

Marcham & District News

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

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



February 2013 Vol: 35 No: 2

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Dancing and the Spread for the Ex-Servicemen's Club New Year Celebration see page 7

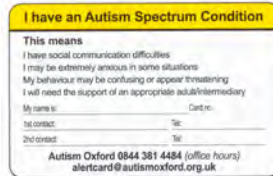


▲ Giraffe Class at Woodlands see page 15 ▼

Would you recognise this?
see page 15 ►



▼ Pre School meet new friends from Zoolab!
see page 15



▼ Little Angels having fun indoors and out!
see page 15



Diary

February		
1 Fri	MP's Surgery, Wantage, 17.30 – 19.00	9
1 Fri	Have Your Say, Duffield Place, Marcham, 18.00-19.00	5
6 Wed	Guideposts Open Day, Abingdon, 10.00-15.00	13
12 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
12 Tue	Singing, 62 North Street, 14.00-15.30	7
12 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45	7
13 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	5
14 Thu	Midweek Walk, Lamb and Flag, Hailey 12.20 lunch / 13.30 walk	7
15 Fri	Have Your Say, Marcham Village Shop, 15.00-16.00	5
16 Sat	Doug Loveridge, Ex-Servicemen's Club, 20.30	7
17 Fri	Marcham Players AGM, Manor Farm, Marcham, 19.30	7
19 Tue	Exhibition Kings Field Development, Denman College, 16.00-20.00	13
20 Wed	Deadline for March MADNews, 17.00	
20 Wed	CLP Meeting, Marcham School, 19.30	17

21 Thu	Have Your Say, Duffield Place 18.00-19.00	5
21 Thu	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	11
23 Sat	Cancer Research UK Table Top Sale, Hanney, 10.00-14.00	13
24 Sun	BBOWT Winter Walk, Sydlings Copse 10.00-12.00	13
26 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
26 Tue	Singing, 62 North Street, 14.00-15.30	7
28 Thu	Deadline for entries for New Business Competition	7
March		
1-2	Bucket Collection for Against Breast Cancer, Tesco	5
1 Fri	MP's Surgery, Didcot, 17.30 – 19.00	9
2 Sat	St David Gala Charity Concert, Oxford Town Hall	13
2 Sat	Abingdon Model Railway Exhibition, Abingdon 10.00-17.00	13
15 Fri	MP's Surgery, Wallingford, 17.30 – 19.00	9
22 Fri	MP's Surgery, Grove, 17.30 – 19.00	9

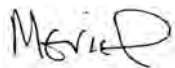
Details of events may change after publication, please check with the relevant organisers before attending events.

Dear Readers

I hope by the time you read this, all the snow and ice will have disappeared from Marcham. Our Community Shop is offering a delivery service for those people who have difficulty getting out, see the advert on page 7.

It still amazes and saddens me to know that there are still some people who won't clear up after their dog. Time for a new campaign "No Poo on My Shoe" perhaps???

Until next time



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DEADLINES

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

ADDITIONAL COPIES

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

DISCLAIMER

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

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

NHS NON-EMERGENCY

Call Free from any phone - 111

POLICE

PCSO Carly Milward C6517
Call 101 (non-emergency)

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

Email: iainbrownconservatives@yahoo.co.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

Email: janehanna63@googlemail.com
For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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February 2013

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
Temporary Road Closure, 30 mph limit and width restrictions**

In the interest of public safety it is necessary for Oxfordshire County Council to restrict and close sections of roads to facilitate carriageway retexturing works. Roadworks, as outlined below, will be carried out during the week between 15th – 19th February in the vicinity of Cothill Road, Blackhorse Lane, Faringdon Road and Sheepstead Road.

A traffic order is being introduced:

1) To prohibit vehicles from the following sections of roads:

(a) Blackhorse Lane, from its junction with Faringdon Road northwards to Cothill Road (1 day on 15 February)

(b) Cothill Road, from its junction with Faringdon Road north-eastwards to Blackhorse Lane (1 day on 18 February)

(c) Sheepstead Road, from its junction with Faringdon Road southwards to Howard Cornish Road (1 day on 18 February).

2) To impose a 30mph speed limit and a 7'6" (2.3 metre) width limit on the Faringdon Road from a point 214 metres west of its junction with Sheepstead Road eastwards to a point 60 metres east of its junction with Blackhorse Lane (3 weekdays from 15-19 February)

The alternative routes are (in either direction), for:

- 1) (a) via Cothill Road and Faringdon Rd.
- 1) (b) via Faringdon Rd & Blackhorse Lane.
- 1) (c) via Faringdon Rd, A338, A415.

The alternative route for traffic affected by the width restriction is (in either direction) via A415 westwards to Marcham and Frilford and northwards on the A338 to Frilford Heath.

Exemptions are included for police, fire and ambulance services and for the works and for access to premises which are only accessible from the closed section of road.

Council Budget 2013/14

The Parish Council has carefully considered its budget for 2013/2014 looking in detail at its income and expenditure. This year the Council has also had to take into account the Government's changes to the Council tax benefit scheme. From 1st April 2013 the Vale of White Horse District Council will determine and administer its own council tax reduction scheme, which has an effect on the parish element of the council tax. Marcham Parish Council has resolved to keep the precept the same as last year at £37,000. This equates to approximately £50.97 per year for a property on Band D council tax. A reduction of 68p payable, as last year it was £51.65.

Parishioner of the Year Award

Thank you to all of you who have taken the

time and trouble to write to the Council to put forward nominations for the Parishioner of the Year Award. It is good to know that so many residents are interested in the award scheme. The Council has a working party that is now considering all the nominations in order to prepare a shortlist for the Council to consider in due course.

Thames Valley Alert – Community Messaging

Thames Valley Police believes that by improving the flow of information between the community and the police it can improve the prevention and detection of crime and anti social behaviour. By registering with them you can receive messages about crime alerts and information about the local area. For further information visit www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

Dog Fouling

It is exactly a year ago when an article regarding the amount of dog fouling in the village was put in MADNews. Unfortunately the Parish Council has recently received comments again about continued dog fouling, particularly in the Anson field, and the owners who do not clear up after their dogs. It seems that it is time again to remind residents of the legislation and dangers involved. 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. Would dog walkers please use them and help keep the village a cleaner and tidier place for us all.



Current approach to Planning Applications

Marcham, historically is in the District Council's housing policies, as a large village suitable for new residential development for sites capable of accommodating up to 15 dwellings within the built-up area of the village. However, the District Council does not currently have a five year supply of housing land, as is required by the national planning policy framework introduced last year by Government. As such there is some inconsistency in housing policy, particularly as the District Council is still working on its new core strategy. The District Council is taking the view that relevant policies for the supply of housing land should not be considered up to date until the shortfall is rectified. The Parish Council is therefore finding it hard to have its voice heard, and seems powerless in the face of the current attitudes to planning.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been considered by the Parish Council **P12/V2447/FUL** Erection of 19 dwellings and associated garages, roads and open space. Lane north of Priory Lane. The Parish Council objected to this application.

It had concerns regarding the impact on the amenity of the area and setting of The Priory, the access point off the A415 and visibility for drivers and the dangers for pedestrians trying to cross the road as the services and facilities for the village are on the northern side of the A415. Concerns were also expressed regarding drainage in the area both for foul water and surface water, as Priory Lane has flooded in the past. The area has wildlife and a public route running through it which needed to be protected. The Council did not support the suggested materials to be used, and also thought that there was the potential for impact on some of the existing adjacent dwellings. Consideration too would have to be given to the increased numbers of children who would wish to attend the school and to the village opinion on housing on the community led plan questionnaire.

Date of Next Council Meeting: Wednesday 13th February 2013 at 7.30 p.m. [back to normal time] in the residents' lounge, at Duffield Place.

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

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk



Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers required for Friday 1st March and Saturday 2nd March 2013 for a bucket collection at Tesco in Didcot. Against Breast Cancer funds unique research to increase survival after diagnosis and ultimately to discover a vaccine. To get involved! email alison@againstbreastcancer.org.uk or call 01235 534211. You can get more information from our website about the important research you will be supporting.

againstbreastcancer.org.uk
Registered Charity Number 1121258.



Have Your Say

& Street Briefings

- Friday 1st Feb Duffield Place, Marcham 1800-1900
 - Friday 8th Feb Red Copse Lane, Boars Hill 1830-1900
 - Sunday 10th Feb Foxcombe Lane, Boars Hill 1830-1900
 - Friday 15th Feb Marcham Village Shop 1500-1600
 - Thursday 21st Feb Duffield Place, Marcham 1800-1900
- PCSO Carly Milward C6517**

Abingdon Outer

Neighbourhood Team
NAG7 Marcham, Wootton, Shippon and Boars Hill
Police Non-emergency number: 101

ANSON TRUST – BRIEF UPDATE

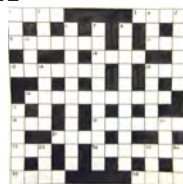
The Directors of the Anson Trust wish to inform readers of the current position with regard to the planning application for a new Community Centre and sports pitches on land behind Anson Close. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of all concerned, the application has not yet been submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council. Considerable discussion and effort has been expended and progress is being made. It is hoped that the application will be submitted before the end of February. When the application is submitted, a newsletter will be produced and delivered to all homes in Marcham with details and information.



ANSWERS TO JANUARY'S CROSSWORD BY ALISA

Across 1 Pear 2 Harp 9 Welcome 11 Ski 12 Send 13 Novello 14 Car 15 Town Furlong 18 Pea 19 Icicles 21 Polo 22 Low 24 Nucleus 27 Snow 28 Bean

Down 1 Pew 2 All 4 Ass 5 Priory 6 Morland Road 7 Resolutions 8 Mantelpiece 10 Ego 14 Viola 15 Canal 17 Apples 20 Emu 23 Who 25 Ewe 26 Sun



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Just seven responses to my note about the possibility of getting Gigaclear super-fast broadband in Marcham, so this will be my final call for expressions of interest before I abandon the idea.

Anyone still interested, please e mail me at w.cumber@btconnect.com

WILL CUMBER

HELP WANTED

I am an independent lady, in a wheelchair, living in Marcham.

I am looking for a **LIVELY PERSON** to help me with personal care on several days a month including some weekend cover. This would consist of up to 5 short visits per day.

No lifting, age is no bar, good pay. Please ring **STELLA** on 01865 391614.

LOST WATCH

A gold ladies watch was lost possibly on the area of the cricket pitch on Sunday morning 6 Jan. If you found it or know of its whereabouts, please ring Ruth on 391881.

LOST AND FOUND

There is a Lost and Found tin in **Marcham Village Shop** so if you have lost a key, a pendant, a watch or a pair of child's trainers, pop into the shop and have a look. Likewise, if you find something, take it in and do a bit of shopping at the same time!

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

MARCHAM PLAYERS

AGM: Calling all Marcham Players members: Reminder of the forthcoming AGM on Friday 17th February, 7:30pm in the Board Room at Manor Farm. New members welcome, come and find out more about what Marcham Players do! Or join us for a play reading, back by popular demand, enjoy a sociable evening reading a part you know you will not have to learn and have a glass of wine! Friday 1st March 7:30pm in the Board Room at Manor Farm (not necessarily a Welsh theme!)



Any enquiries regarding Marcham Players can be made to Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964 or Cheryl Sewell on 01865 391200

 w w w . m a r c h a m p l a y e r s . c o . u k

MARCHAM AND DISTRICT

8.30PM SATURDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2013

DOUG LOVERIDGE

Singer and Guitarist

with music of 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s

COME AND SUPPORT THE CLUB

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

New Years Eve at the Ex Servicemen's club was a fantastic evening for more than 40 members and their guests. Great music from Now and Then Duo playing almost non stop all evening. Just a break for everybody to enjoy the vast finger buffet.



This is a great opportunity to raise your business profile and take it to the next level, by entering the Southern Oxfordshire New Business Competition. You could win a FREE furnished office for a whole year! PLUS receive a cutting edge Business Advice Package, and there's a range of business support prizes for anyone who enters.

For further details and an entry form: visit www.sonbc.co.uk or call 01865 893200
 Deadline for entries: 28 February 2013

Marcham Village Shop and Post Office

**Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 13.00
 & 15.00 - 18.00**

Sat / Sun: 07.30 - 13.00



We stock all you expect in a local shop and a bit more... You can also order newspapers & magazines for collection

**** ** February: Baby Event – special offers on all ** **
 *** baby food and infant milk...while stocks last! *****

If you have difficulty getting out (whether snowing or not) call the shop on 01865 391993 to ask about getting your groceries delivered.

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

By way of preparation for the forthcoming Season, Nets are being arranged. All ages and levels of playing skill are welcome. In addition to the OCA League, the Club has also entered a Wednesday evening cricket League.



More information regarding Nets, Wednesday evening matches and OCA Fixtures will be given in due course. Please contact Trevor Hill (391321) for information relating to the club - including playing or umpiring for Marcham. **CSB**

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

**Tuesday, 12th February 2 - 3.30pm
 Tuesday 26th February 2 - 3.30pm**



Men and women welcome. Songs you probably know. Nothing too difficult - come and enjoy.

For more details:
 Christine Whild, 62 North Street Marcham Tel 391270

MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

Midweek Walk, Thursday, February 14th.

For this month's walk we will go back to The Lamb and Flag (Map Ref SP354127) in Hailey, just north of Witney, at 12.30pm for lunch and 1.30pm for a walk of just over 4 miles. However we will start our walk in New Yatt (Map Ref SP374129) two miles to the east, exploring the country towards Wilcote. Parking is limited to village road-sides, so please share transport where possible. Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.



*The
 Marcham
 Society*

The Restoration of Abingdon County Hall and the redisplay of the Museum

Jane Bowen

All Saints' Church Marcham 7.45pm 12th February

Following meeting: March 12th:
 Richard Harrison, The Wildlife of the River Ock

Non-members £2

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

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

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

o look for new opportunities, so I'd like to let musicians and small venues in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency to enter Rock the House 2013, Parliament's biggest competition which celebrates up-and-coming British artists and the live music venues that support them. Rock the House is a great opportunity for aspiring artists of any age looking to find a way into the industry. I am really looking forward to listening to the tracks that constituents come up with, and hope to receive as many submissions as possible.



This competition is the perfect opportunity for talented artists to promote their music, and win some life-changing prizes in the process - from guitars and amps, to slots at gigs and festivals. It will also put me and other MPs in touch with musicians and small venues in our constituencies. Rock the House has discovered some great talent in the past, and I can't wait to see who we find this year! The competition is backed by Brian May, Queen guitarist and songwriter.

Applications will close on March 1st 2013, and the competition is open to all music lovers who fall into the following categories: solo artist, band, under 19 solo artist, under 19 band, and best small live music venue. This year Rock the House has teamed up with BandApp to make submissions easier and better. For any artists involved this means they'll get a great tool to promote them and their music. Any music lovers wishing to enter the competition need to head to www.rockthehousehoc.com to create this BandApp.

I will nominate my favourite from each category, after which a judging panel made of international music industry experts will chose the finalists. The finalists will compete in a live battle of the bands, and the winner of each category will then perform live on the balcony of the House of Commons on the evening of the 26th of June 2013. I know that there is a wealth of talent in the Constituency, and can't wait to hear it! Surgery details can be found at www.vaizey.com.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY	
<i>5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise - no appointment necessary</i>	
1st Feb	Wantage , Civic Hall, O X12 9BX
1st Mar	Didcot , King Alfred Drive Community Centre, OX11 7NU
15th Mar	Wallingford , Town Hall, OX10 0AD
22nd Mar	Grove , Old Mill Hall, OX12 7LB
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

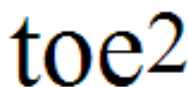
OXFORDSHIRE WOODFUEL PROGRAMME BULLETIN: JANUARY 2013

Thank you to everyone who contacted me in response to the first of these bulletins: it is heartening that so many Oxfordshire residents are interested in woodfuel.

The Oxfordshire Woodfuel Programme now has a website which provides lots of advice on growing, cutting, storing and burning woodfuel: www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk.

I will be running a series of one-day woodfuel-related study visits on 15 April, 13 May and 8 June. They cost £25 each. More

February 2013



information is available on the website. The Oxfordshire Woodland Project is running workshops on woodland management: see www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/woodland-workshops. I am hoping to set up some 'logs for labour' matches. If you are a woodland owner who could use some free help with woodland management in return for people taking some firewood (labour for your logs), or a group of people who would like to work outdoors in return for some firewood (logs for your labour), please get in touch with me. The moisture level of woodfuel is important: a freshly cut log at 50% moisture has only about half the energy content of an equivalent well-seasoned log at 20% moisture. The woodfuel programme has a moisture meter that you are welcome to borrow.

Grants: Households that do not have central heating and install a biomass boiler before the end of March can get a £950 grant. Woodland owners who need to put in roads to extract woodfuel can get a grant that covers up to 60% of the cost. Please contact me if you need help with these, or with any other aspect of woodfuel.

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

WILDLIFE IN THE HEDGE

Look out into even the tiniest of gardens and most will have a hedge of some description. They can be the perfect shelter and even a food source for many forms of wild creatures.



Best planted between early October and early April, its best to choose plants that happily grow wild in the area within which your garden is situated. When finalising the choice of plants, go for a mixture which will attract more life than just one type of plant.

Dig a big trench and fill with apply quantities of garden compost. The hedge will be there for a long time so you need to give those hungry young plants the best start possible. Planting a double row if you can will provide a much denser hedge in the end.

For the initial 3 years after planting the new hedge line will be susceptible to wind rock and invasion of competing plants. As the plants grow, layer more compost and lawn mowings around them to counteract these ongoing threats.

When the hedge is well established, try planting some climbers to grow amongst it, brambles and honeysuckles are ideal.

Planting the old small tree along the hedge line will work wonders to, for example Crab Apples give extra height and fruit during autumn and winter. Your hedge doesn't have to be totally level, so the odd tree is great.

Hedges are ideal sources of nectar if planted correctly, so have a go at growing a native mixed hedge and watch the bee's move in.

Happy Gardening,
STUART MABBUTT

Wildlife Gardening Specialist, 01865 747243

Modern attitude to milk teeth

Martha puts under her pillow the milk tooth she has just wriggled out. In the morning it has gone but there is a coin to replace it:

Martha Mu..um, is there really a Tooth Fairy, or is it you?

Mother Why do you want to know?

Martha Because if it's you, could you make it a pound instead of 50p ?



Bank Balance
£15,571

Local Events
£10,124

Donations
£6356

2012 - 2013 Membership
Voting: 125 Junior: 20

5p Coins
4083



Still waiting

It is now three months since the Anson Trustees announced in the November issue of MADNews that they had made a last minute change of plan, had decided on a new site for the proposed leisure facilities, and would apply for planning permission for the new site by the end of October. They have just announced that the application for planning permission has been further delayed. The Trustees now hope it will be submitted by the end of February. (See p.5)

MCG remains very concerned at the lack of consultation. There are still no details on the exact location of the new site the Anson Trust has chosen for its proposed leisure facilities, or of the access routes to it. No one expects the Trustees to negotiate in public or to disclose details that are commercially sensitive but, given what is now a four month delay, there would have been ample time to explain the issues and involve the community in the process.

Once the planning application is available MCG will work with other village groups in the Joint Users Planning Group to examine the details and, if it proves necessary, ask for amendments to the layout.

Marcham Community Group: Company No 7470307
391193 (Suzanne) 391727 (Jim) 391507 (Jessica)

Charity No 1144407
mail@marcham.org

www.marcham.org



Marcham WI

Next Meeting
THURSDAY, 21st February
at Denman College. 7.30pm

Nominations for the Committee will take place.
Also - Fun and Games evening! Come along and forget your winter blues!

Some events coming up in Oxfordshire

Aqua Aerobics, Kidlington Leisure Centre 13th Feb 2013
Chess Taster day - Tackley Office - 13th March 2013
Music Tasters - Benson Village Hall - 9th April 2013

Your Local WI - Come and join us in 2013!

Contacts for new members or visitors
Christine Whild 01865 391270

Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust



Charity Number: 1084910

We have had several complaints and enquiries from residents across Oxfordshire, regarding the delivery of textile recycling bags from the Air Ambulance Service. The funds raised through these textile recycling banks will not go to the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance, the local Air Ambulance for Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, but will instead go to the Air Ambulance charities represented by Air Ambulance Services which serve Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland. The Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance has never operated a doorstep collection service.

We ask that should residents across Berks, Oxon & Bucks receive one of these textile recycling bags in the future please contact us on 0300 999 0135 and continue to support our own textile recycling scheme, by donating your unwanted textiles to one of our BagItUp bins. Your nearest banks can be found by visiting www.bagitup.org.uk and using our bank locator.

If you want to help us, please call us on: 0300 999 0135 or email info@tvacaa.org or visit www.tvacaa.org

WE RELY ON YOU - SO YOU CAN RELY ON US

We are currently looking for someone who is passionate about our profession and ready to join our busy and successful team - To start immediately!!



- Hair stylist (Level 2 and Level 3 qualified)
- Level 3 beauty therapist

Call Ellie on 01235 831200 (Milton Park) or Jean on 01235 532851 (Abingdon) to arrange a time to come and discuss your future career with the Creations group.

www.creations-hairandbeauty.co.uk

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

OXFORDSHIRE WELSH SOCIETY

Present a

**GALA CHARITY CONCERT
CELEBRATING ST DAVID**

Featuring the
SOUTH WALES MALE CHOIR
[Cor Meibion de Cymru]

With Star Guests:
The THREE WELSH TENORS
and
JO HERCO-THOMAS Soprano
[Tri Tenor]



OXFORD TOWN HALL
SATURDAY 2ND MARCH 2013
TICKETS £15 FROM:

www.oxfordshirewelshsociety.com
Tickets Oxford, Playhouse 01865 305305
Oxford Town Hall 01865 249811
Wells Stores Peachcroft Farm Abingdon
John Prout 07836599255
Colin Edwards 07859316611
SUPPORTING **PARKINSON'S**^{UK}

PUBLIC EXHIBITION

**4 - 8pm TUESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2013
DENMAN COLLEGE**

**PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT KING'S
FIELD, SHEEPSTEAD ROAD**

Carter Jonas is holding a public exhibition on proposals for a development of new homes at King's Field, Sheepstead Road, Marcham. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. A series of plans and illustrations will be available to view on the evening.



Our next **Open Day** will be on Wednesday, 6 February 2013 from 10 am to 3 pm. The theme for this Open Day is "Eating, Drinking, Kitchen and Clothing". We hope to have a range of sock aids, dressing aids, easy wear clothing, drinking aids, eating aids as well as information and advice. All welcome.

Guideposts Trust Independent Living Centre
Abingdon Resource and Wellbeing Centre
Crabtree Place, Audlett Drive, Abingdon OX14 3GD
Call 01235 856212 (our new phone number)

www.guidepostsilc.org.uk

**WINTER WALK AT SYDLINGS COPSE
SUNDAY 24 February 2013 10am – 12 noon**

Join OOS member, Tom Wickens, for a walk on fairly easy paths at Sydlings Copse Nature Reserve near Beckley. Tucked away to the north-east of Oxford and packed into a steep valley, Sydlings Copse is a treasure trove for wildlife enthusiasts. A place of sheer magic for all the family - yet small enough to ensure that young or old legs don't get tired as you take a circular wildlife walk through all of the different habitats. **Does include some steep steps.**

To book please contact:
Shirley Jarvis 018965 371297 shirley88jarvis@gmail.com

BBOWT UPPER THAMES GROUP
www.bbowl.org.uk Tel: 01865 775476

February 2013



Looking for a holiday cottage in Marcham?



Olive's Cottage is open for holiday bookings
Call Sally Fathers, 01865 391327 or 391840
Email: sally.fathers@tiscali.co.uk
marchamholidaycottages.promotemyplace.com

FOUR-AND-TWENTY BLACK BIRDS BY JAY

There's no time like snow time to bring lots of black birds to the bird table. Which are which? Four different sorts of black bird can appear in the garden at the same time. **Starlings** are the smallest. They are speckled and coloured in the right light but just look black at a distance.



Next in size are **blackbirds**, which is surely easy enough – except that only males are black. Females are sooty brown!

Jackdaws take their name from their call of 'chack'. They are black with grey necks.



Finally the big black **rooks** arrive, calling 'kraa, kraa'. They are ragamuffins with whitish, dagger-like beaks.



Illustrations are courtesy of RSBP and are not to scale!

TABLE TOP SALE

Sat 23rd February
10 till 2pm
Hanney WM Hall
Raffle Refreshments
Tel 868527 to book your table



**Abingdon & District Model Railway Club Ltd.
ABINGDON MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION**

10.00am – 5.00pm Saturday 2nd March 2013
WHITE HORSE LEISURE & TENNIS CENTRE

Audlett Drive Abingdon OX14 3PJ

LARGEST EXHIBITION IN OXFORDSHIRE

Admission Adult £6.00 Children £3.00

Family (2 + 2) £14.00

'Free Car Parking'

Over 25 Quality Layouts and 20 Traders
Demonstrations, Model Railway Societies

Refreshments are available.

Follow the Brown signs to Leisure & Tennis Centre
Children to be accompanied by an Adult at all times

www.admrc.org.uk

NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL

Last term Giraffes class went on a week-long residential trip to Woodlands in South Wales (some of you might know it as Glasbury), accompanied by their class teacher Mrs Capel, Mrs Jefferies, and Jill Rowe. The weather was cold and some had to break the ice on the canal during their canoeing activity. All the children (and adults!) had a fantastic experience and did things they thought they would never be able to achieve.



On the 10th December 2012, years 5 and 6 went to Woodlands Outdoor Education Centre in South Wales. We were split into three groups and did a different activity every day. The activities were problem solving, canoeing, mountain walking, caving and jungle gym (high-ropes, low-ropes, climbing wall and birdtable/leap of faith). Everyone tried their hardest in every activity, even if they were scared and incredibly cold! On the 14th December we returned home. We have all learnt so much from the experience and now try even harder with everything we do. We will keep these memories for ever. *Joseph Mutch*

I really enjoyed our trip to Woodlands. My biggest achievement was getting to the top of the mountain. It was so icy I kept falling over but I didn't give up. The view from the top was amazing. *Ruby Summers.*

The most challenging moment was when I was on the low ropes course, because that was really scary! *Luke Hurst.*

My best moment was when I went through the whole cave because I underestimated myself. *Robyn Cotterell.*

Brownies

MARCHAM BROWNIES NEED YOUR HELP

Can you spare 1½ hours every Wednesday from 5.30 – 7.00pm? Ivy is currently looking for 2 female volunteers to help fun 1st Marcham Brownies as her only leader Liz is moving to pastures new, and Ivy is going away in September for 4 months. All you need is lots of ideas, energy and enthusiasm. Full training is also available on the job.

The Pack currently has 24 girls with a waiting list and also Rainbows who are due to come up. Without any help the pack will have to fold which would be very sad as there has been a Brownie pack for decades. Please help the next generation into the future.

Contact: Claire Wright (Ivy)
Tel: 07583 149255

Or visit Marcham Baptist Hall at
5.00-7.00pm on a Wednesday

MARCHAM BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

We run all through the year, regardless of school holidays, on Tuesdays from 10-11.30am at the back of All Saints Church. The first visit is free, then just £2 per family each session. Just turn up, or phone Tess on 392833 if you would like someone to introduce you. **Do come and join us!**

ABINGDON LITTLE ANGELS

We have returned for the New Year and have got straight into our topic of favourite books, The Little Angels spent a great week studying the Gruffalo, making Gruffalo mask and Puppet show, owl ice cream and scrambled snake to name some of the activities enjoyed, We followed this up with the story "Whatever Next" here the children had fun making a rocket out of a cardboard box and flying to the moon for a picnic, dressed bears with colanders and boots and sang songs of space including little rockets and five little men in a flying saucer, We then moved onto the book "going on a bear hunt" acting out with swishy swash grass and squelching mud etc, We made our own story books and role played the story. We finished the month with the popular story of The very Hungry Caterpillar, turning into butterflies.



Great fun has also been had by the Little Angels on the field with the snow, making sure all children are wrapped up warm, we played on the field making snowmen and footprints in the snow, great fun, finishing off with a warm cup of milk when we returned to Nursery.

The After School Club returned and our topic is winter, the children have been spending time on the field enjoying the snow along with painting their own snow scenes and creating winter poems, The children have also eaten hot vegetable soup and jacket potatoes which keep the children warm on these cold winter days.

Serious Sport now come along on a Thursday and the children have the opportunity to enjoy a football session, this is great fun and is open to any one who would like to attend, please contact the After school club for more information.

If you would like any further in formation about Abingdon Little Angels Nursery, After School Club, Holiday Club or Art Club please feel free to call in or telephone us on 07516 474287 or at info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk.

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Just before Christmas we were delighted to welcome 'Zoolab' into Pre-school to share a range of animals with us, linked to the story of the Nativity. Who would have thought about the frogs, millipedes, cockroaches, snakes, rats and spiders that were lurking in the stable the night Jesus was born! It was a fantastic experience with storytelling involving the shepherds and the wise men following the star and avoiding various creepy-crawlies on the way. The children (and parents!) were amazing as their confidence grew throughout the hour, becoming braver as each animal was passed around the group. We are pleased to be welcoming Zoolab again next term with a story relating to the Chinese New Year - Kung hei fat choy!! The year of the..... DRAGON!!



We are taking applications for children aged 2 and over, while availability is limited until September 2013 if you are considering a place at Marcham Pre-school please contact us as soon as possible to discuss your requirements. You can contact us on 01865 392101, marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk, or via our website at www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com . We look forward to hearing from you.

MARION, NICKY, KATHARINE, SAM AND NATASHA
marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk
www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

A Community Led Plan for Marcham

87%

We have now had questionnaires back from 559 households in Marcham, and 1207 people filled in their answers. This is an excellent return rate of 87%, which means that the results really will represent the views of the people of Marcham.

The data has all been typed in and collected together and we are extremely grateful to the twelve volunteers who entered more than 200,000 items of data.

We have started to analyse all that data and an example is shown at the bottom of this page. We now know so much more about the views and interests of the village – everything from what people think should happen to the Institute through to how popular a climbing wall would be. (Please note: these are two separate questions!)

A public meeting on 20 February

There will be a public meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20 February at Marcham Primary School. We will start with a quick trip through the highlights of the results, and there will then be an opportunity for you to help create a five-year Plan for the village, based on what the people of Marcham have told us they want.

We do hope you can attend.

What happens after that?

- ◆ The responses to the questionnaire will be used to create a Plan for how Marcham can be improved during the next five years.
- ◆ Every household will receive a printed copy of the village Plan and an analysis of the answers people gave.
- ◆ The Parish Council will be able to use the Plan whenever they are making decisions about the village, and it will be taken into account when the District and County Council make decisions which affect Marcham.

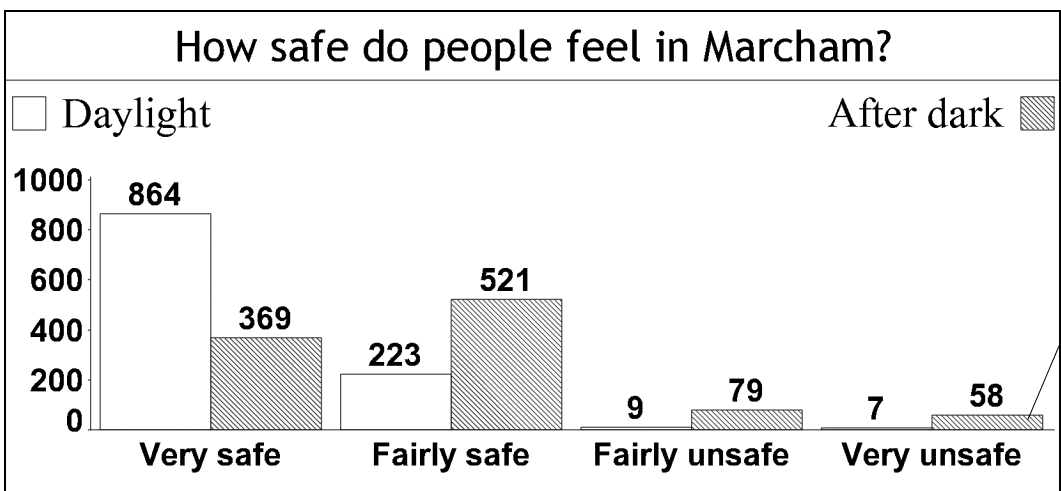
Find out more on our website

If you would like to see more details about what we've done so far and what we're doing next, then please visit our website:

www.marchamforward.org

If you would like more information please contact:

Jim Asher (tel 01865 391727) or David Walton (tel: 01865 391239)



Age	Frequency
10 or under	8
11 to 15	7
16 to 24	3
25 to 34	4
35 to 44	1
45 to 54	3
55 to 64	4
65 to 74	11
75 to 84	11
85 or over	4
[blank]	2
	58



WINTER WARDENS DIARY

What a wet year we have had! All of the sites have been underwater at least a couple of times this year – well I guess that's what happens when most of them are floodplain meadows!



What this does mean is that the volunteers haven't been able to do much work on the sites in the last few months – the coppicing and scrub clearance along the ditches at **Castle Meadows** hasn't happened as the ditches have disappeared under a good few feet of water. We did manage to clear up half of a very old horse chestnut tree which had fallen into the ditch in the autumn just before the floods hit. The logs will be used to fire the giant boiler back at the Earth Trust Centre that heats our offices and associated buildings – unfortunately the logs can't be left on site as they are within the floodplain and liable to end up halfway down the Thames!

We have been hard at work in the **Upper Meadows** which are largely unaffected by the floods. Four new oak trees have been planted to reinforce the avenue of oaks that stretch to the north of the site and end with two giant sequoias. The tiny trees look very comical behind their large tree guards, which are designed to keep the cattle from munching on them as they grow.

We have also had some repairs completed on the two pieces of Castle wall which remain on site. The scaffolding has now been removed after cracks were filled, blocks re-pointed and crumbling mortar replaced. The works were funded by Natural England through the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme which both Castle Meadows and Riverside Meadows are a part of.

Over at Riverside we are waiting for the site to dry out as it has completely disappeared under flood waters twice this year so far. Once we can get back onto the meadows we have some bat and bird boxes to put up, a very large boggy area in front of the kissing gate to fill in with hardcore and another layer of faggots to add to the areas of riverbank we are trying to build up. The previous layers of willow bundles should have silted up nicely during the flooding. One downside of the flooding, however, is that the planned grassland restoration project in the largest field at Riverside has had to be postponed. We started the works last autumn and the field received its first disking in preparation for sowing the wildflower seed. No further works were able to take place due to the flooding but we are hoping to be able to complete the project in the spring. Watch this space!

Mowbray Fields in Didcot has been very quiet this winter, with no major works scheduled in until next winter. We are eagerly awaiting a report on a plant and invertebrate survey which was carried out over the summer. Early indications are that a number of rare and interesting species have been spotted on site meaning that Mowbray Fields is a very important wildlife habitat right in the heart of Didcot.

We have also had a number of slow worms trans-located onto the site from a development on the other side of Didcot. Special slow worm hibernaculum, basically a big pile of buried logs and turf, were created on site and the slow worms released into their new homes. They should be hibernating the winter away right now but we will be monitoring their emergence when the weather warms up in spring.

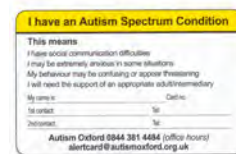
Thrupp Lake in Radley really comes into its own at this time of year with migrating and over-wintering birds stopping off in their tens and hundreds at the lake. It's a great place for a winter stroll, so pop down and see what you can spot. A poster in the bird hide will help you identify anything you see. Unfortunately part of the circular walk is underwater at the moment, and has been for some time, so make sure you take your wellies! Why not stop off at Peachcroft Farm on your way home for a hot drink and a snack in their farm shop. www.peachcroft.co.uk/about-us/farm-shop/

If you would like more information about the sites or are interested in getting more involved with one of our volunteer groups or as a warden please contact me, Lorretta Waters, on 01865 409410 or 07982 218493, or email lorretta.waters@earthtrust.org.uk
Lorretta Waters Neighbourhood Wildlife Warden, Earth Trust, Little Wittenham

OXFORDSHIRE AUTISM ALERT CARD

Autism Oxford provides the Oxfordshire Autism Alert Card, which is available free of charge to anyone in the county with an Autism Spectrum Condition. The Autism Alert Card should be carried at all times and may be shown if the individual needs help and/or is not able to easily explain their difficulties or behaviour. The card helps cardholders feel safer and more confident when out and about; gives some simple advice; the cardholder's name; and details of two emergency contacts. It can be shown if the holder needs:

- Support from one of their contacts
- Help in difficult/stressful situations
- Help/consideration from police officers or other emergency services
- Help from officials on public transport
- To explain the nature of autism and/or autistic behaviours.



It will also assist members of the public identify that they are dealing with someone with autism. If you are presented with a card, please support the cardholder, use the advice on the card and contact their named supporters if appropriate. Be aware that the cardholder may not clearly understand what is happening. Allow extra time for the person to process what you have said and to respond.

The Autism Alert Card scheme, which is funded by the Oxfordshire Autism Partnership Board, also includes free autism training for police officers and others.

Free information leaflets, aides-memoire, posters and advice are available on request. To request a card application form contact Autism Oxford: tel: 0844 381 4484 or e-mail at alertcard@autismoxford.org.uk

WHAT IS AN AUTISTIC SPECTRUM CONDITION (ASC)?

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability, caused by differences in the brain, which affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them. About 1 in 100 people are believed to have an ASC. In Oxfordshire there are an estimated 6,000 to 7,000 people on the Autism Spectrum. Many remain undiagnosed. As the name implies ASC is a spectrum of conditions. At one end of the spectrum people are severely affected and may have a learning disability. At the other end, sometimes called Asperger syndrome or high functioning autism, people are very able in many ways, having normal or above average intelligence. It is important to realise that this is not always "useful intelligence" when it comes to everyday situations. The difficulties are not visible and are often misunderstood. The life experiences vary considerably from person to person, but the following are common,

- Social interaction difficulties
- Verbal and non verbal communication problems; difficulty sustaining a two way conversation
- Problems understanding body language, tone of voice, facial expressions
- Eye contact may be avoided due to sensory overload and/or needing time to process what has been said
- Repetitive behaviours, especially when stressed or anxious, and focus on special interests
- Heightened sensitivity to touch, light, colour, sound, smell, temperature, etc.
- Difficulty in foreseeing the consequences of one's own, or another's, actions
- Overload, when anxious, stressed and/or faced with the unexpected

What is the Baptist Church?



You probably are aware of the existence of two churches in Marcham but despite the fact last year Marcham Baptist Church celebrated 140 years of being in the village, you may pass the front of our building on the bends of Packhorse lane, or see our page in the MAD News and not know who we are. So just what is a Baptist Church and what do we believe?

A Baptist Church is a community of believers in Jesus who are committed to certain convictions about the practice of their faith. Our core beliefs, such as the Bible being God's word to us, the Divinity of Jesus Christ, beliefs about the virgin birth, Christ's death and resurrection and the need for individuals to come to a saving faith in Christ are held in common with our friends at All Saints and all other Bible believing churches who live out the truth - that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation and sets us free from the consequences of our sin.

The three core beliefs, among many others that unite Marcham's two churches are that :

- God has eternally existed and will always do so. God is a Trinity - One God, who exists in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. After Jesus' resurrection, the Holy Spirit was experienced powerfully in the lives of believers. Today, when we put our trust in Christ, we begin a new life, God lives in us by His Holy Spirit and we become part of his family and empowered to do his work.
- the Bible is God's inspired words to us.
- before accepting Christ, all are separated from God because of their sin. Jesus Christ was God revealed to us in human form and died in our place to set us free from the consequences of our wrongdoing and turning away from him. By accepting Him as Saviour we enter into a restored relationship with God.

However, the main difference between the Baptist church and our friends at All Saints is our understanding about baptism. We do not practise infant baptism, but instead give thanks for the birth of a child through a dedication service. We see baptism as the next step for a new believer after trusting in Jesus Christ for forgiveness and eternal life. Anyone who has taken that step can be baptised during a Sunday morning service, as an affirmation of this change in their life.

In the Baptist Church we gather together on a Sunday morning, to worship God in a relaxed, friendly but still reverent way, with prayer that is informal and with teaching from the Bible. Throughout 2013, we are systematically going through Matthew's gospel - an account of the life of Christ, seeking to learn from it and apply it to our own lives. After each service, we meet together in the church hall for coffee and chat.

So what about you? What do **you** believe and what contact do you have, or have you had, with church?

- **Are you currently attending church outside of the village?**
- **Maybe you haven't attended church for a while or**
- **Perhaps you feel on the outside, looking in and wondering what the Christian faith is all about.**

If one of the above describes you, then please ring me to discuss what you are looking for in a church. We would love to be a part of your faith journey. At present we are in the process of revamping the Baptist church, looking to strengthen and reshape it for the 21st Century.

Join us to help build our community of people in Marcham who are seeking to live out the Christian life - a life that Jesus promises he will help you to live to the full. Do call me for a chat or visit us on Sunday.

Every blessing

Keith Mersh, Pastor Marcham Baptist Church

For more information, contact

Keith Mersh - Pastor 01865 391881

Bill Dyer - Elder 01235 814986

Speakers in February

3 Feb - Keith Mersh

10 Feb - Janet Quarry

17 Feb - Stephen Milford

24 Feb - Colin Norris (Baptist Regional Minister)

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



All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page

Dear Friends,

The New Year appears to have begun with quite a sense of challenge for many: illness, accidents, troubled relationships, bereavement - all have come to the fore over recent weeks. Life always has its harder times, as well as the more uplifting and joyful occasions. Keeping a level head through these ups and downs is a great quality!

There is a lovely old song that contains these words: 'Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.' This echoes the thoughts of one of the New Testament writers: 'Therefore ... fix your thoughts on Jesus ...' (Hebrews 3:1). This is not some sort of mystical escapism, it is about keeping a right perspective on life, and keeping a level head through all of life's trials. God is faithful, trustworthy, dependable, consistent - our Rock and Redeemer. People of Christian faith of all ages and down the generations have discovered these great attributes of God to be true, and what a help it is! If you have a Bible to hand, have a look at Hebrews chapter 4, verses 14 to 16 - here are words of real encouragement and hope!

And hope is all around us - from the first signs of the spring bulbs to the discovery of amazing things like graphene. But above everything else, our source of hope rests in Jesus Himself. The missionary apostle St. Paul wrote these words to the believers in the city of Rome: 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' (Romans 15: 13)

As this year unfolds, may you, too, know this overflowing joy, peace and hope!

Revd Richard Zair

Prayer for the Month:

Heavenly Father and God of hope, please guide and strengthen us through the unfolding year. Help us to trust You through all the changing scenes of this life, in trouble and in joy. Help us to keep our sight fixed on Jesus, there to find help in time of need. Amen.

FEBRUARY Events:

Sat 2nd Feb: Men's Breakfast

8.30 am at the Sports, Scouts and Social Club

Wed 13th Feb: Ash Wednesday

7 pm Holy Communion Service at St. John the Baptist, Kingston Bagpuize

(A lent course will be run in Kingston Bagpuize to which Marcham people are invited - starting on Feb 21st, 7.30 - 9 pm in the church room.)

Advance Notice - Friday 1st March

Women's World day of Prayer

11 am - Baptist Church with speaker Jenny Kelsey. A service prepared by the women of France will be followed by a simple lunch.

Contact Jean Creasy on 391 398 for more info.

Parish People:

The funeral of Mrs Nora Hintz took place in All Saints on 4th January. We offer our condolences to her family and friends.

On 13th January, we welcomed in baptism Ethan Ward, son of Sam and Natalie.

Regular services:

Sundays at All Saints': 10 am and 6 pm

Wednesdays: 10.30 am HC at Duffield Place

Sunday at St. Luke's: Sun 10th Feb at 10.30am

Contact:

Revd Richard Zair 391319

41 North Street, Marcham(r_zair@yahoo.co.uk)

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister*

07811 165351

Deborah Flint *Churchwarden* 391056

Janey Cumber *Administrator* 391327

Jenny Warwick *PCC Secretary* 392076

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk