

ON THE BUSES

Bus Pass Challenge 2008

Now that concessionary Bus Pass holders can travel freely throughout England, BusSpotter challenges MAD news readers (over 60 years of age!) to see just how far they can travel in a day using their Bus Pass. Someone asked 'can you get to the seaside?' Yes, Bournemouth, Weston super Mare, Great Yarmouth and the Wirral all seem to be possible. 'Can you get my friend to Edinburgh?' - in two days it might be ok but our Bus Passes don't take us into Scotland (or Wales).



BusSpotter's Bus Pass Challenge 2008 is in two sections: how far can you travel there and back in one day, with at least two hours at your destination to make it worthwhile? and, quite simply, how far can you travel, one way, coming back another day, even better another way?

There is a folder in Marcham Post Office for your Bus Pass Challenge journey details: please include your bus tickets, timings and (hopefully) pictures, plus your name and address and date of travel. Let's make the closing date for the Bus Pass Challenge 2008: 10 September with the winners announced in October MAD news. Plenty of summer ahead.

Details of other crazy journeys such as coast to coast across northern England (eg Whitehaven to Whitby; Southport to Scarborough) or along the south coast (eg Exeter to Eastbourne) would be very welcome.

Forget our starting time restrictions during the week in your planning. There are so many good bus travel opportunities from Oxford at 9am or soon after - to Cheltenham, Chipping Norton (and on to Stratford on Avon), Milton Keynes, Cambridge, Aylesbury, Reading, Swindon - all with connections beyond. BusSpotter suggests challengers leave Marcham on Stagecoach 31 at 07.53 to Oxford Monday to Friday and pay the fare for that start to the day - it will be worth it. On Saturday Stagecoach 31 at 08.13 should get into Oxford in time for good connections and Bus Passes can be used.

Happy travels and safe arrivals. **BUS SPOTTER**

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The OCA 2008 Season begins on 3rd May. In Division 1 is the 1st XI is away to Horley. The 2nd XI is at home to E&W Hendred.

Pre-season Nets are being held on Thursday evenings from 7.00 until 8.30pm at Josca's School (Sports Hall).



This month's item from the archives relates to a General Meeting held on the 1st April 1946. Thus, the Minutes of this Meeting record that: "The Chairman moved a vote of thanks from the Chair to Mr Tame for his valuable past services to the Club which all present agreed. Mr Russell then proposed and Mr Parker seconded that Mr A Tame be elected a Life Member of the Marcham Cricket Club which was carried unanimously."

It appears, as far as records show, that Mr Tame was the first Life Member of the Marcham CC founded in 1906.

If information relating to the Club is required, including details of playing for Marcham CC, please contact Graham Hill (391415) or Terry Whitaker (391317).

CSB

MARCHAM EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB

Dates for your Diary.

April 29th: A.G.M. All members urged to attend and have your say.

May 17th: John Wheeler Entertains, very popular at his last appearance.

Write to MADNews and let others know what you think about current events

April 2008

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

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)*

If you are interested in finding out more about Marcham Pre-school, joining us for a visit or obtaining a prospectus, please contact us on 07749 245313.

NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL

World Book Day 2008

All the staff and children at Marcham School dressed as their favourite book character for World Book Day on Thursday 6th March 2008. Each member of staff brought in their favourite story and the children chose which story they wanted to hear.

Here are some quotes from the year 5 and 6 children;

World Book Day was really fun because you could dress up as a character out of a book. It was so nice to see different book characters and convincing costumes. After lunch register we went into the hall to choose which story we wanted to listen to. Katie, aged 9

I went dressed as Tracy Beaker. It was a really good day. I enjoyed the afternoon the most because the teachers read their favourite stories to us. Lauryn, aged 10

School is always fun, but this made it even better. Try walking in and seeing your teacher dressed as The Mad Hatter. Jack, aged 10

On World Book Day I was dressed as Hannah Montana. At playtime I saw my best friend and she was a cat called Mog (her real name is Megan). Mrs Hutchinson (the Headteacher) was the best, she was The Highwayman and she looked fabulous and pretty. Rachel, aged 9

VIV HUTCHINSON

**ANNUAL ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW
 DALTON BARRACKS, SUN 4TH MAY 2008 10AM - 5PM**

3 Hour afternoon Flying Display program : Arena Demonstrations Static Aircraft / Aircraft Fly In : Craft Fayre :Steam Machinery Vintage Vehicles : Hot Air Balloons : Pleasure Flights : Tank Rides Be aware there will be aircraft noise Fri 2 May - Tues 6 May.

GREEN PAGES

Eco-friendly living has been made easier for Oxfordshire residents with the publication of Oxfordshire Green Pages 2008. Subtitled 'The Amazing Directory of Green Living', Green Pages carries details of the incredible variety of companies and organisations in the county that provide goods or services with a green and ethical slant.



Readers looking for a green accountant, organic pet food or a local veg box scheme will find the answer in Green Pages. And with the inclusion of a new Office section, it's now also a great resource for local businesses wanting to become more sustainable. Among other additions for 2008 are guest editorials on topics such as saving energy, sustainable travel, ethical investment and more. The directory is on sale now at over 30 bookshops and other outlets including Mostly Books, Frugal Food and Natural Health Centre, Abingdon, price £4.50. It can also be ordered online at www.oxfordgreenpages.co.uk