enclose a copy of your organisation's accounts. The Council's grant policy too can also be found there. Details of where to send the application are on the form. The deadline for submissions is **15th October, 2019**. Applications received after that date or not on the application form will not be considered.

**Trick or Treat - 31st October**

Autumn is upon us, and it is approaching that time of year when children can be tempted into going out trick or treating. The Council would make its annual appeal by saying that normally it is a harmless pastime for children, but it can also be both frightening and intimidating. Much distress can be caused by unexpected knocks on the door or loud noises. Some residents may welcome trick or treating, others do not. If your children do go out, please encourage them to call only on those whom they know and to respect the wishes of anyone who does not wish to participate.

**War Memorial improvements**

The Council is considering tidying the base around the war memorial. This will include clearing unwanted bushes and growth such as ivy, temporarily removing the gravel to treat the ground, installing a sloped path, improving the flower beds and then renewing the membrane and gravel. It is currently looking for quotations for the works.

**Parishioner of the Year Award**

The Parish Council is again inviting nominations for the Parishioner of the Year Award. This is to recognise the efforts of local people from anywhere within the parish who have contributed to local community life. Marcham Parish covers the wide area from the A420 in the north to the River Ock in the South and from the A338 in the West across to and including most of Gozzards Ford in the East. The Council gives the award to anyone who, at any time, has significantly voluntarily contributed to life within the parish. The certificate is presented at the annual meeting for electors each year. Would anyone who wishes to submit a nomination please contact the clerk, whose details appear below, sending a short statement of not more than 200 words as to whom he/she wishes to nominate and the reasons why the person should receive the award.

**Parish Council has considered the following applications:**

P19/V2049/LB and P19/V2137/FUL Conversion of existing listed barn to new 3 bed detached dwelling at 12 Frilford Road. The Council commented on materials for the window, screening for parking, access off North Street, and landscaping.

P19/V2132/HH To erect a solid panel side and roof extension to the side and rear elevations at 21 Fettiplace Road. Council objected owing to the overdevelopment of the site, impact on the neighbouring property causing overlooking and loss of light..

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 9th October 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](http://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](mailto:clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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

**Repeat of Information from September MADNews regarding road closures**

*North Street*

The Parish Council has learned that Southern Gas Networks will be undertaking gas main reinforcement work at the Southern end of North Street for approximately one month between 7th October, 2019 and 8th November, 2019. The road closure will operate 24 hours a day. Access will be maintained for properties which are only accessible from the closed section of road, and for emergency services. Unfortunately the S8 and 15 bus services will not be able to serve the village during this time and will travel along the A415. Stagecoach is currently assessing whether there is need for additional temporary bus stops along the main road during this period.



*A415*

Following completion of the North Street works, Skanska, on behalf of the County Council, will be undertaking overnight resurfacing works in the A415 between 8.00 p.m.-6.00 a.m. This is planned for 8th November 2019 to 10th November 2019. So the A415 will be closed overnight for these two nights. The evening and night buses between 8.00 p.m. – 6.00 a.m. Oxford to Wantage will serve Howard Cornish Road, then Sheepstead Road, Faringdon Road past the Dog House Public House, then southwards along the A338 towards Wantage. The reverse route will be taken from Wantage to Oxford. It is anticipated that the A415 should be re-opened at 6.00a.m. on Sunday 10th November. From 10.45 - 12.15 approx the road will be closed again for the annual Remembrance Day parade.

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Dear Editor

On behalf of the **Stroke Association**, I would like to say a huge "Thank you" to all you wonderful people who sponsored me so generously to do my **Glider Flight** to raise money for research. It was a beautiful day. My pilot rigged me out in a parachute and, sitting on a lead cushion (I imagine to increase the weight in the Glider, but "ouch"! ) I flew off into the blue having been originally towed by a power plane. The view was superb at around ,2500 feet. We could see the gleaming Thames meandering into the distance, the outskirts of Heathrow, the towns of Reading, Marlow and High Wycombe. My first effort at "turning to the left" was a little violent, so I crushed my enthusiasm and treated my piloting a wee bit more gently. We silently glided across the sky going here and there smoothly as instructed from behind. It was thoroughly and vastly enjoyable. My son and son-in-law met me after a bumpy landing – not my responsibility! I'm please to say all yo great and compassionate folk of the Vale and West Oxfordshire raised **£16,250** (without Gift Aid) for the charity. Thank you so much  
**TRISH WAGSTAFF**



It won't be long before the Annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and this year the collection takes place from Sat Oct 26th through to Sunday 10th November. There will be the normal house to house collection and we will have collecting boxes in local business premises so please sort out all that loose change and have it ready!! We may well be looking for some volunteer collectors

so don't be shy and please contact us if you could spare a little time to help us. For those of you that collect the annual Pin Badge

we celebrate 75 years since D day and we have a quantity of badges available. We suggest a donation of £2.50 for each pin badge. Please reserve by adding your name on the Village Facebook Post or by contacting us and reserving your badge by phone and then they can be collected from 10 Kings Ave during the appeal.



*Thanks for your support as always  
Malcolm and Christine 391497*



The **Marcham Society**

**Aspects of Hanney History Part 2**

*Andy Robertson*

*All Saints' Church, Marcham*

*7.30 for 7.45pm Tuesday 8th October*

Non-members always welcome £3

Further details: Sheila Dunford (391439)

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

**ALLOTMENT RENT COLLECTION**

The Clerk will be in attendance from 6.30–7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 9th October in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place for the purpose of collecting allotment rents.

*Please remember to bring your rent card.*

**SUNNINGWELL & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB**

Talk by Ian Thwaites on

**Cacti and Succulents**

Thursday 10th October at 7.30pm

at Sunningwell Village Hall.

New Members welcome

Entrance fee: Members £2 Non Members £3

Including refreshments

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

**National Trust: Abingdon & District Association**

2.30-3.30pm Tuesday October 22nd

Trinity Church Hall, Abingdon

Geoff Dunbar, award-winning animator

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animation in Great Britain



National Trust

Geoff has built a distinguished career in both film animation and book illustration. This talk will include the showing of two short films and promises to be something special. Everyone is welcome and non-members of the Abingdon & District National Trust Association are asked to donate £3. Refreshments are available after the talk. For more information, phone Ruth on 01235 524119.

**MUSIC IN THE VALE PRESENTS**

**Music and the Landscape**

The concert features Triocca:

Coral Lancaster - cello, Wendy Hiscocks – piano,  
with Stanford in the Vale Art Group



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**Where:** St. Denys' Church, Church Green, Stanford in the Vale SN7 8HU

**When:** 7.30pm Saturday 5th October

**How much:** £12.00

To book tickets, to become a **Friend of Music in the Vale** or to join our mailing list and obtain advance information on future concerts please email [DJPedderDPA@btinternet.com](mailto:DJPedderDPA@btinternet.com) call 01367 718420 or visit

[www.musicinthevale.net](http://www.musicinthevale.net)

**Experienced Gardener Required**

We are looking for a person for about one day a week to help look after our garden, part of it is a formal garden.

Knowledge of pruning, particularly roses, essential. Some areas still need further development.

If interested please contact:

Neil Walker, H Walker & Son

Manor Farm Garford OX13 5PB

Tel: 01865 391374 Mob: 07860 917980.



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## HOME & GARDEN

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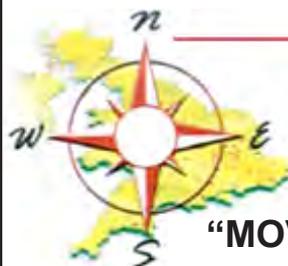
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## Marcham WI

**Date:** Thursday, 17th October  
**Time:** 7.30pm  
**Venue:** Denman College  
**Topic:** Up in the Clouds ...



For our October meeting we will be welcoming Alan Brewer as our speaker who will be giving us his talk 'Up in the Clouds with some fluffy bits'. Alan spent many years as an airline steward and we are looking forward to what promises to be a very entertaining talk.

This is our 'Open Evening' and we'd be delighted if you bring along your husbands, partners and friends to hear our speaker, followed by cheese and wine while chatting to friends old and new!

*New members and visitors are always welcome*

*For further information, please contact:*

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

## MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK:

**Thursday, October 3rd**

For this month's walk we will meet at The Fox Inn in The Green, Leafield (Map Ref SP315153), OX29 9NP, about four miles North-West of Witney, at 12.30 for lunch and 1.30 for a walk of about 5 miles in quiet gently rolling countryside in the Cotswolds starting from Oxfordshire's highest village.



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.

## SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

**Tuesday 8th & Tuesday 22nd October**  
**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 PRE-SCHOOL

It always amazes me how quickly the children adjust and settle into preschool life each September! As I write this we're two weeks in and the children start each morning with a cheery hello and a huge grin



Our days are full of laughter and fun with a choice of activities set by the children, relating to their interests or fascinations.

In one morning alone, we covered buildings, houses, hospitals, MRI scanners, bones, skeletons and movements! This term we've introduced being a "Healthy Mover" and we're learning new physical skills each week. We started by moving 'treasure' (balls, quoits or beanbags) from hand to hand and passing them around our bodies.

We've also received some mini-skeletons and have been comparing to our own skeletons... how do the bones move? Which bones can you feel? What happens if a bone breaks? We made our own 'casts'!!

If you have a child of 4 or younger, we'd love you to get in touch to discuss your needs and secure your place at Marcham preschool. As a charity, not-for-profit organisation, we keep our fees as low as possible (£4.50 per hour for 3- and 4-year-olds, £5.50 per hour from 2 until the term after the child's 3rd birthday). We can offer places for funded 2 year olds plus the universal entitlement (15 hours per week) for all 3- and 4-year-olds and the extended entitlement of 30 hours for working families. More information can be found at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

Spaces per session are limited and tend to fill fast, so please don't delay, contact us today!

We look forward to welcoming you aboard.... come and see the fun we have....

**Nicky Sanford,**

Early Years Teacher, Marcham Pre-School  
 01865 392101 [Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com)

What a busy start to the new academic year, we have had lots of new families start with us in all areas of Little Angels and we would like



to say a big welcome to our new families. Our new building is quickly developing and we were able to go over and have a look at the interior development. We hope everyone who attended the 2-hour open morning had a good time and we look forward to seeing lots of New Little Angels in the New Year.

**Baby Room** The baby room has welcomed the most new children to the nursery. All the babies have been experiencing walks around the village along with amazing activities created by the staff. A popular activity this month has been paint bags, the babies have used all their sensors to touch, squish, squash and squeeze the bag full of paints.

**Preschool Room** Our preschool children have been enjoying the sunshine this month, They have been out and about finding bugs in the natural environment. We created a worm garden and the children watched the worms move in and around the soil with fascination – watching their curiosity and wonder inspires us daily. This month we have introduced a daily run around the field in the mornings, the children and staff all join in and have lots of laughter and fun on the way around, finishing off with a glass of milk or water, a great start to our day. Lots of activities have been available throughout the month but the most popular activity was the Monkey Puzzle Book by Julia Donaldson. This was created in our tough tray and the children spent hours exploring all their senses in our self-directed play using fine motor skills, cognitive development and their creativity. A great month – well done Preschool Room.

**After School Club** After the summer holidays we have all returned with lots of summer stories to share and to complement this the topic for this half term is 'countries'. The after school club have spent an imaginary week in France, creating Eiffel Towers and drawing/painting pictures of themselves and their friends. We discussed 9/11 as a group and shared our thoughts. We then travelled to America looking at Mount Rushmore paintings, along with flags and maps, we have puzzles, games and books of countries in Europe and the rest of the world. A lot of time has also been spent on the field, football games and French boules along with running games, and creative play.

**If you would like to be part of Little Angels Family, where our home is your home, please contact us on 01865 819992 or [marcham@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk](mailto:marcham@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk), see [www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk](http://www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk) and follow us on Facebook: littleangelsmarcham**

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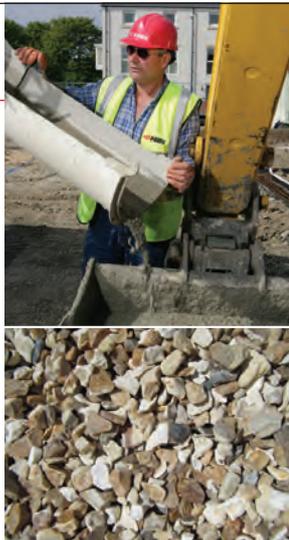
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## MarchamCentre—our new hall is taking shape!

Our new village hall building continues to make good progress - the project is still close to schedule for the target of completion next Spring . Most of the roof tiling has been done. The floors have been screeded and internal partitioning, electrical wiring and plumbing is being fitted. Demolition work is underway at the back of the Institute site. The Institute frontage and Marcham’s iconic lions, currently boxed in for protection, will remain as a key feature of the new housing development and the street scene on North Street.

Village Hall building



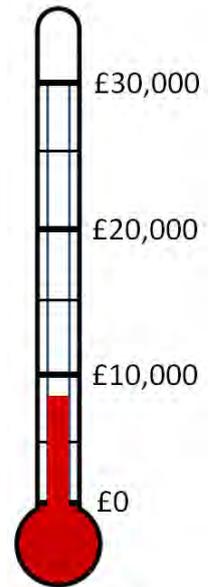
Main Hall



Institute site

We push on with fund-raising to provide your new MarchamCentre with the equipment we need to operate the facilities fully. We need to find about £35,000 for basic equipment when it opens.

Since July, we have raised over £1700 so far from Sponsor-a-Brick (run by the shop volunteers) with further to go (the target is £4000) - if you have not yet been to the Shop



to make your donation why not do so now—or even make a further donation if you can? So far, we have over £6,750 in our equipment fund towards our target, pledges of a further £1,500 and we are working on grant applications. The **Great Marcham & District Weekend** will happen as this edition is printed. We will let you know how much we have raised in next month’s MAD News. We have more fund-raising events in the pipeline (please put a hold in your diaries for a musical event on 22nd February). Thank you all for your support, it is vital to make these events successful and enable us to reach our target.

We welcome all donations —you don’t have to wait for a fund-raising event. If you have any ideas for fund-raising or would like to help, please make contact with us.

We are speaking to organisations in Marcham about bookings, hire rates, and how we will run the facilities. Please email new booking requests to [chris.ricketts47@btinternet.com](mailto:chris.ricketts47@btinternet.com).

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

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



MarchamCentre – new hall taking shape!



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## ABCD Film Society

Thursday screenings this month



The new season starts this month.

Admission to each screening is £6 (£3 full-time school and college students) or £41 for the season

### Oct 3 Double Indemnity Cert A

Insurance salesman Walter Neff [Fred MacMurray] and LA housewife Phyllis Dietrichson [Barbara Stanwyck] plot the murder of her husband.

Dir: Billy Wilder, USA 107mins, 1944

### Oct 10 Rafiki Cert 12A

A vibrant Kenyan film following the small town life of two teenage girls on the brink of life's discoveries

Dir: Wanuri Kahiu, Kenya, 83mins, 2018

### Oct 17 BlackKlansman Cert 15

The infiltration by a black undercover cop into the Colorado branch of the white supremacist organisation Ku Klux Klan

Dir: Spike Lee, USA, 128mins, 2018.

### Oct 24 Jacquot de Nantes Cert PG

A portrait of director Jacques Demy before his death from terminal illness in 1990. This is shown in tribute to Agnes Varda who died this year. We welcome our French cinema expert, Dr Ann Miller to introduce and discuss the film.

Dir: Agnes Varda, France, 118mins, 1991.

All screenings at Abingdon Health & Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, OX14 3GD, at 7.45 pm. Adjacent parking. See full details of our season: [www.abfilms.org.uk](http://www.abfilms.org.uk) or [info@abfilms.org.uk](mailto:info@abfilms.org.uk) or 01235 521976. Registered charity No. 292723.

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## mostly books

### Ben Jeapes - Saturday 5th October

Local author and friend of the shop Ben Jeapes will be running an interactive children's workshop to create a 'Human Computer'. Learn about the inspirational **Ada Lovelace** with hands-on activities and book reading.

This event on Saturday 5th October at 10am is aimed at children aged 5-11 years old.

Tickets cost £7 per child, price includes tea and biscuits for accompanying adults and £2 redeemable against Ben's book.

### Heather Morris, Author of The Tattooist of Auschwitz in Conversation: Wednesday 23rd October

Heather Morris talks to Lucy Adlington about her new novel, Cilka's Journey. This powerful sequel to her multi-million copy bestseller, The Tattooist of Auschwitz, has been described as "a touching and redemptive tale of love and selflessness".

Tickets are £17.50 (including a copy of Cilka's Journey), or £7.50 (admission only with £2.50 redeemable against a purchase on the night). Both tickets include a drink on arrival.

Our Lady's Abingdon Senior School, Radley Rd, Abingdon OX14 3PS.

[www.mostly-books.co.uk](http://www.mostly-books.co.uk)

## Garden Ethics

I've been to visit 3 new potential clients, and they, in very different ways, got me thinking about how ethics are interwoven in how and why we garden.

The first client had a really old shed, that although falling apart, had still retained a lot of materials, in very good condition. Their challenge was whether it's cheaper to dismantle and dispose of the old shed, and then purchase and build a new one? Compared to, separating out all the saveable materials, and rebuilding a new shed out of what was left, by purchasing any missing materials?

The second client had an overgrown garden, still full of very nice plants. They were facing the conundrum of whether it was cheaper to have all the saveable plants dug up, and retained? Or if it was cheaper to just clear the whole site and buying a totally fresh batch of plants? My third client was playing with the age-old issue of, is it a better use of time and money to stop growing their own vegetables, and just take a trip to the local shop?

My conclusion is that worth and value is not just measured in monetary terms. It can also be measured in the carbon footprint, it can be measured against sustainability, it can be measured in the feelgood factor, in values, in ethics.

There's certainly no right or wrong conclusion around this, and if you were expecting one, sorry, I'm going to disappoint you!

We all have to make our own considered choices, some of us thinking about the wider impacts, others of us thinking about what's the most convenient, the most sensible option. The interpretation of 'sensible' is a whole other article!

Gardening is considered a simple pastime, career or even a burden. Yet simple conversations around the gardens I visit often lead me to deep consideration elsewhere.

**Happy Gardening!**

**Stuart Mabbutt**

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**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

This report is focussing on several different issues.

**Work related news**

Between 1.00 pm and 5.30pm on Tuesday 15th October, the South and Vale are teaming up with SOHA to put on a **jobs fair** at Cornerstone Arts Centre. There will be an assortment of flexible and part time jobs including vacancies for young people and those coming back to work after a break. Please spread the word among your friends.

In a similar vein, but this time addressed to would-be entrepreneurs, a pop up business school is coming to Shrivenham for five days at the Viscountess Barrington's Memorial Hall. It is a FREE course on 7-11 October running from 10.00 to 3.00 each day, and it will give practical and positive advice on how to set up a business. If you are interested, then please register now on: [popupbusinessschool.co.uk/shrivenham](http://popupbusinessschool.co.uk/shrivenham)

**Council Tax Reduction**

The council is looking into ways of reducing council tax for three different groups.

- Single parents with children under five.
- Disabled people...they plan to widen the definition of what being disabled means.
- Those who have been bereaved... they are considering to disregard the Bereavement Support Payments when calculating their council tax.

If you would like to take part in this consultation to see what residents think of their ideas you can do so via <https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/ValeCTRS>

You must do this before 5.00pm on 5th October. If this new scheme is successful, then it will come into force for the next financial year, starting on 1st April 2020.

**Cycling Champions**

Many of us are cyclists ... some very keen and ambitious, and others who like to take it slowly and carefully ... so you might like to know that you now have a cycle champion who will work hard for you with organisations, different councils and transport bodies to raise the profile of cyclists and to push for more access to cycle routes. Cllr Eric de la Harpe will represent the Vale, and Cllr Sam Casy-Rerhaye will represent the South..

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC - DC for Marcham Ward  
01235 534001 or [Webbercatherine1@gmail.com](mailto:Webbercatherine1@gmail.com)

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

**Planning for the Future**

Given all the current uncertainties around the immediate future of local government – Brexit, future funding, road building and congestion etc – it may seem an odd time to be worrying about long term planning. But current problems will, one way or the other, be resolved and it may be a perfect opportunity to pause and consider what sort of a world, country and county we want for the next generation and beyond.

Global warming and Climate Change have shot up the agenda partly because the science is looking alarming and partly because young people of all ages have added their voices to the volume of concern. We are told that if we do not set minimum/zero Carbon output targets for 2030, it may be too late to avoid catastrophe. If that is right, then the implications for Carbon output of everything we are planning should be at the top of every agenda.

Take the proposed **Oxford to Cambridge Expressway**, for example - 5-10 years to build with massive carbon output due to construction and likely additional traffic generated from the many homes needed to pay for its building.

Take the proposed **TW Reservoir** – 15 years to build – huge numbers of construction lorries – a projected 1m visitors a year –

again with massive implications for Carbon output.

To offset these two projects alone we would have to plant trees over the rest of the County. If both were to be given the green light, our chances of reaching our carbon targets look impossibly remote. Take **roadbuilding** in general. We are told that, within 10 years, we will all be driving electric vehicles. Within another 10 years it may be hydrogen fuelled and self-driven cars. A few years beyond that, car ownership itself may be consigned to history along with the need for all the extra roads we seem to be hell-bent on building. Take **housebuilding**. There is little excuse for not insisting that every home we build should aim to reduce its carbon output to an absolute minimum both in the building and once occupied.

Take public **transport** in general. Recent data suggests that many of our city buses are underoccupied. The volume of cars on the city roads is making many buses late. As a result, potential bus users are getting into their cars and adding to the congestion. It is a mad, mad world.

Trying to plan for the future in a fast-changing world is a complex and challenging business. By putting the Climate at the top of all other considerations, we may make better decisions and fewer mistakes..

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.  
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**THE PROPOSED ABINGDON RESERVOIR:  
AN UPDATE FROM GARD**

*It may have gone a bit quiet but the mega reservoir proposal has not gone away!*

We are currently awaiting the decision of the Secretary of State on the Thames Water and Affinity plans. We know that the regulators (Ofwat and the Environment Agency) are not convinced by their proposals. They have asked for a strategic study into water supply for the **whole of the South East** (including a possible reservoir, but also other schemes advocated by GARD), with completion for decision by 2022. Recently, the Secretary of State has approved both Severn-Trent's and South-East Water's plans. There has been no pronouncement on Thames Water's or Affinity's plans which seems to indicate that all are awaiting the outcome of the strategic study. GARD will urge that the research process is carefully monitored so that there is no possibility of TW involvement skewing the outcomes towards their preferred option.

As more and more local residents become aware of the reservoir proposal and GARD's part in campaigning against it, we have received many requests to summarise the case against the reservoir. A link to the factsheet is available on the GARD website, along with a map of the proposed 150 million cubic metre reservoir that will cover 4 square miles.

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

For membership enquiries: [gard.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:gard.secretary@gmail.com)

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# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

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Dear Friends,

The darker evenings and chilly mornings herald the onset of autumn, together with the beauty of autumn colours in trees and hedgerows. I regard October as a transition month, when the summer recedes into memories, and the autumn moves towards winter. The gardening calendar reminds us to prepare for the next growing season by planting bulbs, digging over flower beds, adding nourishment to the soil, removing dead flowers, and trimming bushes.

In the Church calendar, October opens with a special weekend with Kevin and Anne Roberts [who led our weekend away back in June], and closes with Bible Sunday [27th]. It leads me to ponder the whole dynamic of spiritual growth, and how we nourish our spiritual side of life. Because God is constant and consistent, always true to His word, faithful to His promises and always ready to nourish us with both word and Spirit, growth is always possible, no matter what time of the year. But often we leave this essential part of our lives undernourished, too busy for space to pray or to contemplate God's amazing grace in Jesus.

'Devote yourselves to prayer' writes St. Paul, in his letter to the infant church in Colossae [Colossians 4: 2]. Being in constant touch with God through the busyness and demands of everyday life is one of the great gifts of God to us; having access through Christ to God's throne of grace, knowing, as the psalmist says, that God's ear is attentive to the cry of His people [Psalm 34:15]. Prayer is foundational to growth in the Spirit, and our souls are nourished through prayer, and reading God's text message, the Bible, every day.

I know I need to allow more time for my own spiritual growth and pray that I may be disciplined enough to have the time and space required for this. And I pray this for us all, that we won't neglect the spiritual side of life, and allow God, through His living Word and Spirit to nourish and resource us at the deepest level.

May October be a month of spiritual growth for us all.

With my warmest greetings,

## Dates for the diary

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October, 3pm – Service of Commemoration for those who have been bereaved whether recently or a long time ago.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Day service 10am at All saints', followed by an Act of Remembrance at the Wayside cross at 11.15am

**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:

**Rev. Canon Richard Zair** 391319 [vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org) **Jill Rowe** Children's and families Minister 390885 [families@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:families@allsaintsmarcham.org) **Rosemary Siebert** Associate Priest 07763330113 **Rob Finch** Youth Worker 07888331708, [rob@marchamyouth.org](mailto:rob@marchamyouth.org) **Tamsin Gilbert** Parish Administrator 391319 [info@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:info@allsaintsmarcham.org)