

Marcham & District News

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

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



February 2014 Vol: 36 No: 2



▲ Raising money to fight cancer is as easy as ABC see page 15



▲ REFUGE CHRISTIAN DANCE see page 15



▲ The school council at St Francis School
▼ New equipment for the infants see page 13



▲ Flyfishing see page 13



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▲ Little Angels enjoying their indoor garden see page 13

February		
1 Sat	Refuge Christian Dance, Workshop 14.00-16.00, Performance 18.30 – 19.30, All Saints' Church, Marcham	15
1 Sat	Chinese New Year Dinner, MSSSC, 19.30	
5 Wed	Guideposts Open Day, Peachcroft Christian Centre, 10.00- 15.00	11
6 Thur	Midweek Walk: The White Horse Inn, Woolstone, 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk from NT carpark	11
7 Fri	MP's Surgery, Faringdon, 17.30 – 19.00	9
8 Sat	Councillors' Surgery, MVS, 0900 – 11.00	9
9 Sun	Margarita and the House of Love, Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon, 19.30	15
10 Mon	Have Your Say Meeting	3
11 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	

11 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45	11
11 Tues	Singing, venue tbc	5
12 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
14 Fri	Marcham Players AGM. Board Room, Manor Farm, 19.30	15
20 Thur	Deadline for February MADNews, 17.00	
20 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	11
25 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
25 Tues	Singing, venue tbc	5
28 Fri	Marcham Players "With Great Pleasure". Board Room, Manor Farm, 19.30	15
28 Fri	MSSSC Quiz Night, 20.15	11

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

Dear Readers

The snowdrops are out and the birds are getting into their bright plumage so spring is on its way... there may be a few snow flurries as well so don't cast a clout just yet!

The Chinese Year of the Horse is upon us which is great as we are living in its Vale



馬

The first day of the New Year is a time to honour our elders – something we should try to do all year round... not forgetting our youngsters as well!

Until next time

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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.

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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.

POLICE

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

CRIMESTOPPERS

Call 0800 555 111 (anonymous calls)

NHS NON-EMERGENCY

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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February 2014

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Council budget 2014/15

The Parish Council has carefully considered its budget for 2014/2015 looking in detail at its income and expenditure. This year, the Council has also had to take into account the Government's changes to the Council tax benefit scheme. The Vale of White Horse District Council determines and administers its own council tax reduction scheme, which has an effect on the parish element of the council tax. The Vale of White Horse District Council will provide a grant to the parish of £1404, and the remaining parish council tax element will be £36,596. This equates to approximately £52.82 per year for a property on Band D council tax or approximately £1 per week.

Parishioner of the Year Award

Thank you to all of you who have taken the time and trouble to write to the Council to put forward nominations for the Parishioner of the Year Award. The Council has a working party that is now considering all the nominations in order to prepare a shortlist for the Council to consider in due course. Should there be anyone who has forgotten to submit their nomination their please contact the clerk immediately.

Community Governance Review – Parish Boundary Changes

The Vale of White Horse District Council is proposing to put the whole of Cothill into the parish of St. Helen Without. The suggestion is to change the parish boundary to relocate those properties currently within Marcham parish into St. Helen Without. This includes some properties in Blackhorse Lane as well as Cothill School, its playing fields and the nearby kindergarten in Cothill Road. The District Council will be carrying out consultation with affected residents in due course. Slight changes are also envisaged to the parish boundary where the A338 joins the A420. The proposed new boundary line at that location follows the line of the road.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been considered by the Council:
P13/V2601/HH Erection of detached garage with storage area over at 6 The Gap. The Council had no objections
P113/V2565 Demolition of existing garage and erection of 6 dwellings with associated parking Marcham Service Station, North Street. The Council recognised that this was a brownfield site, but objected to the particular proposal put forward. It had concerns about the specific location of the dwellings immediately abutting the road, inadequate onsite parking, and the impact on the junction of the North Street and the A415. It asked for various changes to the drawings to be made.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 12th February, 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

LOST KEYS

Mini key ring containing a Nissan car key, 4 brass keys and a bottle opener.
Call Collette 07833 298179



Have Your Say

- Monday 10 February 1700-1800
- Monday 10 March 1700-1800
- Thursday 17 April 1700-1800

PCSO Andy McCormack C9461
Abingdon Outer

Neighbourhood Team
NAG7 Marcham, Wootton,
Shippon and Boars Hill
Police Non-emergency

number: 101

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Lost Property

Have you lost anything around Marcham? A beret, some gloves, a key perhaps, what about some sunglasses or jewellery, a woolly hat with pompoms and pink mittens...or a transformer? All these are just waiting to be re-united with their owners! Come down to the shop and claim your lost items!

FOR SALE

Small, light 2 seater white sofa (not new but in good condition) : £75.00 ono
Brand new double foam mattress (wrong size bought) £110.00 ono
Brand new faux Brown leather headboard and base in two parts with drawers underneath (too large for room) £120.00 ono. 01865 391950

Simon's News are looking for a newspaper delivery person in Marcham. Must be aged 13 or over, or would suit retired person. Please phone Petra or Paul on 01235 553001 for more information.

Dear Editor

Recent flooding in the locality has provided further evidence that mass development of the type currently under consideration is less than acceptable. And the reasons for this fundamentally flawed approach are as illustrated below.

I and a number of others attended the planning committee meeting on 24 June 2013 at the Vale of White Horse, and during proceedings our Marcham Community Led Plan was summarised for consideration. This spoke against the proposed mass development at here at Marcham. However during the meeting we were told that this document carried no weight at all and was casually cast aside. Subsequently permission was granted for development at Kings Field at Marcham leading to the conviction that councils are under political pressure from government to build houses. Previously we have been encouraged to get involved with community activities in order that we express our views through our Local Parish Council and Community Led Plan. Both of these speak against the destructive influence of mass development in our village. But informed opinion is compelled to reason that this approach carries little weight when government policy applies. On the one hand the government is offering its support for preservation of green belt land but on the other placing political pressure on local authorities to follow this policy of mass development.

I and a large number of people attended the meeting with Ed Vaizey and the Planning Minister at Wantage on the 20th September 2013. Everybody who spoke voiced their opposition to the governments program covering mass development in Oxfordshire. I was in complete agreement that the local infrastructure is incapable of supporting the number of houses being proposed. I did not have the opportunity to speak but had this occurred would have offered the following reasons.

There is ample evidence over lack of schooling capacity yet this to a large extent is conveniently ignored by local and national government.

The roads are riddled with potholes and generally unfit for purpose while further development and car usage will only add to this misery. Additionally it should also not escape our attention that the A34 constitutes an unmitigated disaster where accidents are concerned, as these occur on a regular basis and are conditioned by the excessive volume of traffic. Basically the road was never designed to cope with this amount of activity. However it illustrates all too clearly that housing development

of the type proposed will only serve to exacerbate an already dangerous situation. I have documentary evidence from Thames Water expressing severe reservations regarding our existing systems ability to deal with water disposal. Much of this conditioned by the fact that during last year the system failed causing sewage to flood into the street here at Marcham. This is a matter of public health and must not be ignored. In a development as reported on BBC teletext 10/1/14 councils in future will be able to bill owners of new properties for the maintenance of flood prevention measures. This is because builders have consistently refused to install flood prevention measures as part of housing development and presumably on the basis that these are too expensive.

The proposed development behind us in Kings Field will necessitate the removal of a number of mature trees which act as a flood barrier. Additionally these are home to numerous species of wild life leading to the conclusion that this state sponsored vandalism is completely unacceptable. We experienced flooding in our gardens last year and have photographs to prove it. Yet planning approval made by the Vale has been systematically ignored this.

Last year NPower expressed concerns over future electrical generating capacity and the problem of keeping the lights on. We have recently lost a great of capacity due to the closure at Didcot which now poses the question "How this extra demand can be satisfied?".

Another matter that does not receive sufficient attention is that of mass immigration which undoubtedly has a significant bearing on the housing supply and that of services generally.

Finally it is less than clear to me given the thousands of houses proposed in Oxfordshire where all the jobs are going to come from. However it appears transparently clear that the main beneficiaries from this course of action are not the local communities but financial interests of land owners and developers.

COLIN EVANS

DON'T BE A VICTIM OF A SCAM

There have been a few incidents in the local area of fraud involving a telephone scam and we wanted to make you aware of how this scam is being operated to provide with the knowledge to not fall victim to this.

The Scam operates as follows.

- A fraudster 'cold calls' the victim on their landline and claims to be from a bank or the police where they claim they have identified a discrepancy on one of the victim's accounts.
- To gain the victim's trust they will ask the victim to call them back straight away, but unknown to the victim they have not disconnected the call and when the victim dials the real number they are still connected to the fraudster. The fraudster will then ask for the victim's bank account details, PIN numbers and / or sometimes cash.
- Finally, the fraudster sends an innocent taxi driver or courier to the victim's house to collect the items. The fraudster will then use the card to withdraw cash, make purchases in stores or online.
- The victims tend to be elderly
- The courier tends to be a local innocent taxi driver.
- Fraudsters have claimed to be from the fraud department of a bank, or a retail store.
- Fraudsters claim to be police officers, cite recent arrests and need the victim's details / cards as evidence.
- Fraudsters claim their bank is involved and ask the victim to move their money to 'safe accounts'.
- The victim is asked to dial their PIN into their touch-tone phone during the call.
- The call received by the victim appears to come from an 0845... or similar number.
- The fraudster has set up a password with the victim.

THE POLICE OR BANK WILL NEVER ASK FOR YOUR PIN OR BANKCARD

If you receive a call that and asked you to call back your bank or the Police either use another phone so to eliminate the possibility of a scammer still being on the line when you do this or if you can actually visit your bank or police station in person because they will be able to deal with any genuine problems on a national basis.

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Come and join us

11 and 25 February

Venue to be decided

call 391285 or 391746

for more details

Christine Whild





WOMEN'S WORLD
DAY OF PRAYER
FRIDAY 7 MARCH
MORE DETAILS TO
FOLLOW

Bank Balance
£14,100

Local Events
£10,934

Donations
£6,814

2013 - 2014 Membership
Adult: 70 Junior: 5

5p Coins
5065

Marcham
Community
Group



Why bother?

The MCG committee is not surprised that membership numbers have fallen. Why would anyone bother to join? Nothing seems to be happening after two years of talk about schemes that were supposed to provide the village with its much-needed new leisure facilities. None of the talk has produced a viable plan.

We believe interest will revive once there is a clear outcome. In the mean time, MCG has been working with other members of the Community Facilities Group (CFG) which brings together most village organisations (including the Anson Trust and the Parish Council) and extends an open invitation to those that are not yet members. It is difficult to report work in progress on business plans and make it interesting and exciting, but the CFG is working on detailed plans for what it sees as the only two likely outcomes:

- ◆ new facilities are built along the lines of the recent Taylor Wimpey proposal
- or
- ◆ this latest plan falls through as well. As a consequence, the Anson Trust would be unable to use more of its endowment to continue operating its current facilities, and the community in some form would have to step in to keep them running.

In both cases, the proposal is that local leisure facilities would be run by a community organisation that would be accountable to everyone living in Marcham.

So why are we bothering?

We are bothering because the MCG committee, together with other members of the CFG, believes that preparing for both of these eventualities is necessary, and the preparation has to be done now.

Why bother?

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

Charity No 1144407
mail@marcham.org

www.marcham.org



**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.

Dear Editor

For many of us there have been indulgences over Christmas with a little too much food and not enough exercise. The first few months of the New Year are a time for getting things back on track – eating more healthily and taking more exercise. Many of your readers will have diabetes so getting back on track is particularly important for them, whether they have Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes. They have to manage their medications, diet and exercise all the time to stay well. We know that this can be difficult.

As a charity for people with diabetes, we have put together some helpful information leaflets, including our booklets, 'Weight and Diet', 'Exercise, Blood Pressure and Your Heart' and 'Diabetes – Everyday Eating' which provides inexpensive menus for breakfast, lunch and evening meal for 28 days to help people to know what they CAN eat, rather than what they can't! We hope that this information will be useful to your readers and will make getting back on track a little easier for them.

These publications are free of charge just contact us on 01604 622837, e-mail jenny@iddinternational.org or write to IDDT, PO Box 294, Northampton NN1 4XS
InDependent Diabetes Trust [IDDT]

ED VAIZEY WRITES...



Like many others, I am working on improving my fitness at the moment, so I was very pleased to learn that the Government is making changes to make life easier for our local sports clubs. The taxman had received lots of complaints that the rules for these clubs were unclear and caused confusion, so there will be a new set of simple rules. I very much hope that the changes - which include tax benefits and allowing clubs to generate more income - will make life easier for all our local sports clubs and so help them to encourage all of us not just to take sport up as a new year resolution, but to stick with it all year.

In between visits to the gym, my mailbag for the past month has included issues such as care in the NHS, the forthcoming Scottish independence referendum, and Save the Children's No Child Born to Die campaign, which focuses on reducing newborn mortalities in developing countries. As this shows, my Constituents continue to be concerned about a very wide range of issues, but the largest number of messages I've had by far has been about the planned electrification of the main railway line through the constituency. Although the idea of electrification has been welcomed, there are some very serious concerns about the consequences of doing the work which may occur, because it involves work to a lot of bridges, many of which date back to the time of Brunel. The biggest outcry came with the proposed closure of the A338 at Grove, as well as the continuing impact on the community around Fulscot Bridge. I'll continue to do all that I can to ensure that the needs of Constituents are protected as far as they possibly can be as this process goes on.

I also received a number of emails and letters from members of the farming community about the issue of changes to farm subsidies. Basically, it was about the balance between funding for measures that enhance the environment compared with those which directly support farming - some things do both of course. Having written to the Environment Secretary expressing my constituents' concerns, I was pleased that following an extensive consultation with farmers, environmental groups and others, Ministers listened to these concerns and decided on a less drastic change, with the intention of reviewing this in 2016. This will benefit farmers who take great care of our environment.

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	
7th Feb	Faringdon , Pump Rooms, SN7 7HL
Contact Ed Vaizey MP by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Transport to School As I write, we are about to hear the result of the consultation on the Transport to School proposals. We all hope that reason will prevail, and that a sensible, consistent policy is arrived at that allows Drayton parents to choose their children's secondary school in Abingdon without penalty. Recent figures suggest that the amount the County will save if it takes a more draconian approach is very small.

Some good news Area Stewardship Fund In March, work will begin on weed clearance of the kerbs throughout the village. This is being paid for by the Area Stewardship Fund. Regrettably, budgetary pressures at OCC mean that this will be the last year of this fund. However, some of the fund is being used to give Marcham a spanking new white entrance gate at the Abingdon Road entrance to the village. It is hoped that this will not only set *February 2014*

the tone as people arrive in the village, but will act as a marker for planners and landowners - that this is the edge of the village and we would not wish to see Marcham get any closer to Abingdon! Some of the fund is also being used on a kerbside weedkilling programme, beginning in March. The work will mainly concern the cycle lane between Abingdon and Marcham and the main roads through the village.

Community Grants There is a small pot, available for this year only, with a closing date for applications of Mid February, for any voluntary community organisation needing a grant of £100-£500. Please contact me directly if you are interested.

Pedestrian crossing - Packhorse Lane. I am delighted that the Partish Council is endeavouring to secure s106 money from planning developments to change the pedestrian crossing lighting into a much more noticeable, bright LED light. This should make all pedestrians safer - particularly from westbound traffic emerging from the S bend.

HGVs diversions, Garden Cities, Reservoirs, Airports and Marcham By-passes may seem fantasyland at present, but there is no doubt that the land south of Marcham will be developed into something in the next 50 years. If it happens, we need to be prepared for it, and to have agreed what is the best outcome for Marcham residents. The sooner the discussion begins, the better.

RICHARD WEBBER CLLR, OCC

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Where is planning going in Marcham? Having taken part in a Meeting with Pye Homes to discuss the potential development of Willow Farm for housing, I came away feeling despondent about the rate of applications in Marcham. The village's natural circular layout seems to lend itself to more and more building on its outskirts. When will it stop? When will the Vale take cumulative effect into account instead of looking at each application in isolation? I can't help feeling that converting your excellent Community Led Plan into a Neighbourhood Plan would give more gravitas to your wishes, as the next Local Plan, due to be completed in 2015, is bound by law to pay serious attention to a Neighbourhood Plan's demands. So you would have more control of where you want the buildings to go instead of the developers. Similarly, you would have more control of where roads from developments would exit. For example, at the moment, the Willow Farm development is going to build its exit/entry road onto Packhorse Lane, which means that two roads enter this very busy lane very close together. What silly planning! And yet little can be done unless the two developers agree to make the two developments use one exit / entry road. But a Neighbourhood Plan would have already dictated how the village was to expand, including its road system! Your Community-Led Plan takes you 2/3 of the way towards a full Neighbourhood Plan and Marcham already has more people ready to give their time than other villages. Or is a Garden City the answer, as it can take much of the housing needed in the Vale and maybe even give Marcham it's much needed by-pass!

CATHERINE WEBBER, CLLR

01235 534001 or catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS SURGERY

From 2014 there will be a joint Marcham & Shippon Surgery from 9am until 11am at Marcham Village Shop on the following dates: (All 2nd Saturday of the month, alternate month: If you would like a private meeting do please contact us by email or phone Feb 8th / Apr 12th / June 14th / Aug 9th / Oct 11th / Dec 13th **CATHERINE AND RICHARD WEBBER** District Councillor County Councillor



The
**Marcham
Society**

Simon Wenham

The History of Salter's Steamers

All Saints' Church Marcham 7.45pm 11th February

*Following Meeting:
11th March*

Non-members always welcome £2 www.marchamsociety.org.uk

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

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The Club will be pleased to welcome new members for the 2014 Season.

Details of Nets and Fixtures will be given in due course.

Please contact Trevor Hill (01865 391321) for any information relating to the Club, including playing or umpiring for Marcham.



CSB

CRICKET UMPIRE(S) REQUIRED - £40 PER MATCH

The cricket club needs an umpire(s) to officiate at league matches on Saturday afternoons from the start of May until the end of August. Whilst it would be ideal to cover most Saturdays, the club would be interested in anyone that could officiate at eight or more matches. Cricket knowledge essential, though informal (or formal) training can be given to supplement that knowledge. A fee of £40 per game is payable.

Please contact club secretary Trevor Hill for further information on 01865 391321 or at trevor3chancel@aol.com

MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

Thursday, February 6th

For this month's walk we will go to The White Horse Inn (Map Ref SU293878) just north of the B4507 in Woolstone at 12.30pm for lunch and 1.30pm for a walk of five miles. However we will start our walk in from the National Trust Car Park (Map Ref SU293865) about a kilometre due south, on what may be a fresh and breezy walk on the Downs towards Lamborn, but definitely not under water!

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



MSSSC: Marcham Sports, Scouts & Social Club

The pavilion & field off Morland Road

Quiz Night

Fri 28 February at 8.15pm

The Club is holding quiz nights on the last Friday of each month. Questions are on a range of subjects and aimed at everyone's ability! Teams of up to four people are invited.

Everyone welcome.

Just turn up on the night for a friendly evening of fun and banter.

Further details from Trevor Hill – 01865 391321

We look forward to seeing you at the club



Our next **Open Day** will be on Wednesday, 5 February from 10 am to 3 pm.

The theme for this open day will be **Eating, Drinking, Kitchen and Clothing**, when we hope to have information and examples of both small and larger aids.

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

Marcham WI



Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, 20th February

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: The Boardroom at Manor Farm.

Please note the change of venue for this month.

We will be having a crafts evening when we'll be making pillow case dresses for the 'Dress A Girl Around the World' charity.

We look forward to seeing you all on the night. New members and visitors welcome.

For any questions, new members or visitors, contact

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349

pippahoath@gmail.com

Marcham Bridge Club

2014 Season has started. Anyone interested in playing or learning to play the game is welcome to join us in the Board Room above the shop at Manor Farm.

Play starts at 19.30 Monday nights, followed by a social gathering at The Crown pub.

For further information please ring Jennie Hobbs 01865 391772 or Joe Featherstone 01865 391426



Oxfordshire Advocacy

We are looking for volunteers for our next training courses

Charity Number: 1131403

Oxfordshire Advocacy is an independent, confidential free service supporting adults in Oxfordshire to get their voice heard and their wishes taken into account.

Volunteer advocates work with people needing support to: challenge decisions, uphold rights, attend meetings, make a complaint.

Our next training courses are in Oxford in Feb 2014 and Banbury in May 2014.

In the first instance please contact us for

an informal interview:

jacinta.sands@oadg.org.uk

Tel: 01865 741200

Website: www.gettingheard.org

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

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 SCHOOL

On Tuesday 14th January, the School Council from Marcham CE Primary School went to visit St Francis CE Primary School in Cowley, Oxford. Tackley CE Primary School were also there with their school council. We had a joint meeting all together in the computer suite and our focus was Cultural Awareness. We went on a tour of the school, led by their school councillors, and saw their 10 classes which were named after birds. We compared the three schools. St Francis has 300 pupils whereas Tackley has a similar number of pupils as are at Marcham.

We talked about what we saw and put some sticky dots on a world map to show where pupils from our schools came from. St Francis had lots of dots on countries all around the world, we had about 10 or 12 but Tackley only had a few. We discussed why our school were so different and thought about the fact that St Francis was in an urban setting and that Tackley and ourselves were rural (Tackley are more rural than we are). We thought about jobs and how they might link to a different people living in an area, discussed different languages and how having teachers with different religions helps in understanding religions in RE. We were able to post our ideas on the blog on the school's website. You can see what we wrote on <http://newspaper.st-francisoxford.net>. We are hoping that both St Francis and Tackley will come to Marcham in the Spring.

JOSEPH HOWARD, ASHLEY HILLIER, POLLY DIPPER, MRS HUTCHINSON

Football Team

Well done to the school football team who won their latest match 4 - 0 against West Oxford school on 16th January.

Infant Playground

Our infant play area is currently being refurbished. We are installing a large climbing frame, a web climber and a teepee.

We would like to thank you for your support through the Christmas bazaar, the summer fete and other various events as this has enabled the P.T.A to help us fund this playground project.

We are very grateful to the P.T.A for all their hard work with these events and I'm sure the children's play and learning will be enriched by the new area.

CROSSWORD BY ALISA

ACROSS

- 1 Throw (4)
- 6 Cook (4)
- 8 Route for flight (7)
- 10 South Polar Region (9)
- 13 Little fish (5)
- 16 Sort of staircase (6)
- 17 Looking glass (6)
- 18 Fermenting agent (5)
- 21 Rodent haven (9)
- 24 Vehicle shelter (7)
- 25 American president (4)
- 26 Musical instrument (4)

- 4 With what the Marcham Players function (5.8)
- 5 Pride of Morland Road (7.6)
- 6 Piece of furniture (5)
- 7 Tree (3)
- 9 Piece of furniture (7)
- 11 Right (7)
- 12 Number (3)
- 13 State (3)
- 14 Bird (3)
- 15 Not wet (3)
- 19 Flashlight (5)
- 20 Arboreal animal (5)
- 22 Wildebeest (3)
- 23 Tree (3)

DOWN

- 2 Not on (3)
- 3 Pigs (5)

February 2014

ABINGDON LITTLE ANGELS

This month it has been good to be back after our short break and hear all of the wonderful stories of the children's Christmases. With the staff and children renewed and refreshed we have had an exciting month.



Throughout the nursery we have been focusing on the season of winter. The children have been hard at work making winter scenes with cotton snowballs and paper snowflakes. Learning all about how to stay safe and warm in the cold weather was embraced enthusiastically by the children who all took part in a winter fashion show, strutting the catwalk in scarves and hats. The focus however has not been entirely on winter. Due to a generous donation from B&Q the children made an inside flower garden, which they are tending to diligently.

The afterschool club has also been learning about the chillier climate, painting snowmen and creating icicles. Alongside this the children got to show their competitive side as they raced handmade skiers down parallel zip lines. The children also enjoying the slowly returning light to spend some time outside inspiring them to make some posters about nature. When the light fades the children have been enjoying their time with our winter theme, even organising their own talent show with a multitude of different acts on display.

Overall it has been an exciting and interesting month at Little Angels and an excellent start to the New Year.

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@abingdonlittleargels.co.uk

Fly Fishing for Beginners

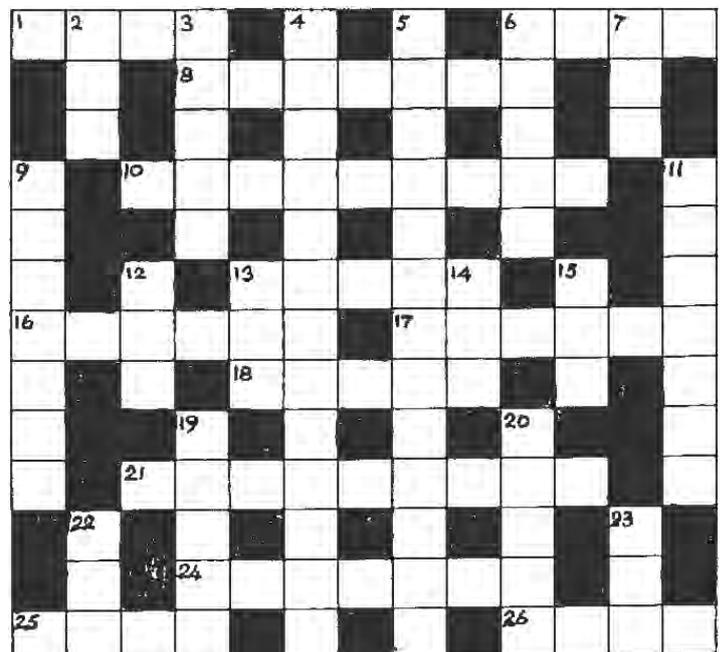
Farmoor Flyfishing Club will be holding training for beginners in the evenings of the following dates:

- Wed 21st May – Wed 28th May
- Wed 4th June – Wed 11th June
- From 19.00 till 21.00



All equipment needed will be available free, coaching will be done by professional coaches. Girls and boys over the age of ten, and any adults who would like to try are welcome.

**For further information phone
Joe Featherstone 01865 391426**



MARCHAM PLAYERS

Put these dates in your new diary:

Annual General Meeting

14th February, 7.30 pm. in the Board Room, Manor Farm
Refreshments will be available.



“With Great Pleasure - Well, it made me laugh!”

28th February, 7.30 pm, in the Board Room, Manor Farm
The theme for the evening will be **“Well, it made me laugh!”**
Bring along and share short excerpts from humorous writings you have enjoyed. Refreshments will be available.
For more details about joining in with the Players, call 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

REFUGE CHRISTIAN DANCE

a Christian dance company, who express the gospel through dance
Saturday 1st February 2014

Dance workshop (2 - 4pm) and evening performance 6.30 - 7.30pm
All Saints' Church, Marcham

The free Workshop is open to all ages and abilities.
Performance – 6.30 – 7.30pm, followed by light refreshments.
£2 per person.

More details, and to book your place on the workshop contact Jill Rowe 07811 165351 jill.rowe.ycm@googlemail.com

ABC Bike Ride!

Against Breast Cancer's Great Western Bike Ride, Sunday May 18th 2014
The Great Western is Against Breast Cancer's new fundraising bike ride, taking place on Sunday the 18th of May in Swindon, SN3 1TX. The ride has something to offer riders of all abilities, with four fantastic routes to choose from:
FUN: 30 miles – Great for leisure cyclists and families
SHORT: 50 miles – A beautiful route for seasoned cyclists
MID: 70 miles – A real challenge that comes with the reward of cycling over White Horse Hill!
FULL ROUTE: 100 miles – This route takes you south through the Avon valley towards Avebury and passes right through the ancient stone circles before heading back up towards the White Horse. More details next month!
www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk



Marcham Village Shop and Post Office



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



Marcham Village Shop – How does it compare to Tesco?

	MVS	Tesco
Warburtons White Medium Loaf 800g	£1.45	£1.45
6 (happy) eggs	£1.20	£1.45
Pringles 190g	£1.79	£2.30
Flora 500g	£1.89	£1.80
Fox's Jam Sandwich Cream biscuits 150g	79p	£1.09

If that surprises you, come in and see what other bargains you can get!
It pays to shop with MVS

Free cash withdrawals

Did you know that you can get cash at the PO – FREE of charge, just like a cashpoint!

You can use most debit cards to check your balance and then get exactly the money you want - £20, £10 and £5 notes, and coins – so you can get pocket money for the kids, get the right money for the window cleaner, or change for the bus. And we are open all day long...



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).

Abingdon Drama Club celebrates its 70th anniversary in 2014!

We are the oldest and largest drama club in Abingdon and since we began we have presented over 250 productions.

As usual, ADC will have a full schedule of drama productions this year - but 2014 will be different. We will be holding many one-off special events to celebrate our birthday and the curtain will go up with a 70th Anniversary Launch Party early in 2014. Watch this space!!
www.abingdon-drama-club.com

ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB

ADC - in 3D since 1944
www.abingdon-drama-club.com

Casa-Margarita presents: Margarita and the House of Love Sun 9th February - 7:30pm Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon

Tickets: £13.50/£11 online £14.50/£11.50 on the door
0773 344 8279 / margarita@casa-margarita.co.uk
Lighten a deep winter's night with this fabulous night of Spanish music and stories from an old house in Seville. The amazing music of Granados, Lorca and de Falla embroidered into passionate tales of love - all ready for Valentine's Day.

More information: www.casa-margarita.co.uk
www.abingdonabbey-unicorntheatre.org.uk/margarita.html

Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust



Charity Number: 1084910

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

Lottery

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

www.tvacaa.org

WE RELY ON YOU - SO YOU CAN RELY ON US

Hearing from God



On occasion, I have heard on the news of murderers claiming to have heard voices in their head telling them to kill. Even sometimes they have claimed that God told them to do it. It often troubles me to hear this. But leaving aside the obviously insane, deranged, or those suffering maybe from Schizophrenia does God really talk to us?



Call me bonkers if you like but I have heard God speak on a significant number of occasions. Very often but not always, it has been to do with guidance, as God has directed or shown what he has wanted me to dobut what does it mean to hear God speak to us?

Sometimes the way God has spoken has been particularly profound. Once, when Ruth and I lived in Norfolk, a woman came into my shop, took a deep breath and said “*God wants to turn your life upside down, inside out and back to front*”, obedient to what she had believed God told her to deliver to me. Without realising, she had spectacularly responded to what I had prayed a few years earlier, when in desperation and as a non-churchgoer, I had cried out to God that he would turn my life upside down, inside out and back to front. God responded in his timing and in such a way, that I could not deny that He was there, listening and caring for me, in my then rather desperate personal situation.

One afternoon the following year, with an hour to spare between appointments, I called in to see Ian, a Christian I hadn’t seen for a while. He asked me how I was doing and my reply was that I urgently needed someone to fit curtains and blinds for me, as the chap I then employed regularly let me down. “*You don’t know anybody I suppose?*” I asked Ian. That very morning a friend of his, had been in Ian’s house talking of how he wanted to get back to doing what he was trained to do. Before moving to Norfolk, Graham had lived in London and while working in Harrods’ soft furnishings department (yes – that Harrods!) he had been trained in the London College of Soft Furnishing..... God speaking again, in an amazing way.

God has spoken lots of other times to me, in many different ways - directly through the Bible; through remarkable coincidental circumstances; through other people but increasingly through what the Bible talks about as a still, small voice. But in our desire to follow God’s will for our lives we can easily mishear and make a mistake. So in order not to take the wrong path, especially when making major decisions in life, we are called to test that what we think we have heard is correct and not just our own imagination or mere coincidence. We should seek confirmation, which will never be in conflict with God’s general directions to us in The Bible.

Jesus described Himself on one occasion as the good shepherd, and said “*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish*” Jesus talked about His followers being like sheep but that is in no way a derogatory term. We might think we have life mapped out but we so often don’t even know what is around the corner. By contrast, God stands outside of time, knows all your past, your present and what the future holds for you. He sees it all at once, from the creation of the world, into the present and at the end, when Jesus will return and judge us as individuals, taking those who have given their lives to Him to eternal life. He sees our past, present and future in an instant, where we often on our own don’t have a clue!! So it makes massive sense to follow the voice of our creator who knows all things.

Just before the crucifixion, Jesus spoke to His disciples, saying “*I will not leave you alone – I will send you another counsellor*” He was speaking of God’s Spirit who would be with those who give their lives to Him. God by His Spirit does indeed speak to those who follow Him. He guides, encourages and teaches us and as we grow in relationship with Him, He helps us to recognise His voice and to follow Him on a journey, an adventure that is richly rewarding and never dull.

Every blessing

Keith Mersh, Pastor Marcham Baptist Church

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

Speakers in February

- 2 Feb - Keith Mersh
- 9 Feb - Paul Revell
- 16 Feb - Ian Millgate
- 23 Feb - Philip Mader Grayson

**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,

Water has been much on our minds and in the news over recent weeks, and our thoughts and prayers are with those who are suffering from recent flooding. Spare a thought, too, for our farming community, as flooded and waterlogged fields can take several years to recover, thus affecting crop yields significantly.

Water is essential for life. Without water life dies. It is an essential ingredient to our everyday lives, indeed to all life on our planet. It comes as no surprise, therefore, that water is also a feature of faith.

Water is one of the constant themes within the Christian faith. From significant events long ago recorded in the Old Testament, to the ministry of Jesus in the Gospels, to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit following Jesus's ascension, to the vision of the river of living water in the book of Revelation, water is a symbol of spiritual importance.

Significantly water is used in the New Testament as being symbolic of the Holy Spirit, and his ministry in the lives of Christian believers down the centuries. The Spirit is described as 'living water' given by God the Father, and given to empower Jesus's followers on a continuous basis. Indeed, the Holy Spirit continues to be given to Christians, to enable us to live an authentic life of faith, and to be effective in serving those around us as ambassadors for Christ himself.

In one of his pastoral letters, St. Paul exhorts his readers to be 'continuously filled with the Spirit', thus bringing home the truth that without the enabling presence of the Holy Spirit we cannot live the life that Jesus calls us to live, in this and every generation.

As this year unfolds, may I encourage us to engage again with the truth of God the Holy Spirit. To know the Spirit's constant presence and enabling grace is a source of deep joy, and helps us draw close to the father heart of God, and to the Lord Jesus as Friend and Saviour.

I hope February is a hope-filled month for us all. Spring is just round the corner!

Rev. Richard Zair

ACT JUSTLY. LOVE MERCY. WALK HUMBLY.

Does God have anything to say about world problems of 2014?

What might He ask us to do about them?

In February we will continue asking what the Bible says about important issues of our time, and hear how Christians are responding.

You are warmly invited to a series of services at All Saints Church at 10am:

'The God we serve'

2 February: 'The God of the Poor' - Poverty

9 February: 'The God of Money' - Debt

16 February: 'The God of Compassion' - Trafficking & Exploitation

February dates

Sat 1st – 8.30 am Men's breakfast at Carswell Golf Club

Sat 1st – Refuge Christian Dance – a free workshop.

Wednesday 19th – 7.30pm, Manor School, Shippon. The Filling Station – an opportunity for reflective prayer and worship. Open to all.

Regular services:

Sundays at All Saints': 10 am and 6 pm

Wednesdays: 10.30 am Holy Communion at Duffield Place

Parish people

On Sunday 12th January, Alfie Morbey was baptised.

Contacts: Rev. Richard Zair 391319

(r_zair@yahoo.co.uk)

Parish Office: parish_office41@yahoo.co.uk

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister* 390885

Andrew Haines *Churchwarden* 01235 868946

Deborah Flint *Churchwarden* 391056

Tamsin Gilbert *Administrator* 821142

Ellie Montgomery *PCC Secretary* 391868