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November 2025 Vol 47 No. 11

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Hi Everyone

November is the month to wear your poppy with pride for Remembrance Day, and support all our veterans. Enjoy Guy Fawkes bonfires and tidy up gardens.

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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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

Layla Moran layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 9TH
NOVEMBER. ROAD CLOSURE : A415
FRILFORD ROAD & CHURCH STREET,
NEW ROAD.**

The Parish Council has applied to the Vale of White Horse District Council for a Road Closure Order on Sunday 9th November, to close New Road, Church St, and the section of the A415 between North St and Church St between 10.45a.m. and 12.15p.m. This is to permit wreaths to be laid after the service in Church. There will be minimal disruption to bus services, and the road will not necessarily be closed for the full duration of the Order. The diversion route will be Sheepstead Road, Faringdon Road and the A338 for the short period of the closure.

**OXFORD CONGESTION CHARGES
– WITH EFFECT FROM WED. 29TH
OCTOBER, 2025**

The Charging Zones in Oxford city commence on Wednesday 29th October, 2025. Various types of Congestion Charge permits are available for travel through these zones. These are available for residents, hospital visits, blue badge holders, carers etc. Others may be exempt. Marcham residents are entitled to apply for a free permit which permits travel through the zones on 25 days each year. Further information, and the application form, is available on the County Council's website <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/oxfords-temporary-congestion-charge-cars>

**HOWARD CORNISH ROAD -
SALVATION ARMY TEXTILE BANK
Please stop fly tipping**

The village is becoming more and more unsightly as people just dump bags on the ground next to the textile bank, and seem not to care, as their waste becomes someone else's problem. Dumping by the textile bank, expecting the Salvation Army to clear the rubbish, stops other textile banks from being emptied. The Salvation Army does clear away everything when they visit, and helps to tidy the area, but the van soon becomes full. Please leave textiles only, (but not duvets and pillows) putting them in small bags in the chute, or loose in the chute in the textile bank.

If the fly tipping continues, the Parish Council may consider requesting the Salvation Army to remove the bank. The legitimate textiles do raise vital funds for the charity, so please use the Marcham bank responsibly. Other clothes recycling banks are 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

**PARISH COUNCIL : NOMINATED
TRUSTEE NEEDED : MARCHAM
CENTRE**

Under the Articles and Memorandum of Association for Marcham Community Group which manages the Marcham Centre and leisure facilities, there are rights for the Parish Council to nominate one of the Trustees. This does not necessarily have

to be a parish councillor. The Trustees work together to lead and run the facilities, and to support the charity. If you are interested in becoming the Council's nominee, then please contact the parish clerk in the first instance, who details are below, as the Council will shortly be putting its nomination forward.

MARCHAM CEMETERY

There is a small group planning a future new burial area for the parishes of Marcham and Frilford. If you are interested in joining the group, considering the options, and helping plan what happens as far as local burials are concerned, then please contact the clerk to the Council whose details are below.

GARDEN WASTE

For those who have purchased a permit for a brown wheelee bin for garden waste, you can put out a maximum of four additional sacks of garden waste next to your bin for the collection on Wednesday, 5th November. Please use only refuse style sacks no larger than 60 litres. (One tonne builders type waste bags will not be collected). Any bag or container must be left open so the crew can easily empty them and be able to check the contents.

All the garden waste collected will be taken to a facility near Wallingford where it is composted. The compost is then sold on to local farmers for use on their farmland as a soil conditioner.

FIREWORKS

Again, the annual reminder for those of you who may have purchased fireworks and intend letting them off in your garden, please be considerate for neighbours, the many pets, animals, and wildlife in the village. please notify others when any fireworks are going to be lit so that villagers are aware and arrangements can be made to keep pets indoors.

Date of Next Council Meeting

Monday 10th November 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall, Barrow Close.

Please check the Council's website in case arrangements change.

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road

Tel: 01865 391833

clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Marcham Society would like to send a big thank you to everyone in the village who came to the Marcham Uncovered Exhibition to celebrate its 30th year. There were over 500 visitors who enjoyed a walk through the fascinating history of the village in well prepared information panels, pictures and ancient objects, as well as the modern world of telescopes and VR.

And a *thank you* too, to all the experts as well as the organisers who made it such a success.

What a great village... past, present and future!



Marcham and Districts Poppy Appeal 2025

Donation boxes will be located at:

- Marcham Village Shop & Post Office
- The Marcham Centre
- All Saints Church
- The Crown
- Appleton Shop & Post Office
- Budgens (Frilford)



Collection points will be available in Garford village, Local Pubs in Appleton & Eaton as well as Millets and Webbs Garden Centre.

Pin Badges can be reserved/ordered by messaging me on 07342812801 and collected from Longfields in Marcham.

Your support and generosity last year helped us raise just under £5,000 this is a tremendous amount and we thank you in advance for your donations for this years Poppy Appeal. All your donations are invaluable in enabling the Royal British Legion to provide life-long support to serving and ex-serving members of the British Armed Forces and their families.

Thank you

JAMIE BUTCHER

**This years Poppy Appeal will run from 23rd October
With Remembrance Sunday being 9th November**



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THE MIDWEEK WALK

Thursday 6th November 12.30pm

Please contact walks@marchamsociety.org.uk

THE ASTRONOMY GROUP

Wednesday 19th November at 7.30pm

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

A round-up of astronomy sightings followed by

**Argonaut: Europe's lunar lander programme
by Dr Ludovic Duvet**

Please contact: astronomy@marchamsociety.org.uk

THE MONTHLY TALK

Monday 24th November at 7.15 for 7.45pm

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

God's Acre

Writing Village History from the Graveyard

The talk rests on a little published collection of tales about Sunningwell people. It's a light-touch but an easy way of telling stories about our communities, as Bob will explain on the night. He is a resident of Sunningwell and a retired professional historian with an interest in local history.



Members free of charge, Guests welcome at £5

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



For a small selection of photos from our exhibition,
see page 5.

Can You Help?

We are looking for people to deliver MADNews for several areas in Marcham:

- Tower Close and Orchard Way
- Church Street, All Saints' Close and Abingdon Road (part only)
- the new development of Bloor Homes at Marcham Meadows

Please message Paula on 07709849788

Thank you

MARCHAM WI

Monday 17th November

7.30pm at Marcham Centre

The Battle of the Somme with a Unique Twist

Speaker: Tony Ferguson

Now this sounds intriguing... a well known story with a unique twist. Why not come along to discover what this is all about.
Tantalizing, isn't it?

We hope you'll come along to listen to his talk and find out what that unique twist might be.

Visitors always welcome

marchamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk



**Another brain teaser (mostly) from
The Crown, Marcham where there
is a weekly quiz every Tuesday.
Answers on page 19!**

1. Who is the king of the gods in Greek mythology?
2. What is the rarest blood type among humans using ABO/rh blood types?
3. Benjamin Franklin was a key figure in the drafting of the United States Constitution. Which state did he represent during the Constitutional Convention in 1787?
4. What is the capital city of Mongolia?
5. What is the scientific term for the "little brain" at the base of the brain that coordinates movement and balance?
6. In what year did the Berlin Wall fall?
7. Which mountain range above water is the longest in the world?
8. In the context of email, what does "CC" stand for?
9. Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize (in 1903)?
10. In how many films did Sean Connery play James Bond?
11. As of today, what is the longest-running Broadway show?
12. Which racer holds the record for the most Grand Prix wins?



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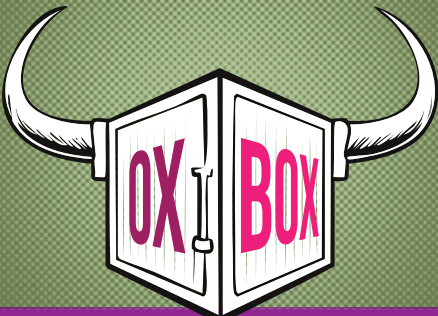
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Monday – Friday: 0830-1700
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Sundays & Bank Holidays: Closed



The clocks have now gone back and winter is fast approaching. Where has the time gone? Christmas is being planned, presents are being sought and the brussel sprouts have been prepped ready for that special dinner.

This year, **Remembrance Sunday** is 9th November. The poppy tin and display are in the shop – your donations go to a good cause and will be most welcome.

In addition to normal meat orders, you will be able to order your Christmas meat from Hedges towards the end of November. Christmas prices and order forms will be available from the shop and Christmas orders will be available for collection between 0830-1700 hrs on Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd and 08 30-1200 hrs on Wednesday 24th December. If there is anything specific that you would like, not listed, please ask and we will do our best to help.

This year we've done more searching and have some fabulous ideas for Christmas and other occasions. Lots of different chocolate boxes including Dubai chocolate, boxed Turkish Delight, Cath Kidston gift sets, hand soaps, Prosecco gifts, jarred peaches and more. We only buy a small number of these items, so watch this space as different gift ideas will come and go. Panettone's, Christmas cakes, cards and wrapping paper will be available in the shop shortly.

As in the past, from the beginning of December the Naughty Elf will be paying us a visit. We will run our usual quiz for the younger visitors to our shop. Each week the Naughty Elf will move around the shop and we will be asking where you can find him.



Quiz forms will be available at the counter and the Elf will find a new location on each Monday, starting from 1st December, with the last location being on Monday 22nd. There will be prizes for all children who have correctly completed the quiz form and returned it to the shop by 5th January 2026.

Your Post Office is there to serve you and aims to cover most of your daily needs ie posting of letters, parcels, stamps, postal collections, deposits, returns, cheques and cash deposits into your bank accounts, free cash withdrawals, pay some of your bills (council tax, electricity etc), phone top-ups, foreign exchange, postal orders, All4One cards (great gift idea) and much more. **Christmas stamps will be on sale from Tuesday 4th November.**

Christmas opening hours will be included in the December issue of MADNews.

We look forward to seeing you soon....

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



The last posting dates for Christmas are listed below (for DPD, please check in the Post Office):

UK Inland services*

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Friday, 19 December	Royal Mail Tracked 48®
Friday, 19 December	express48
Saturday, 20 December	1st Class and 1st Class Signed For
Sunday, 21 December	Royal Mail Tracked 24®
Monday, 22 December	express10, expressPM and express 24
Tuesday, 23 December	Special Delivery Guaranteed®

If you are posting abroad, you can complete your customs forms (typically CN22) online, in the comfort of your own home – postoffice.co.uk/ICDC. We will then print the customs form for you at the Post Office - this makes the process at the Post Office much quicker.

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE. If you are sending parcels overseas with Royal Mail or ParcelForce in time for Christmas, please check online or in the Post Office for last posting dates. For certain destinations, Royal Mail International Standard starts from November.

GIRLGUIDING IN MARCHAM !

This autumn term is full of activities, much enjoyed by Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, continuing the spirit of GirlGuiding which started in the village in 1925.

We would love to find some volunteers who will come along to give us a hand at our meetings – can you help ?

If you would like to know more, do get in touch and come to chat about it – we would love to meet you!

Contact Jill on 07811 165351

or Mary - email abbeydistrict@yahoo.com

or Girlguiding information on www.girlguiding.org.uk



For over 40 years The Cubs have played an integral part in the village, set up by Chris Ricketts, with help from Jill Davie and Angela Stewart. We

have seen many many boys and recently girls come through the pack.

I joined as an Assistant Leader 30 years ago, and I know there have been many before me. We made Cubs a great place to learn new skills and build friendships in a safe environment. Sadly times are changing and with busy lives priorities change. The Cub pack has seen a dramatic decline so much so that I have had to make an extremely difficult decision to close the pack. There are so many thank you's but I am not going to write names in fear of forgetting someone.

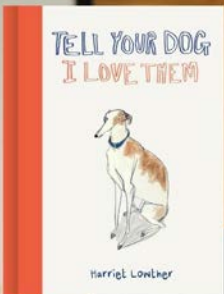
A massive Thank you to all those who have helped run the pack, the parents that have volunteered and all the Cubs past and present, without you the pack would not have been as successful as it was.

Our final evening will be Tuesday 16th Dec from 6.30-8.00pm in the large hall at The Marcham Community Centre for any past and present Cub wishing to come along.

Please can you email me at: wrightc40@icloud.com if you would like to come along.

Thank you Akela (Claire Wright)

EVENTS



mostly BOOKS

Harriet Lowther
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<https://mostly-books.co.uk/events/>

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programme of acts on Thursdays:

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Knight & Spiers - 20th November

IOTA – 4th December

www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk



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MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

What a busy and exciting term it's been here at Marcham CE Primary School. From building robots to celebrating harvest, we've been taking exciting opportunities to develop our learning and enrich our experiences.



MUSIC FLOOD

Term started with us being involved in Music Flood Week, a joint venture with some Abingdon Schools and Radley College. From singing to musical instruments, artwork inspired by music and a rap written by Meerkats (Year 4), it was a week to celebrate music. The children took part in workshops and saw a selection of musical instruments being played by pupils of Radley College. Reception and Key Stage 1 all participated in a singing workshop, learning new songs and developing their musical knowledge (pitch and dynamics). Key Stage 2 took part in a workshop from the ensemble group Doikayt, playing the accordion, clarinet, and violin with Yiddish inspired songs.

LEGO ROBOTICS

With thanks to Amazon, who finance outreach activities developing STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. Our Wolves (Y5&6) class started the day by competing in a worldwide Coding competition, programming characters on an iPad to score goals around obstacles. Our Meerkats (Year 4) and Giraffes (Y5&6) classrooms then turned into robotics labs. Working in pairs, we built and programmed Lego robots to complete a range of challenges — including trying to visit six parts of a map using only one set of code! It was amazing to see how quickly everyone picked up coding and problem-solving.

RUGBY DAY

Everyone from Reception to Year 6 got stuck in (sometimes literally!) during a rugby taster session. We practised passing, dodging and scoring tries with the help of Grove Rugby Club coaches. We all had fun, learned some new skills and the importance of teamwork



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Festival took place outside on the school field which included a wonderful celebration of everything we are thankful for. Each class prepared a song or poem about autumn and harvest time. In keeping with our value of Friendship and Community, families donated a large amount of food which we took to Abingdon food bank, Giraffes (Year 5&6) shared some key information about how much food is needed in our local area. A big thank you to all the families who contributed — your kindness will help many local people in need of a helping hand.

The start of term has been full of learning, laughter, and community spirit. We're proud of all our pupils for their creativity, kindness and enthusiasm and are looking forward to continuing this throughout the year.

LINDSAY PRIDDLE

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

Wow, what a wonderfully spooky, sparkly October we've had at Marcham Little Angels! With autumn in full swing, our little angels have been out on crisp village walks, pockets full of seasonal treasures: conkers, pine cones, and orange red leaves that crunch under their tiny boots. Back in nursery, those finds inspired "nature's autumn soup," as our young wizards and spooky witches stirred up imaginative brews, mixing language, maths, and heaps of curiosity into every pretend potion.



Harvest time gave us so much to explore. Pumpkins took centre stage as we investigated their bumpy skins, scooped and squelched through stringy insides, sorted seeds, and even tried our hands at careful carving. There was joyful smashing for sensory play too, because sometimes learning is gloriously messy and marvellously memorable!

Our Forest School sessions brimmed with discovery. Apple bobbing sparked giggles and great thinking: do apples sink or float? Why? The conversations were as rich as the autumn colours, with our little angels testing ideas, making predictions, and celebrating the thrill of finding out together.

We rounded off the month with our much loved Pumpkin Party, costumes galore, faces painted, and a whole day of spooky fun that brought our community even closer.

Now we're looking ahead to November's cosy glow, our annual Soup & Sparklers Evening. We can't wait to gather with families to watch the night shimmer with safe, gentle sparkles and warm our hands and hearts around a comforting cup of soup. Here's to more wonder, more togetherness, and more magical moments with our little angels.

The Marcham Little Angels Team

For more information:

T: 01865 819992

E: info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

W: www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

Facebook @MarchamLittleAngels

Instagram @Little_Angels_Childcare_Group

**Fri 14th Nov PTFA Family Film night
at the Marcham Centre starting at 6:30**

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

We've been exploring lots of water-based activities this month....

With our fantastic waterproofs and wellies (thanks to Anson Trust), the children are encouraged to dress themselves, and measure their shoes against the welly template to check which colour (size) they need to wear!

We have great fun with floating and sinking, pouring, water channels and sweeping bubbles... which is great for building up shoulder and core muscles — great for developing the muscles and posture needed for handwriting.

If you have a child who will be 3 (or under) on or before 31 August 2026, please contact us for an application form.... Spaces are filling fast.

Applications for September 2026 are now open and we recommend that you apply as soon as possible. Places are limited and will be confirmed in early 2026. Apply 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



Thirsty Community Café

Throughout November, we'll still be offering our early bird offer on Wednesday mornings from 8:45 to 9:45. We would love to offer parents (and perhaps your little ones) a discounted hot drink and sweet treat to start off your day the right way. Please do bring friends along if you're planning to make the most of this offer.

Our upcoming November dates are as follows:

Closed - Saturday, 1st November

Reopening after half term - Wednesday, 5th November

Farmers Market - Saturday, 15th November. (9 - 12)

Community Lunch - Wednesday, 19th November

Games Cafe - Saturday, 22nd November

If you are planning to come to community lunch, we would greatly appreciate it if you let us know via our Facebook page.

We are hosting our community Farmers Market on Saturday 15th November, between 9am and 12pm. For this event we are looking for a coordinator, working very part time with flexible hours. We hope someone in our community is interested in local, sustainable food and is willing to help us with this role. It does also come with a stipend

Contact hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk Nicci or Sasha will get back to you. We are very flexible with our dates and times!

Website: www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

E-mail: hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

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

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



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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

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Following our AGM in October, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has given their time to support the Marcham Centre over the past year. Whether you helped at an event, contributed to one of our committees, opened and closed the hall, or lent your particular skills when needed, your efforts have made a real difference. The success of the Centre depends entirely on the goodwill and commitment of local volunteers, and we are very grateful for all that you do.

We would especially like to recognise **Trevor Hill** and **Colin Trinder** for their long-standing service to the Marcham Community Group. Both have given countless hours to the running of the Centre and to the wider life of the village, providing stability, practical help, and a clear sense of purpose over many years.

Particular thanks go to Trevor for his work as Chair of the Trustees during the past year. Leading a busy community organisation is no small task, and Trevor has carried out the role with distinction and dedication, as well as with a great sense of humour! Although we are sad that he is stepping down as Chair, we are pleased that he will remain closely involved as a Director of the Marcham Community Trading Company, continuing to manage the bar and support community activities.

To both Trevor and Colin, we offer our sincere thanks for all that you have done and continue to do for the village. We look forward to raising a glass to you both in the bar soon!

GET INVOLVED

The Marcham Community Group always welcomes new volunteers. There are many ways to take part - from helping with events and communications to assisting with bookkeeping or simply opening and closing the Centre. Volunteering is a fantastic way to meet people and contribute to village life. If you are interested in helping, please contact admin@marcham.org for more information.

LIVE FOOTBALL AT THE BAR

The bar will be showing live football through the winter, featuring Premier League matches and, when available, Oxford United

fixtures shown on Sky Sports. Games usually include the Saturday 5.30 pm kick-off and the Sunday 2.00 pm and 4.30 pm matches. Details of each week's fixtures will be displayed on posters in the bar and on the Marcham Village Facebook page. Everyone is welcome - come along, enjoy a drink, and watch the match with friends and neighbours.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

• Quiz Night – Friday 21 November

Adults only. Doors open 7:30 pm for a prompt 8:00 pm start. Teams of up to six. A bottle of wine or similar for each winning team member. Expect some light-hearted competition – and remember, the quizmaster's decision is final. Regular quiz nights held up until April 2026.

• Family Bingo – Friday 7 November

Doors open 7.00 pm, eyes down 7.30 pm. Adults £5 per person; children's tickets from £1. Four games will be played for a line and full house, with prizes including chocolates, smellies, and drinks. The final game will be for a cash prize. All ages welcome.

• Table Tennis

The table tennis table can be hired by the hour in the meeting room via www.marchamcentre.org. The room is also used for other activities, so booking is required. The local user rate is £8 per hour. Please bring your own bats and balls.

BAR OPENING TIMES

Our bar hours are changing slightly for the football season - here's when you can join us:

Wednesdays	7pm until 11pm
Fridays	5pm until 11pm
Saturdays	3pm until 10.30pm
Sundays	Midday until 6.30pm

The bar staff look forward to seeing you.

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



Love dogs? Have time to spare? Why not become a Volunteer Puppy Trainer?



Hearing Dogs for Deaf People is urgently looking for kind-hearted dog lovers in and around Marcham who would be interested in volunteering to care for and train a puppy who will go on to transform the life of a deaf person.

All costs are covered.
No experience is necessary.
Visit hearingdogs.org.uk/volunteer/ or call
01844 348129
to find out more



Just a quick note to share our fantastic news from yesterday's Oxford Half Marathon ... At nearly £144,000 so far, I am delighted to announce that our incredible team of 306 runners have now raised the most we have ever done



before through this iconic event! This amount is truly incredible and totally mind blowing, and will make such a difference to so many people in Oxfordshire.

Amongst our runners were many raising funds in memory of loved ones including Kenzie and his group of friends running in memory of his beloved grandad and attached is a selection of photos of some of our runners and cheer squads. Next year will be our 50th anniversary, so we are hoping for an even bigger team! We've already got people signing up and would be grateful for any help to recruit more runners and supporters! Please do share our page at Oxford Half - Sobell House.

<https://sobellhouse.org/event/oxford-half-2026>

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www.bnb-rafters.co.uk

**Join us and discover
a place to relax**

SPORT REPORT

As a new season of winter sports gets going, it is important to remember that not all sport is male-led.

RUGBY

The Red Roses (England's female rugby union team) won the World Cup at the end of September, beating Canada by a healthy 33-13. The Red Roses have not lost a game for 33 matches (a world record), won the World Cup on three occasions (1994, 2014, 2025) and been runners up on six occasions. A considerably better record than England's men's team. Whilst Marcham does not have the facility for rugby, our neighbour, Abingdon, has 20 teams, all the way down to Under 5s. Of those 20 there is one Women's team.

FOOTBALL

The Lionesses (England's female football team) have also had an enviable record of success. They beat Spain in the 2025 Euros, avenging their World Cup final defeat by Spain in 2023. In 2022 the team pretty much swept the board at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards ceremony.

We do have the facility for Women's football. Indeed a year or two ago there was a Marcham women's football team, but sadly it folded. However, should anyone have the enthusiasm to persuade their friends/colleagues/relatives etc. to try to raise a team I'm sure that their efforts would be favourably received. If you fancy giving it a go, please contact marchamcoltsfc@gmail.com. MAD News would be pleased to report on any games that are held.

Marcham Men's Vets football kicks off the season on the day this report is submitted to the Editor. Two away games followed by 4 home games takes us up to the beginning of December. Marcham 1st team have had a mixed start to their season, from the beginning of September they have won 1, drawn 1 and lost 3. Marcham 2nd team (Reserves) have won 1 and lost 1. Come on Marcham!

CRICKET

In cricket England's women are second to Australia in the league table for both ODI and T20 matches. The Women's World Cup T20 tournament is currently taking place in India and Sri Lanka. England have won each of their first three matches, but stiffer opposition lies ahead.

There does not appear to be a history of a Marcham Women's cricket team. Within Oxford County there are 39 clubs (over 400 girls) offering cricket experience ranging upwards from 5 years of age. Abingdon and Vale Cricket Club run a girl's and women's team, and are always keen to recruit new members. (www.abingdonvalecc.co.uk/womens-girls-cricket).



**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 November

Remember, remember the fifth of November! What was it we were supposed to be remembering? Ah, yes, *Gunpowder, treason and plot. I see no reason why gunpowder treason Should ever be forgot, so the rhyme goes on.* And ever since 1605 Guy Fawkes has been remembered and burnt in effigy on Bonfire Night. Keeping the memory alive for 420 years has meant that it is still celebrated today.

Memories

We don't need memories to last that long, but if we can recall good memories into old age, they give us much pleasure and add to the quality of life. For those who have lost such memories their quality of life can be improved with fun activities, laughter, quizzes, reminiscences, old songs, all of which are on the agenda at Kennington Memory Club. If you know someone with dementia who would benefit attending the KMC Day Centre do get in touch with the Day Centre Organiser, Kay, on 07852 883496 for more information.

New Trustees and publicity person needed

Kennington Memory Club has three brilliant professional staff, but it also relies heavily on all its volunteers. There are those who help at Day Centre sessions, but others have equally essential behind the scenes roles.

We are currently hoping to recruit at least two new trustees for the charity. If you are an expert in management, strategic or financial planning, or dementia care and preferably have had experience of being a trustee for another charity and feel you could contribute to the Kennington Memory Club charity as a trustee, please do get in touch. Email the chairman, Isobel, on chair@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk

The other volunteer role we need to fill is that of a publicity person. Are you an IT wizard? Could you, for example, maintain our website, produce publicity material and interact with social media on behalf of the Club? We'd love to hear from you, so it's the same email address for contact chair@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk. Thank you.

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



COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN MORNINGS FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS OF NEW PUPILS
Including a welcome from the Headteacher, tour of the school and Q&A sessions starting at
9.30am

Wednesday 12th November 2025 and Wednesday 14th January 2026

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



EVENTS



Games Morning

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

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The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE

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

Wild men of the North: Tom Thompson and the Group of Seven

Ross King

In 1924 an exhibition in London of Canadian landscapes moved the critic C. Lewis Hind to celebrate them as "the most vital group of paintings produced since the war – indeed, this century". These landscapes of Canada's northern lakes and rugged backwoods, painted in a boldly Post Impressionist style, had been produced over the previous decade by a collective of Toronto based painters known as the 'Group of Seven,' whose aim was to forge a national school of landscape painting. The talk will be held at The Abbey Cinema at 10.30 and 2pm.



Visitors are very welcome to attend this lecture, cost £6.00. Lectures last 1 hour but allow extra time for announcements. For more information on future lectures and other activities see theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk or email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk

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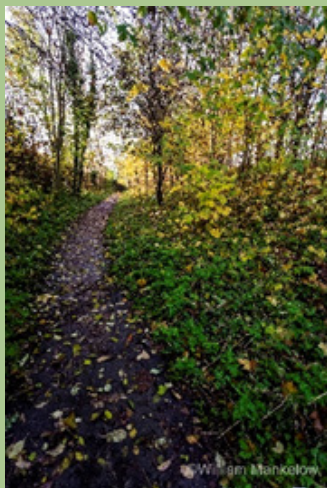
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Gone with the Wind: Autumn & Winter's Blustery Garden Shenanigans

As the leaves turn golden and the air gets that suspicious chill, Autumn and Winter winds begin their annual rampage through gardens across the land. These gusty hooligans don't knock politely—they barge in like they own the place, rearranging your flower beds, flinging your garden gnome into the neighbour's pond, and turning your compost bin into a confetti cannon.



Where do these winds come from? Meteorologists will say things like 'pressure systems' and 'Arctic fronts', but we all know the truth: they're summoned by ancient forces who hate patio furniture. One minute your garden is a tranquil haven, the next it's a scene from Twister, starring your wheelbarrow in a dramatic airborne role.

Autumn winds are the pranksters of the bunch. They sneak in with a sly rustle, pretending to be gentle breezes, then BAM—your rake is halfway up a tree and your scarecrow's hat is in orbit. They specialise in leaf redistribution, which is a polite way of saying they dump every leaf in the county onto your freshly swept path. It's like nature's version of glitter: impossible to clean and somehow always multiplying.

Winter winds, on the other hand, are less mischievous and more malevolent. They arrive with icy breath and a vendetta against anything vertical. They don't just knock over your potted plants—they interrogate them first. "You think you're hardy? Let's see how you handle minus five and sideways snow!" They howl through fences, rattle windows, and occasionally carry off small pets. If your garden shed isn't bolted down, congratulations—it's now a mobile unit.

And where do these winds go? Nobody knows. Some say they retreat to the North Pole to plot next year's chaos. Others believe they slip into the jet stream and hitch a ride to torment gardens in Australia. What's certain is they leave behind a trail of overturned pots, traumatised tulips, and one very confused squirrel.

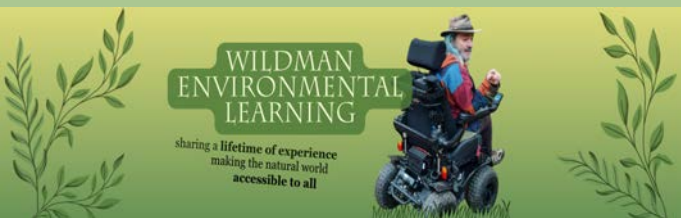
So next time you hear that ominous whistle through the trees, brace yourself. Tie down your topiary, hug your hosepipe, and say a prayer for your pergola. Because Autumn and Winter winds are coming—and they've got unfinished business with your begonias.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt, Wildlife Gardening Specialist

01865 747243

www.wildmaninspires.co.uk



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ALL SAINTS' & ST LUKE'S CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

There will be Remembrance services on Sunday 9th November in Marcham starting at 10am at All Saints Church and concluding at the wayside cross at 11am, and in Garford at the village war memorial at 12 noon. All welcome.

Over two years of Remembrance services we have prayed for peace in Gaza and for an end to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Have ours, and the prayers of millions around the world been answered? It seems, at last, some progress has been made. Sadly, though, the war in Ukraine continues, a situation that we have prayed about across three years of Remembrance Sundays. Maybe next year there will be cause for rejoicing in that situation too. Let's hope so. People often say, "there is nothing we can do besides pray." In many a seemingly hopeless situation, it can feel like prayer is the last and only option. But really, prayer should be the first thing we do; pray then act. After all, the bible teaches us that we should pray continually, expecting God to answer. Indeed, in God's sovereign grace our prayers can make all the difference on earth. The answer God gives may not be the one we wish for, and we may need to be patient for it, but we should always pray because we have a heavenly Father who longs to hear our prayers. And of all the things to pray for, peace on earth is surely one of the most important. Pray then act.

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 2 November, 6pm Service of Light for Loved Ones led by Revd. Preb. Jane Haslam

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

Sunday 7 December, 6pm Advent Carol Service led by Ven. David Tyler

Sunday 21 December, 5pm Carol Service

Thursday 25 December, 10am Christmas Day Service

Whilst the softer colours of autumn and shorter, greyer days can imbue feelings of decline, 'anticipation' seemed to be the watchword of October with the first wedding at St. Luke's for nearly 10 years. The church was spruced up, dressed beautifully and full to bursting for the celebration - many congratulations to the happy couple. The sense of new beginnings was welcome and a reminder that Advent is just around the corner, a period of high anticipation which will be marked by services in St. Luke's. A more reflective mood in the Service of Light for Loved Ones and the annual Remembrance Sunday service will be matched by the optimism of what follows, we look forward to welcoming you to our services.

Contact: st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Residents will have read in my previous reports that the Vale (together with South Oxfordshire) has been working for some years on a new Joint Local Plan (JLP). Not only would this 'lock in' the housing growth already committed to over a longer time period and so give the much-needed infrastructure time to catch up, but it also proposed greater allocation to affordable housing and measures to improve energy efficiency and nature recovery.



The Planning Inspectors held the Stage 1 Examination of the JLP in early June and everything appeared to be progressing fairly smoothly: some minor requests for clarification, but nothing out of the ordinary. It therefore came as a huge disappointment when the Inspectors wrote in late September to request that we withdraw the JLP. Their rationale for this was over a single issue: a perceived failure to meet the 'duty to cooperate' with Oxford City Council (OCiC) over housing numbers in the districts to make up for Oxford's 'unmet need'. OCiC was itself recently forced to withdraw its own Local Plan from examination over the duty to cooperate with neighbouring councils, including South & Vale. Looking further afield, there has been an unusually high rate of Local Plans being forced to withdraw across the country in the past year or so.

South & Vale responded to the Inspectors' request for withdrawal in a robust letter detailing what we perceive to be errors in their rationale: use of outdated terms and contradictions with Inspectors' decisions made during the OCiC Local Plan examination. While we await the Inspectors' response, it was also interesting to see a recent letter from the Minister of State for Housing and Planning to the Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate, emphasising the need for Local Plans and urging an appropriate level of flexibility. At time of writing, I'm afraid the likely outcome of all of this is unclear to me. We are in uncharted territory and there appear to be nation-wide trends in effect. However, South & Vale's officers and councillors, including myself, are doing our utmost to achieve the best result in the circumstances. On the positive side, even if we do withdraw the JLP then we should not see an increase in 'speculative' planning applications being approved, since the Vale has a solid 5-Year Housing Land Supply and our current Local Plan is still valid for several years. I promise updates when I have them!

CLLR DR ROBERT CLEGG

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07784 225290

Email: robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Depending on when you read this, the new Congestion Charge Scheme in Oxford will either have already started, or be about to start, on Wednesday 29th October. As I've mentioned previously, this is not a scheme I support but one that I feel residents need to be as informed as possible about.



At a base level, everyone living in the area that I represent on the County Council will qualify for an Oxfordshire Area Permit, meaning that residents can apply for a free permit that gives you 25 day passes for travel through the six Congestion Charge zones in Oxford, allowing you to avoid the £5 charge. Additional permits are available for certain groups including Blue Badge holders, unpaid carers, community health and care workers, mobile traders and patients required to attend frequent hospital appointments in the Oxford area, so do be sure to check whether you are eligible for additional permits.

Residents can now apply for Congestion Charge permits online by registering for a free online account, selecting the permit you're eligible for and uploading the required documents. Unfortunately,

the online portal isn't the most user friendly, so if residents have any questions about the process, please do drop me an email and I'll do my best to assist you in completing the application. For more information on the scheme and to apply for a permit, please visit the County Council website here: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/oxfords-temporary-congestion-charge-cars/congestion-charge-permits

On another note, earlier this year the County Council announced new plans to clear every highway drainage gully across the county on a yearly basis, as part of improved efforts to tackle issues like flooding. Gullies and drains in Marcham and surrounding areas should have now received their first clearance as part of this scheme. If you notice any drains or gullies that haven't been cleared, please do email me or report them on FixMyStreet, so I can try to get them cleared before we move into the Winter months. As always, a big thank you to residents who continue to raise issues with me, however big or small. Please do keep sending in casework and if you'd like to stay up to date with what I'm doing around our division, do follow me on Facebook where I post regular updates:

www.facebook.com/JamesRPlumb

JAMES PLUMB

County Councillor for Marcham and Cummor

Email: james.plumb@oxfordshire.gov.uk

MP'S REPORT

SESRO UPDATE

Thames Water's Statutory Consultation on SESRO was scheduled to start on 28th October and goes on until 13th January 2026. There will be a series of public information events. You can find out more information about the consultation process here: <https://thames-sro.co.uk/projects/sesro/>

Further significant questions have been raised because the significant increase in the estimated cost of the project. I was pleased to see that Vale District councillors have again challenged the project. I will continue to work with GARD and local councillors to challenge the proposals.



LODGE HILL

I am continuing to work closely with stakeholders at Oxfordshire County Council and Balfour Beatty to ensure that construction at Lodge Hill remains on track. At a recent on-site briefing, engineers shared that they are working to ensure that any disruption is as minimal as possible, as the project enters its second phase. I was encouraged to hear of Balfour Beatty's commitment to community benefit projects in the local area. I hope that this development of this new junction will greatly improve traffic flow in and around Abingdon and ease pressure at the Marcham Interchange.

FLOOD MITIGATION

Over recent months, my team and I have met with a number of local stakeholders, councillors and residents regarding flooding across Oxfordshire, particularly at-risk areas like Marcham. With wetter winters becoming the norm, protecting our local rivers and streams has never been more important. I welcomed the introduction of an emergency flood barrier for South Abingdon earlier this year. I would like to see greater investment in mitigation strategies for communities across the area. Please rest assured that I will continue pressing the Government to deliver better flood defences to areas most at risk.

PALESTINE

Many will be greatly heartened by the news of a permanent ceasefire in Palestine. The talk of an enduring and lasting peace is encouraging, but true peace will only come with the creation of an independent Palestinian state. Over the past few months, I've spoken in the media about why recognition matters. The UK's decision earlier this year to formally recognise the State of Palestine was long overdue – a small but vital step towards a just two-state solution. Being present for the opening ceremony of the new Palestinian Embassy in London felt like a real moment of hope.

Recognition alone is not enough. We must now ensure it leads to real change: the release of all hostages, unrestricted humanitarian access, and the rebuilding of Gaza's shattered communities. I will keep working to maintain the pressure for a peace that delivers dignity and security for both Palestinians and Israelis.

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

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



TWO IMPORTANT STATEMENTS:

Thames Water do not yet have permission to construct the giant reservoir. They are applying for planning permission (in the form of a Development Consent Order) in 2026. The Government may be in favour but there is a long process still to run. Join us in fighting it. Thames Water still have several safety assessments to carry out: flooding and dam

breach. The Planning Inspectorate have said that these must be done before applying for planning permission.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? JOIN GARD and HELP with fundraising. With the latest developments (including costs spiralling to over £7 billion), GARD must campaign hard now, researching and planning to contest the Development Consent Order.

ACTION: Please assist us with money to do this. Just one example, to commission a report from our consultant on Thames Water's submission to RAPID (delivered August 15th, in which the cost increases were revealed) will cost us £10,000. Please go to our website to donate Group Against Reservoir Development | GARD

ACTION: Write to your MP and your Councillors, and to the new DEFRA Secretary of State Emma Reynolds emma.reynolds.mp@parliament.uk. The Leader of the VWHDC has issued a statement opposing the planned reservoir, shocked at the cost rise. OCC is in supportive talks with GARD. Our District Councillor Sally Povolotsky has issued a statement. We are encouraging all Parish Councils to voice their opposition – or even better – to join forces to voice their collective opposition. Details and emails are on our website: Group Against Reservoir Development | GARD

WHAT IS GARD DOING?

RAPID: GARD is replying to the latest Thames Water submission: the RAPID Gate 3 consultation about the mega-reservoir. Thames Water revealed the huge rise in costs here. Councils are also replying to this.

Development Consent Order: the Consultation on Thames Water's application for a DCO will be published soon. Individuals can reply to this consultation and GARD will publish details once they are known (see website).

CAMPAIGNING: new directions for the campaign are emerging. **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](https://www.facebook.com/abingdonreservoir), Twitter [@GARD_OXON](https://twitter.com/GARD_OXON)

Community Events:

Thursday 20th November at Marcham Centre

Come and see what is going on.

There are other events planned, see the website for details www.gard-oxon.org.uk

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/>



Tell them what you know, not who you are



Wild Oxfordshire

Curlews in the Upper Thames are on the brink and need our help. We are working with farmers and volunteers to turn their fortunes around.

Every pound you give to our campaign will be matched by the Aviva Community Fund

and by the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment. This effectively trebles your generous donation.

Oxfordshire's breeding Curlews are on the brink. With your help, our partnership can help protect the wetland habitat where Curlews come to breed and feed. These habitats are highly effective carbon sinks and provide natural flood defences – both extremely important in the fight to prevent and protect against the impacts of climate change.

www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/

help-us-save-the-last-curlews-of-the-upper-thames

- Answers to this month's Crown Quiz from page 7
1. Zeus
 2. AB-negative
 3. Pennsylvania
 4. Ulaanbaatar
 5. Cerebellum
 6. 1989 (November 9th)
 7. The Andes – approximately 7,000 kilometres
 8. Carbon copy
 9. Marie Curie
 10. Seven: Dr. No (1962), From Russia with Love (1963), Goldfinger (1964), Thunderball (1965), You Only Live Twice (1967), Diamonds Are Forever (1971), Never Say Never Again (1983)
 11. The Phantom of the Opera (which closed April 2023, after a record-breaking 35-year run)
 12. Lewis Hamilton holds the records for most wins (105)

NOVEMBER 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 MC Thirsty Café CLOSED (11)
2 AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) SL Service of Light 6pm (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	3 DP Community Games Group (16) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm	4	5 Extra Waste Collection MC Thirsty Café with Slay and Play 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short Mat Bowls 2pm (13)	6 Milllets Farm Classic car meet 9.30am-noon Marcham Society Midweek Walk 12.30pm (7) MATU: Chris Fox (10)	7 MC Family Bingo 7pm (13)	8 MC Thirsty Café with Natural Bread 9-11.30am (11)
9 Remembrance Sunday AS Remembrance Service 10.00am (17) Fritford Road Closure 10.45am - 12.15pm (3) SL Remembrance Sunday 12pm (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	10 DP Community Games Group (16) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm (3)	11 Armistice Day	12 MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short Mat Bowls 2pm (13)	13	14 MC PTFA Family Film night 6.30pm (11)	15 MADNEWS DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE MC Thirsty Café & Local Market 9am-12noon (11)
16 AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	17 DP Community Games Group (16) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham WI 7.30pm (7)	18	19 MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Community Lunch 12-1.30pm (11) MC Short Mat Bowls 2.30pm (13) MC Astronomy Group 7pm (7) Arts Society Abingdon 10.30am & 2pm (16)	20 MATU: Knight & Spiers (10) MC GARD: Reservoir presentation 2-8pm (19)	21 MC Quiz Night 7.30pm (13)	22 MC Thirsty Café with Games & Puzzles 9-11.30am (11)
23 and 30 AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	24 DP Community Games Group (16) 10.30-12.00 MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Society 7.15pm (7)	25	26 MC Thirsty Café with Natural Bread 9-11.30am (11) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Short Mat Bowls 2pm (13)	27	28	29 MC Thirsty Café with Games & Puzzles 9-11.30am (11)

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