

Marcham & District News

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

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

February 2012 Vol: 34 No: 2

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ A Trip to the British Museum see page 15



▲ PreSchool see page 15



◀▲ Marcham visitors: Kingfisher and Buzzard



▲ New Year in the Ex-Servicemen's Club see page 13



▲ Max Hutchinson, rising star, see page 13

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MARCH

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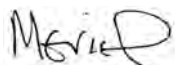
Details of events may change after publication, please check with the relevant organisers before attending events.

Dear Readers

More meetings this month about village developments - houses, shop, and facilities. Marcham never stands still!

You may be pleased to know that the old MADNews duplicator has been sent to a school in Sierra Leone where we hope it is still churning out pages of an interesting and educational nature!

Until next time



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ADVERTISING

Contact the Editor

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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.

NOTES

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

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

POLICE

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Call 101 (non-emergency)

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Janus, Westcot Lane, Sparsholt, Wantage,
Oxon OX12 9PZ
Tel: 01235 751210

Email: iainbrownconservatives@yahoo.co.uk

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Jane Hanna OBE
4 Charlton Road, Wantage OX12 8ER
Tel: 01235 772782

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For other councillors go to
www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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February 2012

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
Parishioner of the Year Award – Final
Chance To Nominate**

The Council soon will be considering nominations for the Parishioner of the Year. There is still just time to submit a nomination. Would anyone who wishes to submit a nomination but has not already done so, please contact the clerk as soon as possible.

Dog Fouling

There seems to be an increasing amount of dog fouling around the village in recent weeks. It is an offence under the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996 as amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 not to pick up after your dog in certain designated places. Dog faeces can be linked to health risks including toxocara canis. Roundworm eggs can be found in dog mess. These can infect young children, causing potentially severe illness. Eggs can remain active in the soil for many years. It is recognised that most dog owners are responsible and do clean up after their pets, but there are some that do not. It is the responsibility of the dog owner or person in charge of the dog to clear up any mess left by their dog. Failure to clear up can result in a fixed penalty notice or if prosecuted a fine of £1000. The Vale of White Horse District Council does have envirocrime wardens who can take action on reports received. There are several dog waste bins around the village, and a new one is soon to be installed in Mill Road below the village green, approximately opposite The Pound. Would dog walkers please use them and help keep the village a cleaner and tidier place for us all.

Parking on Verges / Pavements

Other complaints received by the Parish Council relate to parking on grass verges. The County Council as highway authority needs to keep verges safe and unobstructed. This is particularly vital at road junctions where clear visibility for motorists and pedestrians is important. Also at this time of year the grass is destroyed and is just turned to mud with deep ruts often being left. In some villages posts have been put in at the edge to provide permanent protection for a verge. Leaving vehicles on a pavement too can cause a nuisance for many such as parents with pushchairs and the elderly or disabled who cannot get past.

The Parish Council would ask that drivers be considerate for other motorists and pedestrians, think carefully about the effect on verges, and pay careful attention to where they park.

Taylor Wimpey – Consultation Events

At the time of writing the consultation events advertised by the Anson Trust and

Taylor Wimpey are still to take place. Your parish councillors will be attending these, to find out as much information as possible. In addition Taylor Wimpey has offered to give a separate presentation to the Council members and answer any queries that they may have. The Council continues to work with the consultation group set up by Jane Hanna and will be actively involved in gathering village views should planning applications be lodged.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 8 February 2012 at 7.30pm. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.

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

Bubble Wrap - regular quantities from local business. Free with a donation to Keith's India charity. Abingdon Blinds & Curtains Marcham 391881

FOR SALE

Round dining table, 1.2m, extends to 1.6m oval in massive wood (light oak) with 4 plus 5 matching chairs. £ 160. Tel 01865 391298 (Marcham)

Home Office Shredder. New & still boxed. New cost £35 – accept £20. Call Marcham 391881

Do you enjoy cooking breakfasts?

B&B Rafters in Marcham is looking for a passionate person to take over the breakfast shifts while I am on holiday and for the occasional day in between. Please contact Sigrid on 01865 391298.

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

MARCHAM BAPTIST CHURCH
Keyboard player required for Sunday Morning Services at 10:30am. (1 to 1 1/2 hours duration). Remuneration by agreement. Please contact Mrs. Janet Lay (01865 390417).

Dear Editor

Why is the Anson Trust selling the last of their assets?

On the 7th August 1913 the Anson sisters entrusted their Brothers estate to the care of the Oxford Diocese, this would then be known as The Anson Trust. The Indenture stated that the Institute, part of the Estate, could be used for Lectures, Concerts, Entertainments. Recreation or Amusements, and generally any purpose having for their object the welfare and benefit of the inhabitants of Marcham.

Below are extracted details of the Indenture of 17th August 1913 detailing those pieces of land messages* and tenements and hereditaments** Lucy Frederica Anson and her sister conveyed unto the Diocesan Trustees.

The message house and hereditaments together with the garden ground belonging thereto and known as "The Lindens" fronting North Street

The eight cottages and hereditaments together with the garden ground belonging thereto fronting North Street

The three cottages together with the garden ground belonging thereto fronting the Road leading from Marcham to Abingdon.

The building land and hereditaments known as The Anson fronting North Street together with the Rifle Range adjoining thereto

A piece of land bounded on the West by the Mill Road on the South and South East by the Road leading to Marcham Priory and known as the Recreation Ground and containing 1 rood 30 perches or thereabouts

The field forming part of the Croft now used as a Cricket Field together with the Cricket Pavilion erected thereon and bounded on the South and South East by a Public Footpath and containing 8-2-0 or thereabouts

Most of this property has been sold over the past 99 years, and it appears that the Trust is now only interested in selling off their remaining assets, they say, for a new sports and community complex.

Does the village really need an all singing and dancing complex on the edge of the village? Do the football and cricket fields have to be moved to an area that many villagers have said is possibly the dampest part of Marcham!

The Anson Field should be kept and the buildings and facilities replaced with buildings of comparable size

How the Trust could afford to build replacements?

The trust has gained planning permission for 6 houses to be built on the car park and land behind the Institute. The sale of this land with planning permission to a developer will raise a great deal of money for the Trust, six plots at a conservative estimate of £150,000 per plot, £900,000 ! Use this Capital to complete the following projects without development/sale of the February 2012

field!

Project one: The Institute could be refurbished to the standard of the Trust's own estimates in early 2010 of £89,300. Then re-open for the use of the village, and encourage the return of the groups and clubs that have used it in the past. Make this the village community hall and it could even become self financing.

Alternatively, refurbishment at the same time as the back of the Institute is demolished for the housing, to the standard in the concept drawings of 1994, when planning permission was sought and the local Councillor Jane Hanna said, that an obligation that £200,000 from a possible sale should be used for the Institute's refurbishment.

An objection to the obligation of £200,000 was raised by Jane Hanna in August 2010. After consultation with the Trust and the Chair, Councillors and Officers of the Council's Planning Services, which included Jane Hanna, in January 2011 a deed of variation was completed which requires the £200,000 to be spent on a new community facility on the sports field.

Why is this £200,000 not being spent on the Institute as agreed in 1994 ? What has changed? What is Jane's objection?

The 1994 concept drawings of the Institute would increase the capacity of the hall to a seated audience of over 140 for plays, films etc. with many more facilities for the use of many societies and clubs and the village community.

The Institute has in the past been used extensively by the community, (I am told that the Drama Group still refer to it as their Ancestral Home), it is in a convenient position in the village and it is far from being too small.

It has in the past, catered for Dinner Dances in excess of 135 people and with thought, of moveable stages, room dividers and even a mezzanine floor giving a further area of use making the Institute a sizeable, user friendly building that many villages would be proud to have, especially with its history.

From the 2010 accounts of the Trust the closed Institute is not costing the Trust any capital, in fact it shows a profit, thanks to the occupiers of the small hall, the Marcham and District Ex-Servicemen's Club.

Project two: Sports and Social Club. Replace the existing buildings with similar size on the Anson Field, estimated by the Trust in 2010 at £140,000

If the estimates are way out with today's prices and they were twice the 2010 estimates, the cost of refurbishment and replacement of both the above projects would be about £500,000.

This would leave £400,000 plus the money in the Trusts existing endowment (their words), to provide a fund of about £600,000 to maintain both facilities.

There seems to be little reason for the continuation of the development of housing on any part of the Anson Field

There appears to be no reason to sell the Anson Field, No reason to alter the wishes of the Anson family.

Is it that the Trust have some hidden agenda and want what is possibly £6,000,000 in their kitty from the field sale and are not concerned with the wishes that have been aired in the past at the loss of a central amenity in the village, used by many, wanted to remain by many and given to the village for everybody.

BRIAN HARROW

*MESSAGE

(Law) Property law a dwelling house together with its outbuildings, curtilage, and the adjacent land appropriated to its use

**HEREDITAMENTS, estates. Anything capable of being inherited, be it corporeal or incorporeal, real, personal, or mixed and including not only lands and everything thereon, but also heir looms, and certain furniture which, by custom, may descend to the heir, together with the land.

Dear Editor

The Directors of the Anson trust are grateful to the Editor for the opportunity to respond to Brian Harrow's letter.



The current (and past) Directors have considered the question of the future of the Trust continuously over the last ten years. They are unanimous in their view that the current plan is the best use of the assets owned by the Trust. In summary, the intention is to sell half of the Anson Field, purchase a replacement site at Hyde Copse, build a new Community Centre with new sports pitches and provide a suitable endowment for their long-term maintenance. The Directors are also unanimous that, in the event that planning permission was not obtained for the project, a scheme based on the outline suggested by Mr Harrow would not represent a viable alternative.

In particular, the Directors disagree with several points in Mr Harrow's letter. This explains why his suggestions offer no attraction to the Trust.

- The value of the part of the Institute site that has planning permission for six terraced houses is overstated by more than £500,000.
- Although the Institute site did show a small profit in 2010, this is largely because the main hall is closed, thereby minimising all the costs associated with it. It should be noted that there are costs associated with the wider running of the Trust which have to be met, but are not specifically allocated to the Institute or the Anson Field in the accounts. If they were, the Institute site would show a loss.
- The estimated cost of getting the Institute into a state whereby it could legally be re-opened is correctly quoted. However, the emphasis here is legally because the Directors consider that the

cost of refurbishing the Institute to a state, whereby it would be attractive to users, is much higher.

- The Trust's plans will lead to both a doubling of the amount of land available to the village and to a material improvement in the quality of the amenities provided by the Trust - if planning permission is obtained. In particular, the Trust will own 10 acres at Hyde Copse (as opposed to the current 7.4 acres on the Anson Field) with a new Community Centre and sports pitches. In addition, 3.7 acres (half) of the Anson Field will be retained as a public open space. The existing Institute site and buildings would remain in the Trust's ownership but their future is yet to be determined. If Mr Harrow, or any other person in Marcham, wants to discuss the Trust's plans, the Directors would be happy to meet with them.

THE DIRECTORS, The Anson Trust
8 Hyde Copse, Marcham OX13 6PT
ansontrustmarcham@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Editor

I would also like to thank the editor for the opportunity to respond to part of Brian Harrow's letter. To put the record straight, the original legal agreement between the Vale and the Anson Trust left the s106 funding (£200,000) in the control of the planning applicant - the Anson Trust. Not only is this not normal practice, but the Anson Trust had stated publically that they had no intention of refurbishing the Institute with a view to reopening it. Moreover, this was not in accordance with the Planning Committee's decision in 2004. The deed of variation requires that should the £200,000 be needed to support plans for the provision of community facilities, then unless it is in keeping with the 2004 committee decision, the £200,000 must be used for a scheme agreed by the village. Hence if the £200,000 is needed for the Taylor Wimpey development, the village would need to agree the scheme. Similarly, if the Anson Trust's plans changed and it sought to reopen the Institute, again the Parish Council would be asked to agree the allocation of the £200,000.

JANE HANNA, District Councillor

Dear Editor

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Mr Harrow's letter.

Marcham Community Group (MCG) has always been of the view that there are viable alternatives for community facilities that can be considered. If planning permission is not granted for the current Anson Trust / Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire proposal then MCG will continue to work with the community and all relevant parties to explore a full range of alternatives and come up with other options.

THE MCG DIRECTORS

February 2012

Dear Editor

The Chair of the Parish Council and myself met with the officers from the Vale last week who confirmed that the principle of the need for community support for the Taylor Wimpey proposed development of the Anson Field stands and is therefore not affected by the new Conservative administration's proposed new Interim Housing Supply Policy (IHSP - see below). The independent working group (David Walton; David Hutchinson; Anthony Bradley; Marjorie Evans; Ian Charles and myself) will be consulting residents of Marcham as soon as planning applications are lodged and we understand this is likely to be some time in March. Details of the village consultation will be published in the February edition of MADNews. The results of the questionnaire will inform the Parish Council and myself to enable us to best represent the village to officers and the Vale Planning Committee. To be meaningful it is important that as many people as possible return the questionnaire. Although the developer has conducted a questionnaire as part of its exhibition event, the parish is funding our independent questionnaire which will ask people to say yes or no to the proposed applications.

The village should be aware, however, that in addition, 3 other outline proposals have been put forward, namely, 75 houses in the fields behind Priory Lane; 49 houses on King's Field and 50 houses on Hyde Copse itself. These proposals can be viewed by the public on the Vale website later this week. These have been submitted as part of screening proposals under the new IHSP and will depend on the Vale Council approving the proposed IHSP. The Vale's new Conservative administration's proposed IHSP is aimed at encouraging extra housing developments by relaxing planning restrictions on developments beyond the edge of existing villages in the Vale. Unless the policy is significantly changed, I intend to vote against the policy, which at the earliest is likely to come before Council in the late Spring.

If the Taylor Wimpey application is approved and if the IHSP goes forward, officers have said it will reduce the chances of a second large development in Marcham, but will not necessarily eliminated. Uncertain times ahead !

JANE HANNA, District Councillor

Dear Editor

I would like to respond to the letter from Bob Anderson in MADNews January 2012, relating to the idea of locating the proposed houses in the centre of the Anson Field, surrounded by green space on all sides. I can clarify that this form of layout was considered at an early stage by Taylor Wimpey, but was dismissed for a number of reasons.

The shape of the open space this would create would be too narrow to be practical,

and the fronts of the new houses would be close to the open space all the way around. This would result in the areas being un-useable for informal ball games and play, and the school would not be able to use these smaller spaces as an additional play resource.

In addition the arrangement of new houses, roads and parking which would have to result from this form of layout would be unacceptable, with the new homes accessed from the rear with large unattractive rear parking courts. The resulting design and small recreation areas would in our opinion result in a development that would not do justice to Marcham.

However in response to residents' concerns the evolving layout will include an inaccessible buffer of trees and planting between neighbours' gardens and the proposed dwellings, which will not form part of the proposed rear gardens and will be maintained by a Management Company to ensure its long term effectiveness. Furthermore the existing footpath along the southern boundary will be landscaped as part of the proposals; and the new homes will have a view of this path, making it feel more secure and usable - something the current footpath does not currently benefit from.

Finally, can we take this opportunity to invite you to our consultation events on 2nd and 4th February (please see the advert on page 19) and provide us with feedback to the proposed development. Should you be unable to attend, copies of the boards and the associated questionnaire will be viewable from 2nd February at: www.dhaarchitecture.co.uk/marchamvillage for a period of two weeks.

ANDY CATTERMOLLE

Senior Planner, TW Oxfordshire

Dear Editor

Over recent weeks there appears to have been an increase in dog faeces not being removed from the Anson Field. It is extremely anti-social for dog owners not to clear up any mess their dogs make.

It is a very unpleasant task for anyone who has to clear up after several dogs in one go, as was the case recently for a member of the Sports Scouts and Social Club. Dog faeces also represent a health and safety risk for Cricket and Football Club members as well as children playing.

We allow free access to the field and we would ask all owners to make sure they observe both the law on dog fouling and maintain the good manners that normally prevail in the village regarding their dogs' activities.



THE ANSON TRUST

Dear Editor

It's come to our attention that some parishioners using the Post Office may have been misled as to the proposed re-opening of the Village Shop and Post Office as a Community Shop.

We are still in the process of applying for funding to open a Community Shop - we will keep everyone informed via MADNews, but also hope that you will join us to find out more about our plans on 15th February 2012.

We were very sorry to hear that Anne has left at such short notice - we know how popular she was with many of the customers. For the foreseeable future The Post Office will continue to provide a service for Marcham.

If you do need any more information, please do not hesitate to contact Chris Ricketts (391329) or Ruth Mander (392861) - otherwise we look forward to seeing you on Feb. 15th from 1.00 - 6.00 pm in the Post Office.

MARCHAM VILLAGE SHOP COMMITTEE

GARD

The Thames Water final draft Water Resources Management Plan for 2009 (dWRMP09) has finally appeared for further comment by the public. It contains no great surprises. We had previously been told that there would be no small Abingdon reservoir in this plan, and the direction from Defra, following the Public Inquiry was clear that Thames Water had to do a lot of work on options which they had failed to study properly. This additional work is being monitored closely by GARD and its experts. The final dWRMP09 includes a number of small schemes to cover the modest supply deficit agreed up to 2035. GARD is commenting in detail on minor problems it sees in this plan, and will do its best to ensure that the work and the plan for 2014 provides a fair unbiased set of proposals to meet any increased demand figure for 2040.

GARD AGM will be held at Stocks Lane Farm, Steventon on Monday 12 March 2012 at 7pm.

NICK THOMPSON

Hon Chairman **GARD**

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

As many of you will know, the Great Western Rail Franchise is going to be renewed in 2013. This means that the current provider of our rail services, First Great Western, will compete against other train companies to run the service for the next few years. Theresa Villiers (Minister for Transport) has begun a consultation process, asking passengers and stakeholders in the Thames Valley and Southwest regions how their services could be improved. This gives all of us who use the railway an opportunity to demand a few changes. In particular, I was pleased to see that the County Council is endorsing the idea of re-opening Wantage & Grove station, and this is something that passengers could call for if they respond to the consultation. The more that do so, the more likely bidders will include plans in their proposals. The focus of the consultation will also be on increasing service and retail quality but will also look at ways to improve the information to customers, particularly when there are delays or disruptions. If you'd like to respond to the consultation please visit www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2011-36. January saw Big Energy Week, a nationwide campaign run by the Citizens Advice Bureau to help you reduce your fuel bills this winter. According to Citizens Advice, around 4 in 10 people worry about how to pay their next fuel bill, but many still haven't been made aware of the simple and cheap (or sometimes free) steps they can take that can make serious savings. Before Christmas I used this column to talk about the fuel prices and the savings that could be made just by shopping around for a better deal or by changing your tariff. I even pointed out that many customers haven't yet checked their eligibility for free insulation- Citizens Advice February 2012



now estimate that a third of us still haven't looked into cheap or free insulation. The campaign organised hundreds of workshops and advice centres where customers could bring along their fuel bills and get some expert advice on how to make savings. In the constituency, Wallingford Portcullis Club and the Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot gave over their space for workshops, joining hundreds of public spaces up and down the country. But people in this country are still paying more than they need to, so if you haven't yet looked at the savings you can make on your energy bill then visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/bigenergyweek.

I would also like to make you aware of the UNIQ Summer Schools programme which provides a great opportunity for talented state schools students who want to study at Oxford or Cambridge. The week long intensive course at Oxford University equips students with all they need to know for the infamous Oxbridge application process. UNIQ summer schools have an especially high success rate for students at schools that don't have a history of achieving Oxbridge entries. Of those students who undertook the 2010 UNIQ summer programme, over 40% were made conditional offers by the University - more than double that of their peers. There are 750 places for the 2012 course and applications are open. For more info please visit www.ox.ac.uk/uniq.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

Feb 3rd	Wantage , Civic Hall, OX12 9BX
Mar 2nd	Didcot , King Alfred Drive Community Centre, OX11 7NU
Contact Ed Vaizey MP by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350

**Marcham Village Shop
Information Day
Wednesday 15th February
1 pm - 6 pm**



Come to the Post Office Stores and find out more about the new Community Shop we hope to open in late Spring
• Sign up and become a Shareholder • Meet local producers • Discuss our plans • Help to shape the future!

We look forward to seeing you.

For more information call:

Chris Ricketts (391329), or Ruth Mander (392861)

MARCHAM AND DISTRICT

**GENERAL
KNOWLEDGE
QUIZ**

Saturday 18th February

Quiz start about 8.30

Members and Bona Fide Guests

EX SERVICEMEN'S CLUB



15th January
TOTALS TO DATE

Local Events
£3892

Donations
£3795

Membership
311

Bank Balance
£8008

5p Coins
2628

Tell them what you think

You will already have had notice of an **exhibition on 2 and 4 February showing the revised Anson Trust/Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire (AT/TWO) proposals**. The proposals will also be online at www.dhaarchitecture.co.uk. MCG urges everyone to **make the time to see what is proposed and give their comments**.

This is likely to be the last chance to influence the plans before they are submitted to the District Council as a formal planning application. MCG decided at its meeting on 24 November that, as the proposed scheme might get planning permission, it was important to contribute to the design specification. Everyone can take part in this process. In addition to responding to the questions in TWO's questionnaire or the questionnaire on their architect's website (www.dhaarchitecture.co.uk) **please also add you views on:**

- ◆ **whether** the plans allow for all the activities you think should be accommodated in any new facility. If not, how should they be changed?
- ◆ **whether** you think the plans for the proposed new facility are right for the village. If not, how should they be changed?
- ◆ **whether** you think the proposals are a sufficient enough improvement over the village hall and sports facilities they replace to compensate for their edge-of-village location. If not, how should they be changed?

Any additional comments can be sent to TWOMarcham@taylorwimpey.com and Ansontrustmarcham@yahoo.co.uk. Please also copy MCG at mail@marcham.org.

On 23 February MCG will hold a further open meeting to debate the issues in the light of the revised proposals and guide the directors on what they should do when the planning application is published. Details are below.

Visit www.marcham.org for:

- ◆ full PowerPoint presentation from open meeting on 24 November 2011
- ◆ MCG's input to design specification for a community building with analysis of MCG questionnaires

MCG OPEN MEETING – PROPOSED VILLAGE DEVELOPMENTS

THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 7.30PM ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Debate the issues

Decide how MCG should respond to the imminent AT/TWO planning application

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – ALL WELCOME

There will be a very short General Meeting at the beginning to seek endorsement from members for the current directors. The first election for directors will take place at the first AGM, planned for mid-May, but the current directors may have to speak for the membership before then on planning issues.

You can join MCG on the night but why not join now: mail@marcham.org or 391193 (Suzanne)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 22 April Village-wide garage and plant sale

Monday 4 June Marcham Jubilee Games

And look out for other events during Jubilee Weekend—more details next month

MCG OPEN MEETING THURSDAY 23 FEB 7.30 PM ALL SAINTS' CHURCH PROPOSED VILLAGE DEVELOPMENTS



Marcham WI February 2012

Our meeting in January was well attended, and we enjoyed the talk by Nicholas Clark "Bus ride across the Andes". Members travel horror stories were most interesting, too. After refreshments, the meeting concluded with an auction of unwanted items, all of them going to new homes possibly being recycled into new gifts!

NEXT MEETING

7.30 pm Thursday 16 February 2011

Denman College

David Marsh will give a talk entitled "On Safari"

We are asked to bring a Wildlife Photograph for a display. This is also the meeting when we encourage Nominations for the new committee.

Some future events at County level

- 13 Feb Day of Dance - Sandhills School, Headington
- 17 Feb Beginners' Patchwork - Tackley Office
- 29 Feb Norman Rockwell - Waterperry House.

Contacts for: Sonia Edwards 01865 391442
 new members Christine Whild 01865 391270
 Visitors and New Members made very welcome
 Come and join us - We are a very active Group!

MARCHAM and DISTRICT EX- SERVICEMEN'S CLUB NEW YEAR

A really great night was enjoyed by all. Reasonably priced drinks, good company, great atmosphere plus first class entertainment. The duo, "Now and Then" played, almost non stop for 5 hours, a cross section of well known toe tapping danceable tunes.

The Club's entertainment's committee are arranging a Dinner Dance for the 10th March at the Four Pillars in Abingdon, unfortunately it cannot be held in the Institute hall because of Anson Trust closure. Arrangements are also in hand to have quizzes and entertainment during the year on Saturday nights at the Club. Watch the MADNews for details.

MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK Thursday, February 9th.

This will be another visit to Brightwell-cum-Sotwell and the very friendly welcome in the 16th century thatched Red Lion Inn (Map Ref SU582907) in Brightwell. We will eat at 12.30 and start our walk at 1.30. This time we will be going north to Shillingford Bridge, with a stretch along a very quiet reach of the Thames, returning via Little Wittenham Wood; about 4½ miles in all.

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



MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

In preparation for the 2012 Season, Nets will be held at Radley College from 21.00 to 22.00 on the following Friday evenings: 10th & 17th February, 30th March and 6th and 13th April. All levels of players are welcome to attend.

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

CSB



MARCHAM PLAYERS

Once upon a time, a young lad (aged 11) joined Marcham Players. His potential as an actor was noticed and he was encouraged during the next few years to take a wide range of parts – the bumbling vet in Alan Ayckbourn's "Table Manners" and Sir Simon de Canterville in "The Canterville Ghost" being memorable highlights. Max Hutchinson (for 'twas he) continued to follow a thespian path while at Abingdon School – amongst other achievements, a small group including Max performed to great acclaim at the Edinburgh Fringe. He won a place at the Rose Bruford Drama School and gained much useful theatrical experience there. On 16th January eighteen members of Marcham Players descended mob-handed on the Theatre Royal Windsor to witness the beginning of Max's professional career. Now twenty-two, he has deservedly been given a significant part in a touring production of Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Nile", starting in Windsor and proceeding round the country, a week or two at a time, via Richmond, Truro, Worthing etc, terminating at the end of July in Newcastle. There are only ten parts in the play (excluding the "native" servants) so Max is on stage most of the time, and has all the best lines – delivered impeccably! He was thoroughly embarrassed by the rousing cheer from the Marcham contingent when he took his bow, and met them later to express his appreciation of all the encouragement and support he has received. It is hoped to arrange another trip to see him – this time to a matinee.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Marcham Players will take place on Friday, 17th February, 2012, in the Board Room at Manor Farm (by kind permission of Mr and Mrs W. Cumber). Proceedings start at 7.30 – refreshments will be available.

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

www.marchamplayers.co.uk

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

The deadline for all personal adverts is 20th of the month.



The
Marcham
Society

Steam and Steel in the Vale of the White Horse

Tony Hadland

All Saints' Church Tuesday 14th February 2012, 7.45pm

Following meeting 13th March 2012
Wytham Woods - Nigel Fisher

Non-members £2

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

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

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Naturally Christmas presents were the talk of the term as we returned in the New Year - we received some lovely photographs showing how each family celebrated which are now up on display. The 'child chosen' themes so far this term have been castles (and giants!), princess and beanstalks, we have enjoyed watching the children re-enact traditional tales, problem solve how to cross the crocodile infested moat (see photograph) and the latest request has been to make a dragon.



Also this term, the children have had the opportunity to take part in PE sessions - although it seems that the 'getting changed' bit was far more exciting for some!! Crossing the drawbridge (beams) and swimming the moats (blue mats) were challenges undertaken bravely and with courage!! ...we can't wait to see how this will evolve!!

We do still have a few spaces available this school year and are taking applications for 2012, 2013 (and 2014)! If you would like to join us, please telephone, email or use our website to request a prospectus or an application form. We are now open Monday to Friday, 8.55am - 3.00pm!!

01865 392101 07749 245313
marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk
www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL

GIRAFFES CLASS

Last term the Giraffes learnt all about the Egyptians. The children have really enjoyed this topic and have especially enjoyed learning about mummies. They were lucky enough to visit the British Museum in October, where they saw the Rosetta Stone, the mummy of Cleopatra and the preserved body of an Ancient Egyptian! This really helped with their topic work and the children thoroughly enjoyed the trip. The photos on the front cover show the fun they had!

This term the class are looking at Rainforests. So far they have learned about where in the world the Rainforests are and what the climate is like there.

Holly King (age 9): "The best thing about the Egyptian topic was the school trip. We saw lots of mummies and it was great to see lots of Egyptian things."

Oscar Powell (age 7): "I liked learning about the Egyptians. My favourite part was making paintings of the Egyptian hieroglyphics! In the rainforest topic I have learnt that lots of trees have been cut down and that is really sad."

Parents Assembly Update:

We have changed the format of the parent's assembly. Each class will now have a dedicated parent's assembly throughout the year. Look out for the date for your child's class in MADNews.

OWLS parents assembly is 23rd February. Come along and see what they've been up to.

Lower Sixth M.C.S Pupil (female) available for Baby sitting. References can be provided. Please phone 01865 390777

ABINGDON LITTLE ANGELS

Wow what a great start to the new year for Little Angels, We can now announce the report of our recent ofsted inspection. This went well with us receiving a good overall, please feel free to read the report online. We were also delighted to be told by a number of people that a small article in the Oxford Mail and Abingdon Herald reported on our ofsted inspection. At Abingdon Little Angels we aim to provide a quality, stimulating and home from home environment where the children feel safe and secure and we are very inclusive in our Little Angels family. This was really observed and picked up by the ofsted inspector who herself was being inspected, so lucky us, as the saying goes, we were waiting for ofsted and two came along at once.



January has been a productive month with the children looking closely at the theme of winter, we made 3D skis and made a slalom with cones, good fun and good exercise for the children, along with looking at the cold weather, with ice and snowflakes made from paper, snowmen and cutting and sticking winter clothing. The children have also enjoyed nice warm snacks for tea of hot baked beans and soup to name but a few.

BIG ANGELS OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

We welcomed back our afterschool children after the Christmas break and have started a topic of Pantomimes, we have been busy making our own little theatre for puppets along with a ticket office. The children have been deciding their own planning and ideas for activities and even with snacks for tea. One afternoon we made toast and egg in a rather unusual way, it was delicious. The big Angels have also enjoyed the old traditional games of Tiddlywinks and a we held a little competition within the group, even some of the parents joined in when they came to collect the children reliving childhood games. We had great fun using torches and making shadow puppets on the wall, it is amazing how real shadow puppets can become with the children creating wonderful stories.

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

MARCHAM BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

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

To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, June 2nd 2012

As a lasting memento of this once in a life time Historic Occasion, the Ex-Servicemen's Club is to give each child attending the Marcham CofE Primary School an Attractive Commemorative Mug.

The presentation / distribution date, time and place will be advertised in the MADNews ASAP The Committee, Ex-Servicemen's Club



Seen a pothole that needs fixing?
www.fixmystreet.com

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

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Come and enjoy an hour of singing - words only - songs you all know. February's dates are as follows - Tuesday, February 7th 2pm to 3.30pm Tuesday, February 21st - 10am to 11.30am.

FREE - tea/coffee and a piece of cake as well A mixture of well known songs, all easy. February's dates and times are a little different from usual, but I hope that you can still make it. **COME AND TRY!**

WHERE - 62 North Street Marcham.
Led by Christine Whild.
Ring me for more details 391270



SEND-A-COW NEWS

Thank you so much to those of you who have made generous gifts in the past month. I really appreciate how you have responded to this little column. The need is massive - All over Africa there are people and communities who are locked into poverty and hunger. But all that changes when SEND A COW gets involved. The key is Training - teaching people to be better farmers, more responsible family members, better neighbours - so that whole communities can eventually flourish. Africa's rural families have the ability to build a better life. With our help they suddenly have HOPE. I know that you will want to respond.



We can also have fun when giving - **SAVE THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY - SATURDAY EVENING MAY 19TH**. The event of the year in Marcham!!! (well, one of them) **OPERA AND WELLIES DOWN ON THE FARM!** More about it next month. Christine Whild.

**MARCHAM AND DISTRICT EX SERVICEMEN'S CLUB
NORTH STREET, MARCHAM, OXON OX13 6NG
January 2012**

NOTICE TO ALL LIFE MEMBERS

At the Club's AGM on Tuesday April 26th 2011 an additional Club Rule was proposed. New Rule to state that from 1st April 2011 ALL life members over the age of 65 years should pay a re-registration fee of £5 per year.

The proposal was passed and accepted on a majority show of hands. This Rule is now part of the Clubs Rules.

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 and pay the £5 re-registration fee if they wish to remain on the list of current Life Members.

The closing date of this registration is April 1st. each year Please note that those failing to respond by April 1st 2012 will no longer be considered Members and their names will be removed from the current register of Life Members.

Chairman 12th January 2012

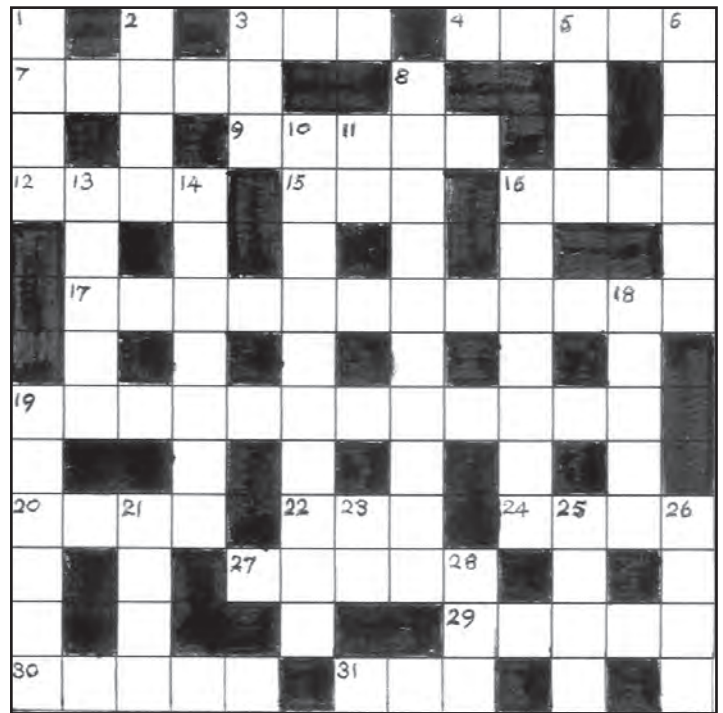
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR OLD STAMPS?

Convert your old stamps to support for birds and wildlife by sending them to: RSPB Stamps, PO Box 6198, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 9XT, or you could drop them off at one of our many reserve sites and combine it with a winter walk. Please sort the UK from Foreign stamps as they get higher prices and leave only a 4mm edge on each one.



Those wanting to donate more valuable items, such as first-day covers or stamp albums can send them to: Stamp Volunteer, Community Marketing, RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL.

FEBRUARY CROSSWORD BY ALISA



ACROSS

- 3 Cover (3)
- 4 Food on a skewer (5)
- 7 Over (5)
- 9 Satellite's path (5)
- 12 Spoken (4)
- 15 Fish (3)
- 16 Unit of rainfall (4)
- 17 Place near Kennington (8.4)
- 19 Botley venue for bird talk (8.4)
- 20 So be it (4)
- 22 Not well (3)
- 24 Good fortune (4)
- 27 Place for accommodation (5)
- 29 Watchful (5)
- 30 Animal (5)
- 31 Seat in church (3)

- 2 Greek letter (4)
- 3 Zodiac sign (3)
- 5 Owl or dance (4)
- 6 Pour pecks (6)
- 8 It comes full and goes empty (4.6)
- 10 It is readily made but seldom lasts (10)
- 11 Exist (2)
- 13 Weapon (5)
- 14 Dictionary (7)
- 16 Son of Hagar (7)
- 18 Shrub (5)
- 19 Gliders (6)
- 21 Rim (4)
- 23 Lieutenant (2)
- 25 Second-hand (4)
- 26 Flier in the wind (4)
- 28 Rule (3)

DOWN

- 1 Cereal (4)



**MADAGRAMS by Jay
Is Your Road Hidden Here??
A WONDER**



**TINA LOSES CALLS
AH, CALF LEG BONKERS
(includes initial of village)**



A UK'S EVENING



Answers from last month...

A PINE LORRY = PRIORY LANE

RASH WORD, 'DOOR CHAINE' = HOWARD CORNISH ROAD
HOTTER RENTS = NORTH STREET



Do something amazing today - give blood

96% of us rely on the other 4% to give blood. Please don't leave it to someone else. Most people can give blood. If you are generally in good health, age 17 to 65 (if it's your first time) and weigh at least 7st 12lb you can donate. You can give blood every 16 weeks, that's approximately every four months.

TABLE TOP SALE
In Aid of Cancer Research
Sat Feb 11th
10 till 2pm
Hanney WM Hall
Hot/cold food , Raffle
Tel 868527 to book table

Together we will beat cancer



Malcolm Kinchin
Carpenter and Joiner
Commercial & Domestic
UPVC Facias & Guttering

Tel: 01235 765453
Mobile: 07963 780016

Ofsted Registered Childminder

www.littlejens.co.uk **Jen French**

Current Vacancies (from February 2012)
Regular permanent hours 7am - 7pm
Occasional "One-off" days* Monday - Friday

All One-off days are by prior arrangement, and are useful for shopping, last minute work deadlines or a day off!

- * Marcham School and pre-school pick up/drop offs
- * All Childcare Voucher schemes accepted
- * Home cooked meals following healthy eating
- * Structured activities within EYFS
- * Level 3 Diploma in Homebased Childcare



Contact me for a prospectus detailing prices, policies and procedures



01865 391312 07884 103865 jen@littlejens.co.uk www.littlejens.co.uk



ABINGDON ARTS FESTIVAL
 The Abingdon Arts Festival Ball
 Guildhall, Abingdon
 Saturday 18th February at 8pm
 Bar opens at 7.30pm
 Tickets: £18 (£16 concessions)
 www.abingdonartsfestival.org.uk

Abingdon Arts Festival
 15th March to 1st April 2012

MARCHAM VILLAGE

Community Facilities Renewal

Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire would like to invite you to a second exhibition to discuss the new Hyde Cope Community Pavilion and Sports Grounds. We will also be discussing the detailed design of the family homes which are proposed on part of the Anson Field, which will fund the construction and running costs of these new community resources.

The exhibition will be at the Anson Field Clubhouse on:

Thursday 2 February 2012: 2pm-8pm
 Saturday 4 February 2012: 9am-4pm

Following our previous presentation at the Clubhouse last September, the Anson Trust and Taylor Wimpey have been working together to consider all the views expressed in

person, on the questionnaire and online, as well as the detailed comments from the Marcham Community Group and those published in *Marcham and District News*.

As a result we have put together some more detailed proposals, and we are seeking your comments on these plans. It is anticipated that planning applications for these two areas will be submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council in March.

The new plans will also be available online at the address below, and online comments will be invited from 2 February for 2 weeks.

We look forward to hearing your views.

www.dhaarchitecture.co.uk/marchamvillage





All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page

Dear Friends,

21st Century life can be frenetically busy! The weeks fly by and merge into a blur of constant activity with little opportunity to catch breath, let alone do any listening and/or reflection. In the busyness it is all too easy to let mistakes, hard words and wrong actions pass unremedied.

Lent is traditionally a time for the 'amendment of life': in other words an opportunity to take time out for prayerful penitence, self denial and putting right the errors of past wrongs. And this year Lent begins this month, as Ash Wednesday falls on the 22nd.

God once promised: 'If you return to me, I will return to you.' (Zechariah 1:3) Jesus gave us the remarkable story of the 'Prodigal son' (Luke 15: 11) which describes the welcome back given by the son's father. Lent can be a time for deep healing – not least the healing of relationships, and our relationship with God in particular.

As well as a time for healing, Lent can be a time for space to listen – to listen to God's voice, to hear what He is saying, to catch a glimpse of His 'world view', to sense the breath of His Spirit, to seek Him for who He is, rather than what He might be ready to give.

Why not take a moment or two this Lent to regularly make space for God. All Saints' Church is open during daylight hours – a quiet place, a peaceful space to do some of that listening and praying.

I am grateful for the seasons of the Church's year. May this Lent be special for you, too.

With my warmest greetings,

Revd Richard Zair

Prayer for the Month:

Almighty God,
Thank you for your patience, and your willingness to forgive. Please help me have the courage and faith to turn to You again this Lent, and in the turning find that Your arms are open to embrace me again. Help me to listen, to learn, to change as Your love meets me afresh in Christ Jesus, in whose Name I pray.
Amen.

FEBRUARY calendar:

Sat 4th Feb: **Men's Breakfast** – 8.30 am at the Sports, Scouts and Social Club.

Wed 22nd Feb: **Ash Wednesday** – 7.30 pm Holy Communion at All Saints'.

Parish People:

Funerals have recently taken place for Donald (Don) Steptoe of Duffield Place, Mrs Emily Steptoe formally of Marcham and Mrs Loretta Tull, also formally of Marcham. We offer our sympathy and prayers to their families.

On January 15th, Jamaul Leon Samuel was baptised and welcomed into the church family.

Regular services:

Sundays at All Saints': 10 am and 6 pm

Wednesdays: 10.30 am Holy Communion at Duffield Place

Sundays at St. Luke's: 10.30 am on February 19th

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

Contacts:

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

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

Chris Nutman *Churchwarden* 01235 521698

Deborah Flint *Churchwarden* 391056

Janey Cumber *Administrator* 391327

Jenny Warwick *PCC Secretary* 392076

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Marcham Baptist Church has a New Minister



The new minister, Keith Mersh and his wife Ruth live in Orchard Way, Marcham, since arriving in the village after leaving Bedfordshire, where Keith pastored Toddington Baptist Church near Luton.

Keith is leading the Baptist church in Marcham on a part time basis, whilst both he and Ruth work to support themselves financially. Keith runs his own business and Ruth is a nurse at Abingdon Hospital, where she specialises in caring for patients who are recovering from strokes. Whilst both look extremely

young (or so Keith says!), they are both in their fifties and have two children and three grandchildren. Much time and effort has been spent over the last three years refurbishing their house and now that this is complete, Keith and Ruth want now to spend more time getting involved locally, as well as socialising. They both enjoy meals out, country walks, going to the theatre, gardening and entertaining.

Within 18 months of leaving school. Keith joined the Royal Air Force, serving for sixteen years, including time spent in Germany, The Falklands and various other parts of the world. After leaving the RAF Keith started and ran his own blinds and curtains business in Norfolk, during which time, he became a Christian and met Ruth. At the time, Ruth was nursing in a nursing home for the elderly, when they came to live next door to each other. This they firmly believed was both an answer to their prayers and God's design.

Both Keith and Ruth have been committed Christians for many years and know the importance of ministry both on a local and on an international level. Whilst in Bedfordshire, Keith had been involved in the commencement of many community initiatives, helping the churches together to make a marked impact on village life. Keith also runs a charity project in India, providing resources for the boring of wells in many villages in the Northern state of Uttar Pradesh. A second facet to the work there is a business initiative, which trains and provides resources for aspiring micro business owners, enabling the poor to lift themselves out of poverty.

Keith and Ruth know the reality of living their lives for God and helping others to come to know that one true God who not only created us but also this complex and finely tuned universe in which we live. It is their hope that people will find real faith in God and that Marcham Baptist Church will grow, as God uses them to minister in the area.

Keith's official induction is at Marcham Baptist Church on 5th February at 3.00pm and all from the Marcham area are invited to join them at this significant point in the life of the church.

For further information on church activities contact

Keith Mersh 01865 391881

Ray Barrett 01865 391356

Bill Dyer 01235 814986

Marcham Baptist is affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain

**Join us for the induction of
Keith Mersh as Minister of
Marcham Baptist Church
Sunday 5th February 3.00pm
at Marcham Baptist Church**