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September 2025 Vol 47 No. 9

Your Independent Local News Source



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Hi Everyone

Welcome back from the summer break.

I hope you've all had an opportunity to enjoy the good weather.

Cheers

Kay

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Jane Mander & MADNews Team

DEADLINES

All entries including articles, notices, reports and advertising:

5pm 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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Marcham and Cumnor

James Plumb

Tel: 07779 386205

Email: james.plumb@oxfordshire.gov.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon

Robert Clegg, 42 Harding Way, Marcham,

OX13 6FJ Tel: 07784 225290

Email: robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Other DCs

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

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

MP for Witney (for Frilford, Garford and most of Tubney)

Charlie Maynard charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

HOWARD CORNISH ROAD -

SALVATION ARMY TEXTILE BANK

An appeal again to please not leave clothing sacks on the ground next to the textile bank. Any clothing left can become wet and dirty and unsightly. **This is regarded as fly tipping which is a criminal offence.** The bags are likely to go into municipal waste and will not be recycled. The Salvation Army has indicated that the chute easily becomes blocked by large black bags. Please place clothing in smaller bags or insert it loose. Statistics as to the volume of textile collected in recent months, provided by the Salvation Army are:

February – 741kg

March – 757kg

April – 1274kg

May – 468kg

June – 750kg

In addition, over the past 2 years, over 700kg of non textile related fly tipping has had to be removed. The Salvation Army very much appreciates the donations of reusable textiles, but cannot accept non textile items, or duvets and pillows.

So please leave clothing textiles only, by placing them in smaller bags or loosely in the chute, and do not leave bags on the ground. The next nearest bank, is either at Millets Farm, or Tesco Extra, Marcham Road. To report a full Clothing Bank, Salvation Army Trading can be contacted by email at helpline@satcol.org or by telephoning **0845 458 1812**.

MARCHAM CEMETERY

The current available space in the cemetery is reducing, and in order to prepare for budgeting for next year, a clear idea of exactly what is required needs to be prepared. The Parish Council has therefore formed a working group to plan for a new burial area. The group will oversee the planning and implementation of a new area, to ensure that it meets the needs of the expanding community, and complies with burial legislation.

The group comprises 3 parish councillors from Marcham, 1 representative from Frilford Parish Meeting, and 3 members of the public. If you are interested in helping plan for a new area for burials, and would like to be one of the 3 members of the public serving on this group, then please contact the clerk to the Council whose details are below.

VACANCIES FOR PARISH

COUNCILLORS

Do you want to make a positive difference in our village ?

Would you like to influence decisions that affect your community?

You need to be willing to give up some of your time. How much depends on you and your commitment to work for your community without being paid. Parish Council meets once a month (except August) usually on the second Monday of the month. You must be 18 or over, be a British Citizen or eligible Commonwealth Citizen, and an elector or worked in the parish, landowner or tenant of land in the parish or resided within 3 miles of the boundary over the last 12 months.

MADNews is online: www.madnews.co.uk

If you would like to be considered, please contact Linda Martin, Parish Clerk at clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk or speak to your local parish councillor.

ENTHUSIASM AND COMMITMENT ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EXPERIENCE

GRANTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council considers any requests for grants at its November meeting. Grant requests are considered just once a year. Therefore, if there is any worthy and needy organisation where Marcham residents benefit, which is considering applying to the Parish Council for a grant, then please use the application form available in the publications section, on the Council's website. www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk, and enclose a copy of your organisation's accounts. Details of where to send the application are on the form. **The deadline for submissions is 15th October 2025.** Applications received after that date, or not on the application form will not be considered.

ELECTORAL ROLL

The District Council is carrying out its annual canvass to compile the electoral register that will serve for the next year. You will either receive an email, or a letter in the post, regarding voters at your address. Please respond by following the instructions in the letter, and recording the people who are resident at your address. A new electoral roll will be issued from December 2025.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P25/V0730/HH Amended drawings for works at Trinafour, Abingdon Road. The Council reiterated its previous comments regarding sight lines and drainage. It did not support a high gabion front wall believing this to be out of context with the street scene. It requested a low fence with internal planting.

P25/V1273/DIS Discharge of Condition no. (4). A demolition Statement and Construction Transport Management Plan for works at Denman College. The Council commented on the Construction Management Plan where the text and map were inconsistent. It reiterated previous comments that it would not wish to see the main construction access via the conservation area and New Road.

DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is Monday 8th September, 2025 at 7.30p.m. in the village hall. Currently it is planned that a representative from Community First Oxfordshire will give a presentation on community-led housing.

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

This month's cover photo

Bikes

by

Jasper Bayley

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JUDITH FONTAINE – A TRIBUTE

Judith Fontaine, a long term Marcham resident, sadly passed away on 30 June

Judith was born in Yorkshire in 1950. She attended primary school in Yorkshire, before moving south to attend Chilton Primary School.

Aged 11, Judith passed the 11 Plus exam to attend Didcot Girls Grammar School. Judith attended secretarial courses at Abingdon College and worked part time in a café whilst attending the college.

Judith then worked at the **UK Atomic Energy Authority's Harwell** site for more than a decade. She initially joined the typing pool, before working as a personal secretary for several scientists. She was praised for her superb organisational skills.

During this time she met Peter Fontaine, the son of a neighbour in Chilton. Peter immediately found that she was very interesting to talk to and they were married in July 1971 and moved to **Tower Close**, Marcham, where they lived for the next 54 years.

Judith and Peter were made welcome from their first days in Marcham. They received huge support from their neighbours in Tower Close over the years. They and many of their neighbours all moved into the end of Tower Close as the houses were being built in 1971. They felt like they were part of an extended family, seeing their neighbours' children grow up and have children of their own.

Judith left her career at Harwell to spend seven years as a full time mother, taking care of her son Paul. Paul remembers her as always extremely caring, as well as strict when she needed to be. She taught him about history and politics, and encouraged him to learn about the world.

Judith then worked part time as a classroom assistant at **Marcham Primary School**. She later worked as a receptionist and administrative assistant at **Abingdon Community Hospital Physiotherapy Department**.

Judith and Peter were very active in the local community in and around Marcham for many years. They delivered **MADNews** before also taking over the distribution management for over 22 years which also included collating and stapling 1000 issues each month around the dining table before the printing method was changed! Judith was a stalwart with the teapot at the MADNews tea parties.

Judith and Peter were both on the **Parent Teacher Association at Marcham School**, and Peter was also treasurer for some years.



They were dedicated committee members of the **Marcham Society**, with Peter having acted as treasurer and Judith as secretary. During the production of Marcham Society's book in 2009, *Marcham Remembered*, Judith and Peter took responsibility for the writing and production of the chapter on *Occasions and People*.

Peter volunteered in the Marcham Village Shop for many years with a regular shift behind the counter.

These contributions resulted in them sharing the **Parishioner of the Year Award** in May 2018.

During nearly 54 years of marriage, Judith and Peter always had plenty to talk about, but they never exchanged a cross word. Peter was always impressed by Judith's wisdom, intelligence and kindness.

Judith is very sadly missed by all who knew her, but we are all grateful to her, for enriching our lives in so many ways over the years.

Judith and Peter's quiet but unwavering support of all things Marcham, and their willingness to sit on committees and do the hard work to make voluntary organisations thrive, added so much to village life, and we are deeply grateful to them.



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THE MIDWEEK WALK

12.30pm Thursday 11th September

Please contact walks@marchamsociety.org.uk

THE ASTRONOMY GROUP

Wednesday 17th September at 7pm

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

A round-up of astronomy sightings over the summer months and recent news.

Please contact: astronomy@marchamsociety.org.uk

THE MONTHLY TALK

Monday 22nd September at 7.15 for 7.45pm

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



Dr Caswell works for the Oxfordshire Museums Service and in his talk he will explain how artefacts found by the public and registered with the 'Portable Antiquities Scheme' can help archaeologists by adding to our understanding of local history and prehistory. He also shows how anyone can do their own research by using this extensive database.

Members free of charge, Guests welcome at £5

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



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

We hope that you had a lovely break and enjoyed the unusual weather we've been experiencing. By the time you read this, hopefully, the hosepipe ban has been lifted and our gardens are getting back to normal.

The Shop Committee leadership changed over the summer and **Michele Steele** is now our new Chairperson. We would like to express our sincere thanks to **Chris Munro** for covering this role for over 5 years. Chris's support and dedication has helped to keep the shop flourishing, managing the accounts, working with volunteers, and countless other tasks. We are delighted that Chris is staying on as a member of the Committee and will continue her role in the Post Office. And, in the same token, we welcome Michele on board and look forward to her taking this role forward.

As you may know, we had issues with our credit card reader for some weeks recently. It was a stressful time for us but it has now been sorted and we would like to thank you for your patience whilst this was being resolved.



Now that the children are heading back to school, we can help with most daily stationery items. We stock a wide range of items including pens, pencils, pukka pads, rulers, rubbers, pencil sharpeners, paper clips etc. Come and see how we can help you out. And, for the tinier members, along with nappies and baby wipes, we also have a new selection of baby products including Farleys Rusks and Organix Carrot Sticks.



We are always searching for new and different items to stock in the shop. We have increased our gluten-free range, and we recently had some funky bird houses, and some lightweight camping tables, which went down well. The Skechers sock liners are a best seller, and we have now introduced some Ted Baker liners as well. Super gifts, or just a treat for yourself! And, as Hallowe'en approaches, we will do our best to source some novelties. Watch this space!



The Post Office continues to be a major part of the shop, and fulfill most of your requirements provided by Royal Mail, Parcelforce, DPD and also your general banking needs. Hedges continue to offer an ordering service through the shop, we also have a dry-cleaning option and you can even get a hot drink and cake if you fancy – all this along with gifts, groceries, and household items.



As a THANK YOU, the annual volunteers gathering was held at the end of August. It was a lovely evening with some good food and beverages. We are so very grateful to all of our volunteers for their support in the shop and post office. We have approximately 40 volunteers in total, and without them giving up their time to serve you we would not have our lovely community shop. If you feel that this is something that you would like to be involved in (2 hours or more per week), please speak to the staff on duty and we will get back to you.

Thank You!

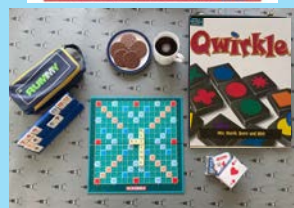


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Games Morning

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MARCHAM WI

Monday 15th September

7.30pm at Marcham Centre

Sing for your Supper

We welcome everyone back from the summer break and are looking forward to getting together again at our September meeting, when we will 'Sing for our Supper'. We will be led by our 'conductor' to sing along to some favourite show tunes and modern classics, and yes – you will be fed! There's no need to panic if singing isn't your thing – we should all just have some fun and enjoy the evening.

Visitors always welcome
marchamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk



Get Ready for Autumn

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!

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

With a packed hall, the children put on their best smiles to celebrate the completion of their pre-school journey and 'Graduate'. We celebrated in style and had a wonderful event... We'd like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of our leavers the very best as they move on in their educational journey... particularly those that are moving away from Marcham.... Good luck!



If you would be interested in a place at Marcham Preschool we ask that you express your interest as early as possible to assist us with planning. Please get in touch as soon as possible for information on our admissions process by emailing admissions.mps@outlook.com.

Nicky Sanford, Early Years Teacher
Marcham Pre-school
01865 392101 email marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk
www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

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

1. Alberta is a province of which country?
2. Who was Henry VIII's last wife?
3. How many Members of Parliament (MPs) are there in the in the UK's House of Commons?
4. Which country is the origin of the cocktail Mojito?
5. What is the second smallest country by area in the world?
6. How many players are there in a rugby Union team?
7. Who was the youngest British Prime Minister to date?
8. What is Japanese sake made from?
9. How many species of deer live wild in Great Britain?
10. After Real Madrid won the first five European Cups from 1956 to 1960, which team won next in the tournament that later became the UEFA Champions League?
11. Which UK city's jewellery quarter has recently gained World Craft City status?
12. What type of sour cream found in central and eastern Europe is similar to *crème fraîche*?



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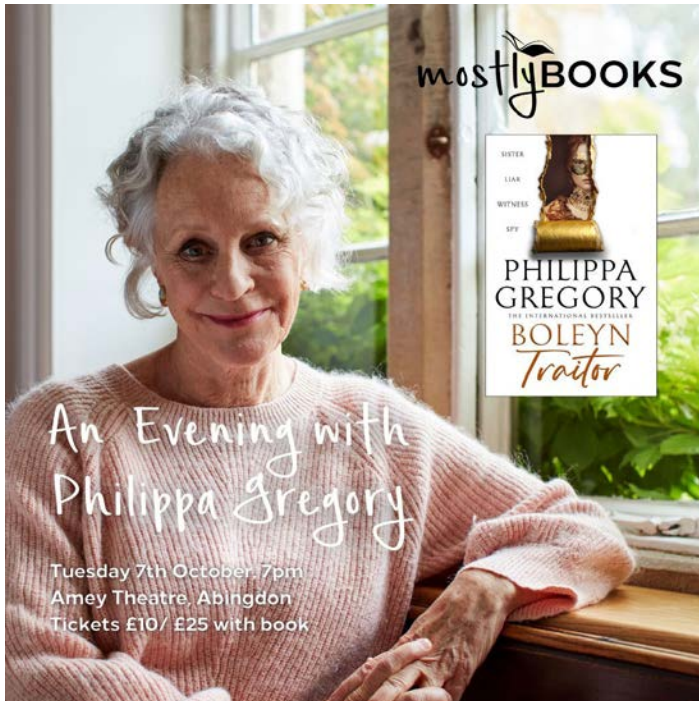
EVENTS

heritage open days

The Friends of Abingdon are organising another **Heritage Open Day**, this year featuring the interesting architecture we enjoy every day. From the lost buildings exhibition in the Roysse room to the ultra modern Sophos Headquarters in Barton Lane, there is an opportunity to learn more about the rich heritage of Abingdon.

The events this year take place on the weekend of **13th and 14th September** when we will be able to appreciate what our forebears have created and left for us to enjoy. The events are free for all the family and there is more information at

<https://www.abingdonheritage.org.uk>



mostlyBOOKS

An Evening with Philippa Gregory

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What a magical summer it has been here at Marcham Little Angels

We've soaked up every ray of sunshine, making the most of our beautiful outdoor spaces. From strolls through the village and across the fields to adventures in the park, our Little Angels have been busy exploring the world around them. In our garden, we created a sensory walk inspired by one of our favourite stories, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. Our journey took us through squelchy mud, swishy swashy grass, a swirling snowstorm, and into a mysterious cave, sparking so much joy and imagination.



One of our proudest moments was celebrating our eldest Little Angels as they spread their wings and flew off to big school. Dressed in their golden caps and gowns, we gathered under the warm summer sun to honour their achievements, share happy memories, and wish them every success for the adventures ahead. We will miss them dearly, but we know they are ready to shine.

It wasn't just the children making memories, our team enjoyed a fantastic summer social, coming together for a **Brush Party** where we laughed, got creative, and painted a stunning piece of art for the nursery. It now proudly hangs as a reminder of teamwork, fun, and friendship.

After such a joyful and busy summer, we're feeling refreshed, inspired, and ready to dive into the excitement of a brand new academic year!

The Marcham Little Angels Team

For more information:

T: 01865 819992

E: info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

W: www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

Facebook @MarchamLittleAngels

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

RECORD-BREAKING SUMMER FETE & COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN ACTION

We are delighted to share that this year's **Summer Fête raised over £1,900** – our highest total since before the COVID pandemic in 2019. Every penny raised goes directly to the school, funding resources, activities, and experiences that benefit all our children.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets, donated tombola prizes, and came along to support the event. Special thanks go to our fantastic school staff, DJ Paul, and the brilliant volunteers who helped set up, ran stalls (including those brave enough to be splatted!), and stayed behind to clear up – your efforts made all the difference.

A little community success story: In our last edition, we asked for help with the school garden – and you answered! We're thrilled to say that two lovely new volunteers have stepped forward to help keep it looking beautiful and thriving for the children. This is exactly the kind of neighbourly spirit that makes our village such a wonderful, supportive place to live.

At the end of this school year, we had a big 'splurge' to invest in the children's learning and enjoyment. PTFA funds have contributed towards

- Books for Years 5 & 6
- School trips
- Egg incubators for science projects
- SEN equipment
- New musical instruments
- Fresh equipment for the Year 1 garden

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our community – so thank you.

We also say a very fond farewell to **Viv**, also known to many as **Mrs Hutchinson**, who is leaving after many years at the school. All on the committee wish to thank her for her tireless support over countless fêtes, discos, and events. As was said at her leaving party, there is never enough money in early years education – and her dedication has truly made all the difference.

All PTFA events are organised by a very small team. The nature of the PTFA means we have a high turnover within the team, as children grow up and parents naturally move on. While help on the day is vital and always appreciated, we are especially keen to welcome new committee members. The PTFA doesn't just run events – it decides how the money is spent, so joining is the best way to have your say and help shape the future.

If you'd like to get involved or simply find out more, we'd love to hear from you. Contact us at marchampta@gmail.com

Thank you once again for your incredible support – here's to another year of working together for our children.

THE PTFA COMMITTEE:

KATE E, KATE MCG, NICCI, ANDREW, STEPH, SARAH, ANGELA, JACKIE, AND EMMA



MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

After 18 remarkable years of service, Marcham CE Primary School said goodbye to its esteemed Headteacher, **Mrs Viv Hutchinson**, who retired at the end of the Summer Term.

To celebrate her incredible leadership and dedication, a series of farewell events took place throughout the final weeks of term. From a touching afternoon from the pupils, to a surprise party, they were events full of appreciation and emotion.

The special afternoon featured performances from pupils and staff and culminated in a surprise Salsa routine which Mrs Hutchinson had to join in with. The surprise party had speeches from past and present colleagues and a special song performed by members of the Marcham community – it was a truly beautiful evening. A special timeline has also been created by the pupils and installed on a wall in the school (photo) as a lasting reminder of the incredible work Mrs Hutchinson has done for Marcham Primary School.

As we look to the future, **Lindsay Priddle** will be stepping into the role of Headteacher with excitement and enthusiasm to continue to make Marcham Primary School the best it can be.



Thank you, Mrs Hutchinson for everything. You will be missed more than words can say, but your light will continue to shine at Marcham for many years to come.

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



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Does Your Local (to Marcham) Organisation, Society,
Group or Club Need Help with Funding?

**IF THE ANSWER IS "YES" TO THIS QUESTION THEN THE
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Vicky's After School Club

Breakfast and After School Club
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Vicky Hickman Tel No: 07887711454
Email: info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk
website: www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk

**Playworker Vacancies available
please get in touch for more information**





Marcham Centre

Following a very hot summer, which encouraged many of you to use the facilities provided by the hall, playing field and Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), focus at the Centre now turns to the autumn and winter months ahead.

Our regular weekday hirers providing Pilates, Zumba, Karate for youngsters, Slimming World, Harmony Inspires ladies' choir, Friday Club for children, Guides, Cubs and Bridge are back in full swing, though most of these have continued throughout the summer, despite the very hot conditions. Not forgetting, of course, Thirsty Café on a Wednesday and Saturday morning. Add to these some new yoga classes and you'll see every weekday has something to offer at the Centre.

Further information on any of these can be channelled via the Centre's Co-ordinator, Natasha Kingsbury at coordinator@marchamcentre.org

EVENTS

In addition to the regular weekday classes, your Events team, led by Hayley Cousins, are organising the usual winter months events.

Race Night – Friday 19 September

Following the huge success of the first race night held in March, the Events team are running another evening of fun and banter on Friday 19 September. Starting at 7.30pm with a first race at 8pm, this evening creates a great opportunity for a friends 'get together'. Tables of six people will be £20 per table, which includes a bottle of Prosecco. This is an adults and cash only event. Following the success in March, many of those attending then have already reserved a table for this event. Therefore to avoid disappointment, due to a maximum number of tables available, contact should be made with Hayley or Trevor, via the Marcham Facebook page, enquiries@marchamcentre.org or Trevor on **07748696733**.

Quiz Nights – Fridays 26 September, 24 October, 21 November, 12 December, 16 January, 13 February, 13 March, 17 April

Monthly quiz nights are back, commencing FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER. An adult only event, teams of up to six persons are invited to participate, commencing at 7.30pm for a prompt start at 8pm. (Time to get a drink or two in before the start). No need to book your team in beforehand, just turn up on the night.

Questions are structured to include everyone's knowledge and interests, so not too demanding on 'the grey matter'! Normal quiz rules apply with plenty of banter included, whilst recognising the quiz master is always right!

We look forward to seeing our usual teams of contestants, along with hopefully some new faces. Individuals can be easily added to teams, so you don't have to organise a team yourself (though that would be great), just turn up.

Family Bingo Nights – Dates to be confirmed

The popular Family Bingo nights will return on Fridays during the autumn, dates to be confirmed. Your cards can be purchased from 7pm, with a prompt 'eyes down' at 7.30pm. All age groups catered for, with plenty of fun and prizes.

Indoor Short Mat Bowls – Commencing Wednesday 10 September at 2pm. With the summer outdoor season having ended, Colin Trinder will again be organising his indoor short mat version of the sport.

These are held in the main hall of the Centre every Wednesday, commencing at 2pm. Contact Colin (c_trinder@btinternet.com) to give this popular past-time a 'go' or just turn up on any Wednesday. Whether you are an existing bowler or entirely new to the sport, this is a good opportunity to meet new friends in a very relaxed environment.

Colin looks forward to seeing you.

SKY SPORTS IN THE BAR

The bar will be showing football matches throughout the winter months, covering Premier matches as well as some Oxford United games (depending on Sky coverage).

Coverage of Premier games will usually involve matches kicking off at 5.30pm on Saturdays and 2pm and 4.30pm on Sundays, though these times will vary depending on Sky. Other coverage will take place outside of these times if desired.

All matches to be shown will be advertised in the bar and weekly on the Marcham Village Facebook Page. Everyone welcome, irrespective of your team allegiance! We look forward to seeing you in the bar.

BAR OPENING TIMES

Thank you to all those that have continued to support the bar or have just started to appreciate what an excellent facility it provides. Managed and staffed entirely by our team of volunteers, it offers drinks and snacks at very reasonable prices. The bar is open for anyone to enjoy and is very 'family friendly'. So, if you have not yet paid us a visit, why not venture along sometime for a chat and a drink. You will experience a warm welcome and almost certainly meet some 'new faces'.

Opening Times

Wednesdays	7pm until 11pm
Fridays	5pm until 11pm
Saturdays	3pm until 10.30pm
Sundays	Midday until 6pm

The bar staff look forward to seeing you.

TRUSTEES

A reminder, the following are Marcham Community Group Trustees, who would welcome any feedback you may wish to give at any time. The Trustees manage the Marcham Centre on your behalf, so it's only right and proper that you have the opportunity to make your views known. Any suggestions particularly welcomed.

Dan Barnes; Geoff Dix; Adam Grady; Mark Harvie; Trevor Hill; Mike Hoath; Ruth Mander; Jenny Pam and Colin Trinder.

All can be contacted personally or via coordinator@marchamcentre.org

We are an approachable bunch!

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY
enquiries@marchamcentre.org www.marchamcentre.org
Operated by Marcham Community Group (MCG)
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Thirsty Community Café

The café will reopen on 6th September

If you would like to chat about volunteering, please email hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk and one of us will get back to you.

Website: www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

E-mail: hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

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

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Palliative care bereavement support service

We are looking to recruit volunteers for our bereavement service to provide support to family and friends who have lost someone close to them.

Are you...

- warm, empathic and a good listener?
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Do you...

- have 16 hours a month to spare?
- have your own transport?
- want to make a difference?

We provide...

- foundation level training (apx. 60 hrs).
- ongoing training, supervision and support.
- travel and phone expenses.
- online mandatory training (apx. 8 hrs).

If you are interested in finding out more or applying, please contact us on:

W: sobellhouse.org/bereavement-volunteer
E: pallcarevolunteerservices@ouh.nhs.uk
T: 01865 225944/01865 225868



Registered Charity No. 1118446



We do not recommend this work for those who have experienced a significant bereavement in the last two years.

Training will take place from September to December 2025 and it is essential that all training is attended.

Have you got a business that could benefit by being advertised to over 1300 homes in the Marcham area every month?

Contact us for more details
adverts@madnews.co.uk

SPORT REPORT

BOWLS

The mention of bowls brings to mind Sir Francis Drake, acting very cool on Plymouth Hoe by insisting on finishing his game of bowls before seeing off the King of Spain's invading Armada (with a little help from the British summer weather).

Evidence from around 3200BC in Egypt shows children throwing round stone balls possibly at a target, but, more reliably, it was certainly a Roman pastime. Hence the idea of hitting a target with another object, as in bowls and variants thereof, has been around for centuries. Marbles, quoits, skittles, pétanque (French, aka boules), bocca (Italian), rolle bolle (Belgian), ula maika (Polynesia) and bowls all have this common theme. Differences arise from the surface on which the game is played, grass (real or artificial), carpet, earth, or crushed stone, with the balls (bowls) made from stone, steel or wood, which are either rolled or thrown towards a target (usually a smaller ball). Contemporaneously wood has been replaced by bowls made from phenol formaldehyde (a synthetic resin) as wooden bowls made from *lignum vitae* tend to split, but, confusingly, are still called 'woods'. The 'woods' are almost spherical, but asymmetrically flattened side to side, with one side slightly heavier (the bias). This allows the skilful player to roll their wood around an obstruction such as an opponent's wood.

In Britain the game of bowls is recorded from 1299 on a green, still in existence, in Southampton. Henry VIII banned 'common people' from playing bowls as it took time away from their required archery practice. There are variations of the game – lawn bowls, played outside on a flat pitch using bowls up to 4lb in weight, crown green bowls, played on a pitch raised slightly in its centre found particularly in northern England using lighter bowls up to 3lb in weight and indoor bowls. Indoor bowls can be further subdivided into table bowls, carpet bowls and short mat bowls.

Crown green bowls appears slightly anarchic as, compared with lawn bowls which is played in lanes on the green, crown green is played in any direction (up/down, side to side, diagonally) and with complicated rules regarding accidental collisions with woods from another games being played simultaneously. The green itself does not have the immaculate smooth, level surface associated with lawn bowls.

Table bowls is played on a snooker table with a short ramp down which the bowl is delivered. Carpet bowls and short mat bowls are both played on artificial green surface that can be unrolled in almost any village hall. The difference is that carpet bowls has a shorter mat, smaller bowls and no fenders at the end.

In Marcham you can join in with Short Mat Bowls in the Marcham Centre. Colin Trinder (c_trinder@btinternet.com) will welcome you to the group on a Wednesday afternoon from September onwards.



Two mats being played. The white bar on the right of the picture is a square wooden piece which must be circumnavigated by your wood. For further bowls information try: <https://www.tradgames.org.uk/games/Bowls.htm>

CRICKET & AUNT SALLY

Due to the concatenation of July and August MADNews, there is more to report this month. Since June 15th (date that MADNews went to press, and up until 15th August) Marcham cricketers have had mixed fortunes. The Marcham A team have won 2 and lost 6, Marcham B also have 2 wins and 6 losses (one forfeited). Our Aunt Sally teams have done a bit better, with Marcham A team winning 6 matches and losing 2; Marcham B have struggled winning 1 match, losing 6 and drawing 1. Marcham Crown A have won 3 and lost 5; Marcham Crown B have won 4, lost 3, drawn 1. The evening of 23rd July saw a local derby between Marcham and Marcham Crown, with Marcham A emerging winners and the match between the B teams drawn.

EVENTS



Men in Fine Voice
An afternoon to lift your spirits!

Are you looking for new ways to boost your health and wellbeing?

Research suggests that singing in a group improves mood, boosts heart and lung function, and we at Wantage Male Voice offer camaraderie in bucketloads!

Come to a short concert and see if you think you'd like to join us:

Date: Sunday, 21st September 2025
Time: 3.00 pm
Venue: Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, OX13 6TY
Admission: free although donations welcome!

Give us half an hour, and although we can't promise you'll leave with perfect pitch, we *can* promise that you'll leave happy!



FYFIELD AND TUBNEY PARISH
PRODUCE SHOW & SALE
TEAS ON THE GREEN

Fyfield Church Community Space and Fyfield Village Green | **Saturday 27th Sept 2025 2.30pm**

Schedule
10am-12pm Staging
12.30-2pm Judging
2.30pm Show Opens
Produce Sale (donations to Childline and Community Space Development)
3.30pm Awards and Raffle Draw

RAFFLE **POP UP FOOD STALLS** **BAR by the White Hart Team**

This is the very first Fyfield and Tubney Show! Please come and bring your lovely produce, win an award, buy, sell and donate and have a cuppa or something stronger!

TO ENTER: See online at fyfieldandtubneypc.org or collect entry forms from Fyfield notice board box.

The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE

Wednesday 17th September, 10.30am and 2.00pm
Abbey Cinema, Abbey Close, Abingdon OX14 3JD

 **Mulberry Trees, Macchiato, Mosques And Mother Teresa: an illustrated tour of Kosovo's capital Prishtina**
Elizabeth Gowing

I have had a home in Prishtina for 17 years and am happy to share the things I love about this little-known city. Visit the library which qualified for inclusion in a list of the world's ugliest buildings (I love it), the youngest population in Europe (and the creative café life and excellent coffee you would expect to go with it) in a majority Muslim city whose main boulevard commemorates Mother Teresa as one of the country's most famous daughters. Hear the impressions of travellers here in wartime and peacetime: can you work out who is being commemorated in Medlin Olbrajt square - and why?.

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



Image: Photo of Prishtina 'mosque and wire' by Elizabeth Gowing

EXHIBITION



Saturday 18th October 1330-1800
Sunday 19th October 1000-1700

The Marcham Society celebrating 30 years

Come along to Marcham Centre and learn about...

where Marcham came from
archaeology, geology and rivers

local history
from the Domesday Book to present day

people, places, events
where you live, village life and more

natural history
wildlife, nature reserves and our own Astronomy group

the future
planned growth and the proposed reservoir

Take part in...

guided walks around the village*

astronomy viewing through telescopes*

worksheets/quizzes for all the family

*weather permitting

...with refreshments



Laurent the Ladybird Explains Why Summer 2025 is the Best Bugging Season Ever

I was asked the other day why there seems to be so many Ladybirds this summer? I interviewed Laurent the Ladybird who's a resident in my garden. Here's the transcript:

"Greetings, humans! I'm Laurent, a seven-spotted ladybird with a taste for aphids and a flair for dramatic storytelling. And let me tell you, the summer of 2025? C'est magnifique! Never in my six-week lifespan have I seen such a glorious time to be a beetle.

Let's start with the weather. This summer has been hotter than a compost heap in July. While you lot are melting into your patio furniture, we ladybirds are thriving. The warmth means more aphids, and more aphids mean more snacks. It's like an all-you-can-eat buffet, but with less sneezing and more mandibles.

And the humans? Oh, you've been delightfully distracted. Between your endless festivals, beach trips, and arguing over whether AI should be allowed to write poetry (spoiler: we're better at haikus than you think), you've left your gardens gloriously unattended. No pesticides. No weird organic sprays that smell like regret and vinegar. Just pure, unadulterated aphid paradise.

Also, let's talk fashion. Ladybirds are in. I saw a toddler last week wearing ladybird-themed Crocs. CROCS. We've hit peak cultural relevance. I even overheard a hipster in Shoreditch say, "Ladybirds are the new bees." I nearly fainted. Bees are lovely, don't get me wrong, but they're always so busy. We're more laid-back. We brunch.

And don't get me started on the dating scene. With the population boom, it's been like speed dating with wings. I met a lovely ladybird named Claudette on a sunflower last Tuesday. We bonded over our mutual hatred of lacewings and our shared dream of one day migrating to a greenhouse in Provence.

So yes, dear reader, while you've been sweating through your linen shirts and wondering why your tomatoes taste like disappointment, we've been living our best lives. The sun is shining, the aphids are plump, and the humans are too busy doomscrolling to notice we've taken over their herbaceous borders.

Long live summer 2025. Long live the ladybird.

Yours in polka-dotted glory, Laurent Bug. Bon vivant. Aphid annihilator".

Happy Gardening!

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



Don't forget about The Little Library

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



ALL SAINTS' & ST LUKE'S CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

We are going to have our **Harvest celebrations** at All Saints' Church, Marcham a little earlier this year, Sunday 7th September to be precise. The reason is, the harvest itself seems to get earlier every year. 2024 was a wet year, and it took well into September for arable crops to be brought in then; but most years now, the combines tend to start rolling well before the end of July, sometimes almost finishing by the first week of August. The size and speed of machinery is a factor, but of course, climate change is the obvious and more concerning reason as to why. Historically, parish churches have celebrated harvest on the first Sunday in October, or thereabouts, because that was how long it took to gather everything in. That now seems very late, and this year is no exception. As of the start of August many fields have been combined and baled, and apple trees and blackberry bushes are in fruit. Seasonal fluctuations in weather have always been a challenge for food producers and those whose livelihoods depend on the land, but climate change is hugely increasing those challenges. So this harvest time, as we thank God for his generous provision once again, we must also give thought to and pray for our farmers, and all those working in the challenging food industry. Raise the song of harvest home

Contacts:

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

Rob Finch Youth Worker youth@allsaintsmarcham.org

Jill Rowe Children & Families minister families@allsaintsmarcham.org

Tamsin Gilbert Parish Administrator info@allsaintsmarcham.org

Website: www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Regular Sunday services at AS

10.30am: Morning Service • 6pm: Evening Service

Wednesday Holy Communion 10.30am at Duffield Place

ST LUKE'S, GARFORD

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

Sunday 7 September, 11am Harvest led by Revd Ruth Pike

Sunday 5 October, 11am Morning Service

Sunday 2 November, 6pm Evening Service led by Revd Preb. Jane Haslam

Sunday 9 November, 12 noon Remembrance Service, Garford War Memorial

News from St. Luke's

Following the successful fundraising in Garford over a number of events, the new electric piano has been installed this summer and was immediately put into action for the July service with rousing congregational hymns and reflective music from the choir. We are grateful to the Treasurer at All Saints' Church for his support through the process and thanks also to Sally Viney, Pam Carter-Moore and Carolyn Whiting for donating a speaker to the church.

Our next service will be the celebration of harvest, an important milestone in the church year of a rural hamlet, and we look forward to welcoming everyone on 7th September.

Contact: st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT SUSTAINABILITY SUCCESS

It was great to see the Vale recognised for its efforts on sustainability earlier in the summer, not once but twice. Statistics recently published by Defra for 2023-2024 showed that the Vale had the second-highest rate across the south of England of household waste sent for reuse, recycling, or composting; we were narrowly beaten only by our neighbours in South Oxfordshire. Soon after, Climate Emergency UK published its annual scorecard of all councils, with the Vale now in 9th place for district & city councils (out of over 160 nationwide). Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen!



RESERVOIR COSTS

In mid-July, my colleague Andy Cooke (District Councillor for Drayton) wrote a series of three excellent articles for the Oxford Clarion about SESRO, the proposed mega-reservoir to the south of Marcham. These examined (1) the purported need for SESRO, (2) the risks associated with it, and (3) the likely cost of construction. I won't attempt to summarise them all, as they were deliberately written as 'long reads' exploring each topic in detail, but I strongly encourage residents to look them up if you haven't already. In the third article, though, Cllr Cooke predicted that the cost of constructing SESRO would rise well above the values predicted at the time; he points to the work of Professor Bent Flyvbjerg, an expert in 'mega-projects' around the world, who has demonstrated that construction of huge infrastructure like SESRO practically always overruns in time and cost.

It took less than a month for Cllr Cooke's prediction - that the cost of SESRO would increase dramatically - to be fulfilled. Thames Water announced in mid-August that the expected construction cost had tripled, from £2.2 billion to £6.5 bn. This is unlikely to be the end of the story: mega-project costs typically continue to rise during construction. All this comes at the opportunity cost of not building other infrastructure, such as the Severn-Thames Transfer pipeline, which would be far cheaper, quicker, more effective, and less risky than SESRO. It will ultimately fall on residents to pay for SESRO through higher bills. The Vale continues to oppose Thame Water's misguided proposal.

CLLR DR ROBERT CLEGG

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07784 225290

Email: robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Poor communication is one of the key reasons people switch off from politics, especially at the local level. That's why I've always made it a priority to keep residents informed about developments in our area as they happen. Over the summer, we saw some good - if occasionally slow - progress on several local issues:

Following the completion of works near the A34 interchange, the newly improved section of footpath remained closed for an extended period due to a failed safety inspection. This caused significant inconvenience for residents trying to travel into Abingdon. After a back-and-forth between myself, County Council officers, and the developer, I'm pleased to report that the path has now reopened, albeit with temporary safety measures in place until full remedial works are completed. We don't yet have a confirmed timeframe for these works, but I'll keep residents updated.

In Marcham, several residents raised concerns about unsafe parking near the junction of North Street, Mill Road, and the A415. In response, I've arranged for white junction protection markings to



be installed on both sides of the junction. These markings, which extend 10 metres from the junction, are designed to improve visibility and discourage parking in unsafe spots. We'll need to monitor how effective they are, but I hope they help alleviate the issue. If not, I'll continue to push for further improvements.

By the time you read this, the A420 between Kingston Bagpuize and Besselsleigh will have been resurfaced, but as we head into autumn, my focus will shift to the A415 and ongoing concerns around road safety, traffic, and conditions in both Frilford and Marcham. I plan to request an update on the A415 safety review - part of the County Council's 'Vision Zero' initiative - at the September full council meeting and will share any developments with residents. I'm also awaiting further details on the Frilford Lights Scheme and will be pressing the relevant Cabinet member for an update.

Thank you to residents who continue to raise issues with me and as always, if you'd like to stay informed between my monthly updates in MADNews, please follow me on Facebook, where I post regularly:

www.facebook.com/JamesRPlumb

JAMES PLUMB

County Councillor for Marcham and Cummor

Email: james.plumb@oxfordshire.gov.uk

MP'S REPORT

RESERVOIR JUDICIAL REVIEW

This dismissal of the request for a judicial review of the SESRO project is disappointing given the serious and as yet unaddressed concerns about this scheme. We understand CPRE and SAFERWaterS intend to appeal this decision. Whatever the outcome of this appeal, the Secretary of State still has the power to hold a Public Inquiry should he wish, and Oxfordshire Lib Dems continue to call for full public scrutiny of this plan for the second largest reservoir in the UK.

CONGESTION CHARGE

We welcome action to reduce the traffic in Oxford, reducing journey times and improving the efficiency of public buses. However, we also want to make sure that Marcham residents can still access vital services and amenities. We are pushing for rural bus routes to be subsidised with revenues from the congestion charge scheme. Parents also frequently tell us of struggles with school buses. Routes currently don't always operate at convenient times, and the cost of school buses for post-GCSE students is high. We would like to see congestion charge revenue used to invest in school buses to help families across the constituency cope with the ongoing cost of living crisis.

NDA CAMPAIGN WIN

Layla has been the lead voice in parliament pushing for non-disclosure agreements (NDAs), to be banned in cases of sexual abuse, harassment and bullying, ever since Oxford students first raised the issue in 2021.

She has promoted the voices of victims in parliament and the press, engaged with ministers of the previous government, and this one, to take action and develop workable legislation. Layla has brought together a cross-party campaign to ensure the government could not ignore this. The practice will now finally be banned.

A34 SAFETY

We have joined other MPs in raising concerns around road safety on the A34, writing to the Roads Minister on the issue. Short slip roads, no hard shoulder, and poor quality of road surface means that the A34 is a particularly dangerous road. Undertaking National Highways' proposed A34 North and South of Oxford study will be fundamental to the lasting improvement of this key transport route. We are strongly pushing for this study to be completed, and to ensure that the A34 is included in the upcoming Road Safety Strategy.

As ever, if you have any issues we can help with, please email us at: layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

For regular updates you can follow me

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

Facebook: LaylaMoranUK



**Volunteers
needed!**

**Next prep course
starts Tuesday
23 September**

**HOME
START**
Southern
Oxfordshire

Looking for a new challenge this September?

Would you like to support families in your community?

Become a Home-Start Home-Visiting Volunteer this autumn and support a family through difficult times.

- Receive free, high-quality training
- Learn new skills & enhance your wellbeing
- Change the lives of the families you support
- Make friends & connect with your community

We have strong demand from families in Abingdon and the surrounding villages and need local volunteers to help them!

If you can spare a couple of hours each week to support a parent and their children, please contact us on:

admin@homestartso.org or 01235 511152

www.homestart-southernoxfordshire.org.uk/volunteer

CITIZENS ADVICE OXFORDSHIRE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

**citizens
advice**

Are you looking for a new challenge, and want to contribute something to your community? Citizens Advice Oxfordshire is looking for volunteer advisers to work in our friendly offices in Abingdon, Didcot, Henley or Thame.

Citizens Advice gives people the knowledge and confidence they need to find their way forward – whoever they are and whatever their problem. In a typical year our 300 staff and volunteers support 20,000 people in Oxfordshire.

We are currently looking for Advisers. After comprehensive training you will be giving advice to clients in person or via the telephone or webchat. We advise on a broad range of topics including debt management, benefits, employment, housing, and relationship issues. You will need good IT skills and a desire to help people in your community.

We would like you to be available for two sessions per week, either mornings or afternoons or for a whole day. We offer a rewarding, flexible and supportive working environment. You'll also learn new skills and meet new people in the course of your volunteering.

If you would like to discuss these volunteering roles, please email: volunteer-recruitment@caox.org.uk and one of our team will contact you.



CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime
Tell them what you know, not who you are

SHARE YOUR VIEWS ON LOCAL POLICING AND CRIME

Matthew Barber (Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley) is asking residents to complete his ongoing local crime survey.

This anonymous survey is your opportunity to share your experiences and have a say in how policing services are shaped in the Thames Valley. The information you provide will help inform the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) on any gaps or improvements that could be made in the future.

To find out more and complete a copy of the survey, please visit our website:

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/survey/>



**Kennington
Memory
Club**

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



Scan Me

Kennington Memory Club Blog for September

Now September is here summer is racing to a close. What are your memories of this year's summer season? The hot weather, the hosepipe ban, your holiday? How many would think of the 80th anniversary of VJ Day?

In May there was a fanfare and celebrations about it being 80 years since VE Day. VJ Day has a much lower profile. Those who fought in WWII in the Far East had a terrible time and often felt that they were 'the forgotten army'. No-one likes to be forgotten, it feels as though you are not regarded with much respect.

Unfortunately, those with dementia who are no longer able to keep up all their social interactions with friends, may also feel forgotten. But Kennington Memory Club Day Centre gives them the chance to meet new friends, have their memories jogged with quizzes and reminiscences and to enjoy fun games and activities. Equally importantly, it allows a few hours respite for their carer. For more information, please visit the website, www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk or contact the Club Organiser, Kay, by email organiser@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk or telephone 07852 883496 (if no reply, please leave a message). It might just be the catalyst to make those with dementia and their carers feel less like the 'forgotten army'...

Isobel Birse *Chairman, Kennington Memory Club*

www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk

Answers to this month's Crown Quiz from page 7

1. Alberta is in Canada
2. Katherine Parr
3. There are 650 MPs in the UK's House of Commons
4. Cuba
5. Monaco
6. 15 players on the field for each team at any given time
7. William Pitt the Younger, who was just 24 when he first became PM in 1783
8. Rice
9. Six (6)
10. Benfica, who won the European Cup in 1961 and 1962
11. Birmingham, West Midlands
12. Smetana: smetana (in Polish), smetana (in Czech, Slovak, and Russian), or smântână (in Romanian)

SEPTEMBER 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
	DP Community Games Group (7) 10.30-12.00		DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17)	Milletts Farm Classic car meet 9.30am-noon		MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (15)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17) SL Harvest 11am (17)	DP Community Games Group (7) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm (3)		MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (15) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short Mat Bowls 2pm (13)	Marcham Society Midweek Walk 12.30pm (7)		Heritage Open Days, Abingdon (10) MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (15)
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
 Heritage Open Days, Abingdon (10) AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	DP Community Games Group (7) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham WI 7.30pm (9)		MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (15) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short Mat Bowls 2pm (13) MC Astronomy Group 7pm (7) Arts Society Abingdon 10.30am & 2pm (16)		MC Race night 7.30 pm (13)	MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (15)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) MC Men in Fine Voice concert 3pm (16) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	DP Community Games Group (7) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Society 7.15pm (7)	Home Start Course begins (19)	MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (15) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short Mat Bowls 2pm (13)		MC Quiz Night 7.30pm (13)	MC Thirsty Cafe 9-11.30am (15) Produce Show and Sale, Fyfield 2.30pm (16)
28	29	30				
AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	DP Community Games Group (7) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm					

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