

# Marcham & District News

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

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



May 2014 Vol: 36 No: 5

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Easter Ahoy at Little Angels! see page 13



▲ Marcham WI “Dress a Girl Around the World” see page 9



▲ Maypole Dancing 2012



▲ Horse Racing Table-top Style! see page 7



May			June		
4 Sun	Abingdon Air and Country Show, 10.00-17.00	5	17 Sat	Harmony Inspires Concert, Wootton and Dry Sandford Community Centre 19.30	13
6 Tues	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20		20 Tues	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
6 Tue	Southmoor and Kingston Bagpuize Gardening Club, Southmoor Village Hall, 19.15	13	20 Tue	<b>Deadline for June MADNews</b>	
8 Thur	Midweek Walk, The Plough, Eastbury, 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	9	21 Wed	Marcham Annual Parish Meeting, Marcham School 19.30	5
9 Fri	Marcham Players With Great Pleasure, Board Room, Manor Farm, 19.30	7	27 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 – 15.30	7
9 Fri	MP’s Surgery, Wantage, 17.30 – 19.00	9	3 Sat	Morland Bowls Club Open Day, 13.00 – 17.00	7
10 Sat	The Ridgeway Day, Court Hill Centre, Wantage, 10.30 – 16.00	13	30 Fri	Quiz Night at MSSSC, 20.15	15
13 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints’ Church, 19.45	11	31 Sat	Dyslexia Research Trust Family Fun Run Day, University Parks	5
13 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 – 15.30	7			
14 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3	6 Fri	Marcham Mill Road School Reunion, The Boundary House, 19.30	5
15 Mon	Have Your Say, Marcham Shop, 17.00 – 18.00	5	7 Sat	Music in the Vale “Summer Breezes” St Denys Church, Stanford, 19.30	13
15 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	9	21 Sat	Gabriel’s Dream to Walk Concert, Abingdon Prep School, 19.30	13
15 Thur	Deadline for Community Police Awards Nominations	3	22 Sun	Appleton School Summer Fete, 14.00 – 16.30	7
16 Fri	MP’s Surgery, Faringdon, 17.30 – 19.00	9	28 Sat	Marcham Summer Dance, MSSSC, 19.30	7

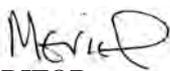
*Details of events may change after publication, please check with the relevant organisers before attending events.*

*Dear Readers*

Planning issues are back on the agenda for everyone – houses, variations on existing applications, land clearances, preservation orders and solar farms ...! Ed Vaizey and Richard and Catherine Webber are our representatives to help us make our views heard with the various councils and committees that are making decisions that will affect us all. Along with our parish council and meeting, we can make a difference to our environment – so if you have a view, make sure you speak up!

The seasons are moving on and swallows have been seen ... not enough to make a summer yet ... but soon!

*Until next time*



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

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

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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.

**POLICE**

PCSO Andy McCormack C9461  
PCSO Myra Stokes (for Garford)  
Just dial 101 (non-emergency)

**CRIMESTOPPERS**

Call 0800 555 111 (anonymous calls)

**NHS NON-EMERGENCY**

Call Free from any phone - 111

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Richard Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton  
Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ  
Tel: 01235 534001

[richard.webber@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:richard.webber@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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*Marcham and Shippon*  
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Tel: 01235 534001

[catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk)

For other councillors go to

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

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May 2014

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**Bus Service Review**

The Council has been advised that the X15 bus service has been reviewed. There are new early morning journeys from Witney to Standlake and return. Of interest to Marcham residents is that a new evening 18.15 service will run from Witney to Abingdon, and that certain journeys will operate via Howard Cornish Road. Full details of the timetable and precise routes are awaited.

**Thames Valley Police – Community Police Awards**

Nominations are invited for the Community Policing Awards 2014. The awards are designed to recognise the efforts of police constables including specials and PCSOs. To nominate a member of Thames Valley Police then complete an electronic nomination form available at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/newsevents/newsevents-events/newsevents-events-cpa.htm](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/newsevents/newsevents-events/newsevents-events-cpa.htm)

The deadline for nominations is 15th May.

**Planning Applications considered by the Council**

**P14/V0494/FUL** Variation of conditions 2 and 3 of the previous approval to allow a longer time for the submission of reserved matters. Kings Field – erection of 43 dwellings. The Council placed on record its dissatisfaction with the current planning application process in that it has been undermined by attempts to railroad it, and force applications through in an unfair manner only to vary the conditions a few weeks later.

**P14/V0557/FUL** Demolition of chalet bungalow and erection of replacement 2 storey dwelling. Woodside Cottage, Frilford Heath. The Council had no objections.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 14th May, 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in the residents' lounge, at Duffield Place.

**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)

**GARFORD PARISH MEETING NEWS**

**Proposed Solar Farm at Garford – Planning Reference P14/V0552/FUL**

A Planning Application has been submitted by renewable energy development company Kronos, to construct a 58.9 hectare, approx 24 megawatt Solar Farm on land adjacent to Clay Lane on the southern outskirts of Garford Village.

At a public meeting on 24th February, in Garford Village Hall, representatives of Kronos described their proposed scheme in more detail. An open and frank discussion took place with the residents present and a number of significant concerns were raised. The developer suggested mitigation

measures which have been incorporated into the design of the facility and the planning application.

Garford Planning Committee has since carried out a door to door consultation in order to be in a position to more accurately represent the views of the village when responding to the planning application.

**ROB TREADGOLD**

Chair Garford Parish Meeting

**NEIL WRIGHT**

Clerk to Parish Meeting

[Neil.Wright@vodafone.com](mailto:Neil.Wright@vodafone.com)

*Dear Editor*

I have lived in Marcham since 1970. At that time we had two Public Houses, a school, and three shops, as I recall. The population was perhaps no more than 1000 maybe a little over that. We now have one Public House, valiantly attempting to keep open, and our Community shop, which I think we all must agree is first class.

Infrastructure – when one walks round the village the clogged-up storm drains are evident almost anywhere. I cannot recall these in New Road or North Street EVER having been cleaned out during my time in the village. The worst ones are those serving the area in front of 62 and 64 North Street which are entirely blocked and thus of no use whatsoever.

Without any consideration relative to car parking, schooling, drainage, shopping and leisure facilities and other infrastructure, the proposed massive housing development within our village boundary can only cause stress on the facilities we already have. I understand that on various parcels of land up to 200 houses are likely to be built.

Quite simply I ask where are perhaps up to 400 cars going to park, where are perhaps 300 children going to go to school and how will our Victorian drainage system cope with possibly 200 extra washing machines, 200 additional lavatories, maybe 100 more dishwashers and all the other waste from all this new proposed development be accommodated?

*Marcham used to be a pleasant village in which to live, no longer.*

We have just witnessed the wanton destruction of woodland in the parcel of land joining the conservation area boundary in North Street, the footpath to the Anson field and the back garden areas of a number of Packhorse Lane properties. This destruction led to the forced eviction of mount jack, a fox family, a lonely badger, countless birds, a squirrel family and a posse of other wild life.

In my view, the destruction of this woodland can have only one purpose – a planning application for yet more housing, access probably via a roadway as yet unplanned,

possibly through the Anson Trust land adjacent to the long defunct Institute. At no time did the owner or developer of this parcel of land have the common courtesy to advise those living joining to the woodland what was about to happen. We have suffered days of distressing chainsaw noise, the thud as mature trees were felled and the departure of wild life during the breeding season.

We have been advised that nothing can be done, even if it could, a developer would continue to destroy woodland as any fine would be a paltry amount compared to the huge profits to be made. Common courtesy costs nothing, but I suppose when one sells land for development why bother?

Marcham is becoming a 'not-to-live-in-place. One of our neighbours described the future Marcham as "Didcot without the benefit of a railway station".

Landowners, developers and their agents are all part of what is now a society where greed, avarice and corruption are endemic.

Yours sincerely,

**JEREMY P. COLLINS**

**Marcham Mill Road School Reunion**

It's been 60 years since we were at Marcham School  
For any ex-pupils, from any year, please join us at:  
The Boundary House  
Friday 6 June, 7.30pm  
For more details contact:  
Jenny (Gosling) 01235 769708

**RED CROSS WEEK 2014 STARTS**



**BritishRedCross**

**ON SUNDAY 4TH MAY**

**MAY BANK HOLIDAYS 2014**

Normal collection day	Revised collection day	Which bin?
Monday 5 May	Tuesday 6 May	green (no garden waste)
Tuesday 6 May	Wednesday 7 May	green (no garden waste)
Wednesday 7 May	Thursday 8 May	green (no garden waste)
Thursday 8 May	Friday 9 May	green (no garden waste)
Friday 9 May	Saturday 10 May*	green (no garden waste)
Monday 26 May	Tuesday 27 May	grey
Tuesday 27 May	Wednesday 28 May	grey
Wednesday 28 May	Thursday 29 May	grey
Thursday 29 May	Friday 30 May	grey
Friday 30 May	Saturday 31 May*	grey

**NB There will be extra garden waste collection w/b 19 May**

\* Please note on these days collections will start from 6am, an hour earlier than usual, so remember to put your bins out the night before.

**A GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT!  
15TH ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW  
SUNDAY 4TH MAY 2014**

**Abingdon Airfield, Dalton Barracks, Oxfordshire, 10am-5pm**

**TICKET PRICES:**

Adults (16+) £12 advance, £15 on the gate  
OAPs £8 advance, £10 on the gate

Children (5-15) £4 advance, £5 on the gate  
Children under 5 free, Car parking free

Tickets available from:

Abingdon Visitor & Community Info Centre; Abingdon Town Council Offices, Abbey House; Wantage Vale & Downland Museum; Tourist Info Centres in Oxford, Wallingford, Didcot and Witney;

Some branches of Newbury Building Society.

- FLYING DISPLAYS**
- STATIC AIRCRAFT**
- BOB TREDWELL MEMORIAL ALL-FORD CAR RALLY**
- VINTAGE VEHICLES**
- LIVE MUSIC 4x4 RIDES**
- EXHIBITORS ARENA DISPLAYS**
- CHILDRENS' AMUSEMENTS**
- TRADE STALLS CRAFTS**
- FOOD & DRINK**
- AND LOTS MORE!**

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

**MARCHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

This year the annual meeting for electors will take place on **Wednesday 21st May at 7.30 p.m. in the hall at Marcham Primary School**. This is the meeting where residents of Marcham can raise issues about the village or wider parish. Light refreshments will be served.

The guest speaker will be **Mr. Mark Mathews, Town Planning Manager, from Thames Water Utilities Ltd.** He will speak on the consultation process, as far as Thames Water is concerned, when planning applications for a large number of dwellings are lodged. He will also provide information on the sewage and waste water network within Marcham.

**SENIOR CITIZENS**

Marcham Senior Citizens meets on the last Thursday of every month and now has spaces for new members. If you would like to join in with the fun, call Dolly on 391409 to find out more.

**Have Your Say**

• **Monday 15 May**

Marcham Shop

1700-1800

**PCSO Andy McCormack C9461**

**Police Non-emergency: 101**

**[www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)**

**FAMILY FUN RUN DAY  
SATURDAY 31ST MAY**

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY PARKS**

The Dyslexia Research Trust is organising its second **Family Fun Run Day** in Oxford University Parks OX1 3RF on Saturday 31st May.

This fun-filled day has lots of great activities for all the family including two fun runs around the parks, amazing colour maze, face painting, inflatable slide, arts and crafts stalls, ice cream van, hot food stalls beer/refreshment tent, tea and cakes with fairy cake decorating for kids and entertainment. The RSPB are also supporting this event by running child-friendly activities, such as making homes/feeders for garden wildlife. They are also creating a nature trail in the park for children to explore and providing wildlife gardening opportunities.

The purpose is to raise awareness of dyslexia and its related conditions and give families an opportunity to gain information, exchange advice, and get valuable support in a relaxed environment.

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

**TIME TO RETIRE TO A GARAGE**

Wardrobe/cupboard

h. 2.2m, w. 2.0m, d. 60cm

Flat pack - needs reassembling

Transport to be arranged call 391507

**FREE TO A GOOD HOME**

**Please ensure your rubbish bags aren't left vulnerable to animal and/or bird attack.**

**MARCHAM PLAYERS**  
*With Great Pleasure*

Another riotous evening in store!  
The "With Great Pleasure" evening held at the end of February was such a success that it was decided there and then, to do it again – and soon! The Board Room has been booked for Friday, 9th May, and you are urged to join us by 7.30 pm to spend a couple of hours reading more of our (and your) favourite pieces of humorous prose and/or poetry. Liquid refreshment will be available – an entertaining evening is guaranteed. Spread the word and bring a friend!  
*For more details about joining in with the Players, call Dave Hutchinson 01865 391964 or Joey McLean 01865 391242.*  
.....  
www.marchamplayers.co.uk



Bank Balance : £14,100  
Local Events: £10,934  
Donations: £6,814  
5p Coins: 5207  
Membership: Adult: 78 Junior: 5

Marcham  
Community  
Group   
www.marcham.org

**Dates for your diary**

**Thursday 25 September 2014**

**AGM And Open Meeting**

7.30 pm Marcham School

All Welcome

Update On Community Facilities  
MCG's Future Role

**Saturday 18 October**

**Apple Day**

12 noon — 3.00 pm Marcham School

Fun with Apples

Family Lunch Time Out

Come and Join In

**Abingdon couple, hoping to build their ideal home, seek a small piece of land or a building suitable for conversion (or re-building) in this area. If you own, or know of, a suitable property please call Trish on 01235 535984**



**MARCHAM SUMMER DANCE**

**SATURDAY 28TH JUNE 2014**

**7.30 UNTIL MIDNIGHT**

**MARCHAM SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB**

Dance the night away to the rock/funk band vinyl daze and disco.



Tickets £7.50 in advance or £10.00 on the door.

Tickets available from Marcham Village Shop and Marcham Preschool or from Hayley Cousins 391024, Peter Kidd 391515, Chris Ricketts 391329 or Anna Hillis 392145

Food available raffle on the night

All proceeds to Marcham Preschool registered charity number 1062332

**IT'S FUN, FRIENDLY, HEALTHY, GOOD EXERCISE, SOCIABLE and available to all aged 11 and over**

An open day is being held at Morland Bowls Club, Orchard Lane (behind the Plough Inn), East Hendred, Nr Wantage, OX12 8JW on Saturday 3rd May from 1pm to 5pm. Would you like to try bowls or just have a look at what goes on?

We are offering **HALF PRICE MEMBERSHIP** plus free instruction and coaching for new bowlers in 2014, just flat shoes required to start. All welcome.

For more information please contact: Kevin Biles 01235-770365 or Marion Pointer 01865-391679



**FREE Fly Fishing for Beginners**  
Farmoor Flyfishing Club will be holding training for beginners in the evenings of the following dates:  
Wed 21st May – Wed 28th May  
Wed 4th June – Wed 11th June  
From 19.00 till 21.00

All equipment needed will be available free of charge, as will the coaching which is done by professional coaches. Girls and boys over the age of ten, and any adults who would like to try are welcome.

**For further information phone Joe Featherstone 01865 391426**

Marcham Community Group: mail@marcham.org  
Company No 7470307 Charity No 1144407  
391193 (Suzanne) 391727 (Jim) 391507 (Jessica)



**Marcham Spring Table Top Race Meeting**

**Held at the Ex Servicemens Club on Saturday 12th April**

The meeting was well attended by members, guests and their families. The going was good, the horses were all well groomed by their owners and all the races went well with no bumping. Everybody had a good evening with good company, good reasonably priced drinks etc., and a great laugh.



*Watch out for future entertainment at the club that will be advertised in MADNews*

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS BY ALISA**

**Across:** 1. Sun 4. Hog 6. Incapable 7. Ale 11. Act 13. Parsnip 14. Aga 16. Asp 18. Casamargarita 19. Elk 20. Law 21. Fiddler 22. Rye 24. Add 26. Recollect 27. Emu 28. Sow

**Down:** 1. Sofa 2. Nine 3. Sponsored walk 4. Hera 5. Gift 8. Legally 9. Barmaid 10. Pilates 12. Custard 14. Ace 15. Ask 16. Ail 17. Paw 22. Rose 23. Ecu 24. Ants 25. Draw

**Friends of Appleton School**

**Summer Fête at Appleton School**  
**2 - 4.30 Sunday 22 June**

**50p entry**

**BBQ, Bouncy Obstacle Course, Magician, Cream Teas, Tombola, Raffle, Pimm's Tent plus lots more**

**SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!**

2.00-3.30 pm 13th and 27th May

We now meet in the common room at Duffield Place. Do come and join us, you will be sure of a warm welcome. Tea and cake follow the singing.

Phone 391270 for more details  
Christine Whild



**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

The subject of new housing has been top of my list of correspondence in recent weeks. People are understandably concerned about the large numbers of houses that the authorities say need to be built in our area over the next fifteen years or so – something like 100,000. This is an increase of almost 40 per cent in the numbers of houses in Oxfordshire – twice the rate of increase there has been in the last 15 years.



So it is clear to me that the housing predictions may be too high. I am therefore going to lobby at a national level for a change in the way housing need is predicted so that it reflects actual, current housing need and a well-grounded view of new jobs. The number of homes planned should also be based on what can, realistically, be delivered by developers in the local area, bearing in mind what can be planned and constructed within available resources. I will also ask that the constraints imposed by the Oxford Green Belt, floodplains and the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty locally are taken into account, as there are large areas that can only be developed exceptionally if at all, which increases the burden of housing imposed elsewhere. I have no doubt that this debate will continue for many months: I will continue to do all that I can to represent the views of my constituents to ensure that we get genuinely sustainable new housing to meet real need, but that we don't damage our local area in the process.

In the midst of the debate about housing, I have continued to lobby Network Rail to try to ensure that the impact of the electrification of the railway line will cause the minimum possible disruption. There are clear signs that Network Rail are taking much more account of the comments they have received, particularly about the needs of local residents as closures are planned.

I have also received a number of emails and letters from constituents regarding the Care Bill. Many of those who have been in touch are campaigners for Macmillan Cancer Support, and I think it is important to pay tribute to the work done by this fantastic charity in their efforts to raise awareness of the most pressing issues facing cancer carers. Cancer carers play a crucial role in the lives of cancer patients here in the constituency and across the UK, and it is vitally important they receive the support they need to help them to continue this invaluable work. A particular concern has been on the identification of carers by the NHS. I am therefore pleased that the Care Services Minister has confirmed that accompanying guidance to the Care Bill will reinforce the importance of co-operation between the NHS and local authorities on local authorities' duty to identify carers.

As ever please feel free to contact me on any matter - email is the quickest and most reliable way to get in touch, as I keep a very close eye on my emails and can reply very quickly. Surgery details can be found below and at [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com)

**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	
9th May	Wantage, Vale and Downland Museum, OX12 8BL
16th May	Faringdon Pump Rooms, SN7 7HL
<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 Village Shop and Post Office**

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

**For our bank holiday hours see the notice in the shop**


**MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB**

OCA Fixtures for Marcham Cricket Club for May are as follows:

May	1st XI	2nd XI
3	Wootton BH Home	Witney Swifts II Away
10	Deddington Away	W. Ilsley II Home
17	No fixture	Cowley Internationalists II Home
24	Kidlington Away	Wolvercote II Home
31	Marsh Gibbon Home (Telegraph Cup)	Chipping Norton Away (Osberton Radiators Cup)

**May Charles Hoile Downs League Fixtures are as follows**

Start 18.15 Wednesday Evenings	
7	Uffington Away
14	Steventon Home
21	Sutton Courtenay Away
28	Bradfield Home



Please contact Trevor Hill (01865 391321) for any information relating to the Club, including playing or umpiring for Marcham.

**CSB**

**Marcham WI**



**Next Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, 15th May

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Venue:** Denman College

Please come and join us for our May meeting, when Keith Jansz will be giving us a talk on **The History of Mouth and Foot Painting**. May is also our Resolutions meeting when we hope for a lively discussion of this year's WI Resolution to encourage the increase of organ donation.

At the March meeting we all enjoyed Rosemary Barlow's talk on **'Behind the Scenes in the Theatre'**, when we heard her tales of theatre life from when she was growing up in Brighton. We also had a display of the dresses made during the previous meeting for the **'Dress a Girl Around the World'** Charity, which had been organised by Jen Brown.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

For any questions, new members or visitors, contact Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 [pippahoath@gmail.com](mailto:pippahoath@gmail.com)

**Marcham Bridge Club**

Anyone interested in playing or learning to play the game is welcome to join us in the Board Room above the shop at Manor Farm. Play starts at 19.30 Monday nights, followed by a social gathering at The Crown pub.



For further information please ring Jennie Hobbs 01865 391772 or Joe Featherstone 01865 391426

**MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK**

**Midweek Walk, Thursday, May 8th.**

For this month's walk we will go to The Plough (Map Ref SU346774) in Eastbury in the Lambourn Valley at 12.30pm for lunch, leaving at 1.30pm for a circular walk of about 4½ miles. This walk takes in a secluded nature reserve which should be at its best in May and then follows the old railway track, now part of the Lambourn Way, back to Eastbury. Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.



**VOLUNTEER LOCK KEEPERS WANTED**

For the last three years volunteers have been assisting our Lock Staff on the Thames at the 45 locks along its length between Lechlade and Teddington. Now, ahead of our fourth season, we invite you to apply to become a Volunteer Assistant Lock Keeper at a lock near you. The Environment Agency, which is the navigation authority for the Thames, is now recruiting for the 2014 season and are looking for volunteers who can commit to assisting at least one day a week between May and the end of September. Volunteers can agree their hours with lock keepers but need to be available at least from 11 to 5. Volunteers are particularly needed along the river between Reading and Lechlade. Volunteering is a great way to meet people and to find out more about the Thames, its history, wildlife and management. At the same time volunteers know that they are doing something worthwhile that is really appreciated.

Our Volunteer Assistant Lock Keepers work alongside paid lock keepers. They help boats pass through the lock safely: taking ropes, directing traffic, and operating sluices and lock gates. They help maintain the site: painting, tidying and gardening. They provide information to visitors, be they on foot or afloat, so that they can make the best of their time on the river. Visitors really appreciate the local knowledge that volunteers can provide.

All applicants are invited to an assessment at a local lock. Here they will have the role explained to them and be shown what it involves in practical terms. They will also be assessed to decide which site may be most appropriate for them and to ensure that they have the physical capabilities required. After successful completion of the assessment, they attend an induction course which focuses on safety and preparing them for the lock side.

On the lock side the volunteers follow a documented training programme before being signed off to take charge of the lock on their own. This will only be for short periods, while the paid keeper is at lunch for example. The volunteers are there to augment the service provided by paid staff rather than to replace them.

Volunteers are provided with some uniform and can claim mileage for travel to and from a lock local to them. They also receive a monthly newsletter which keeps them in touch with what is going on along the river and other activities of the Environment Agency. If you would like to find out more about volunteering on the Thames and to receive an information pack and application form, please contact the Volunteer team on 01491 828360 or email [thames.volunteers@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:thames.volunteers@environment-agency.gov.uk)

*If you want to know more, read about Brian's experience...*

**A VOLUNTEER'S VIEW**

What better way to spend a summer's day outdoors than down by the Thames meeting the public, helping boats navigate the locks and gaining real hands on experience in operating the lock-gently does it! I am about to start my third season lock side as a Volunteer Assistant Lock Keeper at Abingdon lock and I cannot wait for the time to come. It all started 2 years ago when my wife spotted an article on the BBC News Teletext which stated that The Environment Agency were looking for volunteer assistant lock keepers to work on the Thames over the summer. Having thoroughly enjoyed a couple of narrow boat holidays, walked a

number of canals as well as the Thames Path and recently retired, this had to be my ideal volunteering situation.

The scheme had started the previous season and was very successful so it was being expanded for 2012 as it was for 2013 and now for 2014. After an initial assessment at a local lock and having the role explained there follows, if your application is successful, two days training – *Working near Water and Waterways Induction* – both interesting and thought provoking with a non-compulsory swimming pool dip to experience a life jacket being deployed. The course of the Thames around Oxford means that there are a number of locks within easy travelling distance.

Having agreed your days/hours (or days) with the permanent lock keeper you will continue to receive on the job training and your competencies achieved are kept in your training record with ultimate aim of having the authority to cover during the duty lock keepers meal breaks or when they are attending the weir.

I volunteer one day a week from May to the end of September. As well as helping the boats through the lock, operating the sluices and packing the lock when a number of boats are looking to use it at the same time which is always a challenge and embarrassing if you get it wrong, other duties include gardening, hedge trimming, (a particular job I seem to volunteer for), painting and general maintenance around the site. The best part though is meeting the boaters, be they experienced or first time hirers – and we've all been there- and because all are out to enjoy themselves it's a lovely experience to exchange pleasantries, where they are headed for and a bit a banter. Local knowledge helps – where to eat, where to moor, where the shops are, where the water point and pump out is. However it is not only the boaters you meet. There are always plenty of folks out for a gentle or not so gentle stroll or Thames path walkers who are ready for a chat and stop to ask a question or two. We have special doggy treats for those that are taking their owners for a walk. Local characters abound – one of whom is Crayfish Bob whose main mission in life is to rid the river of the invasive American Crayfish. Check out his website [www.crayaway.com](http://www.crayaway.com). Crayfish ice cream is different! During 2012 The Hairy Bikers did a programme from the island adjacent to the lock in which the lock staff played a part. Unfortunately I was away so did not make my TV debut!

We do see a variety of boats from plenty of narrow boats (not barges please!) to canoes, rowing boats/eights, Dutch barges, cruisers big and small, the odd gin palace, some wonderful restored boats including some that have been at Dunkirk, the day hire boats, (always a bit of fun) and 4 times a day the Salter Steamer. But I reckon the ones to beat all were the group gondoliers that had been part of the Queens Jubilee Pageant in 2012.

So if you fancy plenty of fresh air down by the river, contributing to the safe and smooth operation of a lock, meeting and helping the public with a bit of enjoyable work thrown in, plus good natured banter then come and join our band of volunteers along the Thames. No guarantee of the weather, last year was brilliant no wet weather gear for me, but once you have been bitten by the bug you will return!

**BRIAN GARSIDE**

*[Brian not only volunteers as a lock keeper but also in Marcham's community-run Post Office.]*

 <p>The <b>Marcham Society</b></p>	<p><b>Liz Woolley</b>  <b>Leisure &amp; Entertainment in Victorian &amp; Edwardian Oxford</b>  <i>All Saints' Church Marcham 7.45pm 13th May</i></p> <hr/> <p>Non-members always welcome £2      <a href="http://www.marchamsociety.org.uk">www.marchamsociety.org.uk</a></p> <p>Further details: Sheila Dunford (391439) or Judith Fontaine (391275)</p>
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**Oxford May Music 2014  
30th April – 5th May 2014**

Science, music and the arts meet in creative harmony. Returning for its seventh year, Oxford May Music continues its traditional mix of concerts from leading musicians and exciting lectures from experts in their fields.

Call 01865 305305 or visit [www.ticketsoxford.com](http://www.ticketsoxford.com)

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



**Southmoor and Kingston Bagpuize Gardening Club**

On Tuesday May 6th our speaker will be well-known local farmer **Murray Maclean**, with a talk about his fruit growing in Kingston Bagpuize where his family fruit farm started in the early 1960, and his father's innovative method of growing in a pillar system, which was later adopted widely by other growers in sustaining a reliable crop of apples and pears for the supper market trade.

We meet at 7.15 pm for 7.30 start at the Village Hall in Draycott Road, Southmoor OX13 5BY. Our annual membership is £10 includes FREE admission to our regular monthly meetings plus a cup of tea or coffee with a biscuit. Visitors are very welcome at £3 per meeting. We hold a grand raffle, and a members' table with a selection of plants and gardening goodies for sale with donations going to our adopted charity. Footnote about our 3rd June meeting when a speaker from The Earth Trust project at Wittenham Clumps will introduce their ground-breaking work.

For more details about S&KB Gardening Club, call Steve or Sharon on 820399 or email [skbgardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:skbgardeningclub@gmail.com)

**The Friends of The Ridgeway: The Ridgeway Day  
Saturday 10 May 10.30 - 4.00 Court Hill Centre, Wantage**

- Walk The Ridgeway - Britain's oldest road. Guided walks to Segsbury Castle.
- Nature trail and treasure hunt for the kids.
- Lunches and home-made cakes at the Barn Café.
- Admire art inspired by The Ridgeway.
- Birds of prey display
- Live music

From Wantage, take the A338 towards Hungerford, and turn right to The Ridgeway Centre just before the crest of Court Hill. **Limited Parking.**

Website: [www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk](http://www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk).

Contact: [ridgewayfriends@googlemail.com](mailto:ridgewayfriends@googlemail.com)

**Against Breast Cancer**

decided that it was time to launch a new event, something that doesn't require running shoes or jumping out of an aeroplane, but that is open to all ages and involves a fantastic day spent out in the fresh air. We do hope you enjoy the event we came up with... we think it'll be **The Breast Walk Ever!**

We welcome women, men, children and even dogs to put their breast foot forward and support Against Breast Cancer. Join us for a half marathon or full marathon walk along the beautiful Thames riverside from Abingdon to Beale Park.

Every pound you raise will support dedicated research into breast cancer with the aim of improving detection and increasing survival after breast cancer diagnosis.

**So don't delay – get into the pink today!**

[www.breastwalkever.org](http://www.breastwalkever.org)



**ABINGDON LITTLE ANGELS**

**Baby Room** What a great month the babies have had, firstly their room has been re-vamped with new carpet and equipment,



**Abingdon Little Angels**  
building blocks for life

allowing the children to have lots of fun while learning. The babies also took part in our Pirate and Princess day where we raised money for charity. The babies joined in with pirate adventures and princess stories. Fishing with a theme of Easter, the babies made Easter cards, chocolate nests and Easter egg hunt in the garden.

**Well done Babies.**

**Pre-school Room** The pre-school children really got involved with the Pirate and Princess day, dressing up in some great costumes and showing off their Pirate skills, the children have enjoyed stories in the garden and turned the crates and tyres into a great pirate ship. The month's topic has been Christianity and we have been looking at the Bible stories of Moses, Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat finishing with the Easter story. The children made palm leaves and role played Jesus's arrival in Jerusalem. The Easter egg hunt was also a big success with the children searching for eggs in the garden and enjoying eating them, they made nests, decorated an egg and made Easter cards, a busy month but fun.

**After School Club** The after school club children have really enjoyed the sunshine and spent lots of time playing on the field, in particular lots of daisy chains have been made and the after school children have become experts at them, with Frisbees, boomerangs, skipping ropes and football. We have also continued our topic of Kings and Queens, code breaking (WWII) King's Speech and making poems and pictures.

If you would like any further information 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 email [info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk](mailto:info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk)

**St. Denys Church, Stanford in the Vale**

**Saturday 7th June 2014 at 7.30 pm**

**MUSIC IN THE VALE presents**

*"Summer Breezes"*

Music for woodwind & piano by Arrieu, Quilter, Shostakovich, Farkas, Mozart and Gershwin...

**The Loxley Quintet**

Admission by programme £10.00 or at the door

by reservation 01367 718420 [DJPedderDPA@btinternet.com](mailto:DJPedderDPA@btinternet.com)

**HARMONY INSPIRES** (ladies a capella singing group) are holding their annual performance at Wootton and Dry Sandford Community Centre 7.30pm Saturday 17th May 2014. Tickets £10 call 01635 528316 [www.harmonyinspires.org/](http://www.harmonyinspires.org/)



**"Gabriel's Dream To Walk" Concert**

**7.30pm Saturday 21st June Abingdon Preparatory School**

**Free complimentary glass of Pimms or fruit juice on arrival**

**Crafts for sale**

*Featuring Nicki Rogers singer/ songwriter plus support band*

The concert is being held to raise much needed funds for 14-year-old Gabriel Masih Gill from Oxford who has Cerebral Palsy and is hoping to have an operation in the USA next year to enable him to walk. **Come along and have a wonderful evening.**

Tickets £8 Concessions £6.50 child £5. contact Sue Porter. 01235 529142 or [andyandsuep@aol.com](mailto:andyandsuep@aol.com) to see Gabriel's story go to

[www.justgiving.com/paula-masih-gill1](http://www.justgiving.com/paula-masih-gill1)

**CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS**

We are soon coming into the season when butterflies will start to animate our gardens with their presence.

It should be kept in mind though that adult butterflies can often require different food plants than when they were tiny caterpillars. Nice as butterflies are, we not only need to provide food plants for them but for those earlier caterpillars too. If we don't have a thriving population of caterpillars we won't see the next generation of butterflies.

A simple article this time in that I am just going to list some of the species that are attracted to some common plants found in many gardens. From these lists, you can see that just growing different length grasses in your garden can work wonders, but just having these plants isn't enough. Check with your local Environmental Records Centre what species are in your area that you have the likelihood of attracting.

*Happy Gardening*

**STUART MABBUTT**

Wildlife Gardening Specialist 01865 747243

[www.stuarmabbuttgardeningltd.com](http://www.stuarmabbuttgardeningltd.com)



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Painted Lady

**Sorrel or Dock**  
Small Copper

**Holly & Ivy**  
Holly Blue



**Grasses**  
Essex Skipper  
Small Skipper  
Silver-spotted Skipper  
Large Skipper  
Marbled White  
Grayling  
Meadow Brown  
Gatekeeper  
Small Heath  
Ringlet  
Speckled Wood  
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If you are not already having a newspaper delivered to your home and would like one please telephone us on 01235 763134 and we will be very pleased to oblige. We will be advertising on a regular basis in the Marcham & District News, so if you decide in the future to have a paper delivered you will be able to find our contact number there.

*Thank you.*

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**Sobell House** are looking to recruit new volunteers for roles across the hospice. We provide a structured induction programme, including communication skills training alongside the shadowing of experienced volunteers, and ask that each volunteer commit for at least 12 months. Travel expenses are available. Support your local hospice, develop new skills, join our friendly team.

There are many volunteering roles across Sobell: drivers, gardeners, listeners and organisers for our Day Services activities.

To express your interest please call Rebecca Norris on 01865 225868 or email [rebecca.norris@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:rebecca.norris@ouh.nhs.uk). You can find out more about Sobell House on our website:

[www.sobell-house.org.uk](http://www.sobell-house.org.uk)



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

**Quiz Night**  
Fri 30 May at 8.15pm

The Club is holding quiz nights on the last Friday of each month. Questions are on a range of subjects and aimed at everyone's ability! Teams of up to four people are invited.

*Everyone welcome.*

Just turn up on the night for a friendly evening of fun and banter.

Further details from Trevor Hill – 01865 391321  
*We look forward to seeing you at the club*

If you have event to publicise for MADNews, contact the Editor on 01865 391725  
[editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk)

# “A Disaster of Biblical Proportions”



Earlier this year, referring to the havoc caused by widespread flooding in England, The Economist, commented “‘BIBLICAL’ – that is how David Cameron described the floods spreading through southern England... yet his recourse to scripture also invited the uncomfortable question of who, exactly is to blame.” It is now quite



commonplace to hear politicians or journalists say that a freak weather event, or natural disaster was of ‘biblical proportions’. By this they mean that it was something unusually great, epic or even apocalyptic. It is obvious that the biblical occurrence, which the politicians or journalists refer to is Noah’s flood. So it is interesting on the back of these recent, cataclysmic events that the latest major movie to be released is called ‘Noah’. The trailers of this Hollywood blockbuster have straplines such as “The world’s most epic event” , “...annihilate the world”, “This is the end of everything ..... the beginning of everything.”

A couple of weeks ago, before the actual release of the film, I heard on Radio 2, the star of the film, Russell Crowe being interviewed. He said (and I paraphrase) “That there’s a lot of accounts around the world about a global flood and much that’s been discovered by archaeologists over time. Every single ancient religious text has Noah. Every major religion shares stories up until Noah.”

Amusingly, when asked to star in the film, Russell Crowe was promised by the producer, Darren Aronofsky that he would not have to wear sandals - nor stand on the bow of the ark with an elephant on one side and a giraffe on the other! The ark was built for the film to the dimensions recorded in the Bible and when Crowe first visited the set, he flew over the ark in a helicopter and was ‘blown away’ by its sheer scale. So please don’t think about the cute little boat of the children’s Bibles. This wooden ship was massive, plenty big enough to take two small specimens of each major animal to repopulate the world.

Crowe talked on radio of the numerous accounts around the world that speak of a worldwide flood ..... plenty enough to convince him that the Biblical account is true history. In fact, there are over 500 accounts of a worldwide flood from across the world, which have passed orally down the generations. The Mayan and Muisca peoples in South America, Native North American Indians, the ancient Chinese, Scandinavians, Aborigines in Australia all have global flood accounts, as do the Egyptians, Assyrians and Babylonians in the Middle East, including the classic Gilgamesh account from Mesopotamia. The fossil record also speaks volumes of a major deluge that even left marine creatures encased in mud, some even on the tops of high mountains, like the Himalayas. There is a mass of other evidence of a worldwide cataclysm too. Virtually every major religious writing from the Jewish scriptures, the Quran and Hindu texts, as well as the Bible speak of a global flood that wiped out most of mankind. Most of those accounts are linked to the sin and violence of mankind that brought judgment upon a depraved and violent world.

But the Bible also speaks of another and final future judgment that will come not through a flood but when Jesus returns – this time not as he did the first time - born into poverty in a manger but arriving suddenly in great power, when every eye will see him.

Jesus came to set us free from the judgment that is rightly ours, for the many and various ways that we as individuals have turned our backs on God. Jesus will be the judge, the standard by which we are judged but also the one through whom we can receive forgiveness. That was what Easter was all about – the cross, repentance and being set free.

If you want to know more, then please call me, or speak to Richard at All Saints, or any other church leaders

Every blessing

**Keith Mersh, Pastor Marcham Baptist Church**

Keith Mersh - Pastor 01865 391881  
Bill Dyer - Elder 01235 814986

## **Speakers in May**

4 May - Ralph Green  
11 May - Andrew Pearson  
18 May - JOINT SERVICE AT ALL SAINTS  
25 May - Mary Embleton

**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 glorious weather we enjoyed in the early weeks of the Easter school holidays! I saw my first swallow of the year on April 11<sup>th</sup> – the sound and sight of summer!

To celebrate the early summer the ISIS orchestra returns for the summer concert on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> [see opposite panel]. It promises to be a lovely evening of music, so do come along.

In the church calendar we celebrate the Ascension of Christ on May 29<sup>th</sup>: this momentous event was the prelude for the soon-to-arrive outpouring of God's Holy Spirit. The Ascension was Christ's returning home to His Father, where He reigns on the throne of heaven, and where He prays for us constantly, and governs the affairs of peoples and nations. It is a much-needed reminder of God's reign and sovereign rule.

Also taking place this month is the integration of our Deanery into the Archdeaconry of Dorchester, and there is a special celebration of this in Dorchester Abbey at 7.30pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Enjoy a wonderful May!

With warmest greetings,

Richard

### Prayer for the Month:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the glorious ascension of your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank you that He is constantly interceding for us. Thank you that He reigns with You over all things as Sovereign Lord.

Help us to trust You with all that life brings across our path, and to hold on in faith when things are tough. Thank you for being our faithful Friend. In Jesus' name. Amen.

We warmly invite you to any or all of our services in the Parish Church of All Saints', and to our monthly service at St. Luke's in Garford.

In May we will be beginning a new sermon series on the book of Colossians.

### Regular services:

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

**St. Luke's, Garford:** 10.30am May 11<sup>th</sup>

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

### May dates:

- **Men's breakfast, Sat 3<sup>rd</sup>**, 8.30am at the Sports and Social Club
- **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm, ISIS Chamber Orchestra** will be performing at All Saints' Church. 'Music for a May evening'. Tickets are available now from Marcham Village Shop - proceeds to Samaritan's Project, India.
- **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>** – 7.30pm, Manor School Shippon. **The Filling Station** – an opportunity for reflective prayer and worship. Open to all.

### Parish People:

#### Funerals:

Our thoughts and prayers for the families and friends of:

Mike Carling: on March 17<sup>th</sup>

Peter Mansbridge: on March 28<sup>th</sup>

Patricia Cottrell: on April 10<sup>th</sup>

#### Baptism:

Benjamin Barnes: on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April

**Contacts:** Rev. Richard Zair 391319

(r\_zair@yahoo.co.uk)

Parish Office: parish\_office41@yahoo.co.uk

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister* 390885

Tim Jack *Churchwarden* 864900

Deborah Flint *Churchwarden* 391056

Tamsin Gilbert *Administrator* 821142