

Marcham & District News

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

Your Independent Local Newsheet – www.madnews.co.uk

February 2010 Vol: 32 No: 2

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE

Let it snow.....



19 - 20 June 2010

Keep it Free
Something's Coming!

Marcham Pre-School Learn To Love Literacy ▲

▲ Friday Club are entertained by Juggling John

DIARY

FEBRUARY		
4 Thur	Midweek walk The White Hart Inn, Harwell village, 12.30pm lunch /1.30pm walk	7
5 Fri	MP's Surgery, Wantage Civic Hall, 5.30-7pm	5
5 Fri	Marcham Players Presents 'With Great Pleasure', Manor Farm, 7.30pm	7
9 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 7.45pm	7
10 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 7.30pm	3
12 Fri	Deadline for returning forms to Marcham School	13
18 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College, 7.30pm	7
19 Fri	Marcham Players' AGM, All Saint's Church, 7.30pm	7

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

Dear Readers

The recent snow brought out lots of local sculptors and photographers and the results are on the cover! Thanks for all the photos, sorry I couldn't use them all - but there are more to see on the website

www.madnews.co.uk.

Valentine's Day is supposed to be the day when the birds start pairing up for the spring, so I am looking forward to an increase in their songs over the next few weeks. Don't forget to keep feeding them!

Until next 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

We apologise in advance for any errors that may creep into this MADNews, 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!

ADVERTISING

Contact the Editor

DISTRIBUTORS

Judith & Peter Fontaine
14 Tower Close, Marcham
Abingdon Tel: 01865 391275

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.

NOTES 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.

POLICE

PCSO Laura Schmid
Tel: 0845 8 505 505

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Iain Brown
Janus, Westcot Lane, Sparsholt, Wantage,
Oxon OX12 9PZ
Tel: 01235 751210
Email: iainbrownconservatives@yahoo.co.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon
Jane Hanna
4 Charlton Road, Wantage OX12 8ER
Tel: 01235 772782
Email: janehanna63@googlemail.com

For other councillors go to
www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

© Marcham & District News 2010

*The copying of any part of this publication without written authorisation is not permitted.
February 2010*

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parishioner of the Year Award – Last Chance to nominate

For the past 6 years the Council has awarded a Parishioner of the Year Award to a local person or people who had devoted much time and energy working within the community. The Council has been seeking nominations for the next award and believes there are many people who would be worthy recipients.

The Council will be making a decision, at its meeting on 10th February. Would anyone who wishes to submit a last minutes nomination, please contact the clerk, whose details appear below, as soon as possible, sending a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to who he/she wishes to nominate and the reasons why the person(s) should receive the award.

Council Tax 2010

The Parish Council carefully considered its budget for 2010/2011 at its last meeting, and looked in detail at its likely income and expenditure. The precept in both 2006 and 2007 was £32,000, and in both 2008 and 2009 was £33,000. The Council has started a website, undertaken work to trees in the Churchyard, contributed to clearance in the Cemetery, undertaken weed spraying, renovated the youth shelter and put tarmac under the bottle banks in Howard Cornish Road. In order to achieve all this it has spent some of its reserves. This year it has set a council tax figure of £35,000. This is a total increase of just £3,000 over a 5 year period. The Local Authorities (Members Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 does grant the power to the Parish Council to pay basic allowances to their members. The members of Marcham Parish Council however decided some while ago to continue working voluntarily for the parish and not to claim allowances, thus helping to cap the parish element of the council tax.

Waste Collections from October

The Parish Council sent a representative to a recent meeting at the District Council's offices in Abingdon to learn about the new waste collection service which is due to start on 4th October 2010. The new scheme will follow the pattern already in operation in South Oxfordshire District Council's area. Households will be issued with four bins; green wheelie bin 240 litres for recycling; grey wheelie bin 180 litres for residual waste (landfill); green carry bin 23 litres for food waste, and green 7 litre box for food waste (in kitchen). Brown bins for garden waste remain optional, and will still cost £38 per year.

Further details about the scheme will be made available over the next few months, but it is understood that the bins will be delivered in August. Food waste bio-degradable bags (made of corn starch) will be issued initially, with further supplies to be bought from supermarkets. The recycling and residual waste bins will be

micro-chipped, and waste is weighed as it is tipped, not for charging households but for national statistics. The recycling bin will now take all plastic, and cardboard. Existing green boxes can either be recycled or kept for home/garden use. Except for recycling, no waste will be collected which is not in the relevant container (i.e. no more loose bin bags allowed). Food waste will be collected weekly, and recycling and residual waste fortnightly. Anyone who is infirm and finds it difficult to put out the relevant bin on collection day will be helped by the bin men who will fetch and return. The District Council is already identifying properties where there may be difficulties, such as flats, or properties a long way from the road, and will issue more information about the scheme in due course.

Marcham By Pass

It is some time since reference to the Marcham By Pass last appeared in the press. The Parish Council wishes to keep this as a top item, and in the fore front of the minds of those who make the decisions. It is currently preparing a list of people to contact and write to in order to maintain the priority of the By Pass.

Oxfordshire County Council – Street Lighting

Some months ago articles were placed in MAD News about the County Council's proposal to switch off street lights between 12.30 p.m. and 5.30 a.m. The articles sought the views of residents. Marcham Parish Council, following the comments received, asked the County Council to leave on specific lights and asked that consideration be given to turning off alternate lights. The County Council has admitted to jumping the gun and has begun to turn off consecutive lights in certain roads. Two parish councillors are walking the village to assess the lighting situation and will be making recommendations to the Parish Council which can be considered at a future meeting. Formal proposals will then go to the County Council.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 10 Feb 2010 at 7.30pm. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.

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

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

JACK DIX

Jean, Teresa, Geoffrey, Leslie and families would like to thank everyone for the many cards, messages of sympathy and donations to Abingdon Alzheimer's Society or South and Vale Carers Centre at this sad time.

Our sincere thanks also to those who attended the funeral or gave their time to help at the Sports and Social Club afterwards.

Dear Editor



Update from the Anson Trust

Following the public meeting in October, the Anson Directors have held meetings with Jane Hanna's working party, members of the Parish Council and representatives of NAF. In response to the various opinions and comments the Directors have developed a document considering the future of the Trust. It sets out in detail and evaluates seven possible options that the Trust could pursue. The document is lengthy (27 pages). It has already been made available to Parish Councillors and members of Jane Hanna's working party. The Directors want to make it available to all in the village. Accordingly, through the good offices of the editor of MAD News, the paper will be put on to the MAD News website. Paper copies can be obtained by writing to the Secretary of the Trust, Mrs Louise Butt at 8 Hyde Close, Marcham OX13 6PT.

It is expected that this paper will form the basis of future consultation about the future of the Trust.

Questions about the felling of trees in Hyde Copse have been received by the Trust. The Directors would like to make clear that the Trust does not own any land on Hyde Copse and has had no involvement with any felling.

To contact the Anson Trust directly you can email or write to

8 Hyde Copse, Marcham OX13 6PT
ansontrustmarcham@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Editor

After the October public meeting to discuss the future of the Anson Field and village facilities, my working group has met with the Anson Trust. We were pleased that the Anson Trust was responsive to our request that a business case be published exploring a range of options for the provision of future village facilities. Whilst the purpose of the working group is to remain impartial and be informed by the full spectrum of village views, we support as much information and consultation taking place between the Anson Trust and the village ahead of any planning application. Since my last letter in MADNews I am aware that a number of residents have recently formed a group to contribute to the debate and hope that future discussion can be fruitful in moving the community forward towards a solution which will benefit Marcham and address the various concerns which have been raised.

JANE HANNA

Dear Editor

Adults helping youngsters

It has concerned me for some years about the clearly changed attitude of young children towards adults they don't know. The unhelpful response of passers-by to the small boy on the ground may be linked February 2010

Dear Editor

Cyril Rudge

It is with great sadness that I learnt of Cyril's death just before Christmas. Cyril was a great servant to Marcham in his capacity as District Councillor and even after he retired he still had a keen interest in village affairs. I was Chairman for some of the period that Cyril served the village and I always appreciated his wise council on wide ranging issues affecting the village Cyril will be sadly missed and on behalf of the village of Marcham I would like to offer our deepest sympathy to his family

MALCOLM DENTON

Chairman Marcham District Council

(MADNews Jan).

Babies and toddlers are so natural in their response to friendly attention – they have no fear or preconceived concerns. Yet by about 2-2 ½ years, even when with their parent or carer, if spoken to kindly some frown, hide or look fearful.

This was brought home to me during a charitable day when I was helping and watched, amused, a 2½-3 year-old-boy having a great time diving under the laden tables. Suddenly appearing from under a cloth by me I stepped back saying "Hello young man" and (foolishly) ruffled his curly hair. In a voice befitting a Sergeant Major, he bellowed "DON'T TOUCH ME!" I was mortified and reflect on my grandchildren (now adults) and wondered if they would have reacted in a similar way.

I realise in this sad world of today there seems to be a need to indoctrinate children from a young age about 'stranger danger', sweets, lifts etc. But is this balanced by teaching youngsters the basics of socialisation? Fewer children walk to school these days and have the chance to chat with other adults and their offspring. Some spend many hours watching TV and computer screen and have less opportunity to converse and mix.

We are fortunate in having a such a good range of voluntary groups in the village. The toddlers in Little Angels, playgroup and the children of Marcham School do seem very happy and sociable at events.

I don't know when these 'classes' started but I notice many adults under 40 rarely smile or converse. It's refreshing when a youngster is unplugged and engages in conversation on the bus. Have other noticed this phenomenon?

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

PS I was touched and grateful when four friends and neighbours phoned or called in the snowy weather to enquire if I was ok. They were all in their 40s.

Dear Editor

I would like to thank all those good friends and neighbours who telephone to offer help with snow clearing, shopping etc, during the recent icy weather. I am extremely grateful for their kindness, and thoughtfulness to me. Also, many thanks to the person(s) who cleared a safe path along to the PO.

JOAN CARTER

Dear Editor

Marcham Community Spirit

We have just experienced some very difficult weather conditions and it is perhaps a good opportunity to consider our neighbours and friends. We have all read about tragic situations where elderly or vulnerable people have been deprived of basic care and help.

As neighbours do we know who lives close to us and may be requiring help with shopping, snow clearing, collecting prescriptions etc it maybe that people would just like help contacting the authorities to make a claim for heating allowance via the internet.

Marcham is a caring community and all we ask is that residents look out for their neighbours and to make sure no one is left in distress. Also it is important that any person requiring help should not be frightened to contact any of the organisations in the village.

We have had a good response from residents forming litter picking and flood group help and similarly I am sure we have many people only too willing to lend a helping hand to neighbours if required.

A group of villagers will soon meet to see how best we can coordinate and administer a care plan for situations that arise in the future.

MALCOLM DENTON

Chairman Marcham District Council

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

5 Feb	Wantage , Civic Hall
19 Mar	Wallingford , Town Hall
9 Apr	Faringdon , Pump House
Contact Ed Vaizey by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350

FOR SALE

- Beautiful chandelier, gold plated with cut glass droplets. Originally bought from Solus Lighting, Oxford.
- Cost £175.00, bargain at £20.00.

PHONE 391961



**Marcham
Moldova
Lifeline**

Cakes for Moldova!

2009 was a successful year for Marcham fund-raising for Moldova – over £9000 has been raised, donated or pledged during the year and funds were put to good use in Moldova.

We are immensely grateful to many generous local people for regular and one-off donations, and sales of crafts; to ISIS Orchestra for donating the proceeds of a concert in Marcham; Marcham Players for proceeds of the successful Oxford Waits Mediaeval music evening; to the school PTA for letting us run cake stalls at the Summer Fete and the Christmas Bazaar; to Marcham Toddlers for their coffee morning and cake sale; to TAG group for making and selling individual Christmas cakes; and to Abingdon Little Angels. In fact, cakes are quite a theme in our fund-raising – photos of our cake stalls and the idea of cakes raising funds have astonished villagers in Moldova!

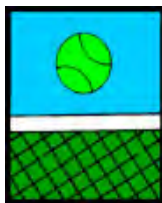
The funds have allowed us to support the work of Agape in Moldova with young part-time support workers, essential house repairs and other emergency projects, supporting a local Community Centre, a young enterprise club, and most recently the purchase of motor mechanics textbooks for a technical school struggling with limited resources.

MML is truly grateful for your help and we plan to support more much-needed work in Moldova over this year. Thank you to everyone who has helped so far. It really is making a big difference!

MARCHAM MOLDOVA LIFELINE

MARCHAM TENNIS ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER REQUIRED

After several years, I would like to hand the running of the Tennis Association over to a new racquet! It is not hard work but does need a bit of organisation especially around renewal time. If you can spare a few hours each year, please contact Meriel on 01865 391725.



ED VAIZEY WRITES...

It's relatively quiet in Parliament at the moment. The Government has a relatively light legislative programme. I am responsible for the Digital Economy Bill, which is the Bill which would introduce sanctions against people who illegally download music or films, but it is still in the House of Lords. We expect it to come to the Commons in March, but there is a lot of doubt about whether there will be time to pass it in time for the election.



One piece of legislation that we did pass very quickly was the Video Recordings Bill. This was a unique piece of legislation, for fairly unique reasons. It was actually passed in 1984, and outlawed what were then known as "video nasties" ie pornographic or extremely violent videos. Technically, this was a restriction on trade, and so it had to be notified to the European Commission under something called the Technical Standards Directive. Unfortunately successive Governments failed to notify the European Commission so the Act was technically unenforceable. This mistake was only discovered last year, and in the intervening period many people have exploited the loophole. So when Parliament returned, we repealed the Act and then enacted it in a day - or more accurately three hours. Extraordinary. I like to think it was a fine piece of eurosceptic legislation that held out over the increasing tide of euro legislation for a creditable 25 years!

The other issue exercising politicians is whether, on election day, votes should be counted over night, or the next day. Some people have started a campaign called "Save General Election Night". Our

Childs Play.

*A child drew back the curtains
And watched the gently falling snow.
She so much wanted to play with it
But mummy had said "No."*

*"You will only get your gloves all wet,
And your fingers freezing cold.
Then come into mummy crying
Because you would not do as told."*

*"Mummy, Bob Robin; he is out there
He isn't wearing shoes or socks.
Both his feet and legs are bare
Almost to the tops!"*

*Oh how can one explain?
To a child who does not know.
That Robin's are much different
And don't really mind the snow.*



*"I can't come out Bob Robin,
My mummy said not yet.
Tell me Mr. Robin,
Are your feet very wet?"*

*Bob Robin flew much nearer,
He seemed to understand
Why mummy would not let her out,
To play in snowy land.*

*But children can be clever,
A plan was soon about.
Robins needed food and drink,
And they must be taken out.*

*This plan it grew much bigger,
Soon hat and coat were on.
If mummy came to look for her,
She would simply find her gone.*



*Mummy upstairs working,
Did not pay much heed,
To the thoughts of children,
Or to Robins needs.*

*But this child had a mission,
A mission to complete.
This Robin would have water,
And also crumbs to eat.*

*Once outside in snowy land,
The crumbs all spread around.
Then off around the corner,
Where the deepest snow was found.*

*Playing with the other children,
A snowman soon appeared.
But hands were getting colder,
And on the face there was a tear.*



*So back indoors to mummy,
Her coat upon the floor.
"I'm never going out again
I don't like snow anymore!"*

ED VAIZEY WRITES... CONTINUED

own local council has decided to count the votes the next morning. The local paper rang me up and expected me to be outraged. In fact, I could not be more relaxed. With such a squeeze on public finances, why on earth should local taxpayers be expected to fork out the additional expense of counting votes overnight? The votes for county and district elections are counted the next day and no one seems to mind. At the 2005 election, the result in Wantage did not come through until 6am - so council officers were kept up all night, and then presumably took the day off the next day (or more accurately that day) anyway. Much better to have them count the votes on a Friday when they are wide awake, and the candidates have had a good night's sleep.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage (Con)

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

In preparation for the 2010 O.C.A Season Nets are being held on Friday evenings. The location is Radley College Sports Hall and the start-time is 19.30 for each net practice. All level are welcome.



Information relation to Nets and playing for the Club may be obtained from Graham Hill (391415) or Terry Whittaker (391317). Also, information relating to umpiring on behalf of Marcham C.C may be obtained from Graham or Terry.

CSB

SNOWY SNIPPETS

Wildlife spotted in Marcham during the cold spell

- Tawny Owl flying over Howard Cornish Road – you can hear these at night – followed by a Barn Owl
- Buzzard landed in a garden in Anson Close
- Fieldfares on feeders in Fettiplace Rd and eating cotoneaster berries and small red crab apples
- Great Spotted Woodpeckers eating peanuts

**GUIDEPOSTS TRUST
INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRE**

Do you struggle to get in and out of the bath? Do you know of someone who is a bit unsteady on their feet? If so, then you may be interested in the Guideposts Trust Independent Living Centre in Witney.

The Independent Living Centre, in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, provides information on products and organisations to assist people with disabilities and older people to increase and maintain their independence. The Centre, based in Witney, provides this free service to any adult residing in Oxfordshire.

The Centre has a showroom with equipment for the kitchen, lounge, bedroom and bathroom and also has some mobility equipment. The centre is impartial and does not sell equipment but is an opportunity for you to "try before you buy" equipment. The Centre can also provide information on local and national retailers and "Wise Buy Guides" which provide questions to ask before parting with your money.

Two Occupational Therapists are available for personal and confidential consultations, by appointment. The Centre also has an Information Line available 01993 899985 which can give information on a variety of topics, such as where to hire a wheelchair, where to find accessible holiday accommodation, how to find a local or national support groups for a particular illness and much more.

The Centre is open 5 days a week for general viewing. An Occupational Therapist (OT) is available for consultation between Monday-Friday: 9 am to 4 pm. You would need to book an appointment to see an OT. The Information Line is open Monday-Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

For more information, please see the Centre web-site: www.guidepostsilc.org.uk or telephone 01993 899985
February 2010

JANUARY'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

BY ALISA

Across 1 Lamb 4 All Baba 8 Land and sea 10 Me 11 Go 12 Outward 15 Ape 17 Christingle 13 Toe 12 Forever 22 WI 23 St. 24 Denchworth 26 Economy 27 Rink

Down 2 Axle 3 Bingo 5 Long Wittenham 6 Ale 7 Above 9 Strange 10 Net 13 Unicorn 14 The 15 All 16 PE 17 Co 18 Tower 19 Out 21 Rarer 23 shin 25 Ego

MARCHAM SOCIETY REPORT

Over 30 people braved the snow on 12 January for the Marcham Society Annual Lecture. They were rewarded with an inspiring talk by Gig Thomas entitled *Miracles & Disasters: the Story of Vila Maninga, Mozambique*.

Vila Maninga was set up in 1991 by a Zimbabwean couple to give support to some of the poorest of the poor in Mozambique. The premises were a derelict tobacco farm. The charity has grown into a community which provides schooling for 800 children, foster homes, care for the elderly and vocational training in skills such as farming, woodwork and healthcare. In a country where the average life expectancy is 38 years and one in four children die before their fifth birthday, the challenges are great.

Gig became involved with the charity after university, both working there and fund-raising in this country. She described the challenges the charity has faced, including the destruction of buildings by fire and cyclone and the deaths and serious illnesses faced by those who live and work there. The fact that the work continues despite all these setbacks is a great tribute to all concerned. **JF**

- A white horse walks into a pub and asks for a whisky.
- The landlord says: "Hey, we've got a whisky named after you."

The horse replies: "What, Douglas?"



Abingdon Quilting Groups
QUILTING EXHIBITION

Sewell Centre Gallery, Radley College, Abingdon
Sat 27th & Sun 28th March 10am - 4pm

Entry £2 or Entry & Talk £5 (children free)

Raffle in aid of The Abingdon Alzheimers Club

Linda Seward talk in Silk Hall 2pm Sat, £5

Mason's Fabrics & K&L Sewing Machines on Sat

Clare Kingslake demonstrating Appliqué 11-3 Sun

Mostly Books with Quilting & Craft Books Sat & Sun

Showcase Exhibition of Olga Norris's Work

Sales Table

Further information from Judy Harris 01235 543053

Excellent Refreshments in aid of Flexicare

**WOODWATCH FROM THE
WOODLAND TRUST**

WoodWatch is a campaign empowering people to take effective action to protect the woods and trees that are important in their community.



Think 'Neighbourhood Watch', only for woods and trees!
In fact, think Neighbourwood Watch!
Whether you are an individual or part of a community group, there are lots of things you can do to protect the woods and trees you care about, ancient or not.

www.woodwatch.org.uk 0800 026 9650

You don't have to kill woodland to destroy it... the impacts of insensitive and too-close development can be as devastating.

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

This term we have been encouraging the children (and Parents!) to LEARN TO LOVE LITERACY by holding a series of weekly event inviting the children and parents to come along for a story time, singing, or to enjoy a story sack. These have been great fun so far and fit in very well with the arrival of our new Book Corner Furniture (see cover for photo).



If you would like to join us please telephone 07749 245313 or e:mail marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk. We are currently accepting applications for September 2010 and onwards.

MARION, NICKY AND KATHARINE.

GROWING TECHNIQUES

Getting the most from a small to medium sized vegetable plot, can be a challenge to us all when space is at a premium.



Four styles at gardening can be used to achieve optimum productivity and they are sowing successionaly, intersowing, intercropping, and finally catch cropping.

Successional sowing of crops like radish, spring onion and lettuces, which are not great at storing for use at a later point, is an ideal way of avoid huge volumes and then voids of availability with them.

To achieve the best effects of successional sowing, simply sow short rows of each crop every few weeks. That way as you finish harvesting one row, the next row will be nearly ready.

The intersowing technique involves mixing the seeds of small but quick growing crops such as radish with the much more slow growing parsnip crop. As you may have found out, parsnips take ages to even germinate and we can easily hoe up emerging seedlings by mistake while we keep the weeds down. Sowing a mixed row of radish and parsnips allows you to quickly see the row of parsnips as the radish very soon are marking out the location very precisely, thus avoiding any hoeing accidents. By the time you have harvested the radish, them parsnips with only just be sticking their first few leaves through the soils surface.

Intercropping is similar to intersowing, but with the intercropping technique you plant rows of summer cropping things like peas, early carrots and early beetroot, between slow maturing rows of winter crops of leeks and brussels sprouts and their like. With this technique you need to make sure that you still leave enough room so you can walk between summer and winter crop for any

maintenance purposes that may well arise.

Finally, catch cropping is a good way of avoiding any ground that could lay bare for a number of months during the prime time of summer. A crop such as purple sprouting broccoli will finish harvesting possibly as late as the month of May, which is rather late to sowing many crops. But French beans, turnips, beetroot and our very reliable friend the good old radish, that all mature very quickly, can fill a vacant piece of land. As they manure very fast, the ground also becomes free for autumn digging. Although, if you believe in leaving the ground fallow or have a no dig policy, this may not be of concern.

Anyway, have a think and see if you can make your vegetable plot even more productive next year.

**Happy Gardening,
STUART MABBUTT**



Do something amazing today – give blood

96% of us rely on the other 4% to give blood. Please don't leave it to someone else. Most people can give blood. If you are generally in good heath, age 17 to 65 (if it's your first time) and weigh at least 7st 12lb you can donate. You can give blood every 16 weeks, that's approximately every four months.

www.blood.co.uk 0300 123 23 23



MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL



If you have young children and would like to register an interest in your child attending Marcham School in the future, please fill in and return this form to school by **12th February 2010**. This form is not an application to school and does not guarantee a place, but will allow us to plan the future of the school and help with our discussions with the Admissions Team at Oxfordshire County Council.

NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN:		
ADDRESS:		
NAME OF CHILD	DATE OF BIRTH	MALE/FEMALE

The Happy Plaice

mobile fish and chips
Longfields, Marcham 3.30-7pm Weds

Cod: £3.20 : £3.50 : £3.70	Hot Dog £2.00
Haddock: £3.70	Beefburger Roll £2.00
Plaice: £3.70	Battered Beefburger £1.50
Yellow Fin Sole: £3.20	Cheesburger Roll £2.10
Scampi: £3.20	Double Cheeseburger £2.70
Sausages: £0.70 : £1.20	Large Gherkins £0.60
Chicken Breast: £3.20	Pickled Eggs £0.60
Veggie Burger £2.00	Mushy Pea Fritters £0.50
Soft Drinks £0.80	Chips: £1.20 : £1.80

plus all your favourite extras including
mushy peas and curry sauce (50p each)

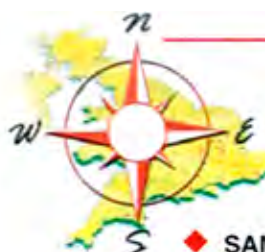
Call Darren on 07769 867221 to place your order
www.thehappyplaice.co.uk



Abingdon College & District Film Society

21 weekly screenings • comedy • drama
some old, many new • talks • special events

Free brochure: Ab 522163 or info@abfilms.org.uk
2005-6 winners "best programme of films"
(British Federation of Film Societies awards)
www.abfilms.org.uk Reg. Charity 292723



SP

COURIER SERVICES

- ◆ SAME DAY UK Delivery/Collection
- ◆ Furniture and Appliances moved
- ◆ eBay Collection & Delivery
- ◆ House Moving Assistance

Tel: (01235) 524589 Mobile: 07721 679487

shawnp@btinternet.com

DLGS NEWS

Newspaper Delivery Services

Reliable Deliveries
Seven Days A Week

Call Lesley at DLGS News on
07876 544070 to place your order
Support your local village services

DRAIN CLEARANCE

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

TEL: 01865 392018

MOBILE: 07885 882689



Unless stated otherwise, all events
take place at Northmoor Trust, Hill
Farm, Little Wittenham, OX14
4QZ and booking is essential:

Please call 01865 407792 to reserve your place.

See www.northmoortrust.co.uk for more information.

Saturday 13th February, 10am – 4pm:

Northmoor Trust Hurdle Weaving Workshop. A one day practical
workshop making traditional hazel hurdles to take home. Whether
you want to camouflage a compost heap, disguise a dustbin or
make an interesting trellis, this is the course for you. Adults £75,
Friends £60

Saturday 20th February, 10am – 5pm:

Northmoor Trust Introduction to Landscape Photography. Join
professional photographer David Hall for an enjoyable day to
improve your landscape photography. Adults £45. Friends £36

27th and 28th February, 9:30am – 4pm.

Northmoor Trust Advanced Hedge Laying Workshops. A two day
hands on course suitable for anyone who has previously been on a
hedge laying course. Adults £75, Friends £60

February 2010

GT Carpentry

All aspects of Carpentry & Joinery
undertaken by time served quality tradespersons.

Supply and fit or fit only;
Kitchens, Doors, Built-in wardrobes,
Laminate or solid wood flooring, Purpose made Joinery,
Replacement stair parts, Loft ladders, All roofing,
Loft conversions, Decking, Fencing,
UPVC Fascias soffits and windows, Conservatories,
Garden storage/Summer houses.

10% DISCOUNT WITH THIS ADVERT

Contact 01865 391110 or 07831 773804, 07885 266965
GT CARPENTRY LTD, UNIT 116,
GROVE BUSINESS CENTRE GROVE OX12 9FA

YOUR LOCAL KITCHEN COMPANY

5 REASONS TO CALL

- Quality of work guaranteed
- Completely project managed from start to finish
- All trades under one roof, based in Cumnor
- No more ringing round
- You go to work, hassle-free
-

"Work excellent! Thank you for a job well done, very
impressed with Swedemade. Many thanks" Mrs Wynn

Call SWEDEMADE now on 01865 864636

Or visit our website www.swedemade.co.uk

Come and see us at Bradley Farm, Cumnor
(please phone for an appointment)

All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page



Dear Friends,

Events in Haiti have stirred a deep compassion in the hearts of many people right around the world. Amazingly, even many days after the initial earthquake, people are being found alive beneath the rubble. But such natural disasters raise questions in the minds of many about God and suffering.

Suffering has many causes – some is the consequence of people simply being cruel and inhuman, of being intolerant and seeing life from a very different perspective, other suffering comes as a result of illness or accident, some from poor judgement or miscalculation. Sometimes it appears that suffering is simply part of what it means to live in an uncertain world, where illness and disease are naturally occurring – and no one, whether of faith or no faith, is given immunity from suffering, and it can come whatever age we are, or whatever background.

The Christian faith views suffering as being a hard and difficult part of life which many are asked to face. Jesus was frequently moved with compassion by suffering, and eventually suffered himself terribly as a result of injustice and the prejudice of others, which led to his death. Yet through it all he held unswervingly to God his Father, knowing that God cared, that all suffering would eventually come to an end, and that love and compassion would win through. And it did at Easter.

Such a faith does not take away the pain, the natural questions, the soul searching, but Jesus promises that he would stay the course with us, to be right there at the point it really hurts, that his love and compassion are expressions of the love and compassion of God the Father.

And suffering also stirs the deepest acts of compassion and love into action, helps keep life in perspective, enables us to be grateful for the good times, and alert to the needs and wellbeing of others. So, however difficult faith may be in the face of such natural disasters, the real challenge is how we each respond to the suffering we see.

With my warmest greetings

Revd Richard Zair

February calendar:

OtQ = Open to Question

Many people have questions about faith and the Christian Faith in particular, but few have the opportunity to ask those questions. During Lent this year we are holding a number of OtQ events around the Parish. These will be open to anyone who would like to come (whether or not you attend church), and will be informal in style. The dates and venues for these events are below. We look forward to seeing you on any of these dates.

February 24th at All Saints Church - 8.00pm

March 8th at 1 All Saints Close - 10.00 am

March 18th at 4 Morland Road – 8.00pm

March 19th at Hawthorne House, Garford – 8.00pm

March 25th at 28 Parkside - 8.00pm

Parish people:

We extend our sympathy to the families of Alan Trevor Ealey of Hyde Copse, and

Gareth Michael Jones of Tubney, formerly of Marcham Mill

Regular services and events:

Sundays at All Saints': 10am and 6pm (8am first Sunday)

Wednesdays: 10.30am Holy Communion at Duffield Place

Sundays at St. Luke's: 10.30 am first Sunday

Contacts: Rev. Richard Zair 391319

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister* 390885

Janey Cumber *Administrator* 391327

Prayer of the Month:

Almighty God,

Look with love and compassion on this hurting world.

Be close to those caught up in natural disaster, illness or pain.

Help us to be channels of love, care, compassion and

peace, and to hold on in faith and trust when life is hard.

Thank you for the hope and inner strength you give us in Christ.

Amen.

Marcham Baptist Church

(Packhorse Lane)

February 2010

Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30 am

(Communion every first Sunday)

Our speakers this month are

7th February Pastor Bory Pilgrim

14th & 21st February

Visiting speakers to be announced

28th February Mr. Paul Revell of Cholsey Baptist Church
(This service supports the work of TEAR fund)

Everyone welcome



A British psychologist has developed a formula to determine the worst day of the year. One factor is the time elapsed since Christmas, when the holiday glow has given way to the reality of credit-card bills. Gloomy winter weather, short days, and the failure to keep New Year's resolutions. It is thought that January 24th is "the most depressing day of the year." Thankfully we have now passed that date and entered into February.

Though nobody is immune to the effects of weather and post-Christmas blues, as Christians we have a resource that can change our approach to any day. **Psalm 118** recounts a list of difficulties including personal distress (v.5), national insecurity (v.10), and spiritual discipline (v.18), yet it goes on to declare, "This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (v.24).

The psalm is filled with a celebration of God's goodness and mercy in the midst of trouble and pain. Verse 14 comes as a shout of triumph: "The Lord is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation."

Even when circumstances hang a sign on our calendar saying "Bad Day!" our God enables us to thank Him for the gift of life and to receive each day with joy.

Bory Pilgrim

For further information on church activities:

Contact Mr R Barrett 01865 391356

Mr W Dyer 01235 814986

Marcham Baptist is affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain