

Marcham & District News

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

Your Independent Local Newsheet – www.madnews.co.uk



March 2013 Vol: 35 No: 3

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Doug Loveridge at the Ex-Servicemen's Club see page 15

▲ Look Learn Laugh & Love with Rainbows see page 19

▼ Little Angels celebrating Chinese New Year and Shrove Tuesday! see page 17



Janey Cumber MA, MSt, DPhil
25th August 1951 – 26 January 2013



Diary

March		
1 - 2	Bucket Collection for Against Breast Cancer, Tesco, Didcot	
1 Fri	MP's Surgery, Didcot, 17.30 – 19.00	13
1 Fri	Marcham Players: Play Reading, Board Room, Manor Farm, 19.30	9
2 Sat	Abingdon Model Railway Exhibition, Abingdon Tennis Centre, 10.00-17.00	15
2 Sat	St David Charity Concert, Oxford Town Hall	15
6 - 9	Abingdon Drama Club: Equus, Unicorn Theatre, 19.30	15
6 Wed	Guideposts Open Day: Leisure and Holidays, Abingdon, 10.00-15.00	15
12 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45	9
12 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
12 Tue	Singing, 62 North Street, 14.00-15.30	15
13 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
14 Thur	Midweek Walk: The Star, Stanton St John, 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	9
15 Fri	MP's Surgery, Wallingford, 17.30 – 19.00	13
16 & 17 23 & 24	Lambing Weekends, Earth Trust, Little Wittenham	17
20 Wed	Deadline for March MADNews, 17.00	
21 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	9
22 Fri	MP's Surgery, Grove, 17.30 – 19.00	13
23 Sat	Gigaclear Demonstration, Appleton Village Hall, 09.30 – 16.00	13
26 Tue	Marcham Players and School: With Great Pleasure, 18.30	9
26 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
26 Tue	Singing, 62 North Street, 14.00-15.30	15
31 Sun	Clocks go forward by 1 hour at 01.00	

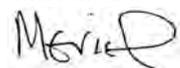
Details of events may change after publication, please check with the relevant organisers before attending events.

Dear Readers

On 14 February we said goodbye to Janey, who I was lucky enough to call friend. She welcomed me to the village when we moved here in 1998 and she and I worked together on several projects including Marcham Remembered and the latest Coral Rag. I thought I knew her but it wasn't until I heard Will's tribute to her that I realised I didn't know the half of it! How she packed it all in, I can't begin to imagine.

We will all miss her and Marcham is the richer for having her live among us.

Until next time



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

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DISCLAIMER

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 Free from any phone - 111

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Call 101 (non-emergency)

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www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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March 2013

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
A415 – Zebra Crossing**

The Council is pleased to report that the zebra crossing proposed over the A415 received approval from Oxfordshire County Council on 14th February. At the time of writing it is unlikely that the County Council's scrutiny committee will call in the matter for investigation, so it is hoped that the installation of the crossing near the Crown Public House will take place in the near future. This is a point at which many pedestrians cross the road, so measures to encourage the traffic to slow and stop, to allow pedestrians over the road in greater safety are to be welcomed.

Best Kept Garden Competition

A reminder that the Parish Council is organising a Best Kept Garden competition again this year. No entry forms are required, and judging for this year's competition will take place during the last two weeks of June. This will be front gardens only. Final round judging will take place during July. The judges will be looking for an inspirational garden, so please do bear the competition in mind when planning your Summer bedding plants.

Stanford in the Vale – Re use centre

A new scheme has started at the Stanford in the Vale recycling centre. The site can store most items that are in good condition and offer them to the public for a nominal cost. Items not accepted are: electrical goods, toys and furniture without fire safety labelling. More information is on the County Council's website.

Marcham Churchyard

The Parish Council maintains the closed Churchyard around All Saints Church. Proposals have been put forward for clearing of deadwood, overgrowth and general tidying. The Council is obtaining quotations for these works and will select a contractor shortly.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order – S14 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

Temporary Road Closure, 30mph Speed Limit and Width Restriction – Marcham - Gozzards Ford. Due to bad weather the road restrictions have been re-scheduled for 07.00 - 19.00 on 4 and 5 March. See February issue of MADNews for details.

Planning Applications

MW.0017/13 Request for prior approval, of the installation and use of a Concrete Batching Plant to produce ready-mixed concrete for sale at Upwood Quarry off the A338. The Parish Council objected to this application owing to the impact on the area, the lack of need locally and the likely transportation of materials to the site in order to produce concrete.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:
Wednesday 13th March 2013** 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

The plans for the revised and increasingly inaccurately named community "hub" are now out for consultation. The Anson Trust's community facilities are now to be sited so far away that many of the older residents will have to make a car journey of nearly a mile each way to reach them. It follows that this new version of the plans will be even less welcomed than the last one by the majority of the village. Marcham needs community facilities centrally located and within easy reach of all. In addition the loss of much of the Anson Field under a dense housing estate to fund the facilities is too high a price to pay for them.

It is important that everyone in the village who has doubts about the application formally objects to this planning application and the associated Anson Field development. Letters of objection can be sent to the head of planning at the Vale or objections can be made on-line via the planning portal web site (responses to reach them before 6th March). I have added a direct link to the Vale web site for this planning application and some additional reasons why it should be rejected at www.ansontrust.scilutions.co.uk/

BOB ANDERSON

ANSON TRUST



It is the intention of The Anson Trust to make a report in the April issue of MADNews on the current planning application..

EMERGENCY CARERS' SUPPORT

SERVICE is a support service for adult carers of adults in Oxfordshire. They can provide experienced staff to look after the cared for person if the carer has an emergency and is unable to do so
Just call 0845 050 7666 for more details and register your details,

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Good condition but due for a service. Offers?? Tel: 01865 392089

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New Collins desktop dictionary - Unused 14cm x 10cm was £63 - will accept £50 01865 392131

JANEY'S FUNERAL

As a family we would like to sincerely thank all those people who were involved in the preparation for Janey's funeral. We don't know who you all are, but we do know that the operation was master minded by Malcolm, Neil and Jill, to whom we are especially grateful. It all made everything so much easier for us. Also, thank you to everyone in the village who sent us cards and letters; we regret they are far too numerous to acknowledge individually.

Will Cumber, William and Sophie Cumber, Ellen Wainright-Lee

MY TRIBUTE TO MY DAUGHTER

I write this – a tribute to my bright and capable daughter Janey who was always friendly and hospitable, with a ready smile, and of whom I am very proud.

Janey grew from a tiny tot, with a mass of very fair curly hair, into a youngster, followed by two sisters, and although of a timid nature she flew, from the age of nine, unaccompanied, to visit us in India for the school holidays. In later years she loved sailing, and her garden, and was a good cook; but, above all, I think, she loved reading. Not infrequently, in the middle of Sunday lunch, in answer to a query, she would leave the table and, in a house full of books, go straight to the relevant one for an answer. She was blessed with an enquiring mind with an interest in most things with the possible exception of cars!

Last Thursday was, although sad, a wonderful day as Janey would have loved it. Meticulous planning, hard work and organisation ensured that everything went smoothly. She was the hub of a busy household and a loving family, and we will always miss her but we were fortunate to have her for 61 years and I thank all and every one of you for your kind messages and words of sympathy.

STELLA LAMPITT

JANEY CUMBER

Janey Lampitt was born in Assam, where her father was a tea planter. She was initially schooled at home before coming to England at the age of eight, to stay with her grandparents and go to the Abbey School in Reading. It was there that she immediately struck up a lasting friendship with Mary Cumber.

After graduating from St. Andrews in Mediaeval History in 1973, she was wondering what job to look for when Mary suggested they could both do a secretarial qualification in Oxford. When Janey said she couldn't really afford it Mary said "don't worry, my brother has just moved to Marcham and we can go and live with him for nothing." So they came to Manor Farm and Janey and Will found a mutual attachment. Janey then went to work in London for the Salters Company, but became engaged to Will in 1975.

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Following marriage in 1976, Janey transferred to Oxford, where she was personal secretary to the Bursar of Queen's College, only stopping work just before William was born in 1979.

Initially a group of new mothers got together to meet as a Baby Group, progressing to Toddler Group and then to Playgroup. It was typical of Janey that before you could blink she was chairman of Playgroup.

She became involved in the family business when she took over responsibility for the wages; paid weekly in cash, it was a long morning's work. In 1982 the dairy herd moved to Marcham, and Janey became heavily involved in the record keeping as the cows were graded up to pedigree status, going on to become one of the highest yielding herds in the UK, before converting to organic status in 2001, which – of course – was her idea. Following the change to beef production she remained totally involved; indeed after her diagnosis but before the treatment started she spent a long morning at the beef unit, clipboard in hand, as the annual TB test was carried out. In 1989 Janey became both a Director and Company Secretary of the family business, with all of the obligations that entails – calling meetings, keeping minutes and completing annual returns, not forgetting the payment of eagerly awaited annual dividends to family shareholders!

But there were many other strands to her life. Foremost, after her family, was the church; her Christian faith had grown from the early 1980s and became stronger and stronger as time passed.

In 1999 Janey decided to go back to studying; she signed up to do the Undergraduate Certificate in Local History at the Department for Continuing Education. It was as a result of doing the Certificate that Janey chanced to meet archaeologist Gary Lock; had she not done so the eleven year dig in Trendles would never have happened. As a result of the dig she was instrumental in forming The Vale and Ridgeway Trust, which has been able to access two Heritage Lottery Grants, the second of which is speeding up dramatically the post-excavation research and analysis.

Her pleasure at doing the Undergraduate Certificate led her on to do first a Masters, and then, to her great satisfaction and the family's great pride, her DPhil, awarded in 2011. Typically, within a few months of joining Kellogg College, as she began the Masters, she had been elected President of the Middle Common Room.

During her time as churchwarden she was automatically an Anson Trustee. She was a founder member of The Marcham Society, and its chairman at her death; she was deeply involved in the creation of Coral Rag and the book of old photographs Marcham Remembered, she was Programme Secretary for Oxford Architectural and Historical Society, she was a committee member of Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society, and she was of course an authority on Tudor Abingdon, giving many talks on the subject of her DPhil.

Her other two great passions were reading and gardening; she claimed that Book Club is one of the longest-standing in the country, and the rather large garden at the farm, which occupied so much of her time when the weather was right, has been enjoyed by many people when hosting village and parish events.

Another pleasure was water colours; she only found time for this on holiday but never failed to take a small sketch pad and paints – even when going sailing, which she much enjoyed as an annual event for ten years. Even on holiday she could not be idle; there were always several old Times crosswords tucked away in her bag.

In the letters and cards after her death everyone said lovely things about Janey; how she was always warm and interested in people, she cared for everyone she met, that she made and kept deep friendships, and how she always put other people first. Many people commented on her lovely smile. She gave unstintingly of her time to any person or organisation she thought she could help. Of course at heart she was devoted to all her family, who she always put first of all. She was a tireless and caring mother, and she ran a loving home. In summary, she was immensely loving, and she is and will be immensely loved by so many people.

WILL CUMBER

JANEY'S LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Will has asked me to talk about Janey, and about her life in the church. It is an honour to talk about Janey. Thank you Will, for asking me.

Janey was amazing. Over the course of the last 20 years or so, with William, Ellen and Sophie growing up, and taking a break while she wrote up her D.Phil. thesis, she undertook an extraordinary range of work on behalf of the church - not all of it at the same time (that would have been superhuman), but as a steady succession of activities. In the church building itself she was involved in the cleaning rota, she sang in the choir, and she arranged flowers. She ran a house group which met fortnightly – she prepared Bible studies for these, led discussions, and cared about the pastoral needs of its members. She helped put together the monthly rota of services and those who participated in them. She was a member of the team which leads and preaches on Sundays. As a leader, she lent a relaxed but sensitive tone to services, and had particular affection for the smaller evening services and their congregations.

As a preacher, her sermons were thoughtful, even academic, but at the same time open and unpretentious, and she used to them to raise questions as much as to give answers. Indeed it was her willingness to share the problems that many of us found so engaging.

Perhaps, having used that word academic, I might digress here briefly. I loved Janey's academic side. We had particularly stimulating conversations when she was writing up her thesis, not so much about the content of it, about which I knew too little, but about its structure. And when we were in India with Will and Janey, Will's interest in Indian agriculture and agricultural machinery was beautifully complemented by Janey's interest in Indian history.

But to return to her work in the Church, Janey was also a good administrator, for a number of years acting as secretary to the PCC, and more importantly spending 6 years (between 1993 and 1999) as churchwarden. She also took responsibility for weddings, funerals and baptisms, both the practical arrangements and the paperwork. Through her long association with the village she knew many of those concerned, and liaised with the relevant families, making them feel welcome and wanted. She further developed these relationships by helping with the church's children's work at Friday Club. More recently she acted as representative of the parish on the Deanery Synod, and latterly was cluster co-ordinator for this and nearby parishes, like Appleton or Kingston Bagpuize, when joint services or other joint activities had to be organised. She took on responsibility for the electoral role of the parish, and the Book of Remembrance. She also organised church hospitality, laying on wine and glasses at a moment's notice, and, with Will, generously offering the use of the Board Room at Manor Farm for church functions, and the Manor Farm Barn for services.

Why did she do all this? What lay behind so much dedication and hard work? It all went back to an evening in 1984 when Janey listened to a Christian talk, became convinced of the claims of Jesus, and gave her life to Him. Three things grew out of that decision, to those of us watching. The first was the inner security which resulted from her discovery that God loved her personally, and valued her for who she was. The God-shaped vacuum, which so many of us feel in our lives, was wonderfully filled.

Second was a life of increasing service, modelled on the Jesus who was the focus of her spiritual life, the life of service I have already described. There is a chorus, which Janey would have sung, which goes: "Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give..." That is exactly what she did.

The third aspect of her life which struck so many of us, as time went by, was the way she grew in the virtues which God wanted to develop in her – generosity, for example, compassion, kindness, *March 2013*

forgiveness, humility, and love. Her increasing generosity; her willingness indeed to share so much of what she had; her warmth, the way she greeted so many of us every Sunday morning with a kiss or a hug; her willingness to stretch out the hand of forgiveness and friendship; her increasing concern for the welfare of those around her; and, once her cancer had been diagnosed, the peace and serenity which marked her out as she faced the uncertainty of her future: all these emphasised the changes which God had brought about in her as she opened her life to Him.

We, in the Christian community, thank God for the privilege of seeing Him at work in her life, for the fruits which He grew in her: He was changing her, as the Bible puts it, "from one degree of glory to another". Our lives were immeasurably enriched by Janey's physical presence among us, but above all by what we saw God doing, in her and through her.

JAMES ALLAN

Daughter, sister, wife, mother, aunt and friend - Janey was a remarkable person, and there are many in our village community in grief and shock at Janey's sudden death.

Janey's was a woman of deep Christian faith - she was overwhelmed by the wonder of God's love she had come to experience with Jesus, and although, I think, she found that hard to put into words at times, her faith remained real and enquiring. She wasn't afraid to ask difficult and searching questions, eager to know more. She reminded me of the father who cried out to Jesus 'Lord, I do believe, but help me in those areas where my faith struggles.'

I found Janey to be a wonderfully encouraging person: she would frequently have something encouraging to say when we met, which I valued enormously. Her appetite for learning, particularly her love of history, was an inspiration, and a wonderful reminder to us all that there is always so much more to discover and explore about this incredible world we live in, despite the obvious problems that face us as human beings.

I know that one of Janey's longings was that others would come to know and experience God's love as she had done back in 1984. She expressed this longing in her prayers, and in her practical care and love for others, but especially her family and close friends. Janey had a big heart, and many of us here today cherished her care and friendship, her generosity, her lovely gift of hospitality, her cheerfulness, and compassion. Janey's faith nourished her relations with those around her, and formed the bedrock from which she lived her very active and interesting life - from her family, to the farm, to archeology, to her care for the community, to her love for history, and her passion for her church family at All Saints'. The Christian faith is not just something we believe, but something we live, and Janey understood that, yet recognising that such a living is tough, and we have much to learn together.

I still have to pinch myself that Janey is no longer with us. It has been a personal pleasure and privilege to have known her, and to have worked closely with her over the past four years. I had come to rely upon her administrative skills, and her knowledge of our local community. She leaves a big hole in the life of our parish church, but most of all in the lives of those closest to her.

However, Janey is now with the Lord she had grown to know and love, and our faith rejoices that she is forever in His care, no longer suffering the pain and debilitation of her illness. Please continue to support and pray for Stella, Will, William, Ellen and Sophie, Sue and Debbie: theirs is the hard path of readjustment in the long months ahead, and our hearts go out to them all.

RICHARD ZAIR

MARCHAM PLAYERS

The Annual General Meeting of The Players was held on February 15th at The Board Room, Manor Farm at which the Committee was re-elected en bloc with the addition of Liz Mason to whom a warm welcome was extended. Dave Hutchinson remains as Chairman with Cheryll Sewell once again taking the role of Secretary. She has been a stalwart supporter of The Players for many years and in recognition of this was awarded The Chairman's Award - theatre ticket tokens to the value of £50.



We will be holding another of our regular play readings on Friday 1st March at 7.30pm, with the venue once again being the Board Room at Manor Farm. Why not have an enjoyable evening "on stage" without the worry of learning lines or attending rehearsals - a relaxed, informal and welcoming scenario in which to perhaps start your acting career with The Players!.

Also in March, on Tuesday 26th March, we are joining with some of the pupils and parents of Marcham School for a "With Great Pleasure" evening of readings centred on the theme "Around the World". This will be held in the School and is open to any of our members who would like to either contribute a reading or just come along to hear others reading. Obviously we hope the parents of any of the children taking part will join us and perhaps in the long term we might discover some of the future members of The Players! Start time for this event is earlier than usual - 6.30pm.

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

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

Marcham WI

Next Meeting

THURSDAY, 21st March
at Denman College. 7.30pm



ANNUAL MEETING and election of Officers and Committee. To follow - A demonstration of Magical tricks by Edmund Quigley

Coffee Morning at 19 Kings Avenue on Friday 1st March at 10.30am

Some Oxfordshire events coming up-

Tuesday, 16th April - Visit to Deene Park and Stamford
 Tuesdays 23rd and 29th April - Coach trip to Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm

Wednesday, 24th April - Learn to "Go Online" at the Tackley Office

JOIN THE WI AND MAKE FRIENDS IN YOUR VILLAGE!

Contacts for new members or visitors
 Christine Whild 01865 391270

MARCHAM AND DISTRICT EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB NORTH STREET, MARCHAM, OXON OX13 6NG January 2013

NOTICE TO ALL LIFE MEMBERS

At the Club's AGM on Tuesday April 26th 2011 an additional Club Rule was proposed. New Rule to state that from 1st April 2011 ALL life members over the age of 65 years should pay a re-registration fee of £5 per year.

The proposal was passed and accepted on a majority show of hands. This Rule is now part of the Clubs Rules

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 and pay the £5 re-registration fee if they wish to remain on the list of current Life Members.

The closing date of this registration is April 1st. each year Please note that those failing to respond by April 1st 2013 will no longer be considered Members and their names will be removed from the current register of Life Members.

Chairman 8th February 2013

Marcham Village Shop and Post Office

Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 13.00
& 15.00 - 18.00
Sat: 07.30 - 13.00
Sun: 08.00 - 13.00



We stock all you expect in a local shop and a bit more... You can also order newspapers & magazines for collection

Please note the later opening time for Sunday

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

In preparation for the forthcoming Season, the Club is holding Nets at Larkmead School Sports Hall on Friday evenings (19.30-20.30). All ages and levels of playing skill are welcome to attend.

The dates for Nets are:

March 1st, 15th, 22nd and 29th (NB not 8th)

April: 5th, 12th 19th, 26th

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



MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

Midweek Walk, Thursday, March 14th.

For this month's walk we will go to The Star Inn (Map Ref SP578090) in Middle Road, Stanton St John, a few miles north-east of Oxford at 12.30pm for lunch and 1.30pm for a circular walk of just under four miles with lovely views to the Chilterns.



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



The
**Marcham
 Society**

Wildlife of the River Ock

Come and learn about our local waterway

Richard Harrison

All Saints' Church Marcham 7.45pm 12th March

Following meeting: 9th April:
Bob Harris: The Early Life of Lord Nuffield

Non-members £2

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

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

Bank Balance
£13,611

Local Events
£10,124

Donations
£6497

2012 - 2013 Membership
Voting: 125 Junior: 20

5p Coins
4112



Proposed leisure facilities—a new planning application

Taylor Wimpey submitted its new planning application to the Vale District Council on 1 February. It has the planning reference P13/V0243/FUL. The deadline for comments is 6 March.

The full application together with all related correspondence is on the Vale’s website under this planning reference and can be accessed at:

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V0243/FUL>.

There is nothing else we are able to say at this time.

The MCG committee is seeking a meeting with the Anson Trust to understand the current situation and the issues involved.

See planning application
P13/V0243/FUL.
on Vale website
or at Vale offices

Marcham Community Group: Company No 7470307
391193 (Suzanne) 391727 (Jim) 391507 (Jessica)

Charity No 1144407
mail@marcham.org

www.marcham.org



I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your very generous donation of £600, and to thank you for the support offered by your organising committee.



We are very proud of the work we do here at Age UK Oxfordshire and this donation will enable our Information and Advice service to continue offering assistance to the elderly and vulnerable in the County.

Please pass on my deepest appreciation to all involved.

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/>
Charity number 1091529

Thames Valley & Chiltern
Air Ambulance
Trust



Charity Number: 1084910

On behalf of the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust, I would like to say thank you to you and to all concerned for your generous donation of £600.00 given following your Jubilee weekend. This kind contribution is greatly appreciated and I can assure you that the money will be put to very good use.

For more information about us call 0300 999 0135 or email info@tvacaa.org.

www.tvacaa.org

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IAIN BROWN WRITES...

As the County Council elections take place on Thursday the 2nd of May, and the four week period leading up to polling day is usually set aside for campaigning (known as Purdah!), this is to be my last column for Mad News as your County Councillor.

Perhaps a recap of experiences and aims might be in order therefore. I never intended to enter politics at any level, nor did I actively seek any kind of position in public life. The plain fact of the matter is that politics crossed my path and I was drawn into it.

Working in Steventon for the last 25 years (17 full - time) brought me into contact with Thames Water and their reservoir proposal. I attended a public meeting, where the top man at Thames Water told the audience of householders and landowners that he would be building a reservoir and would not only be buying all the land he needed, but would do so with a compulsory purchase order in his back pocket! This created panic, confusion and worst of all, blighted the area from that day for many years.

When Thames Water were sent packing by the water regulator (OfWat) over their high leakage rates, things went quiet. The re-emergence of this proposed reservoir in 2004 caused me to seek a young hopeful called Ed Vaizey, who had been selected to contest the Wantage seat at the general election. I collared this youth (or so I thought) at the dinner table at a friend's house one evening and thrust the question "What are you going to do about this proposed reservoir?" with some force! With great skill he just responded "More to the point, Mr Brown, what are you going to do.....I think you should run for the County Council and put your money where your mouth is...!"

And so the trap was sprung, that February, I was duly appointed the Conservative candidate for the newly created division of The Hanneys and Hendreds. With just weeks before polling day, the first leaflet was rushed out and delivered, but oh dear.....it was not proof read and was dictated over the telephone. It was pointed out to me by an eminent doctor in The Hendreds that he would not vote for a party that could not spell the word 'reservoir' correctly! There were 13 other errors, and I was mortified. Young Vaizey, though, saw the funny side and laughed his head off

Come polling day in May 2005 (the general election was on the same day) and I was on my own patrolling the dozen or so polling stations in the division. A great operation was supposed to be behind me with tellers, runners, knocker uppers (honest!) and drivers. I tried to give the impression of looking efficient, taking down polling numbers from people at the polling stations, even though they were of no use at all, I had to keep the opposition guessing. They numbered many, and were very well organised, apart from a rather stern lady who was telling for the opposition at East Hendred. So aggressive was she in demanding the numbers, that those going to vote came over to me and said that she had swung them to the Tories!

At the count, the County Council was back in the control of one party for the first time in 20 years. Blue was the colour!

I got stuck in and got around the division in that first term of office. The fact that the reservoir was still unresolved led me to run again in 2009. That was not a happy time at all, as anyone knocking on doors or just leafleting was sometimes subject to abuse on the doorstep. This was an angry public reaction to the MPs' expenses scandal, and I don't blame people for being angry with all of the political parties at the time.

Marcham has always been something of a challenge in terms of delivering what was needed and wanted. A bypass is high on the wishlist, but as the years have proved, as elusive as ever. Packhorse Lane is still a difficulty, but a new zebra crossing will be built soon and coupled to the restriction on the A415 at Newbridge and the Vehicle Activated Signs, it is an improvement on the *March 2013*

2005 situation. The school has been extended, but will need more funding for buildings in future. The Headteacher and Governors are doing Marcham proud and this should be a source of local pride. Community facilities are still on the horizon, but are closer than any time since the Institute closed in 2004. The Post Office is also a source of local pride as is the shop. Marcham has a lot to look forward to as far as I can see.

The villages around Marcham are more isolated and rural and as such are easily overlooked or forgotten by funders and planners. I have worked to try to keep funding and services alive and well in all the villages, but money is very tight at present. This has not stopped the villagers in Fyfield, Tubney, Frilford, Cothill and Garford from seeking help and guidance and working hard themselves.

Everywhere I have represented, there is civic pride and a willingness to do well for the community.

Eight years has gone by more quickly than I might have ever guessed it would.

It has been a real pleasure to meet so many people and has given me a real pride to stand up in County Hall in the great City of Oxford and speak on behalf of the division of the Hanneys and Hendreds.

Whoever you elect to represent you in the next election and those after that, I wish them well. I can only say that the pleasure has been all mine.

All the Best, Iain.

COUNCILLOR IAIN BROWN OCC

Tel: 01235 751210 Email: iain.brown@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Janus, Westcot Lane, Sparsholt, Wantage, Oxon OX12 9PZ.

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY	
<i>5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise - no appointment necessary</i>	
1st Mar	Didcot , King Alfred Drive Community Centre, OX11 7NU
15th Mar	Wallingford , Town Hall, OX10 0AD
22nd Mar	Grove , Old Mill Hall, OX12 7LB
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

Gigaclear Ultrafast Community Broadband

**You are invited to attend our
Demonstration Day
Appleton Village Hall
Saturday 23rd March**

Call in anytime between 9.30am – 4pm

Join us to see what you can do with up to 1000Mbps of ultrafast broadband and have your questions answered by the experts.

Take part in our speed challenge!
Bring your own device and see how fast it can upload or download.

Access communications, online Film and TV, entertainment, education, gaming, security and work-related applications and services. Discover the alternative to a land line that will save you money and still keep your existing telephone number. Enter our **FREE** prize draw to win a Samsung Smart Television

www.gigaclear.com/can-i-get-it
Email events@gigaclear.com



OXFORDSHIRE WELSH SOCIETY

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CELEBRATING ST DAVID**

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[Cor Meibion de Cymru]

With Star Guests:

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OXFORD TOWN HALL SATURDAY 2ND MARCH 2013

TICKETS £15 FROM:

www.oxfordshirewelshsociety.com
Tickets Oxford, Playhouse 01865 305305
Oxford Town Hall 01865 249811
Colin Edwards 07859316611

SUPPORTING **PARKINSON'S^{UK}**

**RECYCLE FOR AGAINST
BREAST CANCER**

Many of you may have seen Against Breast Cancer's pink bra recycling bins dotted around Abingdon (and further afield!), but now there's even more you can recycle to help support Against Breast Cancer's unique research.



Against Breast Cancer are asking for any unwanted or broken jewellery for recycling, which is being collected at The Crown in Marcham. In addition to this, if you have any unwanted Christmas gifts or leftover bottles of booze that you could donate to be used as raffle prizes they would be very gratefully received. Again, these can be left with Vanessa or Tony at The Crown or dropped off at Against Breast Cancer's office in Abingdon (13 Napier Court, Barton Lane).

Your support will enable Against Breast Cancer to continue making progress in their unique research into the secondary spread of breast cancer. Through their research they aim to find vital information to increase survival after diagnosis and ultimately to discover a vaccine against breast cancer.

Thank you for your support

To get involved! email alison@againstbreastcancer.org.uk or call 01235 534211. You can get more information from our website about the important research you will be supporting.

againstbreastcancer.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1121258.

Abingdon Drama Club
Presents

Equus

**ABINGDON
DRAMA
CLUB**

ADC - in 3D since 1944



By Peter Shaffer

Directed by Andrea Mardon

Wednesday 6th - Saturday 9th March 2013. 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

Not suitable for under 13s

MARCHAM AND DISTRICT

The evening of Saturday 16th February at the Ex-Servicemen's Club was a great night of entertainment for members and their guests. Doug Loveridge created a night of memorable music from the 50's and 60's recalling hits by some of the greatest rock and pop stars of the period, Bobby Darin, Buddy Holly, Elvis Presley, Ricky Nelson, Chuck Berry and many, many more.

"Don't miss it", Keep Watching the MADNews for the next entertainment at the Club, Coming Soon!

Due to the closure by the Anson Trust of the Institute Hall some year past, The 2012/13 Club's fully booked Dinner and Dance is again to be held at the Four Pillars Abingdon on 6th March.

**EX SERVICEMEN'S CLUB
NORTH STREET, MARCHAM**

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Tuesday, 12th March 2 - 3.30pm

Tuesday 26th March 2 - 3.30pm

Tea and cake follow the singing.

For more details:

Christine Whild, 62 North Street Marcham Tel 391270



Our next **Open Day** will be on Wednesday, 6 March 2013 from 10 am to 3 pm. The theme for this Open Day is "Leisure and Holidays". We will have information on local clubs, local sporting opportunities, accessible holiday accommodation, holidays with care etc. We will also have some suppliers bringing exercise equipment and folding equipment to take on holiday. All welcome. Guideposts Trust Independent Living Centre Abingdon Resource and Wellbeing Centre Crabtree Place, Audlett Drive, Abingdon OX14 3GD Call 01235 856212 (our new phone number)

www.guidepostsilc.org.uk

The Denman College Marcham

Urgently requires

Waiting Staff

To cover various shifts night and day, Flexible Working Pattern

A minimum of 3 hours per shift

£6.50 per hour

Please telephone: 01865 391991

and ask for Peter Kilby

Abingdon & District Model Railway Club Ltd.

ABINGDON MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

10.00am - 5.00pm Saturday 2nd March 2013

WHITE HORSE LEISURE & TENNIS CENTRE

Audlett Drive Abingdon OX14 3PJ

LARGEST EXHIBITION IN OXFORDSHIRE

Admission Adult £6.00 Children £3.00

Family (2 + 2) £14.00

'Free Car Parking'

Over 25 Quality Layouts and 20 Traders

Demonstrations, Model Railway Societies

Refreshments are available.

Follow the Brown signs to Leisure & Tennis Centre

Children to be accompanied by an Adult at all times

www.admrc.org.uk

NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL

by The Owls (Y3/4)

We have done lots of things since Christmas, and we showed some of them in the recent Parents Assembly, which we really enjoyed putting together.

‘For our assembly we split up into 3 different groups and each group prepared and presented a different part of the assembly’. – *Hannah (Y4)*



Digital Photography

As part of our topic on the Human Body, Miss Wyatt from Larkmead School came along and did some digital photography with us. We took photographs of each other making poses with our bodies, and then we used a computer program called ‘Paint’ to draw straight lines on our bodies to show where our bones would be. It was great fun and it was interesting to see where the bones were! – *Rachel and Holly (Y4)*

Gym Shapes

In Gym we worked in groups to make different shapes with our bodies. We also worked on different balances, individually and in pairs. We enjoyed working on the shapes and balances and finding out our different strengths. ‘I enjoyed bending my body,’ said Rosie. In fact all The Owls loved the topic and we will always remember to point our toes and extend our arms! – *Hannah (Y4)*

Drama – The Crowded House

In English we have been working on a Jewish tale called The Crowded House and we used drama to retell the story in the assembly. First, we made sure that we understood the story and then we decided on who was going to be the narrators and the different characters. Next, we practised acting out the story and sorted out some costumes for the different characters to wear. We practised lots and finally - BINGO! - we were ready for our performance. – *Rosie and Lauren (Y4)*

‘We really enjoyed being the donkeys in The Crowded House, as we got to use the hobby horses (which we pretended were donkeys!) and make donkey noises!’ – *Arthur (Y3)*

‘My mum found the assembly lovely and thought I was a funny donkey!’ – *Amelie (Y3)*

MARCHAM BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

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 Tess on 392833 if you would like someone to introduce you. **Do come and join us!**

ABINGDON LITTLE ANGELS

This month the Little Angels have been focusing on the topic of our bodies, they created X-ray pictures of their hands, studied their own features using a mirror, looking at the colour of their own eyes, hair etc, we made a graph of our eye colours and had fun trying on different shoes, too big, too small, just right. The little angels practiced lacing up shoes, buttoning their clothes and putting on their shoes. We sang songs of head, shoulders, knees and toes, and danced to funny bones. We listened to a baby’s heartbeat before our staff member leaves to go on maternity leave and all the children were fascinated and were curious to hear the baby ... a fun month.



The After School Club have also been busy creating large constructions from large wooden blocks, using resources to create a den and working in a team playing badminton and on Thursday afternoons Serious4Sport attend giving the children football coaching for 45 minutes, this has been a real hit with the children who attend after school club on a Thursday, However if you would just like to attend football coaching session please feel free to contact us.

Holiday Club (Half Term). Wow, what a great week we all had, so much to celebrate, we started with Chinese New Year and the children made a large dragon and created their own dragon dance, we coin rubbed and gave red envelopes to each other, snakes, Chinese lanterns and Chinese writing were all great fun. Next we had Pancake Day, making pancakes and the pancake race in the car park was brilliant fun, but we couldn’t eat the pancake that was dropped several times on the ground. We finished the week with red hearts, valentines cards and valentine crosswords.

If you would like any further in formation 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.

**Saturday 16th, Sunday 17th
and Saturday 23rd, Sunday 24th March
Lambing Weekends with
the Earth Trust and Camilla & Roly**



Enjoy a family day out in the spring sunshine. Visitors will be able to see the newborn lambs and perhaps see one or two being born! There’ll also be tractor and trailer rides, bale climbing, meet the shepherd talks and children’s craft activities and craft stalls. The Earth Trust’s Poem Tree Cafe will be open for refreshments. Tickets can be bought on the day: £6 adults, children £3 or £13 family (2 adults, 2 children).

Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire OX14 4QZ
www.earthtrust.org.uk



MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

If you have young children and would like to register an interest in your child attending Marcham School in the future, please fill in and return this form to school as soon as possible. This form is not an application to school and does not guarantee a place, but will allow us to plan the future of the school and help with our discussions with the Admissions Team at Oxfordshire County Council.

NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN:		
ADDRESS:		
NAME OF CHILD	DATE OF BIRTH	MALE/FEMALE

Set your child on a journey with Marcham Rainbows. Let her find out and explore new opportunities and new experiences in a safe, controlled and welcoming environment.



At Marcham Rainbows we follow a programme called the Rainbow Jigsaw, which involves a wide range of activities and games.

Being a Rainbow is all about learning, developing self-confidence, building friendships and, of course, having lots of fun!

The Rainbow Jigsaw has four areas:

Look Learn Laugh Love

Sessions over the past six months, have involved a variety of topics and activities, such as; the Olympics, Firework Night, Cooking, Dancing, Seasons Of The Year, Animal Welfare, Fun and Games, Poetry, Chinese New Year, Autumn and Christmas Craft, Remembrance Day, Friends – what do they mean to us?, the Police came to visit, and much more. We are also planning a Rainbows Sleepover in the coming months.

When a Rainbow joins she is given her Rainbows Welcome bag and her “Ready for Rainbows” book which has lots of stories and activities in. After attending the unit for several weeks she is able to make her Rainbow Promise, and enjoy a Promise Party (with Chocolate Cake!!). We also encourage Taster Sessions to allow our new Rainbows time to experience our sessions.

Girls like to talk!!! We encourage the girls to talk about things that matter to them.

Marcham Rainbows is for Girls aged 5 – 7, and is held at Marcham Baptist Church, every Monday (term time only) from 5pm – 6pm. The unit is run by a group of Volunteers who offer their time to help run the unit.

If you would like more information about Marcham Rainbows, or would like to register a new girl at the Unit, please speak to Caroline Walton on 01865 391841, or go to www.girlguiding.org.uk and click on the “Parents” tab, then click on “Register your daughter”, and follow the instructions.

Come and join in the Fun!

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

Wednesday 10 April

Hinksey WI Hall North Hinksey Lane

OX2 0LT Time: 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.

Admission charge: £3 donation

A talk by Stuart Mabbutt, well known local Wildlife Gardening Specialist and MADNews columnist, about how to transform your garden into something that's a credit to you and flourishing with wildlife".

Also on air every week at GoingWildwithWildlife@radiocherwell.com.

For more details please contact:

Shirley Jarvis 018965 371297 shirley88jarvis@gmail.com

BBOWT UPPER THAMES GROUP

www.bbowt.org.uk Tel: 01865 775476



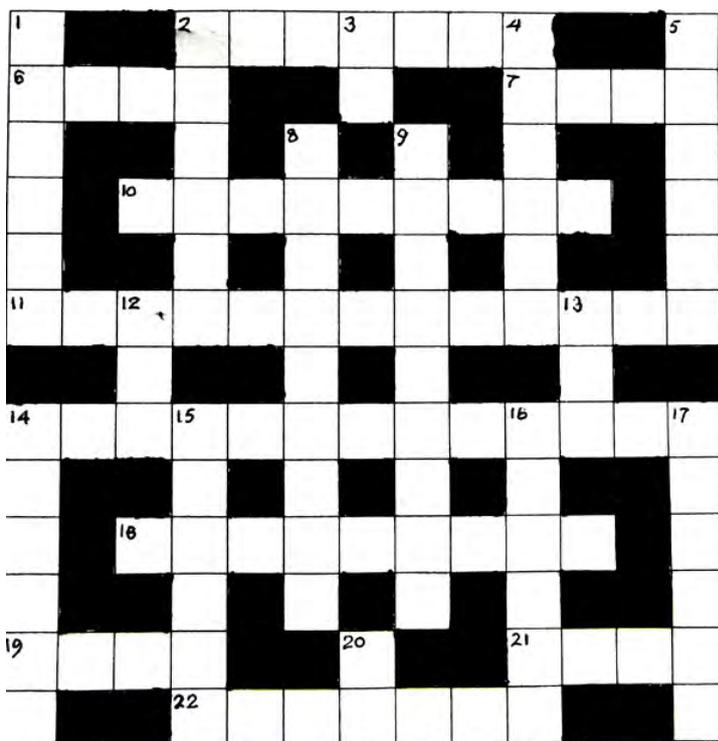
MARCH CROSSWORD BY ALISA

Down

- 1 Angelic being (6)
- 2 Of a group with similar racial traits (6)
- 3 Royal Academy (2)
- 4 Leisurely walk (6)
- 5 Waterways (6)
- 8 Complicated (9)
- 9 Noisy birds (9)
- 12 Help (3)
- 13 Age (3)
- 14 Village near Stevenston (6)
- 15 This boy sounds serious (6)
- 16 Inside (6)
- 17 Ancient Egyptian figure (6)
- 20 Film (2)

Across

- 2 High speed (7)
- 6 Stop (4)
- 7 Brass instrument (4)
- 10 Blowing up (9)
- 11 Oxford district (9.4)
- 14 What to see on the 2nd (5.8)
- 18 Bring about (9)
- 19 Cereal (4)
- 21 Metal (4)
- 22 Instruction (7)



The Organist

The Organist sat at the organ,
A tune she most wanted to play.
But not one note from the organ,
It had clearly had its day.

The Organist in a temper,
She gave it quite a kick.
But not one note from the organ,
It had not done the trick.

The Organist kicked the back off,
To have a look inside.
She said 'Cor blimey the smell in 'ere,
Something's crawled in and died'

She got the broom and shovel,
And made a good job with that.
And then she saw the problem
It was Mrs Browns old cat!



ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW
Sun 5th May, 10am - 5.30pm
Abingdon Airfield / Dalton Barracks
Flying Displays, Arena Displays, Music,
Vintage Vehicles, Static Aircraft Area,
Crafts, Trade Stalls, Food and drink,
Children's Amusements...and more!

**Held in support of the
Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust**
Gate Admission; Adult £15, OAP £10,
Child 5-15 £5, under 5s Free..
Discounted advance tickets available from our website:
www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk

UPDATE FROM GARD

We are now approaching the time for production of the next Thames Water draft Water resources Management Plan (WRMP14). It is only about eighteen months since the flawed 2009 Plan was finally amended and approved by Defra after our successful challenge at the 2010 Public Inquiry.

GARD's consultants have been monitoring the subsequent research and the preparations Thames Water are making for their next draft WRMP14, and there is no doubt that GARD has exercised considerable influence. We will not know whether the new plan will include the Upper Thames Reservoir (UTR) until early April 2013 after the draft has been approved by the Thames Water Management and Defra. However the available evidence seems to point to the conclusion that, for this next plan, the additional demand for water will be met without the need for a major additional resource. The Thames Water draft strategy, which has been released, and will shortly be available for public consultation, also points to this deduction. In the short term this seems to be good news, but it is also evident that Thames Water will be seeking to create or develop a major new source of water to meet demand in their 2019 plan. The resource will have to cater for the additional needs of much of the South East. It is clear that the UTR will be a strong contender.

The research needed for the Severn Thames Transfer schemes has not been completed, although it was forecast to be available to us last November. The continued absence of information seems to confirm that a major resource is not required for this next plan – otherwise Thames Water would have had to do a detailed analysis of this option. Further research on conventional treatments of reused water is still in progress and if positive would represent another viable and sustainable option.

NICK THOMPSON Hon Chairman GARD



THE SOLDIERS OF OXFORDSHIRE (SOFO)

Sofo has launched its Friends Organisation with its first event at Ditchley Park in Oxfordshire. The Trust is currently building its museum in the grounds of The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock, which is to be completed by the end of 2013.

Al Murray, 'The Pub Landlord' joined them for a lunch, his enthusiasm for history and talked about his series, 'The Road to Berlin' about the last phase of World War II, taking him from the beaches of Normandy, through Arnhem and up the Rhine, ending in Berlin. By telling the stories of the people he met in the series, Al emphasised the importance of making personal connections to bring history alive and hoped the new museum would continue to build its archive and research facility by gathering these stories from all those who have been affected by conflict. The Museum is now preparing its storylines and galleries and is engaging with the local community to bring these to life.

During the event, Museum Director, Ursula Corcoran was presented with a 'Christmas box from 1914' by Bill Birch Reynardson. With the Centenary of the Great War approaching, the Museum is becoming the natural home for such objects, where they can be cared for and shared with a wider audience.

Brigadier Ian Inshaw DL, Chairman, commented, "The county offers limitless opportunities to tell the stories of conflict and I am confident that we will provide a window on this past and be a fitting tribute to those who continue to serve our country. The Praetorians and Friends can help make this a reality by supporting us in many ways." With over 3,500 objects and a history that starts with the Hill Forts of Oxfordshire, the new Museum will offer inspiring opportunities for

all visitors especially families and schools to explore the county's role in conflict both here and around the world. Two major gallery spaces are planned to house the museum's collection and provide a home for visiting exhibitions and activities; visiting artists, museum trails, hands on events and lectures.

Now the project is underway, we are looking for new Friends and volunteers to join us. In a community project of this size there is always work to be done; helping with running our office, getting hands on with exhibits, researching stories and putting together our education activities.

To find out more about the Project please contact us via our website or Email: museumdirector@sofo.org.uk Tel 01993 813832

PRISONER OF WAR MEMORIES WANTED

A child's necklace and a pair of soldier's dog-tags...what do these have in common? Both of these very personal items belonged to a Prisoner of War (POW) during World War II, but each tells a different story. These mementos are now being looked after by The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock, who are planning an exhibition about POW experiences and are appealing to the public for help in bringing the new museum to life.

The necklace was given to a young girl during the war, having been made by a German POW held at a local camp. It was donated, along with other hand-made pieces by Rosemary Warner from Witney. Local POWs often made toys and children's playthings to sell for a little extra cash.

The dog-tags are a reminder of one young man's time in the Stalag Luft III camp, now in Poland, and infamous for the 'Great Escape'. Sgt Leslie Mitchell from Woodstock was captured aged just 19 after his plane came down in 1940. He remained a prisoner until 1945, moved from camp to around the German occupied territories. All the time he kept in touch with home, and the letters sent to him provide a fascinating insight into war-time Oxfordshire.

If you have personal memories of POWs during the Second World War or if you were a prisoner yourself, SOFO would like to hear from you. We would be also interested in hearing about experiences of relatives who were POWs. Matthew Smaldon from SOFO says:

"We are seeking first-hand accounts, memorabilia, written memoirs, photos, letters, and other items relating to POWs. We want to tell the story of local men held in POW camps, and of how the influx of German and Italian POWs also affected life in the county - to do so we want to ask for the assistance of Oxfordshire residents to help us build the story."

If you can help in any way, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact Sue Cross on 01993 813832, email us at admin@sofo.org.uk, or write to Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, The Old Tannery, Hensington Road, Woodstock OX20 1JL.

Stay Independent

If you are over 60 years old and wanting to own a retirement property without the burden of maintenance and repairs, Anchor-managed properties may be the answer. Ladygrove Paddock is a purpose-built development managed on the residents' behalf by Anchor. At Ladygrove Paddock you can live your independent life to the full. A typical bungalow comprises 2 bedrooms, bathroom (fitted with shower), lounge, kitchen/diner, GCH, separate communal laundry room. Service charges are put together in accordance with the terms of your lease. They cover the costs associated with the upkeep of the estate, including insurance of the building and maintenance of the communal areas. For more details you can contact our Customer Centre on 01845 140 2020.



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

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

Gentle Jesus, Meek and Mild ??? (I think not!!)



Until I became a Christian at the age of 40, I had not been a regular church goer since I was a child but I clearly remember the words from an old Charles Wesley hymn..... *Gentle Jesus, meek and mild, Look upon a little child* I also have a vivid picture in my mind from a poster that used to be on that Sunday school wall - the smiling figure of Jesus dressed in a bright white tunic, sat on a grassy mound, amongst flowers and holding a small lamb. This was the vision of Christ I retained from those times - the meek and gentle Jesus but since becoming a follower of Jesus eighteen or so years ago, I realise that this is far from the image that the Bible paints Though there were times in His life for quiet contemplation, this image of Jesus is not a reflection of what he mostly said and did.

So what about those who follow Christ? I am not one to watch the soaps but sometimes notice the trailers for them. On more than one occasion I have seen Christians on soaps portrayed as weak and feeble - stereotyping like this has much to answer for!! Last summer I went with my twenty something son to a men's camping weekend put on by Christian Vision for Men (CVM). It was in a large field with two big tops for the meetings and around 800 Christian guys, average age mid thirties. As most of last summer, it rained almost the entire weekend and the field was like a bog!! Though some (the more sensible perhaps?) had taken wellies, many men walked around in shorts and flip flops, with mud covering them up to the knees. The burger vans did a roaring trade for those who could not be bothered to burn their own meat on the barbeque the bungee runs, large scale Scalextric track, video games and sumo wrestling were very popular and the evening beer tent needed three barmen to keep up with the demand of the thirsty. There was much laughter, especially in the evening, when musicians and a comedian entertained the masses.

A few years ago, at a church Ruth and I were a part of in Norfolk, a group called Tough Talk (www.tough-talk.com), a bunch of ex bouncers, gangsters and weight lifters (including a former world champion) who had given their lives to Christ, shared their faith whilst giving a power lifting exhibition, something they do all over the country. Christianity is for all and does not exclude young, fit, tough men.

Jesus was a radical, who did not please, or seek to appease the religious establishment, part of the reason why the religious leaders of the day had him executed. Jesus was and is God. He came to live amongst us and gave Himself for us on the cross, that by faith in Him we can be set free from the sin that messes up our lives and relationships, especially the relationship with God that he passionately wants each of us to have with Him. He willingly went through an unfair and biased series of trials, his friends abandoned Him, he was spat on, viciously beaten, nailed through his hands and feet to a rough wooden cross and left to die in the blistering heat of a middle eastern day. And what was His response? Jesus was heard to cry out to his father in heaven. "*Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing.*" This is what Easter is all about, it is not about chocolate eggs, daffodils and rabbits, not even about the couple of extra days off work It's about the Son of God, a radical man's man who came to give Himself for those who had turned their backs on God, including you and me.

So my early picture of the gentle Jesus, meek and mild was wrong as are the stereotypical images of Christians so often painted by the TV script writers. Jesus calls us to follow Him, to give our lives for the good of others and to look to him as our captain and leader. Christianity is not for whimps. It is about making a difference and being people who live their lives by a radical code. Truly living your life for Christ is not an easy option

Join us to help build our community of people in Marcham who are seeking to live out the Christian life - a life that Jesus promises he will help you to live to the full. Do call me for a chat or visit us on Sunday, especially for our Easter service on 31st March.

Every blessing and have a great Easter
Keith Mersh, Pastor Marcham Baptist Church

For more information, contact
Keith Mersh - Pastor 01865 391881
Bill Dyer - Elder 01235 814986

Womens' World Day of Prayer

Friday 1 March 11.00 am - with lunch to follow

Speakers in March

3 Mar	-	Adam Hawley
10 Mar	-	Paul Revell
17 Mar	-	Keith Mersh
24 Mar	-	Stephen Harrison
31 Mar	-	Keith Mersh

Join us on Sundays at 10.30am, or call Keith if you want to chat about life and faith.



All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page

Dear Friends,

Thank you to everyone who came to Janey Cumber's funeral service (and/or contributed to her book of remembrance) and helped to make it the tribute to her full and active life that we knew and loved. Our community has lost a good friend. We are grateful to Meriel for including the fuller tributes to Janey in this edition of MADnews.

In our complex and fast-moving world we can often wonder if one person can make any difference. Janey's life gave a resounding 'yes' to that question. You and I **can** make a real difference, for good or ill, hopefully for good. Janey would be the first to admit that she didn't get it right every time – none of us do – but that didn't stop her from trying, or from being motivated by a source of love far greater than her own – namely the love of God, which she had come to experience and cherish for herself back in the early 1980s.

As human beings we matter to God. God considers human life as being infinitely precious – every one of us matters to Him and He has demonstrated the extent of His love in and through the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. God considers us worth dying for! These great truths lie at the heart of our Christian faith and of Holy Week and Easter, which we celebrate at the close of this month. We warmly invite you to the events and services in our churches over this Easter time, whether you are a regular attendee or not.

March is a month when spring really kicks in – a time of new life, new hope and longer days – may it be so spiritually too this Easter time.

God bless you, and those you love, this Easter.

Revd Richard Zair

[The Parish Electoral Roll is currently being revised. If you would like to be included on the Roll please ask for a form.]

Prayer for the Month:

Heavenly Father, thank you for your love and forgiveness shown so fully in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Help us to welcome your presence into our lives this Easter and to receive your gift of love for ourselves.
Amen.

MARCH Events:

Fri 1st March - Women's World day of Prayer
11 am at the Baptist Church followed by a simple lunch.
Contact Jean Creasy on 391 398 for more info.

Sat 2nd March – Men's Breakfast
8.30 am at the Sports, Scouts & Social Club

Easter Services:

Maundy Thursday (28th Mar)

9.30 am School end of term service at All Saints
11 am Holy Communion at All Saints
6 pm **A Passover Special** for all the family at All Saints (please RSVP to Jill Rowe or Jenny Warwick as this will include a meal!)

Good Friday (29th Mar)

10 – 12 Family Good Friday at All Saints
2 pm *An hour at the cross at St. Mary's, Shippon*

Easter Sunday (31st Mar)

[Don't forget that BST begins on Easter Sunday this year!]

8 am Quiet Holy Communion at All Saints
10 am Family Holy Communion at All Saints
10.30 am *Family Holy Communion at St. Luke's*
6 pm Easter Praise (with prayer for healing)

Parish People:

The funeral of Janey Cumber took place in All Saints on 14th February (please see pages 5 & 7 for a fuller tribute). Funerals were also held for Wynn Harman, formerly of Garford, on 6th February and Mrs Dolly Mabbutt of Parkside on 22nd February. We extend our sympathy to their family and friends.

On 27th January, we welcomed in baptism Lewis Berry, son of Andrew and Christina.

Regular services:

Sundays at All Saints': 10 am and 6 pm
(24th March 7.30 pm - Prayer & Praise)
Wednesdays: 10.30am HC at Duffield Place
Sunday at St. Luke's: Sun 10th & 31st at 10.30am

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