



# Marcham & District News

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

JANUARY 2023 VOL: 45 No: 1

READ & RECYCLE!

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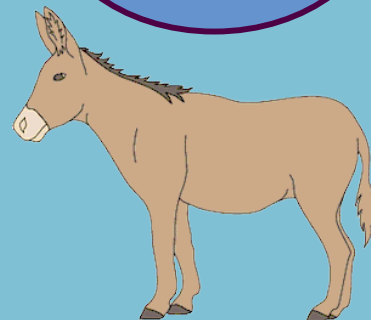


▲ Marcham Guides had an exciting visit to the fire station with two enrolments!

## Happy New Year to Everyone!



▲ Marcham Society Annual Lecture see page 9

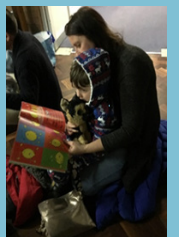


▲ What's a Donkathon? see page 9

**MADNews**  
NEEDS A NEW EDITOR!  
COULD IT BE YOU?  
GET IN TOUCH!



▼ A round up of Christmas Events at Little Angels and Marcham School see page 11 and more photos on page 7 ▼



## January Diary

Date	Event	Pg	Date	Event	Pg
6 Fri	Revised Recycling Collection	3	16 Mon	Marcham WI: Donkathon, Marcham Centre, 19.30	9
7 Sat	Christmas Trees Recycling at Millets Farm	3	17 Tue	Christmas Trees Recycling in Marcham	3
7 Sat	Thirsty Cafe reopens, Marcham Centre, 09.00-11.30	15	17 Tue	National Trust AGM and Lecture, Trinity Church, Abingdon, 14.30	13
7-15	Climate Change Exhibition, Marcham Centre	13	20 Fri	<b>Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00</b> <b>Email <a href="mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk">editor@madnews.co.uk</a></b>	
9 Mon	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Marcham Village Hall, Marcham Centre, 19.30	3	20 Fri	Meeting re The Crown, Marcham Centre 19.00	5
10 Tue	OAHS Lecture: Why Medieval Peasants Matter, online on Zoom, 17.30	17	20 Fri	Family Bingo, Marcham Centre, 19.30	15
12 Thu	Revised Rubbish Collection	3	23 Mon	Marcham Society Annual Lecture, Marcham Centre, 19.15	9
12 Thu	Marcham Society Midweek Walk, 12.30	9	24 Tue	OAHS Lecture Graven Hill Excavations, online on Zoom, 17.30	17
14 Sat	Safari Supper, Marcham	5	26 Thu	Marcham Society Astronomy Group, 19.00	9
15 Sun	Deadline for entries to the Millets Competition, 17.00	17	26 Thu	Mostly Books: Meet the Author, 19.00	17
16 Mon	MUGA Mondays restarts, 18.30-19.30	20			

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

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Dear Readers

I hope you all had a peaceful Christmas and are looking forward to the new year with hope. We have got through the last few years so I think we can weather most things that life throws at us!

I am looking to the future of MADNews – does it have one? Is it needed in this electronic age of instant messaging and online forums?

Does a printed newsletter have a place in our modern world? Let me know what you think.

Happy New Year

Meriel

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Jane Mander

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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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also available – contact the Editor.

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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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uk for Marcham

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Tel: 01235 534001

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon

Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton

Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ

Tel: 07357 464699

catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

For other councillors go to

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

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January 2023

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Casual Vacancy

Since the resignation of Tony Mackelworth from the Parish Council, a casual vacancy has occurred. Whilst there will be no formal election to fill the vacancy, as Parish Council elections are due in May 2023, if there is anyone interested in finding out about what the Council does, and what it might be like to join the Council then he/she is very welcome to attend Council meetings for the next few months.

### Christmas Tree – Village Green

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

### Christmas Tree Recycling – Reminder of where to take your tree

Real Christmas trees for recycling can be taken to Millets Farm by Saturday 7th January, or left on the hardstanding by the Salvation Army textile bank in Howard Cornish Road – opposite Duffield Place by Tuesday 17th January in order to meet the collection dates. If taking your tree to the Howard Cornish Road location, please do not obstruct the textile bank, or the bus stop area.

### Parishioner of the Year

The Council is again considering the possibility of an award for 2022, to be presented at the annual meeting of electors later in the year. The Award recognises the efforts of local people who, at any time, have significantly contributed to life within the parish. Previous nominations have been carried forward, however the Council would invite anyone who wishes to put forward a new suggestion, to submit a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to whom he/she wishes to nominate, and the reasons why the person should receive the award. All nominations to be emailed to the Clerk at the email address below.

### Allotments - Cow Lane and Parkside

If you have an allotment you are reminded that allotment rent collection for the 21/22 financial year is taking place. For those who

have not paid, please transfer the sum due to the Council's bank account (details available from the clerk if needed), or let the Clerk have a cheque payable to Marcham Parish Council. Those in arrears with rent or found not to be utilising their plot could lose it by the service of a Notice to Quit.

### Council Tax 2023/24

The Parish Council held a meeting on Thursday 15th December, 2022 to carefully consider the budget for 2023/24. Once finalised, the Council will set the amount of council tax that comes to the parish from the total amount paid by residents to the Vale of White Horse District Council.

### Primary School Admission September 2023

A reminder too that the closing date for applications for primary school admission in the county is 15th January, 2023. Anyone with a child born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 should apply for a primary school place. Go to <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/reception-applications> for further information.

### Planning Applications considered by the Council

P22/V2800/HH Erection of an oak-framed garage with home storage and entertainment space at Manor Farm, Mill Road. Council expressed concerns regarding the height and impact on the area.

### Extension of 30 mph Limit Eastwards on the A415

In view of the approval for the erection of a further 90 dwellings on land south of the A415, the County Council has consulted on the proposal to relocate the 30 mph entry zone to the village some 220 metres eastwards towards Abingdon. The Parish Council has asked that all the features found at the start of the village be relocated, including the white gateways and the vehicle activated sign.

### Date of Next Council Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 9th January, 2023 at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Barrow Close OX13 6TY. Please check 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 Road

Tel: 01865 391833

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

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

**The Council wishes everyone a Happy New Year.**

### Bank Holiday 2022/3 Waste Collection Changes

~~Wednesday 28 Dec~~ **Friday 30 Dec**

**Rubbish and Food Waste**

~~Wednesday 4 Jan~~ **Friday 6 Jan**

**Recycling and Food Waste NOT GARDEN**

~~Wednesday 11 Jan~~ **Thursday 12 Jan**

**Rubbish and Food Waste**



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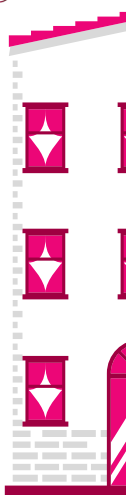
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Following a well-attended and positive meeting on the 3rd of December, a second meeting has been arranged to bring everyone up to date on progress before an application is submitted for CVA order on the Crown, to allow 6 months for the Community of Marcham to decide on a Business model and produce a sustainable Business plan.

Open meeting at the Marcham Centre Friday 20th Jan 2023 @ 7.00pm

**Come and have your say.**

**Cheers!**

Neil Rowe (on behalf of the steering committee)

Updates via Facebook and MADnews.



## Marcham Moldova Lifeline

### Safari Supper

Saturday 14th of January @7pm at the Church for Canapés and Cocktails then graze your way around the village enjoying

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## Happy New Year

We hope that you got through the festive period peacefully and safely.

Thank you to all of you that participated in the **Christmas Raffle** and the **Naughty Elf** competition. The winners will be announced in the next issue of MADnews

For the start of 2023, we thought that some of you would be keen to get back into a sensible routine and treat your bodies to some detoxifying and healthy products. Welcome to 'Healthy January!'. To help, we are now stocking a new selection of healthy snack bars, a new range of low calorie 'mocktails', along with rye bread, wholewheat pitta bread and alcohol free wines, prosecco and lager.

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### Old stamp deadline extended to July 2023

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

Due to ongoing industrial action, there will be disruption to collections and deliveries by Royal Mail. Marcham Post Office is open as usual during action days, so come and see us as usual!



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Thirsty Christmas Cafe



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Santa visiting Little Angels



Friday Club sent 60 shoeboxes, mainly to Ukraine, with Operation Christmas Child



PreSchool, dressing up for Christmas

## Christmas Tree Celebration

in All Saints' Church



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



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# Marcham WI

Next Meeting:

Polly Vacher's Donkathon

One Woman, two donkeys and 200 miles!

7.30pm Monday, 16th January 2022

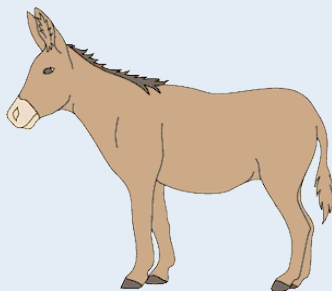
At the Marcham Centre

In January, our speaker will be Polly Vacher, who undertook a 200 mile donkathon with two donkeys to raise money for the MS Society. Polly has previously flown solo, twice around the world, in a single engined aircraft, including over the North Pole and the Antarctic raising money for charity. Do come along to hear about her latest experiences with taking two donkeys on their journey to North Wales.

Visitors are always welcome.  
For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349

pippahoath@gmail.com



The  
Marcham  
Society

Monday 23rd January  
7.15 for 7.45pm  
Main Hall  
Marcham Centre

## Marcham Society Annual Lecture



### Michael Worthing

*speaks about his career as a Geologist*

Michael Worthing did a PhD in Geology at the University of London. He worked as an academic and a field geologist in many different parts of the world. Towards the end of his career he used his geological skills to assist archaeologists in sourcing rock materials in Pompeii, Tuscany and Rome... which explains the title of his talk!

*"Sourcing second century lava paving stones from Trajan's Markets in Rome, funded by plunder from the Dacian Wars."*

In the early second century the Roman Emperor Trajan invaded Dacia. The Dacians put up stout resistance but were eventually defeated and Dacia became a province of the Roman Empire. Huge amounts of plunder were taken back to Rome and with it Trajan funded a massive building programme which included Trajan's Forum and Markets. These monuments were paved with lava paving stones. As part of his talk he will describe the use of geochemistry in sourcing these paving stones to a local volcano and their transport from source to building site.



### Upcoming Events

- Thursday, 12th January 12.30pm - **Marcham Society Midweek Walk** - contact e.dunford@btinternet.com
- Monday 23rd January 7.15pm Marcham Centre Main Hall **Annual lecture**: Michael Worthing's career as a geologist
- Thursday, 26th January 7pm - **Marcham Society Astronomy Group** - contact jim.asher@btinternet.com.

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



Our last meeting: what's behind the bustle!?

**QUIZ NIGHT – ALL WELCOME**  
**FRIDAY 3 FEBRUARY – VILLAGE HALL**



A Quiz night will be held in the  
**Main Hall in Marcham Centre, starting at 8.00 pm**  
Questions are on a range of subjects and aimed at everyone's ability! Teams of up to five people. £10 per team.  
Everyone welcome, just turn up on the night for a friendly evening of fun and banter.



**Bar Open, for those interested!**

**More dates: 3 and 31 March**

For further information call Trevor Hill on 01865 391321

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## MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

At the end of term, there were lots of lovely Christmassy events planned: a Key Stage 1 Winter Reading Evening, Christmas Jumper Day, School Christmas Lunch, Reception's Christmas Performance, Year 1 and 2 Nativity and the Key Stage 2 Carol service. At the time of writing, we still have Christmas performances and the Carol Service to look forward to.

The **Winter Reading Evening** was a great success. We got to see children snuggling up to their parents, with a book in one hand and a cuddly toy in the other... complete with a (virtual) log fire and delicious hot chocolate. It was Marcham School community at its best and a very big thank you to Mrs Sucksmith for organising it (and making all the hot chocolate!). It was great to see so many Christmas jumpers in school - both to raise money for a worthy cause (Save the Children) and also when we sat to enjoy a Christmas lunch together. I'd like to say well done to the School councillors - particularly Heidi - who led the Christmas Jumper Swap at the school. Another great school community venture and a fantastic idea, well done!

And we can also celebrate the many successes of children in school. We have recently participated in the **Pye Homes Art Competition** - which was to make a Christmas tree decoration from a wood slice supplied by the Blenheim estate trees. The decorations were based on woodland animals and the children could only use sustainable art supplies. The winners had their decorations displayed on the Christmas tree in the show home at the Temple Gate development in Marcham. Many thanks to Lisa Newport for coordinating this.

Here is **Matty** in year 6's account:

*"The whole school has been making Christmas decorations out of circles of wood, pine cones, recycled paper and raffia for a competition. The children who came first, second, third and the runners up all went to one of the new Pye homes to receive their prizes. They received art sets, a child pass for Yarnton Magic Garden and a gift card for Yarnton Garden Centre. The school was given £1500 towards art resources. After they received their prizes and retrieved their decorations, everyone was allowed to adventure throughout the house to see what the new homes look like."*

The winners are;

1st Ellie - Rose Year 5

2nd Matty Year 6

3rd Yuhri Year 4

Runners up; Kaycie - Year 6 and Joseph - Year 5

Well done to them all.

And lastly, **May** in year 6 received some exciting post...

*"Hello everyone, a warm welcome, my name is May. I want to share about the most exciting letter I'll probably get in my whole life! A few weeks ago, near when Queen Elizabeth passed away, I decided to give King Charles a letter about how one day you will be a great King and will make your mother proud, with a picture of him on the front but I could only have done it because of Marcham school teaching me how to be supporting and kind. So this week, something extraordinary happened.... he sent me a letter back! Wwwwaaahhhh! In the letter it said... 'Dear May, The King has asked me to thank you for your splendid card. His Majesty is most grateful to you for taking the trouble to write as you did, he was particularly touched by your kind words of support and has asked me to send you his warmest thanks and very best wishes. Yours sincerely...' And with an extra bonus I got his signature! Wwwwooo"*

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/)



## Yellow Room

The room has been transformed with a wonderful home corner with Christmas tree and painted log fire along

with Father Christmas making it feel very festive along with baubles to play with, Christmas books only in the room and two reindeer to sit and ride on. The Yellow Room have been busy making cards and angels and Christmas songs. On their daily walks the team took the babies down to the church to look at all the wonderful Christmas trees on display.

## Green and Teal Room

The preschools have been extremely busy making and creating all the angels, cards and props and gift for the nativity play. It has really brought out the Christmas spirit and creative Christmas flair. One corner of the room was transformed into a winter wonderland construction area, with white bricks, bottle tops, and balls. It looked amazing especially when Santa was added to the backdrop and the children have really enjoyed the change to the environment.

The children also embraced the cold spell in the garden, with the heavy frost and flutter of snow the preschool were mark-making in the frost, fascinated by the sparkling white cobwebs left by the spiders in the garden and enchanted by the white glistening trees. They came inside and recreated the tress with sticks, white paint, and glitter, really expressing their imaginations.

## EVENTS IN DECEMBER

The **Nativity play** took place at the start of December in Marcham Church, we had 42 preschool children up on the stage all dressed in costumes, The children had been practising their songs and lines and on the day the children performed well, with some exceptional solo singing. A couple of the children were a little bit daunted by the large number of parents who attended but the story of the First Christmas was well portrayed by the children. The parents sang carols with us at the end of the play and a big thank you to Nick who gave us all a Christmas blessing at the end. Amazing job Green and Teal Room we are proud of you all.

**Christmas craft afternoon** for their parents was held in the yellow room, here the parents created Christmas craft and along with drink and mince pies. It was a wonderful social afternoon for all in the Yellow Room and a great start to the festive season.

**Christmas dinner** was held in all rooms with the children wearing their own personalised hats along with traditional roast dinner and special treat of Christmas pudding and ice cream for pudding. The Christmas dinner was enjoyed by all the Little Angels and team who I know really enjoyed the Christmas pudding.

**Santa** came to visit Little Angels, and, in his grotto, he met with all the little angels who received a gift from him. Unfortunately, it was so cold for Santa he decided to come indoors to see the children this year to keep his toes warm. But everyone from the village was welcome to visit and a few of the village children were delighted to see him.

**Christmas tree at church** - the Little Angels were delighted to decorate a tree and yes, we chose Angels from the Realms of Glory filling it with wonderful paper plate angels and on the evening of the lighting of the tree a few of our little angels were there to enjoy the night and see the tree all lit.

**Gifts for the village** - the Green and Teal Room have also been very busy creating lots of gifts of angels for the villagers in Marcham along with a card. These gifts were all delivered before Christmas, and we hope you all liked them.

It has been a very busy December for Little Angels, but we are now looking forward to 2023 and **WISH YOU ALL**

## A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

If you are interested in securing a place for your child please contact us:

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## MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

It's been a sparkly, glittery term with lots of singing and fun. Pre-school have been exploring the different aspects of Christmas time.... families, food and traditions as well as learning about the Nativity story.

We have also begun our Wild Patch Adventures by exploring outside with small group looking at nature and the environment. This has been a wonderful opportunity and we are excited about what the coming months will bring as we look at the changes around us and spend even longer periods outside!



If you would like to join us for September 2023, the initial admissions deadline is 31st March so please do get in touch to request an application form and to register your interest.

May we take this opportunity to wish all the MADNEWS readers a healthy 2023.

To find out more please visit [www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com) or contact us at [marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk), 01865 392101

## Ivy Berries and Chocolate

A mug of hot chocolate, with cream and marshmallows, after Christmas shopping, or a warm bowl of soup, with large wedges of bread, after a bracing walk, is as much about Winter as the evergreens in your garden, and the coloured barks/stems and textures out there too.

For me, winter is also about the insects that can be discovered sheltering in the crevices and cracks, and under rocks, leaves and logs left hanging around the Winter garden.

There's also a chance of seeing a bee on flowering Mahonia shrubs in winter, if its 2 degrees above freezing, or seeing birds gorging on ivy berries, if you haven't pruned them all away. Did you know, there are more calories in a gram of ivy berries, than in a gram of chocolate we humans eat at Christmas?

It's a wonderful time of the year in the food larder for us humans, and in the garden for the wildlife too. So don't clear everything away and be too tidy in the garden, leave space for some little treats out there for our wild friends as well.

The wildlife isn't worried about rising heating bills, but they might be a tad concerned about the food resources you and your neighbours are providing for them. Spare a thought!

*Happy Gardening!*

Stuart Mabbutt

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



## Climate Change How can you help?

...and reduce your energy bills too!

**Exhibition and Presentations**

**Saturday 7th to Sunday 15th of January**

**Reception and Hub at Marcham Centre**

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

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

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

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

- Saturday 7th+14th January: 9 - 1
- Sunday 8th + 15th January 12 - 5
- Tuesday and Friday 10th +13th January 6 - 9

Feel free to bring your questions and discussions!

**There will be three lectures on**

- Monday 9 Jan 19.00-20.00: "Wild Flowers - Life on the Verge"
- Tuesday 10 Jan 19.00-20.00: "Saving money and the planet - insulation and renewable energy around your home and car"
- Friday 13 Jan 19.00-20.00: "Farming, food-supply, diet and the climate"

## Detailed Opening Hours

The "Climate Change Exhibition" will be open whenever the hall is in use

- SAT 7 Jan 9.00-13.00 and 18.30-00.00 (staffing 9.00-1.00)
- SUN 8 Jan 8.30-17.00 (staffing 12.00-17.00)
- MON 9 Jan 10.30-11.30 and 18.00-21.00 staffing and lecture (19.00-20.30) in the evening
- TUES 10 Jan 10-1.30 and 16.00-21.00 (staffing 18-21 and lecture 19.00-20.30 included)
- WED 11 Jan 8.30-12.00 and 14.00-22.15
- THURS 12 Jan 9.00-14.30 and 18.30-20.30
- FRI 13 Jan 8.00-13.00 and 18.00-21.00 (staffing 18.00-21.00 and lecture 19.00-20.30)
- SAT 15 Jan 9.00-13.00 AND 16.00-23.30 (staffing 9.00-13.00)
- SUN 15 Jan 12-17 (staffing 12.00-17.00)



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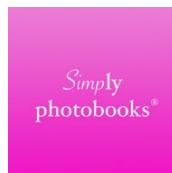
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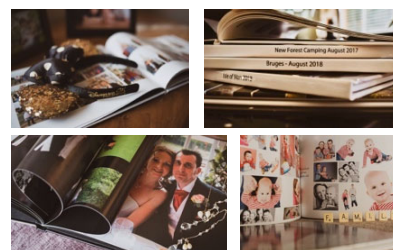
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### We reopen on Saturday 7th January.

The Thirsty Cafe would like to appoint a Community Cafe Manager.

The role would include leading one cafe session a week; working with volunteers and managing a rota and ordering stock.

Flexible working hours.

£10.50 an hour for an 8 hour week which will include approximately 4 hours for a cafe shift and the remaining hours for rota management and stock ordering.

Paid annual leave.

For a full job description and for details and how to apply will be on our website and applications need to be in by 23 January.

Our last Saturday cafe this year was such a happy social event with Gig Thomas and Becky Ramsurn singing and playing carols making a wonderful festive atmosphere. Table decorations and volunteers dressed in Christmas regalia added to the fun. Thanks again to Bill for donating the lovely Dolls House which was raffled on Saturday.

We would like to thank all our customers and volunteers for their support during the year and wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year and look forward to seeing you all when we open again on Saturday 7 January.

Volunteers are needed to help us on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. Volunteering is very rewarding, it gives an opportunity to meet members of the community and it does not matter if you can only offer a few hours.

**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)



As we head into January, the trustees of Marcham Community Group wish everyone in Marcham a Happy New Year for 2023. Hopefully, it will be warmer than it is at the time of writing this!

### MARCHAM CENTRE – HOLIDAY CLOSURE

Following our maintenance closure, the hall will be re-opening to users at 5pm on Friday 6th January. We look forward to seeing you all again after the short break.

We are looking for action-oriented volunteers for various tasks involved in running Marcham Centre and Marcham Community Group, the charity which operates the facilities. We are currently looking for people with practical skills or book-keeping experience. If you are interested, we would love to hear from you by email to [admin@marcham.org](mailto:admin@marcham.org).

### COMING EVENTS AT MARCHAM CENTRE

**Friday 5th to Sunday 15th January: Climate Change and Energy Saving exhibition:** in the foyer and Hub with informative talks - See page [ ] for details.

**Friday 20th January: Family Bingo** - 7.30pm for eyes down at 7.45pm

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

**Indoor short-mat bowls** in the Large Hall on Wednesday afternoons 2pm–5pm – contact Colin Trinder (391718) or just turn up. Beginners and experienced players are equally welcome.

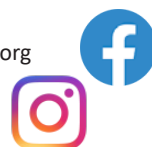
**Table Tennis** - the table tennis table is available to hire, for periods of an hour or more. This can be made by booking a slot in the meeting room via the [www.marchamcentre.org](http://www.marchamcentre.org) website. Please note: this room is used for other purposes, so you will need to book and pay the 'local user' fee of £8 per hour. Please remember to bring your own bats and balls.

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

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

**We wish you a very Happy New Year**

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enquiries@marchamcentre.org [www.marchamcentre.org](http://www.marchamcentre.org)  
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The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE

**Wednesday 18th January,  
10.30am and 2.00pm**

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OX14 3JD**

**Palmyra - Bride of the Desert**

**by Paul  
Roberts**

In this talk we look at one of the most beautiful cities of the ancient world, the fabled city of Palmyra in the Syrian desert. Palmyra arose on a trade route that brought silk,

spices and other luxuries across the desert from the east. Her wealth and power are displayed in gorgeous monuments, while her people, wealthy, sophisticated and cosmopolitan, are preserved in their hauntingly beautiful funeral portraits. We'll see Palmyra's meteoric rise and its dramatic fall, its rediscovery by English lords and its desecration by Isis. But there is hope that beautiful Palmyra will rise again.

Lecturer: Dr Paul Roberts is Head of the Department of Antiquities at the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, Oxford University. 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@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk](mailto:info@theartsocietyabingdon.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.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk) or email [info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk](mailto:info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk)



## FOOD AND DRINK



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

Our facilities are easily accessible with onsite parking.

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

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

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

## HOLIDAYS

### B&B Rafters



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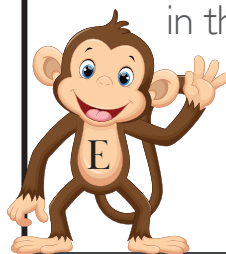
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## JO BROWNING WROE - A TERRIBLE KINDNESS

Thursday 26th January, 7pm at Mostly Books

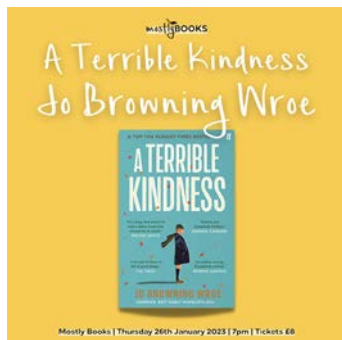
Join us at Mostly Books on Thursday 26th January for an evening with Jo Browning Wroe as she discusses her hugely successful debut novel, A Terrible Kindness.

It is October 1966 and William Lavery is having the night of his life at his first black-tie do. But, as the evening unfolds, news hits of a landslide at a coal mine. It has buried a school: Aberfan.

William decides he must act, so he stands and volunteers to attend. It will be his first job as an embalmer, and it will be one he never forgets. His work that night will force him to think about the little boy he was, and the losses he has worked so hard to forget. But compassion can have surprising consequences, because – as William discovers – giving so much to others can sometimes help us heal ourselves.

Tickets cost £8 and can be purchased at Mostly Books or online at: <https://mostly-books.co.uk/product/jo-browning-wroe-a-terrible-kindness/>

Mostly Books is an independent bookshop at 36 Stert Street, Abingdon OX14 3JP Call 01235 525880 or email [books@mostly-books.co.uk](mailto:books@mostly-books.co.uk)



## Abingdon & District National Trust Association

2.30pm Tuesday 17 January

Trinity Church Centre

Conduit Rd, Abingdon OX14 1DB

AGM & Dr Katharina Ulmschneider, F.S.A

**The Camel that fled the Nazis - The Story of a Tang Dynasty Camel in the Ashmolean Museum.**

On the first floor of the Ashmolean Museum in the Asian Crossroads gallery the visitor is greeted by a large, Chinese, pottery camel on a plinth. The Tang Dynasty camel serves as a symbol of the Silk Roads linking East



to West, but there is much more to it than initially meets the eye. Little does the label show that this is a camel with history, a camel that fled the Nazis, a camel that survived persecution, war, and exile. This talk will trace the origins of the camel and its astonishing 20th century journey from Nazi Germany to wartime Britain in the luggage of enigmatic refugee scholar Prof. Paul Jacobsthal. Nazi perversion of archaeology, secret escapes, subterfuge and propaganda are just some of the themes that will feature as the extraordinary story of Jacobsthal and his camel is being uncovered.

Dr Katharina Ulmschneider is a Senior Research Fellow at Worcester College Oxford, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and an Associate Member of the Society of Archivists.

Non-members of the Abingdon & District National Trust Association will be asked for a donation of £3.

For more information, ring Ruth on 01235 524119

<https://abingdonnatrust.chessck.co.uk/>



Our competition to win tickets for 2 adults and 2 children to **Milletts Wildside Falconry and Wildlife Centre...** was jinxed by a computer failure and all the entries were lost! So you have got another month to tell us the name of the owl!



Just find Maddie who is hiding some letters in this issue, then rearrange those letters to make the name of the heaviest owl at the centre – have a look on their website for clues! [millettswildside.co.uk](http://millettswildside.co.uk)

**Send your entry to [editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk) before 5pm on 15th January.**

**If you entered before, please send your entry in again to be in with a chance to win!**

Kingston Road | Frilford | Nr Abingdon | OX13 5HB  
[www.millettsfarmcentre.com](http://www.millettsfarmcentre.com)



Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society

OAHS FREE Lectures in 2023 will be on Zoom on Tuesdays starting at 5.30pm. *All are welcome, but you will need to book a place through our website.*



• **10 January**  
Why Medieval Peasants Matter  
*Christopher Dyer*

• **24 January**  
Graven Hill Excavations  
*Martyn Allen*



Bookings for our 2023 lecture series is now open – more details can be found online:

[oahs.org.uk/lectures](http://oahs.org.uk/lectures)

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

### LIONCOURT DEVELOPMENT

Many of you will be aware of a huge development planned for in Fyfield, the "Lioncourt development" (LEKB), which would result in much more traffic flowing through Marcham's AQMA. However, the development has been stalled for years because the inspector ruled that no dwellings could be occupied until proper traffic and air quality mitigation measures were put in place at Marcham's AQMA (Packhorse Lane) and the crossroads at the Frilford Lights.



The Vale Air Quality Action Plan (2015) has three possible means of mitigating the air quality problem in Marcham :

- 1) an HGV ban.
- 2) introducing a low emission zone in Packhorse Lane.
- 3) building a bypass.

Interestingly enough, the LEKB developers' traffic assessments confirmed the traffic predictions put forward by Fyfield and Tubney parish council. Between 2019 and 2031 traffic through Marcham is predicted to grow from about 13,700 vehicles per day to 17,000 vehicles per day with committed developments, and about 18,400 per day (sic) if LEKB is approved. This is an overall increase of 34%, of which one third would be from the LEKB development. All this traffic would exacerbate the air quality in the AQMA.

With these statistics in mind, Environmental Health officers at the Vale objected to the November 2020 planning application for the LEKB on the grounds that it did not put forward any mitigation for the air quality problem in Marcham, and so the application was refused. However, it is coming back to the Planning Committee on January 25th, 2023, with a recommendation from the Vale to pass it. Why?

Last week, I had a meeting with the Senior Planning officer and the Air Quality officers on this whole issue, as the Vale are now not objecting to this development on air quality and traffic issues. Now their argument is that the readings of the air quality diffusion tubes on the AQMA show a fall in carbon emissions and are expected to continue falling with the improvement of engines, the disposal of old carbon-emitting vehicles and the use of more electric vehicles on the road. Also, using a toolkit from Defra in their modelling, the predicted air pollution statistics will not be significant enough to object to the LEKB development going ahead. The Vale had the new statistics independently checked

However, I am not happy with the predictions of the traffic flow in the AQMA and have asked for a clear explanation from the highways officer. The Marcham traffic survey, carried out a few years ago, measured 15000 vehicles per day through Packhorse Lane. At that time, this figure was supported by OCC Highways own figures. We clearly need to test this against the applicants estimate and to question how the Marcham's bend will accommodate an increase to 18000 vehicles a day.

A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR 2023 TO YOU ALL

**CATHERINE WEBBER** Cllr VWHDC

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

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

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

### WORKING TOGETHER – A PERSONAL THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR.

As I write, we are in the middle of strikes by nurses, postal workers, rail workers, and many more. The list seems endless. When does the accumulation of all these strikes become a general strike? And what would that serve anyway? At the heart of the overwhelming

number of these industrial disputes is one common issue. When runaway inflation has eroded the buying power of most households, whose incomes have been lagging far behind, is it inevitable that we are all going to get poorer in the short term. And if so, how should that pain be shared fairly? Rather than government, Local and National, attempting to solve the issues piecemeal, where competition leads to inevitable frustration and anger, should we not be trying to find a position that the majority of the public can sign up to, a solution that can be applied to all?

Trying to apply this approach to my own life and responsibilities, leads me to some further thoughts. One of my responsibilities is to be Military Champion of Dalton Barracks. Another is as a member of the Police and Crime Commissioner Scrutiny panel. Add to this as County Councillors, we all have a responsibility for our County run Fire and Rescue service and indirectly for our local Ambulance service and our Nursing profession. All our emergency services are facing similar problems at present. All face a shortage of new recruits and how each can retain their present staff. At present, all compete with one another to recruit and retain. Where one succeeds another suffers because they are all fishing in the same lake. It's the same wonderful, public spirited and courageous people in all these services who are those most likely to be interested in a career in the Emergency services. And we need more of them.

Competition has advantages but I do not believe it is serving us well in this instance. People retiring from the armed Forces would surely make excellent firefighters, police officers and ambulance men and women. It seems that much would be gained if these services worked more closely together to understand their recruiting and retention problems and find common solutions to benefit all.

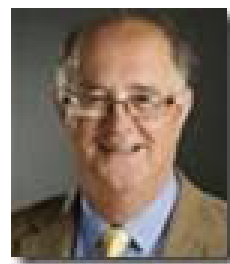
Likewise, it cannot be sensible to allow our current industrial disputes to descend into arguments over which has more value.... nurses? postal workers? border guards? ....when the same problems face them all.

Common problems require common solutions. Let's hope that 2023 is the year that finds solutions.

**Happy New Year**

**RICHARD WEBBER** Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

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



## MP'S REPORT

Happy New Year! The run up to Christmas in Parliament involved a lot of debate about the Levelling Up Bill and changes to the planning system. As Michael Gove's PPS at the Department for Levelling Up, the rules mean I've not been able to comment about this publicly, but the Bill will do many important things, like end the requirement for councils to demonstrate a '5-year land supply' if they have an up-to-date local plan. There was a lot of debate about housing targets set by central government. Targets have their place, but the way in which they have operated has too often forced homes into areas where local people feel they are not needed.

Under the changes, while there will still be central calculations for housing numbers, they will be advisory, and local authorities will determine how many homes can be built, taking into account what should be protected in that area, from the Green Belt to heritage assets.

Areas that have 'overdelivered' on their housing numbers, which has often been the case with South Oxfordshire and the Vale, will be able to make the case to lower the number they need to plan for. The Government will also consult on allowing councils to refuse applications from developers who have built too slowly; end the duty that lets cities impose their housing needs on surrounding



areas; and will look at further measures to incentivise brownfield land being built on over greenfield land. These are all things that are very welcome for this area.

As you may have seen I am supporting the new Cornermen initiative down at South Moreton Boxing Club to help tackle mental health problems among men. Too often men bottle up their feelings instead of talking about them and it's part of the reason they have a higher suicide rate than women. Steve and John are getting men down to the club to try boxing and talking to them while they do it, referring them to services as appropriate. They'll even pick them up. It's a very worthwhile cause and I was pleased to get the BBC down to cover it, filming me throw some punches myself!

Some other things in brief. I've been campaigning on behalf of the AEAT Pensioners locally and have secured a breakthrough for them - watch this space! I'm working to support access to cash in Wallingford, which has been chosen as 1 of 12 pilot areas for new approaches to access cash. I've brought Sharon Gaffka who campaigns on drink spiking, with 16-year-old Niamh, who came to see to campaign against negative behaviour from boys and men, together to join forces and am pleased Sharon will help Niamh. I've had a series of enjoyable visits to Parliament from schools like Wallingford School, Drayton Community Primary and Aureus School as well as Ukrainian refugees in recent months - do get in touch if you'd like to bring a group down or if I can help with anything else 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  
0207 219 3858 Email: [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)

The Wootton Players present

# SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

By Ben Crocker

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## Under pressure to use energy pre-payment meter? Citizens Advice can help

In the concluding months of 2022, Citizens Advice is expecting to see more cases of a disturbing trend: low-income families with energy supply debts being pressured or even coerced into using pre-payment meters for their gas and electricity. Energy supplied by pre-payment meters costs more than energy paid by direct debit or on-demand, and this comes at a time when drastically increased price tariffs this autumn will probably see most people's fuel bills double.

Energy suppliers are legally obliged to negotiate repayment plans with customers who are falling behind on their bills, but many suppliers are ignoring this requirement and proceeding with installing pre-payment meters - or, for customers with smart meters, remotely switching them to prepayment.

If you are one of the many people who are confronting this problem, or are generally floundering amidst your finances, worried about the future, or want to discuss your problems in confidence, get in touch with Citizens Advice on Adviceline 0808 278 7907.

You can also telephone the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133 or the Citizens Advice Debt Helpline on 0800 240 4420.

Our website has lots of helpful information:  
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>



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THE EYE IS THE LAMP OF THE BODY. IF YOUR  
EYES ARE GOOD YOUR WHOLE BODY WILL BE FULL  
OF LIGHT MATTHEW 6:22

Replacing a light bulb used to be a very simple task, because they were all largely the same. The problem we face these days is that you can have a full cupboard of spare light bulbs in your “man-cave,” but you haven’t got the one you need - a 46 watt ECO LED E27 “screw-in” one. This is especially a problem at this dark time of year. You will be pleased to know that after a trip to the shop my problem was solved. And somewhere in the process I was reminded of one of the less well-known quotes of Jesus when he said, “The eye is the lamp of the body.” It’s a rather curious phrase, because unless you are a baddie in a sci-fi film, eyes don’t actually light up anything, rather they absorb light from outside. Nevertheless, Jesus said, “the eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good your whole body will be full of light” (Matthew 6:22). At the beginning of this new year I’m sure many of you have been looking ahead and putting plans in place. The diary has been out on the table and key dates have been inserted – birthdays, annual leave, term dates, high days and holidays. Maybe you are glad to see the back of 2022? Perhaps you have particular hopes for 2023? Maybe you’ve made the odd resolution with every intention of sticking to it. One thing I’m going to do this year is monitor better the things I look at, watch and read. Perhaps that is what Jesus meant when he said, “the eye is the lamp of the body.” If the eye is like a light shining inwards into an otherwise dark room, then the light it projects will have a huge effect on the space it commands. What we allow our eyes to see will profoundly influence our inner world – our thinking and our feeling. The olden days of four TV channels, no internet and simple bayonet light bulbs are long gone. We live in a digital jungle. Armed with a smartphone and a connection, anyone can see anything at anytime. So, will we be smarter than the phone, fixing our eyes on things that are good - worthwhile, meaningful and sound? If so, I’m sure we will be the healthier for it on the inside.

## Regular services (ALL WEEKS)

10am: Morning Service at All Saints’  
11am-12pm: Open church at St. Luke’s  
6pm: Evening Service

**Wednesday Holy Communion**  
10.30am at Duffield Place

## Friday Club

5.30pm at Marcham Centre  
For primary-aged children  
Contact Jill for details



Restarts 16<sup>th</sup> January  
18.30-19.30

## Contacts:

**Rev. Nick Weldon** Vicar [vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org](mailto:vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org) **01865 391962**, **Rob Finch** Youth Worker  
07888331708, [rob@marchamyouth.org](mailto:rob@marchamyouth.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)