

Marcham & District News

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JANUARY 2018 VOL: 40 NO: 1

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Deirdre Maton

▲ Marcham School's Nativity page 9

▲ Come and hear about Trendles Field – the Romano-British site right on our doorstep! page 5



▲ Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch at The Crown page 7

▲ Have you seen Finn? page 5



▲ Little Angels – Christmas Party & Bears in the Snow page 9



Don't miss the MADNews deadline! see diary below

| Holiday Waste Collections (grey = rubbish) | | |
|--|--------------|--|
| Normal day | Revised day | Which bin? |
| Wed 27 Dec | Fri 29 Dec | Green, food, NOT brown (garden) |
| Wed 3 Jan | Fri 5 Jan | Grey and food |
| Wed 10 Jan | Thurs 11 Jan | Green, food, brown |

Diary for January

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|----|--------|---|----|
| 4 Thu | ABCD Film Society: Dr Strangelove, Abingdon, 19.45 | 19 | 17 Wed | Arts Society Lecture, Trinity Church, Abingdon 10.30 & 14.00 | 2 |
| 9 Tue | Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30 | 7 | 18 Thu | Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30 | 7 |
| 9 Tue | Marcham Society Lecture: The Roman Temple at Trendles Field, Simon Blackmore, All Saints' Church, 19.45 | 5 | 18 Thu | ABCD Film Society: The 400 Blows, Abingdon, 19.45 | 19 |
| 10 Wed | Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30 | 3 | 20 Sat | Changing Room (Women's Breakfast), Baptist Hall, 08.30 | 15 |
| 11 Thu | Midweek Walk: The Star Inn, Sparsholt 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk | 7 | 20 Sat | Deadline for February MADNews, 17.00: editor@madnews.co.uk | |
| 11 Thu | ABCD Film Society: Force Majeure, Abingdon, 19.45 | 19 | 23 Tue | Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30 | 7 |
| 12 – 14 18 – 20 | Aladdin, Abingdon Drama Club, Unicorn Theatre, various times | 19 | 25 Thu | ABCD Film Society: Taxi Tehran, Abingdon, 19.45 | 19 |
| 12 Fri | Eclectic Cabaret #5, Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre, 20.00 | 2 | 26 Fri | Quiz Night at MSSSC, 20.15 | 7 |
| | | | 28 Sun | Winter Wetland Birds, Thrupp Lake, 09.30-11.00 | 19 |
| | | | 30 Tue | Moving Music, St Hilda's College, 11.30 | 2 |

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

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adamstacey@yahoo.co.uk



The Arts Society Abingdon (ex ADFAS) is holding its monthly lecture on Wednesday 17th January 2018, 10.30am and 2.00pm, at Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DB.

Empowering People – the Real Voice of Street Art,
given by The Arts Society Lecturer Doug Gillen.

Art lies at the heart of social unrest, a voice for those who cannot be heard. Graffiti is more than mindless vandalism, it's the early stages of revolution. Come along and find out more! Non-Members welcome, normally £6.00 including coffee/tea Lectures are one hour long, but leave extra time for announcements etc.

For more information on future lectures and other activities see our website or email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk
www.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk

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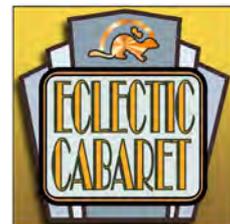
St Hilda's College
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Eclectic Cabaret #5 Wootton & Dry Sandford

Community Centre,

Friday 12th January from 8:00pm

Free entry, delicious food for sale, no bar so please bring your own drink



We have a fantastic line-up:

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Mike Land – a crafter of engaging, lyrical songs

Dan Rawle – hook-laden, pop/folk from this distinctive voice.

*You get your money's-worth at an Eclectic Cabaret
(and that's saying something as it's free entry)*

www.facebook.com/eclecticcabaret

Dear Readers

Well here it is: 2018 !

I hope you all enjoyed your festive time and are looking forward to this new year. 2019 will be the 40th anniversary of the founding of MADNews. I'd better start planning the party, I wonder where we will hold it!

Happy new year



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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 Rich Osborn C9323
Richard.Osborn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk for Marcham
07980 924693
Or just dial 101 (non-emergency) and omit the C from his number

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

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

Webbercatherine1@gmail.com

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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January 2018

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.

Inconsiderate parking

The Parish Council is appealing again to motorists to think carefully about where vehicles are left in the village. The Council has received complaints about a truck parked very close to the junction of the A415 and Howard Cornish Road. Depending on where this is left it has caused ruts in the verge, or an obstruction on the junction or footway. Please be considerate where you park, and do not cause problems for others or damage to the verges.

A415 – footway to the south side

After struggling for some months, contacting the enforcement planners at the Vale of White Horse District Council, the County Council and the contractors, to try and get the path finished, the Parish Council is pleased that Persimmon Homes has made an attempt to put on the final surface to the new footway on the south of the A415. There are still some issues outstanding such as the unfinished end near the entrance to Abbots Grange, and the width of the path at certain points. These details are being pursued by the Council.

School Admissions – Entry to primary or infant school September 2018

If you are a parent or carer of a child 3 or 4 years old then you need to apply for a primary school place now. This is for children born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014. You still have to apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school. For further information and to apply online go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions The closing date for applications is 15th January 2018. If you do not have internet access, then

you can access the internet at many of the County Council's libraries, and children's centres.

Longfields house for sale

Longfields is a development created in 3 phases, supported by the Parish Council and for people with a local connection to Marcham as defined in various planning agreements completed as the time of each phase.

A shared ownership house on the first phase has become available for sale to a local person.

If anyone is interested in this property then please contact Andrews Estate Agents 01235 555553. Please see photograph advertisement elsewhere in this issue and via the internet at Rightmove.

Planning applications considered by the Parish Council

P17/V3170/HH Single storey rear extension to allow concrete block finish to the west elevation at 1 The Gap. The Council had no objections to the change from brick finish to concrete, but did comment that traffic management during construction should be in place to prevent obstruction within the road.

War Memorial – Listing

The Parish Council has learned that Historic England is considering "listing" the war memorial in Frilford Road as a structure of special architectural and historical importance. If it is listed, it will be protected as part of the historic environment.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 10th January 2018 at 7.30p.m. **in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.** Please check noticeboard outside the Institute and/or the Council's website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk in case arrangements change.

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

The Council wishes everyone a happy new year

FRILFORD NOTICES

For more information or to join the Frilford Book Club, Parish Email or WhatsApp Group

email.frilfordparish@gmail.com

Planning updates:

There are no planning updates this month.

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The
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Society**

The Marcham Society Annual Lecture

The Roman Temple at Trendles Field

A Volunteer's View

Simon Blackmore

All Saints' Church, Marcham
7.45pm Tuesday 9th January 2018

Non-members always welcome £3 www.marchamsociety.org.uk
Further details: Sheila Dunford (391439) or Judith Fontaine (391275)

CHERYL STEPTOE

Many thanks to all the family and friends who filled the church at Cheryl's funeral.

As was said on the day, she was a very special lady.

With special thanks to Jane Dixon and her staff and Frank Bothwell and his staff at Denman College. Also to the Reverend Canon Richard Zair.

Neil & Sharon



Marcham Village Shop & Post Office

16 North St, Marcham OX13 6NG

Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 17.30

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Visit us on Facebook:

[marchamvillageshop](https://www.facebook.com/marchamvillageshop)

Holiday Opening Hours

We will be closed on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Back to normal hours from Tuesday 2nd January.

If we have a spell of bad weather and you have difficulty getting to the shop, call us on 391993 and see if we can deliver.

If you're going away don't forget you can order your foreign currency from Marcham Post Office. Euros are usually in stock but order before 1pm and collect the next day

HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS

A New Year and a New Doctor!

Why not treat yourself to a bag of jelly babies - only 60p a quarter!

LONGFIELDS, MARCHAM SHARED OWNERSHIP RESALE

For sale to a local person 2 bedroom house at Longfields, Marcham £191,820 for a 69% share plus rent of £179.54 pcm on the remainder. To view and apply, please contact Andrews, 16 High Street, Abingdon O1235 555553. The houses at Longfields were a joint project between the Rural Housing Trust, Marcham Parish Council and The Vale of White Horse District Council.



Stamps for Young Dementia UK

Please bring in your stamps from all your cards and letters to Marcham Village Shop to aid Young Dementia UK - the box is just inside the door.

GWYNETH GOSS

MISSING CAT

Our male tabby Finn has been missing since 20th October 2017. We moved from Abingdon to Marcham in May this year.

He is quite small for a male cat and can be very timid with people he does not know. He is microchipped. Very much missed by his humans and his brother. Please call Sarah on 07837 814164 if you have any information.



ATOM Festival of Science and Technology – Volunteers wanted

Would you like to volunteer to help with the ATOM2018 Festival which takes place in Abingdon in March?

The aim of the Festival is to promote science and technology to the general public and with specific programmes aimed at schools and families. There will be talks by many eminent scientists, exhibitions, workshops and hands-on interactive activities including the Science Fair in the Market Square on Saturday 10th.

The Festival begins on Saturday March 10th, and continues from Tuesday 13th to Sunday 18th inclusive.

We are seeking volunteers to help at the various events and venues so, if you would like to help out for an hour or two or for a longer period, do let us know. We need volunteers to help with, for example, ticket sales, ushers, carpark attendants, guides and to man information points.

Volunteers will, naturally, have free access to the events at which they volunteer but, in addition, they will have free entry to any other event of their choosing.

If you are interested in becoming an ATOM Volunteer please sign up via our website address www.atomfestival.org.uk where you can input dates, times and preferred tasks.



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Marcham WI

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, 18th January

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Denman College

We hope that all our members had a very Happy Christmas and wish everyone a Happy, Healthy New Year.

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to our January meeting on Thursday 18th January, when we have **Alastair LACK** as our speaker to once again to enthral us with his talk on 'English Country Houses'. He came about 5 years ago and gave a fascinating insight to the BBC. Do come along to a very interesting and informative evening.

New members and visitors are always welcome

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK: THURSDAY JANUARY 11TH

For this winter walk of about 4 miles we will be eating at The Star Inn, Watery Lane, Sparsholt (Map Ref: SU 347877, OX12 9PL) a few miles west of Wantage. We will meet at the usual time of 12.30 for lunch and start the walk at 1.30. We will be walking along a partially restored part of the Wilts and Berks Canal and through Childrey.

Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for further details and car-sharing, especially if you are not on our email list as sometimes late changes have to be made. Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers.



MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

Our Christmas Lunch was held in The Crown on Thursday 30 November at which 9 members attended. Unfortunately two members had to withdraw at the last moment due to sickness. All those attending were served with their individual selections in good time by the ever capable Crown staff. During this meal it was noted, by the widows attending, that there was only one male present. I would assure readers that at no time was that male in any danger.

Our programme for 2018 will include our usual monthly meetings plus outings to a garden centre, local film clubs and tea at a local WI.

The January meeting, on Thursday 25, is our annual festive party with cakes, sandwiches, mince pies, trifle and jellies.

NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME

For more information contact
John Woods (Secretary) 391705

ABINGDON COUNTRY MARKET HAS MOVED!

The Market will now take place on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10am to 12 midday at The Salvation Army Hall in West St Helens Street.

There will be refreshments available and even "bacon butties". Come and support shopping and eating locally!

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

From 2 – 3.30pm

Tuesday 9th and Tuesday 23rd January

Come and join us in the common room at Duffield Place, you will be sure of a warm welcome ... and tea and cake!

We now have over 150 songs in our song book!

Phone 391270 for more details *Christine Whild*



SUNSHINE CLUB

We meet on Mondays at 2 o'clock in The Residents' Lounge, Duffield Place. Any new members will be very welcome. We play some games of bingo, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and finish off with a raffle about 3.30pm.

Any further information, please contact me on 391384 or just come and join us on a Monday afternoon at 2pm for a social afternoon.

ALL WELCOME

JEAN DIX

DRAYTON SEQUENCE DANCE CLUB

Dancing Thursday Nights at

Drayton Village Hall

7.30pm – 10.30pm

Admittance £2

Do you want to dance? Friendly club seeking new members

Further information 01235 531701



Fix My Street is a great resource to sort out problems but to get the best out of it, we need to put in as much detail as possible. Each street light has a number you can quote and giving the exact location of the problem with photos if possible will get the problem sorted out much quicker. There is a new app so you can even do it from your phone!



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www.fixmystreet.com



- which are not too difficult!!!!

We look forward to seeing you,

For further information call Trevor Hill on 01865 391321



**VILLAGE CAFE
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Do you like a roast dinner followed by home-made pudding? If so **Marcham Village Café** is the place for you. Join us at the Scouts, Sports and Social Club building on the Anson Field at about 12 o'clock. Bring a friend if you don't want to come alone. If you need a lift please ring Sheila Dunford on 391439.

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.

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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

Marcham Pre-school are delighted to share the news that following a recent OFSTED Inspection our early years provision has been judged as 'GOOD'.... our Inspector made the following observations:



- The committee, management team and staff work well together to create a welcoming and happy environment for the children.
- Staff observe, track and monitor children's learning and development consistently to help ensure they all make ongoing progress.
- Parents spoken to at the Pre-school talk highly of the staff and their commitment to supporting their children's development. All children are developing good skills needed for their next stages of learning.
- Staff promote children's communication, friendships and imagination very well.
- All children benefit from activities which are planned to meet their learning needs and offer challenges and stimulation.
- All children are developing good skills needed for their next stages of learning.

We received some fantastic comments from our parents and families....

"Congratulations on the Ofsted report, it is such a lovely read and it is thoroughly deserved. I know most parents believe the institution is outstanding, we are so happy with our children being in your care and know that they are offered so many different experiences on a daily basis. They always seem to have so much fun and we know that the enthusiasm and energy comes from all of you. You guys are awesome and I feel so privileged that my children get to start their early education in such a secure, fun, happy and engaging environment"

If you would like more information about Marcham Pre-school please do get in touch at marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk or 01865 392101.

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

PTA Round-up

A Happy New Year from everyone in the PTA. I hope you all had a great Christmas and are ready for another year of great PTA events.

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair in December, those who manned the stalls and those who spent money at them! The takings have been counted and were slightly up on the previous year, although our expenses were also slightly higher. When all the maths is done, you helped us raise more than £1,750, a great sum, money that will all go towards the education of the parish's children at Marcham School. Thank you, one and all.

Our next event will be 2018's first school disco – details will be publicised in the school newsletter and on Facebook.

If you'd like to join our merry band, we're always looking for new faces to add to the team, so don't be shy – drop me a line or give me a call.

Best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

See you on the school run

Peter Kidd

PTA Chair 07708 251312 peter.kidd61@btinternet.com



Parent Teacher Association

NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL

The festive season truly began on 8th December when the KS1 and Reception children performed their Christmas play. This year's festive extravaganza was entitled 'Children of the World' and looked at Christmas traditions and celebrations in a range of different countries. It explored and celebrated the differences as well as highlighting the importance of the same Christmas message. The children looked fantastic in their costumes and learned and delivered their lines impressively. Huge thanks to all the staff who worked tirelessly to make it a success and thank you to all who came to watch, cheer and support. Finally well done to all the children, what an amazing effort, we are very proud and you should be too

See the cover for photos



NEWS FROM LITTLE ANGELS

They say it is the most wonderful time of the year and at Little Angels is certainly is! December has been magical with our poor innkeeper not being able to get a good night's sleep (too many visitors from travellers called Mary and Joseph, Shepherds and Kings!), fun-packed games at Christmas parties and neon lights at our Christmas Disco!



Baby Room Throughout the excitement of Christmas there has been a range of imagination and exploration in the baby room. All our littlest angels are accelerating in their physical development – many standing, taking steps and crawling. Hence we ensure there is lots of clear space to roam and move. The baby room also embraced the cold snow weather, turning our baby room members into snow women! We explored flour and icing sugar – it was a fantastic sensory experience and the most amazing part was their faces as the icing sugar dusted the tray (and the teachers!).

Pre-School Room The pre-school room also embraced the snow, making lots of footprints, snowmen and other shapes in the snow! Our oldest pre-schoolers even created their very own story of bears that went out and turned into snowy bears. They took the bears out in the snow, created the story then made a book upon return! It was an amazing creative story.

Breakfast & After School Club The end of term has approached and through December the creative minds have been bubbling! Not only with lots of crafty activities but also with their use of construction material such as blocks, Lego etc. If you can imagine it, they made it! There was even a competitive game of bowling, made out of blocks and using footballs!

We would like to thank all our fabulous team who managed to open up Little Angels through the snowy weather.

We all wish you a great Christmas and a happy New Year!

If you would like to be part of Little Angels Family, where our home is your home please contact us on 01865 819992 or marcham@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk, see www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk and follow us on Facebook: [littleangelsmarcham](https://www.facebook.com/littleangelsmarcham)

IOTA

Thursday 7th December

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ED VAIZEY WRITES...

May I take this opportunity to send each of you my best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous start to 2018.



In November, the Chancellor delivered his **Budget**. No one can pretend it was radical or revolutionary. But most will think that's a good thing. There's quite enough turmoil at the moment. The main focus of the budget was housing - a deeply controversial issue in our part of the world. Nevertheless, people do know that we need to build more houses, as property ownership has fallen dramatically and houses have become unaffordable for many people. I am therefore encouraged that the Chancellor has outlined the Government's ambition to increase housing supply to its highest level since 1970 by the end of this Parliament. This will put us on track to deliver 300,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s with £15.3 billion new financial support for house building over the next five years – taking the total to at least £44 billion. On a local level, it was promising to see an additional £215 million set aside for Oxfordshire to build infrastructure, deliver new homes and increase economic productivity across the county. This is a welcome step in ensuring our local area is fit for the future.

I welcome the announcement from Chris Grayling of the £47.9bn overhaul of the rail network in England and Wales, including restoring the **Oxford to Cambridge rail link**. This is part of the overall strategy suggested by the National Infrastructure Commission's report earlier this month on infrastructure growth across the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc, which Wantage & Grove Station is part of. I will be continuing to campaign in Parliament for a new station at Wantage & Grove whilst there is so much interest in rail infrastructure.

The Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has recently compiled a handy **list of funding sources** available for arts, heritage and cultural projects which may be useful for local organisations. There are many different avenues that organisations seeking support can pursue and I would recommend that anybody wishing to make an application first contacts the relevant local office. Their staff will then be able to provide advice and support regarding the application process. Full list can be found at: goo.gl/QihSKD

On a similar note it is fantastic to see that over the past three months the **Big Lottery Fund** has provided nearly £55,000 of funding to 6 projects in the constituency. Every week over £13 million is awarded across the UK to support community activity with the money raised from National Lottery players. The organisation works hard to ensure the money reaches the people and organisations who make a real difference and it's great that the benefits are being felt in our area.

The brand new **Didcot Concert Orchestra** gives its inaugural concert at Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot at 4pm on Sunday 11 February 2018 playing music from the late Romantic era. More info can be found at: <http://www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk/>

I am delighted that this Orchestra has been established. Didcot is a vibrant and growing town, and the arts have always been a central part of its life. The concert orchestra fills a gap, and it is very much needed. Music brings great joy to people, and it also plays an important role in our schools and our communities. I wish the Dicot Concert Orchestra every success and I look forward to seeing them perform soon in Didcot – if not at the Proms!

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Conservative)

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Contact Ed Vaizey MP by | |
| Post | The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA |
| E-mail | dicksonce@parliament.uk |
| Web | www.vaizey.com |
| Tel | 01235 768 888 |

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

November 23rd 2017 – A day to remember?

The Autumn Budget (formerly the Autumn Statement) contained highly significant news for this county. Only one county, Oxfordshire,

was specifically mentioned by the Chancellor as being a focus of attention for the Government. We have known for some time that our county is thriving economically and had very low unemployment. Our knowledge and scientific expertise based on our Universities and Enterprise Centres are the basis of the government's aspirations for economic growth nationwide. To that end it is likely (and will be confirmed in February 2018) that we will receive circa £215million over the next 5 years to fund infrastructure. There are at least two other pots which may almost double the circa £215million figure.

So what is the deal? It seems that government expects Oxfordshire to provide 100,000 new homes over the next few years. This is roughly the total number planned in all Oxfordshire's Local Plans so is no more than we were expecting – this will be a relief to many. Providing the figure is confirmed, this will allow the county to improve and repair its much criticised road system. Exactly how much will be used to rectify past problems, and how much to build brand new roads, we wait to see. But the outlook, for this County at least, is certainly better than it has been for many years. And that is good news as we approach all the uncertainties of 2018.

Thank you to all those who plough through my monthly offerings and all the very best for the New Year..

RICHARD WEBBER CLLR OCC SC & Marcham Division.
 Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Council letting us down?

On Wednesday, 13th December, I proposed a motion at the full Vale Council Meeting firstly, asking the council to make sure that the next budget set aside enough money to fulfil the bulk of the eleven Air Quality Action Plans (AQAPs) that, in 2015, it had promised wherever possible in the Vale. Secondly, I asked if it would follow South Oxfordshire District Council's example by creating a low emission strategy to reduce air pollution in the Vale, particularly in AQMAs. The 11 actions are listed below:

- 1) To create a "low emission strategy" (LES) and "low emission zone study" (LEZ) (target date 2017).
- 2) To install electric recharging points.
- 3) To supply parking permit and pricing incentives for green vehicles (target date 2016).
- 4) To create a feasibility study for freight transport consolidation (FCC)/freight quality partnership (target date 2016)
- 5) To create taxi licensing incentives for green vehicles (target date 2016).
- 6) To improve use and enforcement of traffic regulation orders (target date 2016).
- 7) To review the council and contractors fleet.
- 8) To implement eco driving training (trial to be completed by 2016).
- 9) To give air quality guidance (target date 2015).
- 10) To encourage community involvement projects.
- 11) To introduce south facing slip roads to Lodge Hill interchange.

Remember, these are all actions that had been passed at council in 2015, so the council is obliged to honour its commitments and its target dates, but only a few actions have been done or completed. To its shame, after a fairly feeble debate, the council voted against the motion (20 votes to 8, with 3 abstentions) and so against its obligations. I find this quite extraordinary and very depressing, especially as we know that in the Vale more than 50 people a year die from complications directly related to poor air quality (figures from HM Government). It is up to us to make sure that the air quality issue is not allowed to be suppressed, and that every effort is made to encourage both County Council and District Council to work together to accelerate actions to reduce air pollution in the Vale. Actions are now needed, not just words. A New Year Resolution for us all, maybe?

Despite this rather sobering article, may I lighten the mood by wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year, 2018!

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC
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Group



Public meeting and new facilities— moving forward

A big thank-you to everyone who came to the public meeting and AGM on 23rd November—there was a good turnout and reports were given about the project and progress over the past year. Lots of good questions were asked, and the positive feedback from those attending gave MCG confidence in the support of the community in its new role. Changes to the Articles of MCG were unanimously approved.



Eleven candidates stood for election as trustees and the ballot was independently run and counted by Ruth Mander and Dave Walton. The following nine were elected as trustees (in alphabetical order):

Jim Asher, Dan Barnes, Warren Brooker, Suzanne Crafer, Nathan Evans, Trevor Hill, Joey Maclean, Chris Ricketts, and Richard Zair.

MCG is now inviting people to join the three committees that will run the facilities: Hall Committee; Field Committee; and Finance and General Committee. If you feel able to help, please let us know!

The new trustees look forward to moving the project forward and to resolving remaining issues as we head into 2018 and the start of work on MarchamCentre, the new community facilities. The existing MSSSC building will be closed and vacated on **31st March 2018** for site work to begin. Organisations who have used the facilities are making arrangements for temporary re-location elsewhere. Marcham PCC has been able to extend the lease on the Baptist Hall buildings for a further two years for continued community use. We are grateful to the Baptist Union Corporation for their help at this time. Anyone wishing to make a booking for the Baptist Hall should contact Tamsin Gilbert, email: info@allsaintsmarcham.org.

The Community Facilities Steering Group (CFSG) has been steering the project for the last three years. Over the next few months, MCG will get up to speed and CFSG working group actions are being transferred to MCG committees. CFSG will continue to oversee the project until the end of March 2018 and will now be looking to MCG to keep all in Marcham updated regularly on the project.

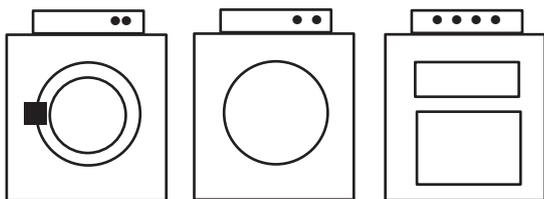
The trustees of Marcham Community Group would like to thank all who have worked in the Community Facilities Steering Group, those who have taken up roles in the 'relaunched' MCG, and all members and supporters for their help and donations in 2017. We wish all in the Marcham community a Merry Christmas—we look forward also to the New Year and the start of a successful project in 2018.

A new start—and Seasons Greetings to all from MCG



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Dear Friends

Welcome to a New Year!

I hope that you have events and happenings in the year ahead that you can look forward to with expectation and hope. Summer holidays booked? School trips to European cities? Or simply knowing that each day is special and a gift to be enjoyed and lived to the full?

We don't know what lies ahead – thankfully! The uncertainty of life helps to bring home to me the importance of being grateful and thankful for each day. Having suffered from heart attacks in the past and two treatments for skin cancers, I am personally very aware of life's uncertain path. Each day is a gift for which I am profoundly grateful and am so grateful too for those who are beside me – to walk the path with me, providing prayer, companionship and love along the way.

My faith also is an immense source of strength: knowing that Christ Jesus is with me, that God my heavenly Father loves me and watches over me, that the Holy Spirit resides within me, providing resources beyond my limited capacities. If, to some of you reading this, all this sounds presumptuous, may I encourage you to go back to the source for yourselves, to read again from the Bible the great promises of God, made personal through trust in Christ. God wants us as human beings to know him and enjoy his company and has made this wonderfully real and possible through the gift of Jesus himself.

Thus, as we embark upon the adventure of a New Year, may you know the quiet joy and certainty of God's love for yourselves and whatever this year has in store may you have much to look forward to and enjoy.

Wishing you a peace-filled and joyful New Year.

Richard



January 2018

Baptist Hall Hire

The Baptist Hall on Packhorse Lane is administered by All Saints' Church and is available for hire by community groups and individuals.

Further information on the hall and booking conditions can be found on the website above.

Demand for this may grow once the SSSC closes next spring, so potential users should enquire sooner rather than later.

Bookings can be made by emailing the Parish Administrator (see below).

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Changing Room (Women's Breakfast), Saturday 20th January, 8.30am at the Baptist Hall.

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Friday Club for primary-aged children, 5.30pm on Fridays at All Saints'.

Village Café Wednesdays from 11.30am at the Sports and Social Club

Men's Breakfast, Saturday 6th January, 8.30am at the Baptist Hall

Youth Drop-in, Wednesdays after school in the Baptist Hall. Y7-9: 3.30-6pm, Y9+: 6-8pm

Contacts:

Rev. Canon Richard Zair 391319
vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org

Jill Rowe Children's and families Minister 390885
families@allsaintsmarcham.org

Rob Finch Youth Worker 07888331708,
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**Neighbourhood Team
Newsletter for Marcham
Burglaries and attempted
burglaries**



Our area remains a low crime area but we have seen a slight increase in burglaries in the Abingdon area including the married quarters of Dalton Barracks and the Cumnor Hill area. The neighbourhood team are working with detectives from the Burglary team to investigate the offences. I will be doing some joint patrolling of the married quarters with The Army to provide reassurance.

Make it difficult for the burglar

Home security is the best way to reduce your chances of being burgled. A lot of burglaries are spur of the moment, carried out by opportunist thieves who don't even need to use force – they get in through an open door, window or other easy point of entry and take their chances. The good news is that it doesn't take much to improve security and put off burglars. Spending money on security measures can seem daunting but it's a good investment, it will last a long time and can add value to your home.

Look at your home through the eyes of a burglar

If you think your home security looks poor, chances are so will a burglar!

- Are there places where they could break in without being seen?
- If you have forgotten your keys but can still get in, so can a burglar!

There are several steps you can take to increase the security of your property at this time of year:-

- Do not leave presents on display either in vehicles or visible through the windows of your property.
- Make sure all doors and windows are locked and secure.
- Maximise surveillance levels i.e. cut back tall trees and bushes to make your property more visible to neighbours.
- Consider installing a CCTV system.
- Use timer switches to make it appear that there is someone in the property if you are out for long periods of time.
- Consider using a property marking system like SmartWater which will make your items less desirable.
- Take down serial numbers of presents and valuable items in your house so that they are identifiable if they are stolen.

Crime prevention event

The Abingdon Neighbourhood Team was in Botley precinct on the 16th and 17th December offering crime reduction advice and answering any questions about the local area.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

I have received reports about ASB in and around Arthur Evans Close in Wootton. The reports are of cars gathering, possible drugs being smoked and noise issues. Some nights ago officers were dispatched to the area and three cars were stopped. The drivers were breathalysed (which they all passed) and given words of advice. We will continue to monitor the situation. Please continue to call 101 and report any ASB.

And finally we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year!

Contact us If you want any advice or to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 or if it is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. To view information on your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk. Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk today. The Thames Valley Police Twitter account is kept up to date with what we are up to; please follow us @TVPSouthandVale

GARDENING WITH A LIGHT TOUCH

It is often said we should try to walk lightly and live a life so our footsteps we leave behind are invisible, or at least, minimal. Let's spin that a little and let me ask, how many of us do the same in our own garden plots, and garden with a light touch?



My opinion is, the best gardeners, be they wildlife gardeners or traditional gardeners, work in a way that often leaves little trace that they have actually been there. Yes, they prune, they mow, they weed, and they even tidy, but shall we say the joins are hard to find. By that I mean, they keep it looking natural.

When they prune, the cuts are not always obvious, and they certainly don't prune everything to within an inch of its life.

When they rake up leaves, they don't always rake every leaf up.

It may sound less labour intensive, quicker even, but it takes a lot of skill to garden, and garden well, with a light touch.

So when you are putting you plot to bed for the Winter or getting it ready for Spring, try and see if you can garden with a similar light touch. Leaving few, if any footprints at all.

Let me know how you get on.

Happy Gardening

Stuart Mabbutt, Wildlife Gardening Specialist

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

RESEARCH LOST WAYS

Walkers, riders and cyclists from Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire gathered at Henley-on-Thames Town Hall on Saturday (18 November) to learn how to research and record lost public paths. Henley's Mayor, Kellie Hinton, and Councillor Sarah Miller were there.

On 1 January 2026 the official map of public paths (the definitive map) is to be closed to applications for the addition of routes based on historic evidence. Even if a route has not been used, if there is historic evidence that it was once a highway and it has never been legally stopped up it should be shown on the map. Now there are only nine years left for people to research the records and apply to the county or unitary council to add paths to the map—regardless of whether those paths are in use. There will be further training days <http://www.oss.org.uk/what-we-do/training-courses/>

**There are 6.7 million blocked drains
each year in the UK**

**A plumber could cost over £200 to clear pipes
How can we keep our drains blockage free?**

Fatberg fighting tips - Make a fat trap

Margarine tubs, plastic pots and jam jars make handy containers to capture cooled, leftover cooking fat and oil. Please dispose of the fat in the food waste bin.

Clear plates

Scrape plates of food and fat before washing up or loading the dishwasher.

Use a bin

Keep a bin in the bathroom for everything that isn't pee, poo or toilet paper. Don't flush wetwipes - they don't break down in the drains, whatever the packet says!

www.binit.thameswater.co.uk

Bin it - don't block it.

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

HOLIDAYS

B&B Rafter's



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

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SHIVERING INDOORS THIS WINTER? CITIZENS ADVICE CAN HELP!

As winter approaches, evenings and nights lengthen, and cold, misty air settles in grey, cheerless, smoggy streets, many people's thoughts and plans are inevitably turning towards the necessity of heating their homes. But, with sharply rising energy costs, it is an unfortunate fact that many disadvantaged people in our communities are having to choose between heating their homes and buying enough food to eat. South Oxfordshire and Vale Citizens Advice is working to help those who are in difficulties. The national charity is urging people to take action, to cut their bills by checking that they have signed up for the best possible deal, or to take up offers of help to insulate their homes. You could benefit from savings of up to £320 a year from energy efficiency measures, an average of £100 by paying by direct debit, and up to £200 a year by shopping around for the best deal.

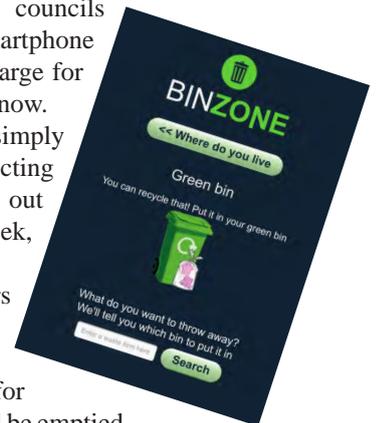


The Citizens Advice website contains a lot of useful energy advice information and links to price comparison tools. Visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply to find out how you could benefit.

And if money is tight, contact your local Citizens Advice. Experienced advisers can look into your particular situation and see whether you are getting all the benefits to which you are entitled, or if you can get help paying your bills. Citizens Advice offers confidential, impartial advice and information on many day-to-day issues. For further help visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk, call Adviceline on **03444 111 444** or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice. Locations and opening hours of Citizens Advice offices in Oxfordshire South and Vale can be found on www.citizensadvice.org.uk Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale is an independent charity that provides the local Citizens Advice service. Our 150 skilled volunteers work from five locations and are supported by nine full-time staff. They advise over 9,500 clients each year. All our income is raised locally.

YOU NEED NEVER MISS ANOTHER WASTE COLLECTION!

Waste collection information is now just a screen tap away in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. The two district councils have launched a brand-new smartphone app, which is available free of charge for iPhone and Android phones right now. The app is called **Binzone** – by simply tapping their postcode in and selecting their address, residents can find out which bin is being emptied this week, and what day it's being emptied. The app will also send users a notification if their waste collection day changes due to a bank holiday – very handy for keeping track of what day bins will be emptied over the Christmas period.



It will also let residents know if collections are disrupted by snow or icy conditions.

That's not all though – residents can also use Binzone to look up what bin their rubbish goes in. Ever been confused as to what bin an empty aerosol can goes in? Not any more – residents can simply search for it in Binzone and find out. It's the green recycling wheelie bin, by the way.

Councillor Charlotte Dickson, cabinet member for waste at the Vale of White Horse District Council, said, "The app is so easy to navigate and will save residents time by having all the information needed right at their fingertips, especially the changes to collection days around bank holidays."

Councillor Tony Harbour, cabinet member for waste at South Oxfordshire District Council said, "If the weather worsens again this winter I think the Binzone app will come into its own by keeping our residents informed on what is happening to their collections. It is very handy to have the information in one place." *Binzone is available to download free of charge on the iPhone Appstore and the Google Play Store*

If you need to contact Biffa here are the details:

E: admin.vale@biffa.co.uk T: 03000 610610

c/o Vale of White Horse District Council

135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB

Earth Trust Events

Winter Wetland Birds

Sunday 28th January, 9.30am-11am



Local expert Ben Carpenter will take you on a guided walk around beautiful Thrupp Lake, near Abingdon, where you'll learn more about the birds and their habitats. Thrupp Lake is one of the top birding sites in the area and this is a fantastic opportunity to find out more about the winter waders and other waterfowl. £8 adult, £4 child; booking essential: book online (incurs a fee) or call 01865 407792 during office hours.

Much loved iconic landscape, Wittenham Clumps, threatened by new highway proposal

Earth Trust is raising strong objections to a proposal currently being considered for a potential link road from the A34 to the new Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. One of the route options would cut across Earth Trust farmland, impacting on its economic viability, which will undermine their ability to manage the Wittenham Clumps and other national assets that Earth Trust safeguards.

Earth Trust is an environmental learning charity which manages this 1,200 acre site, including farmland, woodland and wetland. Set within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the Wittenham Clumps and Little Wittenham Wood Nature Reserve have been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and include a nationally important Scheduled Ancient Monument. In a county with limited accessible greenspace for people to enjoy, this great heritage landscape is much loved and plays a major role in the visitor economy. It is the most highly visited, free to access greenspace in the South East, with more than 150,000 visits made to the Wittenham Clumps each year.

The proposed route cuts across this land, destroying the economic viability of the Earth Trust Farm which supports the management and setting of this historic and biodiversity-rich landscape.

Jayne Manley, CEO of Earth Trust says: "This proposal will damage the viability of Earth Trust and our ability to manage the Wittenham Clumps and the surrounding farmland and forestry. We look after the living genetic collection of hardwood timber trees, Paradise Wood, and this link road will undermine our ability to protect this nationally important resource. Therefore, for many reasons it is important that this accessible greenspace is protected."

A letter from Earth Trust has been sent to national bodies including Highways England and the National Infrastructure Commission raising concerns about the routes published on maps which represent local understanding of route options. Local MP Ed Vaizey will be helping Earth Trust to make sure the importance of the site and their work is properly understood.

Graham Shaw, Chair of Trustees for Earth Trust, said: "This site is steeped in heritage and rich archaeology; there is evidence of people living in this area right through from the Stone Age to the modern era, including Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval remains. Nowadays, Earth Trust adds to the tourism of the area and sits within Oxfordshire's Science and Knowledge Spine attracting scientists and technicians to this area, to live and work. This proposed route option will severely impact upon all of this."

More details www.earthtrust.org.uk
 Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4QZ 01865 407792
 January 2018

ABCD Film Society

Thursday screenings this month



ABCD Film Society has four films from four countries this month, two modern, two classics, all good. Admission to each screening £6 (£3 full-time school and college students) or £20 for all four.

Jan 4 DR STRANGELOVE OR HOW I STOPPED WORRYING AND LEARNED TO LOVE THE BOMB – Kubrick's classic nuclear war comedy (!) with Peter Sellers at his brilliant best. (USA, 1964, 91 mins, Cert PG)

Jan 11 FORCE MAJEURE – "viciously amusing takedown of bourgeois complacency" (New York Times) when a perfect Swedish family goes on a skiing holiday ... and it all goes wrong. (Sweden, 2014, 120 mins, Cert 15)

Jan 18 THE 400 BLOWS (Les Quatre Cent Coups) – Truffaut's New Wave masterpiece about 12 year old Antoine Doinel growing up neglected in Paris. Introduced by Ann Miller, an expert in French cinema. (France, 1959, 99 mins, Cert PG).

Jan 25 TAXI TEHRAN – "Again thumbing his nose at the regime that has banned him, the courageous Iranian director [Jafar Panahi] makes his latest film in a taxi rigged with three hidden cameras" Jonathan Romney (The Observer). (Iran, 2015, 82 mins, Cert12)

All screenings at 7.45pm at Abingdon Health & Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, OX14 3GD. Adjacent parking. Have a hot drink before the film – donation requested. More information (and a glossy paper brochure) from www.abfilms.org.uk or info@abfilms.org.uk or 01235 521976 Registered charity No. 292723

Aladdin

By Joe Graham
 Directed by Susi Dalton

Evenings: Friday 12th, Saturday 13th, Thursday 18th, Friday 19th, Saturday 20th January | 7:30pm

Matinees: Saturday 13th, Sunday 14th, Saturday 20th January | 2:30pm.

Tickets available from: The Bookstore, The Abingdon Precinct (15 Bury St)
Tickets: £10, £8 concessions (60+, students, ADC members)
Email: tickets@unicornboxoffice.org.uk
Telephone: 0845 4636638
enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com



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YOUR PHOTOS



An amazing image of Marcham in the snow captured by Cameron Walker using a drone. The strange shape is due to it being a 360° panorama which you can see to full effect on Facebook where it has been shared on MADNews page: MADNewsUK



This Post Office snapped by Jo and Tony Blacker on the sea front in Antalya, Turkey makes us really appreciate what we have in Marcham!



Hey diddle diddle ... the fox jumped over the moon! Jim Asher photographed the supermoon in December over The Tower House's weathervane.



How far has your MVS shopping bag travelled? This one made it to Venice and on to Torcello for lunch!

Have you got any brilliant photos for future issues of MADNews?
Send in your pics to editor@madnews.co.uk