

# Marcham & District News

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

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

May 2010 Vol: 32 No: 5

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Your carriage awaits... Tamsin Didcock travelled to the church in style on 17 April courtesy of Kevin Merry Carriages



**Great Marcham Weekend**

*19 and 20 June 2010*

*See pages 3 and 7 for more details.*



▲ Marcham WI members preparing to host Group Meeting at Drayton see page 7

▲ Marcham Pre-School's Beach see page 11

▲ Local PCSO Laura Schmid receiving her "High Sheriffs" award from Richard Dick. Malcolm Denton nominated Laura for the work she does with youth and the elderly in the local NAG area and Marcham village. A popular figure in the area Laura often goes beyond the call of duty in her dealings with the public and she works tirelessly for others.

## DIARY FOR MAY

1 Sat	BBOWT Plant Sale and Coffee Morning, Botley, 9-12.30	15	20 Thur	<b>Deadline for articles, notices reports for June issue of MADNews</b>	
2 Sun	Abingdon Air and Country Show, 10am – 5pm, Abingdon Airfield	15	20 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College, 7.30pm	7
3 Mon	Community Day, Fallowfields, 11am- 5pm	13	21 & 23	Abingdon Bowling Club Open Sessions	13
6 Thur	Midweek Walk, The White Hart, Wytham, 12.30pm lunch /1.30pm walk	7	21 Fri	Moldova Sunflowers, Marcham School	13
7 Fri	MP's Surgery, Didcot, 5.30-7pm	11	21 Fri	MP's Surgery, Wallingford, 5.30-7pm	11
8-31	Oxfordshire Artweeks	7	22 Sat	Sunningwell Plant Sale 10am – 12 noon	5
11 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 7.45pm	7	22 Sat	Moldova Sunflowers, Cumbers Farm Shop	13
12 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 7.30pm	5	22 Sat	Sidewinders, Drayton Village Hall 8-12pm	13
13 Thur	Annual Garford Parish Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm	13	24 Mon	Moldova Sunflowers, Marcham Post Office	13
18 Tue	Have Your Say, Duffield Place 1900-2100	11	26 Wed	Marcham Annual Parish Meeting, Marcham School, 7.30pm	11
<b>JUNE</b>					
			19 - 20	Marcham Great Weekend, see pages 3 and 7	
			13 Sun	Midsummer Music, Collins Farm, 7.30pm	3

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

*Dear Readers*

A slight change to the format this month to highlight all the elements of the Great Marcham Weekend – see opposite and page 7. If your favourite section isn't in its usual place, you will have to read the whole issue to find it!

I have also tried to be politically fair with the colours on the cover this month, black, blue, green, orange, red and yellow – sorry if your favourite isn't there!

*Until next time*



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except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

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**NOTES**

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

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

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

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May 2010

**19 - 20 June**  
**Dates for**  
**all diaries!**  
[www.madnews.co.uk/gmw](http://www.madnews.co.uk/gmw)



Plans for the **Great Marcham Weekend** (GMW) are being finalised – a major community fun event for all in Marcham and District. The main events will be on Saturday and Sunday 19/20 June, although there are some early events.

GMW starts with **Midsummer Music in a Marquee** evening at Frilford on Sunday 13 June – [see below for details]. On the evening of **Friday 18 June**, we are planning a **village quiz**, while at the Sports and Social Club, a **Real Ale Festival** starts and will run over the weekend.

The big event for all villagers, young and old, local to Marcham and the surrounding villages, runs on Saturday 19 June, with a **bring-and-share Street Party** starting at midday in Morland Road, and a range of entertainments, including:

- a childrens' fancy dress parade,
- maypole dancing
- Fire Service and Police displays
- street races and games
- Marcham Remembered photo display
- bouncy castle
- decorate-a-cake
- painting for youngsters
- Marcham Buried Treasure map prize competition
- Marcham Players drama workshop.

At the end of the afternoon, the focus moves to Manor Farm, where there will be an **all-ages sing-along** followed by a **Barbeque** and **Barn Dance**. Tickets for the BBQ and Barn Dance will be on sale from late May.

The main purpose of GMW is for all to have a great time. After costs for the GMW have been covered, any surplus that is made will be donated between selected good causes.

**More details page 7**

**MARCHAM PLAYERS PRESENT**  
**MIDSUMMER MUSIC IN A MARQUEE!**  
**Sunday 13th June at 7.30 for 8.00 pm**



(A grand precursor to the Great Marcham Weekend)  
Pimms, light refreshments, music and dance – what else could you ask for on a balmy summer evening

Why not load up your car with friends and neighbours and a bottle of wine or two (soft drinks provided) and come along to Collins Farm, Frilford (opposite Milletts) and listen and/or dance to highly acclaimed local band 'Rockits' playing a wide selection of numbers from the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Abba and many more? Plenty of parking.

Donation from profits go towards the Great Marcham Weekend good causes  
Tickets - £10 or £8 concessions - available from Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964 or Joey Maclean on 01865 391242 from the middle of May – please book early to avoid disappointment.

[www.marchamplayers.co.uk](http://www.marchamplayers.co.uk)

**FOR SALE**

**INDESIT WASHING MACHINE**  
Excellent condition – used for 12 months only. £75 Ring 391488 for further details

**FOR SALE GENTS CYCLE**

Raleigh Pioneer Commuter  
Complete with pump and lock  
Little used, Excellent condition  
Phone 392089 £80 ono

**HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS**

Normal Day		Will be...	
Mon	3 May	Tue	4 May
Tue	4 May	Wed	5 May
Wed	5 May	Thur	6 May
Thur	6 May	Fri	7 May
Fri	7 May	Sat	8 May

Normal Day		Will be...	
Mon	31 May	Tue	1 June
Tue	1 June	Wed	2 June
Wed	2 June	Thur	3 June
Thur	3 June	Fri	4 June
Fri	4 June	Sat	5 June

Down End House, Chieveley, Berkshire,  
RG20 8TG Telephone (01635) 248334  
12 March 2010

Dear Editor

I am writing to you in response to two recent letters in the Marcham & District News, from Mr H Logan (March issue) , and from an unnamed correspondent (November 2009 issue).

Mr Logan is correct in saying that the land in question (of which I am owner) is fenced and that the only basis of public access is by my permission. It is not, however, right to suggest that this is a new state of affairs: the land has been fenced off for many, many years. It has always been necessary to fence the field completely as it has always been used for grazing animals, and in recent years there has also been an electric fence within the fixed fence during the grazing season. I have recently carried out renovations and repairs to the fence, particularly on the west side.

Although it is correct to say that permission is revocable, and that I have been asking people to seek my permission before walking on any of my land in Marcham, I have never revoked any of the permissions which I have granted (over 60 families).

The reason why permission is necessary is that there is no public right of way or any right of public access on the land. I need to manage the land, and also to cover adequately the issues of risk and liability in case of an accident.

The land is grazing land and has to be stocked. That is its primary purpose, so any access has to defer to the need for stock retention and management.

I have no current intention of stopping everyone walking on the land (as suggested by Mr Logan), but I would have to reconsider that policy in the event of any actual claims being made.

Until that time, local people are welcome to walk there with my permission, provided they apply to me first.

I have no intention to dedicate any public right of way on any of my land at Marcham. That has been the policy of successive owners and occupiers before me, so any previous public access which may have taken place cannot have been as of right.

The letter in the November issue (writer unnamed) gives a misleading impression about past access to the orchard, which would have been physically impossible for any member of the public. There was stringent security around the site because it was used for scientific research. The adjacent bridleway is of course open to the public. (The orchard was burned because it was seriously infected and therefore a danger to other fruit trees.)

Yours sincerely,

**JOHN DUFFIELD**

*If you wish to apply for permission to access Duffield land, you should write to: John Duffield, c/o Sheepstead Farm, Sheepstead Rd, Marcham, Abingdon OX13 6QG*

See [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk) for more details  
May 2010

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**Cemetery**

Mrs. Jeanette Franklin who has served on the Burial Committee representing Frilford since 1992 has moved to Dorchester and has therefore resigned from the committee work. We would like to thank Mrs. Franklin for all her hard work and voluntary efforts over the years. Her contribution and support has been very much appreciated. We look forward to welcoming her replacement in due course. He or She will be appointed by Frilford parish at its annual meeting of electors.

A reminder that in order to help keep the refuse in sections suitable for appropriate recycling and disposal would everyone who uses the bins in the Cemetery please put flowers, foliage and green items in one bin and plastic wrappings, pots etc in the other bin. This year, in particular, there seems to have been a great increase in the activity of moles in the Cemetery. The Committee has employed a contractor to try and deal with this problem. He has made several visits and hopefully has been successful.

**Arboretum - Spinney**

The small wooded area at the Southern end of the Arboretum has been cleared of dead wood and generally tidied. The contractors have done an excellent job of clearing this area. The logs produced have been left in a woodpile in a shady corner to encourage wildlife.

**X15 RH Transport Bus Service**

RH transport has agreed to at least consider re-routing the X15 around the village again when next reviewing the service later in the year. This is good news, should it be possible to re-route the service, for those who otherwise would have to walk to either of the two stopping places on the A415.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 12 May 2010 at 7.30pm. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.

**Clerk to the Council:** Mrs. L. Martin,  
90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833  
clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk  
[www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Plant Sale :**

**Sat 22 May 10am - 12 noon**

Sunningwell & District Gardening Club are holding their annual plant sale in the village hall. Great selection of flowers and veg., cakes and refreshments.



If you have surplus plants you would like to donate I can take them over on Friday. Contact Greta Goulding 01865 391592.

Dear Editor

May I thank everybody who turned out to help with the **Litter Blitz**. A band of willing people make a huge difference to the village and over 20 bags of rubbish were collected. May we also appeal for people to dispose of rubbish through the correct channels and not just throw things into hedges or onto to footpaths. We would also remind users of the bottle bank in Howard Cornish Road to only leave the correct recycling in the bins and not leave rubbish behind them for others to clean up. Marcham looks good so let's all be proud of our environment and keep it clean for all to enjoy.



**A415:** A meeting has been held recently involving all the parishes along the A415 with the objective of forming a joint group to promote an alternative to the current A 415 route which is deemed unsuitable as a major East – West route. It is proposed to hold a meeting with the County Council and local government officials to speak with one voice and promote a serious alternative to divert HGVs off our roads.

**MALCOLM DENTON**

**Chairman Marcham District Council**

Dear Editor

Thank you Brownies! This year the daffs planted all around the village by the Brownies and their leaders some years ago, have seemed particularly colourful. A lovely boost after our tough winter.

Equally heart-warming was finding a Dad and his 3 young children armed with litter pick-ups, working their way round the Anson Field during the Spring Litter Blitz on 17th April.

**GRETA GOULDING**

**Marcham and District Ex-servicemen's Club, North Street, Marcham, OX13 6NG**

**Notice to all life members**

All life members including widows and widowers of members are reminded that they must register in writing to the secretary at the above address, or register at the club each and every year they wish to remain on the list of current life members. The closing date of this registration is April 1st. each year. Due to the late display of this notice, for this year 2010 only, the date of registration is to be extended to 1st July 2010.

Please note that those failing to respond by July 1st 2010 will no longer be considered members and their names will be removed from the current register of life members.

Chairman

26th March 2010



## Marcham WI May 2009

Our late Spring meeting this month is to encourage us into the garden and the speaker from Notcutts will advise us on which plants are suitable for all aspects of the garden. Please also bring along seedlings, cuttings and house plants for our plant stall.

We will also be discussing the resolution chosen for the Cardiff AGM on mandatory labelling of food with the county of origin. The refreshments will be cheese and wine organised by the committee.

A very successful evening was hosted by Marcham WI at Drayton Village Hall for six local WIs, celebrating 40 years of the Jubilee 69 group meetings. This was well attended with the new county chairman, Sue Cox, as a guest and everyone enjoyed the humorous speaker and especially the celebration cupcakes.

### Future Events

- May 20th Visit to Syon Park and Richmond
- June 2nd National AGM at Cardiff
- June 9th Visit to RHS Wisley
- June 17th Chilton Open Air Museum

### NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 20 May

*Sam from Notcutts*

### Plants for All Aspect of the Garden

Cheese and wine and plant stall  
Denman College

Visitors welcome - £3 voluntary contribution

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

19 - 20 June  
Dates for  
all diaries!



### ...more details

The **Great Marcham Weekend** continues on Sunday 20 June, when Marcham will be opening up, not just to local people from Marcham and District, but aiming to attract visitors from further afield. **Bring your friends and families!**

There will be a range of activities around Marcham, including:

- Open farmyard at Manor Farm, with a chance to see animals and tractors
- Marcham Remembered photo display will run at Manor Farm and at Duffield Place
- Cream Teas (and Coffees)
- Open Tower – Bell-ringing display and visits to the top of the church tower for a unique view
- Vintage car display
- Open Gardens around Marcham and District
- Art display and sale
- Local Crafts sale
- Treasure Hunt – on foot around Marcham (all children must be accompanied by adults)

The Weekend will close with an **open-air service** for all at the end of Sunday afternoon.

Other displays and events are also being planned. Full details, timings and a map of all GMW events will be published in the GMW Event Guide, a printed colour brochure which will be distributed to all houses in the MADNews area in early June.

Details of events requiring tickets will also be displayed at the Post Office in Marcham, and tickets will be on sale from the dates announced there.

Many people have been working hard planning this weekend. We will need many pairs of hands to help with small jobs – such as fetching and carrying, and stewarding during the weekend – if you can help, please contact Jim or Denise Asher (391727) for details.

***This is the event of the decade that everyone will be talking about! Don't miss it!***

### Open Gardens Sunday 20 June

As part of the **Great Marcham Weekend** villagers are invited to open their gardens. There is no pressure to 'put on a display'. Front, back, pots on patios, fruit, veg, hanging baskets – all welcome. If you would like to participate, please ring me on 391592 or leave your name and tel. no. **GRETA GOULDING**



Oxford Artweeks Saturday 8th – 31st May  
Brochures are available from libraries, Tourist Information Centres, museums, shops and [www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org)

### MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

**Thursday, May 6th 2010.** This spring walk will explore some of the woods on Wytham Hill, by special permission of the Conservator. We will meet at The White Hart in Wytham (Map Ref: SP 476087) at 12.30 for lunch or 1.30 for the walk. The route of about 4 miles, gives super views over Oxford and is mostly on metalled roads and tracks, but does involve a climb from the village up to the top of the hill; hopefully the bluebells will be at their best.

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



The  
Marcham  
Society

## The History of Sutton Courtenay Ron Dell will be talking about his village and a visit will be arranged

*All Saints' Church Tuesday 11th May 2010, 7.45pm*

Next meeting 14th September 2010  
The State of British Mammals - *Philip Riordan*

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

**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

A general election campaign is an opportunity for me to reflect on my five years so far as your MP. It has been a great privilege for a number of reasons - the chance to help people who have run out of options, and the chance to participate in debates that affect the whole country. Of course, after the expenses scandal, politics has never been held in greater disrepute, and we have a long way to go to enhance the reputation of House of Commons and MPs in general. The most important lesson I have learned in my time as an MP is the importance of communication. By this, I do not mean spin. I mean the simple process of engaging people in decisions and trying where possible to address their problems and concerns. We have seen a little of this locally with the issue of the Anson Trust. I have always said that I admire the trustees for taking on this issue (unpaid and in their spare time), and they have the unenviable task of squaring a circle. But I do think that the regular public meetings that are now taking place will help the process of getting a solution that most people either support, or at least understand. I've held meetings in Wantage and Wallingford which have allowed people to discuss contentious issues, and they have been well received. Sometimes it brings together people who have never met, even though they have similar interests and live in a small town.

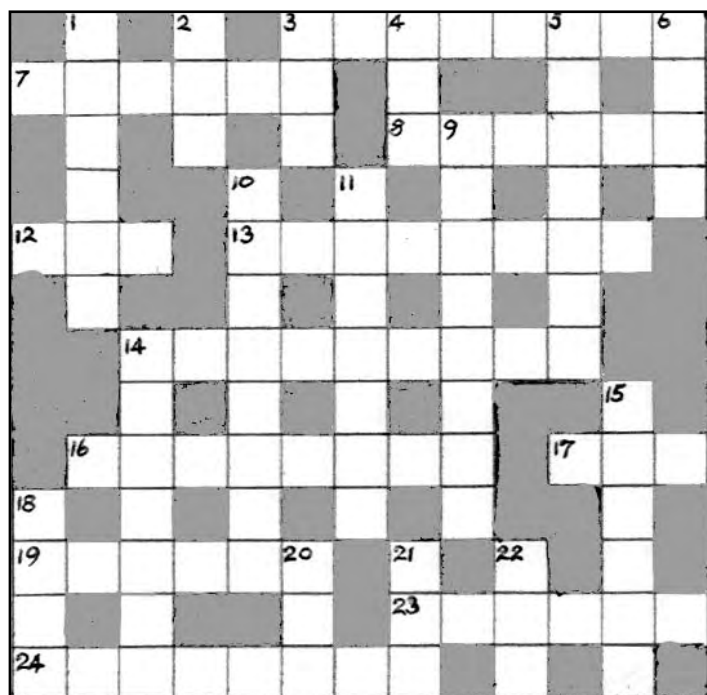
I have also tried to respond to constituents as quickly as possible (no doubt I will now receive e-mails from people to whom I never replied!), and to deal with whatever concern they have, even if it is not strictly within my remit (parking tickets spring to mind - and no, that is not an encouragement to you to write to me the next time you get one). Again, if someone feels strongly enough about an issue to write to their MP, they should get a response.

This is a long way of saying that the biggest frustration for me has been the way many public bodies deal with the public. The last debate I held in the House of Commons was on the Criminal Records Bureau. What may have been a good idea at the start - to check whether people working with children had a relevant criminal record - has turned into a bureaucratic nightmare, with checks taking weeks, multiple checks being required, and huge costs for individuals. All this does is put people off doing what they have hitherto done without any interference, namely helping and supporting children's activities in their local community. There are dozens of institutions like this, which seem to have no appreciation of the burden they place on ordinary people.

In the spirit of communication, I should say that discussions are continuing on the replacement of Newbridge. This will have an effect on Marcham as a replacement will encourage more lorries to use the A415. Personally I want a lorry ban through the village and for all lorry traffic heading west to be routed via the A34 and A420.

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

**MAY CROSSWORD BY ALISA**



May 2010

**Marcham Community Group**

Following the open meeting about the future of the Anson Trust (in March), a new Marcham Community Group (MCG) has been formed to develop and implement plans for new community facilities to meet the needs of Marcham people. At the first meeting of MCG, held on 30 March, a general consensus was reached on a way forward. Since then, two working groups, a Finance group and a Planning group have met, and a further meeting of MCG has been held. Although it is early days in the workings of MCG, there are good signs of positive progress and we will keep you informed of developments and plans for wider community involvement. If anyone is interested in helping and has specific skills to offer, please contact Jim Asher on 391727 (jim.asher@btinternet.com) for further details. Watch this space...

**MARCHAM SHOP SURVEY**

We have now had time to collate and check the responses to the survey contained in last month's MADNews and we have pleasure in sharing the results with the parishioners of Marcham.

To understand the figures it is important that we consider the following (figures are approximate):

Marcham Households – 681 :: Marcham Population – 1811  
1100 copies of MADNews are circulated within Marcham and a wider audience.

We received a total of – 198 Responses.

The response received from what seemed the most relevant questions was that Marcham Post Office was the top most currently used, and it would continue to be used daily by 22 people, weekly by 124 and monthly by 41. Also 186 replies thought it was important to have a village shop and they asked for a range of services such as Post Office, Local Produce, Newspapers / magazines, Fresh Fruit and Veg, Home Made produce, delicatessen, fresh /frozen meat and fish etc. It was also considered a small community cafe would be a welcome facility.

The conclusion of the survey is encouraging and deserves further investigation. It is felt that the people with reduced mobility miss not having a shop and there will always be a percentage of people living in the village that would welcome a local shop.

To move the project forward we will now discuss the results with the OCC rural community council shop development worker to evaluate the best way forward to provide Marcham with a shop to meet local needs.

To help us evaluate the best way forward, one idea may be to run a shop on a voluntary basis, and it would be helpful therefore to hear from anyone in the village with a few hours to spend each week who may be interested in trying their hand serving behind the counter!!!If this appeals to you please contact Malcolm Denton 391497 or Chris Ricketts 391329

**We will keep you informed of progress.**

**ACROSS**

- 3 Relating to the clergy (8)
- 7 Hill near Oxford (6)
- 8 Animal with strong incisors (6)
- 12 Example of 8 (3)
- 15 Where Abingdon Prep school is (8)
- 14 See 17
- 16 No charge for residence (4.4)
- 17 11 10 & 14 Marcham Society subject (3.7.2.6.9)
- 19 Happening on the 6th (6)
- 23 Where the European School is (6)
- 24 Determined (8)

**DOWN**

- 1 Musical instrument (6)
- 2 Insect (3)
- 3 Call (3)
- 4 Head of corn (3)
- 5 Plainly (7)
- 6 Musical instrument (4)
- 9 Wrongdoer (3)
- 10 See 17
- 11 See 17
- 14 Invents (7)
- 15 Road in Marcham (3.3)
- 18 Finished (4)
- 20 Wildebeest (3)
- 21 Playing card (3)
- 22 Big deer (3)

**SENIOR CITIZENS**

At our last meeting we had a visit from the local PCSO Laura Schmid to give us an insight into what her job entails and how to protect ourselves and our property. I'm sure everyone learned a lot. Our lunch outing was a great success, a beautiful day, a lovely meal and a garden centre that had everyone wondering which plants etc to buy as there was so much choice. Everyone had a very enjoyable time. Must repeat it again soon!

**JOYCE PARRY**

**SUNSHINE CLUB**

The months are flying by and we are looking forward to our first outing of the year to Stratford-upon-Avon in May. We still meet every Monday at Duffield Place between 2-4pm and would welcome any new members to join us for a few games of bingo, tea and biscuits and a chat. We also have a tombola occasionally to swell funds for more outing. If you would like to join us and want more information you can phone 391536 for a chat.

**MAUREEN (MO) TIDBURY**, Chairlady  
**MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB**

Fixtures for Marcham C.C. in June are as follows:

June	1st XI	2nd XI
5th	-	Kings Sutton
12	East Oxford Away	Eynsham II Home
19	Shrivenham Home	Steventon Away
26	Tetsworth Away	Combe II Home



Information relating to the Club may be obtained from Graham Hill (391415) or Terry Whittaker (391317).

Also, please contact Graham or Terry if you are interested in representing Marcham C.C. as an umpire.

**CSB**

**MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY**

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

7 May	<b>Didcot</b> , King Alfred Drive Community Centre
21 May	<b>Wallingford</b> , Town Hall
<b>Contact Ed Vaizey, Candidate for Wantage and Didcot by</b>	
Post	8 Gorwell, Watlington OX49 5QB
E-mail	ed@vaizey.com
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	020 7219 6350

As the election result won't be known until after this issue of MADNews is printed, please check before attending MP's surgery!

**Have your say...**

*the new name for police surgeries at Duffield Place, Marcham*

- Tuesday 18th May 1900-2100
- Friday 18th June 1700-1900
- Friday 16th July 1500-1700

**PCSO Laura Schmid C9932**

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

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May 2010

**Annual Parish Meeting**

This meeting is not a Council meeting, but is a public meeting of Local Government electors in Marcham and an opportunity for electors in the parish to raise any items relating to parish matters.

This parish meeting may, by law, discuss all parish affairs and pass resolutions about them.

The annual meeting for all electors in the parish will take place on Wednesday 26th May at 7.30 p.m. in the hall at Marcham Primary School. There will be reports from the Parish Council on its activities over the last year, Cllr. Jane Hanna Vale of White Horse District Council, Cllr. Ian Brown Oxfordshire County Council, Marcham Primary School, the Police/Neighbourhood Action Group and the organisers of the Great Marcham Weekend in June.

You are invited to take part  
Light refreshments will be served

**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS**

Oh, we do like to be beside the seaside...



When we think of summer we often think of the beach, paddling in the sea and ice-creams .... and the children at Pre-school are no different! Although a bit of sunshine was lacking the children decided to turn our sand pit into a beach for the day. After deciding between them which was the best way to transport the water from the water butt to the sandpit they went about filling large buckets with water and digging holes, moats and making castles (see photo). A wonderful time was had by all - including one child who decided he wanted to go for a 'dip' and sat down in the middle of our home-made sea!

Great fun was had by everyone - including the staff - if you are interested in joining pre-school please contact us on 07749 245313 or [marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk). If you would like your child to start during the school year from September 2010 please ask for an application form NOW. Places are limited and filling fast!

**MARION, NICKY AND KATHARINE.**

**INSULATE AND SAVE!**

If you have little or no insulation in your home, up to 40p in every £1 of heat you pay for could be escaping before you feel warm. Loft and cavity wall insulation is a cost-effective way of reducing heating bills. The cost of loft and cavity wall insulation is subsidised by the energy utility companies and in addition to this the Vale of White Horse District Council offers a grant of up to £100 to further reduce the cost. Those who are over the age of 70 or who are in receipt of certain benefits may be entitled to free loft insulation (restrictions apply).



The Energy Saving Trust estimates you can save on up to £115 by installing cavity wall insulation and £150 by installing loft insulation. You can start saving energy the day the insulation is installed, and it will keep saving money for as long as your home is standing.

To save you time finding the best deal, the Vale of White Horse District Council has teamed up with Cocoon. This comparison service offers local residents estimates from at least two approved insulation installers. Plus the estimates include both the discount from the energy utility companies and £50 off the cost and loft insulation and £50 off the cost of cavity wall insulation from the Vale of White Horse District Council. For more information, visit [www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk](http://www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk) or call 0800 80 48 777.

**BANK HOLIDAY FUN AT FALLOWFIELDS  
3 May 11am - 5pm**

Following on from the success of their last Community Day, Fallowfields is hosting another action packed event on Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May, perfect for people who love a truly traditional English day out. The country house hotel, restaurant and farm at Kingston Bagpuize near Abingdon will be offering the chance for visitors to taste Fallowfields' own delicious brand of home grown cuisine and to sample a whole array of other local produce and crafts too. Entrance fees are £1 for adults and 50p for children. Under 5 years free. Further details can be found at [www.fallowfields.com](http://www.fallowfields.com)



PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER  
[www.pactcharity.org](http://www.pactcharity.org)

**Have YOU ever thought about FOSTERING?**

There is a recognised shortage of 10,000 Foster Carers in the UK. PACT, founded in 1911, is also known as the Oxford Diocesan Council for Social Work inc. We are a registered charity working to improve life chances for children. The focus of our work is within Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and aims to build and strengthen families. We are an approved Adoption and Fostering Agency. We have a history of finding safe, loving families for children in care. Here are a few facts about Fostering:

1. Did you know you don't have to be married to become a Foster Carer?
2. You don't have to have children already although you do need to have experience of caring for children.
3. Did you know you get paid a Fostering Allowance of £335.70 a week to be a Foster Carer which is tax free and won't affect any other benefits?
4. Most of the children who need fostering are known as 'hard to place' children, they will usually be 8+ years of age.

Fostering is a hard but very rewarding job. If you think you might have what it takes to become a Permanent Foster Carer or you want to find out more then contact PACT now on **0800 731 1845** e-mail [fostering@pactcharity.org](mailto:fostering@pactcharity.org)

**Sidewinders**

**Live Group - Playing 60's, 70's & 80's Music  
Village Hall Drayton  
Plus Rock & Pop - Disco Dance  
Come & Join the Hall's 35th Birthday Party  
On Saturday 22nd May 2010  
8:00pm - 12:00pm  
50's - 60's - 70's - 80's Rock & Pop Music  
Dress to suit any of the 4 Decades (Optional)  
Admission £ 7.50 per person  
Under 16s £ 3.50 each  
Accompanied Children Only Please  
Ticket Only Admission (Limited to 150)  
Tickets available at local village outlets**

**SUMMER SUNFLOWER COMPETITION!**



**Marcham  
Moldova  
Lifeline**

As highlighted in the last edition of MADNews, you are invited to take part in a sunflower-growing competition this summer! This will be a fun way to support the on-going Marcham Moldova Lifeline project, which has raised over £10,000 in little more than a year, thanks to your generosity. (Look for news about what your money has achieved in next month's MADnews). Sunflowers are a vivid symbol of our link with Moldova because one of the first things which Marcham was able to do there was to support 2 villages with sunflower seed after a devastating drought in 2007. Sunflowers are an important crop in Moldova, grown for cooking oil.

You will soon be able to buy seedlings of two types of sunflowers:

- Shorter, Moldovan-style sunflowers
- Taller, ornamental sunflowers

They will be available at £1 a pot, from:

- Marcham School – Friday, May 21st
- The Farm Shop – Saturday, May 22nd
- Marcham Post Office – Monday, May 24th

as well as at other community events that week. Thanks to the generous help of local grower, Murray Maclean, all profits from sales can go directly to the Moldova appeal. Do plan on purchasing at least one seedling to grow on and plant outside, and see if you can grow one of Marcham's most impressive sunflowers. Later in September you may submit your name for your sunflower to be judged in one of several categories, (by seed type) – tallest, heaviest, best child's, etc. Prizes will be awarded! Thank you for your support.

**MARCHAM MOLDOVA LIFELINE**

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

The 117th Annual Garford Parish Meeting will be held in

The Village Hall, Garford

on Thursday, 13th May, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

For details of the Agenda, please see the Village Notice Board. It is hoped that as many village residents as possible will endeavour to attend.

*Clerk, Garford Parish Meeting*

**Abingdon Bowling Club** in the beautiful surroundings of Albert Park are holding free taster sessions for anyone who thinks they might like to take up bowls. The dates for these sessions are **Friday 21st May 5.00-7.30pm and Sunday 23rd May in the morning 10.00am-12.30pm**. No special equipment is necessary and several Marcham and Frilford residents are already members, so why not come along and have a go. If you have any flat-soled shoes it would be helpful.  
**Geoff Bailey, Recruitment Officer for ABC**

To get a notice included please contact the editor 01865 391725 [editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk)

**ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY 'CHARITY' SHOW**

The 11th annual Abingdon Air & Country Show takes place on **Sunday 2nd May**, at Abingdon Airfield (Dalton Barracks), near Oxford, to help raise money for the **Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance**, who need funds for surviveability. The show **starts at 10am, and finishes around 5pm**, and features Air Displays & Static aircraft from both the Military and Civilian operators.



The Flying display highlights include the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Spitfire, Hurricane & Lancaster bomber, RAF Hawk, Tucano and Tutor making their debuts, DC3 and Vampire.

The Static aircraft will hopefully include RAF Merlin, ex German OV-10 Bronco light attack aircraft, the US Army UH60 Blackhawk and the return of the huge RAF C17 Globemaster III transport as well as 70 other types.

Ground attractions comprise Crafts, Live Music featuring nostalgia from Fiona Harrison and local band 'Silver', Vintage Vehicles, Tank Rides, Formula One car, Arena Displays including Sheepdog demos, Flight Simulator, Farmers Market and a lot more family fun. It is one of the regions largest events.

Tickets are now on sale, from local Nationwide outlets, selected local Tourist Information Centres, One Stop shop – Didcot, The Warehouse – Abingdon and online from our website via PayPal – **www.abingdonfayre.com**

On the day prices are Adults £13,  
Senior Citizens £8,  
Child 5-15yrs £6, Under 5s Free



**BBOWT Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust**

**PLANT SALE** for garden, allotment and house Westway Shopping Centre

Fair-Trade coffee morning and table top sales: Seacourt Hall, Botley OX2 0JE

SATURDAY 1 MAY 9 - 12.30

Contact: Ros Grigson 01865 3980 540



**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS**

**Are you:**

- Warm, empathic and a good listener?
- Able to cope with other people's sadness?

**Do you:**

- Have around 16 hours a month to spare?
- Have your own transport?
- Want to make a difference?

**What we provide:**

- Full training commencing September 2010
- Ongoing support, training and supervision
- Travel and phone expenses

**Come Along To Find Out More On:**

- Monday 10 May from 4.00 to 6.00 pm
- Sobell House, Churchill Hospital, Old Road Headington, Oxford OX3 7LJ

Please phone us on: 01865 225878 for more information

*We do not recommend this work for those who have been bereaved in the last 2 years*



**Unfortunately Graeme Innes is not available this summer for your gardening jobs**

**BUT the good news is JOS ROWE IS!!**

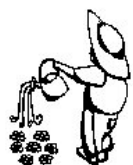
**He is home from Uni mid May**

**so GET HIM BOOKED QUICK!!**

**References available on request.**

**Pond digging, hedges, strimming, lawns....**

**£6 per hour. 07849 078089**



**FARMOOR FLYFISHERS CLUB FREE LESSONS**

The club is running a course for beginners to flyfishing on the following dates:

19th + 26th May and 2nd + 19th June

at Darlows Water near Witney.

These lessons are planned to help you from beginner to improver covering all aspect of flyfishing including flytying!! The instructors are all professional coaches and give their time freely. The course is open to young or old, male or female but the young must be over 10 years old. The lessons will be about two hours duration each evening starting at about 19.15. All equipment will be supplied by the Club during lessons. Any questions? Please feel free to ring Joe Featherstone 01865 391426.



**WINDOW BLIND FITTER NEEDED**

- Part time
- Flexible hours – 10 - 20 hours per week
- Rate of pay according to experience and performance
- Full training given
- Good DIY skills required
- Must be
  - o Neat and tidy
  - o Have full licence
  - o Polite and friendly

**Call Keith – Abingdon Blinds & Curtains  
Marcham 391881**

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shawnp@btinternet.com

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Or visit our website [www.swedemade.co.uk](http://www.swedemade.co.uk)

**Come and see us at Bradley Farm, Cumnor**

(please phone for an appointment)

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



**Dear Friends,**

At last some warmth with the sunshine, and what a pleasure it is to see nature blossoming all around us! The longer days and warmth herald the beginnings of summer, and what a joy to welcome back the swallows, swifts and our other annual visitors! It all helps my soul to 'sing'!

Soul health is really important – that inner part of us, the core of who we are. Often modern ways of living deny that part of our being the space and freedom to grow and blossom. The hectic busyness of life, the scheduling of every moment of every day, trying to squeeze in time for work, family, leisure – the 'Blackberry' ever ready to call us to our next scheduled event.

Sometimes we can lose ourselves in the process, forget who we really are, our identity found in what we do and seek to achieve, rather than in that still small voice of our inner being, our spirit.

The Christian faith recognises that our soul matters – you and I matter – and yes – matter to God, as well as those closest to us. God's Spirit longs to meet with our spirit, but does so at our invitation. God's Spirit searches, is like the wind, is like fire, is personal and very real.

May is the month the Christian Church celebrates God's Spirit coming and touching ordinary people who seek to follow, however hesitantly, the path of Christ. Pentecost is the birthday of the Church – and we celebrate this together on Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Soul health really matters. May this year be the year when we allow our souls to 'sing' and 'breathe' and 'dance' in the joy and freedom of God's Spirit!

With my warmest greetings

Revd Richard Zair

## **Prayer of the Month:**

Almighty God,  
thank you for sending your Spirit on that first Pentecost,  
and for His work in your world even today.

Thank you that our souls matter to You, and that soul health is of real importance to You – that we matter to You.

Help us this Pentecost to welcome your Spirit in to our lives, so that He can breathe new life into the core of our being, of my being. Come Holy Spirit, come!

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

## **MAY calendar:**

May 1<sup>st</sup>: 8.00am Men's breakfast at the Sports and Social Club

May 13<sup>th</sup>: Ascension Day Holy Communion 8.00pm

May 16<sup>th</sup>: Garford Café Church 9.30am

May 23<sup>rd</sup>: PENTECOST

May 30<sup>th</sup>: Trinity Sunday

The first Garford Café Church will be held in Garford village hall on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Newspapers, bacon butties and good company will be on offer from 9.30 am – so please come along and join us.

## **Parish Diary:**

This summer we are very pleased that we can continue with improvements to All Saints' and St. Luke's churches, including redecoration. This will necessitate some moving of furniture, and possibly some internal rearrangements. Please be patient whilst this work is proceeding, and our apologies for any inconvenience whilst the work is taking place.

## **Parish People:**

The wedding of David Smout and Tamsin Didcock was celebrated at All Saints' on 17th April.

## **Regular services:**

**Sundays at All Saints':** 10am and 6pm  
(8am first Sunday)

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

**Sundays at St. Luke's:** 10.30 am on the first  
Sunday of the month

## **Contacts:**

Rev. Richard Zair 391319

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister* 390885

Chris Nutman *Churchwarden* 01235 521698

Janey Cumber *Administrator* 391327

Jenny Warwick *PCC Secretary* 392076

# ***Marcham Baptist Church***

(Packhorse Lane)

## **May 2010**

### **Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30 am**

(Communion every first Sunday)



#### **Our speakers for May are**

**2nd May Mrs Pat Band of Witney**

**9th May Mr Tony Valente of Abingdon Baptist Church  
(This service supports BMS World Mission)**

**16th May Pastor Bory Pilgrim**

**23rd May Mr Paul Revell of Cholsey Baptist Church**

**30th May People's Praise**

### **Everyone welcome**

The gorse bush is a shrub that grows all over Europe. It has dense, dark green shoots, and in springtime it provides a dazzling display of fragrant, vibrant yellow flowers. But it's best known by hikers and all who enjoy heath land for its vicious spines.

Remarkably, the flowers grow right out of the thorns.

The whole year round the thorn has been hardening and sharpening. Spring comes and the thorn does not drop off, it does not soften. There it is as uncompromising as ever, but half way up appear two brown fuzzy balls, mere specks at first, that break at last, straight out of last year's thorn and into a blaze of golden glory.

Likewise, we can rejoice that after winter comes Spring and at Easter we remember with joy and thanksgiving, that Christ arose from the darkness of the grave and now there is life evermore for those who are His and this joy continues into May and the whole year.

***Bory Pilgrim***

#### **For further information on church activities:**

**Contact Mr R Barrett 01865 391356**

**Mr W Dyer 01235 814986**

*Marcham Baptist is affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain*