

Marcham & District News

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

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



September 2014 Vol: 36 No: 9



▲ John Guest
“Singing in the Rain”
see page 5



▲ Trendles Project
see page 21



▲ New tech for Pre School
see page 17



▲ Luke Brown, first recipient of the
Janey Cumber Cup see page 17



▲ ‘Thumbs Up’ to www.fixmystreet.com.
Hole reported on 15 July and fixed on
19 August by County Council

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Can you spare a few
hours a week to keep
the shop open?
See page 7



▲ A Taste of Britain at Manor Farm
see page 5



▲ They Did It!! From Lands
End to John O'Groats in
aid of Vasculitis UK
see July MADNews

SEPTEMBER		
2 Tues	S&KB Gardening Club, Southmoor Village Hall, 19.15	21
5 Fri	Coffee Morning and Sale in aid of Young Dementia, Tubney Farm House, 10.30-12.30	19
7 Sun	Poetry and Pimms, St Lawrence Church, Tubney 18.00-19.30	19
9 Tues	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30	11
9 Tues	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45	11
9 Tues	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
10 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
11 Thur	Antique Valuations, Abingdon, 10.30-13.00	15
11 Thur	Blackberry Walk, Abingdon Arms, Beckley, 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	11

14 Sun	Against Breast Cancer “Breast Walk Ever”, Beale Park	19
18 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	11
19 Fri	Taste of Britain from Manor Farm, 15.45 BBC1	3
19-21	Craft and Gift Fair, Millets Farm - half price entry with advert	16
20 Sat	N Berkshire League Groundhop Day, Anson Field, 15.00 for 16.00 Kick Off	17
23 Tues	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30	11
23 Tues	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
25 Thur	MCG AGM and Open Meeting, Marcham School, 19.30	9
26 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

I hope you have enjoyed the summer with all the variations in temperature and dampness! I am looking forward to the autumn with the beautiful colours but also hoping for another few days (or weeks!) of sunshine before we start on the run up to winter again.

Congratulations to **Luke Brown** on being the first winner of the **Janey Cumber Cup**. Having a poem or passage that you can recite from memory is a wonderful thing – great for when you are waiting for a bus with nothing to read....!

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 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

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richard.webber@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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September 2014

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**Casual Vacancy**

There is a casual vacancy on the Parish Council. There will be an election in May 2015, so the current seat is only vacant until then. The Parish Council has been authorised by the Vale of White Horse District Council to co-opt to fill the vacancy as an election was not demanded by local residents. If there is anyone who is interested in joining the Council until the election, then you would have the chance of seeing what Parish Council meetings are like and what is involved, before deciding whether to stand as a candidate for the full term of office. If there is anyone interest in joining the Council for a few months, then he/she is invited to contact the Parish Clerk for further information about the role.

Air Quality

The District Council's air quality action plan has been prepared. Unfortunately whilst there was reference to Marcham, there was no management plan for the main A415 where there are many homes, as the levels of NO₂ did not breach air quality objectives. The Parish Council has encouraged the District Council to reconsider its position.

Churchyard Grass Cutting

The village Churchyard is formally closed by Order in Council, and the Parish Council arranges the grass cutting. Owing to past clearance works which have taken place, the grass cutting schedule needed amending. Representatives from the Parish Council have met with the Parochial Church Council and Marcham Society and have agreed what needs to be done. There will be a central conservation area as before, but more regular cutting on the New Road side of the Churchyard and by the footpaths.

A417 – Challow Rail Bridge

A temporary Order has been made to close the A417 by Challow rail bridge from 6th September for 3 months. This is to allow Network Rail to replace the bridge as part of its Project for electrification of the rail line.

Oxfordshire County Council – Local Transport Plan 4 Consultation on goals and objectives

The Parish Council was a consultee on the goals and objectives for this plan. The Council commented that the document seemed to be based on an accepted large increase in population within Oxfordshire. However, further growth could not be sustained and traffic remediation measures were required just to cope with existing populations. The Parish Council supported the re-opening of the Grove railway station.

MADNews is online: www.madnews.co.uk

Planning Applications considered by the Council

P14/V1223/FUL 23 Packhorse Lane - Erection of four houses and associated access. The Council commented on differing ground levels, adequate onsite parking and boundary enclosures.

P14/V1152/HH 3 The Green Mill Road - Demolition of existing attached garage. Erection of single storey side and rear extension and new detached two bay garage with gym/study over. The Council had some concerns with the possible demolition of part of a stone wall for access, and requested that a condition be imposed to restrict the garage from becoming a separate dwelling.

P14/V1279/HH Upwood Park Besselsleigh Extensions to existing dwelling and erection of Coach House. The council had no objections to the application.

P14/V1241/RM King's Field Sheepstead Road Reserved Matters application (following outline consent ref: P13/V0575/O) for erection of 43 dwellings with associated means of access etc. The Council responded on points regarding street lighting, pedestrian access to the site, planting on and potential for parking on the public open spaces.

P14/V1333/HH 10 Packhorse Lane Marcham Two Storey Pitched Roof Rear Extension. The Council had no objections to the application.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 10th September, 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 YOUR CAT IN EARLY JULY?

For further information on a young black cat with white front and paws, ring 391 462



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 on Wednesdays? 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.

JOHN GUEST

John Guest died on 17th July 2014. I know that the news has reached Marcham because I have received some wonderful cards and e-mails from old friends expressing sympathy and recalling their memories of John. I am so grateful for these and so would John have been. He was known variously as John, Jogger, JG, Guestie, Petal, Poppet, the old git and latterly as POMMIE John! We moved to the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia four years ago arriving on 22nd August 2010. Towards the end of his eight month battle with cancer, it was an enormous sadness for John that he would not reach the required qualifying period in order to be able to apply for and become an Australian citizen.

John embraced life in Australia wholeheartedly. He joined the local golf club and whilst improvement of his handicap eluded him, he marvelled at the beauty of the surroundings on the course every time he played, coming home with tales of encounters with huge water dragons, venomous snakes, colourful parrots, turtles in the water hazards and tropical trees. He said that Aussies were softies about playing in the rain: "At least it's warm rain here!" he said.

His other passion and latterly great consolation was the Men's Shed! The Woombye Men's Shed was started three years ago and John was a founder member. It was an escape initially from the house and me and later he relished it because he was able to go a sit and chat over a coffee, talk men's stuff and forget his illness! He contributed his very wide range of practical skills enthusiastically to their projects and it was at the Shed that he got the nickname POMMIE John!

We managed to do some travelling in Australia although far less than we had planned. In our caravan towed by the Ute – all very Aussie – we toured the northern coast of NSW and last winter took a six week trip to Melbourne in Victoria, where John's sister and her family live. Committed as he was to his new Aussie life, he still read the MAD News regularly online and followed the news of Marcham's doings from afar. He really missed two things about England: long light summer nights and going "down the pub" to either join in the current debates over a pint or simply observe in peace and quiet. Please know that he valued all his old friends in Marcham and often talked about you. John was very brave about his illness and never complained when things got tough. He was positive to the end and typical of him, still made jokes about it all. Thank you from "Down Under" for your support.

JANE GUEST
September 2014

Dear Editor

Having had rescue chickens for the past six years, we acquired five more last June 2013 locally. They have been the healthiest we have ever had and the naughtiest!! We would like to apologise to our neighbours if you find a chicken enjoying herself in your front garden, or taking a stroll around Parkside. A couple of our chickens have become escape artists and are very good at escaping from our back garden. So if you find a chicken in Parkside having a great time, please knock at No 13 and let us know. They are very friendly and won't hurt you, if you whistle they will follow you anywhere! Many thanks,

THE WRIGHTS*Dear Editor*

I recently contacted the clerk of the Parish council on an informal matter. After having a lovely chat, as she is a nice and kind lady, I left her with my home number and my work number to get back to me. I didn't hear anything but knowing how busy she must be, being clerk to two parish councils, I didn't think badly of her or the council. However, I came home today and was excited to see I had some post. It was a letter from the clerk of the parish council with information on my original enquiry. Although I would have been perfectly content with a phone call I understand that some things do need to be communicated in writing and I had not provided her with an email address however, I am surprised at the frivolous nature of sending me a letter with a first class stamp on it when I not only live in the village but also live within waving distance of members of the council. 70p could have been saved, not to mention .00004% of a tree if the letter had been posted through the door by someone passing the driveway.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED*Dear Editor*

Once again, a Heartfelt "Thank You" to all you magnificent people who so kindly supported me for my High Wire ZIP in Bethesda. We raised £11,500 (without Gift Aid) which will provide the finance to rescue three lots of patients in emergency call-outs. Even though very steep and incredibly fast I really enjoyed the fleeting view of miles of Welsh countryside on a perfect summer's day.

So again Thank You All for your sponsorship.

TRISH WAGSTAFF*Dear Editor*

Whatever happens next with **The Crown** [see advert next column], we must give Tony praise and thanks for what he has done for a number of interest groups who meet at the pub. In particular, the

fortnightly Monday night quiz and rollover game has been a hilarious hit with half-a-dozen team competing in friendly rivalry – a great night out initiated by Tony quite recently and a credit to him.

JANE MANDER

(Zero Sundries Quiz Team)

Dear Editor

Having lived abroad for the last 30 years and rarely back in Marcham, it was with great sadness that I heard of Gwyn Davies passing. My sympathies to his family.

He was without doubt the most important educator in my life, setting me on the road to higher education (I was the first, I believe, student of Marcham school to pass the Eleven Plus.) He was fair, tough and ALWAYS looking for ways of improving the lot of his students. A very fine man.

MICHAEL NORTON**MARCHAM SCHOOL, MILL RD**

We recently held a '60th year' reunion of the old school at the Boundary House, Abingdon. 26 former pupils and some partners attended. A very successful and enjoyable evening was had, and the conclusion was, we must do another. But not leave it for 60 years!!

We hope to do it in the Autumn.

Sue BLAKE

TO LET**The Crown, Marcham**

Admiral Taverns are looking for an enthusiastic licensee or licensees to run this wonderful village local.

This pub should be the hub of village life catering for all of the needs of the local clientele. The Crown needs someone who can make the most of the already existing offer of great value food and good quality cask ales but also has the vision to further enhance trade by making more of the village activities.

If you're interested in running your community local give Kelly Dunne a call on 01244 505491

TASTE OF MARCHAM

Earlier this year in May, Brian Turner and Janet Street Porter visited Manor Farm to cook a delicious celebration dish of rosé steak with asparagus and pea mayonnaise. You can see the resulting programme 'Taste of Britain' Friday 19 September on BBC1 at 3.45pm.

See the photo on the cover!

FOR SALE

- Miele dishwasher
- Bosch tumble dryer
- Samsung washing machine
- Salon table

Call 07402 302302

ANSON TRUST – CURRENT PLAN

Introduction

This is a statement by the Anson Trust, of its current plan. Please note that the position set out here may be subject to refinement and change as the situation develops.



Outline

The plan consists of three fixed elements and three open elements.

Fixed Elements

The fixed elements (always conditional upon the agreement and signing of the necessary contracts and to the obtaining of suitable planning approvals) are:-

- the sale of half of the Anson Field for development, essentially the same footprint and scope as the 2012 planning application;
- the purchase of ~7 acres of existing agricultural land about 800 metres beyond the built up area of the village;
- the sale of the Institute site. The Trust decided to sell the Institute site some years ago as it was surplus to the Trust's requirements and this position remains unchanged.

Open Elements

The open elements relate to:-

- the provision of a village hall (or community building);
- the provision of sports pitches and a pavilion;
- future use of the remaining half of the Anson Field.

While the Trust is very keen that Marcham should have a suitable village hall and is prepared to play a major role in facilitating this, it does not wish to either design, build, own or run such a facility. The Directors envisage making a very significant contribution to the cost of such a facility (financed from the proceeds of its asset disposals) but will be inviting village groups such as the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, Marcham Community Group, and the Friends of Marcham School to get together and collectively or under the leadership of one of them to plan and carry out the project. As to a site for the building, in principle the Trust does not want it to be on Trust owned land because it does not wish to be the landlord of last resort.

The second open element is the provision of a football and a cricket pitch and a suitable pavilion. The Trust is prepared to site these facilities on the land which it is acquiring. However, in order to ensure that other possibilities are not overlooked, The Trust is willing to pay for the laying down of pitches and the construction of a pavilion (at a cost up to that it would incur, if providing them itself) on any other land in the locality, if that is the wish of the sports clubs. Obviously, this would be a decision for the clubs themselves and they would be responsible for obtaining an alternative site and overseeing the carrying out of the work. (It is for the sports clubs to decide whether they wish to collaborate with and seek assistance from other village bodies such as the Parish Council).

The third open element is the use of the remaining half of the Anson Field. The Trust wishes the existing children's play area to remain on the field. The Trust sees the existing nursery facilities as providing an important service to the village and intends to provide nursery facilities (for commercial lease) on the remaining half of the Anson Field. What other type of facilities, if any, and their form will be the subject of consultation and discussion with interested groups and the village in general.

ANSON TRUST DIRECTORS

September 2014

Marcham Village Shop celebrated TWO years of being a community shop run by volunteers over the summer hols on the 30th July. For us all, its amazing what we have achieved **together** in that time. We have gone from an empty shell of a shop to having

- a fitted kitchen
- an office

• fully equipped stock room out the back and we have kitted out the main shop area with shelving, counters, seating, displays, a coffee machine, microwave, commercial fridges and freezers and of course our latest addition to the team (and our most welcomed asset to the shop to stop chocolate and the staff melting during the summer) - **Air-con!**



We would all like to thank all our volunteers and customers over the past two years and if you would like to be a volunteer or a customer - just pop in!

**United Churches
Harvest Service
Sunday 28th September
10.30am
Manor Farm, Marcham
A celebration of harvest for all ages
Everyone welcome!**



VACANCIES AT MILLETS FARM SHOP, FRILFORD

Millets Farm Shop, Frilford have a number of vacancies

- Produce Supervisor**
- Butchery Apprentice**
- Events Organiser – Maternity Cover**
- Counter Assistants**
- Buyer**

Staff discount, training and uniform provided for all roles.

For further information on these roles
visit www.milletsfarmcentre.com
Please telephone to ask for an application form on 01865 392200.
Or ask for an application form in store.

The Harding Bequest

The Harding Bequest is a small charitable trust which for some years has made grants to a variety of community causes in the parish. The funds available to the trust have now nearly all been distributed and so the Harding Bequest will shortly be coming to an end.

The Trustees would welcome any final applications from village organisations that might benefit from a small grant by 31st October 2014.

Please contact Jenny Warwick (392 076), Secretary to the Harding Bequest, for an application form.

Bank Balance
£14,100

Local Events
£10,934

Donations
£6,814

2014 - 2015 Membership
Voting: 115 Junior: 18

5p Coins
5446

Marcham
Community
Group



Community facilities – another September, another plan

The next few months will be a critical time for community facilities in Marcham

It is very nearly ten years since the Anson Trust closed the Institute. In the past three years, three separate plans to build replacement facilities for the village have fallen through, and we have heard that Taylor Wimpey, which was a partner in all three, has ended its involvement with the Anson Trust and the village.

MCG was informed by the Anson Trust early in August that it is about to make a very different proposal. It is explaining the outline informally to some groups, including MCG, and proposes to set out the details more formally in letters at the end of August. We were told that the information we were given informally is not confidential and can be passed on.

The Trust has told us that it is resolved to sell the football field for housing and that it wants to do this quickly. The sports fields and MSSSC building would be replaced by new pitches some half a mile outside the village, and a pavilion with only changing facilities. The Trust would not build a village hall. The money from selling the football field would be split three ways: setting up an endowment fund for the Trust, replacing the sports facilities, and funding other village facilities. The Trust would invite different ‘legally constituted’ village groups to put in competitive ‘bids’ for money for village facilities – All Saints’ Church PCC, the Parish Council, the Friends of Marcham School and MCG were mentioned as suitable groups. The Anson Trust **would not allow** a village hall to be built on Anson Trust land, leaving it to the village to find and purchase an alternative site, or possibly to purchase an area on the remaining part of the Anson field. It also plans to sell the Institute in a separate deal that would not provide funds for community facilities.

MCG and other local groups will need to decide how to respond to the Trust’s plan and whether to participate in a wider group of village organisations that would develop and implement a village plan for new community facilities in Marcham. Members will be asked to vote on these issues and on the future role for MCG at the AGM in September – see details below. **It will also be the main topic discussed at the Open Meeting that will be held with the AGM.**

Join MCG now, if you haven’t already, and come to the AGM to express your views and vote on the way forward for MCG as a member.

Non-members will be invited to participate in the Open Meeting that will be held with the AGM, and to vote on a further resolution on the Anson Trust’s plan.

Membership forms are on the website www.marcham.org You can also email your views to admin@marcham.org

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2014	AGM and OPEN MEETING — ALL WELCOME
7.30 pm	Marcham School
UPDATE ON COMMUNITY FACILITIES	MCG’s FUTURE ROLE





The Marcham Society

All Saints' Church Marcham
7.45pm Tuesday 9th September

MARCHAM SOCIETY 17TH (BIRDS AND) BLACKBERRY WALK.

Thursday September 11th.

We will be meeting again at the Abingdon Arms in Beckley (Map Ref: SP 565113) at 12.30pm for lunch or 1.30 for the walk, but starting this time from the RSPB car park (SP570127), reached via Otmoor Lane. There will be ample time to pick blackberries from the bushes on Otmoor, but also the opportunity to see some of the early Autumn visiting birds as we go.

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



HELP NEEDED WITH CHARITY ONLINE FUNDRAISING

Keith Mersh from the Baptist Church heads up Samaritan's Projects, a charity supporting persecuted Christians and Dalits in North India, by providing hand pumps for water and Micro Enterprise Development to help the poor lift themselves out of poverty. The charity has to date been very small but Keith believes that now is the time to increase the scale of the project. Do you have experience in developing websites and connecting with social media? This may well suit a young computer savvy person with a charitable heart. Keith would greatly appreciate your help. Call Keith on 01865 391881

Marcham Tennis Association

Play Tennis all year round in Marcham

Join Marcham Tennis Association

Fun, Local and Very Good Value!

Courts at Marcham Primary School

Adult £24

Junior (18 and under) £12

Family £40

Contact: Stuart Maw 01865 391201

stuartmaw@btinternet.com



Join now to play tennis all year round!

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

2.00-3.30 pm Tuesdays

9th and 23rd September

We meet in the common room at Duffield Place. Come and join us, you will be sure

of a warm welcome ... and tea and cake!

Phone 391270 for more details

Christine Whild



Open Evening

We start a new season with short talks by members about their research into various aspects of local history.

Marcham's WWI heroes

Contacts from across the globe • Midweek walks

Non-members always welcome £2

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

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

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The last O.C.A 2014 Season scheduled Fixtures for the Club are in September and are as follows::

	OCA Division 4	OCA Division 8
Sept	1st XI	2nd XI
6	W. Irlsey Home	Cowley Int. II Away
13	Brightwell Salome Home	Combe II Away

At present the 1st XI is in the upper half of its Division and the 2nd XI is in the lower half of its Division. Please contact Trevor Hill (01865 391321) for any information relating to the Club, including playing or umpiring for Marcham.

CSB



Marcham WI

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, 18th September

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Denman College



Having had a break during August, our next meeting will be on 18th September when we will be joined by Nicholas Clark who will be giving us a talk on 'Rails around India'. After our speaker, we will be enjoying some cheese and wine.

September is our 'open evening', so we'd be delighted if you could come along and please do bring your husbands, partners and friends. New members and visitors are always welcome.

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

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

Quiz Night

Fri 26 September at 8.15pm

The popular quiz night will begin again, following a summer break, in the Sports and Social Club in the Anson Field on Friday 26 September, starting at 8.15pm. Questions are on a range of subjects and aimed at everyone's ability! The quiz nights will be run on the last Friday of each month throughout the winter. Teams of up to four people are invited.

Everyone welcome - members AND non-members

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

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

One of the privileges of being an MP is the opportunity to visit some of the remarkable organisations that flourish in my Constituency. In recent weeks I have been able to see the work done by two of them.



The Thames Valley and Chilterns Air Ambulance service is based at RAF Benson and provides a vital service for my Constituents and many others across a broad, very rural area. It is a charity which receives no government funding for the helicopter or the team who maintain and fly it, but works very closely indeed with the South Central Ambulance Service which provides the paramedics and doctors who are transported to wherever they are needed. The standard of equipment on the helicopter was a great surprise to me – it really is almost a flying A&E department in its own right. The professionalism and teamwork evident in a service which can get to the most remote and difficult areas to help patients after accidents or with severe medical conditions such as strokes or heart attacks were truly awe-inspiring.

I was also inspired when I visited Mission Motorsport, a charity based near Wantage which works with both serving members of the armed forces and veterans to use motorsport as a means of rehabilitation. That ranges from organising trips for wounded veterans to motorsport events to setting up work experience placements and even finding jobs with major motor employers. The dedication of the small but very focused team was really impressive, but what really struck home was – again - the way everyone worked together as a team to achieve their aims. It's a serious organisation with a serious purpose, but the sense of camaraderie and humour I saw was fantastic.

As charities, both the Air Ambulance and Mission Motorsport need all the support they can get from the public, so I thoroughly recommend taking a look at their websites – www.missionmotorsport.org and www.tvacaa.org to find out more about them. I hope you'll be as fascinated and inspired as I was.

This month, as well as correspondence about the situation in Gaza, I've received a number of emails and letters regarding climate change. Climate change is one of the twenty-first century's biggest policy challenges, and I was pleased to be able to reassure those who got in touch that the UK is taking a leading role in tackling climate change on the world stage, working towards a binding global deal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit change to manageable levels. The Government is clear in its commitment to meet the 2050 target to reduce emissions of all greenhouse gases by 80%. In the meantime, Ministers will continue to work with their European counterparts to push for an ambitious 2030 EU target.

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 below and at www.vaizey.com

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)

MP'S SURGERY WTH ED VAIZEY

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

3rd Oct	Didcot , Cornerstone, OX11 7NE
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10th Oct	Faringdon , Pump Rooms, SN7 7HL
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Contact Ed Vaizey MP by

Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A OAA
------	---------------------------------------

E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
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Web	www.vaizey.com
-----	--

Tel	0207 219 6350
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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**Legal advice**

In these days of targets and key performance indicators, it is very difficult for most people in public service, in private companies and in the professions, to hide mistakes or shortcomings. There is always a line manager or inspector somewhere ready to pounce. Most of us can be held to account. Modern society's demands for value for money and ever higher targets have certainly made us a much more efficient and productive society (if perhaps more stressed).

Strange then, that one of the most commonly used, highest charging professions of all does not seem to have fallen in line with most of the rest of society. I am, of course, talking about the legal profession – and I very much hope that there will be solicitors out there who can reassure me that I am wrong.

I have become painfully aware over the past few years of examples of poor or inadequate legal advice given to residents I represent – particularly in the area of house conveyancing. The number of homeowners whose solicitors do not seem to have made them aware (or aware enough) of not having a “right to a view”, the possibility of new developments around the home they wish to buy and the implications of living on unadopted roads, are just a few of the issues that I, a mere unqualified and non-expert politician, have had to explain to people (I am not answerable for, but then I don't charge for the advice I give). It is disappointing that the resident who has received poor or inadequate and relatively expensive legal advice has few realistic options. To be fair, there is so much housing and infrastructure development going on in our area at present, it is quite a challenge to keep up with it all. But that is what we pay our hefty conveyancing bills for, and it is surely reasonable to demand some answerability.

Luxury Buses

Whilst visiting the Marcham Village Shop I saw one of the upmarket new buses on its way to Oxford with hand sewn Italian leather seats amongst other luxuries. My first reaction, given that the fares are the same as for a normal bus, was it really worth the bus company's time and money? But now I am thinking that if luxury buses encourage people out of their Jaguars, Mercedes and 4X4s, then maybe they really are an interesting idea!

Area Stewardship Grants

Well done, the hard-pressed, hard up County Council for managing to find the resources to fund these Grants for another year. If anyone has ideas on how £200-£2000 could be spent in or around their village on a “Highways” project – please get in touch.

General Interest

Work begins in October on the long awaited ‘Hamburger’ roundabout on the A34 Milton interchange – there is bound to be disruption while this lengthy project is undertaken..

RICHARD WEBBER CLLR, OCC

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**Air Quality**

Some of you will be aware that once a year the Vale conduct a consultation on the air quality of our area, and this year they have highlighted two areas where there is a risk of the public being significantly exposed to air pollution, largely as a result of heavy traffic. They are Botley in Oxford and Ock Street and Marcham road in Abingdon. The third area that they are keeping a close eye on is Packhorse Lane in Marcham which shows very high readings of NO₂ but not high enough to class the area as an AQMA area (Air Quality Management Area). This Lane has been hovering on the edge of serious air pollution for many years now, with some pollution tubes, dotted along the Lane, measuring above a safe level, and others below, with the result that the average reading

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT *continued*

appears safe. As you will remember, one pollution tube which had critical readings, was removed from the very sharp bend, just before the zebra crossing, and placed around the corner off the road for safety reasons. Hence the readings dropped! With some badgering from me that tube has been restored and has been in place for 6 months now. I await to hear those reading. But whatever the outcome quite clearly there is evidence of high levels of air pollution and with the added traffic from the new build areas we need to make sure that Marcham is kept on the radar.

Car Parking in Villages

As the number of cars in our villages rapidly approaches the number of residents, how we park and where we park is becoming an ever more common theme in local councillor casework. It seems that the law is not very helpful on this issue. In law, I am told that no-one has a "right" to park on the public highway, however, if the parking is clearly causing an obstruction, then the police can take action. As we all know, an obstruction is a very difficult thing to define. Developers of new housing are required to provide 2 parking spaces per home and 1 per flat. Many of us now have far more vehicles than that. It seems, therefore, that the only way to address the issue in our ever-more crowded villages is to appeal to everyone's sense of reason and fair play.

1. Please be aware of your neighbours need to access his/her own house/driveway.
2. If you own more than 2 cars in your household, please think carefully where you are parking the extra cars and be prepared to park the extras a little farther from your house than might seem convenient particularly if your road is very full of parked cars.
3. If you believe someone is causing an obstruction by the way they park, please try speaking to them first. (Once the authorities get involved, it becomes an issue that takes a long time to go away!).

If 3 doesn't work, let me know and I will discuss it with the police.

Survey

We are hoping to come round the village to talk to as many of you as possible, between now and the end of the year, to discover what issues are worrying you and how you would like to see the village develop. Clearly, we are moving into an age of expansion which inevitably will change the village. So let us know your ideas and concerns.

CATHERINE WEBBER, CLLR

01235 534001 or catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

DIDCOT RAIL 2014

The Abingdon & District Model Railway Club

will be holding a Model Railway Exhibition at the Didcot Civic Hall

Saturday 18th October 2014.

10:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Entrance Fee: £6 for an Adult. Up to two children less than 16 years of age can enter for free, if accompanied by a full fee paying adult.

The Exhibition will comprise 14 layouts, showing what can be built in a restricted space, and will include the Club's new Sodor Island Layout. There will also be six traders covering a wide range of modelling activities. Demonstrations, Displays and Refreshments. Car Parking and Disabled Access.



Apple Day

Marcham Community Group
www.marcham.org

Saturday 18 October

12 noon - 3pm

Marcham School

Fun with Apples

for all the Family

Games Activities

Food Drink

COME AND JOIN IN

ALL ANTIQUES HOARDERS OUT THERE!

Climb up to your attic or have a look in your garage or shed, you never know what you might find! Local children's charity, **Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire**, is holding an antiques charity valuation event where people can come along with their treasures to be valued, with all proceeds going to the charity. The cost is £5.00 for two items and £1.50 for each subsequent item.

Roxsye Room, The Guildhall, Abingdon

Thursday 11 September

10.30am and 1.00 pm.

Emma Anderson, volunteer and fundraiser for the charity said "Climb up to your attic or have a look in your garage or shed, you never know what you might find. People have brought along some wonderful things at previous valuations organised by Bonhams and have been delighted at the results, so come along and bring your treasures". For more information, contact Home-Start on 01235 511152.

www.home-start.org.uk



Support and friendship for families

Oxfordshire Advocacy

We are looking for volunteers for our next training course

Charity no: 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 who need support to challenge decisions, uphold rights, attend meetings or make a complaint. We have a new project supporting adults over 50 who have been affected by cancer.

Next training course is in Oxford on 2nd 3rd, 10th October 2014.

For an informal interview prior to training, contact jacinta.sands@oadg.org.uk Tel: **01865 230201**

Website: www.gettingheard.org

MARCHAM BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Have you just had a baby or recently moved to the area with children under 3? Do come and join us at All Saints' Church on Tuesdays 9.45 - 11.15, we are a small friendly group and would welcome new families/child-minders/carers. We have toys for babies and toddlers, refreshment, singing/story time and it's an opportunity to meet others for a chat. First visit is free then £2 per family. If you are waiting for your happy event, do pop in for a coffee and chat. Sue Gibbling [Treasurer]. **Do come and join us!**

**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS**

The previous school year has been one of our busiest and was definitely our most engaging, interesting and entertaining year ever! We have enjoyed so much with our children and shared many happy moments playing, learning and watching their development. It was with much sadness that we said goodbye to our 12 leavers & their families at the end of term yet we have the satisfaction of knowing that they have experienced everything possible at pre-school to face the exciting challenges ahead and we know that each child will embrace school with the interest, enthusiasm and passion for learning that makes our job so worthwhile.

Goodbye to Megan, Rosie, Amber, Alexander, Stas, Kaysie, Isabelle, Jasmine, Malachi, Leah, Jack & Daisy.

We hope you are enjoying your new schools. Have fun!!

Love Marion, Nicky, Katharine, Louisa & Natasha..

We can be contacted on 01865 392101,

marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk,

or via our website www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



The **Marcham Summer Dance** was a great success raising £726.90 for the pre school. The money raised allowed us to purchase iPad Minis which enableds us to share 'real-time' observations and assessments with parents as well as supporting the children's future use of ICT and therefore continuing to provide an 'outstanding' preschool.

As a result of the success we are already organising another summer dance already planned for Saturday 27th June 2015. Thank you again for your generosity.

Baby Room

What a busy couple of months we have had in the baby room, we made all the sights of London from Big Ben to Buckingham palace. The best part of the summer has been looking at the seaside, this means we have had lots of experiences with a range of textures especially sand play, along with feathers of the seagulls and the slippery seaweed. We have also been making the most of our revamped baby garden, enjoying spending time outside where we can make loud noises with the instruments, build towers and learn to go up and down on the slide! In August we have been showing off our dance moves to a range of music, moving to the beat and experimenting with new movements.

Pre-school Room

To celebrate Prince George's 1st birthday we made a card and sent this to Buckingham Palace, we were all very excited when we received a thank you letter from Prince William and Kate thanking us for our card! To continue in the celebration we learnt about who was in the royal family and also our own family. We went on the London sightseeing bus and found Big Ben, London Eye, Tower Bridge and Marble Arch to say a few. The whole of London could hear us singing London Bridge Is Falling Down and we managed September 2014



Abingdon Little Angels
Building blocks for life

MADNews is online:

to rebuild it! In August we looked at the seaside - building sand castles, looking at the different textures of the seaside to slimy seaweed to the rough sand and smooth shells. We have also been enjoying the garden outside, but a creature with terrible teeth and terrible claws appeared.... oh no it was the Gruffalo! We acted the story being each character and helped the Gruffalo find its way home!

It has also been a very proud moment for us all here at little Angels as we had our graduation ceremony for our pre-schoolers who are leaving to go to school. The evening was a great success with all family members attending, there were lots of party poppers, food and sparkling soft drinks. Congratulations to the class of 2014 and good luck spreading your wings to fly to school.

Holiday Club

We have been busy in the holiday club looking at all different types of games, following the athletics we created our own games. We have been hurdling, Frisbee golf, football matches, running races... the list is endless. We also got to make our own medals - exceptwe had superheroes instead of colours!! Everyone was a winner. We are looking forward to the after school club starting again and have lots of exciting things planned.

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

NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL

Luke Brown of Anson House is the first recipient of the **Janey Cumber Cup**. Luke was presented with the cup for winning a poetry recitation competition. Marcham School would like to thank all those involved with the organisation and presentation of the cup.

You may also have been wondering what was going on at school recently – we are having a new boiler! The Eco Council took a great interest in our new boiler installation with Nathan from EIC explaining the next steps in the fitting process. The Eco Council will revisit the boiler house in September when works are complete.

VIV HUTCHINSON

NORTH BERKSHIRE LEAGUE GROUNDHOP

(Saturday 20th September 4pm ko on the Anson Field)

Marcham FC are delighted to announce that we have been invited to host the third game of the day in the annual North Berks League groundhop event. The event is arranged by Groundhoppers UK and involves around 200 groundhoppers attending up to 4 North Berks League games in one day.

The games selected this year are

- 10am Crowmarsh Gifford V Wallingford Town
- 1pm Dorchester V Ardington
- 4pm Marcham V East Hendred
- 7.45pm Benson Lions V Grove Rangers
(at defence academy Shrivenham)

The gates will be open at the Anson Field off Morland Road in Marcham at 3pm, entry is £4 per person (programme included)

Entry for under 16s is free. Car Parking is also free.

As well as being a local derby with East Hendred the Sports Club bar will be open for the duration and also after the game. Hot and cold food will also be on sale. There will be a stand selling club merchandise including badges and also a half time raffle with a top prize of 2 corporate hospitality tickets at Oxford United.

The event is open to all and local support would be much appreciated.

If any club or organisation is interested in having a stall on the day or if anyone would like further information about the event or would like to donate a prize for the raffle then please contact club chairman Lindsay Mudie on 07436812322 or email lindsay.mudie@pertemps.co.uk

www.madnews.co.uk

TIME TO TAKE STOCK AND LOOK AT OUR PLANTING SCHEMES

A highlight in many gardens is when everything seems to be in full bloom and the garden is alive with wildlife.

As August progresses, more species of butterfly are visible in gardens so we need to plant up our pots, troughs and borders with suitable flowers etc. Long forgotten and old-fashioned cottage garden plants are ideal for this – with their fragrant flowers, in all sorts of shapes and colours.

Colours tend to be very vivid at this time of year, perhaps more so than at other times of the year, so Rudbeckia, Echinacea are two plants I would happily advise to grow as they are very agreeable to many insects that start to form the food chain out there in our wildlife gardens.

This month, August, is ideal to stand back and take stock of our planting schemes. If you are not happy that the colours and types are attracting enough wildlife, plan to add more perennial plants in late autumn and see if we can all extend the flowering season a bit longer.

Leaving some ivy to flower into the Autumn is a great way of extending the nectar season for the bees. Ivy doesn't have to mean neglect. Wildlife gardening isn't about doing nothing, it's about gardening in a slightly different way..

Happy Gardening STUART MABBUTT

Wildlife Gardening Specialist 01865 747243



New pamphlet on sale

The Hush-Hush Factory

sited in Tubney Woods during WWII.

£3.00 each from Rosemary Kitto

01865 390466 e-mail rosemarykitto@gmail.com

St Lawrence Church, Tubney Sunday 7th September 2014 Shortened Evensong followed by Poetry and Pimms

The Centenary of World War I

Let the Vicar know if you would like to read a poem or come and listen to others.

Programme

6.00 pm – Evensong

6.40 pm – Refreshments

6.45 pm – Poetry readings start

7.30 pm - Finish

Parking in the field adjacent to the Coach Road

Opposite side of the A420 from the Church.

Vicar –The Rev. David Pickering

01865 820 451 or vicar.kbsft@gmail.com

YoungDementiauk Fundraising

Coffee Morning & Sale

Date 10.30-12.30 Friday 5 September

Venue Tubney Farm House Abingdon Road Tubney OX13 5QL

Enjoy a cuppa and cake, and a chance to buy from stalls selling a selection of exciting, quality gifts, goodies, plants and produce. Plenty of free parking.

Details from Gwyneth on 01865 390483

Fundraising in aid of YoungDementia UK

www.youngdementiauk.org

KICK START YOUR AUTUMN

If gym and exercise classes seem a bit too vigorous but you want to be doing some exercise, then AGE UK Oxfordshire has the perfect solution. Brand new to Marcham,

Oxfordshire Age UK will be providing a new seated exercise class specifically designed for those who would like to improve their fitness, balance and strength.

Maybe you have been a little hesitant at the thought of going to an exercise class because you aren't sure what to expect. So here's a quick guide to the session:

- It's fun
- It's friendly
- It's deceptively effective
- The routines are easy to pick up
- The exercises can be done standing or sitting so it will suit everyone
- No special clothes required, just wear something comfortable and non slip shoes.
- It will improve your fitness , strength and balance
- There's no age limit so it's never too late to start!

It lasts for one hour in the Marcham Sports and Social Club every Thursday at 10:30am to 11:30am. Age UK Oxfordshire classes are very popular and run by our friendly qualified staff, and you'll come out feeling better for it. It is great way to kick start your autumn!

What's more the first session is FREE to newcomers and thereafter each class will cost just £3.50.

Come along, bring a friend or make a friend there and you might be surprised at how much you will enjoy it.

For further details contact AGE UK Oxfordshire on 01235 849403.

PLEASE NOTE: no class on 18 September

the WI

DENMAN

DO YOUR SHOPPING AT DENMAN

Did you know that Denman has two great shops and anyone is welcome to browse or buy?

The Denman Gift Shop offers a large selection of gifts, cards and WI goods. Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-12.15pm and 1.15pm-5pm and Sun 9am-1pm.

The Denman Fabric Shop has a selection of fabric, wools, threads and crafting goods. Opening hours: 8.30am-9.30am and 1pm-2pm daily, and at other times on request.

Denman, New Road, Marcham, Abingdon, OX13 6NW

01865 391991 | www.denman.org.uk | info@denman.org.uk

Take a walk on the pink side and help us beat breast cancer!

The Breast Walk Ever, our day-time walking full or half marathon is open to men, women, children and even dogs. The walk follows the beautiful Thames riverside from Abingdon to Beale Park on 14 September.

Against Breast Cancer funds pioneering research by expert clinical scientists at the University of Westminster in London. Its national Diet & Lifestyle Study of breast cancer survivors involves over 3,300 women in 57 hospitals across the UK. It is the largest study of its kind in the world. Ultimately, our goal is to discover a vaccine against breast cancer.

So are your boots made for walking? Don't delay - take a walk on the pink side and help us beat breast cancer.

AGAINST
breast cancer

breastwalkever.org #breastwalkever
facebook.com/againstbc
www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE TRENDLES PROJECT

The Trendles Project has been very fortunate to have had two wonderful open days this summer.

On Wednesday 25th June we were very pleased to welcome nearly 100 pupils from Marcham Primary School to a school archaeology open day in the paddock at Manor Farm. The children were divided into 'cohorts' and a Trendles Project volunteer came up with the ingenious idea of leading them from one activity to the other with Roman eagle standards in the group colour – all eagerly carried by the children.

Small test pits were opened and the pupils, supervised by Trendles Project volunteers, were able to try their hand at excavating. They soon began discovering a range of finds including medieval and post medieval pottery, animal bone (the remains of ancient meals) and metalwork. The children learnt the importance of sieving the soil from the test pits and how to wash their finds properly so we could identify and photograph them. They were also shown how to record the layers of soil, and a dumpy level (a surveying instrument) was set up to give the children an opportunity to see how we record the location of finds and objects.

A range of prehistoric or Roman themed craft activities were also on offer. The children were taught to make Iron Age style thumb pots from clay by a Trendles volunteer, who is also an amateur potter, which they then decorated with a range of tools similar to those used in prehistoric times. Others spent some time in the Roman crafts tent, designing a mosaic or making a Roman-style dog brooch and left sporting some splendidly decorated brooches. Everyone spent time with 'Celtic Chris', and learnt about the Iron Age through discussion, music and objects. Each child was given a role in their own Iron Age community finding out what their life would have been like. Chris demonstrated prehistoric crafts and showed the children the various tools, equipment, clothes and musical instruments that would have been used in the Iron Age and introduced them to Bear, his prehistoric-type dog. Both Chris and Bear were a smash hit!

Our second open day took place a few days later on Saturday 28th June and over 250 people braved the dreadful weather to join us. Many of the activities that had been so popular with the school were available for visitors to try and we were also delighted to be joined by craft specialists who demonstrated how everyday items were made in the Roman and prehistoric periods. Members of the local Weaving Guild showed us ancient weaving and spinning techniques and helped our visitors weave short lengths of wool to make their own traditional woven fabric, which many then wore as decorative bracelets. A basketry expert was also on hand to show off her skills, and many of the children came away with magic wands or amazing basketry fish they had created themselves. A stand where visitors could see a whole range of worked flint tools from Mesolithic to Roman times and discover how they were made, was run by one of our volunteers. We were also joined by members of the Marcham Society whose displays of historical research from the medieval period into modern memory, extends the story of Marcham beyond that revealed by our excavations.

A trip to the Roman food and drink stand was a must for everyone. A delicious range of authentic Roman foods including honeyed wine, un-leavened and honey bread and various Roman dips had been lovingly prepared by another member of the Trendles team. The food not only tasted delicious but the historical background information and explanation of how they had been recreated was fascinating.



The Trendles Project is of course about the eleven seasons of excavation carried out at Manor Farm and the work of our volunteers in making sense of the finds and records. A number of exhibition boards showed what we are doing in our Heritage Lottery-funded project, and other boards and finds from the excavation revealed various aspects of the excavation. To accompany these, talks by Project Director Gary Lock were filled to capacity with interested visitors.

Some of the unprocessed Iron Age and Roman pottery from the excavations was also available for 'pot washing.' This was especially popular with our younger 'future archaeologists' who enjoyed seeing the detail of the pottery fragments appear as they learned to gently clean the dirt away.

It was also an opportunity to have a finds identification day where local people are encouraged to bring any objects they have found locally for identification. A Bronze Age socketed axe, a tiny bronze figurine, possibly Roman, 18th and 19th century coins and trade tokens, and pottery from the Roman to the post-medieval periods were all seen during the day.

Both days were a resounding success thanks both to the hard work of our volunteers before and during the open days, and to everyone who came and found out what our project is all about.

www.trendlesproject.com



Southmoor and Kingston Bagpuize Gardening Club

The next meeting is on Tuesday 2nd September after a break in August. This month's topic 'What to do with excess fruit and vegetables from the garden'. Rebecca Gill and Friends will give tips and ideas for using and preserving fruit and vegetables from your garden, with tastings and recipes available. We meet in the Village Hall in Draycott Road, Southmoor OX13 5HX at 7.15 pm for the start at 7.30 pm. Annual membership to the club is £10 which includes admission to all regular monthly meetings. Visitors are very welcome at £3 per meeting. And join us for a free cup of tea or coffee with biscuits after the meeting. We hold a grand raffle each month and a members' table where you may pick up a bargain plant or garden goody. If you have a 'glut' of fruit or vegetables in the garden bring them along for sale all proceeds will go to our chosen charity. Also at this meeting you will be able to purchase tickets for our special meeting on Tuesday 7th October with Pippa Greenwood from BBC Radio 4s Gardeners' Question Time. Advance tickets Members £7 Non-members £10. For more information about S&KB Gardening Club call Steve or Sharon on 01865 820399 or email skbgardeningclub@gmail.com

Southmoor and Kingston Bagpuize Annual Village Show will take place on Saturday 13th September at 2.00pm at the Village Hall, Draycott Road in Southmoor OX13 5HX. This popular annual event promises a bumper of entries in new classes for Flowers and Plants; Vegetable and Fruit Classes; Floral Art; Household; Art and Craft. Plus the popular Photographic and Children's Classes. Come and see our village talent on show, Admission £1.00 adults Children Free. Show opens at 2.00 pm. Presentation of trophies and prizes at 3.45pm. Followed by the 'Grand Raffle' at 4pm. Refreshments will be available. Members' entering the show, entry forms must be delivered by 8.00 pm on Thurs 11th September. For further information about the Annual Village Show, contact Julie Carpenter on 01865 820885.

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

Carpe Diem



Marcham
Baptist
Church

Almost every day on the news we hear of the death of a celebrity. Even though we may have never met them, it is always sad to hear of the death of someone influential, especially when that individual has died before their time - Michael Jackson, John Lennon and Amy Winehouse spring immediately to mind. Regrettably, to that list we can now add Robin Williams. It was with great sadness that I heard of his death by apparent suicide last week, almost certainly as a result of his battles with depression and substance abuse. What a waste.

I first recall Robin Williams exploding onto our screens in the late 70's as the star of *Mork and Mindy*, Mork, the extra-terrestrial traveller who when asked to sit down, did so on his head. Such was his natural, zany sense of humour that often led to directors giving Williams a huge amount of freedom to ad lib during his many TV and film appearances. His warmth and humour seemed not to have been confined to the screen.

When lifelong friend Christopher Reeve (The Superman films) lay in hospital paralysed after a fall from a horse, Williams strode into his hospital room posing as a Russian doctor about to conduct a colonoscopy. The previously suicidal Christopher Reeve laughed for the first time since the accident. He said later in an interview that it was at that point that he knew that if he could laugh he could go on and live. Only a week before he himself died, Williams recorded a video to a terminally ill female cancer patient in New Zealand, who had apparently put meeting with Robin Williams on her bucket list. Williams generously responded, as he did so often in raising funds for charitable causes.

Accolades have quite rightly poured in for this amazingly talented and gifted comedian and actor, whose portrayals in *Good Morning Vietnam* and as Mrs Doubtfire were among his comedic highlight. His credits include many other great films but it is his portrayal as the inspirational teacher John Keating in *Dead Poet's Society* that will stay in my memory as one of my favourites.

Almost his first words in that film on his first day at the school were to his new pupils - '*Carpe Diem* boys - seize the day' .. 'Strive to make your own voice'. stirring stuff as Williams' character John Keating encouraged his pupils to '*Make your lives extraordinarymake a difference*'.

Last week Williams finally and so sadly lost his battle with his own demons but maybe it can be a reminder to all of us of own mortality and the brevity of life Maybe it's a call to each of us to be determined to '*Carpe Diem*' - to seize the day and make a difference positively in our own relationships, workplace or community because life is so short.

Keith Mersh Pastor
Marcham Baptist Church

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



Joint Harvest Festival with All Saints

10.30 - Sunday 28th Sep at Manor Farm

Family Day @ Marcham Baptist Church

Saturday 11th Oct - 11.00 to 3.00

More details in next month's MAD News

Speakers in September

7 Sep	-	Keith Mersh
14 Sep	-	Paul Revell
21 Sep	-	Bob Hazell
28 Sep	-	Joint Harvest Service - see above

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

I don't know why, but the transition from August to September always seems to catch me off guard. One moment it's all summer sunshine, holidays and relaxation. The next it's new term, busy-ness, dark evenings, Harvest, Remembrance – and, as Jane hates me reminding her, Christmas in the shops and around the corner.

But deep down, I know I love both the change of seasons, and their familiar cyclical pattern. There is a security built into the created order, based on God's covenant promise to Noah that '*while the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, will never cease*'. [Genesis 8:22] But other changes are inevitable too; as certain, indeed, as death and taxes. And they can be really difficult and scary. In life, as in politics, events happen, and they often confuse, puzzle or deeply disturb us. Who would not be moved, and troubled, by recent news from Gaza, or the cruel behaviour of Islamic State forces in Iraq? And closer to home, personal tragedies, whether by accident, illness, broken relationships or bereavement, are part of all our lives. The promise of Jesus, in all these things, is that, *if we come to him, we will find rest for our souls*. [Matthew 11:28-29] So that's a promise, subject only to the one proviso – that we come.

There is one major local change we are all aware of, and that is the planned expansion of our village by new housing. Some feel this as a threat, but we in the churches see it as an opportunity, and are starting to pray and think together about how we can rise to the challenge of welcoming, as our new neighbours, those who will move here. What a privilege we have, to live in a beautiful village and area, with so much going for it. Already our church building is bulging at the seams during children's activities like Holiday Club and routine Sunday morning groups. We worship God who is both unchanging in his holiness, and endlessly creative in working out his loving purposes towards his creation – the world that he loves, redeems and gave Jesus to die for. As humans are made in his image, we share, and reflect, his own creativity. Some things must change, and with God's help, we can too. May he help us all to work together, lovingly and creatively, as we shape our village and its facilities for a growing church, and rising population. And may we join together to welcome one another, as God in Christ welcomes us.

Tim Jack

Churchwarden

We warmly invite you to any or all of our services in the Parish Church of All Saints', and to our monthly service at St. Luke's in Garford.

Services this month:

Sundays at All Saints':

Sunday 7th – First things first – worship and prayer
 10am – an informal style service
 6pm - Holy Communion
Sunday 13th - Forgiveness
 10am - Baptism followed by HC
 6pm – Evening Prayer
Sunday 21st – Work and Witness
 10am – Morning Praise
 6pm Holy Communion
Sunday 28th

JOINT HARVEST CELEBRATION

with Marcham Baptist Church,

10.30am at Manor Farm

ALL WELCOME

Bring a picnic for afterwards. Drinks provided

6pm – Prayer and Praise

St. Luke's, Garford: 10.30am, Sunday 14th

Wednesdays: 10.30 am Holy Communion at Duffield Place

Other Dates

Friday Club restarts on 19th at 5.30pm

**Ride and Stride, Saturday 13th September
setting off from All Saints' Church after a
breakfast at 8.30am**

This annual event raises money for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and Marcham with Garford Parishes. If you wish to get involved or sponsor someone, please contact Gordon on 391944

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Jill Rowe Youth and Children's Minister 390885

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