



Marcham & District News

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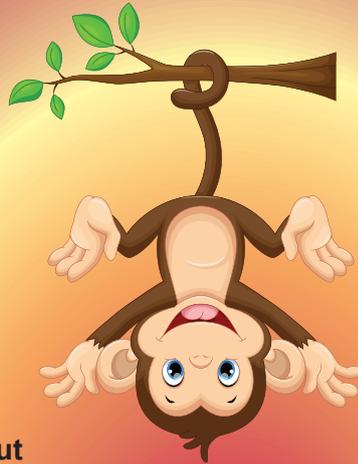
JULY/AUGUST 2023 VOL: 45 No: 7 / 8

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Marcham School helping at Community Café see page 11

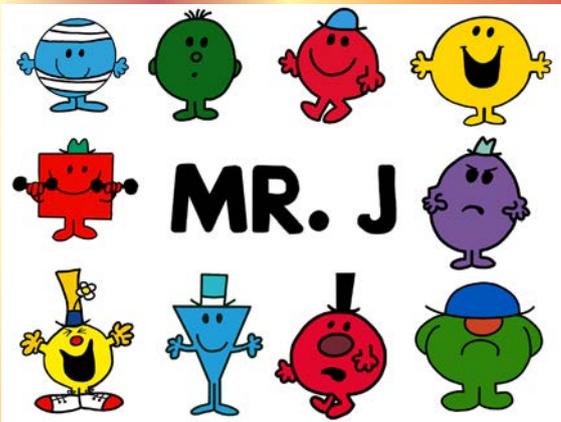


Editor bows out see page 3 ▶

Goodbye!



▲ Little Angels enjoying the summer see page 11



▲ Holiday Club see pages 5 and 20



▲ The Marcham Olympics see page 13

July Diary

Date	Event	Pg	Date	Event	Pg
6 Thu	Mostly Books: Tea with Ruth Jones, The Barn, Abingdon, 14.00	10	19 Wed	Abingdon Arts Society: Trompe L'oeil, Abbey Cinema, 10.30 & 14.00	15
7 Fri	Marcham Primary School PTA Summer Fete, 18.00-20.00	9	23 Sun	Thirsty Café Community BBQ, Marcham Centre	13
8 Sat	Wantage Academy Brass and Youth Brass, St Michael's Church, Abingdon, 19.00	17	26 Wed	Thirsty Café Community Lunch, Marcham Centre, 12.00-14.00	13
8 Sat	Harmony InSpires Concert, Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford 19.15	17	27 Thu	Air Quality Survey Deadline	3,5
10 Mon	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Marcham Village Hall, 19.30	5	31 Mon	Deadline for using up old stamps	7
10 Mon	Waste Satisfaction Survey Deadline	5	August		
12 Wed	Deadline for MPs Childcare Survey	19	20 Aug	Deadline for next issue of MADNews, 17.00 Email editor@madnews.co.uk	
13 Thu	Marcham Society Midweek Walk	9	29 Tue-1 Fri	All Saints' Holiday Club, 10.00-14.00	9
17 Mon	Marcham WI Summer Party, Marcham Centre, 19.30	9	31 Thu	Waste Collection: Green, Food, Garden	5

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

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Dear Readers

This is it, my last MADNews! I have had an amazing 18 years as editor (around 200 issues), but now it is time to pass it on.

Thank you for supporting this vital service, and please keep it alive for the next generation by continuing to send in letters, reports and articles and reading each issue!

I will look forward to receiving my copy in September when I can just sit back with a cuppa and read about what is going on instead of trying to fit it all in to 20pages!

Thank you and Goodbye!



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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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Marcham and Shippon
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OX13 6FJ Tel: 07784225290

robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL Cemetery Grass Cutting

The Parish Council and Marcham and Frilford Joint Cemetery Committee are aware of concerns raised recently about the length of grass in the cemetery. The Council and its Committee apologise for any distress this may have caused residents and those with family members interred there. Unfortunately the contractor, who had been engaged for several years to undertake the work, has ceased trading, but did not inform the Council. After starting the season well in March, the first the Council was aware of the issues was when it was noticed that the planned grass cuts in May had been missed. A new contractor, who already manages the adjacent Frilford Road Recreation Ground, has kindly stepped in at very short notice to help out, and will continue with a monthly cut for the remainder of the season.

Queries too have been received regarding areas in the parish cut by the County Council, and the District Council. Your new District Councillor Robert Clegg is making enquiries at the Vale of White Horse District Council, and it is hoped that a full list of sites in Marcham and who cuts them will be available on the Council's website in due course. Should you have any further comments or questions regarding grass cutting and maintenance of Parish Council sites please contact your local parish councillor, or email clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Air Quality – Consultation

The Vale of White Horse District Council, together with South Oxfordshire District Council, has put together a new plan of action for the next 4 years to improve air quality. The priorities for 2023-27 include reducing traffic emissions within the designated Air Quality Management Areas - one of which is Marcham. They are inviting residents to have their say on the proposals. The survey, and link to the draft action plan is available at <https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/AirQualityActionPlan/?m=73149797eo45i> Anyone needing the survey in a different format should email env.health@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422403. The deadline for responding to the survey is Thursday 27th July, 2023.

Play Area

The planning application reported in a previous MADNews article is ongoing. The District Council has requested additional information e.g. an arboricultural report, and scaled elevation drawings of the equipment, and has asked various questions. The Council is working to provide the information. It is hoped that installation can go ahead later in the year whilst the ground conditions are still dry.

Annual Meeting of Electors – 24th May

The annual meeting of electors was held on 24th May. This year, there was no guest speaker, so more time was available to consider local matters. Thanks were placed on record to Catherine Webber who had been the District Councillor representing Marcham, and who had decided not to stand as a candidate at the elections earlier that month. Robert Clegg was welcomed as the

new member on the Vale of White Horse District Council. This year residents heard reports from the Parish Council on activities over the previous 12 months and from Viv Hutchinson, Head Teacher at Marcham Primary School on its achievements. Robert Clegg read out reports from both Catherine and Richard Webber who were unable to be present. The new play area drawings were on display and were discussed, and an update presentation was given on the **Neighbourhood Plan**

Questions were asked from those attending, on the play area, community shelter, funding available from developers being held by the Vale of White Horse District Council, traffic through the village and stopping HGVs, and issues with the zebra crossing being so close to the bend in the road. The Council has noted all the comments and opinions made.

Parish Transport Representative

Oxfordshire County Council, holds meetings from time to time on public transport issues. The Parish Council has appointed Suzanne Saunter to be the local representative. She will monitor and transport issues that could affect the parish, particularly any proposed changes to bus services in Marcham should any be announced.

Vale of White Horse District Council – Climate Action Fund grants

A fund in 23/24 of £100,000 is available for local projects that support climate action. The fund is open again for application. The deadline, however, for submission of a grant application in the next round is 14th July. If there is anyone with a project in mind further information about the grant can be found on the District Council's website. www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Electoral Boundary Reviews

The Electoral Commission is undertaking a review of the boundary areas for representation and election purposes. Many new houses have been built locally and in wider Oxfordshire in recent years, and there is an imbalance in the numbers of people represented by each councillor. The maps of which area is represented by your MP, county councillor and district councillor could well be altered in the future. The first study has been the constituency boundaries, and a report is going to Government early July. The Proposal is that Marcham will become part of Oxford West and Abingdon constituency. We await the Government's announcement as to what has been adopted. With the County Council division, consultation is likely to take place later this year, and the review at the District Council has only just begun.

Planning Applications considered by the Parish Council

P23/V1077RM Reserved matters application for the approval of details relating to 88 dwellings south of the A415. Council requested tarmac paths, and not hoggin, space was required for a possible link to the adjacent site to the West, no enclosure seemed to be planned for the attenuation area, drainage issues too were still of concern.

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Marcham Parish Council Report continued

P23/V1128/FUL Proposed extension of existing lake and associated landscape work at Denman College, New Road. The Council sought assurances that the proposed works to the lake would not exacerbate future flood risk, and that there was adequate capacity for any increased water levels. It also sought assurances that in view of the archaeological report, any finds would be appropriately processed.

Date of Next Council Meetings:

Monday 10th July and Monday 11th September 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

HAVE YOUR SAY ...

SOUTH & VALE AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

We are inviting you to have your say on the Draft Air Quality Action Plan 2023-27 for South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse, which outlines the actions we will take to improve air quality in the districts. This plan has been produced as part of our statutory duties required by the Local Air Quality Management framework and replaces the previous action plans for South and Vale.

Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts, including heart disease and cancer, and particularly affects the most vulnerable in society. In order to tackle it, we have carefully considered a long list of potential measures and selected those most likely to have the biggest impact and be most cost effective. Our action plan includes both area wide actions, which apply to the whole of both districts, as well as actions targeted at specific Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). An AQMA is designated by a local authority when air pollution levels exceed national limits. Currently, there are six AQMAs in South and Vale: Abingdon, Botley, Marcham, Henley-on-Thames, Wallingford and Watlington.

<https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/AirQualityActionPlan/>

WASTE SATISFACTION SURVEY 2023

We would like to know what you think of our waste and recycling services across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

Take part in our survey and let us know what you think about waste services, this includes household waste, recycling, food waste collections, bulky waste collections, street cleaning services, customer services and the councils' waste and recycling information.

The survey will help to identify satisfaction levels with these services and highlight areas for improvement.

Please note, this survey focuses on waste services provided by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils only. It does not cover any questions relating to Household Waste Recycling Centres as these services are owned and managed separately by Oxfordshire County Council.

Please complete this survey by **11.59pm on Monday 10 July 2023**.

Go to our website to complete the survey online:

survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/WasteQuestionnaire2023

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

As announced at the recent Electors Meeting (24th May 2023) we will shortly be starting the survey of the Marcham Parish Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan, when completed, will form part of the statutory planning policy for the parish alongside the Local Plan for the Vale of White Horse District Council.

Developing a Neighbourhood Plan is a legal right giving our parish community direct influence and input into the development of a shared vision for the parish and shape its development and growth for the future.

Neighbourhood planning provides the opportunity for communities to set out a positive vision for how they want their community area to develop over the selected next 10 years.

Communities can also address issues related to land use and development through the Neighbourhood Plan.

The answers you give to the questions in the survey will help to inform the direction of the Neighbourhood Plan as it is developed. As the policies within a Neighbourhood Plan can only address development and the use of land, some matters covered in the survey may not be able to be addressed directly by the plan. We feel it is still important to ask these questions as they will inform our approach and may provide valuable information for the parish council to use elsewhere.

By filling in this survey as fully as possible you will be having your voice heard and this can contribute to the development of the plan which you will have the opportunity to comment on further during the process plan before a final vote. The process and different steps were outlined at the Electors Meeting.

We will be sending out links to the survey via the Marcham Parish Council website and announce when it has gone live. If possible, please use the online versions if you are able to, as it will help us collate and analyse the results more quickly and efficiently. However printed copies will be available in the following proposed locations.

- Marcham Centre,
- Marcham Village Shop & Post Office,
- Marcham School,
- All Saints Church, Marcham

If you would like any further information about the survey or would like some help in filling it in or need it collected, please contact any of the steering group

We look forward to receiving your completed questionnaire when we go live and will inform you of the results and the next stages in the Neighbourhood Planning process in due course.

If you would like to know more about the Neighbourhood Plan process or feel that you could contribute to the Steering Group, please contact Mark Harvie mark.harvie@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk or the clerk of Marcham Parish Council clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Many thanks

Steering Group on behalf of Marcham Parish Council

Neighbourhood Planning



Bank Holiday 2023 Waste Collections
~~Wednesday 30 Aug~~ **Thursday 31 Aug**
Green, Food & Garden Waste

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They check on the welfare of detainees in police custody by speaking to those detained and monitoring the conditions of the cells. The visits provide an independent check on the way in which detainees are held, and also help foster better public understanding and confidence in the way prisoners are treated. ICVs check and make sure that:

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- Detainees have been informed of their rights.

Visits are regularly made to eight designated police custody suites in Thames Valley: Abingdon, Aylesbury, Banbury, High Wycombe, Loddon Valley, Maidenhead, Milton Keynes and Newbury.

To become a custody visitor, suitable candidates need to be at least 18 years old and independent of the police. Serving police officers, police staff, special constables, justices of the peace and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner staff, for example, will not be considered.

For more information and a copy of the application form, please visit the Independent Custody Visitors website:

www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/independent-custody-visitors/.

TIME FOR A WALK

With summer on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Oxfordshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/oxfordshire> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

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John Harris

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July/August 2023

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It looks like Summer has finally arrived. Let's hope it hangs around for the summer holiday period.

The plants that we had for sale flew off the shelves. We had some gorgeous roses, lupins and hanging baskets at fantastically low prices. All being well, we'll do something similar for next year. However, if we get the opportunity, we may even have more to offer over the next few months – watch this space.

We're always on the lookout for new and exciting things to sell in the shop. Sometimes, we don't even have a chance to advertise them before they're all gone, so please check us out as often as you can.

On Friday 7 July, MVS will host a table at the **School PTA Fete**. Please come along and say hello. We will be selling ice-creams and a small number of a few of our locally produced items, e.g. jams, honey, flour, eggs. We hope to show you how the shop and Post Office can help you and the services that we offer.

Earlier in the month there was a situation in our Post Office where a customer had been telephoned, told that her bank account had been compromised, and asked her to go to a Post Office and put a large sum of money on a travel card. This was a very well thought out scam and if the PO staff hadn't noticed that this was an extremely unusual procedure for this regular customer, then the transaction may well have been completed. **PLEASE BE VIGILANT**. No-one will ever ask you to transfer money, particularly the Police or the Bank, and no-one will ever ask you for your PIN number. The scammer is still out there, but we did get the Police involved, and we didn't proceed with the transaction. Next time we may not be so fortunate.

On a lighter note, if you wish to avoid queuing for the Post Office, our busiest days are *Mondays and Saturdays*. We now offer **delivery and collection for DPD** as well as the usual Royal Mail and Parcel Force services; and customers with gas cards or electricity keys from all companies can now top up in Post Office branches as we welcome **Boost and Ovo** gas card top-ups.



Don't forget that 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

Thank you to all our wonderful customers for supporting your local Village Shop and Post Office and we look forward to seeing you again very soon. Volunteers are always welcome, and we only require 2 hours of your time a week. Please come into the shop and let us know if you're interested.

Old stamp deadline Monday 31 July 2023
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Marcham WI

Next Meeting:

7.30pm Monday, 17th July 2023

At the Marcham Centre



'Fun and Games' Summer Party

We're looking forward to seeing you at our summer party on Monday 17th July, when we'll be having a **'Fun and Games'** evening. Hopefully we'll have some nice weather and can go outside.

We'll also be having a **'bring and share'** supper, so please bring along a dish, either sweet or savoury, to share.

'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.

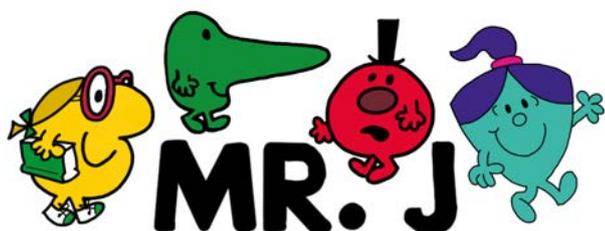
Visitors and new members are always welcome.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



Cathy Hughes from Zusetsu demonstrating Furoshiki, the Japanese art of wrapping at the May meeting



And His Friends!

It's time to think about booking in for this summer's **Holiday Club!**

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

with an early evening event 5pm on Friday.

Cost £35 per child per week
or £10 per day (discounts for siblings)

Booking forms available from
allsaintsmarcham-with-garford.org.uk

Book early to avoid disappointment!

Contact Jill Rowe for more information: 07811 165351



The
**Marcham
Society**

Coral Rag 12

We are writing an article about the Institute for the Marcham Society publication Coral Rag. Do you have memories, photos or stories of happenings at the Institute that you would be willing to share? If so, we would be very glad to hear from you.



Please email Judith Haworth at judithhaworth22@gmail.com or phone Judith Fontaine on 01865 391275.

Upcoming Events (please check with the organiser)

- Thursday, 13th July: Marcham Society Midweek Walk – for more details contact e.dunford@btinternet.com 01865 391439

The 2023-24 programme of talks and events will start in September when the next annual subscriptions will be due.

For more information contact membership@marchamsociety.org.uk

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

Facebook: marchamsociety



Marcham Primary School PTA will be holding their summer fête on Friday 7th July 6-8pm
Everyone is welcome to come along and join the fun



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The type of help that can be provided are services such as new boilers, repairs to boilers, loft or cavity wall insulation, access to a local and trustworthy repairs service and general advice on how to stay safe, well and affordably warm in your home.

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A cream tea with
Ruth Jones





In conversation with Nell Frizzell

The Barn, Christ Church, Northcourt Road, OX14 1PL
Thursday 6th July | 2pm | Tickets £15

We are thrilled to invite you to The Barn on Northcourt Road, Abingdon on Thursday 6th July at 2pm for a cream tea with author and actress **Ruth Jones** as we celebrate the paperback publication of her third novel, **Love Untold**. Grace is about to turn ninety. She doesn't want parties or presents or fuss. She just wants to heal the family rift that's been breaking her heart for decades. But to do that she must find her daughter Alys – the only person who can help to put things right. All families have their problems. But Grace's problem is thirty years old. And she doesn't have time on her side. So is it too late for her to make peace? Or is reconciliation still within reach?

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MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

We have a number of things to celebrate as a school...



The Somerset Literacy Poetry competition

This is the second year we have entered the Somerset Literacy Poetry competition and we are delighted with the outcomes. The organisers wrote to us to say:

"Thank you for entering our 2023 poetry competition. We had 2,464 entries, and are delighted to be able to tell you that **Clara** (year 3) has been awarded 2nd Prize in the Lower KS2 category; **Zara** (year 3) has been highly commended; **Jay-Oliver** (year 3) has been commended and **Mila** (year 3) has been commended. **Monty** (year 6) has been commended at Upper KS2 category and **Skye** (year 6) has also been commended."

The students of Marcham have done really well – **again**. Congratulations to everyone. This is to be celebrated and applauded. Who knows – we may have the next Wordsworth or Tennyson in our midst!

Rights Respecting School Award – Steering Group

We are working towards the **Rights Respecting School Bronze Award** and are delighted to share with you that our Year 3 children have happily taken on the role of being part of the steering group alongside some children from Year 1 and 4. They have given their reasons for wanting to be part of this group:

"Hello, We are the Rights Respecting Schools steering group. That means we will help the school respect children's rights and get the bronze award. We want to improve the entire school by helping everyone be treated with equity, whoever they are, and help children understand their rights. Everyone has rights, even if you don't know them yet, and we want to help people and make things fair for everyone, including disabled or neurodiverse people. Everyone should be treated fairly." *Maisy, Olivia W, Alfie, Romy, Naia, Maddalena and Tadhg*

Each week in our school newsletters, we will be sharing a reflection activity based on one of the articles from the **Convention on the Rights of the Child** for our community to explore. The first was Article 29 which states that 'Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.'

Community projects

We have included some photos of our Year 5s helping out at the Community Café on Wednesday 24th May. There is joy in service, and knowing that what you do helps others is reward itself. Well done to Year 5s, who were keen to help.



Science in year 6

"On Tuesday 6th June, Mr Frost (Monty's dad) and some of his colleagues Priti, Katie, Torran and Rupo from the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory visited us in Year 6. They came to do a science workshop which was all about light. With Priti, we looked at the different colours in light and we also looked at how purple has more energy than red. With Katie we looked at infra-red. We used an infra-red camera to look at your body heat and if you put your hands on the floor for 10 seconds it will make handprints on the floor. With Rupo we looked at UV (ultraviolet) we made bracelets with UV beads and the beads change colour when you are in the sun for some time. With Torran we looked at how mirrors and lenses could bend or reflect light. At the end of the session we took a class photo with the infrared cameras. We all had a fab time, we learnt lots and lots and hope they will come back." *Daisie-Mae & Molly*

"On Thursday 8th June, we went to Abingdon School for a science workshop. When we arrived we were told the rules and had to put on a lab coat and safety goggles. The goal of the workshop was to make black powder into blue liquid. The first step we did was to turn on the gas pipe to light up the Bunsen burner: we had to warm up some water (60 degrees) and put acid in the water. The next step was to pour copper oxide into warm acid and we watched it slowly turn blue. We had to pour into a jar with a funnel and a cone, which we made out of paper and it separated the blue and black. Our goal was completed." *Lyra and Daisy-Sue*

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

We are super busy here at Marcham Little Angels getting ready for our Graduation ceremony in July. It's such a special event for the whole family to come along to and enjoy and there are often a few tears shed as we celebrate all our Little Angels' achievements and send them on the next part of their journey. We truly wish them all the best as they continue to learn and grow in their new schools.



We've been finding the best ways to keep cool in all of this gorgeous weather! We've enjoyed delicious homemade ice cream and ice pops and enjoyed splashing around in the gardens! We would really love to thank Colin, a member of the wonderful Marcham community who has very kindly donated some vegetable seeds to us! We can't wait to start growing them. Thank you Colin.

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

T: 01865 819992E: info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk
www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk
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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.

Next lunch is on 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 – see our website for more information.

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



A Late Summer's Evening of Music

Easy listening from Adele to Bach...

Suitable for all the family



All Saints Church, Marcham

Saturday 9th September

Donations on the door. Pizza/BBQ@5pm Concert@6pm

Profits to support Community Health work in Mozambique

The Only Way Is Up



A lot of gardens I've been involved with lately have been small, really small, but that's the scourge of many new build housing estates. Even though many prefer not to have a garden, there are still some of us householders who would prefer a slightly bigger garden.

I want to focus this month on showcasing the hidden opportunities for space, even in a smaller garden. Space that can be hidden in plain sight, even in one of those smaller gardens. I myself have what many might call a tiny garden, but space and potential for growing is everywhere I look.

I'm not just talking about having baskets, pots and window boxes etc. I'm talking about growing vertically. Mine is a walled courtyard, and though I've covered almost every wall I can with climbing plants, and I am even thinking about growing on a roof, one of those living roofs. What I'm really talking about is utilizing those vertical spaces within those boundary walls.

Putting up freestanding trellis, arches and pergolas are an option in many situations. So are freestanding vertical walls/panels, ideal for growing salad crops. I'm fast approaching my last piece of free space in the garden, so I'm thinking of having one of those salad crop vertical panels. I'm trying to find a freestanding metal framed one, with protruding feet that sink into the soil, with planting pockets, and reservoirs retaining water for the plants to tap into.

Not sure how this will work, what it will really look like, or who sells it? What I'm getting at here is if we think outside of the box, and think upwards, there are growing opportunities, even in the smallest of spaces. Have a think yourself, be imaginative, and think beyond the sterility (in my view) of artificial turf, patios, crushed slate, and the odd pot containing a few dead plants etc.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

The Olympics have arrived in Marcham! In preparation for our final sports event, the children have been making their own country flags at home.. and have completed their very own Olympic Torch Relay!



We have a range of sports arranged for the children to compete in over the coming weeks and are very much looking forward to having some super fun events in the run up to the end of the year.

If you'd like to join us at Marcham Preschool please do get in touch... Call us on 01865 392101 or email marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk to arrange a visit or to receive an application form.

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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 Hitchcose 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



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Goodbye!



The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE

Wednesday 19th July
10.30am and 2.00pm
Abbey Cinema, Abbey Close, Abingdon OX14 3JD

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Stephen Taylor

Painted Illusionistic architecture has been used to enrich private and public interiors since ancient Roman times. Inspired by a variety of Roman originals, Renaissance Italians developed decorative schemes that influenced the courts of Europe for generations. Panelling, fixtures, and fittings were integrated within architectural designs, and the introduction of movable oil paintings into these schemes shaped the evolution of picture hanging. The lecture reviews artists and houses employing this technique. The meeting will be held at the Abbey Cinema at 10.30 and 2 pm. For further detail please contact info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk.



Villeneuve-le-beziers

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



Marcham Centre

INVESTMENT IN CRICKET

The trustees of MCG were pleased to support an application from Marcham Cricket Club to assist with purchasing essential equipment, including rain covers for the square, a slip catch cradle and sponsoring playing kit for the teams. This is using funds from our MCG Community Investment Fund.

Marcham Cricket Club fixtures are shown opposite.

We continue to support the regular meetings of Friday Club and meeting costs for new start-up activities at Marcham Centre.

If your club or other community activity is in need of support, and you are interested in making an application for investment funding, please email admin@marcham.org for further details and an application form.

MCG MEMBERSHIP

Marcham Community Group relies on its members to support what we do – running Marcham Centre and, more recently, the 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 yet renewed your membership for April 2023-March 2024, please do so as soon as possible. Your support really counts!

VOLUNTEERS

Marcham Community Group relies heavily on volunteers to support the operations of Marcham Centre. As well as support for hall operations and volunteers for the bar, we are looking for volunteers with finance experience to assist us with day to day book-keeping. Please contact jim.asher@btinternet.com, if you are able to help. We need you!

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 at 2pm. Please contact Colin Trinder (c_trinder@btinternet.com) or just turn up.

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
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Marcham Cricket Club Home Fixtures

1st July 1.00pm	Marcham 1 vs. Challow and Childrey 3
8th July 1.00pm	Marcham 1 vs. Kingston Bagpuize 2
15th July 1.00pm	Marcham 2 vs. Faringdon and District 2
29th July 1.00pm	Marcham 2 vs. Golden Sparrows 2
5th August 1.00pm	Marcham 1 vs. Oxford 4
12th August 1.00pm	Marcham 1 vs. Abingdon Vale 3
19th August 1.00pm	Marcham 2 vs. Steventon 2
26th August 12.30pm	Marcham 1 vs. Didcot 3
2nd September 12.30pm	Marcham 2 vs. Didcot 4



For more information about the club, contact Matt Ainsworth:

matt.ainsworth88@gmail.com



Photo by michael weir on Unsplash:
 Boundary Park, Sir Frank Williams Avenue, Didcot, UK

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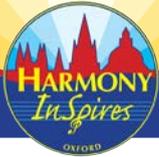
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For more information see
harmonyinspires.org
synergysingers.co.uk
oxfordharmony.org.uk



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**TRAINING UP AND SETTLING IN**

The six weeks or so immediately following election were a whirlwind of training provided by council officers, covering topics such as the Planning Process, Code of Conduct, Decision Making, to name just a few. Between this, routine council matters, and the lead time required to reduce my weekly work hours with my primary employer, I had little opportunity to catch my breath in between! Things have fortunately now quietened down and I am enjoying getting to grips with the various pressing matters affecting the ward.

**DEVELOPMENT PLANS**

Most (but not all) of these matters relate one way or another to development planning, and this is the most important part of the Vale's remit. I usually subscribe to Dwight Eisenhower's "plans are useless, but planning is indispensable," but within the context of the local planning authorities, plans are very useful and very important (planning is still indispensable, though!).

The upcoming, large housing developments currently working their way through the planning application process (think the 88-home estate to the south-east of Marcham, the 660-home estate to the east of Kingston Bagpuize, and so on) are clearly marked out on the Vale's Local Plan (LP) that was adopted in 2016-2019 (in 2 parts) and prepared over the years preceding.

Alongside the district-wide Local Plan sits the parish-wide Neighbourhood Plan (NP). While having a LP is a legal requirement of district, this is not true of a parish. There are, however, large benefits of having a NP.

The bar set for refusing permission of large developments is far higher for those which are consistent with the LP (and NP if it exists) than for any that aren't, as these plans carry substantial weight and the planning application review process is quasi-judicial in nature. Officers and councillors simply cannot refuse permission on the basis that they think there has already been too much development in recent years: if the application is consistent with the relevant plans then it would be unlawful to refuse it on these grounds.

DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Marcham currently does not have a NP, but I'm delighted that the Parish Council is working towards one and I will support them any way I can in this. The Vale is also preparing for a new LP, to replace the existing one when its period expires in 2031, and we expect this to be a Joint Local Plan (JLP) together with South Oxfordshire DC. Housing targets will be presented to us by Westminster, but we – your elected District Council – will negotiate with them for a target that is fair and appropriate.

The point I hope I'm getting across here is that getting plans right is crucial. These will affect residents' lives for decades, both those already here and those who may one day be welcomed into our community. As your representative within the Vale I will play a large role in the preparation of the (J)LP, but your opportunity to have your views heard on this did not end when the polling stations closed on 4th May! There will be consultation periods for both the Marcham NP and for the new Vale-South JLP in the near-to-mid-term future. Please, please get involved with these. These are key opportunities for you to have your voice heard on the shaping of our community over the span of a decade.

DR ROBERT CLEGG

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07784225290

or robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Well that serves me right for taking a holiday. We were very privileged to be taken by family – no, not a political perk – to Hawaii. I have been passionate about volcanoes for many years and this was a great opportunity to see some of the best examples in the world. Most of the dramatic pictures we see of lakes of red hot lava are taken at night and during the few days or weeks of eruptions that occur every few years. Solidified lava is very hard and can take many years to break down. The result is not beautiful but thousands of acres of piled up black rock are mighty impressive. In the months and years between eruptions, steam pours out from the craters but tourists are lucky to see any boiling red lava. We were not lucky but, as we left, a sizeable eruption began. However, whilst we missed the spectacle, it seems that we did bring home some spectacular tropical weather with us. Yesterday's thunder, torrential rain and high winds mixed in with hot sunshine in southern Oxfordshire matched anything in Hawaii. Meanwhile, local and national politics has been stormier than even the past two years have offered. The Reservoir issue rumbles on. Evermore contentious planning applications are in the pipeline. The HIF1 Road application is due to be heard at a two day planning meeting in late June. By next month things will have progressed on all these issues.

**OTHER UPDATES INCLUDE:**

Mill Rd Bridge, Marcham – we expect work to begin on this long running issue very shortly.

Noise at Appleford sidings – An application to extend working hours was deferred by the OCC Planning Committee.

Grass cutting – budget cuts over the last decade have reduced the timetable to one cut per year. Visibility at many road junctions is a problem and is being steadily tackled under a priority scheme – major junctions first. We are getting there but in the meantime please take extra care at junctions.

20mph limits. St Helens is now fully operational and work has begun on Drayton.

And finally, a little good news. VWHDC Climate Action Fund and OCC Councillor Priority Fund are offering **grants for worthy local causes**. More details on Council's websites or from me.

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

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

MP'S REPORT

Thank you to everyone who completed my health services survey. In total, 2,838 people did so, 77% of whom said they had had difficulty getting a GP appointment in the last year (44% said they had had difficulty accessing an appointment with a dentist). Unsurprisingly, 97% of people felt we do not have enough GPs for the number of people we have locally and 98% felt we do not have enough dentists.



I completely agree and have been banging the drum on our health services since I was elected. Not long after the survey closed, I secured a debate in parliament about our health services and intend to keep banging heads together until we get the services we need.

I was pleased to take the Children's Minister, Claire Coutinho, to a local nursery recently to meet staff and children. The Government is making the largest single investment in childcare in history, which will give parents 30 free hours of childcare per week from when their child is 9 months old until they start school, which will be very welcome to the parents who raise childcare with me when I knock on their doors. I have launched a childcare survey on my

website which is designed to let parents (and grandparents) talk about their experience of accessing childcare and say what they'd like to see. It is open until the 12th July at www.david-johnston.org.uk/childcare

Sticking with education and children for a minute, I was drawn to ask a question at Prime Minister's Questions and used it to highlight the great news that English primary school children have just been ranked the best readers in the Western World – better than all other countries in Europe as well as America and Canada – and the fourth best globally. This is in large part testament to teachers and the Government's focus on phonics, which was resisted by some at the time but is clearly bearing fruit.

Depending on when you read this, you'll either just still have time to attend my 3rd Annual Climate Summit for constituents on Zoom on Tuesday 4 July or it will have happened and you'll be able to watch a recording of it on my website or Facebook page. I was pleased that Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, agreed to give the keynote speech – and, as ever, local and national experts agreed to take part.

This year, I have been hosting at least one local young person for work experience every month including Anastasiia, who is originally from Ukraine. I first met her with the family she is kindly hosted by in North Moreton. It was good to have her with us in Parliament.

I've enjoyed getting into the swing of the summer events happening across the constituency, including the Hagbourne Church Fete and Uffington Fun Day.

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



News from GARD

Responses: Water Resources SouthEast (WRSE), Thames Water, Affinity Water and Southern Water are all delaying their response to the submitted comments on their schemes from the end of June to the end of August. This means that we cannot know where we stand until early September at the earliest, but there is clearly something significant going on with the South-East companies. If we hear anything we will let Stakeholders and residents know.

Reservoir planning: there is some news about the proposed reservoir: Thames have filed a Planning Application to build a test model dam embankment on Cow Common (halfway along the Steventon-Hanney Road). GARD welcomes the trial build but is puzzled that it is rather small, only three metres high and not very long. Will this be useful?

RAPID: we are expecting RAPID to deliver its Gate 2 decisions at the end of June. We have been requesting a meeting with RAPID to urge on them the importance of early, independent evaluations of the Reservoir safety, flooding Impact and true costs. They have agreed to meet, but we do not yet have a date. It is possible that RAPID will delay its decisions as well, in line with the water companies.

For more information

www.gard-oxon.org.uk

Facebook: @abingdonreservoir,

Twitter @GARD_OXON

CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime

Tell them what you know, not who you are

INDEPENDENT DIABETES TRUST

PO Box 294 Northampton NN1 4XS Telephone: 01604 622837

Many of you may be looking forward to holidays whether in this country or abroad. People with diabetes may be anxious, especially if it is the first time going on holiday since they were diagnosed with diabetes. For those people going on holiday is not quite so straightforward and requires more planning, especially for those treated with insulin. If going abroad, the security at airports and on flights means that carrying injection devices, blood glucose testing kit and insulin on planes requires prior arrangements to be made.

As a charity for people with diabetes and their families, we provide a **Holiday Information Pack** which contains our booklet on 'Holiday Tips' which includes information about carrying tablets and insulin to other countries. The Pack also includes our booklets, 'Diabetes Everyday Eating' and 'Looking After Your Feet', always important but especially so in hot weather or being on a beach.

We are happy send this FREE Holiday Pack to anyone if they contact IDDT on **01604 622837**, email enquiries@iddtinternational.org or write to IDDT, PO Box 294, Northampton NN1 4XS.

The Crown as a Community Pub Update

Following our unsuccessful VCA application it was decided not to lodge an appeal. The application achieved one of its objectives the developer negotiating with AT has withdrawn his offer.

We had a viewing with the agent and were shocked and disappointed with the internal state of the building, a large amount of work and capital will be required in order to reopen the pub.

The Plunkett Foundation have approved our request for help and advice on setting up, funding and running a Community Pub. This work will start by the end of June. As part of this process we will have to have another meeting sometime in July, please watch out for notices on Facebook and around the village

In parallel we will continue to explore any alternative sites that could be used for a Community Pub, if you have any suggestions please email me neil.rowe.nsch@gmail.com

Updates via MADNews and village Facebook page for now.

Cheers
NEIL ROWE
(on behalf of the steering committee)

ALL SAINTS' & ST. LUKES CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Mr. J

Holiday Club

August 29 - Sept 1, 10am-2pm
All Saints' Church Marcham

The wheat is ripening in the field. We've already had thunderstorms and temperatures over 30 degrees. It seems there is a music festival every weekend. Wimbledon, the Open, the Ashes - take your pick.... summer is here. For many of us, we hope, that means a holiday somewhere nice, or at least some much-needed time off work. It also means it is not long to the church Holiday Club. Apart from the Covid years, when it was much scaled back, there has been a summer holiday club in Marcham every year for at least 15 years, and prior to that, going back decades, there were regular church holiday clubs at other times too. Hundreds, possibly thousands of local children have had the joy of summer fun and Christian fellowship at the parish Holiday Club over the years. And we look forward to doing it all again this year towards the end of August. Details of how to book your children into the Holiday Club are in this issue. Please book early because it fills up quickly.

This year the club is called *Mr J* (as in Jesus) and will feature lots of the Little Miss and Mr Men characters as we explore the stories of various people who met Jesus during his ministry on earth. Of course, Little Miss Sparkle or Mr Bounce didn't appear in first century Galilee, not in my Bible at least! But with a bit of imagination, we think the Mr Men characters will help us see what meeting Jesus was like for those that did, whilst helping us discover something new about how we can follow Jesus in our lives today. There will be puppets, dressing up, craft activities, games, music, worship, a prayer tent and much more. And we hope there will be many Giggles, lots of Sunshine, plenty of Chatterboxes, and not too many Bumps. There will certainly be plenty of Noise, Mess and Topsy-Turvey-ness; perhaps some Jelly, and probably some Whoops. We're looking forward to welcoming lots of children to Holiday Club later this summer.

Revd Nick Weldon and Jill Rowe

St. Luke's, Garford

The dream team were out clearing the churchyard. All are welcome to come and join us on Sunday mornings at 11am in our peaceful little church in Garford.



*Sunday 9th July, 6pm: Evensong



Choir practice at St. Luke's – do come and join us. Contact Carolyn or Ben (or email info@allsaintsmarcham.org)

Regular services

10am: Morning Service at All Saints'*

6pm: Evening Service

Wednesday Holy Communion

10.30am at Duffield Place

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