

Marcham & District News

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

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



April 2014 Vol: 36 No: 4



▲ Marcham School Reunion see page 5 ▲

Happy Easter



READ & RECYCLE! FREE

A GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT!



15TH ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW
SUNDAY 4TH MAY 2014
Abingdon Airfield, Dalton Barracks, Oxfordshire, 10am-5pm

▲ For more details see page 5



▲ St George's Day banner (Jean Creasy)



▲ A Knight of the Little Angels



▲ Pre-School: World Book Day



▲ Marcham School:
◀ Giraffes in the trees at Youlbury!

April		
1 Tue	Southmoor and KB Gardening Club, Village Hall, 19.15	7
8 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45	11
8 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00	11
8 Tues	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
9 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	5
10 Thur	Midweek Walk, Swan Inn, Compton, 12.30 lunch/ 13.30 walk	11
11 Fri	MP's Surgery, Wantage, 17.30 – 19.00	9
12 Sat	Surgery with Councillors, Marcham Village Shop, 09.00 – 11.00	5
12 Sat	Table Top Racing, Ex-Servicemen's Club	15
13 Sun	Sightsavers Sponsored Walk, Blenheim Palace	7

17 Thur	Have Your Say, Duffield Place, 17.00 – 18.00	5
17 Thur	Marcham WI, Manor Farm, 19.30	11
20 Sun	Deadline for May MADNews, 17.00	
22 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00	11
22 Tue	GARD AGM, Steventon, 19.00	15
25 Fri	Quiz Night, MSSSC, 20.15	11
26 Sat	Born to Quiz, Carterton, 19.00	13
May		
3 Sat	Morland Bowls Club Open Day, 13.00 – 17.00	15
4 Sun	Abingdon Air Show, 10.00 – 17.00	5
10 Sat	The Ridgeway Day, Court Hill Centre, Wantage, 10.30 – 16.00	7
15 Mon	Have Your Say, Marcham Village Shop, 17.00 – 18.00	5

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

Dear Readers

I thought that instead of something from me this month, we should have a poem instead. I looked in the garden for inspiration and remembered this...

Daffodowndilly
by A.A. Milne

She wore her yellow sun-bonnet,
She wore her greenest gown;
She turned to the south wind
And curtsied up and down.
She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbour:
"Winter is dead."

Until next time



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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.

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We apologise in advance for any errors that may creep into MADNews (online or print), or omissions that creep out - we don't do it on purpose!

The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team, who are all volunteers.

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PCSO 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

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Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
Tel: 01235 534001

richard.webber@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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April 2014

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
Vale of White Horse District Council Local Plan 2031- Housing Delivery Update

As reported last month there are changes to the Plan published last year. Last year's draft was based on the old South East Plan. The District Council needs to provide for significantly more housing that it had originally identified, and has been trying to find the best ways to accommodate the extra housing. For those who have yet to view the plan it is available at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk.localplanpartone or is available at Abingdon library or at the District Council's offices at Abbey house, Abingdon. Leaflets containing a summary are available in the village shop. The proposal for Marcham is to site a further 200 houses on the South side of the A415 at the Eastern side of the village.

The Parish Council has concerns that the housing need figures and calculations as to available employment opportunities are correct. It wonders whether the housing can be built at the rate suggested. It is worried to that the infrastructure such as school facilities and road network is inadequate. The deadline for comments to the Vale of White Horse District Council is 4th April.

Footpath alongside the Anson field and Bridleway Mill Road

The Parish Council has now had a meeting with the rights of way officer from the county council. Perhaps, not surprisingly, the county council does not have any finance to support any works on the path. The Parish Council is therefore looking at the possibility of a volunteer group to scrape the surface of the path as it is very wet and muddy, and also looking at possible funding from any new housing development that might be able to fund some improvements. Enquiries were also made regarding the bridleway at the end of Mill Road, this has been closed for some while but there was no date for its re-opening.

Parish Boundary Changes

The Vale of White Horse District Council has been considering parish boundary changes and at its meeting on 19th February, resolved to support changing the Marcham Parish boundary. This would include moving part of Cothill from Marcham parish and putting it into St. Helen Without parish. The area would include all properties west of the Merry Miller and Cothill School. The Parish Council has been advised that all affected residents will receive their own consultation letter from the Vale of White Horse District Council. Should this go ahead then the polling station for the next elections for these residents will alter. Any Cothill resident who wishes their views to be taken into account should write to Community Governance Review, Vale of White Horse District Council, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 3JE or cgr@southandvale.gov.uk

Bus Service Review

The County Council is planning to cut £2million for its subsidy of bus services. Some services on the 31 stagecoach and X15 Thames Travel are supported by funding from the County Council. The review of the 31 is due to start in September. If the subsidised services (currently Mon-Thurs evenings and Sundays) are not used, then inevitably they could be in line for being cut completely. In order to try and prevent any reduction to the Marcham bus services, the Council would encourage residents to support these services wherever possible.

Grant Application

The Parish Council, at the last meeting, was pleased to be able to support a grant application from the community shop, to enable an air conditioning unit to be purchased. It is well remembered how hot it was in the shop last Summer, and it is hoped that the unit can be fitted before what we anticipate will be the better weather later in the year.

Fly Tipping Prosecution

On Monday 29 July 2013, there was an incident of a fly tip reported to the Vale of White Horse District Council involving 14 black bags of household waste and some guttering that had been deposited in the car park area of the arboretum in the Frilford Road. The Vale's Environment Warden investigated, and found evidence linked to an address in the Oxford area. The householder confirmed that building works were being undertaken by 1st Act Roofing and Property Maintenance, and they had taken away waste from her property. Rather than dispose of the waste correctly, the firm dumped the waste off the Frilford Road. Mr Simon Shervell, Director of 1st Act Roofing appeared in court on 17th March and a successful prosecution resulted. He was fined £200, a contribution towards costs of £300 and a victim surcharge of £20.

Planning Applications considered by the Council

P14/V0145/HH and P14/V0258/LB Change of use of garage to form study and garden store at 21 North Street. The Council had no objections
P14/V0335/HH Form new vehicle access onto A338. Form new pitched roof to detached garage block at Woodside Cottage, Oxford Road, Frilford. The Council had no objections
P14/V0247/HH Side and rear extension with conservatory at 3 Mill Road. Council had concerns about the level of parking in Mill Road, particularly as a requirement to mark out parking bays within the site had not been followed.
P14/V0378/HH Single storey front extension to integral garage at 22 Kings Avenue. The Council had no objections
P14/V0402/O Erection of 3 dwellings, new access and associated works at The Red House, Packhorse Lane. Council expressed concern regarding the loss of the

garden area for what was a larger house leaving little remaining amenity space. It was worried too out the sight lines as traffic emerged from the properties into Packhorse Lane and the effects of pollution of queuing traffic. Should consent be granted, it wished to see adequate footway for pedestrians in front of the existing property.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 9th April, 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in the residents' lounge, at Duffield Place.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833 clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Dear Editor

Football Shirts Wanted

Since the dreadful tsunami in Thailand which happened just a few months before I went, I make sure I leave room in my suitcase for crayons, sweets and outgrown football shirts to give to the local children. If you have any of these shirts and are willing to donate them, I am off to Jamaica this year where I am sure there will be some little boys who would be delighted to have one.

LINDA COX 01865 391721

Dear Editor

On 26 April Karen and I will be taking part in Tough Mudder South West to raise money for Arthur's new school, Kingfisher in Abingdon. We really want to raise as much as possible to move the school a bit closer to building the long awaited Sensory Theatre that will massively benefit all the Kingfisher pupils.

This is a massive challenge for us and your support means the world so please take a look at our page and give what you can no matter how small. <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/karenandmarksharman>

Please feel free to share our page with anyone you think may be interested.

Thank you so much

MARK AND KAREN SHARMAN

EASTER BANK HOLIDAYS 2014

Normal collection day	Revised collection day	Which bin?
Friday 18 April	Saturday 19 April*	grey
Monday 21 April	Tuesday 22 April	green
Tuesday 22 April	Wednesday 23 April	green
Wednesday 23 April	Thursday 24 April	green
Thursday 24 April	Friday 25 April	green
Friday 25 April	Saturday 26 April*	green

* Please note on these days collections will start from 6am, an hour earlier than usual, so remember to put your bins out the night before.

April 2014

**A GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT!
15TH ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW
SUNDAY 4TH MAY 2014**

Abingdon Airfield, Dalton Barracks, Oxfordshire, 10am-5pm

TICKET PRICES:

Adults (16+) £12 advance, £15 on the gate
OAPs £8 advance, £10 on the gate
Children (5-15) £4 advance, £5 on the gate
Children under 5 free, Car parking free
Buy tickets online from the show's website at www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk until 8pm on 22 April.

Tickets also available from:
Abingdon Visitor & Community Info Centre, Abingdon Town Council offices, Abbey House; Wantage Vale & Downland Museum; Tourist Info Centres in Oxford, Wallingford, Didcot and Witney;
Some branches of Newbury Building Society.

www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk



Have Your Say

- **Thursday 17 April**

Duffield Place
1700-1800

- **Monday 15 May**

Marcham Shop
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

**SURGERY WITH
DISTRICT AND COUNTY
COUNCILLORS**

Richard and Catherine Webber hold a surgery every other month in Marcham Village Shop between 9.00a.m and 11.00a.m. Please come along if you need to discuss any problem.
Next surgery: **12 April 2014**

**FLYING DISPLAYS
STATIC AIRCRAFT
BOB TREDWELL MEMORIAL
ALL-FORD CAR RALLY
VINTAGE VEHICLES
LIVE MUSIC 4x4 RIDES
EXHIBITORS ARENA DISPLAYS
CHILDRENS' AMUSEMENTS
TRADE STALLS CRAFTS
FOOD & DRINK
AND LOTS MORE!**

**Marcham Mill Road
School Reunion**

It's been 60 years since we were at Marcham School

For any ex-pupils, from any year, please join us at:

The Boundary House
Friday 6 June, 7.30pm

For more details contact:

Jenny (Gosling) 01235 769708

Are you a 'flower arranger' and interested in preserving flowers for a dried flower arrangement? If so, I have a 1lb of Borax surplus to my requirements - FREE. Contact 01865 392089

Walkers wanted

Marcham's footpaths need your help
The Jubilee Paths have now been open for twelve years and need some checking and maintaining to ensure that they can be used in years to come. Also the Marcham Parish Council are anxious to ensure that the Public Footpaths are in good condition and they need systematic checking and reporting annually.

If you enjoy using our paths and would be prepared to help in monitoring them and reporting problems and/or are happy to join a group carrying out some maintenance such as pruning back brambles from stiles or replacing waymarks would you contact Eric Dunford on 391439 or email on e.dunford@btinternet.com.

MARCHAM SCHOOL

Giraffe Class Trip to Youlbury

On the 3rd to the 5th March Giraffes Class went to Youlbury Scout Camp. We completed a variety of activities including: abseiling, climbing, air rifle shooting and zip wire. We stayed in a small cabin and ate delicious meals in the huge main hall. We spent the last night at a camp fire with Andy (the instructor) and his team. Everyone enjoyed it and we hope to go again soon.

By **HANNAH AND HOLLY**

Youlbury was a special experience
Orienteeing made me more aware of my surroundings
Unererring (we made no mistakes)
Leap of Faith
Brilliant adventures
Uneven pole that we had to balance on
Rock climbing was amazing
You had to face your biggest fears: we are now better people.

By **HARRY AND JOSEPH**

Youlbury is an amazing scout camp that everyone can enjoy
Our class thought it was absolutely fantastic
Unlike anything else, the activities gave everyone a thrilling buzz!
Learning the values as we went along, we accomplished all of our challenges.
Being the best school in the world, the lodge had to reach very high standards and we all think it did.
Underestimating the limits of the activities, we all got a shock when we saw the staggering heights.
Reaching our goals was difficult, but with the help of the instructors we all made it!
Youlbury was one of our best experiences ever and we'd like to recommend it to others.

By **LILY AND AVALON**

Yummy burgers for dinner
Our bravery was off the scale
Undoubtedly, we had a great time
Leap of faith was unbelievable
Because we were challenged, we enjoyed ourselves
Under pressure, we all performed admirably
Responsibility for ourselves, for others and for the equipment
Yearning to do even more.

By **JOE**



Sightsavers and The Rotary Club of Oxford North

**Blenheim Palace Sponsored Walk
 Sunday 13th April 2014**

Join us in the beautiful grounds of Blenheim Palace from 10am on Sunday 13th April. Enjoy the great outdoors and raise money to help save sight in some of the world's poorest countries.

For further information and to take part, please visit

www.sightsavers.org/walk



Southmoor and Kingston Bagpuize Gardening Club

We have something special for our meeting on April 1st no it's 'not an April fool' It's a fascinating talk by Christine Stapley, all about **Herbs for Cooking and Remedies**. With some forgotten tips about growing herbs and their benefits to enhance the flavours and nutritional goodness of our food, but also some simple home prepared remedies for our ailments! 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm at the Village Hall in Draycott Road, Southmoor OX13 5BY. Our annual membership is £10 includes FREE admission to our regular monthly meetings plus a cup of tea or coffee with biscuit. Visitors are very welcome at £3 per meeting. We hold a grand raffle, and a members' table where plants and gardening goodies are often available for sale with donations going to our adopted charity. For more details about S&KB Gardening Club, please call Steve or Sharon on 820399 or email skbgardeningclub@gmail.com

**The Friends of The Ridgeway: The Ridgeway Day
 Saturday 10 May 10.30 - 4.00 Court Hill Centre, Wantage**

- Walk The Ridgeway - Britain's oldest road. Guided walks to Segsbury Castle.
- Nature trail and treasure hunt for the kids.
- Lunches and home-made cakes at the Barn Café.
- Admire art inspired by The Ridgeway.
- Birds of prey display
- Live music

From Wantage, take the A338 towards Hungerford, and turn right to The Ridgeway Centre just before the crest of Court Hill. **Limited Parking.**

Website: www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk.

Contact: ridgewayfriends@googlemail.com

**Marcham
 Community
 Group**



Very little to report

The village is still waiting to see the planning application for the scheme that Taylor Wimpey set out in their exhibition last October. This scheme involved developing Hyde Copse for housing but it would also provide two new class rooms for the school and a modest but adequate new village hall on the Anson Field which would be free of other development. A new sports field and pavilion would be provided on leased land north of Hyde Copse.

Once the planning application has been submitted there will be only a limited time for comments. The MCG committee believes this proposal is now the only viable option that could provide new village facilities in the reasonably near future. In addition, it would provide a new village hall at no cost to the Anson Trust. We have therefore approached the Anson Trust to request an early meeting to discuss any possible issues before the application is submitted so that both organisations are in a better position to comment once the application is made.

Bank Balance £14,100	Local Events £10,934	Donations £6,814
2014 Membership Adult: 78 Junior: 5		5p Coins 5094

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

Charity No 1144407
 mail@marcham.org

www.marcham.org



ED VAIZEY WRITES...

As your MP, I am often asked to help communities with challenges they face. Usually, these will just affect one town or village, but there is now one issue which will affect most of the Didcot and Wantage Constituency: the electrification of the railway in Oxfordshire, and the resulting plans to close 18 railway bridges across the area. Even if you don't live near a bridge which may be closed for, we hear, up to 6 months, the chances are you will travel through an area which will be affected.



I am very much aware of the problems that the temporary closure of railway bridges and subsequent traffic diversions would cause and share the concerns of so many Constituents on that score. I have been directly in touch with Network Rail about the issue for some weeks and a member of my staff attended a briefing about the matter at County Hall. I have also visited a business owner to hear about the impact on his and other local businesses, which will be dreadful. To begin to try to sort things out, I have called a meeting with Network Rail senior executives specifically about this matter. I believe Network Rail have proved to be both insensitive and incompetent so far, as sadly has been demonstrated in the very, very poor process and communications about Fulscot Bridge which is to remain closed for months to come even though it should, by now, have reopened.

I am also arranging to meet the Minister responsible, Stephen Hammond MP, to make it clear that while I support the electrification of the railway line, which will lead to cleaner, more efficient railway services, it cannot be introduced at the expense of grotesque inconvenience to my Constituents.

I have quite a large list of Constituents to whom I send occasional updates on progress in dealing with Network Rail on the general issues about electrification and particularly the impact on bridges and road closures. If you would like to be added to that list, please email me at vaizeye@parliament.uk and I will ensure you are kept up to date – but will try not to swamp you with communications.

Another issue, of course, that has affected many people across the Constituency is the recent flooding. I was very pleased that work done by my communities since our last major floods in 2007 meant that things never got quite as bad as they did then. As the waters subside, I have been working with others both locally and nationally to try to help with the immediate recovery, but also to look to the longer term and to make sure that we take the most effective possible measures to protect against such extreme weather in the future.

My mailbag this month continues to include a diverse mix of issues, ranging from pupils taking holidays during school term time to the use of wild animals in circuses. With the Chancellor of the Exchequer set to deliver his Budget in March, I have received a particularly high number of letters and emails calling for beer duty to be frozen for this year. I am pleased that the Government decided to make a targeted reduction in beer duty and abolished the beer duty escalator at Budget 2013. I'm assured that the Chancellor is fully aware of many of the arguments made in favour of a freeze in beer duty for 2014, and is also sympathetic to the case of responsible drinkers.

As ever please feel free to contact me on any matter at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or vaizeye@parliament.uk. Email is the quickest and most reliable way to get in touch, as I keep a very close eye on my emails and can reply very quickly. 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	
11th April	Wantage , Vale and Downland Museum, OX12 8BL
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

April 2014

COUNCILLORS' REPORT

I hope you will forgive us for writing a joint letter this month, but we realised that we wanted to focus on the same subjects on which we have similar views. So here goes.

Flooding

At a very useful I attended last week, a representative of Thames Water suggested that the reason that many people in South Abingdon were having problems with their drainage in the recent heavy rainfall was because they were not using their WCs correctly. This took me right back to 2007, when the councils, the various agencies and the residents all became involved in a blame game as many people's homes were in the process of being flooded. Thankfully, although there is still plenty of room for further progress, the authorities are now much better at working together. The causes of flooding are rarely simple. Our ability to predict who will flood and when is still far short of perfect. When it happens, rapid, co-ordinated responses are what is needed, not blame. We can sort out who was to blame later. Telling people whose houses are about to flood that they are not using their cisterns properly is not likely to be very productive.

Houses, houses, houses

Assuming the figures are correct, and I very much hope that the many high powered number crunchers in this area will get involved in ensuring that they are, we look like having to take 21000 more houses between now and 2031. When I asked which sites had been rejected, I was told "none". In other words, every possible site has been looked at and they cannot find any more. If anyone knows any better and there are some secret locations, ripe for development, please let the planners know. There is hardly any room for manoeuvre. The whole thing is beginning to look like a *fait accompli*.

The real nonsense is that granting planning permission for lots of houses does not, in itself, solve anything. It simply hands all power to landowners and developers. What matters is the "rate of housing delivery" and that depends on the ability of developers to sell their houses. At present, we are delivering around 500 houses a year in the Vale. We are hopeful that we can get that up to 700 next year. It is very doubtful that we could ever exceed 800 a year. We have never managed that before, why should we manage it now? To achieve the target being set in the latest Local Plan for consultation, we would need to achieve a build rate of 1200 a year every year until 2031. The potential backlog by 2031 is almost incomprehensible.

Infrastructure, infrastructure, infrastructure

Building yet more houses south of Packhorse Lane does at least take attention away from the north of the village. The two developments already granted permission, together with another we know for certain is in the pipeline, are now likely to be joined by a fourth under the proposed new Local Plan. Therefore there is a very real possibility of three separate additional entrances/exits onto Packhorse Lane. As a result, the impact on traffic and air quality at the Marcham S bend becomes ever more significant. It surely is reasonable to argue at the very least, that the relevant developers and planners should work together to produce a co-ordinated plan for a single extra junction. As this issue involves planning, air quality and traffic considerations – a mixture of District and County issues – we will be making it our major priority to urge the authorities to work together to this end.

The next surgery

Can we remind you that the next surgery will be held at the Community Shop on Saturday, 12th April between 9.00 and 11.00. Do come if you want to raise an issue or just to meet us. We are thoroughly enjoying meeting you.

RICHARD WEBBER CLLR, OCC

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

CATHERINE WEBBER, CLLR

01235 534001 or catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk



The
**Marcham
Society**

Rosi Rollings

How to Support Bees in Your Garden
All Saints' Church Marcham 7.45pm 8th April

Non-members always welcome £2

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

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

MSSSC: Marcham Sports, Scouts & Social Club
The pavilion & field off Morland Road

Quiz Night
Fri 25 April 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

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

2.00-3.30 pm 8th and 22th April
This group is going from strength to strength and now meets in the common room at Duffield Place. Do come and join us, you will be sure of a warm welcome.

Tea and cake follow the singing.

Phone 391270 for more details

Christine Whild



MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

Midweek Walk, Thursday, April 10th.

For this month's walk we will explore a new route in the Downs south of the Ridgeway. We will eat at the Swan Inn (Map Ref SU521799) in High Street, Compton (which is a short drive east from East Ilsley) at 12.30pm for lunch, starting the walk of about 4 miles at 1.30 on fairly flat drove roads up to the Ridgeway and back.

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



MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The remaining pre-Season Nets are set to be held at Abingdon School as follows:

6th April at 14.00

13th and 20 April at 12.30

Pre-Season Friendly Fixtures are scheduled for Saturday 26th April:

the 1st XI is Away to a Sunningwell XI and

the 2nd XI is Home to a Sunningwell XI

OCA Fixtures begin in May as do Charles Hoile League Fixtures.

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



Abingdon couple, hoping to build their ideal home, seek a small piece of land or a building suitable for conversion (or re-building) in this area.



If you own, or know of, a suitable property please call Trish on 01235 535984

Marcham WI

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, 17th April

Time: 7.30pm (back to normal time)

Venue: Boardroom, Manor Farm (different venue)

Please note the different venue for this month.



Please come and join us for our April meeting, when **Madeline Webster** will give us inspiration to make sure we all "**Colour with Confidence**" when planning our wardrobe. Bring along a scarf or favourite item of clothing to see what colour suits you best.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

For any questions, new members or visitors, contact Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

THE MARTIN THORNE VIDEOS

NOW AVAILABLE FREE FROM MARCHAM SHOP

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

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

Currently available from the shop are:

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

MT

Marcham Bridge Club

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



MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

On 6th March Marcham Pre-school celebrated World Book Day and the children arrived dressed as their favourite animal from a story book. We were surrounded by bears, tigers, cats, dogs, penguins, and rabbits! We all enjoyed sharing the children's favourite stories from home and had a great day. The afternoon was spent on an animal hunt, looking for a range of endangered animals hidden in the grass, trees and hedges. We had a wonderful day.... and the children are still hoping to find more animals to save amongst the plants and trees outside!



If you have a child under 5 and will be seeking a place at pre-school here are a few things to take into consideration

- We take children from their 2nd birthday
- You can register your interest (with no commitment or charges to pay) from birth!
- Spaces are limited and we are often full by December each year.
- Funding is available from the term after a child's 3rd birthday and in some cases from 2 years old. More information is available at www.gov.uk/free-early-education
- We still have a few spaces left for September 2014 but you need to act now!

If you would like an application form or to arrange a visit, particularly if your child turns 3 before 31/8/2014, please contact us as soon as possible. You can do this via our website at www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com or on 01865 392101, or e:mail marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk!!

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

ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE MARCHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This year the annual meeting for electors will take place on Wednesday 21st May at 7.30 p.m. in the hall at Marcham Primary School. The guest speaker will be Mr. Mark Mathews, Town Planning Manager, from Thames Water Utilities Ltd. He will speak on the consultation process, as far as Thames Water is concerned, when planning applications for a large number of dwellings are lodged. He will also provide information on the sewage and waste water network within Marcham. Light refreshments will be served. Please put a note of this date in your diaries.

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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.

ABINGDON LITTLE ANGELS

Baby Room This month the babies have been busy decorating their room with paintings and drawings and showing off their artistic skills. The babies have



spent time using lots of building blocks, making towers and knocking them down always so much fun, the music circle has been productive with the babies shaking the bells and banging on the drums, along with stories and playing in the garden it has been a great month.

Pre-school Room This month we have taken a step back into history looking at kings and queens. The children have been looking at mediaeval England, they made crowns, shields and armour along with knights of the round table. This lead onto Tudor times with Henry VIII and his six wives, poems and mazes. We then looked at Elizabeth I and sailing ships exploring the world, Next Queen Victoria where we looked at Victorian children and the toys they played with along with clothes and houses – spinning tops were a real hit with the children.

After School Club The children have been making the most of the light evening and sunshine and have time out on the field playing football, races, skipping and having fun. The After school club also have been looking at Kings and queens drawing some great pictures of Henry VIII and Elizabeth! The children have written poems and made up rhymes. On Pancake day the children had a great time with pancake races on the field, with team competitions, A great fun month for all. The light nights have also allowed the children to enjoy their football session on a Thursday out on the field.

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

CARTERTON, WITNEY & DISTRICT BRANCH OF SAVE THE CHILDREN BORN TO QUIZ (in aid of Liberia)

Saturday, 26th April, 2014 from 7.00pm
 At Carterton Community College, Upavon Way, Carterton.
 Tickets £6.00 per person (includes Supper, bar applied for)
 A Maximum of 6 people in each team, to enter telephone Pauline or Graham on 01993 842983.



FREE 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 of charge, as will the coaching which is 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

SAVE THE DATE

7.30pm Saturday 28 June 2014
 Summer Dance, MSSSC
 Organised by Hayley Cousins,
 Marcham Pre-School 07748 120601
More details to come later

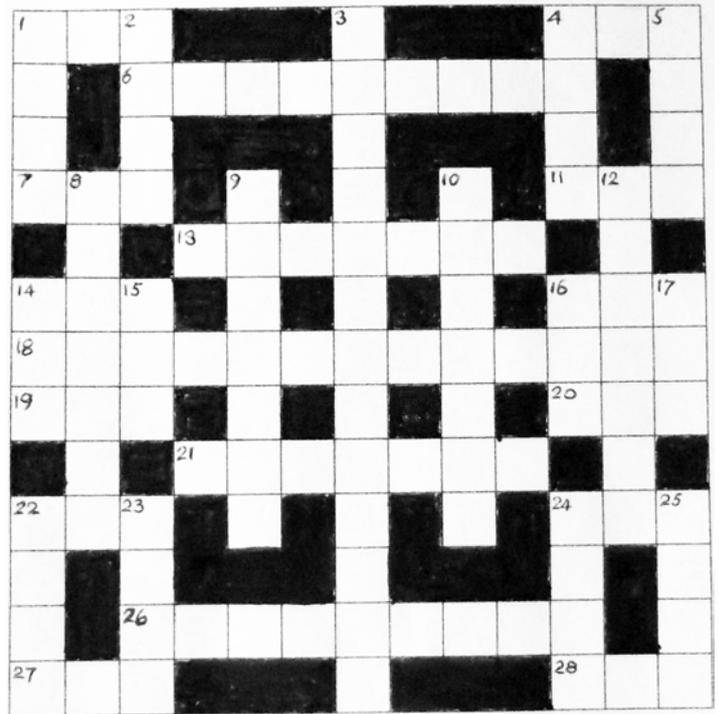
MARCHAM PLAYERS
With Great Pleasure



The Marcham Players recently held a very well attended "With Great Pleasure" evening in the Board Room at Manor Farm. The theme was "It made me laugh" - there were readings from many sorts of humorous writings, including Stephen Potter; Garrison Keiller; Lewis Carroll; Roger McGough, Tom Sharpe, Boris Johnson, Les Barker, and many others. One of the highlights was Jim Asher's rendition of "The Tay Bridge Disaster" by William Topaz McGonagall - very tragic subject but written with such a disregard for scansion and rhyme that it always provokes laughter and has done "for a very long time"! It was a very jolly evening, helped along by a modicum of liquid refreshment, with a lot of enjoyment - ranging from wry smiles to hearty laughter. Everyone read at least two pieces and many had brought more. Rather than go on beyond 9.30, it was decided to hold another "With Great Pleasure" evening, with the same theme, in the next month or two - watch this space. For more details about joining in with the Players, call Dave Hutchinson 01865 391964 or Joey McLean 01865 391242.

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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

CROSSWORD BY ALISA



Across

- 1. Big star (3)
- 4. Male pig (3)
- 6. Without the skill (9)
- 7. Beer (3)
- 11. Perform (3)
- 13. Vegetable (7)
- 14. Cooker (3)
- 16. Small viper (3)
- 18. Presenter of Margarita and the House of Love (13)
- 19. Moose (3)
- 20. Rule (3)
- 21. Player for folk dancing (7)
- 22. Cereal (3)
- 24. Say a bit more (3)
- 26. Call to mind (9)
- 27. Australian bird (3)
- 28. Female pig (3)

Down

- 1. Piece of furniture (4)
- 2. Number (4)
- 3. Sightsavers event on the 13th (9.4)
- 4. Olympian queen (4)
- 5. Present (4)
- 8. Lawfully (7)
- 9. Server of drinks (7)
- 10. Classes of Manor Farm (7)
- 12. Sauce (7)
- 14. Playing card (3)
- 15. Request (3)
- 16. Be unwell (3)
- 17. Part of animal's leg (3)
- 22. Flower (4)
- 23. Pale beige (4)
- 24. Insects (4)
- 25. Tie (4)

IT'S FUN, FRIENDLY, HEALTHY, GOOD EXERCISE, SOCIABLE and available to all aged 11 and over

An open day is being held at Morland Bowls Club, Orchard Lane (behind the Plough Inn), East Hendred, Nr Wantage, OX12 8JW on Saturday 3rd May from 1pm to 5pm. Would you like to try bowls or just have a look at what goes on?

We are offering **HALF PRICE MEMBERSHIP** plus free instruction and coaching for new bowlers in 2014, just flat shoes required to start. All welcome.

For more information please contact: Kevin Biles 01235-770365 or Marion Pointer 01865-391679

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

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

At a committee meeting on Tuesday 4th February 2014, a proposal was passed that:

All members must register **INDIVIDUALLY** at the Club between 9pm and 11pm and pay their subscription fee if they wish to remain on the list of current Members.

Members not able to attend the Club must submit their individual subscriptions by post to the secretary at the Club.

The closing date of this registration is April 1st each year.

Please note that those failing to respond by April 1st 2014 will no longer be considered Members and their names will be removed from the current Members' register.

Current Subscription fees: Under 65 £10 Over 65 £5



Family Table Top Horse Racing
Saturday 12th April 2014

Members, Their bona fide guests and family



Reminder GARD AGM

The GARD AGM will be held at Stocks Lane Farm Steventon on Tuesday 22nd April 2014 at 7pm followed by a Committee Meeting. All who wish to be updated are welcome to attend.

April 2014

FOR SALE

York Quest Treadmill. Cost £400 new, only used twice. Will accept any realistic offer. Ring 391586.

Marcham Village Shop and Post Office

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

For our Easter opening hours see the notice in the shop

We stock all you expect in a local shop and a bit more... you can order newspapers & magazines, collect pre-ordered Cumber Farms meat, top up your mobile and utility keys, make cash withdrawals, pay your bills, pick up a pint of milk, fresh bread, wine and beer ... and have a coffe (tea or hot chocolate!) and a chat!



Love in the Shadow of The Cross.



Many times as I go about my normal working day, I see people wearing a cross as a form of jewellery but why?

From around 600BC to 400AD – around 1,000 years, the cross was the most cruel form of execution in the ancient world, used variously by the Seleucids, the Carthaginians and the Romans, before the Emperor Constantine finally banned its use.

So why do people wear a symbol of barbaric execution as ornamentation? I have never seen anyone wearing a mini electric chair, or a gallows, or guillotine as jewellery on their bodies – so why do people wear a cross – the most horrendous form of execution ever invented? I am sure that many who do wear one often never give a thought to the fact that when they in widespread use 1,500 – 2,500 years ago, people didn't wear crosses, instead crosses wore people!!

But for those who do understand, the reason they might wear it is as a potent reminder of both forgiveness, self sacrifice and love. As we approach Easter, the only seasonal symbol that matters is not a chocolate egg, or a chick or a bunny rabbit but the cross – an ancient method of torture and execution but a symbol of love. Peter, another of Jesus' followers records the words : *“Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might live for righteousness and be healed from our sins”*

Also in the New Testament, the apostle John records how on the night before he went to the cross, Jesus knelt in front of him and the rest of his twelve closest friends and in turn washed their feet, an act of servitude love and self sacrifice. Jesus knew what lay before him the next day and in a way, the act of washing the disciples' feet foreshadowed the far greater act of love and self sacrifice that was to be so graphically enacted on the cross the next day. John's gospel records many things said by Jesus that evening, of how he knew that one of his closest friends was going to betray him, leading to the crucifixion. Jesus spoke also of how he would rise from the dead and how after his subsequent ascension into heaven would send the Spirit of God to be with his followers.

Additionally on that night, he spoke significantly of the need for unity amongst his followers, praying that they would be protected spiritually and that not only the twelve leading disciples but also all those who would follow down the centuries would be united as one. Sadly down the millennia, the church has factionalised, as differences in theology, interpretation of scripture and the format of worship has ultimately caused splits in the church. But it seems to me that God is calling us once again to be one.

Last month, we shared a service at All Saints with our Anglican friends and on 27th April, some of the All Saints congregation will come to join us at the Baptist Church for a combined service. We have several more joint events lined up over the coming months, services, joint social events and prayer meetings, as we seek God's will in our community.

Jesus said *“This is my command – love each other”*.

Though this was said specifically for his followers but also surely applies to us all as we live together in community.

Every blessing

Keith Mersh, Pastor Marcham Baptist Church

Keith Mersh - Pastor 01865 391881
Bill Dyer - Elder 01235 814986

Speakers in April

- 6 Apr - Janet Quarry
- 13 Apr - Paul Revell
- 20 Apr - Easter Celebration – Keith Mersh
- 27 Apr - Tim Jack

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



All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page

Dear Friends,

It has been such a pleasure over the past few weeks to enjoy some warm sunshine, get out into the garden, enjoy the beauty of the spring flowers, and the hedgerows that are beginning to come into the first flush of green buds. What a wonderful time of year this is!

However, this is also a deeply disturbing season. As human beings we have the capacity for immense good, for friendship, kindness, compassion and love, and incredible self-sacrifice on behalf of others. Sadly we also have a darker capacity for hatred, evil, greed, unforgiveness and holding grudges, of inflicting hurt, harm and distress. Our televisions and newspapers so frequently carry stories of people's inhumanity to fellow human beings, of brutality, cruelty and worse.

It is disturbing, because we can often recognise this darker side in ourselves and in others, in families, and in community.

However, there is always hope. Christ came to celebrate the good in human life and to deal definitively with the bad, dark and destructive side of the human soul. The events of Holy Week, which culminate in Christ's cruel and undeserved death on a cross, are far more than a human tragedy. Through this event, God was doing something truly amazing - he was uncompromisingly dealing with the root of human rebellion and evil and paying the dreadful price that turning our backs on God deserves - His life in exchange for ours.

But why we ask, did God go to such lengths? The answer is simply love. His love for you and for me, for the whole of creation. He longs to restore us to the full dignity that is ours as beings made in his image.

From Christ's amazing sacrifice flow the realities of forgiveness, peace, transformation and new life. Evil and death are conquered. Easter guarantees that goodness, hope and life are victorious and resurrection is assured.

Please accept our warmest invitation to celebrate these momentous events this Holy Week and Easter. Details of our services are on this page.

I wish you and those you love, a truly happy Easter

Rev. Richard Zair.

New Sunday sermon series in Lent:

Do you find the Old Testament a difficult part of the Bible? Our series of sermons during Lent will unpack events in the Old Testament which show that God was planning the amazing events of Holy Week and Easter right from the beginning! Come and deepen your appreciation of Old Testament, and its relevance to our faith.

April 6th: The suffering servant in Isaiah

April 13th: Palm Sunday- The King comes!

April 20th: Easter Sunday - Our Redeemer lives!

April 27th: St. George's Day parade.

Special April dates:

- **Men's breakfast, Sat 5th**, 8.30am at the Sports and Social Club
- **Wednesday 16th** - 7.30pm, Manor School Shippon. The Filling Station - an opportunity for reflective prayer and worship. Open to all.
- **Maundy Thursday 17th** - 7pm, quiet service of Holy Communion
- **Good Friday 18th**
10am - 12pm Family Friday - activities at the church
6pm - The cross of Christ - a devotion for congregation and choir

Parish People

We offer our congratulations to Ron and Susan Cooke who celebrated their wedding on 26th Feb.

Our deepest sympathy goes to the families of Mike Carling and Peter Mansbridge, both of whom passed away this month. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Regular services:

Sundays at All Saints': 10 am and 6 pm

St. Luke's, Garford: 10.30am April 20th

Wednesdays: 10.30 am Holy Communion at Duffield Place

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