# Marcham & District News

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

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

JUNE 2017 VOL: 39 NO: 6



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#### **READ & RECYCLE!**



**FREE** 





▲ Holiday Club page 13



### **Diary for June**

3 Sat	Sunningwell Gardening Club Plant Sale, 10.00 - 12.00	
3 Sat	Bothy Vineyard Tours, 11.00 & 14.00 FREE	
3-25	Heartstone Arts at Bampton: Art Exhibition 11.30 – 16.30	
8 Thur	Midweek Walk, The Fox Inn, Little Barrington Lunch 12.30 / walk from NT Carpark Ewepen Buildings 13.30	7
13 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 - 15.30	7
14 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
15 Thur	Music at the Unicorn, Lucy Ward, 19.00	13
15 Thur	Marcham WI: Biff Raven-Hill: The Wartime Housewife, Denman College, 19.30	7
16 Fri	Marcham School PTA Family Bingo, 17.30	13
17 Sat	Defibrillator Training, Marcham Primary School, 10.00	

17 Sat	Open Gardens, North Steet, Marcham, 14.00 – 17.00	
18 Sun	The Great Get Together, St Ethelwold's House, Abingdon, 12.00 – 15.00	
18 Sun	History Walk and Exhibition, MSSSC, Anson Field, 14.00	
20 Tue	Deadline for July MADNews, 17.00: editor@madnews.co.uk	
21-24	Abingdon Drama Club: Thou Shalt Not Suffer, Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon, 19.30	9
23 Fri	The Last Disco, Marcham Social Club, 19.30 – 00.00	5
24 Sat	Grove and Wantage Extravaganza, Grove Rugby Club, 12.30pm	13
25 Sun	Bampton Hidden Gardens, 14.00 – 18.00	9
27 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 - 15.30	7
30 Fri	MSSSC Quiz Night, Anson Field, 20.15	

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Dear Readers

I am delighted that Frilford has now started its own corner in MADNews - we welcome reports, notices, letters and any other submission from all parts of the MADNews area - and further afield!

If you live in Willows Farm you won't have had a copy of MADNews delivered to you this month. If you would like to take on this monthly task and get to know your neighbourhood, contact Judith and Peter on 391275 who manage all the deliveries. Otherwise you can get spare copies from Marcham Village Shop.

Until next time

# PUBLISHER / EDITOR

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Advertising: 5pm 15th month Other copy: 5pm 20th month

except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

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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.

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Tel: 01235 534001

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

#### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ Tel: 01235 534001

Webbercatherine1@gmail.com For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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#### MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS Annual Council Meeting

At the annual council meeting held on 10th May, Miss Ruth Mander was elected Chairman for the forthcoming year and Mrs. Sandra Hill as Vice-Chairman. Various appointments to outside committees and internal working parties were made. The contact details of the Council members can be found on the Council's noticeboard outside the Institute.

#### **Marcham Garden Competition 2017**

The Marcham Garden Competition has been running since 2000 and has been quite a success since its commencement. You do not need to be an expert gardener and you do not have to formally enter the competition. Judges view gardens from the roadside without the need for entering properties. The village will be walked by the first round judges at the end of June, and the final round judging will take place early July. Winners will be notified over the Summer and invited to attend the September meeting of the Parish Council to receive their prizes.

#### A415 – telegraph poles in new path

The Parish Council is actively pursuing the outstanding issue of the telegraph poles in the path between Abbots Grange and the traffic lights. It is in correspondence with both the County Council and Vale of White Horse District Council in an attempt to have the poles relocated as per the planning consent granted, and the path given its final surface coat of tarmac, so that it can be opened for public use.

## A415 – red plastic barrier close to The Willows

Queries have been raised with the Council regarding the red plastic barrier that is on the path close to the traffic lights This is preventing residents from tripping over a telephone cable which serves the site office, and it will be removed in due course when the site office is removed at the end of the building works.

#### Tidy Village

Weed spraying has taken place at the end of April, so weeds are currently beginning to die back. However as the grass cutting season is well under way again, the dumping of grass cuttings appears to have started. These have been spotted along with fly tipping in parts of the parish. Whilst residents may think that one small quantity may rot down, the accumulative effect of several people dumping garden waste spoils the appearance of the village, can block public rights of way and becomes a real problem. The Council has previously mentioned cars parked on verges, not only can these restrict vision, they also can prevent grass being cut if they are causing an obstruction on grass cutting day. Also to try and keep the village tidy, the Parish Council has contacted the County Council regarding the uncut verge at the junction of Howard Cornish Road and the A415, as this is interfering with vision for motorists joining the main road.

# Money for Health and Wellbeing from new Housing Developments

The Abingdon Surgery has applied to the Vale of White Horse District Council to use funding from the Marcham housing developments to provide additional consultation/clinical rooms, and the Parish Council has been asked

for its opinion. The Council is seeking further information before deciding on its comments.

**Steventon Rail Bridge** 

The Parish Council has been notified that a planning application has been lodged by Network Rail to demolish the Grade II listed rail bridge in Steventon in connection with the electricification of the Great Western Line. This will obviously have an impact on Steventon High Street and access to the Milton Interchange for some considerable time. Anyone wishing to view the application or comment on it can find it at www. whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P17/V1154/LB on the Vale of White Horse District Council's website.

#### **Planning Applications**

The Council has considered the following planning applications:

P17/V0939/HH Single storey rear extension at 30 Kings Avenue. The Council had no objections but expressed a preference for window colour to match existing.

P17V0987/LB Installation of kitchen extract unit at The Crown Public House, 1 Packhorse Lane. The Council had no objection.

P17V1068/MPO Modification to planning obligation as varied by a Deed of Variation dated 19th May 2016 at the Matthew Homes site off Packhorse Lane. Council was of the opinion that it did not have the technical expertise to comment on the Deed clauses.

#### **Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 14th June 2017 at 7.30p.m. in the residents' lounge, at Duffield Place. Please check noticeboard outside the Institute and/or the Council's website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk in case arrangements change.

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

Any member of the public is most welcome to attend any of our meetings. There is a section near the start of each meeting for public participation, where any member of the public is able to speak about any topic which is relevant to the work of the Parish Council (for a maximum of three minutes). Members of the public are also welcome to observe some or all of the rest of the meeting.

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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#### **FRILFORD NOTICES**

#### **Parish Email**

If you would like to be added to the Parish Meeting email list (often OCC Highways notices, sometimes related to planning applications or events, maybe one or two mailouts a month), then let Shaun know at the Parish Meeting email address, frilfordparish@gmail.com

#### **Planning Applications in April**

Abingdon Prep School - applications V0971, V0972, V0973, V0988, V1019 for minor works

Frilford Service station - application V1144 for retail area extension

#### WhatsApp Group

Christine has set up a WhatsApp Group for Frilford Residents - if you would like to join, then send an email to the Parish Meeting email address frilfordparish@gmail.com and Christine will add you.

#### **Social Events**

Watch this space - we are planning on organising social events via the email and WhatsApp groups.

Suggestions welcome!

I would like to thank everyone who supported my plant sale, including those who helped on the day and those who provided extra plants. I am delighted to report that over £200 was raised for the new facilities.



SHEILA DUNFORD

#### The Last Disco



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If you are holding an event within or near the MADNews area, contact the editor for more publicity! 01865 391725 editor@madnews.co.uk

#### PARISHIONER OF THE YEAR 2017 – MALCOLM DENTON

At the Marcham Annual Parish Meeting on 24 May, Malcolm Denton was declared Parishioner of the Year 2017 - we congratulate him and here is the dedication:

Malcolm is dedicated to the wellbeing of Marcham, both the place and the people within it. This focus creates within him a desire to be involved and lead many vital activities for the village.

He keeps a watchful eye on community issues and as Chairman of the Neighbourhood Action Group he has led the liaison with Thames Valley Police and he is flood response co-ordinator. He will also readily roll his sleeves up and go out litter picking with his wife Christine as well as organising regular litter picks when they are helped by more of the villagers. He has even decorated people's homes when they needed help.

He is one of the committee members that is responsible for the village shop with restocking on Wednesdays being one of the many tasks he performs to help keep the shop running smoothly as a much needed community resource.

He is actively involved in the planning for the new community facilities with the Community Facilities Steering Group. He has been a member of the Parish Council for many years, some of those as Chairman, a member of the Parochial Church Council and Clerk of Works for the Parish Church where he helps maintain the fabric of the Church and its Churchyard.

His charitable work includes running the annual Poppy Appeal for the Royal British Legion, raising thousands of pounds for this charity. He is actively involved every year in organising the Remembrance Day ceremony and looking after the Wayside Cross. Malcolm has a heartfelt concern for the people of this community. His care for and dedication to this village is exemplary. He is always thoughtful, polite, approachable and trustworthy – a very safe pair of hands. A gentleman through and through, a real friend to Marcham.

# Defibrillator Training – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June in Marcham Primary School Hall Hall open from 10.00 a.m. Training session at 10.30 a.m. Refreshments available courtesy of Marcham School PTA

South Central Ambulance Service will be running a training event to create awareness of the issues surrounding treating a patient in the community. They will explain how to recognise the symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest, and demonstrate the use of the defibrillator.

The more people that know how to use the portable defibrillators installed in our community, the more chance there is of saving a life.

Everybody is welcome, and no special skills are required. It would be helpful if anyone who wishes to attend the session could let the parish clerk know, so that a record of numbers attending can be kept. Email: **Clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk** or telephone 01865 391833

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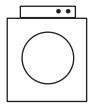


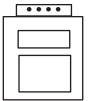
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#### Marcham WI

**Next Meeting** 

Date: Thursday, 15th June

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Denman College

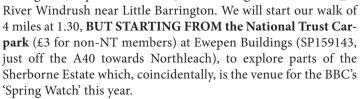


Our speaker at the June meeting will be the zany **Biff Raven-Hill** who will be giving amusing stories about life as '**The Wartime Housewife**'. They managed on a tight budget and we will hear some of the intriguing ways they cooked and had fun sharing the ideas

For further information, please contact:
Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

# MARCHAM SOCIETY MID-WEEK WALK: THURSDAY, JUNE 8TH

Join us for another summer walk in the Cotswolds. We will meet at 12.30pm for lunch at **The Fox Inn** again (Map Ref SP205132) overlooking the



Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details, especially if you are not on our email list as sometimes late changes have to be made. Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers.

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

#### Quiz Night Friday 30 June 8.15pm

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!

Quiz nights usually take place on the last Friday of each month Everyone welcome, members and non-members. Just turn up on the night for a friendly evening of fun and banter Questions are on a range of subjects and aimed at everyone's ability!

Further details from Trevor Hill – 01865 391321

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

#### MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

Our April programme included lunch in The Crown on 19th at which 10 members attended and all came away well satisfied. Thank you Sue, Duncan and Chris.

At our meeting on 27th April we recalled our early years. Several members had photos and leaflets of their early years with one displaying her primary school reports - all of which were quite complimentary. Our Secretary brought along a couple of photos which did prove that he had hair in his youth.

At our June meeting we are going to tax our memories again and recall what happened when we first left home. As usual we had our regular raffle and Tea and Biscuits.

We meet in the lounge at Duffield place at 2.30pm on the last Thursday of the month.

#### **NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME**

For more information contact John Woods (Secretary) 391705 On the evening of 13th May, Marcham was treated to a lovely concert of Classical Music, played in



All Saints Church by the Isis Chamber Orchestra , conducted by Chris Gill.

The nicely varied programme started with the well known Holberg Suite by Greig. This was followed by a superb piece by a German composer named Franz Danzi. This was new to most of us in the audience and was lovely music, with two delightful soloists, Rachel Wright on flute and Ruth Foxman on clarinet, both of whom were able to display their virtuosity, particularly in the finale.

In the interval we enjoyed superb refreshments and wine.

The second half started with two Preludes by Vaughan Williams, and was a peaceful piece..It was lovely to listen as the hymns "Abide with me" and "The King of love my shepherd is" emerged quietly out of the music.

The concert concluded with Symphony No 80 by Joseph Haydn, and again this was new to me. A "Sturm and Drang" beginning contrasted with a gentle Landler melody in the first movement, and the final one teased us with an interesting rhythmic start. The symphony ended with a rousing finish in true Haydn style. All in all, a super evening of fine music, well played by Isis. May I encourage both old and new residents of Marcham to attend these concerts? You can walk to the church, instead of driving into Oxford!

The concert supported Marcham Community Group. Our new village hall is at long last on the horizon! *CHRISTINE WHILD*Isis Chamber Orchestra appreciated everyone who supported the concert on 13th May in support of Marcham village charities. The orchestra's conductor Chris would like to welcome you to a picnic and performance on Saturday 1st July, Rye St Antony school, Headington at which Isis Chamber Orchestra will be playing for a professional opera company Mozart's Magic Flute www.heritageopera.co.uk main performance 7.30pm £35 dress rehearsal 2.30pm lower price £15 may still be available.

#### **DUFFIELD SUNSHINE CLUB**

We meet on Mondays at 2 o'clock in The Residents' Lounge, Duffield Place. Any new members will be very welcome. We play some games of Bingo, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and finish off with a raffle about 3.30pm.

Any further information, please contact me on 391384 or just come and join us on a Monday afternoon at 2pm for a social afternoon.

ALL WELCOME JEAN DIX

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#### MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

OCA Fixtures for June are as follows:

June	1st XI	2nd XI
3	Dorchester Home	Letcombe Home
10	Sunningwell Away	Sunningwell II Away
17	W. Ilsley <i>Home</i>	Chalgrove Away
24	Bampton Away	

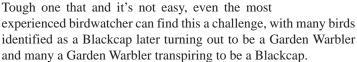
For information relating to the Club, including playing for, or umpiring on behalf of, Marcham, please contact Trevor Hill (391321).

Finally......an Australian commentator once observed "Well, Andrew Strauss is certainly an optimist - he's come out wearing sunblock".

And finally.....an Australian commentator once observed "Well, Andrew Strauss is certainly an optimist - he's come out wearing sunblock"



The article kind of wrote itself once I'd had an email through from a regular reader asking an age old question about bird song recognition. That being, "How can one tell the difference between a Blackcap's call and a Garden Warbler's call?"



It's kind of down to experience, but that's not failsafe either. A good tip is that Blackcaps hit higher notes and often deeper notes, whereas Garden Warblers don't have as a wider range of notes. But, there are regular exceptions to the rule.

So good luck with that one is all I can say. It does raise the point again in these lines though, that does it really matter the 'not knowing what it is' aspect to the enjoyment of the wildlife in our gardens?

We get so busy identifying, categorising and understanding, that we often forget to just 'be', and enjoy nature for what it is, in all its glory. Nature has many answers to the trials and tribulations we all encounter through life. To understand it is good, but is that really important at the end of the day?

#### Happy Gardening STUART MABBUTT

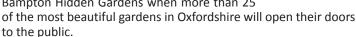
Wildlife Gardening Specialist

Contact: 01865 747243 stuart@wildmaninspires.co.uk

www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

# Heartstone Arts at Bampton - 3 - 25 June WestOx Arts Gallery, Bampton OX18 2JH

The show runs from 3rd to 25th June at WestOx Arts Gallery with outdoor space at Cobbles Garden in Bampton. The final day of the exhibition has been timed to coincide with Bampton Hidden Gardens when more than 25



Tuesdays – Saturdays: 11.30am – 4.30pm

Sundays: 2 - 4pm

Bampton Hidden Gardens Open Sunday 25th June 2-6pm www.heartstone-fund.uk for more information

#### CROSSWORD BY ALISA - ANSWERS

**Across**: 1. Egg 2. Coast 8. Unicorn 11. Wet 12. Sensory 13. Echo 15. Sum 16. Urban folk 19. Eat 20. Eyes 21. Roofing 22. Toe 24. Drastic 26. Grieg 27. Ewe

**Down**: 2. Gnu 4. Snow 5. Winsor 6. Dry Sandford 7. Optimists 9. Stevenson 10. Trio 14. Hut 15. Sky 17. Book 18. Legato 23. Ever 25. Cow



#### Open Gardens

Two gardens will be open on
North Street, Marcham.
2-5pm Saturday 17th June 2017
Tickets £5, Children £2
Tickets available from 62 North Street,
or from Marcham Village Shop
or phone 391270 for more details.
All proceeds to The Denman College Appeal

#### MARCHAM SOCIETY REPORT

A large audience gathered on 9 May to hear a talk about the archaeological dig at the Westgate site in Oxford. The speaker was Ben Ford, Senior Project Manager at Oxford Archaeology.

Work on the dig started early in 2015, when many layers of alluvium were removed to allow study of the ground since the Bronze Age.. However, the main focus of the dig was the site of Greyfriars, a friary in existence from the 11<sup>th</sup> century until the Reformation. This establishment took scholars from all over Europe, forming the basis of Oxford university, and had an extensive library.

The Trill stream was diverted to run through the site, with a wharf for unloading small boats. Channels and sluices provided drainage. There were vegetable gardens and an orchard. Remains from the kitchen area show that many kinds of meat and fish were eaten. A small section of colourful tiling from one of the cloisters was discovered and this will be on display in the new shopping area.

After the Reformation, the buildings were dismantled for other purposes and the site left mainly unused until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when terraced housing was built. This was demolished in a slum clearance programme in the late 1960s and replaced by the original Westgate shopping centre and multi-storey car-park.

JMF

Thou Shalt Not Suffer... Written and Directed by Tony Green

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Wednesday 21st - Saturday 24th June | 7:30pm

Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon Tickets: £10 (£8 Concessions)

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Phone: 0845 4636638



## **History Walk & Exhibition**

with refreshments

The walk around the village, led by Eric Dunford, will leave at 2pm and return around 3.30pm

Sunday June 18th 2-5pm Marcham Scouts, Sports & Social Club, Anson Field

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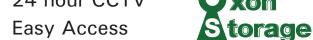
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#### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

No sooner have we finished one election, we are into another." Not again!" has already gone down in the political annals of 2017. The purdah period rules (where what can be said is strictly limited during elections) mean that I will keep my comments to generalities and, for the next 3 weeks, keep my opinions to myself.

**Spoilt papers** How these are decided is down to the Returning Officer who makes his decisions based on whether or not the voter has made his/her intention clear. Of the dozen or so spoilt papers I saw, one artistic voter had 3 miserable faces in my opponents boxes and a smiley face in mine. A clear intention displayed? Not so, said the Returning Officer. And the lesson? Full marks for creativity but if you want your vote to count, better to put a cross like everyone else.

**Catching up** I have a sizeable to do list which has built up over the last few weeks and am starting to make some inroads into it. Please be patient, but if you have any concerns, ring or send an email and I will make sure you are on the list.

**Thanks** Thank you to everyone who voted for me. And to those who voted for my opponents, please be assured that I will be working for everyone for the next four years. Although, If I have my way we will have gone "Unitary" well before then. At which point, we will be back for yet another election!.

**RICHARD WEBBER CLLR OCC** SC & Marcham Division. Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

#### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

#### Air Quality Traffic Survey

Wednesday, 10th May dawned bright and clear and remained like that for the next 24 hours. Relief! That made it much easier to conduct the Air Quality Traffic Survey in Packhorse Lane (site A) and at the "T" junction of Barrow Road and the road that runs through Gozzards Ford (site B). We had been very kindly offered the use of 3 Packhorse Lane by Mr and Mrs Grell, where there was a large, perfectly-placed window from which to count the traffic. This also meant that those at site A had all the comforts of home! Site B was a little less comfortable, as there, the volunteers (all men) had to sit in a car to count the traffic.

At site A the volunteers worked in pairs, one counting the traffic driving away from Abingdon and one counting all the traffic driving towards Abingdon. The same method was used at site B, but was carried out by one volunteer only, as we thought that there would be far fewer traffic movements at that site. It had been set up mainly to find out how busy the road was and how many HGVs used it, as one of our arguments with OCC is that although this is a B road, it already has HGVs using it and therefore could tolerate some more HGVs diverted from Packhorse Lane. As you know, HGVs are the main contributors to the poor air quality on Packhorse Lane.

The 24hour survey began at 6.00 in the morning, and it recorded three groups of traffic. Category 1 focused on all cars, motor bikes and small vans; category 2 focused on HGVs with two axles and very large vans; category 3 focused on HGVs with 3 or more axles. Both sites found that there were very busy times of the day when nobody could take their eyes off the road for one second and silence reigned, apart the occasional expletive of surprise or irritation at site A as a vast HGV filled the window so that one of the counters couldn't see the other side of the road and had to dash into the neighbouring room to look out of the other window. But during the quieter times, especially in the early hours of the morning, there was time to chat or listen to the radio.

Now the results of the survey are in the hands of a statistician to pour over. A brief look at them has shown that just over 15,000 cars went through Packhorse Lane, which supports the current estimates of traffic data, but very surprisingly there were over 9,000 cars travelling through the Gozzards Ford road, much more than current OCC estimates. In addition to considering how the traffic, especially HGVs, affects the air quality in the AQMA, these figures will play an important part in the OCC response to the VWHDC proposals to place more houses in Marcham.

None of this could have happened without all those who generously volunteered to help count the traffic, some covering 3 or 4 hours at a time. A big thank you to them, to Mr and Mrs Grell and to the pub for letting us hold a preliminary meeting there.

More news as we receive it....watch this space!.

#### CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC

01235 534001 or Webbercatherine1@gmail.com

#### Report from GARD - June 2017

Thames Water reveal their hand

A couple of weeks ago, Thames Water published their final shortlist for New Water Source options for their 2019 Fiveyear Water Resources Management Plan. After five months



of 'consultation', Thames have either ignored, or over-ridden with dubious arguments, the majority of critical comments coming from Stakeholders like GARD. The final shortlist contains: two Water recycling/purification and re-use plants in London; two desalination plants to turn river water to fresh water in London; a possible transfer of water from the R Severn to the R Thames, supported by reservoirs in the Severn-Trent water and United Utilities areas in Wales and the West Midlands; more abstraction of water from the Lower Thames below Teddington; and finally the massive 'Abingdon' reservoir to be sited on the land between Steventon, Hanney, Drayton and Marcham. As readers will know, GARD has long opposed the reservoir (successfully at the Public Inquiry in 2010), and we continue to do so. Even Thames Water's own figures show that there is enough water from the sources other than the reservoir to satisfy the South-East water deficit out to at least 2080. This demonstrates that there is no need for the reservoir in the foreseeable future.

Over the next nine months Thames Water will develop their designs on these options. They will then select a few (perhaps 3 or 4) new water resources to put forward to the government in January 2018. The government will then put that plan out to public consultation. There is thus a very strong possibility that the reservoir will be one of these new water resources proposed. It is GARD's view that the other sources are less costly, less damaging to the environment, less disruptive to local communities and more robust against climate change than the reservoir. GARD will oppose a reservoir if it becomes one of the proposed 'shortlist' and will demand a new Public Inquiry.

Residents can now expect a 'charm offensive' from Thames Water to try to paint an over-optimistic and sanitised view of the reservoir. This commenced at the Annual Parish Meeting in Steventon on 2nd May, where Thames gave a presentation. They stated correctly that the reservoir is still an option, but the tone of their presentation revealed their bias. They even claimed at one point that the reservoir could become a Special Site of Scientific Interest, comparing the possibilities for wildlife habitat with those at Abberton Reservoir in Essex. Unfortunately, a sharp-eyed Steventon resident who knows Abberton, pointed out the crucial problem with their argument: Abberton was formed by flooding a valley, so it is all below the surrounding land – Thames Water's planned reservoir is all ABOVE the surrounding land. The two simply cannot be compared, and it is regrettable that Thames are adopting this sort of line to try to influence local opinion. GARD will, aided by our expert consultants, be putting the true case to residents over the next few months. For the record, the proposed reservoir, at maximum size, is twice the area of Abberton, and holds six times the amount of water. If this reservoir is constructed, will be the largest 'walled' reservoir in the world. It is a project way beyond Thames' experience. At least three facts were established in the meeting: firstly, the water from the reservoir is more than 90% required by London (our local deficit is less than a tenth of London's by 2040); secondly Thames Water have yet to perform a conceptual design on where the flood water, which is normally accommodated in the area of the reservoir, would go if the reservoir were built; and finally there is no conceptual design yet on what the leakage from the reservoir would be. This just serves to reinforce our view that the potential problems are not being taken seriously: after all, Thames Water have a history of more than 20 years of proposing this reservoir, surely they should have checked these issues earlier?

GARD Annual General Meeting GARD held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 25th April at 7.30pm in St Michael's Church Hall. Members attending were briefed on the current situation regarding the reservoir by the Chairman, and a lively debate ensued. The GARD Committee and Officers were elected for the coming year. Derek Stork was re-elected as Hon Chairman, and Nick Thompson as Hon Vice-chairman. Deborah Bennett was elected as the new Hon Secretary and Lesley Hotchin as the new Hon Treasurer. The other committee members are David Bowen, Glynn Davies, Sharron Jenkinson. Ian Moodey, Nick Rogers and Wren Wooster. Those committee members standing down — Lesley Lovell as Secretary and Michael Robson, a former Vice-Chairman, were thanked for their hard work and dedication over more than a decade of involvement.

You can contact me (chair@abingdonreservoir.org.uk) if you would like to help, or to join GARD (lifetime membership is only £5).

#### DERĒK STÖRK,

Hon Chairman, Group Against Reservoir Development

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#### MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

We've all had a 'spring' in our step we chain Pre-School Playsray this term - and you may well have seen us strolling around on the village one beautiful Sunday morning in May. Pre-school collected lots of natural



items on our sponsored walk around the village before returning to the sports and social club for refreshments, crafts and activities..... It was a wonderful social event and the final total looks to be around £500 which is just amazing! Thank you to all the families who joined us and sponsored us, thanks to the committee for helping out on the day, and thank you to all the lovely residents of Marcham who came out to wave to us as we walked along! We do have some afternoon sessions still available for September 2017, so if you'd like to join us this year, or at any time in the future, please do get in touch. marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk or 01865 392101 We welcome visitors at any time, and would welcome the opportunity to share more information about our values, our setting and the outcomes we plan for all children at

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

#### JOIN IN THE SCARECROW TRAIL!



Marcham Pre-school.

From 15th - 30th July, everyone is invited to create a scarecrow to display in their garden or window and/or follow the trail and identify the scarecrows. The theme is CARTOON CHARACTERS (think Disney films, or TV) so you can choose pretty much anything! There will be prizes for the scarecrows

and also for the team who gets most right answers on the trail sheet. Organisations can also join in, as long as you have a place to display your scarecrow where it can be seen from the public footpath! You can get an entry form from Marcham Village Shop or download it from the MADNews website after the 1st of June -£5 per entry and £1 for the trail map.

For more information call Lucy 07834 922968

PLEASE COME TO The Great Get Together In Honour of Jo Cox Bring & Share LUNCH ALL WELCOME - FAMILY FRIENDLY Sunday 18th June 12-3 pm

St Ethelwolds House\*, East St Helen St, Abingdon OX14 5EB

greatgettogether.org
\* Limited seating available, please bring a picnic blanket for the garden. In the event of wet weather we will be in the house. #MoreinCommon: Fb: MoreinCommonAbingdon Host Abingdon: hostabingdon.org Abingdon Peace Group Fb: Abingdon Peace Group Host UK www.hostuk.org

**LUCY WARD** 

www.lucywardsings.com **Support: Charlie Reston** Thursday 15th June

Doors: 7pm | Music: 7:15pm |

Main act: 8pm | £14 | **Abingdon Unicorn Theatre** 

Tickets: www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk

& REMADE GUITARS, (Stratton Way) Coxeter House



#### PTA Round-up

Our next event is our PTA Family Bingo evening on Friday 16 June. Doors open at 5.30, with eyes down at 6pm. Lots of prizes to be won for children and adults, and there'll be a



small raffle and refreshments available. It promises to be a great evening of fun, so we hope to see you there. Watch out for notices at school and on Facebook.

After that, KS1 children will be visiting Warwick Castle, the cost of the trip subsidised by funds from the PTA, so you can see your contributions are being put to good use. And soon after that will be the Summer Fete, on Friday 7 July. Planning has started in earnest, so watch out for news over the coming weeks. As you may have seen elsewhere, this year we will be running a plant stall, so if you have any spare plants you can donate to help raise funds, please let us know (or drop them off at the school office). The fete will also mark the last event for a number of our longstanding PTA members, whose children are heading off to new challenges in September. Their departure will leave a BIG hole in our numbers, so we REALLY DO NEED some fresh faces to join us on the PTA and continue the great work of raising funds to support Mrs Hutchinson and the team. If you can spare some time - usually only a couple of hours once a month plus help on the day with the events we organise - we would love to hear from you. And you don't have to be a mum: dads are welcome too - and frankly, as the only dad on the committee, I need some support here, guys!! So if you're interested or would like to know more, give me a call or drop me an email and I'll be glad to have a chat.

See you on the school run

Peter Kidd, PTA Chair

07708 251312 peter.kidd61@btinternet.com

Grove and Wantage Extravaganza Saturday June 24th 2017 12.30pm Grove Rugby Club, Recreation Lane, Grove OX12 OFL Attractions to include:

Tug of War Competition • Clog Dancing • 4 Mile Road Race Quack Pack • Dog Show • Morris Dancing • Wantage Male Choir Classic Cars • Grove Martial Arts Club • Rugby Demonstration Climbing Wall • Electric Go Karts • Traction Engine Army Capability Stand • WilliamsF1 • Hot Air Balloons • Evening Rock Bands • Wantage Silver Band

Marcham School PTA family bingo Friday 16th June Doors open 5.30, eyes down at 6pm. Lots of prizes to be won and there will be refreshments and a raffle.



**Sunningwell and District** Gardening Club **Plant Sale** 10.am to 12.00pm Saturday 3rd June Sunningwell Village Hall

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#### **Earth Trust Events**

#### Little Explorers Thursday 1st June, 10am-11.30am

Sensory buggy/sling 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 suggested donation per child; accompanying adult(s) free.

#### Discover and Play Friday 2nd June, 10am-12pm

Forest School fun for the under-5s. Join us for a morning of play and discovery in our woodlands. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

**Sunday Drop-in: Forest School Fun Sunday 4th June, 10am-2pm**Come and explore the woods and get creative in the great outdoors. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

Natural Dyeing Sunday 11th June, 10am-4pm

Discover the wide range of plants that can produce dye and learn how to extract and fix the colour. £40; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Bats of the Clumps Friday 16th June, 7pm-8.30pm Take a peek into the mysterious world of these amazing animals... Meet some bats and enjoy an informative talk by Dave Endacott from Oxfordshire Bat Group. £8 per adult, £4 per child; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/ whatson (incurs a booking fee).

More details www.earthtrust.org.uk Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4QZ 01865 407792

# All Saints' Church Page

# www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Dear Friends,

This month contains a 'first' for me: on the first Sunday of this month I have been invited to conduct a baptism in the sea! This lovely occasion will take place as part of our parish weekend away on the first weekend in June, based in the New Forest. It is also the great festival of Pentecost that same weekend - which many regard as the birthday of the Christian Church.

The promise of Christ (that after his ascension the Holy Spirit would be poured out on all believers,) happened on the first Pentecost. And thus was ushered in 'the era of the Spirit' - an era in which we still live. The more I journey on as a Christian, the more I thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit. He takes up residence within the Christian believer, enabling the recreation of our lives, gently transforming from within, releasing and producing the spiritual fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These qualities gradually take shape within us as we allow the Spirit of God to change us, and keep us in living contact with God on a moment by moment basis.

The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives also means that our heavenly Father is in touch with what is going on within us constantly - our thoughts, feelings, emotions, joys, sorrows, pains etc. This is wonderfully reassuring, and enables us to understand that when we pray about the stuff going on in our lives, that our Father understands and knows. It enables us to be real in our prayers, and releases us from pretence or cover-up.

However, the wonderful celebration of Pentecost is but one celebration this month in the Christian calendar: the Sunday after Pentecost we celebrate Trinity Sunday - the occasion when the Church grapples again with the mystery of the Being of God - as three Persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) yet one Being. Over the centuries the finest minds have wrestled with this revelation, and continue to do so today. Whilst this understanding of God is tough to grasp, it nevertheless is real, and plays an important part in our daily living as followers of Christ.

So June is a celebratory month in the church, and also coincides with summer taking hold, and thus the warmer days and longer evenings which herald in the 'feel good' factors of anticipated BBQs, holidays, times for relaxation and rest. And this year June has a General Election - which focuses our minds on the big picture issues and concerns facing our country and beyond - and thus for us to pray for the whole process, and all those taking part - at every level of our society.

I pray that June will be a month of blessing for you and those you love.

With my warmest best wishes, Richard

#### June at All Saints'

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - No Men's breakfast Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 10am - Pentecost Service NO EVENING SERVICE Monday 5<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June Week of prayer - see flyers or website for more information Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June - Pentecost Family Friday all are welcome to join us! Regular Sunday services at 10am & 6pm

**Youth drop-in** at the Baptist Church each Wednesday from after school to 6pm

Friday Club for primary-aged children, 5.30pm on Fridays at All Saints'

Village Café, Wednesdays from 11.30am

Contacts: Rev. Canon Richard Zair 391319 vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org \* Jill Rowe Children's and families Minister 390885 families@allsaintsmarcham.org \* Rob Finch Youth Worker 07888331708, rob@marchamyouth.org \* Rachel Gaisford Older persons worker 391432 \* Debbie Flint Churchwarden 01865 391056 \* Tamsin Gilbert Parish Administrator 391319 \* Parish Office: info@allsaintsmarcham.org

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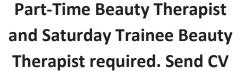
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- -Thursdays & Fridays 8:30am-5pm Home Visits
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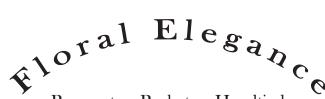
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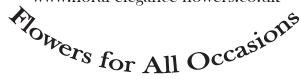
\* New podiatrist joining our team September 2016 \*

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