

Marcham & District News

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

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

June 2009 Vol: 31 No: 6

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Marcham WI celebrate ninety years of OFWI

see page 9 ▶



▲ The Dig

see page 13 ▶



▲ Marcham Parishioners of the Year 2009
see page 7



▲ Duffield Class, Marcham School watching the building works see page 11

DIARY FOR JUNE

4 Thur	Midweek Walk: The Plough Inn, Finstock, 12.30pm lunch /1.30pm walk	9	16 Wed	Hedgerow Management, Northmoor Trust Estate, 6.30-9pm	15
5 Fri	Senior Citizens Outing, Duffield Place, 11.15am	9	20 Sat	Deadline for articles/notices/reports for July/August MADNews, 5pm (Paid Adverts 15 Jun)	
5 Fri	Grand Charity Quiz Night, MSSSC, 8pm	11	20 Sat	Abingdon European Society, Abingdon Guildhall, 7.15pm	15
7 Sun	Open Farm Sunday, Challow Hill Farm, 10am – 4pm	15	21 Sun	Wantage Silver Band, All Saints' Church, 7.30pm	13
10 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 7.30pm	3	21 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College, 7.30pm	9
12 Fri	MP's Surgery: Didcot, 5.30-7pm	5	24 - 27	Abingdon Drama Club, BETRAYAL, Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon 7.30pm	15
13 Sat	Table Top and Car Boot Sale, Hanney, 10am – 4pm	15	26 Fri	MP's Surgery: Wantage, 5.30-7pm	5
13 Sat	Outstanding Orchids, Mowbray Fields, Didcot, 2-4pm	15	27-28	Children's Food Festival, Northmoor Trust Estate, 10am-6pm	15

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

Dear Readers

Arrangements for items to be included in MADNews will have to stay the same for the July/August combined issue ie please put them through my door. If you can't deliver anything yourself, give me a call and I can collect.

However, I am very hopeful that by the time the September issue deadline comes around (on 15 August) we will have some sort of Post Office service again.

Until next time



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We apologise in advance for any errors that may creep into this MADNews - we don't do it on purpose!

ADVERTISING

Contact the Editor

DISTRIBUTORS

Judith & Peter Fontaine
14 Tower Close, Marcham
Abingdon Tel: 01865 391275

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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For other councillors go to
www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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June 2009*

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the annual meeting of the Council held on 13th May, Mr. Malcolm Denton was elected Chairman for the forthcoming year and Mr. David Walton as Vice-Chairman. Mr. William Cumber will represent the parish on the Hills Aggregates Liaison Committee. This Committee acts as a forum for discussion on the operation of the gravel and sand extraction sites at the northern end of the parish.

Post Office

The Clerk spoke with the Post Office Authorities on Tuesday 19th May. They have confirmed that they are working hard to find a temporary replacement to keep the Post Office open and that they are optimistic and very hopefully of being able to provide a stand-in service whilst the shop is advertised.

Bottle Banks – Howard Cornish Road

The hardstanding, as reported last month, has now been installed. This should make it much easier to sweep the broken glass and keep the area tidy. In addition a litter bin has been installed. This is because so many bags, boxes and carriers were being left on the floor alongside the bins. Please note there is not a plastics recycling bin nor a cardboard recycling bin at the site and these items should not be left.

Thames Valley Police Open Day

Saturday 8th August 10 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. at Thames Valley Police Training Centre Sulhamstead near Reading. Police helicopter and team, mounted and dog sections, displays from emergency services, museum. A poster is on the Council's noticeboard and more information is available at www.thamesvalley.police.uk/newsevents

Best Kept Front Garden Competition

A reminder that the Parish Council is organising a Best Kept Garden competition again this year. Judging for this year's competition will take place during the last two weeks of June. This will be front gardens only. Final round judging will take place during the first 2 weeks of July.

Oxfordshire Villages of the Year

The Council has decided not to enter the competition this year. A tremendous amount of effort is required to mount a table top display of village life, and it was thought that there was little new to add to the display that was prepared last year. The Council will give thought to entering the competition on another occasion.

June Meeting of the Council

At the June meeting of the Parish Council, representatives from the Housing Department at the Vale of White Horse District Council will be giving a

presentation about the allocation process for affordable housing, the choice based lettings system and the District Council's links with the Housing Associations which own the properties. The Council meetings are open to the public and anyone who is interested in hearing the talk is welcome to attend. Anyone interested in putting themselves down on the District Council's housing waiting list might find it useful.

A420 Contingency Planning Meeting

The County Council is planning diversion routes should the A420 be obstructed for some reason. The suggestion is to route vehicles from the A420 along the A415 and through the village to join the A34. The Parish Council is sending a representative to a meeting next month where matters are to be discussed. The Parish Council has, so far, objected to proposals to include the village in any diversion routes.

Proposal for Energy from Waste Incinerator – Sutton Courtenay

The Parish Council has been invited by the Environment Agency to comment on the application for a permit to operate the incinerator, which will be required should planning permission be granted. The Council is concerned that all refuse will be burned without being sorted. This could lead to unacceptable release of toxins into the atmosphere and consequently impact on the area and on public health. The frequency of the monitoring too was of concern. Limited monitoring was not sufficient given the risks from the emissions. Carbon capture did not feature as part of the application, yet other industrial users were actively considering carbon capture as part of their operation.

Pony Paddocks

The Parish Council is inviting tenders for letting for one year, the two pony paddocks at the corner of Cow Lane and Sheepstead Road, and also The Ham paddock off Mill Road. If anyone is interested in either or both plots, would they please contact the Clerk stating the amount of the tender. N.B. The Council is not obliged to accept any or the highest tender.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 10 June 2009 at 7.30pm. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place with talk by the Vale of White Horse District Council on its housing waiting list and housing allocation procedure.

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

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk **3**

GARFORD PARISH MEETING

The 117th Garford Parish Meeting was held in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 19th May and was very well attended. Councillor Alison Rook, Chairman of the Vale of the White Horse District Council and Councillor Iain Brown of Oxfordshire County Council were welcome guests. Both took the opportunity to address the Meeting on their specific areas of responsibility and responded to questions from the floor on issues of local concern.

A Children's Painting Competition had been held during the year and Councillor Alison Rook gracefully presented the first prize to Kalina Vishnina and runners up prizes to William and Lucy Brotherton and Tervel Atanasov. These paintings will all feature in the final version of the Garford Parish Plan which is now nearing completion. This has been a major consultation exercise in the village over the last 24 months and a further draft of the Parish Plan was handed out at the meeting. The Garford Parish Plan is scheduled to be completed in the coming weeks when each household will receive a copy.

Financial Reports were presented and approved by the Meeting. Comprehensive reports were also given by the Trustees of the Village Hall, the Village Green and Playing Field and by representatives of the Planning and Social Events / Fund Raising Committees. The Chairman thanked all who had contributed to raising village social activities to their current high level. The election of Office Bearers for the coming year saw the re-election of Tony Carter as Chairman, John Docherty as Clerk and Sophie Charter as Treasurer.

JD

HELP WANTED

I am an independent lady in a wheelchair living in Marcham, looking for a **LIVELY PERSON** to help me.

I need assistance for an average of 3 hours (per day) on Monday and Tuesday mornings. No lifting, good pay and conditions, hours negotiable.

A driving licence would be useful.

Please ring Stella on 391614 for details.



June 2009

BEEES

If you have a bee swarm this summer call us and we will come and collect it. 078 111 65952.

Dear Editor

ANSON TRUST UPDATE

Following on from last month's notice, the Trust is providing a brief update. Developments and points to note are as follows;

- The preliminary discussions with interested commercial parties are making good progress but binding arrangements have not yet been entered into.
- A meeting has been held with the working party chaired by Vale Councillor Jane Hanna whereby the Trust provided an update on its plans and answered questions posed. The meeting was very constructive.
- An outline planning application for change of use on the field situated between Cow Lane and Hyde Copse and the housing at Longfields has been submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council. The change of use is to leisure and recreational use. Please note the Trust does not own this field or any part of it, but has an option to purchase, which it can exercise subject to certain conditions. The Trust expects that this application will appear on the Vale's website towards the end of May.

THE DIRECTORS, The Anson Trust

Dear Editor

Anson Trusts Proposals

It was rather surprising to see in last month's edition of MADNews that the Trustees have made contact with interested commercial parties regarding their proposals, *before* consulting with local residents. Let me remind them of the Oxford Dictionary meaning of the word **Consult** "1. seek information or advice from. 2. refer to a person for advice, an opinion etc. 3. seek permission or approval from (a person) for a proposed action. 4. take into account; consider (feelings, interests etc)".

As I have said numerous times in the past, consultation (not unilateral dictatorship) should have been taking place with the Village long before the proposals have reached this stage, and before tens of thousands of the trusts dwindling assets have been spent. I would remind the trustees yet again, they have not been elected by the residents, and should take note of the very strong feelings of the Villagers, the vast majority of whom are totally against their proposals.

I also share the concerns of Anthony Bradley (MADNews May 2009) about the public accountability that is borne by those who control existing assets that are vital to the local community.

I further note from the Trusts's recent editorial that they are proposing "that consultations will be initiated with user

groups and other interested parties in the near future". Could they inform us who these user groups might be, or might they even enquire of the supposed beneficiaries of the Trust - *The Residents of Marcham*.

COLIN P. TRINDER

FLAT FOR RENT: MARCHAM

Self-contained, fully-equipped, one-bedroom flat with separate access in village-centre house in Marcham; owner in residence. Single occupancy only: two people sharing will not be considered. Sitting room/diner, bedroom with en-suite shower room; small kitchen; shared use of washing machine. Central heating. Off-road parking space for one vehicle.

£525 per calendar month, all in.

Non-smokers only. No pets please.

Contact 01865 391372

- o O o -

FOR SALE

Man's bicycle - almost new condition, plus extras, £45. 01865 391275

Lady's bicycle - well used, but servicable, plus extras, £15. 01865 391275

- o O o -

FREE TO A GOOD HOME:

Full size metal high bed with single mattress - desk and navy blue folding chair/futon bed underneath

Pink bicycle (suitable for when stabilisers are no longer needed).

Call 01865 391109

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

12 June	Didcot , King Alfred Drive, Community Centre
26 June	Wantage , Civic Hall
10 July	Faringdon , Corn Exchange
24 July	Wallingford , Town Hall
Contact Ed Vaizey by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350

NAG

The local Neighbourhood Action Group - Rural Abingdon NAG now has a website where you can find out how to report problems, contact the NAG and learn what NAGging is all about.

www.rural-abingdon-nag.org.uk

To get your letter included please write to the editor by 20th month latest

MARCHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This meeting, held on 20 May, was attended by approximately 50 people including members of the Parish Council, County and District Councillors, Headteacher of Marcham School, residents and an invited guest from the Vale, Nick Burroughs.

The first item on the agenda was the presentation of the Parishioner of the Year Award. Pamela and Eddie Shirras were the recipients this year (see cover photo) and the citation reads:

Marcham Parish Council wishes to recognise and honour the achievements and contribution to the life and well being of Marcham made by Eddie and Pamela Shirras. Through their strong professional dedication, leadership and enthusiasm, together with a sincere love of the community, Eddie and Pamela were able to reinvigorate Marcham's confidence in the church.

In the course of their ministries at All Saints', they were particularly successful in the involvement of newcomers and children through family services, clubs and a range of seasonal activities, into the family of the church and the community at large.

Their tireless commitment enabled them also to develop close and most welcome links with Marcham Church of England Primary School, which brought great benefits to the growing number of pupils, parents, staff and governors alike.

Mr Burroughs, from the Vale, talked about the new "Local Development Framework" which has replaced the Local Plan. This is now made up of separate sections which can be updated more easily if circumstances (political, financial or environmental etc) dictate. It also looks ahead to 2026 instead of the shorter term as before. The presentation was very interesting as this new framework allows the Vale to be "visionary" ie suggesting plans that may or may not be achievable by the Vale but are considered as desirable ... like the Marcham bypass, as well as developments for housing, business and roads that are likely to go ahead. The Vale have to find space for over 2000 new houses and are considering developments to the west of Didcot (just in to the Vale area), south west of Abingdon and North east of Wantage. The policy for larger villages in rural areas, such as Marcham, is for developments of up to 15 houses on suitable sites, of which 40% should be "affordable" as in the Longfields development. The detailed "Managing Development Document" which is part of the draft framework, is due to be put out for consultation on 27 May but there is only a 6-week period to give our comments. The Parish Council will consider a response but individuals may also comment by contacting the Vale directly. Call 01235 520202 or go to the Vale website and search on "Local Development Framework".

Malcolm Denton, Chair of the Marcham Parish Council, reported on the activities of the Council during the year and highlighted the improved recycling area in Howard Cornish Road, the improvements to the Burial Ground, a grant to buy sandbags and a flood warning device and an investigation to create a footpath on the south side of the A415. They are also representing our interests to Stagecoach as to the proposed reduction in the 31 bus service and to the Highways Department for weed control and pothole repairs. The Council hopes that as soon as arrangements have been completed, a temporary Post Office service would be available in the village. The Council members read a lot of reports, planning applications and attend meetings on our behalf and you can learn what they do by reading the regular column in MADNews and / or attending the meetings held every month in Duffield Place. See page 3 for details.

Jane Hanna, our district councillor, reported on the new recycling arrangements which will start in 2010 – they will include plastics collection on a 2-weekly basis and continuation of the weekly un-June 2009

recyclable rubbish collection. The Vale hopes to increase recycling to 50% of the total and save £350,000 in this joint venture with South Oxfordshire. Jane, as well as the Parish Council, will have to respond in due course to the Vale District Council on any Anson Trust proposals and has established a working group to consider how best to consult with the village and make sure that the village's views are represented when plans are made for new facilities. She has also worked to ensure the pharmacy at Marcham Road Hospital remains open.

Iain Brown, our county councillor, also reported on the reservoir plans which have been put back as Thames Water's case for the need for the water has not been proved to either the Vale or Oxfordshire's satisfaction. He has lobbied for weed-control funds to be given direct to Parish Councils to use as necessary, trying to keep the bus services intact; putting forward recommendations that the A415 must be upgraded, Abingdon should have another river crossing and Marcham should have a bypass. He will be standing for a second 4-year term in the June elections representing "*such a diverse and rural area in a beautiful part of the world*" with an attendance record of 96% - 24 out of 25 meetings.

Viv Hutchinson gave us news that the school had been judged "Satisfactory" by Ofsted last October with 100% of Year 6 children achieving level 4 or above in the national tests – for those of us not up to date with current education-speak – that is a GOOD THING! The school is currently undergoing more building with a new classroom to cope with the expanding numbers of children attending. They are also enjoying a lot of new "taster" activities including Flamenco, Origami, French, Board Games and Gardening, they would also like to try bike maintenance and photography. All villagers are invited to contact Viv if they can offer skills to expand what the school can offer as extra activities. As mentioned on page 11, the school is also reorganising the library and if you have any "borrowed" books, you are encouraged to give them back!

Malcolm and Neighbourhood Specialist Officer Jimmy May, gave a short update on Neighbourhood Policing and NAG. Laura Schmid is our local Police Community Support Officer and makes regular visits to Marcham leading cycling proficiency classes at the school, speaking to groups, doing general policing work. If you would like her to come and speak to you about a personal concern or to a group eg Lunch Club, you can contact her through the general Abingdon Police Station Number 0845 8 505 505.

After the main presentations had been given, a number of people asked about Anson Trust plans – see page 5 for the latest update from the Directors. Colin Bough explained that negotiations were still ongoing for the purchase of land behind Hyde Copse and also with the sale / development of up to half of the Anson Field. Any commercial contracts needed to be completed before public consultations would start. He reiterated that any developer who bought the Anson Field land would have to get planning permission from the Vale before any houses were built and people would have a chance to view the plans and either object or agree at that stage. He confirmed that the Anson Trust does not consider the present Institute building suitable and so it will not be refurbished.

The meeting closed with the usual very welcome drinks and nibbles. Our thanks to all those who organised, reported and took time to attend.

I have tried to check the facts given above in the time available before publication, but apologise for any inaccuracies that may have crept in. ML

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

At the time of writing, the controversy over the Gurkhas is still very much in mind. It is the first time in living memory that the Government has lost to an opposition motion (in fairness, a Lib Dem one, not a Conservative one), and only the second time that this Government has lost a vote (the other one being 42 days detention without trial). The reason I am bringing it up is not to

ED VAIZEY WRITES... continued

score points. Of the many national issues that my constituents write to me about, I received most in the shortest space of time on this issue. Dozens of people e-mailed and wrote to me, in the space of just 24 hours. In fact, it was also the first political issue my mum has ever lobbied me on!

The British sense of fair play triumphed on this issue. I am sure there are all sorts of technical and rational reasons why you could argue that Gurkhas should not have the automatic right to stay in the UK. There is also the cost to consider. But at the end of the day, the Great British Public decided that, if people were prepared to fight and die for our country, then those same people should have the right to stay here. My wife's great grandfather served with the Gurkhas, so I also had a (tenuous) family connection, and I was proud to vote for the motion saying the Gurkhas should stay here.

Elsewhere in Parliament, we have put forward a motion to freeze the television licence fee. This may seem like small beer (only £3 a year) but in our view it is a start in stopping the relentless rise in charges and costs of everything in the public sector. Because of the recession, the BBC now has more money than ITV, Channel 4 and Five put together, and I am sure it can make savings. I know that, like me, most of my constituents are fans of the BBC, though I get a few letters a year complaining about the heavy-handed letters from TV licensing.

A few days ago, I put together a fascinating day at Didcot Power station, with many small companies engaged in climate change and energy work. There was a building company that could halve emissions from our homes using organic building material; a company that manufactures high-temperature thermometers that cut fuel costs; and quite a few others. In the end, we talked more about money than energy. We contrasted the situation in the US, where hi-tech companies have much better access to financing than in the UK - a real problem which explains why we often lag behind in this area. We have the ideas, but not the investment climate to see them through.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage (Con)

MARCHAM SOCIETY REPORT

Gardens of the Radcliffe Observatory

On 30 April, a group of Marcham Society members braved the rain to visit the Radcliffe Observatory, next to the old Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford. Our guide was Michael Pirie, who cares for the gardens single-handedly.

He led us along winding paths, brightened by flowerbeds packed with colourful blooms and shaded by many varieties of shrubs. The original Observatory was housed in the Temple of the Four Winds, where we climbed to the top floor to admire the views across Oxford. This beautifully-restored building now houses the dining and common rooms of Green Templeton College.

On 7 May, Michael gave a talk to the Marcham Society about the history of the site. The original Observatory was funded by the trustees of Dr John Radcliffe, a wealthy doctor who had been physician to Queen Anne. It was not begun until the Infirmary was finished and took many years to complete, as the trustees released funding gradually on an annual basis. A house for the Observer and his family was linked to the Observatory by a curved corridor. To the north there were no other buildings on the road to Woodstock until the 1850s. In the 1890s, the Observer complained that the windows of the men's ward at the Infirmary were left open and "ward paraphernalia" could be seen. He also insisted on passing trams having rubber wheels to cut down noise.

By the 1920s, the Observatory had moved to South Africa and there was a proposal to clear the site for housing development. Lord Nuffield stepped in and bought it, with the stipulation that medical research must be carried out there. Green College was for medical students and part of the site was gradually taken over by the Infirmary. Green College merged with Templeton College in 2008. **JF**
June 2009



Marcham WI
June 2009

Summer is almost here and our attention is drawn to our gardens and the planning for future colour and produce. At our meeting this month our speaker Pricilla Frost will talk about the National Garden Scheme which organises and encourages keen gardeners to open their gardens to the general public. She will illustrate her talk with slides.

The postponed "Celebration of Ninety Years" of the Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes was held on 24th. April at Christchurch Cathedral. It was a perfect warm Spring sunny day and hundreds of members across the County attended. Each Institute processed their colourful banners before a moving and thoughtful service. Marcham was well represented (see cover) and Stephen Hacket, the Principal of Denman College, gave an interesting reading with an account of the formation of the college at Marcham over sixty years ago.

Members of Marcham WI also enjoyed attending three educational cascade days at Denman College, last month, which covered women's health, gardening and healthy eating.

Future Events

- June 3 AGM in the Albert Hall
- June 11 OFWI 90th Birthday tea party
- June 15 Come to Africa
- June 16 Private opening of Hatfield House
- July 2 BBQ Supper at Millets Farm with scarecrows
- July 15 Visit to hidden London and Regent's Canal

NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 21 May

National Garden Scheme

Priscilla Frost

Competition - Best garden photograph

Denman College: Teaching Block

Visitors welcome - £3 voluntary contribution

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

SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

At our April meeting we were entertained by a singing duo, who soon had us tapping our feet and joining in the singing of well-known songs. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. We finished the afternoon with our tea, biscuits and raffle.

An outing has been arranged to have lunch at the Windmill Restaurant and a visit to Lechlade Garden Centre afterwards on 5 June, 11.15am from Duffield Place, returning 4.15pm approx.

JOYCE PARRY

MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

Thursday 4th June

Our June walk will explore the valley of the river Evenlode between Finstock and Stonesfield. We meet at The Plough Inn (Map Ref SP362162) in Finstock at 12.30pm for lunch. Please note that the walk starting at 1.30 will be a little longer than usual at just over 5 miles, but more than a mile can be cut from the distance by waiting at a pleasant spot by the river for the rest of the party to return.

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

MARCHAM SCHOOL NEWS

Our building works have begun. Thank you to all the neighbours around the school for their patience and understanding during this time.

On the cover are some photos from Duffield Class taken during weeks 1 & 2 of the project.

BOOK AMNESTY

One of the things we are trying to do, in school, is to improve children's reading and update the system used for grading the difficulty of books. We have put aside some money for buying new books but are aware that there may be many school books lurking under beds, behind sofas and holding up tables all over Marcham. If you have any school books at home, please could you bring them back to school so that we can spend our money wisely. There will be a box in the school entrance where books can be returned or they can be given in at the office.

We are also looking for a band of helpers who would be willing to help us with this reclassification. If the sound of organising books excites you, sticky labels get your pulse racing or you have some time on your hands and would be able to support, please let us know. We are anxious to get started - it's going to be a mammoth task – but are convinced that it will make a difference to children's reading habits and increase their confidence in their learning.

VIV HUTCHINSON

**VACANCY
CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS,
MARCHAM CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Do you have a few hours a month spare? The School Governors are looking for a new clerk to start from September 2009. Main duties include taking the minutes at meetings (6 per year), circulating papers to governors and maintaining Governor records. Knowledge of Microsoft Word and access to email essential. For further details, please contact the current Clerk Julia Davies (01865 391912) or the Chair Ruth Atkins (01865 391455).

mostly books presents

Amazing Books for Boys
June 20. 2009

at Amey Theatre, Abingdon School

One the biggest book events to get children excited about reading will be headlined by one of the hottest teen reads around – and will be coming to Abingdon in June. An afternoon where children can meet and interact with a series of top children's authors...

Robert Muchamore 4pm Tickets £5
Chris Bradford 2.30pm Tickets £4
Trapped by Monsters 1pm Tickets £3

There will also be free bushcraft demonstrations and storytelling sessions throughout the afternoon.

For the latest information, and details of prizes to be won, visit: <http://www.mostly-books.co.uk/amazing>

Elmer Party Tues, June 9th. Fun for little ones with Elmer fun, colourful cookie decorating, competitions and prizes.

Children's Food Festival Jun 27th/28th. Books signings with celebrity chefs: Raymond Blanc, Sophie Grigson, Annabel Karmel, Sam Stern, Jane Fearnley-Whittingstall.

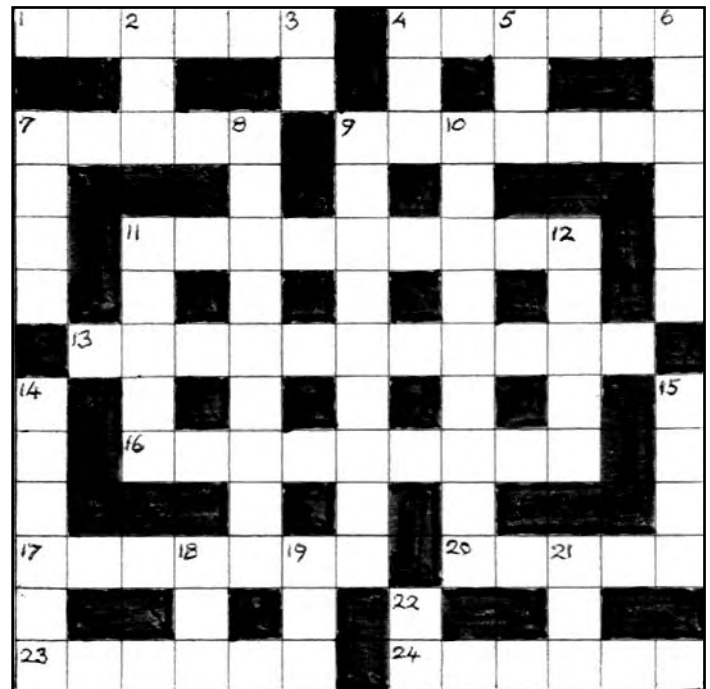
Mad Hatters, Alices and White Rabbits Tues, June 30th 4pm – a celebration of the anniversary of Alice, with stories, nonsense poems and an Alice trail all week.

For tickets to all events, and further information, contact mostly books, 36 Stert Street O1235 525880

books@mostly-books.co.uk www.mostly-books.co.uk
June 2009

**MARCHAM SCHOOL PTA
SUMMER FETE
SATURDAY 4TH JULY 2 – 4 PM**

JUNE CROSSWORD BY ALISA



ACROSS

- 1 See 7 down
- 4 Arctic region (6)
- 7 Black spider (5)
- 9 See 4 down
- 11 Was made up of (9)
- 13 It functions in Albert Park (7.4)
- 16 Fish (3.6)
- 17 Flower (7)
- 20 Dough raiser (5)
- 23 Use (6)
- 24 Village with a post office (6)
- 5 Pinch (3)
- 6 Painter (6)
- 7 & 1 Village near Grove (4.6)
- 8 June event (9)
- 9 Big spider (9)
- 10 Harmoniously (9)
- 11 Group of singers (5)
- 12 Uncertainty (5)
- 14 Agile (6)
- 15 Water bird (4)
- 18 Nocturnal bird (3)
- 9 Cold (3)
- 21 Everybody (3)
- 22 Hospital (2)

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

Grand Charity General Knowledge Quiz & Raffle (or Auction)
Friday 5th June 8pm for 8.30 start. In memory of Steve Shellard our much missed chairman. Teams should be a maximum of 4 and entry is £3 per head. The Prize is £20 to the winning team and the prestigious title MSSSC Quiz Team Champions.

All profits will be go to good causes chosen by Steve's widow Jan. Steve was our quiz maestro and was passionate regarding our success, he would approve of another good night in the club.

Bar Open Every Friday Night

The bar is now open every Friday night and every week there will be at least one guest real ale available.

Date for your diary

Sat 5th Sept - Summer Dance. Under cover with a live band, disco, BBQ, raffle, etc. *Invite your friends!*

Don't forget the club is also open every Saturday after football or cricket. Support your local teams

We look forward to seeing you at the club

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

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The 2009 Season has been satisfactory so far with the 1st and 2nd XIs recording more wins than losses. In the Osberton Cup competition the 2nd XI is through to the 2nd round matches.



Remaining fixtures for June are as follows:

June	1st XI	2nd XI
16	Oxford Caribbean <i>Away</i>	Kings Sutton <i>Home</i>
13	East Oxford <i>Home</i>	Bye
20	Testsworth <i>Away</i>	Hook Norton 2nd XI <i>Home</i>
27	Great Horwood <i>Home</i>	Chadlington 2nd XI <i>Away</i>

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

MARCHAM PLAYERS

'Small Hotel' Play reading 15th April. This proved to be a successful evening with goo attendance. The play had an adequate number of characters to give everyone a chance to read, and plenty of humour to make for good entertainment.



'Bubbles' Saturday 9th May. This was a production by the touring company from the Watermill theatre in Newbury. We had booked tickets to see it at the Unicorn Theatre in Abingdon on 8th May, but due to lack of support, the company switched our booking to 9th May at Sunningwell village hall, which was a sell out! The play, a musical, centred around the mother (Bubbles) of a London suburban family. Father owned a scrap yard and operated on the shady side of the law, did a spell in prison, but died, not long after coming out. One of the two sons of the family carried on the business in the same fashion as his father, but becomes worried when his brother points out he is being watched by the police. At the same time Bubbles discovers she has Alzheimers disease and decides to end her life before she becomes a liability to her sons. The sons decide to turn their yard into a market garden. Three actors took the parts, father and son being played by one man. The plot does not sound as though it would be light hearted, but in fact there were lots of laughs, several pleasant songs and the acting was superb. The result was a very pleasant evening.

For the future programme we are planning a **visit to the Watermill Theatre** on Tuesday 23rd June to see 'Blithe Spirit' by Noel Coward, and on the Friday 24th July we shall go to **Basildon Park** to see 'Mowgli', we intend to take a picnic & arrive there about 6.00 pm. **JANET FRERE**

Requests for tickets by members or any enquiries about us will be willingly answered either by our Secretary, Joey, on 01865 391242 or, Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964.

w w w . m a r c h a m p l a y e r s . c o . u k

DENMAN COLLEGE

On 20 April we celebrated the opening of the WI Cookery School. More than 50 guests attended the event in the college's Ferris Room, and the official opening was performed by Sarah Dawson, daughter of the NFWI Chair Barbara Gill who sadly died in 2005. Guests *June 2009*



were also treated to presentations by chocolatier Massimo Bishop-Scotti and tea expert Henrietta Lovell, and a wonderful afternoon tea prepared by WI Cookery School Manager, Pieter Germishuys. WI Cookery School courses are open to all - for more information contact the college on 01865 391991.

No sooner had our development work been completed at the start of April than a pair of mute swans appeared on our lake. There is some debate about when swans were last seen at the college, but it is somewhere between 10 and 20 years. Their return is being taken as a good omen: and they do look very much at home.

STEPHEN HACKETT, Principal

Marcham/Frilford Dig News 2009

This July will be (unbelievably) the ninth season for the dig in Trendles field on Manor Farm, Marcham. You can reach it on foot from Marcham village via public and Jubilee footpaths - the site is just off the A338 before it crosses the Ock on the road to Wantage, off the footpath that leads to and from the former Noah's Ark pub. Lots of you will have already visited the site where the University of Oxford is digging a Romano-British site, but we find out more each year about this religious centre so it's worth a return visit.

It's a remarkable site - don't miss the chance of seeing the history that's on your doorstep.

This year as before the public are welcome to visit (archaeologists are at work every day except Saturdays for the 4 weeks from Sunday 5 July) - but the best day to visit will be **NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY - SUNDAY 26 JULY - 10-4** - when there will be guided tours and other attractions. Many schools, societies and groups arrange to make separate day time or evening visits - please let me know if you are interested. You can read about the excavation in back issues of the Coral Rag - on sale at Cumbers Farm Shop. There is also a free Lottery-funded booklet available from me or at the site. The 'People's Trench' will be operative in 2009 - to give hands-on archaeological training and experience to local people - six days a week (Saturday is a rest day) - for the duration of the dig. We will welcome new volunteers - you don't need any special skills or strength: you will receive some basic training and be fully supervised at no cost to yourself! You can do as little as a day - but more is preferable! Please note that anyone under 16 must be accompanied.

'Pot washing' is on offer as well - those who do not want to dig all day can sit down and 'pot wash'. If you or someone you know might enjoy getting their hands on finds which have not seen the light of day for a couple of thousand years please let me know. These are the dates - Thursday 9, Thursday 16, Sunday 19, Tuesday 21, Thursday 23, Tuesday 28.

For further information please contact Janey Cumber on 01865-391327/391840 or by email janey.cumber@tiscali.co.uk. If you have already put your name down I will be in touch with you during June.

<p>WANTAGE SILVER BAND presents Wantage Youth Brass in association with The Imperial Male Voice Choir All Saints' Church, Marcham, SUNDAY 21 JUNE, 7.30pm. Tickets: £9 adult, £6 senior/student, £1 accompanied child from Wantage Museum, Grove Pharmacy or please tel. 01235 770378. For more details www.wantageband.org / www.imvc.org.uk.</p>
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land people ecology

Saturday 13 June, 2pm - 4pm: Wonderful Wildlife and Outstanding Orchids Mowbray Fields Nature Reserve, Didcot. See the glorious display of common spotted and marsh orchids. Adults £5, Friends & under 16s free.

Wednesday 16 June, 6.30pm - 9pm: Northmoor Trust Hedgerow Management. A walk around the Northmoor Trust estate looking at various hedgerow management options. Adults £5, Friends Free. *Sorry, not suitable for children.*

Booking for these two events is essential please call 01865 407792; www.northmoortrust.co.uk.

Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 June, 10am – 6pm: Northmoor Trust's Children's Food Festival, Northmoor Trust Estate but entrance will not be via Northmoor Trust offices. A celebration of food and cooking, fronted by Raymond Blanc & Sophie Grigson. Entrance £10 per car. No booking necessary. www.northmoortrust.co.uk

Abingdon Drama Club presents "Betrayal" Harold Pinter



1977 – Spring. Emma and Jerry's affair is over. They split up two years ago but, when Emma's marriage crumbles, it is Jerry she turns to. Of course, things are complicated by the fact that her husband is his best friend... The Unicorn Theatre, Medieval Abbey Buildings, Abingdon. Wed 24 to Sat 27 Jun, 7.30pm. Tickets £7 (concessions £6). from The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct or from ADC Ticketline 01235 524538.

www.abingdon-drama-club.com

Open Farm Sunday 7th June 2009 10am - 4pm

Challow Hill Farm, East Challow, Wantage OX12 9PD We look forward to welcoming you to our Open Day where you can meet and feed the animals and collect eggs; Enjoy a Tractor Display, Cookery and Sausage making demonstrations; and much more! **Free entry to the Farm, refreshments available** Tel: Lucy Blackwell - 0789 998 1551

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Abingdon European Society

German Lieder and English Songs

Lindsay Empson (counter-tenor)

Richard Jeffrey (piano)

Saturday 20 June 7.15 for 7.30 p.m

Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Abingdon

AES Members at the door & Students £5 Visitors £6.

Includes refreshments.

Contact: AES Secretary 01235-534561

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