

Marcham & District News

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

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

March 2010 Vol: 32 No: 3

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE

Spring is on its way.....

SPRING

*Mother Nature reaches out her arms
After her winter rest,
And birds that left for milder climes
Return to the warmth of her welcoming breast.
Gently, lovingly she caresses the earth
And clouds of daffodil,
Like golden pools of earthbound sun,
Appear in garden, vale and bill.
There are snowy drifts of blackthorn blossom,*

*The buds are bursting on the trees
And birds are singing once again,
And the hedgehog awakes and sniffs the breeze.
It's the season of hope and of re-birth,
All nature is stirring to greet the sun,
Lambs are gambolling in the fields —
There's new life on earth because spring has come!*

Doris Dowling



DIARY FOR MARCH

4 Thur	Midweek walk The Swan Inn, Ascott-under-Wychwood, 12.30pm lunch /1.30pm walk	7
6 Sat	Coffee Morning in aid of BBOWT, Witney, 9.30-12.00am	13
9 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 7.45pm	7
10 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 7.30pm	3
11 Thur	Mostly Books presents John Gribbin, Abbey Hall, 7.30pm	11
11-28	Abingdon Arts Festival	13
15 Mon	Deadline for return of Marcham Shop Questionnaires see back page	3
17 Wed	Public Meeting: Future of the Anson Trust, Marcham School, 8pm	5
18 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College, 7.30pm	7
19 Fri	MP's Surgery Wallingford Town Hall, 5.30-7pm	11
24-27	Abingdon Drama Club presents Thérèse Raquin, Unicorn Theatre, 7.30pm	13
25 Thu	"Have your say" Police surgery, Duffield Place, 6.00-8.00pm,	9
25 Thur	BBOWT Talk: Biodiversity, Witney, 7.30pm	13
27 & 28	Quilting Exhibition, Radley College, 10am-4pm	11

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



Marcham Pre-School see page 11 ▲



Don't forget to put your clocks forward on 28/29 March!

Dear Readers

A slightly different look to the cover this month - but for April it would be lovely to have some great pictures - that's a hint in case you missed it!

Lots of things are suddenly happening, the shop, Anson Trust and now the GMW! There is so much to get involved with in the MAD area, we are lucky that so many people are prepared to roll up sleeves and get stuck in to making the community a great place to live.

Until next time



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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!

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Contact the Editor

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Advertising: 5pm 15th month
Other copy: 5pm 20th month
except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

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www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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March 2010*

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Village Shop

At the February meeting of the Council, Ms. Jane Barker, the village shops advisor from the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council gave a talk on setting up a community shop. The Parish Council is aware that the village has been without a shop for many months, and one suggestion put forward was to consider the possibility of a shop run by volunteers. Before any feasibility study can be undertaken it is necessary to gauge the level of support for this within the area. Could you therefore please complete the questionnaire on the back page of this month's MADNews and return this to the box at one of the locations indicated on the form by 15 March.

Oxfordshire Waste Partnership

Last year there were 4383 fly-tips across the county, which cost local councils over £250,000 to remove. This crime can have numerous unpleasant consequences ranging from environmental pollution and potential harm to children and wildlife, to economic impacts on legitimate businesses who are penalised as fly-tippers undercut their prices by not paying for legitimate waste disposal. Please be aware of fly-tipping and report any dumped rubbish to the Vale of White Horse District Council on 01235 520202, so that this can be targeted by the enforcement teams. Also please be aware of your own "duty of care" regarding rubbish removed from your home by workmen during decorating, gardening or garage clear-outs. Before hiring anyone to remove rubbish, householders should check with the Environment Agency so ensure that they are licensed waste carriers. The householder should also keep a written description of the wastes that is taken away. That way, if rubbish is found dumped and traced back to them, they will have shown they did everything within their power to ensure it would be disposed of properly. If not, you could be looking at a hefty £5,000 fine.

Housing and Council Tax Benefits Service

The Vale of White Horse District Council is keen to bring to the attention of its residents the following three elements of its housing and council tax benefit service:

- Surgeries – where residents can meet with benefit officers to discuss and make applications for housing and council tax benefit. The next surgery is on 25th March in the Faringdon Corn Exchange.
- Housing benefit and council tax home visits – where a visiting officer will arrange to visit the customer in their own home to assist them with their applications. To request a home visit to receive help with your forms please call 0845 300 6129.
- Benefit Fraud Hotline – A confidential service where people can report suspected benefit fraud. The Fraud hotline number is 01235 540330 or email benefitfraud@southandvale.gov.uk

Marcham By Pass

The Parish Council has now written to a variety of people including the County Council's cabinet members for growth and infrastructure, and transport implementation, MPs and the Regional Transport Board reminding them of Marcham's critical need for a by-pass to relieve the congestion and pollution created at the pinch point on the A415.

Oxfordshire County Council – Street Lighting

The Parish Council has now considered the part time night conversions of some of the street lights and has carefully taken into account the comments received from residents, whether to switch off or leave on. Recommendations have been difficult where there were conflicting views, so not all could be accommodated. A list of recommendations has now been sent to the County Council who will make the final decision following consultation with the Police.

Annual Parish Meeting

The annual meeting for all electors in the parish will take place on Wednesday 26th May at 7.30 p.m. in the hall at Marcham Primary School. This is an opportunity for residents to hear reports from the Parish Council, District Councillor, County Councillor on their activities over the previous year. A guest speaker too, is being planned. Please put a note of the date in your diary now.

Dog Faecces

Residents have contacted the Parish Council saying that villagers are not picking up after their dogs when out exercising them. This is apparently so, in the Anson Field at the end of the passageway from Tower Close, and also in Mill Road. Actually it is a fineable offence not to pick up after your dog in designated spaces such as these, so would dog owners please think of others who use the field and lanes in the village and dispose of dog waste in the bins provided.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 10 March 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

Robert (Rob) Langford
1911 - 2010

Our father, Robert Langford died on 23rd January after a short illness. He had spent the last 3 years of his life in Marcham and had very much valued the kindness and friendship shown towards him. We his daughters, Anne and Kathryn, and their families would like to say thank you for all the kind thoughts and sympathy extended to us following his death. He will be greatly missed.

Dear Editor



Public Meeting – The Future of The Anson Trust

All are invited to a public meeting concerning the future of the Anson Trust. The meeting will commence at 8 pm on Wednesday 17 March in Marcham School and is being organised by the Directors.

Ed Vaizey is being invited to chair the meeting, but if he is unable to attend, Malcolm Denton, chairman of Marcham Parish Council, has kindly agreed to step in. The Trust proposes to make a presentation, which will be based on the options paper publicised in February's MAD News. Any other individual or group, provided they request to do so in advance, will be able to make their own presentation or otherwise address the meeting. There will also be a full opportunity to ask questions (and for the Trust to respond).

Please come along, listen to the debate and let us have your views.

ANSON TRUST DIRECTORS

Dear Editor

The Anson Trust's Options Document

NAF would like to say a big "thank you" to the Trustees for producing their twenty seven page "options for the future" document following the open meeting of 16th October. This must have been a very time consuming exercise. It is a very interesting document outlining the possible options open both to them and the residents of the Village. In this respect have they considered a substantially shortened version which would be available to those without access to a computer.

It may also have been fairer to have included some of the concerns raised by ourselves regarding the impact of traffic/noise/pollution on the residents of Howard Cornish Road and Hyde Copse - their only mention is of residents of North Street. One other item not mentioned is our environmental concern over the loss of a natural flood plain should the Anson Field be built upon. However it will please the majority of residents to know that the Trust is considering all options.

NAF COMMITTEE.

Dear Editor

The independent working group (Professor Bradley; Ian Charles, Marjorie Evans; Jane Hanna, David Hutchinson, David Walton) met to consider the options paper recently produced by the Anson Trust and available on the MAD News website. The remit of the group is to conduct an independent survey of residents at the appropriate time and we do not therefore consider it appropriate to express a view on the options presented in the document. The group does, however, wish to thank the Anson Trust for responding to our request
March 2010

last year and welcome the public document as a significant step forward in meeting the need expressed in the public meeting last October for a written presentation of more than one option on the future of village facilities. Whether you agree or do not agree with the assumptions and conclusions of the paper, the presentation of real figures and running costs as well as the underlying assumptions should help to enable effective engagement with the village.

We hope that the options paper is the start of an effective consultation stage prior to any planning application being submitted and would encourage residents who are interested to read the document in full. It is not clear at this stage how residents views on this document are to be fed back to the Anson Trust. I would be happy to chair any public meeting, but in any event will seek clarification of the process going forward.

JANE HANNA, District Councillor

Dear Editor

To all Walkers/ Dog Walkers

Do you or have you walked in the field behind the Copse on Howard Cornish Road, Anson Close and Hyde Copse?

You will have noticed that a fence has been erected around the field by the new owner. He has been preventing people from walking there unless they write to him requesting permission. He can of course revoke that permission whenever he wants, without question or challenge, as he has done in similar circumstances.

I am of the opinion that the owner will eventually stop everyone from walking in the field, which he can't do if it becomes a public footpath.

Having discussed the matter with the relevant department in Oxford County Council, there is a very strong probability that the footpath can be adopted as a public footpath and saved for use by future generations without restriction.

This can only be done if we can demonstrate previous unrestricted use. I am aware of some people who have used the route for at least 30 years. The more users the better.

If you are interested in having this turned into a public footpath please contact the writer.

HUGH LOGAN

21 Orchard Way 0777 445 6618

Dear Editor

Care of the Elderly and Vulnerable

Following the note in MAD News last month a meeting has been held to see how best we can make sure we support those with need particularly in adverse weather conditions or when local assistance is needed. There are many agencies that can help but often it is indentifying the need and then directing people to the correct

area for assistance that is so difficult. It is especially awkward for people when the weather prevents their mobility. For that reason we conclude it would be beneficial if there was a network of people available to help if required for shopping, collecting prescriptions, checking welfare and assisting to make contact with the appropriate support agencies

The steering group will be meeting again soon and it would be beneficial if any one who is willing to help could just identify themselves so we can gauge reaction to this request and start to formulate a village plan for elderly care.

If you are prepared to help in any way please phone Malcolm Denton on 01865 391497 or e mail - malcolm_denton_954@msn.com

Thank you in anticipation

MALCOLM DENTON

Chairman Marcham District Council

Cleaner Wanted in Marcham, couple of hours a week. If you can help, call Rebecca on 07900 955329

Contact Ed Vaizey MP for Wantage and Didcot by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350

Dear Editor

Group Against Reservoir Development

The battle is going well but we need your membership to demonstrate local backing. Do not imagine the reservoir threat has gone away, it has merely been delayed. We aim to kill it off at the Public Inquiry in June. Unless you think recreational facilities more than 25 years hence, flood risks, and much more traffic at enormous cost to water consumers are desirable, then please join GARD. We need your support. GARD originated as a local group opposed the reservoir. We realized that the local objections; traffic, noise, flood risks, nature, conservation, blight, etc would not kill the project. These are best addressed by politicians and CPRE. So GARD chose to analyse the technical arguments and expose the many flaws in Thames Water's arguments and figures to show that the proposed reservoir is NOT needed. Our new website gives details.

www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk

Please join NOW Annual Min Subscription £1 (We suggest 4x 2nd Class stamps per person). Send to: 23 The Causeway, Steventon OX13 6SS and include Name, Address, Tel No.



Marcham WI March 2009

At our February meeting Members we were expecting to be indulging in delicious chocolates, but our speaker from Thorntons had to cancel at the last minute. But we were entertained by Christine Whild who gave a talk on the traditions of Valentine's. Jane Mander provided a quiz in the Social time on "LOVE". Our grateful thanks to Christine for stepping in at the last minute and also to Jane. Also to Margaret, Jane and Pippa for the lovely refreshments.

We will be holding a Coffee morning on Wednesday 10th March 2010 at 10 Kings Avenue, Marcham from 10.30am to 12 noon. £1.00 for coffee and biscuits with a Raffle and a Bring and Buy Stall. All Welcome.

Future Events

Mar 18th New Age Curling, Kidlington
 April 14th Day out to Nottingham
 April 28th WI Quiz – Exeter Hall, Kidlington
 May 20th Syon Park and Richmond

Future Events from OFWI

June 9th Garden visit to Wisley
 July 2nd Friday Night Classics in Birmingham

NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 18 March

A Female in Fleet Street

Deborah Brady

This will be our Annual Meeting when we elect our new Committee.

Denman College: Teaching Block

Visitors welcome - £3 voluntary contribution

Contacts for: Sonia Edwards 01865 391442
 more information Christine Whild 01865 391270

MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

Thursday, March 4th 2010.

This month we will have a second attempt at visiting Ascott-under-Westwood, a few miles west of Charlbury, the snow having beaten us in January. We will eat at the Swan Inn (Map Ref SP301188) at 12.30pm for lunch or 1.30 for the walk of about 3½ miles in the Evenlode valley with a possible short extension to see the site of Ascott's second (!) castle.

New walkers are always very welcome. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and details.



MARCHAM PLAYERS

A visit to a parallel universe including planets Zeus, Alpha and Gamma gave Marcham Players at their recent AGM the opportunity to generate some exciting ideas for the 2010 calendar. **A Summer Evening of Jazz, a Marcham's Got Talent Contest, a village pantomime and, oh yes a PLAY** were just some of a wide variety of suggestions which flowed with the wine! The newly elected programme providers will start work immediately on developing these ideas and would welcome your support and contribution in any way you feel able. We invite anyone with drive and enthusiasm to be part of our merry band of players. Whether you want to be an event leader, a musician, an actor, a stage mover, a theatre goer or an enthusiastic audience participant you will receive a very warm welcome from the Players.



Watch this space as well as www.marchamplayers.co.uk for ongoing up to the minute developments. Call Dave on 01865 391964 or Joey on 01865 391242 for more information or to join.

w w w . m a r c h a m p l a y e r s . c o . u k

SENIOR CITIZENS

We resumed our meetings on January 28 after a December break. We started off the new year with our usual party, a lovely buffet lunch with a glass of wine or a soft drink. Our entertainer was Mr Barratt playing the keyboard and playing popular tunes from the shows and had us guessing which musical they came from and which singer made them a hit. Our afternoon ended with tea and cake and everyone left with a piece of fruit and a bar of chocolate. Our February meeting will bring us back to earth as it is our AGM.

JOYCE PARRY

SUNSHINE CLUB

Here we are into another year going strong after the snow and looking forward to warmer weather so we can go out for a day we would like to welcome Jean Dix to the club as our first new member this year and hope she enjoys her time with us. If you would like to join phones 391536 and I would let you know all about us.

For more information phone 01865 391536.

MAUREEN (MO) TIDBURY, Chairlady

Abingdon Health Walks

At the Leisure Centre in Audlett Drive. We meet every Monday and Wednesday at 10.30am for a one hour walk. There are two choices either gentle or brisker pace. Afterwards some of us stop at the centre for a coffee and chat!

Come and Join Us

Get fitter, it's fun and it's free

More information from Liz 01865 391251 • Viv 01235 531769

Marcham Remembered is on sale at all Marcham Society meetings - have you got your copy yet?



The
**Marcham
Society**

Members' Evening

Will Cumber ... Mistakes, Misfortunes and Blind Alleys
in my Farming Career

John Gibbs Looking for the secrets of Kiln Copse, Marcham
And Bits about the Book – The making of *Marcham Remembered*

All Saints' Church Tuesday 9th March 2010, 7.45pm

Next meeting 13th April 2010
The Ridgeway - *Ian Ritchie*

Non-members £2 or use your free token www.marchamsociety.org.uk
Further details: Sheila Dunford (391439) or Judith Fontaine (391275)

BIG EVENT COMING!

Please make a note in your diaries now for a special weekend of fun events for all –

The Great Marcham Weekend on 19/20 June.



An organising team drawn from groups in Marcham and neighbouring villages is planning a packed programme of events. Some of these include a street lunch party for everyone, street games, displays and entertainment, a pig-roast and barn dance on the Saturday, and on the Sunday, an Open Farm day, Open Gardens, guided walks, visits to the top of the Church tower and an Arts and Crafts exhibition and sale. The Sunday events will be opened up and publicised more widely across Oxfordshire to extend a welcome to friends from further afield. We also aim to raise funds during the weekend for good causes.

We are inviting people in Marcham, Garford, Frilford and Cothill who may like to open their garden on the Sunday for visitors to contact Greta Goulding (391592) or Christine Whild (391270) for details – and start to prepare. There is no particular theme or pressure to put on a big display – it can be front, back, or side; pots on patios, flowers, fruit or veg! Artists and crafts people may also wish to start preparing some work – more details will be announced soon.

We have had many good suggestions already for activities and we will need lots of willing hands for the weekend – if you can help in some way, or if have an idea for an activity or event for the weekend, please contact Jim or Denise Asher (391727).

See also the MADNews website/GMW page on www.madnews.co.uk/gmw

You will not want to miss this big event – everyone will be talking about it!

COULD YOUR VILLAGE GROUP MAKE USE OF A SMALL GRANT?

The Harding Bequest is a small charitable trust which for some years has made grants to a variety of community causes in the parish. Any village group may apply to the Bequest for a grant if there is an evident need.

If you are involved in a village organisation that may benefit from a small grant you are invited to write to Louise Butt, Secretary to The Harding Bequest, 8 Hyde Copse, Marcham OX13 6PT outlining how you think the Trustees might be able to help.

MARCHAM SOCIETY REPORT

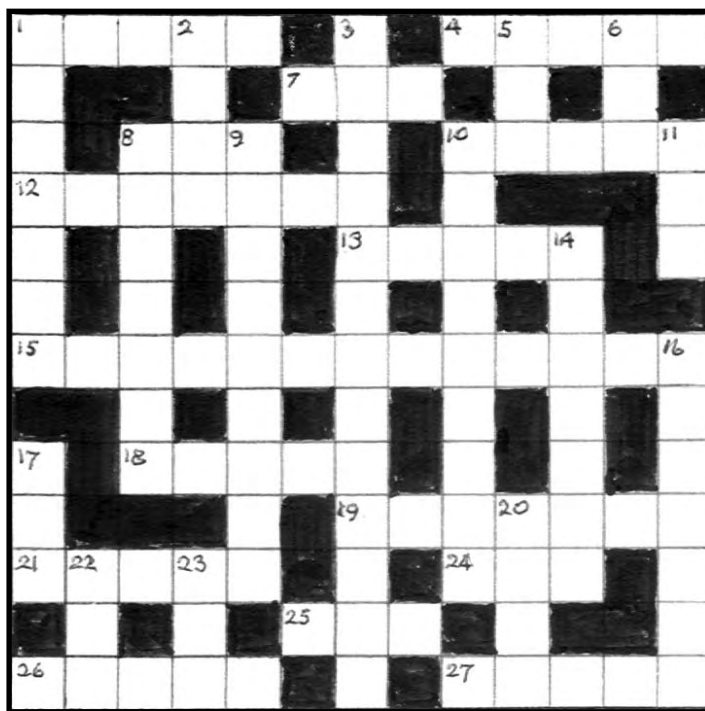
Mark Davies, our speaker on 9 February, lives on a narrow-boat on the Oxford Canal. Beginning with the links of St Frideswide to Binsey and Rosamund Clifford to Godstow, he explained how the waterways in and around Oxford have influenced the way the city has developed over the centuries. Being so far inland, the river was vital for delivery of goods. Both town and gown welcomed the arrival of the Oxford Canal in 1790, especially for the delivery of coal from the Midlands. Even after the coming of the railways, fragile goods such as china were still transported by canal, which gave a smoother journey.

In more recent times, John Betjeman led a campaign to save the Oxford Canal in the 1950s, and it has been a popular leisure attraction ever since. There is now a campaign to restore the Worcester Street car park as a canal basin and the fight to prevent building on the Jericho boatyard site continues.

JF

March 2010

MARCH CROSSWORD BY ALISA



ACROSS

- 1 Marcham farm (5)
- 4 Tree (5)
- 7 & 25 Fred Astaire film (3.3)
- 8 The space road (3)
- 10 Liquid in fruit (5)
- 12 Cold country (7)
- 13 Of the sun (5)
- 15 It's long time coming (7.6)
- 18 Helper (5)
- 19 Things to go in shoes (7)
- 21 See 26
- 24 Dry grass (3)
- 25 See 7
- 26 & 21 Marcham cul-de-sac (5.5)
- 27 Steps in Priory Road (5)

DOWN

- 1 Least (7)
- 2 Precious stone (4)
- 3 Biblical helper (4.9)
- 5 Big bird (3)
- 6 Kind of lamp (3)
- 8 Applied to a whole group (7)
- 9 Lane with the bends (9)
- 10 Sea creature (9)
- 11 Tree (3)
- 14 Willingly (7)
- 16 Holiday coast (7)
- 17 Big fabulous bird (3)
- 20 Oven (4)
- 22 Star sign (3)
- 23 Begin lawsuit against (3)

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The Club's AGM was held in February. It was a well-attended and productive event at which useful discussions took place regarding various matters relating to the Club's activities.

Net practice sessions have been well supported. Each session is held at 19.30 on Friday evening at Radley College Sports Hall. All levels welcome.

Information relating 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



Have your say...
the new name for police surgeries
 at Duffield Place, Marcham

- Thursday 25th Mar 1800-2000
- Tuesday 20th Apr 0900-1100

PCSO Laura Schmid C9932
Abingdon Outer Neighbourhood Team
NAG7 Marcham, Wootton, Shippon and Boars Hill
Non-emergency number: 0845 8 505 505

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

I gather the Anson Trust will be re-presenting its proposals shortly. I am sorry that I cannot be at the meeting, but it is mid-week and I will therefore be in Westminster. I have asked to be kept informed, and if necessary I will chair a further meeting to debate the proposals.



Planning issues are once again dominating my postbag, and therefore dominating my agenda. While they may not be relevant to all my constituents, they are big issues in all the main towns and villages. Wallingford is concerned at plans to build 750 houses in the town. Not only is the number deemed too large (something like a 30 per cent increase in the town's size) but there is also concern about the fact that the homes are to be built on one site. Similarly, In Wantage there is concern at plans for 1500 houses, on top of the 2500 planned for Grove. Again, a massive increase, and all in specific areas. Didcot is set to grow by about 5,000 houses. Faringdon has fewer concerns about housing - there the issue is a proposed new Tesco on the outskirts of the town, which could affect local businesses. And finally, the expansion of Swindon to the east remains a threat though this is receding. Add to this the on-going battle over an incinerator at Sutton Courtenay and the proposed reservoir at Steventon, and you can see there are a whole range of big planning issues affecting almost every community.

What do all these issues have in common? First, although there is consultation, local people do not feel that they are really being consulted. Rather, they are being presented with options, none of which they really like, and asked to choose the least worst. Second, there is the feeling that these developments are being carried out by developers and companies that have no connection with the local area, who hold the upper hand, who will build their houses and then disappear. Third, there is a feeling that these developments are taking place piecemeal. There is no real overarching discussion taking place about how the Vale and South Oxfordshire should grow. No one disputes that we need more houses, particularly for young people. But what about a discussion about where it should go? For example, if every village in the area took another five or ten houses, much of the housing need would be met, and those villages would benefit from having new people.

One of the arguments in favour of large-scale development is the so called 106 agreements, whereby developers pay for infrastructure improvements. Without large-scale development, it is argued, we wouldn't get the infrastructure we need. This is easily solved by levying a tax on every new home built, and ring-fencing the proceeds for affordable housing and infrastructure improvements.

In March (probably by the time you have read this) I am holding a meeting with the distinguished architect Sir Terry Farrell, in Wallingford, to look at these kind of issues. Sir Terry is a master-planner, and has worked on a lot of projects in Kent, including the Thames Gateway. Sir Terry argues we no longer do planning in this country, only development control. We need to seize back power from developers and put it back into the power of the community.

In Parliament, I called a debate on the pernicious effects of the Criminal Records Bureau, and how it is affecting my constituents. The CRB takes so long to carry out checks that often people lose the jobs which they have been offered. Also, too many people are subject to multiple CRB checks which is time consuming and expensive. As usual, the debate and all my other parliamentary work can be read on my website at www.vaizey.com

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

19 Mar	Wallingford, Town Hall
9 Apr	Faringdon, Pump House
23 April	Grove, Old Mill Hall, Old School Lane

March 2010

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Over the last term we have explored 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' by making caves, painting footprints as well as tracking across the room and the outdoor area, squelching in the mud, swirling in the snow, and splashing in the puddles!! At Marcham Pre-school we also closely follow the children's interests and adapt our provision in response to these. So, when one child talked about drawing around his body.... that's what we all did - with some brilliant results! after the adults started this activity the children took over and had a marvellous time (see photo). Many thanks to those parents who donated their leftover wallpaper rolls, we couldn't have done it without you!! If you would like to see our displays or some of the other things we get up to at Marcham Pre-school please do contact us to arrange a visit. marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk or 07749 245313.



MARION, NICKY AND KATHARINE.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

Oxfordshire County Council's "Community Support Fund" is a valuable source of funding each year for about 30 organisations. The purpose of the grants is to increase the capacity of small voluntary groups; especially those complementing our aims and objectives: to support and promote strong communities so that people can live their lives as successfully and independently as possible and to provide effective and efficient support to the most vulnerable.

Groups can apply for amounts up to £800 and priority is often given to those with limited funds.

Contact Community Development Officer Brian Conroy 01993 704004 or brian.conroy@oxfordshire.gov.uk for more information

mostly books presents

John Gribbin

Science Fiction, Science Fact, Time Travel and the Multiverse?

March 11 2010 @ 7.30pm

at Abbey Hall, Abingdon Guildhall

Come and spend an evening in the company of John Gribbin, one of the foremost and most influential of popular science writers, as he takes us

'In Search of the Multiverse', examining the most fundamental questions in science.

Tickets £7 (with £5 off the book on the night)

Available from mostly books, 36 Stert Street

01235 525880 www.mostly-books.co.uk/events



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



Abingdon Drama Club presents

“Thérèse Raquin”

A stage adaptation of Émile Zola’s novel by Leslie Sands at the Unicorn Theatre, Medieval Abbey Buildings, Abingdon. Wed 24 to Sat 27 March, 7.30pm. Tickets £7 (concessions £6). from The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct or from ADC Ticketline 01235 524538.



www.abingdon-drama-club.com

**ABINGDON ARTS FESTIVAL 2010
THURSDAY 11 - SUNDAY 28 MARCH**

Music, Literature, Dance, Exhibitions, Film, Theatre, Workshops, Photo Competition, Sound Track Composing. Brochures available from Abingdon Library and Abingdon Information Centre - more info on

www.abingdonartsfestival.org.uk

BBOWT Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

AN INVITATION TO MORNING COFFEE

Home-made cakes and Table top Sale Saturday 6 March 9.30 am - 12.30 pm The Methodist Church, High Street Witney OX28 6HG. Contact: Shirley on 07790 806761 or 01865 371297



A CELEBRATION OF BOWT’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Talk by Dr George McGavin, Author and explorer BIODIVERSITY: How many species inhabit the Earth? Langdale Hall Witney OX28 6AB Thursday 25 March 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm Admission £5.00 (advance ticket) Contact: Ian on 01865 248742 or Shirley 07790 806761



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.

March 20th, 21st, 27th and 28th March, 10am – 4pm.

Northmoor Trust Lambing Weekends. Come and see the adorable new born lambs at the Northmoor Trust. Also tractor and trailer rides, sheep dog demonstrations, Sunday craft market, children’s bushcraft activities and recycling fun with the Wild Waste Show team plus Poem Tree refreshments. Family £10 (2 adults and up to 2 children), Adults £4, Children £2. No booking necessary.

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 Fritterss £0.50
Soft Drinks £0.80	Chips: £1.20 : £1.80

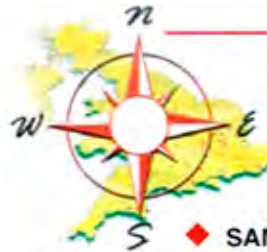
plus all your favourite extras including mushy peas and curry sauce (50p each)

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

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A Village Shop for Marcham

As you are all aware, Marcham has lost its shop and we now only have a post office that opens in the mornings. This has been a great loss to Marcham not just in terms of retail convenience but also in terms of service to the community. For some in the village, especially those without transport, the shop is a vital lifeline, and for some it is their only connection with the world outside their front door. It is a meeting place, communication centre and convenient lynch pin of village life. The plan to work with Abingdon College on a joint venture has not come to fruition and therefore if we are to retain a shop in the village it will have to be based on a community project unless a viable commercial owner is forthcoming.

It may be possible and even sensible for the village to acquire shop premises and find a tenant or manager to run the shop and post office, or to run it with volunteers. This has been successfully achieved in other villages with advice from the ORCC (Oxfordshire Rural Community Council) and ViRSA (Village Retail Services Association - a charitable trust devoted to helping villages retain their shops and post offices).

However, the first thing to do is to establish the degree of usage and support from the village. This is the reason for this questionnaire, which we hope you will complete. If you choose it can be entirely anonymous.

The results will be analysed and published. If there is an encouraging response, an action group will be formed to produce proposals on how the shop and post office services can be retained and improved. Thank you for your help.

Your response will be treated in confidence. Please take time to fill out the form and return it to either.

- The Post Office
- The School
- The Crown
- The Village Café
- Sweetbriar
- Duffield Place
- All Saints' Church

A box will be provided in each location.

Closing Date 15th March

Thank you for your time in completing this questionnaire.

The Post Office

1. Which Post Office Branch(es) do you currently use?

2. Do you think it is important to have a Post Office in the village?

Please circle where 1 is very important and 5 is not important

(Very important) 1 2 3 4 5 (Not important)

3. If a post office is to continue in the village how often will you use it?

Daily Weekly Monthly Occasionally Never

The Village Shop

1. Do you think it is important to have a shop in the village?

Please circle where 1 is very important and 5 is not important

(Very important) 1 2 3 4 5 (Not important)

2. Would any of the following encourage you to use a shop in the village?

<i>Please tick all that apply ✓</i>		<i>Please tick all that apply ✓</i>	
Delicatessen	<input type="checkbox"/>	Home-made produce	<input type="checkbox"/>
Off licence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local produce	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's toys/books	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prescription collection	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newspapers/magazines	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fresh meat and fish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fresh fruit & vegetables	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delivery service	<input type="checkbox"/>
DVD rental	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pet food	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet access	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fax	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dry cleaning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Photocopying	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post Office	<input type="checkbox"/>	Café / handicrafts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

3. If there was a shop in the village when would you be most likely to use it? *Please tick all that apply*

<i>Please tick all that apply ✓</i>	Monday – Friday	Saturday	Sunday
6.00 am – 8.00 am	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.00 am – 12.00 midday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.00 midday – 3.00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.00 pm – 6.00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.00 pm – 7.00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page



Dear Friends,

I have greatly enjoyed watching the Winter Olympic games in the last weeks of February: 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; it has been a heart-warming demonstration of the world uniting in sport, and enjoying the possibility of new friendships and achievements. The tragic death of the Georgian luge competitor was a sharp reminder of both the inherent dangers of some of the events, but also the courage of those who are 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. It was that vision 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.

Jesus' death, and the events surrounding it, is 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 the vision again. And if you have questions, don't forget the OtQ events around the Parish during March! (see opposite panel for details)

With my warmest greetings, Richard

Revd Richard Zair

Prayer of the Month:

Almighty God,

You give humankind a vision for unity and hope, the courage to aspire to the highest goals, to strive for the best.

Thank you for making the best possible for us all through the events of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Please give us the faith and courage we need in the daily demands of life to hold on to what is good, to that which unites, and to work for reconciliation and peace in our world.

We pray in Jesus' name,
Amen.

MARCH calendar:

Sunday 14th:

Mothering Sunday Family Service 10.00am

Sunday 28th:

Palm Sunday Holy Communion 10.00 am

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.

Dates:

March 8th (Monday) at 1 All Saints Close - 10.00 am

March 18th (Thursday) at 4 Morland Road – 8.00pm

March 19th (Friday) at Hawthorne House,
Garford – 8.00pm

March 25th (Thursday) at 28 Parkside - 8.00pm

Parish people:

We extend our sympathy to the family of
Robert Langford of Sweetbriar.
Rob's funeral took place at
All Saints' on 5th February.

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 on the first
Sunday of the month

Contacts:

Rev. Richard Zair 391319

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister* 390885

James Allan *Churchwarden* 391373

Chris Nutman *Churchwarden* 01235 521698

Janey Cumber *Administrator* 391327

Marcham Baptist Church

(Packhorse Lane)

March 2010

Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30 am

(Communion every first Sunday)

Our speakers for March are

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 7th March | Pastor Bory Pilgrim |
| 14th March | Mothering Sunday Service
Mr. Nigel Chown of Abingdon Baptist Church |
| 21st March | Mr. Paul Wilson, one of our members |
| 28th March | Mr. Paul Revell of Cholsey Baptist Church |



Everyone welcome

In Thailand the people greatly love and admire their King Bhumibol (Rama IX), who has led them for over 60 years. To display their respect for the king, the Thai people wear bright yellow shirts every Monday, because yellow is the official colour of the king.

As we seek to live for our King, the Lord Jesus Christ, we should also show our colours of allegiance and appreciation for all He has done for us. But how? What are the “colours” that declare to the world that we serve the King of kings and Lord of lords?

The night before His crucifixion, Jesus told us what our “colours” should be when He said, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (**John 13:35**). This tells us that when we display Christ’s love for our fellow believers, it is more than just kindness or care: it is one of the most tangible ways we can show our love and devotion for the Saviour. Furthermore, Jesus commands us to love our neighbour and yes, also our enemies. Our love, like Christ’s, is not to be limited but should embrace all.

So let’s be sure to show our colours. That will honour our King before a watching world.

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