

July / August 2012 Vol: 34 No: 7/8

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



Images from the Great Marcham Jubilee Weekend



▲ Goodbye Alan! see page 5

▲ Cub Detective see page 17

▲ Little Angels Guard the Castle see page 19



▲ Preschool at the park see page 19

▲ Olympic Torchbearer see page 9

ALL SAINTS' HOLIDAY CLUB
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JULY		
5 Thu	Midweek Walk, Red Lion, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, 12.30 / 13.30	13
6 Fri	Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary Jazz Evening, Brightwell cum Sotwell, 19.30	23
6 Fri	MP's Surgery, Didcot, 17.30 – 19.00	9
7 Sat	Marcham School Summer Fete, 14.00 – 16.00	17
11-14	Abingdon Drama Club: Wife After Death, 19.30	23
11 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
13 Fri	MP's Surgery, Faringdon, 17.30 – 19.00	9
14 Sat	Ex-Servicemen's Club Senior Citizen Mystery Coach Tour	23
15 Sun	Marcham Players' Music in a Marquee, 19.30	13

19 Thu	Marcham WI Garden Party, Tubney Farmhouse	13
20 Fri	MP's Surgery, Wantage, 17.30 – 19.00	9
21 Sat	Fyfield Summer Fete, 14.00-16.30	23
28 Sat	Marcham Sport, Scouts and Social Club Summer Dance and BBQ	19
28 Sat	Cantabile, All Saints' Church, Goosey. 18.00-19.00	21
AUGUST		
2 Thu	Midweek Walk route tbc	13
9-11	Farm Close Archaeological Dig	21
18 Sat	Deadline for July / August issue of MADNews	
18 Sat	Ex-Servicemen's Club Tortoise Racing, 18.00	23
28-31	All Saints' Holiday Club, 10.00-14.00	19

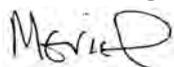
Dear Readers

Another packed issue this month, it just shows how much goes on in Marcham and the surrounding area!

Thanks to those who have sent in photos from GMJW - I have put a selection on the cover and there are more on the MADNews website. If you have any good ones, send them in!

PLEASE NOTE: the deadline for the September issue will be 18 August, 2 days earlier than normal! I will send out reminders as usual - if you would like to receive an email every month to remind you to send in notices, reports etc, just email editor@madnews.co.uk and ask to be added to the mailing list.

Have a great summer



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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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Call 101 (non-emergency)
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Tel: 01235 751210

Email: iainbrownconservatives@yahoo.co.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon
Jane Hanna OBE
4 Charlton Road, Wantage OX12 8ER
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For other councillors go to
www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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July 2012

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Taylor Wimpey Planning Application

Councillor Jane Hanna and the Parish Council during May undertook a parish consultation exercise to gauge the views on the application, and to give everyone the opportunity to comment. The results are on the website of Marcham Parish Council at www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

There was a response rate of 62%. These show that 359 people supported the application, but 412 voted against it. Also on the website is an analysis of a street by street vote and the summary of comments that people made. The Parish Council held a meeting on 6th June to discuss the application. After much discussion at the meeting, the Councillors were divided in their opinion, so it was agreed that the Parish Council would reflect the concerns raised. The Parish Council has therefore not supported the application, nor has it objected to it, but has put forward to the District Council the issues raised during the consultation. These include the impact on the school that any development would have, highway issues and safety concerns for access, both at Morland Road and to any proposed new community centre. The full response from the Parish Council can be viewed at www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk. The Planning Officer is taking into account all comments received. He will be carefully considering the application and it will be put to the Planning Committee at the VWHDC for determination in due course.

OCC – Routes to School

The County Council has been assessing its provision of school transport to the designated secondary school in Abingdon. A review of the route to be taken has been taking place, in accordance with set guidelines, to determine whether it was safe. The County Council has determined that there was not sufficient time between vehicle movements to be able to cross the slip roads on the A34, particularly the down slip road. The route has therefore been deemed unsafe and the County Council will continue to provide a bus service, free of charge, for village children who need to reach Larkmead School in Abingdon.

A415 flooding

There has been flooding on the South side of the A415 near the village green on 4 or 5 occasions over the last few weeks. It is recognised that there has been a tremendous amount of rain and therefore surface water to dispose of, but the Parish Council has asked the County Council whether it would consider replacing some of the kerbs with drainage kerbing to allow the surplus water to drain away.

Possible New Pharmacy at Southmoor

The Parish Council has been advised by the Thames Valley Primary Care Agency that an application has been lodged to open a new pharmacy in Southmoor. The decision will partly depend on the proximity to other pharmacies and the general classification of the area.

Planning Applications recently considered by the Parish Council

The following planning applications were considered by the Council at its last meeting: P12/V0870 Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension. Alterations to porch and new tile roof to 8 Kings Avenue

P12/V1156/HH Demolish existing single garage. Erection of a garage at the rear and alterations. 4 Hyde Copse

Date of Next Council Meeting: Wednesday 11th July 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**

Dear Editor

A very big thank you to everyone who took part in the recent consultation on the Taylor Wimpey Application.

We had a response rate of 62% from residents within the village, and a response rate of 28% from residents living elsewhere in the parish. It was clear to me in meeting residents during the consultation that the village had given very careful consideration to the proposal, including many who made a deliberate decision not to return a questionnaire. 359 people (46.6%) supported the application and 412 people (53.4%) did not.

When I promised to undertake a consultation in 2004 I undertook to represent the views of the village. I will honour this by objecting to the application at Planning Committee. Nevertheless, the vote was close and it would only be right for me to present the views of those that do not. All comments have been summarised and sent to the Vale together with details of the consultation and result.

The development proposal clearly divides Marcham. Many who voted yes and many who voted no commented about the value of the Anson Field. Whilst some people voted yes because the building of housing on half of the Anson Field was the price of much needed facilities, others felt this was too high a price.

In particular I will use my opportunity at the Planning Committee to highlight the common themes that emerged from the comments from the consultation. There is understandable concern about major development in Marcham and a common theme was that the needs of the village must be met should the application be approved. Amongst those that voted yes, many responded with expectations not only of a new community centre, but new class rooms at the primary school and that building of housing on the Anson Field should be the last major development in 3

Marcham.

Marcham residents rightly expect their views to be taken seriously. The proposal involves a build on recreational land and a build on the outskirts of the village and community support is needed. Officers are currently considering the application. Should the Officers approve the application, I have requested a meeting to press the case for s106 funding to be spent in Marcham to meet the needs of the village. I hope that the County Council will recognise and address the traffic pressures and the needs of the local school. The County needs to agree to allocating funding from the development (s106 monies) to pay for two new classrooms. I have highlighted this issue with the Vale, but the decision rests with the County Council.

Many readers will be aware that the Interim Housing Supply Policy (allowing housing development on the outskirts of villages) was spectacularly withdrawn before the meeting of Full Council on May 16th. Instead the Conservative Administration tabled an Interim Housing Supply Statement. I did manage to present a petition from Marcham residents against the Interim Housing Supply Policy/Statement. At that meeting, however, councillors were denied the opportunity for either debate or public participation on the Interim Housing Supply Statement.

The Vale has since publicised the Interim Housing Supply Statement which identifies the Anson Field as a site that Officers consider suitable for 55 houses. One of the reasons given was that an open space audit identified it as of 'low value'. Other proposed sites for development in Marcham are not considered suitable. They are not ruled out, however, should barriers to their use for housing be overcome e.g. the land behind Kings Close is identified as a County Council site for mineral extraction. The Interim Supply Statement mentions clearly at the start that it is 'for information only' and is not a 'material consideration' for planning application purposes.

Planning decisions have never been more difficult to predict. In this period of uncertainty, I am anxious that neither Vale or County officers nor the Planning Committee will be concerned about meeting the needs of the community that have been so clearly highlighted in this consultation. I hope I am wrong.

JANE HANNA, District Councillor

Dear Editor

It is important to realise that the 2012 survey just completed by the Parish Council and Jane Hanna shows the majority of the village are still against putting a housing development on the Anson Field in exchange for new community facilities. This was **July 2012**

also the conclusion from our earlier village wide survey (MADNews May 2007). In 2007 68% voted against and today the majority are still against, despite years of campaigning by the Anson Trust with the help of the PR firm they appointed some years ago. The more recent campaign driven by the proposed Taylor Wimpey development has also failed to persuade the majority even though they have garnered the support of a few more vocal minorities. Both surveys managed to get responses from around two thirds of the village so we know they are truly representative of village opinion. Unfortunately the Banner Homes exhibition proposing an alternative development behind King's Avenue also took place recently. Judging from the results road by road in the 2012 survey the prospect of the alternative development behind Kings Avenue has reduced the majority from the 2007 figure but still failed to swing village opinion from "against" to "in favour". It is important to remember that the will of the majority of residents is a factor considered in major planning applications. At the time of writing the opportunity to comment is still available on the Planning Portal web page although the official end of consultation date has passed. If you are not happy with what is being proposed it may still be possible to have your say on-line if you have not yet done so (short link <http://bit.ly/M7SXwm>), alternatively please write to the VWHDC planning department, Abingdon, OX14 3JE and mention both this latest survey and the 2007 survey.

BOB ANDERSON

Dear Editor

Anson Field Sports Facility Update

As most of you are aware, following months of public consultation Taylor Wimpey's application for 51 new homes at The Anson Field and a new Community Hub and sports ground at Hyde Copse is now under consideration by the Vale of White Horse District Council.

I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the extensive rounds of public consultation and those who have taken the time and effort to show their support for the scheme. Thank you to everyone who took part in the Parish Council's consultation questionnaire and those who have written directly to the District Council in favour of the scheme.

I know some residents have raised concerns over technical elements of the application in relation to things such as drainage and traffic flow. We are currently working with council officers to look at ways in which we can address these comments by making minor alterations to the layout. These amendments will be submitted to the council in the near future.

Negotiations are also continuing with the

Vale of White Horse District Council, Oxfordshire County Council and Marcham C of E Primary School regarding the provision of two new classrooms together with improvements to the school playgrounds and parking area. The principle of the extension has been agreed with the school, we are now in the process of finalising the details. We'll keep you updated as further information becomes available.

A decision on the application is expected to be made by the committee on the 19th July. If there's anyone who has yet to comment on the scheme there's still time, please contact the Vale of White Horse District Council directly to show your support. This proposal offers a wonderful opportunity for Marcham and everyone's opinion really does count so please offer your support and help us provide fantastic new amenities alongside quality new homes in Marcham. If you have any other queries please contact Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire on 01235 541900; Email twomarcham@taylorwimpey.com; or Suite J, Windrush Court, Abingdon Business Park, Abingdon, Oxon. OX13 1SY

TAYLOR WIMPEY OXFORDSHIRE

Dear Editor

RED CROSS

Thank you to all who contributed to the Red Cross collection this year, and particularly to the collectors who encouraged a massive £506.20 from the Marcham residents. Your help and support is gratefully appreciated and volunteers for next year are extremely welcome. Please contact me on 01865 391519 if you would be able to help next May.

JO BLACKER

Dear Editor

Alan's Last Day

Residents of Parkside clubbed together to get something special for their special postman.

We raised enough money to buy a tankard and have it engraved and there was a good amount of money left over of which Alan can buy what he wishes.

A big thank to the residents of Parkside and

GOOD LUCK to Alan

NICOLA WRIGHT

Dear Editor

I would like to say a big thank you to all the people of Marcham for all the kind gifts and best wishes on my retirement. I'm sorry if I did not get to say goodbye to everyone but please accept my heartfelt Thank You to everyone.

I will, of course, come and see people in due course.

ALAN CROSS (the postie!)

Hosts:

- MSSC for hosting the Quiz evening and supplying the ale!
- Marcham School, Viv Hutchinson and Jane Jeffries for letting us to use the hall, and for the Maypole dancing
- The people of Morland Road for letting us close the street
- Will and Janey Cumber and the Manor Farm team for hosting the BBQ/Barn Dance, Open Farm and displays, Art Exhibition and Open air service
- Jane Dixon and NFWI for use of the grounds and gardens of Denman College
- All Saints Marcham for hosting village group displays and access to the tower

Events

- Meriel Lewis and MADNews for publicity, the colour brochure, signage, massive help and support
- Eddie Davies for help with signage
- Marcham Cubs for brochure delivery to all households
- Christine and Malcolm Denton for organising the Quiz, Treasure Hunt and serving teas and coffees
- Joey Maclean, Brian Gower and all local artists for the Art Exhibition
- John Waterhouse for providing the PA system
- Marion Belcher and Pre-School for the Fancy Dress competition
- Jill and Neil Rowe for the bouncy castle
- Chris Ricketts for the Jubilee games
- Little Angels for flags and bunting-making
- Christine Whild for judging the cake competition
- Cheryl Sewell and Sue Walton for Make a Crown and decorate a crown biscuit
- Marcham Guides, Marcham WI and Jean Creasy for helping with teas and coffees
- Chris Ricketts, Christine Whild and the children of the red, white and blue choir for the sing-alongs
- Jean & Donald Creasy and the exhibitors for the Made in Marcham Crafts exhibition
- Keith and Sam Ricketts for the penalty shoot
- Rev Richard Zair for the open air service
- Suzanne Crafer for organising the Cream Teas
- Bothy Vineyard for wine-tasting
- Jeremy Collins for organising the historic car display
- Marcham Bellringers for the bell-ringing demo
- Marcham Society for their photo displays
- Gary Mattingley and the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue crew for the Fire Engine

Pictures from GMJW are online at www.madnews.co.uk/gmjw if you have any to upload send them to editor@madnews.co.uk and if you have any videos, upload them to YouTube and send in the link

Dear Editor

It was a joy to see so many at the Jubilee Weekend – it made the organisers' efforts worthwhile. It started well with the pub-style quiz on Friday, packed to the gunnels. The atmosphere was of many happy people laughing and exchanging banter, despite being closely-seated. The quarter-point difference between the first and second teams was received with much hilarity too. We would have welcomed a few more degrees of heat at the street party on Saturday, but we stoical Brits soldiered on, sharing and munching happily, exchanging stories and jokes. The Marcham Crafts and the Art Exhibition showed amazing local talent. Congratulations to all involved. There was plenty else to do: the children's choir, fancy dress, games, cake competition and of course the Bouncy Castle. Sunday's rain was truly unkind to us, but it was good to see so many at the Open July 2012

Farm Day. It didn't stop those determined to have tractor rides, even though they resembled drowned rats on return. The cream teas were much appreciated as were refreshments in the church after climbing the tower, going round the exhibitions and listening to the bell-ringing. A great walk on Monday afternoon set us up for a fantastic BBQ and Barn Dance with a massive turn-out - a scene of fun and happiness. Then to round the day off perfectly, the Beacon Lighting, followed by the singing of The National Anthem and the youngsters spontaneously singing their songs was the perfect end to a wonderful community weekend in Marcham.

DENISE ASHER

Dear Editor

What a great weekend! Well done to all that organised and joined in with it. Roll on the next one!!
MARION

A Big Thank-you to all who helped After all the action of the Great Marcham Jubilee Weekend, the GMJW team would like to give special thanks to the many people who helped make it work.



- Eric Dunford for the guided historic walk
- Rachel & Charles Gaisford for organising the BBQ and Barn Dance, and the team of servers, barbeque chefs and bar staff
- Paul Davies, Jamie Salter, Will Cumber, Murray Maclean and helpers for transporting tables and chairs
- The boys who helped set up tables and chairs for the Banquet
- Baptist Church for loan of chairs
- Mike and Pippa Hoath for First Aid support
- Marcham Village Shop for last minute supplies
- James Crafer and Sam & Chris Hillier for loan of gazebos
- All the many stewards who helped over the weekend
- All organisations and people who contributed towards the events and gave up evenings to help on the organising team

Financial support and donations

- Marcham Parish Council for a grant towards fixed costs
 - The Harding Bequest for a grant towards costs
 - Budgens (Frilford)
 - Millets Farm (raffle prize)
 - Abingdon Blinds and Curtains
 - Bothy Vineyard
 - Andrew Maclean, Tree Management Ltd
- ...and most of all, we are hugely grateful to the many people of Marcham & District, and those from further afield, for supporting GMJW events in such large numbers
- Buried Treasure winners:** Mick Moxon, Jean Porter, John Howden-Richards, Meriel Lewis, Jean Scott and Becky Lees

From donations and fund raising activities during the GMJW, we are delighted to announce that we have raised a staggering sum of over £3000! This will be divided between Community equipment (via MCG) and our four selected charities: Thames Valley Air Ambulance, Age UK Helpline, See-Saw and Marcham Moldova Lifeline.

JA/DA

LOST AND FOUND

- Red plastic crate
- Small blue embroidered bag
- 2 (separate) keys

Plus a few other bits and pieces. Call Meriel on 391725 if you have lost (or found) anything recently!

**FREE TEA CHESTS (15)**

Free to good home, new owners to collect from Marcham garage.
Ring 01865 391689 Ideal for storage, medium sized, good condition.

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

This month's postbag is as interesting as ever. I continue to receive a steady stream of emails about same sex marriage – supporting both sides of the argument. However, my inbox has also included letters asking me to support to a proposal to make sure all tobacco products are sold in plain packaging with larger health warnings. I have also received emails and letters to draw my attention to a recently released report by Diabetes UK which suggests that £10 billion is spent on treating diabetes every year – and therefore that money could be saved with better preventative treatment. However, the largest volume of correspondence I've received this month has been about the appalling famine in the Sahel region of West Africa. The problem is an urgent one because, in countries like Chad, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and northern Senegal, the rainy season is fast approaching and the massive population could find themselves stuck without proper food while the weather prevents any aid from reaching them. International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell has announced that the UK will be sending an additional £10m in drought aid to help combat the situation. He has also urged other nations to follow the example of the UK and send their support before the rains come.



In November, we will be asked to go to the polls and vote for a position which has never been elected before – an elected Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner who will be responsible for choosing and implementing the policing priorities for Thames Valley Police (TVP). In preparation for this, the TVP has released a report called "Policing the Thames Valley: How We Cut Crime and Protect Our Community" which you can read on-line <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/>. If you don't have access to the internet I can send you a copy. The report has some interesting statistics: there were 8,600 fewer victims of violent crime and 22,500 fewer victims of crime than last year; burglaries are also down by nearly 4,000, which is also very impressive. The report also lays out the current strategies and procedures of the TVP, it gives a detailed analysis of how they work with communities and neighbourhood groups and it also gives case studies of how they deal with all varieties of policing matters from personal theft to policing Royal Ascot. In short it outlines every reason we should be proud of our local police force and gives you everything you need to make an informed decision on polling day.

I was surprised to learn recently that the author of *The Wind in the Willows*, Kenneth Grahame, used to live in Blewbury – yet another reason to be proud of this constituency's rich history. We also boast Agatha Christie and George Orwell in the literary stakes. To celebrate the 90th anniversary of Grahame's death (July 6) pupils of Blewbury Primary School and others gathered to unveil an English Heritage Blue Plaque which has been put on the house where Grahame lived with his family.

As the Olympics are around the corner, here is the constituency's link: the youngest ever British Male Olympian is from Wallingford. Ken Lester, who coxed a pair in the Rome Olympics 1960, was a member of Wallingford Rowing Club and has lived in the town all his life. He's still very much involved in rowing in the town, and is the current Mayor's Consort since his wife, Ros Lester, became Mayor in May this year. Interestingly, the last Olympics in London (1948) were also held while Cllr Lester was Mayor of Wallingford - not exactly the same Cllr Lester, but members of the same distinguished local family!

Finally, I am delighted to hear that 3 more rowers from Wallingford have been selected for the Olympic Squad in 2012- Lindsey Maguire and Katie Greves are in the Women's Eight and Zac Purchase in the

Men's Lightweight Double Sculls. Zac won a gold medal in Beijing. I'm sure everyone will join me in sending them our very best wishes. I have been working with communities in Marcham and Cholsey to fight plans to withdraw school transport from some pupils at schools in Abingdon and Wallingford. I'm delighted to say that we have won the battle in Marcham. The fight in Cholsey continues!

The County Council is planning to put a large gravel pit between Cholsey and Wallingford. I am appalled at this idea, and am working closely with CAGE (Communities Against Gravel Extraction) to point out to OCC and the Independent Inspector who will be assessing the proposal, the many reasons why this is just not the right thing to do..

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)

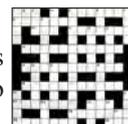
MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

July 6	Didcot , King Alfred Drive Community Centre, OX11 7NU
July 13	Faringdon , Pump Rooms, SN7 7HL
July 20	Wantage , Civic Hall, OX12 9BX
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

JUNE CROSSWORD BY ALISA

ACROSS 1 Ego 5 Beeline 8 Soldier 10 Din 11 Inroads
 14 Vintage cars 15 Morland Road 19 Fitness club
 22 Amnesia 24 Ant 26 Ringing 28 Neptune 29 Toe
 DOWN 1 Esau 2 Go 3 Old 4 Win 5 Bring and share 6 Leo 7 East
 9 Dinner 12 Recur 13 Aorta 16 Onion 17 Lanes 18 Oblong 20 Barn
 21 Hugs 23 Eat 24 And 25 Tit 27 No



MATTHEW CAMPBELL-HILL: TORCHBEARER

Matthew was Olympic Torchbearer Number 84 and, sponsored by **Samsung**, took the torch on its journey through Trewoon in Cornwall. He won't be able to take part in the 2012 Paralympic Games but has hopes to represent GB in 2016.

Matthew's nomination story: "Matthew has always spent much of his spare time helping others. He has been a volunteer first aider at many events with the Red Cross as well as volunteering with other charities such as both Oxford & Cornwall Associations for the Blind, and many different childrens' charities.

In 2001 he became a mentor for young people who struggled in school. He followed this by becoming a leader with Riding for the Disabled and then, in 2009, he took a part time role as a mental health youth worker.

In 2008 Matthew co-founded a not-for-profit company called Mentors DEN CIC (MD). Since then MD has helped more than 80 disabled and disadvantaged people set up and run their own business. Matthew has never been paid for this work, in fact he has been one of the major funders of Mentors DEN CIC since it began. In 2009 Matthew was hospitalised after a routine operation went wrong leaving him disabled and very sick with meningitis. Despite this Matthew continued to help run MD from his sick bed helping others to achieve their own dreams.

Matthew's disability has meant that he is no longer able to work in roles he used to but he continues to put the benefit of others ahead of his own. He has continued with MD and volunteers as a youth mentor with the Air Cadets.

Previous to his disability he was a very keen athlete and had competed nationally at fencing and Modern Pentathlon. He remains a huge fan of both these sports at the Olympics and it was always a dream of his to carry the Olympic Torch."

15th June
TOTALS TO DATE

Local Events
£5924

Donations
£4940

Membership
333

Bank Balance
£10,973

5p Coins
3236

Marcham
Community
Group



Changing times, changing views ...

Five years ago

When the Anson Trust first indicated several years ago that they planned to sell half the Anson Field for housing and use the proceeds to build a new community centre on the edge of the village, there was major opposition. A village-wide survey in 2007 (organised by Neighbours Around the Field) got a 66% response. Of those who responded, 69% were against the proposal and only 12% for. The remainder were undecided.

Now

When Jane Hanna's consultation group took a village-wide vote in May this year on the current Anson Trust / Taylor Wimpey planning application, 62% expressed an opinion and, of these, 54% were against and 46% for the proposal, leaving the Parish Council with an unclear outcome. (No 'undecided' option in this vote.) So, although a small majority remains opposed to the Anson Trust's plan, what has changed the minds of so many others?

MCG's consultations with groups and individuals in the community have confirmed the need for a replacement village hall for the many activities people wish to enjoy here. MCG directors and working groups have wrestled with the issues and explored the possibilities for fund-raising, and reached the conclusion that there is no magic solution. Grant money does not exist in the forms it once did in these economically difficult times. Further, it has become clear that the District Council wants to see about 60 new houses built in Marcham. We believe it likely that a wider awareness of both the economic reality and the District Council's housing plans has changed some people's minds.

MCG members who were present (or nominated a proxy) at the Open Meeting in April voted by almost two to one to accept the principle behind the planning application. They also decided by an over 90% majority that MCG, as an organisation, should comment on the application, putting the majority view. This has been done.

What next for MCG?

There have been many comments from both supporters and opponents of the proposal within MCG that, if the application gets planning permission, there must be accompanying upgrades in village infrastructure. We believe these views are shared by the community at large. Expanding the school has been particularly mentioned, but there are also concerns about roads and sewers. If MCG gets the opportunity to address the Vale's Planning Committee when it considers the application on 19 July, we will not only comment on the principles behind the proposals but also stress that, if the application is accepted, it will be imperative to expand the school, and that other infrastructure concerns must also be dealt with.

The proposed community building

Last November, recognising that the application might get planning permission, MCG members concluded at an Open Meeting that it was in the interests of both supporters and opponents of the scheme that the proposed community building should be appropriate for Marcham in case it did get built. Since then we have worked hard to put the results of MCG consultations, particularly the two User Forums, to the Anson Trust and Taylor Wimpey. Our clear aim is to ensure that any community facility would meet community needs as we understand them. At the time of writing we are waiting for new layout drawings that we hope will fully reflect the views that user groups have expressed.

Then there was the Great Marcham Jubilee Weekend

Thirteen events over four days, rain but some sunshine too, and lots of people having lots of fun. MCG was one of the organising groups. Pictures on front page and more reports on p. 7.

Thank you to all who supported MCG events at the Great Marcham Jubilee Weekend





Marcham WI July 2012

Our next meeting is a Garden Party, and is on Thursday 19th July. It will be held at Tubney Farmhouse by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Goss. Our summer outing is to be a visit to Blewbury Manor, and is on Wednesday, 25th July. For more details of both events, please contact Cynthia Warmington 01865 739364.

Some future events at County Level

Visit to Tewksbury and Wallsworth Hall - Wed 4th July
Federation Weekend at Denman College - 6th - 8th July
Ladies lunch at Benson Hall - Wednesday, 11th July
"History at Home" Archive Exhibition. 20th and 21st July at Benson Parish Hall.

Contacts for new members Christine Whild 01865 391270
Your Local WI - A Voice for Women

TENNIS ASSOCIATION

For more details for playing on Marcham's courts over the summer call Stuart Maw: 391201



MARCHAM PLAYERS

The main purpose for this edition is to remind everyone of the

MUSIC IN A MARQUEE - MARK TWO
SUNDAY 15 JULY 2012 - 7.30PM
MANOR FARM, MILL ROAD



Tickets (£10 each to be purchased please prior to event) from Dave Hutchinson (01865 391964 or dhutch722@yahoo.co.uk), Cheryl Sewell (01865 391200 or cheryll_francesca@btinternet.com) or Marcham Farm Shop. Cheques payable please to Marcham Players.

We intend to donate the profits to the Help for Heroes Charity and the Marcham Community Group so do please come along in large numbers and enjoy a great evening of music to listen and dance to. Since our original announcement of this event in last month's MADNews we have had to find a replacement band due to two instances of serious, unexpected health problems within the ranks of "Rocket" - we extend our good wishes to those concerned and wish them a speedy recovery to good health.

Our replacement band is "The Dark Blues" from Oxford and we extend to them our grateful thanks for stepping in at such short notice. They are a six piece mainstream jazz and blues band who come well recommended so let's turn out in large numbers, give them a warm Marcham welcome and enjoy a couple of hours of good, live music. Light refreshments will be provided but please bring along your own choice of drink, alcoholic or soft. Once again our very grateful thanks are given to James and Jenny Allan for the use of the marquee and to Will and Janey Cumber for yet another village invasion on their land! Please note entrance to the event will be via Manor Farm, Mill Road and there will be ample parking space adjacent to the marquee.

Tickets - £10 each -available from either Dave Hutchinson (01865 391964 or dhutch722@yahoo.co.uk), Cheryl Sewell (01865 391200 or cheryll_francesca@btinternet.com) or Marcham Farm Shop. Cheques payable please to Marcham Players. Please, if at all possible, purchase your tickets in advance. Do join us for a wonderful evening's music and help raise money for two very worthy causes.

Any enquiries regarding Marcham Players can be made to Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964 or Cheryl Sewel on 01865 391200

.....
www.marchamplayers.co.uk

July 2012

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

At the time of writing, the 1st XI and the 2nd XI occupy mid-table positions in their respective Division.

OCA Fixtures for July are:



July	1st XI	2nd XI
7	No fixture	No fixture
17	Dorchester Away	No fixture
21	Kings Sutton Home	Kilkenny II Away
28	Kidlington Away	Deddington II Home

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

THRUPP LAKE, RADLEY

Report of Marcham Society Meeting in May, when Loretta Walton from the Earth Trust gave a talk about Thrupp Lake.

..... It's a fine day, let's go for an easy circular walk round Thrupp lake (dog on a lead!) which since 2009 has been cared for by Earth Trust. Bring your binoculars, as from the leaf shaped bird hide you can watch kingfishers and great crested grebes also some of the other 20 bird species already recorded at the site..... Allow 40 minutes for your stroll and above all enjoy your visit.

The lake includes 16 islands but at present the edges lack shallows so the Earth Trust volunteers with the Neighbourhood Wildlife Warden Loretta Walton, have started to create boggy marsh areas with selected infill materials so more bird species will use the site for breeding. The area already supports 4 bat species and 6 rare plants; including bee orchids. There are dragonflies in abundance and many butterflies.

With support from grants and fund-raising the next ambitious project is to build an ecologically viable Visitor Centre, so an enjoyable, high quality experience for visitors increases their interest and love of countryside and wildlife, without detrimental disturbance to the site. The Earth Trust cares for other wildlife sites, the best known being at Wittenham. More information from www.earthtrust.org.uk Tel 01865 407792

Access: By car off Thrupp Lane, Radley road (permitted parking).

The Sustrans No 5 cycle route from Abingdon & Radley

No 35 bus from Stratton Way, Abingdon

O.S. Landranger map 164 Ref. SU 520978

MARCHAM SOCIETY WALKS JULY & AUGUST

Thursday, July 5th

For our July walk we will make another visit to Brightwell-cum-Sotwell and the very friendly welcome in the 16th century thatched Red Lion Inn (Map Ref SU582907) in Brightwell. We will eat at 12.30 and start our walk at 1.30. This time we will be going north to Shillingford Bridge, with a stretch along a very quiet reach of the Thames, returning via Little Wittenham Wood; about 4½ miles in all. This was the original route for February, abandoned due to illness.



Thursday August 2nd

The route of the August walk is still to be decided. Those on the email list will be advised when the details are known. If you would like to be added to the email list and receive details at the same time as the MADNews submission, please ask.

Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

A volunteer is need to run the Poppy Appeal in Marcham, Frilford and Garford. The organisation is in place and there is a dedicated band of house-to-house collectors, but someone needs to be in overall charge. In the last few years we have raised over £3000 annually, it seems a shame not to continue our appeal when so much is need by the Legion to carry on their work for our ex-service men and women. If anyone is interested, please contact Susan Spurgeon on 01865 390569.

A Community Led Plan for Marcham

Whatever happened to ...

the Community Led Plan? You may remember from our last report back in November 2011 that we had decided to take a back seat until the Jane Hanna / Parish Council consultation about the Taylor Wimpey planning application had been carried out. That process is now complete and the focus on the application has moved to the Vale of White Horse Planning Committee.

Meanwhile, we have carried on working hard. Scores of people in the village filled in the green forms identifying the issues in Marcham that mattered to them. We have also consulted more than 30 local groups for their ideas. We finally brought this part of the process to a close in March, and produced a first draft of the questionnaire that will eventually go to every house in Marcham. We then consulted our three Councils (the Parish, District and County) and Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, all of whom gave detailed comments and suggestions for improvements to the questionnaire.

We have also been working to secure the funds needed to pay for the whole project, and we have been offered grants by both Oxfordshire County Council and Marcham Parish Council, so we are now confident of being able to do the whole thing properly including providing a printed copy to every house in the village of the final report and plan.

Find out more on our website

If you would like to see more details about we've been doing, or would like to see a draft of the questionnaire then please visit our website:

www.marchamforward.org

Fresh eyes

We are very keen to get the questionnaire just right, as we will only get one chance to use it. We are now working with draft number 6, and have asked about a dozen people in the village across the age range to test it for us. They are all people who have had

nothing to do with the process so far, and we will listen very carefully to what they have to tell us.

September 2012

We are now planning to deliver a copy of the questionnaire to every house in Marcham in the second week of **September 2012**. We are hoping that everyone in the household will fill in the questionnaire, telling us their individual views. Each form will have room for five people to give us their answers, and if there are more than five people in your household we can provide another copy for the extra people.

There is no lower age limit for children to give their answers – if they can understand the questions then we are keen to get their views.

The same person who delivers the questionnaire will then come round to collect it. Our aim is to have a 100% return rate if at all possible, so please do take the time to fill it in once you have received it.



We need your help!

We are planning to deliver a questionnaire to every house in Marcham in the second week of September 2012, and to then collect the completed forms a week or two later. We are looking for about twenty people in the village to help us, each of whom would cover no more than 30 houses. We will try to allocate everyone to the street where they live, or to a nearby street.

Could you spare a little time to help? If so, please give one of us a ring – the details are below.

To volunteer to help with delivering, please contact:

Jim Asher (tel 01865 391727) or
David Walton (tel: 01865 391239)

NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL: Cubs Class

The Cubs had an exciting time during their recent 'Pets' topic. They became animal experts when they brought their own pets into school to show the class and they also had visits from a vet, some lambs and even some newly hatched chicks!

The cubs were able to demonstrate what they had learned about caring for pets when Miss Page's hamster went 'missing' in school. They became 'Pet Detectives' for two days and everyone worked hard at making kind traps, strong cages and experimenting with different foods and treats to attract the hamster back. The Pet Detectives searched for clues and created eye-catching 'missing' posters which were displayed around the school.

When the hamster mysteriously appeared back in her cage, the cubs wrote some fantastic stories about where she had been. The moon, Russia and sailing in a ship are just a few examples of their creative ideas!

'I knew it was missing first! I went with Kieran and Mrs. Ferryman and the hamster was gone!' *Florence, age 4.*

'Me and Hannah made a hamster trail. We put lettuce and carrot and sweet corn in it because that's her favourite food. She has a very healthy diet'. *Mollie, Mae and Hannah, age 6*

'We tried to attract the hamster. We made a house for it to run in. It had a tube with a box on the end to catch it.' *Tristan, age 6*

Headteacher's comments

It's been an extremely busy year for us at Marcham School. We have been engaged in a number of stimulating projects and learning opportunities which have resulted in our pupils continuing to develop both academically and socially. There have been visits to a variety of places of interest, including Birmingham's Sea-life Centre, the British Museum, The Roald Dahl museum, Cotswold Wildlife Park and The Living Rainforest.

We've had a number of in-house celebrations just recently, with the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics looming. There was a jubilee picnic on the school field, followed by Marcham's Royal Variety Performance. We have a great deal of talent at Marcham School! This was followed, on the last day of term 5, with our Maypole Dancing extravaganza, which was well attended by parents and well-wishers. Even the staff took to dancing around the maypole – although not to the more traditional musical themes... We recently took part in our Cluster Olympics Sports day (held alongside Dry Sandford, Wootton, Sunningwell, and Radley schools) representing the Americas. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all and we were successful in gaining a number of medals and overall second place. Our Samba band, as part of the Opening Ceremony, will be talked about for years! The school year will end with school plays, more visits, music concerts and leavers' services and activities. We look forward to the school fete on Saturday 7th July and hope to see you there.

You may well be aware that the school has undergone a number of inspections this year. OFSTED came in March and graded us a satisfactory school, although the comments and the report itself was extremely positive and said very many good things about the school. As a Church school, we were visited by the Church Inspectorate in April and they judged us to be a good school. Our Health and Safety audit in June concluded that we have achieved an outstanding level of Health and Safety compliance. We have worked extremely hard to provide a quality education for the children of our school and continuously strive towards our

July 2012

mission to "provide excellence in education in a safe, caring and collaborative community where learning is fun". I would like to thank all the staff of the school, teaching and non-teaching alike, who have worked so hard to make Marcham School a great place to be, and I'd also like to say an enormous thank you to the parents and friends of the school for your continued support.

Enjoy the summer (as soon as it arrives) and we hope that you, your families and friends have a chance to rest, relax and relish the time you spend together.

VIV HUTCHINSON, Headteacher, Marcham CE Primary school

MARCHAM SCHOOL SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 7TH JULY 2-4PM

STALLS – CAKES, GIFTS, CRAFTS

GAMES FOR ALL THE FAMILY

FACE AND NAIL PAINTING

BBQ AND BEER TENT

STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM

DEMONSTRATIONS AND LOTS MORE!

Marcham Rainbow Guides

have been having fun since 2004. During this time, over 70 local girls have skipped, giggled, painted, listened, made new friends and learnt about the world around them but this might all be about to come to an end. Without a new Leader, the unit will close in December 2012. Do you have a couple of hours a week you could commit to becoming a Guider? Full 'on the job' training and mentoring is provided; no previous experience required. For further details please contact Julia Davies on 01865 391912.

**CAN MAN AND WILDLIFE LIVE SIDE BY SIDE?**

"Can man and wildlife live side by side?" that's what I will be exploring in depth over the next month.

My wildlife gardening company sponsored the Sunningwell Festival which is a music and arts festival, June 1st to 10th 2012.

The main stage was constructed within the village pond. As part of our sponsorship, we not only had a trade stand throughout, but also gave talks on the stage about wildlife gardening. We recorded some material for our wildlife radio programme "Going Wild with Wildlife" on Radio Cherwell, every Wednesday, 1.30 to 2pm. Listen live via the Radio Cherwell website. www.radiocherwell.com/goingwildwithwildlife

We are doing a number of recordings before, during and after the event to see if man can coexist with nature as long a little consideration takes place. Some of the recordings are also available to hear via the Sunningwell Festival website.

Listen in to our recordings, it's should be good.

I feel although our gardens and streets are very synthetic and manmade, so is the countryside. What we see as traditional English countryside is a product of thousands of years of farming and management. Having said that though, if we manage it wisely, wildlife will still come.

At previous Sunningwell Festivals the ducks quacked along to the singer, perhaps something to do with the resonance. It will be interesting to explore.

Happy Gardening,
STUART MABBUTT

Wildlife Gardening Specialist, 01865 747243

See Stuart Mabbutt on Facebook



MARCHAM BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Marcham Baby and Toddler Group
 This month we have been using a lot of glue! We have made Elmer the Elephant pictures, tissue flowers and Jubilee party hats, not to mention the ever popular playdough. If you'd like your baby or toddler to have a go at messy activities without spoiling your carpet, come along on Tuesday mornings! We also have plenty of toys, storytime and a sing-song, plus refreshments for all and, very importantly, some friendly adult company for the parents.

We run all through the year, regardless of school holidays, on Tuesdays from 10-11.30am at the back of All Saints Church. The first visit is free, then just £2 per family each session. Just turn up, or phone Ellie on 391277 if you would like someone to introduce you. **Do come and join us!**

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

We have been involved in lots of activities over the last few weeks including the Jubilee Weekend! At Pre-school the children were invited to make a Jubilee Crown and we took some great photos of the resulting Kings and Queens. We were invited to join the school for a celebration picnic after which we watched the school's Royal Variety Show which the children enjoyed immensely. Pre-school then sang their own song of "The Queen is in the Castle" to a very appreciative audience! The excitement continued as some of the Pre-school children joined the 'Red, White and Blue Choir' singing 'roll out the barrel' and joining in with some of the other songs too. Great fun was had by everyone and I think the songs will continue for some time!



On Monday 18th June the Pre-school arranged a Family day out at Cotswold Wildlife Park and we had a great time with 34 adults and 32 children enjoying the day. The children got to see a variety of animals and really liked the giraffes and the giant tortoise. The train was very popular too!! We got to meet some of the smaller animals in a handling workshop and when we got back to pre-school the children were asked to draw their favourite animal and talk about what they could remember about the day. This is what some of the children had to say:-
 "The penguins came near me and then went in their pond"
 - Lilly, age 4

"Rhinos like it in puddles" - Blake, age 3
 "They were friendly and I like friendly Meerkats" - Ava, age 3
 "He BIG!!!!!" - Leah, age 2 (talking about the giant tortoise!)
 We can't wait until next year!

Please see our website for more details www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com or telephone 01865 392101.

MARION, NICKY AND KATHARINE
marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk
www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

MARCHAM YOUTH CLUB

When: 7.30-9pm Thursday
 Venue: Marcham Sports and Social Club
 Age: Secondary School only
 Cost: £1 per week
 Refreshments: Various on sale at (approx) 50p per item
 Catchment: Marcham Village
 ** If your child wants to join you the club you will need to complete a membership form which has to be signed by their parent/guardian BEFORE your child can join the club
 For more information or a registration form please call Sarah Leese on 391137 or Chris Ricketts 391329

July 2012

ABINGDON LITTLE ANGELS

What a wonderful month our Little Angels and Big Angels have had, we really celebrated in style holding a Jubilee party with plenty of food, drink and union flags around, face painting, party hat and red, white and blue balloons, we sang the national anthem and played games, great fun for all. During the month the children have been looking at kings and queens, and have enjoyed making shields and round tables for King Arthur, along with Queen Victoria and Prince Albert but of course top of the pile is our very own Queen Elizabeth II, we looked at stamps, coin rubbed the Queen's image and made the crown jewels along with drawing our very own pictures of our Queen. Great month and very royal.



The After School Club also joined in with the celebrations at the party and during other sessions created their own individual art work of the Queen, along with flag making, hats etc. One group had the opportunity to enjoy a taster session of our "Be Creative Club", they were given challenges of drawing in a variety of ways, eg, eyes shut, holding the pencil in the left hand, drawing on different materials etc, this was then put together and each child went home with their very own sketch book, great fun.

Holiday club was a short week due to extra bank holidays but we still managed to continue with the Jubilee/Queen celebrations and the children made their own busby hats to be the Queen's guards along with painting bunting to go onto the large 3D castle which the children painted and put together, we had great fun too. *Busy time for the Angels of the Marcham*
 If you would like any further information about Abingdon Little Angels Nursery, After School Club, Holiday Club or Art Club please feel free to call in or telephone us on 07516 474287 or at info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk.



ALL SAINTS' HOLIDAY CLUB
"THE KING"
COME AND MEET HIM!
 Tues 28th - Fri 31st Aug
 £25 or £7 per day
 10am - 2pm (with evening entertainment on the Friday).
jill.rowe.ycm@googlemail.com
 07811 165351 - text or phone

MARCHAM SPORTS SCOUTS & SOCIAL CLUB
SUMMER DANCE & BAR-B-Q
Saturday 28th July 2012.
Dancing to our local band "Shameless"
The Cricket Field, Morland Road, Marcham.
Admission by ticket only £5.00 per person.
Tickets available from Bar or
Chris Ricketts and Trevor Hill



TINY TIGERS KARATE®
FOR CHILDREN 2 - 6 YEARS OLD

A new and exciting child development and martial arts system that produces real results, improving motor skills acquisition and mental focus. Tried and tested in primary schools in Oxfordshire.

To book your child's space Tel: 07989 949226
 Email: virginia@candomartialarts.co.uk
 Tuesday 3.30 - 4.15 pm Marcham Primary School
 Mon, Wed, Fri 4 - 4.45 pm at Tennis Centre, Abingdon

MARCHAM PLAYERS

Present

MUSIC IN A MARQUEE - MARK TWO
SUNDAY 15 JULY 2012 - 7.30PM
MANOR FARM MILL ROAD, MARCHAM

Please bring your own drinks -
 light refreshments will be provided

Tickets - £10 each -available from either Dave Hutchinson (01865 391964 or dhutch722@yahoo.co.uk), Cheryl Sewell (01865 391200 or cheryll_francesca@btinternet.com) or Marcham Farm Shop

INTERESTED IN ARCHAEOLOGY.....?

Join in with Marcham's very own Time Team-type dig!

Excavations at Trendles field, Manor Farm have been a feature of the Marcham summer for the past 11 years.

If you have ever wanted to try your hand at excavation, or wondered what the archaeologists did once the excavation finished, this is your opportunity to find out. Between 9th-11th August archaeologists from Oxford University will be carrying out investigations in Farm Close (the field by the war memorial) at Manor Farm, Marcham, in the heart of the village, and they would like you to join them.

There will be an opportunity to take part in small excavations, find out how to record and photograph what you see, and work with specialists to process and record the finds.

There will also be a chance to see some of the exciting finds and discoveries that came from the Roman site behind the Noah's Ark Inn. Individuals and families are welcome, and you can sign up for anything from half a day to all three days, but places are limited so booking is essential.

Please contact Janey Cumber (01865 391327 or janey.cumber@tiscali.co.uk) if you would like to get involved.

Faces of Moldova

MADNews readers will remember that for there is long-standing link between Marcham and Moldova, one of Europe's poorest countries. The Marcham Moldova Lifeline serves to channel funds which are used by our local partners to help the poorest of the poor there, especially the elderly, the disabled and children at risk of neglect.



**Marcham
Moldova
Lifeline**



Thanks to the fantastic generosity of many people in the Marcham area, last year was our most successful to date, with £13,000 going out to support our partners in their work. In what turned out to be a bitterly cold winter, we were able to give emergency food parcels to 200 households, and help others who were facing the impossible choice between 'heating' or 'eating'. We were

also delighted to be able to provide the project with a much-needed car. Mary Embleton acts as coordinator on behalf of the Marcham link, and goes out each year to monitor the results of our support, and to assess future needs. From her most recent visit, she returned with a beautiful traditional dress worn by Moldovan ladies. She also brought back heartfelt thanks for our support from people she met, who are amazed that anyone in another country would bother to care about this forgotten place. Contact Mary on 391006 if you have ideas of what you could do to help.

Denman College, Marcham

Courses Administrator

Full time 6 month temporary appointment

£19,126 per annum

Denman College is looking for an excellent administrator with database experience to work mainly in the Course team to support the Lead Tutor with the preparation of courses and external tutors, but with the flexibility to support any area of the College.

A good track record in administration is needed as is a proven academic ability to GCSE or 'O' Level standard including Maths and English, or relative work experience. You need to be highly organised with a professional approach to customer service and have excellent attention to detail with regards to data entry and written communication.

You will also need to be keen and willing to help, friendly and confident to work in several teams across the College. Your interpersonal skills, telephone manner and quality of work must be of a high standard. You will also need patience and have a positive attitude towards members and guests to ensure that everyone receives a welcoming service, which will contribute to their overall enjoyment.

You will be required to work 35 hours a week working a rota of 5 days out of 7 (Monday to Sunday 9am to 5pm).

For further details of the above post and an application form, please contact Chrystal Isherwood on c.isherwood@nfwf.org.uk or telephone 020 7371 9300 x231. The closing date for applications is 14 July.

Cantabile

Music in the Vale proudly presents The Vale Trio in an evening of duos and trios for violin, viola and classical guitar entitled Cantabile. Violinist Elisabeth Reed, violist Vanessa McNaught and classical guitarist David Pedder will be performing works by Bach, Haydn, de Call, Molino, and Bartok in the intimate and historic setting of All Saints Church in Goosey. Admission is by programme price £10.00 and tickets are available from Stanford in the Vale Co-op, by reservation on 01367 718344/718420, or by email DJPedderDPA@aol.com. Please book early as seating is limited. Concert proceeds (after expenses) to the church



When: 28 Jul 2012 18:00 - 19:00

Where: All Saints Church, Goosey Green, Goosey SN7 8PA

Tel: 01367 718344/718420

Email: DJPedderDPA@aol.com

Price: Admission £10 (includes refreshments)

Wantage Folk Dance Club

1st & 3rd Thursday of every month except August.

7.45pm to 9.45pm at the Charlton Centre,

Charlton Village Road, Wantage OX12 7HG

If you have enjoyed barn or country dancing come and try folk dancing. No partner required.

Contact: 01235 763369 www.oxonfolk.co.uk

If you'd like to see your writing in MADNews,

contact the Editor on 01865 391725

AUGUST HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS

*Please note on these days collections will start from 6am, an hour earlier than usual, so remember to put your bins out the night before. Please ensure your rubbish bags aren't left vulnerable to animal and/or bird attack. **

Normal day	Revised day	Which bin?
Monday 27 Aug	Tuesday 28 Aug	Green
Tuesday 28 Aug	Wednesday 29 Aug	Green
Wednesday 29 Aug	Thursday 30 Aug	Green
Thursday 30 Aug	Friday 31 Aug	Green
Friday 31 Aug	Saturday 1 Sept *	Green

ADVERTS FOR HOLIDAYS

Sea Views in Swanage

Ground floor flat with panoramic sea views
Two bedrooms both with a double and single bed
Access to safe sandy beach.
Suitable for children - no pets.
From £400 per week.
01865 391395 or suewhiting14@hotmail.com
for more details



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B&B Rafters

JOIN US AND DISCOVER
A PLACE TO RELAX



Contact: Mrs Sigrid Grawert

Abingdon Road
Marcham
Abingdon, Oxfordshire
OX13 6NU

Tel 01865 391298
Fax 01865 391173
enquiries@bnb-rafters.co.uk
www.bnb-rafters.co.uk

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

SINGING IS GOOD FOR MEN AND WOMEN!
Come along to 62, North Street Marcham
Wed 11 July NB (different day), Tue 24 July
Tue 14 August, Tue 28 August
Time - 2.0pm to 3.30pm
All welcome, nothing difficult - Tea and
cake to follow.
Ring Christine Whild for more details 391270



MADAGRAMS by Jay

Is your road hidden here??
A LACY WENCH
AND BRIGADOON



Answers from last month...
LINE OF SAND = ANSON FIELD
AN OLD RAMROD = MORLAND ROAD.
SCREECH TRUTH = CHURCH STREET
MAM RAN FOR = MANOR FARM



Thank you everyone who bought a Quiz Pack. The 'diamond' sales target has been reached, with £30 going to Marcham Village Shop and £30 to Thames and Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust.

MARCHAM AND DISTRICT

Forthcoming events

Saturday 14 July: Senior citizens mystery coach tour leaving from the club 14.00. Forms available between 18th June till 2nd July from club and shop

18th August: Family fun at the club Tortoise Racing +++ hot dogs + burgers +++ 18.00 in the club car park
If you missed it last time—seeing is believing (table top horse racing indoors if wet)

Full details will be displayed in club as soon as available
Members and bona fide guest

EX SERVICEMEN'S CLUB NORTH STREET, MARCHAM



Fyfield Summer Fete

21st July 2012

2.00 pm – 4.30 p.m.



Manor Farm House, just off A420 near Tubney
Brass band, children's entertainment, cream teas, Silent Auction and many more stalls

TUBNEY EVENTS

Saturday 21st July – Gift Stall at Fyfield Fete

Contact Rosemary Kitto, Brushwood Farm, Frilford Heath. 01865 390466. rosemarykitto@gmail.com

David Pickering 01865 820451 picklesnpip@mac.com

Abingdon Drama Club Presents

Wife After Death

By Eric Chappell

Directed by Keith Hales

Wednesday 11th July – Saturday 14th July 2012.

Performance starts at 7.30pm

The Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon

Tickets £8.00 (concessions £7.00) from

The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct or book online at

www.abingdon-drama-club.com



Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary is
having a Jazz Evening
7:30pm 6th July
Brightwell cum Sotwell.

Ticket details are on 01491 833938
or visit www.donkeyrescue.co.uk



Upside Down, Inside Out & Back to Front

June 24th was the 140th anniversary of the establishment of Marcham Baptist Church by Baptist Christians from Abingdon. If you live in Marcham or Frilford, you would have had a card through your door inviting you to our anniversary celebration, during which I sought to give answer to two questions. Firstly, *If there really is a God, where is the evidence..... and if there is a God – why should it matter?* My story formed a part of the answer to the first question.

I was not brought up in a Christian home. My parents were not regular church goers but like many of my generation, I was taken to Sunday school. Church, in one form or another became a regular part of my Sundays until I was in my mid teens, when something ridiculous happened at church one day that caused me to leave the church and not return for many years. At age 17, I joined the RAF, subsequently got married and had two children. However, soon after the birth of my first child, my first marriage started to crumble and was eventually to end in divorce. By my early thirties, after a failed attempt at being commissioned as an Engineering Officer, I no longer found the RAF fulfilling, did not like myself as a person and with my marriage failing, was wondering what life was all about.

One day, whilst still in the RAF, I was on my lunch break, walking outside and looking up into a sunny sky suddenly said these words – *“Lord, do something with my life, turn my life upside down, inside out and back to front. Use me as your instrument but do something.”* This was the first time I had ever really prayed and was a totally unplanned cry of desperation. Five minutes later, I was back at work and never gave my prayer another thought. The following year I spent four months in The Falklands. The year after that, still bored by the lack of challenge, I handed in my notice to leave the services at age 34 and develop my own business which I had started part time whilst in the RAF.

Two years after leaving the service, I was shutting my shop for half day closing. I turned off the light, pulled the blind down on the door and was just about to put the key in the lock, when the door handle turned and the door opened. A woman came in, looking quite ashen faced, looked at me, took a deep breath, looked up at the ceiling and said – *“God wants to turn your life upside down, inside out and back to front.”* Instantly, I remembered what I had prayed those years before and this woman had repeated those words back to me, words which I had never again had given any thought to, nor had repeated to anyone else. I had always believed in God but now I KNEW that there was a God. In the years to follow, I met this woman again and she told me that she was a Christian, had driven into town and as she arrived on the car park in front of our shop, she felt God say to her that she was to come in and say those exact words to the first person she met.

Many other things happened over the coming years, some of them also very profound, as God spoke into and guided my life in a myriad of different ways, bringing me to meet Ruth, my wife of now 18 years and eventually showing me to sell my business to go to Bible College. Sometimes he speaks loudly, like the woman bringing me that prophetic word. On other occasions, He has spoken in more subtle ways to show what He wants me to do. There has been much more since that has made me certain not only of God’s existence but also His presence with me. Life as a Christian has not always been easy but during times of difficulties, I know and sometimes feel that God is with me.

So – to the second question *“if there is a God – why should it matter?”* Well, it matters a great deal. I have just turned 57 but can easily remember my 21st and the birth of my children like it was yesterday, even though I now have three young grandchildren. Each year seems to go by quicker than the last. What happens after this brief life ends is entirely dependent upon the relationship we have with God in this life. God promises those who put their trust in Christ an eternity with Him after this life is over, a life free from hunger and thirst, sickness, pain and sorrow. But God also wants us to walk with Him through this life with all of its turmoil, joys and sorrows.

God knows you and all that you go through and wants you to know Him too. He wants to share your life and may even turn your life upside down, inside out and back to front, if you want and allow Him to. Have a great summer and feel free to call me for a chat, or be bold and come and see us one Sunday morning at church.

Every blessing

Keith Mersh, Pastor Marcham Baptist Church

For more information, contact

Keith Mersh - Pastor 01865 391881

Bill Dyer - Elder 01235 814986

Services in July & Aug

- 1 July – Chris Richards
- 8 July – Janet Quarry
- 15 July – Keith Mersh
- 22 July – Paul Revell
- 29 July – Graham Kneale
- 5 Aug – Stephen Milford
- 12 Aug – Adam Hawley
- 19 Aug – Keith Mersh
- 26 Aug – Dave Page / Paul Revell

Join us on Sundays at 10.30am



All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page

Dear Friends,

What a festival of sport we have to look forward to in the weeks ahead! The Olympics are just round the corner and I, for one, am really looking forward to the occasion. I so admire the athletes who have trained for years to be ready for this wonderful event, and who will be competing with the very best in the world for the honour of their country and the hope of winning a coveted medal. What a privilege we have to host the Games this year!

And yet ... the country where the Olympics were founded [the ancient Olympic Games were held in Olympia, Greece] finds its economy in tatters and many of its people catapulted into poverty. It is a sobering time for us all in Europe.

The image of athletes in training is one of the vivid metaphors used by the Apostle St. Paul to describe the 'race' of the Christian life. It requires determination, perseverance, and a clear focus. 'Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on ... to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus' [Philippians 3: 13-14]. Or, as the author of Hebrews says in chapter 12: '... let us run with perseverance the race that is marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus ...'

We can all draw inspiration from the athletes competing in the Games this year. However, whatever may be the path of life 'marked out' for us, Scripture invites us to draw inspiration and strength from Christ himself – the author of life. Let us do so unashamedly and with renewed faith.

I hope you enjoy an inspiring summer!
With my warmest greetings,
Revd Richard Zair

Prayer for the Month:

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for the inspiration of those competing in the Olympic Games. Thank you most of all for providing us with the example of Jesus – the author and perfecter of our faith. Please give us the strength we need to keep going in life, and to look forwards with a clear focus on your call to us in Jesus. Amen.

JULY / AUGUST calendar:

Men's Breakfast: Sat. July 7th & Sat. August 4th
8.30 am at the Sports, Scouts and Social Club

Summer Holiday Club: August 28th to August 31st
10am to 2pm (with evening entertainment on the Friday)

£25 for the week or £7 a day
Register your interest – call 07811 165351
Email: jill.rowe.ycm@googlemail.com
(see cover for full advert)

Regular services:

Sundays at All Saints': 10 am and 6 pm
Wednesdays: 10.30 am Holy Communion
at Duffield Place
Sunday at St. Luke's: Sunday 15th July at 10.30am
(no service in August)

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Chris Nutman *Churchwarden* 01235 521698
Deborah Flint *Churchwarden* 391056
Janey Cumber *Administrator* 391327
Jenny Warwick *PCC Secretary* 392076

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Have you ever wondered about the Big Questions?

Is there purpose in life, what happens when we die, how can I make sense of suffering? Do come and join us to explore the meaning of life with the Alpha course, an informative non-pressurised opportunity to hear talks, ask questions, share thoughts and experiences and have fun!

Further details will follow in the September edition but put a date in your diaries now for Thursday evenings from late September. And do get in touch with Richard Zair (391 319) if you want more information.