

Marcham & District News

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FEBRUARY 2019 VOL: 41 NO: 2

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Little Angels - concentration! see page 9



▲ Pre-School's bedtime story session see page 9



▲ Midweek Walkers see page 7 ▲

Diary for February

7 Thu	ABCD Film Society: Shiraz, Abingdon, 19.45	15
9 Sat	PTA Family Quiz, Marcham School	9
9 Sat	Burns Night Supper, All Saints' Church, 19.30	13
9 Sat	Wantage and Grove Lions Bingo, Grove Village Hall 18.45pm	11
12 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30	7
12 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.30	7
13 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
14 Thu	Midweek Walk, The Plough, Rectory Road, Great Haseley, 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	7
14 Thu	Music at the Unicorn Granny's Attic, 19.00	11
14 Thu	Gardening Club, Sunningwell Village Hall, 19.30	11
14 Thu	ABCD Film Society: The Party, Abingdon, 19.45	15

15 Fri	Cricket Nets at Radley, 19.30-21.00	7
19 Tue	National Trust Association, Abingdon 14.30	17
20 Wed	Deadline for next MADNews, 17.00 editor@madnews.co.uk	
21 Thu	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	7
22 Fri	Cricket Nets at Radley, 19.30-21.00	7
26 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30	7
28 Thu	ABCD Film Society: Faces Places, Abingdon, 19.45	15
March		
1 Fri	Pancake Family Friday, All Saints' Church, 17.30-19.00	20
23 Sat	Faberdashery Sale, Denman College, 10.00-15.00	19

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

THINGS TO DO

Abingdon & District Model Railway Club



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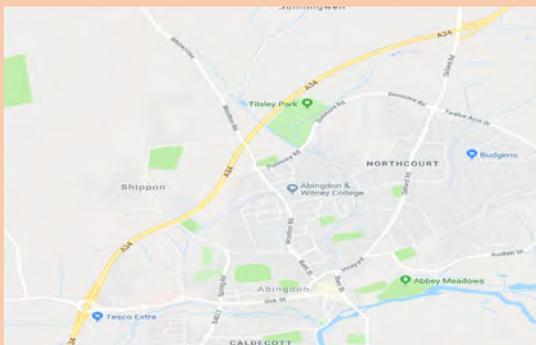
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For more information see
admrc.org.uk
or Contact
The Secretary
pthunt.mrc@outlook.com



The Arts Society Abingdon (ex ADFAS) is holding its monthly lecture on **Wednesday 20th February, 10.30am and 2.00pm**, at Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DB.

The Paintings of Hieronymus Bosch
by Val Woodgate

Bosch's world of devils, demons and deadly sins are truly unforgettable. At the same time, his extraordinary treatment of religious themes can be deeply moving, and his works are among the most mysterious in European art. Tate guide and lecturer Val Woodgate examines them in the context of contemporary politics and culture and finds them to be both understandable and to provide an insight into the society in which the artist lived.

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 our website or email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk www.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk

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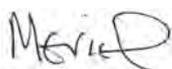
A neg donors needed urgently

Dear Readers

All the issues of MADNews that find their way through your door are delivered by volunteers, so if you had to pop into the shop or the church to get your copy this month, you can guess the reason! Anyone who would like to help with deliveries, just call Judith or Peter (number below).

More news about 40th birthday celebrations in the next issue!

Until nex time



PUBLISHER / EDITOR

Meriel Lewis
8 Orchard Way, Marcham
Abingdon OX13 6PP
Tel: 01865 391725
Website: www.madnews.co.uk
Email: editor@madnews.co.uk

ADVERTISING

Fran Russell: adverts@madnews.co.uk
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PROOFREADING

Jane Mander
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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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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 Council Tax 2019/20

The Parish Council has now considered the budget for the next financial year. It is requesting £63300 from the Vale of White Horse District Council to help with the costs of the parish. The parish element of the Council tax is currently £69.70 per band D property. This will rise slightly by £2.07 per annum next year. The budget can be found on the Council's website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk. As well as needing to undertake regular maintenance and repairs within the village, the Council has set aside funds for a possible parish election in May when the next elections will be held, and has put aside a sum of £20,000 for consultant and surveyors fees, mainly in connection with the construction of the new community facilities.

Parish Councillor Jane Fabes

Jane Fabes who was co-opted in July 2016 has offered her resignation as a councillor. This is the second time that Jane has served the parish on the Council and the Council's thanks go to her for her support, helpful advice and input into what has been a very busy time over the last 2½ years.

The Council has decided not seek an immediate replacement, as Parish Council elections will be held in May, and a new Council will be formed.

Parishioner of the Year Award

Thank you to all of you who have taken the time and trouble to write to the Council to put forward nominations for the Parishioner of the Year Award. The Council has a working party that is now considering all the nominations in order to prepare a shortlist for the Council to consider in due course.

Street Lighting

There are a considerable number of street lights in the village that are not coming on. This relates to late afternoon and during the evening, and not to those which the County Council turns off overnight. A check has been made of these by going round the village and noting each malfunctioning light. A list has been sent to the County Council with a request that they are repaired.

Marcham Parish Council - Internal Audit

The Council's internal auditor is retiring, and the Parish Council will soon be in need of a replacement. If there is anyone locally who is interested in taking on this role, then please contact the clerk for further information as to what is required.

Planning applications considered by the Parish Council

R3/0145 an application to slightly vary the previous approval to erect 2 classrooms at the Primary School in Morland Road. The Council had no objections
P18/V3064/LB Minor internal alterations to ground floor at Morland House, Sheepstead Road. The Council had no objections.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 13th February 2019 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

1. A hardly used HP Envy 4527 All-in-one Printer/Copier. (Ink cartridges reqd.)
2. A glass door-fronted white wooden display cabinet, with 3 glass shelves. H 116 x W 50 x D28 cm. Excellent condition.

Minimum donation of £25 to the Community Fund requested for each item. Buyer collects. (Marcham)

Tony B Ox 391519.

Personal adverts in MADNews are free so if want to put in a notice or have something to sell, call the editor on 391725 or email editor@madnews.co.uk
The deadline for all personal adverts is 20th of the month.

MINIBUS SERVICE TO TESCO

There is a weekly run on Mondays to Tesco for any residents with transport difficulties. Leaving Duffield Place at 9.45am (and other places by arrangement) and returning from Tesco at around 11am - you just pay a 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



FRILFORD NOTICES

P18/V3159/HH Grange Barn Kingston Road - Retrospective application for new window

P18/V3129/AG Stonepitt Barn Kingston Road Portal frame free range chicken building

P18/V2991/FUL Frilford Service Station Frilford Road Installation of two rapid electric vehicle charging stations

If you would like to be added to the parish email distribution list, send a message to frilfordparish@gmail.com

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MARCHAM AND DISTRICT NEWS is 40!

Another few snaps and snippets from the past 40 years. If you have anything that you would like to share with other readers, just send it to editor@madnews.co.uk to include in our 40 year round up.



▲ Marcham WI celebrated their 60th birthday in 2008

JANUARY 2009

LAND OPTION SIGNED FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING

Neil Rowe, a long serving Anson Trustee said "Today is a very exciting day in the life of Marcham. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to establish good quality leisure facilities in the village and to fulfil the aims of the Trust established by the Anson sisters. There is a great deal of hard work ahead but we are under way"



▲ 2012 We celebrated The Queen's Jubilee ▲

March 2008

MARCHAM SCHOOL NEWS

Our other celebration was in our regular parents' assembly when we celebrated all the building works done over the Summer, by officially 'opening' the area now shared by Anson, Morland and Denman classes and welcoming Pre-School on site. Pete Narramore, who had so carefully managed the whole project, ceremoniously declared the areas 'open' and cut a symbolic red ribbon. We look forward to creative and stimulating work taking place in the new Shared Area and are excited about all the opportunities for learning that can be shared with children in Pre-School.



May 2008

MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

Our last meeting in March needed an early start as the children from Marcham School were coming to visit and entertain us. They arrived looking a bit apprehensive but they quickly settled down and began with singing a few songs which were quite amusing. Then they went round chatting to everyone and giving out cakes that they had kindly brought along for us to enjoy. They ended their visit with a few more songs and great applause from all of us, it was most enjoyable. I hope they will come along again some time in the near future. Well done children and staff!

WHERE SHOULD PEOPLE WALK?

www.MADnews.co.uk/plags

packhorse lane action group for safety
Please complete the questionnaire in this months MADnews and return it to the box at Marcham Post Office & Store before May 31st 2006. Extra copies available.

BNB /plags

20 Twenty's Plenty

▲ 2006 Packhorse Lane Action Group for Safety – PLAGS – was formed. The webpages are still available at madnews.co.uk/plags and you can hear a Radio Oxford report with local people giving their views

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MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK:

Thursday, February 14th.

For this month's walk we will meet for lunch at 12.30 at The Plough, Rectory Road, Great Haseley (Map Ref: SP 639018; OX44 7JQ) which is just off the A329 before the M4. We will start our walk of about 4 miles at 1.30 through quiet, undulating country with good views towards the Chilterns.



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.

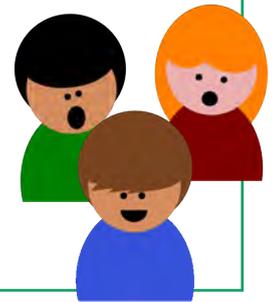
SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Tuesday 12th and 26th February.
From 2 – 3.30pm in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place

- Sing a wide range of popular songs
- Get to know fellow villagers and forget your aches, pains and woes!

Phone 391270 for more details

Christine Whild



MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB NEWS

The 2019 season is fast approaching, and as usual at this time of year, the club is keen to speak to any potential new members, particularly those who reside in or close to the village.

There are two initial opportunities for contact during February. First, the club is holding its Annual General Meeting in the Baptist Hall, Packhorse Lane at 8pm on Friday 1 February, when potential new members, as well as existing, are more than welcome.



Secondly the club's pre-season 'nets' commence at Radley School, with the first two sessions taking place on Fridays 15 and 22 February from 7.30pm to 9pm.

Details from Chris Webb at Chris.webb32@hotmail.com

For any other club information contact its secretary Trevor Hill at trevor3chancel@aol.com

We look forward to meeting any of you who may be interested in playing in our two Saturday teams.

Marcham WI

Date: Thursday, 21st February

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Denman College

Topic: Simon Wenham

The History of Salters Steamers



I'm sure we have all seen, or had a trip on, one of the Salter's Steamers on the River Thames in Oxford, or Abingdon. Come along and learn more about this long established Oxford firm at our February meeting, when we welcome historian, Simon Wenham, who will give us some of the background to Salter's through the years.

New members and visitors are always welcome

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



The Marcham Society

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

Cotswold Barns

Tim Jordan

Dr Tim Jordan will be talking about Cotswold barns, their design, construction method, the materials that have been used to build them over the centuries and their changing use, a fast-disappearing feature of our architecture. Tim will talk us through the things to look out for when viewing an old barn, which could be as much as 400 years old.

All Saints' Church, Marcham

7.30 pm Tuesday 12th February

www.marchamsociety.org.uk



Don't let the sparks fly this winter

Nearly 50% of all chimney fires in Oxfordshire happen during January, February and March. If you enjoy cosying up in front of a log fire, make sure the sparks don't fly at home this winter.

- **Have a cosy home not a fire zone**
- **Get your chimney swept at least once a year, if you regularly have log fires get it swept more frequently**
- **If you have a 1st floor fireplace check that it is clear of debris**
- **Store logs away from the fireplace**

MARCHAM SOCIETY REPORT, 8 January 2019

The work of Wild Oxfordshire, Sian Liwicki

On 8 January, the Marcham Society welcomed Sian Liwicki to give the Annual Lecture. Sian is well-known as co-owner of Bothy Vineyard, which also hosts the very popular Sculpture in the Vineyard exhibitions. Less well-known is her role as Chairman of Oxfordshire Wildlife. This organisation helps groups and individuals to co-operate and understand each other in order to sustain the county's wildlife, often through meetings or open events.

Oxfordshire Wildlife encourages landowners, community groups and individuals to provide good habitats, ranging from slightly-less-tidy farming practices to transforming waste ground into a wild flower meadow. As part of the Natural Flood Management Scheme, the organisation helped produce meanders and overspill ponds to slow river flow in the River Evenlode catchment area. They also help support ten Jubilee Wildlife Spaces (265 hectares in all).

More information can be found at www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk *JF*

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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

2019 has already proven to be an exciting time at pre-school - we've had a 'bedtime story session' involving the children coming back in their pyjamas for stories while the parents got to enjoy a selection of photographs of the children in action at pre-school.



We've been looking at 'ourselves' this term and how we are similar to or different from other people, this has led to some interesting discussions, self-portraits and comparisons. Music is a big part of our day and we share a variety of genres for different reasons: to dance to, to sing to, to relax to, to tidy up to, and to enjoy.... we've introduced some breathing exercises and awareness of our body as we sing and dance around.

If you would like to join us at Marcham Pre-school please do get in touch - marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk or by phoning 01865 392101.

We accept children from their 2nd birthday and generally this tends to mean starting the following September. We receive many applications from families in the local area and always suggest that applications are submitted as early as possible! We have already begun our admissions process for September 2019 so don't delay!

Nicky Sanford,

Early Years Teacher, Marcham Pre-School 01865 392101

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

NEWS FROM LITTLE ANGELS

Baby Room It's been a great month with our smallest little angels this month! We have welcomed new families into our Little Angels' family this month, they have all settled in so well! The babies have enjoyed lots of sensory and explorative play this month using all their senses! Our babies have been enjoying lots of physical play recently, with some of them learning to pull themselves around and even taking their first steps! Our soft play climbing blocks have been a big hit supporting our Little Angels' physical development! We have also welcomed Nicki into our Little Angels' family, she is a Level 3 qualified in childcare practitioner with a breadth of childcare experience. You will find her in our baby room, she has settled into our family really well!



Pre School Room Our pre school children have been busy bees this month! They have been very creative at our mark making station practising their emergent writing and even some of our little angels who are flying off to school this September have been learning to write their name! Well done to all our very clever Little Angels! We always follow our childrens interests and leads, and this month our pre-school children gained a real interest in playing shops. So we followed their lead and turned our home corner into a supermarket filled with real fruit and vegetable, cans of food, baskets and a till. The children have been so engaged in their imaginative role play. Our older pre-school children were very excited to go back to café again this month! We missed our lovely home cooked soup over the Christmas period! Welcome back to all our Little Angels!

Breakfast & After School Club Back to school, and the start of a new year! Our Big Angels are enjoying the new term theme of 'winter' at after school club. A highlight has been the snowball target game, there have been pom pom snowballs flying across the room! Its been great seeing some of our big angels use the homework table this month and use their club time to get their homework finished with support from our playworkers! Well done and welcome back to all our Big Angels!!

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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

PTA ROUND-UP

I'm typing this less than 24 hours after our first event of 2019, the school disco. Thank you to everyone who came along, I hope you all had a good time, and thank you to the PTA team for looking after the kids as we all boogied on down on the dance floor.



Going back a little further, before Christmas we put on an evening of festive family fun with our first ever Magic of Christmas show. Again, thank you for everyone who came along – you raised £390 that will go towards funding activities for the children at Marcham School.

Our next fundraiser will be the PTA Family Quiz on Saturday 9 February. Get yourself a team of up to six people and start revising your knowledge of TV, film, general knowledge and music. – it promises to be a lot of laughs, **and one team could win £100 IN CASH!!!!**



See you on the school run.

Peter Kidd

PTA Chair 07708 251312 peter.kidd61@btinternet.com

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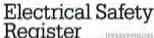
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A date for 2019 – help and support needed

Marcham Community Group and the local church community are jointly planning another Great Marcham Weekend on 27th-29th September 2019. This will celebrate 10 years of Marcham Moldova Lifeline as well as Harvest Festival. Funds raised will go to the new Community Facilities and to projects in Moldova, one of the poorest countries in Europe. We have lots of plans in development, and we are speaking to local organisations to take on a fundraising event or activity so as to involve as many local people as possible with something to suit all ages and interests. Ideas that will need an early start in 2019 include a flower and produce show (think about your competition entry) and a sunflower growing competition. We will be in further contact with organisations over the next few weeks to firm up on ideas. There will be more details in future MAD News issues. To get involved or suggest ideas, please contact jim.asher@btinternet.com (391727) or neil.rowe.nsch@gmail.com (391168).



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Wantage & Grove Lions are holding a cash bingo on Saturday 9th February at Grove Village Hall
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February: Beat the winter chills
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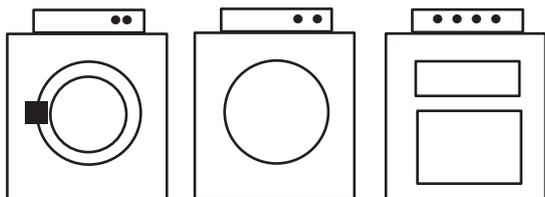
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MarchamCentre—site work has started!



Long-awaited on-site work to build the new MarchamCentre started in January. The building compound has been fenced, a roadway built for construction vehicles, and the site is being prepared for full construction work to start in early February. The site is closed off and there is now **no public pedestrian or vehicle access** to the field from Morland Road—please note the signage at the gate. There is free access to the rest of the field from the Tower Close entrance and the footpath along the west and south of the field. There is an access track to the nursery from Packhorse Lane next to the Baptist Hall.

We will continue to keep people in Marcham updated regularly on progress and will be happy to answer any questions you may have about this project.

Fund raising Burns Night Supper

A fund-raising Burns Night Supper will be held in All Saints' Church on **Saturday 9th February, at 7:30 pm**, with a traditional 3-course meal (including haggis), entertainment and Scottish dancing. There is a vegetarian option available—please ask when you buy tickets.

Tickets, £20 per person, are available from Jim or Denise Asher (391727) or email jim.asher@btinternet.com. All proceeds from the evening will go towards funding the new Community facilities.

Seats are strictly limited and tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets are selling fast— buy soon to avoid disappointment!

Great Marcham Weekend

We continue to make early preparations for the Great Marcham Weekend community event and fund-raiser on 27-29th September, jointly with Marcham Moldova Lifeline - more details on page 11.



MarchamCentre—site work has now started!



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ABCD Film Society

Thursday screenings this month



ABCD Film Society's February films – two very recent, one a gem from 1928; and all three made by or about women. Come to any screening for £6 (£3 full-time school and college students) or join until Christmas or Easter. Email or phone us for a free copy of our 2018/9 programme booklet.

Feb 7 SHIRAZ – story of how the Taj Mahal came to be built, a tremendously exciting and pacy film. It's a restored "silent" with a glorious modern soundtrack by Anushka Shankar that combines Indian and European instruments and styles (India 1928, 106 mins, Cert U).

Feb 14 THE PARTY – Sally Potter's very, very sharp and funny political comedy set in London not that long ago, starring Kristin Scott Thomas, Timothy Spall, Patricia Clarkson and Bruno Ganz. (UK, 2017, 70 mins, Cert 15). Also screening: 2017 Encounters shorts package, PHILOMELA'S CHORUS, all by black female directors.

Feb 28 FACES PLACES (original French title: VISAGES, VILLAGES). Veteran filmmaker Agnès Varda tours France with photographic installation artist JR. They talk to people they meet and come up with a very personal, poignant and joyful documentary film (with English subtitles). With introduction by our regular visitor Ann Miller, specialist in French language films. (France, 2017, 94 mins, Cert 12A).

All screenings at 7.45pm at Abingdon Health & Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, OX14 3GD.

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Report from GARD - January 2019

The Next Steps in opposing the Thames Water reservoir plans

The consultation on Thames Water's revised draft Water Resources Management Plan 2019-2024 (known as rdWRMP19) closed on 28th November.

GARD submitted a robust paper opposing the plan, and a copy of this will shortly be available on our website (www.gard-oxon.org.uk). Most importantly however, there was a very strong opposition response from local residents, local campaigning organisations and local political representatives at all levels. The proposal by Thames Water to bring forward the construction of the 'Abingdon' Reservoir to start in 2025 is overwhelmingly opposed by local campaign groups and councils, and universally in the locality there has been a call for a Public Inquiry into the plan.

The large majority of the Parish Councils in the area have issued formal responses opposing the plans and all called for a Public Inquiry. This call for a Public Inquiry is supported by the Vale of the White Horse DC, who state that they are not convinced by the Thames Water case, and by Oxfordshire County Council, whose response formally objects to the plan. CPRE Oxfordshire and the Wantage and Grove Campaign Group are also opposed to the plans. We must hope that Thames Water will listen to the opposition, but their past record does not give much confidence. That is why it has been important that our local MPs, Ed Vaizey (Wantage) and Layla Moran (Abingdon and Oxford West) have called for a Public Inquiry and written to Secretary of State, Michael Gove requesting this. We would like to thank them for their support, and also thank local



councillors, such as Mike Fox-Davies (Steventon and Hendred) and Richard Webber (Drayton and Sutton Courtenay) for their hard work in pushing the message and actions through the County Council.

Thanks also to those who wrote individually to the consultation opposing the plans and calling for a Public Inquiry. This time round there were a very large number of individual contributions, many of them copied personally to me, and featuring many forceful and thoughtful arguments. We now await to see Thames Water's response. If you wrote in, you will get an individual answer from them. If you find any of the answers are dismissive or evasive, we would be very pleased if you could share them with us (via email gard.chair@gmail.com), and complain to your MP.

The next step will be for Thames Water's new partner in the reservoir plan (Affinity Water) to publish their revised draft plan. This is expected in March. We will be responding to this, and we hope to co-ordinate our response with local organisations, and that you will all write to Affinity expressing your opposition. Affinity are 'new kids on the block' as far as the reservoir is concerned, and they have said they are keen to engage with our local concerns and hear them. They are less wedded to the reservoir plan as a solution than Thames Water, for whom it seems to have become some sort of sacred cow.

In spite of Thames Water claiming that the reservoir will be needed by the 'South-east in general', Affinity Water (who supply Hertfordshire) are the only prospective water company customer to express any interest. Other SE water companies (South-east Water and Southern Water) have already withdrawn their requests for future supply from Thames Water. The analysis by GARD shows that the requirements of Affinity can be met by very simple and cheap schemes and improving leakage (sounds familiar?), until at least the 2060s. Once again the reasons advanced by Thames Water do not stack up, and Oxfordshire needs to convince Affinity that much cheaper and more quickly deliverable solutions are available for their customers.

Please keep an eye out and respond to Affinity's plan when published.

Joining GARD

Our membership has grown considerably over the last year and continues to do so. However, to defeat the Reservoir project and ensure a sustainable water future for Oxfordshire and the South-east, we need even more members. If you would like to join us, or need more information, please contact our secretary, Deborah Bennett, at gard.secretary@gmail.com. Lifetime membership is £10 (under 18s and full-time students £5).

DEREK STORK, Hon Chairman, Group Against Reservoir Development

Are you curious about what happens to your food waste and black bin? You can go on a tour to find out!

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Energy from waste plant – where the contents of the black bin goes to. This is based at the plant in Ardley, tours start at 10am and last around 2.5 hours.

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If you are interested in attending any of the dates please contact me and I can send you more information about the day. Tours spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

NO DEAL – NO PROBLEM – NO WAY?

In the past few weeks, I have had a moral dilemma. Brexit is not a subject for local government or its representatives, and given the divisive nature of the subject, I have tried to steer well clear. The problem I face is that, as a leader of a political group on Oxfordshire County Council, I have been given briefings from officers charged by government with investigating and assessing the potential impact of a “No Deal” outcome on Oxfordshire and its residents. As a wealthy, thriving County, the risks to Oxfordshire are overall deemed to be low compared to many other parts of the country. However, I have been told that there are real concerns over certain possible impacts. I am also instructed that all such information should be kept confidential. I am told that the reason for confidentiality is that we must not cause panic buying or queueing. But if we wind up with a “No Deal” conclusion, there might indeed be some panic. Indeed, I am aware of residents in my patch who have already stockpiled some food and medicines. I would argue that knowledge of the risks involved with “No Deal”, and allowing that knowledge to be part of the argument *now*, would in reality reduce the risk of panic.

I am well aware that some people will argue that what I have to say is simply one more manifestation of “Project Fear”. Or is it “Project Reality”? I have wrestled with that for some time.

I believe that the information I have been given is both independent and a fair assessments of the risks. I have to try to balance my duty to those Oxfordshire residents who elected me against the Government instruction to respect confidentiality. Should I keep quiet and just hope that “No Deal” is rejected as an option anyway, or should I demand that such information be put out there as part of the conversation *now*, where it may influence people’s opinions? What would I say to the residents who elected me when, in the event of a “No Deal” conclusion, I am challenged with “*You knew there was a risk of this and didn’t tell us?*”

I am not willing to stay silent for long, but would welcome any constructive suggestions in the meantime.

Richard Webber Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

The Council’s headquarters on the move again!

A move of the headquarters of the Vale with South is on the cards again. Why? Where is it going? Is the new site the best place for the residents it serves? Before answering these questions, I thought I would give you a brief rundown of the history of the Vale Headquarters.

In the 1990s, Abbey House in Abingdon was bought by the Conservative-run council, using money from the sale of council houses, and became the new Vale headquarters. It was a good place for the council, as a third of the population of the Vale is in Abingdon and nearly half is within 5 miles of Abingdon, so access for residents was easy.

In 2007, under a Lib Dem administration, in a money-saving bid, it was decided to share services and officers with South Oxfordshire – some would operate from Abbey House and some from Crowmarsh Gifford.

In 2012, under a Conservative administration, in another money-saving bid, it was decided to move most of the council to Crowmarsh Gifford, in the heart of South Oxfordshire, leaving a skeleton staff in Abbey House. Over the years, the number of officers had reduced and only filled a proportion of Abbey House, so it was argued that to move to the South and to rent out most of Abbey House to the County Council, who was looking for a base for their overspill, was thrifty. However, this proved very

unpopular amongst Vale residents as it meant a round journey of nearly 25 miles for Abingdon residents and Councillors to visit the Council and nearly 17 miles for Didcot residents. Furthermore, as there is no bus service, residents would have to dig deep in their pockets to travel there or to depend on kind friends for car lifts.

In 2015, the Council offices in Crowmarsh Gifford were burnt down, so an urgent decision was made to house the offices at 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Business Park. Fortunately, this proved a popular move for the officers and residents of the Vale because of its easy access and favourable rent agreement. But this agreement is to come to an end in 2019, and the rent will increase steeply. A hunt for alternatives began, but nothing seemed to fit the bill. We are told that a move back to renting a new-build in Crowmarsh Gifford on land owned by SODC is the cheapest option.

This move to a purpose-built building may seem very attractive for the officers and those living near Crowmarsh Gifford, but for Vale residents and councillors, it has all the disadvantages of inaccessibility, as I have already highlighted. And there are no plans as yet to have any place in Abingdon or Milton or Didcot for a skeleton staff or for meetings. The Vale finances are under pressure at the moment and it may be that the need to save money will win the day. But have the administration thought creatively enough? I leave it to you to reach your own conclusion.

Catherine Webber Cllr VWHDC - DC for Marcham and Shippon
01235 534001 or Webbercatherine1@gmail.com

South and Vale Survey: "The thoughts of the local community on the kind of building we should design are very important to us, so we've prepared an online survey which we would like you to fill in: <https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/Crowmarshcommunity/?m=35338789awaea>.

Please complete the survey by MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2019."

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**National Trust: Abingdon & District Association
2.30pm Tuesday February 19th, Trinity Church Hall**

On Tuesday February 19th 2019, after a very brief AGM, **Ruth Weinberg** will talk about **Abingdon’s Water Supply**. Hidden around Abingdon, there are clues as to how the town found and used its water. Abingdon managed with very local water from its springs, wells and streams until 1880 before which there were no known attempts to create a public supply. After 1880, the council’s records tell the story of a continuous search for more and more sources of clean water to meet an ever-growing demand, a search that did not end until the 1950s when water was supplied from Oxford. This talk will tell a fascinating and little-known story about one of life’s essentials. Ruth has been researching this aspect of Abingdon’s history for a few years and is a member of the Archaeological & Historical Society and a contributor to the Abingdon Buildings & People project.



The talk will take place in Trinity Church Hall, Conduit Road, Abingdon OX14 1DB at 2.30pm and everyone is welcome. A small donation of £3 is requested from non-members of the Abingdon & District National Trust Association, although joining on the spot (£15 for a couple and £10 single) will get you 6 talks a year. Join now and get 3 months extra free. For more information, contact Ruth on 01235 524119. Prior booking is not required.

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THINGS TO DO



CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday 12 April 2019

Drayton Golf Club

Tee off: 10am

Price £50 per person

Breakfast and lunch provided

To book your place, contact
karen.dodd@southandvale.gov.uk
or phone 01235 422082



All proceeds will go to SSAFA - helping the
military service, veterans and their families.



Boundary
Veterinary Centre

01235 538721

www.boundaryvets.co.uk



**Quality care from
a family run vets**

Facilities at the practice include:

- Ample on-site parking
- Consultations by appointment
- Longer consultations to give each patient more time
- High quality in-house laboratory for blood tests
- In-house digital x-ray and ultrasound facilities
- Comfortable kennels for in-patients overnight on-site
- See the same vet each time

Boundary Veterinary Centre, 67 Oxford Road, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2AA

**If you would like to advertise
your business or service in MADNews,
contact adverts@madnews.co.uk
for more details:**

2018 - 2019 Advertising Rates

40mm x 90mm – £63 pa

80mm x 90mm – £105 pa

Neighbourhood Team Newsletter for Marcham from Rich Osborn

Follow us on Facebook/ tvpsouthandvale or Twitter @ tvpsouthandvale



Sign up to our alerts system at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk to receive information related to crime in your area.

Burglary We are still receiving reports of burglaries in our area. We have been running Operation Monitor for six months (our operation to combat dwelling burglary) and reports show that in a large proportion of our burglaries suspects have gained entry to properties through insecure doors and windows. Access to the rear of properties has also been made easy by insecure side/rear gates. Are you making it easy for burglars? Please review your security, make sure that all of your windows and doors are locked before going to bed or going out. Lock your cars and keep keys away from doors and windows. Fit a lock on any gates and sheds and install security lighting and CCTV. If you would like any further advice please email the team using details at the bottom of the page..

Scams Scam calls continue to be a concern in our area and thankfully most of the recipients of these calls are able to avoid becoming a victim. We understand that these fraudsters can be very convincing and generally target the more vulnerable residents but our best tool for tackling this issue is knowledge. Here are some basic tips for how to avoid becoming a victim to these scams;

- No company should require your bank or card details over the phone, especially your PIN number. These details are only required when making a purchase or placing an order.
- No bank or authorities (Police, HMRC etc.) will call you to ask for personal or banking details
- If residents have any concerns regarding calls or messages they have received and think they may be being targeted by a scam, please do not hesitate to call the local team on 101. Better to be safe than sorry.

New Deputy Commander Chief Inspector Matthew Bullivant has been appointed as the new Deputy Commander for the South & Vale Local Policing Area (LPA).

He started his role on Tuesday 1 January, taking over from Chief Inspector Robert Murray who has returned to Reading to lead a team as an Emergency Response Team Inspector. On his new appointment, Chief Inspector Bullivant said: "I am really looking

forward to returning to South & Vale in my new role as Deputy Commander. I will be doing all I can to support our officers, staff and volunteers to ensure our communities remain a safe place to live and work.

"I plan to build on existing relationships in the local community and form new ones to empower and inform residents about both the work of the police and what can be done locally to help prevent crime. I will also look to further improve the effectiveness of the deployment of officers to the crimes that most affect the many different communities of South & Vale."

Offenders brought to Justice

- On 23rd December a group of males sat in a car on St Marys Green, smelling of cannabis. All four males were detained and stop searched, and one was found with a small amount of cannabis, a street caution was issued.
- On 31st December a man was arrested after he came to the attention of our roads policing officers in Marcham Road. The man decided he didn't want to wait and speak to officers and ran off. The man was quickly found and arrested. He has subsequently been charged with three offences, 'Taking a vehicle without consent', 'Driving whilst disqualified' and 'Driving without insurance'.
- Jason Tampin, age 37, was remanded in custody over the Christmas period after being charged with a number of offences in the Abingdon town area. The charges, including drugs offences, possession of an offensive weapon and several breaches of a Criminal Behaviour Order will be heard on 10/01/19. Tampin has been responsible for a great deal of antisocial behaviour in the town over the past year and so it is a great result to finally bring him to justice.
- Philip Knowles was also remanded in December, again as a result of a number of offences. Knowles was charged with several public order offences, as well as drugs & weapons offences and also two assaults including one on a police officer. Knowles will be in court for these offences on 17/01/19
- On 9th January a man was arrested for a burglary in Drayton that occurred on the 21st – 22nd December. More details will follow..

Contact us:

E-mail: AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
 Twitter: @tvpsouthandvale
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale
 Phone: 101
 Website: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

**Denman College: FABERDASHERY SALE
Everyone Welcome**

The sale consists of donated items of fabric pieces / craft equipment and materials / haberdashery and many other odds and ends that you didn't even know you wanted!



We can take cash / cheques / most debit and credit cards. Bring any measurements as we have a limited amount of larger pieces of furnishing fabric. One of our volunteers will be on hand to help with pattern drops etc.

Where Denman College OX13 6NW

When Saturday 23rd March 2019

Time 10 am - 3 pm

Free entry - Free Car parking

Tea/coffee are available and you can bring your own picnic.

We open at 10 am through until 3.30 pm.

Further information contact

Joan Sherrin vjoansherrin@ntlworld.com 01962 880067

Relinquish Control

Whether we are a traditional manicurist gardener by nature, or a wildlife gardener, we all try and control and dictate our gardens and the wider world around us, turning them into something that's how we perceive they should look.

Traditional gardeners at times enforce their will and taste on the gardens they lovingly tend. Insisting they 'will' grow their favourite plants, whether or not the situation is suitable for that species.

Wildlife gardeners, equally, have been known to insist on attracting certain creatures to their plot, when again, the habitat may not truly be suitable.

As we begin the new gardening year, I remind you of the statement I often make, and worth repeating again. A kind of mantra. "If gardening is stressful, we are doing it wrong".

I've resolved this year to not enforce my will on my garden or wider environment. Traditional and wildlife gardening can both be stressful if we approach it in ways that lead us there by our own choosing. Where the mind goes, the body follows.

That's my new year gardening resolution for the coming year. What's your gardening resolution?.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt 01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Dear Friends,

With the whole Brexit scene in turmoil, thoughts of a renewal of the political system spring to mind: could there be another, better way, something other than the same old, same old? I don't know. The whole system is complex, but somehow feels 'stuck'. Restoration, renewal, mending - all come to mind.

Last month I had the privilege of meeting one of the expert restorers from the 'The Repair Shop' television programme. This is one of my 'must see' TV series, as I so admire the skills of the restorers, and their willingness to tackle even the most challenging of tasks. Often the articles brought to be repaired are family heirlooms, valued and cherished by the families concerned.

For me, this reminds me of an important spiritual truth that is at the heart of our Christian Faith, namely, that God our Heavenly Father, is in the restoring business, indeed in the business of renewal. Through Christ and the gentle, powerful work of the Holy Spirit, He takes what has been damaged or tarnished by the rigours of this world and of life in general, and with care and love effects the deepest restoration of the soul. As the Psalmist states, "He restores my soul".

In this challenging and wounding world, where there is so much to discourage and where the opinion of others, whether on social media or not, can drag us down, God constantly values us, cherishes each of us, and longs to do His restoring, renewing work, so that we can discover or rediscover that we are loved in our own right, and are His workmanship.

We all need that restoring touch in one way or another, and that fresh renewal of soul that the Spirit delights to bring about. May February be a restoring, renewing month for each of us, and as the days become longer, and the early spring bulbs begin to flower, may we be encouraged to place ourselves in the workshop of the Lord, and allow Him to effect that deepest of renewals, whatever our political leanings may be.

With my warmest greetings,

Richard

Gospel of Mark – LIVE!

A dramatized recital by Gerald Osbourne,
with Colin Heber-Percy

Thursday 11th April, 7pm

All Saints' Church, Marcham

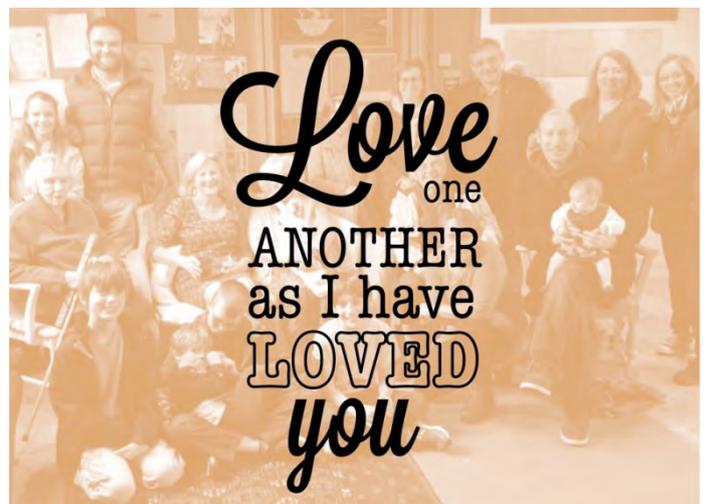
Free entry – all welcome

The performance will be in aid of Send a Cow.

PANCAKE FAMILY FRIDAY

1st March
5.30-7pm
All Saints' Church

Bring your whole family!
Fun activities
Pancakes



Regular Sunday services at 10am & 6pm Youth Drop-in 5.30-8pm on Wednesdays Wednesday mid-week communion, 10.30am in Duffield Place Lounge. Village Cafe, Wednesdays 12pm at the Baptist Hall Friday Club, 5.30-6.30pm at All Saints' Church (primary-age)

Contacts:

Rev. Canon Richard Zair 391319 vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org **Jill Rowe** Children's and families Minister 390885 families@allsaintsmarcham.org **Rosemary Siebert** Associate Priest 07763330113 **Rob Finch** Youth Worker 07888331708, rob@marchamyouth.org **Tamsin Gilbert** Parish Administrator 391319 info@allsaintsmarcham.org