



Marcham & District News

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

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

JUNE 2023 VOL: 45 No: 6



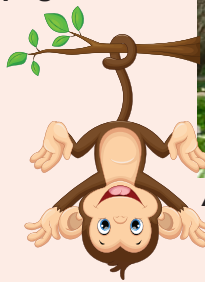
▲ How Marcham celebrated! see pages 4 and 5



▲ Marcham School: new garden and maths see page 11

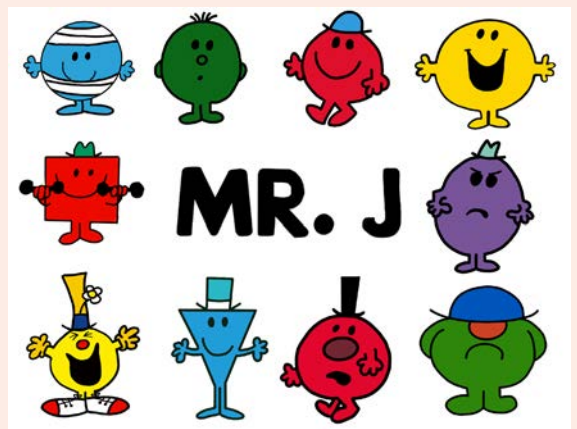


▲ Do you need a lift to a hospital or doctor's appointment? see page 9



READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Holiday Club see page 7



◀ Got a parcel to send back via DPD? Bring it to Marcham PO! see page 7



▲ If you see a honey bee swarm **DON'T PANIC!**

Just call our local beekeeper who will come give them a new home, and you a jar of honey at the end of the season!

Call 07947627529

June Diary

Date	Event	Pg	Date	Event	Pg
12 Mon	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Marcham Village Hall, Marcham Centre. 19.30	3	Fri 23	2nd Annual Big MaD Quiz, Marcham Centre, 19.30-22.00	
17 Sat	CRUK Table Top Sale, Hanney WM Hall, 10.00-14.00	13	24 Sat	Thirsty Café: Coffee Tasting, Marcham Centre 11.30	13
19 Mon	Marcham WI: Furoshiki Wrapping, Marcham Centre, 19.30	9	25 Sun	Marcham Open Gardens, 14.00=17.00	17
20 Tue	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email editor@madnews.co.uk		26 Mon	Marcham Society: Two William Morris, Marcham Centre, 19.15	9
21 Wed	Abingdon Arts Society: Dutch 17th C Painting, Abbey Cinema, 10.30 & 14.00	15	28 Wed	Thirsty Café: Community Lunch, Marcham Centre, 12.00-14.30	13

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

GARDEN & HOUSE SERVICES



A.D. Maclean
TREE MANAGEMENT LTD



Professional Tree Management throughout Oxfordshire

Tree removal	Seasoned logs and kindling delivered
Crown thinning	
Crown reduction and lifting	
Sectional tree removals	£5M Public Liability Insurance
Fruit tree pruning	
Stump grinding	All work carried out to BS 3998:2010
Hedge cutting	



D. DOWNES
PAINTING & DECORATING

T: 01235 221012
M: 07974672579
E: darren.downes72@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook

1st CLASS TREE SURGEONS

07889 881 525 or 01491 651052
quote@firstclasstreesurgeons.co.uk
www.firstclasstreesurgeons.co.uk

- tree removal
- tree thinning
- tree reduction
- dead wood removal
- stump grinding
- landscaping
- £10 million public liability
- City & Guilds Certified

andrew@admtrees.co.uk
01865 391859
@admtrees

Proud members of
Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

CHAS
Accredited Contractor
CHAS.co.uk

NPTC
QUALIFIED
WORKFORCE

For a full list of services visit:
www.admtrees.co.uk

G T Property & Landscapes

- All Landscaping Covered
- Fencing & Sheds
- Property Maintenance Covered Inc
- Painting & Decorating Inside / Out

Tel: 01865 730988 Mob: 07885 550075
Email: g.tierney@btinternet.com
Fully Insured / Free Quotes & Estimates



Hills

Suppliers of aggregates and concrete for every need

Our products include:

- ready-mixed concrete
- sand cement floor screed
- decorative aggregate
- sand, gravel and stone

Upwood Quarry open six days a week
T: 01865 390838




hills-quarry.co.uk

CONTAINER STORAGE

- 2 miles off the A34 Abingdon
- 24 hour CCTV
- Easy Access
- Clean, dry and secure



Tel: 01865 390267 or 07980 262210
Email: enquiries@oxonstorage.co.uk
www.oxonstorage.co.uk

PROFESSIONAL GARDEN SERVICES

Stephen R Matthews
Tel: 01235 766412
Mobile: 07796 532356
Email: stephenmatthews.pgs@gmail.com

All aspects of work undertaken, including:

- garden clearance and restoration
- fruit tree, shrub and rose pruning
- hedgcutting
- fencing and landscaping.

Dear Readers

I have had a lot of appreciation for last month's cover but I didn't credit the artist who created it. It was Andrew Jamieson, an heraldic artist and manuscript illuminator. You can see more of his work on his website: andrewstewartjamieson.co.uk

Thank you to everyone who has sent in photos from the May celebrations – you can see a selection on pages 4 and 5.

Until next time



PUBLISHER / EDITOR

Meriel Lewis
8 Orchard Way, Marcham
Abingdon OX13 6PP
Tel: 01865 391725
Website: www.madnews.co.uk
Email: editor@madnews.co.uk

ADVERTISING

Fran Russell: adverts@madnews.co.uk
Adverts are not endorsed and MADNews makes no guarantees as to accuracy or authenticity.

DISTRIBUTORS

Paula Utting and Claire Wright
13 Parkside, Marcham
Abingdon OX13 6NN Tel: 01865 391443

PROOFREADING

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.

POLICE

PCSO Rich Osborn C9323
Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk for Marcham
07980 924693

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

CRIMESTOPPERS

Call 0800 555 111 (anonymous calls)

NHS NON-EMERGENCY

Call Free from any phone - 111

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Richard Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton
Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
Tel: 01235 534001

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon
Robert Clegg, 42 Harding Way, Marcham,
OX13 6FJ Tel: 07784225290

robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

© **Marcham & District News 2023**

The copying of any part of this publication without written authorisation is not permitted.

Maddie the Monkey © Muhammad Desta Laksana/Shutterstock.com | Other images from Unsplash.com or as credited.

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL Annual Council Meeting

The annual meeting of the Council was held on 16th May. This was the first meeting of the new Council following elections. The new councillors will hold office for one year. As 9 candidates stood for election for 10 seats, they were automatically elected. The Council co-opted Sandra Hill to fill the vacancy. Various working groups were established to consider administrative and parish issues: One will consider “green” issues dealing with footpaths and climate matters, one to deal with the new play area, another for allotments, plus a group to review the internal audit processes, systems and controls for the spending of public money and actions of the internal auditor. The Council was pleased to welcome **Robert Clegg** to the meeting, as the newly elected Vale of White Horse District Councillor for Marcham. We look forward to receiving regular reports from him in regards to District Council matters.

Potholes

A while ago the County Council trialled a system in parts of the county, whereby a “super user” could raise works orders for fixing potholes and kerbing issues on unclassified roads of less than 30 mph. An appointed volunteer assists highway officers by being the eyes and ears locally. The scheme was extended, and Marcham for the past year, has its own “super user” James Plumb. James has undergone a training course, as not all issues can be raised directly with the County Council’s work team operatives. Residents can contact James directly regarding serious potholes. He can check the problem, and if it meets the relevant criteria, he will be able to issue a direct works order to have it fixed. He can be contacted on **07779386205** or via email at jamesplumb22@gmail.com

Footpaths – Overhanging Shrubs

This time of year, shrubs and grass are growing well, and need maintenance. The Parish Council has had reports of some footways and paths being difficult to walk owing to shrubs and hedges that are overhanging. It is appreciated that occupiers may not necessarily be aware of the difficulties. The Council would kindly ask for assistance from landowners, to cut back hedging and trim shrubs, if you find your property is one of those causing problems.

20 mph limits

The Parish Council some while ago requested that the County Council consider 20 mph limits for the A415 through the village centre, and Howard Cornish Road. The County has been considering Marcham, along with many other parishes that too have requested 20 mph areas. It is developing a plan whereby some other adopted village roads too could possibly be included. Public consultation on the final proposal will take place in due course. Similarly it is proposed that the speed limit in parts of Cothill including Blackhorse Lane are reduced to 20 mph.

Planning Applications considered by the Parish Council

P23/V0820/LB Replacement windows and front door at Hyde Farm House. The Council had no objections provided they matched existing windows and were all a consistent colour.

P23/V0883/HH Installation of 16 ground mounted solar PV panels at 1 Gozzards Ford. The Council had no objections..

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Monday 12th June, 2023 at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Barrow Close OX13 6TY.

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

Please check the Council's website in case arrangements change

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road
Tel: 01865 391833

clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Big Thank You

The Ukrainian and Belarusian group of Marcham residents would like to say a Big Thank You to Hayley and all the organisers of the Big Marcham Weekend. It was a fabulous day. We are also very grateful to everyone for their generous donations to our fundraising in aid of the Ukrainian people of Uman', who suffered a horrific attack by the Russian missile in April. We have raised an amazing £251.20. We shall give detailed information where the money is directed to as soon as we have it.

Thank you

Anyone for tennis?

I came back to tennis after a 50 year gap and I am loving it! I would be happy to have knockabout sessions in the Marcham Centre MUGA with others who, like me, would enjoy the exercise and social aspect but not feel they have to be competitive or anything too serious. If this appeals to you, please get in touch with me and I will try to set something up.

Denise.asher@btinternet.com








Photo credits:
Jim Asher, Michele Steele,
Simon Blackmore, Little Angels
and Thirsty Café
June 2023

HOUSEHOLD SERVICES




THE SHOP

www.theshop.ws

Automotive Fabrication and Welding

Got a classic car in the garage, rusting away?
Get it back on the road with The Shop
From minor welds to full restoration



MOT welding
Rust repairs



Commercial or Domestic
Classic Cars to Race Cars



Special projects
Family business



Fair pricing

Call Andy @ The Shop 07739 337562
Email: theshop.ws@gmail.com
www.TheShop.ws

GARY CUDDON

Painter and Decorator
Fully qualified with 30 years experience
Providing a high quality service
Free quotations and fully insured
Local and friendly service
07827 752904 garycuddon@aol.com

NB Office Services

Qualified Bookkeeper with over 10 years' experience in Office Management and PA
Telephone: 01865 392866
Mobile : 07775 690522
Email: Nicola.bunce@nbofficeservices.co.uk

Sharman Roofing

GRP fibreglass flat-roofing specialist
tiling, slating, leadwork, guttering and fascias,
new builds, re-roofs, extensions and sheds
all work considered, call Mark on
07979 791075
msharmanroofing@gmail.com



GT Carpentry Ltd

Your traditional carpentry firm local to you, who cover all aspects of carpentry with just some examples mentioned below.

Stuart Gardner
07885 266965
01865 391110


Nick Trinder
07831 773804
01235 224177

ROOFING
LOFT CONVERSIONS
FACIAS & SOFFITS
WINDOW BLINDS
GAZING
UPVC
TIMBER
KITCHENS
DOOR HANGING
FLOORING
RESPOKE JOINERY
FENCING
DECKING

Give us a call today for a quotation.
Unit 116 Grove Business Centre, Wantage, Oxfordshire, OX12 9FA
www.gtcarpentry.com

Hopkins Home & Garden

Maintenance



No Job Too Small!

Our Services
Minor electrical
Plumbing
Carpentry
Decorating

Mowing, hedge trimming
Landscaping
07865492813
hopkinshomeandgarden@gmail.com

DIRTY CARPETS, UPHOLSTERY, RUGS



Most carpets dry within the hour
Unbeatable results, removes almost all spots & stains

GRIMEBUSTERS

OXFORD 01865 726983
ABINGDON 01235 555533
WITNEY 01993 868924
www.grimebusters.co.uk

Six metre frame tent needs a new home

If you are a young family and have a desire for outdoor holidays this could be ideal for you.

This well-made quality frame tent comprises separate bedrooms, small toilet area and a large lounge/cooking area.

Photo of similar tent



Originally costing over £500, we are offering it at a discounted price of £0:00 a real snip for a Marcham family!

Sid Arrowsmith 01865 392023
sidneyarrowsmith53@live.co.uk



MINIBUS

Planning a night out with friends? A birthday trip with the kids? A family trip to the beach?

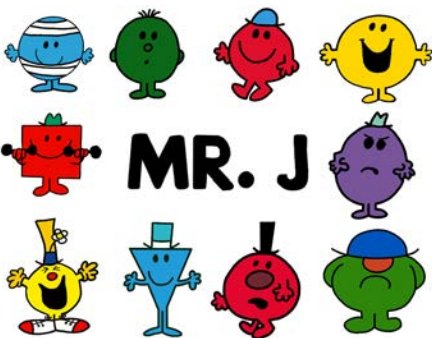
Whatever your plans, why not use the Community Minibus!!

14 seats plus your driver
(aged between 25 and 70)

(you will need to ensure that your licence covers driving a minibus)

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

Contact Marion Belcher on 07507 797757 for more information



Mr J Holiday Club

**Tuesday 29th August -
Friday 1st September
10am - 2pm**

**All Saints Church, Marcham
More details and booking
info next month**

MR. MEN™ © 2023 THOIP © Mister Men Limited

**Marcham Village Shop
& Post Office
16 North St, Marcham OX13 6NG**



**Call us: Shop 391993 /
PO 391940
Facebook: marchamvillageshop**

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



Last month the shop and post office took a space at the **Marcham Big Weekend** where we displayed our locally produced items, focused on the Post Office element and loaded ourselves with ice-creams, which went down a treat. The weekend before, at the **Coronation barbecue**, we also took a fully stocked ice-cream freezer and gained many satisfied customers. We are planning to be present at the **School PTA Fete in July**, loaded with ice-creams again, and we hope for a fabulously sunny day for everyone attending.

This year, as before, the Shop and Post Office are asking for applications for small grants towards worthy causes within the village. In the past, donations have included support to Marcham Preschool and the Colts football team. **If you think you have a worthy cause and would like some assistance with funding**, please write a brief description of your cause, including any pictures if available, how you think it would benefit with support from the Shop, how much funding would be required and what the total cost would be along with a copy of your most recent accounts or details of your organisation's finances. There is no deadline for applications We will consider each request at the following committee meeting which is held every other month. Please send your request by email marchamvillageshop@gmail.com or write to Marcham Village Shop, 16 North Street, Marcham, Abingdon, OX13 6NG.



We will be including compost, grow-bags, plants and other gardening items in the shop this month. We are also featuring some new flavoured gins and FeverTree tonics, and there will be plenty of other new items to look out for as well – come and see for yourselves.



At the Post Office we can now accept your DPD parcels for **RETURN**.

As you probably know, you can have your parcels sent to us to look after until you can pick them up, just choose Marcham Post Office as the delivery address when you put in your order.



If you are planning to go abroad, you can buy Euros over the counter or order them for delivery. You can also apply for a Travel Money Card to keep your spending safer while you are away. A wide range of currencies may be ordered before 1pm Monday - Friday

for next day delivery including dollar, peso, real, krone, zloty, rupee, dinar, yen, schilling, ringit, sol ...

All the transactions we do in the PO help to keep the shop running, so please come in and use our services... money in and out, paying cheques in, sending letters and parcels, paying bills, topping up phones, electric and gas and more.

come in and ask us!



HOUSEHOLD SERVICES

M&A ELECTRICALS - REPAIRS

*We specialise in the restoration & repair of lamps and other items
bespoke hand made lamps*

**ACCIDENTS HAPPEN, THINGS BREAK
IF YOU NEED HELP/ADVICE PLEASE
CONTACT ME [Peter] VIA THE E-MAIL
BELOW OR
PHONE 01235 762468**

sales@mandawantage.co.uk www.mandawantage.co.uk



OXFORD
KITCHENS & BATHROOMS



☎ 01865 326009

@ info@oxfordkitchens.co.uk

🌐 www.oxfordkitchens.co.uk

📍 1st Floor, Besselsleigh Road, Wootton, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX13 6DN

MOVING HOME?

LOCALLY BASED PROPERTY CONSULTANTS OFFERING A BESPOKE, PERSONAL CONVEYANCING SERVICE. SPECIALISING IN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY.

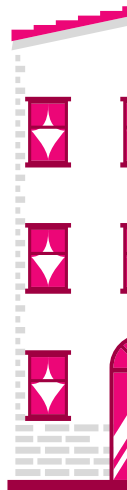
CONTACT ONE OF OUR EXPERIENCED CONSULTANTS FOR A FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTE:

FOR WANTAGE & SURROUNDING AREAS

Claire Cousins
claire.cousins@taylor-rose.co.uk

FOR ABINGDON & SURROUNDING AREAS

Charlotte O'Driscoll
charlotte.odriscoll@taylor-rose.co.uk



JEM CHIMNEY SWEEPING COMPANY LTD

★ NO FUSS ★ NO MESS ★ NO PROBLEM ★

OXFORD: 01865 772996

DEDDINGTON: 01869 337500

MOBILE: 07711 443050

STADHAMPTON: 01865 400244

Shaun Guard TV & WIFI SERVICES

- Aerials - supplied, repaired and poor reception solved
- Satellite - Sky Q dish upgrades, discreet dish installations
- Internet / WiFi - blackspots cured, internal & external data cabling
- TVs - hung on your wall or set up & tuned

OXFORD AERIALS

www.oxfordaerials.co.uk shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk

Call Abingdon 01235 239622

Rowes News

**Family Run Newspaper Delivery Service
Delivering in Marcham &
Surrounding Areas.**

**Get your favourite newspapers and
magazines delivered.**

**Please call or email us to start
your delivery.**

**If you are over 13 years old and would be
interested in delivering newspapers for
us please call or email us.**

Call: 01235 763134

Email: contact@rowesnews.co.uk

www.rowesnewsmarket.co.uk

18 Wallingford Street, Wantage

Oxfordshire's best source of reclaimed wood

We care for our environment and transform lives



One stop wood shop for your DIY projects. Good quality hard and soft wood in many sizes. Scaffold boards, pallet wood, plywood, live edges and fabulous range of reclaimed wood furniture.



Community
Wood
Recycling

Find us at 4 Suffolk Way, Abingdon, OX14 5JX

Tel: 01235 861228

www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk



Marcham WI

Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 19th June 2023

At the Marcham Centre

Speaker: Cathy Hughes,
Furoshiki wrapping

In June, Cathy Hughes will be coming along to our meeting to show us the art of Furoshiki wrapping. So, come along and learn how to wrap your presents the traditional Japanese way, using fabric instead of gift wrapping paper.



Also in June, on Friday 23rd, from 7.30pm to 10pm, we will also be hosting the **2nd Annual Big MAD Quiz** at The Marcham Centre. Tickets £9 per person include a Ploughman's supper, available from Marcham Village Shop.

'Save the date'

On Saturday 18th November, we will be organising a **Christmas Craft Fair** in the Marcham Centre, from around 1pm to 4pm. If you would like a stall, or some more information, please contact Marcham WI. More details will be available nearer the time.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



The
Marcham
Society

Monday 26th June
7.15 for 7.45pm
Main Hall
Marcham Centre

The Two William Morris of Oxfordshire

Marie-Louise Kerr

Marie-Louise's background is in Ancient History and as a museum curator. She has over 15 years' experience in the heritage sector, looking after museum collections and developing exhibitions around the country. These have included archaeology, history of science and textiles collections as well as military and social history artefacts. She set up her Curator Without Museum talks business when she was between collections, but she is now Curator at West Berkshire Museum.



William Morris
(Frederick Watts, 1870)



William Morris
(Reginald H Lewis, 1937
after Philip de László)

Marie-Louise has always loved sharing the stories she discovers in her work and with her talk on 'Two William Morris of Oxfordshire', she looks at the lives of the artist William Morris and William Morris, 1st Viscount Nuffield. She will compare and contrast their early lives, their businesses and their personal lives as well as their legacies.

Upcoming Events (please check with the organiser)

- Thursday, 1st June: Marcham Society Midweek Walk – for more details contact e.dunford@btinternet.com 01865 391439

For more information contact membership@marchamsociety.org.uk

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

Facebook: marchamsociety

The Crown as a Community Pub Update



The VoWH Community engagement team has denied our application for a Valued Community Asset Order on the Crown.

Primarily because we failed to evidence sufficient community activity and engagement with the Pub during the five years leading up to the application being submitted. The steering group will meet on the 22nd of May to consider lodging an appeal and any other options we have, alongside talking to Admiral Tavern and the Developer. We will keep you informed as and when options become clearer. If anyone can remember activity and events that took place on the Crown premises in the the last 5 years and can provide some evidence such as a signed statement and or photographs please contact me with details asap .

Updates via MADNews and village Facebook page for now.

Cheers

NEIL ROWE

(on behalf of the steering committee)



Abingdon and District Volunteer Centre Car Scheme

Do you find using public transport or taxis difficult and don't want to rely on friends to help? Abingdon Volunteer Drivers can take you people to hospital appointments and local doctors' surgeries, we also take patients to local opticians in Abingdon as well as local dental practices. (Additional charges apply if outside of listed destinations.) The service is able to support wheelchair users; passengers who require additional support and care would require their carers to join them.

Call us on 01235 522438

Monday - Friday 10am - 12.30pm

If you have a few hours to spare, we need more drivers, give us a call to find out more.

HOUSE & GARDEN SERVICES

Whatever you want
to store...

...for whatever reason - house sale and purchase not coinciding, travelling, house building work, paperwork overload or just "de-cluttering" to sell your house more quickly - we offer a friendly and flexible service at Kingston Bagpuize.

With competitive rates, secure storage all on one level, and hassle free 24/7 access, contact us now!

Only 10 minutes from
Abingdon, Wantage,
or Faringdon



01865 821250

www.barn-store.co.uk



- Scarification • Hollow Tining
- Lawn Aeration • Over Seeding
- Top Dressing • Weed Removal
- Moss Control • Professional Service

Greensleeves
Lawn Treatment Experts

Contact Steve:

07894 983801 / 01865 331501
cotswolds@greensleeves-uk.com

Martin Gilbert

Motor Repairs Ltd
Local Family Run Business

VEHICLE REPAIR & SERVICE CENTRE

For all Makes & Models

Hybrid & Electric Vehicle Repair & Service Centre
Cars & Light Commercial Repairs Including;
17 Seater Minibuses & Vans up to 3.5 Tonnes
Engine Management & Electrical Repairs



MOT's WHILE YOU WAIT



Carried out to a High Standard by Qualified Technicians

Tel: 01235 553055 - Radley Rd Industrial Estate

Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 3RY

www.martingilbertmotorrepairs.co.uk

E: richard@martingilbert.co.uk



Oxfordshire Roofing and Building Services

a good honest and reliable firm

Call today for a free estimate 07885 882689

Flat Roofing

New Roofs

Guttering

Slating

Chimney Repointing

De-Mossing

Tiling

Facias

Small Jobs Welcome • Discount for OAPs

Tel: 01865 392106 • Mobile 07885 882689

oxfordshireroofing@yahoo.co.uk

Frilford Decorators

Painters & Decorators

Decorative Treatments

Telephone: 01865 392866 (Frilford Heath)

Mobile: 07775 690523

References Available

Proprietor: Mr A Bunce

architectural and planning services
party wall surveyor

john martin

mciob mfpws

- ▲ planning & building control approvals
- ▲ extensions, new homes, conversions
- ▲ party wall surveyor services
- ▲ award winning designer
- ▲ free initial consultation
- ▲ over 30 years of improving homes and the built environment

tel 01865 391833 mob 07710 858668

email john.gmartin@hotmail.co.uk

90 howard cornish road marcham OX13 6PU



CHARLOTTE JANE
INTERIORS

01865 326164

07817 397070

Specialists in Made to Measure
Curtains and Soft Furnishings

www.charlottejaneinteriors.co.uk
charlotte@charlottejaneinteriors.co.uk



Wow we've certainly enjoyed ourselves in May!



We were so lucky that the sun came out to join us as we celebrated the coronation of King Charles III with a street party! We enjoyed a very British tea of sandwiches, cake and jelly and ice cream and we enjoyed waving our flags, having our faces painted and *meeting* King Charles!

We always love hosting such special events and it was just lovely celebrating such a momentous occasion with all of the parents, siblings and grandparents who are part of our Little Angels family.

We also had the pleasure of being a part of the **Marcham Big Weekend!** So many families enjoyed taking part in our treasure hunt around the village and entering our raffle to be in with a chance of winning some babysitting vouchers! It was a fantastic day and we would like to thank **Hayley** and the rest of the organisers for doing such a brilliant job with it all.



We are feeling so grateful to one of our newest members of the Little Angels family. **Lynda** has joined us after living in the village for a while and she and her husband are encouraging us to think about gardening! We can't wait to get growing!

We really hate to disappoint families, but we are currently full until September 2025! 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 PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



The last few weeks have proven to be a busy and exciting time in school.

On Sunday 7th May we had a huge team of volunteers come to help build a **new school garden**. So much has been achieved - from clearing the area, weeding the grounds, building the planters, filling them with 8 tons of soil, and building a shed. It was all hands-on deck from both children and parents, and the team were amazing. The area already looks incredible, and it's going to get even better. We have outdoor furniture on order, and we will be adding in pollinators and border plants in the coming weeks and months. You'll see from the photos that each year group has their own planter, and the children will start planting them up from next week. They will be growing peas, mangetout, tomatoes, cucumbers and pumpkins, as well as wildflowers and sunflowers. We will send out photos as our seeds begin to grow. Thank you again to all of you who have been involved so far, and a big thank you to **Gina Cram** and **Jay Finch** for organising, as well as **The Anson Trust** and **Marcham PTA** who collaborated on a grant to make it happen.

On Thursday 11th May, a group of four Year 6 pupils went to **Cranford House School** to take part in an **inter-school Maths challenge competition**. "On arrival we were split into pairs and we worked together on six different challenges. These were: dominoes, a broken calculator challenge, a bike ride challenge, train times, pentominoes and a card sorting exercise. We had a fantastic afternoon and really enjoyed the challenges that we were working on. Thank you to **Mrs Hutchinson** for taking us and to Cranford House for hosting us and giving us delicious snacks!" by *Luella, Summer, Harrison and Dexter*.

Also on Thursday 11th May in the afternoon, Years 4, 5 and 6 were treated to a **visit from author Rhian Tracey**, who came to speak to us about her book 'I spy - a Bletchley Park mystery'. She spoke to the children with real enthusiasm about Bletchley Park, her personal connection with the work that was carried out there during the Second World war and how she created the characters in her book. The children asked interesting and insightful questions and it was a fantastic afternoon. Many thanks to those families that purchased a copy of the book. It certainly sounds like a great read and links nicely to the upper key stage 2 topic on the Second World War.



It was also a joy to see the artwork of 19 of our pupils (chosen from thousands of entries) on display in the Young Art Oxford Exhibition at the Newman Rooms at St. Aldates from 12th-14th May. There was some amazing and powerful artwork across all the exhibits, which were a pleasure to see. Well done to: **Heidi** and **Reigan** (Year 6); **Niamh, Luella, Amy-Jane** and **Alayna** (Year 5); **Harry, Jamie, William B** and **Yuhri** (Year 4); **Heidi** and **Noah** (Year 3); **Chester** and **Jamie** (Year 2), **Efa, Rosie, Isla** and **Thomas** (Year 1) and **Melody** (Reception). You should all be very proud! All proceeds from the competition went to the Great Ormond Street Hospital. If you would like to see some photos of the entries from Marcham School, they are available on the school website in the Gallery.

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

HOUSEHOLD SERVICES



490

MOSSINATOR®
ROOF CLEANING SYSTEMS

- Moss Removal
- Roof Cleaning
- Softwashing
- Patio & Driveway Cleaning

Contact Jake
01865 362797
info@mossinator.co.uk
www.mossinator.co.uk

PERSONAL CARE



OUTDOOR GROUP EXERCISE CLASSES FITNESS AT THE FARM

Friendly, inclusive classes for all fitness levels. Reset your mind, grow your strength and enjoy the beauty of Collins Farm. No membership required, all classes can be booked on a PAYG basis.

BOOK ONLINE

Collins Farm
Kingston Road
Frilford
OX13 5NX



WWW.FARM-FIT.CO.UK

@FITNESSATTHEFARM



FOOT HEALTH WITH LOVE
MOBILE FOOT CLINIC



HAVING PROBLEMS WITH YOUR FEET?

BOOK AN APPOINTMENT TODAY
CALL 07384 441048

ALISON LOVE
FOOT HEALTH PROFESSIONAL
MCFHP MAFHP

Foot health assessment, nail cuts,
treatments include corns, callus, fungal
nail infections and verrucas

www.foothealthwithlove.co.uk
alison@foothealthwithlove.co.uk




Marcham Osteopathy
and sports injury clinic


Sarah Ingram
D.O., M.I.C.O., G.Os.C.

Tel 01865 673667
enquiries@oxfordshireosteopath.co.uk
The Old Thatch, 15 North Street, Marcham OX13 6NG

Book publishing from Stanford Publishing
Do you have a story you'd like published?
A manuscript in a drawer waiting to be printed?

Stanford Publishing is experienced in all aspects of publishing and can provide advice and guidance through the process from the first thought to the finished book. Assistance can also be provided for marketing the book, having an online presence, etc. Working with professional typesetters and printers, we can convert your Word file or handwritten manuscript into print and also into an e-book if required.

Call Richard on 01367 710677
or email richard.astell@stanfordpublishing.co.uk



The Abbey Chiropody Clinic

PJ, PA and TE Neighbour
HCPC Registered Chiropodists & Podiatrists

nail clipping, corns and hard skin
verrucae and everyday foot problems
manipulation/mobilisation of the foot and ankle
orthotics (insoles) and gait analysis
minor surgery, diabetes and wound care

Surgery and Home Visiting Practice
21-27 Coxeter House
Abingdon OX14 5AJ
Tel. 01235 530577
www.abingdonchiropody.com

Thirsty Café has had a very busy but enjoyable month with the BBQ and picnic for the Coronation weekend and the Big Marcham Weekend with a BBQ, cake and drink stall during the day finishing with making pizzas in the evening. Both events were a roaring success and seemed well received by the community, thankfully the rain held off for both. We would like to say a massive **thank you** to everyone who helped us deliver the two very successful celebrations.



Coffee tasting event Saturday 24th June 11.30am. Come and have a fun morning and help choose our house coffees for our new coffee machine, many come from small local roasters. Book a table for yourself and friends. Tickets and more information on our website www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

Monthly Community Lunch
We will be serving roast dinner with all the trimmings and puddings from 12-2pm. This runs in addition to the regular Wednesday café. There is no need to book.
Future dates for lunches are 28th June and 26th July.

Volunteering is a great way to get to know people in the community. There are many ways you can help and give as many hours as you like. Please contact us to know more. We would love to meet you.

Dates for the Diary
A Community BBQ is planned for Sunday 23rd July – more details next month.

Millets 5K Sunday 24th September.
Thirsty Cafe is closed during the month of August

Café open Wednesday and Saturday, 9 – 11:30 am
Website: www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk
E-mail: hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk



2nd Annual Big Mad Quiz

Friday 23rd June 2023

7.30pm – 10pm

Maximum Team of 6,
under 18s must be with an adult
Don't worry if you are alone –
there will be others and you can form a
team on the night

Tickets £9 per person

Includes a Ploughman's Supper

There will be a raffle and the bar will be open !

Tickets are available from Marcham Village Shop

Or contact: marchamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk 07880 714008

for more information

Venue: Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY

Hosted by Marcham WI supporting local charities

It's Still Something Many of Us Do



It's been nice to rediscover working in the garden, now the weather has improved. No, I don't mean gardening, I mean working on my laptop. I don't mean working on my laptop in a summerhouse, at the end of the garden, I mean sitting in the garden, on a bench, at a table, under the pergola, with the sun gently shining through. Noticing the shimmering shadows and sunny blotches on the patio below out of my peripheral vision whilst working, caused by the leaves of the vine growing over my head.

It's easy to think nature is out there somewhere, in some far-off land, or far off nature reserve, or some other place. Not right outside our back door. To be absorbed in my laptop screen, whilst working, but still feeling enveloped, and encased in nature, can be a creatively inspiring thing.

I also quickly realized, that although I have a lifetime of experience of listening to birds and identifying them just by their calls and songs, I almost have to relearn on some level, to recognize them again.

When I emerge from winter, I often hear something I know I know, but I have to give my mind and memory time and space to re-remember those lost connections. That time and space I spend just enjoying being back out in nature, not worrying myself about identifying, cataloguing, and categorising. Just enjoying things for what they are.

So, I encourage you to do the same. Just step out into nature and enjoy it for what it is, in all its forms. Knowledge often reveals to us that we don't know, so this year, focus less on the knowledge of the nature around you, and more on being aware of it, and just enjoying it.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

TABLE TOP SALE

Hanney WM Hall

10 till 2pm Sat 17th June

Hanney Fundraisers for CRUK

To book a table call 01235

868527/470/772114

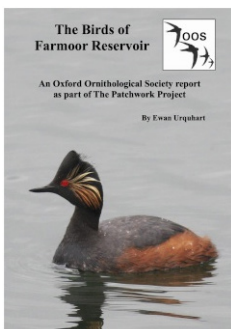


**CANCER
RESEARCH
UK**

THE BIRDS OF FARMOOR RESERVOIR

If you occasionally walk round the Farmoor Reservoir you may be aware of the many different birds that can often be seen. This brand new 64-page booklet gives a brief history and background to the reservoir and a list of all 250 species of bird recorded there, with over 100 full colour photos.

A small number of copies is available in Marcham Post Office and Shop priced £7.95, but further copies can be obtained from Eric Dunford (e.dunford@btinternet.com) - tel 01865 391439) if they are sold out.



PERSONAL CARE

 **Andrea Buckingham** 
PILATES - YOGA - MASSAGE
Supporting you **In Person** and
on Zoom with a range of class times
Newcomers welcome
AndreaBuckingham.co.uk
07939 523083 Andreabkm@gmail.com


REACTION
THERAPY
**Soft Tissue Therapy Clinic specialising in
Sports & Remedial Massage and Injury Treatment**
Fran Walker fran@reactiontherapy.co.uk
07502 400900 www.reactiontherapy.co.uk
Based at: Fit2Run, Dunmore Court, Abingdon, OX13 6BH

Do you enjoy singing?
Would you like to try something new?
Award-winning female a cappella chorus

HARMONY InSpires
invites you to
“Welcome Wednesday”
on the first Wednesday of each month

For more information visit
www.harmonyinspires.org
or scan the QR code below




Marcham Centre
www.harmonyinspires.org



Have you got a business that could benefit by being advertised to over 1000 homes in the Marcham area every month?
Contact us for more details
adverts@madnews.co.uk


OVER £40,000 IN GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE
Does Your Organisation, Society or Club Provide or Organise Community Based Activities and Services to Marcham and its surrounding parish?
Do You Need Help With Funding?
IF THE ANSWER IS “YES” TO BOTH THESE QUESTIONS THEN THE ANSON TRUST MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU
For more information on our grant application process please visit **ansontrust.org/grant-giving** or email us at **ansontrustinquiries@gmail.com**
Reg'd Charity No. 1107174


**Breakfast and After School Club now open at
Marcham Primary School**
providing quality, affordable and accessible childcare for children aged 4-11 years of age
We offer your child ... A happy, safe and secure setting, allowing them to learn and develop freely within the play centred environment The opportunity to take responsibility for themselves and their actions
7.45 – 8.45 am Breakfast Club 3.15 – 6.15 pm After School Club
Monday-Friday, term time only
Vicky Hickman Tel No: 07887711454
Email: **info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk**
website: **www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk**
Playworker Vacancies available
please get in touch for more information



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





The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE

Wednesday 21st June
10.30am and 2.00pm
Abbey Cinema, Abbey Close, Abingdon OX14 3JD

**DUTCH SEVENTEENTH CENTURY PAINTING:
 The Portraiture of All Holland**
Alice Foster

The Seventeenth Century Golden Age in Dutch painting coincided with political and spiritual independence from ruling Spain. Increasing mercantile prosperity provided new patrons of the arts who no longer wanted pictures containing a traditional iconography related to the Catholic Church. Artists needed to respond to the moral issues of the day with a new artistic code of interpretation. Into this world we meet Frans Hals, Rembrandt and Vermeer, together with artists less well known who specialised in topics such as the new "still life" painting. Such images were full of hidden meaning that had to be decoded. They were then contemplated and reflected upon with the same degree of reverence that had hitherto been accorded to their religious predecessors.



Girl with a Pearl Earring
 Johannes Vermeer, 1665

Visitors are very welcome to attend this lecture, cost £6.00. 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



**Oxfordshire School Aged
 Immunisation Service**

The School Aged Immunisation Service offer the following vaccines to eligible school aged children aged 5 to 16:

- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)
- Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio (TDP)
- Meningitis (ACWY)
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)
- Flu (seasonal)

If your child is educated at home:

- They can attend a local Community Based Clinic
- Please contact us (details below) to book into a clinic and to provide consent

If your child is in school:

- They will be offered their vaccinations at School
- The School will contact you directly with details

Contact us through our web address, by scanning the QR code or by calling 07920 254400

Or visit www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/imms

To translate our webpages to other languages please click:



Marcham Centre



BIG MARCHAM WEEKEND

The Big Marcham Weekend turnout was the best yet. Lots of people visited the stalls and watched the various events in the arena. A huge thank-you goes to Hayley Cousins and Andy Berry with the Events team who worked hard to bring us a great show on Saturday afternoon. A big thank-you also to the hard-pressed bar volunteers who kept the beer and gin going, and to the Thirsty Cafe team for the BBQ and burgers. Finally, a big thank you to the stall-holders and all of you who came and supported the event – bringing Marcham people together.

MCG MEMBERSHIP

Marcham Community Group relies on its members to support what we do – running Marcham Centre and, more recently, the new MCG Community Investment Fund. Please do your bit to support us by becoming a member of Marcham Community Group (£5 for single membership, £8 family).

You can download an annual membership form from the MCG website (www.marcham.org) or by sending an email to membership@marcham.org.

If you are already a member, but have not renewed your membership for April 2023-March 2024, please do so as soon as possible. Your support counts!

NEW IDEAS WELCOME

If you have any ideas for a new activity or a new group which could take place at Marcham Centre, we would love to hear from you. There are slots available in our weekly schedule and we would like to fill them. Please contact jim.asher@btinternet.com with your thoughts.

Indoor short-mat bowls at Marcham Centre will resume after the summer break, on Wednesday 6th September.

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 by email coordinator@marchamcentre.org or by phone **01865 507211**.

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY
enquiries@marchamcentre.org www.marchamcentre.org
 Operated by Marcham Community Group (MCG)
 Registered in England 7470307 Charity No. 1144407



FOOD AND DRINK



Join us on the first Tuesday of each month between noon and 1.30pm for a delicious **lunch** in a friendly atmosphere at **Long Furlong Community Centre, Abingdon**.

Our facilities are easily accessible with onsite parking.

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

HOLIDAYS

B&B Rafters



Bed & Breakfast



Abingdon Road
Marcham

Abingdon, Oxfordshire
OX13 6NU

Contact Mrs Sigrid Grawert

Tel 01865 391298

enquiries@bnb-rafters.co.uk

www.bnb-rafters.co.uk

Join us and discover
a place to relax

PET CARE

Town Furlong Cattery



Kingston Road, Frilford

01865 391864

www.townfurlong.co.uk



FIELD | FAMILY | FORK

PYO
NOW OPEN!

Kingston Road | Frilford | Nr. Abingdon | OX13 5HB

www.milletsfarmcentre.com

Charlotte Jane Cakes

Established 2011



Bespoke Wedding Cakes

www.charlottejanecakes.co.uk

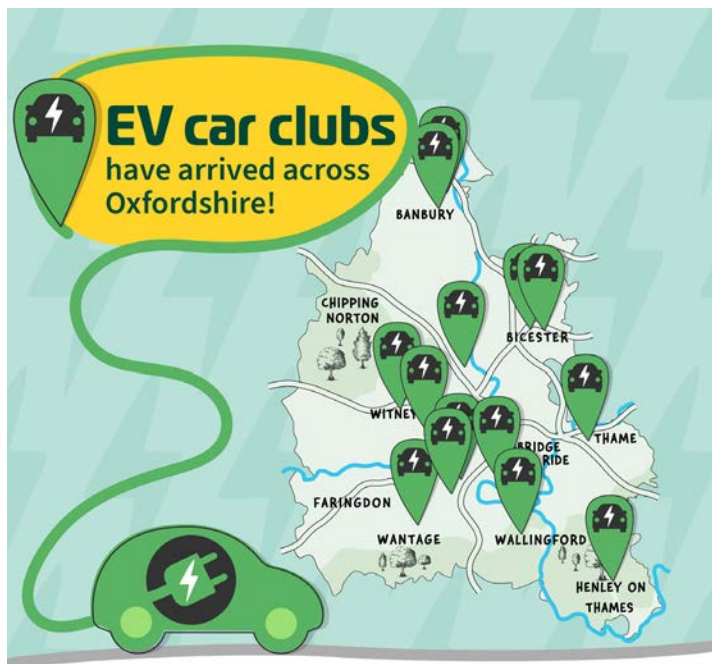
01865 326164 07817 397070



Charlotte Jane Cakes

Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle Car Club

Fourteen new car club EVs have launched across Abingdon, Banbury, Bicester, Eynsham, Henley, Kidlington, Oxford, Thame, Witney, Wallingford and Wantage. These shared vehicles – operated by CoWheels, Enterprise CarClub and Thame EV Hire Club - are available for people to use on a pay-per-use basis that provides a convenient and affordable alternative to individual car ownership, as well as providing an opportunity for petrol and diesel drivers to try an EV without any long-term commitment. www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/EVcarclubs



Don't forget about The Little Library

The Little Library outside the Little Angels Nursery is available for everyone in the village to use. Please feel free to come and have a look at a range of books from adult novels, teenager and older children to under 5s. If you would like to donate books please bring them over and pop them into the library and take a new one away to enjoy, it is a great way to share the wonderful world of books in our village community. *Happy reading.*



Do you want your work to make a difference every day?

Do you want to support community safety?

Join Thames Valley Police as a
Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

Our PCSOs are the face of the police within local communities. In this diverse role, you will police our neighbourhoods, work to reduce crime and disorder, and build strong relationships with our communities and partner agencies.

Forget the stereotype – modern apprenticeships offer new opportunities to earn and learn for everyone from college leavers to career changers. As an apprentice PCSO your on-the-job learning will also be accredited with a Level 4 Diploma in Community Policing Practice.

*Join TVP and be the difference
you want to see*

More information about the PCSO role is available on our TVP Careers website, on the PCSO page: tvpcareers.co.uk/roles/pcsos



Marcham Open Gardens

2-5pm Sunday 25th June 2023

In Aid of the Marcham Moldova Lifeline

Your chance to admire some of the beautiful gardens around our village

If you'd like to open your garden, please contact
Julia: jldav13s@msn.com 01865 319912

or

Sheila: sheila.dunford@btinternet.com 01865 391439



HARMONY InSpires

**An Evening of A Capella
From Ballads to Barbershop**

a concert brought to you by

**Synergy, Oxford Harmony and Harmony InSpires
Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall Street**

Oxford OX1 2DH

Saturday 8th July at 7.30pm

Doors open at 7.15pm

Tickets are £12, students £8

Children under 16 free

For more information see

harmonyinspires.org

synergysingers.co.uk

oxfordharmony.org.uk



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone who helped me over recent months in one way or another, including campaign volunteers, the many with whom I had friendly chats on doorsteps, and the even more who cast their votes via post or at the polling stations... and, of course, those hard-working individuals who operated the polling stations and at the count on the day after. Speaking with so many of my neighbours over the campaign period was a truly uplifting experience, and I hope that this will continue: I'm often out and about around the village, including often at Saturday-morning Thirsty Cafe, so do please feel free to grab me for a chat. I can't promise that my small children won't also want to join the conversation, so be prepared to answer questions yourself about, e.g., who your favourite Disney princess is.



It may come as a surprise but I would like to thank my opponent in the election, James Plumb. While running unopposed would have been easy, it would have been a failure of our democracy to deny residents any choice in who represents them at the district level. No-one could doubt James's capacity for hard work, as demonstrated both on the campaign trail and through his ongoing community activities: it is his political affiliation that I, and it appears others, take issue with. I'm sure he will continue to serve this community well on the Parish Council and I look forward to working with him in this role.

Lastly, the biggest thank you of all to **Catherine Webber**, my predecessor in this role, who served Marcham and Shippon for 10 years. Catherine was the first to see potential in me as a candidate, gave up her time to explain what the role entails and to support me once selected, and has promised to continue advising me as I settle in. Catherine left very big shoes to fill and, although I bring a different set of skills to the table, living up to Catherine's example of tireless service to the community will be my overall ambition.

THE ROLE

So what does a District Councillor do? I'm no expert (yet!) on the subject, but thought it would be helpful to give a brief overview, as this will help inform what people can expect from me over the next 4 years. The first step is explaining the levels of local government. In order of increasing geographic size:

- Marcham Parish Council is formed of local residents who selflessly give up their evenings to care for issues such as footpaths, allotments, and playgrounds;
- the Vale of White Horse District Council covers approximately the south-west quarter of Oxfordshire and is responsible for issues such as housing and planning, and waste collection;
- Oxfordshire County Council tackles other issues such as social & health care, schools, and roads & transport.

I am of course prepared to lobby other councils on behalf of residents where the issue is outside of the Vale's remit, but if you're happy to cut out the middleman then that should usually yield a quicker response. As the District Councillor for Marcham & Shippon, I represent local residents on the Vale-wide Council which meets five times each year. I have also been appointed to various Vale committees: Planning (as a 'Preferred Substitute*'), Appeals (as Chair), and as a member of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee. Tying this all back to local residents, I attend Parish Council meetings in Marcham and in Shippon, keep residents updated on recent developments (e.g. via MAD News!), and take on case work when residents contact me directly with concerns.

* A little complicated, come have a chat if you're curious.

SPECIAL MEASURES

Residents may have spotted a recent report that the Levelling up secretary, Michael Gove, has written to nine councils about their below-target response times to planning applications; the Vale was

among these. The speed of determining applications in the Vale did indeed dip below the required rates for a short period during 2021, and Mr Gove recognised that the Vale's performance had since improved. This is an area that the council is monitoring closely to ensure that the action plan put in place to tackle the earlier issue continues to deliver significant improvements. I will share any updates once available.

CLLR. DR. ROBERT CLEGG,

DC for Marcham and Shippon.

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07784225290

or robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A REASSURING MESSAGE

One of my obligations on your behalf is to serve on the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner Scrutiny panel. There I meet Councillors from all around the Thames Valley area to discuss how we should hold the Commissioner to account. The reputation of our police has taken quite a battering largely as a result of happenings in the Met. As we are the nearest neighbours



to the Met, we might have expected that similar problems might spill over from the Met area into the Thames Valley. I am happy to report that I have seen little sign of this. Indeed, I have been very impressed with the determination shown by our Chief Constable and his team of Deputies in dealing with potential problems of misogyny, racism, bullying and the like.

A recent BBC documentary on some of the behaviour at the UN where there were accusations of bad behaviour running right up to the top of the organisation, made me realise just how important it is for the public to have confidence in large organisations that senior management is open, transparent and honest over any shortcomings. The moment that there is any sign of cover up, the reputation of the whole organisation is threatened. This is why I was much reassured by discussions with the senior Thames Valley Police team.

On a lighter note, we were shown one picture of the Commissioner walking across a field between two police officers. Doubtless, this was to convey the daily consultation that goes on between TVP and the Commissioner. However, it struck me that it could have been construed as the Commissioner being "taken in for questioning". It just demonstrates how important presentation and image is in public life!

ELECTION MAYHEM OVER

As new Councils and Councillors begin to get their feet under the table, the same local problems and challenges that we faced last month are facing us now. Housing and housing numbers, roads, traffic, active travel and the climate emergency all still need solutions. At the same time, inflation is proving harder to bring down than we thought. If any of our new councillors thought they were in for an easy ride, I fear they were mistaken. But with a bunch of new, fresh faces comes a feeling of optimism that things could get better. That is something we all need to build on

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

Phone 0754 657 1521 or email Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

MP'S REPORT

I hope you all enjoyed the Coronation weekend. Whether I was in Wantage, Didcot, Grove or Wallingford, the mood was upbeat, people were having a good time and there was plenty of food, music and activities. The Coronation itself passed off perfectly, despite the weather – and the concert was great too. It was another reminder of how this country can do events like this better than anywhere else.

While we're still crunching the data, I wanted to thank everyone

who completed my health services survey for doing so. I've had responses from nearly 3,000 people, which is a really great number to give a picture of what people are feeling across the constituency. It's clear that, as I expected and as my inbox reflects, many people feel we do not have the health services we need. Nor do I. People particularly struggle to get an appointment with a doctor or with a dentist, but this is not the only thing that people would like to see more of when it comes to health. I will continue to campaign hard on this – watch this space.

After I held a successful crime summit with Thames Valley Police in Wantage, I was asked by local residents to hold one in Wallingford. I can confirm this will take place on 15th June, 6.30pm – 8pm and Waitrose have offered their café. Sign up on my website: www.david-johnston.org.uk.

Wherever you live, you can also sign up there for my third annual climate summit, which will be via Zoom and will have Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, giving the keynote speech.

Sticking with the environment and climate change, I continue to lobby for the Local Electricity Bill, which I am the lead sponsor of and which is now backed by 318 MPs. This would make it easier for small, community organisations that generate renewable energy to be able to sell it to the community. I am hopeful that with the Government's Energy Bill making its way through parliament at the moment, we might be able to finally make something happen that enables community energy to flourish.

Thanks to everyone who took part in my Apprenticeship Fair in Didcot – nearly 400 people attended and had great conversations with a range of public and private employers about the range of apprenticeships they offer. I was asked if I will be doing it again and I will be doing so.

A couple of other things in brief. I met with the Chair of Water Resource South East to again convey the objections local people have about the reservoir proposal. And I continue to encourage people to see if they are eligible for Pension Credit, which can provide an average £3,500 a year to pensioners. The figures show the uptake locally is increasing, but there are more people who could be getting it. See if you or someone else you know is eligible here: <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/eligibility>



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
 Phone: 0207 219 3858 Email: david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk



GARD's Annual General Meeting took place on Tuesday 2nd May in Steventon Village Hall, and was well attended from across the region. Where are we now with the proposals and responses? There will be news in June.

We await the responses of WRSE, Thames Water and RAPID to our opposition. Responses to RAPID's draft decision have been sent from Stakeholders (i.e. GARD, OCC, the Vale, Parish Councils, Wantage and Grove Campaign Group). RAPID wishes both the Reservoir and the competing Severn Thames Transfer to move on to the next stage of evaluation but GARD believes that **the Reservoir should not be allowed to proceed for further evaluation UNTIL a proper public assessment of the Reservoir's safety and flood risk potential has been carried out and published.**

GARD is considering the next moves and needs to build a fighting fund. We will possibly have to consider a legal challenge. We shall continue to work on publicity and increasing opposition support, perhaps via a petition. We ask you to continue lobbying your MP and Councillors, and we would urge all members and supporters to consider a contribution to our campaign fund.

The proposed Reservoir has no justification and, as Oxfordshire County Council stated in its January 2023 Press Release, it is **"a destructive scheme, both environmentally and in its impacts on local people"**.
 For more information www.gard-oxon.org.uk, Facebook: @abingdonreservoir, Twitter @GARD_OXON

Volunteer IT Support

Would you like to volunteer for a local charity that makes a real difference to local people's lives? Do you have up to 7 hours a week free to volunteer? We are looking for IT help in all of our sites: Abingdon, Didcot, Henley, Thame



Purpose of the role

- To act as first point of contact for staff and volunteers with regard to IT technical support for Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice.

Main duties and responsibilities may include:

- Diagnosing and troubleshooting software and hardware issues
- Installing and configuring computer hardware, software, systems, networks, printers and scanners
- Testing new hardware and software before full-scale installation
- Responding in a timely manner to service issues and requests
- Attending team meetings and any other additional training as required.

Personal skills and qualities needed:

- Commitment to the aims and principles of Citizens Advice
- Experience in networking configuration, diagnostics and maintenance
- In-depth knowledge of Windows operating system and Google suite
- Problem-solving skills
- Ability to communicate clearly both verbally and in writing
- Practical experience with internet and network security protocols

Please email our recruitment team: recruitment@citizensadviceosav.org.uk

State which location you would like to volunteer in, and include your contact details.



Callers don't have to give their name or any personal information and calls are not recorded and cannot be traced.
Tell them what you know, not who you are

ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKE'S CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

**'SHOUT FOR JOY
TO THE LORD, ALL
THE EARTH'**

PSALM 100 V 1



The Marcham Moldova Lifeline (MML) is a wonderful, fruitful and unique partnership between our community here and the fascinating country of Moldova – a place of huge contrasts less than 3 hours flying time away. Over the last 15 years much funding, prayer and pastoral support has flowed out from Marcham to Moldova, and much blessing has flowed back to us here too from our friends living and serving there. The relationship has been two-way with numerous visits both directions before the pandemic, and many fund-raising initiatives and events here in our villages over the years. In early May I had the opportunity to see for myself how our support has blessed the lives of many people in Moldova throughout our partnership. Neil Rowe and I flew to eastern Romania, and then drove 150km across the border to visit our mission partners near the capital city Chisinau. Patience Brace and Mary Embleton did likewise in April. Moldova is a small country not far from the Black Sea port of Odessa, hence the need to fly in and out of Romania. We found that sadly the threat of war spilling over from Ukraine was the backdrop to much of life in Moldova now. Prices and inflation are high and rising, much more so than here. The population is rapidly reducing as many 20-40's move abroad to live and work. The gap between rich and poor remains very wide, and much of our support through our local partners has been to help alleviate poverty, provide support for children's education, and help the vulnerable within the country. The children and their teachers at school were so impressive though. Their ambitions were high and their English was extraordinary. The children had lots to say about our King, our Premiership football teams and Brexit! It was a privilege to spend time with them. Coinciding with our key partner's retirement in 2025 MML will draw to a conclusion then, so we are keen to finish well over the next years. So do look out for further MML events and projects over the next year. And if you would be interested to visit our partners in Moldova I can say from experience that you will receive a very warm welcome. Revd Nick Weldon

FRIDAY CLUB

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

St. Luke's, Garford

This little chapel of ease is a beautiful and peaceful place. It is open on Sundays between 11am-12pm (unless there's a service on) for quiet personal prayer and reflection. It is accessed through Manor farm yard and can be walked to from Marcham in about 45 mins (or you can drive).

*Sunday 18th June, 11am: Father's Day Service

*Sunday 9th July, 6pm: Evensong

Contacts:

Revd. 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