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July August 2026 Vol 48 No. 7

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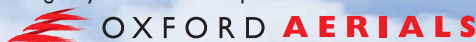
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Hi Everyone,

Welcome to our new Distribution Team, Kirstie & Simon who are taking over from Paula & Claire. Good Luck to The Wright family they leave the village. Cheers

Kay

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The 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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Email: james.plumb@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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Marcham and Shippon

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Layla Moran layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

GRASS CUTTING, OVERHANGING TREES AND HEDGES

It is that time of year when we are all out cutting grass, trimming hedges, and managing our gardens. Please can residents who live adjacent to public roads and footpaths kindly keep any growth which is overhanging, cut back. The rural paths can become quite dark and soaked when low wet branches are overhanging. As Marcham village grows, more and more people are walking the paths, and it is therefore important that they be kept clear so that they remain light and are able to dry out. The Parish Council has a contractor who strims any growth from the floor from time to time, but help from residents is needed to keep the overhanging growth from their gardens trimmed.

The Vale of White Horse District Council provides a successful recycling and waste collection service for all its residents in the district. In addition the recycling centre at Drayton is open 8.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. 7 days a week. If visiting the Drayton site, please remember that a booking scheme is in operation for non household DIY waste. Visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/household-waste/household-waste-recycling-centres/drayton-recycling-centre for more information, as you may need to book a slot for your visit. Please do not fly tip grass and garden waste on highway verges, private land, paths, or any recreation area, as such action interferes with the enjoyment of these areas.

ACCOUNTS

Each year the Parish Council produces an Annual Governance and Accountability Return and Statement which are reviewed by an external auditor. The information for the period ending 31st March 2026 is on the website of the Parish Council, and is available to the public in person by prior arrangement with the Clerk.

GRANTS

Historically grants have been awarded by Marcham Parish Council on an annual basis. The Council has reviewed its grant policy and application form designed to make the process clearer and more consistent. The Council is now considering grants on a more frequent basis, and will consider requests at the next available meeting after they have been received. Anyone planning to apply for funding should review the new policy and use the updated form, now available on the Council's website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

BARROW CLOSE ENTRANCE

Marcham Centre, the hall, multi use games area and the fields are well used, with many people coming and going through the Barrow Close entrance. The footway has been moved next to Morland Road to help with safety. However concerns are still being raised that some cars are parked too close to the exit of the village hall which makes it genuinely difficult for drivers to

see what's coming, and that split second of lost visibility is all it takes for something to go wrong. Everyone using the hall is part of the same community, and it could easily be a neighbour's child stepping out, a cyclist passing by, or someone crossing the road who simply isn't visible until it's too late. Please think carefully about where you leave your car.

BONFIRES AND BBQS

Bonfires and BBQs might feel harmless to the person lighting them, but for nearby houses they can quickly become a real nuisance. Smoke, which can travel significant distances, means people can't open their windows, enjoy fresh air, or even sit outside. A bit of consideration goes a long way. So before lighting anything, think about the wind direction, the time of day, and whether the smoke could affect others.

DALTON BARRACKS FORMERLY

RAF ABINGDON

As part of the land quality assessments being undertaken at Dalton Barracks, Cllr. Rob Clegg is keen to hear from anyone with historic links, and knowledge about potential chemical use, fire fighting foam, and locations of where they may have been used. Please contact him at robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk if you have any information.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P26/V0815/HH Trellis canopy to rear elevation at 42 Harding Way.

The Council had no objections.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 13th July 2026 at 7.30pm at Marcham Centre. The Council meetings are open to the public, and the Council welcomes anyone who has issues to raise on parish matters to attend, or speak to their local parish councillor.

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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This month's cover photo is
Marcham Test Pit April 2025

by Kay McKeown

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THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.**

Last month we had some beautiful potted plants for sale, including mini tomato plants (always look out for our plant specials – they sell out fast!). We also stocked some cute ‘Father’s Day’ gifts, and going forward we will be taking a stall at the School Fete on Friday 3rd July at 6pm. Ice-creams will be our priority, so fingers crossed for some good weather.



All the everyday items, and many not so everyday, are available in the shop. If you haven’t visited us before, come and check us out – we have so much to offer....

An early note for your diary – we will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday, 31 August

THANK YOU, AS ALWAYS, FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

ACCESS TO BANKING SERVICES REVIEW: HAVE YOUR SAY

As you are now probably aware, High Street banking has changed somewhat and there are very few High Street banks left in our towns and cities. Online banking has taken priority over face-to-face banking. However, the Post Office currently supports MOST banks and can offer you very similar services such as cash withdrawal/deposit; balance enquiries; cheque deposits; foreign currency etc.



That said, we would like to share this notification with you below and encourage you to go to the link and respond to the call for evidence.

The Government has launched an independent Access to Banking Services Review to examine how changes to in-person banking services are affecting customers, businesses and communities across the UK. The Review is asking people and organisations to share evidence by 20 July 2026.

This is an important opportunity for you to help shape the conversation. As banks have altered their networks, many customers and small businesses have increasingly relied on post offices for everyday cash and banking services. You continue to see first-hand why access to local, face-to-face support still matters, especially for people who may find online banking difficult or who need somewhere local and trusted to go.

The Review wants to understand what is happening in communities, who still needs in-person support, and what role places such as Post Office branches and Banking Hubs play in future access to services. Your experience can help show what customers and businesses need in practice.

If you would like to share your views, you can respond directly to the Call for Evidence by 20 July 2026, here <https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/access-to-banking-services-review-call-for-evidence>

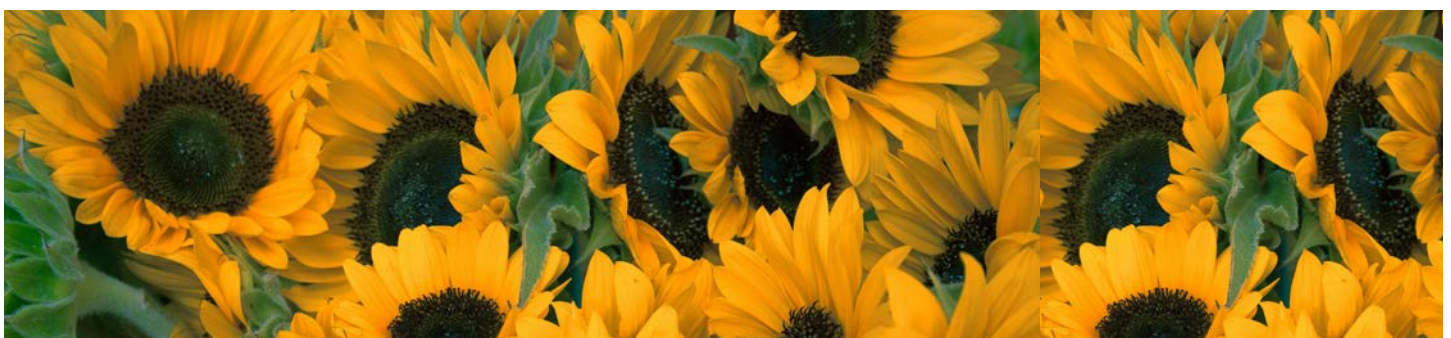



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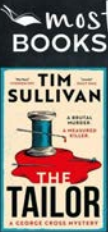
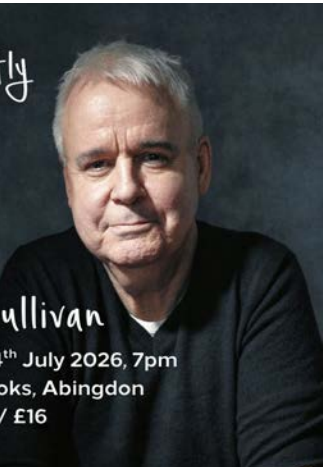
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TIM SULLIVAN is a crime writer, screenwriter and director whose film credits include A Handful of Dust, Jack and Sarah, and Cold Feet.

Early in his career, he directed Jeremy Brett's iconic portrayal of Sherlock Holmes in ITV's The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes, cementing his lifelong passion for crime fiction. Tim's critically acclaimed crime series features a brilliantly persistent DS George Cross who has Autistic Spectrum Condition. The clever, twisty, touching and funny series has won an army of fans now sold more than half a million copies.

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Thursday 2nd July 2026

Thursday 6th August 2026 at 12.30pm

Please contact walks@marchamsociety.org.uk



THE MARCHAM TEST PITS

Over two weekends, 25th & 26th July 2026 and 29th & 30th August 2026 there will be six archaeological test pits carried out in the village.

More information can be found on the Archaeology page of our website

THE 2026/27 PROGRAMME

Our new programme of events, talks and outings will start in September.

The Annual Membership is £15 per person.

Guests are welcome at £5 per event.

Please contact: membership@MarchamSociety.org.uk

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

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

Thirsty Community Café



Thank you all for your ongoing support for Marcham's community cafe.

June saw the presence of national volunteers week and you may have seen us marking it by celebrating some of our volunteers on Social Media. There just wasn't enough time to cover them all, so keep an eye on our Facebook page to see further shout-outs to our team.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of many aspects of our community and Thirsty needs you. Any amount of time is valuable to us. Do you have a skill you can lend? And friendly face and a listening ear? Perhaps there is something you'd like to learn or you need experience for getting into, or back to work. We also welcome youth undertaking their DofE awards who need to fulfil their volunteer hours. Please get in touch with us to become part of the team. hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk / 07490579352.

JULY AT THIRSTY CAFE

Don't forget that our early bird offer is now a permanent feature, with a cheeky little discount on drinks and baked goods combos - offered on Wednesdays 8.45-9.45am.

The last Toasted session of the term will be on Monday 6th July from 12-2pm, serving bacon, brie and cranberry toasties, barista coffee and cookies.

Milkshake shop on the 14th from 3-4.15.

Age UK will be joining us on Wednesday 15th July from 10.30am and bringing along some community partners as well, offering free support and information to anyone who may need it. They will stay for some of the community lunch, you can still access their services.

Farmers' Market returns once more on Saturday 18th July from 9am-12pm, support your local producers.

Our last regular opening will be on Wednesday 29th July 9-11.30am and we will then close through August; reopening on Saturday 5th September 9-11:30am

Website: www.thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

E-mail: hello@thirstycafemarcham.co.uk

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Quiz

1. Which 1983 James Bond film features scenes in India, including the Taj Mahal?
2. Which English sailor skippered the first all-female crew in the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race aboard Maiden?
3. Which Shakespeare play begins with three witches meeting on a heath?
4. What industry made Witney famous across Britain from the 17th century onwards?
5. Which airport changed its name to Cristiano Ronaldo International Airport?
6. In which English city is the Crucible Theatre, famous for hosting the World Snooker Championship?
7. Which South American country has recorded outbreaks of Andes hantavirus, a strain that can in rare cases spread between people?
8. Which programme won Best Drama Series at the 2026 BAFTA Television Awards?
9. What is the most widely recorded song according to Guinness World Records?
10. What is the name of the cat who lives at Number 10 Downing Street and serves as Chief Mouser?
11. Which Premier League football team does Prince William support?
12. How many bones are there in the standard adult human skeleton?

Answers on page 19



The Arts Society Abingdon LECTURE

Wednesday 15th July
10.30am and 2.00pm
Abbey Cinema, Abbey Close,
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For more information on future lectures and other activities see theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk or email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk



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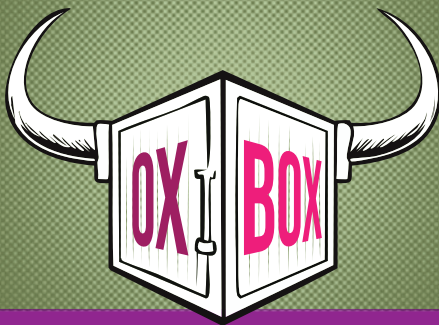
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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

As we move into the last term of the pre-school year we have been focussing on securing the 'school readiness' skills that we have built up over the year. Conversational skills, toileting independence, managing clothing, asking questions, following instructions, mark-making, using cutlery and making (and keeping!) friends are all essential and life-long skills. This month the children have been encouraged to offer support to one another, look for ways they can help and we are continuing to discuss what it means to be a good friend. Alongside



learning about ocean life and fish, colouring mixing has been a hot topic and it was wonderful to see the children finding a partner and painting each others hands to create unique coral reef pictures and jellyfish! What a wonderful array of skills on display.... Each as unique as the child who created it.



For Early Years ideas and tips, please check out our website and the Road Map to Starting School... at

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



1. Which famous couple had another big wedding party in sunny Sicily?
2. Which famous horse race gallops into Epsom in Surrey?
3. Which shiny metal has the chemical symbol "Ag"?
4. Which football team lifted the FA Cup this year?
5. What do we call a number that can only be divided by 1 and itself?
6. What is the capital city of Hungary?
7. Which planet is nicknamed the Red Planet?
8. Who helped people talk over long distances by inventing the telephone?
9. What is the tallest mountain in the world above sea level?
10. Which British runner is the women's Olympic 800 metres champion?
11. Who wrote the stories about the detective Sherlock Holmes?
12. What clever process does plants use to turn sunlight into food?

Answers on page 19

NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL



As another busy and exciting term draws to a close, we are delighted to share some of the many highlights from life at Marcham. From sporting success to musical creativity and memorable residential adventures, our pupils have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and determination.

We are incredibly proud of our girls' football team (Years 4, 5 & 6), who have had an amazing season and were recently crowned league champions. Their teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship shone through in each match, and they represented the school brilliantly. A huge congratulations to all the players, Miss Knowles and Zoe Barnes involved in this fantastic achievement.

The energy and excitement continued with Quad Kids sports competitions for pupils in Key Stage 2. Pupils competed in running, jumping and throwing events. Our children demonstrated determination and encouragement for one another, embodying the true spirit of school sport. Well done to everyone who took part and represented the school with pride.

As well as sport, music has again been at the heart of school life this term, 11 pupils from Years 5 & 6 attended another Orchestra Day as part of Abingdon Music Flood. It was a wonderful celebration of cooperation as having rehearsed separately 200 pupils came together to perform as one large orchestra, creating a truly uplifting sound. The day not only developed musical skills but also encouraged collaboration, confidence and a love of performing.

In addition to this, a special hand chimes workshop gave pupils in Giraffes Class the chance to explore a unique and engaging musical instrument. Working together to create melodies and rhythms, the children quickly discovered the importance of listening, timing and teamwork.

Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 had another singing workshop which filled their classrooms with music and joy. Pupils learned new songs, developed vocal skills and enjoyed performing together. The workshops highlighted the power of singing to build confidence, creativity and a sense of community.

We were also thrilled to welcome the Pavlova Wind Quintet to school for an inspiring live performance. The musicians introduced pupils to a range of wind instruments and shared their passion for music through interactive demonstrations and beautiful performances. It was a memorable experience that sparked curiosity and enthusiasm among our young musicians.

Our Year 4 pupils enjoyed an unforgettable residential (one night) trip packed with outdoor activities, teamwork challenges and new experiences. From facing fear of the zip wire to problem-solving tasks, the children showed independence, courage and excellent cooperation. The residential trip was a valuable opportunity for pupils to build friendships, confidence and lasting memories.

Finally, as the term comes to an end, pupils have also been preparing for their transition to new classes in September. Our Year 6 pupils have been visiting their new Secondary schools alongside a transition day within school. These transition sessions allow children to meet their new teachers, explore new classrooms and begin looking ahead with excitement and confidence. These opportunities help ensure a smooth and positive start to the next academic year.

This term has been a wonderful reflection of the vibrant, caring and ambitious spirit of our school. We are proud of all our pupils for their hard work, kindness and willingness to embrace new experiences. Thank you to our staff, families and wider village community for your continued support.

We wish everyone a happy and restful summer break and look forward to another exciting year ahead.

LINDSAY PRIDDLE

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

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SHARING THE JOY OF GARDENING FARMERS MARKET ON SATURDAY 18 JULY



We can't believe the Marcham Farmers Market has been running for six months now, and we have had such fun along the way. In addition to the provision of fresh, local and tasty produce, we have now launched a Bring and Share Plant section, providing the gardeners of Marcham with a cornucopia of exciting titbits - for free.

A small team of keen gardeners are donating their excess plants and seedlings to the community so that anyone can try growing on new and exciting plants - at no risk. Anything from excess annuals seedlings sown a few weeks ago, to edible vegetables and even young shrubs are on offer. Additionally, we hope to provide advice on care, and sustainable planting methods - though we do have an excellent column on gardening for wildlife written by Stuart Mabbut each month in this esteemed publication - so what are you waiting for?



If you have your own plants to donate, please come and see us at the stall. We accept most plants if they are labelled and neither noxious nor invasive. The whole idea is to reduce waste, share the joy, and at no cost. Although we do encourage donations towards the good work of Thirsty Cafe.

The trial runs so far have been tremendously well-received. We are hugely indebted to our plant donors - thank you!

Come along to our Bring and Share stall, for your share of the Joy of Gardening. Running at the same time as the Farmers Market (and Thirsty Cafe!) on Saturday 18 July, from 9-12, at the Community Centre. For more information please contact farmersmarket@thirstycafemarcham.com

Changes to the Waste Collections

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Wednesday 2 Sept	Thursday 3 Sept



We are delighted to welcome Liz as our new nursery manager here at Marcham. Liz brings over 38 years of experience in childcare across many different roles, and we feel very lucky to have her driving the nursery forward. She has settled in wonderfully and already feels very much part of the Little Angels family.

What a glorious month of sunshine it has been. The warm weather has meant we have been outdoors every single day, and our little angels have been making the most of every moment. We have been learning all about the world around us, from the different flowers bursting into colour to the trees standing tall above us and the endless shapes and textures of the leaves beneath our feet. There is so much to discover when you simply step outside.

All this time in the garden has rather given us the bug, and we are hoping to get even more green-fingered in the months ahead. We would love to plant some vegetables of our own, nurturing them from tiny seeds and watching them grow, ready to harvest and enjoy together later in the year. There really is no better way for children to learn about where their food comes from, and the patience and care it takes to grow something special.

We are also busy behind the scenes with preparations for our little angels' graduation, a very special celebration for all the children who will be heading off to school in September. It is always such a proud and emotional milestone for the whole nursery, and we are determined to make it a day to remember.



With all this in mind, we have a little favour to ask. Our front garden could do with some love, and we are looking for a willing volunteer to help keep it looking lovely, mainly mowing the lawn and trimming the bushes. It would only be an hour or so once a month. If you are a grandparent, or anyone who enjoys pottering in the garden and would like to be part of nursery life, we would be ever so grateful. Pop in for a chat, give us a call on 01865 819992, or email us at info@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk.

We cannot wait to see what the rest of the season brings.

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Marcham Centre

THE BIG MARCHAM WEEKEND DELIVERS IN STYLE!

What an incredible month May turned out to be! The Big Marcham Weekend returned to our village field, bringing the community together in fine style. As if on cue, the sun delivered a spectacular weekend of perfect weather, setting the stage for one of our most successful gatherings yet.

FRIDAY NIGHT: ROCKING THE MARQUEE

The festivities kicked off on Friday evening under the main marquee, where a fantastic turnout gathered to welcome the weekend with live music. Sean Rivers opened the night, getting the crowd warmed up with brilliant acoustic covers and an engaging performance. He was followed by **The Midlife Misfits**, who took to the stage and kept the energy sky-high, filling the dance floor as villagers of all ages danced the night away together.

SATURDAY: FAMILY FUN, TRADITION, AND TUG OF WAR

Saturday afternoon began at noon, instantly filling the field with energy, laughter, and the irresistible smell of the catering stalls. The day started with a beautiful display of traditional maypole dancing from the children of **Marcham Primary School**, proudly led by their Head Teacher.

The main arena and family zones kept everyone captivated with a non-stop lineup of fantastic performances. **Fred in the Shed** brought magic and laughs for the little ones, while the **Amanda Alder Dance Academy** wowed the crowds with their sharp routines. The afternoon also showcased incredible local youth talent with performances from **Miss Poppy's Gymnastic Group** and **Alpha Academy**.

A lively, high-stakes children vs. adults football match brought plenty of cheers and competitive spirit to the pitch. But as always, a true crowd favourite was the **Tug of War**, which saw local teams testing their strength to the roars of the spectators. Throughout the day, families pitched their gazebos, soaked up the vibrant atmosphere, and kept our brilliant stallholders and caterers wonderfully busy.

SATURDAY NIGHT: THE GRAND FINALE

As the sun began to dip, the live music fired back up to close out the weekend with an unforgettable triple-bill of live bands under the marquee.

Back in the Red kicked off the evening lineup. This fantastic Oxfordshire-based cover band locked down the groove instantly, moving seamlessly between indie classics, 80s anthems, and classic rock. Next up was **Studio Six**, who kept the momentum going and delivered a brilliant, high-energy set that kept the patio and field packed. Finally, **Counterfeit Hit** took the headline spot. This premier Oxfordshire four-piece function band did exactly what they do best, delivering a massive setlist spanning decades of rock and pop floor-fillers that ensured the weekend ended on an absolute high.

A COMMUNITY TO THANK

An event of this scale simply doesn't happen without a massive team effort, and we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to so many people.

We want to thank our brilliant stallholders, musicians, performers, and caterers who return year after year to make the field so vibrant. A huge shoutout goes to Neil and Andy for their invaluable expertise and tireless work handling the complex band set-ups and sound engineering. We are equally grateful to our hardworking bar volunteers who gave up their entire weekend to keep the drinks flowing and the heart of our community beating.

A massive **thank you** goes to the **Marcham Centre Bar** and **The Village Shop** for their incredibly generous sponsorship and support. And, of course, a very special thank you to our beautiful Chris who once again clearly pulled some strings with the powers that be, to come through on the weather front!

CELEBRATING OUR LEADERSHIP & LOOKING AHEAD

At the very heart of this success is Hayley Cousins. Hayley heads up the Big Weekend every single year, pouring an immense amount of time, energy, and care into the planning. Her exceptional leadership, vision, and sheer hard work are what make this event possible, and the entire village owes her a massive thank you for steering the ship so brilliantly once again.

While Hayley and the dedicated events committee pour so much into managing every single detail, an event of this size requires a village to keep it running. To ensure we can deliver the same high-standard magic next year, the committee is putting out an earnest request for extra support. Whether you can spare a few hours to help with set-up, join the planning team, or help out over the weekend itself, your community needs you.

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2027!

We are already looking ahead to doing it all over again. Mark your calendars and save the date for next year: **Friday 7th and Saturday 8th May 2027**. If you would like to volunteer and get involved with the team for next year, please do get in touch. See you there!

Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham OX13 6TY
enquiries@marchamcentre.org www.marchamcentre.org

Operated by Marcham Community Group (MCG)

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MAKE A MAMMAL FOOTPRINT TUNNEL



What you'll need:

- Cardboard for the tunnel
- Sand or flour, Ruler
- A small, shallow tray
- Wet cat food (meat not fish)

1. Fill the tray with lots of flour or sand and use the ruler to smooth the surface
2. Check the trap; Lightly press your finger into the flour or sand – it should leave an indent. If it doesn't, smooth over again.
3. (optional) Place a dish with pet food in the middle of the tray.
4. Put the tunnel in a quiet, sheltered spot such as along a hedge or wall. Leave it out for up to a week, checking the tray daily for tracks.
5. Identify the footprints Take photos of the prints with a ruler for scale. Use ID guides to identify your guests

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

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FOOTBALL

Many thanks to Dan Barnes who provided the following summary of Marcham Football 2025-26:

Marcham Football Club had another successful season putting out two Saturday men's teams, both first and reserves, week in week out. Overall, we look back on a very successful season with both teams competing in Cup Finals. Sadly both narrowly missed out in hard fought affairs. The first team came second in the league, whilst the reserves had a respectful top half finish. Most importantly multiple members of our community have had the opportunity to play football competitively and we continue to look for new players for next season. Possibly the highlight of the season was the run in the Berks and Bucks Cup in which the First team reached the semi final, losing to the eventual winners. This was much further than the club was expected to go with some excellent results especially the win over Newbury. The teams move forward into next season really positively, looking to build on the growing success and playing squad. The vets team also had a successful season building on last year's results and moving higher up the league whilst keeping players in the club and allowing some to return to football.

This season the Colts have continued to grow with teams across almost all age groups up to u12s. With players all learning to play football and enjoying being outside and active. They head into the summer of tournaments before a well earned break for all the volunteers who allow it to happen. We would like to thank all the coaches and committee members for their selfless work and also all the organisations who support the Colts financially to buy kit and equipment; allowing all the children to have a great experience.



The weather is warming up this weekend, but the water is still cold. Following the recent tragic drownings across the UK and Ireland, we're reminding people to Float to Live. It's a skill that could save your life. In fact, it has already helped save the lives of more than 50 people in all sorts of situations.

That's why we're reminding people to Float to Live:

- Tilt your head back, with your ears submerged.
- Relax and try to breathe normally.
- Move your hands and feet to help you stay afloat.
- It's fine if your legs sink, we all float differently.

Practise floating in a supervised local pool if you can

Please share our safety advice with your loved ones – it might just be a lifesaver.

Send them this link:

rnli.org/safety/float



Lifeboats

PTFA Update



As we head into the final few weeks of the summer term, the PTFA committee is in full swing preparing for our biggest fundraising event of the year – the Summer Fete on Friday 3rd July.

Over the past few months, your support has enabled the PTFA to fund a range of projects and activities for pupils across the school. Most recently, we helped support the Year 3 trip to Ufton Court, enriching their learning about Ancient Egypt. Each summer, we are also delighted to welcome new families to the Marcham School by funding the PE bags presented at the school's welcome event. We look forward to meeting the newest members of our school community in the coming weeks.

We hope to see lots of families and local residents at the Summer Fete, which promises an afternoon of games, activities, refreshments and community fun.

Raffle tickets will be coming home with children soon. Tickets can also be purchased from the school reception, by contacting the PTFA via Facebook, or by emailing MarchamPTA@gmail.com.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of local businesses and organisations, we have some fantastic raffle prizes up for grabs. Huge thanks to Cotswold Wildlife Park, Fairytale Farm, Snakes and Ladders, Laser Kombat, Partyman World of Play, Mostly Books and Oxford Wet 'n Wild, Miele, Whizz Pop Bang Magazine, Blenheim Palace, The Missing Bean, Loose Cannon Brewery and a special thank you to The Crown for their support.

As an extra treat for local families, Partyman Oxford has provided an exclusive discount offer. Use **SCHOOLPARTY20OFF** for a regular party booking or **SCHOOLPARTY40OFF** for an Exclusive Delta Party.

Looking for ideas to keep the children entertained over the summer holidays? Please consider Ultimate Activity Camps at Chandlings Prep School and Oxford Wet 'n Wild Summer Splash. Both organisations have kindly donated prizes to our raffle and offer fantastic opportunities for children to stay active, have fun and make memories during the school break.

Every raffle ticket sold and every pound raised at the fete helps fund valuable experiences, equipment and opportunities for our pupils. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you on 3rd July for what promises to be a fantastic community event.

THE PTFA COMMITTEE



**Kennington
Memory
Club**

Living well with dementia



Scan Me

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

SUMMER SEASON

Whilst for many people the peak summer months are the time for getting out and about and going on holiday, for the families living with dementia this may not be possible. Instead, the continuity, familiarity and support of somewhere like the Memory Club can be a much-appreciated lifeline, both for the person with dementia and their families. The lovely big airy hall with its full-length windows overlooking the garden provides us with a very comfortable view of summer – or the vagaries of the British weather which are always a good topic of conversation!

We continue to welcome enquiries from anyone who feels they would benefit from a family member with a diagnosis of dementia attending the club. We run Monday and Thursday, 9.30am – 3.00pm. For more details of what we offer please take a look at the website www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk or contact our Organiser, Kay, by email organiser@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk or call 07852 883496. We look forward to meeting you Chairman, Kennington Memory Club

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Saturday 8th August 2026

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Schedule

10am - 12pm Staging

12pm Judging

2pm Show Opens

Raffle and Produce Sale
(donations to NSPCC and
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3.30pm Awards and Raffle Draw

The Fyfield and Tubney Show is back!! Please come and bring your lovely produce, win an award, buy, sell and donate and have a cuppa.

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



Tim Owen Author from Marcham



Do you enjoy historical fiction? Do you especially enjoy historical fiction set in our corner of Oxfordshire? I'm Tim Owen, former resident of Marcham and now a local author living in Steventon, and my recently launched book, *Gilles of Bec* and *The Cage Full of Birds* might be what you are looking for. It is a story set in 12th century England about the trials and tribulations of Gilles of Bec, a young monk sent by the Norman Abbey of Bec to its English estate of Stivetun.

Through no fault of his own, he becomes embroiled in the events of the civil war between King Stephen and the Empress Matilda which plagued our area. It is a story of the triumph of hope over despair, of good over evil.

**Visit www.tdownen.co.uk for more,
including the film trailer to the book!**

I'm delighted that it has received many compliments: I have been devouring *A Cage Full of Birds*! I love it, truly! The characters are so well drawn, and *Gilles* shines through like a *Candide*.

Such detail, characters, description, pace... brilliantly done. What a dance you've done there, so good. You made the landscape and period integral to the reading experience, not just the characters and plot.

The descriptive passages are very lyrical and beautifully evocative of their local settings.

Great suspense building and humour too. I have laughed out loud at many places.

If you live locally then email me via my website to arrange free delivery – and a signed copy! Otherwise, it's available in print form from <https://troubador.co.uk/author/t-d-owen> and in E-Book form on Amazon UK.

Life Lessons According To A Wall Barley

I, as a proud stalk of Wall Barley, yes, that Wall Barley, the one that gets stuck in dogs' ears, or being thrown by children as darts. I've spent many seasons observing my neighbours and fellow grasses in the UK wildflower meadows, and if I may I'd like to share my thoughts. And let me tell you, for a bunch of plants who can't walk, we have wildly different approaches to daily life.

Take Crested Dog's-tail. Always upright, always immaculate, the sort of grass that would alphabetise its own seeds if it had hands. Every morning it greets the sun like it's clocking in for a shift. "Consistency is key," it says, swaying with managerial confidence. A real overachiever. Humans might call it disciplined. I call it exhausting.

Then there's Yorkshire Fog, who drifts through life in a soft haze of lilac fuzz, looking like it's permanently just woken from a nap. Ask it about tomorrow and it'll shrug, "If the dew falls, it falls." A philosopher, a dreamer, a grass that has never once worried about slug damage. Humans could learn a thing or two about not checking their emails before breakfast.

And of course, Timothy. Big, chunky, dependable Timothy. The sort of grass that would help you move house and refuse petrol money. Timothy approaches each day with the calm acceptance of someone who knows the cows love him and always will. "One breeze at a time," he says, which is impressive given he's usually being chewed.

As for me? I'm somewhere between anxious overthinking and carefree floppiness. Some days I stand tall. Some days I lean dramatically like I'm in a Victorian novel. Balance, I've learned, is less about perfect posture and more about not panicking when a beetle crawls up your stem.

What Humans Can Learn From Us Meadow Folk

- Embrace variety. A meadow thrives because everyone's different. Your garden will too. Let the odd scruffy corner exist. It builds character.
- Take each day as it comes. Weather changes, life changes, sometimes a sheep sits on you. Roll with it.
- Value the slow stuff. Growth happens quietly. Often while no one's looking.
- Welcome wildlife. The beetles, bees, and birds aren't visitors; they're colleagues.

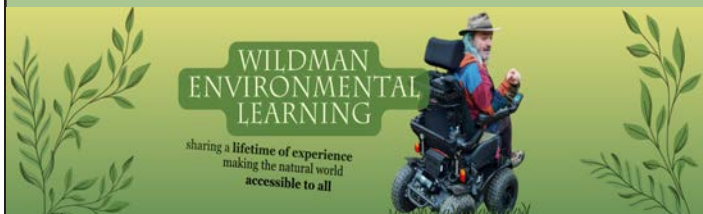
In the end, whether you're a gardener or a grass, balance isn't about perfection. It's about swaying without snapping, rooting without clinging, and remembering that even on the windiest days, you're part of something bigger.

And if all else fails, be more like Yorkshire Fog. A nap never hurt anyone.

Happy Gardening!
Stuart Mabbutt,
Wildlife Gardening Specialist
01865 747243
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The People's Countryside Environmental Debate Podcast



ALL SAINTS' & ST LUKE'S CHURCHES

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

On Sunday 12th July, 6pm at All Saints' Marcham, there will be a Service of Baptism and Confirmation taken by Bishop Henry Scriven, myself, and our church youth worker Rob Finch. A number of young people from the local community will be either baptised or confirmed or both. Some of the candidates were baptised as babies.

So in the service, they will have the opportunity to reaffirm the vows that were made on their behalf by their parents, and by professing their own faith now, will then be confirmed as Christians. Those who were not baptised as babies will be baptised by full immersion (we erect and fill with water a small baptism pool in church) and then, if they wish, they will also be confirmed.

It is always so encouraging to see anybody, especially young people, publicly declare their faith as Christians before gathered friends and family, and to welcome them into the world-wide church. This is why a Bishop takes a confirmation service. They are there partly to represent the wider church into which the candidates are received. But the main purposes of any baptism or confirmation service is to join together in worship to celebrate the work of God's Spirit in the lives of the candidates, and to pray for them that they would keep going in the faith through all the inevitable ups and downs of life ahead.

So do come to support them and to take encouragement in your own faith too. Maybe it could be you next time. All welcome.

Rev. Nick Weldon

Contacts:

Rev. Nick Weldon *Vicar* vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org 01865 391962
Phil Rowlandson *Curate* curate@allsaintsmarcham.org
Rob Finch *Youth Worker* youth@allsaintsmarcham.org
Jill Rowe *Children & Families minister* families@allsaintsmarcham.org
Tamsin Gilbert *Parish Administrator* info@allsaintsmarcham.org
Ruth Atkins *Safeguarding Officer* safeguarding@allsaintsmarcham.org
Website: www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Regular Sunday services

10.30am: Morning Service at AS
11am-12pm: Quiet prayer at St. Luke's
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 5th July 11am Morning Service
August No Service
Sunday 6th September 11am Harvest Festival

Contact: st.lukes@allsaintsmarcham.org

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

JOINT LOCAL PLAN(S)

It's been a busy month for planning policy, which is the key determinant about how many homes get built and where. Residents may remember that the examination of the South and Vale's Joint Local Plan (JLP) had previously stalled, but that things were starting to move again: the next round of public examinations will now be held on Tuesday 7th – Friday 10th July, and all parties have agreed to an updated timeline that should hopefully see the JLP finally adopted in May 2027.

In less welcome news, the Government has forced us to start on a new Local Plan under their new framework which came into effect earlier this year: this new framework may strip councils of powers to set homebuilding standards above the national standards and mostly limit us to identifying strategic sites. This is disappointing enough in itself, especially since we have worked hard to include excellent policies in the JLP on topics such as sustainable homes and infrastructure provision. To add insult to injury though, we have had to decide on the geography of this new plan less than a month before the decision on Local Government Reorganisation is expected: we've therefore decided to partner with South Oxfordshire again, since they should be included within our grouping no matter what, but if we knew we would eventually merge also with West Berkshire or with other Oxfordshire districts then we could have decided to also partner with them for the JLP2. This kind of disjointed thinking from Westminster is nothing new, I'm afraid, but it really drives me up the wall!

ABANDONED CARAVAN

Residents may remember a dilapidated caravan that had been abandoned in a lay-by along Howard Cornish Way but which was forcibly removed last autumn; several residents had previously been in touch with me about it and I spent a lot of time working with the Vale's officers to persuade them that we could and should take action. The owner has recently been fined £1,301 by Reading Magistrates' Court for failing to pay a fixed penalty notice and for costs. I was already relieved to have this issue off my to-do list, but I hope the fine will deter others from similar behaviour.

CLLR DR ROBERT CLEGG

District Councillor for Marcham Ward

Phone: 07784 225290

Email: robert.clegg@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

This month's edition of the MAD News marks one year since Oxfordshire County Council has recently been consulting on proposed speed limit changes along the A415 between Frilford and Kingston Bagpuize. These changes are largely linked to the new housing development and the planned roundabout near Kingston Bagpuize, but they may also be of interest to residents in both Frilford and Marcham who regularly use this route. Under the proposals, the existing 40mph speed limit on the A415 Abingdon Road heading out of Kingston Bagpuize would be replaced by extending the current 30mph limit further out of the village. Beyond this, a new 40mph limit is also proposed, stretching to the junction with Fyfield Wick and including the new roundabout.

Separately, the County Council's Vision Zero team has confirmed that work is progressing on potential speed limit reductions across all A and B roads in Oxfordshire. This will be presented as a coordinated package of measures aimed at improving road safety. Initial consultation activity is expected to start shortly



and may have already begun by the time you read this, so we should hear more detail soon about how this could affect key local routes, including the A415 and A338.

Many residents will be aware of the overgrown state of the bridleway beyond Mill Road Bridge in Marcham. I have raised this with the Countryside Access Team, who have now submitted a request for the path to be mown. However, due to limited resources and high demand for summer vegetation clearance work across the county, they have not yet been able to confirm when this will be carried out. I will continue to follow this up and push for progress, as I know how important this route is for local walkers.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the Highways Maintenance Team has agreed to replace the village gates at the entrance to Gozzards Ford, which have become worn and are now in need of repair. Although a date for the works has not yet been confirmed, the project has been added to the maintenance programme. I will share further updates as soon as I receive confirmation of when the replacement will take place.

I hope everyone is able to enjoy a well-deserved break at some point over the Summer and as always, 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

WHITE HORSE RESERVOIR

Working with Didcot & Wantage MP Oly Glover and Witney MP Charlie Maynard, we secured a meeting with Ofwat, DEFRA and the EA, who are overseeing the White Horse Reservoir project, formerly SESRO. The reservoir continues to progress through regulatory milestones, but the recent "Gate 3" decision raised a number of concerns around Thames Water's planning, including flood risk and water quality. In our meeting, regulators reassured us that progress was being made, and that these issues would need to be resolved before the next stage of the process.

We have also pushed for independent assessment of the costings, given the ballooning price tag, and more work on possible alternatives such as the Severn to Thames Transfer. I will continue to work with regulators, councillors and local campaign groups to get answers to concerns raised about this project.

PRIDE

From Marcham, as from all across the constituency, I have received concern from the LGBTQ+ community in recent weeks. The UK has slipped from 1st to 22nd in Europe for legal and policy rights. The Equality and Human Rights Commission's (EHRC) rulings and guidance roll back trans protections, create a hierarchy of rights, and prioritise exclusion. They are also simply unworkable in practice, with many businesses writing to me to outline the ridiculous implications. I joined Lib Dem colleagues to push the Government to rethink a policy they are just getting so wrong. So Pride was much needed, and I had the enormous privilege of judging the Pride Dog Show, a duty I take very seriously. Well done to Bilbo Waggins, best in show! Oxford Pride itself was a fabulous display of solidarity from our community. I also spoke on the day about how I have joined colleagues cross-party in Parliament to fight for equality and against this rollback of rights.

HEALTHY AGEING

The Health & Social Care Committee launched its Healthy Ageing report, which recommended social prescribing of



physical activity as standard, and the huge impact this can have on your healthy lifespan. Oxford Professor Sir Muir Gray, a world leading authority on this subject, contributed greatly with his research. Local group Abingdon Green Gym helped me launch the report in a session laying woodchips by the Ock, a fantastic advert for the benefits of physical activity.

THAMES WATER

News rumbles on about a potential deal with creditors to save Thames Water and see its fines waived by Ofwat until 2030. I have been clear throughout that the Thames shambles needs to end. In a meeting with the Minister for Water, Emma Hardy, I raised concerns around the possible deal, and urged her to consider putting the company into Special Administration to allow a new company set up for the benefit of customers, not shareholders.

Meanwhile the service provided by Thames Water just gets worse. The majority of homes in the constituency are now in a 'pressure managed area', with deliberately reduced water pressure to extend the life of their ageing infrastructure. Most have seen small changes, but some areas of the constituency have seen water pressures halve, with appliances failing and water flows reduced to a dribble. The latest information I have received from Thames Water suggests that Marcham has only had very small changes to pressure. But if you experience a sudden problem with water pressure, please do get in touch.

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

LAYLA MORAN

MP Oxford West and Abingdon

**OTHER REPRESENTATIVES
DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**


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

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

MP Charlie Maynard charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk



Answers to July Fun Quiz - School's Out! from page 9

1. Dua Lipa and Callum Turner
2. The Derby
3. Silver
4. Manchester City
5. A prime number
6. Budapest
7. Mars
8. Alexander Graham Bell
9. Mount Everest
10. Keely Hodgkinson
11. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
12. Photosynthesis



Answers to this month's Quiz from page 7

1. Octopussy
2. Tracy Edwards
3. Macbeth
4. The blanket and woollen textile industry
5. Madeira Airport, officially Cristiano Ronaldo International Airport
6. Sheffield
7. Argentina
8. Code of Silence
9. Yesterday by The Beatles
10. Larry
11. Aston Villa
12. 206

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

GARD NEWS UPDATE

The Annual General Meeting of GARD will be held on Friday 3rd July at 8pm in the Millenium Room, Steventon Village Hall. All are welcome but only members may vote. You may become a GARD member at the door.

Remember: Thames Water do not have planning permission for any reservoir. They plan to apply for this in November 2026 at the earliest. See the GARD website for details of the planning (DCO) process Group Against Reservoir Development | GARD. Please help us fund the expert legal help we'll need to fight the DCO by donating to GARD via the website.

Leaflets: all households in Steventon, Milton, Drayton, Marcham, East and West Hanney, East Hendred and Rowstock should have received a leaflet either through the door or in the local News. South Abingdon has also been extensively leafleted. GARD is very grateful to the volunteers who have done this delivery, and to the News publications that allowed us to slip the leaflet into their June issue.

Millets and Q Gardens: GARD has held four Action Days, two in each place (great thanks to Millets Farm and to Q Gardens). We obtained 300 signatures for the Petition which now has over 7000 signatures. We gave out more leaflets and had many good conversations about the proposed reservoir. Again, thanks to the volunteers for this.

Abingdon, Grove, Wantage: an awareness campaign in these three centres is planned for July, at the request of residents there. Please get in touch with the secretary gard.secretary@gmail.com if you have any ideas or would like to help.

Please sign up to GARD's mailing list, donate to our funds and join GARD. All these actions can be done through our website or by contacting gard.secretary@gmail.com.

JOIN GARD and work towards a full opposition at the DCO hearings early next year. We can show them that democracy works – three MPs, Oxfordshire County Council, the two District Councils, the town and parish councils: all these oppose the Reservoir plans. Add your name to the list of GARD members and be part of that opposition. The joining link is on the website: Group Against Reservoir Development | GARD. You can also find a link there to donate to GARD – we need funds to fight a DCO!

Come forward and volunteer – we shall be delivering leaflets to all the affected villages and we are planning events too. There are jobs small and large, active and more routine. Please get in touch at gard.secretary@gmail.com 07773 029409

Show that people matter. Join GARD to stop the Reservoir.
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)
See the website for details www.gard-oxon.org.uk

St Lawrence Church, Tubney

Join us at 9:30am on every second Sunday of the month for a Traditional Prayer Book Service in this beautiful Chapel of Ease.



JULY 2026

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 with Stay & Play 9-11.30am (7) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17)	2 Marcham Society Midweek Walk 12.30 pm (7)	3 Marcham School fete 6-8 pm (15 & 16) GARD Annual General Meeting, Millennium Room Steventon Village Hall 8pm (19)	4 MC Thirsty Café with Natural Bread 9-11.30am (7)
5 SL Morning Service 11 am (17) AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	6 DP Community Games Group 10.30am-12.00 noon MC Toasted light lunch 12-2pm (7) MC Bridge 6.50pm	7 AS TiddleyPeeps 10-11.30am	8 MC Thirsty Café 9-11.30am (7) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17)	9 Millets Farm Classic car meet 9.30am-noon	10	11 MC Thirsty Café with Natural Bread 9-11.30am (7)
12 AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service Baptism and Confirmations 6pm (17)	13 DP Community Games Group 10.30am-12.00 noon (7) MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm (3)	14 AS TiddleyPeeps 10-11.30am MC Milkshake Pop Up Cafe 3-4.15pm (7)	15 MC Thirsty Café with AGE UK 9-11.30am (7) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17) MC Community Lunch 12-1.30pm Arts Society Abingdon 10.30am & 2pm (7)	16	17	18 MC Thirsty Café & Farmers' Market 9-11.30am (7)
19 AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	20 Deadline 'Call for Evidence' (5) DP Community Games Group 10.30am-12.00 noon (7) MC Bridge 6.50pm MC Marcham Society 7.30pm (7)	21 AS TiddleyPeeps 10-11.30am	22 MC Thirsty Café with Games and Puzzles 9-11.30am (7) DP Holy Communion 10.30am (17)	23	24	25 Test pit gardens in Marcham (7) MC Thirsty Café with Natural Bread 9-11.30am (7)
26 Test pit gardens in Marcham (7) AS Morning Service 10.30am (17) AS Evening Service 6pm (17)	27 DP Community Games Group 10.30am-12.00 noon (7) MC Bridge 6.50pm	28 AS TiddleyPeeps 10-11.30am	29	30	31	

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

AUGUST 2026

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

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