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June 2025 Vol 47 No. 6

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Hi Everyone

Hope you enjoy this jam-packed issue.

MAD is a busy place.

Happy Reading

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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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Marcham and Shippon

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

Tel: 07784225290

Email: robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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

This month's cover photo

Red Admiral

on an Echinacea (purple coneflower)

by Paula Utting

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Council was held on 12th May. The annual meeting is a formal meeting which must be held every year, and covers the election of a Chairman, and appointment of working groups. Mark Harvie was elected Chairman for the next year to May 2026. Various working groups were set up to look at planning applications, allotments, footpaths, and considering future burial space, as well as formal internal administrative groups to review policies, and audit processes.

NEW COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Parish Council welcomed the newly elected County Councillor for the Division, **James Plumb**, to the Parish Council meeting. James, as many of the readers will know, lives in Marcham, and was formerly a parish councillor. The Parish Council is the most local level of local government, representing the community, and having been involved previously, James should be aware already of the issues that the parish faces. However, he left the meeting with a list of highway items which he is helping to pursue. These included :

- a speed reduction along the Sheepstead Road and Faringdon Road
- relocating further away the Morland Road footway which is currently too close to the Barrow Close entrance
- the replacement of the 20 mph signage and recalibrating the vehicle activated sign on the A415 to 20 mph, and the general speeds of traffic passing through the village
- protection from vehicles for cyclists/ pedestrians using the footway/cycle track plus dealing with cutting back the grass verge and overgrowth
- Clearance of the culvert which goes under the A415 at the western side of the village to help ensure there is no road flooding next Winter.

James is currently the *highway super user* for the parish. This means he may be able to help fix problems by using his local knowledge and fast-tracking the process of repairing defects by ordering works direct with the contractor. There are only certain categories of problems such as some potholes, blocked drains, damaged kerbing that can be fast-tracked, but he has a can of spray-paint and has received training by the County Council.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR ELECTORS – 15TH MAY, 2025

The Council was pleased to see residents from the village attend the annual meeting for electors. The meeting is an opportunity for residents to find out more about what is happening in the immediate area where they live, and feel part of the community. The Local Government Act 1972 states that the Chairman of the Parish Council shall preside, so the job of running the meeting fell to Mark Harvie. He gave an overview of the Parish Council and spoke about the grass cutting, work to improve footpaths, a new unique noticeboard and bench

seating funded by art monies given by the local housing developers, the ongoing works to finish off the new play area, and improvements to the allotments. He also listed the grants awarded by the Parish Council over the past year.

Viv Hutchinson, Head Teacher, gave a very interesting summary of the curriculum and focus of the school since her appointment, and reflected on the things that had been shared at previous annual meetings.

Robert Clegg, the District Councillor, and **James Plumb** the newly elected County Councillor, too gave their reports on the key matters happening at the councils where they represent Marcham. Three of the big issues at the moment are the central government's plans for unitary authorities, the proposals by Thames Water for a reservoir and the redevelopment of the Dalton Barracks site.

GRASS CUTTING

This is the first full season of using a new contractor for grass cutting in the parish. The same contractor is emptying the litter bins, and checking the play area too. The new firm, Tactical Facilities Management Ltd, undertakes grass cutting and general maintenance for other Parish Councils at various locations in Berkshire and Oxfordshire, and came recommended from a local parish who also use them. The grass works are being monitored and inspected, so if you spot a particular problem, then please let your local parish councillor or clerk know.

FRAUD WARNING

Matthew Barber, the Police and Crime Commissioner has said that "Investment fraud is one of the most common types of fraud and it can destroy lives and leave people feeling humiliated and helpless. Some feel guilty they were groomed or that their contacts were used to target other victims through social media, but only the fraudsters are at fault. People are being robbed of their life savings and future through more and more sophisticated scams, many using AI impersonating loved ones. I urge those who have been affected to report investment fraud and seek support. I also encourage everyone to continue to heed police advice."

The advice is to be cautious if you are approached via social media, see investment opportunities that mention cryptocurrency, trading or stocks and shares, or uses advertisements with well known celebrities. In order to protect yourself from fraud, the advice is to not be rushed into making decisions, seek advice first from trusted friends or family or professional independent advice, and use the Financial Conduct Authority's Register to check if companies are regulated by them.

DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is Monday 9th June, 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

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BIG MARCHAM WEEKEND 2025

Congratulations to everyone who organised, took part, supported and attended BMW this year – it gets better every time! Here are some photos



MADNews Photograph Competition

The first ever MAD News photo competition was wonderful.

Congratulations to **Paula Utting** who submitted the winning entry, which is this month's cover of a Red Admiral butterfly sunning on an echinacea flower. It was taken on her iPhone, in her garden.

Thank you to all entrants, some excellent photographs were submitted and we hope to use some of the other entries in future months.

Saturday was a lovely day at the Big Marcham Weekend and the photos were displayed for people to vote on their favourite. Anna, Mark and I spent the afternoon encouraging voters and there were over 370 votes cast.

We will be repeating the photo competition again next year so keep taking them and save them in readiness for entering in 2026.

Thank you to *Marcham Society* for letting us tag onto the corner of their stand!

KAY



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Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal for VE Day.

I can confirm that Marcham and Appleton have raised a tremendous £681.40 with Appleton School having a Red, White & Blue non-school uniform day which raised over £140.

JAMIE BUTCHER

Frilford Parish Meeting

Thanks to everyone who came to the meeting on Friday 9th May.

James Pelling, who spoke, is one of our local PCSOs, and his email is james.pelling@thamesvalley.police.uk

He mentioned that crime reports and other information about our local neighbourhood policing could be found online, here: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/>

Another brain teaser from The Crown, Marcham who host a weekly quiz every Tuesday. Answers on page 19!



- 1) Which European country hosted the 1958 FIFA World Cup?
- 2) Guru Nanak is said to have founded which religion?
- 3) Parachutes was the name of which group's debut album?
- 4) Who left the TV show Countdown at the same time as Des O'Connor in 2008?
- 5) In which country was the Hyundai motor company founded in 1967?
- 6) Which soft drinks name is Māori for 'Good Health'?
- 7) How many coloured circles are there on a Twister mat?
- 8) Which British monarch was on the throne at the time of the American Civil War?
- 9) Which element has the chemical symbol K?
- 10) With a bird on the label, what is the best-selling blended whisky in Scotland?
- 11) The Cotswold Hills are situated mainly in which county?
- 12) Which African country was formerly known as Upper Volta before changing its name in 1984?





Marcham Village Shop & Post Office
16 North St, Marcham OX13 6NG
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Monday – Friday: 0830-1700
Saturday: 0830-1200
Sundays & Bank Holidays: Closed

As you know, Marcham Village Shop and Post Office is a Community shop run by the Community for the Community. As such, the profit from the shop sales goes to cover monthly outgoings ie: rent, electric, minor repairs/improvements etc. And, we endeavour to support the Community by donating to various activities and organisations based in the local area.

This year, we are delighted to announce that we have been able to support the following:

- £100 to the Church Flower Festival in aid of Breast Cancer and kitchen equipment for the Church; 
- 200 cadbury's crème eggs which went to the school for Easter; 
- £250 for Harmony Inspires – an a capella choir, with members from the village, that uses the Marcham Centre;
- £200 to Marcham School towards funding for a forthcoming art project;
- £600 for the SAFE charity, Support for Young People Affected by Crime, for families in our area including Marcham;
- Raffle prizes for various local events – maybe you were one of the lucky winners!

And, on the flip side, we would like to thank the **Vale of White Horse District Council**. They have supported our application for funding from their S106 grant scheme to enable us to replace our current chiller cabinet in the shop. We are absolutely delighted.

As in previous years, Mid-May saw a fantastic turn-out for the **Big Marcham Weekend**. Once again, the shop took a fully-loaded ice-cream freezer and we also had a supply of some of our local products that we sell in the shop. We helped the bar out again by selling bottled drinks to keep the queues down. It was a fabulous day, and we hope that everyone enjoyed themselves.

Please don't forget that, in addition to your basic daily grocery needs, we have so many other things to offer....we are not just your standard, basic grocery store – here are just some of our extras below:

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Dry Cleaning – leave your dry-cleaning with us for collection the following week

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Stationery products – pens, pads, rulers, various envelopes & boxes, bubble wrap, tape etc

Cards & gift-wrap – just what you need for that specific occasion

Plants when available, including geraniums, fuchsias, primroses etc

Gluten-free products – snacks, bread/cakes, pasta etc

Gift ideas – fancy chocolates, tea caddies, specialist alcoholic drinks, candles, soaps and much more.

**THANK YOU, AS ALWAYS,
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT**

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MARCHAM WI

Monday 16th June

7.30pm at Marcham Centre

'Isn't it cold in the winter'

Speaker: Karen Wiles

We enjoyed Karen's talk last year on Doing their Bit, Women's Voluntary Service in World War II. So, we've invited Karen and her husband back again to tell us this time all about their life living on a Dutch Barge. We'll hear all about their journey from making the monumental decision to what it is actually like to live on a Barge and travel the waterways.

Visitors always welcome
marchamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk



SAVE THE DATES

87 days to lift off!

Annual Holiday Club at All Saints Church, Marcham

Tuesday 26th - Friday 29th August 2025

10am - 2pm

£40 (with discount available for multiple siblings).

Bookings will go live on 1st July.

Allsaintsmarcham-with-garford.org.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!



The Midweek Walk

12.30pm Thursday 5th June 2025

Please contact walks@marchamsociety.org.uk 01865 391439

THE MONTHLY TALK

Monday 23rd June 2025 at 7.15 for 7.45pm

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

Otmoor, A Wetland Restored

a talk by Peter Barker

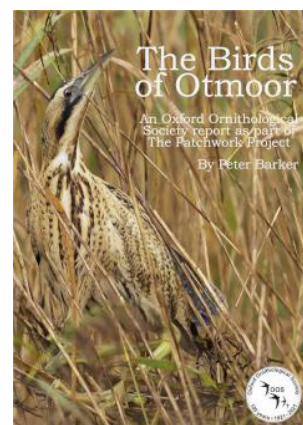


This talk looks at what has been achieved in the twenty-eight years since the RSPB took over some not very promising farmland. It covers why the place was special and how we have created the wildlife haven that it is today.

The second half of the talk takes a whistle stop tour through a year on Otmoor reflecting the changes in the wildlife through the seasons.

Peter Barker has been involved with the Reserve as a volunteer warden and wildlife surveyor since the first land was purchased. He also teaches bird identification for the RSPB. He is a retired teacher having taught in Oxford for almost forty years and an artist, photographer and writer. He wrote the *Birds of Otmoor* for the Oxford Ornithological Society.

www.oos.org.uk/bo-otmoor.php



Members free of charge, Guests welcome at £5

For more information contact
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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

The pre-school children have been participating in a 'Sunflower Challenge', using the simple sunflower to explore all areas of our curriculum...



The children have been learning about how sunflowers grow, comparing and counting the seeds and noticing different quantities of groups. Next we used all our observations to create beautiful sunflower paintings before planting some seeds and creating a book to record the changes and growth every day! We can't wait to see the shoots appear and include more maths learning as we measure and record how tall they become.



We look forward to sharing our news again next month.

We are accepting applications for September 2026 and would recommend that applications are submitted as early as possible to allow us to plan our future admissions.

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

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

MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Joy and Peace Flower festival at All Saints' Church - Did you get a chance to go? It was truly a beautiful sight! Organisations and groups from Marcham, Abingdon and beyond contributed floral displays, in aid of the Breast Cancer charity. There were formal and informal arrangements, a beautiful flower meadow from Pre-school, an afternoon tea made from flowers.



Our contribution was the rainbow arrangement that you can see above in the photo. Every child made at least one flower from tissue paper (each class had a different colour) and the flowers arranged into a rainbow, in line with the school story of Noah's Ark – and God's promise not to flood the earth again. Many, many thanks to Jay Finch and Anne Wilson for stapling the flowers onto ribbons and displaying them so beautifully. It was really impressive. They deserve flowers themselves!



We were given this fantastic real flower arrangement of the school badge by Joe, Maisy and Rosie's grandmother after the festival.

Thank you very much. It was beautiful.

Community Litter Pick

A huge thank you to all of the many, many children and parents that supported our Eco Council's litter pick in the village on Thursday 1st May. It was a really hot afternoon but a huge amount of rubbish was collected from the village. Also thanks to **Mr Clayton** (Yr6 teacher) for organising the litter pick and liaising with the council to provide all the equipment. It was a very successful event.



Cake sales There have been 2 sets of cake sales in school (and other sundries for sale) over the past week or so, organised by pupils wanting to raise money so that they can compete in the Knight Frank Triathlon, being held at The Oratory School in June.

We are so proud of our pupils, who are willing to take part and give back to the wider community. Money raised will go to the Restless Development – a charity committed to empowering young people to make a better world. We wish them all the best as they continue to raise money - look out for opportunities to support them in doing so.

Recently, our school newsletters have been filled with pupils showing a real and genuine spirit of care for our community and engagement in activities to make Marcham a more beautiful place – both literally and spiritually.

Well done, Marcham pupils! You are showing what it is like to live the Marcham School vision.

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

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

VIV HUTCHINSON



Come and be a part of our Marcham School family.

We pride ourselves on being the primary school for the pupils of Marcham and the surrounding villages and we hope that, meeting us, you will feel that you belong. Come and join us!

Why not visit the school office, phone (01865 391448) or email us

office.3235@marcham.oxon.sch.uk for an opportunity to speak to us and arrange to see the school at work. You can also find out more about our school - our vision, values and passions - by visiting our website <https://www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk/>.

We look forward to welcoming you and showing off what we think is the BEST school in the world!



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.

May was busy for Thirsty Café, we provided refreshments on the bank holiday Monday at the very successful Flower Festival which was held at All Saints' Church.



We had a new adventure for us – **Thirsty Café Milkshake** pop-up at the Marcham Centre. It was very popular, and our wonderful volunteers were kept busy. Look out for further dates as we will do them again.

Then we were at the Marcham Big Weekend providing drinks, cakes, a BBQ and pizzas. We had some Farmers Market stalls by us and we took the opportunity to gather people's views about holding them in the future, again, watch this space to hear more.



Rory making milkshakes

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.

Wednesday 18th June 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.

See the calendar for all the Thirsty sessions this month

Website: www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

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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



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Call anonymously with information about crime
Tell them what you know, not who you are

The Great Garden Weather Wars!

Once upon a time, in a peaceful little garden, a tiny robin named Rusty ruled the land. He chirped his royal orders, kept watch over the wiggly worms, and greeted the local bees with a polite nod. Life was good.

But one fateful week, the clouds had a big disagreement with the sun. Heavy rain swept through, turning the garden into a giant puddle! Worms wriggled in delight, popping out of the soggy soil like spaghetti. Rusty was thrilled—he was having a feast! Snails, meanwhile, held a victory parade, slowly gliding over the drenched paths. But the bees? Disaster! Their fluffy little feet got all soggy, and finding nectar turned into an extreme sport.

Then—just as quickly as the rain had arrived—it vanished. The sun, eager to reclaim control, turned the garden into a dry, crispy desert. The worms retreated underground, leaving Rusty stomping his tiny feet in frustration. The snails sulked under leaves, while the bees cheered! No more soggy wings—nectar-hunting resumed with gusto!

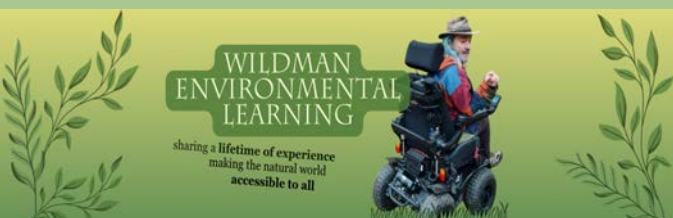
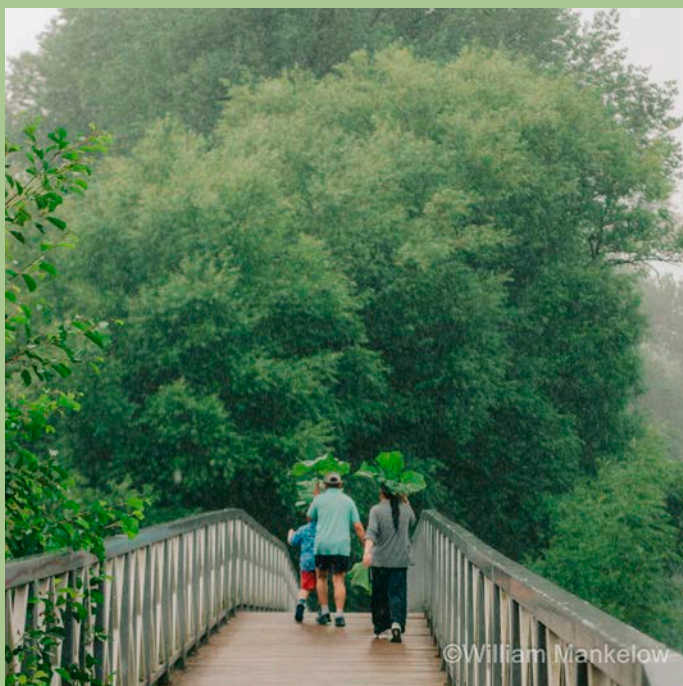
And so, the battle continued. Rain and sun took turns, shaking up the garden gang's daily routines. The worms rejoiced, then disappeared. The snails paraded, then pouted. The bees groaned, then danced. Rusty? He learned to roll with it—because whether drenched or dusty, the garden always found a way to carry on.

And the moral of the story? If you're a garden creature, a traditional gardener, or a wildlife gardener, weather is your boss! So next time it rains, just remember—you might be grumpy, but the snails are throwing a party. And when it's dry, you may suffer, but the bees are buzzing with joy.

Such is the way of the Great Garden Weather Wars!

Happy Gardening!

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



Marcham Road Health Centre PPG

Are you a patient at this practice?

This article is written for you



At Marcham Road Health Centre, interest in research is high on the agenda. This helps to identify patients who could benefit from research and also keep up to date with research programmes that can be passed on to patients to help them improve their own health.

With this in mind, The Patient Participation Group (PPG), which represents patients, recently held an event where Sleep Research was on the agenda. Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Carley Moore, invited guest speaker, Dr Fiona Tierney, from Oxford Brookes University, to speak to some patients from the practice.

Her approach was to elicit sleep experiences from the audience to enable her to give pragmatic advice and make suggestions to improve their quality of sleep. This prompted a fascinating range of sleep experiences, including; the impact of exercise, smart watches, bright light, shift-working, herbal teas and body rhythms.

She explained how she uses three prompts: Lights, Lions and Tools to help us to manage our own sleep. The Light prompt refers to the Circadian process and she recommends exposure to light especially in the morning, as this is more effective, and to avoid napping for more than 30 minutes. The Lions prompt requires us to ask ourselves, have we done enough exercise, do we have regular meal-times and regular bed-times? Finally, Dr Tierney explained, "it's important that our brain feels it's safe to wind down and go to sleep" which brings us to the Tools category that requires us to consider what we can do to make our brain feel that it doesn't need to 'be on alert'. Things that patients can try are: a regular night-time routine, not watching television an hour before bed-time, having a night-time drink or reading in bed. She emphasised, "We're all different so try some of the above and see what works for you".

All the attendees were asked to complete a simple questionnaire, which will be used to improve future events and to provide information to the Practice & PPG. The participants thanked the PPG for organising the event, Dr Tierney for her talk and Carley Moore for hosting it.

If you are interested in attending member events with limited attendances, please contact us with your email address and we will add you to the pre-invitation email records.

If you would like more information or wish to be involved with the PPG contact: mrfhc.ppg@nhs.net or drop a note into reception marked for The PPG.

<https://www.marchamroadhealthcentre.co.uk/practice-information/patient-participation-group/>

We will be opening gardens in and around Marcham on Sunday July 13th

We have 5 or 6 gardens on the list so far but if you would like to open yours please let me know – it doesn't have to be perfect, ours never will be. Watch this space next month for further details. Sheila Dunford.

sheila.dunford@btinternet.com or 391439



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Priority: [5] [4] [3] [2] [1]



SOCIAL & COMMUNITY

Vicky's After School Club

Breakfast and After School Club
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We offer your child ...

A happy, safe and secure setting, allowing them to learn and develop freely within the play centred environment, the opportunity to take responsibility for themselves and their actions

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Vicky Hickman Tel No: 07887711454

Email: info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk

website: www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk

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Contact adverts@madnews.co.uk for details



Marcham Centre

ANOTHER BIG MARCHAM WEEKEND OF SUNSHINE!

Thanks to yet another wonderful weekend of sun, which seems to always arrive in time for the village's most popular event of the year, hundreds of people enjoyed the events and entertainments organised by the hard working Events Team, led by Hayley Cousins (who will tell you how we always have such wonderful weather every year!).

A year of preparation ensured vocalists on Friday evening, a range of entertainment for all during Saturday afternoon and live bands on Saturday evening were so successfully provided. Food vans throughout the day were kept busy by the many. The hall's bar was even busier than usual, specialising in a full range of gins on the Friday. Beers, lagers and ciders were enjoyed by many all weekend, in a responsible way of course!

However, the organised events were not the only pleasure experienced, as many took upon themselves to making their own enjoyment and fun. Picnics, games, including 'spur of the moment' football matches, all added to the atmosphere generated throughout the weekend. A real community, family event.

A **big thank you** therefore to all the volunteers that again made this a very successful weekend. This includes those provided by the Events Team, the Bar Staff, the Village Shop and Thirsty Café, all once again demonstrating how very fortunate the village is with so many willing volunteers to do whatever is necessary.

Finally, a **big thank you** to all the stall-holders and entertainers for their support during Saturday, along with all you locals who supported so generously, ensuring the whole weekend, with its range of entertainment, is provided at cost neutral and no additional cost to you all.



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

June 2025



SPORT REPORT

Football

This month's sport review must begin with the outstanding success of the Marcham footballers. This 2024/25 season has been exceptional for both League and Cup achievements.

In the League (North Berks League Division 2) Marcham won 13 of their 20 games with leading goal scorer David Murphy scoring 35 out of 74 goals. Marcham were just 22 goals behind the League winners Woodcote Development and 7 goals ahead of the second placed team, Burghclere First. At the end of this season Marcham are 3rd in the League table with 41 points. Since the 2021/22 season Marcham have climbed from the bottom of Division 3 (now defunct) steadily upwards. Let's hope for even greater success in the forthcoming 2025/26 League season.

In Division 2 there are three cups to be won – The North Berks Cup, the North Berks War Memorial Cup and the North Berks League Cup. As noted above, the latter was won by Woodcote Development. Marcham had a great cup run, winning the remaining two cups.



Winners of the North Berks Cup

Both games were played in front of a full crowd of enthusiastic supporters which made a huge difference to the team. To reach the finals of the cup games David Murphy (co-manager) top scored with 12 goals out of 38, closely followed by Sam Ricketts with 11. Alfie Kingsbury had 3, with Dan Barnes (co-manager), Christopher Murphy and Josh Taylor on 2 each. Other Cup scorers included Mason Curtis (team captain), Tom Dowdell, Joshua Rough, Jack Smith, Lewis Wilson and Joshua Bushnell each with one goal. The stats also reveal that Marcham scored more goals than any other team (38) followed a long way behind by Drayton Reserves on 17 goals and Woodcote Development on 12. Whilst goal scoring is clearly important, defence is also crucial to the overall team performance, and whilst stats are difficult to compile for this aspect of the game, in the League we only lost 5 games and drew 2, so well done to all those unsung heroes who kept Marcham in the hunt by keeping 6 clean sheets in the League. In the Cup games we kept 2 clean sheets, only conceding 8 goals overall. Plaudits must also go to the supporters, club officials and wives, partners and/or parents who have 'been there' during the bad times and the good.



Winners of the North Berks War Memorial Cup

Cricket The two Marcham teams padded up for their season on 10th May but sadly lost both matches: Marcham 1 lost by 10 runs away to Wolvercote, and Marcham 2 lost away to Harwell International by 6 wickets (hardly surprising if they were playing against internationals!).

Aunt Sally The two Marcham Centre teams both lost their opening fixtures, but there are great things to come we hope.

Look out next month for information about Table Tennis.

EVENTS



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UNDER 5'S FREE

NOTE: 'ON THE DAY' TICKETS CAN STILL BE
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THE GATE - NO CASH MACHINES ARE ONSITE!

CAR PARKS OPEN 7.30AM

PEDESTRIAN GATE OPEN 9.30AM

SHOWGROUND OPENS 10AM

PUBLIC ENTRY & EXIT BY VEHICLE IS ON
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ROAD.

what3words: drifter.warms.developed

More information and online tickets at www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk



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

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



MUSIC AT THE UNICORN



The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE

**Wednesday 18th June,
10.30am and 2.00pm
Abbey Cinema, Abbey Close,
Abingdon OX14 3JD**

Treasures Of Ottoman Istanbul

Antonia Gatward Cevizli

This talk will immerse you in some of the architectural marvels of Istanbul. It explores the iconic landmarks of Topkapi Palace, the Grand Bazaar, the Blue Mosque and more. We will think about the sultans who built them and how they communicated ideas about themselves, their power and their place in the world.



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

**THAMES VALLEY
POLICE**

OXFORDSHIRE CAREERS EVENT

🕒 Saturday 31st May, 10:00am - 2.00pm

📍 Said Business School, Park End Street
Oxford OX1 1HP



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Saturday 21st June 2-5pm

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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



All Saints Summer Holiday Club

Tues 26 – Fri 29 August 2025

“So Vicar, are we seeing a ‘quiet revival’ in our churches here?” is the question I’ve been asked a few times in various ways recently, by church people and non. The background is the recent Bible Society / You Gov survey producing what felt like a surprising result. In 2018, just 4 per cent of 18–24-year-olds (Gen Z) said that they attended church at least monthly. Today, the survey suggests this has risen to 16 per cent, with young men increasing from 4 per cent to 21 per cent, and young women from 3 to 12 per cent. It suggests a shift not just in attendance, but in openness to faith, the Bible and spiritual conversation. There have also been reports of large increases in sales of Bibles in the UK, with the increase again driven by young people. Churches across the country, and across denominations, have been fit to burst at Christmas and Easter services especially in the last few years.

The picture isn’t uniform, and it may be too soon after the major hiatus of Covid to diagnose precisely what is going on. But in answer to the questions I’ve been asked regarding this apparent quiet revival, I’ve said things like... “I’m pleased to hear some good news of growth for once. However, our parishes here are not exactly flush with Gen Z. The majority of our young people are younger than 18 and nearly all our adults are much older than 24. Nevertheless, I would agree that across our churches we are seeing lots of interest in church services and activities too, gentle even steadily increasing interest. These are pleasing signs of growth”. One striking aspect of the quiet revival (if that is what it is) are reports of people being drawn again to the power of the gospel in its strangeness, not its polish, and to its core, not to its periphery. They are interested in a crucified King, in bread and wine as signs of grace, and in a Spirit who convicts, comforts and saves. Interesting! Let’s see what develops. Details of the summer Holiday Club at All Saints for primary school aged children are in this issue. Get your children signed up for ‘Life Quest – searching for life in its fullness.’

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

Bill Rowe Children and Families minister families@allsaintsmarcham.org

Amsin 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 1 June, 6pm - Evening service

Last month we had a service of Hymns and Praise led by Ben. It was a beautiful service. On June 1st we have evensong at 6pm and on July 6th we have another evensong. Choir rehearsals are already underway. Do come and join us..... everyone is welcome. On your way through the farmyard look out for our resident duck who has at least 12 ducklings. She hasn't walked into church yet this year....but she came straight through the open doors last year.

Contact: st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

FLY-TIPPING

In last month's MAD News I wrote about increased fines for fly-tippers and, in the time between submitting my report and the edition being published, I was alerted to a fly-tipping incident in the Arboretum. The Vale's EnviroCrime team cleared the mess within a couple of days and has since erected signs at that location and at the entrance to Cow Lane, another hotspot for fly-tipping. They are conducting more frequent patrols around the two areas.



RESERVOIR

In early May I visited Thames Water's Clay Compaction Trial (CCT) site for the proposed reservoir to the south of Marcham (SESRO). While it was interesting to see the earthworks up close, the key value of the visit came from discussions with some of TW's experts who joined, particularly the Panel Engineer* and the Ecologist. Together with other local councillors, we grilled them on various aspects of the CCT and of SESRO and were generally reassured by the answers. TW's experts did, however, broadly accept our concerns that the proposed design for SESRO is simply so big that it poses a strategic risk of TW putting 'all its eggs in one basket': should something go wrong with SESRO, for any of a number of reasons, then reliance on it could threaten the water supply of much of the South East. A solution to this problem would be to instead build several smaller reservoirs (say, three reservoirs of around 50 million m3 each) but TW are constrained here by a lack of suitable sites.

* 'Panel' as in a group of people, rather than as in a sheet of metal!

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

Lastly, I'm pleased to announce that I have an extra role within the Vale: I have recently been appointed Chair of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC). Having been a member of CEAC for two years I'm already very familiar with its purpose and ways of working, but it will be interesting to see what goes on 'behind the scenes' between the Chair, the relevant cabinet member, and officers.

ROBERT CLEGG

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07784225290

Email: robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

I wanted to start my first MAD News column by saying a big thank you to everyone who lives in the Marcham & Cumnor Division. I'm incredibly grateful for the trust that residents placed in me at the recent Oxfordshire County Council elections and having lived in Marcham my whole life, it is truly an honour to serve our local area. Whether you voted for me or not, I'm here to work for all residents across our division and will always stand up for the things that matter to you.



I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the other candidates who stood in the election for taking part in a well-spirited and respectful campaign. It takes courage to put yourself forward for public office, and everyone who does so deserves recognition.

This will likely be one of the shorter updates I write, as much of this month has been spent learning the ropes and settling into the role of a County Councillor. In the months ahead, I'll keep you posted on the work I'm doing to help make our area an even better place to live but for the time being, please know that I'm here to try and help with any issue - big or small. If there's something you'd like me to look into, don't hesitate to get in touch at james.plumb@oxfordshire.gov.uk. While I can't promise to solve every problem, I'll always do my best to assist.

During my campaign, I made a commitment to stay in touch with residents all year round. I'll share more details in future editions, but I'm planning to hold regular advice surgeries across the division and send out regular updates throughout the year. In the meantime, the best way to stay up to date with what I'm doing is by following me on Facebook, where I'll be posting regular updates on local issues from education to roads, and everything in between. You can find my page at: www.facebook.com/JamesRPlumb

JAMES PLUMB

County Councillor for Marcham and Cumnor

Email: james.plumb@oxfordshire.gov.uk

MP'S REPORT

PARENTAL LEAVE

I'm delighted to share with you news of the birth of my first child, with my partner Rosy Cobb. The baby was born at the John Radcliffe Hospital and is doing very well. I will be taking parental leave for approximately five months. During this time my office remains open for all casework and a proxy vote will be in place to ensure you are represented in parliament. Thank you to everyone who has sent good wishes. We feel blessed indeed.



LOCAL ELECTIONS

I'm delighted that the Liberal Democrats have formed a new, majority administration as a result of the local elections on 1 May. I will continue to work closely with the county council and local councillors to ensure that core priorities are delivered on including investments in infrastructure and improvements to education and SEN provision.

ASSISTED DYING

One of the most difficult and personal issues on which we are called to vote is that of assisted dying. I believe that the law should be changed to legalise assisted dying as a choice for terminally ill, mentally competent adults, with the strong safeguards in place to make sure that it only happens if someone has made a genuinely voluntary, clear, settled and informed choice to end their life. The Bill has returned to MPs with amendments which improve oversight and strengthen safeguards. I have received a lot of correspondence on both sides of this debate, and I take all concerns raised into account in my approach to the Bill, in particular focusing on palliative care. I am pleased to see that changes have been made to ensure that palliative care would also be offered when a doctor speaks to a patient about assisted dying.

HILL END

Many of you, especially those with young children, will have been amongst the 23,500 visitors to Hill End Outdoor Education Centre over the past year. It is a fantastic educational facility, recently celebrating its 100 year anniversary, and continuing to develop and improve their facilities and offering. The community 'Ffenell festival' on 7 June is one to mark in the calendar.

If you have any issues I could help with, my office is still open, so please continue to email us at: layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

For more regular updates you can follow me

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

Facebook: LaylaMoranUK

OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

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

MP

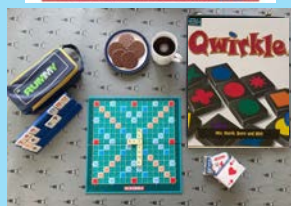
Witney (for Frilford, Garford and most of Tubney)

Charlie Maynard charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk



Games Morning

Enjoy a chat over a friendly game of Scrabble, Mexican Train dominoes, Rummikub,...



All welcome!

Every Monday
10.30-12 noon
Duffield Place Lounge



No charge (optional small donation for coffee/tea/biscuits)



Kennington Memory Club

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



Scan Me

Summertime is here at last, or is it? We had that tempting glimpse of summer weather at the end of April and wondered whether that was all we were going to see of the sun this year, but May has panned out quite well. Now we are in June we can expect warmth, long light evenings, Wimbledon tennis and Henley regatta.

Do you remember the end of the school year when there were exams to be endured in June? It was always hot and sunny when heads should have been down revising for A-levels or GCSEs (O-levels or CSEs if you're old enough). In fact, wasn't it always lovely weather when we were all young? We remember the past through rose-tinted glasses, the good weather, the lovely family holidays, the relaxing time over the summer break, but it can't have always been like that! Memories can be very selective, but also very precious. How much duller life would be without those memories.

At Kennington Memory Club there are plenty of opportunities to reminisce about the past. Holidays, childhood, travel, sport, music, fashion are all topics which can trigger personal memories to be recounted to interest and compare with the other members.

If you know someone with dementia who would enjoy this and all the other activities organised during the day, then the Club is the place for them. Contact the Club Organiser, Kay, to find out about visiting the Club to see what it's all about. Carers would get a few very valuable few hours of respite from their responsibilities too.

Isobel Birse *Chairman, Kennington Memory Club*

www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk



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:

May: GARD held more short ONLINE INFO SESSIONS for non-members. We were pleased with participation and will be planning more. If you would like a recording of the talk sent to you, email gard.secretary@gmail.com

The GARD AGM was on Friday 30th May 8pm Millenium Room, Steventon Village Hall.

June: JOIN US at Millets for the GARD and CPRE anti-SESRO Petition Action Days – Friday June 13th, Weds June 18th. The Petition will be presented to the Secretary of State on Thursday 19th June.

The JUDICIAL REVIEW takes place on Weds / Thurs 25th/26th June. We'll know the result some time in July and put it on the GARD website at once. If we succeed, there should be a Public Inquiry with open and unbiased scrutiny. This is what we have been asking for, *for over a year*. If we don't succeed, Thames Water proceeds to apply for the Development Consent Order (2027, to be decided in 2028).

PUBLICITY: tell the Secretary if you'd like to display a banner or poster. Online leaflets are available about Groundwater effects, GARD's thoughts on a smaller reservoir and a comparison on Thames Water's claims versus reality.

THE PETITION: Sign the GARD / CPRE Petition for a *Public Inquiry Stop Thames Water's costly mega-reservoir – fix the leaks!* (see 38degrees.org.uk online) currently at about 6100 signatures. Tell your friends to sign – bring it to 6500 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

- Answers to this month's Crown Quiz from page 7
1. Sweden
 2. Sikhism
 3. Coldplay
 4. Carol Vorderman
 5. South Korea
 6. Kia Ora
 7. 24
 8. Queen Victoria
 9. Potassium
 10. Famous Grouse
 11. Gloucestershire
 12. Burkina Faso

- Answers to last month's Crown Quiz. If you have already recycled your May issue of MADNews and don't remember the questions, you can find it online at www.madnews.co.uk
1. Theodore Roosevelt
 2. Shopkeepers
 3. A Horse
 4. Copenhagen
 5. Potassium
 6. Bridgerton
 7. Read Only Memory
 8. Friday (Frigg)
 9. The Spy who Loved Me
 10. St Mary's Airport or Isles of Scilly Airport
 11. M20
 12. Venice

JUNE 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 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) SL Hymns and Praise 11 am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17) SL Evening Service 6pm (17) | DP Community Games Group (19) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm | | MC Thirsty Café with Stay & Play 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) | Milllets Farm Classic car meet 9.30am-noon Marcham Society Midweek Walk 12.30pm (9) | | MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am with Natural Bread (11) AS Flower Festival 10 am - 4 pm (16) |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 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 Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm (3) | | MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) | MATU: Iona Lane (16) | Milllets Farm GARF Petition Action Days (19) | MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am with Natural Bread (11) |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| MADNEWS DEADLINE 5PM FOR NEXT ISSUE AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) MC Pop-up BBQ 1-3pm (11) AS Evening Service 6pm (17) | DP Community Games Group (19) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham WI 7.30pm (9) | | Milllets Farm GARF Petition Action Days (19) MC Thirsty Café Lite 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Community Lunch 12-1.30pm (11) Arts Society Abingdon 10.30am & 2pm (16) | | | MC Thirsty Café with Natural Bread 9-11.30am (11) RDA Celebration Olympic Challenge Southmoor 2-5pm (16) |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| | DP Community Games Group (19) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Society 7.15pm (9) | | MC Thirsty Café with Games and Puzzles 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) | | | MC Thirsty Café with Natural Bread 9-11.30am (11) |
| 29 | 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 | | | | | |

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