

# Marcham & District News

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

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



April 2013 Vol: 35 No: 4

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Cake decorating  
*Look Learn Laugh & Love with Rainbows*  
▼ Story time see page 19



▲ Pre School

World Book Day celebrations  
see page 19



Primary School



▲ A mystery see page 21



▲ Our new PCSO  
see page 7



▲ Ex-Servicemen's Club Dinner and Dance see page 17



## Diary

April		
3 Wed	Guideposts Open Day, Abingdon, 10.00-15.00	17
3 Wed	Have Your Say, Marcham Village Shop 10.00-12.00	7
7 Sun	Ridgeway Day, Court Hill Centre, Wantage, 10.30-15.30	17
8 Mon	Have Your Say, Duffield Place, 18.00-20.00	7
9 Tue	Finds Day, Manor Farm 10.00-15.00	7
9 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
9 Tue	Singing, 62 North Street, 14.00-15.30	17
9 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45	11
10 Wed	BBOWT: Gardening for Wildlife, Hinksey Lane, 19.30-21.30	21
10 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
11 Thur	Midweek walk: The Lamb, Buckland 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	11
14 Sun	Denman in Bloom, 13.00-17.00	15
18 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	11

20 Sat	Deadline for March MADNews, 17.00	
21 Sun	Air Ambulance Charity Dinner, Didcot, 12.00 / 18.30	17
23 Tues	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
23 Tue	Singing, 62 North Street, 14.00-15.30	17
23 Tue	GARD AGM, Stocks Lane Farm, 19.30	15
23 Tue	Ex-Servicemen's Club AGM, 20.00	11
26 Fri	MP's Surgery, Faringdon, 17.30 – 19.00	15
27 Sat	Milton Hill Bowling Club Open Day, 14.00	21
28 Sun	Denman in Bloom, 13.00-17.00	15
May		
5 Sun	Abingdon Air and Country Show, 10.00-17.00	21
9 Thur	Deadline for Responses to the Local Plan	3
10 Fri	MP's Surgery, Didcot, 17.30 – 19.00	15
17 Fri	Jambusters, Chipping Norton Town Hall	17
22 Wed	Marcham Annual Parish Meeting, Marcham School, 19.30	7

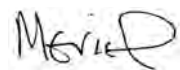
*Details of events may change after publication, please check with the relevant organisers before attending events.*

Dear Readers

Easter seems to have passed MADNews by this year, last month it was too far away and this month it has been and gone – so you have missed out on the eggs, bunnies and chicks that usually adorn the cover! I hope you all enjoyed whatever you did and didn't forget to put the clocks on!

Maybe that is what has happened to the spring!

Until next time



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

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

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

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Call Free from any phone - 111

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PCSO Carly Milward C6517  
Call 101 (non-emergency)

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For other councillors go to

[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

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April 2013

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**Recycling Banks Howard Cornish Road**

The Parish Council has noticed that the bottle banks are very full and overflowing on a regular basis. It is interested to know who uses these bins e.g. how many Marcham people and how many people from other parts of the Vale area. If you use these recycling banks, could you please email the clerk at [clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk) to let the Parish Council know. The recycling bins are for domestic items only and should not be used for trade waste. Please help to keep this bin area clean and do not leave items around the base of the banks.

Did you know that if you cannot fit all of your recycling waste in your green bin at home, you can leave any extra recycling by the side of bin for collection from the footway outside of your house? Please ensure that it is left in an open box or clear bin bag so that the crew and see it is recycling waste.

Also the County Council operates recycling centres, the nearest one to Marcham being at Drayton. If you use a van, pick up or similar under 3.5 tonnes laden or have trailer with a load bed of 1.8m to 3m long you can still take household waste or recyclables to the County Council's Recycling Centre at Drayton if you have a permit. Permits are available free of charge from Oxfordshire County Council and these entitle you to 12 visits in any one calendar year. However, the permit does not have an expiry date, so if you don't use all your entitlement in any one year, it carries forward. The idea behind the issuing of permits for vans was to prevent trade waste being left.

Above all, don't just dump your waste anywhere, even at the recycling banks as inappropriate items left in the countryside or even at the recycling banks may lead to prosecution as it is regarded as fly tipping.

**Environment Agency – Volunteers**

The Environment Agency is looking for volunteers who can commit to at least one day a week between May and the end of September to assist at the locks particularly between Reading and Lechlade. The role would include helping boats pass through the lock safely, taking ropes, directing traffic, operating sluices and lock gates and general site maintenance/gardening.

More information is available by telephoning the Volunteer team on 01491 828360 or email [thames.volunteers@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:thames.volunteers@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**Thames Valley Police – Community Policing Awards**

Nominations are now open for the Community Policing Awards which give members of the public and community

groups the opportunity to nominate someone who has made a real difference to their community. The awards are designed to recognize the efforts of Thames Valley Police's neighbourhood policing teams, including police officers, Police Community Support Officers and Special Constables. You can nominate an officer by going to [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/newsevents/newsevents-events/newsevents-events-cpa.htm](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/newsevents/newsevents-events/newsevents-events-cpa.htm) and completing a nomination form.

**District Council - Local Plan**

The District Council is preparing a Local Plan to guide development to 2029. This out for public consultation and is available for viewing at [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk) where there is also a comment form for responses. The deadline for returning your views is Thursday 9th May

**Planning Applications**

P/13/V0301/HH Proposed 2 storey rear extension 33 Packhorse Lane. The Council had no objections

P13/V0243/FUL Community hub, sports facilities, nursery with vehicular access off A415 and pedestrian access off Hyde Copse Land north of Marcham Road/East of Hyde Copse. The Council had great concerns regarding the vehicular access some considerable distance away from the main part of the village, the lack of a safe crossing point for pedestrians/cyclists over the A415, the actual location of the building and its impact on nearby housing from noise and lighting, and its insufficient on site parking which would cause parking problems elsewhere. The Council was concerned too with the proposed long passageway off Hyde Copse, which was not illuminated and could become a nuisance area for the adjacent housing. The Council resolved to object to the application.

**Date of Next Council Meeting: Wednesday 10th April 2013 at 7.30 p.m.**

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

[www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

<b>FREE</b>	
2 ACME mirrored wardrobe doors (36" width) plus track set. <b>391488</b>	
<b>FOR SALE</b>	
Rowing Machine –	
York Inspiration	£50
Stair Gate	£5
Collapsible cot	£25
McClaren Buggy & raincover	£30
Trainer toilet seat (used once)	£1.50
Chair booster seat	£5
McAllister Wet & Dry vacuum	£25
<b>Keith &amp; Ruth Mersh 01865 391881</b>	

*Dear Editor*

I informed the parish council last week that I have to resign as your District Councillor. An opportunity has arisen in my role as Chief Executive at SUDEP Action, an epilepsy charity. We have been awarded major international recognition in 2013 by medical and patient groups and an opportunity has arisen for me to focus for a year on research and international developments. Although this is only for 12 months, my family is relocating for the year to northern Spain and I will only be back in the UK for a short time every 2 months. I am very sorry to be resigning as District Councillor and will miss you all. Since my first election in 2003 I have enjoyed working for such a thriving community.

So that there can be an election on the same day as the county elections, I have been informed that I have to resign with immediate effect from Friday 22nd March. I have asked Richard Webber to keep a close watching brief on any issues which may affect Marcham and Shippon until a new district councillor is elected on May 2nd. Richard Webber is the district councillor for Drayton and is leader of the Liberal Democrat opposition group on the Vale. Many of you will have met Richard either at the annual parish meeting last May or on the door step during my consultation on the proposed housing development on the Anson Field. Richard has been deeply involved in challenging the current in planning policy at the Vale which has created so much uncertainty and worry around the Vale. During the last month Richard has visited all the sites of the current proposals or applications for developments in and around Marcham and the local school. I am confident that should any representation be needed in the next 6 weeks that Richard will be an excellent advocate for the village. If you need to make contact with Richard Webber please ring him on 01235 534001 or email him at richard.webber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

I hope that the next year will see some resolution to the provision of community facilities. The village is such an active place and would put many villages to shame. It so urgently deserves a solution to this problem.

Meriel has asked me to keep in touch and I will look forward to doing so.

With very best wishes

**JANE HANNA**

*Thanks for all your help and support for Marcham and good luck in your new role - please keep in touch.* *Ed*

*Dear Editor*

I am writing to you to introduce myself. My name is **Richard Webber**. I am the District Councillor for Drayton, and have been selected as the Liberal Democrat candidate for the forthcoming County Council elections. As you may be aware, under boundary re-organisation, we are *April 2013*

all contained within the new "Sutton Courtenay and Marcham" division. This includes Drayton, Appleford and Milton village. Having lived in Drayton since 1993 and for 10 year before that in Milton village, I am well aware of most of the issues facing our villages. As a District Councillor, I am all too aware of the threats resulting from the Vale's lack of 5 year land supply. Until the new Local Plan is in place, (due in late 2014 we are now told) all our villages are susceptible to speculative planning applications in areas which would not normally be permitted. Sutton Courtenay and Marcham have already been subjected to such applications with their consequent traffic implications, pressure on school places, the steady erosion of countryside and pressure on other existing infrastructure. I am convinced that Councils of all types must work together better, if we, as Oxfordshire residents are to take back control of the future of our county and its towns and villages.

I witnessed much of the heartache caused by the potential development on Anson field, Marcham, and how hard many people, together with the Parish Council worked to try to get a solution which was both acceptable and beneficial to the village. If elected, I will certainly be pressing for such an outcome – one that gives the village some much needed infrastructure and preserves some village green space. MADNews and the Community Shop demonstrate the strong sense of community in the village - a feature which other villages should be encouraged to emulate.

As retired teacher and father of four, I am particularly passionate about education.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you on the doorstep over the next few weeks. Please feel free to call or email me with any issues.

**RICHARD WEBBER**

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com  
01235 534001

*Dear Editor*

I write to tell your readers that I shall be standing for election in a new seat that includes your parish in the revised ward County Council election on Thursday May 2. I do not propose to make any party political points here. Fairly soon when they return from the printers, copies of the political side will be available, and anyone who does not have a copy can obtain one from me by phoning 01235-848319 or emailing me on gervaseduffield@bt internet.com.

**BOUNDARIES**

First, the borders which have been drawn up by the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for the new ward of Sutton Courtenay and Marcham are: Sutton Courtenay and Appleford, Milton and Drayton, Marcham and Shippon. That is a larger area than before since the number

of seats overall have been reduced, and as you will see the ward runs along the south side of Abingdon and then up the western fringes. I am currently a Vale of White Horse District councillor for Sutton Courtenay and Appleford; and, you voters permitting, I hope to extend that to the County Council also.

**REASONS**

Second, why do I want to take on all this extra work of being already a District councillor and now seeking to become in addition a County councillor? I give you five reasons: a) with the current spate of house estate plans, Vale councillors always have to leave the traffic issues to the County which is less than satisfactory. b) in the present economic situation I want to ensure that priority is given to all the many potholes. c) our parishes near the Thames and the Ock are threatened with more pit sites, and I share the view of many that we have had more than our share of that already. d) a new review is starting with Thames Water about future water supplies, and in consequence how much your water rates will rise. I am already leading a team to fight for the cheapest reliable water supply we can get, thus saving you money over the years. We do not need the vast reservoir which the Government inspector wisely turned down last time; Severn Trent water transfer or reverse osmosis are much cheaper and will do the job. e) I am also concerned about rats which are becoming immune to traditional poisons, and I am urging local councils to work with researchers at Reading University to tackle this unpleasant situation.

**MARCHAM My Childhood Home**

I have a particular concern for Marcham, since my family have been connected with it for centuries and still are. In addition I grew up there, started my education in the locality, and was heavily involved in Marcham community and church/chapel life up to my Oxford University years and until I left for post-graduate studies in Cambridge. I should regard it as a great privilege to represent Marcham in the County Council.

If you are willing to elect me, I hope to be able to tackle the above issues more effectively by extending my membership of the Vale District Council additionally to Oxford County Council. Of course I am always glad to hear your views and answer any questions I can. Just contact me.

Gervase Duffield, Vale District Councillor and hoping to be your County councillor as well.

**GERVASE DUFFIELD**

gervaseduffield@bt internet.com  
01235-848319

**MARCH UPDATES**

In the last month there have been burglaries in Whitecross and Brumcombe Lane in



Bayworth. Offenders have gained access through the rear of the properties and have stolen money and jewellery. The offender/s are still outstanding, however as the local Neighbourhood Team we are working hard to gain intelligence and deter such criminality by patrolling the area robustly. We can not emphasize enough how important it is for residents to report any suspicious behaviour – no matter how small you may feel it is – ASAP so we are able to action it. If you come across people on foot or in vehicles who are paying passing attention to properties or driving around slowly with no purpose, please note index numbers and person descriptions and pass them to the Police. It helps us build a picture of what is actually happening in the communities we serve and also gives us a chance to challenge individual’s behaviour, which may in turn scare them away from the area or lead to further offences.

As a local Neighbourhood Team our aim in the next few months is to increase the amount of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, which in turn will help us decrease the amount of rural crime in the area. By joining such schemes residents are kept up to date of local crime trends, and also gives each other a chance to engage and be informed of any suspicious behaviour / criminality / anti social behaviour. If you are interested in joining a beneficial and informative scheme, contact carly.milward@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk to get an information pack.

Also in the next few months the street briefings that are held so frequently in the area will continue. All residents are welcome to attend the meetings, which will enable the local community to get to know their local PCSO if they don’t already. Also it is a great opportunity to put any issues concerning you to the local policing team.

As the local PCSO I am sad to announce that I will be leaving the area and the role of a PCSO to enable me to fulfil my dream of becoming a PC. I have thoroughly enjoyed working rural Abingdon the last two years and have met many great, inspiring residents along the way. PCSO Andy McCormack from the Botley team will be my successor; with it he brings a wealth of experience and heaps of enthusiasm. I wish Andy all the best and please do contact him if you have any issues or concerns where you live. Andy is also trained in giving crime reduction advice on domestic properties so if you feel you may need advice on how to improve the security of your home, contact andy.mccormack@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk  
**PCSO CARLY MILWARD C6517**

***Hello to you all***

I am Police Community Support Officer Andy McCormack and I am now the Officer for Wootton, Dry Sandford and Marcham and I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have been working in my current role for Thames Valley Police for five years, two and a half years covering Abingdon town centre and two and a half years covering Botley, Wytham and Cumnor. I am grateful for the opportunity I now have to combine my previous knowledge and experience and put it to use in a new area, I am also looking forward to learning the many more things there is to learn in my new post. I am trained in offering home security advice so if you feel you would benefit from this please do not hesitate to contact me and we can arrange a date for a home survey to be carried out. Also of course if you have any issues or concerns about your area of a policing nature then again please feel free to contact me by e-mail or the new non emergency number 101.

E-mail- andrew.mccormack@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

**PCSO ANDY MCCORMACK C9461**

Abingdon Outer Neighbourhood Team

April 2013

**HOW TO CONTACT THE EMERGENCY SERVICES**

For all **EMERGENCIES** call 999 (or 112 as in Europe) for Police, Fire & Rescue, Ambulance, Coast Guard. Cave and Mountain Rescue

**Non-Emergencies**

**POLICE**

If you want to report a non-emergency or contact a particular officer call 101.

**NHS - when it's less urgent than 999**

Call 111 to get medical advice from fully trained advisers

**FIRE**

If in doubt, Get out, Stay out and get the Fire and Rescue Service out! [www.365alive.co.uk](http://www.365alive.co.uk)

Don't forget to test your smoke alarms.

**Have Your Say & Street Briefings**

- Wednesday 3 April Marcham Village Shop 1000-1200
- Monday 8 April Duffield Place, Marcham 1800-2000

**PCSO Andy McCormack C9461**  
**Abingdon Outer Neighbourhood Team**  
**NAG7 Marcham, Wootton, Shippon and Boars Hill**  
**Police Non-emergency number: 101**



**Archaeological Finds Identification Day**

**Manor Farm, Mill Rd, Marcham**

**10.00am - 3.00pm**

**9th April 2013**

**Families welcome**

**The Trendles Project**, Marcham’s exciting new community archaeology project is now well underway, with

volunteers busily working on the pottery, animal bone and written and drawn records from the eleven seasons of excavations on the Trendles Field site behind the former Noah’s Ark Inn.

The project will be holding its first **Archaeological Finds Identification Day** on the **9th April**. If you have ever found something in you house, garden, or while out walking, and think it might be archaeological, or even if you know what it is but would like to have it added to our archaeological map of the local area, bring it along between **10am and 3pm** to our Project workroom next door to Cumbers Farm Shop, Manor Farm.

We will also have some of the Roman and Iron Age finds from the excavations out on display, so come along and meet some of the archaeologists and volunteers working on the Trendles Project. Some limited parking is available.

To find our more about the Trendles Project, visit our website [attrendlesproject.com](http://attrendlesproject.com) or email us at [trendlesproject@gmail.com](mailto:trendlesproject@gmail.com)

**ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

This year the annual meeting for electors will take place on **Wednesday 22nd May** at 7.30 p.m. in the hall at Marcham Primary School. The guest speaker will be Mr. Andrew Haines, Chief Executive of the Civil Aviation Authority.

Light refreshments will be served.

Please put a note of this date in your diaries.

**ANSON TRUST**

The Anson Trust wishes to inform readers that Taylor Wimpey have advised that planning application P/13V0243/FUL for a new Community Centre and sports pitches on land behind Anson Close will be withdrawn.

Early in March we held a meeting with a number of village organisations, including the MCG, MSS&SC and Parish Council, to update them on where we are and to reiterate the tight timescale we believe we need to work within to ensure the continuation of community leisure facilities in the village. We were encouraged by the level of engagement around the room and we understand that members of the Joint Users Planning Group will meet soon to discuss the future provision of facilities in Marcham. In the meantime, we are reviewing a range of options with a view to putting an end to the current uncertainty as quickly as possible.

**JOINT USERS PLANNING GROUP (JUPG)**

The Joint Users Planning Group (JUPG) is the group formed last September that represents village organisations. To date, 22 organisations have joined it. A list of member groups was in last December's MADNews and is given again below. All village groups have a standing invitation to join the JUPG. The current chair is Jim Asher who is also chair of MCG.

The JUPG immediately set up a working group to work on the business plan for proposed new leisure facilities but this task was put on hold when the Anson Trust announced its sudden change of plan in October.

In line with the Trust's new proposals, Taylor Wimpey submitted a planning application early in February for leisure facilities on the proposed new site east of Hyde Copse and Anson Close. However, it appeared soon afterwards that there were obstacles to the plan going ahead as envisaged. We now understand from the Anson Trust that the planning application will be withdrawn.

**BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD**

Early in March, members of the JUPG, the MCG committee and two Parish Councillors had a meeting with three Anson Trustees to clarify the present situation and the possible outcomes.

In response to this new situation, a full meeting of the JUPG will be held early in April to consider all possible ways forward to provide the new facilities the community needs and how to progress these in full consultation with the community.

*The JUPG includes members of the following village groups: The Parish Council, All Saints' PCC, Marcham Community Group, Marcham Players, The Marcham Society, Marcham WI, Marcham Cricket Club, Marcham Football Club, Marcham Sports, Scouts and Social Club, Marcham Tennis Association, Marcham Bridge Club, Marcham Café, the Men's Breakfast, the Friday and TAG Clubs, the Guides, Brownies, Rainbow Guides and Cubs, the Youth Club, the Pre-school Play Group, and the Baby and Toddler Group.*

*Dear Editor*

**LOSS OF THE ANSON FIELD** The majority of the village voted, for the second time, to reject the Anson Trust/Taylor Wimpey proposed development of the Anson Field. In the latest vote in May 2012, 359 voted for the development, and 412 against. The Anson Trust, with the apparent agreement of our Parish Councillor, has totally ignored a democratic vote, **FIRST PAST THE POST WINS** The Marcham Community Group also appear to be very keen that the development goes ahead with the loss of the field which was given by the Anson sisters to the villagers, the same villagers that by majority voted against the loss of the field.

What has happened to the MCG's plans that they published in the MADNews in January 2011?

*"the group intends to offer another option for the future of the community facilities in Marcham. Following the announcement that the ANSON Trust would be seeking to develop part of the April 2013*



*sports field" ( 51 Houses? )*

*"The group aims to retain the field in its entirety and keep it as a recreational facility in the heart of the village..."*

Isn't it time that the Anson Trust and the MCG listened to the villagers? Yes the facilities on the field are dated and the buildings are in need of a lot of maintenance.

Develop the area of the field that supports the Sports and Social Club and the Little Angels. Build a football and cricket pavilion with all changing facilities and a social room for visitors and spectators. **NOT A TWO MILLION POUND HUB!**

Redevelop and refurbish the other facility belonging to the villagers which used to be use extensively for clubs ,nursery group, parties, theatre group etc. before it was closed down by the Trustees, the same Trustees that want to sell the last of the Anson sisters' gift to the villagers of Marcham.

This redevelopment could give a new home to the Little Angels and the Pre-School, freeing up the space in the school and giving back to the village a community facility.

**BRIAN HARROW**

*Dear Editor*

I downloaded the March issue of MADNews recently and was saddened to read of the death of Janey Cumber. Please forward my condolences and sympathy to Will and the family.

When I first met Janey, (I forget the when, how, why), I was quite in awe of her. Here was I, a harassed young mum of four, struggling to keep house and home together; there was she, the Lady of the Manor Farm, a pillar of the community. Over the years however, she always made you feel that you were the very person she was wanting to meet; she always had a smile and time for a chat. My abiding memory of her is of her hurrying into the Institute on Village Café morning, hauling a steaming tray of roast meat and dashing off again on another of her errands of mercy.

I am also sad to read that my dear friend Wyn Harman has died. When she went to live at the nursing home in Burcot, I tried to keep in touch with her with cards and letters, but never knew if she was OK and able to read them. May she rest in peace.

After moving from Marcham over 10 years ago, (coming up 9 in Scotland), I have followed with interest and bemusement, through the MADNews, the ongoing saga of the Anson Trust and the Marcham Community Group and their (sometimes) opposing plans for a new community centre and leisure facilities. And then we have another group organising a Community Led Plan for Marcham. Then there's GARD, the Packhorse Lane residents group, the Anson Field no buildings in my back garden group. Are they working on their own or joining together for the common good? And what is going to happen to the Institute? Is it going to be abandoned, fall into disrepair and fall down?

Here in Fochabers in lovely Moray, where I now live, we have the same sort of problem. We have a much loved and much used 110 year old village Institute which is in need of extensive renovation and upgrading. There have been several meetings to discuss what is to be done. Do we demolish and build anew; do we have a community buy-out and/or transfer of ownership? Eventually it was decided to form a Development Trust which would provide a Business Plan, to take on the task of raising funding, publicity, promotion and marketing. Development Trusts are community organisations which are owned and managed by the local community. They aim to achieve the sustainable regeneration of a community or address a range of economic, social, environmental and cultural issues within a community. You can find out more about them on the internet.

Regarding your struggle to get a bypass. Don't give up hope. We have just had our bypass built after 50 years of campaigning!

I have not visited Marcham for about four years, due to ill health and travelling difficulties, but my greetings go to all who knew me with hopes they are well.

**JACKIE OWSNETT**

## MARCHAM PLAYERS

By the time you read this we will have held a "With Great Pleasure" evening at Marcham School at which we are sharing readings with pupils and parents based on the theme "Around the World". More news next time regarding this.



The new Community facility still seems as far away as ever and this steers us towards continuing our current policy of promoting rather than presenting two or three events each year. You will see elsewhere in this edition an early notice of our involvement in a film presentation of Tosca and we are also engaged in early discussions regarding a possible production nearer to Christmas - more news about this as plans evolve.

Finally, a gentle reminder that, following our AGM in February at which annual subscriptions were held at current levels, if any of you have not yet renewed membership and intend to do so, please contact either myself, Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964 or Cheryl Sewell on 01865 391200.

.....  
 www.marchamplayers.co.uk

### SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY OCTOBER 19th 2013

Opera Anywhere, in association with  
 All Saints Church & Marcham Players,  
 proudly present

### TOSCA

Enjoy the Royal Opera House performance  
 in Blu Ray format at All Saints  
 Prepare for drama, passion and fabulous music!

### MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

In preparation for the forthcoming Season, the Club is continuing to hold Nets at Larkmead School Sports Hall on Friday evenings (19.30-20.30). All ages and levels of playing skill are welcome to attend. The remaining dates for Nets are:

April: 5th, 12th 19th, 26th  
 OCA Fixtures for May are:



May	1st XI	2nd XI
4	Cassington/Rescue Home	Radley II Away
11	Gt Horwood II Away	Combe II Home
18	Stanton Harcourt Away	Cowley Internationals Home
25	Uffington Home	W Isley Away

May	Charles Hoile Downs League
18.00 Wednesday Evenings	
1	Quantel Away
8	Wallingford Away
15	Letcombe Home
22	Wallingford Home
29	Letcombe Away

Please contact Trevor Hill (391321) for information relating to the Club - including Nets and playing or umpiring for Marcham.CSB



## Marcham WI

Next Meeting: **THURSDAY, 18th April at Denman College. 7.30pm**

There will be a talk on "The Energy Crisis" from Robin Stafford Allen. Members are invited to bring their "Top Tip" for energy saving

**JOIN THE WI AND MAKE FRIENDS IN YOUR VILLAGE!**

Contacts for new members or visitors  
 Christine Whild 01865 391270

### MARCHAM AND DISTRICT EX SERVICEMEN'S CLUB NORTH STREET, MARCHAM, OXON OX13 6NG February 2013

#### 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 2013 will no longer be considered Members and their names will be removed from the current register of Life Members.

Chairman 8th February 2013

Registered members of the club are reminded that The **AGM** is to be held in the Club on Tuesday April 23th 2013 at 8pm. All registered members are encouraged to attend.

*Your input is necessary for the Club's future.*

**Agenda:** Apologies, Minutes of 2012 A.G.M., Matters Arising Chairman's report, Treasurer's Report, Election of Officers Election of Committee, Any other Business

### MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

#### Midweek Walk, Thursday, April 11th.

For this month's walk we will go to The Lamb (Map Ref SU342978) in Buckland at 12.30pm for lunch and 1.30pm for a circular walk of about four miles, taking in the hamlet of Pusey and Buckland Warren. Members free, non-members £1.



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



The  
**Marcham  
 Society**

## The Early Life of Lord Nuffield

This talk will be followed up by a visit to Nuffield House in June

*Bob Harris*

All Saints' Church Marcham 7.45pm 9th April

Following meeting: 14th May:  
**Martin Woodgett:** The Cutty Sark

Non-members £2

[www.marchamsociety.org.uk](http://www.marchamsociety.org.uk)

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

Bank Balance  
£13,078

Local Events  
£10,124

Donations  
£6,647

2012 - 2013 Membership  
Voting: 125 Junior: 20

5p Coins  
4270



## Back to the beginning

You will see from p.9 that Taylor Wimpey is intending to withdraw the planning application it submitted early in February for leisure facilities on a site to the east of Hyde Copse and Anson Close.

Representatives of village organisations, including MCG, have had a meeting with Anson Trustees to get some understanding of the current situation and its possible outcomes.

## Now it's up to the community

The recent responses to the Community Led Plan questionnaire have reinforced the message from earlier more limited consultations on the need for new facilities, particularly a functioning village hall. (For the full CLP responses see [www.marchamforward.org/publications.html](http://www.marchamforward.org/publications.html).)

The Joint Users Planning Group (JUPG) is the organisation that was formed six months ago to represent village groups. It is taking the initiative to explore all possible ways of providing the leisure facilities the community needs – see p.9. MCG, as a member group, will play its full part. The search for a solution will have to consider all the assets in the village and find the most effective way of using them for the community.

**MCG is committed to finding the right solution for Marcham  
in consultation with the whole community.**

**All options are now open again.**

### Just for the record

The committee asked MCG members whether it should comment on the planning application that is now being withdrawn. Although there were doubts at that stage about the scheme going ahead, the committee recommended responding as the prudent course in case the application is revived at a later stage.

There were 43 responses representing over a third of the 125 voting members. 41 of the responses said MCG should oppose the application with only 2 wishing not to oppose it. MCG therefore sent a detailed objection to the Vale. We did not oppose the principle behind the application but pointed out what members saw as a number of problems with the actual proposal. We also pointed out that there had been no consultation with the village. The full response is on the Vale Planning website under the planning reference P13/V0243/FUL in the folder '24 Fettiplace Road'.

It's now even more important that the village voice is heard.

**Support**

**MCG**

**Join now**

Contact details are below.

**All options are now open again**



**HOVERFLIES**

These brightly-coloured insects do look like wasps sometimes, but are stingless flies. They are cleverly avoided by predators as they look like dangerous wasps.



240+ hoverfly species are in Britain. Adults are found on flowers throughout spring, summer and autumn. Hoverfly larvae, sometimes even resembling small slugs. They all have different feeding habits. They may eat plants, feed on rotting wood and fungi dine on dead insects. They can be found between March and November, depending on the species.

Keep an eye out for them hovering near and resting on flowers. Many seem to enter conservatories and greenhouses too

The adult hoverflies like flowers where there is easy access to the nectar. Good plants to encourage these helpful insects are Aster, poached egg plant, baby blue eyes, ice plant, phacelia, ivy and poppies. Some of these plants are great for growing in tubs and containers on patios so even if you don't have a great expanse of garden, you can still play your part in attracting them.

Have a look out in your garden and see what other plants hoverflies are attracted to, we would love to know and expand our own knowledge.

**Happy Gardening, STUART MABBUTT**

Wildlife Gardening Specialist, 01865 747243

**Brown bins:** *If you have not renewed your payment using Direct Debit as payment method for your brown bin, Biffa are instructed to collect them. So if you want to keep your bin, check that your DD is up to date - either with your bank or with the Vale.*

**MARCHAM TABLE TENNIS CLUB**

Marcham Table Tennis Club has just come to the end of its first season playing in the Didcot and District Table Tennis League. Our home night and venue is at the Baptist Church on Mondays. Keith Mersh, Robert and Harry O'Higgins and Robin Butt make up the team, which has played in Division 5 with a fair level of success, considering that it is our first season. Harry has won 22 out of 33 matches (67%), whilst Robin and Robert have a 56% and 27% success rate respectively. I, Keith would rather not divulge mine!! (Though I have won some games!)



Through the closed season, from now until September, the aim is to try and get some coaching on a Monday evening to prepare us for the new season in the autumn.

**Do you play? Please give Keith a call on 391881. We might be able to make two teams for 2013/4**

**GARD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 2013 AGM of GARD will take place on Tuesday 23rd April at Stocks Lane Farm at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend. The Hon Chairman will give a brief report on the current state of play regarding the threat of reservoir construction to the 4 villages closest to the proposed site. The Thames Water draft Water Resources Management Plan covering the 25 years 2015-2040 has to be submitted to Defra by 31 March, but will not be available for public consultation until early May.

The AGM will be followed by an Executive Committee Meeting.

**NICK THOMPSON** Hon Chairman GARD

**DENMAN IN BLOOM**

Sunday 14 April & Sunday 28 April

1pm - 5pm Admission £3

Come and stroll in the Denman gardens to see a host of golden daffodils, tulips and crocuses,

*and treat yourself to a cream tea!*



[www.denman.org.uk](http://www.denman.org.uk)

**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

Many of you will know that water bills are going up this year. In the constituency, we are all served by Thames Water, and Ofwat, the water regulator, has determined that they will be allowed to increase water bills by 3.5% in April. That's an average increase of £18 per household (although it will vary for individual homes), around £2.60 for improvements to the service and the rest to allow for inflation. Although unwelcome, the bills will help to pay for the largest ever investment programme for both water and sewerage. We often take both a clean water supply and our sewage being taken away very much for granted, so it is helpful to be reminded that it doesn't all happen by accident.



I heard recently that on 30 January, a milestone was reached – the one millionth blood stem cell transplant worldwide. This achievement was unimaginable 39 years ago. But then, 39 years ago, Shirley Nolan had only just created the world's first bone marrow register. Eight years ago, I joined in a drive to get 850 extra donors on the Antony Nolan register, to celebrate the 850th Anniversary of Wallingford being granted its charter. Registering is easy, and as at least 2 former Mayors of Wallingford have found out, if you are chosen to donate, it's a fantastic thing to be able to do. So, if you would like to do something remarkable, why not contact the Antony Nolan Trust at [www.anthonynolan.org](http://www.anthonynolan.org) and join the register too?

The Government has recently announced measures to tackle welfare and irresponsible dog ownership, following consultation last year. Measures will include requirement that dogs are microchipped with details of the owner (which was supported by 96% of respondents to the consultation) and a change in the Dangerous Dogs Act to extend the offence of a dog being dangerously out of control to all places, including private property. The Dogs Trust are giving very generous support to the measures which means a free microchip will be available for all unchipped dogs throughout England. The Government is working with the Dogs Trust to ensure that free microchips will be offered by the Dogs Trust to local authorities, housing associations and veterinary surgeries. A number of other animal welfare charities are offering free microchipping at their centres including Battersea Dogs and Cats Home and Blue Cross. This will mean that the measure can be introduced in 2016 without a cost to dog owners who might struggle to pay for the microchipping.

Finally, this month my mailbox has been dominated by two campaigns. The campaign for an amendment to the Energy Bill, which would outline a clean electricity target and the campaign about competition regulations in the NHS. Between them these campaigns account for almost 300 individual letters and emails. I've also received almost 50 emails from members of the fair fuel campaign who wish to lower fuel duty, 20 or so on the Justice and Security Bill and another 20 from people concerned about the level of duty on alcohol.

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

<b>MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY</b>	
5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise - no appointment necessary	
26th Apr	Faringdon, Pump Rooms, SN7 7HL
10th May	Didcot, King Alfred Drive Community Centre, OX11 7NU
<b>Contact Ed Vaizey MP by</b>	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	<a href="mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk">vaizeye@parliament.uk</a>
Web	<a href="http://www.vaizey.com">www.vaizey.com</a>
Tel	0207 219 6350



**MARCHAM AND DISTRICT**

The Ex-Servicemen's Dinner and Dance at the Four Pillars on the 9th March was another great success, special thanks to **Brenda**. Good food, good music during and after dinner, a really enjoyable sociable evening for all.

Look out in the MADNews for the next Club entertainment !!!!! Coming Soon

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

**HELP PROTECT THE RURAL VALE**

The Vale of the White Horse District Council published its draft Local Plan in February. It sets out the District's main development plans until 2026, including sites for 1000s of new houses. The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is urging people to have their say and tell the Council how important it is to protect the rural character of the Vale's landscape and villages.



A new map of all the major development applications in the District over the last year can be seen at: <http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk/news/item/2269-map-of-planning-applications-in-the-vale>  
Like most local communities, CPRE supports the right development in the right place. But current pressures mean that large-scale and unsustainable applications are getting through in some places. CPRE is already working with the Small Villages Alliance and the Western Vale Villages Consortium to keep a very close eye on things, but needs the support of local people - your support - to remain vigilant and take action when necessary. As a charity CPRE relies entirely on support from its members. Please help CPRE to protect the character of the rural Vale by joining them or getting involved. Call on 01865 874780 or find out more at [www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)

**ENJOY A RIDGEWAY DAY**

The Ridgeway is an ancient track across England, a 4,000 year-old trade route, and today a National Trail. It links hillforts, barrows and hill figures and passes through spectacular landscapes. It is Britain's oldest road and it's right on our doorstep, on the edge of the Downs, for everyone to enjoy.



On Sunday, 7 April, The Friends of the Ridgeway are holding an Open Day at the Court Hill Centre near Wantage. Why not take a walk on The Ridgeway, and enjoy one of Britain's finest views. Visit nearby Segsbury Castle hillfort, and spot wildlife and spring flowers. Drop in to the Court Hill Centre any time between 10.30am and 3.30pm and find out more about the trail and how you can help to keep it special. Have a snack at the Barn Café. Meet the volunteers who help to preserve the ancient track, and join in a discussion about the future of the National Trails. With exhibitions of art inspired by the Ridgeway landscape and a birds of prey display, there's something for the whole family to enjoy. To get to the Court Hill Centre, take the A338 south from Wantage for 2 miles. Turn right into The Centre just before the crest of Court Hill.

The Friends of the Ridgeway, is a charity (number 1107926) which helps to preserve and protect The Ridgeway, to raise awareness of it and promote its quiet enjoyment. [www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk](http://www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk)  
**April 2013**

**Thames Valley & Chiltern  
Air Ambulance  
Trust**



Charity Number: 1084910

Charity Dinner in aid of the Air Ambulance  
Sunday 21st April

Kolkata, 222 Broadway Didcot  
Lunch @ 12.00 or Evening @18.30  
£15 adult / £10 child  
Plus Charity Raffle

Call Kolkata 01235 812206 or 812357  
[www.tvcaa.org](http://www.tvcaa.org)

**WE RELY ON YOU - SO YOU CAN RELY ON US**

**SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!**

**Tuesday, 9th April 2 - 3.30pm**

**Tuesday 23rd April 2 - 3.30pm**

Tea and cake follow the singing.

For more details:

Christine Whild, 62 North Street Marcham Tel 391270



Our next **Open Day** will be on Wednesday, 3 April 2013 from 10 am to 3 pm. The theme for this Open Day is "The Bathroom". We will have information on grab rails, bathboards, bathlifts, toilet raisers, walk in baths and level access showers. We will also have some suppliers bringing some bathroom equipment for people to see. As always all are 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](http://www.guidepostsilc.org.uk)



On May 17th, we are running an event called Jambusters at the Chipping Norton Town Hall, a talk featuring a book about the Women's Institute during the Second World War. Which has just been released and is already attracting wide media coverage, including television production rights, Jambusters is the story of the WI and how they ran the countryside during the Second World War. The book is full of humour and wonderful stories of how the women of rural Britain made things tick even in impossible circumstances. The book has a strong local following and its author, Julie Summers, is a well-known local historian who has already run successful events for the Trust.

We would like to invite you and your members to join us at this event. Tickets will be priced at £12.50 and include drinks and nibbles. All proceeds of this event will support the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum project. Purchasing tickets is easy via our website or telephone. [www.sof.org.uk/shop/events-tickets](http://www.sof.org.uk/shop/events-tickets). Alternatively please call us on 01993 813832.

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust is a registered charity (No. 1145408)

**NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL**

*by The Cubs*

We celebrated World Book Day on 7th March. We all came to school dressed as animals from the books we enjoy reading. We could choose to listen to our teachers telling our favourite animal stories and we ended the day by making book covers for all the books we love to read.

Aoife (aged 4) *"I came as Zoo the Zebra because I like stripes"*.  
 Alistair (aged 5) *"I am Pooh Bear because Pooh Bear likes honey and I like honey too"*.  
 Isla (aged 5) *"I came as Peter Rabbit's mummy because my Granny reads Peter Rabbit to me. I like Flopsy, Mopsy and Cotton Tail too"*.



**ABINGDON LITTLE ANGELS**

Another busy month at Little Angels and we have been looking closely at the Bible story of **Moses in the Bulrushes** (weaving our own baskets) and moving on through Moses life with the burning bush (collaged with red orange and yellow), the Ten commandments (3d cardboard painting them grey like stones and placing the commandments around the room,) the parting of the Red Sea role play to act this out. We finished the month by looking at the Jewish custom of Passover and moved onto to the Easter story, making crosses and remembering the last supper. The After School club have also been looking at Bible stories including **Moses in the Bulrushes** again weaving their own baskets, and drawing their own pictures of the scenes painting bulrushes, **Adam and Eve** and the garden of Eden, collaging their own interpretation, adding the serpent and apple, finishing the term with Easter activities.



An interesting month for all the children at Little Angels. 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](mailto:info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk).

**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS**

What a busy month! On the 7th Marcy we celebrated World Book Day and the children were invited to dress up as their favourite nursery rhyme character - and the results were brilliant! (see photo) We had Little Bo Peep, Goldilocks, a Pirate, Dr Foster, Little Miss Muffet, We had a great day full of stories and songs, and finished with parents (and other children!) joining us for an extra special session at the end of the day. The following week we were lucky enough for Mostly Books Abingdon to visit us with their very own Storyteller! Another great session which had the children mesmerised - many thanks to Mark and everyone at Mostly Books.



If you would like to join us for September 2013, please do get in touch. You can contact us via our website at [www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com) or on 01865 392101 or email [marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk).

**.MARION, NICKY, KATHARINE, SAM AND NATASHA**  
[marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com)



This past month the girls have had fun decorating cakes, making chocolate Easter nests, decorating tough papier maché eggs using the decopatch technique, making animal collages, making friendship bracelets, making Mothers' Day Cards, Playing Games, and finishing off the month with an Easter Egg Hunt. We also encourage free taster sessions to allow our new Rainbows time to experience our sessions before they join. If you would like more information about Marcham Rainbows, or would like to register a new girl at the Unit, please speak to Caroline Walton on 01865 391841, or go to [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) and click on the "Parents" tab, then click on "Register your daughter", and follow the instructions.

**Come and join in the Fun!**

**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!**



Thank you very much to you and everyone involved in the Marcham Community Group for the kind donation of £600 and for choosing SeeSaw to benefit from your generosity.

10 years supporting bereaved children in Oxfordshire



**MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL**

If you have young children and would like to register an interest in your child attending Marcham School in the future, please fill in and return this form to school as soon as possible. This form is not an application to school and does not guarantee a place, but will allow us to plan the future of the school and help with our discussions with the Admissions Team at Oxfordshire County Council.

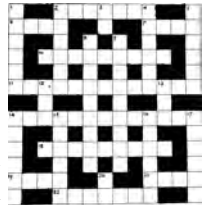
<b>NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN:</b>		
<b>ADDRESS:</b>		
<b>NAME OF CHILD</b>	<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>	<b>MALE/FEMALE</b>

**MILTON HILL BOWLING CLUB**

Potash Lane, Milton Heights,  
(behind the Football Club)  
We are having an Open Day  
Saturday 27th April, at 2.00  
All Welcome, come and have a try,  
foot-wear provided  
Please contact Colin Trinder 01865 391718  
for more info if needed

**MARCH CROSSWORD BY ALISA**

Across: 2 Express 6 Halt 7 Tuba 10 Inflation  
11 Blackbird Leys 14 Model Railways  
18 Instigate 19 Oats 21 iron 22 Tuition  
DOWN: 1 Cherub 2 Ethnic 3 RA 4 Stroll  
5 Canals 8 Elaborate 9 Starlings 12 Aid  
13 Era 14 Milton 15 Ernest 16 Within  
17 Sphinx 20 ET



**Marcham Village Shop  
and Post Office**



**Spring Update:** With green shoots surfacing welcoming spring, our official Shop Opening on the 15th November seems a very long time ago. We have entered our 8th month of trading in the Shop, and just over 3 months with the Post Office and whilst there are still a number of teething problems to sort out with the PO, our progress continues very positively. January saw three record trading days due to the inclement weather, thus bringing in new customers who were very pleasantly surprised by our offer. From February we have been able to accept payments by credit and debit card.

The Post Office is open whenever the shop is open, so if you need to get something in the post – don't wait until your lunch break – you can drop in on your way to work! With thoughts possibly turning to holidays, don't forget that you can order your foreign currency at no charge using the Post Office – that's just 2 very good reasons to pay us a visit.

With longer evenings approaching, we will be looking to hold a series of tasting evenings to promote our local producers, so do come and find out what is on your doorstep. Since opening on 31st July we now welcome just over 100 people daily – and whilst we are profitable, we want and need more of you to come and support us.

Finally, we couldn't do what we are doing without our shareholders, landlord and loyal band of volunteers, and we would like to thank them for their unstinting support.

**Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 13.00  
& 15.00 - 18.00  
Sat: 07.30 - 13.00  
Sun: 08.00 - 13.00**

We stock all you expect in a local shop and a bit more... You can also order newspapers & magazines for collection Mobile and utility topups, cash withdrawals, travel money... come and see what you can get from our Post Office Local!

**GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE**

**Wednesday 10 April  
Hinksey WI Hall North Hinksey Lane  
OX2 0LT Time: 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.**

Admission charge: £3 donation  
A talk by Stuart Mabbutt, well known local Wildlife Gardening Specialist and MADNews columnist, about how to transform your garden into something that's a credit to you and flourishing with wildlife".

Also on air every week at GoingWildwithWildlife@radiocherwell.com.

For more details please contact:  
Shirley Jarvis 018965 371297 shirley88jarvis@gmail.com

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



**ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW**  
Sun 5th May, 10am - 5.30pm  
Abingdon Airfield / Dalton Barracks  
Flying Displays, Arena Displays, Music,  
Vintage Vehicles, Static Aircraft Area,  
Crafts, Trade Stalls, Food and drink,  
Children's Amusements...and more!

**Held in support of the  
Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust**  
Gate Admission; Adult £15, OAP £10,  
Child 5-15 £5, under 5s Free..  
Discounted advance tickets available from our website:  
www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk

**MOTHER'S DAY MYSTERIES**

There must be at least two disappointed mothers in this area who didn't receive their flowers on Mother's day. Perhaps the village shop can throw some light on the problem. One bouquet addressed to Christine Masters was correctly delivered to a house in the Gap. Unfortunately Christine doesn't live there and we couldn't find anyone who knew where she does live.

The other mystery was even stranger. A box of orchids sent via an on-line company called Serenata Flowers was dumped in the carpark to the Arboretum with its delivery label removed. In with the flowers was card which said 'Happy Mother's Day, lots of love from Kees'. Staff from the Post Office contacted the company from their website but only received an automated response. These flowers have been brightening up the shop window (see cover for photo)

**If either of those Mums read this please contact Marcham Village Shop on 01865 391993**



Join the Sobell House Hospice Charity at their annual  
Oxford Moonlight Stroll  
10:30pm 13th July 2013

A nine-mile night-time sponsored walk through the streets of Oxford with all proceeds going to the Sobell House Hospice, caring for people throughout Oxfordshire affected by terminal illness

sign up at  
www.oxfordmoonlightstroll.org  
or call 01865 857 007



**PARKING**

There have been some complaints about parking recently so here are some selected highlights from the Highway Code:

**241**

You **MUST NOT** park in parking spaces reserved for specific users, such as Blue Badge holders, residents or motorcycles, unless entitled to do so.

Laws CSDPA sect 21 & RTRA sects 5 & 8

**242**

You **MUST NOT** leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road.

Laws RTA 1988, sect 22 & CUR reg 103

**243**

**DO NOT** stop or park

- near a school entrance
- anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services
- at or near a bus or tram stop or taxi rank
- on the approach to a level crossing/tramway crossing
- opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space
- near the brow of a hill or hump bridge
- opposite a traffic island or (if this would cause an obstruction) another parked vehicle
- where you would force other traffic to enter a tram lane
- where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles
- in front of an entrance to a property
- on a bend
- where you would obstruct cyclists' use of cycle facilities except when forced to do so by stationary traffic.

**244**

You **MUST NOT** park partially or wholly on the pavement in London, and should not do so elsewhere unless signs permit it. Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs.

Law GL(GP)A sect 15

**246**

Goods vehicles. Vehicles with a maximum laden weight of over 7.5 tonnes (including any trailer) **MUST NOT** be parked on a verge, pavement or any land situated between carriageways, without police permission. The only exception is when parking is essential for loading and unloading, in which case the vehicle **MUST NOT** be left unattended.

Law RTA 1988 sect 19

**For more interesting reading go to  
[www.gov.uk/highway-code](http://www.gov.uk/highway-code)**

**Abingdon-on-Thames' Great Family Day  
Saturday 1 June 2013**

**Abbey Grounds, Abingdon-on-Thames**

**Fun in the Park** with lots of events and activities all free of charge including the outdoor swimming pool

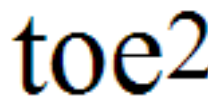
**Music in the Park** (from 17.30): £5 for an adult and £2 for a child aged between 5-17 years old (under 5s free). The wristbands will be **on sale from Tuesday 2 April 2013** from the Town Council offices. Due to the sell-out at last year's Jubilee events the public are advised to purchase wristbands as soon as possible. Wristbands can be reserved, and paid for, before they go on sale by filling-in a pre-purchase booking form on the website [www.abingdon.gov.uk](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk) or by collecting a form from the Town Council offices.

**Further information and details can be obtained from calling 01235 468340 or via [www.abingdon.gov.uk](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk)**

April 2013

**OXFORDSHIRE WOODFUEL PROGRAMME BULLETIN**

**Chalara / ash die-back:** You will probably have heard about chalara in the news. It is a spore-borne disease which is expected to kill nearly all ash in the coming years. A small proportion – maybe one in 100 trees – will be immune. As ash trees come into leaf, it will become apparent if they have chalara or not. Signs of the disease include wilting leaves, brown veins in the leaves, and browning of young stems. Forestry Commission advice is not to fell ash trees unless they are ill: the felled tree might be in the 1% that are immune. Besides, the spores can travel huge distances so felling trees as a prophylactic measure is not effective. If you are aware of ash trees with chalara, [www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara) gives advice on what to do. they can be used as firewood unless the government places a special order on the trees that prohibits their movement.



**Time to buy firewood and stoves/boilers:** The woodfuel cutting year may be over, but this is the time to buy firewood and store it for next autumn, and also to think about installing a wood stove or boiler. The website [www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk](http://www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk), provides lots of advice on this, including information on the Renewable Heat Incentive and lists of woodfuel and wood stove suppliers.

**Woodfuel study visits:** There will be three woodfuel themed study visits in the coming months: on 15 April, 1 June and 8 June. The first and last of these will each involve a visit to a woodland, a wood processor and an interesting wood boiler. The 1 June event is a unique opportunity to visit a woodland in a Ministry of Defence site, and taste wild rabbit if you want. The cost is £25-£30 and numbers are limited. More information is at [www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk/woodfuel-site-visits](http://www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk/woodfuel-site-visits).

**Logs for labour:** Thank you to everyone who contacted me about this. We have had five successful events this spring, and hope to roll out the programme much more widely next autumn. 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 if you would like to work outdoors in return for some firewood (logs for your labour), please get in touch with me. More information is at [www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk/logs-for-labour](http://www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk/logs-for-labour).

**Firewood quality standard:** The Oxfordshire Woodfuel Programme is setting up a quality standard for small-scale firewood suppliers in Oxfordshire, called 'OxLogs'. It aims to provide transparency about the amount, type, length and moisture content of firewood, and in time improve firewood quality. OxLogs suppliers will state the amount of wood in 'cubic metres tossed' (tossed is how it comes off the truck; a tossed cubic metre is about 0.7 stacked cubic metres); type as hardwood, softwood or mixed; and moisture content as <25% which is ready to burn, or unclassified which buyers would need to season themselves. Please ask your supplier if they provide OxLogs.

Riki Therivel, [manager@oxonwoodfuel.org.uk](mailto:manager@oxonwoodfuel.org.uk), 01865 243488

**For more information on any of these please see  
[www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk](http://www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk)**

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](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk)

Seen a pothole that needs fixing? [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)

# *This Life - Not All There Is*



Do you ever ponder about the frailty of this life and the fragility of our existence?

Do you ever wonder what comes next after this brief life is over?

Last month's edition of the MAD News contained a lot about the life of someone who was quite rightly regarded very highly in the village and further afield. In February, I stood on the fringes of the hundreds who assembled for Janey Cumber's funeral and listened to the lovely words that were spoken about her by three or four from the church, family and community - those who knew her well and who counted Janey as a close friend, family member or colleague. I only met Janey a few times but as I contemplated those loving words, repeated in the March edition of the MAD News, I was struck by two things that stood out. Firstly Janey's energy and enthusiasm for life but even more, the confidence that this life is not all there is. A confidence that stemmed solely from the decision she made around thirty years ago to put her faith and trust in Christ for eternal life.

Life indeed does go on beyond this one and for those who put their faith and trust in Christ, the promise is there of life eternal, free from pain and suffering, sickness and want. No one is truly born a Christian, not myself, not Janey. A decision has to be made to wilfully accept what God has done for us through Christ's work on the cross. When we do that, the Bible talks about us having 'died' to our old self and being born again into God's family. As we put our trust in Jesus and what He did for us on the cross, God's Spirit comes to live within us and this has a radical, life changing result. Just as when two people come together to create a new physical life, so it is when we surrender our lives to God through Christ, God's Spirit unites with our human spirit, a new spiritual creation results and we are born again.

This is the message and promise of Easter. Christ died to take the punishment that we deserve, gives us the opportunity to accept this for ourselves personally and through faith we can enter new life. Saint Paul in one of his letters in The Bible talks about how, when someone truly repents and puts their trust in Christ, "*the old has gone and the new has come*". New life, new attitudes and a new outlook results and a confidence comes that this life is not all there is. In fact, this brief life (whether it lasts a hundred years or far fewer) is only like the blink of an eye compared to all of eternity but is one that Jesus says He will help us to live to the full. .

In the past I have heard of people talking about being on a 'spiritual journey' but actually we are not human beings on a spiritual journey but spiritual beings on a human journey. After this all too short human existence is over, our bodies return to dust but our spirits continue forever. The outer shell crumbles but the real us continues. However, what happens to us after this body has faded away is dependant upon how we have responded to the message of Christ - the message of Easter.

So why not explore Christianity ..... for yourself and for the sake of your family? This brief life is soon over, so why not spend a few evenings considering for yourself the claims of Christ? Starting in the second half of May, for seven weeks, we will be going through a series of video based discussion sessions called Christianity Explored, where we ask questions like "*What are we doing here?*", "*Who is Jesus*" and "*What does it mean to follow Christ*"

There will be more detail of this in the next edition of the MAD News but if you want to know more about Christianity Explored in the mean time, please do give me a ring, or come to our Easter service on 31st March at the Baptist Church.

Every blessing

**Keith Mersh, Pastor Marcham Baptist Church**

For more information, contact  
Keith Mersh - Pastor 01865 391881  
Bill Dyer - Elder 01235 814986

## **Speakers in April**

7 Apr - Keith Mersh  
14 Apr - Dave Page  
21 Apr - Tim Valentine  
28 Apr - Janet Quarry

**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,

What are you banking on?

The Cyprian banking crisis and its implications are a very uncomfortable reminder that there are very few "safe" investments in the current global fiscal climate.

Jesus told a story about a wealthy farmer who was materially rich yet failed to invest in his relationship with God. (You can find the Bible story in Luke, chapter 12.) "Unwise" would be an understatement.

Yet in our modern world of powerful and globally connected computers where we have the world at our fingertips, are we investing in our relationship with God?

Sometimes Jesus told cautionary stories to warn of unwise courses of action or mindsets. Whilst fast lives, luxury cars, modern homes with all the mod cons and super holidays are great to experience, they can so easily beguile us into thinking that such material things are all that matters in life. Not so! Our relationship with God matters more than all the trappings of material wellbeing put together. So the question: Are we investing wisely in our relationship with God? Jesus calls us to do so before it's all too late – our eternal destiny is at stake.

Jesus said "Come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest".

With my warmest greetings

**Revd Richard Zair**

## APRIL Events:

**Sat 6<sup>th</sup> April – Men's Breakfast**

8.30 am at the Sports, Scouts & Social Club

**Sun 28<sup>th</sup> April**

The Annual Parish Meeting and APCM take place at All Saints' after the morning service

## Regular services:

**Sundays at All Saints':** 10 am and 6 pm

**Wednesdays:** 10.30am HC at Duffield Place

**Sunday at St. Luke's:** Sun 14<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am

## Contact:

Revd Richard Zair 391319

41 North Street, Marcham([r\\_zair@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:r_zair@yahoo.co.uk))

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister*

07811 165351

Deborah Flint *Churchwarden* 391056

Jenny Warwick *PCC Secretary* 392076

[www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk](http://www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk)

## Prayer for the Month:

Heavenly Father,

Please forgive us when we are sidetracked by unwise choices or material wellbeing.

Help us to invest in our relationship with you, through Jesus your Son.

Amen.

## ISIS Chamber Orchestra

**Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>, 7.30 pm at All Saints Church**

Featuring Frances Jones on the Alphorn

Programme: Mozart - Symphony No.29 ; Leopold Mozart - Concerto for Alphorn and Strings;  
Purcell - Chacony ; Bach - Brandenburg Concerto No.1

Tickets from Marcham Shop or Christine Whild (391 270) - Adults £10, Concessions £8, Under 16s £4. All proceeds from this concert will go to the Balsam Family Project.