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May 2025 Vol 47 No. 5

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Dear Readers

More information about the new team is on this page, and I'm delighted to be part of it. We're all doing our best to support each other to maintain the MADNews high standards.

Happy Reading

Kay

PUBLISHER / EDITOR

Kay McKeown

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OX13 6NG

Email: editor@madnews.co.uk

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Adverts are not endorsed and MADNews makes no guarantees as to accuracy or authenticity.

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13 Parkside, Marcham OX13 6NN
Tel: 01865 391443

PROOFREADING

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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PCSO Rich Osborn C9323 for Marcham

Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.police.uk

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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

This month's cover photo

Cherry Blossom

by Anna Byrne



Top Anna; bottom Mark.

Back row Ruth, Simon, Fiona, Richard; front row Paula, Kay, Claire.

Not everyone was available for a photo

As mentioned in the last edition, things at MADNews are changing ... but gradually. A team has been assembled and is slowly adjusting to the way that MADNews is generated each month to ensure that it continues to the same high standard as over the past 45 years.

Fran will continue to manage all the advertising accounts – MADverts@MADNEWS.co.uk – to ensure that advertisers are aware of deadlines, provide their copy on time and then invoices and chases them as required!

Anna is stepping into the newly created role of treasurer and will become the money manager, keeping us all informed.

Approximately 1300 newssheets are distributed and hand-delivered to all homes in the six villages and this is co-ordinated by The Dynamic Duo Distributors (Claire & Paula) each month. There are around 45 deliverers each with their own patch.

Copy for the magazine consists of regular contributions and additional ad-hoc pieces. Timeliness is everything for copy so to ensure that everything is in place for putting the newssheet together, all contributions are checked and, if necessary, chased by the checkers and chasers, (sounds like a sporting event). These are Mark, Nicky, Richard, Ruth and Simon. Jane is continuing the vital role of final proofreading and.

Layout is just what it says – getting all the content and advertisements to fit into 20 pages and making it look good. Fiona is developing her skills as she takes over more of the layout, with Meriel continuing to provide technical expertise and support. Tony from Vanquish Print Solutions is managing the printing.

Meriel is also continuing as Temporary Editor, ensuring that the magazine is created, printed, and published each month while Kay is learning more about the publication process whilst co-ordinating the team.

**Bank Holiday 2025
Waste Collection Changes**

~~Wednesday 7 May~~ **Thursday 8 May**
~~Wednesday 28 May~~ **Thursday 29 May**



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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING FOR ELECTORS

A meeting for everyone in the parish to attend and learn more about what is happening in the area and how you can help. **See advertisement on page 7.**

NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS

The Parish Council has been operating with a reduced number of members for some while. It is very pleased to have co-opted 3 new councillors. One is Tanya Rosenfeld who has lived in the south of the village, for about 7 years, and has previously served as a Parish Councillor for 3 years between 2019 and 2022. The second is Keely Ewert-Brookes who has lived in the village for 16 years, and too, has previously been a Parish Councillor in 2021/22. The third is Andrew Mason, who happens to live in Abingdon, but close enough to meet the statutory requirements for being a councillor. Andrew's parents live in Marcham, so he is a regular visitor to the village, and takes a great interest in the life of the parish. The Council welcomes them to their new roles. There is one vacancy remaining, so if you are interested in helping the community please contact the clerk or your local councillor to find out more about what is involved.

A415 - 20 MPH SIGNAGE

As mentioned in the last issue queries have been raised with Bloor Homes regarding the removal of the 20 mph signs, and the lack of an entrance gateway. Bloor Homes have stated that their road design works for moving the 30 mph further eastwards were progressing in advance of, or at similar times, to the County Council's plans for a 20 mph limit so their topographical drawings did not include the 20 mph. Bloor Homes have agreed to replace the 20 mph signage, and install the new gateway at the entrance to the village. The wording of 'Marcham please drive carefully' will be replaced. White lining at the edge of the footway will be reinstated, as will the 20 mph roundel on the road. It is also hoped that the vehicle activated sign by

the gas governor can be replaced to indicate 20 mph when motorists enter that zone.

CEMETERY WASTE BINS:

POLITE REMINDER

In the cemetery there are 2 large waste bins which are emptied fortnightly by a contractor. One bin is for green waste only, and the other is for general waste such as wrappings, ribbon, paper etc. There is also a 3rd bin which is for the temporary storage of soil from dug graves. There are notices on the lids, indicating what waste goes in which bin. Recently the contractor has had difficulties, as all three bins seem to have been used for waste, and it is all mixed waste, and has not been separated.

The Council would ask residents to ensure that all waste is disposed of correctly by placing it in the appropriate bin. This helps enormously with responsible waste management, as the green waste goes into composting, and the general waste goes for incineration to create energy. Please observe the bin labels.

ST PETER'S CROSSROADS – TRAFFIC SURVEY

The traffic survey has now been carried out. The results show that whilst the average speed of some vehicles is 35-40 mph, there is an alarming number of cars going significantly faster. The Parish Council is progressing with the application to the County Council to try and have the speed limit reduced to 40 mph.

TREES – HARDING WAY

The Parish Council has instructed a tree surgeon to carry out some dead wood clearance works on trees on the public open space in Harding Way. A date for the works is awaited.

WASTE DISPOSAL / GRASS CUTTING

It is that time of year when we are all out cutting grass and managing our gardens. The Council would remind you that the Vale of White Horse District Council provides a successful recycling and waste collection service for all its residents in the district.

Please remember you now need a permit to stick on your brown bin, obtainable from the District Council, if you use this service. In addition, the recycling centre at Drayton is open all week from 8.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. every day. Please do not fly tip grass and garden waste on highway verges, private land, paths, in the Arboretum and Anson playing field, as such action interferes with the enjoyment of these areas, and can result in composting grass odours which in turn are a nuisance to those who live nearby.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL

P25/V0485/LB Convert ground floor bedroom to kitchen/diner and existing kitchen to downstairs bedroom at 14 Mill Road. The Council had no objections, but did comment that if other works were needed e.g. damp proofing, then they should be considered at the same time, to be able to assess any impact on the listed building.

P25/V0630/LDP Demolition of existing side projection and erection of single storey rear and side extensions, roof extension, and incidental outbuildings at Hitchcopse, Cothill Road, Cothill. Council appreciated that this was an application for a Lawful Development Certificate, but did state that more screening was required if these works went ahead. It was concerned too about further changes taking place without express planning permission being granted.

DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is Monday 12th May, 2025 at 7.30p.m. in the village hall. This will be the annual meeting of the Council

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

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MARCHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday 15th May, 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

At Marcham Centre

Notice is hereby given that this year's Annual Assembly for the Parish of Marcham is to be held at Marcham Village Hall, Barrow Close Marcham on Thursday 15th May, at 7.30 p.m.

The Members of the Parish Council would like to use this meeting as an opportunity to engage with Marcham residents, and listen to their views on local concerns, to report on what is happening in the parish, and to obtain feedback. Everyone is welcome to attend and ask questions, and the registered Local Government Electors for the Parish will be entitled to vote at the meeting should the need arise.

Email Clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Open Gardens

For the past several years we have organised an Open Gardens day in Marcham and have raised around £300 each year for Marcham Moldova Lifeline. This charity has now been closed but I have been asked if we would be opening gardens this year.

If you have a charity that you would like to raise money for and are prepared to help organise the day, please contact me. I would also like to hear from anyone willing to welcome visitors to their garden so that we can arrange a convenient date.

SHEILA DUNFORD.

sheila.dunford@btinternet.com or 391439



This month we have the first brain teaser thanks to The Crown in Marcham who host a weekly quiz every Tuesday. Answers next month!



1. Teddy Bears were named after which US President?
2. According to Napoleon Bonaparte, "England is a nation of..." what?
3. What type of animal is an Appaloosa?
4. In which European capital city are the Tivoli Gardens?
5. Which element has the chemical symbol K?
6. Which Netflix period drama follows the story of mysterious column writer Lady Whistledown?
7. In computing what does the abbreviation ROM stand for?
8. Which day of the week is named after the wife of Odin?
9. Which James Bond Film introduced the character Jaws?
10. The Isles of Scilly are served by which airport?
11. Which English motorway runs from Swanley to Folkestone?
12. What Italian city is famous for Murano glass?



Marcham Village Shop & Post Office
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Monday – Friday: 0830-1700
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We need you!

Some of our volunteers are retiring and we thank them for their dedication to the shop and wish them a happy retirement. This means, however, that we have vacancies in both the shop and the Post Office. If you are interested in volunteering, further details can be found in the shop. We would be delighted to have you on board and all volunteers are given support and training until they feel comfortable to serve.

Our volunteer list is not very long and we only just manage to cover the rota. We base this on 2 hours of your time per week, but we're more than happy if you wish to do more. Without your help, we will be unable to open the shop for the hours that we currently provide.

Please help us to keep your local community shop running on a daily basis for the benefit of this community and the surrounding area

We hope you enjoyed Easter, and even though it is now passed, we always stock some lovely gift ideas for that special occasion – luxury boxed chocolates, specialist wines, Gold Bullion Rum, and much more. Great ideas just waiting to be bought. And, if you're really stuck, we have a very good selection of All4One, M&S and Amazon Gift Cards



Hedges Meats are still playing a big part of us supporting local suppliers. Order your weekly meat directly through the shop by 5 pm on Wednesdays ready for collection between 12 noon on the Friday and 12 noon Saturday (excluding bank holidays). Details, including a price list, are available from the

counter. If there are any meat products that you cannot see on the price list, please let us know and we will check availability and price for you

We provide most Post Office products and services including cash withdrawals, cash deposits and cheque deposits – almost everything that your local Bank would have provided. Holiday season is looming, and you can order your foreign currency from us or online, and we keep a good supply of Euros in store.



Please note that, sadly, we are now unable to take used stamps for recycling as the people that collected and sorted them for charity have now retired. However, other charities collect stamps so please give to them in future instead of bringing them into the shop.

**THANK YOU, AS ALWAYS,
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Speaker: Hayley Scott

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Visitors always welcome

marchamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk



Summer Reading

A reminder that we have a book shelf in the Marcham Centre Hub, stocked with books available for you to borrow and also an opportunity to donate ones you have read. Space is limited, so Fiction and Biography donations only please.

The bookshelf is already receiving good use as people are discovering it. Enjoy a relaxing read in the summer this year!



Slimming World has very strong links with Cancer Research UK and every year we do "The Big Slimming World Clothes Throw" where members have slimmed down and donate the clothes that are now too big for them.

Slimming World Abingdon and Marcham with Grace have taken part over the last two weeks and we collected 105 bags which were collected on Wednesday. Each bag is worth £25 to Cancer Research but if Gift Aided it increases to £30. So I'm pleased to announce we have raised at least £2,625.

Last year Slimming World raised £2.9 million towards Cancer Research in the "Big Slimming World Clothes Throw".

I think you will agree this is an incredible success where our members have lost lbs and raised £s!



The
Marcham
Society

The Midweek Walk

12.30pm Thursday 1st May 2025

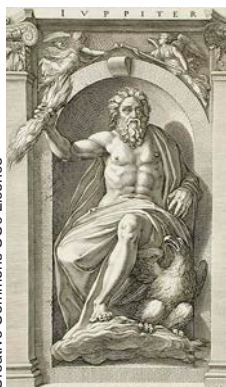
Please contact walks@marchamsociety.org.uk 01865 391439

The Astronomy Group

Please contact: astronomy@marchamsociety.org.uk

Thursday 8th May 2025 at 7pm

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



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The main feature of the next meeting will be the theme of "Learning about Jupiter: our Giant Planet" – with three short talks about (i) the discovery, naming, mythology and culture surrounding Jupiter; (ii) what we know of the giant planet from earth-based observations over the years; and (iii) what we have learned from space-based telescopes and various space missions to Jupiter

THE MONTHLY TALK

Monday 26th May 2025 at 7.15 for 7.45pm

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



A short summary of finds from the OUDCE test pits in the village followed by

1644 : Marcham in the Civil War

Simon Blackmore

Please contact: admin@marchamsociety.org.uk

Members free of charge, Guests welcome at £5

For more information contact

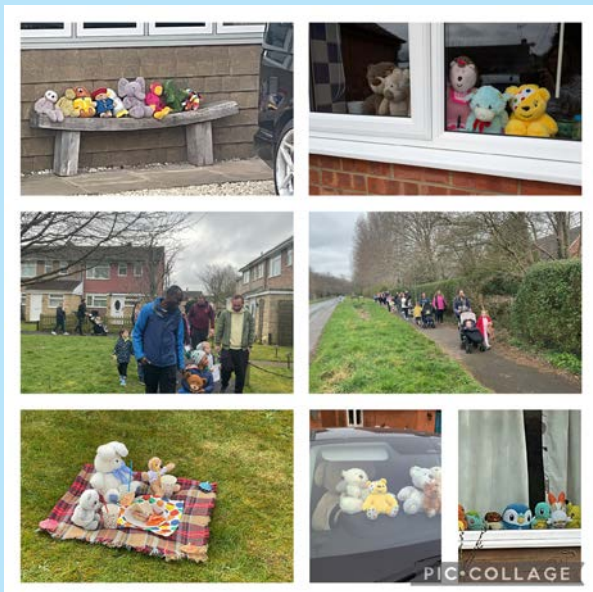
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk

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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

We've had a big presence this month... And many of you will have spotted us on our Teddy Toddle sponsored walk as we paraded around parts of the village seeking Teddy Bears!! We found over 120 bears and raised just over £600 in total. A big thank you to everyone who supported us, or displayed a bear (or 10!), we were blown away by the wonderful response from the village - whether on our walking route or not... And a huge thank you to Thirsty Cafe who hosted the children and parents and served us bacon baps and refreshments to finish off our morning.



With other fundraising events and donations received this year, we are delighted to have been able to purchase an Interactive Whiteboard for the pre-school classroom, providing the children with a range of opportunities to create... And learn....

Staff have also been busy this month reorganising our outdoor learning spaces and preparing for the summer months by developing a new water play space and mark-making area - more on this will follow, but we know that this will be well used, especially with warmer weather ahead.



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

Concerned about a child?

If you're worried about a child, even if you're unsure don't delay... Call the NSPCC helpline and speak to a professional counsellor - *you do not have to give your name*. Available for advice and support 24/7. Call 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk www.nspcc.org.uk

Call the police on 999 if you think a child is in danger.



What a beautiful month it's been at Marcham Little Angels. With the sun shining down, our little angels have truly made the most of every moment, spending most of their days outdoors in our lovely garden. We are incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful space where imaginations can run wild and nature is just a step away.



From joyful games of hide and seek through our tunnel to zooming down the slide with squeals of laughter, the garden has been alive with energy and excitement. Our giant sandpit has become a seaside escape, with our little ones building sandcastles, creating imaginary beach cafés and going on make believe holidays, all with sandy toes and sunny smiles.

When the sun gets a little too warm, we've been cooling down with water play, splashing, pouring and experimenting with all kinds of water based fun. There's nothing quite like the giggles that come from a joyful splash on a hot day.

We've also been taking full advantage of the glorious weather by getting out and about in the village. You may have spotted our little angels over on Anson Field, where we've been running races, playing parachute games and enjoying games in the fresh air. We've even had picnics in the sunshine and made the most of our time at the park. These outings are always a highlight, giving the children new spaces to explore and play while feeling part of the wider Marcham community.

Back in our garden, we've been nurturing our budding green thumbs as we continue working on our plant patch. The children have been carefully planting seeds, watering their pots and watching with wonder as tiny sprouts begin to peek through the soil. The joy and pride on their faces as they care for something growing is priceless. We're all looking forward to the day we can harvest and enjoy some of the delicious food we've grown together.

Looking ahead, we're so excited for The Big Marcham Weekend next month. It's such a special event in the village and we can't wait to see lots of familiar faces there. Fingers crossed the sunshine sticks around to make it a perfect day for everyone.

Until then, we'll be here in our garden and out in the village, growing, learning, laughing and making magical memories together.!

The Marcham Little Angels Team

For more information:

T: 01865 819992

E: info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

W: www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

Facebook @MarchamLittleAngels

Instagram @Little_Angels_Childcare_Group

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Pandas - Reception class

The Pandas have been engrossed in watching eggs hatch this week. The language of "pipping" and "zipping" could be heard all around the classroom. We now have 7 gorgeous chicks, who have brought wonder and joy to us in school. They are adorable! Mrs Callahan's dog adores them too!



Leopards -Year 1

In Leopards class learning has moved from the Polar regions and landed in sunny Africa. During Topic we have been learning about the Sahara Desert, the animals which we might find there and the temperatures. In English, we have zoomed off to Kenya to share the story Handa's Surprise. The children have worked hard to retell the story in their own words. The highlight of the week was Zoo Lab! We had a python, tortoise, cockroach, gecko and tarantula visit!

Marcham School pupils join Music Flood's "Mighty Orchestra"

On Monday 24th March, we (Tom, Sophie, Yuhri and Heidi) went to Oxford Town Hall to play our instruments with a Youth Orchestra. We played a selection of pieces with around 300 children from both primary and secondary schools. There was also the Thames Vale Youth Orchestra who joined us too.

Heidi plays the double bass and her favourite pieces we played were In the Hall of the Mountain King and James Bond. Yuhri, Tom and Sophie all play the violin. Yuhri says "I liked Benjamin Britten's Guide to the Orchestra best". Tom enjoyed In the Hall of the Mountain King best too because "it was easy but sounded great". Sophie loved playing the James Bond theme and she said, "I loved James Bond because it was complicated and sounded amazing when we all played our instruments together".



We must say thank you to Anne Wilson for transporting instruments and accompanying the children to the rehearsals. Thank you too, Miss Priddle, for helping the children to practise and be prepared for the

concert. It was an amazing sight and sounded just wonderful - an experience I don't think the children will ever forget. We are very proud of our musicians!

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

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

VIV HUTCHINSON



Welcome to May and it's going to be a wonderful month with lots of events for the village. Thirsty Community Café continues with its twice weekly café at the Marcham Centre on a Wednesday and Saturday and Natural Bread are with us each Saturday.

On **Monday 5th May** we are running a pop-up café at All Saints' Church providing refreshments at the Flower Festival.

Thursday 8th May is a new adventure for us – **Thirsty Café Milkshake pop-up** at the Marcham Centre from 3 - 4.15pm. Come along after school with your children and enjoy a milkshake. Those coming home on the school bus can pop in as well.



On **Saturday 10th May** we will be at the Marcham Big Weekend providing drinks and cakes. We will have some Farmers Market stalls by us as well, another new community adventure being tested out.

Wednesday 21st May will be the next Community Lunch 12-1:30pm. If you plan to come along to the lunch it would be appreciated if you let us know by email hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk or let us know via our Facebook page.

We appreciate you supporting your local community café and if you would like to chat about volunteering, please email hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk and Ruth or Nicci will get back to you.

See the calendar for all the Thirsty sessions this month

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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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., A.R.C.M., PGCE

mcmillanfrances17@yahoo.co.uk

SPORTS REVIEW

First, a quiz: Answers at the end

1. What do the following have in common:

Roger Goodall; Steve McAteer, Rob Bradford?

2. What links the following:

Cicely Courtneidge; Una Stubbs; Vicki Pepperdine ?

3. Who is Barbara Euphan Todd?

Exciting Football news:

The adults team has had a hugely successful month reaching two cup finals whilst continuing to compete for the league title. Winning 2-1 against fellow Division 2 title challengers and current league leaders Woodcote Development in the War Memorial Cup semi final setting up a final vs Drayton Reserves on the 11th April. It was amazing to see so many members of our community coming to support the team at Abingdon United's Northcourt Road stadium. The support made a huge difference to the lads on the pitch. In the game Drayton Reserves struck first when a crossed free kick was flicked in at the near post. Marcham equalised just before half time as Dan Barnes cushioned a header down to David Murphy who blasted the ball into the roof of the net. In the second half Marcham took the lead when Sam Ricketts latched onto The Wall's through ball, calmly slotting home. David then extended the lead with a wondrous strike from almost the half way line. Spotting the keeper off his line, he drove the ball over his head into the net. With time running out Drayton forced a nervy finale as their winger tumbled in the box and they scored the resultant penalty. Marcham hung on to secure their first ever victory in the War Memorial Cup.

The bigger cup shock came when the team beat Berinsfield 3-1 in the North Bucks Cup semi final. Berinsfield sit top of the First division with a perfect record of no defeats this season. But Marcham performed brilliantly throughout the game to take the victory leading to a Final on the 10th May against another first division side in Frilsham and Yattendon.



Marcham winning the War Memorial Cup

Marcham Colts teams are rounding up their seasons with just a few games to go. With well over 60 kids enjoying playing for the village this season the club goes from strength to strength. We are looking for players in current year 1 to become next year's under 7s. However for this to formally get off the ground we will also need a couple of people (usually parents) to coach this age group. Support is available as coaches find their feet but the teams do not run themselves. Minis continues on Saturday morning into the summer term with the u6s playing their first game against Hanney shortly. For more information on Minis follow us on Facebook at Marcham Colts Minis Football.

Thanks to Dan and Zoe Barnes for this report

The Vets sadly lost their local derby match against Abingdon Town. They have an away game against Bicester Town Vets towards the end of April.

Aunt Sally

Those of you who successfully answered the 3 questions in the quiz above (or who looked at the end for the answers) will realise that they all are linked to the term 'Aunt Sally'.

There is a pub game commonly associated with Oxfordshire, that has a rather gruesome history. It also has a peculiar name – Aunt Sally. You will be pleased to hear that Marcham has two Aunt Sally teams who play in the spring and summer. Those with good memories will recall the report on last year's Aunt Sally teams' exploits in the November 2024 issue of MADNews (Vol 46, No 11).



The unsettling history suggests that Aunt Sally developed from the practice of tying a cockerel to a stake and people paying to throw sticks at it. If someone managed to kill the bird, they could take it home for tea. Others suggest that it arose from bored soldiers playing a game where the target was a wooden skittle or doll on Port Meadows, Oxford, during the Civil War. The doll was a caricature of an ugly old woman (sometimes black) with a pipe in her mouth, the aim being to break or knock her pipe out of her mouth. As is often the case, the origins of the game are obscure, but James Masters (<https://www.tradgames.org.uk/games/Aunt-Sally.htm>) presents a number of theories.

The rules are straightforward, the 'pitch' is on level ground. The dolly is 6" tall and 2¾" diameter. It sits upon a metal pole 2½' tall (it has no facial features). The competitor stands 30' away and throws 6 sticks which are 18" long and 2" diameter. A point is scored each time the dolly is knocked off the iron platform. For an easy-to-understand image go to: <https://www.traditionalsports.org/traditional-sports/europe/aunt-sally-england.html>

Each team of 8 players has 3 legs or 'horses' with each player throwing their 6 sticks. The winners are the team with the highest number of points.

The Oxford & District Aunt Sally Association has been around for 80 years, containing about 120 teams, whereas Marcham plays within the Abingdon & District Aunt Sally League which has been in existence since 1960.

If you want to follow Marcham's fortunes go to <https://abingdonauntsally.com/scoring-system/scores-and-results/team-scores/?sectionyear=2024&season=Summer>. Marcham Centre A team is in E and Marcham Centre B team is in F. You can also follow our friends representing The Crown pub in Marcham.

Answers to the quiz

1. They have all won the individual Aunt Sally open singles championship at least twice – Steve McAteer 2012,2013; Roger Goodall 2015, 2017, 2024; Rob Bradford 2022, 2023. (From: <https://www.charlburybeerfestival.org/aunt-sally/>)

2. They have each played the role of Aunt Sally. Cicely Courtneidge played Aunt Sally in a British musical comedy film of that name (1934); Una Stubbs played Aunt Sally in the BBC TV series of *Worzel Gummidge* first aired in 1979, and Vicki Pepperdine reprised this role in 2019.

3. Barbara Euphan Todd wrote the first *Worzel Gummidge* novel in 1936.

Flexicare Community Walk

Sunday 18th May 2025



Walk, run or cycle your choice of circular routes across the Ridgeway. A range of lengths to choose from. Wheelchair and buggy routes available. Dogs on a lead are welcome. Delicious refreshments provided!

Starting at Snells Hall, East Hendred OX12 8LA from 9am

Raising funds to support Flexicare, an Oxfordshire based charity providing a free, specialised sitting service for families with a severely disabled child.

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Marcham Centre

BIG MARCHAM WEEKEND

Friday 9 and Saturday 10 May – Arrangements are in place for this year's weekend, including music on the Friday evening as well as the traditional Saturday. (See posters on page 5.)

As a summary, **Friday** will consist of the usual wide range of Gin and Real Ales, with the bar opening at 5pm. If these are not to your liking, the bar has a comprehensive range of alcoholic, non alcoholic and soft drinks for your enjoyment at very reasonable prices. Music will be provided by soloists Adam Matthews and Tom Seth Johnson.

Saturday will start at midday with a wide range of side stalls, including a Mini Farmer's Market. Entertainment will be provided 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 provided by a range of local bands, and food stalls. The bar will be provided throughout the day, being the sponsor of the whole day. Looking forward to the usual warm day and seeing an even greater turnout for what's become the main family village event of the year.

SPORTS

Aunt Sally will be played every Wednesday evening on the hall's patio area, commencing 7 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. The explanation of the game is aptly provided in the Sports Review on page 13.

If you'd like to give it a try, pop along on a Wednesday evening, as registration to play can take place after the start of the season. As previously mentioned, don't be put off by membership of a league; participation, with plenty of banter and good spirit is the aim, visiting different pubs and clubs, many of which you probably haven't tried before!

Two teams will compete again this year after a very enjoyable first year in 2024. If interested, contact **Trevor on 07748696733** or just visit the hall bar and leave your name and contact details.

Cricket Saturday afternoon matches in the Cherwell League start on 10th May. Two Marcham teams will again be engaging 'leather onto willow' (or stumps!), with a home fixture every Saturday through to the end of August. New players always welcome, whether experienced or not, though younger players are particularly sought. However, if you're more of a spectator, pop along and have a drink or two from the hall bar, which will be open from 1.30pm each week throughout the afternoon and evening. More information in the Sports Review on page 13.

Sky Sports Coverage Football may be coming to the end of May 2025

its season, but the hall bar will continue to show a range of Sky Sports and other stations' sport coverage throughout the summer. These will be advertised on the Village Facebook page and at the hall.

Summer Hall Bar Opening Times The bar has been a resounding summer success since its inception, with families and friends enjoying the 'sun trap' of the paved patio area together with the recreational facilities of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), playing field and children's play area. We look forward to welcoming you again this year; standard bar opening times are as below, though extra times will be shown on Marcham Village Facebook page, as and when they occur.

Opening times

Wednesday	7pm – 11pm
Friday	5pm – 11 pm
Saturday	1.30pm – 10.30pm
Sunday	Midday – 3pm

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 COMMUNITY GROUP (MCG) MEMBERSHIP AND THE FUTURE

The annual fee for MCG membership is remaining at £5 for an individual and £8 for a family and was due for existing members from 1 April. Existing members will receive notification of renewals over the next few weeks. Trustees have been discussing over recent months how we can encourage new membership, as we aim to encompass as many Marcham residents as possible to create a *body* that truly represents the village community as a whole.

A good number of you visit and/or take part in events held in and around Marcham Centre as well as helping with other local groups. Between us we engage with hundreds of people living in the village. The Centre and the recreational areas are provided for all residents to enjoy, so please let us know what we can do to improve events and facilities for you and your family and friends. (admin@marcham.org)

This is an initial *stab* at a much larger project, details of which will materialise over the coming months. In a nutshell we, as Trustees, want MCG to be much more representative of our community as a whole.

Enjoy the summer, we look forward to seeing you all at some stage, starting with the Big Marcham Weekend.

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY

enquiries@marchamcentre.org www.marchamcentre.org

Operated by Marcham Community Group (MCG)

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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



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May 10-11 and 15-18
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The Music At The Unicorn (MATU) 2025 programme of acts on Thursdays .

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

Temples, Tombs, and Treasures: in search of the Queen of Sheba
Louise Schofield



The fame of the Queen of Sheba has lasted across the many intervening centuries since she made the epic journey from her distant land to the court of King Solomon. A passage in the Bible's book of Kings has immortalised her and her journey. 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 theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk or email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk

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WEEKS

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RDA 

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Plant sale, table top sale, games and refreshments
Sunday 18th May 10am-1pm
For more information email sarahwilkinson123@gmail.com

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Could you put together a team of 4 family, friends or colleagues for our Celebration Olympic Challenge?
Saturday 21st June 2-5pm
£20 per team suitable for all ages 5 - 95
To book your teams time slot, book a stall or more information, contact Nikki on 07717510410
For more RDA events, please follow us
Facebook and Instagram at Abingdon RDA

ALL SAINTS' & ST LUKE'S CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk



"We could remove the sticky tape that covered our windows protecting against bomb damage, and very soon the street lights would come on again..." an extract from her memories of VE Day 1945 by the late Christine Whild, former resident of Marcham. Imagine that! because thankfully that is all most of us can do. Imagine having no street lights and your windows taped up for years. 80 years ago in May, victory was won in Europe and the country celebrated after years of tyranny and the threat of invasion. During those long years of war the country was called to prayer no less than seven times. From the miracle of Dunkirk in 1940 to D-Day in 1944, the King, Parliament and the Church called the nation to its knees at crucial moments to ask for God's help and deliverance. Those prayers were answered, and much of Europe has largely been at peace ever since. Sadly in eastern Europe in the 1990's and specifically in Ukraine in recent years, that peace has been shattered. But for most of us living in the UK in the last 80 years, our experience has been one free from the threat of bombs and bullets. This is cause for deep thanksgiving and prayer for continued protection into the future. I imagine in these days of increased spirituality many, most even, will chime a note of thanksgiving in their hearts for the blessings God has given us as a nation. We have so much to give thanks for. Just think how different life would be today had things not turned out as they did in 1945. Equally, we all simply long for future generations to thrive in prosperity and peace as we have been so blessed. In that sense, the commemorations this May are a good time to ask, "for what has this peace been granted?"

There will be a service of thanksgiving to mark 80 years since VE Day at 10.30am on the Anson Field in Marcham on Sunday 11th May. All welcome.

Regular Sunday services

10.30am: Morning Service at AS

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 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 4 May, 11am - Hymns and praise

Sunday 1 June, 6pm - Evening service

A beautiful, sunny Spring morning in Garford on 30th March heralded the Mothering Sunday service at St. Luke's and, to the delight of village residents, the traditional delivery of cheerful primulas to households to mark the day. Do join us at a friendly and informal St. Luke's service, usually followed by refreshments.

Contact: st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

VE DAY ANNIVERSARY

Thursday 8th May marks the 80th anniversary of VE Day, an opportunity to reflect on democracies defeating fascism and on an end to conflict in the European continent – topics more pertinent today than we might have expected. As well as a flag raising at Abbey House, anniversary celebrations can be found on South and Vale's local tourism website (southernoxfordshire.com) and the Government's VE/VJ Day website (ve-vjday80.gov.uk).



TOUGHER FINES FOR FLY-TIPPING, LITTERING, AND GRAFFITI

The Government has increased the maximum fines that can be issued to those caught fly-tipping, littering, or making graffiti. As the authority responsible for tackling these problems in the district, the Vale has adopted these higher fines (from 1st April 2025). It's not just those who actively despoil the environment who can be fined: householders who hire someone unregistered to dispose of their waste for them, who then dumps it illegally, can also be fined (up to £600). To check if a waste carrier is registered, please search on the Environment Agency's website: environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/

CLIMATE ACTION FUND REOPENS

The Vale's Climate Action Fund (CAF) reopens for applications from early May to late June. Local 'not for profit' organisations and town/parish councils can apply for grants up to £10,000 to help tackle climate change or help restore nature in the district. If you'd like to apply, please visit the Vale's website southandvale.gov.uk and/or get in touch with me.

NEW TICKETLESS CAR PARK MACHINES

Two car parks in Abingdon – Civic and West St Helen – will soon be trialling ticketless machines for three months. Users will still pay in the same way (cash/card/app), after first entering their vehicle registration and selecting the length of time, but the machines will no longer print a paper ticket. Users will be asked to complete a quick survey, either by scanning the QR code on the machine or by visiting southandvale.gov.uk/parkingmachinetriall – the results of the survey will be used to determine which system is adopted in future.

ROBERT CLEGG

District Councillor for Marcham Ward
Phone: 07784225290
Email: robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Elections take place for councillors on Thursday 1st May

MP'S REPORT

It has been a pleasure this month to get out on the doorstep in such glorious weather, and hear your concerns and suggestions directly.

Mega Reservoir (SESRO) – I know that many people who live in Marcham and Abingdon are rightly concerned about the mega reservoir planned by Thames Water. I have repeatedly called for Thames Water to prove that such a large-scale solution is needed and to fix the leaks in our network before spending £2.2 billion on this proposal.

Health and Social Care Committee work: This month I've heard evidence for our social care and mental health inquiries, including from Wes Streeter. I asked him whether the abolition of NHS England will help achieve the better service we all want. This includes better community care, more prevention (as opposed to treatment), and improved use of digital technology to improve productivity. The details matter, and we need to see more from the government.



Taking the Prime Minister to task: In a committee appearance, I asked Sir Keir why social care appears to have been kicked into the long grass. He agreed that social care is a key enabler for growth, but frustratingly would not commit to bringing forward the review of social care, due to be complete in 2028.

Progress on key infrastructure project: I am delighted that works have started at last on Lodge Hill junction on the A34. This will serve North Abingdon, and relieve pressure on the Marcham interchange, an improvement I have long fought for.

Europe continues to be the elephant in the geopolitical room, with the government still failing to consider a customs union with the EU. Our GDP is an estimated 4% lower as a result of this failed Tory Brexit project. I made this case to Robert Peston on ITV, and will continue to bang the drum on this issue. The world has changed, we should have a different conversation.

Local Elections: Finally, I am pleased that local elections are going ahead in May. This is your opportunity to listen to the candidates and vote for who represent your needs.

If you have any issues I could help with, please email me at: layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

For more regular updates you can follow me on:

Bluesky: [@laylamoran.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/laylamoran.bsky.social)

Facebook: [LaylaMoranUK](https://www.facebook.com/LaylaMoranUK).

OTHER REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

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

Witney (for Frilford, Garford and most of Tubney)
Charlie Maynard charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk



**25th anniversary
ABINGDON
AIR & COUNTRY SHOW
SATURDAY 14th JUNE 2025
10am - 4.30pm
Abingdon Airfield
OX13 6JQ**



**Kennington
Memory
Club**

Providing safe and supportive day
care for people with dementia and
respite for their carers



Scan Me

Now is the month of maying, the merry month of maying go the words of a madrigal written by Thomas Morley over 400 years ago. We hope that May will be merry for all of us.

Can you remember when May Day was celebrated with maypole dancing and the crowning of the May Queen? There is still singing on May morning from Magdalen College tower at 6am to welcome in the month, and both red and white varieties of May tree or hawthorn should now be in flower.

For people with dementia, memories from childhood often last the longest as they are slowly robbed of awareness of more recent events in their lives. This is why it is so important to make the present as cheerful and rewarding as possible. The days at Kennington Memory Club are filled with laughter, friendly company and interesting activities, making them as merry as can be.

Do you know someone with dementia who would benefit from a change of scene and joining in the fun? Would you, or someone you know, like to volunteer with us to help with the merry-making? Maybe you have a skill or hobby you could share? For any enquiries about a place at the Club or to offer your services, please phone Kay, the Club Organiser, on 07852 883496. Hoping you have a very merry May.

Isobel Birse *Chairman, Kennington Memory Club*
www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk



GROUP AGAINST RESERVOIR DEVELOPMENT

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

NEWS round-up and plans:

March: GARD met with MP OLLY GLOVER to discuss opposition to SESRO (March 20th). Our MP has a meeting scheduled with the Water Minister Emma Hardy, postponed from March date tbc. There are plans for activities at Westminster e.g. a debate in Westminster Hall. All three local MPs are united in their opposition to SESRO – keep writing to them and expressing your views.

April: GARD held the first short ONLINE INFO SESSION for non-members, with feedback; an opportunity to find out more about the issues and ask questions, all in brief without leaving your home. More are planned for early May.

May: Local Elections – ask candidates about their attitude to SESRO / what they'll do. Online Info Sessions – from May 2nd, see Facebook for details or email gard.secretary@gmail.com. Further local meetings – Sally Povolotsky, tbc. Balloon Event weekend of 24-25 May on the Hanney-Steventon Road, see Facebook and posters for details. Leafletting in Grove and the Hanneys. GARD AGM 30th May 8pm Millenium Room, Steventon Village Hall.

June: Millets GARD and CPRE anti-SESRO Petition Action Days – Friday June 13th, Weds June 18th: come and join us. The Petition will be presented to the Secretary of State on Thursday 19th June. The Judicial Review takes place on Weds 25th June - Thurs 26th June.

July: SESRO Action Day 5th July Sally Povolotsky

PUBLICITY: tell the Secretary if you'd like to display a banner or poster. We welcome ideas for activities – let us know your thoughts. We want a busy summer! Online leaflets are available about Groundwater effects and GARD's thoughts on a smaller reservoir.

THE PETITION: Sign the GARD / CPRE Petition for a Public Inquiry Stop Thames Water's costly mega-reservoir – fix the leaks! | 38 Degrees currently about 5960 signatures. Tell your friends to sign – bring it well above 6000 before it goes to the government in June.

FUND RAISING: GARD needs to raise funds for its ongoing Campaign. The legal costs for the Judicial Review are very high and have absorbed available resources. Please contact us with your ideas or offering your expertise. Donation details are below. Thames Water will be pressing on with their publicity and 'consultation' in the summer, with glossy brochures full of pictures of sailing on Farmoor or on imaginary lakes. Look out for their dates (not yet known) and go to all the events to express your views.

ACTIONS FOR YOU NOW: Join GARD, sign the Petition, attend a GARD Online Info Session, like and share GARD's Social Media posts. Write to your MP and Councillors (County, District and Parish). For email details see last month's Newsletters or contact the GARD Secretary 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

The Marvellous Garden Medicine

I'm writing this month's article whilst in the midst of, and trying to recover from, a prolonged bout of ill health, and been thinking about how our gardens and local green spaces, and the food chains they contain, can help us feel better.

It reminded me of Freddy, a little boy with a big imagination. One rainy afternoon, his nose turned into a leaky tap, and his temperature soared like a rocket. Sick and grumpy, Freddy sat by the window, staring at the garden that seemed alive with whispers, magic and mystery.

"Rest up!" called Mum. But Freddy wasn't one for resting when adventure called. He sighed, gazing outside at the dancing daisies and bustling wildlife.



Suddenly, a Robin landed on the windowsill with a look so stern it could've scolded a cloud. "Chin up, mate!" chirped Robin. "We've got the cure for your sniffles right here in the garden."

Freddy's eyes widened. "You've got medicine?"

Robin puffed his chest. "Not exactly, but we've got magic – magic that makes you feel better."

Before Freddy could blink, the Robin summoned its friends. A squirrel dashed over, its tail twitching like a magician's wand. "Watch this!" squeaked the squirrel, performing acrobatic flips from branch to branch. Freddy giggled so hard, his developing cough turned into hiccups.

Next, a hedgehog waddled into view. "My spikes are the coolest," boasted the hedgehog, striking a pose like a miniature rock star. "Bet you couldn't grow these on your nose!" Freddy laughed even louder, his throat feeling less scratchy with every chuckle.

Then came the grand finale. A frog in a top hat hopped over and bellowed, "For one night only, behold the Croak and Roll Spectacular!" With dramatic flair, the frog started crooning the funniest song Freddy had ever heard, backed by a chorus of buzzing bees and chirping crickets. Freddy clapped along, his headache fading like morning fog.

The Robin gave a knowing wink. "See? Nature's magic isn't medicine – it's happiness. And happiness can chase away the grumps and groans faster than a squirrel after a nut!"

Freddy leaned his head against the window, smiling as the squirrel performed one last flip and the frog took a bow. He didn't feel completely cured, but somehow, the garden had made him lighter, happier, and almost himself again.

From then on, Freddy believed his garden wasn't just full of wildlife – it was full of wonder, ready to heal anyone with laughter, one chirp and squeak at a time. And maybe, just maybe, it was even better than medicine.

Happy Gardening!

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




CRIME STOPPERS

0800 555 111


Call anonymously with information about crime

Tell them what you know, not who you are



WILDMAN
ENVIRONMENTAL
LEARNING

sharing a lifetime of experience
making the natural world
accessible to all



MAY 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 May Day	2	3
				Milelets Farm Classic car meet 9.30am-noon Marcham Society Midweek Walk 12.30pm (9) MATU : The Salts (16)		MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am with Natural Bread (11) AS Flower Festival 10 am - 4 pm (16)
4 AS Flower Festival 10 am - 4 pm (16) AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) SL Hymns and Praise 11 am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	5 Marcham Village Shop CLOSED (7) AS Flower Festival 10 am - 4 pm (16) AS Pop Up Café (11) DP Community Games Group (19) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm	6	7 MC Thirsty Café with Stay & Play 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17)	8 VE Day Revised Green Bin Day (3) MC Milkshake Pop Up Café 3-4.15pm (11) MC Astronomy Group 7pm (9)	9 MC Big Marcham weekend (5 & 15) MC Bar open 5 pm: gin, ale and live music 7 pm	10 Art Weeks starts (16) MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (11) KB&S Bowls Club Open Day 10am (14) Glass Studio open 11am - 6pm (16) MC Fête open 12 noon, 4 pm more food and live music
11 MC Field 80th VE Day Service 10.30am (17) Glass Studio open 11am - 6pm (16) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	12 DP Community Games Group (19) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm (3)	13	14 MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17)	15 MADNEWS DEADLINE 5PM FOR NEXT ISSUE Glass Studio open 11am - 6pm (16) MC Marcham Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm (7)	16 Glass Studio open 11am - 6pm (16)	17 MC Thirsty Café with Natural Bread 9-11.30am (11) Glass Studio open 11am - 6pm (16)
18 Flexicare Community Walk East Hendred 9am (13) RDA Table Top Sale Southmoor 10am-1pm (16) Glass Studio open 11am - 6pm (16) AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	19 DP Community Games Group (19) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham WI 7.30pm (9)	20	21 MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Community Lunch 12-1.30pm (11) Arts Society Abingdon 10.30am & 2pm (16)	22	23	24 MC Thirsty Café with Natural Bread 9-11.30am (11)
25	26 Marcham Village Shop CLOSED (7) DP Community Games Group (19) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Society 7.15pm (9)	27	28	29	30 GARD AGM Millennium Room, Stevenon Village Hall 8pm (19)	31 MC Thirsty Café with Natural Bread 9-11.30am (11)
AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)						

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