

Marcham & District News

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

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



JANUARY 2016 VOL: 38 NO: 1

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



HAPPY DAZE DUO

▲ New Year's Eve at the Club page 9



▲ Marcham WI in full Christmas spirit page 7



▲ Pre-School's Nativity page 13

Happy new year Blwyddyn Newydd Dda Bliadhna
 Mhath Ùr Athbhliain faoi mhaise dhuit Voorspoedige
 nuwe jaar Urte Berri on Shuvo noboborsho Felice
 Anno Nuovo Sun nien fai lok Xin nian yu kuai Stastny
 Novy Rok Godt NyttÅr Gelukkig nieuwjaar Bonan
 Novjaron Onnellista uutta vuotta Bonne année Ein
 glückliches neues Jahr Shana Tova Boldog uj evet
 Selamat Tahun Baru Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu
 Sehe Bokmanee Bateuseyo Nyob Zoo Xyoo Tshiab Felix
 sit annus novus Barka da sabuwar shekara Godt Nytt
 År Manigong Bagong Taon Szczesliwego Nowego
 Roku La Multi Ani si Un An Nou Fericit Ia manuia
 le Tausaga Fou Feliz año nuevo Heri za Mwaka Mpya
 Gott Nytt År Sawatdee Pi Mai Chuc mung nam moi



◀ Little Angels
 enjoying a
 Café Christmas
 Lunch
 see page 13



HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS

Normal day	Revised day	Which bin?
Wed 30 Dec	Sat 2 Jan*	Green bin and food bin (no garden waste)
Wed 6 Jan	Fri 8 Jan	Grey bin and food bin
Wed 13 Jan	Thur 14 Jan	Green bin, brown bin, and food bin

* Please note that Sat collections will start from 6am, an hour earlier than usual, so remember to put your bins out the night before.
 'Grey bin' - is actually the black rubbish bin! If Wednesday is not your usual collection day please go to www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk or your local council's website for your waste collection details

Diary for January

2 Sat	Shop and Post Office reopens	5	19 Tue	Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme Public Consultation, Oxford Town Hall, 14.30 – 19.00	
7 Thu	Music at the Unicorn: Lucy Kitt, 19.00	9	20 Wed	Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme Public Consultation, Abbey House, Abingdon, 14.30 – 19.00	
12 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45	5	20 Wed	Deadline for February MADNews, 17.00	
12 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 – 15.30	3	21 Thu	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	7
13 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3	26 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 – 15.30	3
14 Thur	Midweek Walk: The Merry Miller, Cothill 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	7	28 Thur	Mobile Library, Sweetbriar 14.35 – 15.00	
14 Thur	Mobile Library, Sweetbriar 14.35 – 15.00		29 Fri	Quiznight, MSSSC, Anson Field, 20.15	5
15 Fri	Deadline for School Admissions applications		31	Deadline for Parishioner of the Year nominations	3
15 – 23	ADC Presents: Santa in Space, The Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon	13			
16 Sat	Marcham Community Facilities Consultation, Marcham School, 10.00 - 13.00	5			

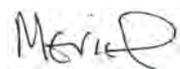
Details of events may change after publication, please check with the relevant organisers before attending events.

Dear Readers

I'd like to take the opportunity of a new year to thank everyone who makes MADNews so successful ... and popular:

- all our deliverers
- Judith & Peter for collating and organising the deliveries
- Fran for keeping the books
- the advertisers
- the contributors
- but chiefly yourselves*

Happy new year



*are you old enough to remember this catchphrase or did you have to Google it?!

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DEADLINES

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

ADDITIONAL COPIES

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

DISCLAIMER

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

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

POLICE

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

CRIMESTOPPERS

Call 0800 555 111 (anonymous calls)

NHS NON-EMERGENCY

Call Free from any phone - 111

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

richard.webber@oxfordshire.gov.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
Parishioner of the Year Award**

The Parish Council is again inviting nominations for the Parishioner of the Year Award. This is to recognise the efforts of local people from anywhere within the parish who have contributed to local community life. Marcham Parish covers the wide area from the A420 in the north to the River Ock in the South and from the A338 in the West across to and including most of Gozzards Ford in the East. The Council gives the award to anyone who, at any time, has significantly contributed to life within the parish. Should there not be any appropriate nominations, then the award need not be made. The certificate is presented at the annual meeting for electors each year. Would anyone who wishes to submit a nomination, please contact the clerk, whose details appear below, sending a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to whom he/she wishes to nominate and the reasons why the person should receive the award. The deadline for receipt of nominations is 31st January.

Footpath Diversion - Priory Park

Persimmon Homes have been granted permission by the County Council for a temporary closure of two sections of the public footpath which crosses from the A415 to Priory Lane. This is to ensure public safety whilst the last of the construction works are completed. The closure will operate from 16th December 2015 for 42 days.

Additional rubbish

Christmas is a time when we all seem to accumulate extra packaging and items for the recycling bin, and extra waste for the black bin. In view of last month's report of the volume of fly tipping in the village during November, please take note of the re-arranged collection days over the holiday period.

Council Tax 2016

The Parish Council will be considering its budget for the 2016/17 year at the January meeting. The Council currently funds various activities for the benefit of the community, such as maintenance of the play areas, provides the allotments, and cemetery, looks after the war memorial, and undertakes grass cutting other than on highways. It provides various grants too, to local organisations to help with their running costs where there is benefit to the parishioners.

The Council will carefully look at what its requirements are for the next financial year including its administration costs, and will ask the Vale of White Horse District Council to include a sum when calculating the council tax. The money received from

the Vale of White Horse District Council is the main source of income to run the village for the next year.

Planning applications

The Parish Council, at its last meeting, considered the following application:

P15/V2663/HH Rear dormer window to previous extension. Internal alterations and construction of rear dormer window to garage at Pinetops, Woodside. The Council supported the application

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 13th January 2016 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

Any member of the public is most welcome to attend any of our meetings. There is a section near the start of each meeting for public participation, where any member of the public is able to speak about any topic which is relevant to the work of the Parish Council (for a maximum of three minutes). Members of the public are also welcome to observe some or all of the rest of the meeting.

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

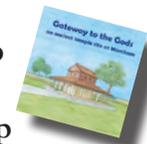
The Chairman, Council members and Clerk wish everyone a happy new year

Dear Editor
Rights of Way at former quarry on Cothill Road
If you have walked at this disused quarry, now popular with dog walkers, for 20 years or more, please contact Judith Haworth, jmhaworth@waitrose.com, 01865 390739.
JUDITH HAWORTH

**Gateway to the Gods
an ancient temple at
Marcham**



**The booklet all about the dig at
Trendles Field is now on sale for
only £2 at
Cumbers Farm Shop
and
Marcham Village Shop**




SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!
**2.00-3.30 pm on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
12th and 26th January**
**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**

**MARCHAM AND DISTRICT
EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB**

As printed in the August 2015 MADNews. Due to the proposed redevelopment of the Institute site. The Club has been give notice by The Anson Trust to vacate the premises by the 25th March 2016.

The AGM has therefore to be brought forward and will be held in The Ex Servicemen's Club on

Tuesday February 23rd. 2016 at 8pm

All registered members are encouraged to attend and reminded that in accordance with the Club rule number 15, any proposal from the membership must be submitted and received by the Secretary, in writing 14 days before the AGM so as to be displayed in the Club. The member submitting the proposal must be a full member and be present at the AGM.

AGM Agenda 23rd February 2016

- Apologies
- Minutes of 2015 AGM
- Matters Arising
- Chairman's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Officers
- Election of Committee
- Any Other Business

Financial Statement & Report for the year ending 29th February 2016 from the Accountants will not be available.

Marcham Village Shop and Post Office

Call us... Shop: 391 993

Post Office: 391 940

Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 17.30

Sat - Sun: 08.00 - 12 noon



Last Post Guaranteed Collection Times:

16.45pm weekdays and 10.20am Saturday

The shop and post office will be closed until 8.00 on

Saturday 2 January for some renovations,

so pop in and see the transformation!

Visit us on Facebook: facebook.com/

marchamvillageshop

A Special Service for those in difficulty

Not feeling well? • Parents with sick children? • Worried about slippery pavements? • Feeling frail? During bad weather the shop will provide a free delivery service to residents who cannot go shopping. Its simple.

- Make a list of the goods you want.
- Phone the shop on 391993 with the items you require. Leave your address and contact number.
- The shop will then pick your order and deliver the goods. (We will do its best to fulfil your order as accurately as possible or will substitute a suitable alternative.)
- You pay cash on delivery

Community Facilities Steering Group

The proposals for new community facilities have reached an important milestone – plans were submitted to the District Council in mid-December and should be available to view on the planning website at some point over the festive period.

In early January we will be sending to everyone in Marcham information about the plans and seeking the views of Marcham people in a further public consultation event on Saturday 16th January at Marcham School, between 10:30 and 13:00. There will be a short presentation at 10:45 and again at 12:00 and refreshments will be available. This will be a good opportunity to discuss details of the plans on display, ask any questions and to give your support. We have still to work out details of internal arrangements for the community hall and this will be a chance for you to let us have your ideas on what should be included.

We need your views to support this important planning application for Marcham!

The Community Facilities Steering Group (CFSG) was set up with the clear objective of developing plans for new community facilities in Marcham and is made up of representatives from local groups with an interest in village facilities. If you wish to have more information on the CFSG, or you think you can help, please contact Jim Asher (391727).

—CFSG - Opportunities without Obstacles—

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

Quiz Night

FRIDAY 29 January

This month's quiz will be held on Friday 29 January in the Sports and Social Club on the Anson Field, starting at 8.15pm.

Questions are on a range of subjects and aimed at everyone's ability! The quiz nights run on the last Friday of each month.

Teams of up to four people are invited, but if you are alone or a couple, come along, and we could fit you into an existing or even new team!

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

Everyone welcome - members AND non-members

We look forward to seeing you at the club

Come & hear someone from the village speak on their specialist subject



*The
Marcham
Society*

All Saints' Church, Marcham
7.45pm Tuesday 12th January

Marcham Society Annual Lecture
Jeremy Curtis
Six Months in Space
Astronauts, Fitness & Food

Non-members always welcome £2

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

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

**MID-WEEK WALK:
THURSDAY JANUARY 14TH**

For this month's walk we will eat at The Merry Miller in Cothill (Map Ref: SU464996) at 12.30 for lunch. We will start our walk of about 4 miles at 13.30 and explore some of the varied networks of paths towards Besselsleigh. Why not start the New Year by joining us? We are always pleased to see new faces..



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

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

Further details of Teams and Fixtures for 2016 will be given in later issues when more detailed information has been received from the Oxfordshire Cricket Association.



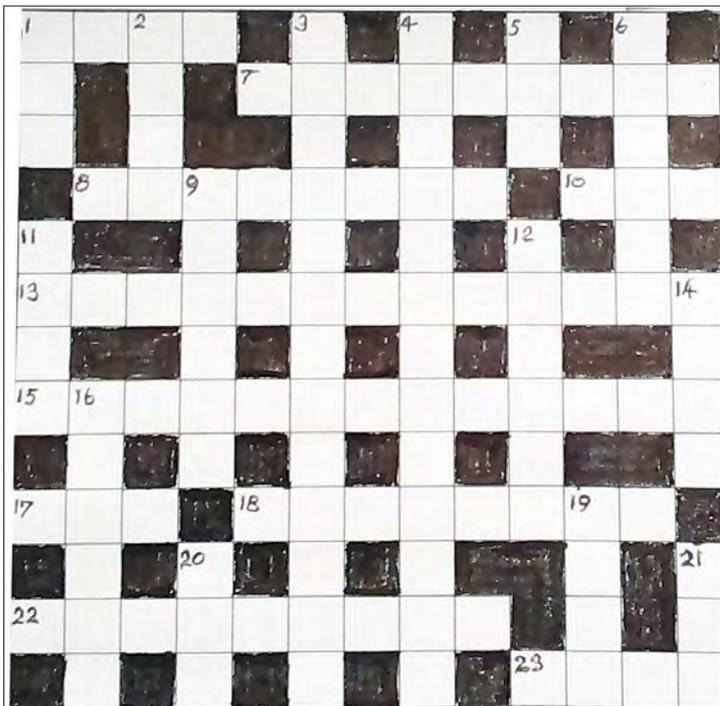
Please contact Trevor Hill (391321) for information relating to Marcham CC - including playing for or umpiring the Club.

And finally ... The famous Cricket commentator, Brian Johnston, once observed of a player's performance:

"Other than his mistakes he hasn't put a foot wrong!"

CSB

CROSSWORD BY ALISA



Across

- 1. One of the 11 (4)
- 7. Fizzy Liquid (4-5)
- 8. Definite (8)
- 10. Little devil (3)
- 13. Unfortunate relatives (4,9)
- 15. Workers for village facilities (8,5)
- 17. Use a needle (3)
- 18. Shoes (8)
- 22. Road in Abingdon (3,6)
- 23. English river (4)

Down

- 1. Nocturnal animal (3)
- 2. Vehicle (4)
- 3. Fortnightly visitor (6,7)
- 4. Young first aid learners (7,6)
- 5. See 21 (3)
- 6. College (6)
- 9. Sour-leaved herb (6)
- 11. Towns with a spring (4)
- 12. Penetrate (6)
- 14. Drinks a little bit (4)
- 16. Ditch (6)
- 19. Gem (4)
- 20. Animal (3)
- 21. & 5. A Marcham cul de sac (3,3)

Marcham WI

Next Meeting

Zumba!

Date: Thursday, 21st January

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Denman College



Marcham WI members enjoyed their Christmas Party with light entertainment and games and a 'bring and share' supper, followed by a bottle raffle and carol singing.

For our January meeting on Thursday 21st January, we will be welcoming **Charli Milne** for an introduction to **Zumba**. So, if you've ever wondered what Zumba is all about, come along and have a go!

New members and visitors are always welcome.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

GARD UPDATE

January 2016

In my last update I made it clear that the threat of the Upper Thames Reservoir being built hard against our four affected villages had not gone away. Thames Water are now well into the planning for their next five year Water Resources Management Plan which is due to be produced in 2019. A GARD representative attends the Thames Water quarterly stakeholder meetings and our consultant, Dr John Lawson FRENG attends their technical meetings to represent our interests. It is becoming clear that the company has not accepted the recommendations of the Inspector following the 2010 Public Inquiry and despite her recommendation that only a much smaller reservoir was needed (which could be in a number of alternative locations) Thames Water are still talking about the full sized one covering an area the size of Gatwick Airport and having bunded walls rising to 30 metres high above the level of surrounding villages. The nine year construction period would cause huge disruption and the flooding risks associated with a 25 metre head of water pressure are very serious.

GARD is doing all it can to ensure that the cheaper, less expensive, less environmentally damaging and quicker to construct solutions of water transfer via the River Severn and re-use of treated waste water are eventually selected. The incentive for Thames Water to choose the reservoir option is financial in that the regulator (Ofwat) rules allow the company to take greater profits for Thames Water shareholders (Australian, Chinese and Middle Eastern) at the expense of consumers if a reservoir is selected. Whilst GARD will fight to stave off the reservoir, we sincerely hope that the recently announced National Infrastructure Commission will require Ofwat to change the rules and will also support the water transfer option which would form an arm of a national water grid.

NICK THOMPSON Hon Chairman GARD



Unlock Abingdon's History
Now 100 topics
People, Bulding & Streets,
Special Features

www.abingdon.gov/partners/HISTORY
Abingdon Area Archaeolgoical and Historical Society

Bank Balance
£20,193

Local Events
£11,830

Donations
£8,260

2014 - 2015 Membership
Voting: 72 Junior: 18

5p Coins
6739

Marcham
Community
Group



Best wishes for a productive New Year...

As MCG continues to work with the other groups in the Community Facilities Steering Group (CFSG, see page 5) on the proposals and plans for the new facilities in Marcham, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in Marcham a very Happy Christmas, and a productive New Year in 2016, as we look forward hopefully to plans beginning to turn into action.

This is a good time for people to join/rejoin MCG to provide further support as we move into this new phase—please contact us for a membership form. We would be delighted to have you on board.

Just a reminder also that MCG is also planning further community-wide social and fundraising events. Please keep your 2016 diaries clear for Saturday 11th June, when we propose to organise a community-wide event for all the family, to mark the Queen’s 90th birthday. This is also an advance warning that we will be looking for lots of volunteers to help on the day (and in preparations)! Watch this space in future MAD News issues for further details, and read about these events on the MADNews Facebook pages www.facebook.com/MADNewsUK.

We wish to say a big thank you to all our members for your continued support—it is much appreciated!

A productive New Year...

Marcham Community Group: Company No 7470307 Charity No 1144407
391727 (Jim)

admin@marcham.org

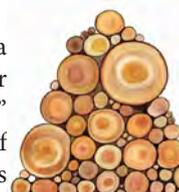
www.marcham.org



Marcham Ex-Servicemens Club
Celebrate New Year’s Eve at the Club
Entertainment by Happy Daze Duo
Starts at 8.30pm
Finger Buffet provided
Members and members’ bona fide guests

LOGS FOR LABOUR IS ON AGAIN!

Would you like free firewood, or do you have a woodland that needs managing? The Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment’s “Logs for Labour” programme aims to promote sustainable use of firewood by running events where volunteers help to manage woodlands in return for logs. The events run most weekends in the winter, are about 3 hours long, and could involve coppicing hazel, thinning trees or piling up brush. All you need are sturdy gloves, shoes and a saw (only hand tools are allowed for insurance reasons)... or let us know if your woodland needs the help of volunteers.



Information about events is at www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk/logs-for-labour, or ‘like’ us at www.facebook.com/oxonwood. Riki Therivel, 01865 243488

Local Fosterers Need Urgently

(All expenses paid)



Yao and 4 other dogs were kept in appalling conditions and had sustained injuries over a long period of time. Local dedicated fosterers game them a temporary caring and loving home whilst we looked for their ‘forever’ home.

Could you help us to give similar animals a second chance? Join a dedicated team - it’s incredibly rewarding!

Please call us NOW 07887 475401 or email fostering@rspca-oxfordshire.org.uk
RSPCA Oxfordshire Branch, PO Box 931, Abingdon OX14 9HT
www.rspca-oxfordshire.org.uk
National Cruelty Line: 0300 1234 999



LUCY KITT
Support: Three Pressed Men
Thursday 7th January
www.lucykitt.co.uk
Doors: 7:00pm Music: 7.15pm | £12

Abingdon Unicorn Theatre

Tickets: www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk
& REMADE GUITARS, (Stratton Way) Coxeter House

IT MAY NOT BE A SPORT BUT IT IS STILL GREAT FUN!

Did you once enjoy a game of Bridge, but have not played for a number of years? Do you still play the occasional game, but would like to play more often? Would you like to learn to play this exciting and absorbing game? If so, why not come along to Marcham Bridge Club on Monday evenings? There is an annual subscription of £5 plus £1 per evening, which includes coffee. If you would like more information ring Joe Featherstone on 391426 or Rob Hall on 391626.



ED VAIZEY WRITES...

While the news has been dominated by the damage that has been done by Storm Desmond and our thoughts have been with the people affected, the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme has been getting ready to publish the options they are considering for a flood relief channel for Oxford and the Vale.

The new flood channel will be the solution to the flood risk around the Thames in the years to come. But in the meantime, the Environment Agency in Oxford have also been preparing for this winter by practising putting up their new temporary defences and getting to grips with their two new incident command and welfare vehicles to ensure that we have the best protection possible against flooding.

As the refugee crisis continues to be in the news a number of people have asked me how they can help those in need. There are many ways you can help, log on to www.gov.uk/government/world/syria to find out what you can do. Also Oxford City of Sanctuary is an organisation that matches refugees and asylum seekers to those people with spare rooms. To find out more go to oxford.cityofsanctuary.org.

Christmas is a time of giving and cheer, but for some it is a struggle. Turn2us is a nationwide charity that I have become aware of. The charity helps people in financial hardship to gain access to welfare benefits, charitable grants and support services. They have started a new campaign called 'No Cold Homes', and are there to help people experiencing fuel poverty access a range of support. Go to www.turn2us.org to get help or donate.

In my role as a minister, in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, a few things have come across my desk that may be of interest.

The BBC has launched a new weather club for people who want to join in the nation's favourite conversation. BBC Weather Watchers will help the BBC build a picture of the nation's weather, people can create their own weather reports, send in their pictures and observations and potentially have them appear in BBC broadcasts. Go to www.bbc.co.uk/weatherwatchers to sign up.

If you suffer with poor mobile signal you can now check if your network is the best in your area. Ofcom has a new online mobile coverage checker to help people get the best coverage wherever they are in the UK. It looks at the four UK mobile phone network providers and gives you the predicted level of voice calls, 3G and 4G data coverage both in doors and outside. Go to www.ofcom.org.uk/mobile-coverage to check your coverage.

My mailbag this week has been dominated by the issue of whether to extend our military campaign against Daesh into Syria. I support this military extension into Syria for a number of reasons: the United Nations has passed a resolution calling for the eradication of Daesh's safe haven in parts of Iraq and Syria. Furthermore, France, the United States and our regional allies have asked for our support in Syria, because we provide between a quarter and a third of the coalition's high-end strike capability. Finally, horrific attacks in Paris, Mali, Lebanon, Egypt, Sousse, Turkey, Kuwait, Australia and elsewhere, demonstrate the very real and evolving threat from Daesh. That is why I voted for extending our campaign in order to help keep Britain safe.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any pressing issues that you would like help with. Either myself or one of my team will get back to you as soon as possible and do what we can to assist. You can contact me on any matter at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or dicksonce@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. I also send out occasional general interest emails about developments in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please do email me at badyaljb@parliament.uk or sign up at www.vaizey.com.

As the old year has drawn to a close, may I wish everyone a prosperous new year.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Conservative)

COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Air Quality

In the last week two important events have occurred in Europe. The first is the Paris Climate Change Summit. Nearly everyone has agreed we have a problem, which urgently needs a solution. The agreement of more than a hundred countries to come up with a joint set of targets to address Global Warming has been a tremendous achievement. Whilst we still need agreed actions to achieve those targets and that may be even harder to achieve, the Paris Summit was a vital step in the right direction.

The second event, which has not had such a high profile, was a vote by a comfortable majority of MEPs to demand that Diesel engine emissions from vehicles are drastically reduced. Again, the ambition is great, but how we get there will take much more work. The sad thing about the second event is the number of Britain's MEPs who voted against the proposal. That suggests that self-interest still trumps the genuine desire to make our air safer to breathe and to get to grips with the problem of Global Warming.

The same conflict surrounds our local attempts to address local Air quality issues. We know we have such issues in Oxford, Abingdon, Botley and Marcham, and it seems inevitable that the problems will spread in other rapidly developing, increasingly congested parts of the County. Various reports and "Action Plans" have been produced, which [like the Paris summit] tell us what needs to be done. Unfortunately, it is not clear whose responsibility it is to carry out the actions, and no-one has the money to bring them about. As a result, well-meaning documents sit on shelves while the problem gets worse.

Everyone is agreed that the present situation is unsatisfactory. Everyone is waiting for someone else to come up with a solution – be it local, national or international.

Marcham would be a good place to start. The Air Quality issues here are serious but very local. Most of the solutions are in the hands of government (in the shape of reduced diesel emissions etc) or are very long term and probably unaffordable. As your County and District councillors, we recently set up a meeting with officers from the District Council (whose job it is to produce Air Quality Action Plans) together with the County Council (on whom most of the actions fall) which produced a very interesting discussion. Both are now looking at short-term achievable initiatives, which might help to ease the problem. A detailed traffic survey is going to be undertaken of how much traffic, of what type goes through the village at what speed at what times of day and how much pollution each type causes. Having a better understanding of what causes the problem is the first step to a local solution.

Meanwhile, a national campaign to encourage government to take action would help us all to feel we were getting somewhere.

And if this all seems to be just a Marcham problem, it is a growing threat to the whole of our overcrowded and congested corner of the Vale.

Have a very Happy New Year

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC

01235 534001 or catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

RICHARD WEBBER CLLR OCC

SC & Marcham Division.

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

The children at preschool have been preparing for Christmas with decorations, cards, wrapping and cooking, and of course the Nativity Play. All the children were involved and we had a wonderful afternoon of signing and acting.... From animals, shepherds, stars, Angels, Kings, the Inn Keeper, Mary and Joseph, and not forgetting the faithful donkey, and the King's camel.... Each child performed and behaved beautifully and we are proud of each and every one of them. What a wonderful way to end the term. If you would like more information about preschool, please contact us on 01865 392101 or marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk, www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com Happy New Year!



www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

YOUNG ACTORS WANTED
 We're sure you already know about Creation's Drama Club, but we won't rest until every child in Oxfordshire loves theatre as much as we do! Each term we run weekly courses for children aged 5-16 across Oxford, including Tuesday nights at John Mason School. Each group will choose a classic story which they'll work on for the whole term, before putting on a spectacular final show for their friends and family. We're keen to get as many people as possible involved in our Drama Clubs, so we offer a 20% sibling discount so you can bring along the whole troupe. We also run a bursary scheme, aimed at helping those who might otherwise be unable to attend.
CLASSES AT JOHN MASON SCHOOL, ABINGDON
 8-10 years: 5:00pm-6:00pm 11-13 years: 6:00pm-8:00pm
 14-16 years: 7:00pm-9:00pm
Our new term starts on Tuesday 5 January
so book now to join us in 2016.
www.creationtheatre.co.uk

Abingdon Drama Club in 3D since 1944



Directed by Susi Dalton
 Evenings | 7:30pm: January Friday 15, Saturday 16, Thursday 21, Friday 22, Saturday 23
 Matinees | 2:30pm: January Saturday 16, Sunday 17, Saturday 23
 At the Unicorn Theatre
 Telephone: 0845 4636638
www.abingdon-drama-club.com
enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com

PRE-SCHOOL ROOM We have been very busy in the last few months learning about the true meaning of Christmas. The children took part in two fantastic productions of the Innkeepers busy night - where he kept being woken up with lots of visitors coming to see a special baby in his stable. All the children really enjoyed learning about Jesus and the events of Christmas and for all of you who attended and watched we all hope you enjoyed it. In the build up to Christmas we had a great time with everyone in Marcham, decorating cookies with Mo and especially enjoyed our Christmas dinner at Cafe. A very big than you to everyone involved. All of us here are looking for to 2016 and the fun things we will be learning with our early years teachers!



BABY ROOM All in the baby room have been enjoying sensory play with glitter, glue, 'snow' and materials to make our Christmas displays. The Christmas tree was made out of all the babies hand prints and beautifully decorated! Singing has been a favourite part of our day especially all our Christmas songs and all of the babies enjoyed clapping and moving along to the songs in our Christmas production.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB It has been very exciting here at After School club, we had a great big party with all our after school club children with Magic Pete. It was a good show and lots of parent helpers- so thank you for your support.

We have also been busy making calendars and showing off our artistic skills in making cards, especially enjoying traditional Christmas games as a group. As the dark nights are here, part of hall has been turned into a physical area where they can skip and play games.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the families of little angels ad after school club for their continued support in 2015. We are hoping for exciting things ahead for all the children in 2016- so watch this space!! If you would like any further information about Abingdon Little Angels Nursery, Afterschool club or Holiday Club please feel free to pop in or call us on 07516 474287.

CIRCUITS!
 Come along to have fun and get fit!
 Every Thursday 7.30pm
 Marcham SSC, £5 per session
 Personal Training also available – contact Maxine on 07979 447614

HOLIDAYS

B&B Rafters
 JOIN US AND DISCOVER A PLACE TO RELAX

 Contact: Mrs Sigrid Grawert
 Abingdon Road Marcham Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX13 6NU
 Tel 01865 391298 Fax 01865 391173
enquiries@bnb-rafters.co.uk
www.bnb-rafters.co.uk

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

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- Rent the villa from £495 per week

Tel: Mike & Vicki on 01865 390125 or email vicki.jack702@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

Welcome to 2016!

As we enter this New Year many are naturally feeling apprehensive, especially after the events on the world scene towards the close of 2015. What can we do with those anxieties and concerns that will enable us to take this year in our stride?

The missionary apostle, St. Paul, gave this advice in a letter to friends: 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.' [Philippians 4:6] Yes, he was writing to people of Christian conviction, but those wise words offer hope, and relief, even when our faith may not be quite so robust.

Jesus himself gave this invitation to people from all walks of life and backgrounds: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' [Matthew 11:28]

Prayer works because God is alive, and cares deeply for this hurting world, and each of us within it. Prayer does change things - even within our own inner beings. To begin (and hopefully continue) this year by placing our anxieties and cares into the hands of God is a wise a way to start.

Whatever this New Year brings, we need not carry our anxieties on our own -hand them 'upstairs'. We can face the year with hope and with faith. We can begin the year with a new energy for new possibilities, new horizons, new beginnings. We can begin by placing our lives into Christ's hands, and welcoming him 'on board' for the journey ahead. It may not be easy, but you will have the best of all companions, and know His peace.

With my warmest best wishes for 2016!

Revd Richard Zair

Regular church services

Sundays: 10am & 6pm at All Saints'

Wednesdays: 10.30am at Duffield Place

Over the next few months we will be delving into the book of Proverbs for a 'Taste of Wisdom'. Come along to find out more.

We will also be promoting our small groups so if you would like to join one, please contact us!

Contacts:

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

Jill Rowe Youth and Children's Minister 390885

Tim Jack Churchwarden 01865 864900

Tamsin Gilbert Administrator 391319

Parish Office: parish_office41@yahoo.co.uk

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Prayer for the Month:

Gracious God and Father, thank you for this New Year, with all its possibilities for new beginnings and renewed hope. Thank you for your amazing love in Jesus, and your offer of new birth. Help us to place our hands in yours for the journey ahead, so that we may know your constant presence and faithfulness in this New Year and beyond. Amen.

Saturday 16th, 8.30am
Changing Room (Women's Breakfast)

at the Baptist Hall

All welcome

Parish people: Our prayers are with Mia and Rupert after their baptisms on 6th December and the families of Gwendoline Hill and Barbara Manthorpe who passed away in the past couple of months.