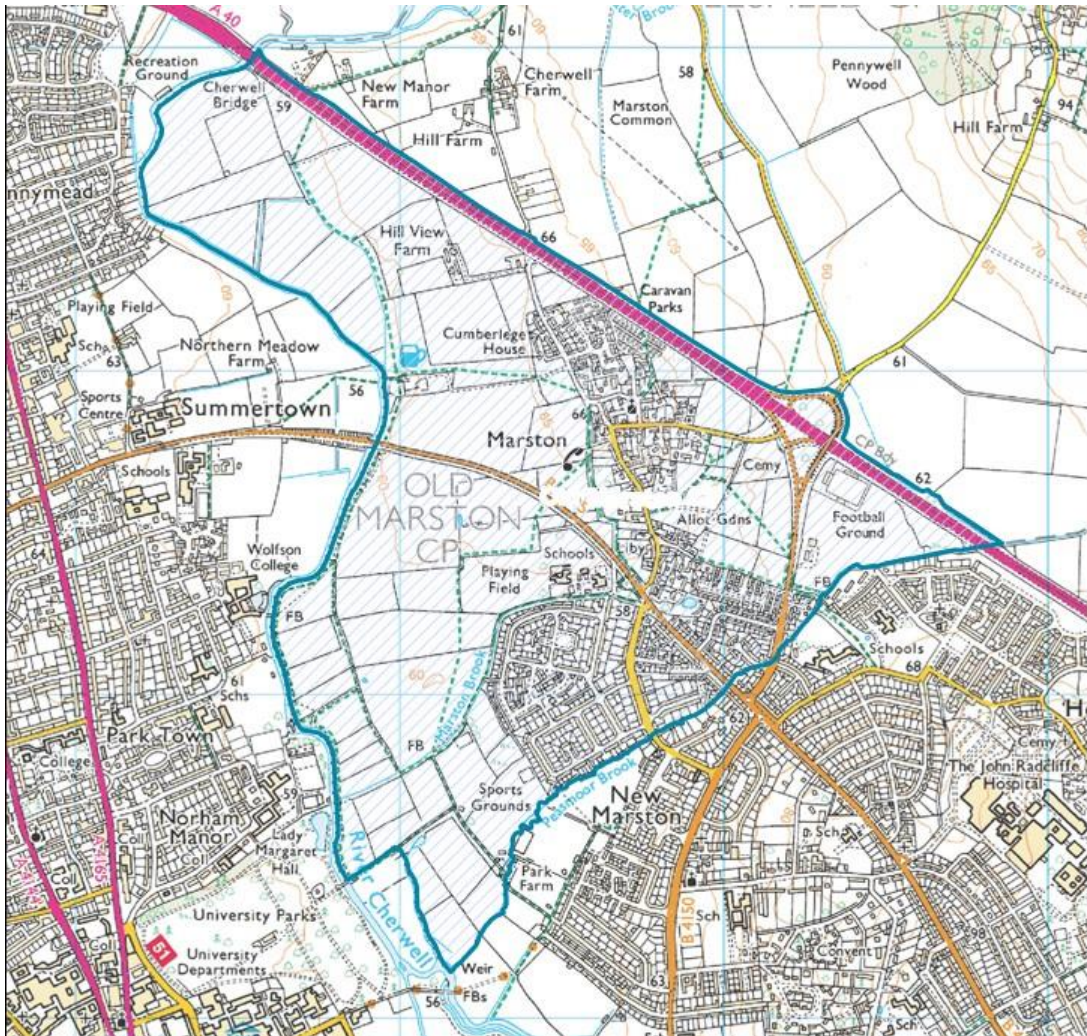


November
2021

MARSTON



Map of Old Marston Parish Boundary

The Official Newsletter for Old Marston Parish Council.

Volume 2021 Issue 2

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Introduction from the Chairman.

Welcome to our second newsletter, our opportunity to keep in touch with you. In this edition you will find some local news and hopefully some useful information. In addition to our newsletter you can find out more on our noticeboard outside Mortimer Hall, as well as our website (www.oldmarston-pc.gov.uk), Facebook page (www.facebook.com/OldMarstonPC) and Twitter page (twitter.com/oldmarstonpc). We meet mostly on the first Monday of the month at 19:00 at Mortimer Hall. You are very welcome to join us and to have your say. If you have any local news or events, then please let us know as we can spread the news.

Over the past months we have faced several challenges. Firstly, adapting to life after lockdown and returning to physical meetings. There are a number of pressures on the parish from the proposed developments: Hill View Farm and Almonds Farm which have been approved, Marston Paddock, which is under review by the planners, as well as the proposed development on land north of Bayswater Brook. The Parish Council have continually raised residents' concerns with the City and County Councils about potential threats to the environment and severe traffic congestion. We are also investigating the setting up of a local plan which could help guide any potential future developments. In addition, there has also been a proposal to upgrade back lane.

Looking forward the Parish Council has been trying to get street lighting in Elsfield Road, as we did in School Lane, but have been constantly rebuffed by County Highways. We are also investigating getting the walls outside the underpass (next to recreational ground) painted, with help of local young people. We have installed new benches in the cemetery paddock and the play area at Boults Lane Recreational Ground. We are also supporting the planting of trees, hedging and wildflowers on our land. If you have any ideas for a local project, then please let us know.

On Saturday 26th March 2022 will be our 15th Annual OxClean litterpick – please do come and join us.

Duncan Hatfield
Chairman of Old Marston Parish Council

News



Seat in Boults Lane Recreation Ground

The seat in Boults Lane Recreation Ground which commemorated Parish Councillor Norman Jones was removed when the pavilion was being installed, to make sure it did not get damaged. This has now been put back in the play area in Boults Lane to give people a welcome seat while young ones play on the equipment.

Old Marston Parish Council have also had a new bench installed in the paddock at the rear of the cemetery. This gives people a place to sit, contemplate or just rest.



Bench in Elsfield Road Cemetery Paddock.

Cemetery: Unfortunately, the planned extension to the Elsfield Road Cemetery has been deferred as there are so many surveys needed, such as groundwater survey, environmental survey, archaeological survey. The cost could be over £33,000. There are still quite a few vacant spaces so there is not a desperate need at present, the land will still be earmarked for extending the cemetery.



New Inclusive Orbit play equipment

Mortimer Hall Play Area: A new Inclusive Orbit is being installed. This is to replace the old, damaged roundabout.

Planning

Hill View Farm: This has now been approved by the Oxford City Council for 159 dwellings. Although the Parish Council accepts that housing is needed, especially affordable housing, it had several concerns regarding this development. Mainly, the access through the 'S' bend in Mill Lane, the lack of accessibility for public transport on the actual site, the safety of cyclists on, at times, already busy roads, and the impact of increased traffic, etc. Such a large development will inevitably have an impact on the environment and local people's lives.

Back Lane: The Oxfordshire County Council seem adamant that, despite the Parish Council's concerns and a petition signed by over 500 residents, the upgrade of Back Lane will go ahead. This means that horse riders, cyclists, pedestrians and probably moped/scooters will be able to use the lane – which is potentially a dangerous combination!

Almond Farm/Land West of Mill Lane: Oxford City Council have applied to build 79 dwellings on the land next to Hill View Farm. The Parish Council has concerns, as with Hill View Farm, regarding the access and egress (the 'S' bend in Mill Lane), the lack of accessibility to public transport, safety of cyclists.

Marston Paddock: The Oxford City Council have also applied to build 39 dwellings on the field near the entrance to Butts Lane. At the October Parish Council meeting there were 13 residents of St Nicholas Mobile Home Park, who were all, understandably, very concerned about the narrow access road. The Parish Council have concerns here with regards to access – for both residents as well as construction vehicles, as well the effect on traffic, parking provision.

Local Transport Meeting: The Parish Council organised a meeting of Parish, City & County Councillors, including councillors responsible for Highways, to try and address the lack of coherent thinking regarding traffic with the potential three development sites. Although it was a very informative meeting, none of the key Highways councillors were able to attend. A further meeting was planned but, as yet despite calls from the Clerk of Old Marston Parish Council and County Councillor Mark Lygo, none of the key councillors have responded!

Salford Road: Construction work at the former Jack Russell pub is progressing.

Mortimer Drive: Construction work on the former garages behind the Mortimer Drive is virtually complete.

Cumberlege Close: The hoes are now complete and will soon be available for occupation.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council is investigating setting up a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish but will need local people to be actively involved.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan will set a vision for the future. Communities can use neighbourhood planning to influence the type, design, location and mix of new development in a designated area, within the bounds of City Council planning policies. Neighbourhood plans will become part of the planning policy against which all planning applications will be assessed, alongside national and city-wide policies.

Neighbourhood plans are:

- concerned only with land use and development issues, shaping new development but also limiting the locations where development is permitted.
- based on detailed evidence about local historical features of importance, environmental issues and biodiversity, amongst other things.

Creating a Neighbourhood Plan can cost £10,000 or more (although Government funding is available). Consultants may be needed to supplement skills available in the community.

- It will probably need up to 12 people meeting monthly to work on the Neighbourhood Plan,
- It will probably take 3 to 4 years (maybe longer).

Before starting, serious questions need to be asked such as:

- Do we have the time to dedicate to this?
- Do we think a Neighbourhood Plan will give us the control we hope for?

So, if you feel you have something to offer and would like to be involved, please get in touch.

Tim Cann. Clerk

Tel: 01865 203 139

Email clerk@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk

Calendar of Remaining Full Council Meetings 2021/22

Date	Meeting	Time	Venue
6 th December	Full Council	7pm	Mortimer Hall
10 th January	Full Council	7pm	Mortimer Hall
7 th February	Full Council	7pm	Mortimer Hall
7 th March	Full Council	7pm	Mortimer Hall
4 th April	Full Council	7pm	Mortimer Hall

All full council meets are by law open to members of the public.

There are five Committees which meet quarterly, or when the need arises. There is a list at the end of this newsletter showing which councillors are serving on which committees.

Note from Pam Strange

Many of you will know Pam who has lived in Old Marston for many years and of her illness. Pam has been touched by the number of people who have asked how she is, sent her good wishes and offered to help if needed. She says she didn't know knew so many people and has been touched by their kindness and asked if a 'Thank you' could be made to everyone.

Meet the Councillor.

Mick Bates - I am originally from Rose Hill but have lived in Old Marston since 2015. I am a mechanic by trade. I am keen to help in the local community and joined the Parish Council to help serve the community.



Picture of Mick Bates



Picture of Mick Cadd

Mick Cadd - I was born in Bristol in 1939 and moved to Oxford in 1954 when I started a five-year apprenticeship with British Leyland Motor Corporation (BLMC) garage in Oxford. I achieved my City and Guilds Certificate in Motor Mechanics and remained with the firm for eighteen months. I then moved to Morris Motors where I stayed for three years. I then started in the garage trade and remained for 30 years. In 1984 I bought The Three Horseshoes Public House in Old Marston with my late wife Jean. I still live in the village. I joined the Parish Council in 2006.

Peter Cox - Born in Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset, I moved to Oxford in 1952 when my late father Wing Commander John Cox, was posted to Kidlington Airfield. I was educated at Salesian College Grammar School in Cowley and on leaving I took up an editorial position with Pergamon Press in Headington. In 1974 I had a change of direction and joined W. Lucy, an electrical engineering firm in Jericho, here I had two spells of employment ending in 1996. Settling in the village of Old Marston in 1980 has been the best ever move for me. I was accepted onto the Parish Council in 2003 and, if allowed to, I would like to carry on a good while longer.



Picture of Peter Cox



Picture of Skye Denno

Skye Denno – Hi I'm Skye and in 2017 I moved from Cowley to serve as Vicar of Old Marston. As well as being a priest I'm a mum of three and a wife to Joel. My background before ordination was in Art Therapy and psychotherapy and I'm dipping my toes in Group Analysis starting a diploma next September. I have a love of abstract painting (acyclic on canvas) and am developing a new hobby in gardening. This is my first time on the local parish council and I'm excited to join the team and keen to serve my community further in this way.

Pat Hall - I was born in Oxford and attended St Andrew's Primary School and Milham Ford School. I worked in Local Government and then the NHS as the Manager of the Oxford Cancer Intelligence Unit. I moved to Cherwell Drive with my late husband when our three children were small. I now have six wonderful grandchildren, three of whom attended St Nicholas Primary and Cherwell School. They all have degrees which has to be a great testament to our local schools!



Picture of Pat Hall

I retired in 2010. I am a member of the National Trust, take upholstery classes, love reading and gardening and I lunch a lot with friends!

I was co-opted onto the Parish Council in 2010 and am now the Vice-Chair. I really enjoy living in the parish of Old Marston. Let's all work to ensuring it remains a great place to live.



Picture of Duncan Hatfield

Duncan Hatfield - I have been part of Marston for over twenty-five years. I am originally from Wallingford. I went to Liverpool Polytechnic to study Geography. I moved to Oxford in 1991 to work as a care worker for the health service. After a number of years I moved onto retail work and administration. I currently work in administration. I joined the parish council in 2006 and became Vice-Chairman in 2010

and Chairman in January 2018. I am responsible for organising the annual OxClean litterpick in Old Marston and manage the website, Facebook, Twitter sites and the on-line profile of the council. I am currently the Chairman of the Old Marston Charities Trust, and a member of St Nicholas Parochial Church Council and Mortimer Hall Management Committee.

Mary James - I was born in Oxford and educated at Oxford High School. I went to university in London and worked there for ten years, firstly as a transport planner for the (then) Greater London Council and subsequently as a teacher of Economics and Geography.



Picture of Mary James



Picture of Louise Milford

Louise Milford - I have been a resident of Old Marston since 1991 and my three children have grown up here. I trained as a nurse in London in the late 1970's. I nursed for a number of years and since 1990 ran a private medical practice. I retired at the end of 2020. I very much enjoy living in Old Marston. I volunteer at the library once a month and have recently taken on an allotment. I was co-opted onto the Parish Council in January 2019. I am interested in local issues and am pleased to give my time to the Parish Council.

Alistair Morris - I have lived in Oxfordshire for most of my adult life and in Marston since 2006. I have two adult children who were born at the JR Hospital and went to local schools. I am a co-founder of Marston Community Gardening Group, a member of St Nicholas Church Environment and Social Justice Committee and Vice Chair of Court Place Farm allotments. I am particularly concerned with environmental issues such as climate change, local nature and the environment. I am keen to support local initiatives on public transport, car sharing schemes, use of renewable energy, tree planting, growing and sharing our own food and encouraging energy efficiency in local homes. I am opposed to excessive traffic, congestion and pollution and the building of new homes on Green Belt, Flood Plain, biodiverse land, that are neither genuinely affordable or carbon neutral.



Picture of Alistair Morris



Picture of Alan Spence

Alan Spence - My name is Alan Spence. My family and I have lived in Old Marston since 1983. I am married with three grown up children, all attended St Nicks and Cherwell School. I served for 30 years in the Thames Valley Police and was the Community Police Officer here in Marston in 1994/95. I retired in 2003 and then worked in insurance investigating Fraud. I retired from that in 2016. I have always been involved in the community and most recently I was chairman at Marston Saints. I left the Club in August this year. I remain involved in supporting the local community and have been on the Parish Council since 2018.

Charlotte Vinnicombe - I volunteered to become a Parish Councillor to help the Parish Council look after our community. I have lived and worked in Oxford since 1995 and have lived in Old Marston since 2008. I live with my partner David, and my two children, who were born just up the road in the John Radcliffe Hospital. I have worked for Oxford University for nearly 24 years; my current role is Head of Administration and Finance in the Faculty of Law.



Picture of Charlotte Vinnicombe

Through my job, I'm very experienced at committee work, and understand the democratic-making process that is fundamental to the Parish Council. I have previously chaired the Oxford Conservation Volunteers, helping to organise volunteers and raise funds to support practical nature conservation in the Oxford area. I am currently the chair of the Elsfield Road and Oxford Road Residents' Association, so I have a very good understanding of some local concerns (particularly relating to through-traffic and parking) and have experience of representing the views of residents in the parish. I am also aware, though, that the role of a Parish Councillor is to represent the whole parish, not just my own immediate area.

I have been a 'Marston Village liaison volunteer' for the Oxford Half Marathon for the past two years, and I enjoy helping with litter picking and sign cleaning in the village.

As a Parish Councillor, I have also been co-opted onto the Environment Committee – a sub-committee of the Parish Council. I am interested to explore what we can do at a parish level to care for the environment and help prevent climate change.



Picture of Peter Williams

Dr. Peter Williams - I have been a resident of the Parish for over forty years. I was a local G.P. and so know the area well and its social and medical needs. Though now retired, my last position was as Chairman of a National Medical Defence organisation, based in London, which served the interests of health workers throughout the UK. Though I live in the Conservation Area of the village, I seek to represent the interests of everyone in the parish at a time when we are under threat from encroaching developments and burgeoning traffic.

Report from Oxford City Councillor Mary Clarkson



Picture of Oxford City Councillor Mary Clarkson

Following on from the approval of the previous planning application at Hill View Farm, an application for a further 73 homes on the land adjacent to it at Mill Lane was approved in October. I did not have a vote on this committee, but Charlotte Vinnicombe from the Parish Council spoke against the application. We believe that there are opportunities to work with the County Council to come up with transport measures which will limit the impact of these developments on the rest of Old Marston.

I am working with Oxfordshire County Council and hoping that they will change the parking arrangements in Elms Drive back to their original Monday to Friday plans which appeared to be working well.

Report from Oxford City Councillor Mick Haines

I am very concerned about flooding in the village and on the junction of Beechey Avenue. With the climate change forecasts and the potential developments in Mill Lane and Marston Paddock on a field that would normally absorb large quantities of rainwater the future for the whole area is very grim. Also, there are no shops proposed in any of the new developments so all traffic would have to go through the village to get to any of the existing shops in Cherwell Drive or Old Marston Road, therefore, adding to already busy congested roads.



Picture of Oxford City Councillor Mick Haines

I am still pushing for a multistorey carpark at the John Radcliffe Hospital site, this would greatly relieve the congestion of traffic going to and from the hospital and enable visitors and day patients to park nearby.

Report from Oxfordshire County Councillor Mark Lygo

Oxfordshire County Council have nine priorities: -



*Picture of Oxfordshire
County Councillor
Mark Lygo*

- Put addressing the climate emergency at the heart of our work.
 - Tackling inequalities in Oxfordshire
 - A Priorities the health and wellbeing of residents.
 - Support carers and the social care system.
 - Invest in an inclusive, integrated, and sustainable transport network
 - Improve access to nature and green spaces
 - Create opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential
 - Play our part in a vibrant local democracy
 - Work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic, and social benefit.
- Locally, I have worked throughout the year with residents to help resolve issues and concerns.
 - Supported local schools with grants for community initiatives
 - Continue to work with residents of Elms Drive to try and resolve parking and speeding issues.
 - Working with the Parish Council on a number of projects such as a traffic work group in Old Marston Village.
 - Reviewing Old Marston Library to ensure it reopens safely as soon as possible.

Old Marston Library

Due to the small size of the library, it is still only operating a click and collect, reservations and returns service.



Picture of someone reading

Reporting a Street Fault



Logo for Fixmystreet

You can report a road or street problem online by contacting the County Council highways. You can also check on previously reported problems by following this link: <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>



*Logo for Court Place
Farm Allotments*

COURT PLACE FARM ALLOTMENTS

It's been harvest time at the allotments, and though it hasn't been the best year for good growing weather, the crops have been pretty good.

Right now, the colourful pumpkins and squashes – all varieties, from Patty Pan and the cheerful Carnival and Sweet Dumpling through to the big orange ones for a Happy Hallowe'en – are keeping the season going. Many plot holders have their potatoes, onions and garlic stowed away for the winter and the broad bean crop put in the freezer. Their cabbages and kale are keeping still going whilst the parsnips and sprouts will be ready to pick for Christmas. If you want to avoid empty shelf panic, then one way is to take a plot and grow your own. If you worry about food miles, then turn the worry into food yards. Court Place Farm has 16 acres of allotments right here, with gate entrances on Boults Lane and Oxford Road and footpath access from Elsfield Road and Marsh Lane (across Showman's Field).

There are well over 150 plots right now, and there is a short waiting list. If you would like a plot, put your name down as there is a regular turnover (contact email address is below). There are whole plots (in modern money, approximately 250 square metres), half plots, and raised beds for those who want to try out growing or just have a few crops or flowers. Annual rents are £30 for a whole plot, £20 for a half, £10 for a raised bed. The annual rent time is March – if you take a plot now, you will pay pro rata to take you to March.

If you want to do some shared gardening, no strings attached, visit the Marston Community Gardening (MCG) plots (details below). If you just want a walk to see other projects on site, take the public footpath to visit the Forest Garden plots, the Coop Co-Op (chickens living in a large run, well protected from foxes) or the new Community Orchard.

As the trees need to root well before fruiting, there will be no fruit from the new trees for the next couple of years, but there should be fruit to share after that. If you would like to donate a young tree and help plant it in the winter, contact chair@cpf-allotments.org.uk

Community eggs laid by the chickens are sometimes available at the Eco Hub, in front of The Vicarage, Elsfield Road.

In addition, at CPF Allotments, the Supplies Shed has seeds, composts, fertilisers and other gardening needs, staffed by knowledgeable volunteers, usually between 8.30 and 11 Sunday mornings. Right now, the place to order seed potatoes which will be delivered next spring. This will save a lot of trouble later if you ordered now. The Supplies Shed also has garlic to plant this winter.

The gardening year just keeps rolling around and now is the time to think about the crops that can over-winter, such as broad beans, some varieties of garlic, onions, peas, well as planting autumn bulbs, and choosing sweet pea seeds for early seedlings....mmmmm....the thought of that scent can sustain you through the winter.

The main news from Court Place Farm Allotments is that the Community Interest Company Regulator has approved it to become a CIC. All members will automatically be shareholders. The change was needed before the imminent signing of the next 21-year occupancy lease with Oxford City Council.

Other news: after the hiatus of the pandemic, a platform has now been made to carry the weight of some substantial water tanks in which harvested rain water can be stored. The grant money for this, and for a further set of water harvest and storage points around the site, came from the Oxford City Council Green Spaces budget. More accessible raised beds are now available although the CPF CIC is hoping to improve the ground surface around them. If you feel you would like to try out gardening without bending, please get in touch. Contact details: membership@cpf-allotments.org.uk



Logo for FOSNS PTA

FSNS (Friends of St Nicholas Primary School)

FOSNS (Friends of St Nicholas' Primary School) supports the school with fundraising and community-building activities.

If you were walking around the Parish and surrounding area on 24th and 25th September you may have come across Rapunzel waiting to be rescued from the tower, Dennis being a menace, Mrs Mopple hanging out her washing, Slimer being Ghost Busted or a Witch and her Friends riding on their broom (to name a few), you were not seeing things – it was all part of St Nick's Scarecrow Trail. This was the first time the school organised the event and it was lovely to see so many people from the community taking part and walking around the trail. A huge thank you to all of those who purchased the maps for the route and all who took part showing off their creative skills with their amazing scarecrows! You all made this a great success, and we cannot wait to see next year's creations!

Unfortunately, we were unable to run our normal Fete due to social distancing, so we instead opted for an Autumn Fair. To say the weather was not on our side is an understatement. Whilst the Scarecrow Trail brought out the sunshine, the Autumn Fair brought out the rain clouds and plenty of them! Did this put us off? Certainly not! The fantastic pupils, parents, carers, volunteers, and visitors carried on soaked through to the skin. Stalls included Welly Wanging, a Dog Show, Glitter Tattoos, a Coconut Shy, Bar and Tuck Shop, Hot Dogs, Raffle and Tombola. A HUGE thank you to all who ventured out to support the event to make it a success!

All parents/carers of pupils of St Nicks are automatically members of FOSNS and the Committee is elected every year and holds regular meetings.

We are currently looking for a Treasurer - could this be you? If you would like to find out some more information, please do get in touch at friendsofstnicholasschool@gmail.com we would love to hear from you!

Marston Community Garden Group



Logo for Marston Community Garden

We continue to be very active in the community, having recently attended 2 school fetes at The Swan school and St Nicholas Primary school.

Our Veg growing season is almost over, with a few potatoes and courgettes left to harvest. Soon we will be putting the beds to rest and recover for the winter. Our compost bins

are near to reaching capacity, so we will add some moisture and cover for the winter, hoping for some good quality compost in the Spring.

More community fruit trees continue to be added to our Orchards, we also will be planting a new one in the Spring in New Marston Rec, along the fence line, at the back of the houses. This will be grown as espaliers, making easier to harvest the fruit in years to come.

A new community wood will be planted in November, consisting of 500 native trees: it will go in and around the bunds near the sports pitches, at Oxsrade, off Marsh Lane. The planned planting date is Saturday, 27th Nov from 10am – maybe we will see some of you there, to help and plant some of the trees yourself? They will provide extra biodiversity, help with flood alleviation, contribute to carbon capture and be a nice feature.

The other piece of positive news is that MCG have been awarded two certificates, by Britain in Bloom, recognising our achievements!

The first was on our Community Covid 19 projects that were developed during the last 18 months, when we provided projects to keep people active during lockdown, provide resources for the community and have outdoor activities to keep peoples' mental health in good spirits. For this we were given a rating of GOOD.

The other, was for our work on Managing the Environment and tackling Climate Change, both to mitigate the effects of climate change, and to adapt to it by making our community more resilient. For this we were given a rating of EXCELLENT!

We are trying to develop a Marston Hive, where things are shared, resources managed more efficiently, activities and event are organised to help improve the local environment, such as planting trees, growing food, collecting litter and more renewable/sustainable alternatives, for example: detergent refill station, a bike doctor, recycled crisp packets, reusing equipment, etc. We strive to do this in a more holistic way, working together, collectively for the common good, like in a Beehive!! Therefore, we work together as Marston Community Gardening, Marston Eco Group, Marston Eco Hub (based at the Vicarage, St Nicholas Church) and Marston Energy Club. We are supported by the Parish Council, City Council and County Council, along with Oxford Direct Services and CAG(Oxfordshire). We have various volunteer groups and organisations who also make significant contributions, for example St Nicholas Green Church, Court Place Farm allotments, Good Gym, and the local Community Service team. So, as you can see, it really is a whole community team effort!

Also over the last year, MCG have grown significantly and added several new projects and initiatives. We are always looking, and would be extremely appreciative of, more offers of help. Also please feel free to add to this list/map, if there is anything else you could bring/do/are willing to organise, in order to further develop our collective community hive? Al

Alistair Morris, Tel 724081 Marston Community Gardening, FB group

Email: hello@marstoncommunitygardening.org.uk

Old Marston Mill Lane Allotment Association (OMMLAA)

The Mill Lane Allotment site still has a small number of half plots available for lease. A half plot costs £12.50 per year. As well as growing annual fruit and veg, we keep bees and chickens and there is a small communal orchard. For enquiries, please contact the secretary Chris Mitchell on 07789991051 or email chrisaw.mitchell@yahoo.com

OXSRAD



Logo for OXSRAD

OXSRAD is an integrated sports and leisure centre off Marsh Lane with various facilities including a gym, spa bath, sensory room, sports hall, studio as well as a community café. There are several classes and activities running from the centre including Spinning, Mini Boot Camp, Strength & Conditioning, Circuits, SAQ/Core, Body HIIT, Boccia, Yoga, Pilates. There are also more specialist sessions and equipment such as Rebound Therapy, Eye Gaze & Magic Carpet.

OXSRAD is also a base for Oxford Tri, Headington Road Runners, Afreaka Aerials, Owl Centre as well as having therapies available such as physiotherapy and acupuncture.

The gym is fully equipped with all the latest equipment for a full workout. Much of the equipment is specialised or adapted to allow wheelchairs or those with physical difficulties to still get the most out of the gym. It also includes a weights room complete with freestanding weights, bench press machine and a pull up bar.

OXSRAD is an Official Spinning® Centre and has weekly classes run by fully qualified Spinning® instructors. With 15 high end Spin® bikes in a dedicated studio its great whether you are looking for a beginner's session, relaxed session, or a high intensity workout.

Current program of classes is:

Monday Circuits 6pm, Spinning 7pm,

Tuesday Spinning 6pm, Spinning 7pm,

Wednesday Spinning 10am, Body HIIT 12 (Noon), SAQ/CORE 6pm, Spinning 7pm.,

Thursday Circuits 6pm, Spinning 7pm,

Friday Spinning 10am,

Saturday Strength & Conditioning 9am,

Sunday Mini Bootcamp 9am, Spinning 10am.

See website for details and prices. www.oxsrad.org

Old Marston Charities Trust

Old Marston Charities Trust is a small charity based in Old Marston for the benefit of those suffering severe hardship within the parish. It started during the English Civil War and receives most of its funds from renting out a field it owns. All enquiries to Tim Cann. Telephone 01865 203 139 or email clerk@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk

St Nicholas Church Choirs

We continue to welcome new singers to our adult choir at our Thursday 6.30pm practice and to our junior and youth choirs practice on Fridays at 6pm. Both take place in the church. We are also inviting singers to join us particularly for our practices at the start of December for our Nine lessons and carol service. For more details contact Neil Barker musicdirector@stnicholasmarston.org.uk

Report from Kay Wood, Headteacher, The Swan School.

This term has been a hugely exciting one for our school. Although we opened in September 2019, this has been the first time we have started a year in our fantastic buildings, so it has certainly been a time for celebration. Our grand opening event on the 11th September was a great opportunity to come together to show off our brand new, state of the art facilities and celebrate everything we have achieved so far under challenging circumstances. More importantly, it was a chance for our community to come together - a luxury that we have all come to value so much more over the last year or so. We were overwhelmed by how many people came to visit and are looking forward to many more events in the future. The next one that we have planned is our Craft Fair on the 20th November - we hope to see you there!

This term has also been characterised by a return to much more of a sense of 'normality' at school. For us, this has meant the opportunity to bring back many of the enrichment activities that have had to be curtailed during the pandemic. At The Swan, we recognise that school is about much more than academic success; the little 'extras' that happen outside of the classroom are so vital for young people's personal and social development and also contribute massively to the 'fun' of being at school. In fact, we believe these things are so important that they should be an entitlement for every single child rather than a privilege for some, and that is why we make our programme of extra-curricular electives a timetabled part of our school day.

This year, due to the increased number of staff and the fact that we are once again able to welcome external facilitators into school, our offer is wider than it has ever been. From coding and Japanese to gardening, fundraising, and yoga, our students are very much enjoying the chance to try new things again. It has also been great to see our new sixth formers demonstrating their leadership by starting to run some of the activities. We would love to work with the community to further increase the opportunities available so if you have any ideas or would like to get involved, please get in touch!

What can communities in Old Marston do about the climate & ecological crisis?

Oxford has declared a climate emergency – we all need to act urgently to avert disaster. Fortunately, there is so much we can do as individuals and in our communities to tackle the climate crisis and create a healthy, sustainable future for Old Marston.

The CAG Project Community Action Groups



The CAG Project
**COMMUNITY
ACTION
GROUPS**

The Community Action Group network includes dozens of local groups and community projects focused on tackling environmental and social issues.

www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk

Logo for Community Action Groups

Good Food Oxford

Good Food Oxford is a network for a better food system in Oxford, working together for healthy, fair, sustainable and tasty food.

www.goodfoodoxford.org



Logo for Good Food Oxford

Low Carbon Hub



Visit the Low Carbon Hub for more information and advice about setting up a community energy project in your area.

www.lowcarbonoxford.org

Logo for Low Carbon Hub

Coalition for Healthy Streets & Active Travel

Find out how to make Oxford healthier and greener with the Coalition for Healthy Streets and Active Travel.

www.cohsat.org.uk



Picture of cyclist

Oxford Recycles



Logo for Oxford Recycles

Learn more about reducing, reusing and recycling from Oxford Recycles. [Oxfordshire recycles | Oxfordshire County Council](http://Oxfordshire%20recycles%20|%20Oxfordshire%20County%20Council)

Tackling the climate & ecological crisis

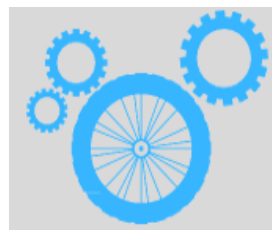
- Plant trees where appropriate
- Let some lawn go wild
- Seed green spaces with wildflowers to encourage pollinators
- Conserve rainwater, compost green garden waste
- Grow fruit and vegetables at home, in an allotment or with a local community garden
- Shop locally when possible
- Cook regularly with friends and neighbours to reduce waste and save energy
- Eat less meat
- Cook in bulk, preserve, and share surplus
- Insulate walls and roofs, switch to renewable energy providers and heat our homes in a smarter way
- Use energy efficient appliances & LED lights
- Walk, cycle, or take public transport as much as possible
- Fly less
- Organise carpool sharing and switch to electric vehicles
- Share with your friends and neighbours, buy less, repair broken items and shop second hand
- Recycle and compost as much as you can
- Avoid single use plastic items.



Drawing of a leaf



Drawing of an energy bolt



Drawing of cogs & wheels



Drawing of recycling arrows

What has Old Marston Parish Council been doing to reduce its carbon footprint?

Waste & Resources

A climate & ecological crisis leaflet (see previous article) was delivered to every household within the parish giving tips and encouraging residents to recycle, replant and be more sustainably aware.

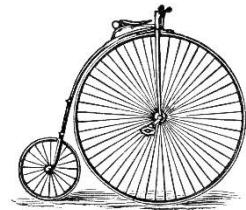
Documents for Parish Council meetings are sent out to Councillors electronically rather than hardcopy, saving on paper and ink.

All Parish Council owned buildings have had an energy efficiency check and a program of work is being drawn up to improve the efficiency where possible.

Transport

Production of leaflets to encourage people to cycle or walk for short journeys.

Racks for bike are being installed outside the Mortimer Hall and Roy Garner Pavilion for safe parking of bikes.



Energy



Solar powered streetlights have been installed in the Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground, Boults Lane Recreation Ground and School Lane to improve safety to residents while using alternative energy.

Energy Efficiency Checks have been granted funded, so are free, and are being arranged on the Roy Garner Pavilion and OXSRAD to ensure they are as energy efficient as possible.

Environment & Land Use

Grants have been given to given to Old Marston Mill Lane Allotments Association, Court Place Farm Allotments Association & Marston Community Garden Group (as well as many others) to assist them in working within the community.



Wildflower borders are in the Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground to encourage pollinators and provide a more diverse habitat.

There is an uncut strip of grass in the paddock at the rear of the Elsfield Road Cemetery to provide a more diverse habitat.

A number of trees have been planted around the Parish and a new hedge planted in the Boults Lane Recreation Ground.



Bird and bat boxes have been installed in various locations throughout the parish.

OLD MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Staffing & Standards

Chair – Peter Williams

Peter Cox

Pat Hall

Duncan Hatfield

Environment

Chair – Peter Williams

Mary James

Louise Milford

Alistair Morris

Skye Denno

Charlotte Vinnicombe

Finance

Chair – Pat Hall

Michael Cadd

Peter Cox

Mary James

Louise Milford

Planning

Chair – Michael Cadd

Michael Bates

Mary James

Peter Williams

Pavilion, Recreation Grounds & Cemetery

Chair – Peter Cox

Pat Hall

Michael Bates

Michael Cadd

Alistair Morris

Alan Spence.

Outside Body Representatives

Mortimer Hall: Duncan Hatfield

OXSRAD: Michael Cadd

Parish Forum: Alistair Morris

Oxford Green Belt Network: Peter Williams

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Oxford City Councillors

Mary Clarkson cllrmclarkson@oxford.gov.uk
Michael Haines cllrmhaines@oxford.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Councillor

Mark Lygo marklygo@oxfordshire.gov.uk

If you would like to contribute to the next issue, please email the clerk@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk.

Old Marston Parish Council is not responsible for any external contributions.

Remembrance

Old Marston Parish Council placed a wreath on the war memorial in St Nicholas Church in memory of those who lost their lives during World War One and Two. There was also a wreath placed on each of the four graves of those individuals who are buried in the Elsfield Road Cemetery.



Flying Officer P.J. Crank



Brigadier C.H. Webb. R.C.A.



Sargent - Pilot Roy Evans



Seaman William Dennis Ward.