

# Marcham & District News

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

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



January 2014 Vol: 36 No: 1

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Little Angels enjoying the festivities see page 13



◀ Pre-school putting the fairy on the tree! See page 13

Don't forget the online Village Diary ▼ [www.madnews.co.uk/diary](http://www.madnews.co.uk/diary)  
To get an event included email [editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk) with the title, date, time, contact details and a short description



▲ Call the Midwife  
◀ for the School's Christmas Production see page 13

Happy New Year 2014

January		
8 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
9 Thu	Midweek Walk, Turnpike Inn 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	11
10 Fri	MP's Surgery, Didcot, Cornerstone, OX11 7NE	11
14 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
14 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45	11
15 Wed	Deadline for School Place Applications	3
16 Thu	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	11
18 Sat	Logs for Labour, West Oxford, 11.00-13.30	15
20 Mon	Deadline for February MADNews, 17.00	
24 Fri	MP's Surgery, Wantage, Civic Hall, OX12 9BX	11

25 Sat	Logs for Labour, East Oxford, 11.00-13.30	15
28 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
31 Fri	Quiz Night, MSSSC, 20.15	11
February		
1 Sat	Chinese New Year Dinner, MSSSC, 19.30	7
8 Sat	Councillor's Surgery, Marcham Village Shop, 09.00-11.00	3
14 Fri	Marcham Players AGM, Board Room, Manor Farm, 19.30	15
28 Fri	Marcham Players With Great Pleasure, Manor Farm, 19.30	15

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

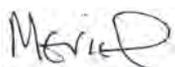
Dear Readers

Another year begins and who knows what it will bring?

For 2014, I am going to try to keep a positive mental attitude (PMA) and look for the good in all the changes that are coming to Marcham ... until proved otherwise!

My wish for 2014 is that by this time next year, we will be much nearer to having some sort of village hall ... it really has been too long.

Happy New Year



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

These are available free from Marcham Post Office or the Editor. Postal copies are also available – contact the Editor.

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We apologise in advance for any errors that may creep into MADNews (online or print), or omissions that creep out - we don't do it on purpose!

The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team, who are all volunteers.

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PCSO Andy McCormack C9461  
PCSO Myra Stokes (for Garford)  
Just dial 101 (non-emergency)

**CRIMESTOPPERS**

Call 0800 555 111 (anonymous calls)

**NHS NON-EMERGENCY**

Call Free from any phone - 111

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

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[richard.webber@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:richard.webber@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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*Marcham and Shippon*  
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[catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk)

For other councillors go to  
[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

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January 2014

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS  
Schools Admission Dates**

Is your child 3 or 4 years old? If your child was born on or between 1st September 2009 and 31st August 2010, you need to apply for a primary school place now. You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2014. Apply online at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/admissions-primary-infant-and-junior-schools](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/admissions-primary-infant-and-junior-schools). Access to the internet is available at libraries and children's centres.

**Parishioner of the Year Award**

The Parish Council is again inviting nominations for the Parishioner of the Year Award. This is to recognise the efforts of local people from anywhere within the parish who have contributed to local community life. Marcham Parish covers the wide area from the A420 in the north to the River Ock in the South and from the A338 in the West across to and including most of Gozzards Ford in the East. The Council gives the award to anyone who, at any time, has significantly contributed to life within the parish. Should there not be any appropriate nominations, then the award need not be made. The certificate is presented at the annual meeting for electors each year. Would anyone who wishes to submit a nomination, please contact the clerk, whose details appear below, sending a short statement by the end of the month, of not more than 200 words, as to whom he/she wishes to nominate and the reasons why the person should receive the award.

**Parish Path Warden**

The Ramblers Association is looking for someone to help protect local footpaths. They wish to see a path warden in every Oxfordshire parish to help keep the local paths accessible, and to report problems. The project is supported by Oxfordshire County Council. Free training sessions are available, and all wardens are supplied with guidelines and supported by local Ramblers. Should anyone be interested in being the path warden for the Marcham parish, then contact Jim Parke at [jmh.parke@btinternet.com](mailto:jmh.parke@btinternet.com) or telephone 01865 730664 for further information.

**Planning Applications**

The following planning applications have been considered by the Council:  
P13/V2430/HH Erection of a two storey extension and new outbuilding at Sheepstead Cottage, Sheepstead Road. The Parish Council had no objections to the application.  
At the January meeting of the Council, the application to demolish the garage in North Street and to erect 6 dwellings will be debated.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**  
Wednesday 8th January, 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in the residents' lounge, at 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.**

**FOR SALE**

Downsizing has necessitated me having to sell my lovely round dark oak "Ercol" dining table and four chairs with their original covers. They have been well loved but are in good condition. If you are interested please ring 01865 391643.



**VILLAGE CAFE  
EVERY WEDNESDAY  
MSSCC**

Do you like a roast dinner followed by apple pie, trifle, syrup sponge pudding or home-made rice pudding with proper skin? If so **Marcham Village Café** is the place for you. It is a very popular midweek event for those people who come. If you've never been, why don't you come and join us at the Scouts, Sports and Social Club building on the Anson Field at about 12 o'clock? Bring a friend if you don't want to come alone.  
If you need a lift please ring Sheila Dunford on 391439 or Jenny Allan on 391373.

***It's not just for the elderly, all are welcome and we have a group of children from the nursery next door***  
*We don't make a charge for the meal but rely on contributions.*

**SURGERY WITH  
DISTRICT AND COUNTY  
COUNCILLORS**

Richard and Catherine Webber will be holding a surgery every other month in "the cupboard" in Marcham Village Shop between 9.00a.m and 11.00a.m. Please come along if you need to discuss any problem.

Next surgery: **8 February 2014**

Dear Editor

It is all very nice and cosy for all us house owners in this pretty and caring community we live in, but what about all those people who need housing?

Why is that every time that new housing is put forward in this village it is cast aside by our villagers and councillors. Do we not want to share our community? Do we not want to attract other people to enjoy what we have? We cannot keep halting progress, we should build more houses here, maybe to include some bungalows and one or two bedroom houses so that when any of us villagers want to down size it would free up larger properties for those who need them. I do agree that we need more facilities with in the village to cater for a larger population but would that not be put forward as well? I say let us go ahead and let more families enjoy our village.

MARION WHITTAKER Fettiplace Road.

**Birds of a Feather**

There are lots of members of the finch family, and in winter they often like to fly together, twittering and tweeting overhead. (Yes, they've been using social media for yonks.)

The male CHAFFINCH is a familiar sight in gardens, though the female is drab by comparison. He's about sparrow sized with noticeable black and white wing markings, a bluish head and pinkish chest.

A particularly handsome finch is the male BULLFINCH, seldom seen but unmistakable when he is. He has a black head, grey back and rosy red breast. He's rather portly. The female is duller.

The male GREENFINCH is quite pretty too, though the female is plain. He has bright green and yellow colouring. Unfortunately he is tone deaf. He can't sing a note he just wheezes a monotonous "zwee, zwee, zwee".

Prettiest of all the finches is the little GOLDFINCH, a common sight and sound round here. Male and female birds look the same with yellow, red black and white colouring. They are delightful to see and hear. No wonder, then that the official term for a group of them is a charm! JAY

**LOOKING BACK TO 2013**

**JANUARY** comes and Bowie sings,  
To Number one, he's very skilled;  
Snow, and cold, and Wales shuts down,  
In Algeria, our Gas workers killed.  
Cyclist Lance admits life of dope,  
Obama's in again,  
Snowball fights on the M6,  
Next time, we'll take the train!  
**FEBRUARY** brought a discovery,  
King Richard found at last,  
MP Huhne pleads guilty, and  
Gay marriage law is passed.  
Horse in burgers, pork in Halal  
Had everyone in a whirl;  
Richard Briers died, and the Pope resigned,  
And Blade Runner kills his girl.  
Coldest **MARCH** for fifty years,  
And our Queen's not feeling well;  
Lib Dem success in Eastleigh,  
And UKIP ring their bell;  
New Pope - more winter chaos,  
Budget Day casts a pall,  
In Cyprus, there's a money crisis,  
Here, we fear planning "free for all".  
In **APRIL**, Mrs Thatcher dies,  
Our first woman PM,  
To some, she remains an ogre,  
To others, she's a gem.  
Mr Phillpot, unintentionally  
Kills his six children in a fire;  
Those on welfare, facing cuts,  
It's to work they must aspire.  
**MAY**, our Queen opened Parliament,  
Charles and Camilla there too;  
Oxford ring of sex pimps sentenced,  
That fact, none of us will rue;  
A soldier beheaded in London,  
The Jihadist was clearly insane.  
Ninety died in an Oklahoma typhoon,  
And cold and windy weather back again.  
**JUNE** arrived, we relived the Coronation,  
For a lot of us, sixty years on,  
At Ascot, the weather was sunny and  
The Gold Cup by her majesty won.  
Wimbledon fortnight started,

Strawberries, tennis, hopes in our bones,  
Would Andy, could Andy do it?  
At Glastonbury, mud, more mud, and  
"Stones".  
**JULY**, and it brought us a heatwave,  
And Murray DID set our hearts aflame;  
We waited till Catherine delivered,  
And William said GEORGE was his name:  
We won the Tour de France, and Princely  
pictures  
Were shown on our television screen;  
It seems that the whole wide world waited,  
On our Royal Family they're so keen.  
**AUGUST**, and sunshine and showers,  
And Cricket came into the news;  
The economy began to do better,  
Winning the ashes helps banish the blues.  
There was a debate about Fracking,  
Could it provide us with lots of cheap Gas,  
At Balcombe they welcomed protestors,  
But then, mayhem and riot came to pass.  
**SEPTEMBER'S** all about Syria,  
A very sad country at war;  
America wants to rain bombs down,  
But then Russia said "Let's jaw, jaw jaw".  
The party conference season, their colours  
Green, yellow, red and blue.  
And in Kenya, a group of bad muslims  
Kills shoppers. What a to-do!  
**OCTOBER** started with sadness,  
Child cruelty made us all weep,  
Immigrants coming from Africa,  
And three hundred drown in the deep.  
Leaves turn in beautiful autumn,  
Fuel costs rise as the weather turns cold,  
St. Jude's storm causes a panic,  
And bargain Royal Mail shares were sold.  
**NOVEMBER**, a storm hit the Philippines,  
The biggest for many an age,  
Five Thousand died in a town called  
Taclaban,  
The world eventually came to engage;  
The BBC's "Doctor Who" turned fifty,  
And slavery made our hearts ache;  
Iran came back to the fold again,  
Bulgaria and Romania  
Joining the EU made us quake.  
**December**, Nigella's marriage is soured,  
She and Saatchi, their love turns to scorn;  
Nelson Mandela breathes his last, and  
black men  
Remembering apartheid, blessed the day  
he was born.  
A tidal surge affected some north east  
towns,  
And houses fell into the sea;  
Now, as 2013 ends,  
What a year it has turned out to be!

CHRISTINE WHILD



**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR BANK HOLIDAYS 2013/2014**

Normal collection day	Revised collection day	Which bin?
Tuesday 31 December	Thursday 2 January 2014	green (no gw)
Wednesday 1 January 2014	Friday 3 January	green (no gw)
Thursday 2 January	*Saturday 4 January	green (no gw)
Friday 3 January	Monday 6 January	green (no gw)
Monday 6 January	Tuesday 7 January	grey
Tuesday 7 January	Wednesday 8 January	grey
Wednesday 8 January	Thursday 9 January	grey
Thursday 9 January	Friday 10 January	grey
Friday 10 January	Saturday 11 January	grey

\*Please note that Saturday collections will start from 6am, an hour earlier than usual so please remember to put your bin out the night before\*

No gw – no garden waste collection – will re-commence Monday 13 January January 2014

Bank Balance  
£14,100

Local Events  
£10,934

Donations  
£6,814

2012 - 2013 Membership  
Voting: 115 Junior: 18

5p Coins  
5000



# CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER YEAR OF THE HORSE

SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2014 7.30PM  
MARCHAM SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

ORIENTAL FOOD  
AND ENTERTAINMENT



新年快樂

TICKETS - £20  
FROM MARCHAM VILLAGE SHOP  
NUMBERS STRICTLY LIMITED

Saturday 1 February — Chinese New Year Dinner

## 5000 5p coins

Maybe not the most serious form of fundraising, but MCG has now been donated over 5000 5p coins over a period of three and a half years or so. Our thanks to everyone who has contributed. And we are still collecting! If you would like to help us, please drop in any spare 5p coins at 24 Fettiplace Road.

What does a collection of 5000 5p coins look like?

- ◆ Total weight: 16.25kg
- ◆ Length if laid end-to end: 90m – almost the length of a hockey pitch (91.4m)
- ◆ Stack height (if you could manage to do it): 8.5m – about the height of a two-storey house

The total value is £250 but we can't spend it all at once – they are legal tender only for amounts up to £5.



**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

Every year Halloween, Bonfire Night and Remembrance Sunday seem to me to form a seasonal boundary: as they passed, we were well into autumn and winter is now here. Over the summer, I wrote in a parish newsletter about opportunities while the sun was shining to make our homes warmer for the winter ahead. In such a rural area as ours, many of my constituents are reliant on oil to heat their homes.



A national campaign has been launched urging people to Buy Oil Early. In past severe or prolonged winters there has been significant increased demand for heating oil, and weather conditions have had a negative impact on supplies reaching customers. Since 2010, the Government has worked with the industry and consumer representatives to help them co-ordinate their Buy Oil Early campaign messages, and to provide guidance on setting up or joining consumer buying groups. In Oxfordshire, we are particularly lucky to have Oxfordshire Rural Community Council's bulk oil buying scheme, which has been very successful indeed in getting the best possible price for heating oil for many local residents. You can see details at the ORCC websites, [www.oxonrcc.org.uk](http://www.oxonrcc.org.uk) or call them on 01865 733214. To help with the impact of cold weather more generally, I am pleased that extra money is now being given to help the NHS deal with the increased pressure the cold weather brings, that 'Cold Weather Payments' have been increased to from £8.50 to £25, and the Warm Home Discount scheme has already ensured that over one million of the poorest pensioners have received £130 off their electricity bill. If you think you might be eligible please ensure you log onto Gov.uk and find out.

The past month has been a varied one for my mailbox. I've received emails and letters about women's rights in Afghanistan, Scottish independence, abandoning horses (known as fly grazing), inheritance tax, medical marijuana, dementia research, deafness in children and World Toilet Day, which aims to highlight the 1 in 3 people around the world who don't have a safe or private place to go to the toilet - leading to horrible disease and even systematic sexual assault.

May I wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year.

As ever please feel free to contact me at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk). Surgery details can be found at [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com) and on page 11.

**ED VAIZEY**, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)

**DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

From 2014 there will be a joint Marcham & Shippon Surgery from 9am until 11am at Marcham Village Shop on the following dates:

(All 2nd Saturday of the month, alternate month:

Feb 8th / Apr 12th / June 14th / Aug 9th / Oct 11th / Dec 13th

**Best Wishes for a Happy New Year to Everyone**

**CATHERINE AND RICHARD WEBBER**

District Councillor County Councillor

**WATER COMPANIES AND WATER COSTS**

On December 11 2013 Vale Council passed unanimously this motion:

*Councillor Gervase Duffield moved 'In the light of Thames Water's continuing interest in a major local reservoir this Council welcomes Ofwat's rejection of the recent Thames Water price increase application, and hopes that Ofwat will be specially vigilant on large applications costing vast sums where these can be undercut by reliable cheaper methods. This Council requests the Chief Executive to convey this motion to Ofwat, Thames Water, and the Vale area MPs, and the Water minister.'*

I doubt if any reader will need reminding of the problems we all face with rising utility bills. Of late most of the attention has been on power, electricity and gas; but we all need water, and we cannot just switch water suppliers. So what are we to do to contain the rise in water prices? First, we need to understand the nature of our problem. When water was first privatised, some years back now, everyone knew that

considerable capital expenditure was needed to get the water industry up to scratch. It was the same with most newly privatised industries. And to meet this need the Government gave generous tax breaks; the problem now is that this is still the situation when most of us think the original need has long passed. The effect of this is that if a water company can persuade the authorities a huge and expensive project is needed, they can make a lot of money out of it. No UK water company ever had any problem with borrowing from a bank as no Government could ever let a water company collapse. The water users pay the bill for any huge project approved, and the Water company retains the assets (unlike France where the water company only uses the assets but they are owned by the public) and the profits.

**Water Company Gains**

All this means that a water company can get huge benefits for its shareholders, acquire new assets which we the users pay for, and on new capital projects currently get the money tax free. So if a company builds a major new project, it gains and flourishes financially with all the tax breaks whereas if it mends the leaks, it get nothing extra. That is just part of their routine business. This situation has to change so that water companies concentrate on value for money for the community not huge tax free projects.

How do we prevent this? We put pressure on Ofwat the Government water watchdog to stop very large and unnecessary projects like the projected reservoir [which is currently shelved but which will doubtless come back again soon] when much cheaper alternatives are available (water transfer and reverse osmosis). Since the Reservoir was turned down at a public enquiry, Thames Water have requested a huge sewage system west of London which a Government committee rejected as far too large and only allowed a small part of it. Since then there is talk of another huge sewage project in London, a mammoth tunnel under the Thames.

**Action**

So first we ask Ofwat to reject these excessive projects and to go on doing so, when they are not necessary, are not good value for money, and often there are cheaper alternatives as we demonstrated with the proposed local reservoir. Then there is the tax question. I have no objection to a water company paying good wages, making a decent profit, and paying dividends, but not when such achievements are based on huge and unnecessary expenditure. Is it really right that a company paying handsome dividends should pay little or no tax? The Chancellor and the Treasury need to look into this. It grieves me to see headlines in a newspaper like this one: 'Thames Water will not pay tax for a DECADE'. I hope my motion to Vale Council points the way. We all need to increase the pressure on Ofwat, MPs, and the Treasury.

**Local Issues**

There are three important local water issues. First, with the closure of Didcot A which was a vast water guzzler with all those cooling towers, the water consumption in the western sector (known as SWOX) of Thames's area will consume a lot less water, especially if RWE give up that part of their water extraction license which they no longer need. There may well be a Didcot C station one day, but it should be air cooled like the B station, and under no circumstances be allowed to be a water guzzler.

Second, Thames Water has not given up on a local reservoir but it is currently somewhat on the back burner, but it is an open question how long a company should be allowed to hold a planning stranglehold on the projected reservoir area. I am not sure when reservoir plans first started but they have been going for well over twenty years and so far always been rejected.

Third, The Oxford East MP has raised the question of whether it is fair for rural areas like ours to pay the costs of expensive projects exclusively for London. That wants looking into.

**Better News**

The latest suggestions (December this year) from Thames Water contain some good news. They mention three lines of approach for water supply. Water transfer (from the Severn Trent area in our case), reverse osmosis (reusing the water as it travels down the Thames; this happens already and could be significantly increased for London), the third line is still a reservoir which needs great vigilance on water users' part.

**GERVASE DUFFIELD**

District Councillor (Sutton Courtenay and Appleford)



The  
**Marcham  
Society**

**Marcham Society Annual Lecture**

**Neil Rowe**

**34 Years of Farming in Marcham**  
*All Saints' Church Marcham 7.45pm 14th January*

*Come & hear someone from the village  
speak on their specialist subject*

Non-members always welcome £2 [www.marchamsociety.org.uk](http://www.marchamsociety.org.uk)  
Further details: Sheila Dunford (391439) or Judith Fontaine (391275)

**MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB**

The Club will be pleased to welcome new members for the 2014 Season.

Details of Nets and Fixtures will be given in due course.

Please contact Trevor Hill (01865 391321) for any information relating to the Club, including playing or umpiring for Marcham.



CSB

**MARCHAM SOCIETY  
MIDWEEK WALK**

**Thursday, January 9th**

For this month's walk we will explore some hidden stretches of the Thames and the Oxford Canal. We will eat at the Turnpike Inn (Map Ref SP5483123, OX5 1PJ for SatNav users), on the Woodstock Road in Yarnton at 12.30pm for lunch, starting the walk of just under 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, especially if heavy rain has led to local flooding!.



**Marcham WI**

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL OUR MEMBERS**

The next meeting will be on **THURSDAY  
16TH JANUARY 2014** at 7.30pm at **DENMAN COLLEGE**



When Ann Latimer will be telling us about her Bike Rides for Charity.

We look forward to seeing you all on the night and welcome visitors to come along.

*Contacts for any questions, new members or visitors  
Christine Denton 01865 391497*

**SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!  
- Mostly!**

Thankyou for all your good wishes and cards. Watch this space for starting date in February.



**Christine Whild**

**MSSSC: Marcham Sports, Scouts & Social Club  
The pavilion & field off Morland Road**

**Quiz Night  
Fri 31 January at 8.15pm**

A quiz night will be held in the Sports and Social Club in the Anson Field on Friday 31 January, starting at 8.15pm.

The Club is intending to hold quiz nights on the last Friday of each month. Questions will be on a range of subjects and aimed at everyone's ability!

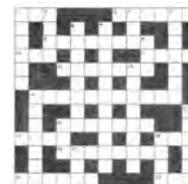
Teams of up to four people are invited. Everyone welcome. Just turn up on the night for a friendly evening of fun and banter.

Further details from Trevor Hill – 01865 391321  
*We look forward to seeing you at the club*

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS by ALISA**

**ACROSS:** 1 Plentiful 6 Toddler 7 Cod 8 Berry  
12 Decorate cakes 13 Radley College 14 Ditty  
17 One 18 Welcome 19 Seventeen

**DOWN:** 1 Prod 2 Ends 3 Then 4 Untenable  
5 Fire engine 6 Tolerating 9 Holly tree 10 Satyr  
11 Devon 15 Seen 16 Acre 17 Omen



**MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY**

*5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise - no appointment necessary*

10th Jan	Didcot, Cornerstone, OX11 7NE
24th Jan	Wantage, Civic Hall, OX12 9BX
<b>Contact Ed Vaizey MP by</b>	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350

**MARCHAM AND DISTRICT  
EX SERVICEMEN'S CLUB  
NORTH STREET, MARCHAM**

All members, registered members and registered partners

**"IN TO WIN"**

Every Saturday night  
Between 9.30 And 10.45.

Prizes Won To Date ( 16 September 2013 )  
£50, £90, And £120

There Have Been 20 Draws Since May  
16 Registered Members Who Were Not In The Club  
At Time Of Draw Have Missed Out On Collecting!  
**You Must Be In The Club At Time Of Draw To Win**  
*Full Set Of Rules Are Displayed In The Club*

Look out for copies of  
**Jay's New All-in-One**  
**Just for Fun Quiz.**  
**Only £1 for local good causes**  
**(last year's quiz raised £60)**

**BABIES AND TODDLERS GROUP**

Tuesday mornings in the Church  
10.00 – 11.30.

Please do come and join us, we have toys for babies, activities for toddlers and refreshments for all. First visit if free, then £2 per family.

For more details call 0777 565 4445

*CHARLIE AND SUE*

**MARCHAM SCHOOL  
A MIDWIFE CRISIS - OUR INFANT  
CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION**

Bethlehem is bustling and busy and our stressed mid-wife Miranda (played by Jemma) is desperate to be at the birth of the new baby King. Miranda is accompanied by a comical donkey, Steve, ably played by Alex who “no-body listens to!”

During their adventures they encounter ‘jobs worth’ census takers (lead by Chloe), grumpy inn-keepers (Kian and Olivia), arrogant Kings (Esme, Jake and Samuel) before eventually finding the new baby with Mary and Joseph (Hollie and Alfie).

The whole cast, including the royal postman, camels, townsfolk and Steve’s cousin Nigel, acted beautifully and sang their hearts out in a witty and moving production. The children did themselves proud. Special thanks go to the staff, especially Mrs Murray and Miss Wagstaff for all their hard work.

Steve walking behind the Kings really makes me laugh	<i>Jemma</i>
I like dancing with the funky shepherds	<i>Esme</i>
I like the narrators jokes	<i>Theo</i>
My favourite character is the Mid-wife because she is very shy	<i>Bess</i>



**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS**

We would like to wish all the MADNews readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



If you would like to join Marcham Pre-school please contact us on 01865 392101 or e:mail marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk.

**MARION, NICKY, KATHARINE, NATASHA AND LOUISA**  
marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

[www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com)

**ABINGDON LITTLE ANGELS**

With Christmas fast approaching it has been a busy time at Little Angels in December. Preparing for our own British style Christmas whilst also looking at different cultures and customs from around the world.



The Baby Room has created its own winter wonderland, making snowflakes, personal Christmas trees and many wonderful craft projects that embody the spirit of the season.

The main room thoroughly enjoyed the different Christmas celebrations from around the world, from sweet-filled clogs to German biscuits which they had as much fun making as they did eating. Alongside this the children have also made all the decorations for their tree in Marcham church.

Our Big Angels afterschool club has had fun planning and making decorations for their tree at Marcham church alongside making Christmas bags, snowmen, snowflakes and anything they could think of befitting the season.

It has been the month of Little Angels Christmas nativity. A wonderful event where the children all showed off their beautiful singing to a proud crowd of parents and grandparents. To celebrate the season it was also the time of year for our Christmas party. All the children loved the mountains of food generously provided and the magical musings of Dizzy Dean who had the children roaring with laughter. A good way to start before a visit to Santa in our own special grotto, many thanks to George for his help with this.

We have had a wonderful December at Little Angels and wish everyone a happy new year.

If you would like any further information about Abingdon Little Angels Nursery, After School Club, Holiday Club or Art Club please feel free to call in or telephone us on 07516 474287 or email [info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk](mailto:info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk)

**Oxfordshire Advocacy**

**We are looking for volunteers for our next training courses**

Charity Number: 1131403

Oxfordshire Advocacy is an independent, confidential free service supporting adults in Oxfordshire to get their voice heard and their wishes taken into account.

Volunteer advocates work with people needing support to: challenge decisions, uphold rights, attend meetings, make a complaint.

Our next training courses are in Oxford in Feb 2014 and Banbury in May 2014.

In the first instance please contact us for

an informal interview:

[jacinta.sands@oadg.org.uk](mailto:jacinta.sands@oadg.org.uk)

Tel: 01865 741200

Website: [www.gettingheard.org](http://www.gettingheard.org)

**SAVE THE DATE**

7.30pm Saturday 28 June 2014

Summer Dance, MSSSC

Organised by Hayley Cousins,

Marcham Pre-School 07748 120601

*More details to come later*

**Marcham Village Shop and Post Office**

**Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 18.00**

**Sat: 07.30 - 13.00**

**Sun: 08.00 - 13.00**

**Opening Hours for January**

1st CLOSED

2nd 07.30 - 13.00

3rd 07.30 - 13.00

4th 07.30 - 13.00

5th 08.00 - 13.00



If you are holding an event within or near the MADNews area, contact the editor for more publicity!

01865 391725

[editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk)



Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2014

**Charity Assured Place**

Against Breast Cancer are proud to have been selected as partner charity of the 2014 Mizuno Reading Half Marathon. Help us celebrate by making next year's team our best yet! Join us in 2014 on this flat, fast course - it's a great opportunity to set a new PB while raising vital funds in support of Against Breast Cancer's unique research into breast cancer and ultimate search for a vaccine.

Entry fee: £30 (use code XMAS13 for £10 Discount)

Min sponsorship £250



T:01235 534211 E:events@againstbreastcancer.org.uk  
www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk

**Harmony Inspires** is a ladies *a capella* singing group who meet in Appleton village Hall every Wednesday evening. We are holding three evenings **"Come Back to Singing"** in January 2014 - 15th, 22nd and 29th from 7.30 to 10.00pm Contact Christine at [Harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk) or 07787 831 831 for more information



**MARCHAM PLAYERS**

Put these dates in your new diary:  
**Annual General Meeting**  
14th February, 7.30 pm. in the Board Room, Manor Farm  
Refreshments will be available.  
**"With Great Pleasure"**



28th February, 7.30 pm, in the Board Room, Manor Farm  
The theme for the evening will be **"Well, it made me laugh!"**  
Bring along and share short excerpts from humorous writings you have enjoyed. Refreshments will be available.  
For more details about joining in with the Players, call Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964.

.....  
www.marchamplayers.co.uk

January 2014

**LINK YOUR GARDENS TOGETHER**

Just a brief wildlife gardening article this month, but one with a clear message. Last week I was working in a garden when I saw over in the neighbouring garden the homeowner was digging up his entire 100 foot mixed native hedge.



Doing this in autumn with all the berries and hibernation areas, you can imagine my horror.

Over a period of time, the garden in question has been cleared of all life and all that remains of a once abundant habitat is a lush lawn (void of weeds) surrounded by close board fencing.

When I leant over the fence and advised that autumn wasn't probably the most advisable season to do this with wildlife in mind, and that did he really need to clear the entire hedge line as diversity is the name of the game. The response was *"Oh I can't be bothered with gardening, I'm going to dig the lawn up to and put an artificial one down. Anyway the wildlife will look after itself, there are plenty of other gardens around"*.

Now, my take on this is that wildlife shouldn't have to adapt just because we decide to leave carnage in our garden. Many people are doing the same in their gardens, so where has the wildlife got left to go. Also what this gardener failed to realise was this was the last mixed hedge in his area, so he was totally removing the last resting place for wildlife that only uses native hedges. Remember I said many insects are host specific. Just because they are in one type of hedge, doesn't mean they can quickly adapt to another type.

Lastly, wildlife uses hedges linking many gardens as navigation highways, linking communities together. When removing a hedge or a stand of trees, stand back and see if you are clearing a void in these highways that intersect your area.

You could be isolating a population of insects as they can't navigate around, which ultimately can cause local extinction if the clearance is on a large scale.

Next time you are gardening, tidying or clearing, look at the bigger picture and observe what it is you are actually doing.

*Happy Gardening* **STUART MABBUTT**

Wildlife Gardening Specialist 01865 747243

**OXFORDSHIRE WOODFUEL PROGRAMME BULLETIN: JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2014**

The Oxfordshire Woodfuel Programme is running a series of 'logs for labour' events, where participants get free firewood in return for a few hours of work managing their local woodlands. Do come along! The nearest events to you are:

**Sat 18 Jan, 11am-1:30pm West Oxford**  
Large willow branches up to 10 inch diameter

**Sat 25 Jan, 11am-1:30pm East Oxford**  
Oak thinnings, 4 to 12 inch diameter

Find out more on [www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk/logs-for-labour](http://www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk/logs-for-labour).



Please buy your firewood from a local supplier to minimise 'fuel miles' and support local businesses. When you buy firewood ask 1. what the moisture content of the wood is (it should be 25% or less), 2. what volume of wood you are getting (you should know what weight or volume you are getting, not just 'a load'), 3. whether it is soft or hardwood (a hardwood log has more energy than a softwood log of the same size), and 4. how long the logs are. Alternatively buy OxLogs: [www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk/oxlogs](http://www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk/oxlogs). The woodfuel programme now has funding to advise community groups of all kinds on installing biomass boilers in their buildings. Please contact [manager@oxonwoodfuel.org.uk](mailto:manager@oxonwoodfuel.org.uk) for more information, also if your community building is heated by biomass and you would be willing to share lessons from that with others.

**Riki Therivel, manager@oxonwoodfuel.org.uk, 01865 243488**

# EVENTS



Our next **Open Day** will be on Wednesday, 5 February from 10 am to 3 pm.

The theme for this open day will be **Kitchen/Clothing/Eating and Drinking**, when we hope to have a range of items on display.

As always all are welcome to attend our Open Days. Just drop in. Refreshments available.

Guideposts Trust Independent Living Centre  
Peachcroft Christian Centre, Lindsay Drive, Abingdon  
OX14 2RT Call 01235 856212

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

## Cinderella

By Liz Adams



## CINDERELLA

THE SPECTACULAR FAMILY PANTOMIME

**ABINGDON  
DRAMA  
CLUB**

ADC – in 3D since 1944  
[www.abingdon-drama-club.com](http://www.abingdon-drama-club.com)

Employer getting you down? Kids just won't cooperate? Parents a total nightmare? It's the same in fairyland, where nothing's going right for teenagers Ella, Adam and Buttons. Luckily this is pantomime, where magic and mischief can combine to create the perfect happy ending - but is that even what they want? Find out in this 21st century retelling of a traditional tale

Friday 17th Jan - 7:30pm

Saturday 18th Jan - 2:30pm and 7:30pm

Sunday 19th Jan - 2:30pm

Thursday 23rd Jan - 7:30pm

Friday 24th Jan - 7:30pm

Saturday 25th Jan - 2:30pm and 7:30pm

Tickets £10 (£7 concessions)/Family Ticket £30  
available from: The Bookstore, The Abingdon Precinct  
The Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon  
[www.abingdon-drama-club.com](http://www.abingdon-drama-club.com)



*The Snowpeople Say...*

If you would like to advertise your business or service in MADNews, email [adverts@madnews.co.uk](mailto:adverts@madnews.co.uk) for more details.

**Advertising Rates**

40mm x 90mm – £60 pa

80mm x 90mm – £100 pa

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## Peace and Reconciliation



Towards the end of 2013, surely one of the greatest men who ever lived passed from this life. Over a hundred world leaders gathered together to remember the man whose lasting memorial will be his willingness to turn his back on bitterness and retaliation and instead to embrace his former enemies. Some of Nelson Mandela's quotes seem to reflect a deeply Christian ideology. He said for example - *"until I changed myself, I could not change others."*

In his autobiography, "The Long Walk to Freedom" he talked of his early experiences with Christianity, praising its engagements with the society around him: *"The Church was as concerned with this world as the next: I saw that virtually all of the achievements of Africans seemed to have come about through the missionary work of the Church."*

His long incarceration on Robben Island, was probably due to the fact that Mandela had gone from purely vocal opposition to apartheid, to embracing terrorism. But it is likely even then that Mandela's Christian faith influenced the outworking of this strategy. Due to the intransigence of the white South African government, Mandela chose to bring pressure and raise the profile of the struggle against apartheid by bombing infrastructure targets, which they targetted at night, rather than bombing densely populated areas and risking civilian casualties.

However, during his consequent imprisonment on Robben Island, he continued to attend Sunday services. It make me wonder how over his long years in prison whether his faith deepened and caused him to reflect on the methodology behind his struggle for equality. At the moment of his release, Mandela once again remembered the importance of internal renewal ahead of external change. *"As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison."* Upon his liberation, Mandela subsequently spoke at major Christian events in 1992 and 1994. At one of them, he said *"The Good News borne by our risen Messiah who chose not one race, who chose not one country, who chose not one language, who chose not one tribe, who chose all of humankind!..... Each Easter marks the rebirth of our faith. It marks the victory of our risen Saviour over the torture of the cross and the grave..... whose life testifies to the truth that there is no shame in being persecuted: Those who should be ashamed are they who persecute others."*

In his 1994 autobiography, "Long Walk to Freedom", he said: *"No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."*

An unforgettable witness to his message of reconciliation came in 1995 at the Rugby World Cup. Mandela rallied both blacks and whites to support the Springbok rugby team, which had for years been despised by black South Africans and was a strong symbol of white authority during the apartheid years. However, when the Springboks reached the finals, it was a heart stopping moment when Mandela walked onto the pitch wearing the green Springbok rugby shirt and cap and shook the hands of the mostly white team. In the end, it was a stunning victory for South Africa in more ways than winning the trophy. Barriers spanning decades were melted in an instant when black South Africans watching the game on TV heard the largely white crowd in the stadium shout "Nelson", "Nelson". One of the most iconic images in South African and sporting history is that of Mandela presenting Springbok captain Francois Pienaar with the Cup. Pienaar later recalled that moment, saying: *"Mandela said to me "Thank you for what you have done for South Africa." I said to him, "No, Madiba, you've got it wrong. Thank you for what you've done for South Africa." And I felt like hugging him."*

Peace and reconciliation are hallmarks of Christ's work on the cross. Peace and reconciliation not just between members of the human race but between God and man. That's why Christ came ..... that's the reason for the season I hope you have enjoyed ..... Christ came to bring reconciliation and finally to end all conflict. Maybe we can all reflect on Mandela's example and look to 2014 as the year that marks our personal change.

As Michael Jackson once sang. .... *"I'm looking at the man in the mirror ..... I'm asking if he'll change his ways"*

Have a peaceful and happy 2014.

**Keith Mersh     Pastor Marcham Baptist Church**

Contact:- Keith Mersh     01865 391881

or Bill Dyer (Elder)     01235 814986

### **Speakers in January**

5 Jan	-	Keith Mersh
12 Jan	-	Francis Blood
19 Jan	-	John Hawley
26 Jan	-	Janet Quarry

Join us on Sundays at 10.30am, or call Keith if you want to chat about life and faith.



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

Dear Friends,

Welcome to 2014!

Another year dawns, and with it the possibilities of new beginnings, new opportunities, new horizons, and renewed hope.

But what about ourselves? Are we as people being renewed? Or are we still soldiering on with old ways and habits that die hard and often trip us up?

Many years ago there lived a wise old man who had a wonderful vision of even the toughest places like deserts bursting with new life and flowers in full bloom. His vision was based on his understanding of God – a God who brings life and blessing, along with justice and hope. You can read his wisdom in Isaiah 35.

God offers us the opportunity to change, to be renewed, to know real hope in a world of challenge and pain. He holds out His hands to us, with the invitation to 'come'. The invitation is made personal in Jesus. The writer of the fourth Gospel says it like this: 'But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn! ... this rebirth comes from God.' Jesus invites us to turn away from our indifference. "Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal as friends."

Whatever this New Year brings, we can face it with hope and with faith. We can begin the year with a new energy for new possibilities, new horizons, new beginnings. We can begin by placing our lives into Christ's hands, and welcoming him 'on board' for the journey ahead. It may not be easy, but you will have the best of all companions! With my warmest best wishes for 2014!

**Revd Richard Zair**

**ACT JUSTLY. LOVE MERCY. WALK HUMBLLY.**

Does God have anything to say about world problems of 2014?

What might He ask us to do about them?

During January and February we will ask what the Bible says about important issues of our time, and hear how Christians are responding.

You are warmly invited to a series of services at All Saints Church at 10am:

## 'The God we serve'

5 January: 'The God of 2014 - What does God require of us?'

12 January: 'The God of Love' - A voice for the voiceless

19 January: 'The God of Justice' - Just Food?

26 January: 'The God of the Earth' - The Environment

2 February: 'The God of the Poor' - Poverty

9 February: 'The God of Money' - Debt

16 February: 'The God of Compassion' - Trafficking & Exploitation

### **Regular services:**

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

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

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

Parish Office: parish\_office41@yahoo.co.uk

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister* 390885

Andrew Haines *Churchwarden* 01235 868946

Deborah Flint *Churchwarden* 391056

Tamsin Gilbert *Administrator* 821142

Ellie Montgomery *PCC Secretary* 391868

### **Prayer for the Month:**

Gracious God and Father, thank you for this New Year, with all its possibilities for new beginnings and renewed hope.

Thank you for your amazing love in Jesus, and your offer of new birth. Help us to place our hands in yours for the journey ahead, so that we may know your constant presence and faithfulness in this New Year and beyond. Amen.