

Marcham & District News

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

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



March 2015 Vol: 37 No: 3

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Little Angels – snow and soldiers see page 15 ▲



◀▲ Pre-School look at fish see page 15

▼ Durer's Young Hare: the MAD March Issue!



WOMEN'S WORLD
DAY OF PRAYER
FRIDAY 6 MARCH
SEE PAGE 7



There will be a partial solar eclipse across the UK beginning at approx 08.20 on Friday 20 March
www.solareclipse2015.org.uk



March		
3 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
5 Thu	Dan Walsh, Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon, 19.30	21
6 Fri	Women's World Day of Prayer, Marcham Baptist Church, 10.30	7
7 Sat	Councillors' Surgery, Marcham Village Shop, 09.00 – 11.00	15
7 Sat	Wantage & Grove Lions Jumble Sale, East Hanney Royal British Legion, 13.30	17
9 Mon	Have Your Say, Duffield Place, 17.00 – 18.00	5
10 Tue	Singing is Good for You, 14.00 – 15.30	11
10 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45	7
11 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
12 Thu	Midweek Walk: The Leathern Bottle, Lewknor, 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	7
13 Fri	Deadline for comments in the air quality consultation	13 19
17 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	

17 Tue	Patient Forum, Ambulance Service HQ, Bicester, 17.30 – 18.30	19
19 Thu	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.15 (earlier than normal)	7
20 Fri	Deadline for April MADNews, 17.00	
21 Sat	Wantage & Grove Lions Cash Bingo, Grove Village Hall, 18.30	17
21 Sat	Music in the Vale, St Denys' Church, Stanford, 19.30	21
24 Tue	Singing is Good for You, 14.00 – 15.30	11
25 – 28	Abingdon Drama Club: Henry V, Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon, 19.30	21
27 Fri	MSSSSC Quiz, 20.15	7
29 Sun	Pop-up Café and Mini Market, Fyfield Church, 10.30 – 12.30	11
29 Sun	Cream Tea and Historic Garford, Garford Village Hall, 15.00 – 16.30	5
31 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	

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

Dear Readers

This month someone mentioned “the MAD March issue”! That made me put a hare on the cover and reminded me of Cargoes by John Masefield - it is great to say out loud!

After a verse about “Quinquireme of Nineveh from distant Ophir” and another about “Stately Spanish galleon” with their fantastic cargoes, there is the verse I like best:

Dirty British coaster with a salt-caked
smoke stack,
Butting through the Channel in the
mad March days,
With a cargo of Tyne coal, Road-rails,
pig-lead,
Firewood, iron-ware, and cheap tin
trays.

Until next time

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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.

DISCLAIMER

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

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

POLICE

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

Richard Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton
Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
Tel: 01235 534001

richard.webber@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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Marcham and Shippon

Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton
Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ

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catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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March 2015

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Hitchcose Wood area - paths

The Parish Council is researching into the paths that are walked by local residents in the Cothill, Hitchcose Wood, A338 area in the vicinity of the Hills Aggregates workings. If you are a walker or hiker and have information about the paths, and the routes that you walk, then please contact the clerk.

Best Kept Garden Competition 2015

Does your front garden stand out from the rest? If not, there is still time for a little effort to ensure that the judges of the village garden competition will recognise your achievements. The Best Kept Garden Competition will again be run in 2015. Judging will take place late May and June. Please bear the competition in mind when planning your gardens. You never know, you may win a prize.

Community Facilities in Marcham

The Parish Council has representatives on the Community Facilities Steering Group and is working closely with other organisations in trying to resolve the issues for Marcham. Two Councillors represented the Council at a meeting hosted by Cllrs. R and C Webber – See report elsewhere.

Parish Council Elections May 2015

Do you enjoy being involved in parish matters, listening and understanding the views of people in the community? Do you have time to spare to attend one meeting per month, plus serving on working parties and occasionally attending outside meetings. The Parish Council provides a focus for the community to identify concerns and projects and endeavor to solve them locally themselves. Training is available for new members. All councillors are expected to abide by a Code of Conduct including the registration and disclosure of interests. There are lots of interesting things happening in the parish at the moment, so if you are interested in community issues, then consider putting yourself forward to serve on the Parish Council.

Further information about how to stand as a candidate and on the role of a Parish Councillor in general can be obtained from the clerk. Application forms will shortly be available from the Vale of White Horse District Council or the Clerk. The deadline for the return of the nomination form is Thursday 9th April.

Planning Applications
The following planning applications have been considered by the Council:
MW.0024/15 S. 73 application for the continuation of development without complying with condition 1 of consent MAR/529/1-CM for an amended sequence of working and the development of a

specific crushing and screening area, at Upwood Quarry. The Parish Council had no objections to the application.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 11th March 2015 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

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Gozzards Ford

Due to a lack of MADNews deliverer, residents of Gozzards Ford may pick up their copy of MADNews from the Black Horse.

If you would like a little light exercise and a chance to meet your neighbours once a month - how about delivering MADNews? Just call Judith or Peter on 391275 for more details.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR KEN HIGGINS

There will be a service in memory of Ken, late of Marcham who sadly passed away March 2014 in Spain. The service will be held at St Helens Church, West St Helens Street, Abingdon at 2pm on Tuesday 3rd March 2015. We hope all our old friends in Marcham & Marcham Ex-Servicemen's Club will join us to celebrate Ken's life.

GLADYS LANE

Sadly, Gladys Lane of The Farthings passed away on 12 February, after a year-long illness. The funeral service will be at her own Methodist Church in the High Street, Milton on Thursday March 5th, at 2.30pm.

Anyone wishing to go can be assured of a warm welcome and there will be light refreshments after the service. Please allow time for parking in the village as church parking is limited. Any donations will go to cancer research and may be left in the church porch on exit. Thank you for all the messages of condolence.

Harry Lane

Personal adverts in MADNews are free so if want to put in a notice or have something to sell, call the editor on 391725 or email editor@madnews.co.uk

FREE TO GOOD HOMES

1. COMPUTER MONITOR AOC (57 cm diagonal) used once only. Not touch screen.
2. CANON SCANNER

Donation to Marcham Community shop appreciated.

Contact 01865 391 462 to view

Dear Editor

The letter in last month's edition re the future of the Baptist Church here in the village, and it having to close its doors soon, due to "Anno Domini", sadly now appears to be more of a reality than first thought.

Although the "Tin Tabernacle" (as it was first called) will celebrate its 143rd anniversary on 3rd July, (greatly modernised now!), the ages of its very few members and regular worshippers (8 in all) are such that very soon it will be virtually impossible (and impracticable) to keep it running in its present form.

Many of the older villagers, and their now grown-up children, will recall the days when MBC was very successfully run by Gordon Lewry and his wife Hazel from the 1960s through to 1994, with lots of help from Ray and Ruth Barrett and their daughters, Debbie and Frances and of course Bill and Frances Dyer, who are both still with us and continue to take an active part in the running of the Church.

That was in the days when there were two services each Sunday (morning and evening) and a very active and stimulating Sunday School for the 20 - 30 youngsters who attended each week.

Sadly, for a number of reasons over the years, (including a general decline in Church-going nationwide), our services have been reduced to one each Sunday at 10.30am and we are now in this unhappy situation where it is becoming increasingly difficult to continue as we would like with this small group, especially when sickness, holidays and bad weather conditions can (and do) seriously deplete our numbers.

Although this must be a little disheartening to the visiting speaker, who might have travelled many miles and given up much time during the preceding week preparing his/her sermon to find only 2 or 3 facing him/her, they are usually aware of our limited numbers and accept the situation with stoicism (some taking it as a challenge!!).

I would stress that no final decision has yet been made of MBC's future, but an announcement by the Pastor will be made following a Special Church Meeting early in March via the MAD News. Until then, services WILL continue to be held each Sunday and ANYONE and EVERYONE will be welcome to join us. All the pre-arranged events - The Women's Day of Prayer for example, on Friday 6th March at 10.30am WILL take place as arranged. (see page 7).

Ample parking is available and services are followed by tea/coffee and biscuits!!

TONY BLACKLER

March 2015



**Cream Tea and Historic Garford
Sunday 29th March
3.00pm to 4.30pm
Garford Village Hall**

Discover hundreds of years of Garford History.

See maps from 1776, from the Parliamentary enclosure of Garford and the original 25" to 1 mile Ordnance Survey maps of 1875 Learn about history of Garford in Bronze Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Norman and more recent times

If you have any historically interesting artifacts relating to Garford that you would like to share, please contact
Mike Greig - 391915
or if you are able to bake some scones or a cake contact
Deb Treadgold - 3911821

Thames Valley Police are currently advertising for **Control Room and Police Enquiry Centre Operators**. If you are interested in attending an Open Event at Kidlington Enquiry Centre please send an email to Natalie.o'brien@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk Available roles and applications can be found by visiting our [website](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/joinus/joinus-police-enquiry-centre-officer.htm).

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

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

At a Committee meeting on Tuesday 4th February 2014 a proposal passed that:
All members must register individually at the Club between 9pm and 11pm and pay their subscription fee if they wish to remain on the list of current Members.
Members not able to attend the Club must submit their individual subscriptions by post to the secretary at the Club
The closing date of this registration is April 1st each year
Please note that those failing to respond by April 1st 2015 will no longer be considered Members and their names will be removed from the current Members register.
Current Subscription fees: Under 65 - £10. Over 65 - £5.

Chairman 8th February 2015

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DATE FOR THE AGM HAS BEEN
BROUGHT FORWARD
THE AGM IS TO BE HELD IN THE CLUB ON
TUESDAY APRIL 21ST 2015 AT 8PM**

**All registered members are encouraged to attend
Your input is necessary for the clubs future**

DAVID GRIMSHAW
Margaret, Neil and Jill would like to thank everyone for their continued love and support, following the death of David Grimshaw on 3rd December 2014. His funeral on 23rd December was a very special occasion for all his family and friends and was followed by a fish and chip lunch, served at church by the Wednesday chip van. This was always David's favourite meal. We would like to especially thank Richard Zair for his ongoing support, Paul Carter (Funeral Directors), and church members, all of whose warmth and generosity made such a difference to everyone who came to the service. A donation of £650 (enough for one cow), has been made to Send a Cow, one of Davids favourite charities.
Neil and Jill Rowe, Margaret Grimshaw

Have Your Say
On all dates the times will be between 17:00 and 18:00
**Monday 9 March
at Duffield Place**
16.04.15 at Marcham Village Shop
29.05.15 at Duffield Place
26.06.15 Marcham Village Shop
**PCSO Andy McCormack C9461
Abingdon Outer
Neighbourhood Team
NAG7 Marcham, Wootton,
Shippon and Boars Hill
Police Non-emergency
number: 101
www.thamesvalley.police.uk**

Marcham WI

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, 19th March
Time: 7.15pm **NOTE EARLIER TIME**
Venue: Denman College



Our AGM is on 19th March, so come along and choose your President and Committee. Instead of a speaker, we have **Jenni Matthews** who will be encouraging us to 'Sing for Fun' with her highly imaginative workshop. Jenni has loads of experience both with adults and children and we will all find we have hidden talents. **Please note the slightly earlier start time of 7.15pm.**

For any questions, new members or visitors, contact Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK.

Thursday, March 12th.

For this month's walk we will eat at The Leathern Bottle Pub in Lewknor (Map Ref: SP714975, near Junction 6 on the M40) at 12.30 for lunch. We will start our walk of 4½ miles at 13.30 with a climb up the Chiltern escarpment, through Cowlease Wood and part of the Aston Rowant nature reserve. Members free, non-members £1. We are always pleased to see new faces. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.



MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The Club's 2015 Season gets under way at Marcham on 5th May with the 1st XI playing Visitors Deddington. On the same day the 2nd XI is away to Sunningwell.

Please contact Trevor Hill (391321) for information relating to the Club - including playing or umpiring for Marcham. And finally...an elderly clergyman once observed that he had always considered his early ecclesiastical career to have been somewhat hindered by the fact that, as a young Curate playing in a Charity Match, he had clean-bowled his Bishop for a duck!



CSB

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

Quiz Night ALL WELCOME FRIDAY 27 MARCH

This month's quiz will be held on Friday 27 March in the Sports and Social Club on the Anson Field, starting at 8.15pm. Questions are on a range of subjects and aimed at everyone's ability! The quiz nights run on the last Friday of each month. Teams of up to four people are invited, but if you are alone or a couple, come along, and we could fit you into an existing or even new team!

Everyone welcome, members and non members. Just turn up on the night for a friendly evening of fun and banter.

Further details from Trevor Hill - 01865 391321

*Everyone welcome - members AND non-members
We look forward to seeing you at the club*

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY 6 MARCH

This year's service has been prepared by the women of The Bahamas and we will be celebrating it in the Baptist chapel at 10.30am. There will be a simple lunch in the Baptist Hall afterwards.



DO COME!

MARCHAM PLAYERS

The best attendance of members in years reflected the interest in the main topic at the recent AGM - The Future of Marcham Players. After much lively discussion, it was the unanimous decision of the members to carry on - two of the options had been to either close down completely or go into hibernation until a new village hall is built. A new chairman and secretary were needed and were found in Simon Blackmore and Jenny Warwick respectively. Chris Smith agreed to stay on as treasurer for the coming year. One of the ideas which will be important for generating interest in the group was the plan put forward by Carolyn Blackmore for theatre outings organised online. Dave Hutchinson, who was standing down as chairman, was greatly cheered by the goodwill and enthusiasm for the future evident at the meeting.

Watch this space for further details of the new committee's plans. *For details about joining in with the Players, call Simon Blackmore 391922 or Jenny Warwick 392076..*

www.marchamplayers.co.uk



Marie Curie's largest fundraising campaign returns this March. We'll be donning hats, collecting coins and handing out daffodil pins across the UK throughout the month.

We need more collectors than ever to hit the streets for us this year, so please sign up today and help us make 2015 our best year yet. www.mariecurie.org.uk

Marie Curie
Cancer Care



The
**Marcham
Society**

*All Saints' Church Marcham
7.45pm Tuesday 10th March*

Marcham Society Annual Lecture Jonathan Flint Oxford Instruments at Tubney Woods Past, Present & Future

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

Non-members always welcome £2

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

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

Bank Balance
£17,764

Local Events
£11,328

Donations
£7,094

2014 - 2015 Membership
Voting: 72 Junior: 18

5p Coins
5724



Next steps...

Marcham Community Group continues to play its part within the Community Facilities Steering Group (see page 19 of this month's MAD News), to find a way forward to develop new community facilities for Marcham, and this will be the main focus of our efforts to help make this happen.

In the meantime, MCG plans to continue to find ways to raise community involvement in village events and fund-raising activities. We see it as an important part of village life here that we have the opportunities to take part in a range of activities to suit as many people as possible. So, watch this space for details of new events and opportunities — or, even better, come forward and offer your ideas and help to organise the next event for our calendars!

We continue to be grateful for the support of all our members and of the wider village — it is much appreciated — many thanks.

The way forward

Marcham Community Group:
391727 (Jim)

Company No 7470307

Charity No 1144407

admin@marcham.org

www.marcham.org



OUR MVS
MARCHAM VILLAGE SHOP

WANTED - Volunteers to help keep the shop clean and tidy.
If you have a few hours to spare a week but don't want to have the responsibility of the till - could you help us with the cleaning?
You can choose the hours you do - anytime when the shop is open - and what you do! Just pop into the shop and have a chat or call the shop on 391933.

Part-Time Work Wanted
Local mature lady, excellent references, seeks part time work. Light housework/dog walking and sitting /shopping/ appointments/companionship/light lunch preparation. Anything considered. Contact threechickens@gmail.com or 07946530381

DENMAN
Marcham
NOW RECRUITING

theWI DENMAN

Are you a mum looking to return to work?
Or recently retired but want to still work part-time?
Or a student who wants their first start in a work environment?
Then why not contact Thomas Franks at Denman. We are the food service providers at Denman and are currently looking to hire part-time casual staff to work in our restaurant, kitchen and bar.
If interested please contact:
Margaret O'Connor on 01865 391991 ext: 227
Or Email: catering@denman.org.uk

Millets Farm Centre  Best in our Field

Vacancies at Millets Farm, Frilford

Home Produce Kitchen Assistants
Flexible Hours
The role involve preparing soups, salads, patés and puddings and finishing products for sale.

Apprentice Baker
4am to 12 noon - 5 days per week
Including weekend work
The successful candidate will learn all key skills required in baking, from making dough, proving and baking traditional and artisan breads, rolls and pastries.
A one year apprenticeship with full training will be provided.

Staff discount, training and uniform provided for all roles.
For further information on these roles visit
www.milletsfarmcentre.com
Please call for an application form on 01865 392200.
Or ask for an application form in store.

Run by the community for the community

Marcham Village Shop and Post Office

Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 18.00
 Sat: 07.30 - 13.00
 Sun: 08.00 - 13.00



Every month we do put an ongoing advertisement in the MAD News, but we feel that now the shop is up and running very smoothly that we ought to try and give you a little more information on how things are going behind the scenes.

The Life of a Day in the Shop:

7.00am Mick Arrives, brings in fresh bread, milk and papers. Sorts it all out ready for the day.

7.30am Shop opens, although we do have some customers who either just can't sleep or can't wait to get their paper and arrive anytime between 7 and 7.30am, but Mick doesn't mind he serves them whatever the time. We are a community shop so we serve our community whenever possible.

7.30am Post Office Counter is opened by Ruth. Why so early you might ask, other Post Offices don't open at 7.30am, but we are unique. Our contract with the Post Office says we must open their counter at all times the shop is open so that's what we do. What other village shop allows you to go and draw your pension or get cash with your bank cards at 7.30 in the morning!

9.00am Our first two volunteers arrive to relieve both Mick and Ruth. The shop volunteers have a jobs list to tick off which involves things like dusting shelves, checking sell by dates, restocking shelves, taking fridge temperatures, cleaning the floors, but these jobs are only carried out if they have time between serving, chatting and having fun with the customers. The Post Office volunteers are all fully trained on both tills, so are able to help out at both counters, and will always help with the jobs list if they find time.

11.00am Second two volunteers arrive for shop and post office. We never know who we will be working alongside, but it is very nice to have a variation with whoever it may be. This sequence continues throughout the day from 1pm to 3pm and 3pm to 6pm.

5.30pm Natasha will arrive to start the shut down procedure. Cashing up till in shop, banking money, closing down fridges, bringing in signs from outside, putting paper box, milk crates and bread trays out by door for next morning, and making premises safe. Although you will also see Natasha at any time during any day filling in for the volunteers if we are short. Wednesdays is a little busier as our Cash and Carry order arrives just after lunch, and Malcolm arrives to help put all the new stock in order in the stock room, checking it against the delivery notes. A mammoth task.

Also on a Wednesday evening at 6pm, Ruth returns from her day job, to help Meriel with the weekly reconciliation of post office figures. They can often be seen in the shop up until or after 7pm every Wednesday, another mammoth task.

ALL OF THIS ABOVE HAPPENS SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK ALL YEAR ROUND EXCEPT FOR BANK HOLIDAYS. WHAT A RESPONSIBILITY, BUT WHAT A TEAM WE HAVE.

I believe the personal reward to all our volunteers is when people come in with the following remarks on at least a weekly basis:

"I don't know what we would do without this shop"
"How nice it is to be able to come to a Post Office where you get such personal service. You even help me pack my parcels"

"How nice it is to walk into a lovely cool shop when it is really hot outside" (Thanks to air-con)

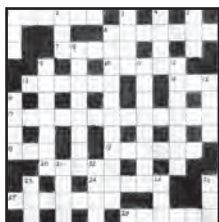
"I didn't realise this Shop and Post Office was here, I will certainly come home this way again and pop in, it is so easy and quick to use."

And from Denman College visitors – *"It is really good that I can order my morning paper here during my stay, and what nice postcards you have of the village"*

THESE SORT OF REMARKS MAKE IT ALL WORTHWHILE

CROSSWORD BY ALISA

February Answers



Across: 1. Tubney 6. Chicken 7. Glare 10. Imbue 13. Nordic 14. Nod 17. Men's breakfast 18. Tea 19. Change 20. Yodel 24. Ruddy 27. Rhubarb 28. Cumnor

Down: 1. Tit 2. Nag 3. Shem 4. Ecu 5. Year 6. Cricket club 8. Ladybird 9. Noonday 11. Buckland 12. Enlarge 15. Date 16. Omit 21. Orbs 22. Errs 23. Why 25. Yam 26. Fir

Have Your Say Online

You can now send non-emergency messages to the police using the online form on the Thames Valley Police website. For you to do that please follow the link: **Have Your Say - contact your local team**. Please allow some time for us to get back to you as we do check our mail box only at certain times of the day.

GARD AGM (REMINDER)

The GARD AGM will be held at Stocks Lane Farm Steventon on Tuesday 14th April 2015 at 7pm followed by a Committee Meeting. All who wish to be updated are welcome to attend, The Hon Chairman's Report will be summarized in the May MADNews. **NICK THOMPSON** Hon Chairman GARD

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

2.00-3.30 pm Tuesday 10th March
~~2.00-3.30 pm Tuesday 24th March~~
 We meet in the common room at Duffield Place. Come and join us, you will be sure of a warm welcome ... and tea and cake!
 Phone 391270 for more details **Christine Whild**



Pop Up Café and Mini Market

Sunday 29th March from 10.30 until 12.30 in Fyfield Church. We are planning to have a range of stalls as well as a cafe. The proceeds are for both Fyfield and Tubney Churches.

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

A subject which I know is close to the hearts of many of my constituents is Community Pubs. Since the Localism act brought in the right to bid, people across the country have nominated around 600 pubs which have then been listed as Assets of Community Value. These are assets – land and buildings – that are important to the community and have traditionally been used by the community. Once submitted if the asset comes up for sale a special window is opened to give the community the chance to buy the asset before it goes on the open market. Pubs have proved to be the most listed type of asset! By the end of March the Government is planning to bring forward more legislation so that in future when a pub is listed as an Asset of Community Value a planning application will be needed for a change of use or demolition. Any planning application will be considered in the light of national policy as well as Neighbourhood Plans. Hopefully this will lead to 1000s more of our most valuable pubs becoming Assets of Community Value and retain them at the heart of our communities.



Screening films is also another fantastic way to get communities and people from all walks of life together. A new project has been designed by the British Film institute and funded by the National Lottery to support groups launching and running their own Community Cinema. It aims to bring the cinema experience to more people across the UK particularly those who are unable to enjoy regular screenings because of social and economic reasons or simply because they live too far from the cinema. This project includes advice on how to actually start up a cinema, funding, licencing and how and where to book films. Details can be found at www.neighbourhoodcinema.org.uk it is well worth looking at if this is an idea which interests you and your friends and neighbours. My mailbag this month has been dominated by the issue of mitochondrial donation, widely reported in the press under the headline “three-parent babies”. As you may know, the House of Commons voted to approve a new scientific technique that will help prevent mothers from passing on serious mitochondrial diseases to their children. Whilst I am very aware of the concerns that a number of constituents have raised with me in emails and letters, I think it is very important to note that thorough, scientific reviews have found no evidence that these techniques are at all unsafe. The scientific community has been clear in its support for the introduction of these regulations. Estimates show that 1 in 6,500 children born in the UK each year suffer from a serious mitochondrial DNA disorder. Parliament’s intention in approving these regulations is to ensure that mothers who carry damaged mitochondria can have children with the confidence that they will be born without the devastating and often deadly conditions that can be caused by serious mitochondrial disease. The approval of these regulations will be life-changing for those families who are affected by mitochondrial disease.

As ever please feel free to contact me on any matter at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or vaizeye@parliament.uk. Email is the quickest and most reliable way to get in touch, as I keep a very close eye on my emails and can reply very quickly. I also send out occasional general interest emails about developments in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please do email me at vaizeye@parliament.uk or sign up at www.vaizey.com. Surgery details can be found at www.vaizey.com

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)

COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Cost savings...

Two ideas are being seriously considered in an effort to wrestle the County’s finances back into the black. The first is the suggestion that an Oxfordshire Unitary Council (one Council responsible for everything) would certainly save some money. How much money is arguable. There is evidence that Oxfordshire is probably too big to deliver all services. There is also the issue that the commissioned

report into just how much money might be saved, itself cost the hard-up county some £40K. The idea has gone down like a lead balloon with all the District Councils who argue that their own, relatively healthy financial positions, would be jeopardized by such a move. It would surely have been more sensible to consult the Districts first before commissioning the report.

The second idea is to remove the post of Chief Executive from the County Payroll. It seems it is more than an idea as the CEO has already announced that she will be going in May. The Council is being told that her roll will be taken over by the Leader of the Council – this has not been agreed by the Council as yet and will be the background to a very stormy Council Budget meeting. The potential savings are considerable. The issue is whether it is right, appropriate or sensible to hand over the running of a near £1billion turnover organization to a politician.

Election reflection....

We may be angry or concerned at the state of democracy in this country, but spare a thought for the newly elected. On May 8th/9th all across the country, thousands of people will wake up to discover that they have become new Councillors or MPs. Some will see this as a just reward for weeks of canvassing and delivering. Some (in so-called “safe” seats – assuming such things still exist) will continue as normal. A few, who thought they were taking part simply to make up the numbers, will find themselves elected against all odds and now have obligations to people they hardly know.

The world of the new councillor is bewildering. There is no manual on what to do or what is expected of you. Everyone around you seems to speak a different language. Mrs X rings up to complain that next-door’s parrot has just eaten her prize geraniums and what is the new Councillor going to do about it? The first unintelligible Council agenda, the size of a telephone directory, drops through the letter box. Mr Y emails to ask what is the new Councillor’s position on sewage treatment and the NPPF?

Within a year you will either have gone mad, resigned or possibly, just possibly, become a truly great Councillor - fluent in council-speak, able to explain the SHMA to the man in the street, connecting the needy with those that can help them. Most probably, like the rest of us, the new councilor will have had many failures and one or two successes, and, like rabbit golfers, only remember the storming 5 iron hit on the 7th last year, conveniently forgetting the 6 strokes before and the two after.

Local politics is just like life – full of good and bad, success and failure. Please remember that whatever party he/she may represent, your new councillor is more than likely to be doing his/her best.

It may be that national politics is different, but I doubt it.

RICHARD WEBBER CLLR,

SUTTON COURTENAY & MARCHAM DIVISION OCC

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

<https://cllrrichardwebber.wordpress.com>

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Most of you will be aware of the air quality issues in Packhorse Lane and Frilford Road, and the residents of these roads are now being consulted by the Vale before that whole area becomes an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) - see more on page 19.

To give you a brief background: there are different types of air pollutants, including benzene, butadiene, carbon monoxide, fine particles, lead, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide, all of which can exacerbate existing health issues or even create a health issue, like asthma, in some residents who live in these areas. Road traffic mainly emits nitric oxide, some of which becomes nitrogen dioxide, a particularly nasty irritant for respiratory problems, and although most pollutants in the Vale are below the acceptable level (is any level acceptable?), we now know that the A415 through Marcham is well above this level along with areas in Abingdon, Oxford, Witney and Wallingford.

What can be done? The Vale is considering taking certain actions to counteract and reduce the levels of pollutant:

1. Consider with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) imposing a weight restriction limit on the A415 through Marcham to discourage HGVs and larger vehicles.

2. Consider with OCC the potential for building a by-pass! (We've been here before...it was first muted in 1939).
3. Consider commissioning a study on the feasibility of creating a Low Emission Zone limiting use of the road.

The Vale is keen to have feedback from anyone in Marcham who might have a really innovative idea on how to reduce the levels of pollutants in Packhorse Lane and Frilford Road, so get your thinking caps on everyone and send in your solutions to the Vale online : <https://consult.southandvale.gov.uk> or by post to Abbey House. All responses need to be in by 13th March 2015.

Next Surgery: It has been really useful to see some of you when Richard or I are helping in the shop, but we still feel that a Surgery time is worthwhile for the time being. So do come along if you wish to raise an issue on Saturday, 7th March between 9.00am and 11.00am

CATHERINE WEBBER, CLLR VWHDC Marcham Ward
01235 534001 or catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

We have been very fortunate at pre-school to have been able to arrange some very special visits involving the Eat Happy scheme from Tesco in Abingdon! Sharon visited us over several weeks to share and explore a range of food items with the children. During January and February we explored lots of herbs and spices, and a range of cheeses!! We also examined a range of fish (see photo) which we all found a smelly but unusual afternoon - we used our magnifying glasses to look closely at their features which sparked a very interesting discussion about whether we thought the fish were really, really dead! Not something we get to do everyday - so thank you Tesco for some interesting and exciting sessions!!



For more details about joining Marcham pre-school from September 2015 or beyond, please contact us as soon as possible on 01856 392101 or marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

or via our website www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

Pre-School Room Such a busy month, with the snow and the cold! The little snow we had enabled the children to



explore the field and make trails in the snow, and learning to throw snowballs at the staff. We have had a Hans Christian Anderson theme this month using Fairy Tales to explore the environment. The Snow Queen (and the actual snow) gave us chance to explore the snow and look at snowflakes and their differences. The Toy Soldier meant we explored soldiers and we were able to make our own toy soldiers to float on the water, as well as learning how to march and stand to attention! We explored the Princess and the Pea; acting out the story and explored different materials to make collages of the Princess's Bed.

Baby Room The babies were also very interested in the snow and they loved making finger drawings. They have been learning about the Very Hungry Caterpillar, reading the story and using finger puppets to act out the story. They have explored different types of foods and made a collage of the story, and found how they have all felt through sensory play. They also enjoyed making valentine cards for their mums and dads.

After School Club Such a busy month, we have had fun with lots of games, such as Jenga and Monopoly inside and playing Rounders when the weather permits. Skipping is still very popular and many of the Big Angels are staying active even in the cold. We have explored Australia Day, New Zealand Day and Ground Hog Day (made our very own Groundhogs!). We had a great competition making paper airplanes and seeing how far each one would fly. The children have had lots of fun putting together a time capsule. We have been enjoying the longer daylight and are looking forward to playing more Rounders as the we go into spring. February half term was great fun, we learnt about Chinese New Year and made dragons and found out which animal we all are! Everyone impressed Helen in writing in Chinese!! We also celebrated pancake day where we

made pancakes, had pancake races which were very close and made up our own pancake poems.

Ofsted Little Angels are pleased to inform you that we provide GOOD childcare provision, from our recent Ofsted inspection which covered our baby room, pre-school room and after school club, we are very pleased with this 'result' as the standard of quality childcare has risen over the last couple of years. Here is what Ofsted said about us:

Children are confident and self-assured. Close and trusting relationships with their key person and other staff make them feel safe and secure.

Children demonstrate close relationships with staff and their peers. They are confident and feel secure in the nursery because staff give priority to supporting their emotional needs. Children learn to become independent in their dressing, toileting and eating. These skills prepare them for the move up to school.

Regular outings into the community, such as local toddler groups, allow children to have a broad balance of learning experiences.

Staff plan activities that reflect children's interests and keep them engaged. As a result, children make good progress in their learning.

For a full look at our Ofsted inspection please visit: <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/CARE/EY361920>

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

Earth Trust Events

Lambing Weekends

Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd March, 10am-4pm

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th March, 10am-4pm

Earth Trust's annual lambing weekends in partnership with Little Wittenham Lamb. Enjoy a day out on our working farm visiting the new spring lambs. Plenty of fun craft activities to also have a go at, and refreshments will be available. Don't forget your wellies! £6 adult, £3 child, £15 family, FREE for Earth Trust Friends.

Earth Trust Explorers: Clumps Club

Monday 30th & Tuesday 31st March, 9am-5pm

Wild adventures for children aged 8-12 years! Join us for outdoor fun as we build dens, cook on the fire and make new friends. Easter-themed activities also included! £25 per child per day; booking essential: 01865 407792 or admin@earthtrust.org.uk.

Little Explorers

Tuesday 31st March, 10am-11.30am

Sensory buggy walk for babies and toddlers. We will use our senses to learn about the natural world around us – stopping to smell, touch, taste, listen and look! £4 donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

More details www.earthtrust.org.uk

Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4QZ 01865 407792



Did you know that by the time it gets to your plate, your Sunday lunch could have clocked up over 6500 miles across several continents? Earth Trust is encouraging everyone to eat locally in 2015 with a series of videos on its blog – **Our Footprint** – containing advice and information on shopping locally, eating seasonally, and even growing your own. Making a switch to local food has numerous benefits for you, your community and the environment: it can be fresher, tastier and cheaper, plus you'll be directly supporting the local economy; there is also less processing and transportation required. Have a look at

www.earthtrust.org.uk/OurFootprint

and take the Friday Footprint Challenge.

Against Breast Cancer

Sunday 3rd May 2015

Classic Oxfordshire Cycle Ride

Use Your Pedal Power for Against Breast Cancer!



To support the fight against breast cancer and join us on the **Classic Oxfordshire Bike Ride!** Now in its 10th year this is a fabulous cycling event and fantastic opportunity to explore Oxfordshire's stunning countryside. The route passes through pretty villages & lush spring countryside alongside the River Thames as it winds from South Oxfordshire up to Abingdon and into the Vale of White Horse. Visiting countryside of beautiful half-timbered cottages, green riverbanks and colourful marketplaces, it's a great start to the cycling season! Choose either the 30, 60, 75 mile route or the family friendly 12 mile great escape ride. Leave the hustle and bustle behind you!

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. If you are passionate about supporting the fight against breast cancer and want to raise vital funds to support our unique research into breast cancer and ultimately to discovering a vaccine, contact us today!

Website: <http://bit.ly/1Fh15JX>

Location: Harwell, Oxfordshire

Contact: Events Team Emma & Sarah

Email: events@againstabreastcancer.org.uk

Telephone: 01235 534211

So don't delay – get into the pink today!

www.againstabreastcancer.org.uk

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS?

CPRE Oxfordshire and ROAR – the Rural Oxfordshire Action Rally, are petitioning Secretary of State Eric Pickles and local MPs to protect rural Oxfordshire from unsustainable development. We believe current planning rules are unfairly penalising particular villages and greenfield sites, a situation which is likely to get worse with the proposed 40% increase in housing in Oxfordshire by 2031. Whilst many would welcome more affordable housing for local people, developers are frequently bringing forward large and inappropriate developments that threaten to swamp existing communities and infrastructure. Unless we stand together, the rural nature and beautiful countryside of Oxfordshire will be at risk.

By signing our e-petition you can help us to persuade our local MPs to protect rural Oxfordshire.

Please add your signature and make your voice heard!

Sign here: <http://chn.ge/1IjvYUA>

For more information go to: <http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk/>

Dr Helena Whall, Campaign Manager,

Protect Rural Oxfordshire (PRO)



Wantage & Grove Lions club are holding a **Jumble Sale** on Saturday March 7th, doors open at 1-30pm. Venue East Hanney Royal British Legion. On Saturday March 21st we are having a "Cash Bingo Session" at Grove Village Hall doors open at 6-30pm. We

would be pleased to see any of Marcham people at either event. Please make yourselves known. **Lions Ernest & Nan Draper WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY BRIDGE ??**

Did you once enjoy a game of Bridge, but have not played for a number of years? Do you still play the occasional game, but would like to play more often? Would you like to learn to play this exciting and absorbing game? If so, why not come along to Marcham Bridge Club on Monday evenings?



We are a friendly, cheerful bunch who meet to play in a cautiously competitive spirit. There are not too many of us, usually we have 3 or 4 tables. Nobody takes the competition too seriously, but we do try to improve our game as we go along – and many of us need to! The standard is variable, from raw beginners to quite experienced players. If you are a beginner we are prepared to help you learn the game 'out of school'. We don't have set partnerships, but draw for partners at the beginning of the evening. We play duplicate bridge, but don't worry if you have not played duplicate before – none of us had when we started! It's all quite straightforward.

If you feel you would like a game, why not come along on Monday evening? Our venue is the comfortable, warm Board Room at Manor Farm in Marcham, starting at 7:30pm, finishing around 10:30. You don't need to bring a partner and parking is not a problem. There is an annual subscription of £5 plus £1 per evening, which includes coffee. If you would like more information ring Joe Featherstone on 391426 or Rob Hall on 391626.

Can you help Medical Detection Dogs save lives?



The charity Medical Detection Dogs is training dogs in the detection by scent of human diseases and life-threatening health conditions.

The Cancer Detection Dogs work on clinical trials with universities and health professionals in the early detection of cancer, publishing the results in scientific journals. (For example our dogs are over 90% accurate in the early detection of prostate cancer.)

The Medical Alert assistance dogs partner clients with life-threatening health conditions, acting as 'early warning systems'; for example alerting before a hypoglycaemic attack causes collapse in a brittle Type 1 Diabetic person.

We are a small group of volunteers, the Oxon and Cotswold support group, supporting the charity by giving talks and running local fundraising events and street collections.

We are looking for help with our fundraising.

We need:

- Volunteers to help with street collections and events
- Offers to run an event, eg coffee morning or sale
- Good quality second-hand clothes
- Good quality bric-a-brac
- Old jewellery, used stamps, used printer cartridges
- New ideas for fundraising

If you would like to join our group (mainly based in West Oxon), or volunteer for even one event a year, please contact: Heather Shute 01993 831909 or oxon.supportgrp@medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk

Also, if you would like a speaker to come to your local group, please contact us. www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk



Plant sale

Fundraising for RDA Abingdon Group

10am-1pm Saturday 9 May

As well as supporting the sale itself, if you normally grow your own vegetables and plants from seed and cuttings could we encourage you to sow and propagate a few more in the coming months to sell at the plant sale?

Any questions get in touch with Sarah Wilkinson on 07814 397192 or email sarahwilkinson123@gmail.com

MARCHAM AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA-CONSULTATION

Vale of White Horse District Council has undertaken a detailed assessment of air quality in Marcham. Our assessment indicates that acceptable levels of nitrogen dioxide have been breached where houses are close to the A415.

To address the problem, we are proposing to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) which will allow us to take action to improve air quality in this area.

Further information including a summary of findings from the detailed assessment in Marcham, a map showing the proposed AQMA (see below), and background information about the District Council's obligations to address air quality is available on the MADNews website www.madnews.co.uk and in Marcham Village Shop.

To inform our work, we are consulting local residents and other stakeholders.

We would like your views on:

- The conclusions of the air quality assessment for Marcham
- The proposed boundary of the AQMA
- Traffic measures which can be taken to reduce emissions in the area

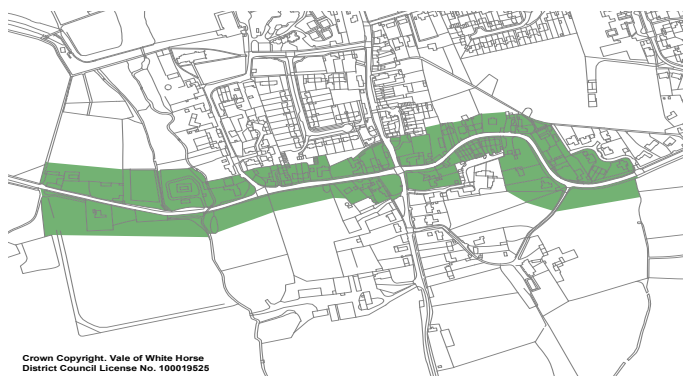
Comments can be submitted online at <https://consult.southandvale.gov.uk/> or emailed directly to tim.williams@southandvale.gov.uk

All comments must be received by Friday 13 March 2015.

If you have any questions about the consultation or the council's work in this area, please contact me.

Tim Williams, Environmental Health Officer

01235 540555, tim.williams@southandvale.gov.uk



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Keep the Date
Summer Dance
Saturday 27th June
 More details to follow



The first **Oxfordshire Patient Forum** will be held at the South Central Ambulance Service HQ in Bicester, Talisman Road, OX26 6HR on Tuesday 17 March from 17.30 to 18.30.

All health professionals, patients and users of our ambulance services are warmly invited to attend. The patient forum gives the opportunity for health professionals, ambulance service users, representatives of local organisations and local people who want to channel their passion for healthcare to come together to address issues that affect health services in their local community.

It also provides a stronger link between the trust and its members and improves communication by keeping the local people informed of any changes and gathering feedback on existing services.

If you would like to come along please email me at monica.moro@scas.nhs.uk. Or ring me on 01869 365126.

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk

COMMUNITY FACILITIES STEERING GROUP

The Community Facilities Steering Group (CFSG) was jointly formed in September last year by Marcham Parish Council, Marcham Community Group, Marcham Parochial Church Council, Marcham Baptist Church and Marcham Scouts, Sports and Social Club with the clear objective of developing plans for new community facilities in our village.

Since it was formed, CFSG has been reviewing a list of potential sites in and immediately around Marcham, developing criteria to work out which site(s) are likely to be most suitable, drawing up initial specifications for a village hall and sports facilities. It has also been working on potential costs, sources of funding and potential planning issues. This is a complex set of tasks and we will keep you regularly posted on progress.

CFSG is not in itself a fund-raising group at this stage, but aims to represent all organisations in Marcham working together to identify the best options for the community. CFSG welcomes any other local group to take part in this initiative. If you wish to have more information on CFSG, please contact Jim Asher (391727).

Representatives of the Parish Council, Anson Trust, Marcham Parish Church and Marcham Community Group met on Friday 13th February (chaired by Richard Webber – our County Councillor) in an effort to begin to break down some of the obstacles to finding a solution to the issues surrounding the Anson Field, leisure facilities and a Marcham Village Hall.

In order to keep all residents informed, those present wish to publish the following statement:

JOINT STATEMENT

Those attending the meeting felt genuinely encouraged by the frank exchange of views and by the general agreement that:

1. Everyone wants the best for Marcham and this aim should over-ride all others.
2. There were no bottom line demands that were necessarily insurmountable.
3. Where there were obstacles to progress, there was a genuine desire to try to overcome them together.
4. All were agreed that past history had taught us that a village united was most likely to deliver a solution.

To these ends, it was agreed that:

1. The Anson Trust will consider how to make its activities more accessible by fixing a few meetings a year when the public can attend. The Trust will give more details in next month's MAD News.
2. Anson Trust should be formally invited to join CFSG.
3. CFSG will become the main focus for all those working together to find a solution.
4. It is essential that there is good public communication and that the progress of CFSG meetings will be in the public domain.

MUSIC IN THE VALE

presents The Florian String Quartet

"English Fantasias" Music for strings by Purcell, Ward, Walton.

- Hugh Blogg – violin
- Rebecca Smith – violin
- Anna Brigham – viola
- Chris Terepin – cello

Where: St. Denys' Church, Church Green, Stanford in the Vale, SN7 8HU

When: 21 March 7:30pm

How much: £12.00

Admission is by programme, cost £12 from Vogue Hairdressing, 28 High Street, Stanford in the Vale, telephone 01367 710476, by reservation on 01367 718420, email djpedderdpa@btinternet.com, or at the door.



MAKE USE OF THE LENGTHENING DAYS

My, my, my, article writing time again! No worries about what to write about in this wildlife gardening article this time, plenty of ideas flowing. The issue is the actual act of writing it. My Rheumatoid Arthritis has got me bad today and I can hardly hold a pen or even type. Ideas are flowing as I am looking to soon publish 2 eBooks and Paperbacks about wildlife gardening, plus planning to write at least 3 more in the series. Creativity flows, especially as the days get longer as we advance through the early months of the year.



People new to wildlife gardening, often ask me, in the middle of all that new found vigour, "What actually is wildlife gardening". Well put simply, in its rawest form, it's an altered mind-set. It's as much about psychology or social conditioning as it is about gardening and the necessities' within its practices. Our obsession with controlling our gardens, are a reflection of our obsession of controlling the world around us. To change the world around us, requires effort to change something within ourselves first.

Question why you are cutting your grass once a week, and why you cut your privet hedge within an inch of its life, 8 times a year? Does it need doing? Is it really 'untidy' or is that just our perspective after generations if not millennia of conditioning? That said, wildlife gardeners and the gardeners they are the custodians of don't have to look much different to a conventional manicured garden. It doesn't have to be untidy. Mind you, if one person sees something as untidy, and another doesn't, does untidiness actually exist? Or is it just perspective again? Note the word there, custodian? Wildlife gardeners often see the bigger picture and see themselves as a custodian as a result.

Ok, an article there with which to challenge yourselves with. The aim, to get you questioning why you garden and why you do it the way you do. It might be different for all of us!

Happy Gardening **STUART MABBUTT**
Wildlife Gardening Specialist 01865 747243

A BULLETIN FROM HEDGEHOG STREET: PLANTS TO ENCOURAGE HEDGEHOGS

It's finally possible to squeeze in a little potting or pruning after work now, before the light fails. If you are making plans for the garden, here are five plants to consider that will do wonders for the local hedgehogs.



1. **Cherry** (try varieties 'Stella' or 'Sunburst') A good urban tree: pick the right rootstock and it will fit in any sized garden. The leaves are the right size for hedgehogs to make their hibernation nests from so this will provide a ready natural source of bedding.
2. **Thyme Plant** this between the cracks in your patio or in on the sunny edge of a bed. Aside from being incredible on roast chicken, it is the foodplant for several moth species = caterpillars = hedgehog food.
3. **Willow** One of the best plants there is for encouraging insects, it ranks up there with the mighty oak. For smaller gardens consider growing a willow structure or maintaining as a coppiced plant to keep in check.
4. **Bird's-foot-trefoil** This legume is the foodplant for the common blue butterfly (and five others), and will also be very attractive to flying insects when in flower. Does well in a perennial wildflower mix.
5. **Honeysuckle** Aside from the glorious nectar-rich flowers, this plant keeps its structure during winter which makes it attractive as a nest site. Grow it over your log pile to maximise the potential of this feature.

www.hedgehogstreet.org

Abingdon Drama Club

Proudly presents

HENRY V

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Mike Ward

Wednesday 25th - Saturday

28th March 7:30pm at the

Unicorn Theatre

In the 600th anniversary year of the battle of Agincourt, Abingdon Drama Club presents Shakespeare's historical epic! It will also be 70 years since the first ever ADC production.

Tickets available from:

The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct (15 Bury St)

Email: tickets@unicornboxoffice.org.uk

Telephone: 0845 4636638

www.abingdon-drama-club.com

enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com

**ABINGDON
DRAMA
CLUB**

ADC - in 3D since 1944

www.abingdon-drama-club.com



MUSIC AT THE UNICORN

DAN WALSH

7.30pm Thursday 5th March

haystackmusic.co.uk/artists/dan-walsh/

Doors: 7:30pm | Music: 8pm £10

Abingdon Unicorn Theatre

Tickets: www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk

& REMADE GUITARS, (Stratton Way) Coxeter House

Oxfordshire Mind's specialist Benefits for Better Mental Health team gives anyone with a mental health problem expert advice and guidance to help them navigate the complex benefits system.



The Oxfordshire Mind Benefits team is working more closely with Didcot/Henley Citizens Advice Bureau, as part of the Tap-In Advice Service across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse. You can have a one-to-one session to get a "benefits healthcheck" and advice on all financial aspects including Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and Personal Independence Payments. If you need advice about benefits, make an appointment by either contacting your local CAB office or by ringing the Benefits for Better Mental Health hotline (Mondays to Thursdays, 10am to 1pm) on 01865 243585.

www.oxfordshire-mind.org.uk www.caox.org.uk

Bubble Wrap - regular quantities from local business.

Free with a donation to Keith's India charity.

Abingdon Blinds & Curtains

Marcham 391881

Seen a problem that needs fixing?

www.fixmystreet.com

It does work!



Dear Friends,

March is a month that heralds **hope**: the spring bulbs are bursting through the ground; early snowdrops and daffodils are in flower, bringing much needed colour to our gardens; and buds are filling out on the branches of shrubs and trees. The days are significantly longer, too, and there is an expectancy in nature as spring begins to unfold. Wonderful! I thank God for springtime!

Our world needs hope, big-time! From the Ukraine to Iraq to Syria, to Nigeria and the Sudan. Our world is threatened with conflicts that could escalate and disturb the global community. We can turn to God for help - expectantly.

There's lots happening in the life of the Parish, too. Sunday 15th March is **Mothering Sunday**, and later in the month we warmly invite you to a special dramatization of St. Mark's Gospel, entitled '**The Mark Drama**' - on Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm in All Saints' or on Sunday 29th March at 4.30pm (followed by refreshments), also in All Saints'.

Sunday 29th is also **Palm Sunday**, which heralds the beginning of Holy Week, and the events leading to Easter (5th April).

Why do we celebrate these events? Because they are powerful reminders of the ways in which God touches human lives, and nations, past and present, and how we can engage with the Person of Jesus ourselves. Being in living touch with God in the complexities, joys, trials and the everyday living of life is wonderful, hope-full, life-enhancing, and a deep source of joy, hope, and inner peace. Spiritual springtime - fresh beginnings, new life, colours in place of greys - and so much more!

I hope you enjoy the beauty of this spring, and hold on to the hope that Christ can bring, and that your heart is lifted by the new life and colour that is all around us.

With my warmest springtime greetings,

Revd Richard Zair

Vicar

the mark drama

Saturday 28th @ 7.30pm

Sunday 29th @ 4.30pm

Come and see all of Mark's Gospel in 90 mins

All Saints' Church - All invited

We warmly invite you to any or all of our services in the Parish Church of All Saints'.

This month we continue to study the Gospel of Mark and find out more about Jesus.

Regular services:

Sundays at All Saints': 10 am and 6 pm

Wednesdays: 10.30 am Holy Communion at Duffield Place

Prayer

We have regular opportunities for prayer

Monday 2nd March at 9.30 @ 11 Sweetbriar is 'Prayer for the persecuted Church'

Thursday Mornings at 9.30 @ 11 Sweetbriar is a chance to come together with others for prayer.

The prayer chapel in the church is always open for personal prayer through daylight hours

March Dates:

Saturday 7th March - Men's Breakfast in MSSC

Saturday 28th - Progressive Supper

Parish People:

We remember in our prayers, the family of Jean Cook who was buried last month.

Contacts

Rev. Richard Zair (r_zair@yahoo.co.uk) 391319

Parish Office: parish_office41@yahoo.co.uk

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister* 390885

Tim Jack *Churchwarden* 01865 864900

Tamsin Gilbert *Administrator* 391319

What IS The World Coming To?



I vaguely remember as a young boy, my grandmother and her sister talking together in the early sixties and saying “*What is the world coming to*”. This rhetorical question was probably alluding to something quite innocuous that had offended their post-war sensibilities but it’s something we’ve probably all heard or said a few times.

Only a few brief weeks ago, we were linking arms with friends and singing Auld Lang Syne, yet in the short time since, we have been bombarded with many events of huge importance on the world stage. Each single one of these events unchecked could potentially have massive effect on a global scale. Whilst the domestic news has been somewhat encouraging, with progressively lower unemployment, continued economic growth and wages growing faster than inflation for the fourth month in a row the news internationally has been bleak, to say the least.

In Europe, the financial worry is no longer from hyperinflation but rather that of an equally dangerous deflationary downward spiral. Without intervention, deflation can cause economies to quickly shrink and create another economic crash. A further financial worry is in the Eurozone, where the Greek anti-austerity party Syriza, swept to power but seems now to be stuck between accepting some continued form of austerity or leaving the Euro. The latter seems the most likely before too long. However, of even more concern is the rise of Spanish anti-austerity party Podemos. Coping with a Greek default will be bad enough but many commentators worry about the survival of the Eurozone if Spain and possibly other European debtor nations default too. Some are fearful of a consequent possible worldwide economic meltdown, not just because of the real and present danger of European financial instability but also in great part because of the massive world debt situation.

In the Ukraine, it seems beyond doubt that Putin is continuing to arm the Russian backed separatists. Even though a ceasefire had been brokered by France and Germany, it seems that Putin is determined to re-establish Soviet influence through many parts of the old Soviet Union. Of course the situation is very fluid but as I write this, the USA is talking about arming the Ukrainian army, leading potentially not just to a return to the cold war but which could develop into something far worse. There is a distinct possibility of a direct confrontation between Russia and NATO, especially if Putin repeats his Ukrainian adventures in the Baltic states that were once in the Warsaw Pact but now in NATO. The situation is unparalleled since the collapse of the Soviet Union and brings echoes of the standoff in the 1962 Cuban missile crisis – a very worrying scenario.

Already this year, we have heard of numerous attacks by militant Islamists. In Paris and Copenhagen, as well as in Nigeria, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Pakistan, with journalists, aid workers and schoolchildren amongst those targeted. Last week, the Egyptian Air Force attacked an Islamic State base in Libya, as a result of the murder of eleven Greek Coptic Christians. Attacks by IS, Boko Haram and other Islamist groups have often been specifically aimed at Christians and it’s estimated that worldwide around 100,000 Christians are martyred each year. Additionally, many Jews are feeling threatened as a result of rising anti-Semitism throughout Europe. Many hundreds have already left for Israel, where they feel they may be safer.

Wars and rumours of wars, famines, earthquakes, attacks on Christians, the Jews returning to their homeland are all prophesied in The Bible as taking place in the final days before Christ’s return. There is much more to say than this one page allows but it seems that Biblical prophecy is being outworked before our eyes..... It is fair to say that even in the First World War, Christians thought that the end had come - but they were wrong. At that time, there was one key Biblical prophecy that had still to happen – the recreation of the nation of Israel..... That happened in 1948.

Financial manipulation may again enable the world to temporarily escape the quagmire; diplomacy may enable Putin to back down; the Islamists may be defeated. However, one day global meltdown will happen. This should be of utmost importance to each of us because those who put their complete trust in Christ need not fear the future. Jesus said to His followers ‘*When you see these things begin to take place, lift up your heads because you know that your salvation draws near*’

So to my grandmother’s question ... “*What is the world coming to?*” The answer is the soon return of Jesus Christ.

If you want to know more, then dig out that Bible that lurks somewhere on your bookshelf and take a look at Matthew’s gospel chapter 24 and Luke’s gospel chap 21 - the main Biblical passages, written around 2,000 years ago, where Jesus responds to his disciples question about the signs of His return. Alternatively, why not come to the Men’s Breakfast on 7th March at Sports and Social on the Anson Field, when I will be speaking more on this. If so, do please ring James Allan on 391373, to book a place.

Keith Mersh, Pastor Marcham Baptist Church

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Speakers in March

1 Mar - Phil Mader Grayson
8 Mar - Dave Page
15 Mar - Adam Hawley
22 Mar - Richard Zair
29 Mar - Stephen Harrison

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