

SCHOOL NEWS

**Marcham Church of England Primary School
Building Partnerships in Quality Education**

We invite anyone in the Marcham community with an interest in early years and primary education to an open meeting at Marcham Primary School on Mon 6 March, 7.30-8.30pm.

The purpose of this meeting is to outline proposals for forming a partnership between Marcham Pre-school and Marcham Primary School. This will provide your village with extended high quality education for all young children, allow continuity into primary year's education and maximise the school site for all children.

Our proposals include enhancing and improving the school facilities for all children who currently attend Marcham Primary School.

We want to share our exciting ideas and to find out what needs and concerns **YOU** have.

**We look forward to seeing you on
Monday 6 March at the school.**

LESLEY CLARK, Head teacher, Marcham Primary School

CHRIS RICKETTS, Chair, Marcham Pre-School Playgroup

COW LANE PADDOCKS

Marcham Parish Council has available for rent the two paddocks off Cow Lane adjacent to the allotments between 1st April 2006 and 30th March 2007. Should anyone be interested in renting one or both paddocks please contact the Clerk stating the rent you are prepared to offer.

Please note the Council is not obliged to accept the highest or any offer. Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin 90 Howard Cornish Rd. Marcham. Tel: 01865 391833

WRITING COMPETITION

Following its success last year, Deddington Writers Group, in conjunction with Deddington Festival 2006, is organising its Second Writing Competition: short story or poem on a theme of your choice; separate categories for young people. Entrants must be Oxfordshire residents. Entry fee £3 (free for 16 and under). Closing date April 25th, 2006. From January 1st 2006 full details from: www.deddington.org.uk/writing, hughm@fish.co.uk or with s.a.e please, DWG Competition, 7 The Daedings, Deddington Oxon OX15 0RT

FACT FILE:

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

- Guide Dogs is known and loved for delivering first class mobility services that meet the needs of blind and partially sighted people with the guide dog at the core.
- The charity relies entirely on public generosity to fund its guide dog services.
- Guide Dogs is respected as an influential charity campaigning on behalf of its service users particularly in the areas of access and mobility.
- Guide Dogs is acknowledged for its eye health information and education campaigns and regarded for its prevention and care programme of ophthalmic (eye-care) research.
- It costs £10 a day to breed, train and support each guide dog.
- There are currently around 4,700 guide dog partnerships in the UK.
- The working life of a guide dog is about 6 years, and a guide dog owner could have 6 or 7 dogs during their lifetime.

**Guide Dogs commemorates 75 years of
extraordinary partnerships**

GUIDES AND OWL BOXES

Recently we have been learning about owls at guides. There have been Barn Owls nesting at Buildings Farm, so we thought it would be good idea to make nest boxes to encourage them to stay.

Neil Rowe and James Allan came to one of our guide meetings, plus a Dad, and we helped them to put the boxes together. In half term we met up at Buildings Farm and helped "the owl man", Jason Ball (from the Barn Owl Conservation Network, part of the Hawk and Owl Trust), to put the nest boxes up. One of them was to be put at the top of a really old pig barn, so Jason and a Dad had to go up in a safety cage to reach the oak beam at the top. Unfortunately the pigs were very interested so we spent most of the time shooing them away from the tractor wheels, so they weren't flattened!

While we were in the straw barn with the second box two barn owls flew out over our heads and we watched them fly away over the fields. It was amazing, and very encouraging to see that they are still using the barn. Jason told us as we were working that "National Bird Box week" began the next day, 14th February, so we were pleased we had picked this week to put them up!!

We are looking forward to seeing if our owls like their new residence, and hope to watch them through the summer.

HANNAH FATHERS, 1st Marcham Guides

This is just one of many exciting things that we do at Marcham Guides, if you would like to know more please contact Jill Rowe, 390885.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

With heart shaped face, buff back and wings and pure white under parts the barn owl is a distinctive and much loved countryside bird. Widely distributed across the UK, and indeed the world, the bird has suffered declines over the past fifty years as a result of the degradation of once prey-rich habitats in the face of intensive agricultural practices. This decline, fortunately, has halted in many areas and the population may now be increasing. © RSPB



© Mike Langman

WALK FOR WILDLIFE

Calling all walkers! It's time to sign up for a great day out with friends and family.

The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust sponsored walk is taking place in Oxfordshire in 2006 and for the first time this year it will be held in partnership with the Friends of Wychwood Forest. Funds raised will go towards the important local conservation work carried out by both charities.

The date for your diary is Sunday 14 May.

The start and finish point for the walk will be the stately Blenheim Palace near Woodstock. A variety of routes have been planned to suit all abilities, starting with a short three-mile amble suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs and going up to a major 37-mile hike along the entire Wychwood Way. In between there are routes of around five, eight and 17 miles. So whatever your level there is a walk for you.

All of the routes take in at least some of the grounds of the palace and there is plenty to see along the way. Pretty villages, meadows and woodland are dotted along the route and walkers should be able to enjoy all the sights, smells and signs of spring. To help children and the young at heart get more from their walk there will be special quizzes and activities.

It's a great way to get out and about and enjoy the countryside, and you will be raising money for local charities at the same time.

Contact the Wildlife Trust on 01865 775476 for a registration pack. As an additional bonus, everyone who raises £50 or more in sponsorship monies will receive a free copy of the national 'Wildlife Walks' book, worth £12.99.

