

Marcham & District News

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FEBRUARY 2018 VOL: 40 NO: 2

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



◀ Pancakes for Shrove Tuesday and Chocolates for Valentines Day find all you need at Marcham's wonderful shop page 5



▲ Pre-school enjoying "Concoctions Corner"! page 9



Little Angels: having fun ▶ and awards for the Practioners of the Year! page 9



Don't miss the MADNews deadline! see diary below

Diary for February

6 Tue	SKB Gardening Club, Southmoor Village Hall, 19.30	19	18 Sun	Music in the Vale: Fantasie Francaise, St Denys' Church Stanford-i-t-Vale, 15.00	2
7 Wed	Come and Sing with Harmony Inspires, Appleton Village Hall, 19.30 – 22.00	2	20 Tue	Deadline for February MADNews, 17.00: editor@madnews.co.uk	
8 Thur	Midweek Walk: The Royal Sun, Begbroke, 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	7	21 Wed	The Arts Society Abingdon: Thomas Heatherwick, Trinity Church, Abingdon, 10.20 & 14.00	18
8 Thur	Sunningwell Gardening Club, Sunningwell Village Hall, 19.30	19	23 Fri	Quiz Night at MSSSC, 20.15	7
9 Fri	Pancake Family Friday, All Saints' Church, 17.30	15	24 Sat	Jumble Sale, Southmoor Village Hall, 10.30	19
13 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 – 15.30	7	27 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 – 15.30	7
13 Tue	Marcham Society: Ben Jack, All Saint's Church, 19.30	5	March		
14 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3	3 Sat	Wantage and Grove Lions, Bingo, Grove Village Hall, 18.45	9
15 Thur	Music at the Unicorn: Gerry Colvin, 19.00	9	17 Sat	ABRAIL, Abingdon and Witney College, Abingdon, 10.00 – 17.00	2
15 Thur	Marcham WI: Peter Tickler, Denman College, 19.30	7			

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

THINGS TO DO

half term activities

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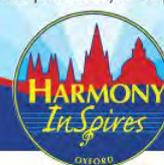
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or email sing@harmonyinspires.org

The "small print"!

- ★ Participants must be female ★ The ability to read music is not essential ★
- ★ Under 18's must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times ★

FREE!



MUSIC IN THE VALE PRESENTS Fantasie Francaise

Chamber music by Louise Farrenc, Paul Taffanel ...
Piano and Woodwind Quintet Gli Amici Dela Musica

Where: St. Denys' Church, Stanford in the Vale SN7 8HU

When: 3pm Sunday 18th February

How much: £10.00

Admission is by programme from Vogue Hairdressing, 28 High Street, Stanford in the Vale, telephone 01367 710476, by reservation on 01367 718420, email djpedderdpa@btinternet.com, or at the door.

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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. The Festival begins with the Science Fair 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.



Personal adverts in MADNews are free so if you want to put in a notice or have something to sell, call the editor on 391725 or email editor@madnews.co.uk



Marcham Village Shop & Post Office
16 North St, Marcham OX13 6NG

Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 17.30

Sat - Sun: 08.00 - 12 noon

Visit us on Facebook: [marchamvillageshop](https://www.facebook.com/marchamvillageshop)

Shrove Tuesday 13th

Valentines Day 14th

Invitation to apply for a grant

In our last financial year the village shop received £569 in donations, for which we would like to thank our customers who often put any small change they are given into the blue tin on the shop counter.

At our recent AGM it was agreed that those funds should go to worthy causes in Marcham. So if any organisation or group within the village would like to apply for a small amount of financial help, then please email marchamvillageshop@gmail.com or write to David Walton, c/o Marcham Village Shop, 16 North Street, Marcham, Abingdon, OX13 6NG.

You should give your name, details of your organisation or group, how much you wish to apply for, what the grant would be used for, and a copy your most recent accounts or details of your organisation's finances.

There is no deadline for applications. We will consider each request at our next Committee meeting which is held every other month.

The Shop Committee would like to thank Ruth and Keith Mersh of Vale Curtains Abingdon Blinds for upgrading the shop's blinds.

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

February - the month for romance!

Why not treat someone else to a bag of sherbert lemons – only 60p a quarter!



VILLAGE CAFE
EVERY WEDNESDAY
MSSSC



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.

MARCHAM SOCIETY REPORT: THE ROMAN TEMPLE SITE AT TRENDLES: A VOLUNTEER'S VIEW

A large audience gathered in Marcham church on 9 January to hear Simon Blackmore give the Marcham Society's Annual Lecture. He described how the Trendles site was found and showed examples of Roman temples. A team of archaeologists from Oxford University excavated the site from 2001-11, with the enthusiastic support of the landowners, Will and Janey Cumber.

A Heritage Lottery grant funded the training of a group of volunteers to weigh, measure, number and note the finds. As there were 2,500 coins, 6,500 bones and 200 boxes of pottery, it is not surprising that this work took 5 years. 80% of the animal bones were from sheep, but there was a complete skeleton of a cow, nick-named Daisy. Coins from many centuries were found and there were examples of jewellery, shoes and even a basket. Much of the pottery was made in Oxford, but there were pieces from other parts of the country and even Samian ware from France. To end the evening, Simon and his helpers dispensed Mulsum (a Roman-style mulled wine) to the audience, just right for a chilly January evening. *JF*



The
Marcham
Society

All Saints' Church, Marcham
7.30 for 7.45pm
Tuesday 13th February

A Story from the Philippines
about our World's Oceans

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Ben Jack

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

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Marcham WI

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, 15th February

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Denman College

Speaker: Peter Tickler, 'Blood on the Keyboard'

Where are all you ladies who are new to the village? Marcham Women's Institute (WI) is a thriving group who enjoy exciting meetings and making friends. Why not come along and join us?

The speaker for our February meeting is local crime writer, Peter Tickler, who will be giving his talk 'Blood on the Keyboard'. This promises to be an intriguing and fun evening, so please do come along as we'd love to see you.

New members and visitors are always welcome

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8TH

This month's walk we will eat at The Royal Sun, 2 Woodstock Road West, Begbroke (Map Ref: SP 470138; OX5 1RZ) just off the A44 at 12.30pm, and start our walk at 1.30. We shall be walking to Bladon through quiet country so near Oxford.



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.

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



Marcham Sports, Scouts & Social Club
Anson Field



QUIZ NIGHT - FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY
8.15pm

A QUIZ NIGHT is being held on Friday 23 February in the club room. As usual teams of up to four persons.

Everyone welcome. Don't worry if you are on your own or just a team of two, we will make sure that you join another team!

We have a wide range of questions to suit everyone - which are not too difficult!!!!



We look forward to seeing you,

For further information call Trevor Hill on 01865 391321

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB NEW PLAYERS & NETS

The club has two teams playing on a Saturday afternoon in the Oxfordshire Cricket Association (OCA) leagues. The club is looking to welcome new players of all abilities. We are a friendly 'bunch', with ages running from 13-65.



So you can see we really do encourage 'all' to participate. Having said that, the first team are in division 3, which is competitive. The seconds are in division 7, which provides an opportunity for all to have a game. So if you are interested please contact the secretary, Trevor Hill, on 07748696733, or e-mail trevor3chancel@aol.co.uk All potential and existing members are invited to attend pre-season indoor nets at Radley School. These will take place on eight Friday evenings starting 2 March, taking place from 7.30pm until 9.00pm. Further information from Trevor.

Look forward to seeing you there!

TH



Planning a night out with friends?
A birthday trip with the kids?
A family trip to the beach?
Whatever your plans,
why not use the Community Minibus!!

14 seats plus your driver (aged between 25 and 70)

(you will need to ensure that your licence covers driving a minibus)

A standard donation is requested to cover diesel/maintenance.

There is a weekly run to Tesco for any residents with transport difficulties. Leaving Duffield Place at 9.45am and returning from Tesco at around 11am - voluntary contribution to cover costs.

Do you have a couple of hours free every few weeks to join our rota - or would you like to join the passengers ?

Contact Marion Belcher on 07507 797757

to make your booking, volunteer as a driver or for more information

MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

February means it is time for our Annual General Meeting when your committee reports on the previous years activities and finances. Also annual subscriptions are due. Future programme activities will also be discussed. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served and our usual raffle will be drawn

March will bring a talk on what can and cannot be recycled. This talk will be given by a member of The Waste Team from Local Government.

We meet in the Lounge at Duffield Place at 2.30pm on the last Thursday of each month (except August and December).

NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME

For more information contact
John Woods (Secretary) 391705

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

From 2 – 3.30pm

Tuesday 13th and Tuesday 27th February

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!
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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

Back in November, we were delighted to receive the news that we had been successful in securing a grant from the Big Lottery Fund to the value of £9,945!!



These funds have been used to replace and refurbish our 'sand kitchen' with a weatherproof, wooden 'concoctions corner' complete with giant utensils, metal pots, pans, milk churns, jugs and potions bottles. Outside we will be adding a fantastic range of wooden construction resources to develop teamwork, physical skills, language, communication and imagination.

Communication and Language are a top priority for us at Marcham Pre-school as these skills form such a strong base for all future learning.... We've also added some Rhyme Time lending sacks, telephone, communication training, child-friendly MP3 players as well as lots of other exciting resources to engage the children.

Fundraising is a priority for many organisations within the village at the present time and we are extremely grateful to everyone who supports our community group. As a registered charity, our eligibility to access funds is different from other groups such as Marcham Primary School, and so we are particularly grateful to the Big Lottery Fund for making these opportunities a reality for us as we work in partnership with the school and support the children attending now and for many years into the future.

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

NEWS FROM LITTLE ANGELS

Every one of our family is excited about the amazing activities taking place in 2018!



Little Angels ended 2017 in style, with our first ever Award Ceremony for the team. We believe it is important to recognise the dedication, care and education each of our team provide to our little (and big!) angels in the baby room, pre-school room, breakfast and after school club throughout the whole of the year. As a team we celebrated each and everyone's hard work with an amazing meal at The Crown with several awards. I am pleased to announce our winners of our **Practitioners of the Year** awards in the following categories:

- Nursery & Pre-School Children: Lottie Davies
- Nursery & Pre-School Parents: Megan Toplis
- Breakfast & After School Club Children: Matt Hudson
- Breakfast & After School Club Parents: Nicola Scott
- Team Choice: Danielle Ball
- Manager's Choice: Emily Sahnir
- Proprietor's Choice: Micheala Pancott
- Parent Council Most Improved: Amy Burfitt

A massive congratulations to the super stars at Little Angels, without whom we would not be able to provide the care and education we do for all families throughout the whole year come snow, rain or sunshine!

Baby & Pre-school Room Have had a fun start to the year, with lots of messy paint using fingers and cars! Also taken advantage of the nice days by going for walks around the village, seeing what lovely nature we can collect and see. We have started off 2018 with a new team member - **Bella Banana**, our healthy living mascot. Bella will be going home with families sharing between us the ways and actions we do at home and in Little Angels to stay healthy! We are all very excited to see how her first visits home have gone! Our oldest pre-school children have been looking at kindness and its importance. Not just to each other but also to the environment. One day lots of rubbish was left in our garden which they had to tidy up, they understood that leaving rubbish everywhere means that we can't play no matter where we are. The children really enjoyed and understood the importance of a bin.

This is especially important for our friend the bear, our favourite story this month has been We're Going on a Bear Hunt - this has been a great adventure.

Breakfast & After School Club

We are back after the Christmas holidays, all full of energy and excitement. This has been shown by at last being able to get outside again with the evenings getting lighter. There has been lots of creativity with recycled cards and play dough. We have also been straight back in to support the children with their homework and reading, keeping up with the good habits!

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



CHAIR-BASED EXERCISE



Day: Thursday
Time: 10.30 11.30 am
Place: Marcham Baptist Hall
 41 Packhorse Lane, Marcham,
 Abingdon OX13 6NT
Cost: £4 *** your first session is free***

Tel: 01235 849 403 info@generationgames.org.uk

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Wantage & Grove Lions are holding a Bingo at Grove Village Hall on Saturday 3rd March doors open 6.45pm eyes down 7.30pm great raffle & refreshments

hope to see you there



GERRY COLVIN

Thursday 15th February

www.gerrycolvin.co.uk

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or editor@madnews.co.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Please forgive yet another article on planning and development; I will try to find something else to write about in future. It may not be easy. The impact of Development on Drayton Road and its Neighbourhood Plan, the impact of development on the A415 through Marcham, Barrow Rd and the Marcham AQMA, the impact of development in Sutton Courtenay on Culham Bridge and the A34, itself already under extreme stress running through the middle of it all, it sometimes seems as if this County Division, of which we are all part, is being singled out for very special treatment. The truth is, of course, that many parts of the South of England are under similar stress.

However, with our very low unemployment and our local economy thriving, Government is wanting, expecting and depending on us to grow. For almost the first time, the stresses – particularly on our road system - are now so obvious and so acute that Government is realizing that without more infrastructure there are fewer and fewer sensible places to put the nation's much needed extra housing. Money has to be found and the calls for infrastructure before housing are becoming ever louder and more persuasive.

Hence, the "Growth Deal" - an initial "downpayment" (Government term, not mine) of £215m over 5 years, to help us cope with all the housing our Councils are already committed to - may not be enough, but it's a start. Given that our housing is due to be delivered over the next 13 years, it appears that, if the deal is signed, there is the prospect of some infrastructure before houses. This is something we have been requesting for many years now.

On January 23rd, a planning appeal hearing will have begun over two potential major developments in Sutton Courtenay. The OCC Highway Officer's view is that the road network will not cope, at least not until a new bridge over the Thames has been built. This might happen until five years' time at the earliest. The planning appeal is due to last at least 8 days, we are told. We will know if the Growth Deal is to be signed on February 1st. The timing of all this and the planning decision is going to be highly significant. The result, however it goes, will impact not just on Sutton Courtenay and the immediate villages around, but on the whole of Oxfordshire and almost certainly on planning in the whole of the South of England. I would urge all those with an interest in planning and housing to join me in watching the progress of that appeal very closely..

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

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A Promotion?

After all the work we have done on air pollution issues in Marcham, I agreed to take on the shadow portfolio for Environmental and Housing at the Vale. You can imagine my gasp when I saw the long list of responsibilities it involves, including technical, licensing and safety services! Cllr Elaine Ware is the cabinet member, and the officer in charge has yet to be revealed. I hope to have regular meetings with the officer in charge to keep me up to scratch. So, once you have browsed through the list, please feel free to contact me on any issue you feel is in my remit.

The Vale of White Horse District Council provides the following services:

- Environmental services
- Collects and recycles domestic waste
- Cleans streets and public places
- Monitors atmospheric pollution, noise and contaminated land and investigates complaints
- Monitors the safety of bathing waters and private water supplies
- Enforces legislation concerning food safety, including food complaints and food poisoning
- Enforces legislation concerning health and safety at work, including accidents at work and complaints about working conditions
- Deals with a wide range of public health issues eg defective

drainage, deposits of rubbish on private land, animal welfare, stray dogs, infectious disease control

- Carries out a range of licensing activities eg entertainment licensing, street trading consents, licences for ear piercing, acupuncture, tattooing and electrolysis

Housing Services

- Provides housing advice
- Manages the housing register
- Arranges for temporary accommodation for homeless clients
- Processes grant and loan applications including grants for disability adaptations to homes
- Promotes and provides advice on improving home efficiency
- Monitors, advises and enforces housing standards across the private sector (including park homes)
- Administers housing benefit and Council Tax benefit
- Identifies and takes steps to strive to meet the current and future housing needs of local residents
- Provides Closed Circuit Television Camera services
- Works in partnership on community safety issues

An Update on The Five Council Partnership?

In 2016, the Vale took a bold decision to share thirteen services (including corporate and professional services) with four other District Councils in a bid to save £50 million. The other District Councils are Hart DC, Mendip DC, Havant Borough Council (including some shared services with E. Hants), and South Oxfordshire DC. We have now been warned that this target will be missed by £30 million, which means that each council will only save £400,000 each year. This is better than nothing, but clearly disappointing.

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC
01235 534001 or Webbercatherine1@gmail.com

Read Easy is expanding in Oxford!

Read Easy Oxford East is a local community group that supports adults with reading difficulties. Our trained volunteers provide one-to-one intensive coaching over a six to eighteen month period so that people can improve their reading skills. This often helps them to transform their lives in other ways – they may be able to get a better job, sign up for further training, or start to read with their children and grandchildren. We also plan to offer an extension programme of further reading and writing activities tailored to the individual needs of each reader to enable them to move ahead with their lives.



Due to the success of our work, which began specifically in Blackbird Leys, we are now expanding to encompass the entire Oxford East parliamentary constituency. We will now be working in areas including Headington, Barton, Rose Hill, and Wood Farm, alongside our existing activities in Blackbird Leys. Anyone can refer themselves if they think they need help and many of our readers are referred to us through other agencies. We carry out an independent assessment and aim to match each reader with a suitable coach.

We do not employ any members of staff; all our coaches are volunteers, as are the coordinators and members of the management committee. We have to raise funds to buy the special reading manuals that are given to each reader, train and support the coaches, and reimburse expenses to the volunteer coordinators. Chair Lynn Dowler says: 'We are still having young people leaving school without the literacy skills to play a full role in society and have full access to modern technology. Helping anyone of any age achieve the literacy skills necessary to enter the workplace, be good parents or grandparents and be involved in society is very worthwhile and rewarding. You can contribute by becoming a coach or by referring someone who needs our help to us. We are also looking for a volunteer to fill the important role of support coordinator.'

For more information contact Lynn Dowler on: oxfordeast@readeasy.org.uk or go to our website <https://readeasy.org.uk/groups/oxford-east/>

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MCG latest update

Following up from the AGM and public meeting on 23rd November about MarchamCentre, the new community facilities, the new trustees of Marcham Community Group (MCG), which will operate the facilities, held their first meeting in January. One of the first actions was to set up the three committees that will run the facilities day to day: Hall Committee (which will be chaired by Chris Ricketts); Field Committee (chaired by Trevor Hill); and Finance and General Committee (chaired by Warren Brooker). Other trustees will be joining one or more of these committees and we are in the process of inviting other people in Marcham with appropriate skills and experience to join also.

If you feel you have skills and/or experience you think may be helpful, please contact Jim Asher (391727) or one of the committee chairs. For people new to Marcham, this might provide an early chance to become involved. If you have useful skills, but don't wish to be on a committee, we would like to be able to call on your help when needed, so please make contact.

We are also keen to recruit more members to help support our case for fund-raising to complete the new facilities. Please contact Jim Asher for details. Annual subscriptions are £5 (single) and £8 (family).

The new trustees will work to move the project forward and will resolve remaining issues as we approach the start of work on the construction phase, after archaeology investigations due to start on 1st April.



You may have seen some temporary excavations in the field in mid-January (above); test holes were dug to establish ground conditions ahead of construction, and they were refilled when the survey was completed.

As previously announced, 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.

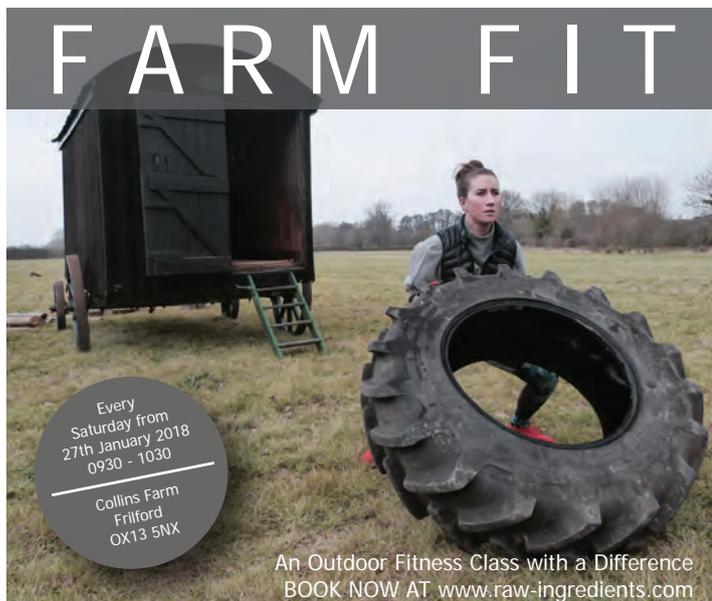
The Community Facilities Steering Group (CFSG) will continue to oversee the project and will look to MCG to keep everyone in Marcham updated regularly on the project.

2018—when the project becomes real!



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Dear Friends,

In the past few weeks I have had the joy of seeing a flock of snow geese on Farmoor reservoir! This has been a 'first' for me, and it always gives me a buzz when I see things for the first time! Sylvia and I have also been rejoicing in a pair of nuthatches in our garden, feeding regularly from our bird table – another delight!

As the world of nature prepares for the onset of spring, with its attendant bursts of colour, and growth, life is renewed with energy and vigour! The spring is, for me, a time of hope, and expectation, and this year is no exception. The new life and growth lifts my heart, my spirit, my being. When the Bible outlines the first creation, it states that 'Then God looked over all He had made, and He saw that it was excellent in every way'. [Genesis 1:31] I imagine that this must have brought a smile to God's face, and a warmth of satisfaction in a job well done.

The beauty and wonder of the natural world continues to inspire and enthral. Psalm 8 contains the following: 'When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers – the moon and the stars you have set in place – what are mortals that you should think of us, mere humans that you should care for us?' [verses 3 and 4]. Looking up to the vastness of the heavens can make us feel very small indeed – and yet the psalmist rejoices in the knowledge that God cares even for us, even though so small in comparison to the vastness of the universe.

Jesus underlines this profound truth in His ministry, time and again affirming the care and love of God the Father, and helping us to understand that God's love and care are both personal and real, even for those who find it hard to love themselves, or those around them.

As we move towards and into spring this year, may the fresh life and colour remind us of the life that God Himself would give us each day – each day a gift to be celebrated, and received with gratitude. 'My purpose is to give life in all its fullness' said Jesus [John 10: 10]. With open hearts may we receive this life for ourselves, and find that inner joy and peace that is God's will for us.

Enjoy the onset of spring!

With my warmest best wishes,

Richard



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).

Hire rates:

£10 per hour for regular bookings

£15 per hour for one-off bookings

Regular Sunday services at 10am & 6pm

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 3rd February, 8.30am at the Baptist Hall

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

Pancake Family Friday, February 9th at 5.30pm, All Saints' Church.

Ash Wednesday Holy Communion, 7.30pm at St. John the Baptist, Kingston Bagpuize - all welcome.

Contacts:

Rev. Canon Richard Zair 391319
vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org

Jill Rowe Children and Families Minister 390885
families@allsaintsmarcham.org

Rob Finch Youth Worker 07888331708,
rob@marchamyouth.org

Rachel Gaisford Older Persons Worker 391432

Tamsin Gilbert Parish Administrator 391319
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References are available



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Neighbourhood Team Newsletter for Marcham from Rich Osborn



Burglaries

The Abingdon Outer Neighbourhood team along with the Investigation Hub have been carrying out high visibility patrols in the areas affected by the recent burglaries. Crime prevention advice has been given out and SmartWater kits have been sold.

What is SmartWater?

Smartwater is a brand of forensic marking fluid containing millions of microscopic particles that make up an individual property identification code. The liquid is invisible to the naked eye, but glows green under UV light. It can be painted onto valuable items (e.g. laptops, MP3 players, televisions, antiques) so that if the items are stolen and later seized by the police, the markings can be checked and items linked with their owners. For more information please visit www.smartwater.com

We have a small supply of SmartWater and if you would like to purchase some we can offer it at a discounted rate of £11. If you are interested in finding out more about it or would like a crime reduction survey done on your property then please contact me using the details below.

Sunningwell Cricket Club break in

The Sunningwell Cricket Club was broken into sometime over the Christmas period, between the 22nd and 30th December. Nothing was stolen but damage was caused inside. If you have information on this please contact me.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

I have had reports of ASB in Marcham in and around Denman College. Young people are climbing on the wall and the roof of the garage, which is very dangerous because of the risk of falling and injury. Damage could also be caused to the wall and garage. If you know anything about this ASB then please contact me.

What the neighbourhood team have been doing

I have been working with Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue carrying out Safe and Well checks on vulnerable and elderly people. We look at smoke detectors to make sure they work (or fit them if they don't have any). We also discuss a Fire Plan so they know what to do in case of a house fire and carry out a home security check.

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

ABINGDON COUNTRY MARKET HAS MOVED!

The Market will now take place on the 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!

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

Report from GARD - January 2018

Thames Water announcement expected 'soon'

We were expecting that Thames Water would by now have released their draft Water Resources Management Plan for 2019-2024 (dWRMP19, as it is known for short) for public consultation. However, on Friday 5th January, we were informed by Thames Water that the release would be delayed until 'end of January' (which is unfortunately after the deadline for this newsletter).

The reason given is that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have not yet cleared the draft reports to go out for consultation. By the Government's rules, DEFRA have to check the draft reports for 'National Security' and 'Commercially confidential' issues before release to the public for comment. This has taken longer than usual, probably because DEFRA are very heavily involved in BREXIT issues – we do not suspect anything underhand in this delay. Anyway, we await the issue of the draft so that we can comment.

Once the dWRMP19 is released, the public (and the regulator bodies such as the Environment Agency and OFWAT) have 12 weeks to submit comments. Thames Water then have a further period to respond to all the comments, and release a revised draft for the Government to approve. We are likely to reach the revised draft stage in the Autumn.

GARD's work during the consultation

The next few months are extremely important for the opposition to Thames Water's reservoir plans, so we urge everyone to look and comment on these (we will be giving information about how to do this). We are not sure exactly where the reservoir fits in Thames Water's plans, but we are sure from their briefings that they have not abandoned the idea – and, however it is mentioned, whether to be built in the next 5 years or the next 15, strong opposition at this stage is essential to get the idea ditched, or kicked so far down the road that it will essentially die as an option.

GARD will:

- look through the proposals in detail, using our expert consultant's help;
- press for more action on Leakage and Water Efficiency (we already know from briefings that Thames Water's proposals on these will be completely inadequate);
- work with CPRE to expose the faulty logic in Thames Water's predictions of the water shortage in the South East (this depends heavily on dubious population growth predictions);
- brief local Parish Councils and the Vale of the White Horse DC on our findings, and press them to put in opposing criticism on the reservoir plans;
- keep everyone informed through our website and Facebook pages, and, if the situation is urgent, lobby the local MPs;
- continue to lobby the Environment Agency and OFWAT about the fact that the reservoir will not be resilient against long droughts and is not environmentally the best solution;
- submit our final report to the consultation at the end of April.

GARD intends to call public meetings in the villages at the end of February/ beginning of March, to inform residents on the plans – please keep an eye out for information on these.

Joining GARD

Once again, thanks to all those who have recently joined GARD, and to existing members who have sent donations into our fighting fund. Our numbers continue to grow, but we still need your support.

You can contact me (email gard.chair@gmail.com) or our, secretary, Deborah Bennett (email gard.secretary@gmail.com) if you would like to help, or to join GARD (lifetime membership is only £5). As we have said previously, part of Thames Water's game is to try and reach a selected number of consumers (most of whom will not be local – so that they can be sold a biased view of the reservoir) to try to show to OFWAT that they have 'public support' for the reservoir. This is a numbers game, and we need to show we have large numbers of consumers on our side. It is thus important to like our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/abingdonreservoir), and above all, to join GARD if you oppose the reservoir.

DEREK STORK, Hon Chairman, Group Against Reservoir Development



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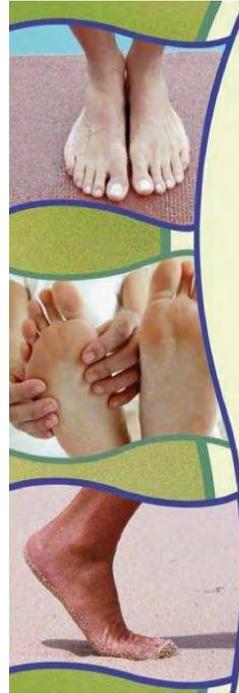
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The Arts Society Abingdon (ex ADFAS) is holding its monthly lecture on Wednesday 21st February 2018, 10.30am and 2.00pm, at Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DB.

Thomas Heatherwick:
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Thomas Heatherwick, Appointed Royal Designer for Industry, 2004, Designer of the year in 2010. Spotted by Sir Terence Conran and his team designed the Olympic Cauldron and the new London Bus.

Come along and find out more! Non-Members welcome, £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 www.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk or email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk

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Earth Trust Events

Mud Pie Monday!

Monday 12th February, 10am-11.30am

Come and get messy in the mud kitchen - buckets of mud and buckets of fun! Wellies and waterproofs advisable. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Winter Activity Trail

Tuesday 13th February, 10am-4pm

Pick up your map and explorer backpack from the Earth Trust Centre and head out for a self-led adventure in the woods! Can you complete all the winter-themed activities along the trail? Bookable slots to collect your map/backpack, last slot 3pm. £4 per child (plus refundable deposit required for backpacks); booking essential: book online (incurs a fee) or call 01865 407792 during office hours.

Wildlife Wednesday at Mowbray Fields

Wednesday 14th February, 10am-12pm

Our roving Wildlife Wednesday visits a different Earth Trust community nature reserve during each school holiday; this half term, come out and play at Mowbray Fields in Didcot (OX11 8SU). Explore the reserve and learn about local wildlife. £2 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Build a Bird Feeder

Thursday 15th February, 10am-11.30am and 1pm-2.30pm

Make three different bird feeders to take home for your garden. £5 per family; booking essential: book online (incurs a fee) or call 01865 407792 during office hours.

Discover and Play

Friday 16th February, 10am-12pm

Forest School fun for the under-5s; join us for a morning of play and discovery in our woodlands. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

River of Life Walk

Thursday 22nd February, 1pm-3.30pm

Come and see how the River of Life wetland has progressed, four years after it was created. £8; booking essential: book online (incurs a fee) or call 01865 407792 during office hours.

More details www.earthtrust.org.uk

Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4QZ 01865 407792

COTHILL NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE WORK PARTY

Would you like to help carry out vital conservation work to ensure the future of the rare plants and creatures which live in the National Nature Reserve in Cothill Woods? Natural England is proposing to set up a work party to meet one Friday a month between 10am and 3pm, led by Senior Reserves Manager, Leo Jennings. Tasks would include reed cutting, scrub clearance and woodland thinning/coppicing. If you would be interested, please contact Leo Jennings - Leo.Jennings@naturalengland.org.uk



ABCD Film Society

Thursday screenings this month



ABCD Film Society has three films this month. Admission to each screening £6 (£3 full-time school and college students).

Feb 1 The double Oscar-winning MANCHESTER BY THE SEA (USA, 2016, 137 mins, Cert 15). Following the unexpected death of his brother Joe, Lee (Casey Affleck) is forced into the role of guardian to his 16 year-old nephew, Patrick (Lucas Hedges). "[Director] Lonergan's sense of humor is on target as always. So many laughs in such a heavy movie ... is a bit daring. But he understands the bittersweet, domestic jibing of close-knit families as well as the gallows humor they use to cope with death" (David Bax, battleshippretension.com).

Feb 8 THE LUNCHBOX (India, 2013, 104 mins, Cert PG). Set in Mumbai this is a moving tale about lunchboxes delivered to the wrong workplace, leading to a delicate, heart-warming and chaste romance. And a celebration of proper home-made food, too.

Feb 22 Special event: THE VIEW FROM OUR HOUSE (UK, 2013, 75 mins, Cert E). This most unusual but highly engrossing "film-essay" will be introduced by its joint directors, Ian Wiblin (who hails from Abingdon) and Anthea Kennedy. It's the recollection of Erika Koch, a young Jewish photographer in 1930s Berlin, who took refuge in London and made a successful career.

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

Free Entry Fyfield and Tubney Churches
Jumble Sale
10.30 am Saturday 24th February 2018
Southmoor Village Hall
Coffee and Cake
If you are able to help on the day or have jumble for us please contact Rosemary Kitto on 01865 390466 or rosemarykitto@gmail.com for more details.

Southmoor & Kingston Bagpuize Gardening Club

February meeting will take place in the Village Hall, Draycott Road, Southmoor on Tuesday 6th February at 7.30pm with an illustrated talk By Mr Geoff Hodge on 'Bugs and Garden Plagues'. Annual membership to the club is £12 which includes admission to the monthly meetings on a range of gardening topics, with tea/coffee and refreshments. Non members are always welcome to any meeting at a charge of £3. For more information Email: skbgardeningclub@gmail.com or contact the Secretary Paul Gill 01865 820793

SUNNINGWELL & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB
Virginia Grant will talk about **Kingston Bagpuize House and Garden** on Thursday, 8th February at 7.30 pm in Sunningwell Village Hall. New and Non Members welcome.
Entrance fee: Members £2 Non members £3
www.sdgc.org.uk



Anyone who is new to the village of Marcham and has NOT received a Welcome Pack please contact David or Grace on 01865 392092 or 07807707925 to find out about how much Marcham has to offer you!

MARCHAM PARISHIONERS OF THE YEAR

Since 2004, Marcham Parish Council has awarded the title **Parishioner of the Year** to recognise the efforts of a local person from anywhere within the parish who has contributed to local community life. Nominations are made by other parishioners to the council for consideration. You can read all the citations on the council website: marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk



2004 Martin Thorne



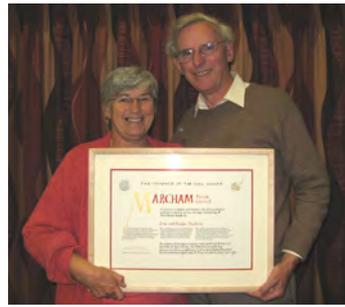
2005 Jack Spicer



2006 Chris Ricketts



2007 Christine Whild



2008 Eric and Sheila Dunford



2009 Eddie and Pamela Shirras



2010 Jessica Brod



2011 Jill Rowe



2012 Donald and Jean Creasy



2013 Janey Cumber



2014 Meriel Lewis



2016 Marjorie Evans



2017 Malcolm Denton