

Marcham & District News

COTHILL – FRILFORD – GARFORD – GOZZARDS FORD – MARCHAM – TUBNEY

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DECEMBER 2016 VOL: 38 NO: 12

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ William Cumber 1948 - 2016



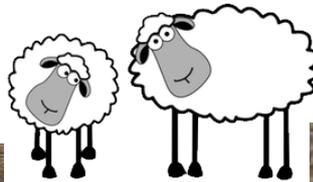
▲ BOG and ASK (Sunday afternoon clubs), stir up their thoughts and prayers!

Rubbish and Recycling Collections

Normal day	Revised day	Which bin?
Wed 28 Dec	Fri 30 Dec	Green and food (no garden waste)
Wed 4 Jan	Fri 6 Jan	Grey and food
Wed 11 Jan	Thurs 12 Jan	Green, food and brown garden waste



▼ PreSchool's Bedtime Hour page 21



▲ Can ewe find the sheep? page 21



Merry Christmas



▼ Marcham School supporting Children in Need 2016 page 21 ▼



Diary for December

1 Thu	Mid-Week Walk, The Plough Inn, West Hanney 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	13	14 Wed	Daytime Carol Service, All Saints' Church 14.00	19
1 Thu	Music at the Unicorn: Martha Tilston, 19.00	13	14 Wed	Café Christmas Tea, All Saints' Church, 15.00 - 17.00	19
2 Fri	Coffee and Cake, 50 North Street, Marcham, 10.30 - 12.00	13	14 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
2 Fri	Marcham School PTA Christmas Fayre, 18.00 - 20.00	17	15 Thu	Carol Singing is Good for You, The Crown, 20.00 - 22.00	13
3 Sat	Women's Christmas Craft Morning, All Saints' Church, 09.30 - 12.00	19	15 Thur	Deadline for January MADNews: editor@madnews.co.uk	
8 Thur	WI Christmas Party, Denman College, 19.30	13	20 Tue	Last posting date for 2nd class mail	11
9 & 10	Abingdon Beerfest, Abbey Buildings	20	21 Wed	Last posting date for 1st class mail	11
13 Tue	Carol Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 - 15.30	13			

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

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Dear Readers

As the year draws to a close so does another chapter in Marcham's story. We record some of the contributions that Will Cumber made to the village and beyond in this issue, but we will all have our own special memories of him.

I hope that you all have a peaceful Christmastide and remind you that the deadline for the January issue is 15th December to give us time to get it printed and out to the deliverers before the end of December.

Until next year!



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except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

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The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team, who are all volunteers.

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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

William Cumber

It was with great sadness that the Council learned of the passing of Parish Councillor William Cumber. He had served on the Council for over 30 years, and was hugely respected by his colleagues. He served on the Council in a quiet unassuming manner, but was always very willing to help fellow councilors, the many organisations and others in the village in so many different ways. He will be greatly missed by everyone.

Parishioner of the Year Award

The Parish Council is again inviting nominations for the Parishioner of the Year Award. This is to recognise the efforts of local people from anywhere within the parish who have contributed to local community life. Marcham Parish covers the wide area from the A420 in the north to the River Ock in the South and from the A338 in the West across to and including most of Gozzards Ford in the East. The Council gives the award to anyone who, at any time, has significantly contributed to life within the parish. Should there not be any appropriate nominations, then the award need not be made. The certificate is presented at the annual meeting for electors each year. Would anyone who wishes to submit a nomination, please contact the clerk, whose details appear below, sending a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to whom he/she wishes to nominate and the reasons why the person should receive the award.

Inconsiderate Parking

The Parish Council is appealing again to motorists to think carefully about where vehicles are left in the village. Every few months the Council receives comments that an increasing number of vehicles are being parked either on footways or near road junctions making it difficult for people to pass, or on verges causing obstruction to vision and resulting in damage to the grass which just becomes muddy ruts from the repeated passage of wheels. Would motorists please be considerate where they park. The problem areas that have been brought to the attention of the Council are: footway parking in North Street, the amenity grass areas in Parkside near New Road, the village green in Mill Road, the grass area at the junction of Tower Close and Orchard Way, the wide grass verge in Howard Cornish Road near the junction with Longfields, and the grass areas at both ends of Howard Cornish Road, near the junction with North Street and at the junction with the A415. Please do not cause an obstruction by blocking pavements, and please do not park on the grass amenity areas or verges. Should anyone experience a vehicle committing a parking offence and which is causing a significant obstruction, then please make a note of the registration number and report the matter to the Police via the 101 telephone number.

Grants

Applications for grants were considered at the November meeting of the Parish Council. The Council was pleased to be able to support the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Oxfordshire

Homestart, South and Vale Carers Centre, the Parochial Church Council to support its new youth worker in setting up a youth club and for an outing for village children, the Anson Trust for grass cutting, Marcham Baby and Toddler Group, and the Senior Citizens Club.

OCC – Daytime support consultation

The County Council is currently consulting on its plans for daytime support. The need for social care grows yet government funding reduces. The Parish Council has expressed its disappointment that it one of the vulnerable groups in the county is the target for cost saving measures.

School Admissions – Entry to primary or infant school September 2017

If you are a parent or carer of a child 3 or 4 years old then you need to apply for a primary school place now. This is for children born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013. You still have to apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school. For further information and to apply online go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/online-school-applications The closing date for applications is 15th January, 2017. If you do not have internet access, then you can access the internet at many of the County Council's libraries, or telephone 01865 815175 for further information

Clearance of Allotments Parkside

The contractor undertaking the clearance works at the junction of Parkside and New Road has apologised for the slight delay in being able to clear the corner owing to staff sickness issues. The work to clear the trees will commence just as soon as possible.

Proposed new housing development – A415

The Council has been advised of a proposed new housing development of 55 houses on land south of the A415. Information can be found at <http://www.catesby-marcham.co.uk> Planning applications

The following planning applications have been considered.

P16/V2565/HH 2 storey front extension at Studland House, Woodside, Frilford. The Council had no objections to the works, but requested conditions as traffic movements during construction, protection for the bridleway and trees, and new materials to be in keeping with the existing dwelling.

P16/V0546/HH Demolish previous extensions and extend principal dwelling and barn with single and two storey additions at Marcham Mill, Mill Road. The Council supported the work as the property would become a habitable dwelling again, but requested that the Environment Agency be satisfied as to any works to the watercourse.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 14th December 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in the residents' lounge, at Duffield Place.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833 clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Council wishes everyone a happy Christmas

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William Cumber of Manor Farm 7 December 1948 - 29 October 2016

Will's funeral took place on 11 November and here are some of the tributes from the service.

Donations in Will's memory may be made to Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (R.A.B.I.), Shaw House, 27 West Way, Oxford OX2 0QH www.rabi.org.uk

Geoff Burgess: William's involvement with the Royal Smithfield Club and the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

It is always the busiest person who commits to undertake more to help other people... A statement that summarises William's Life with us all.

Following in the Footsteps of many Cumber generations William was actively involved with the RASE and the Smithfield for over 45 years.

With the RASE he was an active steward in the cattle section becoming Chief Steward in the latter years of the show.

Always with charm and a quiet sense of humour and wonderfully polite he would, as recounted by one of his fellow stewards colleagues arrive in the Stewards Office carrying a match box of grain from his first field of Harvest – This at the beginning of July – when everyone else was at least two weeks away from starting. Only after many years did he admit that the sample was from a very gravely field which in itself tended to die by the end of June. The sample was often rubbish, but he was always the first to start the harvest.

He became a long serving member of Council for the RASE always giving careful thought about views even when many were reacting sharply to the difficulties facing the society in the latter years.

At the Royal Smithfield Club which he joined in 1971 he served on council almost continuously from 1976, became Club Chairmen in 1991 and 92, was President in 2006. He served on every working committee as well as holding the position of Chairmen of the Finance committee for more than 10 years where his calm and clear thinking proved invaluable.

As if this was not enough he served as Club representative on the Smithfield show joint committee from 1985 and was Chairman of the Show in 1996 and he was instrumental in negotiating the agreement with Earls court in 1990 that ensured the future of the show for a further 14 years.

I mentioned magic moments. In 1986 the year the Queen Mum came to lunch at Royal Smithfield. Her Royal turn to be there on the Wednesday afternoon. Just before she left (and she was running about 1 hour late), she thanked us all for a delightful meal. The very brilliant Jim Stobo was standing close to her Majesty and said "Next year Maam, we could have mutton. The queen Mum paused for 2 seconds and said, "That would be rather special, I think I would like that". And from then on we were in her private diary and she was our super special guest for at least the following 10 years. All this on top of acting as sheep steward for many years, some as Chief Steward, and as an exhibitor Will won at least 3 reserve championships.

Quite how he managed this alongside everything else I do not know. It is a reflection of William's dedication and commitment to everything he did.

He was always calm, and thoughtful in his guidance and he will be missed by us all, I am proud and grateful to have been a friend and colleague of Williams for over 30 years. He will be remembered for his words of wisdom for the years to come.

Peter Bennett: I first met William in 1986 when 24 strangers from different agricultural backgrounds aged between 25 and 40 converged on Wye College to attend the Advanced Management Course organised by the Worshipful Company of Farmers.

December 2016

During our 3 weeks residential stay we all developed new skills, examined our own businesses, exchanged ideas but above all established friendships which have lasted up to today.

Each year most course members go away for the weekend somewhere in the UK or in Europe. William never missed a reunion.

In 1995 we adventured to New Zealand to see course member Derek Kirke. William came on his own, smoked at the back of the plane all the way and he loved meeting people who he had known from a previous life over there. The lasting memory of William on that trip was his rendering of "Land of Hope and Glory" standing on top of a dining room table a side of William not seen by us before!

Our next trip to New Zealand was with Janey in 2011 (our 25th anniversary) and whilst in Wanaka we visited a bygone museum – junk to many of us but not to William! Instead of coming with us jet boating on the next day he and our Netherlands member returned for their second helping – his real passion and enthusiasm known by many of you!

Our last reunion in 2016 was here in Marsham in June. William kindly volunteered when we were at our reunion in Cork in 2015 to host this year even when he became ill he insisted that the reunion should go ahead. Plans were made under his supervision, but sadly William was in hospital in London at the time of our visit, but the "show must go on". It was a great weekend but very strange without our host. Not to be done out of one of his memorable weekends with us all, he organised for his Range Rover to be driven by Alan to London on the Sunday morning to collect him and bring to the Bothy Vineyard where we were lunching after our visit. Sadly on the way on the M40 a deer jumped out – airbags blew and Alan was immobilised – William was devastated at not being able to join us but we wondered if it was "divine intervention".

William you will be remembered for your truly formidable partnership with Janey; your enthusiasm and your friendship. We will miss you!

I would like to end with the words from the Celtic Blessing:

*"And until we meet again may God hold you in
the hollow of his hand".*

Simon Blackmore: We all have fond memories of Will and we remember his great generosity, his deep love of the land and his strong community spirit.

Will in his early years lived at Haywards Farm near Theale and then afterwards at Beansheaf Farm (which is now part of Junction 12 on the M4, he told me once as we drove past it on the motorway!).

After prep school at Prior's Court, Will went on to his senior school at Kingswood, near Bath. He then studied Agriculture at Reading University – the display of photographs has a picture of him from those student days, with long flowing locks - his sister Mary tells me that he only had a haircut twice a year - once for 'The Royal' and once for 'Smithfield'. He had to be smart to meet Prince Charles, Princess Anne and others of the Royal family!

He moved to Manor Farm in February 1973. Soon Mary and her school friend Janey Lampitt joined him there. Janey and Will were married here in Marcham Church in 1976. Both born into families that expected to contribute to public service, they were each leading lights of the village - Janey in the Church and Will on the Parish Council. The farm became a 'hub' in the community and Will's generous support for the local Shop with its Post Office guaranteed its survival but he was far too modest to claim any credit.

I first met Will in the early 1980s when, new in the village, we had children attending Toddlers and Playgroup in the Institute. There I was told by Janey - who was running the Committee at the time - that I should definitely meet her husband Will - "You will really get on with him!"

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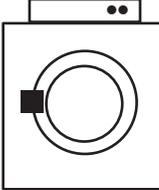
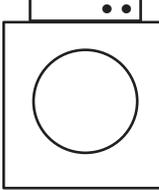
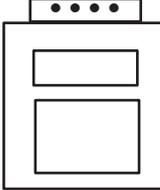
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I wondered how I could be best friends with a farmer who loves everything to do with Cattle, Corn, and Cars - not to mention a passion for Steam Trains. I may not have been a great fan like Will of Top Gear (or even Jeremy Clarkson!) but I did like his red Austin Healey and he had an infectious enthusiasm for all train rides. In fact Janey was so right - Will became a very good friend. Will was a loving husband, a proud father of his three children, William, Ellen and Sophie and an equally caring and attentive godfather to my son Alastair. And now, as our families remain intertwined and the generations move on, Sophie is godmother to Alastair's daughter Isabelle.

We found much common ground that had little to do with cars, tractors or agriculture. Will loved Scottish Dancing and playing Mah Jongg (and for those who know it you will understand his favourite announcement at the beginning of a new game - "I feel a mixed hand coming on!"). On his long journeys round the country (he never thought twice about driving to York and back in the day) he enjoyed visiting cathedrals and churches and listening to Organ Music - his favourite was Saint Saens 3rd Symphony, last movement, played at full volume in the car!

Not many of you will know that Will was a keen letterpress printer, a skill that he learnt when at Kingswood. Before the advent of word-processing, photoshop and computer colour printers, under the name of the 'Beansheaf Press', he handset letterheads, invitations and club calendars. Together we attended meetings of like-minded enthusiasts who loved the smell of printer's ink and knew all their typefaces and point sizes by heart. It was here that I discovered Will's creative and literary side - he printed poems, some that he had even written himself - including the one on today's service sheet.

Will was a great supporter of Public Speaking, he had been on a team that won at National level in the 1970s and he subsequently judged competitions for the Young Farmers. He was an accomplished speaker himself giving talks to local historical societies.

I saw this talent come to the forefront when travelling with him abroad. The family has its house in Molières in the Cevennes and when on holiday in France, Will seemed a changed person as he loved the good food, the local wine (of course) and above all the language ... He spoke a precise and grammatically correct French and used it at every possible opportunity.

In Le Vigan, he would talk to anyone selling in the local market, those managing his bank account at the Credit Agricole or even locals off loading at municipal tip! Of course he was at his best with French Farmers - he had all the local information from the Midi Libre newspaper and he employed specialised agricultural vocabulary with a personal panache.

On one occasion, driving in the country near the Cirque de Naracelles, we were delayed by a shepherd with his flock in the road - for him an ideal opportunity - he parked on the verge and discussed at length the milking of the ewes, their productivity and the quality of the local Roquefort cheese that they produced.

We shared Printing, French and then ... Archaeology. The discovery of the site on Trendles and the eleven year excavation of the Iron Age and Roman temple buildings interested Will enormously - especially the Amphitheatre, (or the "big round object" as he called it). He encouraged the volunteers and, following the dig, the farm became a centre of activity as the archaeologists studied bones, coins and pottery. Will wrote articles for the Marcham Society's "Coral Rag" and gave informative talks on the finds and the alternative theories for all these ancient remains found on his land. His interest in Archaeology was not just local to Marcham - he visited hillforts, museums and villa sites and, en route to John Asher's Wedding in Edinburgh we went on a detour via the remote Roman fort at Hardknott Pass in Cumbria (where he also travelled the narrow gauge railway down to Ravenglass), and then we

explored Hadrian's Wall followed by the Falkirk Wheel built on the Antonine Wall.

Last year when visiting Brian and Mary's house in Ireland, we explored County Cork looking for Stone Circles, Dolmen and Menhirs ... He was the driver (of course) and I had the detailed map ... One tortuous track near Skibbereen took us into a farmyard full of tractors and trailers (home from home for him) ... Will called out to the men at work ... "I know I am trespassing but we are looking for a Standing Stone on your land. Can we park the Range Rover here and explore on foot?"

The Irish farmer immediately recognised a kindred spirit - he leapt into the car with us "In a vehicle like this," he said, "you can drive us straight to it!" We headed across the muddy fields and parked right next to the monument and, while I took photographs, the two farmers discussed in great detail how many Range Rovers would be needed to weigh the same as one enormous Neolithic standing stone!

Will's modest enthusiasm and deep-seated interests have touched all our lives and finally I would like to read a short poem - not one that he wrote himself but one that he cited on many occasions. He also hand-printed it as a keepsake, in praise of the Farmer's Life that he and Janey so appreciated.

Let the wealthy and great
Roll in splendour and state
I envy them not, I declare it
I rear my own lamb, my chickens and ham,
I shear my own fleece and I wear it.
I have fields, I have bowers,
I have crops, I have flowers.
The lark is my morning alarmer.
So jolly boys now,
Here's God speed the plough
Long life and success to the Farmer.

Chris D'Olley: William Cumber - A man of many interests.

My knowledge of William spans a good many years but today the thumbnail sketch I hope to impart, is predicated around William's words of three or four years ago when we had met for the third time in the same week.

With pipe in hand he opined "It is fun when you can meet friends regularly wearing all sorts of different hats". I suspect many gathered today will have had a similar wide range of excuses to have met with and enjoyed William's company.

My grandparents were bakers in Bradfield and hence close to the epicentre of the then Cumber HQ. I have not geographically moved far and likewise I am told that when William moved to Marcham in 1973 from Beansheaf on the edge of Theale he was adamant that the new farm should be in Berkshire only to be wrong footed by the movement of the County boundary in 1974. Consequently he found himself living in Oxfordshire. Of course the boundary changes were known about as soon as the Local Government Act 1972 was published and I am certain this was before the ink was dry on the contract....but it is a good story nonetheless!

So why did our paths so often cross?

Originally it was under the auspices of Young Farmers. This great countryside institution has connected many people and opened up opportunity for comradeship and learning and sharing of extremely useful skills and experience. William was heavily involved with both Berkshire and Oxfordshire Federations and unstintingly remained passionate about the federation's value. Abingdon Senior Young Farmers' club meets in the board room at Manor Farm pretty much every Thursday evening. At the peak of his young farmer competition days, in the early seventies, he won the national debating competition (which was a real accomplishment).

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He was not afraid to loan himself out to other clubs if they were progressing up the debating competition ladder and he could always add something to their chances of success.

Secondly he and I would meet together with good friends at the "20 Club" another of William's passions. Not many things would take precedence over this in his diary. For those who do not know this is an invitational farming club with 20 elected members with a common interest in furthering discussion and progression in agriculture and associated matters. We meet at 7.00 p.m. once a month for 9 months of the year naturally avoiding the harvest period and also Christmas. You never know what the topic is to be until you arrive. Each meeting a different member takes responsibility for organising the proceedings and providing light refreshments. Visits to Marcham were much anticipated given William's constant energy and enthusiasm for new and improved farming systems which meant that over the years he showed us diverse enterprises including poultry, stabiliser cattle, robotic milking, outdoor pigs, conservation, (and archaeology!) but always exploring the latest farming avenues. We would top this off with a delicious (largely home produced) supper which in no way could be described as light refreshment. Members will much miss William's searching questions and deep knowledge. As an aside, I should mention the benefit of standing next to him on a midge ridden summer's evening perhaps on a visit to a fish farm where the only defence to being eaten alive was William lighting up his pipe.

The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution is the third strand. William became a trustee of R.A.B.I in 2006, Chairman of the Welfare Grants committee in 2012 and Deputy Chairman in 2013 - his term of duty only finished in May 2016. He was also Chairman of the Estates Committee and a member of the Chairman's Executive Committee. The normal term for a Trustee is typically two blocks of 4 years but by timing his run to be Vice Chairman William extended his tenure to a full ten years!

His knowledge and wisdom of farming helped enormously in managing the R.A.B.I farms, as he always came up with a sensible and practical solution. He had a particular knack of getting behind the details of a request for help and ensuring that assistance provided via the Welfare Grants Committee was given to those most in need. I believe William was truly honoured to be invited to help steer this particular ship as a Trustee for what turned out to be a decade. Apart from the serious side of the role, William and I would often travel together to meetings which were further afield and for example if we were going to Burnham on Sea to visit one of the charity's care homes we would always arrive, at William's instigation, just in time to fit in a 10 minute visit to the sea front, it became a tradition rain or shine, or visit Great Malvern Priory between farm inspections. I will continue to visit the sea front at Burnham when the opportunity arises. Sadly he and I never got around to a trip on a steam train as part of an RABI jaunt, although we discussed it, if we could have spared the time!

So what have I missed? William was a keen proponent of the John Simmonds Trust in educating youngsters in the countryside by housing the charity in the black barn at Rushall Farm at Bradfield. He was justly proud of ensuring plots were made available for social housing in Marcham. He was dedicated to the future of farming and was keen to give opportunity to a next generation agriculturalist; offering a share farming agreement to an energetic, enthusiastic but land starved young farmer at Rushall Farm; now in its second year. I was lucky enough to see his clarity of thought William possessed in stewarding the Cumber family business, always ready to debate issues and above all reach an equitable way forward should thorny issues arise.

So I would like to leave you with few words to sum William up from my perspective (you will have many more

...all genuinely complimentary):

Modest, Charitable, Equitable and Generous.

He constantly had an eye to farming in the future. The rest of the world could wait as long as farming went on. I often muse over the day I was sitting in the farm office meeting with William and the first load of corn came in for the season. He stopped mid-sentence, picked up his pipe and was gone ...

You could not be offended by such enduring enthusiasm.

Mary Tearney: Will and I read and enjoyed this book over the summer. While there weren't many details that were new to us, it is heartening that its success has brought the reality of farming life in the Lake District to a much wider audience.

There is no beginning and there is no end. The sun rises, and falls, each day, and the seasons come and go. The days, months and years alternate through sunshine, rain, hail, wind, snow and frost. The leaves fall each autumn and burst forth again each spring. The earth spins through the vastness of space. The grass comes and goes with the warmth of the sun. The farms and the flocks endure, bigger than the life of a single person. We are born, live our working lives and die, passing like the oak leaves that blow across our land in the winter. We are each a tiny part of something enduring, something that feels solid, real and true. Our farming way of life has roots deeper than five thousand years into the soil of this landscape.

The days when we walk the sheep back to the fell are the best moments of my year. There is nothing like the feeling of freedom and space that you get when you are working with the flock on the common land. I escape the nonsense that tries to consume me down below. My life has a purpose, an earthy, sensible meaning. Working up these mountains is as good as it gets, at least as long as you are not freezing or sodden through (even then you feel alive in ways that I don't in modern life behind glass). There is a thrill in the timelessness up there. When I leave my flock in the fells surrounded by grass and come home, I leave something of myself up there with them. So I look away to the skyline where they graze several times a day. Sometimes I can't help myself and go back up the fell just to see that all is well. The skylarks ascend, singing, disturbed by my boots and the sheepdogs. I breathe in the cool mountain air. And watch a plane, chalking a trail across the blue of the sky. The ewes call to the lambs following them as they climb up the crags.

This is my life: I want no other.

A SAD REMINDER OF THE INEXORABLE MARCH OF CIVILIZATION

WITH framework reaching up towards the sky,
Its naked girders gauntly stand so high
That, tow'ring over all surrounding land
They look from far off like a steel hand,
Groping upwards, as in mute despair
That any man should choose to build them there
Among green fields and fertile countryside;
The trees look small, but even they deride
Its out-of-place existence, in a place
Which was before all beauty, charm and grace -
Before, that is, the clearing gang moved in,
With roaring engines, whose concerted din
Completely drowned all quiet country sounds:
The lowing cattle, and the baying hounds
Who in the past had sought their quarry there,
The quick, lithe fox, with brush of red-brown hair,
Who used to try, in vain, to seek salvation
In fields where now stands Didcot Power Station.

William Cumber

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Dear Editor

School Waste Bins

Please could we respectfully ask that the person who is putting their household rubbish in the school bins to stop doing so. Our waste contract is for commercial waste and is therefore different from household waste collections. We have to specify what waste will be placed in our bins and beer cans etc. *are not included.*

If the wrong type of waste is in our bins we can be fined by our waste collection company. Also if we have to organise additional collections (if we cannot fit our own waste in the bin due to others using it) there will obviously be a cost the school. School budgets are constantly being stretched and I'm sure everyone would agree that the money used for the extra collections would be better spent on our pupils' education.

Please take responsibility for your waste.
MARCHAM CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Editor

I would like to thank everyone who bought raffle tickets for the Abingdon Hospital League of Friends Christmas raffle.

They raised over £1,300 this year!

I have now delivered all the prizes to people who won by buying tickets from me, so sorry if you didn't win this time.

RUTH MANDER



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It is with great pleasure that we can announce the Marcham and District area including Garford Tubney and Frilford collected the outstanding total of £5,758:00. This is an incredible effort and as the local organisers we would like to thank all the volunteers who carried out the door to door collection and all the local businesses that allowed us to place collection boxes on their premises.

Without your help and dedication we could never achieve this total.

Thank you
Malcolm and Christine Denton

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Marcham WI

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, 8th December

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Denman College

Christmas Party'

We hope to see you all at our December **Christmas Party** on Thursday 8th December. Please note that this is on the 2nd Thursday of the month and not the usual meeting night of 3rd Thursday of the month. Come along, wear something Christmassy, and enjoy a fun evening with friends old and new. Please bring along something for the bring and share supper and enjoy entertainment by the Spotlight Entertainers.

We'll be having a Christmas bottle raffle again this year, so it would be much appreciated if you would bring along a contribution. Instead of the bran tub, we will again be repeating the collection of non-perishable treats for the food bank, perhaps wrapped in cellophane or decorated with ribbon and with a label stating what is inside.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



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MARCHAM SOCIETY MID-WEEK WALK: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST.

For this short winter walk of about 3 miles we will be eating at the newly reopened, community-owned Plough Inn in Church Street in West Hanney (Map Ref: SU 406928). We will meet at the usual time of 12.30 for lunch and start the walk at 1.30. We will be exploring the interesting back-ways of both Hanney villages including the old mills on the Letcombe Brook. Absolutely no hills! **Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts, further details and to check for any last-minute changes. Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers.**



MSSSC: Marcham Sports, Scouts & Social Club The pavilion & field off Morland Road

Quiz Night and Friday Openings

There will be no quiz night during December, but the regular quiz on the last Friday in the month will re-commence in the new year on the 27 January.

In addition the club bar will be open on the second Friday of each month, commencing 13 January next year. If demand dictates it may become open on every Friday. The bar opening times will be 8pm till 11.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Further details from Trevor Hill - 01865 391321

Everyone welcome - members AND non-members

We look forward to seeing you at the club

MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

At our October meeting, held on 27th October, we had a display of Christmas items presented by Sobell House. Many of the items were at very favourable prices which enabled members to start their Christmas shopping. We also have a musical quiz which was enjoyed by all as it involved 60s and 70s music. The meeting continued with our usual raffle and tea and biscuits.

There is no meeting in December.

NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME

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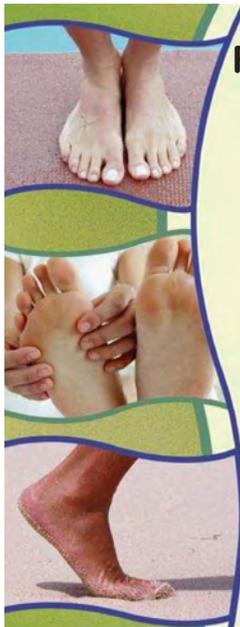
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ED VAIZEY WRITES...

I've had a busy month in Parliament. On national issues, I took part in the debate on the BBC Charter Review, the Cultural Property Bill which aims to implement the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property, and a debate on press freedom.

On local issues I secured a visit from the new Secretary of State for Education to our amazing University Technical College based in Didcot, pressed for Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to start their review into the future of Wantage Community Hospital during Health Questions, and welcomed the Department for Health's review into the funding of community pharmacies.

I was successful in securing a debate on the safety of the A34. During this debate the roads Minister, John Hayes MP, agreed to undertake a safety review of the A34, which was an excellent outcome for my constituents and those in the wider area. Highways England have been tasked to carry out the study, and are inviting interested parties such as the local Councils and police force to take part. I will make sure that my constituents' views and concerns are represented.

We also had some success in highlighting the plight of the AEAT pensioners with Ministers, many of whom live within my constituency, and who have lost a significant amount of their pension following the closure of AEAT. I am calling for an urgent independent enquiry along with changes in the law to allow the Pensions Ombudsman to investigate the situation.

After I raised my concerns about the disruption that would be caused by a planned two week closure of Challow Bridge, I was pleased that Network Rail listened and put forward a new plan for these works. These works will now take place on the weekends of 18th and 25th November between 10pm and 6am to limit the disruption.

Finally, I would like to highlight a number of local community groups that have applied for funding from the Aviva Community Fund. Friends of O.S.C.A.R., Harwell Village Hall, Riding for the Disabled Association Abingdon, Marcham Women's Institute, Buckland CofE Primary School, Blewbury Village Hall, Cholsey Holiday Playscheme and Wallingford Boys Brigade have all made applications, and funding will be awarded to those with the most public votes. Voting is open until 18th November, and can be undertaken <https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/acfcms/get-involved>.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Conservative)

Contact Ed Vaizey MP by	
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Web	www.vaizey.com
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COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORT

So what does Brexit mean?

This is a subject I have been deliberately avoiding since the end of June.

"Leave" won the referendum – how clearly or how comfortably could be argued, but win it did. We all now need to work to make the best of it. That does not mean that I have suddenly become a Brexiteer, but it does mean that I should give Brexit the space and chance to prove itself.

The subject has caused great conflict and divisions within friendships, within communities and even within families. There is only one way I know to resolve such conflict and that is to keep



talking. Soft Brexit, Hard Brexit, Single Market, Customs Union, no migration or less migration – whilst our elected representatives sort out the best deal they can, we will have to live with each other. Victories are always more successful and more longlasting if the victors are magnanimous. Triumphalism builds long term resentment. Remainers and Leavers alike voted the way they did mostly out of strong conviction. Leavers need to understand that many Remainers are "hurting", even grieving, and they need to be given space to grieve.

We can all agree that extremism and hate crime have no place in Oxfordshire. However, the Mayor of Oxford is deemed to need a bodyguard – and this should worry us all.

No-one imagines Brexit is going to be easy or completed in a short time. Almost daily we hear about further complications ahead. All of us are going to have to be patient if the government is going to be able to get the best outcome. Rushing them will certainly result in a less satisfactory outcome for both Remainers and Leavers.

And what relevance does any of this have for local government? The long term financial outcomes of Brexit are still far from clear, but in the short term, it is highly likely that costs and prices will increase. This will put further pressure on Council budgets - not a great start to the next Budget-setting season. Whilst the problems of the OCC budget in recent years have been well advertised, Oxfordshire is better placed than many other councils to face extended austerity. The financial challenges of OCC are small compared with those facing the country.

This year's OCC budget challenges will become clearer with Chancellor's Autumn Statement next week so more next time.

RICHARD WEBBER CLLR OCC SC & Marcham Division.
Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Is a Neighbourhood plan worth doing?

As you know, the Vale has been urging villages and towns throughout the Vale to make their own Neighbourhood plans, but this involves a lot of work, time and effort, so is it worth it? Clearly, many of you are aware of this, as no one came back to me offering their time and expertise. However, if we look at Marcham we see a sustainable village ideal for growth. It has a shop, a school, a pub, easy road access (in planning terms!) and a new village hall on the way with sports facilities. It also has land around it, especially to the east. And as there is no Local Plan in place yet, the village is vulnerable to ever more speculative development from landowners and developers ... just look at the next development in the pipeline (Catesby developers) off Abingdon road, opposite the entry to Howard Cornish road. That makes the fourth development on the south side of the village and the third access onto that very busy, narrow road which has been designated an AQMA (Air quality management area). We have no power to stop or control these developments without a Local Plan or a Neighbourhood Plan.

The emerging Local Plan Part 1 will not be complete for a few months yet (and it wouldn't surprise me if it is not ready for much longer) as the inspector sent it back to the Vale in the summer with instructions for a lot of modification. This is what has been holding it up. Once the Local Plan is in place, any development will have to be within the broad brush work of that plan. A Neighbourhood Plan gives a village or town the option of deciding the detail of where and how they want to develop ... in other words it allows you, the residents, the chance to have some say. So with a Neighbourhood plan you would have had more say, for example, on how the developments in Packhorse Lane/Abingdon Road were done and limit the access onto it.

Clearly, Marcham is in the midst of planning for a very exciting development, the new village hall with its sports facilities on Anson field, so working on a Neighbourhood plan might be one too many things to think about. But once building starts on the field, then maybe that is the time to start a Neighbourhood plan. Down the road from you and in my district, the small village of Shippon has just decided to embark on a joint Neighbourhood plan with the village of Wootton, along with a growing number of other

continued on page 17

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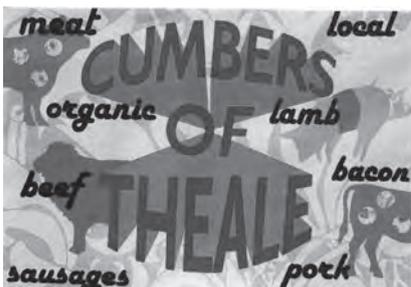
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Tues - Sat	Noon - 11pm	12-2pm & 6.30-9pm
Sunday	Noon - 11pm	Sunday Roast: 12-3pm

Booking is advised at the weekends

See our website for more details

1 Packhorse Lane, Marcham OX13 6NT

01865 391735

www.thecrownmarcham.co.uk

Sue and Duncan - in The Crown until 2021

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حلال

villages. Marcham residents deserve to have some say in how they want their village to grow, and next year would be ideal to embark on a Neighbourhood Plan, especially as part 2 of the Local Plan will be underway when the Vale will be looking for more places to build!

Next Surgery.

The next surgery to meet and air any local issues with your County Councillor and District Councillor will be held at the Community shop on Saturday, 14th January between 9.00am and 11.00am.

The Vale Award for excellent community service

Jill Rowe has been put forward to receive an award from the Vale in recognition for all the inspiring work she does with the children of Marcham village. On Saturday 25th November, she will be accompanied by her husband, Neil, and daughter, Becky, and they will meet many other award winners from all around the district who will be able to chat and share ideas over a good lunch hosted by the Vale. On behalf of everybody in Marcham, I would like to thank Jill very much for her incredible work, which she does in her characteristically modest and quiet way.

Let me wish you ALL a very HAPPY Christmas!

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC

01235 534001 or Webbercatherine1@gmail.com

Community Facilities Steering Group

Following up on the planning permission...

The Community Facilities Steering Group has been continuing to work on a number of action areas to try to ensure that we will be able to progress the plans as soon as possible.

This includes work on details of new management arrangements for the facilities, legal agreements to be established between various parties involved, and design specifications for the hall. Getting these details right is critical to the future wellbeing of our facilities.

It will be good to see this whole plan moving forward and further offers of help will be welcome. Further information about the project was provided at the MCG Open Meeting at the school on 10th November (see page 19).

The Community Facilities Steering Group (CFSG) was set up with the clear objective of developing plans for new community facilities in Marcham and is made up of representatives from local groups with an interest in village facilities. If you wish to have more information on the CFSG, or you think you can help, please contact Jim Asher (391727).

CFSG - Opportunities without Obstacles

St Lawrence Church, Tubney

Services in November

4.00 pm Sunday December 4th Advent Evensong with Christmas Memory Tree

Put a card on the tree for someone you wish to remember, cards provided.

4.00 pm Sunday December 11th Candlelit Carol Service – followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Parking available at PharmaGenesis, Tubney Warren (5 minutes walk but take care crossing the A420)

12.30 pm Monday December 12th Carols

A special Carol Service for Oxford PharmaGenesis but all are welcome to attend.

9.00 am Sunday December 25th Christmas Day – Holy Communion with two hymns.

Parking is available in the field opposite the church but do take care crossing the road or if you can then please use the Bus, there is a stop adjacent to the Church.

PTA Round-up

December sees one of the Marcham School PTA's biggest fund-raising events: the Christmas Fayre. This year, the Fayre will be held on:



Parent Teacher Association

Friday 2 December, 6.00–8.00pm

Everyone is welcome: obviously, pupils at the school and their parents, but also brothers, sisters, aunties, uncles, grandparents and great-grandparents, past pupils, future pupils – from Marcham Pre-school and Little Angels – all are welcome. All we ask is that you bring a bit of cash, because it is, after all, an event to raise funds for the school, funds that are used solely to support the education of the children at Marcham School.

For instance, in the past couple of weeks the PTA has donated over £800 to help fund school's annual trip to the pantomime at Chipping Norton Theatre. The PTA's contribution means that the school has been able to hold the cost to parents at the same price as last year, thereby minimising the cost at this particularly expensive time of year.

So what can we offer you on the first Friday in December? Let me whet your appetite: a candy floss machine; face painting; book and CD stall; tombola; Where's Rudolph?; prize draw raffle with dozens of valuable prizes; balloon modelling; cake stall; turkey rolls; jewellery; hair braids; homemade liqueurs; bar and refreshments; and much much more. And, of course, Santa will be paying us a visit with presents for children from the school.

It promises to be a great evening, and all in a great cause. The fun starts at 6pm on Friday 2 December – *I hope to see you there.*

Peter Kidd, PTA Chair

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The OCA AGM is set to take place on 24th November after which Fixtures will be available for the 2017 Season.

Please contact Trevor Hill (391321) for information relating to the Club - including playing or umpiring for Marcham.



And finally ... two members of a Cricket Club were talking and one said, in a somewhat superior tone, "My old School is up-grading the Old Boys' XI and they are desperate to sign me up!" The other member replied "Yes, they would have to be!"

CSB

AFTER SCHOOL DROP-IN FOR SECONDARY AGED YOUNG PEOPLE.

Come join us at the Baptist Chapel on Packhorse Lane after school for any amount of time (until about 6pm). There will be the chance to play games and generally spend time with friends. Contact Rob, the Parish Youth Worker for more information,

rob@marchamyouth.org

YOUNG AND FEELING ANXIOUS?

If you're at secondary school and experiencing high levels of anxiety, whatever the cause then this could be for you. We would like to start small group sessions for young people to get support with anxiety. Please contact Rob, the Parish Youth Worker for more information about the content or to register interest,

rob@marchamyouth.org.

HOLIDAYS

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Abingdon-on-Thames

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Abingdon-on-Thames
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for Christmas



Bank Balance
£22,225

Local Events
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Donations
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2016 - 2017 Membership
Voting: 72 Junior: 18

5p Coins
7416



Progress with facilities and the public meeting

Marcham Community Group continues to play its part within the Community Facilities Steering Group to develop new community facilities.

At the open meeting and AGM on Thursday 10th November, we shared information on the latest stage of the project to build new community facilities and proposed management arrangements. The meeting also provided opportunities for people to ask questions about the project and the progress being made.

At the AGM, the meeting elected Nathan Evans to become a director/trustee. Nathan was a founder member of MCG, but had resigned as a director in 2012 and was away from Marcham until recently. We greatly appreciate him re-joining the trustees as we move into the next stage of the project.

We are inviting people in Marcham, please, to renew your membership again to support our efforts and we are also looking for help with fund-raising and other activities. We continue to be grateful for the support of all our members and of the wider village — it is much appreciated — many thanks.

We also wish all of our members and supporters a very Happy Christmas; yes, it is that time of year again!

Still moving forward!

Marcham Community Group: Company No 7470307 Charity No 1144407
391727 (Jim) admin@marcham.org

www.marcham.org




Daytime Carol Service
2pm Wednesday 14th December
All Saints' Church
Carols and Christmas Readings
Followed by a Christmas Tea

Women's Christmas Craft Morning
3rd December 9.30am - 12 noon
at All Saints' Church

Come along and have a go at making a wreath for your door, a table decoration, candle holders and more. You do not need to be artistic or crafty – there will be people to help you create something amazing!

All women and girls in Y7 and over are welcome.
Refreshments will be provided.

The event is free, though if you are able to make a donation towards the cost of materials for any craft you do then it would be greatly appreciated.

For more information
please contact Rachel Gaisford on 391432

Organised by **the Changing Room** team



URGENT LODGINGS REQUIRED

I am still looking for a house to lodge in within the Marcham area because I work in locally and am very involved the Marcham community. Preferably with people under the age of 30. I am looking to move in as soon as possible so if you know anyone who might be able to help please contact me on 07880 493177 or by email amylo.102@hotmail.co.uk. Many thanks. **Amy**




Anyone who is new to the village of Marcham and has NOT received a Welcome Pack please contact David or Grace on 01865 392092 or 07807707925 to find out about how much Marcham has to offer you!



Do something amazing today – give blood
96% of us rely on the other 4% to give blood.

Please don't leave it to someone else. Most people can give blood. You can give blood every 16 weeks and donate platelets every 3 weeks, what a wonderful Christmas gift to give and it only costs time!
To find a session contact
www.blood.co.uk 0300 123 23 23
If you are already a donor, why not take a friend next time!

EARTH TRUST EVENTS

WWW.EARTHTRUST.ORG.UK

At the Earth Trust, we believe the best way to look after the places we love is to change the way we live. We provide great opportunities for people of all ages to discover nature and the countryside. Our programmes of events, courses, children's learning and volunteering can inspire everyone to make a small difference and look after our local environment.

Natural Christmas

Sunday 4th December, 11am-3pm.

Get into the festive spirit by making decorations and gifts from natural and recycled materials. Plus, meet Father Christmas. Price by activity, no need to book.

Winter Wetland Birds

Sunday 11th December, 9.30am-11am.

Come and explore Thrupp Lake in Radley (OX14 3NG) and find out about some of the wetland birds that call it home over the winter. With Ben Carpenter. £5 adult, £2 child; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Unless otherwise stated all events take place at Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ. Booking is essential, call 01865 407792 or email admin@earthtrust.org.uk.



Here is the latest neighbourhood team newsletter from PCSO Rich Osborn



Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

I have received reports of ASB in Marcham. A small group of young people have been knocking on doors and running away. This may seem a trivial thing to some people and you may be thinking what's the harm? However, for people who have small children that have just got off to sleep and young people are banging on the door and waking them up it can really impact on the whole family. Also, it can frighten elderly and vulnerable people. Can I ask parents to have a word with their children about the consequences of playing this game.

Speeding

I will be getting a Speed Indicator Device (SID) for a couple of weeks to carry out speed checks in the area. If you have any concerns on speeding down a particular road that might need my attention please email me: richard.osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Crime prevention advice

As the clocks have gone back and the evenings are closing in it is a good idea to look at your home security. Lighting is very important and having a timer switch for a table lamp can light up your home even when you're not at home. Also ensure all your security lights are working and you have a good solid padlock fitted to outside buildings such as sheds and garages. If you would like any crime reduction advice please email me.

Theft from vehicles

Over the past month there has been reports of people having their vehicles broken into or an attempt break has taken place. Please ensure that you don't leave any tools in your vehicle and ensure it is secure. Think about registering and marking your tools and park in a busy and well-lit area if possible.

Safe cycling

Please also think about safe cycling now the evenings are dark. Make sure you and your children and have bike lights, helmets and high visibility clothing. Even the ride home from school will be getting dark soon.

Future events/meetings

If you would like me to visit an event or coffee morning please let me know.

And finally...

Could you please remember to close gates when out enjoying the countryside? I attended a report where 40 sheep had got into a back garden on Cumnor Hill. On speaking to the farmer he told me that the sheep get out when gates are left open by walkers and dog walkers so please remember to close them.

Contact us

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 or if it is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email **AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk**. Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. To view information on your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: **www.thamesvalley.police.uk**. Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at **www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk** today. This allows anyone who signs up to choose what updates they receive and how they would like to receive it.

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LOOSE CANNON BREWERY
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TRADITION AND PRESENT
THE VERY BEST OF OXFORDSHIRE BEERS
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CHRISTMAS**

BEERFEST

FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER | 6PM - 11PM
SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER | 1PM - 11PM
ABINGDON ABBEY BUILDINGS, CHECKER WALK,
ABINGDON, OX14 3JB
Free Entry
Beer | Music | Food

‘Diabetes – Looking After Your Feet’

If you are diabetic and want to know more about how it can affect your feet, IDDT have brought out a new booklet to help you understand the risks and to help you keep your feet healthy. For a FREE copy of their booklet:

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Northampton NN1 4XS
www.iddtinternational.org

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

HOME AND AWAY!!

Last month we arranged an exciting 'Bedtime Hour' for our children, and their siblings! Arriving at pre-school in pyjamas is very exciting!! The children enjoyed a session of stories while their parents were able to view a slideshow of recent activities and hear about how best to encourage early learning - with a focus on letter sounds and emergent writing, with the message of "it's never too late to learn" and in pre-school children need the opportunity to build really firm foundations before being introduced to sounds and writing ... and they need to be receptive to doing this 'correctly' - or they're not ready, and we can wait - it doesn't hold back their future development. It was an informative evening - but great fun too!! Next time - news of our 'deconstructed role-play'. If you would like to find out more about Marcham Pre-school, please contact us on 01865 392101 or Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk.

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



MARCHAM SCHOOL NEWS

I'd like to say "Thank you" to all those prospective parents who came to our Open Afternoon on 16th November. We hope that you enjoyed your tours, led by our Yr 6 pupils, and that you got a real sense of Marcham School at work. We are passionate about providing the best education we possibly can for our children and want them to grow up achieving more than they believe they can, and being positive contributors to making the world a better place. It was the first time that we've conducted introductions to our school in this way and so we hope that you found it useful. However, I know that I didn't get to speak on a more personal level to some of you about your children. We are really proud of the community feeling we have in our school, where every child is valued as unique and special and everyone is known and cared for, and we are keen to reassure you that your child's development is at the heart of what we do.

If you came to the afternoon and would like to have the opportunity for more of a chat - whether you and your children are excited or anxious, confident or a little reticent - do phone the school and an appointment can be made. Our mission is "to achieve excellence in education in a safe, caring, collaborative community, where Christian values are integral and learning is fun". We aim to make that so for all our pupils and hope that you can see Marcham School as a place of learning and growth for your children.

Our next Open session for prospective parents is on 9th January 2017 from 10:00am – 11:00am. Please do give the school office a call if you'd like to come.

Thank you,

VIV HUTCHINSON, Headteacher, Marcham CE Primary School.



HOW DOES THE AUTUMN WILDLIFE GARDEN MAKE ME FEEL, AND WHY?

The world seems to be closing in a little since the clocks went back an hour, the nights are drawing in, we are consolidating, and stocking up for Christmas and the New Year. What is actually going on though?



In general I think we are cosying up, or as the Danes would say "We are experiencing the Hygge effect". What is Hygge, well, it's more of an experience and a feeling of cosyness and togetherness with those around us and the environment we are in.

The Autumn colours of reds and yellows are warming colours like a woollen blanket or a log fire. We are Hunter Gatherers genetically so we naturally stock up and hunker down for the coming Winter. The wildlife in your garden is doing a lot of the same thing.

Newts are hiding away under the leaf litter now, and actually there is a whole world of life going on under the leaves in Autumn and Winter as it can be a couple of degrees warmer under them. So don't rake up every leaf you see as that is sheltering wildlife trying to enjoy the Hygge effect too.

Butterflies like to stock up in Autumn so a sweet boost will help them no end, and some need the energy to see them into hibernation too. A squashed banana and apples ferment and ooze in the sunshine, red admiral, painted lady and comma butterflies should find it. When they do, they're likely to stay for hours and then return day after day so again don't tidy all the rotting fruit away.

Enjoy the last few warm days out in the garden but also give yourself chance to enjoy snuggling up indoors and recharge your batteries. It's not by accident that we feel like hibernating to at this time of year. Go with it and enjoy it. It's all part of the natural cycle of wildlife gardeners everywhere.

Happy Gardening STUART MABBUTT

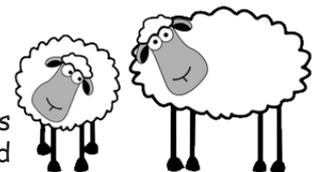
Wildlife Gardening Specialist

Contact: 01865 747243 stuart@wildmaninspires.co.uk

www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

There is a new app for **Fix My Street** -  **FixMyStreet** which makes it really easy to pinpoint a problem and send it off to the council so they can then send it on to the correct organisation to deal with it. www.fixmystreet.com

The 12 Sheep of Christmas!
A competition for families, in the week before Christmas



We all know how mischievous sheep can be and we've heard rumours that 12 sheep might go missing around Marcham in a few weeks time and we need your help to find them!

Each sheep will have a Baa code which will link you to a web page. Can you find all 12 and complete the challenges before the Crib Service on Christmas Eve? Look out for more details of how to enter and what to do on Marcham facebook, school and post office, during early December. You can register your interest by texting Jill Rowe - 07811 165351



All Saints' Church Page

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Regular church services

Sundays: 10am & 6pm at All Saints'

Wednesdays: 10.30am at Duffield Place

Christmas at All Saints', Marcham

Saturday 3rd December, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Women's Christmas Craft Morning

Saturday 3rd December, 8.30am, Baptist Hall

Men's Breakfast – Richard Webber, County Councillor is speaking.

Friday 9th December, 5.30-6.30pm

Christmas Family Friday

Wednesday 14th December, 2pm

Daytime Carol Service

Wednesday 14th December, 3-5pm

Café Christmas Tea 3-5pm

Thursday 15th December, 6.30pm

School Carol Service

Thursday 15th December, 8pm

Carols at the Crown

Friday 16th December, afternoon

Christmas Film Friday

Sunday 18th December, 3.30pm, St. Luke's

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 18th December, 6pm

Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve, 4pm

Crib Service

Christmas Eve, 11pm

Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day 10am

Christmas Family Communion

Christmas Day 10.30am, St. Luke's

Christmas Day Communion

Dear Friends,

There is an old American Indian proverb that says: *'Never criticize a man until you've walked a mile in his moccasins'*.

Understanding how life is for someone else depends on how much we listen, observe and learn by being alongside that person. It is all too easy to point the finger, or to criticize, or pass comment from a distance, and in so doing run the risk of offending and wrongly jumping to conclusions.

One of the profound truths about the coming of Christ to earth is that Christians believe that God was in Christ, stepping on to this earth, into our world, walking beside us, living the life, facing the real issues ordinary people face – being one of us. I find that knowing that God understands real life, with all its joys and hardships, is hugely reassuring. It helps me to pray with confidence, helps me to find hope in the darkest of times, enables me to be assured that he cares.

The birth of Jesus, which we celebrate at Christmas, is no fairy tale. It really happened. The people and characters we sing about in our familiar carols, like the shepherds and wise men, were real people. The events surrounding Jesus' birth were tough, hard circumstances; the threats from Herod were frighteningly real; the stable must have been smelly; the sense of rejection for Mary and Joseph being told 'No room here' agonising and heartbreaking.

The birth of Jesus, and the life he lived, are a powerful expression of the love and concern of God for the world, not just the world as it was then, but the world as it is now. The great Bible truths as to the true character and identity of God in Christ span every generation, including our own. Jesus lives, he cares, he understands, and he loves and continues to love us all. Respect!

The birth of Jesus heralds the way to hope and the future, to forgiveness and life from death, to God continuing to be present here through his Spirit. The Apostle Paul once wrote: *'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit'*. [Romans 15:13]

May your Christmas this year be filled with hope and peace. Our Christmas services at All Saints' and St. Luke's are outlined on this page. You are warmly invited to celebrate with us.

May I wish you, and those you love, a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Revd Canon Richard Zair [Vicar]



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