

December 2013 Vol: 35 No: 12

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



Donald Creasy 1929 – 2013 see page 5



▲ Little Angels see page 17



◀ Shop Volunteers get recognised – see the certificate in the Marcham Shop



▲ Pre-school see page 17 ▶



Pudsey Bear and Friday Club ▶



7 & 8 DECEMBER 2013
DENMAN, OXFORDSHIRE



▲ Marcham Village Diary www.madnews.co.uk/diary
 To get an event included email editor@madnews.co.uk
 with the title, date, time, contact details and a short description

Denman Jam Festival! see page 19 ▶

DECEMBER		
1 Sun	Appleton School Christmas Market, 15.00 – 18.00	17
3 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
4 Wed	Guideposts Open Day, Peachcroft Christian Centre, 10.00 – 15.00	16
5 Thur	Marcham Village Shop Late Night Opening until 20.00	22
6 Fri	Marcham School Christmas Fayre, 18.00 – 20.00	17
7 Sat	Family Christmas Party, MSSSC, Anson Field, 18.30	17
7 & 8	WI Christmas Fair and Real Jam Festival	19
8 Sun	Amahl and the Night Visitors, All Saints' Church, 14.30	
11 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3

12 Thur	Midweek Walk, Queens Head, Horspath, 12.30 lunch/ 13.30 walk	15
12 Thur	WI Christmas Party, Denman College, 19.30	15
12 Thur	Marcham Youth Club, Cricket Field, 19.30	17
13 Fri	All Saint's Christmas Tree Lighting Up, 18.00	19
13 Fri	MP's Surgery, Wantage, 17.30 19.00	13
15 Sun	Crazy Christmas Cracker Run, Beale Park, 11.30	21
15 Sun	Deadline for January MADNews, 17.00	
17 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
21 Sat	Marcham Ex-Servicemen's Club Christmas Draw	21
22 Sun	Candlelit Carol Service, St Lawrence Church, Tubney, 16.00	21
31 Tue	Marcham Ex-Servicemen's Club "Happy New Year", 20.30	21
31 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	

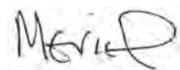
Details of events may change after publication, please check with the relevant organisers before attending events.

Dear Readers

Well, here it is the December issue of MADNews, full of Christmas cheer, Christmas events, wishes for Merry Christmas and pictures of trees, holly, snow people and the Tardis... what are they doing there! You never know when the Doctor is going to turn up.. and what face he (I was so longing for Joanna Lumley!!) will be wearing! Have fun spotting all the seasonally inappropriate images!

Have fun, keep warm and support the shop over the holidays... the volunteers will be there... will you??

Until next time



PUBLISHER / EDITOR

Meriel Lewis
8 Orchard Way, Marcham
Abingdon OX13 6PP
Tel: 01865 391725
Website: www.madnews.co.uk
Email: editor@madnews.co.uk

ADVERTISING

Fran Russell: adverts@madnews.co.uk
Adverts are not endorsed and MADNews makes no guarantees as to accuracy or authenticity.

DISTRIBUTORS

Judith & Peter Fontaine
14 Tower Close, Marcham
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DEADLINES

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

ADDITIONAL COPIES

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

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.

POLICE

PCSO Andy McCormack C9461
PCSO Myra Stokes (for Garford)
Just dial 101 (non-emergency)

CRIMESTOPPERS

Call 0800 555 111 (anonymous calls)

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Call Free from any phone - 111

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Richard Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton
Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
Tel: 01235 534001

richard.webber@oxfordshire.gov.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon
Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton
Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
Tel: 01235 534001

catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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December 2013

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Council Vacancy

The casual vacancy that occurred on the Parish Council has now been filled. The Council was pleased to co-opt Stuart Young at its November meeting. Stuart has lived in the village for 25 years. The Council welcomes Stuart at what is a very busy time with much going on within Marcham. Stuart will serve until the next elections which are to be held in May 2015.

Parishioner of the Year Award

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

School Transport

The council has launched a new consultation on proposals to reduce the amount it spends on home-to-school transport. The County Council has to find huge savings right across its services, and is currently providing school transport to a greater level than the statutory requirement. Go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/htspconsultation and give your comments on line. Also a public meeting to discuss the matter will be held on Tuesday 10th December at Larkmead School, Abingdon at 7.00 p.m.

Local Housing Guidance

The Vale of White Horse District Council has planning and design guidelines for housing. In view of the outline planning application already approved for housing in Marcham and the probability of likely future applications the Parish Council has been considering its own housing principles which reflect the particular needs of the village of Marcham. It believes the the rural character of the village should be preserved, so dwellings should not create an urban feel, and developments should provide an appropriate mix of housing including the consideration of bungalows. Comments on the height and materials to be used too have been made. For the full details of the specific items, then check the Marcham Parish Council website.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The Council tax benefit scheme has

ceased to exist and has been replaced by the council tax reduction scheme. The reduction will take the form of a discount on the council tax bill for eligible persons. As central government funding is gradually reducing, the Vale of White Horse District Council continues to administer its own local scheme. The Parish Council will have to take into account the reduction scheme and the effect on local council tax bills when setting its budget.

Grants

The Parish Council considered all the grant applications at its November meeting and has allocated its available budget for 2013/14 by supporting The Anson Trust with grass cutting in the anson field, the Parochial Church Council with repairs to Church windows that were vandalized plus works to lighting, and grants to village and other organizations where Marcham residents benefit such as the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been considered by the Council:
P13/V2046/FUL Erection of 18 dwellings with associated garages, and access road, associated works, and public open space. Land south of the A415, adjacent to The Priory. The Council objected to the proposal on grounds of impact on the open rural feel at the entrance point to the village, the impact on the Priory, the dangers of the proposed junction and entrance point to the site, drainage issues and lack of capacity at the primary school

P13/V2269/FUL Erection of attached dwelling at 26 Haines Court. The Council objected to a new dwelling owing to the detrimental impact on the character of the street scene and concerns regarding parking.

Date of Next Council Meeting: Wednesday 11th December, 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

The Council wishes everyone a happy Christmas

FOR SALE

2 full size water butts with bases £10 each. Keith & Ruth Mersh 391881



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,

Jean and her family would like to thank all the many friends who came to Donald's Memorial Service on November 7th, and who have send cards and loving messages. To be surrounded by so much help and kindness has been a great blessing and comfort.

Jillian Creasy

My father was a man of action so I will organise my reflections into the three modes of action: feeling, thinking, and doing.

Feelings: Donald didn't talk much about feelings – certainly not with his four teenage daughters. The only time we ever saw him cry was when our eldest sister Susan died, or on the rare occasions he talked about that turning point in our family life. He introduced us to the world of feelings and emotions via poetry and literature. He read to us older girls at bedtime every night – the Just So Stories, Swallows and Amazons, Treasure Island, Alice in Wonderland and his special favourite, Rumer Godden's "Episode of Sparrows". He also read us adult books such as Silas Marner, Lark Rise to Candleford and Edgar Allen Poe's short stories, which he hid from Jean so she wouldn't find out he was scaring us to death late at night.

Thinking: Donald's fascination with numbers, puzzles and cards was legendary. Most people here will have been treated to Donald's brain teasers, produced when people came to the house, or even more embarrassingly for us children when we went to theirs. He would bring a paper or a wooden puzzle out of his pocket and have people thinking for hours. For Donald, thinking was a serious business.

Doing: Doing and making was what he did best, the best way he knew to express himself. This wasn't just a matter of DIY (though he was of course a "bricoleur exceptionnel"); it was a matter of conceiving, planning and realising major creative projects.

He created the houses in France out of virtual ruins, and when he had finished those he began on the surrounding area, mapping the places of interest on the hill above the village, Esparon – the mushroom cave, the witch's house – and clearing and marking the red dot path up to the tourette, the stone tower where you can sit and look out over the Arre valley and the Causse beyond. All our homes and gardens have been touched by him, either directly in the things he has mended and made and mapped for us, or through the skills he taught us, or at the very least in our willingness to embark on major practical projects.

The picture on the cover is Donald fixing a weathervane to the roof of the workshop at 14 Mill Road. It was soon after he and Jean arrived there. The weathervane would have been scrounged from somewhere. He hid it in a barn at the Cumbers' farm and fettled it up in secret. Then, on Christmas Day, he walked us all down to the farm and carried it back to the house over his shoulder. I remember us holding the ladder for him as he hoisted this great metal cross aloft and dropped it into the brackets which were ready and waiting and in exactly the right place, of course.

I think this story says all the important things about him –
 the desire to create something both useful and beautiful,
 the planning and execution,
 the standard of work,
 his sheer physical strength,
 the way he kept it secret and turned the revelation into an occasion for us to enjoy and remember.

And of course the fact that the whole endeavour was his Christmas present for Jean. I love everything this picture says about him. He loved words, he loved The Word, but no words were needed.

He was and is beyond words.
 December 2013

At the service four people gave their memories of Donald, I have taken parts of each to give a snapshot of the service and of Donald. The full texts, and Donald's own "obituary" are given in full on the MADNews website www.madnews.co.uk *Editor*

Donations in Donald's memory may be made to
 The Parkinson's Society Marcham Moldova Lifeline

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
 CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

www.parkinsons.org.uk/donate
 Call 020 7932 1303



Marcham
 Moldova
 Lifeline
 c/o Eric Dunford
 01865 391439

Don Farrar

When I go to a service of someone I knew, I want to learn about the part of their life which I didn't know about.

In 1939 Donald's father sent Donald to join his elder brother, Martin at Kingswood, the Methodist School in Bath, which he himself had attended in 1900-04. However, the war had broken out in 1939 and the Admiralty had commandeered Kingswood's building. Westwood, the preparatory school was evacuated to Chieveley to live in the house of Mr Palmer of Huntley and Palmer fame. The main school was evacuated to Uppingham School in Rutland. I was four years ahead of him, and he showed himself to be an able scholar and a more than useful cross country runner.

After school, we did not meet again until Cambridge in 1948 where we were both allocated to J Group of the University Methodist Society, along with another fresher from my college, St Catharine's, Peter Hilton and a girl from Homerton, Jean Monk. J Group never restricted itself to discussion on social and religious issues, and two weddings took place!

After 1951 our ways parted but we discovered some years later that all three of us had gone to work in Nigeria without knowing the others were there.

In 1951 we little realised that we would go on to celebrate our Silver, Golden and Diamond wedding together. The highlight was the Golden Wedding celebration in Molières-Cavaillac which was beautifully arranged for the occasion with music from the Creasy daughters and the eldest child in each family proposed a toast to their own parents.

So Donald had a life on which he could look back with pride: a loving wife, four very able and beautiful daughters and similarly gifted grand-children. The Parkinson's disease which marred his final years and eventually killed him was borne bravely and with humour (he always claimed he would die by being run over by a bus as he fell off a pavement). The fact that so many have come to this service, some from distance away, to pay respects to his memory show in what affection and esteem we held him. You did indeed have a wonderful man living amongst you – we thank God for his life.

Tony Binns

I first knew Donald professionally in 1974 and straightaway recognised him as the kind friend that he continued to be.

My wife Jackie and I were homeless for a time, having left Yorkshire and trying to get set up in the South. Without hesitation Donald and Jean entrusted to us their lovely Port Hill House, garden produce, chickens and all, for several weeks while they were away in France. It is true to say that that was one of the happiest times in our life and, just as now, even though he wasn't there with us, the effect of Donald's character was like a tangible presence.

The transformation to l’Ancienne Boulangerie was quite miraculous, most of the work done by Donald single-handed (he wasn’t slowed down even by a broken arm in plaster). Everything was under control and just as it should be. Donald was even capable of controlling the random striking of the Molières church clock which had little to do with time-keeping and was always a mystery to us, but Donald somehow knew exactly when it was about to chime.

He was the same at work at Fulmer Grange. With no fuss Donald made sure that all was under control, as it should be in the laboratories for which he was in charge, no matter whether it was a routine test or for one of our colleague Bob Wilson’s ambitious projects that involved gangs of inexperienced students, huge quantities of timber, reinforcement, concrete and, for some reason, vast volumes of water. The potential for chaos was enormous, yet Donald made sure that order prevailed in his laboratories. Donald supported and inspired the members of his department by team leadership and in return, he won loyalty and respect. With no regard to his own safety he fearlessly fought for his technicians who were not in a position to negotiate with top management. Donald could be quite a rebel. Never a yes-man, he would delight in taking on the establishment to put right any discrimination or unfairness.

Talking of taking on the establishment, it didn’t stop there. Donald would famously tackle Her Majesty’s Inland Revenue. No tax code number ever went unchallenged. Not that he bothered to calculate what the correct figure ought to have been but, based on his probability theory, he reckoned that it was more than likely that the tax code had been miscalculated by incompetent clerical staff in the tax office. His correspondence with Inland Revenue was a never-ending saga that perhaps reached a high point when the tax office unwittingly made a trap for itself by including the latin phrase *de facto*. Donald very reasonably asked them not to use foreign language since there was a risk that it may be misinterpreted. Inland Revenue stubbornly replied to the effect that there are times when only a latin phrase will do. Donald retaliated, his response strung with every known latin phrase that he could trawl up. There was more latin than English in that letter. At which point they surrendered. Some latin phrases, of course, are in everyday usage and Donald did not object to *per annum* until that occasion when Inland Revenue timorously suggested that he might consider paying so much, not per annum, but *per anum*, to which Donald replied that he would prefer paying through the nose as usual.

My enduring memory of him will be the sight of him arriving at work every day in his beloved Spitfire sports car, announcing with glee that he had yet again set a new record in fuel economy. An enviable blend of joyfulness, intelligence and good sense, an inspiration to me and to all whose lives he touched, by virtue simply of teaching by example.

Revd Richard Zair

The vicar of Benson wrote in the July 1978 Benson Parish News: *“This month we take leave of Jean and Donald Creasy who, with their family, are leaving Benson to take up residence in Marcham. They have been vitally concerned in the life and activity of the Parish Church and have given most valued service willingly and unselfishly. Jean has been especially concerned with the Sunday School, but she has also served on the PCC, while Donald has been both People’s and Vicar’s*

Warden, and a member of the PCC since 1965. It would take too long to list all the Creasy family have done behind the scenes, but we shall be eternally grateful to Donald for the lead he gave with the restoration of the interior of the Church and to Jean and her family who always helped to clean up the mess after each session. With his professional skill and his insistence on perfection Donald has been the spearhead of the restoration work. I shall always picture him, balancing on the highest steps of a ladder restoring in colour the carvings of the Church roof which had been hidden for centuries....Nor has their contribution been confined to the church. They have participated in the life of the community and its organisations, especially Donald’s work and service to the Parish Council, of which he was Chairman for a period of years.”

It has been a personal pleasure to have known Donald for even the few years I have been here. I had enormous respect for him, and it has been such a privilege to serve Donald and Jean in some small way as their Priest. We shall miss him greatly, and remember him with huge affection and love. He is now at peace, and in the glorious freedom of heaven, with the Lord he loved. If you had asked Donald to give you his philosophy of life he would have quoted the King of Brobdingnag in Gulliver’s Travels and say that he would like to leave two ears of corn or two blades of grass growing upon a spot of ground where only one grew before. (The king gave it as his opinion that such a person would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country, than the whole race of politicians put together.) He tried to live up to another maxim – in contemplating any action think about the probable overall consequences; if the situation is likely to be worse because of the action, don’t do it!

He was also very aware that he failed to live up to to the charge given by his headmaster on leaving school:

Go forth into the world in peace

Be of good cheer

Hold fast that which is good

Render to no man evil for evil

Strengthen the faint-hearted

Support the weak

Comfort the afflicted

Honour all men

Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit

MARCHAM PLAYERS

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of one of our members. Donald Creasy was part of Marcham Players for many years and continued a stalwart even when illness was playing havoc with his daily life. I remember Donald, mostly for the amazing props he made. A grand piano made for a sketch lasting less than five minutes, which converted into an upright piano for another sketch. The



BBC microphone in the picture which is made of wood! The BBC microphone was used by Donald in one of his rare appearances on stage, who could forget his brilliant performance as Kenneth Williams. Donald was invariably there with Jean at play readings, where he took on the voice of many characters, including women when the need arose! He was also a very keen participant at our ‘With Great Pleasure’ evenings. He always had a wealth of poems or prose to fit any occasion. I particularly enjoyed his telling of a true ghost story at our Halloween evening. **CFS**
w w w . m a r c h a m p l a y e r s . c o . u k

Dear Editor

It is clear that the proposed housing developments in Marcham will bring considerable change to our village, and it is essential that the practical implications of this are carefully considered, particularly in terms of our village infrastructure.

However, I was dismayed to read a letter in this month's MADNews suggesting that the new housing development might bring with it "possibly a new crop of dysfunctional families or individuals..."

As a relatively new arrival to Marcham myself, I am grateful that I have only ever been made to feel welcome in this community, and to feel that my contribution to our village life was of value. Surely this is the kind of positive message that we should be sending to people who will be joining the Marcham community of tomorrow.

MARY EMBLETON

Letter From Dubai

Well here I am in sunny and sandy Dubai, I arrived on Sunday 1st Sept at 8.00am (local time 5am Uk time) in 40 degree humid heat. Went to bed early that night as had been up for at least 20hrs. Woke up Monday with thoughts of no work for 4mths (I wish it were that simple to forget work) wondering how I can fill my days - well I've done lots since my arrival.

Spent quite a bit of money in the many malls here, I've acquired a couple of dresses (yes DRESSES for those of you who know me), been to a couple of brunches (buffet style breakfast and lunch and you can have as much as you want - Heaven), almost got lost in a taxi going back to my sister's villa (after getting directions from her in the first place).

Went to a Kennels and Cattery (not to sleep in) where Paula works, helped fuss and play with some of the boarders, they mostly have Dogs and Cats (as it's a kennel and cattery) to the unusual e.g. Parrots, Doves, Chinchillas etc, speaking of pets - free to a good home is a white rabbit called Barry, which Paula and I have been looking after as it was dumped in her compound garden (can be sent 1st class!), Pebbles (Paula's dog) thinks its something to eat, so we end up chasing it trying to catch it to move it to let Pebbles out.

I've spent most of my time volunteering at a special needs school, where a friend of Paula's called Amanda works. The school has 188 pupils from Toddlers to the age of 22yrs. The class I help in has 5 children from 7-9yrs, they all have cerebral palsy, three of the children are in wheelchairs, the other two are lucky and can walk, they are all different nationalities. I have also been

to the beach a couple of times, a water park which has lots of slides (one even goes through a fish tank with sharks), I wasn't brave enough to do that one!!

By the time you read this I will have been up the Burj Khalifa (the tallest building in the world), camping in the desert and hopefully a camel ride.

A big HELLO to 1st Marcham Rainbows and Brownies, 5th Abingdon (Marcham) Cubs, Marcham Bellringers, the folk at Duffield who use the Mini-bus and everyone else who knows me.

GOOD BYE

see you in 2 months time (maybe!!!)

CLAIRE WRIGHT (Ivy)

BOGUS CALLS

Since the beginning of November, Oxford Trading Standards have received 6 complaints from elderly residents who have been cold called by telephone by a carpet company who state they are in the area and offering to clean carpets for £19.99. Workers come and clean the carpet, but then issue a bill for anything between £300-700 and insist that this cost is paid. Please be aware of these calls and refuse the 'service' which they offer. If you have received a phone call recently from a carpet company offering to clean your carpet for £19.99, or know of anyone who has please contact the Doorstep Crime Team at Oxfordshire Trading Standards on 0845 051 0845 (option 2),

FEELING UNWELL? IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY / 999 IF YOU CHOOSE WELL

- You get the right care, first time
- You will often be treated more quickly than at A&E
- It helps free up the emergency departments to treat people with life threatening conditions.



There are lots of different ways people can access the right NHS service and make sure they get the right treatment, at the right time and a place that is convenient for them. By choosing well you will get the right treatment and help busy NHS services care for the people who really need them.

- For critical or a life-threatening situation call 999
- For illness outside GP hours call 111
- For minor injuries to MIU at Marcham Road Hospital
- For out of hours emergency dentist call 0845 345 8995
- For colds and coughs - talk to the pharmacist
- For online help www.nhs.uk

Be Prepared If you are pregnant, are aged over 65, or have a long term health condition (such as diabetes, asthma and a heart condition), you can get a free seasonal flu jab from your GP. Check your medicine chest (and the expiry dates!)

- Paracetamol or ibuprofen for pain and / or fever in adults or children
- Anti-diarrhoeal medicine
- Rehydration mixture
- Plasters
- A thermometer



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR BANK HOLIDAYS 2013/2014

Normal collection day	Revised collection day	Which bin?
Monday 23 December	Collection as normal	grey
Tuesday 24 December	Collection as normal	grey
Wednesday 25 December	Friday 27 December	grey
Thursday 26 December	*Saturday 28 December	grey
Friday 27 December	Monday 30 December	grey
Monday 30 December	Tuesday 31 December	green
Tuesday 31 December	Thursday 2 January 2014	green (no gw)
Wednesday 1 January 2014	Friday 3 January	green (no gw)
Thursday 2 January	*Saturday 4 January	green (no gw)
Friday 3 January	Monday 6 January	green (no gw)
Monday 6 January	Tuesday 7 January	grey
Tuesday 7 January	Wednesday 8 January	grey
Wednesday 8 January	Thursday 9 January	grey
Thursday 9 January	Friday 10 January	grey
Friday 10 January	Saturday 11 January	grey

Please note that Saturday collections will start from 6am, an hour earlier than usual so please remember to put your bin out the night before

No gw – no garden waste collection – will re-commence Monday 13 January

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

On 7th December this year Small Business Saturday will be coming to the UK. It is one day of the year when across the country people are encouraged to do their shopping exclusively in small businesses. Businesses supporting the day provide special offers to help encourage the public to shop small. The initiative has been a great success in the United States, where it was pioneered by American Express and was quickly taken up across the country by Federal and state authorities, big businesses and many other organisations. President Obama famously took part in 2012, visiting his local bookshop 'One More Page.'



This is not a Government led effort. Many businesses, organisations and local authorities are backing it. But the Prime Minister and Government are fully behind the event and are working with American Express and other partners to help ensure it gives the biggest possible boost to small business.

We have some fantastic small businesses across the Constituency, and this is just the right time of year to be out shopping, so why not join in? Ian and Rebekah Pugh of Faringdon saved £895 in a year of shopping on local independent stores rather than supermarkets, which shows just what a good idea this can be.

This month the largest chunk of correspondence from my constituents has been about the lobbying bill. It has been suggested that Bill could stop charities, local organisations and campaigners from expressing opinions on some policy and political issues. However, as I have said in all my replies, the Government has gone to great lengths to make it as clear as possible that only third party groups that campaign for the electoral success of a particular political party or candidate will be affected by this Bill. Any organisation campaigning solely on policy issues will not be included in these changes. Despite this, I am pleased that Ministers have listened to the concerns raised by charities and have undertaken to see if it could be made even clearer in the Bill and amendments have now been tabled to do just that.

As the festive season approaches, may I wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous new year.

As ever please feel free to contact me at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or vaizeye@parliament.uk. Surgery details can be found at www.vaizey.com.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

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

13th Dec	Wantage , Civic Hall, OX12 9BX
Contact Ed Vaizey MP by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Shortage of money is once again the headline this month. OCC's lack of money is going to mean that we all need to be very clever with how we operate and plan the County services. Everyone agrees that of all transport issues, road safety should always be near the top of the priority list.

Finding ways of increasing safety at the new zebra crossing in Packhorse Lane have been discussed by the Parish Council. Together we have been looking at ways of identifying means to make the crossing more noticeable, particularly to eastbound
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traffic. High intensity lighting around the globes seem to be the best option. I will keep you informed of progress.

Catherine is writing on our combined initiative over a possible HGV ban through the village. These things take time to happen and we will have to be patient, but at this stage, I am hopeful and again, will report back as school Governing body representatives, I have had a discussion with the County Council Education dept. All of us seem to be agreed that the ambition of the school "to stay where it is for the foreseeable future, in the centre of the village it serves, and adjoining the green open space of the Anson Field" is both reasonable and achievable – even with all the extra housing that might come to the village over the coming decades.

There is space for additional classrooms particularly if some school use of the Field could be made.

There is still some money left in the Community grant pot. If you have a local community project run by a committee and need some help, please contact me.

RICHARD WEBBER CLLR (Marcham & Shippon), OCC

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Air Pollution

Since I first became your District Councillor, I have become increasingly concerned about the air pollution in Packhorse Lane. Recent scientific studies have shared my concern over air pollution and its possible consequences. Packhorse Lane is close to qualifying as an AQMA – an Air Quality management Area - and now that traffic is regularly being held up at the new zebra crossing (delighted to see it so heavily used!) – and will be held up even more by cars entering and exiting any new developments south of the lane - more and more exhaust fumes will be pumped out by queuing cars and lorries. Hence it is urgent we reduce the traffic, ideally by restricting the Lane to cars only and ban HGVs from the centre of Marcham. Such a ban is difficult to bring about, particularly when the justification is a District concern (Air Pollution) and the solution is an impoverished County concern (an HGV) ban. A husband and wife District and County team are in an ideal position to work on this problem!

Surgeries

What a fantastic Community Shop you have in Marcham! Both Richard and I thoroughly enjoyed holding our second surgery on Saturday 5th November where, over a cup of delicious coffee, we met yet more new faces, even though most had come in to shop, rather than see us. Please do feel free to come and have a chat with us to air any problem or make any comment you feel we can assist you with. The next edition of MADNews will publicise the dates of all surgeries for 2014. Furthermore, we are opening them up to the residents of Shippon in future and hope they will visit us there (and spend lots of money in the shop!).

CATHERINE WEBBER, CLLR (Marcham & Shippon), VWHDC
01235 534001 or catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

Look out for copies of
Jay's New All-in-One
Just for Fun Quiz.
Only £1 for local good causes
(last year's quiz raised £60)



**VILLAGE CAFE
EVERY WEDNESDAY
MSSC**



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, December 12th.

For this short winter walk we will meet at the Queens Head (Map Ref SP573049) in Church Road, Horspath, just east of Oxford, at 12.30 for lunch or 1.30 for the start of the walk of about three miles. We will be walking towards Headington and climbing up to Shotover Plain before dropping back down to Horspath.

Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers.

Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.



SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Due to illness, there will be no "Singing" for a while.

We wish Christine a speedy recovery... just take it easy for a while!



**Marcham WI
19.30 12 December
Denman College
Christmas Party**

Fun and Games
Bring and Share Christmas Buffet
Bran Tub

*Contacts for any questions,
new members or visitors
Christine Denton 01865 391497*



**THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION
POPPY APPEAL 2013**

A very big thank you to everyone from Marcham, Garford, Cothill and Frilford who so generously gave to the above appeal. The grand sum of £3894.04 was raised which was significantly higher than in 2012.

Again many thanks to the collectors and to those who gave so generously. Many thanks
CHRISTINE AND MALCOLM DENTON
Honoury Organisers.

DIABETES DOESN'T NEED TO SPOIL YOUR CHRISTMAS

For most people, Christmas is a time for treats and a bit of over-indulgence and with the thought that any extra pounds gained can be lost in the New Year. However, for someone with diabetes, Christmas is a time of temptation, unpredictable or delayed meals, extra nibbles, excitement and stress, all of which can lead to varying blood sugars.

We recognise that Christmas can be a difficult time for people who have Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, especially the first Christmas with diabetes, so we have an information pack which includes our booklet. 'Diabetes – Everyday Eating' and our 'Christmas Tips'. These give various options for Christmas dinners, a recipe for homemade, lower carbohydrate and calorie Christmas pudding and many other tips to make life a little easier over the festivities. Contact IDDT on 01604 622837 or martin@iddtinternational.org. Diabetes booklets also available in Marcham Shop & PO.

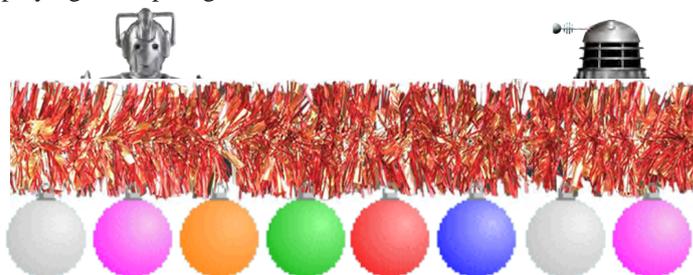
MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The Club will be pleased to welcome new players for the 2014 Season. Information concerning Nets will be given in the New Year.

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



CSB



THE MARTIN THORNE VIDEOS

Peter Pan

Another early Cubs production and, as usual, the enthusiasm (and volume) of the singing is evident throughout this colourful production.

PETER PAN DVDS FREE IN MARCHAM SHOP NOW!

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:

- * Happiest Days of Your Life (Marcham Players)
- * Children at Work! Marcham School November 1992
- * V E Day Remembered
- * Marcham Cubs "Oliver"
- * Marcham Players "Sweeney Todd"

MT

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

STUCK FOR AN UNUSUAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT?

Local Wine is the answer.

Bothy Vineyard, Frilford Heath, will re-open for just two days (Friday 20 and Saturday 21 December) in the run-up to Christmas. We will be releasing our sparkling rose wine (2012) and a new red from the excellent 2011 vintage. Also on sale - Oxford Fume (white), wine-related cards and a selection of other little gifts.

11 am - 6 pm on these days, or by appointment.

01865 390067 office@bothyvineyard.co.uk

www.bothyvineyard.co.uk

www.facebook.com/bothyvineyard



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24 Hours a day... 7 Days a week... 365 Days a year

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Jon Parker
CALL FREEPHONE 0800 015 4767
Tel: 01235239001 Mobile: 07540 018295
E: draindoctor123@yahoo.com
W: www.draindoctoroxford.co.uk

Our next **Open Day** will be on Wednesday, 4 December from 10 am to 3 pm.

The theme for this open day will be **Assistive Technology**, when we hope to have a range aids, such as pendant alarms, easy to use telephones, medication reminders as well as aids for those with a hearing or visual impairment.

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

Wantage Association of Retired Persons (WARP) welcomes retired people over 50 from Wantage and surrounding areas. The monthly meetings are held at 2pm in Wantage Civic Hall on the first Wednesday, with a guest speaker, refreshments and raffle. The group also organises monthly pub lunches, line dancing, outings and holidays.

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 to view the full programme of upcoming events; telephone Mary 01235 764573 for more information; or just pop along to a meeting.

Complimentary Therapies by Carole

Qualified in: Reiki Healing;
Creative Kinesiology
Massage

For further details or to book an appointment:
Tel: 0745 3097763
Email: caroleknight21@talktalk.net

MSSSC

Family Christmas Party

6.30pm Sat 7 December

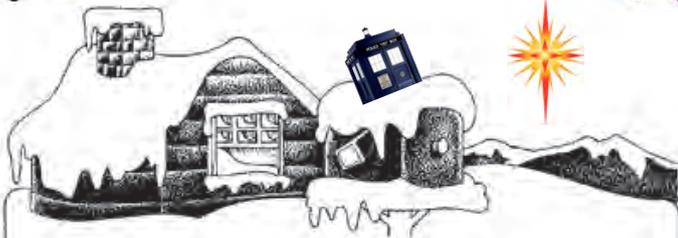
Come and join us for fun and games

Bar open all evening

£5 per family

All Welcome

Marion 07507 797 757



**Marcham School
Christmas Fayre**

Friday 6th December 6-8pm

Everyone welcome!

Free Entrance for Children

Father Christmas and Secret Store.

Mulled wine, mince pies, turkey rolls, cakes and bar.
Raffle, Bingo, Tombola, Games and Christmas Stalls.

MARCHAM YOUTH CLUB

We are looking for new members to join our Youth Club. Numbers seem to have dropped recently, so we are going to start afresh in the New Year. Come along and meet us on Thursday 12th December 7.30pm in Cricket Field and let's have a little chat together about what you would like us to do for you in the New Year. We can go skating, swimming, bowling, cinema, the choice is endless. For more information contact Chris Ricketts 391329



**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**

BABIES AND TODDLERS GROUP

Tuesday mornings in the Church

10.00 – 11.30.

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



MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

In support of Children in Need this year, the staff at Marcham Pre-school invited the children and parents to 'sponsor a spot' and were then face painted by the children, which they all thoroughly enjoyed!!! How often do you get to draw all over your 'teacher'?? There children also had fun coming to pre-school in their pyjamas!! We are delighted to have raised over £60 and would like to thank everyone who showed their support.



If you would like to join Marcham Pre-school (we accept children from age 2), please contact us on 01865 392101 or marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk We are filling spaces for September 2014 and beyond, so if you might be interested at any time in the future, please register your interest now!!

MARION, NICKY, KATHARINE, SAM AND NATASHA

marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

ABINGDON LITTLE ANGELS

Baby room - the Babies have had a busy November listening to a variety of music during our topic of dance and have used their creativeness to produce great movement and swaying, clapping to the music in their very own style of dance. The Babies have been visiting Toddler group and meeting up with other village babies on a Tuesday. The babies have also been dressing up in their nativity costumes ready to be the animals in the stable for the nativity play.



Abingdon Little Angels
building blocks for life



Pre-school room - The pre-school have really got into our topic of dance and have made fans and joined in with flamenco dancing, made ballet shoes and practices our pirouettes and sat and listened to the story Sawn Lake. We have disco danced and made our own disco ball lights with tin foil, balloons and paper Mache, great fun. On remembrance day the children painted their very own poppies and sat well for the two minute silence. The children have also been busy make their props for the nativity play, sheep, camels and gifts for the baby Jesus. Well done pre-school room – great month.

We also have a new home corner unit this month which the children are really enjoying and creating lots of role play and having the opportunity to express them self creatively and socially.

After school club - What a great month we have had, The half term week was focused on Harry Potter, we dressed up and had broom stick races on the field, Quidditch match and even sat with the sorting hat on our heads to decided which house we would be in, the children then drew their house flags and hung them from the ceiling We visited Ollivander's and found our special wands and painted the wall for platform 9 3/4 . Great fun at After school club.

If you would like any further information about Abingdon Little Angels Nursery, After School Club, Holiday Club or Art Club please feel free to call in or telephone us on 07516 474287 or email info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk

GARD UPDATE

We are now nearly at the end of the five year process of water resources planning by Thames Water. Last time the process culminated in the Public Inquiry which, with others, we won and the massive reservoir proposed by Thames Water was ruled out as inappropriate, but that did not mean it had permanently disappeared. Therefore GARD has continued to put strong pressure on Thames Water challenging anything which we see as wrong, biased or being deliberately swept under the carpet to further the prospect of resurrecting the reservoir.

The present five year planning process has calculated a small shortfall in supply for our area (Swindon and West Oxfordshire) and an increasingly large shortfall for London. GARD does not dispute this, and following consultation with all stakeholders Thames Water plan to meet the greater demand by the treatment of more effluent and waste water, as well as cutting their pipe leakage and the compulsory introduction of water meters together with efforts to reduce personal consumption. There seems to have been little objection from the public despite the “yuck” factor of using recycled effluent.

Unfortunately the forecasts for the longer term situation 2020 to 2040 show a very large shortfall for London due to population increases and possible climate change. Thames Water plans to meet this by one of three options: more re-use, a reservoir or large scale transfers of water from the river Severn. It is the last of these which GARD sees as the cheapest and most appropriate but Thames Water has been very slow to investigate it and we are putting strong pressure on the company to expedite the work and be transparent in their studies as well as impartial in their assessments of the relative costs. We are particularly concerned that to date they have ignored offers from both United Utilities and Severn Trent Water to supply Thames Water from their resources. We are keeping the Regulators Ofwat and the Environment informed.

We will therefore be keeping up the pressure although the next plan is five years away. GARD updates will be less frequent, but anyone who wishes to know more is welcome to contact me.

NICK THOMPSON Hon Chairman GARD

WATER RATES PRICES PRESSURE

District Councillor (Sutton Courtenay and Appleford) Gervase Duffield is to move at the December 11 meeting of the Vale Council the following motion:

‘That this Council welcomes Ofwat’s rejection of the recent Thames Water price increase application, and hopes that Ofwat will be specially vigilant on large applications costing vast sums where these can be undercut by reliable cheaper methods.’

NB The substance will not change but there could be minor verbal changes in discussions with those involved in the planning of the debate.

ALL SAINTS’ CHRISTMAS TREE CELEBRATION

Lighting-up event
6pm Friday
13th December
All Saints’ Church,
including Christmas refreshments.
Theme - Christmas Carols
For more details contact
Jill Rowe 07811 165351
jill.rowe.ycm@googlemail.com

The trees have been donated (once again),
by Murray Maclean of Frilford.

DENMAN COLLEGE, MARCHAM

Did you know that you can stay at Denman College without being a WI member...
or even female?

The courses are open to everyone and you can even book B&B. Everyone is welcome — men and women, members and non-members. They also cater for groups of friends or hen parties looking for something a bit different. There’s even a range of cookery courses for families, so the smaller members of the family can get hands-on.
B&B rates from £59 (single) £89 (double) with meals available.
Pick up a brochure from the college or Marcham Shop call 01865 391991 or go to www.denman.org.uk



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. To find out more or to order your tickets for the Festival, please visit 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!



St Lawrence Church, Tubney
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 for more information or contact Sarah at sarah@againstbreastcancer.org.uk or by calling 01235 534211.

www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk



Cinderella

By Liz Adams



CINDERELLA
 THE SPECTACULAR FAMILY PANTOMIME

ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB

ADC - in 3D since 1944

www.abingdon-drama-club.com

Employer getting you down? Kids just won't cooperate? Parents a total nightmare? It's the same in fairyland, where nothing's going right for teenagers Ella, Adam and Buttons. Luckily this is pantomime, where magic and mischief can combine to create the perfect happy ending - but is that even what they want? Find out in this 21st century retelling of a traditional tale

Friday 17th Jan - 7:30pm

Saturday 18th Jan - 2:30pm and 7:30pm

Sunday 19th Jan - 2:30pm

Thursday 23rd Jan - 7:30pm

Friday 24th Jan - 7:30pm

Saturday 25th Jan - 2:30pm and 7:30pm

Tickets £10 (£7 concessions)/Family Ticket £30

available from: The Bookstore, The Abingdon Precinct

The Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon

www.abingdon-drama-club.com

December 2013

MARCHAM AND DISTRICT EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB
 NORTH STREET, MARCHAM

All members, registered members and registered partners
 Every Saturday Between 9.30 and 10.45
"IN TO WIN"

Prize Stands At £160 On 24th November 2013
 £10 Added Each Week The Winner In Not In Club To Collect
 Prizes Won To Date (17 November 2013)
 £50, £90, And £120

There have been 26 draws since May and 23 registered members who were not in the club at time of draw have missed out!

The winning number holder must be in the club at time of draw to collect.

If the holder of the winning ticket is not in the club bar area

Saturday 21st December
Christmas draw



Tickets still available in the club

31st December 8.30pm

EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB

Happy New Year!

BOOK EARLY - TICKETS AVAILABLE AT CLUB

ENJOY THE RETURN OF DUO
NOW & THEN

Entry £3.00 each

Includes first drink and finger Buffet.

MEMBERS AND MEMBERS BONA FIDE GUESTS

Harmony Inspires is a ladies a capella singing group who meet in Appleton village Hall every Wednesday evening.

We are holding three evenings

"Come Back to Singing"

in January 2014 - 15th, 22nd and 29th

from 7.30 to 10.00pm

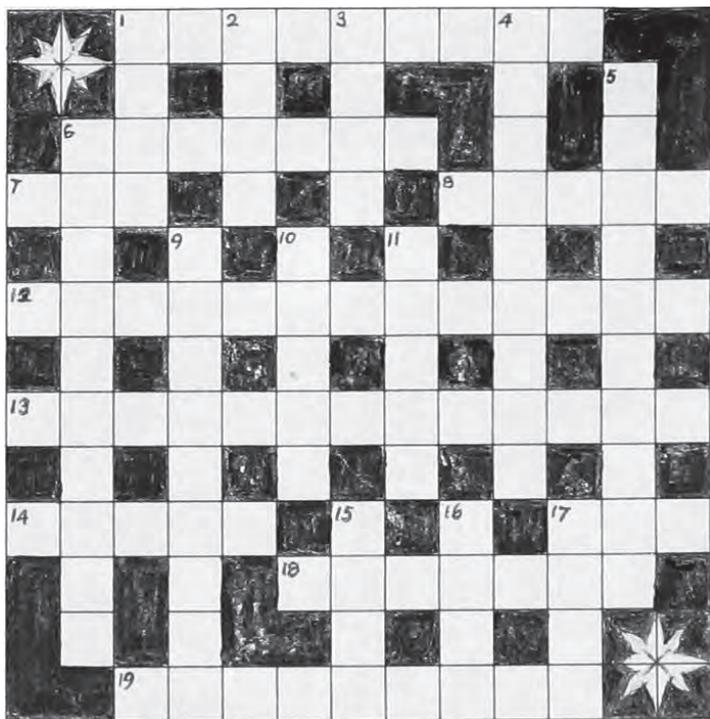
Contact Christine at

Harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk or

07787 831 831 for more information



CROSSWORD BY ALISA



Across

- 1 Abundant (9)
- 6 Small group member (7)
- 7 Fish (3)
- 9 Mistletoe fruit (5)
- 12 What children can do at Appleton Craft Fair (8.5)
- 13 School with a pool (6.7)
- 14 Song (5)
- 17 Number (3)
- 18 Greet (7)
- 19 Number (9)



Down

- 1 Poke (4)
- 2 Finishes (4)
- 3 Not now (4)
- 4 Unable to be maintained (9)
- 5 Vehicle (4.6)
- 6 Bearing (10)
- 9 Christmas shrub (5.4)
- 10 Woodland deity (5)
- 11 County (5)
- 15 Spotted (4)
- 16 4840 square yards (4)
- 17 Portent (4)

BUY CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FROM AMAZON AND HELP MADNEWS

MADNews is an "Amazon Associate" and gets commission on anything bought through the link on the MADNews website –



www.madnews.co.uk

Every little helps towards the upkeep of the duplicator, the cost of printing, the colour cover, envelopes, stamps etc. It's easy, just click on the link, and then use Amazon in your normal way. You can bookmark it and then use the link throughout the year anytime you use Amazon.



Got information about crime?
 don't want to speak to police? don't want to give your name?
 Call Crimestoppers ANONYMOUSLY
 0800 555 111



Marcham Village Shop and Post Office



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



16th November marked the 1st anniversary of the official opening by MP Ed Vaizey of Marcham Village Shop as a community shop and the brand new Post Office Local housed within it.

- It may not be obvious, but our little Post Office is quite unique
- We are the only one in the County that is staffed in this way
- We are open all the same hours as the Village Shop including Sunday mornings
- The Village Shop is paid on the commission the Post Office makes, so all profits and losses made by Marcham Post Office can affect the shop and community directly

Please remember the Village Shop and Post Office are here for you. The reason we all do this is to support the community we live in, and we need the community's support in return.

Marcham Village Shop sells many products (see our ad), and Marcham Post Office Local does most transactions that a main branch does. Therefore, think of us when you need to buy stamps, postal orders, travel money, gift cards, £15 i-tunes vouchers or topping up your phone or gas and electricity keys/cards. You can also deposit or withdraw money from most bank accounts and of course, send postcards, letters and parcels to the UK and abroad.

RUTH, Sub-Postmaster. Marcham Village Shop & Post Office Local
 Thank you to all the volunteers, both shop and PO. We are always looking for more. Do you have some time to spare? Call Tash for the shop (391 993) or Ruth for the PO (391 940).

Opening Hours over Christmas and New Year



December	January
23rd 07.30 - 18.00	1st CLOSED
24th 07.30 - 13.00	2nd 07.30 - 13.00
25th CLOSED	3rd 07.30 - 13.00
26th CLOSED	4th 07.30 - 13.00
27th 07.30 - 13.00	5th 08.00 - 13.00
28th 07.30 - 13.00	
29th 08.00 - 13.00	
30th 07.30 - 13.00	
31st 07.30 - 13.00	



Last Posting Dates

International Airmail

- 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™

Christmas - A Time for Hope



I am a regular reader and watcher of the news, especially of world events and I think it fair to say that there seems to have been an ever increasing occurrence of disasters on our television screens lately. Ten days before I wrote this, Typhoon Haiyan ripped through the eastern part of the Philippines, yesterday an unseasonal and powerful hurricane tore through the Midwestern states of America and today on the news showed the result of a cyclone that caused massive and extremely unusual flooding in Sardinia. Certainly, Philipinos are a resilient people, with their islands typically experiencing an average of twenty violent storms a year but last week's typhoon, which resulted in widespread devastation, torrential rain and mudslides was of a different order. Typhoon Haiyan was quoted as being the worst on record to have hit land, with wind speeds in excess of over two hundred miles per hour. Other violent weather patterns, wild fires or earthquakes hit the news with remarkable regularity.

In The Bible, Matthew's Gospel chapter 24, and Luke chapter 17, it is recorded how the disciples of Jesus asked him what the signs would be that would herald his return. Other areas of the Bible speak into this too, talking about the increase of violence, disease, famine, earthquakes and also seems to hint at unusual weather patterns in an increasingly turbulent world in the final days. These are some of the signs that Jesus spoke about that would be the precursors to his return, what Christians refer to as the second coming of Christ but it was not just his second coming that scripture talks about. His first arrival was predicted too in many places in the Old Testament.

Jesus fulfilled literally hundreds of prophecies, written hundreds of years before his birth, that spoke of the place of his birth, what he would come to do and even the manner of and circumstances surrounding his death. 750 years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Isaiah wrote - *"A child will be born for us, a son will be given to us and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. His Kingdom will be vast and he will reign over his Kingdom to establish it and sustain it with justice and righteousness for ever."*

So we have prophecies of both his first advent, when he came as a humble child and his second coming, when he will come in great power and glory. How do those two sets of prophecies combine?

Jesus will return. The signs are that it will be soon and when he does, he will herald in an eternal kingdom of peace, where all who love him and have given their lives to him will be set free from pain and suffering, flood and hurricane, hunger and want, disease and even death, when the earth will be renewed and returned to its Eden state, the state of perfection in which it was first created. Jesus then will reign as that Prince of Peace, over all who have given their lives to him and have therefore been released from their sin and all of its consequences. That is why he came the first time - to show the way to heaven. Jesus said *"I am the way, the truth and the life."*

Do join us for our carol service on 22nd December, to sing some traditional carols, eat some mince pies and Christmas cake and hear more about why Jesus was foretold as being Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Come and celebrate the birth of the Christmas Child.

Keith Mersh **Pastor Marcham Baptist Church**

Contact:- Keith Mersh 01865 391881
 or Bill Dyer (Elder) 01235 814986

Speakers in December

1 Dec - Wendy Manley
8 Dec - Adam Hawley
15 Dec - Paul Revell
22 Dec - Keith Mersh - Carol Service
29 Dec - People's Praise

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

CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY 22 DEC

10.30

MINCE PIES AND CHRISTMAS CAKE TO FOLLOW



All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page

Dear Friends,

In a recent survey it was recorded that 76% of people in Britain have had an experience of God in some form. That means there are a lot of people in our community who have had an experience of God in some way. But do we give ourselves permission to talk about it? So often we feel embarrassed, and keep it to ourselves.

This Christmas season is a golden opportunity to chat together about these experiences. Christmas is an annual celebration of a remarkable, unique event in history, when lots of very ordinary people had extraordinary encounters with God - and they talked about it! Thus we have the accounts of what happened in three of the four Gospels.

The birth of Jesus Christ is worth celebrating. He came to help us understand more about the character of God, and those who encountered him realised that he himself was the Son of God. He came to bring hope and life to our broken and divided world, and he still does today through the activity of the Holy Spirit. It's worth talking about! So many of us have experienced something of this amazing reality. And it's not for those who are good enough, or go to church, or need a prop in life - God wants all of us to be in relationship with him, and that's why Jesus came.

So this Christmas let's share our experiences, let's enjoy celebrating the wonder and love of God, and look forward to the real difference knowing God makes.

A very happy Christmas to you and those you love,

Richard

Contact:

*Rev. Richard Zair 391319 (r_zair@yahoo.co.uk)

*Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister*
07811 165351

*Tamsin Gilbert *Parish Secretary*
Mon, Wed Fri am 391319

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

December Events:

- Sun 1st 3pm **Bereavement Service** – open to all who have been bereaved recently to remember those who have died and support those who are left.
- Sat 7th 8.30am **Men's Breakfast:** at the Sports, Scouts and Social Club
- Sun 8th **Opera Anywhere** perform *Amahl and the Night Visitors* by Menotti at All Saints'
- Fri 13th 6pm **Christmas Tree Event:** All welcome to see the trees light up!
- Sun 15th 4pm **Family Carol Service** at St. Luke's, Garford
- Sun 22nd 6pm **Carols by Candlelight**
- Tue 24th 4pm **Crib Service**
- Tue 24th 11pm **Midnight Holy Communion**
- Wed 25th 10am **Christmas Day Communion**
- Wed 25th 10.30am **Christmas Day Holy Communion** at St. Luke's Garford

Christmas Charities

This year, the collections taken at Christmas will be given to *Abingdon Alzheimer's* and the *Balsam Family Project*. We will also be collecting food donations for the *Abingdon Food Bank*, and there will be boxes available for donations of dry goods at each of the Christmas services.

Parish People

On 2nd of November, Lesley Busby and Ian Meason were married. Our prayers are with them in their life together.

A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Donald Creasy was held on 7th December. He was an active and dearly loved member of our community. The funeral service of Robert Lindsay was held on the 11th November. Our prayers and sympathy go out to their families.

Regular Services:

All Saints': weekly at 10 am and 6 pm