



Marcham & District News

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

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



April 2012 Vol: 34 No: 4

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Ex-Servicemen's Dinner Dance at Abingdon Four Pillars see page 17

► Pre-School's budding athletes! see page 15

◀ A regular visitor to The Farthings



▲ MCG Users' Forum see page 11



▲ Anyone for Opera Anywhere? see page 17

HAPPY EASTER

DIARY FOR APRIL

5 Thur	Midweek Walk, Fleur de Lys Inn, Dorchester, 12.30 / 13.30	13
10 Tue	TAG Sport Relief	17
10 Tue	Singalong, North Street, 14.00-15.30	13
10 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45	13
11 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
12 Thur	Great Marcham Jubilee Weekend meeting, Board Room, Manor Farm, 20.00	15
13 Fri	Marcham Cricket Club Nets, Radley College, 21.00-22.00	13
19 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	13
20 Fri	Deadline for May issue of MADNews, 17.00	
21 Sat	Table Top Sale, Hanney WM Hall, 10.00 – 14.00	19
21 Sat	Ex-Servicemen's Club Table Top Racing, 20.30	17
22 Sun	Great Marcham Garage & Plant Sale, 14.00-17.00	11
24 Tue	Singalong, North Street, 14.00-15.30	13
24 Tue	The Hush-hush Factory, Oxford Instruments, 19.00	21

24 Tue	MCG Open Meeting, All Saints' Church, 19.30	11
24 Tue	Ex-Servicemen's Club AGM, 20.00	17
25 Wed	Kings Field Development Exhibition, Denman College, 17.30 – 20.30	19
26 Thur	Marcham School Parents Assembly, Eagles Class	15
27 Fri	BBOWT Bridge Drive, Eynsham Village Hall, 10.30 – 15.30	19
27 Fri	MP's Surgery, Faringdon, 17.30 – 19.00	9
MAY		
2 Wed	Marcham Annual Parish Meeting, Marcham School, 19.30	13
3 Thur	Drayton Players AGM, Caudwell Centre, 19.30	21
6 Sun	Bike Ride Against Breast Cancer	21
6 Sun	Abingdon Air and Country Show, 10.00 – 17.50	21
11 Fri	MP's Surgery, Didcot, 17.30 – 19.00	9
18 & 19	Abingdon Bowling Club Taster Sessions	19
19 Sat	The Mikado, Beef Barn, Manor Farm, 18.00 / 19.30	17

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

Dear Readers

Another issue chock* full of information and invitations to get out and about and talk to friends, neighbours and all sorts of other interesting people about new houses and community facilities!

Happy Easter



Meriel

*mmmmmmmm choc!

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ADVERTISING

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DEADLINES

Advertising: 5pm 15th month
Other copy: 5pm 20th month
except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

ADDITIONAL COPIES

These are available free from Marcham Post Office or the Editor. Postal copies are also available – contact the Editor.

NOTES

We apologise in advance for any errors that may creep into MADNews (online or print), or omissions that creep out - we don't do it on purpose!

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, who are all volunteers.

POLICE

PCSO Carly Milward
Call 101 (non-emergency)
COUNTY COUNCILLOR
Iain Brown
Janus, Westcot Lane, Sparsholt, Wantage,
Oxon OX12 9PZ
Tel: 01235 751210
Email: iainbrownconservatives@yahoo.co.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon
Jane Hanna OBE
4 Charlton Road, Wantage OX12 8ER
Tel: 01235 772782

Email: janehanna63@googlemail.com

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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April 2012

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
Taylor Wimpey (proposed housing/new community facilities) - Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual meeting of electors is usually held sometime in May each year. This is an opportunity to ask questions and raise matters of concern with your elected representatives. As Taylor Wimpey is likely to be lodging a planning application soon, for houses on half of the Anson field and a proposed new community centre, it was thought a good idea, to devote this year's annual meeting to clarifying the planning process and to hearing the views of local residents on the application. The proposed date for the meeting is Wednesday 2nd May at 7.30 p.m. in the primary school hall. Shortly after this, a consultation questionnaire will be delivered to everyone aged 16 and over in the parish to be returned to the Parish Council. Views will be gathered and the results will aid the Parish Council and Cllr. Hanna in their representations to the Vale of White Horse District Council who will be determining the application.

Youth Shelter – Vandalism

It is less than a year ago since the Council last had to write about vandalism at the youth shelter. Unfortunately there have been recent episodes of vandalism again at the youth shelter with concrete slabs being lifted, broken and the pieces thrown around. Not only does it make the area unattractive, and potentially dangerous, it is expensive to constantly repair, with the costs having to come from all villagers via the council tax. Would anyone seeing inappropriate behaviour in the area please report the matter to the Police on the non urgent number of 101 or alternatively if you have information, particularly as to those responsible, you may prefer to contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Weed Spraying

The Parish Council has again considered weed spraying on the footways and kerb edges. This is likely to be undertaken in May. Should there be tall flowers overhanging any footway, then it is suggested that these be tied back. This also helps pedestrians where the footways are narrow.

Local Government Boundary Commission - Vale of White Horse District Council Wards

A review is about to take place as to number of District Councillors and the wards that they represent, as the Vale of White Horse District Council wishes to reduce the number of councillors that it has. The aim will be to ensure that each councillor represents approximately the same number of electors, based on estimated population figures as at 2018. The Commission will invite comments in due course, and will publish draft recommendations. It is proposed that whatever is finally agreed will be implemented from the next District Council election in 2015.

Vale of White Horse District Council - Interim Housing Supply Policy

As residents will know, 5 sites in Marcham have been put forward as possible development sites under the draft IHSP. The Vale of White Horse District Council will be assessing these site proposals in coming weeks to identify which may be suitable to progress to a planning application. The Parish Council has been asked to state whether it supports any of the sites put forward for possible housing development, or whether it has a preference amongst the alternative sites suggested. The Parish Council still considers it too soon to begin to discuss any issues under the draft policy, and that the sites needed to be reviewed in a planned fashion, and has not changed its view. The Parish Council is waiting to see what happens as far as the adoption of the policy is concerned and what form it takes before considering any discussion about the Marcham sites.

Planning Applications recently considered by the Parish Council

2 Morland Road 12/00310/FUL Erection of two storey side extension
45 Packhorse Lane 12/00300/FUL First floor extension to rear

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 11 April 2012 at 7.30pm. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. L. Martin,
90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833
clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

FOR SALE

10" radial arm saw mounted on steel cabinet, £120
Winfield lathe £120
Naerok Pillar drill 40" £100
Naerok Band saw 14" throat £120
Burgess Band saw 12" throat £50
Rexon Scroll saw 16" throat £80
Trolley jack, Workmate, and many other tools Tel 01865 391 548

-o O o-

Home Office Paper Shredder
Brand New unused, still in box
Costs new £35 – Accept £15
Tel Marcham 391881

-o O o-

GIRL'S BIKES

1. Purple Pinnacle 20" wheel , gears, suitable for 6-8 year old. £75 ONO.
2. Pink Ridgeback 'Honey' 14" wheels, great first bike, for 2-5 year old. Current owner says 'it goes very fast.' £50 ONO
Both bikes in good working order and in good condition. Only being sold as have been out-grown. Tel: 01865 392089

FREE

G Plan Dining Table (160 x 95 cms) and 4 dining chairs (one in need of attention).
Ring 391488

-o O o-

Bubble Wrap (recycled) Available in the post office or by the bag load if you need a regular supply. Free with a charity donation. Keith Mersh, Abingdon Blinds & Curtains, 5 Orchard Way, 391881

Dear Editor

I would like to appeal to your readers for information involving the hit and run of my poor cat.

"Boots", our big black and white fluffy cat was heartlessly run over on Thursday 8th March. He had only just turned 4, my daughter is absolutely heartbroken, he was her cat and now she will never see him again.

It makes me sick to think someone can run over an animal and just leave them to die. Is it too much for that person to take them to a vet? Just in case the person responsible is reading, I would like to you to know that one of his injuries was a shattered spine as well as many others, I hope it eats away at you.

If anyone has any information regarding this – it happened near the bus stop by Longfields – please contact Lisa on 0776 777 3584. Thank you

LISA NEWPORT

Dear Editor

Make your mind up time.

In early April Taylor Wimpey (Oxfordshire) will be submitting a planning application to build houses on our field. Of course, The Anson Trust may technically own and administer the field, but it was left in trust for "leisure and recreational facilities for the residents of this village". If planning permission is granted, this will represent a colossal historical as well as geographical change to our Village. This may not mean an awful lot to the directors of the Anson Trust, the majority of whom are relatively new residents of this village, but it will cause a great deal of grief and sadness to many long term and multi-generational Marcham families.

We all know times change, and we understand the predicament the Trust finds itself in, however many of their problems have been self-inflicted. Why should we, the residents of this wonderful little village suffer for the undemocratic actions of a few.

Why should we have to put up with another 50 plus houses, and probably 100 plus cars clogging up our already busy roads, to say nothing of the additional school age children who will want to go to our local junior school which is probably already struggling with current numbers. Of course if building on the Anson Field should be refused, this may defer for some time the possibility of new community building.

According to the Local Press there are several other new proposed housing site applications likely to appear in the near future. If we don't want our Village to increase in size substantially over the

next few years, we all need to think very seriously about which, if any of these applications we should oppose. The Anson Trust/Taylor Wimpey planning application will be the first of many - think carefully about what you and your family will want Marcham to look like in the years ahead.

COLIN TRINDER

Dear Editor

I would like to know what the people who have applied for their land to be built on think of our environment?

According to the Oxford Mail, Marcham needs 229 new homes built, of which at least 160 have been applied for on several green space of land. Have these landowners considered the impact on the infrastructure of the local area? Consider this: If 229 homes are built, that is an extra 229 houses needing electricity, 229 washing machines, at least 100 dishwashers, 458 sinks (kitchen and bathroom) at least 300 toilets (en suites), at least 200 showers and 229 baths. So where is this extra water coming from, especially during a drought.

200-300 cars clogging up the surrounding area, at least 150 children – where will they be schooled? Crime level may increase... and all the extra sewage and rubbish from 229 homes! Also the lorries polluting our area bringing in cement/bricks from factories/quarries and wood probably from abroad. This is just Marcham and with other areas expected to build houses; this is a lot of damage to our environment.

Most of these houses will be bought by commuters as we are conveniently placed near major roads and Harwell/Culham etc. Where I live in Marcham there are at least 10 adults still living at home with their parents of which none will be able to afford to buy or part-buy one of these new homes. So why does the local council think Marcham needs 229 homes when people from the village will not be able to afford to live in one? What with CotSDale, The Croft, The Green and Packhorse Lane, how many are outside commuters and how many are from local villages?

I do agree with infilling sites where properties once existed as this is not degrading our green spaces, but I do blame the government for allowing the housing stock to be bought up and allowing landlords to leave over a million houses empty. If these issues were addressed Marcham would not need 229 houses and landowners may not be so greedy in wanting to sell off green spaces.

I fell really sorry for today's children of Marcham as I can honestly say this village will not be a nice place to live.

NICOLA WRIGHT, Parkside

Dear Editor

On behalf of Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire (TWO) and the Anson Trust can we take the opportunity to thank all parties who have inputted into the various consultation events and meetings that have taken place in relation to the residential development on half of the Anson Field and the replacement community hub at Hyde Copse. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Marcham Community Group who have assisted in our consultation processes and facilitated a number of consultation events.

For your information the application is anticipated to be submitted within the first week of April and as previously committed as soon as it is submitted and registered (so that we get the Councils reference number) we will write to everyone in the village to advise as to the reference number and also where a copy of the application can be viewed. Once submitted we do hope that you will support the proposals and the benefits that they will bring but can I take the opportunity to remind you that the two projects are inextricably linked i.e. the residential development will not happen without the replacement community hub and vice versa.

From the outset TWO have been committed to not just providing a residential development in Marcham but to providing facilities for the benefit of the community for the long term. In this regard we have committed to building the replacement facilities and are working with each of the users of the current Anson Field to ensure a consistency of provision of facilities. Furthermore, we have prepared a proposal by which we could provide new classrooms at Marcham Primary School – that discussion will continue in conjunction with both the school and Oxfordshire County Council but it is something that if supported we are committed to provide it.

Marcham is set out within the draft Interim Housing Supply Policy for circa 62 units and according to the Vale of White Horse Cabinet Report (16 March 2012) 5 sites have thus far been put forward in Marcham that could provide a total development significantly in excess of that number. Without wishing to get into the whole planning debate we do believe that some form of development will be supported within Marcham and we believe that should an alternative site be brought forward it is very unlikely that it could be able to deliver the community benefit package that our scheme is committed to bring.

We really do hope that you will support our proposals and once again we wish to thank all who have inputted into the various consultation events.

We trust this update is of use, but should you have any questions then please contact Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire at Windrush Court, Suite J, Abingdon Business Park, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 1SY or by e-mail to TWOmarcham@taylorwimpey.com

ANDY CATERMOLE

Senior Planner, TW Oxfordshire

Contentment

*I've never been to Docklands
or climbed Ben Nevis clear.
I never went to Merseyside,
but p'raps I shall, next year.*

*I've never seen the great expanse
of broad East Anglian sky,
nor ventured to the Scilly Isles –
(I'm too afraid to fly.)*

*And sailing over ocean deeps
would be a step too far
for one who loves her hearth and
home,
the garden and old car*

*I like my small and simple world
where seasons come and go,
and friends are always welcome,
I'd like them all to know.*

Joan Carter



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HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS

Normal day	Revised day	Which bin?
Fri 6 April	Sat 7 April*	Grey
Mon 9 April	Tues 10 April	Green
Tues 10 April	Wed 11 April	Green
Wed 11 April	Thurs 12 April	Green
Thurs 12 April	Fri 13 April	Green
Fri 13 April	Sat 14 April*	Green

Please note on these days collections will start from 6am, an hour earlier than usual, so remember to put your bins out the night before. Please ensure your rubbish bags aren't left vulnerable to animal and/or bird attack.

**Call Stuart now on
07798 825469
01865 747243**

Email: shotoverhermit@hotmail.com



Notice to all gardeners, now spring is here

Anyone about to get busy in their garden or allotment may be interested to know that you can now use locally sourced and recovered wood to make raised beds.

The Wood Shop on Milton Park is run by Oxford Wood Recycling, a social enterprise that collects wood from local businesses. This spring, for the first time, they have produced raised bed kits, using recovered wood, they cut them to size and deliver. All the pieces and fittings needed are included so assembly is piece of cake. Contact them direct for more information on 01235 861228 or www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk

April 2012

The Wood Shop

Second hand timber, scaffold boards, plywood and more

Why buy new? Lightly used and unwanted new timber and off cuts at HALF new price. Hardwoods too!

Visit us at: 46A Milton Park, Abingdon, OX14 4RU



www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk

Tel: 01235 861228



ED VAIZEY WRITES...

I thought it might be interesting to let you know the main subjects about which people write to me. In March, I received about 100 e-mails calling for changes in the Budget (mainly fuel duty); I also received over 250 emails from the 38 Degrees Campaign on the Health Bill. Most of my e-mails come from campaign groups but the issue on which I have received the most personally written emails has been gay marriage.



The Diamond Jubilee will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate not just Her Majesty's amazing reign but also all that is best about South Oxfordshire. I am sure many people are preparing for the Bank Holiday Weekend in June as I am (I am especially pleased my birthday is a bank holiday – long overdue recognition!). I also wanted to raise awareness of the new Jubilee Time Capsule project. The JTC is a unique and accessible digital project which invites people of all ages to share memories and stories of the last 60 years and it will be gifted to the Queen at the end of the year. It is a great way of engaging with the Jubilee celebrations and I encourage everyone, but particularly schools, to get involved at <http://www.jubileetimecapsule.org/>.

There are also many other cultural celebrations of the Jubilee around the constituency – Faringdon, for example, is holding a Craft Competition, Wallingford is having a big picnic in castle gardens, Didcot is having the Diamond of Didcot Awards in their new garden at the Civic Hall and Wantage and Grove have teamed up for a massive celebration across both towns.

Last year the National Citizens' Service pilot scheme took 8,400 teenagers on a course of helping the local community and personal development activities. This summer the scheme is hoping to expand its participation to 30,000 teenagers who will spend a fortnight adventuring away from home and then a three to four week stretch in the local community, where they will develop social action projects to benefit their area and see them through to completion. Aside from the enormous good that it does for local communities it also helps the graduates. After completing the scheme 96% of graduates felt more confident and 86% felt more responsible for their local area, plus 90% of the parents would recommend the programme to others. I heartily recommend this scheme to schools, parents and teenagers alike and you can find out more by visiting www.direct.gov.uk/ncs.

The continuing rise in unemployment is concerning, however, out of 650 UK constituencies, we rank 609th for unemployment with 1,242 people out of work – less than 2.5%. This rate is so low due to the supportive local environment for small local businesses – those ones that need every scrap of help they can get in these tough times. I was pleased, therefore, to hear about the launch of the Small Business Finance Directory which should help make it easier for such companies to find credit. The directory allows companies to search by region for alternatives to conventional bank loans and overdrafts. There are nearly 1000 sources of finance listed and I believe that it could prove a very effective tool for local business.

Finally I'd like to bring people's attention to the Big Lottery Fund which has awarded grants totalling over £25 million in the South East since January 2011 to over 1,000 projects including two in the constituency: Marcham C of E Primary School and Project Inspire, a plan to convert Fernham village church so it could also be used for community activities. I would encourage local projects to consider applying for National Lottery funding here (<http://ask.biglotteryfund.org.uk>).

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)
April 2012

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

Apr 27th	Faringdon, Pump Rooms, SN7 7HL
May 11th	Didcot, King Alfred Drive Community Centre, OX11 7NU
Contact Ed Vaizey MP by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350

GARD

The current drought has its obvious down sides with reduced flows and restrictions on domestic water use, but also some upsides! Defra, Ofwat and the Environment Agency clearly expect water companies to look to a variety of long term solutions and not just reservoirs. Thames Water is now working on its plan for 2014 and GARD is monitoring that work as best we can through our expert consultants. The recent Water White Paper stresses the need for greater sharing of water resources between river basins, and adjustment of unused or unwanted abstraction licences. This would include abstractions from the Thames by Didcot "A" Power Station which is due to close. Both of these factors are helpful in increasing the amount of water likely to be available to meet increased demand.

However, it is clear that Thames Water intends to do all it can to bring back the Abingdon Reservoir proposal as it is the company's most profitable and favoured option in which they have already invested £40 m of customers' money, so we are almost back to where we were in 2007. Thames Water's failed plan was thrown out last time because of the wrongly inflated demand figure. Next time we will certainly have to challenge their demand figures again, but low river flows may mean less water can be abstracted and supplies must come from elsewhere. We should know the scale of the predicted water supply shortfall by August this year.

GARD still contends with good evidence that there are far better, cheaper, quicker and less environmentally damaging alternatives to the Abingdon reservoir. Thames Water has been forced to investigate all of these alternatives properly as a result of the Public Inquiry, and we are trying to ensure fair play. Options include Severn-Thames transfer by pipeline or using a restored Cotswold Canal and much greater treatment and re-use of waste water and effluent as well as a variety of smaller schemes. We greatly hope the Thames Water investigations will be impartial and wholly independent.

NICK THOMPSON Hon Chairman GARD

Join us and help collect for **Red Cross Week** – you can make a real difference to the lives of vulnerable people. We are looking for help with our collections in towns and villages in Oxfordshire. During Red Cross Week we raise vital funds for our local services across the county. In Oxfordshire we run a wide range of services everyday that benefit the local community. Our services include; First Aid Training, Fire and emergency support, Care in the home, Mobility Equipment loan, Transport and First aid at events. There are a million ways you can help raise money this Red Cross Week for ideas and suggestions visit www.redcross.org.uk/redcrossweek As well as our collections schools are being encouraged to Dress in Red for a day during Red Cross Week – If you know a school that might like to take part in this, please get in touch. Across the world and around the corner your help really does make a difference.



Help us and "Be One in a Million".
Contact: Jo Blackler 01865 391519.



15th March
TOTALS TO DATE

Local Events
£5682

Donations
£4611

Membership
316

Bank Balance
£10,399

5p Coins
2900

A once-in-a-century opportunity? It's your choice

It's spring. The evenings are lighter. The garden needs attention. **And it's decision time.** Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire (TWO) has said it will submit its planning applications by 2 April. A village-wide consultation will follow, organised by the Parish Council and our District Councillor, Jane Hanna. Everyone in the village will be asked whether they support or oppose the proposals. See the Parish Council report on p. 3 for details.

The key issue is whether the community feels that the advantages of the proposals outweigh the related disadvantages. Do the proposed new modern facilities offer enough to compensate for their less convenient location and the loss of village-centre green space with the existing village-centre sports facilities?

There will be a special MCG Open Meeting on Tuesday 24 April to discuss the details of the applications so that the membership can form a view on whether the proposed community building meets community needs, as expressed in recent consultations. All welcome. Details below.

Whether you support or oppose the proposals, it is also important to comment directly to the District Council. The Planning Committee does take account of local views. The Vale District Council website has an easy-to-read section on how to comment on a planning application under 'Planning—Find an Application'. If you don't use the internet you can phone one of the contact numbers at the bottom of the page for the information.

MCG Open Meeting Anson Trust / TWO planning applications
Tuesday 24 April 7.30 pm All Saints' Church
Debate the issues Decide how to respond All welcome
The meeting will start with MCG's first Annual General Meeting

In February, MCG held two productive meetings on the proposed developments. The Open Meeting examined the pros and cons of the 'bird in the hand' and 'two birds in the bush' views of the proposals. The main 'pro' for the 'bird in the hand' approach was that a community hall could be built in the near future. In an indicative vote a majority supported this approach, provided that the community building design in the application would meet the community's needs. A meeting report has been added to the website.

The Users Forum (see picture on cover) was part of the consultation facilitated by MCG on the layout of the proposed community building and resulted in suggestions for several improvements. A report on the feedback has been sent to TWO and the Anson Trust. We have proposed some specific layout changes to respond to the main concerns expressed. This report has also been added to the website.

Visit www.marcham.org to see both the reports and details of MCG's input.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 22 April Great Marcham Garage and Plant Sale
2-5 pm Register as a seller by Wednesday 18 April and get your garage on the map!
 Late registration possible but your address will only appear on the list and not on the map.
 Fee £5. Phone 391439 (Sheila) or email mail@marcham.org
 Free maps & address lists available from 1.45 pm on the day at the Post Office.
 Donations welcome — all proceeds to MCG.

Great Marcham Jubilee Weekend. See p.15 Various MCG events

MCG Open Meeting 7.30 pm Tuesday 24 April All Saints' Church PLANNING APPLICATIONS



Marcham WI April 2012

Our meeting in March was well attended, and the evening was full of interest, with the AGM happening, an interesting gardening talk and a garden quiz to follow.

NEXT MEETING

7.30 pm Thursday 19 April 2012 Denman College

Christine Bloxham

Dolls' Houses

Members are asked to bring a doll for display

County Events

April Resolution Briefing Meetings
11 May Visit to Malvers Flower Show

Contacts for: Sonia Edwards 01865 391442
new members Christine Whild 01865 391270

Visitors and New Members made very welcome
Come and join us - We are a very active Group!

We are glad to see that you are feeling better Christine - ED



CALLING ALL LOCAL ARTISTS

We will be holding a hanging and sale of pictures during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year Celebrations in the village, June 2-4

If you would like to show your work, please ring Brian Gower 01865 391224 or Joey Maclean 01865 391242 for more information

MARCHAM PLAYERS

At the AGM we were thrilled that the Chairman postponed his resignation for another year. The officers and committee were re-elected on block. We are meeting for a play reading at the Board Room Manor Farm at 7:30 on 11th May, all welcome. Our Chairman Dave Hutchinson and Secretary Cheryl Sewell can be contacted on 01865 391964 and 01865 391200 respectively regarding any matters affecting Marcham Players, including membership. All are welcome.

www.marchamplayers.co.uk



MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

Thursday, April 5th

This month we will revisit Dorchester-on-Thames; this time exploring the countryside between there and Drayton St Leonard with several stretches along the river Thame. We will eat at The Fleur de Lys Inn (Map Ref SU578942) in the High Street at 12.30pm for lunch and will start our walk of about 4½ miles at 1.30.

Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.



Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 2nd May, 2012 at 7.30 p.m

Marcham Primary School, Morland Road

- The annual meeting for all electors in the parish will take place on **Wednesday 2nd May, 2012 at 7.30 p.m.** in the hall at Marcham Primary School.
- Don't miss this opportunity to attend a public meeting to give your views on the planning application lodged by Taylor Wimpey to construct houses on half of the Anson field and to build a new community centre on land rear of Longfields/Hyde Copse.

*You are invited to take part
Light refreshments will be served*

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Come and enjoy an hour of singing - words only - songs you all know. Two dates in April Tuesday 10th and Tuesday 24th. 2pm till 3.30pm
FREE - and a cup of tea and a piece of cake as well
WHERE - 62 North Street Marcham.
Led by Christine Whild.
Ring me for more details 391270



MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The last session of pre-season Nets is being held at Radley College from 21.00 to 22.00 on Friday 13 April. All levels of players are welcome to attend.

The Club's OCA Season begins with a 1st XI home match on 28 April against visitors Dorchester CC.

Please contact Trevor Hill (391321) for any information relating to the Club - including Nets and playing or umpiring for Marcham.

CSB



CALLING ALL CRAFTS PEOPLE

If you would like to exhibit your items during the **Great Marcham Jubilee Weekend** please contact us to register your name and your skill, and to book a space. We plan to be in the school during the afternoon of Saturday 2nd June. We hope very much that you can join us in making an attractive and varied exhibition.

JEAN AND DONALD CREASY Tel 391398

See page 15 for more information about GMJW

**Lower Sixth M.C.S Pupil (female)
available for Baby sitting.
References can be provided.
Please phone 01865 390777**



The
**Marcham
Society**

Cholera in Oxford

John Gibbs

All Saints' Church Tuesday 10th April 2012, 7.45pm

*Following meeting 8th May 2012
Wildlife of Thrupp Lake, Radley - The Earth Trust*

Non-members £2

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

Further details: Judith Fontaine (391275)

MARCHAM BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

We meet on Tuesdays at the back of the church, 10 - 11.30am. The first visit is free, then just £2 per family each week. There is a drink and biscuit for the children and a warming cup of tea or coffee for the grown-ups, and a friendly welcome for all. *Do come and join us!*

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

We have had lots to celebrate this month with many children showing off their achievements, particularly with new physical skills!! Katharine has gained her Level 2 Certificate for Children and Young People's Workforce this month which is another great achievement!! Well done, we are very proud of you!!!

The children have been sharing their pets and favourite animals with us allowing us to create a lovely display as well as showing an interest in the building work as part of the playground is refurbished with the installation of some great new equipment. The excitement mounts as we wait to see the finished results!!

01865 392101 07749 245313
 marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk
 www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL: CUBS CLASS

On Thursday 8th March the cubs were lucky enough to have a visit from the Harcourt Arboretum. We looked at different sized seeds from the very tiny to the biggest seed in the world (a seed from the cocoa tree). We then looked at what these seeds would grow into, some of the leaves were as small as our hands and the biggest leaves were taller than every child in Foundation Stage.

We learned about the tallest and widest tree in the arboretum, we held a piece of rope that had been measured to fit around the tree; it was so wide that when it was laid on the ground we could step inside and have a boogie with room to spare. Using another piece of rope we found out that to fit the tallest tree into the school hall it would have to be chopped into lots of littler pieces.

"It was very interesting we played follow the leader on the longest rope." *Emily Wood*

"We saw a huge seed; the lady said it looked like a mermaid's bottom." *Tristan Feldon*

"The rope fitted all around our hall, it showed us how tall the tree was." *Esme Hutchins*

"I enjoyed the giant redwood tree because it was sooo tall but it only had tiny leaves. I was also so surprised that the rope they laid fitted in the hall because it was very tall." *Isaac Thomas*

PTA Update:

The PTA recently held a bingo evening. We went technology driven this time and used a new computer program, which included a very strange man calling out the numbers! The feedback received has been very positive and we hope to use the computerised bingo again. The turnout was fantastic and thanks to all those that came along. Congratulations to the winners, the children seemed to have the luck on their side this time!

Parents Assembly: Eagles Class 26th April

Art Club

Every Monday 6 - 7.30pm at the Youth Club, Dalton Barracks
 s.gurung2@hotmail.co.uk
 Bring what you've created and let's talk about it!
 Everyone welcome

www.facebook.com/daltonbarracksartclub



**1- 4 June
 Dates for
 your diaries!**



Remember the Great Marcham Weekend in 2010? That was only a rehearsal!

Plans for the **Great Marcham Jubilee Weekend** (GMJW) are being pulled together – a major community fun event to mark the jubilee with something for everyone in Marcham and District.

Some of the events in the provisional programme are:

Friday 1 June:

- Pub quiz

Saturday 2 June

- Street banquet – bring and share for all
- Jubilee Cake competition
- Marcham Games – for all ages
- Wheelbarrow race
- Local crafts display and sale

Sunday 3 June

- Open-air service
- Open farmyard at Manor Farm: tractors, animals, and displays
- Vintage car and bike display
- Open Tower – bell-ringing display and visits to the top of the church tower for a unique view
- Cream Teas (and Coffees)

Monday 4 June

- Treasure Hunt – on foot around Marcham
- Guided walks around Marcham
- Open Tower – visits to the top of the church tower for a unique view
- Singalong, BBQ, Barn dance and Beacon lighting

There will also be an **art exhibition and sale** and the new **Village Shop** plans to be open over the weekend.

The main purpose of GMJW is to celebrate the Jubilee and for all to have a great time. After costs for the GMJW have been covered, any surplus will be shared between funds for future local community facilities and donations to selected charities beyond Marcham.

Many people will be working hard planning this weekend. We will need many pairs of hands to help with small jobs – such as fetching and carrying, and stewarding during the weekend – if you can help, or if you have ideas for other events we can include in the weekend, please contact Jim or Denise Asher (391727). The next GMJW meeting is on Thursday 12 April at 8pm in the Board Room, Manor Farm.

This is the big event that everyone will be talking about!

Marcham will be opening up, not just to local people from Marcham and District, but aiming to attract visitors from further afield. *Please bring your friends and families - don't be the one to miss this great occasion!*

More details in the next MADNews!

TAG NEWS

TAG are doing a TRIATHLON
 in aid of **SPORT RELIEF**
 Tuesday 10th April,
 Cycling, Running and Swimming
 Please support us by



- a) Cheering us on on the day
- b) Sponsoring the kids for their hard work

Contact Jill Rowe or Paul Davies
 for details of how to do both!
 07811 165351 or 07967 014966

MARCHAM AND DISTRICT

SATURDAY 21ST APRIL 2012

QUEEN ELIZABETH II BIRTHDAY

TABLE TOP RACING

Sponsor: Greene King

COME AND ENJOY A FLUTTER

FIRST RACE ABOUT 8.30PM

Members and Bona Fide Guests Only

EX SERVICEMEN'S CLUB
 NORTH STREET, MARCHAM

The evening of March 10th 2012 at the Abingdon Four Pillars will be remembered by members and guests of the Club as an enjoyable DINNER and DANCE in the company of 80 other revellers all enjoying good company, friendly atmosphere and music to dance the night away from the 60s 70s and 80s
 Thanks go to Brenda and the entertainments organisers for another very successful Club evening.

*****LOOK OUT FOR THE QUIZ IN MAY*****

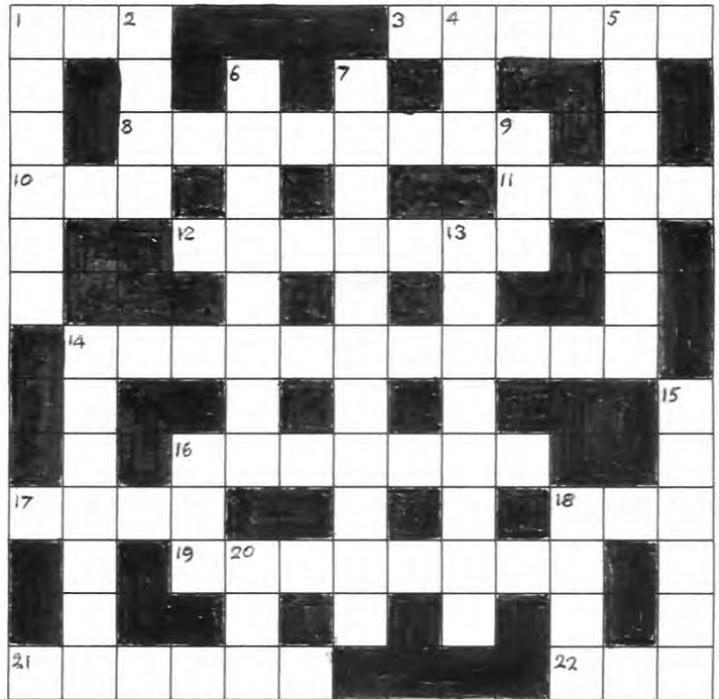
!!!!!! AGM TUESDAY 24th APRIL 8 pm!!!!!!

As a registered member of the club you are reminded that the AGM is to be held in the Club 8pm Tuesday April 24th 2012

All registered members are encouraged to attend. Your input is necessary for the Club's future. Agenda:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Apologies | 5. Treasurer's Report |
| 2. Minutes of 2010 AGM | 6. Election of Officers |
| 3. Matters Arising | 7. Election of Committee |
| 4. Chairman's Report | 8. AOB |

APRIL CROSSWORD BY ALISA



ACROSS

- 1 Obtain (3)
- 3 Dilapidated (6)
- 8 Siblings (8)
- 10 Some (3)
- 11 Trees (4)
- 12 Marine plant (7)
- 14 Time for a laugh (3.5.3)
- 16 Place east of Witney (7)
- 17 Fruit (4)
- 18 Playing card (3)
- 19 Exercises (8)
- 21 Place for wildlife near Oxford (6)
- 22 Tot (3)

DOWN

- 1 Venue for MCG plant sale (6)
- 2 Punch & Judy dog (4)
- 4 That female (3)
- 5 Village near 21 (7)
- 6 Garden insect (a)
- 7 Where to buy timber (3.4.4)
- 9 Piece of turf (3)
- 13 Absolutely delighted (8)
- 14 Try (7)
- 15 Appeared (6)
- 16 Age (3)
- 18 Continent (4)
- 20 Self esteem (3)

SEND-A-COW NEWS

OPERA ANYWHERE PERFORM

THE MIKADO

IN SUPPORT OF SEND A COW
 7.30 PM SATURDAY MAY 19th

IN THE BEEF BARN AT MANOR FARM, MARCHAM

PICNICS FROM 6 PM,

BAR AVAILABLE TICKETS £15 EACH

As you can see from the cover picture, the world of wellies and posh frocks collide at Manor Farm on May 19th. Come along and enjoy a truly British performance of the Mikado at the Opera in the Cow Shed. Set in Japan, Gilbert & Sullivan intended this operetta as a satire on British pomposity. Opera Anywhere's production, for which they are joined by The Letcombe Singers, takes this a stage further by combining a typical last night of the proms finale to the evening's entertainment. Established 12 years ago, Opera Anywhere are unique - combining beautiful singing with having fun, and a good dose of (optional) audience participation.

So come and enjoy a memorable evening out. Bring your picnics, from 6 pm, and your friends (plus your singing voice if you are so inclined). The performance is at 7.30 pm.

All proceeds from the event are going to Send a Cow. Tickets are £15 each and are available from Jenny Warwick on 01865 392 076 or from www.OperaAnywhere.com



MARCHAM AND DISTRICT EX SERVICEMEN'S CLUB
 NORTH STREET, MARCHAM, OXON OX13 6NG

January 2012

NOTICE TO ALL LIFE MEMBERS

At the Club's AGM on Tuesday April 26th 2011 an additional Club Rule was proposed. New Rule to state that from 1st April 2011 ALL life members over the age of 65 years should pay a re-registration fee of £5 per year.

The proposal was passed and accepted on a majority show of hands. This Rule is now part of the Clubs Rules.

All life members including widows and widowers of members are reminded that they must register in writing to the secretary at the above address, or register at the Club each and every year and pay the £5 re-registration fee if they wish to remain on the list of current Life Members.

The closing date of this registration is April 1st. each year Please note that those failing to respond by April 1st 2012 will no longer be considered Members and their names will be removed from the current register of Life Members.

Chairman 12th January 2012

BANNER HOMES INVITES RESIDENTS OF MARCHAM TO VIEW PLANS FOR A PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT KING'S FIELD, OFF SHEEPSTEAD ROAD

Banner Homes Central is inviting residents of Marcham to an informal public exhibition on **Wednesday 25th April 2012 from 5.30pm to 8.30pm** to discuss plans for the proposed future development of King's Field, off Sheepstead Road. The exhibition, which will take place in **The Livingstone Room at Denman College**, will be an opportunity for residents to view and discuss draft proposals for the way in which the site could be developed with new housing. Paul McCann, Group Planning Director for Banner Homes comments, "The Vale of White Horse District Council has produced an Interim Housing Supply Policy to address the current housing shortage in the district. Under this Policy Marcham has been identified as a suitable location for a development of around 60 homes. We are in the early stages of devising plans for the way the land at King's Field could be developed to help to deliver much needed new housing. However, we are keen to hear residents' views on the proposal and are holding this public exhibition so we can take on board comments of the local community before progressing our plans"

Representatives from the Banner Homes project team will be on hand to discuss the draft plans. Following the exhibition all comments received will be reviewed and taken into consideration ahead of the plans being developed further in the form of a planning application.

For further information about the exhibition or plans for King's Field please visit www.bannerhomes.co.uk/marcham

BBOWT Plea for Plants

Have more seeds germinated than you expected? Is it time to split up some perennials? Can you spare any plants for our CHARITY PLANT SALE at Botley on Saturday 12 May.

Please contact Ros Grigson thegrigsons@totalise.co.uk 01865 390540.



BBOWT UPPER THAMES GROUP

BRIDGE DRIVE Tickets £15

Eynsham Village Hall, Back Lane OX29 4QW

Friday 27 April 10.30 am - 3.30 pm

Coffee from 10am + lunch and glass of wine **Quality prizes**

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW

Email your name, address and tel no to

franpike@btinternet.com or ring 01865 881382

Table Top Sale

In Aid of Cancer Research

10am - 2pm Saturday 21st April

Hanney WM Hall

Hot/cold food, Raffle

Tel 01865 868527 to book your table

Together we will beat cancer



Wantage Folk Dance Club

1st & 3rd Thursday of every month except August.

7.45pm to 9.45pm at the Charlton Centre,

Charlton Village Road, Wantage OX12 7HG

If you have enjoyed barn or country dancing

come and try folk dancing. No partner required.

Contact: 01235 763369 www.oxonfolk.co.uk

MADAGRAMS by Jay

Is Your Road Hidden Here??



**SOON CLEANS
SELF IN GOLD
OH SAD, DESPARATE!**



Answers from last month...
**A RED SKIP= PARKSIDE
I AM DROLL = MILL ROAD
COOLER STEW = TOWER CLOSE**

Abingdon Bowling Club

in the beautiful surroundings of Albert Park are holding free taster sessions for anyone who thinks they might like to take up bowls. The dates for these sessions are **Friday 18th May 5.00-7.30pm and Saturday 19th May in the morning 10.00am-12.30pm**. No special equipment is necessary and several Marcham and Frilford residents are already members, so why not come along and have a go. If you have any flat-soled shoes it would be helpful.



www.abingdonbowlingclub.co.uk

Geoff Bailey, Recruitment Officer for ABC

Volunteers Wanted!

Your local Air Ambulance needs new volunteers to help us with our busy events calendar. If you like meeting new people, trying new things and joining a fantastic social network – why not volunteer a few hours per week for the Air Ambulance? We do not receive any Central Government or National Lottery funding so without volunteers we would not be able to continue saving lives in your community, 365 days of the year.



AIR AMBULANCE
BERKS | OXON | BUCKS

TVACAA needs YOUR help to ensure the Air Ambulance can continue to provide a life saving emergency service in Oxfordshire. Can you help us make a difference?

Eleanor Green, Oxfordshire Fundraising Manager

eleanor@tvcaa.org or 0300 999 0135 www.tvcaa.org

WE RELY ON YOU - SO YOU CAN RELY ON US

WANTAGE AND DISTRICT NCT EVENTS

April

- Tuesday 3 April, NCT Bumps and Babes Coffee Morning, 10.30am, Madison's Tea Rooms, Wantage, host Tess, 07932 137869. Non-members very welcome.
- Tuesday 17 April, NCT Playtime, 9.30am, Manor Road Park, Wantage, host Lisa, 07967 107226. Non-members very welcome.
- Tuesday 24 April, NCT Coffee Morning/Playtime, 10am, Millets Farm Centre, host Tracy, 01235 770795. Non-members very welcome.

EXPERIENCE THE CHALLENGE OF A LIFETIME AND RAISE FUNDS FOR HIV ORPHANS IN KENYA

Climb Kilimanjaro for Charity
12th October 2012 - 24th October 2012
(with option of trip extension)

BRITISH 10K LONDON RUN 8 JULY 2012

Just 19 days before Olympics
We ask for a minimum of £250 sponsorship

For more information contact Liz Bellinger
Email: info@thenasiotrust.org Tel: 01865 821700



WANT TO LEARN HOW TO CHANGE THINGS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

There's a free Introduction to Community Action course to help you:

- understand how you can affect decisions about where you live
- boost your confidence
- make a change in your neighbourhood
- earn an NVQ Level 1 qualification

The course will be held in Oxford starting in May 2012 and you will need to commit to one session of three hours per week for seven weeks and a tutorial.

We'll pay your travel expenses to get to the course venue and any child or other care costs while you are there.

Free fun taster session in West Oxford on Monday 30 April 2012 between 12pm-2.30pm (lunch provided).

Contact Beth Weston on beth.weston@oxonrcc.org.uk or telephone 01865 883488.

www.ocva.org.uk/community-action



BLUE BADGE SCHEME

As you may be aware in February 2011 the Government announced wide-ranging reforms to the Blue Badge scheme, after a major review of the scheme will heavy involvement from badge holders across the country. The reform programme is intended to help local authorities and badge holders deal with and reduce the current challenges, and to ensure the scheme is able to deal with future pressures and demands. The aims of the reform are to:

- standardise the scheme rules and eligibility for applicants
- prevent abuse of the scheme.
- produce a more durable and fraud resistant badge
- allow local authorities to cover the costs of these changes more appropriately

As a result of these national changes, this will mean some adjustments to the process for Blue Badge applicants in Oxfordshire.

More information about the Blue Badge scheme is available from Oxfordshire County Council Blue Badge:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/links/public/bluebadgescheme

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Oxfordshire County Council Social and Health Care Team. Tel: 0845 050 7666 Fax: 01865 783111

Email: socialandhealthcare@oxfordshire.gov.uk



The Classic Oxfordshire Bike Ride – 6 May 2012, Harwell Abingdon based charity, Against Breast Cancer, invites you to join us on our annual our Classic Oxfordshire Sponsored Bike Ride. Starting from Harwell Science &



Innovation Campus we have routes for riders of all abilities through some of our most scenic countryside. All routes are fully signed and marshalled. Parking is available on site and refreshments will be available throughout the day. For more information call Emma on 01235 534211 or visit www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk

The Big Pink Plunge, 24 June, Brackley, Northamptonshire Against Breast Cancer are seeking daredevils once again who are prepared to undertake a Tandem skydive from 10,000 feet for charity. For more information on how you can get involved call Jane on 01235 534211 or visit www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk

ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW
Sun 6th May, 10am - 5.30pm
Abingdon Airfield / Dalton Barracks

Flying Displays, Arena Displays, Music, Vintage Vehicles, Static Aircraft Area, Crafts, Trade Stalls, Food and drink, Children's Amusements...and much more!

Held in support of
Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust
Gate Admission; Adult £15, OAP £10,
Child 5-15 £5, under 5s Free..
Discounted advance tickets available until 26 April, enquire via the website: www.abingdonfayre.com

Warm Homes Healthy People Save money on the cost of your heating oil!

ORCC, Oxfordshire's long established community charity, has set up a social enterprise that will reduce the cost of your domestic heating oil each time you place an order! The scheme is designed to help purchasers of central heating oil to save money by buying in bulk. By operating county-wide, the scheme makes it possible for new or existing local community oil-buying groups to make the most of their collective purchasing power. Under the Warm Homes Healthy People scheme households at risk can benefit from cheaper heating oil with FREE membership. Households at risk are households unable to meet the cost of fuel prices over the winter, perhaps families with young children, older people, people with a disability or long term illness, or out of employment. If you are worried about the cost of your heating, or if you think that there might be people in your community who could benefit, please get in touch.



- Apply on-line <http://www.oxonrcc.org.uk/home/bulk-oil-buying-scheme>
- Telephone 01865 883488 (but we would prefer an email or on-line application if possible)

For more information on Warm Homes Healthy People

- Telephone the helpline 0844 887 0005

Stuck for something to do this Easter? Try making Eggy's car or go with him on a trip to the zoo ...



Free PDF downloads from www.eggbertsadventures.co.uk

DRAYTON PLAYERS are holding their AGM 7.30pm Thursday 3rd May 2012 in the Caudwell Centre, Gravel Lane, Drayton. There will also be an open meeting to discuss future productions for Drayton Players and we are asking anyone who may be interested in helping with these productions to come along. We would appreciate ideas for plays, help with backstage, production and direction and anyone who would like to "tread the boards". Please come along on the 3rd May - you will be very welcome. Contact: Fred Stevens Chairman, Drayton Players, 01235 200350 fred.stevens1@ntlworld.com

"The Hush-hush Factory"
7.00pm 24th April
History Talk at Oxford Instruments
Tickets £5.00 include refreshments
Contact Rosemary Kitto 390466 or rosemarykitto@gmail.com

Marcham Baptist Church

I want to stand where you're standing.

Like me, did you notice yet again this year that even before the January sales were over, the Easter eggs were on the supermarket shelves? Despite the advanced natures of their sale, for most of us Easter is the time for chocolate eggs, rabbits and daffodils, all originally symbols of new life. But despite the cosy, warm nature of the way we now celebrate it, in reality Easter is the most important festival on our calendar, a time when we should remember a sacrifice that can lead to forgiveness and new life.

In the USA, there is a gravestone with a simple inscription on it, saying "*I want to stand where you're standing*". Underneath those words is engraved the story of an incident that happened during the American Civil War. It tells of a 19 year old soldier who was part of a firing squad assigned to execute a man guilty of treason. As the young man closed one eye and looked down the barrel of his gun, he was horrified to realise that he knew the man he was assigned to shoot. He lowered his gun, walked over to his captain and said "*I can't do it. That man has a wife and children at home. If I shoot him, I not only end his life but that of his wife and children too. I will make his wife a widow and rob the children of their father.*" Everyone knew that the price for treason was death and the price had to be paid. After a brief discussion, a plan was agreed, in that the young man could take the place of the traitor. The 19-year-old marched up to the captive and simply said "*I want to stand where you are standing.*" The guilty man took off his blindfold and walked away back to his wife, his family and his life but his freedom came at a great cost to another - the young man had chosen to die in his place.

The retailers efforts to sell more chocolate eggs has served to turn our minds away from the true meaning of Easter, another genuine story of sacrifice but this one has eternal and worldwide significance. All the wrong that we do, the bad things that we say and think and even our heart attitudes separates us from the one true God who created us.

Most of us know of the Ten Commandments and might do our level best not to murder, steal, lie, commit adultery and so on but Jesus was asked by the religious leaders of his day what the greatest commandment was. He replied that it was "*To love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength*", echoing the first and second of the ten commandments. No matter how good a person we might think we are, none of us has ever kept that greatest command – and therefore all of us fall short of the standard that God requires. That reality of sin in each of our hearts should leave every one of us adrift from God and separated from him forever. However, God did not and does not want us to be separated from him and suffering the eternal punishment that our sin deserves.

God came to stand among us, in the person of Jesus, to identify with us in our pain and struggles and supremely to take the punishment that all of our wrong doing, bad thoughts and heart attitudes deserve. Effectively, like the 19 year old Civil War soldier, Jesus came to stand where we are standing, to take the punishment that we deserve. By faith in him alone, we can be set free to begin a real and living relationship with our creator God, entering into the forgiveness and new life that comes only through personal acceptance and faith in what Christ did for us on the cross.

Enjoy the Easter eggs but remember the real reason for Easter. Join us for one of our services, or pick up the phone if you would like to find out more.

Keith Mersh, Pastor Marcham Baptist Church

For further information on church activities contact

Keith Mersh 01865 391881

Ray Barrett 01865 391356

Bill Dyer 01235 814986

Marcham Baptist is affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain

Join us on

- **Sunday 1st April 3.00pm - for the induction of Keith Mersh as Pastor of Marcham Baptist Church**
- **Good Friday 6th April 10.30am - to remember Christ's supreme sacrifice**
- **Easter Sunday 8th April 10.30am - to celebrate the resurrection**
- **Every Sunday 10.30am – for encouragement and worship of our God**



All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page

Dear Friends,

Easter is here! Christ Jesus is risen! Nothing has been the same since this glorious event those many years ago. Christian faith is the Easter faith – full of life, joy, hope, life-changing power – because He lives we also live!

Jesus' resurrection, whilst foretold, took the first Christian followers by surprise. They had never encountered anything like this before except in a miracle Jesus had brought about with a friend called Lazarus. Could it be true? Having been cruelly crucified and certified dead by the Roman authorities, his crucifixion witnessed by the disciples themselves, could it be that resurrection had become reality?

In the days that followed that first Easter morning, Jesus showed himself to many people, over 500 on one occasion alone. The fear-filled disciples were transformed with a joy and a certainty that heralded the beginnings of the Christian Church worldwide. They were set free!

The Lord Jesus continues to set people free, people of all ages and backgrounds. He sets us free from guilt of the past, free from the crippling effects of estrangement from God, free to know our heavenly Father, free to be and become ourselves, free to know his joy and peace, free to know his love, free to truly live!

This month we welcome Keith Mersh, and his wife Ruth, to their pastorate of Marcham Baptist Church. We look forward to working together as we look ahead. This is a good reminder that our shared faith in Jesus unites us, whilst allowing for the freedom to hold different perspectives and worship patterns, and denominational structures. Unity in Christ without uniformity in practice.

With my warmest Easter greetings,

Revd Richard Zair

Prayer for the Month:

Almighty God,
Thank you! Thank you for the wonder and joy of this Easter season! Thank you for Jesus – risen and alive! Thank you for defeating death, for paying the price our rebellion deserves, for full forgiveness and a fresh beginning with you, for opening the way to life with you now and for eternity! Thank you for the resurrection!
In Jesus' glorious name, Amen.

APRIL calendar:

- Sat 7th April:** **Men's Breakfast** – 8.30 am at the Sports, Scouts and Social Club.
- Fri 20th April:** **Men in the Pub** – meet from 8 pm at the The Crown.
- Sat 21st April:** **The Changing Room – Women's Breakfast** – 8.30 am at Manor Farm Boardroom.
- Sun 29th April:** **Songs of Praise** – A special service for local churches at Kingston Bagpuize.

Easter Services:

Maundy Thursday (5th April)

- 7.30 pm Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Shippon

Good Friday (6th April)

- 10 am All-Age Service at All Saints

- 2 pm An Hour at the Cross at St. Mary's, Shippon

Easter Sunday (8th April)

- 8 am Holy Communion at All Saints

- 10 am Easter Family Communion at All Saints

- 11.30 am Holy Communion at St. Luke's, Garford

- 6 pm Easter Praise at All Saints.

Parish People:

On 16th March, the funeral of William Frank Stimpson of the Gap was held. We offer our sympathy and prayers to his wife Valerie and family.

Regular services:

Sundays at All Saints': 10 am and 6 pm

Wednesdays: 10.30 am Holy Communion at Duffield Place

Sunday at St. Luke's: Easter Sunday at 11.30 am

Contacts:

Revd Richard Zair 391319

41 North Street, Marcham (r_zair@yahoo.co.uk)

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister* 07811 165351

Chris Nutman *Churchwarden* 01235 521698

Deborah Flint *Churchwarden* 391056

Janey Cumber *Administrator* 391327

Jenny Warwick *PCC Secretary* 392076

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

- The remaining half of the Anson Field will become a recreational space for everyone 365 days a year – and with no fixed sports activities on it, we can, as a community, decide exactly what we want to do with the space in terms of landscaping and equipment;
- As part of their Section 106 obligations, Taylor Wimpey are hoping to agree with the Primary School and Oxfordshire County Council how they might be able directly increase the classroom space at the School and this should not only absorb the impact of the new houses but also help resolve the existing capacity constraints at the School for the rest of the village;
- In view of developments associated with the Vale's Interim Housing Supply Policy, it seems very likely that at least one major housing development will receive planning permission in Marcham – if the Trust's plans are rejected then it makes it much more likely that one of the other schemes that have been submitted will be successful and if this were to happen then it is extremely unlikely that any such development would be able to provide the village with a new community centre and a fund to underpin it;
- The new facilities are being bought and built at no cost to you or other local taxpayers – and without the need for years and years of hard work raising funds (instead such fundraising can be used to support current activities and priorities);
- The Trust is able to bolster its finances* to levels that should secure its operations long into the future and will hopefully enable it to fulfil all of its objectives, including the making of grants in support of local people and activities.

We hope that the above information has proved useful to you and we sincerely hope that you will support this great opportunity to resolve the provision of community facilities in Marcham once and for all. However if you have any questions about the Trust or its proposals, please feel free to contact us:

by email to ansontrustmarcham@yahoo.co.uk
in writing at 8 Hyde Copse, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxon., OX13 6PT
if you wish to speak to a director then please call either:
Chris Hillier on 391561 or Mike Hoath on 391349

** Having touched on finances, it is probably worth reiterating that if these proposals are unsuccessful then the future of the Trust will be very much in doubt. Whilst we are not planning to fail and have not considered in detail what courses of action we might have to adopt in such circumstances, it is highly likely that the choices facing us would be unpalatable for all the village and the future of leisure facilities in Marcham would be in very real jeopardy. Whilst you may not consider this sufficient reason to support our proposals we feel it is only right that we remind all residents of the village of the precarious nature of the Trust's finances and the potential implications.*

NEW COMMUNITY FACILITIES, SPORTS PITCHES AND RECREATIONAL SPACE

Over the last six months the Anson Trust, Taylor Wimpey and most, if not all, of the village's groups, clubs and societies have worked extremely hard on drawing up plans for the new Community Centre and the Directors of the Trust would like to express their gratitude for the contributions that everyone has made to this process. In particular, we would like to thank the MCG for their tireless efforts over the last couple of months and for the challenges that they have fairly put before us.

The participation of the community in this process is seen by the Trust and Taylor Wimpey as vital to its success and we sincerely hope that the plans (which we are finalising as MADNews goes to print) will meet as many of your aspirations and requirements as possible.

It goes without saying that we would really appreciate your support for our proposals when they are submitted to the Vale's Planning Services. We would also welcome your support in the questionnaire that we understand Jane Hanna and the Parish Council are likely to issue in April as we really believe that our proposals represent the only opportunity that Marcham and the surrounding hamlets are going to have to get amenities and facilities suitable for a 21st century community.

Here are just some of the reasons why we would like to think that we could count on your support:

- The new facilities have been designed with the future in mind (in particular the likelihood that the village will continue to grow steadily over the years) and will include:
 - A main hall capable of seating over 150 people,
 - A entrance foyer to enable users to move around the facility easily,
 - A small hall similar in size to the one at the Sports, Scouts and Social Club,
 - A bar lounge area similar in size to the one at the Club,
 - A sizeable youth room,
 - A modern kitchen considerably larger than the current facilities,
 - Two changing rooms for sports teams and a separate officials' changing facility,
 - Much more internal and external storage than we currently have,
 - New (and flatter!) cricket and football pitches,
 - Spaces for a Multi-Use Games Area and practice cricket nets,
 - A replacement nursery space;
- We are acquiring 10 acres of land which means that, in total, we will end up owning twice as much land as we currently do;