

# Marcham & District News

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

Your Independent Local Newsheet – [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk)



November 2013 Vol: 35 No: 11

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



◀ ▼ ▲ Apple Day ▲ ▼ ▶

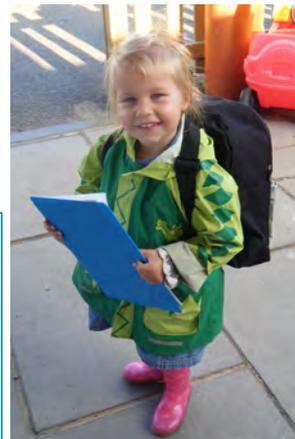


© Jim Asher

▼ Mark Jones See page 11



Pre-school on a bear hunt! See page 13 ▶



▲ Get your entries in for the Jam Festival! See page 15

▲ New Online Village Diary [www.madnews.co.uk/diary](http://www.madnews.co.uk/diary)  
To get an event included email [editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk) with the title, date, time, contact details and a short description

NOVEMBER		
1 Fri	Opening Day for Jam Festival Entries	15
5 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
6 Wed	Guideposts Open Day, Peachcroft, 10.00 - 15.00	16
7 Thur	Midweek Walk, The Bystander, Wootton, 12.30 / 13.30	11
8 Fri	MP's Surgery, Didcot, 17.30 - 19.00	13
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9 Sat	Gigaclear Demonstration Day, Appleton	5
10 Sun	Frilford Road Closure for Remembrance Sunday	3
12 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45	11
12 Tue	Singing, 62 North Street, 14.00 - 15.30	11

13 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
15 Fri	Closing date for Christmas Tree Celebration ordering	15
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23 Sat	Bazaar and Table Top Sale, Tubney, 14.00 - 16.00	17
26 Tue	Singing, 62 North Street, 14.00 - 15.30	11

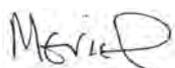
Details of events may change after publication, please check with the relevant organisers before attending events.

Dear Readers

I was very lucky to be invited to a jam day at Denman College in October, to sharpen up my boiling and setting skills. I thought I knew a bit about jamming but soon learned that I didn't know anything compared to Carrie O'Regan the teacher! Have you heard of the flake test to get the perfect set, know how to label the pot to competition standard and the most useful... how to get burnt jam off the bottom of the pan (you heat up some soapy water in it and it just lifts off!) ?

Jamming and jelling **IS** fun and you get something delicious at the end - there are jam jars in the shop and lots of fruit around so have a go and see what you can come up with!

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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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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PCSO Andy McCormack C9461  
Just dial 101 (non-emergency)

**CRIMESTOPPERS**

Call 0800 555 111 (anonymous calls)

**NHS NON-EMERGENCY**

Call Free from any phone - 111

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For other councillors go to

[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

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November 2013

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS  
Parish Council Vacancy - Casual Vacancy**

The Vale of White Horse District Council has confirmed that a formal election is not required to fill the vacancy on the Council. The Parish Council will therefore be able to co-opt someone. If there is anyone interested in joining the Council, then he/she is invited to contact the Parish Clerk for further information about the role, and eligibility criteria.

**Remembrance Sunday – Road Closure  
A415 Frilford Road, Church Street, New Road**

A road closure order for the section of Frilford Road between Church Street and North Street, Church Street itself and new Road has been obtained for the latter half of Sunday morning 10th November. This is to allow the parade from the Church, after the Church service, to the War Memorial in Frilford Road, in order to lay wreaths. Please note that the diversion will be along North Street to St. Peter's cross roads, then left to the junction with the A338, and left again to the Frilford Service Station.

**Closure of A34 – Full weekend closure**

The Highways Agency will be carrying out essential works to College Farm Road bridge at Beedon where the A34 goes over the local road. The work will be undertaken in various phases. From 10.00 p.m. on Friday 15th November until 6.00 a.m. on Monday 18th November there will be a full closure of the Southbound carriageway of the A34 between Milton Interchange and the M4 junction. Similarly from 10.00 p.m. on Friday 22nd November to 6.00 a.m. on Monday 25th November the Northbound carriageway will be completely closed between the M4 and Milton Interchange. The recommended diversion route is M40, A404/A404(M) and M4, a diversion of some 68 miles. Significant delays will be expected during the weekend closures. It is advised that you plan ahead of your journey to allow for extra time or preferably avoid this route where possible.

**Real Poppy Campaign**

This campaign is aiming to plant poppies to remember the sacrifices made during the first world war. the 100th anniversary of World War I being next year. The Parish Council would welcome suggestions as to where there are suitable soil conditions and where to sow the seed, bearing in mind that they should not be in areas where they would cause a danger for traffic or a nuisance for agriculture.

**Public Transport Bus Review – X15**

Oxfordshire County Council is reviewing the subsidised X15 bus service. The Parish Council has asked that consideration be given to routing the bus around Howard Cornish Road rather than running along the A415, and also that consideration be given to looking at the timetable as the service to Abingdon runs through the village at a

similar time to the Stagecoach 31 service. A more evenly spaced timetable would improve bus choice for Marcham residents.

**Vale of White Horse District Council – Parish Boundary Review**

The Vale of White Horse District Council is currently undertaking a community governance review and has recommended that consideration be given to placing Cothill a single parish. At the moment, the boundary between St. Helen Without parish and Marcham parish passes through Cothill. Marcham Parish Council has supported the principle that consideration be given to reviewing the parish boundary at this location.

**Parishioner of the Year Award**

The annual award for the parishioner of the year is presented in May each year. It therefore seems possibly a little early to begin to consider worthy recipients, but from next month the Parish Council will be inviting nominations for the next award. Please therefore begin to think about who you would like to put forward

**Fireworks**

Please be considerate for neighbours and the many pets and animals in the village when letting off your fireworks. Please notify others when any fireworks are going to be lit so that villagers are aware and arrangements can be made to keep pets indoors.

**Taylor Wimpey Exhibition**

Taylor Wimpey held an exhibition of its latest proposals on 5th October in All Saints Church. For those of you unable to attend, the display boards are available for viewing by going onto Marcham Parish Council's website at [www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk) and selecting planning applications.

**Planning Applications**

At the time of writing, no additional planning applications have been considered by the Council.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:** Wednesday 13th November, 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](mailto:clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Donald Creasy  
1929 – 2013**

Jean and her daughters  
want you to know that this  
dear man was freed from the  
frailties and frustrations of  
Parkinson's Disease  
on Oct 17th  
and has entered into Life.  
There will be a Thanksgiving  
Service in due course.

Dear Editor

**“My Pear(!) Tree.**

I have a small apple tree in the garden, which I'd been told many years ago, was a “Lanes Prince Albert”, a type I'd never heard of before or since. As my RHS gardening encyclopaedia didn't include fruit trees, I thought I'd see if there was an “expert” in attendance at the “Apple Day” event being held in the school on the 19th, who could enlighten me on its origins etc. Sure enough, there in the corner of the hall, surrounded by boxes of apples of different sorts and poised over a pile of illustrated books of apples sat Murray Maclean - THE expert. Having the foresight to take a few of the recently picked apples off my “LPA” apple tree for examination, I told him my story and waited for his verdict.

These cooking apples have been grown on a small tree which started life as a rooted “twig” about 15inches long planted at the end of April in 1967. This “twig” plus 2 others were GIVEN to me (as he wouldn't accept any payment) by a local nursery man when I moved into our new house here in Marcham on the understanding that if they didn't grow I wouldn't/couldn't complain and ask for my money back if I'd paid him (as it was the “wrong time of year to plant young trees like this!!”). He assured me that they were all grafted onto dwarf stock and wouldn't grow very big, therefore being suitable for my small sized garden.

46 years on, this tree is now no bigger than a large golf umbrella, about 4½ feet in diameter and roughly the same height! For the past 40 years or so this one tree has produced 30 to 40 smallish (2 1/2ins) apples, growing in pairs along the 4 main branches. (That's why I sometimes call it my “PEAR” tree!!!!!!) This year however, it has produced 60 beautiful apples ranging from 2 to 3 inches in diameter weighing a total of 25 pounds (11+ Kilos), - truly a bumper year for apples and other fruit.

Yes, Murray did confirm my apples were the “Lanes Prince Albert”. An old variety, a very nice cooker, not very common now and not readily available but he could get one if required”.

What happened to the other 2 “twigs”? Well, they grew, and grew and grew, (just like Topsy!) until the trunks are now 12-15ins in diameter and are 20feet tall, even after much drastic lopping and pruning over the years. They are NOT Lanes Prince Albert trees, but BRAMLEYS and are definitely NOT on dwarf stock, but do produce pounds and pounds of large delicious cooking apples each year, that when properly stored keep until Christmas. You, dear reader, may have sampled some

of these apples as they've been available in the village shop for the past few weeks. I hope you've enjoyed them!!! Bon appetit.

**TONY BLACKLER**

Dear Editor

I read with great interest, and now a little concern. With regard to Malcolm Denton's letter which focussed on the village Wayside Cross, a remembrance of those of the village who fell in their duty to King, Queen and Country.

It is my view that, if possible the Wayside Cross be dismantled and then re-erected with the boundaries of the arboretum, together with a memorial garden, the care of which the village should take responsibility. An adjacent location could surely be ground for a poppy plantation?

This would surely provide a place for peaceful contemplation, away from the traffic noise and pollution which Mr Denton mentions.

Within the confines of the arboretum is an unsightly hard-standing which at one time did, I believe, host a pavilion or some such structure from the former sports field.

Surely it is not beyond the wit of man, namely Marcham residents in this case, to convert this into a memorial garden of which we could be proud, the re-constructed and dedicated Wayside Cross at its centre.

Access and maintenance would be easy. My only concern is that our village now suffers, yet again, from mindless vandalism of a few. Protection of such a memorial and garden is paramount.

If the lunatic ‘politically correct’ proposals for housing development in Marcham go ahead, we will suffer from possibly 200 more domestic vehicles on our already overladen streets, together with possibly

a new crop of dysfunctional families and or individuals who will only add to the workload of our already over-stretched police and other services, on which we all rely so much. My fear for this safety and preservation of the Wayside Cross and garden on a new site is of some concern. At present the arboretum seems to be vandal free, but for how much longer? As Mr Denton implies, something must be done to preserve and protect this element of our heritage, how this can be achieved is the problem.

I feel sure that others amongst us have views on the subject, let them come forward, we live, we hope, in a democratic state, all opinions should be aired.

**JEREMY P COLLINS**

If you have a view on a local issue, want to thank people, congratulate success or publicise an event within or near the MADNews area, contact the editor  
01865 391725  
editor@madnews.co.uk  
or pop a note in the PO envelope

MSSSC

**Family Christmas Party**

6.30pm Sat 7 December  
Come and join us for fun and games  
Bar open all evening  
£5 per family  
All Welcome  
Marion 07507 797 757

**WANTED BY THE ABINGDON ALZHEIMERS DAY CENTRE**

...an upright piano, in reasonable working order to take the place of one that is no longer tunable. Offers, please, to Kathleen Bradley (at 01865 390774 or awbradley@aol.com).

**Gigaclear**

**You are invited to attend our Ultrafast Demonstration Day**

**Appleton Village Hall Saturday 9th November  
Call in anytime between 9.30am - 4pm**

Join us to see what you can do with up to 1000Mbps of ultrafast broadband for communications, entertainment, games, work and study. Also have your broadband questions answered by our experts. Every hour between 11am and 3pm we will run a short presentation and question/answer session in the committee room to help you understand what we do, how we do it and what you can do with ultrafast broadband.

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**  
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Bank Balance  
£14,100

Local Events  
£10,934

Donations  
£6,814

2012 - 2013 Membership  
Voting: 115 Junior: 18

5p Coins  
4930

Marcham  
Community  
Group



## Community leisure facilities: a welcome initiative

Every household should have received a leaflet from Taylor Wimpey outlining its latest proposal, and inviting them to the exhibition that was held on Saturday 5 October.

This new proposal is a package that has four linked parts:

- ◆ A modest village hall but no houses on the Anson Field. The Anson Trust would continue to hold the entire field in trust for community use.
- ◆ 92 houses built on Hyde Copse.
- ◆ New sports pitches and a sports pavilion on leased land north of Hyde Copse.
- ◆ Two new classrooms for the school.

Readers with long memories may recall the first proposal by Taylor Wimpey and the Anson Trust which would have involved the Trust selling the football pitch for housing and creating new leisure facilities on what is now agricultural land to the north of the village. At that time, some people were asking whether the housing could be on the edge of the village instead, leaving the Anson Field undeveloped. In essence, this is what the latest proposal does.

MCG asked those who came to the Taylor Wimpey exhibition to complete a questionnaire giving their views on the proposal overall and on its different parts, and detailing their concerns about the effects of the proposal if it went ahead. More on this in the next issue, and soon on our website [www.marcham.org](http://www.marcham.org).

### MCG Open meeting on 26 September: Leisure facilities – the options

By a coincidence of timing, a meeting which had been planned some months ago was able to discuss the outline of the new proposals although the Taylor Wimpey leaflet delivery had not been completed when it took place. Members and others present broadly welcomed the new initiative while pointing out that there was no real detail as yet. Members voted 35 for and 3 against (with 2 abstentions) approving the principle behind the new proposal, and voted unanimously in favour of the MCG committee working with the Community Facilities Group on the details when they became clear. The rather small turnout reflects a normal AGM attendance (the AGM preceded the Open Meeting) rather than the level of interest in the new proposal – we didn't have the opportunity to publicise beforehand the topic the meeting was actually able to discuss.

### 2nd MCG AGM Thursday 26 September

The chairman, Jim Asher, summarised MCG activities during the reporting year 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013. MCG had been active on community facility proposals, holding and reporting on consultations on the proposals then current. It had formed the Joint Users' Planning Group to try to ensure that all groups in the village had a voice as the proposals were modified. It had also worked with Marcham Parish Council on the Community Led Plan, and had continued organising community and fundraising events, including the Great Marcham Jubilee Weekend.

Full reports will shortly be on the website, [www.marcham.org](http://www.marcham.org).



*At the 2013 AGM and the Open Meeting that followed it*

A welcome initiative



**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

As we are now approaching the first anniversary of the Localism Act, it's worth remembering the range of powers and programmes which communities can use to shape their areas. The Government has published a guide which can be accessed at this website: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/youve-got-the-power-a-quick-and-simple-guide-to-community-rights](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youve-got-the-power-a-quick-and-simple-guide-to-community-rights). It's described as quick and simple, and as it runs to just 23 pages it is a model of brevity compared to many documents produced by civil servants. There's concise guidance on the options that might be available in different sets of circumstances and then advice on what each process will involve as well as examples of how each of the powers has been used by a different community. It's well worth a look. This has been a busy month in politics. The major parties have all had their conferences and Parliament has returned for the autumn. With all the issues that have arisen and the policies that have been discussed in recent weeks, it's no surprise that my mailbag has also been keeping me busy. I have had emails on a wide variety of issues but two campaigns have been particularly noticeable: Firstly, there is a campaign to speed up the approval of a Royal Charter to regulate the press. I can assure you that the Government and I are committed to implementing a tough new system of press self-regulation, and a royal charter with cross party agreement was agreed to earlier this year. This is now being fully considered, to ensure that the process of implementing the Leveson recommendations is as robust as possible. While I understand the desire to see changes made as soon as possible, given the importance of these measures I would be reluctant to see the process rushed in any way.



Secondly, there have been a number of emails arising from the film 'I Am Breathing', which tells the story of Neil Platt, a young man with motor neurone disease. MND is a dreadful, devastating disease and I am sure that his important film will not only raise awareness of the condition, but act as an inspiration for others. The cause of MND is unknown and therefore there is no known cure. However, the treatment of MND and other long-term health conditions remains a priority in this Government's plans for the NHS, which is why there is now a £3.8bn fund to aid the joining up of different health and care services to ensure that people get the specific care that is right for them.

**ED VAIZEY**, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)

**COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

Oxfordshire County Council, in common with most County Councils is very short of money. It has capital reserves, but its Revenue Budget gets tighter and tighter every year. In the next financial year, it is going to have find tens of millions of annual savings to makes its books balance. Hard decisions are going to have to be made over which services, traditionally offered by OCC should be cut. With Social Services, Roads and Education being the major costs, and the Education budget being largely protected, the options are not attractive. By contrast, District Councils, by and large, are comparatively wealthy; Parish Councils also have more freedom to raise money (at present) than either District or County Councils. We can either complain and demand a reverse of direction or we can embrace the change and endeavour to make it an opportunity rather than a threat. Money flowing down the chain towards Parish Councils, empowering people to take more responsibility for local decisions, raising the status of, and public interest in the work of Parish Councils, is no bad thing. Indeed, it is what Localism is about. However, giving people more power over their own lives only works if a) local people are prepared to take up the responsibility and b) those, who have traditionally held the power, understand that they are required to give some of it up. None of this will happen quickly, indeed, it may take years to achieve. However, having watched the Parish Councils in my Council Division in action, I cannot accept the old argument that such bodies are not capable and fit to make sensible decisions for their communities. There is much to threaten us out there at present, but there is also great opportunity. So where does this leave a County Council? Maybe Social Service responsibilities are gradually being handed downwards. Academies are steadily removing County powers over Education. It seems that the only certain future responsibility of Counties is around Roads and Transport. It may well be that in future, what money the County Council has is spent largely here. If the whole place is not to seize up, if people are going to be able to

November 2013

get to our Schools and our Social services, we are going to need some solutions to our transport problems in this rather overcrowded part of these overcrowded islands.

I have had a very useful and constructive meeting with Marcham Primary School Governors at which we grappled with the problem of future numbers of Marcham children and the future size of the school. Whereas the current agreement with Taylor Wimpey involves 2 extra classrooms, the worry is that future developments will put even more pressure on the Primary School. If Marcham is to grow much bigger, the prospect of a new Primary School on the edge of the village raises its head. The present school is ideally located in the middle of the village and we would like to keep things this way as long as possible. Governors and I are on the same side over this and I am now embarking on discussions with the Education Department at OCC and will keep you informed.

The new pedestrian crossing over Packhorse Lane is being appreciated and used by an increasing number of people. The new Priory Field development will increase its use still further. However, Marcham PC and I are concerned at the safety issue involving westbound traffic. Traffic emerges from the S bend and immediately faces the crossing. A number of drivers seem so pleased to be through the S bend that they are already accelerating at the crossing. Several pedestrians have already reported having to step back from the crossing as motorists have ignored, or not noticed them. The County Council transport authorities have agreed to the following: 1) There should be signage before the S bend to warn westbound traffic of the pedestrian crossing and 2) That if PC and I are in agreement over the funding (some £3K) an enhanced more noticeable LED lighting system should be installed. If you would like to see one in operation, enter Wantage from the East – they are expensive, but very effective.

**RICHARD WEBBER CLLR, OCC**

[Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto:Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com) or 01235 534001

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

How good it is to start this article with a really positive piece of news – namely that eight people of Marcham have been chosen to receive an award over lunch at the Guildhall, on 19th October, in recognition of their selfless hard work in keeping the Community Shop running successfully: Natasha Kingsbury, Eileen Cartledge, Chris Ricketts, Ruth Mander, Suzanne Crafer, Jennifer Allan, Mike Hudson and Malcolm Denton. Both Richard and I bore witness of this the other weekend when we held our Surgery at the shop for a couple of hours – the regular hustle and bustle interspersed with cheery chatter and laughter as people shopped was resounding proof of its success. So many congratulations to our award winners.

Now to a more sobering subject. As you may know, the OCC is always looking for ways to save money. One way is to move premises to a cheaper venue, and as both New Abbey House in Abingdon and the SODC building in Crowmarsh Gifford are only 50% filled, mainly because of the amalgamation of the two District Councils some years back, it seems sensible to move the 400 OCC members into one of these. As Abingdon is the natural centre for the District Council with its 35,000 inhabitants, is easily accessible for the people of the Vale as it is on good bus routes (unlike Crowmarsh Gifford) and has a much better building in New Abbey House than the SODC building in Crowmarsh (which had a damning report in 2004) it seems preferable and more sensible to keep the Vale District Council in Abingdon. However, quite suddenly last week, we were told that moves have gone on apace and that most officers will be moved out of the Vale, bar a skeleton group, by next July to give the OCC room to move in! No consultation of the Vale inhabitants or their District Councillors! No clear figures for people to see! No debate! And the sobering fact is that once this move happens it is set in stone for at least 10 years, with the possibility that the Vale's identity will be swallowed up by South Oxfordshire. I have been very disappointed that there has been no consultation. If you agree and would like your feelings known, please will you contact the Vale urgently, as time is limited. (01235 520202 or via the VWHDC website).

Having explored the exhibition at the church of the proposed development designed by Taylor Wimpey, I was struck by the positive comments by those who were also looking at it. It seems as if there has been a change in people's thinking and that we are resigned to the fact that new houses are needed. But what we don't want is to be out of the equation. We want to have a say in what is being proposed and what benefits to the village might arise from the development.

Next surgery date: Saturday 9th November. Do come along if you want to raise an issue or just to say hello.

**CATHERINE WEBBER, CLLR**

01235 534001 or [catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk)

 <p><i>The Marcham Society</i></p>	<p><i>Short talks by members and others about their research into various aspects of local history:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Trendles Project</i></li> <li>• <i>Marcham since 1950</i></li> <li>• <i>All Saints' Church</i></li> </ul> <p><i>All Saints' Church Marcham 7.45pm 12th November</i></p>
<p>Following meeting: <i>Christmas Social 10th December</i></p>	<p>Non-members always welcome £2 <a href="http://www.marchamsociety.org.uk">www.marchamsociety.org.uk</a> Further details: Sheila Dunford (391439) or Judith Fontaine (391275)</p>



**VILLAGE CAFE  
EVERY WEDNESDAY  
MSSSC**



Do you like a roast dinner followed by apple pie, trifle, syrup sponge pudding or home-made rice pudding with proper skin? If so **Marcham Village Café** is the place for you. It is a very popular midweek event for those people who come. If you've never been, why don't you come and join us at the Scouts, Sports and Social Club building on the Anson Field at about 12 o'clock? Bring a friend if you don't want to come alone.

If you need a lift please ring Sheila Dunford on 391439 or Jenny Allan on 391373.

*It's not just for the elderly, all are welcome and we have a group of children from the nursery next door. We don't make a charge for the meal but rely on contributions.*

**MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK  
Thursday, November 7th.**

For this month's walk we will eat at The Bystander Inn in Wootton (Map Ref: SP474012) at 12.30 for lunch, but will start our walk at the Car Park (SP477014), just opposite the Church in Old Wootton at 1.30 for the walk of about 4 miles. This walk will take us up towards Cumnor Folly, returning via Youlbury. Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.



**Marcham WI**

November Meeting  
Denman College  
21st November 7.30pm



Subject "Life is a song" - Life and favourite music of a WI member. Come and discover which one!

County event - Christmas songs at Oxford Town Hall, December 2nd 7pm.

*Contacts for any questions, new members or visitors  
Christine Whild 01865 391270*

**MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB**

On 28th September a Club Presentation Dinner was held at The Black Horse, Gozards Ford. It was a most enjoyable occasion with excellent food and ample liquid refreshment – and speeches of tolerable lengths!



Regarding OCA matters, information indicates that in the final analysis the 1st XI was deemed to have finished higher in the Table than previously announced and will now be promoted a Division for the 2014 Season. The 2nd XI will continue to play in the same Division as it did this Season. Please contact Trevor Hill (391321) for any information relating to the Club – including playing or umpiring for Marcham.

*CSB*

**MARCHAM EX-SERVICEMENS CLUB**

**North Street, Marcham**  
**Saturday 16th November**  
Music by Mark Jones starting at 8.30pm  
**Saturday 21st December**  
Christmas draw  
**New Year's Eve**  
Now and Then

*Further details nearer the time*

**SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!**

2pm to 3.30pm  
12th and 26th November.  
Tea and cake follow the singing.  
62 North Street, Marcham  
Men and women welcomed - do come and give it a try.



For more details: Christine Whild Tel 391270

**Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society (AAAHS)**

has launched an on-line archive covering the most interesting buildings in Abingdon, the people who have lived in them through the centuries, and the businesses and other activities that were carried on in them. The records are being built up gradually, and if you cannot find what you are looking for this may be because the entry has not yet been completed. Entries typically start with highlights sections intended for the general user, and then go into greater detail for those who would like to know more.



[www.abingdon.gov.uk/partners/history](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk/partners/history)

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
**LEGION**



**THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION  
POPPY APPEAL 2013**

Just a little reminder that the Poppy Appeal runs until the 9th November 2013. Please give as generously as you can to this most worthy cause, when the collectors call at your door.

**CHRISTINE DENTON**

**BABIES AND TODDLERS GROUP**

We are pleased to inform families that the group is all set to continue running on Tuesday mornings in the Church 10.00 – 11.30. Many thanks to Anne, Tess and Dalvinder who have given their time and energy to ensure everyone felt welcome at the group over the last five years. We wish them well as they start new jobs and their children move on to new settings.

Please do come and join us, we have toys for babies, activities for toddlers and refreshments for all. First visit if free, then £2 per family. For more details call 0777 565 4445

**CHARLIE AND SUE**

**FOR SALE**

Child's 28 inch frame, Raleigh bike £20 Bicycle trailer, fits adult bike £10. Tel: 391200

- o O o -

4FT Pool/Snooker Table. Easy storage with folding metal legs. Includes:

- snooker & pool balls
- 2 wooden cues
- triangle, score board and chalk

£30 Very good condition, make excellent Christmas gift call Jane 01865 391390 or 07807 754579

- o O o -

Downsizing has necessitated me having to sell my lovely round dark oak "Ercol" dining table and four chairs with their original covers.

They have been well loved but are in good condition. If you are interested please ring 01865 391643.

**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS**

Last week we talked about having our own bear hunt and some of the children drew their own maps, asking us to mark out all the areas from the story whilst others read the book.



Then we discussed all the things we would need to take and the children scurried around collecting all the things on our list, packed the bag with a blanket and breadsticks, then decided who was going to carry what - lovely decision making.

After donning our raincoats and welly boots, we all set off singing.... "We're going on a bear hunt, we're going to catch a big one, what a beautiful day, we're not scared...." As we walked around the playing field we found swishy, swashy grass, a deep, cold river, thick oozy mud, a big, dark forest, a swirling, whirling snowstorm and a narrow, gloomy cave..... inside the cave was a snuggly, cuddly bear unlike the story, we didn't run all the way home, we all had a cuddle and then settled down for breadsticks and a drink. We had a fantastic time, the children really connected with the story and everyone had good fun.

If you would like to join Marcham Pre-school please contact us on 01865 392101 or e:mail marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk.

**MARION, NICKY, KATHARINE, SAM AND NATASHA**

marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

[www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com)

**MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY**

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise - no appointment necessary

8th Nov	<b>Didcot</b> , King Alfred Drive Community Centre, OX11 7NU
15th Nov	<b>Wallingford</b> , Town Hall, OX10 0AD
6th Dec	<b>Wantage</b> , Civic Hall, OX12 9BX
<b>Contact Ed Vaizey MP by</b>	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350

**APPLETON SCHOOL**

**CHRISTMAS MARKET & CHILDREN'S CRAFT FAIR**

**SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER 3-6PM**

**HOG ROAST**

**FOR THE ADULTS...FABULOUS**

**JEWELLERY, COSMETICS, VINTAGE STYLE**

**GIFTS, STOCKING FILLERS & MULLED WINE**

**FOR THE CHILDREN.....PAINT YOUR OWN**

**POTTERY, DECORATE CAKES, MAKE GIFTS,**

**LUCKY JARS & MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS**

**The craft fair will end at 5.30pm**

**and there will be a child entry fee of 50p**

**CAN KIRSTIE FIND YOU A DREAM HOME THAT GIVES YOU THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS?**

*Are you hunting for a home with the peace of country living but still want to be close enough to the city to enjoy its buzz?*

*Do you want village pubs and country walks whilst your partner wants trendy bars and bright nightlife? Maybe after years of city living it's time to try village life but you don't want to turn your back fully on the urban sprawl?*

*Or perhaps work is taking you away from your beloved countryside and you want to take some of it with you in your move?*

Whether you are looking for a family home, moving out of the city or relocating for a new job, property expert Kirstie Allsopp is on hand to help you find the perfect place in her new Channel 4 show. She'll even give you a chance to sample some of the lifestyle you could have in the location you love the most.

November 2013

If you would like to find out more about the chance to get Kirstie's help to find your dream home in a location that will give you the best of both worlds - then Raise the Roof Productions would like to hear from you.

Tell us about yourselves, the home you want and the lifestyle you desire - send an email to us

[bestofbothworlds@raisetherooftproductions.com](mailto:bestofbothworlds@raisetherooftproductions.com).

A member of the Best Of Both Worlds television production team will be in touch.

OR do you already have the best of both worlds? Have you achieved the perfect city vs. country balance? Or have you given it a try and gone back to the drawing board. If so, we want to hear your story too.



**We Must Open Our Eyes**

Wildlife gardening and photography may not really seem related, but bare with me; Stuart Mabbutt hasn't gone mad and lost the plot.



We humans, as a species are losing the ability to see that which is right in front of us. Yes, wildlife is struggling, but there is more there, right in front of us than we are actually seeing.

Next time you go for a walk, take a camera with you and try and take some photographs of what you see. Doesn't matter if you don't think you have a good camera, or that you may not be a good photographer. Just have a go, by trying to take a photograph, you will engage with the environment around you and begin to see things you would normally just walk on past.

Then, take what you see and learn, back to your garden and try and replicate that. This is a major skill of any successful wildlife gardener.

Let's take that a step further, Autumn is a great time to engage children with the natural world with all the colours out there. Often children collect together leaves and other materials to make individual pieces of artwork. Now, the natural world has 4 seasons, why not get our children out there more than just in Autumn to do these beautiful pieces of work? This is what will engage the next generation of wildlife gardeners.

So lets all go for a walk, with our eyes open and observe what is actually there, starring us in the face

**Happy Gardening**

**STUART MABBUTT**

Wildlife Gardening Specialist 01865 747243

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS by ALISA**

**ACROSS:** 1 Excite 3 Plough 7 Crow 9 Longworth 10 Age 11 Mobile library 14 Opera Anywhere 18 Hoe 19 Faringdon 21 Shed 23 Mashed 24 Privet

**DOWN:** 1 Emblem 2 Trowel 3 Prettily 4 Lo 5 Owl 6 Ginger 8 Enable 12 Emanate 13 Agenda 15 Phobia 16 Wander 17 Ernest 2 Ash 22 He

? **Jay's second All-in-One/Just for Fun takeaway quiz is on sale for only £1 at seasonal events from 11th November. Test yourself or compete with others. Last year's quiz raised £60 for local good causes.** ?



The trees will need to be decorated during the week of 9th December. There will be a lighting-up event on Friday 13th December at 6pm in church, including Christmas refreshments. Theme - Christmas Carols  
For more details, and to book a tree, contact Jill Rowe 07811 165351 [jill.rowe.ycm@googlemail.com](mailto:jill.rowe.ycm@googlemail.com)  
Closing date - 15th November.

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

**Saturday Nov 16  
Hanney WM Hall  
10 till 2pm**

- |              |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Craft Stalls | Games                 |
| Raffle       | Gifts                 |
| Tombola      | Toys                  |
| Cakes        | Toiletries            |
| CDs DVDs     | Hot and Cold Food     |
| Jewellery    | Christmas Decorations |



**WI Christmas Fair and Real Jam Festival 2013**

**7 & 8 December**

**Saturday : 10.30am-4.30pm**

**Sunday: 10.30am-3.30pm**

On the 7 and 8 December 2013, Denman in Marcham will be hosting the event of the year so far - the WI Christmas Fair and Real Jam Festival 2013. It will be packed with more activities including Santa's grotto, festive face painting, a Christmas market, cookery and craft demonstrations, and WI cream teas. Cookery demonstrators include John Whaite, star of the last year's Great British Bake Off, and Stacie Stewart, from ITV's Food Glorious Food. Tickets for entry are on sale now costing £3 per person in advance or £4 on the day with free admission for children 16 and under. You can also submit a jar of your favourite preserve into the WI Real Jam Competition. There are a wide variety of classes to enter for the bargain price of £3. To find out more about the Competition or to order your tickets for the Festival, please visit [www.wirealjamfestival.com](http://www.wirealjamfestival.com) or telephone 01865 391 991.

Entry forms are now in the village shop along with details of courses at Denman that ANYONE can attend!

# HOLIDAYS

**Avoid the gloomy weather  
and holiday in Florida –  
Stay in our villa near Orlando**

- Located in a private gated community
- Close to Disney World, all other major attractions and many golf courses
- 4 double bedrooms, 3 bathrooms
- Sleeps up to 10
- Air conditioned and fully equipped
- Own swimming pool and covered patio
- Rent the villa from £495 per week

**Tel: Mike & Vicki on 01865 390125  
or email vicki.jack@virgin.net**



Broadclose, Bell Lane, Blockley  
Near Moreton-in-Marsh,  
Gloucestershire GL56 9BA

• Telephone: 01386 701 570  
• Mobile: 07874 374 581  
• Email: jf@broadclose.co.uk

Self-catering with two friendly pubs in the village  
• Sleeps three in two bedrooms • Open all year round •

## HOME & GARDEN

### Home & Garden Maintenance

**All garden maintenance covered from lawn cutting to lawn care**

- \* small garden designs \* flower beds tidied/shrubs/bulbs planted
- \* tree work - pruning/lopping/shaping etc \* patios laid /cleaned
- \*fencing & gates erected/repaired/painted \*sheds erected/repaired

**Most property maintenance covered**

- \* painting / decorating including outside
- \* tiling \* all indoor jobs covered \* small carpentry work
- \* guttering/replaced/cleaned \* house removals& clearance

**Mr G. TIERNEY Tel. 01865 730428 Mob. 07885550075**

Free quotes & estimates Email Gavin.Tierney42@hotmail.co.uk

## EVENTS

**Wantage Association of Retired Persons (WARP)** welcomes retired people over 50 from Wantage and surrounding areas.

The monthly meetings are usually held at Wantage Civic Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm, which includes a guest speaker, refreshments and a raffle. The group also organises monthly pub lunches, line dancing, outings and holidays.

6 Nov Not So Bleak Midwinter, presenter Tim Walker  
4 Dec Christmas Lunch for Members at Drayton Golf Club  
Guests are welcome at the door with an entrance fee of £4 per person. Go to [www.ocva.org.uk/warp](http://www.ocva.org.uk/warp) to view the full programme of upcoming events; telephone Mary 01235 764573 for more information; or just pop along to a meeting.



Our next **Open Day** will be on Wednesday, 6 November 2013 from 10 am to 3 pm. The theme for this Open Day is **"Mobility"**. We hope to have a range of mobility aids, including walkers, wheelchairs and a mobile

hoist. The Falls Prevention Service will also be with us As always all are welcome to attend our Open Days. Just drop in. Refreshments available.

Guideposts Trust Independent Living Centre  
Peachcroft Christian Centre  
Lindsay Drive, Abingdon OX14 2RT  
Call 01235 856212

[www.guidepostsilc.org.uk](http://www.guidepostsilc.org.uk)

**Oxfordshire Outdoors  
Winter Craft Fair @ Hill End  
Saturday 23 November  
10am – 3pm Free Entry**  
Hill End Centre, Eynsham  
Road, Farmoor OX2 9NJ



A variety of stalls including wreath making, jewellery and up-cycled gifts. For children there will be nature crafts and a winter trail around our 62 acre site. Entry to the craft fair is free and there is plenty of parking at Hill End.

If you would like to take a stall - £15 per table (1.5m x 0.75m) and you can set-up from 8.30am. Contact [kathyl.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:kathyl.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk) for a booking form.

For more information contact Hill End on 01865 863510 or [hill.end@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hill.end@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### THE SOBELL CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR at RADLEY COLLEGE

Nr Abingdon, Oxon  
10am – 5pm Saturday 23rd Nov  
10am – 4.30pm Sunday 24th Nov

- \* Over 60 stalls
- \* Refreshments
- \* Unique Gift Ideas

'Something for Everybody'

Come and Support Sobell House Hospice Charity

Entrance £5 Concessions £2.50

(Charity no. 1118646)



### Sequence Dance Club

Drayton Village Hall

Thursdays, about 7 for 7.30pm

Would you like to join this vibrant club?

We meet weekly and also have Saturday functions and a Christmas "do".

Please call Brian Stimpson on (01235) 531701 to find out more.

**THE MARTIN THORNE VIDEOS**

**The Happiest Days of Your Life**

**Marcham Players perform this comedy**

**by John Dighton**

The enjoyment of this particular video is as much seeing our local villagers of the day performing as the brilliant comedy.

**NOW AVAILABLE FREE FROM MARCHAM SHOP**

All I ask in return is a donation to MADNews funds if you can afford it.

Drop your donations into the tin and pick up a DVD.

Also available from the shop are:

- \* Children at Work! Marcham School November 1992
- \* V E Day Remembered
- \* Marcham Cubs "Oliver"
- \* Marcham Players "Sweeney Todd" MT

**MARCHAM PLAYERS**

On the evening of 19th October All Saints Church Marcham transformed itself into a mini version of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The occasion was a filmed performance of a live performance of Tosca at the mecca of opera lovers in London.



Many of the audience took the opportunity to formally dress for the event which greatly enhanced the ambience in the church. The interval brought sumptuous canapes and other appropriate light refreshment before the enthusiastic audience, who regularly punctuated the performance with bursts of spontaneous applause, settled down again to enjoy Acts 2 and 3. The filmed performance saw opera at the very highest level of performance. Your writer, enjoying his first taste of opera, was converted to the genre with immediate, and I suspect, lasting effect! The evening was jointly presented by All Saints Church and the Marcham Players who both appreciate the support of all who attended.

Members of the Players are reminded of the Annual Christmas Dinner which will be held at The Prince of Wales PH in Shippon on Friday 6th December - 7pm for 7.30pm. Cost and choice of menu will be available shortly but to ensure your place at the table please contact Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964 asap. Please also contact Dave for any other enquiries regarding the Players. Our long serving Secretary, Cheryl Sewell, is soon to depart the village for pastures (*seashores surely? ED*) new. We are actively seeking to replace the irreplaceable so if anyone out there is interested then, please, again phone Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964.

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w w w . m a r c h a m p l a y e r s . c o . u k

**St Lawrence Church, Tubney**

**Bazaar and Table Top Sale**

**Saturday 23rd November**

**2.00 pm – 4.00 pm**

**Southmoor Village Hall**

**Books, Bric-a-brac, Cakes, Cards, Crafts, Jewellery, Gifts, Preserves, Raffle, Tombola, Toys.**

**Entrance £1.00 includes a cup of tea or coffee.**

**Table Tops at £5.00 each to be reserved in advance from Rosemary Kitto on 01865 390 466 or rosemarykitto@gmail.com**

=====

**Candlelit Carol Service at Church on Sunday 22nd December at 4.00 pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies.**

**CRAZY CHRISTMAS CRACKER RUN FOR CANCER CHARITY**

On Sunday the 15th of December at 11.30am, Beale Park in Reading is going festive!

Do you fancy chasing a giant Christmas pudding around a 5k or 10k course? How about a yule log obstacle run? Or simply let the kids run off some energy in our 1 mile obstacle race while you warm your cockles with mulled wine and a mince pie.

Whatever takes your fancy, everyone is welcome to join in with the fun and frivolity at our Crazy Christmas Cracker Run!

Bag yourself a place today and help support Against Breast Cancer's unique research into vital information to increase survival after diagnosis, prevent the secondary spread and ultimately find a vaccine against breast cancer. Please visit [www.christmasrun.co.uk](http://www.christmasrun.co.uk) for more information or contact Sarah at [sarah@againstbreastcancer.org.uk](mailto:sarah@againstbreastcancer.org.uk) or calling 01235 534211.



**[www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk](http://www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk)**

November 2013

**Marcham Village Shop and Post Office**



**Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 18.00**  
**Sat: 07.30 - 13.00**  
**Sun: 08.00 - 13.00**



**NOW SERVING HOT DRINKS!**

Come in and have a coffee, latte, hot chocolate or tea - only £1.20. And if you drink it in the shop you can enjoy the luxury of a real cup and saucer.. and why not have a Chelsea bun to go with it!!

**Last Posting Dates**

**Surface**

Tuesday 5 November: Cyprus, Eastern Europe, Greece, Iceland, Malta, Turkey  
Tuesday 19 November: Western Europe

**International Airmail**

29 Nov: Airmail to Operational BFPOs  
4 Dec: Asia, Far East (including Japan), New Zealand  
5 Dec: Australia  
6 Dec: Africa, Caribbean, C & S America, Middle East  
9 Dec: Cyprus, Eastern Europe  
10 Dec: Canada, France, Greece, Poland  
13 Dec: USA, Static BFPOs  
14 Dec: Western Europe (excl France, Greece, Poland)

**Inland Services**

18 Dec: 2nd Class and Royal Mail Signed For™  
20 Dec: 1st Class and Royal Mail Signed For™,  
23 Dec: Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed™



**Bubble Wrap** - regular quantities from local business. Free with a donation to Keith's India charity. Abingdon Blinds & Curtains Marcham 391881



## MARCHAM PLAYERS FAREWELL TO CHERYLL SEWELL

My first Marcham Players memory of Cheryll Sewell goes back to 1989 and is a slightly disturbing one. She

was dressed as traffic warden and was goose-stepping with several colleagues through the grounds of Denman College. This was of course, a scene in that blockbuster film 'Yellow Peril' and it was a role that she played to perfection. I hope that the reader is not surmising from this that Cheryll's stage career is, or ever was, only suited to 'nasty pieces of work' appearances. My real intention is to say that she was a fine actress who could turn her hand to a whole range of roles.

Rarely one to take a leading part in a play, she appeared as all sorts of odd characters and sometimes more than one in the same production. The opportunities for muddling her lines were ample, but she could be relied upon to be word perfect when the curtain rose and the lights dimmed. Indeed, so good was she at handling scripts that she quickly found herself 'prompt' for a number of shows. In fact so poor were some members of the cast at learning their lines that Cheryll has been known to recite an entire play from the wings whilst the actors mouthed silently under the spotlights.

Being just off stage prompting also put Cheryll in a very handy location for helping with changing props and scenery between acts. Thus, on the fall of the curtain and during the sporadic applause from those members of the audience who were still awake, Cheryll would down scripts and start lugging vast wardrobes and tables across the boards and swivelling tableaux around to turn a country scene into an Edwardian drawing room. And as the curtain began to rise again, so she would leap back to her seat, shuffle through her script and set the next hapless actor off on his ramble through 'Book, Bell and Candle' or which ever play we were massacring at the time.

Proving such an adept hand at handling scenery, it was a natural step to ask Cheryll to start making it too. At times, her front room resembled an artisan's cottage on Victorian Lower Cheapside, it being scattered with odd pieces of old bits and bobs which would eventually end up as policeman's truncheon or a widow's nightcap. Perhaps my favourite was her severed, shrivelled monkey's paw which played a vital part in the play of the same name. It made its first appearance probably as far back as the early 1990s and was still going strong in a resurrection of the play just two years ago at a local prep school where it caused a major health and safety alert when one of the boys dropped it into the stew.

So I hope that the reader will see that in Cheryll, we had a member of the Marcham Players who could turn her hand to anything, whether it be acting, singing, prompting, painting, producing or just using her school teacher charm to corral errant youngsters in to some kind of order. Indeed, on some occasions she did all this simultaneously. What ever she did, she did to the highest of standards and always, always with a smile on her face. Cheryll, we will miss you!

TO

November 2013



## CHERYLL SEWELL AS A FRIEND AND NEIGHBOUR

Cheryll Sewell has been a many faceted person in her time in Marcham: a teacher, a Girl Guide leader, a choir member, a stalwart of amateur dramatics, a Marcham Society committee member and so on; but it is as a neighbour that we know her best. We have had Cheryll as a friend and neighbour for over thirty years. During this time she has looked after our house and the cat in our absence, and we have reciprocated for her in her absence. This mutual trust has come about through a friendship built on caring and humour. We have always known that if we needed something doing, or needed to talk, Cheryll would be there to help, if she could. She is a person who would always welcome you in to talk about anything under the sun. She is sympathetic, caring, good humoured, and is not one to moan; she is, in fact, a person who is always anxious to please. Cheryll's departure will leave a large gap in our lives, but we wish her all the best in following her dreams of the sea.

VC



## CHERYLL SEWELL IN TEACHING

After nine years as a teaching assistant at the Manor Prep in Abingdon where she helped look after small groups of children in class, Cheryll trained at Westminster College Oxford to become a fully qualified teacher. Still based in Marcham, she then commuted daily and taught in two schools in Reading, firstly to "Presentation College" and then "The Elvian". She gradually specialised in helping children with Dyslexia and Aspergers - she also taught the pupils music and ran the school Sailing Club. When Licensed Victuallers closed the Elvian School, Cheryll became a Special Needs Teacher at Cothill, much closer to home but not in a full time post. From a personal standpoint, she was wonderful with our children at the Manor and many children both in and out of school have benefited from her patience, care and creativity. SB

When I asked around about what Cheryll had done during her 30+ years in the village I was amazed find that there were very few activities she hadn't been involved with - we narrowed it down to

**Vicar, Men's Breakfast and Farming** - but I wouldn't be surprised to find she'd had a go at all of those as well! You may also have seen her in the shop and transporting trays of roast potatoes for Village Cafe - I will miss her as a brilliant neighbour and friend but I hear she may have a spare room in her new flat .... !! ML



# Choose Life



On Sunday 27 September we joined with our friends from All Saints on the Anson Field for a Harvest Festival with a difference. Giving our message was Steve Legg - an international speaker who has appeared on stages in over 30 countries around the world and in all the major arenas of the UK, including the Albert Hall. To that impressive CV, he can now add Marcham!! Steve is a talented illusionist and member of the Magic Circle as well as being a committed and very humorous Christian speaker. Steve performed a number of tricks, entertained us well and spoke passionately about the God that he came to know as a teenager and who has given him purpose and direction for life ..... the one true God who wants us all to know him ..... the Creator who loves the whole world.



Now, I don't watch a huge amount of television. In fact the vast majority of programmes that Ruth and I do watch tend to be set up on series link so we watch the things that we want to, when we have time. A couple of evenings ago I was watching the third part of a series I have been following on BBC2 - The Story of The Jews. During that programme, the narrator, Simon Shama, mentioned a piece of scripture from the Jewish Torah, the law of Moses, which are the same books as the first five in the Bible. The verse concerned is from the book of Deuteronomy, where God says to the nation of Israel *"I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice and hold fast to him"*

That passage applies to all people - it is in the Jewish scriptures but this is the same as the Christian Old Testament.. God sets before us all a choice ..... To love Him, give our lives to Him and follow Him, or else to turn our backs on Him and face the eternal consequences. As Steve Legg said so eloquently, God gives meaning and purpose and calls us into relationship with Him, a life with hope and a future. The choice that God gave to the nation of Israel is the same choice that God gives to us today.

Immediately after watching that episode of the Story of the Jews, I switched on something that I hesitate to admit to watching, something that many perhaps would not admit to but I hold my hand up and risk public ridicule ..... I admit it - I watch the X Factor!! I love nearly all genres of music and watch most music programmes on TV. So earlier this week after fast forwarding between the endless chat and nonsense that fills out that over-long programme, I watched one of the boy bands, Kingston Road performing. On the T shirt of one of the young men were two words in large black text - **CHOOSE LIFE**. Yes, this is a slogan from the anti abortion lobby but it is drawn from the Bible.



Jesus said *"I have come that you might have life and life in all its fullness"* As Moses said to the nation of Israel ..... *Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice and hold fast to him"*

God calls us to choose life ..... eternal life that comes from following Christ, giving our lives to Him - and gaining as a result, a real and living relationship that has depth and meaning in this life and beyond.

**Keith Mersh      Pastor Marcham Baptist Church**

Contact    Keith Mersh    Pastor    01865 391881  
Or            Bill Dyer           Elder       01235 814986

## **Speakers in November**

- 3 Nov      - Andrew Pearson
- 10 Nov     - JOINT REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE AT ALL SAINTS
- 17 Nov     - Keith Mersh
- 24 Nov     - Stephen Milford

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,

November is one of those months in the year when there always seems to be a lot going on. The shorter days, and dark mornings and evenings somehow seem to emphasize the busyness – and make it hard to venture out into the colder weather away from the warmth of home! Remembrance Day is this month and Christmas is around the corner, heralded by the Sundays 'before Advent', and the wonderful celebration Sunday of 'Christ the King' [24<sup>th</sup>].

In the midst of full lives it is so important to find space – space to listen, to be renewed in spirit, to catch your breath before the next event or family happening. I would like to commend **The Filling Station** to you. This is a relaxed and informal time of worship, reflection and prayer that takes place in **Manor School**, Shippon on **November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**. It is for anyone who would value space to be renewed in spirit in a Christian worship context, and is free and open to all regardless of church affiliation or none. Do come along – we would love to see you there.

Life is constantly dynamic, nothing remains the same for long, change is part of twenty-first century life. Yet do we have an 'anchor for our souls'? I have found that Jesus is such an anchor. His promises are sure, totally trustworthy, dependable. His care and love are constant – and in this fast moving and ever-changing world I know I need such an anchor – a 'safe place', a place of 'belonging' without pretending, a place of forgiveness, new beginnings, hope – now and for eternity. His invitation is open – to all, whatever our age or background: 'Come to me all who are weary and weighed down – and I will give you rest.' [Matthew 11:28]

May this November be a safe and kind month for you and those you love. Advent is on the horizon – with all the wonder and joy of heralding the King of Kings!

With my warmest greetings,

Richard

**A prayer:** Heavenly Father, Thank you for your call in Jesus; thank you for Advent; thank you for hope and a future. Amen.

## November Events:

- Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> **Men's Breakfast:** 8.30 am at the Sports, Scouts and Social Club
- Sun 10<sup>th</sup> **Remembrance Day Service:** 10.00am at All Saints' followed by wreath laying at the wayside cross
- Wed 20<sup>th</sup> **The Filling Station:** 7.30pm at the Manor School, Shippon  
- all welcome!
- Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> **The Changing Room:** 8.30am in the Boardroom at Manor Farm. The subject will be: "**Jan's Journey on the Road to the Promised Land**"  
Further details from Rachel Gaisford on 391432

## Weekly Events:

**Mums and Toddlers:** Tuesdays at 10.30am in All Saints: For further information contact Mrs Milne on 391962.

**Village Café:** on Wednesdays 12 noon at the Sports, Scouts and Social Club. Everyone welcome.

**Friday Club:** Fridays in All Saints' church at 5.30pm [for primary aged children]

## Services:

**All Saints':** weekly at 10 am and 6 pm  
**St. Luke's:** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> at **12 noon** at the War Memorial in Garford.

## Contact:

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