

Marcham & District News

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MARCH 2018 VOL: 40 NO: 3

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Marcham Pre-school see page 11



Clocks go forward
on 25th March so
1am becomes 2am !

Easter 2018 Waste Collection Date Change
Green waste, food and recycling

~~Wednesday 4 April~~

Thursday 5 April



▲ Marcham Colts and Matthew from Budgens,
and their new football kit see page 5



Diary for March

1 Tue	Midweek Walk: The Half Moon, Cuxham 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	7
3 Sat	Wantage and Grove Lions Bingo, Grove Village Hall, 18.45	15
8 Thur	Music at the Unicorn, 19.00	15
8 Thu	Sunningwell Gardening Club, Sunningwell Village Hall, 19.30	19
10 Sat	Have Your Say with PCSO Rich Osbourn, Marcham Village Shop, 10.00 - 11.00	17
10 Sat	Marcham Moldova Lifeline: Coffee and Cake, MSSSC, 10.00 - 12 noon	15
13 Tue	Marcham Society: Ringing Birds, All Saint's Church, 19.30	7
13 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 - 15.30	5
14 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
15 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.15 NB Earlier than usual	7
16 Fri	Quiz Night at MSSSC, 20.15	7
17 Sat	Cancer Research UK Table Top and Car Boot Sale, Hanney WM Hall, 10.00 - 14.00	19

17-18	Lambing Weekends, Earth Trust, 10.00 - 16.00	17
17 Sat	ABRAIL, Abingdon and Witney College, Abingdon, 10.00 - 17.00	2
20 Tue	Deadline for next MADNews, 17.00: editor@madnews.co.uk	
20 Tue	Young People's Mental Health Workshop - Parents/Guardians, Marcham School, 19.30 - 21.00	11
21 Wed	Abingdon Arts Society, Trinity Church, Abingdon, 10.30 & 14.00	18
23 Fri	Marcham PTA Family Easter Bingo, 17.30	11
24 Sat	Earth Hour, 20.30	19
24-25	Lambing Weekends, Earth Trust, 10.00 - 16.00	17
26 Mon	Price increase in postage rates	7
27 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 - 15.30	5
27 Tue	Young People's Mental Health Workshop - Young People, Marcham School, 19.30 - 21.00	11
28 Thur	Senior Citizens, Duffield Place, 14.30	7
31 Sat	MSSSC Now Closed for regular use	13

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

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Teams should be of no more than six people. Any couple or individuals can be linked up with a team.

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A raffle will also take place during the evening.

All profits from the quiz and raffle will go to Children's Air Ambulance and the Alzheimer's Society.

If you would like to register your place and/or team please contact karen.dodd@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422082 by 9 March.

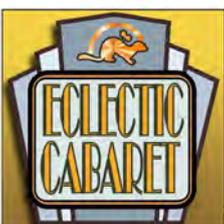


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Dear Readers

I was very sorry to hear of the deaths of two of MADNews's long-standing contributors, Ailsa Chamberlain and Clive Bennett. It was always a pleasure to read Clive's cricket column, and to work out the answers to Ailsa's crossword clues.

See page 5 for a puzzle from February 2004, just after I took over as Editor.

Until next time



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Jane Mander
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.

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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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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
Annual Meeting of Electors

The annual meeting of electors will take place on Wednesday 23rd May at 7.30p.m. All electors of the parish are entitled to attend and ask questions or raise issues affecting the parish. The Council is currently arranging the event, and in the meantime, please put a note of the date in your diaries.

Dog Fouling

Discussion took place at the last Parish Council meeting regarding dog fouling in the village, and what could be done to ensure that there are sufficient waste bins, and to encourage dog walkers to clear up after their dogs. The Parish Council is undertaking an audit of bins to see whether any more should be provided. In recent years national guidance on the disposal of dog waste has changed and it is no longer necessary to separate dog waste from other types of household waste. For this reason, dedicated dog waste bins are no longer required and waste, provided it is adequately wrapped, can be disposed of in any available litter bin or your black household bin. Please **do not** put it in your brown garden waste bin. The Council would remind dog owners that there is a legal duty to clean up after your dog and you can face fines and prosecutions if you do not. Please carry a poop scoop and bag with you when out walking.

Council Tax Payers who pay by standing order

The bank details have changed for the Vale of White Horse District Council. This means changes for some council tax payers and business rate payers. A new sort code has been issued which is 20-01-25. The bank account number remains the same. Those residents that pay by standing order are requested to update their payment details with their bank, otherwise payments may not get through. Those that pay by direct debit are not affected, as the new sort code will be amended as part of the direct debit service. Those who wish to change from paying by standing order can pay on line, by phone or by direct debit. Contact the Vale of White Horse District Council's council tax section by calling 0345 302 2315. Or visiting www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/counciltax

Thames Water – Draft Water Resources Management Plan

Thames Water has opened its public consultation on its water plan. It has the job of providing a reliable supply of safe drinking water to 10 million household customers and 215,000 businesses. Many people think there is plenty of water in the UK, but the South East of England is one of its driest regions and London is drier than Rome, Dallas and even Sydney. The area is designated as seriously water stressed by the Environment Agency. Every 5 years a Water Resources Plan is produced which sets out how Thames Water plans to provide

a reliable and sustainable supply of water to its customers. To find more information, to have your say on the plans, visit www.thameswater.co.uk/yourwaterfuture.

Bridleway 17 – Bridge Closure at end of Mill Road over river Ock

A closure order remains in place until 21st January 2020. The effect of the order is to temporarily prohibit persons and vehicles using the bridge that spans the river Ock south of Marcham Mill. The County Council, as rights of way authority, is dealing with the matter of the closure, and is talking to the relevant parties to negotiate repairs.

Planning applications

The Council has considered the following planning applications:
P18/V0044/FUL Erection of one double and one single garages to replace 2 old existing garages in the Anson Field. The Council had no objections.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 14th March 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

DOG FOULING

The Vale takes dog fouling very seriously as dog mess is not only unpleasant but it spreads diseases, which can cause illness and even blindness. Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 a person who is in charge of a dog must clean up after it when it fouls any footpath, highway, verge or other open space to which the public have access. It is therefore a crime to allow a dog to foul in any public area without clearing it up. Those that fail to do so could face a fixed penalty notice of £50 or prosecution.

Here some tips to avoid a fine:

- never let your dog walk far from you as this makes it difficult to see when they foul
- always carry a bag when walking your dog so you can clean up. If you do not have a bag ask another dog walker if they have a spare bag
- encourage your dog to stay on the perimeters of fields or pitches to prevent any fouling causing harm to other people
- don't allow your dog to roam on its own as it could be taken away as a stray - collar and ID tag as well as microchipping are now required by law.

If you see a dog owner allowing their dog to foul and not picking it up, take details of anything that might help us identify them and contact Environmental Protection:

- env.health@southandvale.gov.uk
- 01235 422403
- Vale of White Horse District Council, 135 Eastern Ave, Milton Park OX14 4SB

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Dear Editor

On behalf of the Managers, Parents and players of Marcham Colts Football Team, we would like to thank Mr & Mrs Rashid of Budgens of Frilford for the kind and generous sponsorship of the Colts. Sponsorship and support is valuable to keeping the club running and we have been fortunate enough to purchase a new football kit. (see photo on cover)

MARCHAM COLTS

Dear Editor

BROADBAND BLUES

I have been using standard (not fibre) broadband in Marcham for many years. During the past 3 – 5 years I have noticed that the speed I receive has slowly diminished.

So I spoke to my Internet Service Provider who asked me for details and advised I should carry out speed tests using 'speedcheck/btwholesale'.

This test showed that during weekdays (9am to 4pm) I receive between the specified 2 – 8 Mb/s. Evenings and weekends I rarely receive 2Mb/s and have experienced speeds as low as 120Kb/s.

After discussing this with my provider I was informed that in order to exclude my internal equipment they would need to call out an 'Openreach' engineer which they would do if I agreed to pay a fee of up to £170. This I refused to do.

Subsequently I discovered how to isolate my equipment and do the speed tests directly to the incoming line and experienced the same low readings. As far as I am concerned this proves my equipment is not contributing to the problem.

My conclusion is that during the high usage periods; evening and weekends; because of the load on the exchange, the service is depleted to an unacceptable level. To further prove this I have tested at 6am on Sunday morning and received very high speeds well in excess of the specified 8Mb/s. I have even managed to use my smart TV to experience iPlayer, Netflix and other such services but only at low usage times.

This further proves that my internal equipment is capable of handling the speeds that should be provided.

I wonder if many villagers experience the same diminishing service as myself.

JOHN WOODS

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!
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 Tuesday 13th & Tuesday 27th March
 Come and join us in the common room at Duffield Place, you will be sure of a warm welcome ... and tea and cake!
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MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

CLIVE BENNETT - CLUB PRESIDENT

It was with great sadness that the club learnt of the 'passing away' of its President, Clive. He was President of the club for over thirty years, and, along with his wife Mich, was a dedicated and passionate supporter of the club. Each season would see Clive arrive at home matches (every Saturday throughout the summer) early evening for his usual pint (or two). He enjoyed the conclusion of every match, irrespective of 'home' win or defeat, spending many happy hours with the 'lads'.

There were two main dates in Clive's diary. The club's presentation evening and its Annual General Meeting. He took great pride in handing out club awards and attending league presentation nights when the club won trophies. He often recalled speeches made by cricket celebrities at such events, especially those that spoke at length about the 1950's/60's!

Clive also attended the occasional away fixture, particularly when his love of canals interfaced with cricket. Two memorable visits, with Mich and friends, took place at Lower Heyford and Cropredy. Both grounds accessed after Clive and co. had successfully navigated his vessel to arrive in time for tea, and, of course, the customary pint at the nearest 'local'!

Clive took pleasure in producing the small update articles for MADNews each month, with the usual 'Finally' piece, which typically was an amusing quip from cricketing history.

Clive will be sadly missed by all at Marcham Cricket Club, and leaves an irreplaceable legacy.

Clive's funeral will be at South Oxfordshire Crematorium (Garford) on Friday 2nd March at 11am. No flowers please but there will be an opportunity to make donations to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Clive's favourite charity.

Ailsa Chamberlain, who for many years was the MADNews Crossword compiler, *Alisa*, died in February. She had been ill for a while and had not been able to create new crosswords. In her memory here is one from February 2004, one of the first ones that I had the pleasure to print.

FEBRUARY CROSSWORD BY ALISA

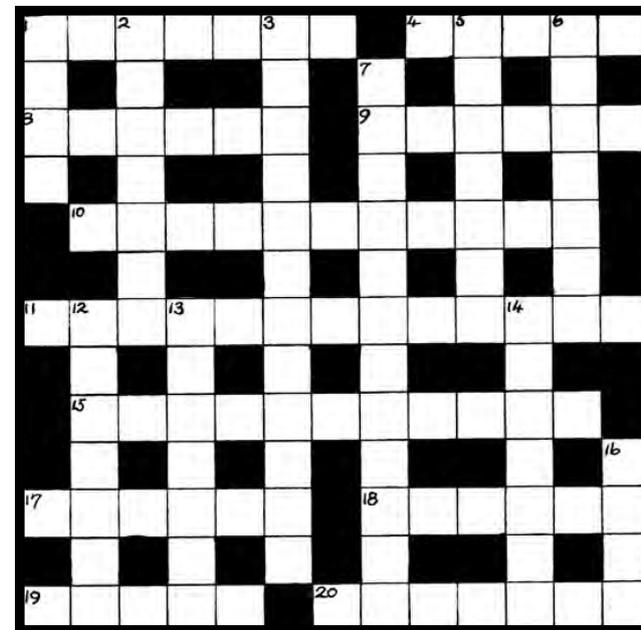
ACROSS

- 1 Mobile fortnightly service (7)
- 4 Sharp (5)
- 8 Beetle (6)
- 9 Vendor (6)
- 10 Village near Charlbury (11)
- 11 Oxford district (9, 4)
- 15 Two halves of the scale (11)
- 17 Serving no purpose (6)
- 18 Almost (6)
- 19 Oxford college (5)
- 20 Serving no purpose (7)

DOWN

- 1 Material for the garden? (4)
- 2 Invalid drink (4, 3)
- 3 Skates, of a sort (12)
- 5 Alpine ringer (7)
- 6 When the fish van comes (7)
- 7 Our prettiest cul-de-sac (3, 9)
- 12 Salad plant (7)
- 13 Mad village! (7)
- 14 Confirm (7)
- 16 Colour changers (4)

Answers next month



- 16 Dyes
- 14 Endorse
- 13 Corthill
- 12 Lettuce
- 7 The Farthings
- 6 Tuesday
- 5 Cowbell
- 3 Rollerblades
- 2 Beef tea
- 1 Lawn
- DOWN
- 20 Useless
- 19 Kebab
- 18 Nearly
- 17 Futility
- 15 Tetrachords
- 11 Blackbird Lays
- 10 Stonestield
- 9 Hawker
- 8 Weevil
- 4 Acute
- 1 Library
- ACROSS
- ANSWERS

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Marcham WI

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, 15th March
Time: 7.15pm - **note earlier start time**
Venue: Denman College



Our Annual Meeting is on 15th March, so come along and choose your President and Committee for the next year. Following the business of the meeting, we will be having a **'Whodunit Murder Mystery'** evening in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. There is a 'ghastly crime to be solved' and all in a good cause. We'll look forward to seeing you there and see who can solve the murder.

Please note the slightly earlier start time of 7.15pm

New members and visitors are always welcome

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK: THURSDAY MARCH 1ST

This month's walk starts in the pretty village of Cuxham, two miles west of Watlington. We will eat at The Half Moon in Cuxham, (Map Ref: SP 666953; OX49 5NF), on the B480 at 12.30pm, starting our walk of about 4 miles at 1.30pm on a circular path to Pyrton around the curiously named hill, Mount Tree! 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 Sports, Scouts & Social Club
 Anson Field



QUIZ NIGHT - FRIDAY 16 MARCH 8.15pm

A QUIZ NIGHT is being held on Friday 16 March 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



The
**Marcham
 Society**

Ringing birds

George Candelin

All Saints' Church, Marcham

7.30 for 7.45pm

Tuesday 13th March

Non-members always welcome £3

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

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

How many people live in the Marcham area?

At the last census in 2011, there were 1905 people living in Marcham, an increase from 1811 in 2001. In 2017 there were 765 houses and now there are 804 (this includes the areas along A338 and Tubney).

So it would be reasonable to assume there are more than 2000 people now living in Marcham... that's quite a lot!

Thanks to Linda, the clerk to the parish council for the information!



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

Paper £10 notes go out of circulation from the 1st March but post offices and banks will still accept them.

Mothering Sunday and Easter are coming up, so pop in and see our range of eggs and other treats.

We will have an Easter Egg raffle - £1 a strip of tickets

Marcham Shop and Post Office will be closed over Easter.

29th March Good Friday - Closed

30th March Easter Saturday - Closed

31st March Easter Sunday - Closed

1st April Easter Monday - Closed

Open as usual from 07.30 on Tuesday 2nd April.

From **Monday 26 March**, the price of a 1st class stamp for a standard letter will increase from 65p to 67p, and a 2nd class stamp will go from 56p to 58p. The cost of large letter stamps will also increase by 3p, 1st class to £1.01 and 2nd class to 79p.

Change of regulations for MoneyGram – you will now need to bring PhotoID to each transaction, along with your date of birth, address and, of course, your name!

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

March - mini eggs of course – only 60p a quarter!

MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

As usual our **January** meeting was a festive party with cakes, sandwiches, jellies and trifle and savoury treats. Most members went home with a doggy bag as there was plenty to spare. We also had a game of identifying familiar items snapped from unusual angles.

February is when we hold our Annual General Meeting and conduct the main business of the year. This year annual reports were given by the committee members informing members how the club is performing financially, socially and health wise.

At our **March** meeting we are being visited by a member from Thames Valley recycling team to give us a talk on what can and cannot be recycled. This will be a very informative meeting. **Any reader is welcome to come along as a guest for that meeting.**

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

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ED VAIZEY WRITES...

After over 80 hours of debate and over 500 amendments and new clauses, the European Union Withdrawal Bill is now through the House of Commons and has passed the first stage in the House of Lords.

I submitted an amendment to the bill requiring Ministers to publish a plan on our future relationship with Euratom, the European nuclear energy authority. I was very pleased that my amendment had the most signatures of all amendments submitted and that as a result the government have agreed to publish a plan with quarterly updates.

Earlier this month I attended a meeting in Parliament on rail in Oxfordshire. It was a useful gathering of all the key stakeholders – Great Western, Chiltern, Network Rail, local councils and MPs.

First, the good news. We have a fantastic station in Didcot which provides excellent links to London, Swindon and Oxford. Didcot Parkway has gone from strength to strength over the last few years. A station revamp, completed in 2014, made the station safer for users and a bigger taxi rank, bus stop and cycle rack were just some of the improvements. Work on the station shows no sign of slowing down with an enclosed cycle rack in the works and the construction of a new multi-storey car park. Electrification of the line out of London has now almost reached Didcot, cutting journey times on the fastest trains to 39 minutes. Great Western Railway's new, electric Intercity Express trains are being rolled out and will increase capacity by over 24% (648 vs 522 seats), something that any commuter to London will tell you is sorely needed. The driver training programme for the new trains has also been accelerated.

There is more to do, though. It has been a long-standing ambition of mine to open a station near Wantage. There has been progress on this front recently. I have linked with other MPs to propose an East-West line which could include new stations in Wantage, Corsham and Royal Wootton Bassett. This would be an extension to the planned link between Cambridge and Oxford and would help link Bristol, Swindon and Oxford. There are obstacles to be overcome in the development of this proposal. The line between Didcot and Oxford particularly is almost at full capacity and we will need to think carefully about how to move forward with this. It will still take many years to make happen, not least as we will have to build extra track.

This month I have received 318 items of correspondence (emails and letters) from constituents. Subjects raised with me included the NHS, fireworks and post-Brexit trade.

With regard to fireworks, they are only sold for home use during the traditional firework periods of Bonfire Night, New Year's Eve, Chinese New Year and Diwali. Suppliers who wish to sell fireworks outside the traditional periods must comply with stringent conditions before being granted a licence by their local licensing authority. This means the availability and use of fireworks outside the traditional periods has been greatly reduced. The government also has strict regulations on the level of noise they can produce.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Conservative)

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

THE GROWTH DEAL.

I am not an accountant. I never wanted to be an accountant. I find it hard to get my head around figures in excess of a hundred thousand. So when people talk in millions, let alone billions, I tend to delete the last zeros in my mind in order to try to get my head around the figures. So, for the benefit of all like-minded spirits, I will endeavour to



explain my understanding of "The Growth Deal", how it may affect Oxfordshire residents, and what it may cost.

Many of us have been arguing for some time now that we cannot accept any more housing without more infrastructure –roads, schools, hospitals and so on. You may see figures above £5billion for the estimated cost of bringing our infrastructure into line with our present housing growth.

Point 1 seems to be that much of that infrastructure will come from sources already in place – s106 planning contributions and other government sources.

Point 2 is that the true figure of what extra money is needed (to bring our infrastructure up to scratch) is a more modest, but still eye-watering £1.5 billion.

Point 3 Under the Growth Deal with Government, Oxfordshire Councils will be expected to deliver (as per their Local Plans – almost all in place) 100,000 houses by 2031, meanwhile Government will provide £215 million over the next 5 years as "a downpayment." – i.e. about 1/5 of what is needed.

Accountants will spot that the £215million will be appearing within the first five years of the delivery plan. i.e. for the first time in years there will be some of the much-needed infrastructure well before the houses appear. Furthermore, some of the hard-pressed OCC transport budget will be released to carry out much needed repairs to our roads and pavements. All good news.

But. (There is always a but). The whole deal is based on the assumption that more money will be forthcoming (more than £1billion if my sums are right) if infrastructure is ever going to catch up and match housing growth.

So there are risks to all this. Here are a few I can see:

1. What if we cannot build houses at the right rate?
2. What if the Government fails to come up with the rest of the money?
3. What if there are changes of Government between now and 2031?
4. Are there enough opt out/break clauses in the agreement if either side defaults?
5. Will the arrival of new infrastructure simply herald a Government demand for yet more houses?
6. Is it absolutely clear that the Growth Deal has nothing, but nothing to do with the Oxford Cambridge Expressway and its predicted 1 million houses, and that neither is conditional on the other?

The Oxfordshire Growth Deal has been signed with almost indecent haste and no consultation with Oxfordshire residents. We must all hope that all these risks have been taken into account and covered.

RICHARD WEBBER CLLR OCC SC & Marcham Division.

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Please forgive this brief report....Flu has laid me low for about three weeks.

"Changing Places" or "Space for Change" toilet facilities at Abbey Meadows, Abingdon

You may remember that some months ago I wrote about the need for toilets, which include facilities for disabled children and families, to replace the old ones near the children's playground in Abbey Meadows. The question was whether to build brand new facilities, to compliment the new playground and the new open-air swimming pool, or just to refurbish the old facilities.

Naomi Richardson has championed this cause, urging the Vale to make the most of this opportunity to put in the **right** sort of toilets to cater for all needs, including for disabled children and adults. She feels that "Changing Places" facilities with radar key access would allow enough disabled toilets with the necessary space and facilities for disabled children and their families to use safely. The "Space for Change" facilities, on the other hand, would reduce the number of toilets from 6 (as there are at the moment) to 4 only, with limited disabled facilities.

At the Full Council meeting on Wednesday, 14th February, when the budget was discussed, the Abbey Meadows toilet facilities issue

continued on page 11

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continued from page 9

was raised. It seems that the original cost of rebuilding the toilets has rocketed such that now only refurbishment is being considered in the Abbey Meadows. However, Councillor Mike Badcock, supported by Matthew Barber, said that the Vale and the Town Council are preparing to fund a Changing Places Facility near the Guildhall in the centre of Abingdon, where the footfall is heavier throughout the year, although the Abbey Meadows has a very heavy footfall in the summer. Despite these pledges, there is still some confusion among town and Vale councillors as to the reality of that announcement.... Meetings are ongoing and a planning application is likely to be put in soon, but whatever the outcome, at best I fear that disabled children and their families who are enjoying a day out on Abbey Meadows will have to trundle all the way to the centre of Abingdon if they need the superior facilities of a Changing Places toilet. Wouldn't it be better to bite the bullet and to have two Changing Places facilities? After all, I understand that there is a strong likelihood that the government will make it a legal requirement to upgrade all disabled toilet facilities in the future.

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

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We have so much to report on this month ... the children have had lots of exciting experiences recently, we've had bedtime stories in our pyjamas, a visit from 'Michael' (our Persona Puppet), a visiting Cellist, a (brick) bird who build its nest and laid 4 eggs in it, which we are hoping will have 'hatched' over half term! Not only have these experiences given the opportunity for lots of language development, they have added a sense of magic to the children's day... something that should be treasured... it's what makes this job so worthwhile.... watching the children discover, learn and discuss their experiences is just wonderful and we are proud to be a part of this in 2018 ... and for the last 50 years! Marcham Pre-school is 50 this year and we are planning a big CELEBRATION and we hope you will join us.



To be part of the next step of our journey, please contact us at marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk for an application form or prospectus or telephone 01865 392101. Spaces are already limited for September 2018 and will be looking ahead to 2019.

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



1968 – 2018

We are planning a 50th Birthday celebration

On Sunday 13th May 2018

11am – 3pm

50 years of Marcham Pre-school!!

To include all residents, friends and neighbours of the village who have been part of the pre-school history.

Do you have photos from pre-school or a story to share?

Did you/your children attend pre-school?

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Please get in touch at:
marchampreschool50years@hotmail.com
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and join us for our free event at Marcham Pre-school

Magic Peter Entertainment throughout the event
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Explore the history of pre-school (bring along any photos)
Showcase of our "50 things for 50 years" sponsored events!

*** WHO WOULD LIKE TO WIN 2 ADULT TICKETS TO THE ABINGDON AIR AND COUNTRY SHOW? ****

Marcham School PTA are doing an Easter raffle and if you would like to be in with a chance of winning, then make sure you buy some raffle tickets. Tickets are £1 each and will be available until Wednesday 28th March. All monies raised will go towards helping to fund things for the children at school. For example paying towards trips, buying books and lots more.

Tickets can be purchased from me, Mrs Jefferies in the school office and from Marcham Village Shop.

March 2018

MADNews is online: www.madnews.co.uk

Friday March 23rd Marcham Primary School PTA Family Easter Bingo

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MarchamCentre plans—latest details

MCG is continuing to work within the auspices of the Community Facilities Steering Group to move forward with the project for new community facilities. We held a positive and constructive meeting on 8th February with the Anson Trust and with Marcham Parish Council, which resolved and agreed terms covering some remaining important points of principle in the facilities lease and the associated Service Cooperation Agreement. Legal drafts of these documents will now be prepared.

We held a useful meeting with Chris Brotherton (Thomas Homes) on 16th February and had the opportunity to review a more detailed version of the plans which have been prepared for the village hall building. Over the next 6-8 weeks, the plans will be fully specified to meet the anticipated needs of users and to enable full budgetary costings to be finalised. Specific points will be discussed through the forum of a working group, drawn from the CFSG working group, the Parish Council Working Party and the MCG team, with Anson Trust and Thomas Homes.



This meeting also covered the arrangements for on-site working. As previously announced, the existing MSSSC building will be closed for regular use on **31st March 2018**. This is needed to allow use of the building by the archaeology team during weekdays. This work is scheduled to start on 2nd April and will involve extensive excavations within a fenced-off area of the site. Until these excavations are fully underway, we will not have a definite finish date for that work nor a start date for the main site work. We are planning on the basis of at least 3-4 months for archaeology work.

During that period of 3-4 months, the existing MSSSC building will remain in use by the archaeology team during weekdays. We are making special short-term arrangements for Marcham Cubs to use the building for their weekly evening meetings and for Marcham Cricket Club to use the building at weekends, which may extend to the end of the cricket season. In both cases, we have agreed with Chris Brotherton that these special arrangements are subject to four weeks' notice once we know when the archaeology is finished and construction will begin.

All 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, thanks to the kind help of the Baptist Union Corporation. 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 MCG will continue to keep everyone in Marcham updated regularly on the project and will be happy to try to answer any questions that people may have as this project moves forward.

We are keen to recruit more members of MCG. This helps to support our case for external fund-raising to complete/equip the new facilities. Please contact Jim Asher (jim.asher@btinternet.com) for details and a membership form. Annual subscriptions are £5 (single) and £8 (family).

The project details start to become real!



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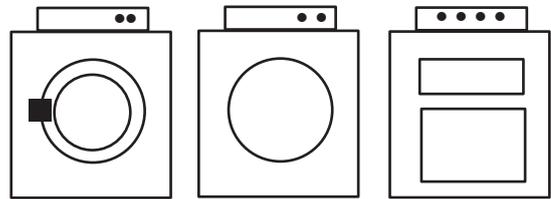
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Report from GARD - March 2018

Thames Water draft plan released for consultation – Reservoir still top priority ‘in longer term’



Recently (12th February), Thames Water released their draft Water Resources Management Plan for 2019-2024 (dWRMP19). The public (and the regulator bodies such as the Environment Agency and OFWAT) now have about 12 weeks (until 29th April) 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.

We have only had a few days to look at this plan (the documents run to over 2000 pages!), but we can see already that:

- pressure from consumers, regulators (OFWAT) and stakeholder organisations such as GARD has forced Thames Water to aim for more ambitious reduction of leakage and better water efficiency as their first measures, but they are still not aiming for the ambitious targets that, for instance, Southern Water are already reaching;
- pressure from GARD, CPRE and local organisations has forced Thames Water to defer the proposal to build the mega-reservoir in our local fields until the 2035-2045 period;
- instead, as a first measure, Thames Water propose to set up an ‘indirect re-use’ water scheme, where treated London wastewater is diverted from its normal discharge into the Thames Estuary, and piped upstream to the Thames above Teddington Weir, from where it can be extracted to fill the London storage reservoirs. This scheme is proposed for the 2030 timeframe. It is interesting that this scheme, rubbished by Thames Water at the Public Inquiry in 2010, was first put forward by GARD’s consultants in 2008, and is now Thames Water’s ‘go-to’ scheme. Proof of GARD’s influence in these matters.

Public Meeting on the Thames Water plans

We are holding a series of Public Meeting on the Thames Water plan where we can explain why the Reservoir plan is a danger not only to this area, but is also a bad idea for the future water security of the South-East.

The meetings will be in:

- Drayton Village Hall, Small Hall from 7.30pm on Wednesday 28th February (presentation from 8.00pm onwards);
- Stevenon Village Hall, Millenium Room from 7.00pm on Monday 5th March (presentation from 7.30pm onwards);
- East Hanney War Memorial Hall – Olde Hanney Room from 7.00pm on Tuesday 6th March (presentation from 7.30pm onwards)

Please come along and hear the arguments and let us know your opinion

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 now sure that the reservoir occupies a key place in Thames Water’s long-term plans. Even though it is now scheduled more than 15 years down the road, 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. We have succeeded so far, ‘one more push’ should do it.

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 a brief look at the plans 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 (www.abingdonreservoir.org) and Facebook pages, and 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.

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).

DEREK STORK, Hon Chairman, Group Against Reservoir Development

March 2018

MADNews is online: www.madnews.co.uk

The Marcham Moldova Lifeline team would like to invite you to Coffee and Cake on Saturday 10th March 2018; 10am - 12noon in the Sports, Scouts and Social Club



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**Neighbourhood Team
Newsletter for Marcham
from Rich Osborn**



Burglary Following recent burglaries at Dalton Barracks the Royal Military Police (RMP) will be patrolling the married quarters and will be working closely with Thames Valley Police. If you see us about please say hello and have a chat.

SmartWater We are starting an initiative to make some of our areas 'SmartWater streets' or even 'SmartWater villages'. If we get an uptake of 80% of residents on a road that purchase SmartWater we can apply for signs to act as a deterrent. 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. SmartWater is a good deterrent and increases your chances of getting stolen items back. If you would like more details on how to become a SmartWater Street or Village please contact me using the details below.

Sensory Bus The sensory bus at Dry Stanford School had been getting broken into over the last few weekends. This is an important resource and the school (and friends of the school) have put a lot of time and effort into making it the wonderful resource it is. If you have any information about who is breaking into the bus please let me know and we can put a stop to it.

Crime A freelance window cleaner has been banned from an estate in our area, he was cleaning residents' windows without permission and demanding payment. If you have experienced this please let me know using the contact details below.

What the neighbourhood team have been doing

I attended the Wootton and St Helen Without Neighbourhood Plan pop up meeting. I have also been carrying out Safe and Well checks with Sovereign Housing to homes all over the area.

Young People's Days I was at Dalton Barracks Community Centre on the 14th February and at the Wootton Community Centre on 15th February – with a climbing wall and free pizza, plus games and activities!

Have Your Say Meetings

I will be holding Have Your Say meetings so please come and speak to me about any local concerns:

- Thursday 22 February 2018, 10am -11am at the Wootton and Dry Sandford Community Centre.

- **Saturday 10 March 2018, 10am – 11am at the Marcham Village Shop.**

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. 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

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

EXPOSURE TO NATURE

Time spent in gardens, parks and countryside and amongst wildlife itself can help most people's mental wellbeing, according to new research carried out by King's College London. J&L Gibbons who are landscape architects and art foundation Nomad Projects claim that if we experience an interaction with nature it will improve a person's mental wellbeing. The research found "significant immediate" benefits associated with trees, the sky and birdsong. It's claimed the benefits lasted for several hours. Businesses and companies are starting to improve staff wellbeing via access to outdoor spaces and interactions with nature.



The research maybe suggests that nature could be especially beneficial to those individuals who are at risk of poor mental health. It's a low-cost activity and if aimed at in urban populations it could make quite some impact I feel.

This study shows the value of academic and non-academic researchers coming together to make tangible real-world benefits. The paper, entitled *Urban Mind: Using Smartphone Technologies to Investigate the Impact of Nature on Mental Wellbeing in Real Time* has been published in the journal *BioScience*.

I'm sure we could have all told them stepping out into our own gardens or local park has measurable and immeasurable benefits, but at least they are now listening.

Don't underestimate the impact on our minds and bodies from time we spend out there in the wildlife garden. Wildlife gardens give us so much in return for our care and time.

Happy Gardening

Stuart Mabbutt, Wildlife Gardening Specialist

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

MADNews has sponsored Stuart to make 10 radio show podcasts in 10 days and you can listen to the first programme where Stuart 'The Wildman' Mabbutt interviews Chris Peters as they explore Oxford city centre and discuss the history of scientific thinking - you can see the link on www.madnews.co.uk or Stuart's Patreon page www.patreon.com/stuarmabbutt

Earth Trust Events

Lambing Weekends

Saturday 17th-Sunday 18th and Saturday 24th-Sunday 25th March, 10am-4pm

Earth Trust is throwing open the gates to our working farm at our annual fundraising festival! Join us for some farmyard fun during our popular Lambing Weekends: there'll be lambs, piglets and goats to meet, plus bale climbing, tractor and trailer rides, craft activities and more. Refreshments available. £8 adult, £5 child; £22 family (2 adults + 2 children); discount for online tickets – see www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson.



Little Wittenham, Abingdon OX14 4QZ Tel: 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 runs a work party to meet on the first Friday in the month between 10am and 3pm, led by Senior Reserves Manager, Leo Jennings. Tasks include reed cutting, scrub clearance and woodland thinning/coppicing. If you would be interested, please contact Leo Jennings - Leo.Jennings@naturalengland.org.uk

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HOLIDAYS

B&B Rafters



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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or email vicki.jack702@gmail.com**



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

The Two Gustavs: Mahler and Klimt,
by The Arts Society Lecturer Gavin Plumley

Klimt and colleagues broke away from art institutions in Vienna in 1897, founding the Secession. Mahler arrived to take charge of the Opera House in the City. Comparing their talents you will see what links and divides them.

Non-members welcome, £6.00 including coffee/tea. The 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

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

Don't suffer in silence.

Here are a few numbers and websites which may help if you need someone to talk to.

Childline: www.childline.org.uk - 0800 1111

Samaritans: www.samaritans.org - 116 123

Mind: www.mind.org.uk - 0300 123 3393 or text 86463

Age UK: www.ageuk.org.uk - 0800 055 6112

Rethink: www.rethink.org - 0300 5000 927

Switchboard: www.switchboard.lgbt - 0300 330 0630

National Domestic Violence Helpline - 0808 200 247
www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk



MARCHAM SOCIETY TALK 13TH FEBRUARY 2018

We were extremely grateful to Ben Jack for stepping in at virtually the last minute to talk to us about his experiences living in a remote area of the Philippines for a year in his role working with Coral Cay Conservation. Ben is a senior manager at Earthwatch, an Oxford based international environmental charity. Coral Cay works specifically to protect, manage and sustain coral reefs for the benefit of the whole ecosystem, including the local human population, who derive their livelihoods from the sea. As well as providing some beautiful underwater photography, Ben explained to us the idea of marine protection areas and how they, if properly managed, would provide sustainable food sources as well as protecting all the fish species that were living in the protected area.

He went on to describe the practical problems of overfishing leading to a downward spiral of more and more eco-unfriendly fishing which further depletes fish stocks. He also talked of the damage to coral and other sea organisms from intensive agriculture, which uses chemicals fertilizers that then move down into the rivers through runoff and into the sea causing damage to coral and fish alike.

Whilst the photography was colourful and beautiful his message was stark. The future of the world's oceans, to which we are all ultimately connected and dependent upon, is being damaged by these factors and the increasingly vast amount of plastic that finds its way into the sea. This together with climate change warming the oceans means that action needs to be taken to stop these trends. His final message was that by making simple changes to our personal habits we can all help.

In summary, eat less meat, travel less, especially by air, and use renewable energy supplies. His most controversial action would also be the most effective to combat the climate change crisis we are facing – have fewer children. For many of our audience that choice was not available to us, but our deepest thanks go to Ben for a colourful, entertaining talk, even if the main message was a warning.

If you would like to learn more about protecting our own ocean habitat please go to www.wildlifetrusts.org/mczs and greatbritishoceans.org PS

EARTH HOUR - the biggest global event to protect our planet. Join millions of people around the world in our global switch off on **Saturday 24 March at 8.30pm.**

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Our planet, our home, is in danger. A lot of the wildlife we love, from snow leopards and polar bears to rhinos and elephants, are seriously threatened by the pressures we're putting on our planet. We're seeing our oceans over-exploited and suffocated by plastic and we're cutting down vast swathes of forests to make room for crops and livestock to feed us.

The damage has been shockingly fast. Over the last 25 – 30 years:

- 80% of freshwater species have declined
- Over 50% of populations of land species have declined
- 40% of our forests have disappeared to agricultural land with 15 million trees lost each year just for soy production
- 1 in 6 of the planet's species are at risk of extinction from climate change

(Source: WWF-UK Living Planet Report)

TABLE TOP & CAR BOOT SALE
Hanney WM Hall
10 till 2pm Sat 17th March



Craft Stalls
 Bric a brac
 China

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 Something for Everyone
 Hot and Cold Food

ABCD Film Society

Thursday screenings this month



This month ABCD Film Society is showing the final four films of its 2017/8 season.

Admission to each screening is £6 (£3 full-time school and college students) – but £7 (£3.50) on March 8th.

Mar 1 CLOSELY OBSERVED TRAINS (Czechoslovakia, 1966, 89 mins Cert 15). "A real charmer from the heyday of the Czech New Wave, set during the German occupation but totally immersed in the pubescent problems of a youth taking up his first job as an apprentice railway platform guard [...] but it celebrates a whole universe of frustration, eroticism, adventure and romance" (Time Out)

Mar 8 Special event: SHOOTING STARS (UK, 1927, 97 mins, Cert PG). This is our **annual silent film**, with live piano accompaniment by **Andrew Youdell**, a regular at the National Film Theatre. A sophisticated comedy of infidelity, it was directed by Anthony Asquith (son of the WW1 prime minister). "... witty at first, always gorgeous and nailbitingly tense towards the end" (The Guardian). Please note this event takes place at St Nicolas' Church, Abingdon, starting at 7.30pm.

Mar 15: IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT (USA, 1967, 109 mins, Cert 12A), stars Sidney Poitier and Rod Steiger, the former as a northern state (black) detective sent to assist in a murder enquiry in the racist south. In the light of recent events still a relevant film.

Mar 22 Jointly presented with Abingdon Twinners, we present a film that came out in the UK a year ago, FRANTZ (France, 2016, 112 mins, Cert 12A). The story starts in a provincial German town immediately after WW1. There is deep resentment of "the French", seen as responsible for the deaths of so many German soldiers, including that of Frantz, the local doctor's son. A calm and very moving film, with some intriguing plot twists. The film starts at the usual time of 7.45, but you are welcome to arrive from 7pm and join us in a wine and cheese celebration – in which you bring your own beverages and make a contribution to the food costs.

All screenings at Abingdon Health & Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, OX14 3GD, at 7.45 pm (but please note exceptions mentioned above). Adjacent parking. See full details of our season: www.abfilms.org.uk or info@abfilms.org.uk or 01235 521976. Registered charity No. 292723.

SUNNINGWELL & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB
Rachael the Gardener will talk about **Climate Change** and how it affects gardeners, on Thursday 8th March at 7.30pm in Sunningwell Village Hall. New and Non Members welcome.
 Entrance fee: Members £2 Non members £3
www.sdgc.org.uk

A HISTORY OF GARFORD BY MIKE GREIG
 Garford has a fascinating history from pre-historic times, through Anglo-Saxon charters, mentions in the Domesday Book, Open Fields, Royal Manor, and Parliamentary Enclosure. Garford has not changed much in over 1,000 years which makes it easier to see historical features. Garford's small size also makes it possible to put together an almost complete record of its history. Mike will illustrate his talk with a wide range of old maps, photographs and original documents.

8pm Tuesday 24th April 2018
Garford Village Hall, Garford, OX13 5PE
All visitors welcome

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Dear Friends,

I have once again greatly enjoyed watching the Winter Olympic Games from South Korea in the past few weeks: the skill of the individual athletes, the courage to push themselves to the edge, the camaraderie amongst the competitors within the national teams, and even between teams internationally; it has been a heart-warming demonstration of the world uniting in sport, and enjoying the possibility of new friendships and achievements.

There have been real moments of danger as well, as competitors push themselves to the very limits of endurance or skill, with enormous courage aiming for the best, to win the prize of a medal.

God has a vision of a united world, of humankind pulling together to become all He longs for us to become. Towards the close of this month we enter Holy Week, when the Lord Jesus, with mind-blowing courage and determination, faced the events that would lead to the cross. It was the vision of God's love, reuniting a broken and sin-torn world, that inspired and enabled Jesus to face the cross, and ultimately it is the cross and resurrection of Christ that makes possible that great vision to be a reality.

Jesus' death, and the events surrounding it, are remembered through Lent and during Holy Week. These are occasions to pause in the hectic pressures of living, space to reflect, take breath, catch the vision again, and of renewal of faith and trust. It can be a time of fresh exploration of timeless truth. Jesus promises that those who seek will find, that those who knock at the 'door' will find it opened to them, that those who have the courage to ask, will receive.

Your parish church is open for prayer every day during daylight hours – so may I invite you to take time out, to pause, to make space in the daily routines during this special time of year, and come aside - to catch God's great vision again.

With my warmest greetings for Lent,

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 at the end of the month, 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

£16 per hour for one-off bookings

Regular Sunday services at 10am & 6pm

Village Café Wednesdays from 11.30am at the Sports and Social Club. Finishes end Mar.

Men's Breakfast, Saturday 3rd March, 8.30am at the Baptist Hall

Men's Night, Monday 5th March, 8pm at The Crown

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

Changing Room (Women's Breakfast), Saturday 31st March, 8.30am at the Baptist Hall.

Good Friday Family event: 30th March at All Saints'. Details TBC

Contacts:

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vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org

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families@allsaintsmarcham.org

Rob Finch *Youth Worker* 07888331708,
rob@marchamyouth.org

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info@allsaintsmarcham.org