

**ON THE BUSES**

Thames Travel lives up to its name and takes us to lots of interesting places along the river on service X15. As well as local trips into Abingdon the X15 is great for outings to Dorchester (the Abbey, nice pubs) and Wallingford - and the river nearby.



From Frilford Road in Marcham (0928 and every hour, but not Sundays) the X15 takes about 25 minutes to a change of buses at Berinsfield (buses wait for each other); then Dorchester is 30 minutes from Marcham and Wallingford another 10. Beyond Wallingford there is a choice - have a cup of tea or coffee first - and then the X40 will take you to Reading (1040 and every hour; return from Reading every hour until 1525, then 1635) or the 139 to Henley (1042 etc; return at 10 past the hour and a very quick connection at Wallingford!). Another month we'll look at the walks on the Thames path in the same direction.

The loss of X31 buses to Oxford reminds us that the X15 was put on with the challenge 'use it or lose it'.

**BUS SPOTTER**

**April Crossword Answers by Alisa**

ACROSS: 1 Duffield 4 Stop 8 Chink 10 Imitate 11 Gymnastics 13 Bell ringing 16 Debauchery 19 Impulse 21 Place 23 Ruby 24 Draughty DOWN 1 Duck 2 Fairy 3 Ex 5 Tea 6 Prefer 7 Viking ship 9 Kendlebell 10 Institute 12 Sun 14 End 15 Senior 17 Roach 18 Very 20 Pub 22 Ra

**MARCHAM SOCIETY MEETING, 11 April**

**Dragonflies**

On a chilly April evening, Marcham Society members were given a taste of summer by Diane Wilson's amusing and informative talk on dragonflies.

Diane's interest in the wildlife of her garden led to a particular fascination with dragonflies. With excellent slides she described the appearance of the various dragonflies and their surroundings. They differ from damselflies in the way they leave their wings outspread after flight; the damselflies fold theirs.

Eggs are laid close to water and the larvae have huge appetites. Hatching can take up to 4 hours and the dragonfly is very vulnerable to predators at this time. Otherwise they have few predators, although a member of the audience had seen a group of hobbies feasting on dragonflies last summer.

As we admire these lovely insects later in the year, perhaps we should be grateful that - unlike their ancestors 300 million years ago - they don't have a wingspan of 27 inches!

**JUDITH FONTAINE**

**MARCHAM SOCIETY WALK**

**Midweek Walk on Thursday, May 11th.**

This month's walk will start in Littleworth on the A420 just before Faringdon, starting towards Buckland and returning via the remote hamlet of Carswell Marsh. We will meet at The Snooty Fox Public House adjacent to the A420 (Map Ref: SU316969) at 12.30pm for lunch or 1.30 for the walk of just over 4 miles. As always, new walkers are very welcome. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.

**ANNUAL MEETING FOR ALL ELECTORS IN THE PARISH**

This meeting will take place on Wednesday 24th May at 7.30 p.m. in Marcham Primary School, Morland Road.

- After a brief formal parish business session there will be two guest speakers.
- Firstly the **Police Community Support Officers** who work within Marcham and will outline their role in the community.
- Secondly there will be an officer from **Oxfordshire County Council** who will be present to discuss traffic measures in Packhorse Lane.
- In addition the certificate for the **Community Service Award** will be presented.
- Refreshments in the form of cheese and wine will be available at the end of the meeting.
- **All Marcham electors** are entitled to attend and raise matters relating to the parish. So put a note of the date in your diary now.

**NATURE WATCH**

Oh Joy! The skylarks reappeared late March; a lone Willow warbler sang delicately in mid-April and a Jack Snipe skulked then flew off in a typical zigzag fashion.

Also seen in Feb, particularly at dusk, Roe Deer, Fox and Barn Owl, a creamy image swooping and quartering; the Herons are back too.

So let's hope the Curlews, Cuckoo and Kingfisher put in an appearance as spring progresses.

**GRETA GOULDING**



**Swap your stuff for FREE**

The Oxfordshire Freecycle Networks are open to all in the local area who would prefer to "freecycle" to others, rather than throw away unwanted items such as unloved bicycles, pianos, fax machines etc.

Freecycle is an email based free swap-shop. Just "post" a message on your local Freecycle page, listing your free items or for something you want yourself. Charity organisations will be informed of this site so they too may be in touch to pick up your things.

All items MUST be 100% free and no commercials.

You can find a Freecycle network in these areas: Banbury, Cherwell Valley, Chipping Norton, Henley-on-Thames, Oxford, Vale of the White Horse, Wallingford, Witney.

For more information visit

[www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)

and find a Freecycle network near you!



**Members' Evening**  
 Members will be talking about some activities organised by the society with maps & photographs from the archives.  
 Wine and nibbles

**All Saints' Church**  
 Tuesday 9th May 2006, 7.45pm

Non-members £1 [www.marchamsociety.org.uk](http://www.marchamsociety.org.uk)  
 Further details: Janey Cumber (391327) or Judith Fontaine (391275)