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April 2025 Vol 47 No. 4

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Dear Readers

Spring is sprung – happy Easter to all!
Until next time...



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Jane Mander

DEADLINES

All entries including articles, notices, reports and advertising:
17.00 15th of the month

ADDITIONAL COPIES

These are available from Marcham Village Shop. Postal copies are also available – contact the Editor.

DISCLAIMER

We apologise in advance for any errors that may creep into MADNews (online or print), or omissions that creep out – we don't do it on purpose! The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team, who are all volunteers.

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Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.police.uk
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Peter Stevens
peter.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon

Robert Clegg, 42 Harding Way, Marcham, OX13 6FJ

Tel: 07784225290

robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

For other representatives see page 18 or go to www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

The Parish Council currently has vacancies and would like to co-opt residents who have a little time to spare to help Marcham become a better place to live. There are various projects currently being undertaken, so if you want to find out about what a councillor does, and how you can help in the parish, then please contact a councillor or the Clerk for further information.

SPEED REDUCTION REQUEST – ST PETER'S CROSSROADS

The section of the Faringdon Road by The Dog House public house, and to the east of that, is a 40 mph area, as is Gozzards Ford. Interestingly, the section in between, at the point of the crossroads where there is a significant number of vehicle movements, is a 60mph limit. The speed limit in Sheepstead Road too is 60 mph which many consider too fast, particularly with bends in the road, and vehicles trying to emerge from properties where there is reduced vision. The Parish Council has started the process to try and get Oxfordshire County Council to reduce the permitted speeds in these areas. The County Council, in order to consider a request, first requires a traffic survey to be undertaken. This is being arranged and the results will be available in due course.

20 MPH SIGNS A415

Residents will have noticed that the 20 mph signage at the eastern side of the village on the A415 has disappeared. This has happened only since the completion of the road works by Bloor Homes. Enquiries have been made of Bloors, who in turn, are liaising with their technical department which has been dealing with the County Council about the road works. The Parish Council, once clarification has been obtained as to what is happening, will keep residents informed.

ELECTIONS – THURSDAY 1ST MAY OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Don't forget you will need to be on the electoral roll for the parish in order to vote in Marcham in the forthcoming Oxfordshire County Council elections. The election will be held on the new boundaries, which were brought into force by The Oxfordshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2025. Previously Marcham was in the Sutton Courtenay with Marcham division, but following the boundary review and a consequent increase in the number of County Councillors in Oxfordshire, Marcham has been placed with the parishes to the north instead, so the new County Councillor will represent a different area from the present one. If you need to add

your name to the electoral register, then the deadline for doing so is 11th April. Anyone needing to apply for a postal vote has to do so, by 14th April. Proxy applications can be received up until 23rd April. Photo ID will be required in order to vote in person at the election. If you do not have any accepted photo ID, you can apply for a voter Authority Certificate by 5.00 p.m. on 23rd April.

Do not leave things too late. Act now. Further information about the election is on the Oxfordshire County Council's website www.oxfordshire.gov.uk.

ALLOTMENTS

Replacement fence works are due to be carried out at the Cow Lane site in April, as well as clearing work on the eastern corner near the wall of the Parkside site. Readers will have seen in an earlier edition of MAD News that Marcham Society was wanting areas of the village where archaeological trial pits could be dug. The Parish Council has agreed that some of the untenanted allotment plots could be used for this purpose, and even those with a tenant, provided the tenant is in agreement.

It is now spring, when allotment plots should be tended a little more frequently, as the growing season is upon us. To prevent your plot from becoming untidy, and a nuisance to others, please ensure that it is tended regularly.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL

P25/V0379/HH Rear first floor extension. Minor alterations to existing elevations and minor adjustments to the internal layouts at 9 North Street. The Council had no objections.

P24/V1986/FUL Change of use of the land at the rear of The Black Horse, Gozzards Ford, to construction material storage, and marble cutting shed & storage at The Black Horse, Gozzards Ford. The Council objected to this application. It had great concerns regarding noise, dust and odours, frequent transport issues with the use of the area for construction material storage, as well as regular delivery lorries. This site, in the open Green Belt area was not considered suitable for the industrial uses proposed.

DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is Monday 14th April, 2025 at 7.30p.m. in the village hall. **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

EASTER

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Friday 18 April	Saturday 19 April
Monday 21 April	Tuesday 22 April
Tuesday 22 April	Wednesday 23 April
Wednesday 23 April	Thursday 24 April
Thursday 24 April	Friday 25 April
Friday 25 April	Saturday 26 April

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This month's cover photo
Bluebells by Diana Parkhouse (unsplash.com)

MADNews photography competition

As you can see we have had to use another commercially available cover photo this month, but we really want to use photos from our community! We want to recognise our local photographers by showcasing their work on the cover of MADNews that reflect the beauty, the community and wonder of life in Marcham and District.

We are asking for photographers to submit a single A4 glossy print in the same orientation as the cover (vertical) with your name and contact details on the back. One entry per person, to be judged at the Big Marcham Weekend on Saturday 10th May. Entry box is in Marcham Village Shop and the deadline for entries is 5pm on Monday 7th April.

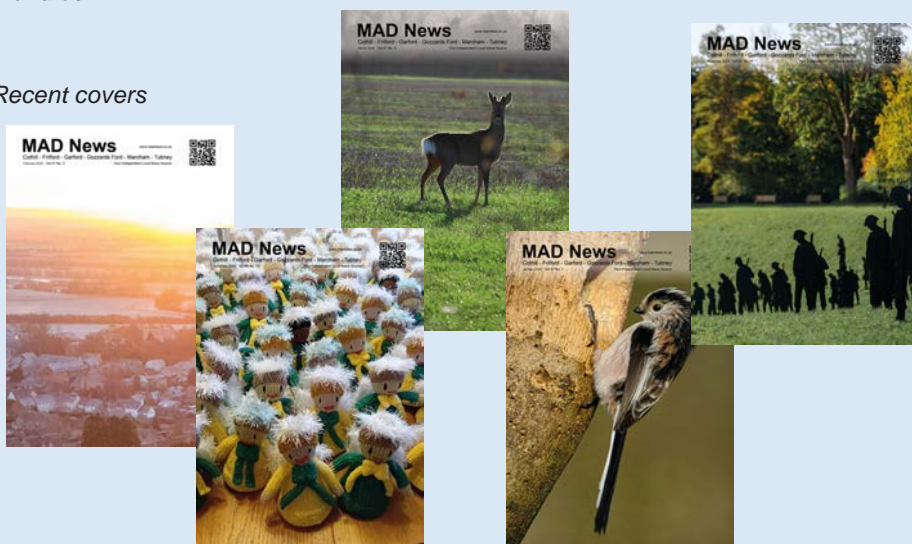
The judging will be done by public vote at the Big Weekend and the ones chosen will be contacted to provide a hi-resolution jpg/tiff of their image.

Rules:

- Entries must be submitted by 5pm on Monday 7 April 2025
- One entry per person
- No age restrictions
- The photos must be your own work and not AI generated, but you may manipulate them to enhance colours, blur backgrounds etc
- They may show people but you must obtain written permission from each person featured.
- No obscene or violent images will be accepted

The MADNews Team reserve the right to disqualify any entries that do not abide by the rules.

Recent covers



Frilford Parish Meeting AGM
will be held on
Wednesday April 23rd, 7pm
at Abingdon Prep School

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Regular contributors will have been surprised this month by the sudden change in the deadline for MADNews.

The new deadline will be **5pm on 15th of the month** instead of 20th. As you may know, the new MAD News editorial team is developing and learning to work together and so there are changes that are needed to ensure that MAD News continues as Meriel steps back from the Lead Editor role.

We have struggled in the past few months to get the issue printed, counted into bundles ready for our deliverers and then through your letterboxes in time for the new month. Moving the deadline will mean that we have a few extra days to manage all the processes that go into making MADNews and getting it printed and delivered.

Like everyone else who volunteers around the village, we don't work full-time in our MAD roles and we do things when we can, unfortunately that meant that we weren't able to give as much notice to the change in deadline as would have been perfect. However, we wanted to make sure that everyone was aware of the change and the reasons for it.

If you have anything to send in to MADNews, you can email editor@madnews.co.uk, we would love to have your views on local issues, celebrations of wonderful local people and especially photographs of the local area.... let's keep it local!

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Spring is in the air, and we look forward to some rest time from our usual duties this month as we celebrate Easter. And, as is traditional, we have lots of chocolate gifts for that special person, including a variety of small easter eggs to suit all ages.



Easter opening hours

We will be closed from Friday 18 April, re-opening on Tuesday 22 April at 08:30 hrs



As the shop will be closed over the long Easter Bank Holiday weekend, Hedges orders placed that week, will be available for collection on Thursday 17th April after 2 pm. Order forms and price list are available in the shop.

Here to serve you!

The Shop and Post Office are here to serve this lovely community. We aim to provide all the everyday items you may need from basic general groceries, alcohol, cigarettes, gifts and cards through to locally sourced products, dry-cleaning and a hot drinks vending machine. In addition, think of the Post Office as your local bank. We provide most Post Office products and services and a lot that your Bank would have dealt with, including cash withdrawals, cash deposits and cheque deposits.



Newsflash

Royal mail has announced that the price of stamps will be increasing from Monday 7th April. Buy your stamps before then to avoid the increase. Pick up the Royal Mail 'our prices' leaflet, from the Post Office counter for a full list of all the changes including parcel prices and international costs.	Class & Letter Size	Current Price	Price from Monday 7 April	Price Rise
	First – standard	£1.65	£1.70	+5p
	First – large	£2.60	£3.15	+55p
	Second – standard	85p	87p	+2p
	Second – large	£1.55	£1.55	No change

Normal opening hours are as below. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

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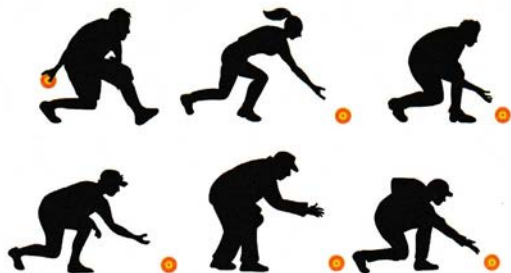


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The
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The Midweek Walk

12.30pm Thursday 10th April 2025

Please contact walks@marchamsociety.org.uk 01865 391439

The Astronomy Group

Please contact: astronomy@marchamsociety.org.uk

Thursday 10th April 2025 at 7pm

Small Hall, Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, OX13 6TY

A round-up of astronomy sightings during March,
followed by

Total Eclipse in Turkey: 2006

Max Sinclair

plus two very short films "Size of the
Universe" (Epic Spaceman) and "Speed
of Light" (Airplane Mode)



Image © Max Sinclair

THE MONTHLY TALK

Monday 28th April 2025 at 7.15 for 7.45pm

Main Hall, Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, OX13 6TY

**George Owen (1499-1558),
Royal Physician to three monarchs**

Paul Whitton

Paul is a local historian, member of Longworth & District History Society and editor of the Longworth Rose history magazine. His illustrated talk explores the fascinating life of Dr George Owen; Royal Physician to three monarchs; Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I.

Dr George Owen was granted the lease of Hinton Waldrist Manor and we start by discovering how this local medieval castle and house became a royal manor. We then go to Oxford to see how George Owen entered the world of Tudor medicine. The talk also looks at the perils facing a physician to a powerful and unpredictable king like Henry. We hear about some of the curiosities of Tudor remedies, with the help of an apothecary. He even worked on translations with Katherine Parr.



Image © Vocaleyes

As part of his reward for service to monarchs, Owen was granted many properties in the Oxford area. We look especially at Godstow Abbey, Wolvercote, and Cumnor Place, finding there two beautiful ladies who came to tragic ends. Finally, we reflect on his legacy, how he raised standards in medicine through the Royal College of Physicians and became an MP. Maybe his greatest achievement was simply to survive those years of service to Henry VIII

Please contact: admin@marchamsociety.org.uk

Members free of charge, Guests welcome at £5

For more information contact
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk
www.marchamsociety.org.uk
Facebook: marchamsociety

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

Piece of cake anyone? This month we've been utilising our Adventure Area by creating 'meals' and 'snacks' in the mud kitchen. The children enjoy putting on their Thirsty Cafe aprons (who generously supported the purchase of the kitchen resources for this area) and mixing up a meal, serving it to their friends and the teachers! Almost as yummy as the real thing!!



The children love to use their imagination, language skills and knowledge of the world to play, creating their own recipes and working together as a team... negotiating who should do the washing up!

Please contact us at admissions.mps@outlook.com for more information about joining Marcham Pre-school.

If you are interested in your child joining Marcham Pre-school please contact us on admissions@outlook.com
Nicky Sanford
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 01865 392101 email marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk
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oxme.info

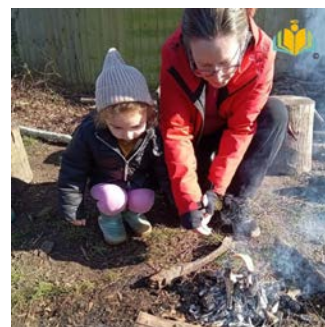
Have you heard about the news website for young people?

The oxme.info website is provided by Oxfordshire County Council's Early Help Children's Services and Public Health. This website helps young people stay in learning, access suitable learning and training opportunities, access targeted youth service support and other information and services including health.



A Magical March at Marcham Little Angels!

This month has been a whirlwind of fun, creativity, and adventure at Marcham Little Angels! We kicked off March with the delicious delights of Pancake Day, and our little explorers at Forest School had a truly magical experience – cooking pancakes over an open fire! There's nothing quite like the joy of flipping pancakes under the open sky, surrounded by nature. And we didn't let a single bit go to waste – our little artists got creative, using leftover lemons to make stunning lemon prints, turning simple citrus slices into masterpieces of bright, sunshiney art.



Our excitement didn't stop there! We dived into the enchanting world of stories and imagination for World Book Day. The nursery was transformed into a storybook wonderland as children and staff arrived dressed as their favourite book characters. From fearsome pirates to gentle princesses, friendly dragons to colourful elephants, the nursery was bursting with creativity and storytelling magic. Books came to life as we shared stories, acted out scenes, and let our imaginations run wild in a day filled with literary adventure.



And as if that wasn't enough, we've been embracing the change of season with open arms. The spring sunshine has brought new energy, and we've been making the most of it! If you've spotted us out and about in the village, you'll have seen us soaking up the fresh air, enjoying nature walks, and watching the world around us come to life with the first signs of spring. There's nothing better than feeling the warmth of the sun while running, playing, and exploring together!

The Marcham Little Angels Team

For more information:

T: 01865 819992

E: info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

W: www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

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MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

We have had a busy few weeks in school. We are always keen to enhance the children's learning with visits and experiences and since half term there have been trips to Williams F1, Winchester Science Centre, and The Living Rain Forest.



However, our biggest news is that we were inspected by the Church of England Education office on Thursday 6th February. Our SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools), a one-day visit led by Mr Gary Price, looked at how the school lives out its Christian vision; how the school community flourishes through that and through Collective Worship; how our children can show 'courageous advocacy', and the impact of RE.

The way that schools are judged in a SIAMS visit has changed since September 2023. We were, for a number of years, graded as Outstanding but these judgements no longer apply and single word gradings have been stopped. Schools are now judged on whether they "live up to their foundation as a church school" and are enabling both pupils and adults to flourish. We are delighted that the Inspectorate have found that we are passionate about our commitment to this, and the report makes very positive reading. We are pleased with the outcomes. It can be found on our school website at <https://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/siams/>.

Williams F1 Last week, we went on a trip to the Williams Racing centre. In the morning, we did the STEM workshop where we built noses for the race cars. They had to crumple/fold to protect the driver. We tested them on a machine which used force to push them against a wall. In the afternoon, we went on a tour around 'the world's biggest formula one museum' and we looked at lots of race cars, their seats and the carbon fibre in a car. Finally, we were allowed to go on the stimulator to race against each other in pretend race cars!



Zara Yr5

Winchester Science Centre On 10th March, the Year 5s went on a trip to the Winchester Science Centre as part of their learning about Earth, Space and gravity. There was a workshop where they looked at lights. After that, they went into the planetarium to look at the stars, planets and solar systems.

The Living Rainforest We went to the Living rain forest as we are learning about the rainforests. We learnt about lots of different animals that live there. The best bit was we got to see an armadillo which is my favourite animal.

Will

On Tuesday 4th March we went to the Living rain forest. We went because this is our class topic. We learnt a lot about the different animals that live in the forest. One of the facts I remember is about the monkeys. They are super crazy because they eat a lot of food. The best bit was the Sloth because it was really cute.

Fizz

"The Life of Christ" We also had a visit from Hanney Baptist Church who came to present "The Life of Christ" to all the pupils in KS2 last week. The children were wonderfully behaved and were focused on the dramatic re-telling of the story. The children listened attentively and then were engaged in activities set up to help them remember what they had seen and heard. Thank you Hanney Baptist for your visit!



To see what else the school has been up to go to

www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/class-pages

VIV HUTCHINSON

It is lovely that we are getting some sunshine and warmer weather and some of our customers have started to sit outside. Do you know someone who is new to the village? If so, please tell them about our community café and encourage them to come along. Everyone is very friendly, and it is a great way to meet new people.



Volunteering at Thirsty Café

Our volunteers are amazing, and our pop-up café would not be possible without them. Please think about volunteering at the café - we are very flexible with the hours you volunteer (from 1 to 4 hours) and as many shifts as you would like.



We recently asked some of our volunteers why they help at Thirsty Café, and this is what they said:

"My family live in the village and my husband and I moved here just after the café opened. By volunteering in the café, it was a way of meeting people and making new friends as well as me doing something for the community."

"The volunteering shifts are flexible and if I can volunteer for an hour it is appreciated."

"I am volunteering for my Duke of Edinburgh Award and I'm getting lots of experience and gaining confidence."

"My wife told me to and I'm really enjoying it!"

"It's a fun, easy and rewarding way to put smiles on people's faces and homemade food in their tummies."

If you would like to chat about volunteering please link with Nicci and Ruth via hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk.

See the calendar for all the Thirsty sessions in April

Website: www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

E-mail: hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thirstycafemarcham>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thirstycafemarcham>



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Group or Club Need Help with Funding?**

**IF THE ANSWER IS "YES" TO THIS QUESTION THEN THE
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If you have an event to promote

email editor@madnews.co.uk with the details

Deadline is the 15th of the month before publication



PIANO LESSONS

ALL LEVELS
(Abingdon)

Frances McMillan, B.Mus., ARCM, PGCE

mcmillanfrances17@yahoo.co.uk

SPORT REVIEW

This month we are concentrating on cricket in anticipation of the start of the cricket season. Some people may find the rules of cricket a little confusing. To help ease this confusion the following is helpful:

You have two sides, one out in the field and one in.

Each man that's in goes out and when he's out, he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out.

When they are all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in out.

When both sides have been in and out, including the not outs – that's the end of the game.

<https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/The-History-of-Cricket/>

Others, (Americans allegedly) cannot understand how an international cricket match can last for 5 days and still end in a draw!

Marcham Cricket Club was established in 1906, and joined the Cherwell League in 2021, prior to that they were playing in the Oxfordshire Cricket Association. The Club is a thriving enterprise and runs two teams in the Cherwell League, and it enjoys the support of the Anson Trust. In 2010 the Trust and Marcham locals discussed a variety of options for the future of the Trust and Anson Fields, including relocation towards Longfields. Eventually, as we know, the field was retained, and a new building – The Marcham Centre – which includes the changing rooms and acts as a club house on match days was commissioned and built by Thomas Homes.

The club's shield shows (clockwise from top left) a cricket ball, a bench commemorating Graham Hill; Dovecote; the unique Six Bells of All Saints Church; Wild Celery.

Now that the weather is improving attention for Marcham CC turns to preparing the square for the coming season. This involves cutting and scarifying the grass on the square, and repairing bare patches left from the previous season. The aim is to ensure healthy growth and even coverage across the square for the coming season. After attending to the grass, the next step in preparation is rolling the square, essential to ensure an even and predictable bounce throughout the season. Therefore March and April invariably means time spent trying to start Marcham's venerable roller "Bertha", which boasts a hand cranked 2 cylinder diesel engine (of which more in a future MAD News).

The Cherwell League season begins in May with the following home fixtures:

10th May: Marcham 2 vs. Harwell International 2

17th May: Marcham 1 vs Faringdon & District 2

24th May: Marcham 2 vs. Sunningwell 2

31st May: Marcham 1 vs Cumnor 3

All are welcome to join the club, or to sit and watch the games from the Marcham Centre patio and maybe enjoy refreshments from the bar.



The cricket square in early March, with birds enjoying the recently sown grass seed.



MARCHAM
CRICKET CLUB

The Gardener and His Animal Pals

Once upon a time in a quaint little village, there was a grumpy gardener named Mr. Snippy Snapp. He loved his garden more than anything else in the world, but he didn't like the wildlife that kept invading it. Mr. Snippy Snapp had an impressive vegetable patch, a blooming flower bed, and a lush green lawn. He had spent years perfecting his garden, and he wasn't about to let any mischievous creatures ruin it.

Every morning, Mr. Snippy Snapp would patrol his garden with a stern expression, shooing away rabbits, birds, and squirrels. "Shoo! Shoo! Get out of my garden, you pesky creatures!" he would grumble. The animals, however, were not deterred. They saw something special in Mr. Snippy Snapp, even if he didn't see it himself.

One sunny day, a clever little rabbit named Thumper decided to take matters into her own paws. Thumper gathered all the garden animals for a secret meeting. "We need to make Mr. Snippy Snapp our friend," she declared. The other animals agreed and devised a plan.

The next morning, Mr. Snippy Snapp woke up to find a delightful surprise. A family of squirrels had organized his gardening tools into neat rows. "Hmph, strange," he muttered, but he appreciated the tidy arrangement.

The following day, a group of birds had decorated his garden with colourful flowers they'd picked from the nearby meadow. "Who would do such a thing?" he wondered, scratching his head.

As the days went by, more surprises awaited Mr. Snippy Snapp. The rabbits weeded the vegetable patch, the hedgehogs cleared away fallen leaves, and the bees pollinated the flowers. Slowly but surely, Mr. Snippy Snapp's heart began to soften.

One afternoon, Mr. Snippy Snapp caught sight of Thumper hopping around the garden. Instead of chasing her away, he crouched down and extended his hand. "Thank you for all your help, little rabbit," he said with a warm smile. Thumper twitched her nose and hopped into his hand, delighted that their plan had worked.

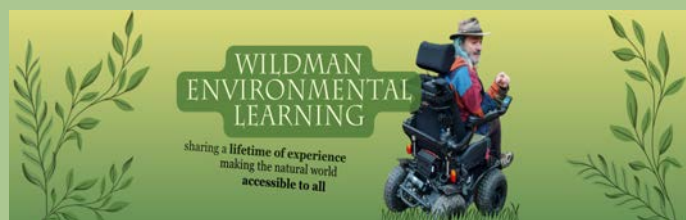


From that day on, Mr. Snippy Snapp and the wildlife became the best of friends. The gardener learned to appreciate the animals' hard work and realized that his garden was even more beautiful with their help. The animals, in turn, found a new friend in Mr. Snippy Snapp.

And so, the grumpy gardener who once shooed away wildlife became known as the kind-hearted gardener who welcomed all creatures, big and small, into his garden and the food chains therein. The garden flourished, and Mr. Snippy Snapp's heart blossomed with newfound joy.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt, Wildlife Gardening Specialist
01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk



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Planning a trip out? 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

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY



Breakfast and After School Club
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Vicky Hickman Tel No: 07887711454

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Marcham Centre

WHAT'S ON AT THE CENTRE?

As we all look forward to the summer, here are some of the events taking place at the Centre, which hopefully you will attend or get involved with.

Quiz Night – Friday 4 April – last quiz night of the winter, so last chance to win a bottle of wine! Each of the winning team members receive one, up to six players per team. No problem if you're on your own or just with one other person, the quiz master will direct you to a likely winning team!

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday 19 April – Now an annual event for the family. Every child finds at least one egg somewhere within the Marcham Centre field. Hunt takes place from 12 noon into the afternoon, bar and cake store available from midday. What better, pint and a cake for Easter? (including of course, non alcoholic).

Free entry for hunt, though you need to register to take part by emailing: Hayleycousins38@hotmail.com by Friday 18th April – if you have already registered via Facebook you do not need to do this again!

Event sponsored by the village hall bar (Marcham Trading Company) and its volunteer bar staff.

BIG MARCHAM WEEKEND

FRIDAY 9 & SATURDAY 10 MAY

Arrangements are being finalised for this year's weekend, including music on the Friday evening as well as the traditional Saturday.

As a summary, Friday will consist of the usual wide range of Gin and Real Ales, with the bar opening at 5pm. Music will be provided by soloists Adam Matthews and Tom Seth Johnson.

Saturday will start at midday with a wide range of side stalls with entertainment throughout the afternoon until 4pm. Children's amusements; local dance groups, including The Morris Men (real ale specialists!) and food stalls will be part of the afternoon.

At the cessation of the fête, the rest of the afternoon, until well into the evening, will be set aside for live music from a range of local bands and food stalls. The bar will be provided throughout the day, being the sponsor of the whole day.

AUNT SALLY

Wednesday evenings commencing May, continuing throughout the summer. The bar sponsors two teams in the Abingdon Aunt Sally League. So every Wednesday evening, starting at 8pm, you can witness, or preferably take part, in a much loved Oxfordshire pub game.

Too difficult to explain the game, so why not pop along on a Wednesday pre-season session in April and give it a try!

Dates and times will be provided on Facebook.

Don't be put off by membership of a league, participation, with plenty of banter and good spirit is the aim, as newcomers to the game found last year. Oh, of course, a welcome summer drink in midweek helps, visiting different pubs and clubs, many of which you probably haven't tried before!

Two teams were established last year, but new players of any age are always welcome, experienced or, like last year, new recruits to the game. If interested, contact Trevor on 07748696733 or just visit the hall bar and leave your name and contact details.

INDOOR SHORT MAT BOWLS – WEDNESDAYS 2PM

Will continue throughout April, the last session for the winter being on 30 April. The provisional date for this popular indoor sport to return is September 30th. So enjoy the summer outdoors and return with all your cups etc then.

Contact Colin Trinder (c_trinder@btinternet.com) for further details about indoor or outside bowls.

CRICKET

Saturday afternoon matches in the Cherwell League, starting at 1pm. New players always welcome, whether experienced or not, though younger players are particularly sought. Outside nets start in April on a Friday evening, all details on Club's Facebook page.

RACE NIGHT – AUTUMN

Thank you to those of you that supported and entered into the spirit of the recent race night in the hall. It proved to be a great success. So much so, the Events Team will be arranging another evening of fun and banter in the autumn. Will let you know the date for your diaries as soon as a date is confirmed.

Enjoy the summer, which we hope will include a visit to some of the events mentioned, or if not, an enjoyable drink on the hall's patio with family and friends.

Look forward to seeing you!

TABLE TENNIS

The table tennis table is available for hire for periods of one 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 the room and pay the 'local user' rate of £8 per hour. Please remember to bring your own bats and balls.

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



EVENTS



FLOWER FESTIVAL

JOY & PEACE

MAY 3RD - 5TH
10am to 4pm

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
Marcham. OX13 6NP

Tickets on the door £5
Under 16s go free



EASTER

EGG HUNT AND EASTER BONNET PARADE

APRIL 19 2025	Free Event	Bar open 12-2pm Cake Stall (Cash only)
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Marcham Centre, Barrow Road, Marcham

REGISTER NOW! *

email: Hayleycousins38@hotmail.com


Sponsored by The Trading Company (Bar)

* Deadline for registration is Friday 18th April. If you have already registered via Facebook you do not need to do this again!

The Music At The Unicorn (MATU) 2025 programme of acts on Thursdays .

Sound of the Sirens – 3rd April
The Salts – 1st May
Iona Lane – 12th June
Roswell – 4th September
The Lost Trades -16th October
Chris Fox – 6th November
Knight & Spiers - 20th November
IOTA – 4th December

www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk

The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE

Wednesday 23rd April,
10.30am and 2.00pm
Abbey Cinema, Abbey Close,
Abingdon OX14 3JD


Africa in the Western Imaginary and African Art

Vivienne Lawes

For centuries numerous artists in the West were inspired by the idea of Africa. A kind of exoticism took hold of the imaginations of artists like Rubens, Delacroix and Picasso, or designers such as Bauhaus. African artists have themselves hit the headlines in recent years, with names such as El Anatsui and Julie Mehretu becoming global contemporary stars.

The lecture will be held at the Abbey Cinema at 10.30 and 2pm. Visitors are very welcome to attend this lecture, cost £6.00. Lectures last 1 hour but allow extra time for announcements.

For more information on future lectures and other activities see theartssocietyabingdon.org.uk or email info@theartssocietyabingdon.org.uk



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Riding for the Disabled, Bingo Night.

Lower Lodge Riding Centre,
Southmoor OX13 5HW

Saturday 5th April

Doors open at 6:45pm Eyes down at 7:30pm

For more information
Contact Nikki Busby 07717 510410
For more RDA events, please follow us
Facebook and Instagram at Abingdon RDA

OXFORDSHIRE

art

WEEKS

3 - 26 May 2025
artweeks.org

ALL SAINTS' & ST LUKE'S CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk



"Easter is late this year." I've lost count how many times I have said something like that in recent weeks. To many people it makes no odds when it is. It's a welcome long weekend whenever it comes. But if you have school-aged children (especially those sitting public exams in the summer term), or you are booking a holiday (especially one involving snow), or you just really like lamb, the date of Easter is crucial. Why is Easter late this year? Well, it's not as late as it could be. It can be as late as 25th April or as early as 22nd March. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday, after the first full moon, on or after the Spring equinox (21st March). So it's down to the moon then. The history of this dating system is quite ~~tedious~~ complex (!). But essentially, the reason behind it was to ensure everyone across the world celebrated Jesus' rising from death on the same day, for that is what the season is for, of course. It is the truth not the date of Easter that is *crucial*, and literally so. The Bible teaches that Jesus, who is God come as man, died in the place of human beings, as a sacrifice for our sins, on Good Friday, on a cross (Latin *crucis*). The following Sunday, he rose again, defeating sin and death, paving the way to eternal life for anyone who puts their trust in him. Now, I believe these things are wonderful and true any day of the year. But what's not to like about celebrating them, specially and specifically, together with people from all over the world, on a precise weekend in spring!? Details of Easter services and events at our churches are in this issue of MAD News. All welcome.

April 17th, 7.30pm: Maundy Thursday Communion at All Saints'

April 18th, 10am: Family Good Friday at All Saints'

April 18th, 2pm: Hour at the Cross at St. Nicholas, Fyfield

April 20th, 6.15am: Sunrise Service at St. Luke's, Garford

April 20th, 10.30am: Family Communion at All Saints'

April 20th, 6pm: Holy Communion at All Saints'

Regular Sunday services

10.30am: Morning Service at AS

6pm: Evening Service

Wednesday Holy Communion

10.30am at Duffield Place

Contacts:

Rev. Nick Weldon Vicar vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org 01865 391962

Rob Finch Youth Worker youth@allsaintsmarcham.org

Jill Rowe Children and Families minister families@allsaintsmarcham.org

Tamsin Gilbert Parish Administrator info@allsaintsmarcham.org

ST LUKE'S, GARFORD

St Luke's is open for quiet prayer 11am-12pm on Sundays with no morning service.

Sunday 20 April, 6.15am – Sunrise service for Easter Sunday

News from St. Luke's

Our service at the start of March, led by Reverend Jan Radford, focused on the meaning and importance of *agape love*, illustrated succinctly in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13. Despite the appearance of daffodils and early blossom, the path through Lent and the advent of spring have been brought into sharp relief by the very cold weather. This picture of a duck nest in Garford, however, shows that nature can offer a symbolic reminder that the journey to Easter can be full of hope and expectation for the key milestone in the Christian calendar. Please join us for the sunrise service on Easter Sunday at St. Luke's.

Contact: Carolyn Whiting st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION

As I mentioned last month, any residents who have their garden waste removed by the Vale will need to pay online for an annual permit: see www.southandvale.gov.uk/GardenWastePermit or call 01235 422422. Any brown bins without a valid sticker won't be emptied after 1st April, so please don't delay!

S106 AND CIL FUNDS

As I'm sure many residents are aware, developers of large housing estates are required to contribute funds towards nearby community facilities, either as Section 106 ("S106") or as Community Infrastructure Levy ("CIL"). S106 contributions are specific to a particular facility, whereas CIL contributions are much more flexible in how they can be used. What's much less clear to most people, though, is how and when those funds actually get used. Since owners of houses on these newer estates will have effectively contributed toward these funds through their house prices, I thought it worth providing some recent (past year or so) examples of how and where this money is being spent:

- CIL funds from across the Vale were transferred to the Marcham Road Medical Centre in Abingdon, leading to the addition of 4 consulting rooms and 2 examination rooms.
- S106 funds from the development on Anson Field (Marcham Centre, Little Angels nursery, and houses) and conversion of the Institute into housing (Lion Close) were spent on expanding the Primary School.
- S106 funds from the estates on Harding Way, Abbots Grange, and Monk's Walk paid for the bespoke noticeboard outside the Marcham Centre and 2 benches.
- S106 funds from Monk's Walk, Greenwood Grove, Plantation Avenue, and Leas Lane are being spent on the allotments around Marcham, including new fencing at Cow Lane and a growing area by Park Side.
- S106 funds from the Monk's Walk estate have recently been approved for replacing a food chiller at the Village Shop.

If you have any opinions about any of this, please do get in touch with me - preferably via email, but phone or in-person are also welcome (*I'm usually at Thirsty Café on a Saturday morning*).

ROBERT CLEGG

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07784225290

Email: robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Hello, happy spring. Depending on when you read this, we might be in purdah, when we are preparing for county council elections, which occur every 4 years or so on 1st May. For me, it is slightly different, as I was elected only last summer, in a by-election, as my predecessor stood down, which means for this division it is less than a year since you last voted. Sorry, but more democracy should be viewed positively!

In addition, the division boundaries are changing this time, which means I will no longer be standing in Marcham, as Marcham is no longer linked with Sutton Courtenay – where I live. Marcham and Shippon (St Helens Without) move across and join with Cumnor. Your new candidate (should you choose to elect him) is local Ricky Treadwell. Look out for him. He is keen to hear your views and to help improve things.

Rob Clegg remains your very capable district councillor.

I think it might also be helpful if I explain what the county council does as opposed to the district council.

The county council runs social care services (the biggest cost and closely linked to the NHS), schools, libraries, education services, highways, roads, paths and transport infrastructure (except national highways), fire and rescue services, strategic, economic and environmental planning, public health, registration and coroner services. Generally public services where there are efficiencies and economies from running them at a county level.

The district council focuses on local services like waste collection



and recycling, where there is no advantage to running them from afar, or where detailed local knowledge is paramount, for example planning and permission for existing residents and new developments (except regional and national infrastructure projects to remove 'nimbysism'), along with local services like parks, leisure and community facilities (some of these responsibilities also lie with parish councils).

Before I sign off, I should also say that things are changing with the local devolution bill so next time, the district and county councils will probably be merging, and they may well be part of a larger strategic authority, that is intended to help local devolution of power from Westminster. But in the meantime, May 1st is important (in my opinion) to vote for what you think is best for our area.

All the best

PETER STEVENS

County Councillor for Sutton Courtenay & Marcham

peter.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk

OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Frilford Garford Jill Rayner jill.rayner@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Tubney Mark Coleman mark.coleman@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Frilford Garford Juliette Ash juliette.ash@oxfordshire.gov.uk

MPS

OxW & Abingdon (for Marcham & Cothill)

Layla Moran layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

Witney (for Frilford, Garford and most of Tubney)

Charlie Maynard charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk



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

JUDICIAL REVIEW: we now have a date for our Judicial Review hearing at the High Court - 25th and 26th June. The High Court Judge has ruled that our claim is 'significant' and, as the case is complex, has taken the unusual step of fixing a 'Rolled Up Hearing' where the issues of permission and the substance will be considered together on the same two days. The outcome of the hearing will be available in July.

RECENT CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY: the campaign against SESRO continues with vigour. Meetings: Two meetings were held in March hosted by Sally Povolotsky (to whom many thanks) and GARD, in Drayton and East Hanney.

New: GARD is planning some 40 minute Zoom meetings to introduce people to SESRO issues. The dates and times will be on Facebook soon – please share with your friends. You can email gard.secretary@gmail.com for information and to reserve a place.

Publicity: We are placing more posters and banners – please contact the secretary if you would like any of these for your area. We have delivered leaflets to the houses closest to the proposed reservoir area in Steventon and East Hanney (many thanks to the volunteers who have helped with this).

There are plans for an **Action Day** (Cllr Povolotsky, 5th July probably) and **BALLOONS:** a helium balloon visual barrier near Hanney (May or June). More ideas? Please email gard.secretary@gmail.com

Online leaflets: Derek Stork (Chairman) has written short explanations answering two questions we are meeting in conversation on the street:

- what is GARD's view of a smaller reservoir? and
- how the Reservoir's effect of raising groundwater rise affects the site and the area around it.

If you would like an online copy of either of these, please email gard.secretary@gmail.com



CLAY COMPACTION TRIALS (Thames Water): The planning application to extend working hours on a Saturday has now been withdrawn – all a mystery. The delay because the site was water-logged was no surprise to anyone local, although Thames called it 'unseasonably poor weather'. We could all explain to them what a flood plain means. The pumping of water and silt into the Cow Common Brook is being investigated.

FUND RAISING: GARD's sister company SAFERwaterS has financial backing to cover the costs of the Judicial Review process. After that, GARD and SAFERwaterS need to fund themselves. If you would like to donate to GARD's campaign, the bank transfer details are given below. We are very grateful for the ongoing support of members and supporters.

ASSISTING GARD: we have enlisted some new helpers onto our Campaign and seeing their new ideas is encouraging. If you would like to be more involved and have an idea you would like to try, please get in touch with the Secretary gard.secretary@gmail.com

ACTIONS FOR YOU NOW:

- **JOIN GARD** if you are not yet a member. Go to the website Abingdon Reservoir - Group Against Reservoir Development and click on Join Us at the top.
- Sign the Petition for a Public Inquiry launched jointly with CPRE Stop Thames Water's costly mega-reservoir – fix the leaks! | 38 Degrees currently at 5623 names.
- Write to your MP demanding a Public Inquiry *see opposite*
- Contact your local Councillors and Parish Council Chair about the SESRO plans, giving your views (see Abingdon Reservoir - Group Against Reservoir Development for contact details).
- Share GARD's social media posts (Facebook and Instagram) to your friends, personal contacts and groups.
- Display GARD's publicity materials. If you can assist with funding printing costs or would like to display material at your home or in your town / village, please contact the Secretary gard.secretary@gmail.com

Please copy GARD into your email letters: gard.secretary@gmail.com

GARD Payment methods for Membership or Donations

Bank transfer to Group Against Reservoir Development

Account Number: 71266438 Sort Code: 40-45-36

Please include your name as a reference & email gard.secretary@gmail.com.

DEREK STORK, Chairman GARD.

For more information www.gard-oxon.org.uk

Facebook: @abingdonreservoir, Twitter @GARD_OXON



Kennington Memory Club
Living well with dementia
Charity No 1179830

Enjoy chatting and sharing memories?

Want to support the staff during Day Centre sessions?

Have a talent or skill you could share?

Like helping people join in with activities?

Fancy joining in the fun of fundraising?

Appreciate serving meals and refreshments?

Do you

If interested, please do get in touch.
Email : volunteers@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk

Volunteers
always welcome,
always needed!

SCAN ME



HEDGEROW HIGHWAYS

Why not sign up to our monthly email Bulletin, visit our website, and follow us on social media for the latest nature news and ways you can join others in helping nature in Oxfordshire <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/news>

JESS BOUWER

Wild Oxfordshire Hedgerows
& Partnerships Officer

Wild Oxfordshire

APRIL 2025

The number in brackets refers to the page number where you can find more details

Abbreviations:

AS All Saints' Church, Marcham, **SL** St Luke's Church, Garford
DP Duffield Place, **MC** Marcham Centre

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Garden waste permit required (18)	2 MC Thirsty Café Stay and Play 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short-mat Bowls 2pm (15)	3 Milllets Farm Classic car meet 9.30am-noon MATU Sounds of the Sirens (16)	4 MC Quiz Night 7.30pm (15)	5 MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (11) Southmoor Village Hall Bingo for Riding for Disabled 6.45 pm (16)
6 AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	7 DP Community Games Group (19) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm	8	9 MC Thirsty Café Lite 9-11.30am see Facebook (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short-mat Bowls 2pm (15)	10 Marcham Society Midweek Walk 12.30pm (9) MC Astronomy Group 7pm (9)	11 Make sure you are registered to vote! (3)	12 Milton Hill Bowls Club 1.30 pm (9) MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (11)
13 AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	14 DP Community Games Group (19) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm (3)	15 MADNEWS DEADLINE 5PM FOR NEXT ISSUE	16 MC Thirsty Café CLOSED (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short-mat Bowls 2.30pm (15) Arts Society Abingdon 10.30am & 2pm (16)	17 AS Maundy Thursday Communion 7.30 pm (17)	18 Good Friday	19 Marcham Village Shop CLOSED (7) AS Family Good Friday Service 10 am (17) St Nicholas, Fyfield- Hour at the Cross 2pm (17)
20 Easter	21 Easter Monday	22	23 MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Community Lunch 12-1.30pm (19) MC Short-mat Bowls 2.30pm (15) Fritford Parish Meeting AGM, Abingdon Prep School 7 pm (5) Arts Society Abingdon 10.30am & 2pm (16)	24 Revised Green Bin Day (3)	25	26 MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (11)
27 SL Sunrise Service 6.15 am (17) AS Family Communion 10.30am (17) AS Holy Communion 6pm (17)	28 Marcham Village Shop CLOSED (7)	29 MC Marcham WI 7.30pm (9)	30			
AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	DP Community Games Group (19) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Society 7.15pm (9)		MC Thirsty Café Games and Puzzles 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short-mat Bowls 2pm (15)			

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