

# Marcham & District News

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

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

January 2009 Vol: 31 No: 1

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ God Speed Pamela and Eddie see page 5



▲ Victorian Day at the School see page 11



▲ Pre-School Nativity Play see page 11

▼ Swimming for the Air Ambulance see page 11



## Happy New Year



▲ TAG Chariot Races see page 11

### DIARY FOR JANUARY

Thur 8	Midweek Walk: Home Sweet Home Inn, Roke, 12.30pm lunch /1.30pm walk	9	Tue 20	<b>Deadline</b> for articles/notices/report for February MADnews, 5pm (Paid Adverts 15 Jan)	
Fri 9	MP's Surgery: Wallingford, 5.30-7pm	7	Tue 20	Joanna Trollope @ mostly books, Abingdon 7.30pm	15
Fri 9	Quiz Night, MSSSC, 8-11pm	9	Fri 23	MP's Surgery: Faringdon, 5.30-7pm	7
Tue 13	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 7.45pm	9	Fri 30	Real Ale (and Wine?) Night, MSSSC	9
Wed 14	Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 7.30pm	3	Sat 31	Deadline for nominations for Marcham Parishioner of the Year	3
Thur 15	Marcham WI, Denman College, 7.30pm	9			

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

Dear Readers

**Happy Birthday!**

It has finally arrived, MADNews is 30! I have been into the archives and contributors to the first issue in Jan 1979 include:

- Marcham and Frilford St Peter's WI
- Marcham Players
- Play Group
- Marcham Primary School
- All Saints' and St Luke's Church
- Mothers' Union
- Marcham Baptist Church

There were 4 adverts, a diary section, a report on tree planting and a letter from Divert Around Marcham (DAM)!

Also advertised was a pair of ex-army field telephones £10 – I wonder what happened to them!?

Until next time 

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**ADVERTISING**

Contact the Editor

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**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.

**NOTES** 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.

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January 2009

**PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**Parishioner of the Year Award**

For the past 5 years the Council has awarded a Parishioner of the Year Award to a local person or people who had devoted much time and energy working within the community. There are many people who would be worthy recipients, and the Council is now inviting nominations for the next award. Would anyone who wishes to submit a nomination, please contact the clerk, whose details appear below, sending a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to who he/she wishes to nominate and the reasons why the person(s) should receive the award. The deadline for receipt of nominations is 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2009.

**Anson Trust**

The Parish Council has been inviting expressions of interest from anyone wishing to be considered to replace Malcolm Denton as one of the Parish Council's nominees on the Anson Trust, following Malcolm's retirement. Mr. Hugh Logan of Orchard Way has now contacted the Council. Mr. Logan has been put forward to the Trust as a possible replacement, for their consideration.

**Cemetery Maintenance Works**

The brambles from the old section have now been removed, and the boundary alongside the stream cleared. The next phase of the works will include lightly trimming back some of the planting on the Southern boundary of the new extension in order to paint the fence. The cemetery working party has drafted some guidance notes for the management of the cemetery and these will be sent out in due course to families in the area known to have plots in the cemetery. Several people have expressed concerns about the state and condition of the cemetery and this lead to the committee planning its improvement works. In view of the concerns raised and the requests from parishioners to keep the area tidy it has been suggested that a group of volunteers could be set up to help maintain the graves of families no longer in the area or to assist those unable to manage to visit the cemetery unaided. If you feel you would like to support this idea and be part of a volunteer group then please contact the Clerk.

**Thames Water – Reservoir – Request for Scoping Opinion**

The reservoir proposal constitutes an "environmental impact assessment" development under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 1999. Thames

Water has requested a scoping opinion under those regulations to assess the scope and methodology of the future environmental statement. The Council is concerned that the consideration is being given to just the reservoir and has asked that a much wider area be taken into account as far as the environmental impact is concerned. The reservoir proposal will obviously attract visitors and there will be an impact on the road network as well as businesses and new economic opportunities. The Council considers that this should be considered as a whole and not on a piecemeal basis. It could well lead to a Thames Valley Economic Development Region given the existence of current scientific and technological projects in the area.

**Additional rubbish**

At this time of year we all seem to accumulate extra packaging and items for the dustbin and recycling bin. Please take note of the re arranged collection days over the holiday period and do not put your refuse and recycling boxes out too early. This applies too for the usual Monday collection, when bags should be at the kerbside by 7.00 a.m. on the day of collection, or at the earliest the evening before.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 14 Jan 2009 at 7.30pm. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.

**Clerk to the Council:** Mrs. L. Martin,  
90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833

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

**The Chairman, Council members and Clerk wish everyone a Happy New Year.**

**HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS**

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

**New Year Holiday**

Normal Day	Will be...
Tue 30 Dec	Fri 2 Jan
Wed 31 Dec	Sat 3 Jan
Thur 1 Jan	Mon 5 Jan
Fri 2 Jan	Tue 6 Jan
Mon 5 Jan	Wed 7 Jan
Tue 6 Jan	Thur 8 Jan
Wed 7 Jan	Fri 9 Jan
Thur 8 Jan	Sat 10 Jan
Fri 9 Jan	Mon 12 Jan
Mon 12 Jan	Tue 13 Jan
Tue 13 Jan	Wed 14 Jan
Wed 14 Jan	Thur 15 Jan
Thur 15 Jan	Fri 16 Jan
Fri 16 Jan	Sat 17 Jan

## VILLAGE FAREWELL FOR PAMELA AND EDDIE SHIRRAS



To celebrate Eddie and Pamela's time with us over the past 6 years and to remember their contributions to our village life, we will be holding an event with games, refreshments and a barn dance in the school hall on Friday 30th January from 5.30 - 9.00pm.

Do come and join in, all ages welcome. For more details contact Rachel on 391432.

If you would like to contribute towards a leaving present please send your donation to Eric Dunford (391439) cheques made payable to Marcham PCC.

**RACHEL GAISFORD** (churchwarden)

Pamela and Eddie will be sadly missed, they are a great asset to the community. Nothing was too much trouble, always there to visit people who were sick or in hospital. If available, would pick up to take anyone to Cafe. Eddie found out from the bus company how the service was changing. They are an extremely nice couple. They joined in with village life. We wish them well and good luck in the future.

**DOLLY COX & JOY CROOK**

Eddie and Pamela Shirras leave us on February 1, 2009, and we want to take the opportunity to thank them publicly for all that they have done here in the parish. Eddie came out of retirement to join us as Priest in Charge of Marcham with Garford in 2002. Since then Pamela has been ordained, and has become our curate. Both Eddie and Pamela have given unstintingly of their time and energy to lead, organise and resource All Saints' and St. Luke's, to teach and encourage church members, to welcome families bringing children to baptism, to celebrate with bride and groom those being married in church, and to support the families and friends of the bereaved at the funerals of loved ones. In the wider community they have become widely known and appreciated, through visiting, through offering spiritual support to individuals, through their work with the school, and through Eddie's extraordinary passion for buses! Theirs will be a hard act to follow. We wish them every happiness in their (second!) retirement, and offer our warmest thanks for all they have done among us.

**JAMES ALLAN** (churchwarden)  
January 2009

### FROM THE SCHOOL...

Eddie is very kind and caring. Each week he comes to Marcham School to teach us about the Lord. We have learnt so much while he has been at the school, and there will be no one else like him. All the school and people who go to Church say he's lovely. We don't want him to leave because he cares for everyone. We hope Eddie has a good future.

**GEORGE SHARROCK &  
ALICIA DAVIS** (Year 5)

I love your assemblies because it is nice and I like your writing.

**HARVEY EVESON-ROBERTS** (Year 1)

I like the singing and I like the songs very much.

**FREYA MIZEN** (Year 1)

He has a deep voice.

**AMBER CHISHOLM** (Year 1)

It was with a great deal of warmth that Pamela and Eddie welcomed me to Marcham School in September 2007. I felt very much at home and was immediately struck by their commitment to the school as being an integral part of the community. Their support for and of the school is immense – both in spiritual and in practical ways. I am always aware of their prayerful encouragement, which means a lot to me personally and which, I am certain, contributes to the distinctiveness of our school, our ethos and our values. The very good links between the church and the school are clearly evident and have been praised by both OFSTED and SIAS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools) and this is in no small part due to their dedication and devotion. But their concern is not just with the spiritual welfare of the school; they give of their time also and are anxious to serve the school community in any way they can. Pamela has been a valuable member of our Governing body for a number of years and I know that Eddie had been Chair of Governors during the time that Lesley Clarke was Headteacher. They both pop in to school regularly to see how I and the rest of the staff are and have been generous with their time and their home, willing to listen and happy to host staff/governor events. An enormous debt of thanks is owed to them both for helping to make Marcham CE Primary school the happy and caring place it is.

All the very, very best is wished for them in their retirement – whatever form it takes – and if the urge to speak with small children overwhelms them at any time, they would be welcomed back with open arms.

**VIV HUTCHINSON**, Headteacher

## LAND OPTION SIGNED FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING

The first step on the path to transforming leisure facilities in Marcham took place in December with the signing of an option agreement between the Arthur Anson Memorial Trust Limited and W. Cumber & Son (Theale) Limited.

Now the agreement is signed, the Anson Trust can update its plans to construct a new community building and sports facilities and to establish an adequate financial endowment for the future. The money for these new facilities will come from the sale of part of the existing Anson Field for development and the sale of the Institute in Marcham.

In the time since the original plans were shown to the village, we have had significant feedback from existing and potential users of the proposed facilities as well as many others who are interested in what we are proposing. We would like to thank everyone who has given us feedback to date and we would encourage participation in our consultations to come. We are making sure that our revised plans reflect that feedback. Further, we will make sure that the investment aspects of the plan reflect current financial conditions. Naturally our plans will be dependent upon the achievement of the necessary planning permissions.

The next stage in the process will be a detailed consultation with existing and potential new groups of users within Marcham as well as with the village as a whole. In parallel, discussions will carry on with statutory authorities. The consultation period will start early in 2009.

Neil Rowe, a long serving Trustee said "Today is a very exciting day in the life of Marcham. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to establish good quality leisure facilities in the village and to fulfil the aims of the Trust established by the Anson sisters. There is a great deal of hard work ahead but we are under way".

For further information contact:

Mr Neil Rowe, director of the Trust, on 07980 262134

**The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal** raised £3,163.69 in the Marcham, Frilford and Garford area. Unfortunately a tin was stolen from Millets one weekend. Last year we raised £3,200.21.

Very many thanks to everyone; the house-to-house collectors who give so much of their time, the shops, garages, pubs, schools, Millets and Frosts (who have the tins), the Church (who gave the Remembrance Sunday collection) and everybody who donated so willingly.

**SUSAN SPURGEON**

**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

We had a very useful meeting with the new chairman of the Environment Agency, Lord (Chris) Smith, at the beginning of December. A variety of topics were covered, in particular the reservoir and the 2007 floods.

On the reservoir, Lord Smith made it clear that the Environment Agency feels that the case is very far from proved, which was very interesting. Thames Water also turned up, and said that they would be happy for a public enquiry, which strengthens the case for a full hearing of the arguments. On floods, the news was much less encouraging. It turns out that the Environment agency no longer has the resources it had twenty years ago to actually walk all the tributaries of the Thames and keep them clear. This is a huge worry, and a huge admission, and something that I will take back to Parliament. We had a very good presentation from the Hanney Flood Group, who spent months trying to get to grips with the Environment Agency bureaucracy, and I very much hope Chris Smith takes on board their points and provides a simpler structure for people to liaise with.

Parliament opened for a new session at the beginning of December as well. Parliament always opens with a heckle by Dennis Skinner, the famous Beast of Bolsover. He shouts it out just as Black Rod (the managing director, if you like, of the House of Lords) arrives in the Chamber of the House of Commons to command the Speaker to come and hear the Queen give her speech. Black Rod is dressed in all his eighteenth century finery, and Dennis's finest heckle was "I bet he drinks Carling Black Label!" This year it was "Is there a Tory mole in Buckingham Palace as well?" This referred to the arrest of my MP colleague Damian Green, whose office was searched by the Police. No MP is above the law, but many MPs from all parties feel this was an assault on the freedom of Parliament, which is actually an attack on all our freedoms. If MPs can be arrested for receiving documents that are in the public interest, even if they are not authorised to do so, then we are all in trouble.

It will be a very light session of Parliament, the lightest since the war, and I am not clear why. I assume it is because the Government wants the freedom to call an early election, but there were many non-controversial bills, including one on heritage, that have been dropped for no apparent reason.

**Happy New Year!**

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

**MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY**

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

9 Jan	<b>Wallingford</b> , Town Hall
23 Jan	<b>Faringdon</b> , Corn Exchange
<b>Contact Ed Vaizey by</b>	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350

**MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB**

Graham Hill kindly represented the Club at the AGM of the Oxfordshire Cricket Association. Fixtures for the 2009 season were made available at the AGM; the opening match at Marcham is a 1st XI game against Westbury on 2 May.

Information relating to Marcham CC (including playing for, or umpiring on behalf of the Club) may be obtained from Graham Hill (391415) or Terry Whittaker (391317).

**CSB**



**MIKE SOPER**

Some people will remember Mike Soper who lived from the 1950s to the 1980s in the cottage behind Marcham Baptist Church in Packhorse Lane, after which he moved to the Wallingford area. Sadly, he died recently, aged in his nineties. A special thanksgiving service was held for him in Wallingford at the beginning of December.



Mr Sager was a leading academic in agriculture at the University of Oxford who sometimes appeared on BBC TV's weekend farming programmes the precursor of Countryfile. He was at once cultured and classless, warm and witty, with a fund of funny stories. He used to park his latest Morris Minor (and there were many over the years!) in our timber yard whenever he wasn't gadding about the country giving lectures or whizzing down to Cornwall for sailing weekends. Long after leaving Marcham, he would dash over to us every Christmas Eve afternoon with a box of chocs and a selection of anecdotes, delivered with kindness and a smile. Christmas Eve won't be quite the same without Mr Soper's smile.

**JANE MANDER** née Pointer

**NOVEMBER CROSSWORD BY ALISA**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Plimsoll (3.4)
- 5 Short (5)
- 8 Denman residents (2)
- 9 In the wrong direction (6)
- 12 Ragged imp (6)
- 13 Telephone box (5)
- 14 Fragile intentions (11)
- 15 Indian washerman (5)
- 17 Abrupt (6)
- 19 Hope (6)
- 20 Hospital (2)
- 23 Warning (5)
- 24 Young bird (7)

**DOWN**

- 1 Garment for a don (4)
- 2 Redcaps (2)
- 3 Inventive cartoonist (5.8)
- 4 Putting out (13)
- 5 Oxford district (9.4)
- 6 Poem by Kipling (2)
- 7 Lively (6)
- 10 Liberty (7)
- 11 Plastic token (7)
- 15 Ideas of perfection (6)
- 18 Reptile (4)
- 21 British Rail (2)
- 23 US soldier (2)

**MARCHAM PLAYERS**

Two dates for your diary in the New Year! Friday 13 February 2009 – 7.30pm start – the committee are presenting another in the popular series of reading evenings entitled "With Great Pleasure". The theme this time is around "humour" so do



come along and enjoy an evening with a difference! Also in February – this time it's Friday 19 Feb at 7.30pm in the Church – we will be holding our Annual General Meeting. Its also the time to renew subscriptions and enjoy a chat with fellow members, the business part of the evening usually starts around 8.00pm. If you are not yet a member of Marcham Players do consider joining – family subscription is only £10 and gives you access to our wide ranging programme of productions, play readings and theatre trips throughout the year.

On Friday 12 December 2008 we held our Animal Christmas supper in the Board Room at Manor Farm. The event was well attended – some 24 members – and a change from our usual routine in that this year Joey and her team produced a splendid meal which was much appreciated by all present. Our thanks to Will and Janey Cumber for the use of the Board Room.

Any enquiries about us will be willingly answered either by our Secretary, Joey, on 01865 391242 or myself, Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964.



## Marcham WI January 2009

Best wishes to all our members for a happy year in 2009. In our diamond jubilee year we have attracted many new members to Marcham WI and now in January, when annual subscriptions are due, is an excellent time to join. Visitors are welcome at all our meetings and it is not all "Jam and Jerusalem". Why not come along and see!

We were pleased to be invited to take part at Marcham School's Christmas Fayre and thank you to all who helped and contributed to our festive stall which raised money for the school and the WI.

The end of the year was celebrated with our Christmas party at Denman College and we enjoyed the entertainment by Vale Islanders as well as our tasty buffet supper, games and bumper raffle. On the 19<sup>th</sup>. December, 22 of us went to Denman College for sumptuous four course festive feast (Christmas Lunch) and a tour of the college's new buildings.

The Oxfordshire Federation of WIs is celebrating 90 years in 2009 and there will be additional activities. We are set for a very busy time ahead.

### Future Events

- Jan 23 Dairy Day, Kirtlington
- Feb 6 90th Anniversary celebrations at Christchurch Cathedral
- Feb 10 Aqua Exercise at White Horse Leisure Centre
- Feb 19 An afternoon in Japan
- Feb 2 / 16 Heritage lectures, Exeter Hall

### NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 15 January

*Secrets of the Honeymoon Suitcase*

**Valerie Threlfall**

*Also a Dutch Auction*

Denman College: Teaching Block

Visitors welcome - £3 voluntary contribution

Contacts for: Sonia Edwards 01865 391442  
more information Christine Whild 01865 391270

### MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

**Thursday, January 8th:** For this month's walk we will visit the remote village of Berrick Salome about two miles north of Benson. We will eat at the Home Sweet Home Inn (Map Ref SP628934) in Roke at 12.30pm for lunch, but start our walk from The Chequers Inn in Berrick (Map Ref; SP622944) at 1.30 for the walk of about 4 miles to the tiny village of Newington on the River Thames.

*Start the new year in good company*

*New walkers are very welcome. Members free, non-members £1.*

*Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and details.*

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

Below are our planned events for early 2009, please don't forget we are also open every Saturday after the home football match.

### REGULAR BAR OPENING TIMES

Every Friday - 8pm to 11pm

Every Saturday - after Football or Cricket

### JANUARY SOCIAL EVENTS

*Quiz Night* Fri 9th 8.30pm

*Real Ale (and wine?) night* Fri 30th (Last Fri every month)

### FEBRUARY SOCIAL EVENTS

*Quiz Night* Fri 13th 8.30pm

*Real Ale night* Fri 27th (Last Fri every month)

*We look forward to seeing you at the club*

For more info contact Geoff Dix, secretary  
on 391577 or geoff.dix@hotmail.com

### SUNSHINE CLUB

We had our Christmas dinner at the Crown and Thistle in Abingdon – we had a lovely Christmas meal with all the trimmings, etc and everyone enjoyed it. Our thanks to Maureen and Wendy for organizing it for us and for the nice raffle prizes. Maureen went into hospital and has had her 2nd knee op, we wish here a speedy recovery. We only had one member with a birthday this month who reached 80! Cakes were given round with tea. During this break, we had readings from a book on senior moments which brought plenty of laughter. It was a good afternoon which was also our last for this year, until we re-start on January 5th 2009.

Just like to say thank you for all the things you have brought in for sales, tombola etc – it has been appreciated. We look forward to a good year in 09 with lots of members coming to meeting which helps the club work. Anyone wishing to join – just come along 2pm Mondays – you'll be welcome. Just before closing would like to wish club members and everyone a healthy and happy new year 09 and our thanks to the team who do such a good job of getting the newsletters out.

**JOY CROOK**

### IS YOUR PC GIVING YOU A HEADACHE?

Are you interested in belonging (FREE!) to a group who have computers and can help each other with the inevitable problems? There are five people currently helping each other – why not join in? Email david@frasersoft.net.



The  
Marcham  
Society

The Mediaeval Household  
*Elizabeth Gemmill*  
*Oxford historian from Kellogg College*

**All Saints' Church**

Tuesday 13th January 2009, 7.45pm

January 2009

Non-members £2

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

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

**MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 1882

We are very excited to be able to announce that there are plans for a new classroom to be built at Marcham CE Primary School for the start of the new academic year 2009-10. Many of you will remember the difficult situation we found ourselves in last year, when there were more children desiring places than were available. We were extremely fortunate to have an extension built on to the existing Duffield class, which meant that we could accommodate all the children that wanted to come. We have, again, had many parents declare an interest in sending their children to our school and influenced by these numbers, the Local Authority have agreed to fund the building of an additional classroom. Final plans are being drawn up and we anticipate that we will have the full details in the very near future.

We would like to say a very big 'Thank you' to all those parents who responded to our request for a statement of interest in sending their children to Marcham School. Having this information really helped us to argue our case before the Local Authority and, consequently, move forward in addressing the needs of the village and the education of our children.

If you have not yet expressed an interest in your child or children attending our school and you would like to do so, please contact the school as soon as possible on 391448. This will help us to plan strategically for the future.

We are delighted to be having this expansion to our school and will keep you posted as the project develops.

**VIV HUTCHINSON.**

**"It's A Party" Anson's & Morland's Christmas play. 11 Dec**

The school play was a really good start to Christmas when Jesus was born on Christmas day, the 25<sup>th</sup> December. It was so funny when the sheep said "Even counting shepherds doesn't help". The school play was exciting. We did a nice job to know all the words off by heart and know all the songs off by heart as well. The costumes were so good and fantastic. The acting was brilliant and fabulous. We were so confident doing that play for our parents. I don't know how we knew what to do because it felt strange with all the parents looking at the children when we were doing it all. We had a really good time.

*By Molly Cotterell (Year 3)*

The play produced by Anson and Morland class on 11/12/08 was very funny, especially when Jessica Hawkins said, "I'm afraid this calls for a special talent. Call Foghorn Fred. And then Nicole Perris said, "That's a good idea. She could even wake up Mrs Hutchinson!" One more example of a funny scene was when Ashleigh Preston appeared on stage with a megaphone. The songs were funny too. Everybody remembered their words really well. The acting was great too. Everyone remembered the words to the songs really well. All the songs were not Christmas carols but the songs were ones that had been made up by the company that made "It's a Party - the nativity play." My favourite song was "It's a Party".

*By Ashley Withers and Johnathon Hurford (Year 3)*

**VICTORIAN DAY AT SCHOOL****Report on Victorian Day**

Yesterday, we had a Victorian Day and in the morning all the classes did different things and Mrs Hutchinson was walking around the school all day. Before break time all of the classes did a drill at different times and it was really cold. We did reaching and touching toes, arm thrusts and star jumps. In assembly Mrs Hutchinson made us recite lines from the Bible. We enjoyed it but we wouldn't like school to be like that every day.

*By Luke Swain and Grace Hardy*

Dear Diary,

Yesterday, I went to school and I was worried what was going to happen next. First Mrs Rook took the register, I had sandwiches, then Mrs Hutchinson came down to our classroom, and we had a hand and nail inspection, I bite my nails but I didn't get told off. After, the class said the Lord's Prayer. No one knew really knew it so we had to learn it off by heart. Then we did some handwriting, we started in pencil and wrote two sentences these were "keep not what is not yours", and "live peaceably with all men". Once we had finished, we used a pen with a nib and dipped it in some ink, we copied out the Lord's Prayer. After break we did some maths. We learnt about pounds, shillings and pence. There are twelve pennies in one shilling, and two hundred and forty pennies in one pound, also there are twenty shillings in one pound. Then we had a hair inspection, Mrs Hutchinson ran a pencil through our hair, mine wasn't checked because she didn't check everyone. I'm a bit worried about tomorrow though, because I might get a question wrong and get the cane.

*By Briony Thomas*

Dear Diary,

Yesterday I went to school and I really enjoyed it although it was very scary. First we did handwriting. It felt difficult and I felt scared because I thought I wasn't going to get it done, but I did. Secondly we did drill. It was very scary because the teacher would not let us smile, or stand off the line. The Headteacher taught the drill and we did star jumps, hopping and all that kind of exercise. Next we had arithmetic which was very complicated, but I did learn something, 12 pence = 1 shilling and 240 pence = £1, 0s, 0d. It was a fun morning but a challenging one. In the afternoon we copied bible verses. It was very hard because they were so interesting and I didn't get to finish mine. Then we did the Lords Prayer. I didn't know it at first but now I do.

*By Thomas Mawdesley*

**MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS**

December has been a very busy month with all our Christmas preparations, however, they were all worth while as the parents and grandparents watched the children in our Pre-school Nativity Play and a festive musical showcase!

At the beginning of December Adam Sanford and John Plant arranged a sponsored swim to raise money for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance after John's brother Matthew was knocked over by a car and was air lifted to hospital. Both boys aged 8 did extremely well, Adam swam 21 lengths and John a staggering 30 lengths in just over an hour, raising in excess of £450. Matthew is recovering well, Adam and John have got their breath back ready for the next challenge... We would like to thank everyone who supported the boys.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!!

**MARION, NICKY & KATHARINE**

**TAG (TALK ABOUT GOD)**

The TAG Group meets after school every Tuesday during term time. This term started with outdoor fun, and a team Chariot-making Challenge (see photo). The winning team got to choose our next outing and decided on a visit to G & D's Ice Cream Parlour in Oxford, which was delicious. We have also baked and iced Christmas cakes which we then sold at Church to raise money for the Agape Charity in Moldova. If you are in Year 7 or 8 at school and want to find out more, call Jill Rowe on 07811 165351.



## Two poems to ponder for the new year

### Climate Change

Climate change is no fun at all,  
It's all blamed on mans pollution.  
He points, discusses and argues,  
And yet he still has no solution.

He collects his waste in boxes,  
Black, Green and Brown.  
But secretly behind his back,  
Much is still buried underground!

His conscience is quite clear,  
He has done his little bit.  
His Green box is filled right up,  
And that's not going to the tip!

Man dumps his rubbish anywhere,  
Just take a look around.  
There is hardly any place left,  
Where his rubbish can not be found.

We are all polluting the world in which we live,  
And we must have more than we need.  
It will be painful in the long run,  
Because this world is run on speed and greed.

**Maurice Shepherd**

### The Heritage

I see young children playing in the open air,  
Healthy and carefree,  
And as I watch, I wonder,  
What will their future be?  
Will they one day watch their children,  
Growing healthy and strong,  
Play in clean, fresh air?  
This is their right, and we,  
Guardians of this earth,  
Must protect their heritage.

There is pollution now in the air they breathe  
From cars and factories,  
Fouled are the rivers and seas,  
Meadows and woods where flowers bloomed and  
birds sang  
Are lost forever.

And the dwindling rain forests  
That help to maintain the climate of our world,  
Teeming with life,  
Great tree roots protecting and holding fast  
The fertile earth,  
These we destroy at our peril  
No, at our children's peril -  
For men today have found wealth in their  
destruction,  
But when the trees are dead at last,  
Only desert will our children inherit,  
And the wild creatures of the forest  
That belong to this world as much as we,  
Seen now by us, will one day be seen no more.

**Doris Dowling**

If you'd like to see your writing in MADNews, contact the Editor on 01865 391725

### Will you have time to spare in 2009?

*"Without Home-Start's help, I wouldn't have got through what was a very tough time. Thank you so much to each and everyone of you for everything."*

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire is a voluntary home-visiting scheme, which offers friendship, support and a practical approach to families with children under the age of five.

If you think you would like to be a Home-Start volunteer offering your help to young families in your area, we would be delighted to hear from you. We are starting a Volunteers' Preparation Course starting in the near future and if you would like any further information about the course or Home-Start, please contact Hilary Mundy on 01235 511152 or at [Homestartso@btconnect.com](mailto:Homestartso@btconnect.com)



### HAVE YOU TIME TO SPARE TO MEET SOMEONE NEW AND HELP THEM?

Our scheme to train and place volunteers is gathering speed, and we already have a terrific team in the field. But here at the South & Vale Carers Centre in Didcot we would like to recruit more: would you be interested in helping out someone caring for a relative in their own home? You would be introduced to a household where the carer and the cared-for person are living, and asked to stay in the home while the carer took some time off: perhaps an hour a month, perhaps an afternoon a week.

This would all start off with an interview for you, and references sought, and then a short training course to equip you for any situation and send you free from anxiety into your future as a volunteer! We will take care in matching volunteers and cared-for people, and you would have constant support by phone when you need it as well as ongoing face-to-face meetings with colleagues and with Chris Elliott, the co-ordinator of the scheme. Chris is waiting to hear from anyone interested, and has much more information to give. Please email her at the Carers Centre on [chris@svcarers.org.uk](mailto:chris@svcarers.org.uk), or phone her there on 01235 510212. She will be delighted you've called!

**APPEAL FOR BAT IMAGES**

Calling all photographers! Bat Conservation Trust are seeking new images for their increasingly popular Photo Library. Images of the bats themselves are our main request, but roost & habitat photos are also very useful. All proceeds from our Photo Library go directly to help fund BCT's vital conservation work. If you can help, please contact Steven Lonergan at BCT (photos@bats.org.uk) (Bat E-Bulletin Issue 15)

**OPAL SOIL AND EARTHWORM SURVEY - MARCH 2009**

The OPAL (Open Air Laboratory) project to encourage nature lovers of the future to explore the wildlife that surrounds them was launched at the Natural History Museum on Tuesday 25 November 2008. Visit [http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/nwh\\_gfx\\_en/ART62596.html](http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/nwh_gfx_en/ART62596.html)

Surprisingly little is known about earthworms and the soils they live in, so the OPAL Soil Centre is organising a survey across England to investigate. It starts in March 2009. <http://www.opalexplornature.org/?q=soilsurvey>

The survey is open to all ages, abilities and backgrounds. You don't need to go far either - back gardens, school playing fields and local parks are just a few suggestions of places to explore.

**Record your findings online** You'll be able to enter your results on the OPAL website. It's quick and easy and you'll instantly see your contribution on an interactive map. You can explore other people's results too.

**Reserve your free survey pack** Our survey packs will contain everything you need to take part, including easy-to-follow instructions, an earthworm guide and a few other essentials. The packs are completely free and will be available in early 2009, but you can reserve yours now. The majority of our packs will be provided to schools, societies and other community groups. However, we will have some for individuals on a first come first served basis. To reserve one or more soil and earthworm survey packs, email [opalsoil@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:opalsoil@imperial.ac.uk)

Schools, societies and other groups can reserve all 5 OPAL survey packs (soil, air, water, biodiversity and climate) by emailing [opal@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:opal@imperial.ac.uk) Full survey instructions and guides are also available online.

If you would like to know more about the soils and earthworms survey please contact us by email. [opalsoil@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:opalsoil@imperial.ac.uk)

**WRITING COMPETITION**

**A new challenge for local writers.**

The 5th Writing Competition run in conjunction with the Deddington Festival is open to all and offers a cash prize for the winner and runner-up in both the story and poetry sections. Additionally all whose work is shortlisted will receive a critique from the judge to help them towards more writing. The theme for the competition is 'Journey'.



A parallel competition is offered for those at school and is divided into two sections – Secondary for those aged 16 and under, and Junior for those aged 11 and under. Entries may be for poetry or story on the theme of 'The Secret'.. These will also attract a first prize and modest prizes for runners-up together with a certificate and judges comments for all whose work is on the short list.

The closing date for all entries is **30th April 2009**. Full details, available in late January, can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to DWG Competition, 26 The Daedings, Deddington, Banbury OX15 0RT or by going to [www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk](http://www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk)



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**REFLECTIONS OF ABINGDON**  
An exhibition of oil paintings by Bill Pike  
&  
**IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HENRY TAUNT**  
A journey recorded by Graham Diprose & Jeff Robins  
Abingdon County Hall Museum  
12 November 2008 – 1 March 2009  
Contact: Christopher Gale, Museum Assistant  
(Exhibitions). Tel: 01235 523703.  
Email: [abingdon.museum@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:abingdon.museum@abingdon.gov.uk)

**mostly books presents**

**Joanna Trollope**  
January 20, 2009 @ 7.30pm  
at St Helen & St Katharine, Abingdon

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