

**NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL**

At 12.15 pm, on Wednesday 14 November, twelve very excited Year 5 and 6 children, together with two members of staff, travelled up to London. There we joined with children from over thirty other Oxfordshire schools, to make up a choir of some five hundred voices. That evening, we were all to take part in the annual Schools' Prom concert at the Royal Albert Hall.

Whilst waiting for our rehearsal spot, we enjoyed watching children and young people from all over the country, as they ran through their own performances. These ranged from full symphony orchestras to Dixieland jazz, and even included a quartet made up entirely of percussionists.

We then practised the five songs that we were to perform. These were all written by Richard Stilgoe. They told about children less fortunate than ourselves. Specifically, those thousands who die simply because they do not have access to clean drinking water and toilets. After we had rehearsed our songs, we climbed to the gallery at the top of the Royal Albert Hall to eat tea. By 6pm we were back in our seats again, trying to spot the parents who had come along to support us.

At about 9pm, our big moment had arrived. We were to perform in front of a packed hall. The children all sang brilliantly, and, most importantly, remembered to smile. After lots of flag waving to "Land of Hope and Glory", a very tired collection of children and staff travelled back to Marcham, arriving back at school at 1am.

We all had a fantastic day. Here are some of the children's thoughts.

**Amber:** It was an exciting experience in the Albert Hall. Just standing there, up in the choir felt amazing. It is a lifetime experience that I will remember for ever.

**Kieran:** It was the best experience of my life and it was worth missing football.

**Ashley:** What I thought of the Albert Hall was it was a giant place and it was jam packed. It was also a very posh and pretty place to be. So we had to stand really still and sing like you've never sung before. And my thoughts of the Albert Hall are it's the best building you will ever go to, it's the best!

**Rachael Butt:** On Wednesday we went to the Albert Hall, it was great we had a rehearsal and watched everyone else's rehearsal. Then we had our tea up the stairs. We climbed lots of stairs. It was the best day. At the end we saw the balloons come down and then we went home on the bus and slept.



**A HEALTHY SCHOOL = A HAPPY SCHOOL**

The National Healthy School Programme is an exciting long term initiative that helps young people and their school to be healthy. We were delighted to receive our Healthy School Award that was presented to Louis Jackson, the chair of school council, in parents assembly by Giti Paulin, advisor for PSHE and Citizenship.

Healthy school status requires schools to meet criteria in four core themes. These relate to the taught curriculum and the emotional, physical and learning environment the school provides. Our school achieved all four core themes;

- Personal, social and health education, including sex and relationship education and drug education, which give pupils the knowledge, skills and attributes to make informed decisions about their lives.
  - Healthy eating: pupils are given the confidence, skills and understanding to make healthy food choices. Healthy and nutritious food and drink is available throughout the school day.
  - Physical activity: pupils are given a range of opportunities to be physically active and understand how physical activity can help them to be more healthy.
  - Emotional health and wellbeing: building the confidence and
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emotional resilience of children and helping them to understand and express their feelings.

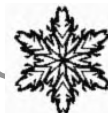
The programme isn't just about physical health, it's about good health and happiness inside and out. A healthy school involves the whole school community - including parents, governors and school staff - and means improving health, happiness and getting the most out of life.

**MARCHAM YOUTH CLUB**

It is with much regret that it has been necessary to close the Youth Club, with immediate effect. The reason is very simple - there are not enough members actively supporting the club to justify it remaining open. I would like to publicly thank most sincerely **Chris Ricketts** the club leader for her long-term and inspiring leadership over many years, together with all other members of staff and committee members for their help.

If at some time in the future there is sufficient interest in re-opening a youth club in the village both Chris and I would be willing to talk with any interested parties - young people and/or adults - Chris Ricketts 01865 391329 or Dave Hutchinson 01865 391964.

**DAVE HUTCHINSON** - Chairman



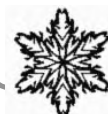
**ABINGDON LITTLE ANGELS**

Hello to everyone in Marcham, my name is Helen and with Heather, Nicola and Aysha we care for children in the portacabin on Anson field. We have been busy decorating and preparing the building and we opened our doors on Monday 5th November. We provide full day care from 8.00am - 5.30pm Monday - Friday and we operate all year round except between Christmas and the New Year. We provide a stimulating, caring environment where the children can develop and grow physically, spiritually and emotionally. I have been working in childcare for over 20 years including 10 years at Dunmore, deputy manager of St Marys in Abingdon, and senior Nursery nurse at Oxford and Cherwell college.

We have a baby room run by Heather and Aysha for children 9 months - 2 years, and Nicola and myself are in the larger room with our 2 - 5 year olds. There are also after-school and holiday clubs. We charge £29 per day, £18.50 half day (8.00 - 1.00 or 1.00 - 5.30). We accept vouchers.

The children have so far enjoyed visits the local park, making Pudsey Bears for children in need day and are now concentrating on the build up to Christmas with a variety of craft and creative activities with Christmas songs, party and Christmas dinner. All of our little angels seem to have settled well into our new home and we look forward to a great 2008.

For more information  
 Call 07516474287 or Email [little-angels@ntlworld.com](mailto:little-angels@ntlworld.com)  
***We would like to thank everyone in Marcham for the wonderful warm welcome we have received and wish every one very Merry Christmas and a happy 2008.***  
[www.abingdonlittleangels.com](http://www.abingdonlittleangels.com)



**MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK**

**Midweek Walk, Thursday, December 13th.**

This month's walk will start at The Fox and Hounds Inn, Christmas Common (Map Ref: SU 714933). In view of the early sunset this is a short walk of just under three miles with extensive views from Watlington Hill over the Vale of Aylesbury. We will meet at 12.30pm for lunch or 1.30 for the walk.

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