

Marcham & District News

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

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APRIL 2016 VOL: 38 NO: 4

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Success at Six-a-Side
 ▲ and Salsa page 15



▲ Zoolab comes to Pre-School
 page 15



▲ Marcham says Goodbye Allan and Hello Michaela! page 5



▲ Little Angels with the paramedics and the team's training rewarded page 15



Chris Achilleos

Diary for April

1 Fri	Cricket Nets start at Radley College, 19.30 – 20.30	7	25 Mon	GARD AGM, Stocks Lane Farm, Steventon, 19.00	13
7 Thu	Mobile Library, Sweetbriar 14.35 – 15.00		26 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14-15.30	13
9 Sat	Compost Giveaway, Rye Farm Car Park, 09.00 – 11.00	3	29 Fri	Quiznight, MSSSC, Anson Field, 20.15	7
12 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45: Medieval Wall Painting	9	May		
12 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14-15.30	13	1 Sun	Abingdon Air Show, Dalton Barracks, 10.00 – 17.30	7
13 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3	7 Sat	Bowls Open Day, Milton Hill, 14.00	7
14 Thu	Midweek Walk: Oxford Arms, Kirtlington, 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	7	8 Sun	Garford Historic Themed Cream Tea, Garford Village Hall, 14.30 – 16.30	5
14 Thu	Music at the Unicorn: Megan Henwood, 19.00	9	9 Mon	Red Cross Week Starts	15
20 Wed	Deadline for May MADNews, 17.00		14 Sat	RDA Plant and Craft Sale, Southmoor, 10.00 – 13.00	7
20 Wed	Frilford Parish Meeting, Abingdon Prep School, 19.00 – 21.00	3	14 Sat	Spring Plant Sale, St Helen's Church, Dry Sandford, 10.00 – 13.00	13
21 Thu	Mobile Library, Sweetbriar 14.35 – 15.00		15 Sun	Flexicare Annual Fundraising Walk, East Hendred, 09.00	7
21 Thu	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30 Games Evening & Plant Sale	7	25 Wed	Marcham Annual Parish Meeting, Marcham School, 19.30	3

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

Dear Readers

At the end of February we said goodbye to Allan Godwin, our postie in the north of the village, who has now retired. As a going-away present we gave him a MVS canvas bag full of goodies and a very large cheque - thank you to everyone who donated so generously and I know a lot of people also gave him a personal present too. He has written a note on page 5 and you can see the waving-off party in the photo on the cover!

We now have Michaela - our new postie - and we wish her a long and very happy time in Marcham.

Until next time



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except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

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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, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
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www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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April 2016

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Annual Meeting of Electors

The Annual meeting of electors will take place on Wednesday 25th May at 7.30 p.m. in the school hall. The guest speaker this year is the Environment Agency, who will talk about the Oxford and Abingdon Flood Relief proposals. Severe flooding has taken place in properties in the area on various occasions over the past 15 years. Information as to the plans to alleviate the risk of flood will be presented, including reference to the Abingdon scheme.

Please make a note of the date in your diary.

Longfield Play Area

Please note that village use of the play area in Longfields has come to an end, as the land is required for access to the new development.

Marcham Tennis

Formal notice has been received that the village use of the tennis courts within Marcham at the school site, will come to an end on 13th August 2016. This is because of the school's plans to build a new classroom. If you are a member of Marcham Tennis Association please note you will no longer have access after this date.

Footway alongside A415

The Council had been able to confirm that Persimmon Homes who is developing Priory Park, will be constructing a footway Eastwards from their site to link with the traffic light controlled crossing point over the A415, as per the planning consent granted for the development. Various legal agreements are required with the County Council, and the documentation now in draft form, once finalised, will be prepared for signing.

Vale of White Horse District Council – Compost Giveaway

There will be a compost giveaway on Saturday 9th April between 9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. at Rye Farm car park, Culham Road, Abingdon. In addition staff will be on hand to answer gardening and composting questions. Love Food Hate Waste advisors will help you reduce your food waste and save money and the waste and recycling team will also be there to answer recycling queries or questions. Available for sale are compost bins at £10 (cash) and also replacement kitchen caddies, buckets and liners. A second event will take place on Sunday 10th April between 9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. at the former office site of South Oxfordshire District Council, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh.

Leader Grants Available

£1.55m is available until March 2020 for rural businesses in Oxfordshire. If you are a farmer, forester, small or micro rural business, or if you have ideas that will

create jobs and boost the local economy, and your project can fit into one or more of four themes: Growing, selling, eating more local food, vibrant villages, reviving the River Thames or unlocking the potential of woodlands, then contact Fran Walker at Oxfordshire.Leader@southandvale.gov.uk or telephone 07717271909 for further information.

Planning Applications

The Council has considered the following planning applications:

P16/V0134/FUL Variation of condition 2 on previous consent, to remove a gable end window and install 2 roof lights at 7 Packhorse Lane. The Council had no objections.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 13th April 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

**Frilford Parish Meeting
2016 AGM
will be held on
7-9pm Wednesday April 20th,
Abingdon Prep School**
It will be followed by a discussion on the Community Led Plan. If you have issues you would like to raise, please email them to
FrilfordParish@gmail.com

The Sunshine Club
We would like to wish **Wendy Grant** all the best for her retirement from The Club and thank her for all the work she has done for The Club over the years. If anyone would like to join us on a Monday afternoon from 2 – 4pm for Bingo, tea and biscuits you are very welcome. Call Mo Tidbury 391536 or Jean Dix 391384 for more information.

**RED CROSS APPEAL 2016
HELP URGENTLY WANTED
(See main article page 15)
Contact Tony / Jo 391519**

For Sale: Climbing frame £200
Contact Brett 07796557206

In the early hours of 29 Feb there was a road traffic collision in Packhorse Lane, Marcham. The driver sustained minor injuries as the vehicle crashed into a building, damaging a gas mains pipe. The damage caused a gas leak, and so officers set up a 100m cordon and evacuated residents in Packhorse Lane, Church Street and Parkside. An engineer from the gas board arrived and turned the gas off. The cordon was lifted later on the same morning. A pet dog that was in the vehicle when it crashed escaped but was subsequently reunited with her owner.

Dear Editor

Gas leak

What a waking some of us had on Monday 29th February, had to vacate our homes and take our pets with us. How lucky we are to still have a pub in the village, as this was our port of call. Having registered our names and addresses, we were welcomed by Sue and Duncan (landlady and landlord of The Crown) with tea and coffee for anyone who wanted a hot drink. As a resident of Parkside, I would like to say a big Thank You to them.
M WRIGHT

Dear Editor

Warm thanks and goodbye to Lyn Billington and family, who have delivered MADNews in Tubney for several years. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who might be interested in taking over (Tel: 01865 391275 or peter.fontaine172@btinternet.com). If there is no response, deliveries in Tubney will cease, but copies can be obtained from Marcham Village Shop, ourselves or the editor.
PETER & JUDITH FONTAINE,
MADNews distributors

To all my customers and now my friends, I would like to thank you all for your friendliness and kindness over the years, you have all made my job more enjoyable. When I was asked to come to the village Post Office for a presentation, I never expected such a reception, I was so overwhelmed, with the kindness and generosity you gave me. I really appreciate everything and cannot thank you enough. At first I thought someone who was musical was going to play "The Last Post", but alas this did not occur, there are so many wonderful characters in Marcham, I thought someone would play a practical joke. You are a wonderful community and I feel privilege to have been part of it and hope to continue to be part of it. You will see me again. Love to you all.
ALLAN GODWIN

Community Facilities Steering Group

The planning application to the Vale for new community facilities is continuing to make its way through the planning process. A number of issues regarding the application have been resolved and we understand that there are no significant 'show-stoppers' remaining. The latest information is that the application will be heard at a Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday 18th May. It will be good if we could have a turn-out of people from Marcham at that meeting to underpin our application and show the community support for this plan. We will update you if this changes.

CFSG is working through some tax matters (mainly VAT) relating to the new community building. Internal details of the hall are still to be designed and over the next month or two, we will develop a functional specification for these requirements, so that we can brief the architect to develop an internal plan for the building..

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

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL - VACANCY

The Council has a vacancy for a councillor. It is the tier of local authorities closest to the people and provides local services within the parish. It acts as a consultee on many issues putting forward the views of residents. The Council meets 11 times in the year to discuss matters relating to the village and immediate surrounds. If you are interested in joining or just want to find out more about the role, then please contact Linda Martin, Clerk to the Council, on 01865 391833 or email clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Marcham Summer Dance

*Marcham Sports and Social Club
7.30pm - Midnight*

Dancing to "Nevada"

*Tickets £7.50 each
Available from
Marcham Pre School
Chris Ricketts 01865 391329
Hayley Cousins 01865 391024*

There will also be a raffle and food available on the night

Please support this event as this will be the last one in the social club that has supported the community for several years

Have you got a view on recent events or future plans? Write to MADNews and share your ideas. You can send an email to editor@madnews.co.uk, put a letter in the envelope in Marcham Village Shop or drop a note through the door at 8 Orchard Way, Marcham. Deadline is the 15th of each month ... **looking forward to hearing from you.**

**Royal Manor of Garford Historic Themed Cream Tea
Garford Village Hall
2.30pm to 4.30pm
Sunday 8th May**

Following last year's event, there is another opportunity to discover thousands of years of Garford's history and much newly discovered material including:

- 1820 Map and Terrier showing all 800 strips in Garford's medieval Open Field system
- 1775 Map and Survey of Garford for the Craven Family
- 1547 "Survey of the Royal Manor of Garford"
- 1381 Poll tax - names of Garford tax payers
- Bronze Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Norman and more recent times
- Detailed maps from 1761 onwards

For information on history relating to Garford contact Mike Greig – 391915 mdgreig@gmail.com or if you are able to bake some scones or a cake contact Deb Treadgold – 391182

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

For this month's walk we will eat at the Oxford Arms (Map Ref SP499194) in Troy Lane, Kirtlington at 12.30pm for lunch, starting the walk of about 4½ miles at 1.30. We will be walking through the parkland of two large country houses east of the river Cherwell. We always welcome new walkers, members free, non-members £1.



Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details or check website, especially if you are not on our email list. Sometimes late changes have to be made.

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The Club's OCA Season this Year begins towards the end of the month at home with a 1st XI match against Chesterton on 30th April. Please remember that Nets are being held at Radley College 19.30 to 20.30 beginning Friday 1st April.



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

And finally.....it may be remembered that W.G.Grace was a doctor as well as a cricketing legend. On one occasion a patient arrived at his Surgery and asked if the Doctor was in. The patient was assured that indeed he was "in" and had been batting steadfastly for two days! .

CSB

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

**Quiz Night
FRIDAY 29 April**

This month's quiz will be held on Friday 29 April 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*

Marcham WI

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, 21st April
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Denman College



Games Evening and Fundraising Plant Sale

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Thursday 21st April when, after the fun we've previously had, Marcham WI is holding another **Games Evening**. We will also be holding a fundraising **Plant Sale**, so please bring along any spare plants you may have and stock up with some new plants for your gardens. New members and visitors are always welcome.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



**Plant sale and
craft stalls**



10am to 1pm
Saturday 14 May 2016

Lower Lodge Riding Centre, Charney Road,
Southmoor, OX13 5HW
In aid of the Riding for the Disabled Association,
Abingdon Group

All donations of plants welcome, contact
sarahwilkinson123@gmail.com



FLEXICARE ANNUAL FUNDRAISING WALK

Join us for our 19th annual fundraising circular walk on Sunday, May 15th. Start at Snells Hall, Church Street, East Hendred OX12 8LA. Booking in from 9am-10am.

Your support raises funds for Flexicare, a small Oxfordshire Children's Charity which provides help and support to families with a severely disabled child in the Oxford, Wantage and Grove areas.

For further details, please visit our website www.flexicare.org or phone us 07342 041388 or 01865 321881.

Homemade refreshments will be provided!

Wantage & Grove Lions are holding a bingo at Grove village hall on 16th April doors open at 6.45pm eyes down 7.30pm cash prizes & raffle



**Bingo pens are available
in Marcham Village Shop!**

MILTON HILL BOWLING CLUB

We are inviting you all to our open day on Saturday 7th May at 2.00pm. Try your hand at bowling on our all weather green at Milton Heights, behind the football club.

Bowls is for fun, friendship and fresh air.

Flat shoes should be worn, but don't worry as we can provide over-shoes. We also have various sizes of bowls suitable for all ages. We would love to see you on the day. If this is not convenient contact Colin, who can arrange to meet you at a suitable time.

Colin Trinder: tel: 01865 391718

**ABINGDON
AIR & COUNTRY SHOW
10am - 5.30pm 1st MAY
Abingdon Airfield,
Dalton Barracks**



Advance tickets available from
www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk

In aid of **THAMES VALLEY
AIR AMBULANCE**



Bank Balance
£20,193

Local Events
£11,830

Donations
£8,260

2014 - 2015 Membership
Voting: 72 Junior: 18

5p Coins
6804

Marcham
Community
Group



Keep the Date : Keep the Date : Keep the date : Keep the Date
Sunday 12th June

Q90B—Sunday 12th June: we are organising a community-wide event for all the family, to mark the Queen’s 90th birthday on the same day as the big lunch on The Mall in London. The plan for Marcham involves closing Morland Road for a village street party bring-and-share lunch and a range of activities for all ages.

We would like as many people as possible to come out for this special day and to bring all the family.

Isis Chamber Orchestra concert in Marcham Church—Saturday 14th May 2016: 7:30 pm

Handel - Arrival of the Queen of Sheba, Boyce - Symphony No. 8, Respighi - Ancient Airs and Dances Suite No. 3, Handel - Concerto grosso, Op. 3. Rodrigo - Concerto ‘Fantasia para un Gentilhombre’ for guitar and orchestra, Bach - Chaconne for solo guitar.

MCG will provide food and refreshments, with proceeds from the evening going to support community facilities. Please come and enjoy this evening of great music - tickets available from the shop in early May.

Apple Day—Saturday 15th October: a fun event for all the family.

We will be looking for volunteers to help in preparations for these events and on the day—please contact Jim or Denise Asher on 391727 if you can help. Watch this space in future MADNews 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!.

Community events... Keep the date!

Marcham Community Group: Company No 7470307 Charity No 1144407
391727 (Jim) admin@marcham.org

www.marcham.org




Megan Henwood
www.meganhewood.com
Support: Nikki Loy
www.nikkiloy.com

Thursday 14th April
Doors: 7:00pm Music: 7.15pm | £12
Abingdon Unicorn Theatre

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

Marcham Village Shop and Post Office
Call us...
Shop: 391 993
Post Office: 391 940
Opening hours
Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 17.30
Sat - Sun: 08.00 - 12 noon

Fishing rod licences for the new season which starts from the 1st April can be purchased from your local Post Office.

Visit us on Facebook:
facebook.com/marchamvillageshop
Surprise your friends with a bag of Winter Mixture to celebrate St George’s Day - only 50p a quarter!





The
**Marcham
Society**

All Saints’ Church, Marcham
7.45pm Tuesday 12th April

Bob Heath-Whyte
Medieval Wall Paintings in
St Mary’s Church, Chalgrove

Non-members always welcome £2 www.marchamsociety.org.uk
Further details: Sheila Dunford (391439) or Judith Fontaine (391275)

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

Obviously our thoughts have been dominated by the tragic events at Didcot Power Station late last month. I visited shortly after the accident and met the owners of the site, as well as the heroic emergency services. It has been a truly amazing operation in extraordinary difficult circumstances. My heart goes out to the families so cruelly affected.



With the Easter weekend just around the corner, I hope all of my constituents will have an enjoyable break, and hopefully not eat too much chocolate! There are a number of events being held across the constituency over that weekend, which I am sure will provide much fun for the family. Two notable mentions are the Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt at White Horse Hill on Saturday 26th between 11am and 2:30pm, and Easter Fun on the Farm at Earth Trust in Little Wittenham on Sunday 27th between 11am and 3pm. And of course the annual Easter Monday Point-to-Point race at Lockinge on Monday 28th March. The gates open at 12pm on Monday the 28th March, with the first race held at 2pm. Further information can be found at: <https://www.pointtopoint.co.uk/events/3267>.

It gave me great pleasure earlier this month launch superfast broadband for residents in Pusey and Gainfield. This was an unusual scheme as the village is not in the County's plans for superfast rollout. So BT set up a scheme to allow the community to make a financial contribution, supported by BT and the County. The local community raised £45,000 towards the installation of this box, which will now be able to provide the community with superfast broadband. Overall, superfast broadband has now reached 31,252 premises in the constituency.

My mailbag this month has been dominated with submissions or suggestions to the Chancellor of what to include, or what not to include, in this year's Budget. Suggestions such as abolishing VAT on sanitary products, cuts to alcohol and fuel duty, and preserving the tax reliefs for pension contributions have all been made. The latter issue proved to be the most contentious, as the Government recently conducted a consultation on whether there is a case for reforming pension tax relief. I took a number of the concerns raised with me to the Chancellor, and I note that the Chancellor has decided not to pursue these changes.

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 complete the online form at <http://tinyurl.com/EdVaizeyMP>.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Conservative)

COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Most people will be aware of the current spat going on between District and County Councils over how best to organize Oxfordshire Local Government. The "hostile takeover bid" announced by the District Councils was not discussed with the County Council. It is regrettable that a conversation which urgently needs to take place will now be conducted in an atmosphere of recrimination. There are also a number of false assumptions on which the District bid is based. Here are a few of the assumptions and why they are false.

Assumption 1: Oxfordshire residents can be ignored

There is a nasty feeling about that the District Unitary Proposals for Oxfordshire, apparently supported by some MPs and the PM, have been planned in secret and could be imposed on Oxfordshire residents whether they like it or not. It is one thing to attempt to cut out the County Council from the conversation (as a way of punishing them for daring to argue that George Osborne's cuts were hitting County Councils disproportionately), it is quite another to cut out Oxfordshire residents whom all elected representatives are there to serve.

Assumption 2: Oxfordshire County Council is not run as well as the "smooth-running machine" that is the District Councils.

Thanks to the huge benefit of the New Homes Bonus – money gained on the back of all the new developments across the County (80% is paid...millions of pounds, to Districts) - District Councils have had their finances transformed. Meanwhile all County Councils have been trying to maintain their services (all of which are big ticket items – roads, social services etc) with their meagre 20%, while increasing numbers of children and adults fall into vulnerability. This is true of *all* Shire County Councils. It is not just Oxfordshire's problem.

Assumption 3: District Councils can take over the County Council.

The District hostile bid is a reaction to the County's suggestion that Unitary Government would save many millions of pounds. Districts should takeover the County rather than the other way round. This misses the point completely. Under the County's proposals, **ALL** County and District Councils would go and a brand new Unitary Council set up capturing a maximum amount of savings. No one is "taking over" anyone else.

Assumption 4: Oxfordshire residents want the Districts to run everything.

Wrong again. Oxfordshire residents don't mind who runs their council. What they want is the services they most care about delivered for the best possible value.

Assumption 5: The main discussion should centre around who holds the power.

Not so. This is an argument about finance. Unitary Government will yield savings. It is a question of how much saving each proposal will yield. As a result it is a question of how many and which services do Oxfordshire residents wish to preserve.

This is not an argument about who will hold power and Oxfordshire residents must have a big say in deciding the future of their County.

RICHARD WEBBER CLLR OCC

SC & Marcham Division.

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT**Kindness and tolerance can bite back**

As a member of the Planning Committee, I thought a little known enforcement rule should be brought to your attention. It involves the use of land. There is the four year rule whereby if a person builds a house or domestic building on a piece of land and its authenticity is not challenged in four years, then it becomes his right to leave the building there. Recently, a case in Boars Hill came to our attention where a complete house was built without planning permission, and as nobody had brought this to the Vales' attention in four years, there was nothing that could be done about it.

Similarly, there is a ten year rule whereby if the use of a piece of public land is changed and is used in this way for ten years without challenge, then that person has the right to continue using that land and in time can claim it as his or hers. This is known as the Law of Adverse Possession. There is a case in Drayton where a large box trailer has been parked on a piece of unclaimed land for more than ten years, and now nobody can do anything about removing it, as

through kindness, tolerance or the wish not to interfere, it was not brought to the Vales' attention.

So, be warned! The lesson for all of us is to be observant. If you are aware of any similar cases, it is important to bring it to the authorities' attention immediately, even if it involves a neighbour or friend.

Nearly there!

Looking back over the last couple of years, we have come a very long way towards getting a new community hall with playing fields on the site we all want...the Anson field. There have been many sticky moments when the project floundered and could have failed, but the determination and good will of all those groups involved wanting it to succeed, meant that compromises were found and the project was steered back onto the straight and narrow again. Even now an enormous amount of work is going on behind the scenes to ensure success, not least by the CFSG, the PC, Chris Brotherton of Thomas Homes and the Anson Trust, aided by advice from the Vale. At last we have a projected date for the application to come in front of the Vale Planning Committee....18th May. As I have been so closely involved with the project, I have been advised to come off the committee for that hearing, but I will be given the opportunity to speak in favour of it for three minutes from the floor. With continued good will and determination, we could see the first bricks being laid in 2017.

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC

01235 534001 or catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

A SPRING IN THE STEP OUT IN THE WILDLIFE GARDEN

If like me, the onset of Spring brings you new vigour and you want to know what new things you can add to your garden this year to bring in more wildlife.



Look no further than the contents of your wheelbarrow. Arrange log and twig piles comprised of old prunings from around your garden. Dead wood as I've said before doesn't have to be as thick as my thigh. These provide valuable hideaway places for wildlife, and by planting up with ferns, primroses, or other suitable plants it can become an interesting feature in itself. Slabs or stones will act as a suitable wildlife habitat, you'd be amazed what lurks under there. Newts often frequent these dark places.

It's always a good time to build a compost heap or a leaf mould bin, if you do not have these already. Children can be engaged for hours digging away in a compost heap, there's an entire world in miniature in there.

Bee homes are now widely available so why not invest in one or take inspiration and build your own with materials hanging around in your garden. Solitary bees use these more successfully than Bumble Bees but that's just my observation, it would be interesting to hear about your findings.

Bees often colonise these homes in spring, after hibernating over winter. The boxes can be left out over winter, or taken down and stored in a safe place to avoid bees being eaten by predators. Isn't that part of the joy of wildlife gardening though? Helping build the food chains.

Insects are gardeners' friends as often they are natural pest controllers, helping you keep natural balance in your garden during the coming season.

Try going with the flow this season and working with Mother Nature and not pulling against her, as we all have a tendency to do at times.

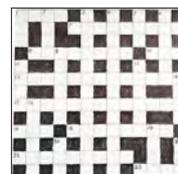
Happy Gardening **STUART MABBUTT**

Wildlife Gardening Specialist 01865 747243

MARCHAM BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

We are a friendly group of parents, grandparents & carers who meet every Tuesday with our babies and toddlers at 10am in Marcham Church. Please join us for playtime, stories, crafts and refreshments. Only £2 per family and your first visit is free. We look forward to welcoming you. Contact Rebecca on 07876598307 if you'd like more information.

CROSSWORD BY ALISA - MARCH ANSWERS



Across: 4. Din 6. Wiltshire 9. Ape 10. Pug 11. Tiger 14. Unicorn 15. Ink 16. Dot 18. Singing 19. Has 21. Ode 22. Closure 23. Robin 25. Emu 26. BBC 28. Boars Hill 29. Yes

Down: 1. Pine 2. PTA 3. The 4. Depend 5. Nugget 7. Spring bulbs 8. Zinnia 12. Rubicon 13. Pointer 17. Ordain 19. Hugely 20. Scrubs 24. Only 26. Bra 27. Chi

St. Helen's 2016



Spring Plant Sale

Sat., 14th May
10.00am-1.00pm

St. Helen's Church, Dry Sandford
Church Lane, OX13 6JP

VARIETY OF GARDEN & HOUSE PLANTS
In Support of St. Helen's Building and Grounds

Annuals, Perennials, Vegetables, Herbs,
Used Gardening Books,
Tea & Cake and More!




www.sthelensdrysandford.org

GARD AGM

The GARD AGM will be held at Stocks Lane Farm Steventon on Monday 25th April 2016 at 7pm. All who are interested in the present situation regarding Thames Water's plans for a reservoir are welcome to attend to hear an update and ask questions. A Committee Meeting will follow.

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

**2.00-3.30 pm on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
Tuesday 12th and Tuesday 26th April**

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 PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

There has been some major excitement in pre-school this term, with cockroaches, rats and snakes! It's ok though, these were all 'invited' guests!! A visit from Zoolab allowed the children to explore a range of animals, to look at, to hold and to stroke.... we all had a wonderful morning, although some of the parents were not as keen as the children! As well as these bigger animals, we've have been looking to see if we have any inhabitants of our 'Bug Hotel'. Lots of outdoor play means water, mud and sand - and lots of fun while we learn!



If you would be interested in joining us from September 2016 please do get in touch as soon as possible. Spaces are filling fast! Call us on 01865 392101 or email us at marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk.

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL
Hurrah! Silverware...
 On Thursday 17th March Zebras and Giraffes went to a school called Church Cowley St James school in Oxford. We competed in a Salsa competition. When we danced the judges were impressed by us. Our dances were called Bachata and Balsa. There was a banner award which unfortunately we didn't win because Rose Hill school won it. But then we saw a shiny 'S' Factor cup. One of the judges said "Drum roll please" and she announced that we had won the 'S' Factor cup. All of us were screaming because we were very excited and we got to keep the 'S' Factor cup for a year. We were very proud of ourselves and our dancing.
 By Jemma and Zlaty on behalf of Yrs 4, 5 &6.
Small Schools Six-a-side Tournament
Our Lady's School 17th March 2016
Runners Up
 Yesterday we took part in a football tournament at Our Lady's School. We played 3 group games, in our first game we played Thomas Reade the score was 0—0. The second game against Blewbury, I scored 2 goals and then Ollie scored a top corner goal, but after that Blewbury scored. Next we played Our Lady's Junior team, we won 4-0. I scored a hat trick and Ollie also scored. We were in the semi-final against Our Lady's A which we won 3-0. We had reached the final but unfortunately we lost 1-0. By Finlay
 Well done to Luke, Oliver, William, Arthur, Samuel B, Finlay and Samuel W.

Wow what an amazing month! We are proud to now been known as Marcham Little Angels: Nursery, Pre-School and After School.



We are still the same small, family run and focused nursery, pre-school and after school club however felt it was time to reflect the community we belong to.

Within our first month we are very proud to have not only Little Angels but all our team members win an award for our continuous effort and support in enriching our team knowledge through apprenticeship. The award was handed to us by our training partner Intraining, who we have worked alongside for many years. Here at Little Angels we believe it is important to encourage and support our team to reach their full potential as well as our little angels, which the Apprenticeship award has recognised. The majority of our team are 'home grown' joining us to gain their qualification in childcare and then beyond with courses such as team leader, customer service and management.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our team for their eagerness, wiliness to learn and ability to do so alongside providing great care for all our Little Angels. **If you would like to join us see the advert on page 18.**

BABY ROOM We have been enjoying our time looking at fruit and vegetables, all especially enjoyed apple printing and choosing which colour- red or green! We have also been making other types of fruit such as bananas, water melon, star fruit etc with all different types of ways collage of different material- it is fun to see how different they all feel, finger painting to name just a few! However the best part of this topic is trying all the different type of fruit at tea time- some we are not sure about but we give it all a try! Our current interest is books at the moment, all of us are enjoying looking at the pictures and having the stories read to us to help us learn words.

PRE-SCHOOL We have also been looking at fruit and vegetables, most importantly learning why it is important to eat them! We even received this information from a great source, a paramedic! An ambulance came and visited us, so we learnt how to take temperatures, listen to heart beat (we even got to listen to the paramedic's heart!) and we saw how to take blood pressure on the adults! We even got to see an ambulance, hear the sirens and go inside to see all the tools they have to help people get better. It was a great afternoon!

With the days getting nicer we are spending more time outside, and finding ice. It is interesting to see what happens to it throughout the day! This means we have also spent time in the park where we all went and as part of healthy eating knowing that exercise is just as important! We are also looking at Easter- not the bunnies or the chicks but the true story of Easter and what this means.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB This month we have been hockey players and we had our very own hockey match with the aid from Serious4Sport. It was great to learn the rules and new skills in hand/ eye co-ordination. It has also been a busy month spending time outside on the field with our very own football games. Our theme this month is Authors – we especially enjoyed Enid Blyton and the Secret Seven and Famous Five. We also looked at George Burns and made our very own poetry - one child wrote an amazing poem about Spaghetti and how much they loved it!

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.

HELP URGENTLY WANTED !!

The door-to-door collection for this very deserving cause (using donations to help less fortunate people both here and abroad with medical aid etc), will commence on Monday 9th May for just 6 days.

Unfortunately, due to advancing years and general infirmity both Jo and I and our rapidly diminishing band of volunteer collectors, are finding it more and more difficult to get around the village in the time allowed.

Over the past few years there has been a gradual increase in the number of properties to call on, which we have coped with reasonably well so far.

However, with the new developments now springing up and houses being quickly occupied, I'm afraid that without extra help we will be unable to visit many of those of you who have given so willingly and generously in the past, and just as importantly, we'll not be able to reach a great number of newcomers who have decided to move into this lovely village of Marcham.

So if there is anyone (or 2 or 3 or 4 or more) out there willing to help, please, please, please give us a call. We really do need more volunteers. The more we get, the less time each collector spends "on the knock"; more houses are visited and more money is collected for this very worthy cause.

Perhaps there are occupants of the new homes on the Kings Field and Priory Park developments who would welcome a chance to get to know their new neighbours and also to get involved in this thriving village's activities by becoming their own local collector? If so, please give us a call asap.

We'll explain it all to you.
Tony & Jo Blackler (391519)



Dear Friends,

Music, of all genres, has an important part in many people's lives. Music can 'touch' areas within us that few other things can reach. I have a fairly wide range of musical 'taste' – from classical composers, such as Chopin and Mozart, to contemporary musicians, such as the work of Ruth Fazel.

Church music also has a similar powerful influence on many. For example, listening to a good performance of Handel's Messiah can lift the heart and soul of people of all ages and backgrounds. Music is a great gift to us as human beings, and I so admire those who are gifted in this art form.

Music can also be deeply healing and releasing, and if careful and sensitive words accompany the music, the effect is profound. I am personally convinced that God uses music to bring about healing and release.

In All Saints' we are exploring different styles and settings for music that help to lead and accompany worship, from the traditional to the more contemporary. Each has its place, and I delight in the variety we have to explore. I am also excited to see so many of our younger people using their musical gifts in worship – to great effect.

Worship of, and praise to, God is also deeply healing and releasing. God invites us to enter his presence with thanksgiving and praise. Our inner spirits rise as the Holy Spirit touches us, and we can experience God's presence in very powerful ways. Hymns and songs can 'capture' deep spiritual truth, especially if based on Scripture, and about Jesus.

As the days lengthen and spring flowers colour our gardens and roadsides, may the 'music' of God's creation lift our hearts, and may our hearts dance to such beauty all around us.

May God bless your favourite pieces of music to you this April

Canon Richard Zair
Vicar

Regular church services

*Sundays: 10am & 6pm at All Saints'
Wednesdays: 10.30am at Duffield Place*

Look out for more information nearer the time

Sunday 24th April we will be celebrating St. George's Day with the uniformed organisations and an All-age service at 10am. All are welcome.

Contacts:

Canon Richard Zair 391319
(r_zair@yahoo.co.uk)
Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister*
390885
Tim Jack *Churchwarden* 01865 864900
Tamsin Gilbert *Parish Administrator* 391319
Parish Office: parish_office41@yahoo.co.uk
www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Men's Breakfast
April 2nd, 8.30am,
at the Baptist Hall
Ian Smith

*Can watching seagulls
be good for you?*



Dementia Training

*What are the different types of dementia &
how to be a dementia-friendly church*

Saturday 23rd April

Revd Canon Dr Joanna Collicutt
9.30am-12.30pm at All Saints'

*Please contact Rachel on 391432 or
rbgaisford@tiscali.co.uk to book a place*

Parish people: Our prayers are with the family of Lucy Dench who was baptised last month