

Marcham & District News

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

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

May 2008 Vol: 30 No: 5

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ The cricket field one month before the start of the season, good luck to the ground staff! see page XX



▲ Marcham / Frilford Dig News 2008 see page 7



Sylvia Horlock, ►
Sonia Edwards and
Aggie McKenzie.
Tissue Day at Denman! see page 9



▲ Primary School entertaining the Senior Citizens page 9
▼ The Hat Parade in Pre-School and Little Angels page 13 ▼



▲ Marcham Society's History Book picture research is progressing but now they are looking for photographs of Marcham or Garford school class groups (not sports teams) from 1970s, 80s and 90s. The one above was taken in 1980 (unless you know better!). Call Marg on 391626 or Sheila on 391439 (see page 9).



▲ Last month's photo was actually taken in The Gap before the model farm was turned into houses!



Swallow



Swift



House Martin

Watch out for these visitors to return soon!

DIARY FOR MAY

3-26	Artweeks, Oxfordshire	15	Tue 13	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 7.45pm	9
Sun 4	Abingdon Air Show, 10am - 5pm	15	Wed 14	Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 7.30pm	3
Thur 8	Midweek Walk: The The Royal Oak, Bishopstone, 12.30pm lunch /1.30pm walk	9	Thur 15	Marcham WI, Denman College, 7.30pm	9
Fri 9	Tennis Association Sign-up, 3.15 - 3.45pm	11	Sat 17	Sunningwell Annual Plant Sale, 10am - 12noon	13
Fri 9	MP's Surgery: Didcot, 5.30-7pm	7	Sat 17	John Wheeler, Marcham ESMC	7
Fri 9	Quiz Night, Sports & Social Club, 8.30pm	11	Fri 23	MP's Surgery: Grove, 5.30-7pm	7
9-11	Appleton Art, The Barn, Netherton Rd	15	Wed 28	Annual Meeting for Electors, Marcham School, 7.30pm	5
Sat 10	Tennis Association Sign-up, 10 - 11am	11	Fri 30	Real Ale Night, Sports & Social Club	11
Tue 13	SeeSaw Summer Fair, Steventon 10am-3.30pm	15	Sat 31	Thames Water Exhibition, Marcham School, 9am - 6pm	5

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

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DEADLINES

Advertising: 5pm 15th month
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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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www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Electric Lights to be replaced

The Parish Council has been advised by the County Council that during the financial year that has just started, the bracket street lights which are affixed to wooden electricity poles will be replaced. Works will be carried out in Frilford Road, Mill Road, North Street, New Road, Parkside and at Gozzards Ford. If you spot Southern Electric contracting vans in the village over the next few months, then replacing lights is what they are doing.

Changes to Mobile Library times

With effect from the week commencing 2nd June the mobile library will stop at Duffield place at 10.05 a.m. instead of 9.25 a.m. and will then go on to Sweetbriar in North Street and stop at 10.20 a.m. instead of 9.40 a.m. Would all mobile library users please note the library will now be in the village 40 minutes later than usual.

SE England Regional Housing Board

The Regional Housing Board has been transferred to the Regional Assembly. This brings together regional housing and planning priorities. The Housing Strategy document which covers the period 2008 - 2011 is available on the Assembly's website at www.southeast-ra.gov.uk. This April 2008

sets out the housing policy for Oxfordshire and the rest of the South East.

Youth Shelter

The youth shelter has been in situ in the Anson field for about 20 years. It has proved extremely popular over the years with the youngsters for whom it was intended and others who sit and take a break whilst in the field or watch the sports being played. The Council has begun to think about a new shelter for the field. It is wondering whether this might be better situated away from the children's play area, and the Anson Trust has agreed that it could go between the existing portacabin and the footpath on the Southern side of the building. There are a variety of shelters and seating areas on the market these days and it will be easier to buy a ready made one rather than construct our own as was the case 20 years ago. The Council is inviting comments on the style and design of a new shelter and should anyone have any ideas or thoughts then please contact the Clerk.

Oxfordshire County Council – Report a highway problem

Did you know you can report a highway problem direct to the County Council? Matters such as dangerous pavements, potholes, road markings, street lights not working, blocked drains and paths obstructed by vegetation etc. can all be sent via email to the County Council. Go on to the County Council's website at www.Oxfordshire.gov.uk on the left hand side click on Roads and Transport, then towards the bottom of the page you will see "report a highway problem" For those without access to the internet the telephone number for most matters is 0845 310 11 11 with option 2 enabling you to be put through to someone who deals with the Vale of White Horse area. The telephone number for reporting street lighting faults however is 0800 317802.

Concessionary Bus Fares

The Parish Council has been pursuing with the Vale of White Horse District Council the difficulties that the 9.30 a.m. start for the bus pass has brought to the residents of Marcham, particularly when there is a 9.23 a.m. bus that leaves the village. Unfortunately it looks, for the time being, that there is no chance of any review of the start time. The response received is printed on page 5.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

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

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

COUNCILLORS' REPORT

After several meetings and visits on site, I am delighted to confirm that the 8 children who were unable to start at Marcham primary school in September, will now be offered places at the school. The headteacher and governing body, along with officers at OCC and myself have agreed to pursue a plan to enlarge the school for September

2009. This should ensure that the future of the school in Marcham is assured for at least the foreseeable future, and should grow unaffected by any proposals, announcements, schemes or any other kind of visions from bodies outside the running of the school. The school is an asset to the village and to village life in Marcham, I will do all I can to see that it thrives. This is in line with support from the Parish Council and the Church in Marcham.

The issue of a proposed reservoir is once again in the news, as we await the publication of the much anticipated Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) by Thames Water and the Environment Agency. We certainly need a secure water supply, but should Thames water be responsible for supplying millions of litres of water per day to other water companies in the southeast of the country as well as their statutory responsibility to their 8 million existing customers? Thames Water are reliant upon the Environment Agency for their flood risk data and modelling for a flood alleviation scheme along the tributaries of the River Ock, we all need to voice our concerns about flooding, especially since the dramatic events of July 20th last year. The consultation period for the WRMP is 16 weeks, our views in this area are more important than most, it is essential to respond to the proposals to have any influence.

Finally, I joined other District and County Councillors at the Easter festival at Dalton Barracks on March 30th. The County Council allocated a sum of £100K to be spent on projects at military bases across Oxfordshire. The community centre at Dalton Barracks bid for funding and received £19.3K towards refurbishment and renewals of furniture, the play area and a welfare suite. The centre is open to the public for hire and provides essential support for families whilst members of the army are away on active service. Whilst Dalton Barracks is not strictly within the area covered by the MADnews, it is our closest contact to those who volunteer to serve our country.

Look out for the next open day, it is well worth a visit. **CLLR IAIN BROWN**

Tel: 01235 751210 Email: iainbrownconservatives@yahoo.co.uk
Janus, Westcot Lane, Sparsholt, Wantage, Oxon OX12 9PZ.

HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS

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

May Bank Holidays

Normal Day	Will be...
Mon 5 May	Tue 6 May
Tue 6 May	Wed 7 May
Wed 7 May	Thur 8 May
Thur 8 May	Fri 9 May
Fri 9 May	Sat 10 May
Mon 26 May	Tue 27 May
Tue 27 May	Wed 28 May
Wed 28 May	Thur 29 May
Thur 29 May	Fri 30 May
Fri 30 May	Sat 31 May

**BUS PASSES:
THE FULL EXPLANATION
RESPONSE TO QUERY FROM
MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

The national statutory scheme has always had a weekday start time of 9:30 am. The Vale, like many councils chose to provide a discretionary scheme in addition to the statutory scheme. The Vale's discretionary scheme provided, among other things, a 9.00 am start, travel to specified destinations outside the district including Oxford, Didcot, Newbury, as well as travel within the entirety of Oxford City district. These additions have been very popular with pass holders, leading to an escalation in costs to a predicted £1.4m this year. This is by far the highest cost of any rural district in Oxfordshire and most other counties. The cost of the discretionary scheme falls entirely on the Vale council tax payer and is not funded by the Government. The Vale is a relatively small district, trying to provide a broad range of local services, with limited resources and very acute financial pressures, having the ninth lowest council tax charge in the country. We could not afford to sustain such a scheme. The decision was therefore taken last summer to restrict the scheme to what was affordable. At the same time the Council decided that from 1 April 2008, it would provide a minimal discretionary scheme alongside the new national bus pass scheme, which will allow free local bus travel anywhere in the country. The reasoning for this was twofold - affordability (as explained above) and strategic positioning. The latter is explained below.

Due to the Government's complex grant formula for funding local government, it is not possible to calculate how much Government money the Vale receives in respect of the bus pass scheme. Our continuing fear is that the statutory scheme is under-funded, meaning that the Vale tax payer is still subsidising it. In anticipation of continuing lobbying of the Government over this issue, it was felt important to restrict the scheme to the statutory scheme only. This will make it simpler to compare actual costs to actual funding, once we can get the Government to explain the funding. Any council operating a discretionary scheme will find it more difficult to lobby the Government on funding, as the Government could assert any funding deficit is entirely due to the local discretionary scheme. By restricting the Vale's scheme to the statutory scheme only (including a 9:30 am start time) we believe we will strengthen our case in this endeavour.

ANNUAL MEETING FOR ELECTORS IN THE PARISH
This meeting is not a Council meeting, but is a public meeting of Local Government electors in Marcham and an opportunity for electors in the parish to raise any items relating to parish matters.
This parish meeting may, by law, discuss all parish affairs and pass resolutions about them.
Guest Speaker: Mr. G. Gough Emergency Planning Officer, Vale of White Horse District Council. Mr. Gough will speak about his role at the District Council and particularly in connection with the flooding in Marcham

This meeting will be held on
Wednesday 28th May, at 7.30 p.m.
in the school hall at
Marcham Primary School, Morland Road
You are invited to take part
Light refreshments will be served

The only discretionary element which will be retained from 1 April 2008 is the provision of free bus passes to the companions and carers of disabled residents, but the cost impact of this element is relatively minor and should not undermine our case. In conclusion, it is deeply unfortunate that this change has caused you and other bus pass holders disruption. However, the Council recognised this would be an unfortunate consequence at the time it took the decision. On balance, it was felt this was justified given the broader benefits of the changes to the local council tax payer. I hope this letter clarifies the point raised in your email, but I acknowledge your dissatisfaction with the Council's actions. Once again, thank you for your comments. We have checked with our contractors who assure us that passes will be dispatched today, 26 March and should be received by 1st April. However, we have already asked our travel providers to continue accepting the old passes for a short time in case there is any delay in people receiving their new passes.

VALE OF THE WHITE HORSE DC

Dear Editor
We would like to give our sincere thanks to the staff and governors of Marcham School and to all others involved in making the decision to allow the admission from September of all Marcham children who applied. We realise that it is no small matter to accommodate eight more children than was originally planned for. The staff and governors have clearly worked hard so that our village children and families should not be disappointed. We support this and believe that this decision is in the best long-term interests of the school and of Marcham.

DENISE AND JIM ASHER

**THE LATE
PHYLLIS WRIGHT**
Cliff, Barbara, John and Family would like to thank most sincerely everyone for their prayers and cards of condolence on the death of the much loved Mother and Nan. The donations for Ward 1, Abingdon Hospital raised **£428.90**
Many thanks to all who contributed.

Marcham School PTA
Fri 6 June: Bingo
Arrive 6.30pm Eyes Down 7pm
Refreshments available
Sat 14 June Car Wash
10am-12.30pm (weather permitting)
£4 per standard car

**WATER RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT PLAN**
Thames Water is launching a draft Water Resources Management Plan on 7 May 2008. There will be public consultation exhibitions at the following venues locally:



Abingdon Guildhall (Roissey Room)
Tuesday 13 May 9am - 6pm
Monday 19 May 12 - 9pm
Saturday 24 May 9am - 5pm

Marcham School
Saturday 31 May 9am - 6pm
East Hanney War Memorial Hall
Friday 23 May 12-9pm
Friday 6 June 12-9pm
Saturday 7 June 9am - 6pm

More about the PLAN can be found at
www.thameswater.co.uk/wrmp
More about the RESERVOIR can be found at
www.thameswater.co.uk/utmrld
or call 0845 9200 800.

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.

M.SHEPHERD 04/2008

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

One national issue that annoyed me recently was the decision by the National Union of Teachers, at their annual conference, to vote to ban the armed services visiting schools. This was really politics by the back door - the union clearly feels the Iraq war was wrong (a perfectly respectable view) and has decided to take it out on the armed services.

As some of you may know, I am a member of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. It gives MPs the chance to work with the forces close up, and needless to say I have been very impressed. I cannot imagine a better career or experience for any one, whatever their background.

So I wrote to all our local schools and asked them what they thought of this idea. I am delighted to say that every single secondary school in my constituency wrote back to say that they received visits from the armed services, and would continue to do so. I am absolutely delighted!

On local matters, I gather that there has been success in ensuring that parents who could not get a place at the primary school will be able to do so. I hope I have not spoken to soon, but I know that County Councillor Iain Brown worked incredibly hard on this, including at least two meetings at the school and getting the Cabinet officer responsible involved. I think it is vital that we ensure parents can send their children to their local school, and we shouldn't let bureaucracy get

in the way. Parliament remains quiet at the moment. We debated the Government's anti-terrorism legislation at the end of March. I remain opposed to the proposal to allow terrorist suspects to be detained for 42 days, but we will not have a vote for this for a while. The Finance Act is being debated at the end of April, but there is no date yet for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, which concerns a lot of people.

Finally, there is a private members' bill to ban the advertising of fatty foods, which I will be opposing. We won't make people healthy by banning adverts, only by ensuring that everyone, particularly our children, have access to sporting facilities.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage (Con)

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

9 May	Didcot , King Alfred Drive Community Centre
23 May	Grove Old Mill Hall, Old School Lane
6 June	Didcot , King Alfred Drive Community Centre
20 June	Wantage , Civic 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

MARCHAM/FRILFORD DIG NEWS 2008

This July will be the eighth season for the dig in Trendles field on Manor Farm, Marcham. You can reach it on foot 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 29th June) - but the best day to visit will be

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

SUNDAY 20th JULY - 10-4 -

when there will be guided tours and other attractions. Many schools, societies and groups arrange to make separate day time

HOUSE SWAP OR RENT

Adelaide, Australia - 4 bedroom house with pool and scenic views. Contact 391096

FOR SALE

Trainer (camping or luggage) 4x3ft. Fibreglass body with extra (removeable) wooden sides to give added height. Complete with wooden fitted lid, waterproof cover and spare wheel. £30 or best offer for quick sale. Tel 391710.

HOUSE FOR SALE

3 bed semi-detached
5 Orchard Way, Marcham

- Extended bedrooms
- Garage for 2 cars
- Conservatory added
- Very long garden



Call Duncan Reeve 07880 800988

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 Marcham P.O. and Cumbers Farm Shop. There is also a free Lottery-funded booklet available from me or at the site.

In 2005 and 2006 we were able to offer local amateurs the chance to get involved thanks to an award from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Vale and Ridgeway Trust was awarded a Local Heritage Initiative grant for 'The Trendles Project: Exploring Marcham's Past', to help us investigate and promote the heritage of the Trendles site. We ran a 'People's Trench' to give hands-on archaeological training and experience to local people; those who do not want to dig all day can sit down and 'pot wash' (wash finds), and in 2007 the Trust as able to fund this again.

The 'People's Trench' will be operative in 2008 - 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 - dates to be confirmed.

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.

EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB

Date for your Diary.

May 17th: John Wheeler Entertains, very popular at his last appearance.



Marcham WI May 2008

At our April meeting we welcome three new committee members and now have a programme for 2008-9 with a varied and interesting selection of speakers and activities. During March three of our members attended a Tissue Training Day at Denman College organised by the Department of Health. This was to launch a new campaign to help prevent the spread of coughs and colds – Catch It, Bin It, Kill It. The speakers included Aggie McKenzie, from TV's How Clean is your House (see photo on cover). The 60th Birthday Lunch was very enjoyable with guests included Kathleen Ahier, a former president and her husband Eddie. Two evening sessions of Indian Head Massage added a relaxing element to our busy month. Our Speaker in April, Mr Dudley Iles, gave a most interesting talk about his voluntary work on the small island of Mafia off the coast of East Africa.

Future Events

11 June Visit Wilton House and Salisbury
29 June London Diana Walk
1&2 July 10,2000 years – London's Square Mile

Further details at meetings.

NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 15 May
Denman College: The Studio
History and Mystery of the WI
Also Plant Stall and Resolutions

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

MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

Midweek Walk, Thursday, 8th May.

For this month's walk we will meet at The Royal Oak in Bishopstone (Map Ref: SU 245837) south of Shrivenham at 12.30 for lunch and 1.30 for the walk. of about 4 miles. We will be walking to the hamlet of Hinton Parva (as delightful as its name) and utilise two deep combs to climb to the Ridgeway and then return to our cars. As always, new walkers are very welcome. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and details.

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

This month the historical item is from Jackson's Oxford Journal 15th May 1875 wherein, under the heading "Cricket", a match between Marcham and Culham College is reported thus



"These Clubs played a match at Marcham on Wednesday last the result being that the Collegians were beaten but by four only." Although this pre-dates the formation of the present Marcham CC by over 39 years, our Historian notes that he has unearthed relevant information of somewhat earlier times; it is hoped to say more on this in due course.

As usual information relating to the Club may be obtained from Graham Hill (391415) or Terry Whitaker (391317).

May	1st XI	2nd XI
3	Horley <i>away</i>	E & W Hendred <i>home</i>
10	Shrivenham <i>home</i> <i>Airey Cup 1st Round</i>	Kilkenny <i>away</i>
17	Westbury <i>Away</i>	Garsington 2nd XI <i>away</i>
24	Minster Lovell <i>home</i>	Westbury 2nd XI <i>away</i>
31	<i>Airey Cup 2nd Round</i> <i>away</i>	Minster Lovell <i>home</i>


CSB

MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

Our last meeting in March needed an early start as the children from Marcham School were coming to visit and entertain us. They arrived looking a bit apprehensive but they quickly settled down and began with singing a few songs which were quite amusing. Then they went round chatting to everyone and giving out cakes that they had kindly brought along for us to enjoy. They ended their visit with a few more songs and great applause from all of us, it was most enjoyable. I hope they will come along again some time in the near future. Well done children and staff!

We had a lunch outing on the 11th April. It started out with a very heavy hailstorm, luckily we were all aboard the coach in time so all was well. After lunch at the Windmill Restaurant, Astell, we went to Lechlade garden centre. At this time of year it was brimming with new plants and flowers and everyone had a great choice of what to buy. Quite a few members are going to be busy in the garden when the weather warms up a bit. Our May meeting will on the 29th.

JOYCE PARRY

 <p>The Marcham Society</p>	<h2>Annual Lecture</h2> <h1>Abingdon After the Abbey</h1> <h2>Janey Cumber</h2>
<p>All Saints' Church Tuesday 13th May 2008, 7.45pm</p>	<p>Non-members £1 www.marchamsociety.org.uk Further details: Sheila Dunford (391439) or Judith Fontaine (391275)</p>

If you run or are a member of a group, why not write a short report about it?

WATERING & MULCHING

It really does seem that many of you are worried about strict hosepipe bans in the coming summers judging by the comments I am getting from some of you out there. So I thought it an opportune time to write on the subject of watering and mulching, so you can do you best to fight off droughts, if they appear.



An ongoing dry period can mean you harvest very small yields or even no harvest whatsoever. Also heavy rain after a prolonged dry spell can cause crops such as carrots, beetroot and tomatoes to split as they put on a sudden spurt of growth when they get some water. Even watering is essential for them. Until relatively recently, crops were productive even without very much watering, save for a little water around those plants you have just transplanted.

To help fight the scourge of the modern day droughts, you must increase the water retention capabilities of your soil by digging in loads and loads and loads of adequately rotted organic matter. Another good tip I stick to is I ensure the top 6 inches of soil is evenly moist throughout, but not saturated or waterlogged, at the time you are planting out or sowing seeds direct into an open seed bed. This draws roots down and away from the hot sun.

Lastly, put down a mulch in late spring. You could consider this another method of manuring, even though in is clearly in-season. A one inch layer of good garden compost or leaf mould spread amongst your young plants once they have fully established themselves works wonders. Remember though, that the soil needs to be moist before you mulch as it is meant to keep moisture in your soil and prevents the evaporation process. If the ground is dry before an application of mulch, there obviously is no moisture to seal in and can also be extremely counterproductive as if it does rain after the mulch application on dry land, the mulch prevents the water permeating down to the roots of your prized plants.

Mulching not only helps retain water, it increases the fertility of your soil and helps keep weeds down. Once you have done all this, you have done all you can to fight the droughts. But if a dry period does happen, you will still need to water things like tomatoes, beans, aubergines, onions and courgettes as they like the water content of the soil to be constant without any fluctuations.

Between the crucial time of flowering and full pod development of beans, you need to water gently but well every 5 days during a dry spell. Watering in the morning and in the evening are the best times as evaporation is lower and if you water during the hot midday sun you may scorch your plants. To save on water, apply the water around the base of the plants only; you don't need to water the whole garden.

If you only have a few plants to water, place a flowerpot in the ground next to the plant and water into this. This directs the water down to the roots of the plants and prevents run off. Also don't make the mistake of not applying enough water when you are watering. So often I see people applying just enough water to turn the soil dark around their plants. This is totally inadequate. If you water too sparingly, and the ground is very dry, you will find the roots of the plants come up to the soil surface to get at the water you've just applied. If you don't water again very quickly, the plant could easily just dry out and die because you have drawn the root upwards, where it is hotter and dryer.

If the ground is moist when planting or sowing, the roots will be drawn downwards and able to cope with dry weather. There is no advantage by watering inadequately and drawing roots upwards. If you can't water properly, don't water at all is my motto.

Lazy watering does more harm than good as it kills plants and wastes water. So come on, lets do our bit for water conservation and make our plants more drought tolerant in the process.

Happy Gardening
STUART MABBUTT
 April 2008

APRIL CROSSWORD ANSWERS BY ALISA

Across 1 St.George's 5 Bit 7 Usually 9 Lie 11 AB 13 Intense 17 Servicemaster 18 Wootton 19 CC 21 Duo 22 Leading 25 Yam 26 Farthings
Down 2 Gnu 3 Gel 4 Soya 5 Ballistic 6 The 8 Steventon 10 Indigo 12 Board Room 14 Season 15 Art 16 Ate 20 Clef 21 Day 23 Air 24 Gun

MSSSC: Marcham Sports, Scouts & Social Club

The pavilion & field off Morland Road
 We had excellent feedback following our article in last months MAD News. We had reported our intent to carry on developing sport & youth activities irrespective of the outcome of the Anson Trusts plans. Thanks to all who responded with messages of support. A particular thanks to new friends who supported our Quiz Night in April. Much fun, great enthusiasm, some talent, some winners but no losers. Fantastic. Details of the next quiz is shown below along with dates for other events.

REGULAR BAR OPENING TIMES:

Every Friday - 8pm to 11pm
 Every Saturday - after Football or Cricket

MAY SOCIAL EVENTS:

Quiz Night - Friday 9th May, 8.30.
 Real Ale night - Friday 30th May. (Last Friday every month)

FUTURE EVENTS:

Summer Dance - Friday 11th July. Look out for details
We look forward to seeing you at the club
 For more information contact Geoff Dix, secretary on 391577.

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.



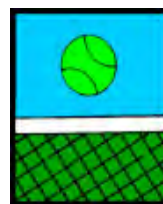
MARCHAM TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEW SEASON 2008 - 2009

The locks to the courts will be changed on 10 May. If you wish to join the association for the year, please come to along to one of the sign-up sessions at the courts:

3.15 - 3.45pm Friday 9 May
10 - 11 am Saturday 10 May

or contact Meriel on 01865 391725.

Membership fees for 2008- 2009 are unchanged at:
 Family:£44
 Adult:£22
 Junior (under 18 years): £14



STILL WANTED OLD PHOTOGRAPHS, DRAWINGS OR PAINTINGS

The committee of the Marcham Society would like to thank everyone who has responded to their request for photos and information. If YOU have any photos, drawings or illustrations of the local area that you would share with Marcham Society, please contact Sheila Dunford (391 439).

Information Pages are for YOU to use – write to the editor by 20th month latest

PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Last term brought lots of creative activities at Marcham Pre-school in readiness for Easter including making cords and cooking. The children also spent time working in our new garden areas, as we planted vegetables and flowers. We look forward to watching their progress. Over the Easter weekend the children were asked to make an Easter Hat or Bonnet and on 25 March we held a parade for all the families. The results were amazing and the children looked wonderful with a vast array of ideas. (see cover photo).



If you would like more information about Marcham Pre-school, or a copy of our prospectus, please telephone us on 07749 245313. We are open Monday & Friday 9am- 1pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am - 3pm..

ChildCare
 Trio Quality Assured Network
Registered Childminder • Competitive rates
 Individual care for babies and children up to 14 years
 Term-time and holiday time • Flexible hours to suit.
 Separate playroom, outdoor play area offers health lifestyle approach
 Breakfast Club and After-school Club
 Evening Meals available
 Call Sally 01865 391741



Abingdon Little Angels


We have had a busy time at Abingdon Little Angels, Our children have been enjoying the Easter celebrations with a close look at the Easter story and finishing with the last supper of bread and juice we created a great display on the wall, We also enjoyed an Easter egg hunt and bonnet competition. Our new topic currently is countries of the world, we are looking at Australia, USA, Egypt and Japan along with Africa where we are sponsoring a family from Kenya who needs our help. The children and staff have also completed a sponsored walk around the village to raise money for Our Kenyan family.

We have also purchased some new furniture for the children to enjoy, a super home corner unit where the children can become emotional and socially involved in their play enjoying role-play and demonstrating their social skills.

We would like to welcome two new staff members to our team who will be joining us in April, along with two new children from the village, it is great that the village children are now filtering into our setting.

If you would like to pop in and say hello please phone on 07516474287 and we will be happy to talk to you.

Sunningwell and District Gardening Club
Annual Plant Sale
 Sat 17 May 10 am – 12 noon
 Sunningwell Village Hall
 Great bargains and cakes, jams, refreshments too **Don't miss it**
 (see Marcham village notice board for details of monthly talks)



NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL

Admissions

Many of you may have read letters in MADNews expressing concern about the difficulty the school is experiencing in providing places for all the children of Marcham. It is true that we have been oversubscribed for places in the Foundation Stage (Reception) for September 2008. However, I would like to stress that decisions about the allocation of places are not made by the school and is not within the jurisdiction of the staff or the governors. All such decisions are made at County level and, at the time of writing this newsletter, we still await decisions from the Education Department about the allocation of places.

In the past, applications for places at school were delivered directly to the school and so the school had a strong indication of numbers. However, applications are now made to the Education Department of the County Council, often electronically, and so this makes it difficult for the school to make projections about admission numbers. What would be really helpful to the school – so that we don't find ourselves in this predicament again - would be to know how many children intend to apply. Therefore, we will be encouraging any parents in the village who wish for their children to attend Marcham School over the next 4 years to fill in the attached form and send back to school by 27th June. This will allow us to make more consistent predictions of future numbers and help us with any appeal to County as we look strategically at the provision of education for the children of Marcham village.

VIV HUTCHINSON



MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

If you have young children and would like to register an interest in your child attending Marcham School in the future please fill in and return this form to school by **27th June 2008**. This form is not an application to school and does not guarantee a place but will allow us to plan the future of the school and help with our discussions with the Admissions Team at Oxfordshire County Council.

NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN:

ADDRESS:

NAME OF CHILD	DATE OF BIRTH	MALE/FEMALE

**ANNUAL ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW
DALTON BARRACKS, SUN 4TH MAY 2008 10AM - 5PM**

It's not just an air show! The Abingdon Air & Country Show will have, as well as a large scale fly-in of both modern & vintage aeroplanes and the associated air display – vintage vehicles; steam machinery; arena events including Wallingford dog agility team, music and dancing; craft fayre, military recruitment display, bouncy castle, climbing wall, flight simulators; mini quad bikes and other kids amusements and much more!

We have always aimed to make our show a great family day out with lots to do and see for everybody - and it's all for charity, as we support the local Air Ambulance. The Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance, like all Air Ambulance services in the UK, is funded entirely by donations from the public and private companies.

Tickets available from Abbey House or www.abingdonfayre.com

	In advance	On the day
Adults (16 and over)	£8.00	£10.00
OAPs	£4.00	£5.00
Children (aged 5 to 15)	£4.00	£5.00
Children (under 5s)	FREE	FREE
Car parking	FREE	FREE

Be aware there will be aircraft noise Fri 2 May - Tues 6 May.

SEESAW SUMMER FAIR

Tuesday 13th May 2008 sees the sixth SeeSaw Summer Fair take place at Steventon Village Hall from 10.00 – 3.30 pm. All profits from the fair go to SeeSaw, the Oxfordshire based charity which provides grief support for the young in Oxfordshire.



We are delighted that Susie Bond, a Chelsea Exhibitor, of Busy Baskets, Wallingford will be demonstrating her unique style of planting and designing patio pots and hanging baskets at 11am and 2pm. We have also received some wonderful promises for our Silent Auction which are detailed on our website www.seesawsummerfair.org.uk.

Over 33 stalls from gourmet smoked products to children's toys, games, puzzles, books and gifts will be attending. "We like to offer an alternative shopping experience, whilst at the same time raise a valuable contribution for SeeSaw, last year's fair raised £7,000 for SeeSaw" says Mary Thompson, Chair of the Organising Committee. "We are very grateful to the stallholders who donate 10% of their takings to the charity, and all our sponsors. Our willing band of volunteers will be providing coffee, tea and light lunches".

Contact: Suzanne Crafer tel: 01865 391193, mob. 0780 11 66 234
www.seesawsummerfair.org.uk

ARTWEEKS RETURNS 3rd - 26th May

Artweeks is a unique opportunity to see art in the community offering the public and artists the opportunity to come together in a relaxed and friendly environment. There are no admission charges. All you need is a free copy of the Artweeks' Guide which gives full information on every exhibiting artist and is available from all Oxfordshire libraries, Tourist Information Centres, museums, galleries, shops and other public venues. Or you can visit www.artweeks.org to download the Guide or search for artists by name, location or genre.

So, put the dates in your diary and plan a local walk or cycle ride during Artweeks. There's no better way to enjoy the wonderful work being done in your neighbourhood.

To get a notice or small advert included please contact the editor 01865 391725



**Abingdon College & District
Film Society**

new season

21 weekly screenings • comedy • drama
some old, many new • talks • special events

free brochure: Ab 522163 or info@abfilms.org.uk
2005-6 winners "best programme of films"
(British Federation of Film Societies awards)
www.abfilms.org.uk Reg. Charity 292723

SPRING INTO ABINGDON

The "Spring into Abingdon" campaign is a grass-roots initiative to celebrate what is good about our town. It will run from Easter to late May, with 2 strands to it, one led by the community, the other by shopkeepers.

Community strand: make the Market Place a great place to be - get something going on there every Saturday. They don't need to be big events, just local clubs, schools, music groups etc doing their thing. It doesn't cost, and there could be more than one on the same day. Some ideas:

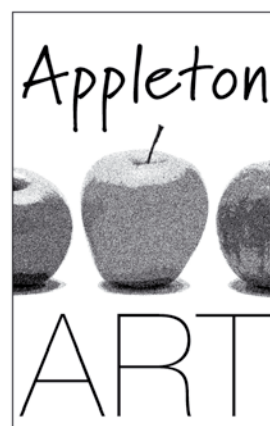
- an exhibition from Dalton Barracks
- exhibition of MG cars
- brass band, orchestra, choirs
- morris dancers
- motor cycle club exhibition
- a small attraction for children
- drama groups putting on short plays
- school displays
- pram races
- dog agility shows



Shops' strand: an initiative by the shops to publicise themselves and draw people in - possibly a spring promotion, involving getting a card stamped for purchases from participating shops and a draw for a decent prize. Underpinning both strands will be a need for lots of publicity and some fund-raising. A group of community volunteers and shopkeepers will do this.

Can you help us?

If you can help with any of this - or belong to an organization which might put on an event in the Market Place - please get in touch as soon as possible, either by e-mail to: abingdonlive@yahoo.co.uk or by writing to Spring into Abingdon, c/o 9 Abbott Rd, Abingdon OX14 2DT.



9/10/11 May

Over 2000 sq ft. of painting, pottery, jewellery, ceramics, woodturning, photography and embroidery by professional and amateur artists.

The Barn, Netherton Road, Appleton, Oxfordshire. OX13 5JX
07810 546160
appletonartweek@yahoo.co.uk
Fri 10 - 8pm
Sat/Sun 10 - 6.30pm



Light refreshments & toilets available.