

▼ Marcham School Christmas Fayre see page 13 ▼



▲ The choir sings



▲ Lucy Sharrock has just had her face painted



▲ Joseph Mutch and his grandmother, Lynne Hurst, ready for Christmas Bingo



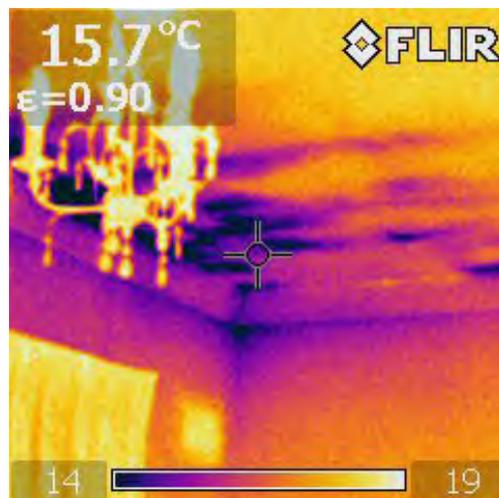
▲ Monster face pizzas

Gruffalo pictures ►

Marcham Pre-School decide what's scary and what's not! see page 13



Does your house feel cold? The dark areas in this thermal image show heat loss on a flat roof extension where insulation is missing! See page 15 for advert ▼



DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

| | | |
|---------|--|----|
| 4 Fri | MP's Surgery, Wantage, 17.30 – 19.00 | 11 |
| 8 Tue | Marcham Society, All Saints', 19.45 | 9 |
| 9 Wed | Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30 | 3 |
| 10 Thur | Midweek Walk The Abingdon Arms, Beckley 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk | 9 |
| 10 Thur | Have Your Say, Duffield Place, 15.00 – 17.00 | 5 |
| 11 Fri | Tea Dance, Wantage Civic Hall, 14.00 – 16.30 | 13 |
| 13 Sat | BBOWT, Parsonage Moor, 10.00 – 15.00 | 15 |
| 17 Thur | Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30 | 9 |
| 20 Sun | Deadline for March issue of MADNews | |

| | | |
|--------------|--|----|
| 25 Fri | Marcham Players AGM, All Saints' Church, 19.30 | 13 |
| 26 Sat | Table Top Sale, Hanney War Memorial Hall, 10.00 – 14.00 | 15 |
| 11 Mon | Have Your Say, Wootton, 12.00 – 14.00 | 5 |
| MARCH | | |
| 4 Fri | Women's Day of Prayer, Baptist Church, 11.00 | 13 |
| 4 Fri | MP's Surgery, Didcot, 17.30 – 19.00 | 11 |
| 5 Sat | Facts for Families, Marlborough School, Woodstock, 09.45 – 13.00 | 15 |
| 11 Fri | Tea Dance, Wantage Civic Hall, 14.00 – 16.30 | 13 |

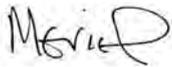
Details of events may change after publication, please check with the relevant organisers before attending events.

Dear Readers

The MCG page is on yellow this month so very easy to find – time to get our crayons out to design an eye-catching logo!

I have been putting a large-print version of MADNews in the Post Office each month for people to browse through while waiting in the queue or anyone that has difficulty reading some of the small print. I can only print a few of these but if a group could make use of one, please let me know.

Until next time



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ADVERTISING

Contact the Editor
Adverts are not endorsed and MADNews makes no guarantees as to accuracy or authenticity.

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14 Tower Close, Marcham
Abingdon Tel: 01865 391275

DEADLINES

Advertising: 5pm 15th month
Other copy: 5pm 20th month
except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

ADDITIONAL COPIES

These are available free from Marcham Post Office or the Editor. Postal copies are also available – contact the Editor.

NOTES

We apologise in advance for any errors that may creep into MADNews (online or print), or omissions that creep out - we don't do it on purpose!

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

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Tel: 0845 8 505 505

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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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For other councillors go to
www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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February 2011

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Casual Vacancy

The casual vacancy that occurred on the Parish Council has now been filled. The Council was pleased to co-opt Matthew Hillis at its January meeting. Matthew has been co-opted until the next elections which are to be held in May.

Council Tax 2011

The Parish Council carefully considered its budget for 2011/2012 at its last meeting, and looked in detail at its likely income and expenditure. The Council has set a precept of £36,000 which is only a marginal increase on last year and has taken a positive decision not to increase the precept very much, in view of the economic climate and the financial difficulties that people are generally facing. This figure equates to less than £1 per week for a Band D property.

Vale of White Horse District Council – Brown Bin Waste Collection Service

Over the Christmas and new year period the collection of the brown garden waste bins was suspended in order to allow the crews to clear the backlog from the delayed collections owing to the snow and Christmas holidays. Garden waste collections are now back to normal, being collected on the same day as the green recycling bins. However, to make up for the disruption to the service, brown bin customers will also be able to put out a reasonable amount of extra garden waste for collection in the Spring. In the Vale extra garden waste can be put out from 28 March to 1 April. This extra waste should be no more than the equivalent of an extra bin load, should be able to be lifted by one person and should be put out in either a sturdy box or black bag.

Text reminders

You can also sign up to get a free reminder the night before your collection is due. Send a text message with the word “waste” and your collection day (for example “waste Wednesday”) to 07797 870371 and you will receive a text the day before your collection if it changes due to bank holidays or bad weather.

Bus Stops

The County Council has been making minor alterations to some of the bus stops. Some have moved slightly down the road from their original position. The County Council has arranged with Stagecoach that the no. 31 will now also stop in the Frilford Road by the war memorial as well as its usual other places at the Post Office and in Howard Cornish Road. Of particular note is that the Eastbound (Abingdon and Oxford) bus stops opposite the Post Office and at Longfields will have Real Time Information. This system provides up to

date bus arrival information for passengers waiting at the stops. They display the number of minutes that the passengers can expect to wait before the arrival of the bus.

Local Government Boundary Commission – Electoral Review of Oxfordshire

The Commission is currently minded to recommend 64 elected members form the County Council following a review of the council size. It is now inviting local people to submit proposals for a new pattern of divisions. The review aims to make sure, as far as possible, that every councilor in each division of the county represents the same number of electors. The commission is looking for evidence of strong community ties and areas that should be included together in the same division as well as natural boundaries between communities. Further information is available on the Local Government Boundary Commission’s website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Comments can be submitted until 3rd April 2011 to: The Review Officer (Oxfordshire), Local Government Boundary Commission for England, Layden House, Turnmill Street, London EC1 5LG or via email at reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 9 February 2011 at 7.30pm. in the residents’ lounge, Duffield Place.

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

-
- A CRY FOR HELP**
- Does anyone have a Fujitsu Siemens
 - Amilo Pro v2010 laptop that I could
 - use to charge the battery on my almost
 - defunct computer? Or possibly a Amilo
 - 7300 and the NEC Versa 2000 as they
 - seem to be interchangeable.
 - Please call Ruth on 392861
-

Does anyone have experience of holiday home swapping in Europe? Ideally in Feb - April to the warmer parts of southern Europe for some winter sun. Call Charles Russell on 391121.



FOR SALE

Miele Dishwasher, Older Model, but with Miele longevity is in perfect working order. £30. Phone 01235 522877

- o o o -

Ikea - Modern beech rocking chair, cream coloured cotton canvas seat & back cushions. (washable covers) Good condition £15

TV/DVD player stand, light wood effect, spacious. H51cm, D43cm, W129 cms. Good condition. £10

Call 01865 392813 or 07724 091032

Dear Editor

My toddler recently fell into some dog poo left on the Anson field near the cricket square, and we also found poo inside the play area. It is appalling that in this day of dog poo bags and bins that people should think it acceptable to leave the mess for small children, walkers, other users of the field and even, I presume, cricketers to walk or fall in. Please be more considerate
Name supplied

Dear Editor

We agree completely with this letter regarding the fouling of the Anson field. It is extremely anti-social for dog owners not to clear up any mess their dogs make. The extent of the problem was particularly highlighted when there was snow on the field. We allow free access to the field and we would ask all owners to make sure that they observe both the law on dog fouling and maintain the good manners that normally prevail in Marcham regarding their dogs' activities.

ANSON TRUST

Under the provisions of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, anyone in control of a dog must clean up immediately after their dog fouls on any land which is open to the air and to which the public is entitled or permitted to have access. Failure to clean up after your dog is an offence. Fixed penalty fines and prosecution can result. More information can be found on the Vale of White Horse District Council's website at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk under environmental health / dog fouling.

Dear Editor

Parking

The Parish Council have been concerned about the level of complaints regarding inconsiderate parking and a recent walk around the village confirms the problem. Firstly pavements are for people not cars and we noted 20 + cars parked either fully or partially on pavements causing pedestrians with wheelchairs or prams / pushchairs to go onto the road to pass. Several of these cars were parked outside houses that had perfectly adequate drives that were not being used.

There are also an increased number of cars bumping up kerbs to park in front gardens. If you do want to do this you should apply to have dropped kerbs fitted and a proper drive installed. Information on how to apply is available from the Clerk.

Several vehicles were parked very close to junctions obscuring vision for other motorists and in several cases cars were parked obscuring Road Names signs which could be a concern if emergency vehicles are looking for a property in need of urgent assistance.

May we appeal for everybody in the village to review their parking arrangements and
February 2011

show consideration for pedestrians and other road users. Please also park with the vehicle facing the direction of travel and do not block the pavements.

Thanks in anticipation.

Dog Fouling

Generally the village is free of dog faeces on the pavements but we do seem to have one regular culprit. It is obviously a large dog with a very healthy appetite and it would be much appreciated by pedestrians who have had the misfortune to tread in the offering if the owner could clear up behind it. If anyone is aware of the owner of this dog please report the name to the Clerk and we will do our best to resolve this unpleasant issue.

MALCOLM DENTON

Nanny Required

Experienced person to join our happy household.

- Live in/Live out
- Some shared/sole care
- 1 school aged girl and baby twins
- Car provided

Phone 07866622498 or email sophia.aj@hotmail.co.uk

Student looking for part-time cleaning, ironing, baby-sitting work in and around Marcham, to help fund education costs. Call Amanda 07785 244 111

Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust

Charity Number: 1084910



The Thames Valley Air Ambulance provides a life saving service seven days a week, 365 days a year, covering the three counties we serve, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Lottery

Win £1000.00 every Wednesday and save a life? Then join our TVAC Lottery, or perhaps become one of our Volunteers. Interested? Then please call us on: 0300 999 0135 or email info@tvacaa.org.

www.tvacaa.org

WE RELY ON YOU - SO YOU CAN RELY ON US

Have your say...

the new name for police surgeries

- Thursday, 10 February 2011
15.00 - 17.00
Duffield Place, Marcham
- Monday, 28 February 2011
12.00 - 14.00

Police Office, Wootton Community Centre

**Abingdon Outer Neighbourhood Team
NAG7 Marcham, Wootton, Shippon and Boars Hill**

**Non-emergency number:
0845 8 505 505**

Seen a pothole that needs fixing?
www.fixmystreet.com

FREE TRANSPORT ADVICE

Oxfordshire County Council offer a free and impartial travel advice service aimed at people over 65, and those with a high level of support needs. It is available Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 5.00pm on 01865 323738, or you can email oxtail@oxfordshire.gov.uk. You can also use the same number if you would like information on joining a transport scheme as a volunteer.

**MARCHAM AND DISTRICT EX SERVICEMEN'S CLUB
NORTH STREET MARCHAM OXON OX13 6NG
NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS**

Annual Subscriptions Due by March 31st 2011

Payments may be made in the Club during normal opening hours

NOTICE TO ALL LIFE MEMBERS

All life members including widows and widowers of members are reminded that they must register in writing to the secretary at the above address, or register at the Club each and every year they wish to remain on the list of current Life Members.

The closing date of this registration is March 31st. each year. Please note that those failing to respond by March 31st 2011 will no longer be considered Members their names will be removed from the register of Members and Life Members

Chairman November 2010

A list of currently registered members /life members valid until 31st March 2011 is available to be viewed in the Club during the Clubs normal opening hours

THE ABOVE RULE HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AFTER BEING CLARIFIED BY HODSONS SOLICITORS OF ABINGDON. ALL NECESSARY PUBLICATION AND NOTICES ARRANGED BY HODSONS SOLICITORS OF STRATTON WAY ABINGDON. OCTOBER 2008

Marcham Community Group

www.marcham.org
mail@marcham.org

Registered Company No. 7470307

LOGO competition
SPACE

COMPETITION – HELP US DESIGN OUR LOGO!

What does the word 'community' mean to you and to Marcham? Are you creative? Could you show what our group stands for in a logo?

Now that we are formally incorporated and can start fundraising, we need a logo so everyone knows who we are. Can you help? The winning design will be developed by a professional into the final result and could be used everywhere from paperwork to posters and t-shirts.

Marcham Community Group aims:

Provision of facilities for the inhabitants of Marcham and surrounding area

- for recreation, meetings and other leisure-time activities;
- for those with needs and for the public at large.

The logo for Marcham Community Group should help to get the message across about who we are. It needs to work just as well in black and white as it does in colour. It can be typographical (using just letters), a drawing, sketch or symbol or a combination of both. It should be clear, strong and easily recognisable. Above all, it should make people who see it think of what is special about Marcham and our community.

PUBLIC MEETING

A group of nearly fifty Marcham Community Group supporters met in the school on Friday 14 January for an update on the MCG and to discuss possible ways forward and how they could give practical help. Jim Asher, the Chairman, started the meeting by going through the objectives and operating structure of the MCG as set out in its registration document as a charitable limited company.

The aim of the MCG is for the community to work together to build and maintain meeting and leisure facilities for everyone in and around Marcham to provide facilities for Marcham and the surrounding area for recreation, meetings and other leisure activities. Membership will be

open to all local residents for a low annual subscription that will cover only administrative costs, and members will elect the directors. There will be a number of working groups reporting to the board of directors.

Jim then introduced the main topic of the meeting – things that need to be done. The business plan is being prepared and will be completed during the next few weeks to meet the March timing requested by the Anson Trust so that it can be considered in the next phase of their discussions with the Charity Commission. We will then need to embark on outline planning and capital fund raising. But in parallel there are the essential activities of

consulting and involving the community. The meeting split into four groups to brainstorm ideas on four topics: publicity and communications; community consultation; possible activities in a new hall; and fundraising. It was an enjoyable and interesting meeting, and the ideas each group produced, together with other ideas noted during informal discussions afterwards, will be very useful in developing detailed plans for the next phase of the project.

We plan to hold another supporters meeting in about two months time. In the meantime why not help with fundraising.

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE CHANGES AT WWW.MARCHAM.ORG

Competition rules

1. The competition is open to all residents in Marcham Parish and anyone with a strong local connection, and to all ages.
2. Entries should be provided as a drawing, sketch or print out on an A4 sheet of paper and sent to Suzanne Crafer, 3 All Saints' Close, Marcham. Please write your full name, address and phone number or email on the back. Electronic files in JPG and PDF form will be accepted – email these to mail@marcham.org Entries will not be returned. The closing date for entries is 30 April 2011.
3. The entries will be judged by a panel set up by the Directors and their decision on the choice of logo will be final.



Marcham WI February 2011

At the WI meeting this month we will be getting advice on "Putting every item in our wardrobe back into full use". Our speaker Carol Hunt will give tips on alterations, re-styling, repairs, embellishment and lots more! If you would like a new outfit for Spring, there will be many ideas from Carol. This will be a members' evening when everything is organised by non-committee (ordinary members). Our January meeting was well attended and a group of us really enjoyed our Sheep Day at Ducklington. In March at our annual meeting we are looking for new committee members and would welcome nominations at this month's meeting

Future Events

- Feb 24 New Zealand day at Kirtlington
- Mar 9 Shakespeare at Denman with Jane Lapotaire
- Mar 15 Music Taster Day at Benson Village Hall
- Mar 22 Oxfordshire WI ACM, Oxford Town Hall
- Mar 25 Barn Dance at Horton cum Studley Village Hall

NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 17 February 2011

MEMBERS' MEETING

Re-Invent Your Wardrobe

Carol Hunt

Visitors welcome - £3 voluntary contribution

Contacts for: Sonia Edwards 01865 391442
more information Christine Whild 01865 391270

MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

Thursday, February 10th 2011.

For this month's walk we will go back to The Abingdon Arms (Map Ref SP565113) in Beckley at 12.30pm for lunch and 1.30pm for a walk of about 4½ miles, taking in the hamlet of Elsfield, seemingly remote and yet close to Oxford. New walkers are always very welcome so do start the year in good company. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and details.



TELEPHONE SCAMMERS TARGET COMPUTER USERS

Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards team is warning people about conmen who are cold calling residents and claiming that their computers are infected with viruses which they can fix. The number of complaints received by Trading Standards has risen recently with 23 people reporting the scam since the beginning of December. These conmen often say they work for Microsoft or Windows, although many different names are used. They will know the victim's name and address and will suggest that their computer is at serious risk from the viruses or "malware" with which it is "infected".

Stealing information

They may ask the consumer to shut down and re-start the computer or direct them straight to a program called "Windows Event Viewer". This will list errors, some of which will be labelled "critical". In fact, there is nothing wrong with the computer and the program is simply being used to con the victim into thinking they have a problem. If the consumer falls for the scam, they will then be directed to a website to download a program which will allow the caller to control the computer to "fix" it. All that is actually happening is that the conmen are being given access to all the data stored on the computer, which could include personal, banking and identity information. The caller will then demand payment for the so-called service provided. The victim will be asked for a direct debit or credit card payment and may also be asked to sign up to a direct debit payment scheme for ongoing "protection". If they refuse to pay, the criminal on the other end of the phone may threaten to crash their computer. Trading Standards has received reports of up to £240 being demanded as a one off payment.

Tip of the iceberg

Richard Webb, Deputy Head of Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards, said: "We believe this is the tip of a very large iceberg. Our advice is to make sure your computer is protected with anti-virus software provided by a reputable company and never respond to a cold call. These calls are fraud and you are more likely to end up with a large bill for an unnecessary and useless service as well as risking the loss of your personal information.

"If you do receive a telephone call like this, we advise you to hang up straight away. If you have noted the caller's telephone number or have been given a trader name or website address before you hang up, please report the call to Trading Standards at 0845 051 0845 or trading.standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk."

Councillor Judith Heathcoat, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Safer and Stronger Communities, said: "It is extremely important that people report any calls of this nature so our dedicated team at Trading Standards can work with anti fraud agencies to put a stop to these criminals. They should not be allowed to operate and prey on unsuspecting victims. I am relieved that we have such a hardworking and committed team of people working to protect us from these scams."



Could you be a Bin Buddy?

If your neighbours are out during the day, why not agree to put their bins away in exchange for another favour like keeping an eye on your house while you are away.



The
Marcham
Society

Annual Lecture Woodland Archaeology & Ecology

Dick Greenaway

All Saints' Church Tuesday 8th February 2011, 7.45pm

Next meeting 8th March 2011

A Poor Place for the Industrial Population

Non-members £2

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

Further details: Sheila Dunford (391439) or Judith Fontaine (391275)

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

Recently, I have received a great many letters and emails from my constituents regarding a campaign to change the time zone of the UK – basically to get rid of daylight saving. This is an issue that has often come before Parliament but it has not been properly considered for many years. Daylight Saving Time (DST) was introduced in Britain during World War 1 and has been used ever since. Between 1968 and 1971, year-round DST was adopted in Britain for a trial period but was later abandoned. Current campaigns are proposing trying this again or simply moving both summer and winter forward by one hour. It is said that at present the UK wastes many hours of daylight when the vast majority of the population are still asleep and research has estimated that the UK could save up to 447,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year – equivalent to taking 172,000 cars off of the road. It would also reduce accidents on the road preventing up to 80 deaths and 200 serious injuries every single year.



However, I am not convinced that the change would benefit everyone. Apart from the massive costs caused by making the change, early-risers & schoolchildren would have to walk through darker mornings, we would no longer wake to find the sun streaming in through our windows and also Greenwich itself would no longer ever observe Greenwich Mean Time. I know that my fellow Ministers continue to hear from both sides of this argument and are currently considering what effects a change would have. An upcoming issue with which Parliament and the public will have to contend with is the referendum on the Alternative Vote system (AV). On the one hand we have a tried and tested method called 'First Past the Post' or 'FPTP', which I favour, where simply the candidate with the most votes is elected. Despite its simplicity and the comfort to voters who know exactly how their vote will be used, critics say this system is unfair as smaller parties who receive a sizable percentage of the vote win few or no seats in the Commons.

AV asks voters to rank the candidates in order of preference, and then eliminates the weakest candidates in rounds, reassigning their votes, until one candidate receives over 50%. I would be interested to know your views.

I am also throwing my weight behind a new campaign this winter to help those who have trouble affording their heating bills. Every year the Government gives out Winter Fuel Payments to the elderly so that they can afford to keep warm, however for some this is just not enough. So I am supporting the Oxfordshire Surviving Winter Appeal which offers a way for people who can already afford their heating bills to donate their Winter Fuel Payments to those who can't. Winter can be a bitter time of year and I think it right that we should make every effort to prevent the cold from causing illness and, in the worst cases, death. In the modern world we should be able to overcome winter hardships together and I'm pleased to announce that, at the time of writing this, the Oxfordshire community has already raised over £21k for this cause. If you are able then please make a donation by sending a cheque to Oxfordshire Community Foundation, 3 Woodin's Way, Oxford OX1 1HD or visiting their website at www.oxfordshire.org.

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 4 Feb | Wantage , Civic Hall, OX12 9BX |
| 4 Mar | Didcot , King Alfred Community Centre, OX11 7NU |
| 18 Mar | Faringdon , Pump Rooms, SN7 7HL |
| Contact Ed Vaizey MP by | |
| Post | The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA |
| E-mail | vaizeye@parliament.uk |
| Web | www.vaizey.com |
| Tel | 0207 219 6350 |

ANNOUNCEMENTS COLUMN

We are planning a new Announcements section in the MADNews starting in the April issue. If you want to announce an engagement, wedding, birth, baptism, anniversary, graduation, special achievement or event, move, retirement or death or in memoriam please write to Janey Cumber, Manor Farm, Mill Rd., Marcham, OX13 6NZ or email janey.cumber@tiscali.co.uk. Photographs are welcome but we can't always guarantee that there will be space for them! Please give your contact details as all details will be checked before being published. *The Editor's decision is final*

MARCHAM RECREATION GROUND CHARITY (ARBORETUM) REGISTERED NUMBER 265942

Some villagers may not know that the area often referred to as the Arboretum, off the Frilford Road, is in fact a registered charity. The land was given to Marcham Parish Council in 1953, and the Council acts as Trustees. The objects of the charity are to provide a recreation ground for the inhabitants of Marcham. It was used for many years for football and general sporting purposes. In 1997 the Charity Commission gave permission to the Trustees to dispose of a piece of the land to be used for an extension to the Cemetery, since which time it has been used more for leisure time recreation than sports matches. The Trustees have planted some trees around the edge and have accepted donations of trees from residents whenever possible where there are spaces. A plan has been prepared showing all trees planted.



It has been noticed however, that other trees and memorial wreaths have suddenly appeared and also cemetery type memorial plaques have been erected in the recreation ground. Would parishioners please note that should you be thinking of planting a tree or doing anything else in the recreation ground then you first have to write to the charity so that any request can be considered by the Trustees. The Trustees do try to be accommodating, but as they are required to carry out the purposes of the original charity, it may not be possible to agree to every request. The charity can be contacted via its clerk: Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham, Tel: 01865 391833

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The first OCA fixture set to be placed at Marcham this year is a 2nd XI match against Chadlington 2nd XI on 30th April.



Pre-season Nets are big arranged. Players of all ages and levels of ability are welcome to join the Club.

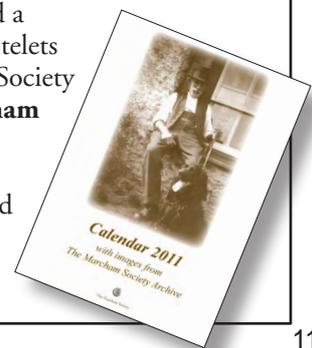
Please contact Trevor Hill (391321) for information.

Also, Trevor may be contacted by anyone interested in umpiring on behalf of Marcham CC.

CSB

LAST CHANCE TO BUY THE 2011 CALENDAR – NOW HALF PRICE £1.75

The Marcham Society has produced a calendar for 2011 and a range of notelets featuring photographs given to the Society when their successful book "Marcham Remembered" was produced. You can buy copies of the calendar for £3.50 each at the Post Office and Cumber's Farm Shop or contact Sheila Dunford 391439.



SCHOOL NEWS

Marcham School PTA would like to thank everybody that came to the Christmas Fayre. It was very well attended and we raised nearly £1400. This money will go towards funding equipment and trips for all the pupils at the school. We would also like to thank all of the people who volunteer to help set up and run stalls at the event. We hope that by inviting other community groups, the WI, Rainbows and Brownies, the Church and MML and local businesses, that this type of event helps to bring the whole village together. Thank you to the school choir for opening the Fayre with some fantastic singing and to Father Christmas for paying us a visit. We hope that everyone enjoyed the afternoon. If anyone has ideas for future events or would like to be involved in the PTA in any way please contact us at marchamschoolpta@monkeynose.com

Date for your diary: Our Summer Fete is on Saturday 2nd July 2011.

SARAH MUTCH, Marcham School PTA

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

As I write this, I am sat reviewing all the wonderful learning that has taken place this term already! Monsters and the Gruffalo were the theme that the children decided on after Christmas, and they have designed their own monsters, made monster face pizza, talked about things that are scary (and things that make us feel safe). The children designed a wall display, discussing what we needed to include, and agreeing on a variety of media, techniques and textures to make the Gruffalo, the snake, owl, fox and mouse, as well as butterflies, trees and nuts. There were some amazing discussions taking place, which have really captured the children's imagination! We are all very proud of the journeys the children have taken and look forward to finding out where they will lead us next! If you would be interested in joining us from September 2011, may we ask you to contact us as soon as possible to arrange a visit and/or collect an application form as our sessions are filling rapidly and allocations will start soon! Visit our website at www.marcham-preschool.uk.org for more information or telephone 01865 392101.

MARION, NICKY AND KATHARINE.



MARCHAM PLAYERS

Yes, it's that time of year again when we invite all interested in the Marcham Players to attend our Annual General Meeting. Once again the venue is All Saints' Church, Marcham, the time 7.30pm to enable you to pay your Annual Subscriptions with the business part of the meeting scheduled to commence at 8.0pm. The date is **FRIDAY 25 FEBRUARY, 2011**.



At the conclusion of business it is hoped that representatives from the Marcham Community Group Communications and Consultative Group will bring us up to date with progress concerning the intentions of their organisation. Do please make every effort to attend!

There will be a vacancy on the Committee to be filled so if anyone is interested do please contact either myself, Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964 or Joey Maclean on 01865 391242 prior to the meeting so that we can have a chat about what is involved.

Any enquiries regarding membership of the Marcham Players can be answered by phoning either Joey Maclean on 01865 391262 or Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964

www.marchamplayers.co.uk

Tea Dances

Civic Hall, Portway, Wantage OX12 9BX
14.00 – 16.30 Fri 11 Feb and Fri 11 March
£3 including tea and biscuits, parking nearby £1 for 3 hours
Call 01235 763 456 for more details



If you are holding an event within or near the MADNews area, please contact the editor for more publicity! 01865 391725 or editor@madnews.co.uk



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DEMENTIA INFORMATION LINE AND WEBSITE

Oxfordshire now has it's own Dementia Information Service. The telephone service is 01993 700061 and is available from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday (answerphone at other times). The website is www.dementiaweboxfordshire.org.uk/



Women's World Day of Prayer

The service this year has been arranged by the women of Chile, and will take place in the Baptist Church on Friday 4th March at 11am. Our speaker will be Ruth Corderoy. There will be a simple lunch afterwards in the Baptist Hall. You will be made most welcome.

February 2011

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Trees, mist-shrouded, tall, so tall
They touched the clouds,
Buttressed by mighty roots in the lush forest floor;
Home to countless creatures, strange and beautiful -
Nature abundant, wild and free, living, growing.

Clear and sweet, wide and deep,
A river flowing,
Fluvial life abundant, and food for all,
Forest dwellers, furred and feathered, men and beasts
All in harmony with Nature.

This was my home until came men
Rapacious, greedy,
Who cared not for the ancient, untamed forest
But felled the breathing, life-giving trees
For personal gain they plundered and despoiled,
And when they left, poisoned were the waters,
The land exposed, desolate and bereft.

But some who cared brought me here
To live in captivity -
I am an endangered species they say,
But can men not see
That if they reduce the earth to desert and foul the waters,
The human race will surely be
An endangered species, just like me?



Doris Dowling

**Does your house feel cold? ADVERT
Are your heating bills too high?**

This time of year when the weather is cold we really notice how cold our homes and other buildings can be, some areas may feel warm while others are cold. Turning the heating up can often improve the occupational comfort of the building but also consumes considerably more energy and consequently increases your bills. It is very easy to attribute this to inefficiencies with your heating system but in the majority of cases the heating is doing what it should be, pumping heat into the building!

The fundamental problem is likely to be with the building itself, buildings have never really been designed to retain heat efficiently, while your heating system is busy pushing heat in, the building is busy losing it so you have to put in even more! Many houses (even most new buildings!) are poorly or inadequately insulated, draughty and can feel cold even with the heating on. Cavity wall and loft insulation, which can be available free if you and your building meet the requirements for the grant scheme, do help but they are really only basic measures for home comfort and energy efficiency and do not address some of the more fundamental issues.

You can spend a lot of money trying to improve the heat retention of your building on items such as replacement double glazed windows and still have a cold building! Without knowing where your heat is escaping from it is difficult to take measures to reduce it effectively.

Thermal Imaging can identify problem areas such as poor or missing insulation, draughts and even damp that generally go unnoticed but contribute significantly to heat loss. Addressing some of these issues can cost as little as a few pounds but make significant improvements to the comfort of the building. Thermal imaging will help you target these areas and ensure that maximum benefit is gained from any money spent on improvements. *See cover for an image* For further details on thermal imaging and other independent energy saving advice please contact;

e-mail paul@sustainablelifestyles.co.uk
Tel 01235 550540 Mobile 07802 935827
www.sustainablelifestyles.co.uk

January 2011

"I recently had Paul Buckingham to my house to look at areas which might need more insulation. He brought his thermal imaging camera and it was most interesting to see where there was insufficient insulation, or indeed where there were draughts. Thankfully he didn't find many of these! I can recommend him for his knowledge and enthusiasm and for his unbiased recommendations." Christine Whild



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- Thermal Imaging with report and recommendations.
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Paul Buckingham Tel 01235 550540

paul@sustainablelifestyles.co.uk

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February 2011

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or email me at annafitness@hotmail.co.uk

BBOWT Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

Sunday 13 February 10.00 - 15.00

Practical Fen Management Taster Day

Parsonage Moor Nature Reserve, Dry Sandford

Come and help manage the peaceful and peculiar Parsonage Moor Nature Reserve. Enjoy some hands on work whilst learning about the reserve and the ongoing Cothill Fen Project.

No experience necessary. Wear old clothes and wellies and bring a packed lunch. Hot drinks and cakes will be provided. No dogs please.

Meet: In the car park opposite The Merry Miller Pub on the Cothill Road, Dry Sandford. OX13 6JW

Admission: Free
Contact: Louise Print-Lyons 01865 775476
louiseprint-lyons@bbowt.org.uk



TABLE TOP SALE

**Saturday 26th Feb
10 till 2**

**Hanney War Memorial Hall
Refreshments Raffle**

To Book Table tel 01235 868527

DID YOU KNOW?

By visiting www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/countryside you can...

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FACTS FOR FAMILIES
Conference for parents of children with SEN/LDD (incorporating Nuts & Bolts Day)
SATURDAY MARCH 5th 2011
9.45 - 1 p.m.
(registration 9.15 - 9.45 a.m.)
THE MARLBOROUGH SCHOOL & ENTERPRISE CENTRE, WOODSTOCK OX20 1LP
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For more info or a booking form: Tel: 01865 810516
Email: parentpartnership@oxfordshire.gov.uk



All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page

Dear Friends,

February always gives me hope: the days are quietly extending in length; snowdrops are beginning to flower; bulbs are pushing their 'noses' up through the soil, and although we often still have some hard weather to endure, signs of new life are all around us. Wonderful!

Whilst this can be a source of delight, there is a great deal happening around us in the world that gives cause for deep concern, both internationally and here in the UK. One of those concerns is an apparent carelessness about life and other people's lives, especially if another's point of view or outlook on life is different from our own, or 'gets in the way' of, or indeed challenges, our settled attitudes. We can be so 'closed up' that intolerance creeps into life, albeit unannounced, and before we know it we dismiss someone's point of view, or world view, without a second thought. The trouble is that frequently with that approach, we dismiss the person as well, and hardened attitudes and troubled relationships result.

'Metanoia' is a New Testament word which means 'change of heart', a 'turning around', a 'beginning again'. God is always urging us to points of 'metanoia' – to help us 'see differently', to catch a glimpse of new things, to know that the proverbial slate can be wiped clean, even after years of neglect. To be able to offer this new beginning cost God dearly – the life of his Son. However costly, new life remains 'on the table', as a gift to us in Christ, an act of sheer grace.

May God's grace touch all our lives this year, even when we least expect it!

**With my warmest best wishes,
Revd Richard Zair**

Prayer for the Month:

Dear God,
Thank you for making 'new beginnings' possible. Thank you for the signs of new life all around us at this time of the year. Thank you for offering the world new life in your Son, Jesus Christ.
Please help us/me to embrace those 'metanoia' moments in life, in order that hope may mark the way ahead on our/my own path through life, and on the paths that others walk beside me, and for the wellbeing of our community.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

February calendar:

Regular events:

Sat 5th Feb: 8.00am Men's breakfast at the Sports and Social Club

Mum's Bible Study has started up again. The group meet fortnightly at 9.30am on Thursdays (next on 3 Feb) at 28 Parkside. For more details ring Rachel on 391432.

Parish People:

The funeral took place at All Saints' on 21 December of George Cordell of Mill Road, Marcham, aged 65. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

Youth & Children's Groups

The church is involved in running a variety of weekly groups for young people during term time:

- Friday Club for primary age children (Fridays 5.30 pm at church)
- TAG for years 7,8,9 and 10 (Tuesdays 4 pm at Baptist Hall)
- ASK for years 5,6 and 7 (Sundays 4 pm at Buildings Farm).

Children's groups also run during the 10 am Sunday services at All Saints (apart from the 1st Sunday of the month where children remain in church for an All-Age worship service). For more details of any aspect of our Youth and Children's work please contact Jill Rowe (390 885).

Regular services:

Sundays at All Saints': 10am and 6pm
(8am first Sunday)

Wednesdays: 10.30am Holy Communion at Duffield Place

Sundays at St. Luke's: 10.30 am on the first Sunday of each month.

Contacts:

Rev. Richard Zair 391319

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister* 390885

Chris Nutman *Churchwarden* 01235 521698

Deborah Flint *Churchwarden* 391056

Janey Cumber *Administrator* 391327

Jenny Warwick *PCC Secretary* 392076

Marcham Baptist Church

(Packhorse Lane)

February 2011

Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30 am

(Communion every first Sunday)



Our speakers for February include:

Feb 6th Mr Roger Frith of Wantage Baptist Church

Feb 13th People's Praise

Feb 20th Mr Brian Mitchell of Wantage Christian Fellowship

Feb 27th People's Praise

(This service supports the work of TEAR fund)

Everyone welcome

He never sleeps

Giraffes have the shortest sleep cycle of any mammal. They sleep only between 10 minutes and 2 hours in a 24 hour. Seemingly always awake, the giraffe has nothing much in common with most humans in that regard. If we had so little sleep, it would probably mean we had some form of insomnia. But for giraffes, it's not a sleep disorder that keeps them awake. It's just the way God has made them.

If you think 2 hours a day is not much sleep, consider this fact about the Creator of our tall animal friends: Our heavenly Father never sleeps and is always concerned for us, the psalmist declares, "**He who keeps you will not slumber**" (Ps. 121:3). In the context of this psalm, the writer makes it clear that God's sleepless vigilance is for our good. Verse 5 says, "**The Lord is your keeper.**" God keeps us, protects us, and cares for us, with no need for refreshing. Our Protector is constantly seeking our good.

Are you facing difficulties? Turn to the One who never sleeps. Each second of each day, let Him "**preserve your going out and your coming in**" (v.8).

Bory Pilgrim

For further information on church activities:

Contact Mr R Barrett 01865 391356
Mr W Dyer 01235 814986

Marcham Baptist is affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain