

# RCBDA

**MAPLEDURHAM 11<sup>TH</sup> – 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021.**

**OPENS 14.00 HRS FRI' 11<sup>TH</sup> & CLOSSES 16.00 HRS SUN' 13<sup>TH</sup>.**

**STEWARDS : HELEN & STEPHEN**

RCBDA are pleased to welcome all units to our meet here at Mapledurham House. Please feel free to enjoy the location but please adhere to the current government “anti covid” guidelines.

Below are some interesting extracts about our venue :

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**MAPLEDURHAM HOUSE GROUNDS AND WATERMILL ARE NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT WEEKENDS.**

A 12th Century family house and farming estate tucked in beside the Thames in the heart of a unique English village away from the distractions of town, business or busy hotels, **Mapledurham** is an oasis of peace. The estate is a haven of tradition coupled with a sustainable commerce to maintain the estate viability and ensure its longevity.

There is a diverse range of operations on the estate and these include a dairy farm, a hydro electric Archimedes screw turbine, traditional watermill for flour, an arable farm, golf course, several commercial lettings, tea room, two art studios, moorings and passenger boats to and from Mapledurham, a biomass heating system and a country events park to name but a few.

The location has attracted many film and television productions including The Eagle has Landed, Miss Marple, Midsomer Murders, Sharpe and The Big Allotment challenge. More recently we seen in Taboo, Hunderby and even Mr Tumble came to play!

## **History and architecture :**

The manor of Mapledurham was bought in 1490 by Richard Blount of Iver however the current house was started by [Sir Michael Blount](#) (c1530-1610) and has remained in the Blount-Eyston family to this day. Building was started around 1585, at the time

of the [Spanish Armada](#),<sup>[2]</sup> in the classic Elizabethan E-shape. It includes a late 18th-century chapel built in the [Strawberry Hill Gothic](#) style for the [recusant](#) Roman Catholic owners of the house. Prior to the [Catholic Emancipation](#), the owners would hide priests in its [priest holes](#), some of which were only discovered in the 21st century, and secretly celebrate [Mass](#) with a makeshift altar hidden inside a [writing desk](#). The estate covers much of the village including [Mapledurham Watermill](#) and part of the church.

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**Mapledurham** "the maple tree enclosure" appears in the Domesday Book as two manors, Mapledurham Gurney belonging to William de Warenne, while Milo Crispin, Lord of the honour of Wallingford, owned the smaller Mapledurham Chazey.

The Mill at **Mapledurham** is the only mill on the Thames still working and producing high-quality stone-ground flour. A mill was here at the time of the Domesday Survey.

**A church** has existed on this site since Norman times, but the present church was begun in the late 13th century by William Bardolf the younger (d. 1289) and his wife Juliana de Gournay. Little original work is now visible since Butterfield's restoration of 1863.

- Nearest Pub (2.6 miles): **The Pack Saddle** is an independently owned country pub and restaurant. Mondays – CLOSED. Tuesday – Friday 12 pm – 11 pm (Food served 12 pm – 3 pm Saturday 12 pm – 11 pm (Food served 12 pm – 9 pm) Sunday 12 pm – 9 pm (Food served 12 pm – 5 pm).
- Nearest Doctors : **Emmer Green Surgery**. 4 St Barnabas Rd, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA. · Opens 8AM .[Phone](#): 0118 948 6900.
- Nearest Vets : **Tilehurst Vets4Pets** (Oxford Road)  
Inside Pets at Home, Reading Retail Park, Oxford Road, Reading. RG30 1PR  
Tel: [:0118 943 9190](tel:01189439190)