



Marcham & District News

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

MARCH 2023 VOL: 45 No: 3

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Guides Enrolled by Chief Constable! see page 9



▲ Preschool mark making! see page 11



▲ Penguins on ice at Marcham School see page 13



◀ Spring forward! Clocks go on 1 hour on Sunday 26th March



▲ David Johnston MP visits Marcham Village Shop and Post Office see page 5



March Diary

| Date | Event | Pg | Date | Event | Pg |
|--------|---|----|---------|--|----|
| 3 Fri | Quiz Night at Marcham Centre, 20.00 | 9 | 20 Mon | Marcham WI: Annual Meeting and Puddings, Marcham Centre, 19.30 | 9 |
| 7 Tues | OAHS Tom Hassall Lecture, Rewley House, Oxford 17.30 | 17 | 21 Tue | Deadline for Reservoir Responses | 19 |
| 10 Fri | Family Bingo at Marcham Centre, 19.00 | 15 | 22 Wed | Thirsty Café: Community Lunch, Marcham Centre, 12.00-14.00 | 15 |
| 11 Sat | Exhibition of new Marcham Play Equipment, Marcham Centre, 10.00-13.00 | 7 | 22-25 | The Cassandra Files, Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon 19.30 | 15 |
| 13 Mon | Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Marcham Village Hall, Marcham Centre. 19.30 | 3 | 24 Fri | Flexicare Concert: Ivel Flute Trio, Oxford, 19.30 | 11 |
| 15 Wed | Abingdon Arts Society: Dinosaur Sculptures of Crystal Palace, Abbey Cinema, 10.30 & 14.00 | 11 | 25 Sat | ADMS Concert St Helens Church, Abingdon 19.30 | 17 |
| 18 Sat | Thirsty Café: Mothers Day | 15 | 27 Mon | Marcham Society: Blue Plaques, Marcham Centre, 19.15 | 9 |
| 20 Mon | Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email editor@madnews.co.uk | | 30 Thur | Deadline for CPRE applications | 19 |
| | | | 31 Fri | Quiz Night at Marcham Centre, 20.00 | 9 |

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

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Dear Readers

Another issue nearer to my last one! I hope to have some definite news for the April issue to let you know who will be taking MADNews on to its next phase.

In the meantime, enjoy the spring activities – Thirsty Café lunch, Marcham Society talks, WI meetings... and so much more going on around Marcham and District!

Until the 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: 07357 464699

catherine.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

For other councillors go to www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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March 2023

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL Play Area

The Parish Council has been planning the redevelopment of the Play Area. Drawings have been prepared of proposals, and local residents' views are now invited. Details of where to see hard copies of the plans, and how to respond, are given in the Notice elsewhere in this issue. Drawings are also available on the Parish Council's website. If there is anyone struggling to see the drawings for whatever reason, and wishes to view them, then please contact the Clerk. *see page 7*

Annual Meeting for Electors

This year the annual meeting for electors will take place on Wednesday 24th May at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall. Please put a note of the date in your diaries. Further details to follow.

GigaClear – Parkside Cabinet

GigaClear have offered the Parish Council £500, as a goodwill gesture, towards improving the aesthetics at the Parkside corner, following the installation of the fibre broadband cabinet. Residents who live in that area have been asked for their thoughts on how the money can best be spent.

Voter ID – New requirement at Elections

When voting in person in the May elections this year (Vale of White Horse District, and Marcham Parish Council elections), you will need to show photographic ID when receiving your ballot paper. Acceptable forms of ID are: passport, driving licence, blue badge, older person's bus pass, national identity card issued by an EEA state, PASS card issued by the Post Office (www.postoffice.co.uk/identity/pass-card), or anonymous elector's documentation. If you do not have any photo ID, or you look very different from your old photograph, or your name has changed and is not the same as on the electoral roll, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. Details about this are at <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id/applying-a-voter-authority-certificate>. The deadline for applications is Tuesday 25th April, 2023. Don't be caught out and lose your vote. Check in good time that you have an appropriate form of ID document.

A338 – Speed Limit

Concerns have been raised with the Parish Council recently regarding the speed limit along the A338, particularly as there are no footways near housing, and residents have to cross the road to access bus stops. The Parish Council has written to the relevant authorities to see whether steps could be taken to reduce the speed limit down from 50 mph, particularly as the Vale of White Horse District Council has agreed, in principle, to alterations to the Frilford crossroads junction which have been designed to improve traffic flows.

Thames Water – Water Resources

Management Plan – Consultation deadline
Please note that the consultation on the Water Resources Management Plan for the area ends on 21st March 2023. Anyone who wishes to make comments, can find further information at <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/regulation/water-resources>

Parishioner of the Year

Two awards were presented last year, and to allow sufficient time for nominations for the next award to be considered, the deadline for the submission of them has been extended. The Council has agreed to continue to invite submissions until the Autumn. Therefore if there is anyone who knows of a volunteer who has significantly contributed to life within the parish, they are invited to submit a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to whom they wish to nominate and the reasons why that person should receive the award. All nominations to be emailed to the Clerk at the email address below.

Planning Applications considered by the Council

P22/V2988/LDP Change existing door from timber to UPVC at 4 Mill Road. The Council had no objections provided it was in keeping with the property's adjacent window, and suitable for a conservation area.

P23/V0233/HH Erection of 4 bay oak framed garage at Manor Farm, Mill Road. The Council noted that some changes had been made to the previous application, but it continued to express concerns regarding the impact on the area, access, vehicle movements, and queried the use of an upper floor. Use should be restricted to agricultural.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 13th March, 2023 at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Barrow Close OX13 6TY. Please check the Council's website 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
www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

SAVE THE DATE
Frilford AGM will be at
Abingdon Prep School, Frilford
on Wednesday 12th April
More details to come!

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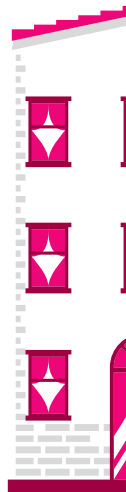
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**A HUGE THANK YOU FROM
FRIDAY CLUB!
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for their very generous grants which enabled 70 children and their leaders to go to Cinderella, the pantomime at the Oxford Playhouse, at the beginning of January. Your grants helped to pay for the coach and subsidise the tickets making it an affordable event for all our families. It was a great success and the children all loved it. (Oh yes they did). Talk to Dan Barnes about his stage debut!!
Thank you so much



A **Big Thankyou** to the 70+ people who turned up @ the Marcham Centre on the 20th of Jan, and to the many people who have sent letters of support for the project. Following a short presentation explaining the Valued Community Asset order (VCA). Process. There was over an hour of very positive Q & A, in conclusion there is more than enough support to complete the application and apply for a VCA Order.

By the time you read this the steering committee will have submitted the application, including a high level business plan. The VoWH then have 8 weeks to determine if the threshold has been reached.

A developer has made an offer to the owners of the Crown which has subsequently been accepted. Their intentions are unclear but may involve a change of use.

If we are granted a VCA order by the VoWH, the Parish Council and the Community will have a voice in deciding what happens. We have engaged with CAMRA and Plunkett who are advising and supporting the application. An Email address will be set up, and an online survey created; the aim is to keep the whole community informed and involved as the process evolves. Updates via MADNews and village Facebook page for now.

Cheers

NEIL ROWE (on behalf of the steering committee)



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**Monday – Friday:
0830-1700**
Saturday: 0830-1200
**Sunday & Bank
holidays: Closed**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank these volunteers for their help and support over the last 10 years. Without their support, the shop and post office would not be open now.

February was a busy month with both Valentine's Day and Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday). We are now planning for **Mothering Sunday on 19 March** and, following that, it will be **Easter Sunday on 9 April**. We sell **gift cards** in the post office for those special gifts.

And don't forget our national saints - David on 1st March and Patrick on 17th.

We also had a visit from our local MP, David Johnson. He was interested to see how small voluntary-run organisations manage their business, stay in profit and keep the customers and volunteers happy. We gave him a tour of the shop and talked through some of our problems and ideas with him. He is very pro this type of activity and keen that we get any support available to keep the community shop running for the village. He seemed very impressed with our little store and bought some items to take back to his colleagues. *see cover for photo*

Keep a lookout for our new items – we have a new supplier and we are now stocking some lovely 'hand-made' biscuits, different chocolates for that special occasion, and some interesting wines and fizz. In addition, some of our newest items have included whole preserved **Spanish Sausage, Burrata** and **l'Ortolan truffle cheese**.

For the bakers amongst you, we have a new stock of **Wessex Mill flour**. Some of you may be aware that Wessex Mill, based in Wantage, recently closed, but they have been bought by Doves Farm. Doves Farm are based in Hungerford and they plan to continue providing Wessex Mill flour. So, along with some of Doves Farm products, we are able to carry on supplying Wessex Mill flours.



No dogs
except guide and
assistance dogs

We can't survive without your support and we are always looking for new volunteers. If you are interested in joining our little group and helping to serve the community, please come into the shop and let us know. We only need 2 hours a week of your time, so if you are at a loose end and can spare the time, we would love to hear from you.

Don't forget that we aim to please and we stock a huge range of everyday and special-day items. We are also open to suggestions for new items, so do let us know if there is something that you think would be a useful addition.



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MARCHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Since April 2012, local communities have been able to produce Neighbourhood Plans for their local area, putting in place planning policies for the future development and growth of their neighbourhood. Marcham Parish Council as announced selected the neighbourhood area to be the same as the parish boundary.

Neighbourhood planning provides the opportunity for Marcham Parish to set out a vision for how we want our community to develop over the next 10 years.

Depending on the issues identified during consultation and surveys the final plan may deal with a wide range of issues (like housing, employment, heritage, and transport as examples) or it may focus on just one or two issues that are of particular importance to residents of Marcham Parish.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Our Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to examination and referendum and then it will form part of the Local Development Plan. It will have statutory status and as such once completed our Neighbourhood Plan will need to be considered in future development plans.

What are the next steps in the process? *Please see below the current outline timetable*

There are 10 key steps or phases in the development of the plan that is already underway.

- Phase 1 initial feedback and early consultation – completed – thank you to all the groups who participated in this phase.
- Phase 2 background research to ensure the Plan meets the basic conditions- meaning it is in line with National and regional policies. – January/ February
- Phase 3 Survey development to consult with the Parish and gather thoughts and comments. – March
- Phase 4 Survey GO LIVE and distribution for completion and return – more details to follow – April.
- Phase 5 Review and analysis of the completed surveys – May.
- Phase 6 Based on the survey findings organise a series of focus groups based on the main themes from the survey for input and suggestions to be included in the plan – June.
- Phase 7 Develop the draft plan – Summer 2023
- Phase 8 Formal pre-submission consultation of the plan- minimum 6 weeks – August / September
- Phase 9 Review and incorporation of the consultation into the final plan before submission to local planning authority who will be responsible for publicising the plan and arrange independent examination.
- Phase 10 If successful at the examination stage, including any modifications, if necessary, the local authority will arrange a neighbourhood plan referendum. If there is a majority YES vote, the neighbourhood plan is completed and becomes part of the statutory development plan for Marcham Parish.

The neighbourhood planning body of Marcham Parish Council are seeking more members to join the group to contribute and help shape the future development of our local area. If you are interested to join, please send your details to clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

MARK HARVIE, Neighbourhood Plan

**Marcham Parish Council
NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT – PUBLIC
CONSULTATION**

You are invited to view the Parish Council’s plans for the new play equipment which will be placed within, and close by, the current play area. The consultation will take place at:

**MARCHAM VILLAGE HALL ON
SATURDAY 11 MARCH 2023
FROM 10AM TO 1PM**

You will also have an opportunity to view the proposed equipment and ground plans in the window of Marcham village shop from 1 to 10 March 2023 inclusive.



If you would like to provide feedback via our on-line survey, you may scan the QR code, type the link below into your web browser, or click the link posted to the Parish Council Website and Marcham Village Facebook Group: <https://forms.office.com/e/P4ZmEPZ7eC>



We look forward to hearing from you.

If you require further information, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01865 391833 clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk



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Marcham WI

Next Meeting:

Annual Meeting & Puddings

7.30pm Monday, 20th March 2023

At the Marcham Centre

March is our Annual Meeting and we'll be starting at our usual time of 7:30pm. Once the business of the meeting is concluded, when you will be voting for the President for the next year, the theme of our meeting is 'puddings'. We'll be having a sociable evening with puddings to eat and a chance to enjoy a chat with friends old and new. There will also be an Easter themed raffle. More details will be sent round to all our members nearer the time.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

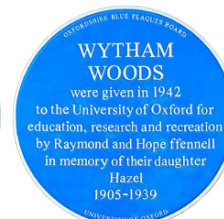
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The
**Marcham
Society**

Monday 27th March
7.15 for 7.45pm
Main Hall
Marcham Centre



What do Asquith, Betjeman and Wytham Woods have in common? Blue Plaques in the Vale *Robert Evans FBA*

Robert Evans FBA is Regius Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Oxford. Until his retirement he specialized in the post-medieval history of east-central Europe. His main areas of interest now are local and ecological history. He has been Chair of Abingdon Area Archaeology and History Society and he is at present chair of the Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Board.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, 9th March 12.30pm: Marcham Society Midweek Walk – for more details contact e.dunford@btinternet.com
- Thursday, 16th March 7pm: Marcham Society Astronomy Group, Small Hall @ Marcham Centre – for more details contact jim.asher@btinternet.com.

For more information contact membership@marchamsociety.org.uk

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

Facebook: marchamsociety

NEWS FROM MARCHAM GUIDES

Six girls had a very special evening on 6th February, when they made their promise and were presented with their enrolment badges, by the **Chief Inspector at Abingdon Police Station**, during our meeting.

We had an amazing evening looking around the station, and learning about the police work that happens there.

Thank you so much to **Rich Osborn**, our community PCSO for arranging our visit, and leading the tour.

What a great evening!



Oxfordshire Artweeks is the UK's oldest and biggest artist open studios & pop-up exhibition event. The next festival takes place from 6th-29th May 2023
www.artweeks.org



QUIZ NIGHT – ALL WELCOME
FRIDAY 3 MARCH – 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 six 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: 31 March

For further information call Trevor Hill on 01865 391321

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Well we have certainly managed to pack plenty of fun into February already here at Marcham Little Angels! On Saturday 4th Feb the team embarked on the journey to The Nursery World Show in London to network with other professionals, brush up on their knowledge and to gain inspiration for the indoor and outdoor provisions here in Marcham. It was a brilliant day and the team came away full of new ideas.



Those of you who walk past the nursery often may have noticed the 'wild' area of the front garden which is growing rapidly and full of interesting wooden spools and logs. This area is actually our outdoor classroom for our Forest School lessons! Once a week our Little Angels get to roam and explore the area with a qualified Forest School teacher! Once the weather warms up a tiny bit, they will be planting their very own fruit and vegetables to nurture and take care off as part of their outdoor learning!



We are so very excited to be joining members of the community over at the Thirsty Café for a delicious hot lunch once a month! This is something we have really missed doing over the past few years. We know our preschool aged Little Angels are going to really enjoy it, and we are so excited to start getting back out into the community.

Our Little Angels have been expressing themselves this past week and getting involved with some truly lovely valentines' activities. We have made cards for the people we love and read stories and sung songs about our feelings. Our chef Alicia prepared a special Valentines Afternoon Tea for our Little Angels, aren't they lucky?

We really hate to disappoint families, but we are currently full until September 2024! Unfortunately we have no guaranteed spaces before then so if you are thinking about adding a new Little Angel to your family, please contact us sooner rather than later!

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

T: 01865 819992E: info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk
www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk
 follow us on Facebook: littleangelsmarcham

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

This month, we have held two **Magical Mark Making Mornings!!** Staff set up a range of activities to promote the skills (and the magic!) of mark making... drawing... painting... and writing... Stretching up, leaning down...reaching over....to strengthen shoulder muscles. Paints, pencils, pens, chalks... and mud... all used to create marks. Practising lines and circular movements useful for creating recognisable letters. With friends, with an adult or alone, everyone was involved and it was great fun and promoted a skill needed for life.



If you'd like to join Marcham Preschool in September 2023 you will need to submit an application form before 31/3/23... so time is running out (and so is our availability). Please get in touch to register your interest (it's never too early, so even if you have a newborn, let us know!). Call us on 01865 392101 or email marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk to arrange a visit or to receive an application form.

The Ivel Flute Trio in Concert



For over 38 years, Flexicare has been providing a free, specialised ad-hoc sitting service for registered families with a severely disabled child in Oxfordshire. We are delighted to announce our first fundraising event for 2023: a concert of classical music in the magical setting of the University of Oxford Natural History Museum, followed by a drinks and canapés reception. Doors open at 7:00pm on **Friday 24th March 2023 for a 7:30pm start**. Tickets are £25 each (+£0.88 booking fee) and are available from <https://ticketstripe.com/Flexicare-Classical-Concert> Flexicare (Oxford and Abingdon) is a registered charity no. 1172635. For further information, please visit www.flexicare.org or email admin@flexicare.org



The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE

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

The Dinosaur Sculptures of Crystal Palace
 by Aaron Hunter

Explore the World's first dinosaur models hidden in a south London park. Created in 1850s these Grade I listed architectural structures represented the cutting edge of our knowledge at the time. Palaeontologists had only just coined the name *Dinosaur*, and with limited fossil bones, they began the journey to discover how these extinct animals from the deep past looked. Find out how the experts found these fossils, created the reconstructions, and see how today's scientists think these animals would have looked nearly 170 years later!



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 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 **or email** info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk

By Ian Wright - 088 - Dinosaurs in Crystal Palace Park. CC BY-SA 2.0. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=36823807>

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MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

It is always heartening, at the end of a school day, to hear parents asking their children how their day was. Very often we hear, "What did you do today?". One of things we are encouraging our children to do is to reflect on what they have learnt – not necessarily just the activities they've undertaken. They may have learnt something new or may have practised a particular skill or process and improved. We ask our pupils about their learning every week and share it in our newsletters (available on the school website). Here are some examples from one week in February...



Pandas This week, the Pandas have been learning about penguins and the Antarctic. Today they created their own penguin racing track and raced with penguins frozen in ice. *Ivo* said, "The finish line is so far away, the ice might melt so they need to be quick!".

Leopards "We learnt about Buddy this week. He helps children. He taught us to tell a trusted adult if we are sad, worried, or hurt. We thought of adults we trust in school and out of school. We learnt the number 08001111; it is for Child Line. They help children" *Alba and Maryam*

"We learnt about double numbers. This is two numbers that are the same. We add them together. I liked the dice game." *Scarlett*

"We've been reading 'Where the Wild Things Are' We made predictions, I thought it would be about monsters." *Megan*

Tigers "This week, we have been learning about food chains. In Literacy, we wrote instructions about how to make a bird feeder, after we made our own!" *Year 2*

Kangaroos "In Maths on Wednesday we were going to different areas in the school and measuring how long they are, like the playground and the hall." *Robbie*

"We have been measuring in mm, cm and metres and seeing which objects are bigger or smaller than a metre." *Arlo*

"In PSHE we are learning about resilience, problem solving and personal space. We thought about how someone might feel if they were worried. We also saw the solving tree which helps tells you how to solve your problems." *Isabella*

"In Science I have been learning about gravity, friction and different surfaces. Friction is a type of force. It makes stuff stop moving - rough surfaces have more friction than smooth." *Naia*

Meerkats "This week we have been multiplying numbers by 10 and 100. It was a bit tricky at first but then I got used to it. When you times by ten, the number moves one space to the left and a zero takes its place. In English, we looked at conjunctions and we wrote compound and complex sentences about our book "The Journey". *Bellah*

Wolves "In Wolves this week we have been learning how to add mixed numbers if they don't have the same denominator. We learnt that we need to convert them all to the same denominator before we can add them." *Joseph*

"We have been learning how to edit and improve non-chronological reports about a rainforest animal of our choice. I wrote mine about a spider monkey." *Ellis*

Giraffes "This week we have been learning about the rainforest. We have also been doing homework related to the subjects: creating biomes, making booklets with loads of facts in and producing power points. In PE, we have been doing salsa with Mrs Hutchinson, there were spins and tapping our feet on the floor. We had so much fun. After learning some moves, we chose a partner and created our own dances with our teammate." *Anthony and May*

National Story telling week was the week commencing 30th January. Telling stories is an age-old tradition that has been used to share histories, advice, warnings, and entertainment for every culture, in every period of human history. It is vital our children understand this fundamental human experience. To celebrate, we combined classes and enjoyed sharing a range of stories with each other. The Pre-school and Pandas (reception) joined together, Leopards (year 1) and Giraffes (year 6), Tigers (year 2) and Wolves (year 5), plus Kangaroos (year 3) and Meerkats (year 4). Here is an image with some of the Pandas (reception) and Preschool children enjoying a story together.



To see what else the school has been up to go to www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages/

Balanced, Giving, And Thriving



Having really been under the weather recently, even though the weather outside has been inclement, I've been spending a bit of time just sat in the garden. Largely, it must be said, listening and feeling the outdoors, giving some perspective to my bad health.

How many of us really give ourselves time to listen and feel? I really tried to 'feel' the coldness, the dampness, the sun, the wind in my hair, that rogue cobweb brush against my nose.

I've really tried to 'listen' to the garden this season, the windchimes, the dried leaf scratching across the patio, the Robin chatting in the bush, drops of rain landing on the moss-covered roof of my bungalow.

Perspective quickly reveals itself, maybe not removing my health symptoms, but giving me space to put them aside for a while, giving me space to see the bigger picture, giving me space to, well, just be!

Gardens are for doing what you want in them, free of expectation. Gardens can look and feel how ever you want them to. Gardens are as broad and as varied as we humans are.

We are part of our gardens ecosystem, just as gardens are part of our wellbeing. Gardens don't put pressure on us to be anything other than that which we want to be, so equally, in return, we shouldn't expect gardens to be anything other than that which they naturally want to be. Balanced, giving, and thriving.

Maybe this year, when you spend time in a garden, whether it's yours or not. Spend a moment considering what it needs to thrive, and spend time considering what you need to thrive. You might be surprised there are many parallels – hidden and obvious.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

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Thirsty Cafe volunteers and their families had a lovely time at their social, enjoying good food and company. We were very well entertained by **Magic Pete** which turned out to be his last show, we wish him a good retirement.

It was so nice being able to thank the volunteers and show our appreciation for all their hard work during the last year. Volunteering is a great way to get to know people in the community. There are all sorts of ways you can help and give as many hours as want. Please contact us if you want to know more.

Community Lunch "Hungry"

Join us for good company, a roast dinner and hot drink in partnership with Little Angels at the Marcham Centre on Wednesday 22nd March. We will be serving between 12-2pm. *Vegetarian option available.* We would love you to come and join us. £8 for adults £4 for children.

Please contact Sarah on 07976977583 if you need help getting to the Centre.

On Saturday 18th March we are celebrating **Mothers Day Weekend** with live music during our cafe session from 9-11.30. *Come and join us and have some fun.*

Dates for Diary

Saturday 18th March Mothers Day
Wednesday 22nd March Community lunch
May 13th Great Marcham weekend
August Cafe closing
September 24th Millets 5K

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

Website: www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

E-mail: hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk



MCG Community Investment Fund

Marcham Community Group (MCG) has been running Marcham Centre successfully since it was handed over in 2020, on a roughly break-even basis.

MCG received gift-aided money from Marcham Community Trading, the volunteer-run subsidiary operating the bar, from profits generated in 2021-22. The trustees have agreed that this fund will not be used to cover costs of normal Marcham Centre operations, but will be designated for investment in our community.

MCG will use the fund to invest in community activities and projects, for example, by:

- making facilities available at a discount to normal community hire charges where a new activity needs help to get going or an existing one needs help to meet running costs;
- investing in new equipment or projects that provide a direct and tangible benefit to our local community; and
- investing in extending the Marcham Centre facilities to enable activities that will benefit the community.

Decisions on investments will be made by the trustees (who are elected by MCG members) who will consider the impact on the community and will be subject to funds available.

To ensure that these decisions are made on a properly informed and auditable process, we will invite formal applications from those making proposals for investment.

The trustees will welcome proposals from anyone on behalf of local community groups. A simple application form is available from admin@marcham.org.

COMING EVENTS AT MARCHAM CENTRE

Friday 3rd March: Quiz Night: Adults only 7:30 for 8pm start

Friday 10th March: Family Bingo: 7.00pm for eyes down at 7.30pm

Friday 31st March: Quiz Night: Adults only 7:30 for 8pm start

Saturday 8th April: Family Easter Egg Hunt 12-2pm

Friday 21st April: Family Bingo: Eyes Down at 7.30pm

Friday 12th / Saturday 13th May: Big Marcham Weekend

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 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.

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

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY
enquiries@marchamcentre.org www.marchamcentre.org
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MILTON HILL BOWLING CLUB

Potash Lane, Milton Heights, OX14 4DR
(next to Football Club)

The club is holding **open afternoons** between 13:30 – 16:30 on **Saturday 22nd April** or 10.00 – 12.30 on **Sunday 23rd April**. Come and try your hand at Green Bowling, no booking is required, just turn up. Bowls are for all ages and a fun way to keep fit and flexible. No experience is necessary!

We would prefer you to wear trainers, but overshoes can be provided. See our website for more details or contact Colin Trinder 01865 391718

www.miltonhill.go-plus.net



Abingdon Drama Club (ADC)

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Wednesday 22nd – Saturday 25th March at 7.30pm

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Tickets available from

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Online abingdon-drama-club.com

Email: enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com

March 2023



FOOD AND DRINK



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Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society

The final OAHS FREE Lecture in 2023 will be live at Rewley House AND on Zoom OAHS members only on Tuesday 7th March starting at 5.30pm. **All are welcome, but if you wish to join online you will need to book a place through our website oahs.org.uk/lectures.**

7 March
THE TOM HASSALL LECTURE 2023
Anglo-Saxon Archaeology in Oxfordshire: A Review
Anne Dodd



This Tom Hassall lecture will offer a survey of the key discoveries in Oxfordshire over the last 25 years, and discuss how they have advanced our understanding of the Anglo-Saxon period. Anne Dodd was formerly Head of Post-Excavation and Publication at Oxford Archaeology, where she edited and contributed to many publications including Oxford Before the University (2012).

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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**TIME TO STEP DOWN**

After 10 years as your district councillor, I want you to know that I have finally decided not to stand again in the Vale local elections this May, mainly because my family is needing my help more and more.

It has been a huge honour and privilege to represent Marcham and Shippon on the Vale council and working to get the best for my residents. Looking back, I have so enjoyed getting to know you either individually, or in groups, or through the church, or even behind the counter when I helped in the shop for several years.

There are many highlights that stand out for me. One is getting the Vale council to recognise the poor air quality in Packhorse Lane by classifying it as an AQMA (Air Quality Management Area) and thereby ensuring that this is always taken into account when new developments are being considered....at least one development has been turned down because of the AQMA. Another highlight is my role in planning for the new village hall ... and finally getting it built. Working closely with Jim Asher and his group, Neil Rowe and the Anson Trust, the Parish Council and the Vale council officers, I watched it grow from a fledgling idea to the finished article several years later. It was particularly satisfying as strenuous efforts to get a village hall had failed in the past. And then there was the occasion when a group of determined residents joined Richard (county councillor) and me on a 24hour traffic survey to count the traffic and to identify the type of vehicles going through 1) Packhorse Lane and 2) the T junction at Barrow Road and Faringdon Road. Traffic in Marcham continues to be a major problem which my successor will have to keep raising.

As you know, I also have been a cabinet member of the Vale for 3 years, and as the previous cabinet member for the Climate Emergency, I oversaw a new grant (CAF-£50,000) being implemented to encourage groups in the Vale to set up projects to mitigate the Climate emergency. So, it was very good to see that a group from Marcham, led by Neil Rowe, qualified for the maximum CAF grant of £5,000 towards a project in the church grounds. You might be interested to know that at the February Council meeting, the councillors voted to increase the CAF pot to £100,000 so more projects can be funded.

Looking to the future, it is so good to see that Marcham's Neighbourhood Plan is finally happening under the careful stewardship of Mark Harvie, and once it is done, it will mean that Marcham will have much more control over its future.

Finally, I would like to thank you all very much for all the support you have given me over the last ten years and to wish my successor the very best of luck.

FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 15TH

The last full council meeting, held at the Beacon in Wantage, had good news for us all! The council has faced up to the challenges of high inflation, the national finance turbulence and extra demands resulting from Covid-19 and, with careful handling, has managed not only to set a balanced budget, but to add £2.6million to the Vale's reserves this coming year. This will mean that that we will not have to cut frontline services, can continue our Community Hub (which delivers cost of living help for those in most financial need) for a further 2 years and will be allowed to apply for the many grants out there. This is a major turn-around from an expected shortfall of £5.6million four years ago.

Furthermore, the Vale has been awarded £6 million in decarbonisation funding to install air source heat pumps and solar panels at Wantage Leisure Centre and White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre. This is something I had championed loudly while I was on the cabinet, and these heat pumps and solar panels will reduce the council's overall energy use by 25% as well as help to



reduce the centres' costs and move the Vale closer to our carbon neutral targets. In Wantage, the council also plans to invest £2million in a new learner pool and in Faringdon, work is about to start on a new artificial turf pitch. All exciting news!

Finally, the thorny issue of council tax! The council continues to charge one of the lowest council tax rates in the country with a below inflation increase of 3.5% for 2023-24 to fund services in the district. So, for a Band D property this equates to £5 a year (10p a week) bringing a total charge of £151.69 a year (£2.91 a week).

All in all, I feel this was our most successful budget of the last 4 years, and I am particularly excited to see that we are able to do more and more to mitigate the carbon emissions in our district and to creep closer to our carbon neutral target.

Please do contact me if you have any pressing problem with which you think I could help.

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VVHDC

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**OPINION POLLS**

It is all too easy to become excited/depressed/anxious (take your pick) over the state of the nation's local and national politics. It almost seems that there is a competition going on between polling organisations to grab the headlines over who can be most dramatic. But is this the best way to test public opinion? And more importantly, how far do these polls actually influence public opinion? There are many examples of the polls turning out to be very wrong. Do they merely solidify passing trends or do they stimulate resentment in an electorate that does not like being told how it is going to behave?

I am not clear what purpose they serve except to give the chattering political classes something to chew on. At best, polls are a vague guide as to how public opinion might be shifting and at worst, a hindrance to independent thinking.

With some important local elections in May, many media outlets are beginning to obsess on what national polls are saying. I very much hope that people will make up their own minds and, as far as possible, ignore the polls.

BUDGETS

After many weeks of discussion and consultation, the process of forming a Council's budget culminates in a formal Councillor Budget debate. Yesterday's near 6 hour meeting at which an alternative budget produced by the opposition had to be considered first, culminated, as expected in a comfortable majority passing the ruling administration's budget. The whole exercise is called "a debate" but the outcome is almost always predetermined. It can be very frustrating for Opposition councillors as it is far too late for any of their ideas to be built into what will be passed on budget day. But having served as an opposition councillor for Hello many years, I have some sympathy for them.

That said, I am very pleased with the outcome this year. OCC's finances are looking remarkably secure given the amount of financial uncertainty around. In summary, more money is going into

- Adult and Child social care,
- Highway maintenance,
- Tackling climate change and
- Protecting the most vulnerable from the worst of the cost of living crisis

As a package it seems to offer something for almost everyone with one proviso, that the increase in council tax of 4.99% (although in line with more than 70% of all other councils) is a tough ask of those in the next most vulnerable category. It was a choice between



the pain of a Council Tax increase over the pain that would result from cutting frontline services. Politics is about making choices - often difficult ones.

There are plenty of other risks around the corner, however, not least the impact of inflation on all areas of the budget together with the announcement from government that we need to prepare for further cuts in central government finance in 2025-6.

OTHER CHALLENGES

In the next financial year, a number of issues affecting us all will have been resolved or irrevocably decided.

- The Thames Water Reservoir.
- The HIF 1 Road
- The development of thousands more houses at Culham, Didcot and Kingston Bagpuize.

More clarity on the number of houses we need to build elsewhere. The potential development of Abingdon airfield.

And those are just the major issues. At the same time there are a number of other Highway and traffic issues that have been outstanding for far too long.

Here's hoping the next financial year will be a little less pressured.

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

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

MP'S REPORT

I'm delighted to have secured a breakthrough for the local AEAT Pensioners after 10 years of dogged campaigning by them. The National Audit Office – which has investigated high-profile cases such as Equitable Life and British Steel – has agreed to my request to look at the AEAT case and will produce a report setting out their views in the coming weeks. Parliament's powerful Public Accounts Committee will also hold



an inquiry and are calling for evidence for this until 5th March: <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7230/aea-technology-pension-case/>

A highlight in the last month was, of course, President Zelensky addressing Parliament. He gave a very powerful speech, conveying the bravery of the Ukrainian people and his thanks to the UK for our support during the past year.

For anyone born in the UK after the world wars, as I was, it is impossible to truly understand what his countrymen and women are going through at this time, subject to a relentless bombardment by Russian tanks and planes every day that takes the lives of their family members and causes untold destruction. The President's speech made us all feel proud of the UK's support. We were the first European country to start sending lethal aid to Ukraine and are the second largest donor of military aid in the world after the USA – a total of £2.3 billion since the outbreak of war.

In addition to all the military equipment supplied – and a major new package of air defence to help protect Ukrainian civilians and critical national infrastructure from Russian strikes – we've provided a £220 million humanitarian assistance package and issued some 218,000 visas to Ukrainians. Oxfordshire has of course been at the forefront of hosting Ukrainian refugees, many of whom I have had the privilege to meet. Our support is very important – and must continue.

I was very pleased this constituency was the place Michelle Donelan, the new Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, chose to make her first visit – to the **Rosalind Franklin Institute at Harwell**, which the Government has just committed a further £40 million to. The Department will be key for this constituency and its creation has happened just before I hold the first meeting of my Science and Technology forum for businesses at Harwell, Milton Park and elsewhere, with George Freeman, Minister for Science, Research, and Innovation, as the guest speaker.

March 2023

The other event coming up in the near future from me will be an Apprenticeships Fair for local young people and employers. While there has been a welcome growth in apprenticeships with the Government's Apprenticeship Levy, many employers struggle to fill their apprenticeships while, nationally, the highest-level ones disproportionately go to young people from higher income families. If you work for a company that wants to take part, then do get in touch.

As ever, if I can help with anything then do please get in touch via 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



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

RESPOND NOW TO THAMES WATER!

Now is the time to respond to the Thames Water draft Water Resource Management Plan.

The deadline for response is 21st March.

This is your opportunity to register your opposition to the planned reservoir to Thames Water and to the Regulator, Ofwat. You can also tell your MP and Councillors what you think, by forwarding the Thames Water confirmation email containing your response to them. Please also tell us at GARD that you have responded.

Thank you!

For information and assistance look on the GARD website abingdonreservoir.org.uk or contact the GARD Secretary on gard.secretary@gmail.com

DEREK STORK
Chairman, GARD

For updates, contact details or to join GARD visit: www.gard-oxon.org.uk or email gard.secretary@gmail.com / gard.membership@gmail.com

Facebook: @abingdonreservoir Twitter: @GARD_OXON



The countryside charity

TRUSTEES WANTED - CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND - OXFORDSHIRE

Do you care about your local countryside? Want to make a difference?

Due to retirement of current trustees, we are looking for an Honorary Secretary and a Board Member to join our team. This is an excellent opportunity to play an influential role in a respected and long-standing environmental charity, applying your experience to make a real difference and to be part of a friendly group that is passionate about the Oxfordshire countryside.

Application deadline is 30 March 2023 in the first instance, but we are happy to receive expressions of interest on an ongoing basis.

For further info, please contact our Branch Director, Helen Marshall.

E: director@cpreoxon.org.uk T: 01491 612079

See our website for more information:
www.cpreoxon.org.uk

ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKES CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

FRIDAY CLUB

"It's Friday, it's 5.30pm. OK, deep breath everyone."

If a leader doesn't say it out loud, then we certainly all think it. It's a lively hour, but such a fun one at the end of the week when we welcome often over 50 primary aged children to the Marcham Centre for Friday Club. The club has been run by All Saints Church for 18 years, under Jill Rowe's tireless leadership throughout all that time, and it still goes from strength to strength. It started initially with 10 children at Manor Farm courtesy of William and Janey Cumber (and because a couple of church ladies transported Jill's son to tennis lessons to free up Jill). It moved to the church when it got to 20 children where it met for many years until the building of the new hall. Now we run it in the middle of the village maximising access to all families. It also helps that the bar is open next door for parents during the session (and for recovering leaders afterwards too!). The aim has always been to reach out to children with God's love through stories, games, craft and fun activities. For 10 years there have been regular pantomime trips often subsidised by the parish council. We do termly Family Fridays in church (bonfire night, Christmas, pancakes and Pentecost) when parents are invited to stay and join in the fun. We really appreciate the support we get from all the families that enjoy the club and from the MCC since our move to the hall, and particularly the selfless commitment of the adult leaders and teenaged helpers who give up their time for the children at the end of a long week. It is a great team effort.

Regular services

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

Contacts:

Rev. Nick Weldon Vicar vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org 01865 391962, **Rob Finch** Youth Worker 07888331708, rob@marchamyouth.org **Jill Rowe** Children and Families minister families@allsaintsmarcham.org **Tamsin Gilbert** Parish Administrator info@allsaintsmarcham.org

Kids activities at All Saints'

2nd & 4th Sundays, 10am - **Sunday Kids**

3rd Sundays, 10am - **Outdoor Church** (Primary age)

3rd Sundays, 10am - **Tiddlychurch** (pre-school & under)

1st & 3rd Sundays at 4.30pm - **COG** (Bible Study group)

Tuesdays, 9.30am - **Tiddlypeeps** (pre-school & under)

Fridays, 5.30pm (term-time) - **Friday Club** at MCC



Easter Services and events

Experience Easter at All Saints

in church throughout the week for prayer and reflection

Thursday 6th April,

7.30pm: Maundy Thursday communion

Friday 7th April

10am-12pm: Good Friday Family
reflective event at All Saints

2-3pm: Good Friday Meditation at St. Luke's

Sunday 9th April

6am: Easter Day Sunrise Service at St. Luke's

10am: Family Communion at All Saints

6pm: Holy Communion at All Saints