

# Marcham & District News

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

Your Independent Local Newsheet – [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk)

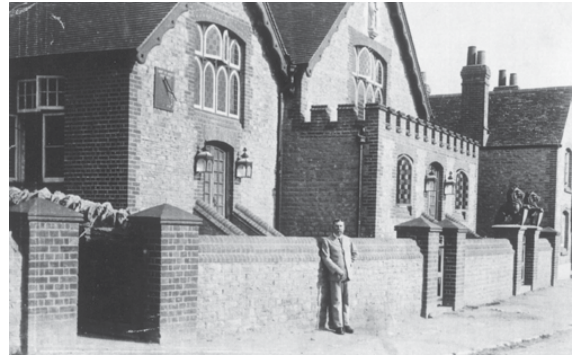
January 2012 Vol: 34 No: 1



▶ **Arthur Anson outside the Institute in the early 1900s see page 5** (image reproduced by kind permission of Maurice Shepherd)

**READ & RECYCLE!**

**FREE**



▲ ▶ **Starting young!**  
A model and plan for a village hall at MCG's Family Event see page 9



▶ **Santa visiting the Toddler group at their Christmas party**



## HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS

Please ensure your rubbish bags aren't left vulnerable to animal and/or bird attack.

\* Please note on these days collections will start from 6am, an hour earlier than usual, so remember to put your bins out the night before.

▲ **Pre School with giant land snail 'horns' see page 13**

◀ **Mary and Joseph in the stable by Emily**



Normal day	Revised day	Which bin?
Friday 30 December	Tuesday 3 January	Grey
Monday 2 January	Wednesday 4 January	Green
Tuesday 3 January	Thursday 5 January	Green
Wednesday 4 January	Friday 6 January	Green
Thursday 5 January	Saturday 7 January *	Green
Friday 6 January	Monday 9 January	Green
Monday 9 January	Tuesday 10 January	Grey
Tuesday 10 January	Wednesday 11 January	Grey
Wednesday 11 January	Thursday 12 January	Grey
Thursday 12 January	Friday 13 January	Grey
Friday 13 January	Saturday 14 January *	Grey

## DIARY FOR JANUARY

10 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45	11
10 Tue	Singing at 62 North Street, 14.00 – 15.30	11
11 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
12 Thur	Midweek Walk, Lamb Inn, Little Milton, 12.30/1.30 lunch/walk	11
13 Fri	Health Services Questionnaire Deadline	5
19 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	11

20 Fri	<b>Deadline for all submissions for February issue of MADNews</b>	
20 Fri	MP's Surgery, Faringdon, 17.30–19.00	5
21 Sat	MCG Burns' Night Supper	9
24 Tue	Singing at 62 North Street, 14.00 – 15.30	11
31 Tue	Parishioner of the Year Nominations Deadline	3
<b>February</b>		
3 Fri	MP's Surgery, Wantage, 17.30–19.00	5
15 Wed	BBOWT, Seacourt Hall, 19.30 – 21.30	15

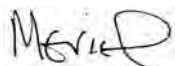
Details of events may change after publication, please check with the relevant organisers before attending events.

Dear Readers

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Wishing that 2012 brings all MADNews readers health and happiness... and maybe a village hall!

Until next time



**PUBLISHER/EDITOR**

Meriel Lewis  
8 Orchard Way, Marcham  
Abingdon OX13 6PP  
Tel: 01865 391725

Website: [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk)  
Email: [editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk)

**ADVERTISING**

Contact the Editor  
Adverts are not endorsed and MADNews makes no guarantees as to accuracy or authenticity.

**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**

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.

**POLICE**

PCSO Carly Milward  
Call 101 (non-emergency phone number)

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

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

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Marcham and Shippon  
Jane Hanna OBE  
4 Charlton Road, Wantage OX12 8ER  
Tel: 01235 772782  
Email: [janehanna63@googlemail.com](mailto:janehanna63@googlemail.com)  
For other councillors go to

[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

© Marcham & District News 2012

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

January 2012

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS  
Council Tax 2012**

The Parish Council carefully considered its budget for 2012/2013 at its last meeting, and looked in detail at its likely income and expenditure. The Council has set a precept of £37,000 which is only a marginal increase on last year and has taken a positive decision not to increase the precept very much, in view of the economic climate and the financial difficulties that people are generally facing.

**Parishioner of the Year Award**

For the past 8 years the Council has awarded a Parishioner of the Year Award to a local person or persons who have devoted much time and energy working within the community. There are many people who would be worthy recipients, and the Council is now inviting nominations for the next award. Would anyone who wishes to submit a nomination, please contact the clerk, whose details appear below, sending a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to who he/she wishes to nominate and the reasons why the person should receive the award. The deadline for receipt of nominations is 31st January 2012.

**Rural Crime**

Whilst the Marcham area is a very safe place to live and crime statistics are low in comparison to many other areas, there have been attempts of rural theft in the locality. A digger has been stolen from a shed in Denchworth, attempts made to take a commercial vehicle from Garford and a digger from a rural location in Marcham. If anyone sees suspicious activity, particularly diggers and similar machinery being loaded onto trailers, or suspicious trailers carrying items then please take a note of the vehicle's registration number and report the matter to the Police.

**Neighbours**

As we continue through winter, should the weather be the same as last January, then give a thought for your neighbours, particularly the elderly and those without transport. Bad weather can bring chaos to businesses, travel delays, school closures etc, but also affects those who are unable to get out. Do please check on your neighbours, make sure they are all right, and see whether they need assistance with anything.

**Additional rubbish**

Christmas is a time when we all seem to accumulate extra packaging and items for the recycling bin. Please take note of the re arranged collection days over the holiday period.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 11 January 2012 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](mailto:clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

[www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**The Chairman, Council members and Clerk wish everyone a happy new year.**

**Paddy Dawson**

Ann, Peter, Andrew and Cressida would like to thank all of you who came to the service, to give thanks for the life of **Paddy** in St Lukes, Garford on 29th November, and for the many years of friendship you shared with Paddy and Tony when they lived in Fant Cottage.

**RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE**

E & R Goff Newsagents, are offering a Christmas Tree collection service to the people of Marcham this year. People can contact us on 01235 553001 to book a collection which will be made during the first week of January. The trees collected will then be recycled. We will also be offering the service in Drayton, Steventon, Shippon & Milton.



**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2011**

The total raised in Marcham, Frilford and Garford was £3,009.48, entirely thanks to the 11 House-to-House collectors who collected £867.50 between them and the school, shops, pubs, garages etc who had the poppies for sale on their premises.

SUSAN SPURGEON

**LITTER BLITZ**

Thanks to everyone that came along to tidy up Marcham on 3 Dec filling nearly 20 sacks of rubbish. We will announce a "Spring Clean" in April so watch this space

ABINGDON MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION  
Saturday 3rd March 2012 at 10am – 5pm  
White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre  
LARGEST EXHIBITION IN OXFORDSHIRE  
25 LAYOUTS INVITED PLUS TRADE STANDS  
Demonstrations and Displays  
FREE CAR PARKING  
Refreshments available  
[www.admrc.org.uk](http://www.admrc.org.uk)

Dear Editor

In a few weeks you will be asked for your response to a second and final Taylor Wimpey (TWO) consultation about the Anson field. Unless a miracle happens, sadly a sizable area of the field will disappear under housing. I particularly object to the way TWO forced the village into a 2-way split at the first consultation with their limited choices for locating their housing development.

There is another option that wasn't offered which would minimise the impact on all the existing households around the Anson Field and create a friendlier space from the undeveloped part of the field. There is adequate space on the field to position any new development away from both the north and south edges; by creating smaller landscaped recreational areas between the new development and both the north and south edges.

Locating a new development more centrally would have the least impact on all existing dwellings. It would give a more pleasant outlook for the new housing as well. Sharing the remaining green space more evenly would provide a better environment for all in the area so it is a shame that TWO did not include this as a third option.

Particularly for younger children having somewhere within sight of their houses to meet and play is preferable to a larger area at the other end of their street. Keeping housing and tall back garden fences away from the public footpath along the south field edge also avoids turning a pleasant field edge walk into a dark and threatening corridor.

I still support MCG and hope the community can find a way to fund village facilities without any development on the field at all but if that "is not to be" then we still have this one last chance to influence TWO and the future of Marcham. When the forthcoming second consultation is called, please join me in demanding that TWO consider a central location and reject any other development options they propose. Please also respond to the forthcoming planning application with the same message and also say as much to Jane Hanna's consultation.

**BOB ANDERSON**

Dear Editor

**Anson Field Sports Facility Update**

Further to our MADNews article last month we'd like to update everyone as to what has been happening in the last month in relation to our the development of the proposals.

We are continuing to prepare schemes for both the residential development on the Anson Field and also the replacement sports facility. To inform our work and to help address the main concerns raised at the consultation in September, we have had further discussions with representatives

January 2012

from Marcham Primary School, County Councillor Iain Brown and District Councillor Jane Hanna. Further we note the recent events undertaken by the Marcham Community Group and the Anson Trust and Taylor Wimpey are reviewing all the feedback provided by the Community Group and looking to incorporate as many of the ideas and suggestions as possible.

We previously advised that we would hope to undertake a detailed consultation event in late January but at this time we are not able to confirm a date. As you are aware we want to ensure that our event provides as many answers to questions raised as possible. We should be in a position to provide details of the next consultation in early January 2012 and we will write to all properties to advise you of the details once they are available.

We trust this update is of use, but should you have any questions then please contact Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire at Windrush Court, Suite J, Abingdon Business Park, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 1SY or by e-mail to [TWOmarcham@taylorwimpey.com](mailto:TWOmarcham@taylorwimpey.com)

**Who were the Ansons – and why did they set up the Anson Trust?**

Arthur Anson, his sisters and the trust named after him have been mentioned a lot recently in MADNews and elsewhere. It might be helpful for people who are new to Marcham to know a little more about the Anson family and their connections with the village.

Arthur Henry Anson and his three older sisters, Anne, Lucy Frederica and Alice Mary were all middle-aged and unmarried when they first came to Marcham in 1899. They moved into Marcham Park (now Denman College) where they were the tenants of the Duffield family. They were well-bred, well-to-do, and had a strong social conscience. Lucy and Alice were both trained nurses, and Lucy had worked as a sister at Guy's Hospital in London. The Ansons purchased property in the village and took a keen and thoughtful interest in village matters, particularly in the welfare of its inhabitants. Arthur Anson built the Marcham Church Institute (opened in 1904) where in addition to a hall and a stage he incorporated facilities to improve the lives of Marcham villagers: a men's reading room, a range for cookery lessons, furnace and two bathrooms. He died in 1912 aged 52, but his last surviving sister, Miss Lucy, lived at Marcham Park until her death in 1934.

Following Arthur Anson's death his sisters wished to perpetuate their family's generosity by establishing a charitable trust in his memory, the Anson Trust. At that time the Trustees were the Rural Dean, Vicar and Churchwardens, and they managed

the Institute, a number of cottages (all now sold) and the Anson Field. The objects of the charity were to provide amenities for the advancement of religion, education, recreation and leisure of the parishioners of Marcham in the interests of social welfare, and also to offer financial and practical assistance to local residents in need.

Readers can find out more about the Ansons and the Institute in an article, published to mark the centenary of the Institute in 2004, in Coral Rag 4, the Marcham Society Journal for that year. Coral Rag is on sale at the Post Office and Cumbers Farm Shop.

**JANEY CUMBER**

Chairman, Marcham Society

**Christmas Concert  
Friday 2nd December 2011**

We're very grateful to Marcham Players and Vale Voices for starting Christmas off for us in such a special way. We heard a wide range of readings, both poetry and prose (some to make us chortle and some to bring a tear to the eye), we sang some of the best known carols, listened to the choir perform others and enjoyed wine and mincepies in the interval. Thank you, players and singers, for giving up time to plan, prepare and perform. It was a most enjoyable evening proving once again that

**Marcham Has Talent!**

*J.M.C.*

**HEALTH SERVICES**

We would like to know whether Health services in Oxfordshire are:

- o Responsive to your needs
- o Challenging discrimination
- o Treating patients as individuals, with dignity and respect
- o Providing a patient centred service

By answering this questionnaire you will be able to tell us if health services in Oxfordshire are delivering services that meet the need of the local people and where they could be improvements.

To access the online question please follow the link: <http://bit.ly/uULKno>, it is also available on the MADWeb [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk).

The questionnaire is open until 13th Jan 2012 and the results of the report will be published by 14th Feb 2012.

**Thank you for your support.**

**MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY**  
*5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise*

Jan 20th	<b>Faringdon</b> , Pump Rooms, SN7 7HL
Feb 3rd	<b>Wantage</b> , Civic Hall, OX12 9BX
<b>Contact Ed Vaizey MP by</b>	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	<a href="mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk">vaizeye@parliament.uk</a>
Web	<a href="http://www.vaizey.com">www.vaizey.com</a>
Tel	0207 219 6350



**POLICE NEWS**

Community Messaging is a free service which provides information to subscribers about crime and police activity in their area via phone or email. It also includes information on what we and our partner services are doing to bring offenders to justice or combat anti-social behaviour. More information can be obtained via our website, and you can sign up by following this link: <http://www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org/rmwebportal/startup.aspx>.

The Neighbourhood Team wishes everyone a Happy New Year.

**PCSO Carly Milward C6157**

**Abingdon Outer Neighbourhood Team**

**NAG7 Marcham, Wootton, Shippon and Boars Hill**

**NEW Non-emergency number: 101**

**[www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)**

**Abingdon Police Station, Colwell Drive OX14 1AU**

**SEND-A-COW NEWS**

Thank you very much to those readers who responded to my article in the December issue. Your money is winging its way to help poor African families right now!

Here, we rely on the Supermarket to produce for us whatever we fancy to eat, and often end up over indulging, especially at times of Festivals. In Africa, sparse or failed harvests, and droughts or floods, often mean that families can always be hungry. Imagine what that might mean.

It is often a daily struggle for farmers to grow crops of quality, especially when faced with a very challenging and changing climate. This is where **SEND-A-COW's** training is vital. Offering poor families practical support, they are taught about growing different kinds of vegetables to provide the best nourishment. Often, families have extra to sell, which means that they can buy other basic items, and even access health care.

The result is that despairing people are suddenly given HOPE for their future

Could you give me a small offering for SEND-A-COW? Or could you run a coffee morning for this worthwhile cause? Contact me, Christine Whild, on 391270. Change a poor family's future NOW.

**DO YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING AMAZING IN 2012?**

Are you ready to put that New Year's resolution into action? Then sign up for one of our amazing challenges in 2012 and raise money for Against Breast Cancer.

**Run...**The Reading Half Marathon on Sunday 1st April 2012. Finishing in the impressive Madejski Stadium this is a run not to be missed. There are two ways that you can run for Against Breast Cancer, either by registering for your own place through the race organisers or applying for one of our Charity guaranteed places.

**Cycle...**The Classic Oxfordshire Bike Ride on Sunday 6th May. Now in its 7th year, choose either the 30 or 60 mile route or the 12 mile children's route and enjoy the pretty Oxfordshire countryside. Starting and finishing at Harwell, the route is suitable for seasoned cyclists, leisure cyclists and families looking for a fun day out together. Refreshments and toilet facilities are available en route.

**Jump...** Various dates available. The sky's the limit when you experience the thrill of freefall! Take the plunge at Brackley airfield by making a 10,000 feet sponsored parachute jump. Raise the minimum sponsorship and jump for free!

**Our full events calendar and details of how to sign up can be found on our website:**

**[www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk/](http://www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk/) or please ring the event team on 01235 534211.**

January 2012



Have you got a snippet from your life you would like to share? Send it in to The Editor - either by email [Editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:Editor@madnews.co.uk), drop it into the Post Office envelope by 20th of the month, or you can send it to 8 Orchard Way, Marcham, Abingdon OX13 6PP.

**AN INCIDENCE OF DRY STONE WALLING IN MARCHAM**

Our house on Sheepstead Road has stone walls instead of hedges. When we moved in the survey report said the walls "could do with some attention" and walking along them it wasn't difficult to see what the problem was. The wall next to the main road was waist height at one end but fell to knee height as you walked towards the crossroads. Along Sheepstead Road it was a slightly different tale, in places the leylandii growing up behind the wall had pushed into it causing it to bulge out alarmingly and in other places it was simply falling away.

With the problem identified it was time to think about what to do so when I saw a course in dry stone walling advertised by Abingdon and Witney college I enrolled and then spent one day a week for 16 weeks on an isolated, windy hill top the other side of Burford learning from professionals how to wall.

I decided from the outset to rebuild by knocking down a few metres of wall at a time and rebuilding it section by section rather than knocking down the whole of one wall as this would have led to debris everywhere and no wall for a very long time. I ordered in a few ton of stones and started. Generally demolition is easy except where parts of the wall have been repaired with the judicious use of concrete which produces a lasting finish. Demolition to date has revealed a varying collection of car parts including number plates, some old and some new, buried in the old wall.

Tools for the job are straightforward. A wooden A frame to guide the layers from a wider base to a narrower top, a brick hammer for dressing the stones and then the all important line pins, string and tape measure to guide the height of the wall along its length.

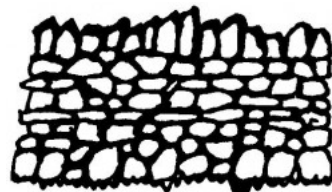
The wall has two sides of stones and is built in a number of sections. The first stage is the foundations which are quite shallow but made of large stones. Then the first "lift", which comprises of a number of layers or "courses" of stones. When the wall reaches knee height, "through" stones are inserted at approximately one metre intervals along the wall. These are long stones which go at least three quarters of the way across the width of the wall to tie the two sides together. Then the second "lift", again a number of layers of stones, before finishing off with the "copes", these being the stones that stand upright along the top of the wall. There is no cement used to hold the stones in place. Instead any gaps between the stones on the front and those on the back are filled by tightly packed smaller stones called "hearting". Each stone is unique in size and shape and so may require dressing and underpinning using smaller pieces of stone before it can be placed neatly and securely next to its neighbour in the layer.

Wherever possible I have reused the stones from the original wall but a lot of these had weathered too badly for re-use other than as hearting.

Whilst working on the wall I have encountered a variety of wildlife. The prettiest was a stoat which appeared on a pile of stones and quite took me by surprise. Most plentiful were the hordes of spiders living in the old wall and fastest on their feet were a family of mice who had taken up residence in the storage bags of stones.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has waved, hooted or stopped for a few words whilst I have been working. Thank you so much for your encouragement. I confess that now the weather has turned colder I have retreated indoors but aim to be back again in the spring.

**JANE FABES**





15th December  
TOTALS TO DATE

Local Events  
£3892.00

Donations  
£3687.00

Membership  
309

Bank Balance  
£7,906.00

5p Coins  
2510

## Your views will be considered only if you make them known

Those of you who were at the Open Meeting on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November will know that it was concerned with two main topics: the pros and cons of the Anson Trust/Taylor Wimpey scheme and of the MCG alternative; and MCG's response to the invitation from the Anson Trust to contribute to the design specification for its proposed new building.

The pros for the Trust scheme are that funds would be available and the proposed new facility could be built within two or three years. The cons are that the building would be outside the present village boundary and that the community would lose half the village-centre green space to housing. The MCG alternative, unlike the Trust scheme, would be based on full community involvement and consultation, but would need a sustained fund-raising effort by the community over many years.

There was a long discussion on the invitation from the Anson Trust and on the resulting dilemma for MCG: either do nothing and take the risk that an unsuitable building may be designed and built ; or contribute to the specification process but in doing so appear to be supporting the Trust's rushed approach. Despite the fact that a number of participants were unhappy about the Anson Trust's proposals the meeting recognised that the proposed scheme might get planning permission and that this is essentially the **last chance for community input**. There was a clear majority in favour of the committee proposal that MCG should contribute to the **design specification for the building proposed under the Anson Trust/Taylor Wimpey scheme**.

This decision will not prevent MCG from opposing the planning application when it is submitted if the membership feels it does not meet the needs of the village.



At the follow-up event, the successful Family Afternoon on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December, participants used plan models and the plans of other village halls to develop their own views on the requirements for a new community building.

All participants at the two events were encouraged to complete a structured questionnaire on village facilities and all MCG members have been sent the same questionnaire. We have analysed the 130 responses and given the MCG input on the design specification to the Anson Trust. It is also on the MCG website.

**The critical time for everyone to have their say will be in response to the next Taylor Wimpey consultation event in the early part of the New Year.** This is likely to be the last chance to influence plans for the proposed new facility before they are included in a detailed planning application. **We encourage everyone to go to the exhibition or to study the plans on the Taylor Wimpey website and then make their comments within the short period allowed after the event.**

<b>FIRST MCG GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY VOTE FOR YOUR DIRECTORS</b>	<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January</b>  <b>BURNS NIGHT</b> <b>3 course meal and entertainment</b>  <b>Early booking essential – selling fast</b> Tickets from Denise Asher £20 per head Please phone 391727 Proceeds to MCG	<b>MSSSC, Anson Field</b>
--	---	---------------------------

**New on MCG website [www.marcham.org](http://www.marcham.org):** Full PowerPoint presentation from open meeting on 24 November; MCG's input to design specification for new community building including analysis of responses to the questionnaires.

**BURNS NIGHT SATURDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY BOOK NOW £20 PER HEAD DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT**



## Marcham WI January 2012

Our Christmas Party in December was a lively affair, with some of our members wearing very creative Russian Headdresses to go with the theme of the evening. Everyone enjoyed Carole Richardson's Talk entitled "Russian Fairytales". A gorgeous display of eats had been brought by members. We ended the evening with a selection of Christmas Carols, and by taking home a little present from the Bran Tub.

Exciting events at Count level have been organised for 2012 - watch this space for details,

### NEXT MEETING

7.30 pm Thursday 19 January 2012  
Denman College

Nicholas Clark will speak on  
"Bus Ride Across the Andes"

Members are invited to tell us all of any  
Travel Horror Stories

*that should lead to most of us taking  
a "staycation" this year!*

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

**Visitors and New Members made very welcome  
Come and join us this New Year!**

### MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

Thursday, January 12th.

For this month's walk we will explore the varied scenery between the villages of Little and Great Milton, including a short section of the River Thame. We will eat at the Lamb Inn (Map Ref SP618009) in High Street (A329), Little Milton at 12.30pm for lunch, starting the walk of about 4 miles at 1.30. Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers, so do start the year in good company.

Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details..



### SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Come and enjoy an hour of singing - words only - songs you all know. Two dates in January Tuesday 10th and Tuesday 24th. 2pm till 3.30pm

FREE - and a cup of tea and a piece of cake as well

WHERE - 62 North Street Marcham.

Led by Christine Whild.

Ring me for more details 391270



### MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

Please contact Trevor Hill (391321) for general information relating to the Club and for information regarding playing and umpiring for Marcham CC in the 2012 Season.

CSB



### MARCHAM PLAYERS

On 2 December a very appreciative and responsive audience attended our Christmas Carol and Readings evening in All Saints Church, Marcham. We presented this event in partnership with Vale Singers under their conductor, Christine Whild. An appreciation of this event appears elsewhere in this edition of Mad News, but our sincere thanks are extended to all who participated in this most enjoyable evening. Christine Whild and Cheryl Sewell were the main drivers and we extend our special thanks to them both.



9 December saw us descend on The Prince of Wales (no, the pub at Shippon not HRH!) for our annual Christmas Dinner and again a very enjoyable evening ensued - our thanks in particular to Deidre for her lead part in this event

News just in that **Max Hutchinson**, son of Chairman Dave Hutchinson, starts his professional stage career in January 2012 with a role in "Murder on the Nile" by Agatha Christie which embarks on a seven month UK wide tour in Windsor on 10 January. Max made several appearances in earlier Marcham Players productions whilst still a schoolboy and we hope to take a group to see this production in Windsor. If you are interested in joining that trip please contact Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964 or Andrew Packford on 01865 391198 asap!

Any enquiries regarding "Marcham Players" please contact either Cheryl Sewell on 01865 391200 or Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964.

www.marchamplayers.co.uk

### MARCHAM BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

We meet on Tuesdays at the back of the church, 10 - 11.30am. The first visit is free, then just £2 per family each week. There is a drink and biscuit for the children and a warming cup of tea or coffee for the grown-ups, and a friendly welcome for all. **Do come and join us!**



MADAGRAMS by Jay  
Is Your Road Hidden Here??



A PINE LORRY

RASH WORD, 'DOOR CHAIN'

HOTTER RENTS

Answers from last month...

SEEDY CHOP = HYDE COPSE

TONING FORD KA's = KINGSTON ROAD, Frilford  
A UK'S EVENING = KING'S AVENUE



The  
Marcham  
Society

### Marcham Society Annual Lecture

### A Doctor in Pain

Dr Tim Jack

All Saints' Church Tuesday 10th January 2012, 7.45pm

Following meeting 14th February 2012  
Steam and Steel in the Vale - Tony Hadland

Non-members £2

[www.marchamsociety.org.uk](http://www.marchamsociety.org.uk)

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



**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS**

Giant land snails, cockroaches, giant millipedes, tarantulas, toads, snakes and rats... everybody's dream visitor? Well maybe not, but the children at Marcham Pre-school were VERY excited as they arrived one morning in November. All the children got an opportunity to 'stroke' them, or just have a closer look then we all took to the floor to copy their moves. There was some great wriggly snakes, slithering snakes and we got to make our own millipede!

Everyone, including the adults, learnt a lot about the animals and we all had a wonderful morning!!

**DID YOU KNOW -**

- Snails have teeth on their tongues?
- Cockroaches eat EVERYTHING including pizza and wood? (except metal and glass!)
- Spider's webs come out of their bottoms?
- Frogs and toads swallow by blinking their eyes?
- Snakes smell by licking the air with their tongue?
- Rats use their tails to balance?



We all had a lovely time and it was definitely an unusual experience and one to remember. Most of the children liked the snake best... but no-one wanted to take the cockroach home... don't know why...

If you would like to join us (no obligation to hold the spider!) please do contact us on 01865 392101 or marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk. We still have a few spaces available for January onwards and are currently taking application for September 2012.



**NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL**

On Thursday the 1st of December the whole school went to the pantomime Ali Babar and the Forty Thieves at the Chipping Norton Theatre. The whole school travelled there by bus- three buses to be precise! It took us an hour to get there, and there were lots of hills and bends. When we got there we had to queue up outside the theatre waiting for the little ones to go in. When we got in I was seated on the second row from the top of the theatre. The play began with a song about stories. An old woman started to tell the story of Ali Babar and the Forty Thieves. A servant girl called Sophia had fallen in love with a poor boy called Ali Babar. The problem was that Ali's brother Khaseem and his wife Sharon owned Sophia and Ali had to pay 50 dinars to set her free. When Ali found the money Sharon said that she meant 15000 dinars to set her free. Ali Babar found a treasure cave full of money, but it belonged to the forty thieves. He returned to the cave with Khaseem, but the thieves chopped Khaseem up so Sharon hired a tailor and Khaseem came back to life and Sharon set Sophia free and they got married.....

*ASHLEY WITHERS*

**The Pantomime!** On the 1st of December 2011 Marcham School went to see the pantomime in Chipping Norton Theatre. We went to see Ali Babar and the Forty Thieves. Before very long we arrived at the theatre. We got out of the coach, and took a slow walk down the road. When we got there we were soon directed to our seats, and the pantomime soon started. It started off funny for the little ones but then started getting funny for us because there were some jokes that we understood but the little ones didn't understand. The story had quite a lot of puns in it- one of them was when a lady called Babs was about to cut up a lamb leg, and it moved then a man called Khaseem said it legged it. As time went on I found myself in a state that I couldn't stop smiling. Despite the fact that I couldn't stop smiling I managed to eat a tub of ice-cream. I'd love to do it again! *EMILY WISEMAN*

**Pandas and Tigers Class**

The children in the Cubs became reporters and interviewed members of staff and other children to find out what they thought about our Christmas nativity. "I liked the shepherds running across the stage". *HARRY NORTH* "The singing was fabulous. Everyone seemed to enjoy singing the songs". *MRS HUTCHINSON* "I liked the songs". *ROBYN C* "I liked the whole play, it was fantastic". *MISS COPLAND* "I liked it when the little soldier (Lara) said 'line up, line up'". *MARTHA*.

**Giraffes Class**

Giraffes class went along to the village café on 14th December to provide some festive entertainment. The children sang songs in rounds taking extra care to pronounce words with care, and show control and expression. We decided to take the diners a gift of decorated biscuits. "It was fun, Holly and I had to sing a verse on our own". *FREYA* "Awesome! It was a great experience especially as we were the first class in Marcham School to do it". *ASHLEY* "I thought it was good, there were lots of people". *HARRY*

**Kangaroo Class**

Our term our topic has been Australia. We ended the term with an Australian Beach Party where we served sausages, Lamingtons and Anzac biscuits. We sang lots of Australian songs. I liked Kookaburra sits in the Old Gum Tree because we sang it as a round". *FINLAY* "We invited our parents to an Australian beach party because Australian people can go to the beach at Christmas". *MEG* "We cooked Lamingtons and Anzac biscuits for our party". *SOPHIE* "We hope all the parents enjoyed our songs and joining in the 12 Days of Australian Christmas". *MIA* "I loved the Australian '12 Days of Christmas' beautiful singing and great hot-dogs". *MRS ARMSTRONG* "It was brilliant! We got a real Australian beach atmosphere, a good old sing-along and a yummy BBQ." *MRS JOHNSON* (Florence's mum).

**ABINGDON LITTLE ANGELS**

We have had a busy month enjoying all the Christmas activities, Our nativity play was great fun with parents joining in with the stable scene and our children, staff and parents have a great singing session with twinkling lights and glow stick stars with traditional carols and Christmas songs, Some of our little angels joined in with Café and enjoyed a great Christmas dinner, finishing off with little angels singing to our friends at cafe. This was followed with our own special Christmas party with entertainment and of course Father Christmas. All the children attended from babies' up to a table full of our after school club angels. The after school club has been enjoying making angels for the Christmas tree at church and on a very wet Thursday after school the club decorated the tree in the church in our own special angels style. Wow - what a great month! Here is looking forward a successful New Year and we would like to wish everyone a Very Happy New Year from all of us at Little Angels and Angels After School Club.



If you would like any further information about Abingdon Little Angels please feel free to call in or telephone us on 07516 474287 or at info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk.

**CAROL SINGING**

On Friday 9th December, a group of over 50 Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs and Guides (and an assortment of family and friends) gathered at All Saints Church for an evening of carol singing. It may have been a cold and frosty night but everyone was in fine voice and good spirit. After singing in Parkside, Sweet Briar and Haines Court we headed back into the warmth at Duffield Place for more Carols and mince pies. We all had a great evening, and would like to thank those who came to their doors with Christmas greetings and chocolates, welcomed us in for unexpected toilet breaks and organised refreshments.

**MARCHAM RAINBOWS, BROWNIES, CUBS AND GUIDES.**

January 2012

**SMALL MAMMALS THAT SHARE OUR GARDENS**

Is it just me or are there more of our small mammal friends sharing the garden with us this year? They seem to be everywhere, so no need to feel lonely whilst out in the garden this summer! By them I mean mice, shrews, voles and even rats.



Most of these are nocturnal so I shouldn't be seeing as many as I am, apart from Mr Rat of course.

House, Wood and Field Mice are usually the main species running around our garden, eating seeds, seedlings and even vegetables that we try to grow. Peas seem to be a favourite, as often I have planted seeds only for the little blighters to follow behind and Hoover them up in one sitting. House mice do tend to stay in or near the house, but beware in Autumn when Wood and Field Mice take shelter in a greenhouse or shed.

Less likely to invade your buildings are Field and Bank Voles, although they are more than able to consume the same food as the mice. If you have an infestation of them (chance would be a fine thing as they are reducing in number) they can easily excavate shallow tunnels and can make your lawn become uneven.

Shrews tend to be meat eaters, consuming worms, insects and small invertebrates and maybe even some things we gardeners call pests. It's interesting that even though cats often find mice and voles and bring them proudly as little gifts to their owners, they rarely catch shrews. Anyone know why?

Finally, the rat, universally hated, but always living closely with man. They eat almost anything it would seem, even maturing crops. Their urine spreads bacteria, so be careful what you put on your compost heap to make it as unattractive to feeding rats as possible. Although, even if your compost heap is not a food source, as it is warm and cosy in the middle it is an ideal nest site for breeding rats and even somewhere to spend the winter.

I suppose my point here, is there are so many creatures that share our gardens that we could easily call pests, but I would rather live with them side by side. Instead of removing all things considered as pests from our gardens, we could perhaps try to accept and work with them. OK, sometimes our vegetable and flowers are decimated, but I really get a lot of pleasure in seeing living wild things going about their business, calm as you like, while we get stressed about their existence.

Who said gardening was a calming thing to do? It is if we develop thick skins and say "oh well!" more often.

**Happy Gardening,  
STUART MABBUTT**

Wildlife Gardening Specialist, 01865 747243

**MARCHAM BRIDGE CLUB**

We have had a good year, meeting in the Board Room at Manor Farm almost every Monday evening in 2011. Membership is now 33 and we have five or six tables most evenings now – and for our annual tournament, just before Christmas, 28 members played for the Con Powell



Cup. Con, who died ten years ago, was a founder member of our club and spent long hours helping members who were new to the game. He also organised an annual knock-out tournament for pairs picked out of a hat. We continue with this tournament every year at Christmas, with some variations because of the increased number of players.

If you think you might like to start playing again, or learn how to play bridge from scratch ring Inge Morgan on 391339, Donald Creasy on 391398, Bob Hall on 391626, or Joe Featherstone on 301426

January 2012

**DECEMBER CROSSWORD ANSWERS  
BY ALISA**

ACROSS: 1 Hay 5 Railway 6 MCG carols 8 Free range eggs

DOWN: 2 All Saints 3 Manger 4 Parols 6 Meet 7 Sage

**TOP TIPS FOR WINTER DRIVING**

Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service is reminding drivers to take extra care on the roads during the winter months.

Motorists are being advised to allow extra time for their journey, slow down and to be aware of side winds. The service also wants to make drivers aware of the dangers posed by debris that may have blown in to the road. Drivers of high-sided vehicles, caravans and motorcycles are advised to take extra care when travelling in strong winds due to the increased risk of vehicles being blown over.

**Adjust to conditions**

The service has also released their top ten tips on how to help prevent crashes from happening during the winter months:

- Completely clear all your windows and mirrors of ice or snow before you set off.
- Make sure all of your windows are demisted and not just a small area.
- Plan your journey - if the weather is particularly bad tell others of your departure, expected arrival time and route.
- In winter weather allow extra time for your journey.
- Keep the following items in your vehicle - ice scraper, de-icer, torch, first aid kit, hazard warning triangle and in really bad weather a blanket, shovel and wellington boots.
- Heavy rain, snow or hail reduce visibility - use dipped headlights and reduce your speed.
- Make sure you leave plenty of space between you and the car in front - in wet weather stopping distances will be at least double those required for stopping on dry roads as your tyres have less grip on the road.
- Use fog lamps if visibility is reduced to 100 metres or less and remember to switch them off when visibility improves as they can dazzle other road users. Fog can also make the road wet and slippery.
- Winter and spring sunlight can present drivers with an unexpected hazard - if you are blinded by glare, reduce your speed. Keep a pair of sunglasses handy.
- It can take ten times longer to stop in icy conditions than on a dry road, so drive slowly and allow extra room to slow down and stop.

Mandy Rigault, Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service Road Safety Team Leader, said: "We are urging drivers to take extra care on cold and icy mornings, especially when there is the possibility of black ice. It can take ten times longer to stop in icy conditions than on a dry road. Please drive slowly, allowing extra room to slow down and stop. On a cold and sunny day the winter sunlight can present drivers with an unexpected hazard. If you are blinded by glare please reduce your speed.

For more Winter Fire Safety and Christmas Safety advice visit Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service's 365 Alive website: [www.365alive.co.uk](http://www.365alive.co.uk).

**BOWT Ornithology to Ethno-ornithology  
WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2012**

Seacourt Hall, Botley OX2 9LS

7.30 pm - 9.30 pm Adm £3

Talk by Dr Andrew Gosler

University Research Lecturer Ornithology and Human Sciences Lecturer in Biological Conservation: Looking at how changes in the names of birds in Britain reflect our changing relationships with birds, from the familiar to the scientific, to the increasingly estranged. Plus Information about OPAL Hedge Surveying from Bob Ford, iSpot Biodiversity Mentor.







# All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page

## Dear Friends,

Welcome to an exciting year!

The Queen's Jubilee celebrations, the Olympic torch coming through Radley and Abingdon, the Olympic Games in London and other venues around the country ... all once in lifetime events worth celebrating and occasions we can look forward to with eager anticipation! There may be a host of other events in our lives that will be celebrations too – special birthdays, anniversaries and so on.

Each year is special for all sorts of reasons – each year a gift to be treasured. And every day of each year is a gift, and we can help to make each day a gift to someone else with a warm genuine smile and / or an act of kindness or giving a helping hand or word of care.

These coming months may also be months of uncertainty, with economic pressures affecting many of us, concerns about job security, the rising costs of simply living and the food we need. In such times it is all too easy to become self-concerned, and to put ourselves first before giving thought for others. Such pressures can also shake the foundations upon which our lives are built and cause us to question: 'Is there not more to life than this?'

Our Christian faith gives a resounding 'YES!' to that last question. To know God's 'yes' in our lives is transforming, affirming, reassuring – truly wonderful! With Jesus every day can be an adventure, a journey of discovery – special! Faith doesn't remove the struggles and challenges, but to know His presence, guidance and strength can make all the difference between life in shades of grey and Life in full colour!

May 2012 be a year of God's 'yes' for you! With my warmest greetings for an adventure filled New Year!

**Revd Richard Zair**

## Prayer for the Month:

Almighty God,  
Thank you for the gift of this New Year and the gift of each day. Please help me to know your presence and strength for all that will be on my path of life. Help me to welcome your 'yes' in the Person of Jesus.  
In His Name, Amen.

## JANUARY calendar:

### Special Services:

**Sun Jan 1<sup>st</sup>:** a joint service with Shippon at All Saints' (Please note that there will be no evening service on that day.)

**Sun Jan 8<sup>th</sup>:** in the morning service at All Saints', there will be an opportunity for rededicating ourselves in God's service.

**Sun Jan 29<sup>th</sup>:** at 10.30am there will be a Cluster service at Shippon. Therefore there won't be a morning service at All Saints' on that day.

### Regular events:

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Jan:** **Men's Breakfast** - 8.30 am at the Sports and Social Club.

**Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Jan:** **Café** resumes after the Christmas break – 12 noon at the Sports and Social Club.

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Jan:** **The Changing Room – Women's Breakfast** 8.30 am at Manor Farm Boardroom.

## Regular services:

**Sundays at All Saints':** 10 am and 6 pm

**Wednesdays:** 10.30 am Holy Communion at Duffield Place

**Sundays at St. Luke's:** 10.30 am on January 15<sup>th</sup>

Children of all ages are welcome at our Sunday services. For more details of any of our Youth & Children's work please contact Jill Rowe (07811 165351).

## Contacts:

Rev. Richard Zair 391319 (r\_zair@yahoo.co.uk)

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister* 07811 165351

Chris Nutman *Churchwarden* 01235 521698

Deborah Flint *Churchwarden* 391056

Janey Cumber *Administrator* 391327

Jenny Warwick *PCC Secretary* 392076

**[www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk](http://www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk)**

# **Marcham Baptist Church**

(Packhorse Lane)

## **January 2012**



**Sunday Morning Worship**

**at 10.30 am**

(Communion every first Sunday)

**Our speakers for January are :-**

**Jan. 1st                    Mr. Roger Frith of Wantage Baptist Church**

**Jan. 8th                    Rev. Colin Norris (Regional Minister)**

**Jan. 15th                 Mr. Bob Hazell of Wantage Baptist Church**

**Jan. 22nd                To be announced**

**Jan. 29th                People's Praise**

### **Everyone welcome**

Getting in shape can be dangerous. According to one report, the two most hazardous methods middle-age Europeans use to keep fit are riding a bike and playing football. Last year over 209, 000 people were injured riding bikes or playing football.

Why do people risk injury to stay or to get physically fit? Because they see some benefit, like feeling better, maintaining the body structure they want, or living longer. They are willing to endure the sweat and tears it may take to get that heart pumping and those weak muscles working.

The Bible says bodily exercise profits us a little, but it also says our greater responsibility is to exercise spiritually (*1 Timothy 4:8*). Do we have the same determination as those bikers and footballers who are risking pain and injury to get in shape?

The real danger comes when we don't get in shape spiritually. Unless we experience some gain in our relationship with the Lord, we'll know the pain of broken fellowship and lack of spiritual effectiveness.

The good thing about spiritual exercise is that it helps us in this life and in the life to come (*v.8*).

***"We pray God's blessing for each one of you in the coming Year"***

***Rev. 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