

Marcham & District News

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



JANUARY 2019 VOL: 41 NO: 1

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Carols Around the Village, 16 December 2018



▲ Pre-School fun see page 9 ▼



▲ The cast of Marcham WI's Christmas party piece - a short panto sketch see page 7



▲ Little Angels nativity see page 9



Diary for January

1 Tue	Beating the Bounds Abingdon, 11.00	7	17 Thu	Music at the Unicorn, Abingdon 19.00	15
5 Sat	The Lorelei, Grove Village Hall, 19.00	2	17 Thu	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	7
7 Mon	Anson Field Morland Road Entrance Closed to Vehicles	13	17 Thu	ABCD Film Society: La Notte, Abingdon, 19.45	15
8 Tue	Marcham Society Annual Lecture, All Saints' Marcham 19.30	7	18 Fri	Marcham School Disco	9
8 Tue	Ruby Wax, Amey Theatre, Abingdon, 19.30	15	20 Sun	Deadline for next MADNews, 17.00 editor@madnews.co.uk	
8 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30	7	22 Tue	National Trust Abingdon, Trinity Church, Abingdon 14.30	15
9 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3	22 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30	7
10 Thu	Midweek Walk, 12.30 Lunch The Bell Hotel, Faringdon / 13.30 Walk from National Trust car park Badbury Hill	7	24 Thu	ABCD Film Society: Wild Strawberries, Abingdon, 19.45	15
10 Thu	ABCD Film Society: Rome Express, Abingdon, 19.45	15	25 Fri	Eclectic Cabaret, WADS, 20.00	2
16 Wed	Arts Society Abingdon: Islam and the Mosque, Trinity Church, Abingdon 10.30 & 14.00	2	31 Thu	ABCD Film Society: The Breadwinner, Abingdon, 19.45	15

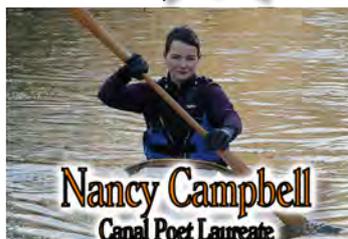
Details of events may change after publication, please check with the relevant organisers before attending events

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18

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



The Arts Society Abingdon (ex ADFAS) is holding its monthly lecture on **Wednesday 16th January, 10.30am and 2.00pm**, at Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DB.

Islam and the Mosque

by Tom Duncan

The development and spread of Islam following the death of the prophet Mohammed led to the adoption of one particular building type for all Muslims - the Mosque. From the earliest times it assumed the same general design: a courtyard set aside for ritual cleansing leading to a large prayer hall for the faithful to gather and pray. As a widely travelled lecturer, Tom Duncan explores the physical and spiritual aspects of the religion and places of worship.

Non-Members welcome, £6.00 including coffee/tea. The lectures are one hour long, but leave extra time for announcements etc.

For more information on future lectures and other activities see our website or

email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk or www.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk

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This is a weekend course for those with no previous knowledge of the Enneagram.

Come and discover more about who you are and how God might want to shape you. On this course, the nine spaces will be explored through a variety of ways.

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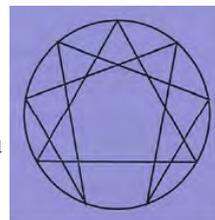
COURSE DETAILS

Date: 1-3 March 2019

Venue: All Saints' Church, Marcham, OX13 6NW

Cost: £35

For more details contact Tamsin Gilbert, Parish Administrator, 41 North Street, Marcham, OX13 6NQ or by email to info@allsaintsmarcham.org



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Dear Readers

Eagle-eyed readers will have noticed the clashing Pantone colours in this issue – the outgoing UltraViolet of 2018 and the vibrant Living Coral for 2019. If they had been inventing Colours of the Year in 1979, I would have used that for the cover, but they weren't and so I haven't!

Happy new year



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Jane Mander
DEADLINES

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

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

DISCLAIMER

We apologise in advance for any errors that may creep into MADNews (online or print), or omissions that creep out - we don't do it on purpose!
The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team, who are all volunteers.

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Marcham and Shippon

Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
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Webbercatherine1@gmail.com

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS Council Tax 2019/20

The Parish Council will be carefully considering the budget for 2019/20 at its meeting to be held on 9th January. Once finalised, the Council will set the amount of council tax that comes to the parish from the total amount paid by residents to the Vale of White Horse District Council.

Parishioner of the Year Award - Marcham

The Parish Council is again inviting nominations for the Parishioner of the Year Award. This is to recognise the efforts of local people from anywhere within the parish who have contributed to local community life. Marcham Parish covers the wide area from the A420 in the north to the River Ock in the South and from the A338 in the West across to and including most of Gozzards Ford in the East. The Council gives the award to anyone who, at any time, has significantly contributed to life within the parish. Should there not be any appropriate nominations, then the award need not be made. The certificate is presented at the annual meeting for electors each year. Would anyone who wishes to submit a nomination please contact the clerk, whose details appear below, by the end of the month, sending a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to whom he/she wishes to nominate and the reasons why the person should receive the award.

School Admissions – Entry to primary or infant school September 2019

If you are a parent or carer of a child 3 or 4 years old then you need to apply for a primary school place now. This is for children born between 1st September 2014

Grant Applications

The Parish Council considered grant applications at the last meeting and resolved to award the following sums for running costs unless otherwise indicated:

Be Free	£150
Marcham Society – maintenance of jubilee paths	£300
St John Ambulance Marcham Unit – purchase of manikins	£462
Oxfordshire Association for the Blind	£150
Marcham Football Club	£300
Marcham Cricket Club	£300
South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau	£800
The Abingdon Bridge	£400
Marcham Parochial Church Council – Welcome Packs, After School Club, Friday Club (including pantomime visit)	£1800
Marcham Community Group – expenses of negotiating leases of the new community facilities	£2360

and 31st August 2015 (inclusive). You still have to apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school. For further information and to apply online go to <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/starting-school/infant-and-primary-school> The closing date for applications is 15th January, 2019. If you do not have internet access, then you can access the internet at many of the County Council's libraries, or telephone the schools' admissions team on 0345 241 2487 for further information

Additional rubbish

Christmas is a time when we all seem to accumulate extra packaging and items for the recycling bin. Please take note of the re arranged collection days over the holiday period.

The following planning applications have been considered :

P18/V2967/HH Single storey rear infill extension at 52 North Street. The Council had no objections but wanted the materials to be in keeping with the existing..

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 9th January 2019 at 7.30p.m. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place. Please check noticeboard outside the Institute and/or the Council's website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk in case arrangements change.

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

The Council wishes everyone a happy new year

FOR SALE

Brown recliner chair, bought new from the Recliner Factory. Electric controls, foot rest, tips fully forward to allow easy standing from sitting position, built-in massage system 1.3m tall, 90cm wide. £200 or nearest offer

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MARCHAM AND DISTRICT NEWS is 40!

We will be delving into the archives from the last four decades to bring you some snippets during the next year.

There will be a party in the summer to celebrate – who remembers the 30th birthday party? We have found a photo of the cake and a trio of editors!

Thanks to Joan Carter for some photos from past events which we will be printing in the coming months. If you have anything that you would like to share with other readers, just send it to editor@madnews.co.uk to include in our 40 year round up.

For the first issue, Jonathan Page received £7 in donations to help with the cost of the ink, paper and stencils. In those days it was made on a manual copying machine! Hard work and messy, as Jean Page can testify!

◀ The first MADNews in January 1979 see page 5

▼ 30th birthday party cake



January 2005
THE MARCHAM PLAYERS
 A wonderful evening was had by all at the recent 15th Anniversary screening of Yellow Peril. Thirty-six members of the original cast and production team were joined by family and many friends at All Saints' Church which had been transformed into a cinema for the occasion.



April 2008
MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS
 To celebrate World Book Day this year the children were invited back to Pre-school for a bedtime story hour. Everyone (including the staff!) came wearing their pyjamas, brought their blankets and teddies. We all had juice and a biscuit then snuggled down for some story telling.
 Here are some of the comments from the children
 "I borrowed my uncle Josh's dressing gown" Sonny (age 3)
 "We listened to Monkey Puzzle about the lost monkey" Ashley (age 4)
 "I brought Mummy and Daddy and Ella" Daniel (age 2)
 "It was lovely and nice" Rachel (age 3)
 [Anyone recognise those names!! - Ed]



▲ Editors: Martin Thorne, Jonathan Page, Meriel Lewis



DECEMBER 2003
100th Anniversary of The InSTITUTE
 A wonderful birthday party with cheese, wine and birthday cake, plus a display of photographs of events that had taken place in the hall.

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SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

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Phone 391270 for more details *Christine Whild*

SUNSHINE CLUB

We meet on Mondays at 2 o'clock in The Residents' Lounge, Duffield Place. Any new members will be very welcome. We play some games of bingo, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and finish off with a raffle about 3.30pm.

Any further information, please contact me on 391384 or just come and join us on a Monday afternoon at 2pm for a social afternoon.

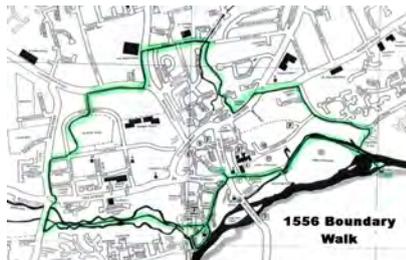
ALL WELCOME *JEAN DIX*

*Beating the Bounds
 Tuesday 1st January
 setting out from Market Place*

11.00 am with

Town Guide Patrick Bird
 and an Abingdon Town Crier

A walk 11.00 am to 1.30 pm of the 1556 Boundaries of Abingdon-on-Thames. Find out interesting facts as you take part in a tradition and walk through some of the loveliest parts of town.



Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning on Friday 7th December in aid of Nyakabungo Girls' School, Uganda. **We raised the amazing total of £191.10.**

Our support means that it enables a young girl to access a high quality education which would otherwise be out of reach in a poor rural society.

ANN GOVER

Holiday Waste Collections
 (grey = rubbish)

Normal day	Revised day	Which bin?
Wed 2 Jan	Fri 4 Jan	Grey and food
Wed 9 Jan	Thurs 10 Jan	Green, food, brown

If you have a view on a local issue, want to thank people, congratulate success or publicise an event within or near the MADNews area, contact the editor 01865 391725 editor@madnews.co.uk before the deadline of 20th of the month All personal adverts are free of charge



The Marcham Society

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

**Annual Lecture:
 The Work of Wild Oxfordshire**

Sian Liwicki

Wild Oxfordshire is a local conservation charity with a vision for Oxfordshire's environment to be rich in nature, healthy and sustainable for the benefit and enjoyment of all. Their focus is on bringing organisations and community groups together to work collaboratively and make this vision a reality. www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk

Sian trained as a botanist in Reading and Singapore, returning to England when she married. She gained management and organisational experience working for the research councils, then moved into the charitable sector, working for organisations such as the Northmoor Trust and Wild Oxfordshire. In the early 2000s she and her husband, Richard, took over Bothy Vineyard. In addition to producing award-winning dry wines, they host the very popular *Sculpture in the Vineyard* exhibitions.

All Saints' Church, Marcham

7.30 pm

Tuesday 8th January

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

**MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK:
 Thursday, January 10th.**

For this winter walk of about 4 miles we will be eating at the usual time of 12.30 for lunch at The Bell Hotel, 13 Market Place, Faringdon, (Map Ref: SU288956, SN7 7HP). The town car parks are free for 2 hours. However, we will be starting our walk from the National Trust car park at Badbury Hill (SU262946), by the B4019 at 1.30, visiting Great Coxwell and the attractive country around Badbury Hill.



Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for further details and car-sharing, especially if you are not on our email list as sometimes late changes have to be made. Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers.

Marcham WI

Date: Thursday, 17th January

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Denman College

Topic: Janice Nicholls

The Wonders of Aromatherapy



We hope that all our members had a very Happy Christmas and wish everyone a Happy, Healthy New Year.

After all the stress and excesses over the Christmas period, why not join us for a relaxing and pampered evening at our meeting on Thursday, 17th January. We will be welcoming Janice Nicholls who will tell us about the 'The Wonders of Aromatherapy'. Do join us to learn some exciting tips for a relaxing start to the New Year. To round off the evening we will be having a raffle with a 'pamper' theme.

*New members and visitors
 are always welcome*

For further information, please contact:

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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

This last month has been full of fun - Nativity rehearsals, songs, dancing, and discussions as the children have decided which part they would like to take in the official performance. Glitter and decorations have adorned the classroom and we've read and reread the story of Mary and Joseph and Jesus' birth. We have also welcomed in lots of parents to share in some craft activities - and some silliness! Thank you to all those that attended our '12 crafts of Christmas', we hope you had fun!! There are more exciting times ahead, and if you would like to join us, please get in touch at Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk



We'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and successful 2019

Nicky Sanford,

Early Years Teacher, Marcham Pre-School 01865 392101
www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

NEWS FROM LITTLE ANGELS

Baby Room

Our smallest Little Angels have been enjoying various winter sensory trays this month. We used flour as fake snow. The babies loved moving their hands around making different marks in our sensory trays, it was messy but lots and lots of fun! They have also enjoyed going for walks around the village in their pushchairs, looking at all the Christmas decorations around the village. They loved a sparkly Christmas tree they saw watching it twinkle!



Pre School Room

Our Little Angels have been getting creative and into the Christmas spirit this month. They have been busy elves making decorations for our Christmas tree, making salt dough and building their own Santa's grotto out of cardboard. They have been posting their letters and drawings to Father Christmas in our special post-box that will be sent to the North Pole of course!

A highlight of our month was our Christmas party! All the children enjoyed a Christmas disco full of party food, balloons, music and party games. The children had a very special visitor that flew to nursery to see them all the way from the North Pole! The children all got to meet Father Christmas, tell them their Christmas wishes and he even had presents for them all! It's been a lovely month here at Little Angels!

We would also like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who came to see our Christmas nativity in the Church. The children worked so hard, learning all their songs and did so well to perform on such a big stage, it really got us all in the Christmas mood!

From all the staff at Marcham Little Angels we wish you a Happy New Year!

If you would like to be part of Little Angels Family, where our home is your home, please contact us on 01865 819992 or marcham@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk, see www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk and follow us on Facebook: [littleangelsmarcham](https://www.facebook.com/littleangelsmarcham)

Stamps for Young Dementia UK

Please bring in your stamps from all your cards and letters to Marcham Village Shop to aid Young Dementia UK - the box is just inside the door.



www.youngdementiauk.org

PTA Round-Up

Happy New Year!! On behalf of everyone in the Marcham PTA, can I thank you all for your support in 2018 and wish you all a fantastic 2019. We have plenty to keep you entertained.



Many thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas Fair at the beginning of December. Through your generosity, we made a profit of £1,834.27, a slight increase on 2017. So a BIG thank you to everyone for their contribution, whether it was donating a raffle prize, selling a raffle ticket or buying a raffle ticket – or contributing to any of the many other stalls we had for your entertainment. We couldn't have done it without your help, and the PTA and Marcham School are extremely grateful.

As I write this report, we are just four days away from the PTA's first ever Magic of Christmas show, an evening of Festive Family Fun. It's a sell-out, so again, sincere thanks to everyone who has bought a ticket. With refreshment sales on the night, I'm confident this event will raise at least £300 too, another great sum of money that will go towards helping the school in giving our children a full and rounded education. December will have been a very good month for PTA fundraising!

So, what do we have planned for you in 2019?

Well, our next event is the first **PTA School Disco** of the calendar year, on Friday 18 January, and we'll be advertising that as usual in the school newsletter and on the village Facebook groups.

And then, on Saturday 9 February, we'll be holding our **PTA Family Quiz**. An evening of light-hearted fun for all the family, with rounds on Television, General Knowledge, Films and Music. The questions will only be difficult if you don't know the answers(?!), so get yourself a team



of up to six players together and begin buffing up so you know the difference between House of Cards and House of Elliott; the difference between Dr No and Dr Zhivago; the difference between The Last Train to Clarksville and The Midnight Train to Georgia! Put it in your diary now: The PTA Family Quiz on Saturday 9 February – it promises to be a lot of laughs, and one team could win £100 IN CASH!!!!

See you on the school run.

Peter Kidd

PTA Chair 07708 251312 peter.kidd61@btinternet.com

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Marcham Community Group and the local church community are jointly planning another Great Marcham Weekend on 27th-29th September 2019. This will celebrate 10 years of Marcham Moldova Lifeline as well as Harvest Festival. Funds raised will go to the new Community Facilities and to projects in Moldova, one of the poorest countries in Europe.



We have lots of plans at an early stage, and we are appealing to local organisations to take on a fund-raising event or activity so as to involve as many local people as possible with something to suit all ages and interests. Ideas that will need an early start in 2019 include a flower and produce show (think about your competition entry) and a sunflower growing competition. We will be in further contact with organisations early in the new year to exchange further ideas.

There will be more details in future MAD News issues. To get involved or suggest ideas, please contact jim.asher@btinternet.com (391727) or neil.rowe.nsch@gmail.com (391168).

Working together for a big success!



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As winter sets in, can you spare a thought for those less fortunate than us?

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Please call Tracey on 07785 296512

We really do appreciate your support

Thank you!

▼ **Memories of the first GMW in June 2010**



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Marcham Village Shop - Invitation to apply for a grant

In our last financial year the village shop received £641 in donations, for which we would like to thank our customers who often put any small change they are given into the blue tins on the shop and Post Office counters.

Our AGM has agreed that these funds should go to worthy causes in Marcham. So if any organisation or group within the village would like to apply for a small amount of financial help, then please email marchamvillageshop@gmail.com or write to David Walton, c/o Marcham Village Shop, 16 North Street, Marcham, Abingdon, OX13 6NG.

You should give your name, details of your organisation or group, how much you wish to apply for, what the grant would be used for, and a copy of your most recent accounts or details of your organisation's finances.

There is no deadline for applications. We will consider each request at our next Committee meeting which is held every other month.

If you would like to volunteer to help in the shop, just pop in and ask!

**January: Time for something unseasonal?
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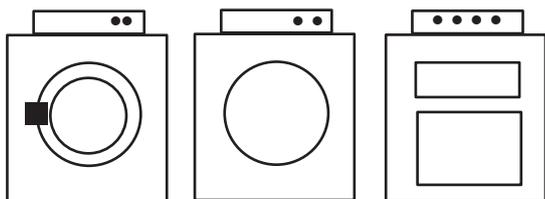
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Marcham Community Group—progress!

We had a good turnout at the school for the AGM and public meeting on 5th December—a big thank-you to all who came. The outcome of the election was that Jim Asher and Suzanne Crafer were re-elected; Carolyn Blackmore and Colin Trinder were elected; and we also co-opted Adam Grady to the trustee board. Subscriptions will be held at last year's levels and fall due on 1st April.



The public meeting was updated on the project, recent delays and the timetable. Chris Brotherton, from Thomas Homes, who will be delivering the building work, explained his schedule and plans. Ground works will begin on site in early February. Please note that the Morland Road entrance to the field will be closed to pedestrians from **7th January** to enable site set-up. There will be a temporary path to access the nursery.

Good News

We had two bits of good news on 13th December. SSE will install electricity supplies on 5-8th Feb, enabling site work to start fully. The same day, we had a productive meeting with VWHDC Planning and their CEO (see photo below) which cleared remaining obstacles and set a timescale for release of \$106 funds.



Fund-raising plans

MCG is planning a **Burns Supper** in the church on **9th February**, aiming to repeat the format of the event in 2017. Tickets (£20 per person) will go on sale in mid-January—please contact Jim or Denise Asher on 391727 or jim.asher@btinternet.com to join the list. Numbers will be limited, so please book early!

MCG will be working with the local church community on a Great Marcham Weekend fund-raising event in late September. Please see page 11 for further details.

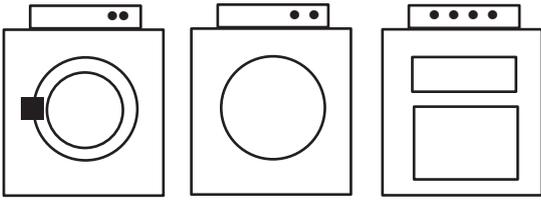
We will keep people in Marcham updated regularly on progress and will be happy to answer any questions you may have about this project. **We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

MCG update and plans for 2019—Good News!



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Wednesdays - for those who want to discover more and carry a project over from week to week. 10 weeks 7.00 - 9.30pm £250 Includes use of studio equipment, firings and me to guide your projects, materials charged separately. These weeks do not have to be taken consecutively

Saturdays - a full day with guided projects in the morning, a light lunch in the pub followed by an afternoon creating your own designs. 10.00am - 4.00pm £135 all inclusive

Interested or want to know more?

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ABCD Film Society

Thursday screenings this month



ABCD Film Society's January films. Come to any screening for £6 (£3 full-time school and college students) or join until Christmas or Easter. Email or phone us for a free copy of our 2018/9 programme booklet.

Jan 10 ROME EXPRESS – highly entertaining, mostly train-set comedy-thriller from the early days of British sound films, featuring major stars of the period. (Britain 1932, 90 mins, Cert U).

Jan 17 LA NOTTE – Antonioni piece from his heyday, starring Jeanne Moreau, Monica Vitti and Marcello Mastroianni. A middle class couple in existential crisis. "... revolutionary in form, eloquent in content and can affect you deeply" (Derek Malcolm, The Guardian). (Italy, 1961, 122 mins, Cert 12).

Jan 24 WILD STRAWBERRIES - one of Ingmar Bergman's most famous films. A long retired, eminent doctor goes to collect an award and dreams of events in his past. Very touching and at times very funny. (Sweden, 1957, 92 mins, Cert PG).

Jan 31 THE BREADWINNER – a beautiful animation, directed by Nora Twomey, based on a young adult novel by Deborah Ellis. Parvana and her family are living in Afghanistan, when the Taliban come to visit. How will Parvana cope? (Ireland, 2017, 94 mins, Cert 12A).

All screenings at 7.45pm at Abingdon Health & Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, OX14 3GD unless otherwise indicated. Adjacent free parking. Have a hot drink before the film – donation requested. www.abfilms.org.uk or info@abfilms.org.uk or 01235 521976 Registered charity No. 292723

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National Trust: Abingdon & District Association
2.30pm Tuesday January 22nd, Trinity Church Hall

On **Tuesday January 22nd 2019**, James Mather will talk about the **Treasures Beneath Our Feet and Finding The Watlington Hoard**. This is about his hobby of responsible metal detecting, and features some of the more exciting (and unusual) items he has found and recorded over the past 25 years, including the Watlington Viking Hoard acquired by the Ashmolean/ The Nation for £1.35m. This is an exceptional find and generated world-wide publicity when it was discovered. James will also bring along a number of "Hands-On" Finds, which attendees always appreciate. He has given a number of well received talks and appeared on local radio and national TV. The talk takes place at 2.30pm at Trinity Church Hall, Conduit Road, Abingdon OX14 1DB and there is parking in the streets around the church. Non-members are asked for a donation of £3 but can join on the spot and get the talk for free. For more information, contact Ruth on 01235 524119. Prior booking is not required.



National Trust

Ruby Wax

will be at The Amey Theatre, Abingdon to talk about her latest book, **How to be Human: The Manual**, on **Tuesday 8th January** at 7.30pm.

Mostly Books and The Amey Theatre are proud to host Ruby as part of her latest tour.



This book is about how to be human. Why we haven't figured this out by now, I do not know.

Tickets are £22.50 and include a copy of How to be Human and a glass of wine or soft drink on the night. Tickets are available from the Amey Theatre box office.

For any questions about the event, please contact Mostly Books: books@mostly-books.co.uk - www.mostly-books.co.uk - @mostlyreading 01235 525880 - 36 Stert Street, Abingdon, OX14 3JP

For more details about the venue please go to the Amey Theatre website: <https://www.sportsandleisure.abingdon.org.uk/ameytheatre/> Amey Theatre, Abingdon School, Park Road OX14 1DE

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Last month I promised that I would devote this article to the most contentious issue facing Oxfordshire – the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway.

It is common knowledge that as a consequence of all the housing we have built and are due to build (assuming we have the bricks and bricklayers to carry out the work), we are excruciatingly short of the infrastructure that should come with those houses. There is now an undeniably serious backlog of roads, rail, bus and cycling provision.

Until recently, appeals to Government for money to address this backlog have fallen on deaf ears. The newly signed “Growth Deal” is offering £150m but the estimated shortfall in what is needed is many times this. Many of us feel that, as a result, the backlog is going to grow. However we feel about the Expressway, there is no denying that if/when it is built, we will have even more houses with no certainty that the road will be able to generate enough money to address the backlog, and every likelihood that it will simply increase the problem further.

There are now a number of protest organisations across the County – each objecting to the road being built through their patch. Many local councillors are members of such protest groups and this presents a problem for Council Leaders and how they should handle the issue. So far, the Growth Board (the body responsible for producing a unified County response) is sending out some very confused signals on whether or not it welcomes the Expressway.

If Oxfordshire is to make its voice heard, it needs to speak with one voice and find that voice quickly. It seems to me that the holding position that most would sign up to is that Oxfordshire residents need to understand the justification for the proposal via a full consultation and, given the present infrastructure backlog, the congestion on the A34, the A420 and many other roads, at present they are far from convinced.

As with the Reservoir, this fight will go on for some time – it is certainly far too important to be rushed.

With all the present uncertainties in Westminster, and the consequent uncertainties over how local government is to be funded, it can be hard to remain positive. Like everyone, I am determined to enjoy my family this Christmas – I hope you will enjoy yours. Let’s hope that 2019 will bring some pleasant surprises and solutions to problems where 2018 failed.

Richard Webber Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.
Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

The proposed Reservoir

The Thames Water(TW) proposed Reservoir is a “planning” issue and therefore a District *and* County issue.

I can hear you say “Here we go again”. For at least the fourth time since 1990, TW are back with a proposal to build Europe’s largest above-ground reservoir right on Marcham’s doorstep. Only a few years ago, a similar proposal was dismissed, after a lengthy and very costly enquiry, on the grounds that the case for *need* had not been made. So, what’s changed now? Certainly not any of the following TW predictions and statements:

- there will be wonderful opportunities for yachtsmen, anglers and naturalists.
- future water shortages caused by increasing population and global warming.
- a juicy asset would appear on the Thames Water balance sheet, paid for by you and me, its customers.
- there is the prospect of another lengthy, costly public enquiry, again paid for by TW’s customers, if planning is denied.

Those against also argue:

- what is the scientific evidence of need for such an enormous reservoir?
- such a huge reservoir would need massive bunds, at least 2/3 the height of a pylon, to enclose the water.
- major construction disruption for years
- over a million visitors a year will come to the Reservoir necessitating more infrastructure, including more roads and car parks.
- TW need to repair the enormous number of leaks before considering a reservoir.
- there are alternative ways of supplying more water

OK – so what *has* changed?

As a result of all the extra housing in the south of England, demands for water are increasing. Interestingly, TW do not deny that none of the water is destined for Oxfordshire. Instead, this time TW is arguing that the reservoir will fulfil the needs of other surrounding areas in the South East, as well as London. Not surprisingly, the other Water companies in those areas are supporting TW, as they see one huge reservoir as a solution to their problems.

Now TW has brought forward the planned delivery of the Reservoir, and there is the possibility that the Minister (Michael Gove) could be tempted to make a decision without another public enquiry. Clearly this has stirred up much anger and resentment with cries of “Where is the public voice?” Questions by MPs Ed Vaizey and Layla Moran are being asked in the House. They, together with County and District Council and GARD (The Group of scientists against the Reservoir Development) are calling for a public enquiry. It is hoped that, despite its cost, the Minister will be persuaded to conclude that a public enquiry is the only option. Something more to look forward to in 2019!

Richard and I would like to wish you all a peaceful New Year 2019
Catherine Webber Cllr VWHDC
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GARD

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You can contact me (email gard.chair@gmail.com) or our secretary, Deborah Bennett (email gard.secretary@gmail.com), if you would like to help, or to join GARD (lifetime membership is only £5).

DEREK STORK, Hon Chairman, Group Against Reservoir Development



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Neighbourhood Team Newsletter for Marcham from Rich Osborn

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Priority 1 – Burglary Nathan Bowell, 25, of Botley has been charged with 13 offences including two counts of theft of motor vehicle, two counts of making off without payment, eight counts of fraud by false representation and one count of theft from motor vehicle. These offences all stemmed from people leaving their vehicles insecure. Please remember to lock up your cars after removing any valuables.

A male, 31, of Nottingham has been charged and remanded for burglary and fraud. This is a case of fraudulent 'cold calling' whereby the suspect was invited into a house in Botley under the pretence that he was going door to door offering crime prevention advice. He has stolen cheques whilst at the address which he has then used fraudulently. Please remember to ask for ID of anyone knocking on your door and if in any doubt at all, do not invite them in.

Priority 2 – Violence Adrian Stone, 45, of Abingdon was charged and remanded for assault, theft and possession of an offensive weapon following an incident in Abbey Close on 29th November. Philip Knowles, 54, of Abingdon was charged and remanded to court for two counts of assault and two counts of criminal damages following an incident in the Market Square on 2nd December.

Priority 3 – Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) We are pleased to report a big decrease in anti-social behaviour in town following a joint effort between the Abingdon Neighbourhood Team, the Fire and Rescue Service, the mounted section and our colleagues on the Emergency Response Team. Please continue to make us aware of any young people that are causing disruption for you, your family or your business in town.

Offenders brought to Justice Jason Tampin, 37, of No Fixed Abode was charged and remanded to court for Burglary following

an incident in Abingdon Town Centre whereby he stole a handbag. He has also been issued with a Criminal Behaviour Order in relation to repeated anti-social behaviour. The conditions of this prohibit Tampin from drinking in a public place, entering Abingdon Town Centre, setting fire to anything in a public place and not to cause harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance or annoyance.

A 17 year old male from London was arrested following a Courier Fraud in Sutton Courtenay. A female had taken money out of four bank accounts after receiving false information over the phone that the 'police fraud squad' needed her to do so as the 'notes were fake'. A swift response by police resulted in the arrest. Enquiries are ongoing.

What else have we been up to? The team ran a Test Purchasing Operation on 17th October in local pubs. Seven pubs and five off-licences were tested in their response to sales to under 18s with on the spot fines issued to the three premises that failed.

PCSO Miles Miller attended a Careers Fair for the year 8 students of John Mason School where he was part of a 'Human Library'!

PCSO Adi Wright has taken on an additional role as a Lesbian and Gay Liaison Officer. Adi can be consulted regarding crimes and incidents where an involved person's gender or sexual orientation may have been a contributing factor or may impact on the aftercare required. Adi can be contacted by members of the public regarding any LGBT+ issues that may not require police involvement but to assist in connecting with third party agencies.

Contact us If you want any advice or to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 or if it is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. To view information on your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk. Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk today. The Thames Valley Police Twitter account is kept up to date with what we are up to; please follow us @TVPSouthandVale



NFU and Crimestoppers Rural Crime Reporting Line

The NFU has a service for farmers and the public to give information anonymously about rural crime, in partnership with the charity Crimestoppers. The "Rural Crime Reporting Line" is part of the NFU's ongoing work to tackle the serious issues surrounding criminal behaviour on farms and in the wider countryside.

Farmers, rural businesses and the public can give information anonymously about crime relating to:

- large-scale, industrial fly-tipping
- hare coursing
- machinery theft; or
- livestock theft

Call 0800 783 0137 or go to www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk

Colour At A Colourless Time

It's not all doom and gloom, not even in winter. Indeed, though the colour variety outside may be reduced at this time of year, our gardens still have an immense amount of colour shade. As I always say, if we choose to look.



On a windy day, a bramble patch offers up subtle silvers and red. The underside of leaves often look silvery, and the stems offer up various shades of dark red.

There are a huge range of viburnum plants for winter colour. Look out for evergreen varieties like *V. tinus* and *V. burkwoodii*. *Viburnum x bodnantense* 'Dawn' is also brilliant with strongly scented pink flowers. Witch hazel is grown for the wiry flowers it bears along the branches. *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Diane' has red flowers, 'Jelena' is coppery coloured and 'Pallida' is best for yellow.

Daphne is a shrub with intensely fragrant flowers in winter and early spring. Look for *D. odora* and *D. bholua* and grow near gates and doorways.

Sarcococca or Sweet box is well-named. Its intense fragrance can be detected from across the garden. It produces tiny perfumed creamy flowers in winter followed by shiny black berries.

Plants with berries on in winter offer colour, with extra flashes of colour when feeding birds arrive to gorge on them.

Even if you don't want to venture out into your garden or local area in the winter cold, just sit in your window with a warm drink and take the time to notice the colour that's still visible in the natural world. It can take a few minutes to focus the mind to start to notice these subtleties, but it's time well spent.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt 01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

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Dear Friends,

May I wish you a very happy New Year for 2019!

As we enter this New Year, many of us will be conscious of both national and international uncertainties - from Brexit final manoeuvres to increasing tension between the world's superpowers, as well as the continuing environmental and climate challenges. What a beginning to the year!

Personally, I hope this year is a more healthy one than last year! It has been, and still is, a challenge to get through the various illnesses that so shaped 2018.

Our hopes are important, and are not necessarily 'pipe dreams'. It is good to have goals and targets, however small, and these help to mark life's path toward those hopes. One of the significant, and continuing, helps for many of us on hard 'paths', is the support of others. Knowing others care, are thinking of us, some praying, continues to be an enormous encouragement in these times in the darker valleys of life. I am personally so deeply grateful for all such support in what has been one of the toughest times in my life.

'Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for You are with me ...' So wrote the Psalmist, many years ago in Psalm 23 - a favourite with many of us. God's active presence with us in the tough times is powerfully reassuring, and of both strength and comfort. And God's active presence is so frequently shown through the care, prayer and practical help of those around us, as well as in the deep waters of our relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

So, as we enter the unknowns of a new year, perhaps we can resolve to be there for one another, thus giving hope, and strength, for the way ahead, as Jesus Himself is resolved to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

Wishing you every blessing for the year ahead.

Richard

Regular Sunday services at 10am & 6pm **Youth Drop-in** on Wednesdays **Wednesday mid-week communion, 10.30am** in Duffield Place Lounge. **Village Cafe**, Wednesdays 12pm at the Baptist Hall **Friday Club**, 5.30-6.30pm at All Saints' Church (primary-age)

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