

Marcham & District News

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

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



May 2012 Vol: 34 No: 5

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ TAG's Triathlon Success see page 19

OUTSTANDING

It's Official – Marcham Pre-School is
Outstanding see page 15



▲ Marcham School's Trip to Woodstock Museum page 15



Great
Marcham
Jubilee
Weekend

1 - 4 June 2012

DIARY FOR MAY

2 Wed	Marcham Annual Parish Meeting, Marcham School, 19.30	5
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3 Thur	Midweek Walk, Red Lion, Steeple Aston, 12.30/13.30	13
3 Thur	Drayton Players AGM, Caudwell Centre, 19.30	
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7 Mon	Coffee Morning / Plant Sale, Brushwood Farm, 11.00	7
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11 Fri	Marcham Players - Play Reading, Manor Farm, 19.30	13
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23 Wed	Garford AGM, Village Hall, 19.30	3
23 Wed	SeeSaw Charity House and Garden Fair, Fallowfields Hotel, 10.30-15.30	7

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

Dear Readers

MADNews is getting very 21st century this month with a QR code for the MADNews website! We also have a QR code for GMJW (see page 7). If you are scratching your head, QR stands for Quick Response and was originally used to track car parts in manufacturing. If you have a smart phone, the squiggles can be recognised by the camera and it then brings up a website in this case, or it could be some more information about what you are looking at!

Now where did I put my phone....

Until Next Time



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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

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Call 101 (non-emergency)
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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
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Email: janehanna63@googlemail.com

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

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May 2012

MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Major Planning Application

A planning application for 51 houses to be erected on the Anson field and the construction of a new community hub rear of Longfields/Hyde Copse has now been lodged by Taylor Wimpey with the Vale of White Horse District Council. It can be viewed on the planning section of the District Council's website www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk under reference P12/V0854 or in paper form at the offices of Vale of White Horse District Council, Abingdon. The Parish Council has been sent a copy for consultation purposes.

The annual meeting for electors in the parish will take place on Wednesday 2nd May at 7.30 p.m. in the school hall at Marcham Primary School in Morland Road. The main agenda item this year will be the planning application. Cllr. Jane Hanna will explain the planning process, and local residents will be able to give their views on the proposals. After the meeting, a consultation questionnaire will be delivered to everyone aged 16 and over in the parish to be returned to the Parish Council. It would be very helpful if the questionnaire could be returned promptly to the Parish Council in the envelope provided. 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. In addition to completing the questionnaire, the Parish Council would encourage you to submit your views direct to the Vale of White Horse District Council as well. This can be done via the application on the District Council's website or by writing to the planning officer, Mr. S. Walker, Vale of White Horse District Council, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3JE

Weed Spraying

This will be done sometime in May. Access to kerb edges will be required, so it would be helpful if residents would bear this in mind when parking their vehicles in the day time. If there is any obstruction to the road edges and kerbs, then areas earmarked for weed spraying will be missed.

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

The electoral review has now commenced. The review aims to make sure, as far as possible, that every councillor in each ward of the district represents the same number of electors. The review will also take into account the identities and interests of local communities in the area. Consultation is now taking place on reducing the number of Councillors at the Vale of White Horse District Council from 51 to 38. The Commission considered the proposal for council size. This can be found at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/oxfordshire/vale-of-white-horse-fer

Anyone who wishes to make comments to the Local Government Boundary Commission may do so by writing to The Review Officer, (Vale of White Horse), Local Government Boundary Commission for England, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London EC1 5LG or by emailing the Commission at reviews@lgbce.org.uk. Please keep your local parish councillor informed too, so that the Parish Council can take into account your opinion when it considers the ward arrangements.

Planning Applications recently considered by the Parish Council

3 Mill Road P12/V0491 Change of use of garage to living accommodation

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 9 May 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

BILL STIMPSON
Valerie, Paul, David, Colin & families wish to thank everyone who sent messages of sympathy in their recent sad loss. Also donations to the Sidmouth Donkey sanctuary which amounted to £236.00

.....
Coming Soon
Garford AGM
.....
See notice board for more details
.....

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A VOLUNTEER MARSHAL FOR THE OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY ON TUESDAY 10 JULY IN ABINGDON??
Call Mark Hewer 01235 547693 or send an email title "Abingdon OTR" to mark.hewer@southandvale.gov.uk with your contact details by 25 May 2012
www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/london2012/

Street Briefings

- Sunday 20th May Kings Avenue, Marcham 6-7pm
- Wednesday 6th June Barrow Road, Shippon 6-7pm
- Friday 22nd June Wootton Village 6-7pm

Have Your Say

- Thursday 3rd May Duffield Place, Marcham 5-6pm

PCSO Carly Milward C6157 Abingdon Outer Neighbourhood Team NAG7 Marcham, Wootton, Shippon and Boars Hill Police Non-emergency number: 101

Dear Editor

It makes me so cross when people's dogs are running loose and all over people's gardens. There were two lots at No 6 and I had to clean up dog poo from the grass in front of my house as when I got out of the car I nearly trod in it.

Why should I have to clean up after other people's dogs? I would like to rub the owners' noses in it.

DM COX, Parkside

DogPoo Fairy stickers and posters can be obtained through the Editor 01865 391725 - they are provided by the Keep Britain Tidy campaign.

If you see another dog owner committing this offence please keep a record of anything that can identify them and contact the Vale of White Horse District Council's Environment Wardens on 01235 520202 or email environmental.protection@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Dear Editor

Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire submitted a planning application on April 11th on behalf of the Anson Trust. There will be an independent consultation on the application in order to gauge whether Marcham residents are in support of the proposals to build housing on half of the Anson Field to generate funding for new facilities for the village behind Longfields and Hyde Copse. It is very important that as many people as possible respond to the consultation. There will be a public meeting on Wednesday 2nd May at 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Marcham Primary School to inform the village of the consultation process. A questionnaire will then be delivered to every house in Marcham with a Freepost envelope to make responding easy for everyone. The questionnaire will take about 2 minutes to complete, so please do take part. If you expect to receive a questionnaire and you haven't received it by Monday 7th May, then please contact Linda Martin on 391833 or Dave Walton on 391239.

The results of the consultation will be reported to the Parish Council and will be used to inform the representation of the village by the Parish Council and the District Councillor at the planning committee meeting that will decide whether the application will be approved.

JANE HANNA District Councillor

DAVE WALTON Chair, Marcham Parish Council

Dear Editor

The Anson Trust is pleased to confirm that the planning application (P12/V0854) for the new community facilities and housing is now available for viewing online at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

The Directors would appreciate your support for this application both directly by writing or emailing to the Vale (by 7th May 2012) and in your response to the consultation **May 2012**

Marcham 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.

An opportunity for electors in the parish to raise any items relating to parish matters: **Main agenda item:** the planning application by Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire for 51 houses on the Anson field and a new community hub on land north of Longfields/Hyde Copse.

Don't miss this opportunity to attend a public meeting to give your views. Drawings on display from 7.00 p.m.

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

questionnaire which is being organised by Jane Hanna and the Parish Council. Here are just some of the reasons why:

- Marcham will get a 21st Century Community Hub with better sports pitches and car parking ... all at no cost to you, the taxpayer,
- By acquiring 10 acres of land behind Hyde Copse to add to the retained half of the Anson Field, the Trust will be almost doubling the amount of open green space available to the village,
- Taylor Wimpey, subject to agreement being reached with the School and Oxfordshire County Council, have proposed building two additional classrooms to expand Marcham School's capacity, as part of their S.106 obligations. The School would then be in a better position to cater not only for the additional children from the new housing but also for the existing strong demand for places from within the village and the surrounding area,
- No other housing development within Marcham can hope to match the community benefits that this application delivers to the village and it will bring to an end the longstanding concerns about the future of the Trust and the facilities it provides.

With Marcham being earmarked for 62 new houses under the Vale's new Interim Housing Supply Policy it seems certain that at least one major housing development within the village will obtain planning permission. Let's make it the one that so many of you have contributed so much to help design and of which we can all be proud, both now and long into the future. Thank you and we hope we can count on your support.

If you have any questions about the plans, the planning process or the Trust in general then please call Mike Hoath (391349) or Chris Hillier (391561) or email us at ansontrustmarcham@yahoo.co.uk.
DIRECTORS, ANSON TRUST

Dear Editor
Anson Field Sports Facility Update

On behalf of Taylor Wimpey and the Anson Trust we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in the design evolution of our proposals for

both Anson Field and Hyde Copse. The comprehensive engagement that has been undertaken and feedback we have received has enabled us to design schemes that we believe the residents of Marcham will benefit from for many years to come.

We can confirm that the application has now been submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council and is being considered by them under reference P12/V0854. All the application documents and plans can be viewed on the planning section of their website at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk. We are currently preparing a brochure that sets out the key elements of the proposed developments and the facilities that will be provided and these will shortly be circulated to every property in the village.

Our agreement with the Anson Trust to deliver replacement community facilities in addition to the residential development offers a wonderful opportunity for Marcham. It allows us to bring forward fantastic new community facilities alongside a quality residential development within the settlement boundary and without encroaching into the open countryside. The draft Vale of White Horse District Council Interim Housing Supply Policy indicates that Marcham should accommodate 62 new dwellings and we believe our cumulative scheme will deliver this much needed new housing whilst also providing the village with extensive new community amenities. Finally, can we once again thank you for your engagement in the consultation events and other forums. The consultation undertaken has been extremely effective in influencing our schemes and is an excellent example of what the Government's Localism Act and the recently issued National Planning Policy Framework seeks to achieve.

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
TAYLOR WIMPEY OXFORDSHIRE

The Directors of the Anson Trust regret to inform readers that the Institute has been the victim of metal thieves. The lead covering the roof of the entrance foyer has been stolen. The theft is believed to be committed on the evening of Tuesday 10th April. If anyone saw anything suspicious or has any information please report it to the police or alternatively to the Secretary of the Trust (Louise Butt 01865 391281).

APRIL CROSSWORD BY ALISA

ACROSS 1 Get 3 Shabby 8 Brothers 10 Any 11 Oaks 12 Sea 14 All Fools Day 16 Eynsham 17 Pear 18 Ace 19 Aerobics 21 Otmoor 22 Add
 DOWN 1 Garage 2 Toby 4 Her 5 Beckley 6 Hoverfly 7 The Wood Shop 9 Sod 13 Ecstatic 14 Attempt 15 Seemed 16 Era 13 Asia 20 Ego

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

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

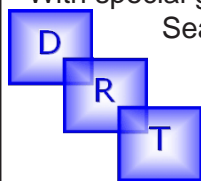
Family Fun Day and Fun Run

To raise vital funds for the Dyslexia Research Trust
 10am – 4pm Saturday 19th May
 Oxford University Parks OX1 3RF
 5km and 1mile Fun Runs
 (Race registration opens at 09.45)

With special guest and patron, **Rick Stein** with his Seafood Restaurant fish stall.

Also BBQ, music, face painting, bouncy castle, cream teas and crafts stalls.

FREE ENTRY www.dyslexic.org.uk



TUBNEY EVENTS

Monday 7th – 11.00 pm. Coffee Morning/Plant Sale at Brushwood Farm

Saturday 12th – 3.00 pm – Guided Bluebell/Woodland Walk at Woodside

Contact Rosemary Kitto, Brushwood Farm, Frilford Heath. 01865 390466. rosemarykitto@gmail.com. David Pickering 01865 820451 picklesnpip@mac.com

SeeSaw Charity House & Garden Fair

10.30 - 15.30 Wednesday 23rd May

Fallowfields Hotel, Kingston Bagpuize, OX13 5BH £3.00 Entrance

www.seesawsummerfair.org.uk



Grief Support for the Young in Oxfordshire



1 - 4 June

www.madnews.co.uk/gmjw

The **Great Marcham Jubilee Weekend (GMJW)** is coming very soon! – a major community fun event for all in Marcham and District. The main events are over the Jubilee weekend - Saturday to Monday, 2-4 June, although there are events before then – including **The Mikado** on 19 May.

On the evening of **Friday 1 June**, there will be a 'Pub-style Quiz' at the Sports and Social Club, £10 per team of four. To book in your team, contact Meriel Lewis (391725) or Jim Asher (391727).

The SSSC plans also to sell Real Ale over the weekend.

The big event for all, young and old, from Marcham and the surrounding villages, runs on **Saturday 2 June**, with a **bring-and-share Street Party Banquet** starting at midday in Morland Road. Remember to bring plates of food to share. Drinks will be available. Entertainments in Morland Road and around the school will include:

- Children's fancy dress contest – royal theme
- Maypole dancing
- Fire Service and Police displays (as available)
- Marcham Jubilee games
- Made in Marcham crafts display
- Marcham Remembered photo show
- Decorate-a-biscuit for youngsters

and many other entertainments on the day!

At the end of the afternoon, there will be a sing-along by a Red White and Blue children's choir.

During the weekend, the village shop plans to be open and there will be an exhibition of local artists' work at Manor Farm. On **Sunday 3 June**, Marcham will be opening up, not just to local people, but attracting visitors from further afield. Invite your friends and families!

- Morning Open-air service at Manor Farm –bring a picnic
- Open farmyard at Manor Farm, with tractors, animals, sheep-shearing, trailer rides, and Victorian fairground rides
- Art exhibition and sale at Manor farm
- Teas and Coffees at the farm and the church
- Local organisation displays in the church
- Open Tower – Bell-ringing display and visits to the top of the church tower for a unique view
- Vintage car display and gardens at Denman
- Treasure Hunt – on foot around Marcham (all children must be accompanied by adults)

On **Monday 4 June**, there will be:

- Art Exhibition and sale at Manor Farm
- Guided walk by Marcham Society
- Another chance to try the Treasure Hunt
- Open tower at the church (young children must be accompanied)

At about 6:00 pm there will be another sing-along led by the Red White and Blue children's choir, this time at Manor Farm. This is followed by a **Barbeque, Barn Dance** with bar and **Beacon-lighting** at Manor Farm - tickets from Denise Asher (391727), Rachel Gaisford (391432) or the Farm Shop:

- £5 per adult/£3 per child up to 27 May; and
- £6 per adult/£4 per child after 27 May. It pays to book early!

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

I hope everyone enjoyed Easter and is looking forward to the Diamond jubilee. Here is an update covering some of the issues that have come across my desk.



First, I promised to tell you each month what were the main national topics that people have written or e-mailed about. This month I got even more emails about the upcoming government consultation on same sex marriage and the proposals for increased counter-terrorism powers on the internet. I also got a great many emails from campaign websites on the issues of fuel duty and the environment.

Other news. From July, there will be some changes to the opening hours of our police stations in South and Vale. Some hours will be reduced, but I have been reassured (in meetings with the police chiefs for the area) that no front counters will close in the area and our police officers will remain visible and accessible. There is also a new telephone number on which the police can be contacted with non-emergency and routine enquiries – “101”. Full details of the new opening hours at the Thames Valley Police front counters are available on their website: www.thamesvalley.police.uk.

After the tragic death of their son, Guy Evans, my constituents Beth and Crispin campaigned to make use of their village's (Long Wittenham) redundant telephone box to create a potentially life-saving medical resource. The red box, sold to the Parish Council for just £1, now holds a defibrillator which can be used to restart a heart if a person stops breathing. I believe this is a really innovative way to make use of unused phone boxes and might be something for other parishes to consider.

I was really pleased to hear that (in this constituency) 100% of parents whose children applied for secondary schools got into their first preference of school. Seeing as the national average of children who get into their first preference is around 86%, I think this is very good news.

In my last newsletter, I said that the Big Lottery Fund had awarded over £25 million to the South East since January 2011. I am now also pleased to let you know that Oxfordshire Country Council will continue its Big Society Fund for another two years. Local community groups can bid for one-off grants from this new £1 million pot which will be available through to March 2014. For more information please visit <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>. I was also pleased that my mention of a local community fund in my article a couple of months ago brought forward an immediate response, and a family in Didcot were able to secure some money to buy a cooker. Another community fund which might help is run by the Asda Depot in Sutton Courtenay called Community Life. Their aim is “to provide as much support and assistance to the local community as possible” and they are offering opportunities to gain awards of up to £200 as well as access to their facilities for free. For more information, please email Emma at ekahlon@asda.co.uk or 01455884838.

As you may know I am the minister for film. I am delighted that a film made by my constituents in Kingston Bagpuize will get a premiere at the re-opening of Leicester Square on May 24th. It's called ‘Tortoise in Love’ and the website is www.tortoiseinlove.co.uk. On the subject of film, film makers of all ages can submit their amateur films to ‘Film the House’, a competition designed to promote the wealth and variety of film in the UK. MPs have been asked to nominate the top film from their constituency and then the winners will be announced at a reception on the House of Commons Terrace in October. Categories include drama, thriller, action, comedy, music video, documentary, as well as a separate category for under 18s which can be any genre. Get your entry in by 30th June and be in with a chance of winning a special reception and screening of your film at the House of Parliament. For more information on **May 2012**

how to apply visit www.filmthehouse.com.

Finally, I would like to wish a very happy 10th anniversary to Diamond, the UK's national synchrotron science facility. In celebration, the flagship science institute based locally in Harwell are asking the Oxfordshire community “What were you doing on the 27th March 2002?” – the day the company was founded. Perhaps you were born on this day, got married, or have a specific memory of that time of your life. Or maybe you are celebrating your own Diamond Anniversary this year. If so, e-mail diamond.communications@diamond.ac.uk or call 01235 778639 and you will be invited to one of the Inside Diamond public open days in June.

I get a few hundred emails every month on national topics. About a third are personally written, the rest are templates downloaded from campaign websites. Broadly speaking a quarter of my e-mails come from Wantage and Grove; a quarter from Didcot; about 18% from Wallingford and 18% from Faringdon

I am also keen to know about all the celebrations going on throughout the constituency over the Jubilee weekend. I already knows about quite a few events but if you could let me know about any big celebrations in your area it would be greatly appreciated.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

May 11	Didcot , King Alfred Drive Community Centre, OX11 7NU
June 15	Grove , Old Mill Hall, OX12 7LB
June 22	Wallingford , Town Hall, OX10 0AD
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

SINGING IS GOOD FOR MEN AND WOMEN!

Do come along to 62 North Street and have a sing on Tuesday 8th May and Tuesday 22nd May both at 2 - 3.30pm.



What do we sing? Songs from the shows, traditional songs, old pop songs, songs that you knew when you were young. No musical notation to learn, just words to read. FREE - and a cup of tea and a piece of cake as well
62 North Street Marcham - Led by Christine Whild.
Ring me for more details 391270

Red Cross Week – you can make a real difference to the lives of vulnerable people. 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”.
Marcham Contact: Jo Blackler 01865 391519.



15th April
TOTALS TO DATE

Local Events
£5767

Donations
£4928

Membership
332

Bank Balance
£10,801

5p Coins
3070

The Anson Trust/Taylor Wimpey planning application has been submitted to the District Council. What happens now?

Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire (TWO) has submitted a single planning application to the Vale District Council (reference no: P12/V0854) to cover (a) building houses on half of the Anson Field and demolishing the Sports, Scouts and Social Club building and (b) creating new leisure facilities on the edge of the village north of Hyde Copse. The application can be viewed at, and comments sent to:

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P12/V0854>

Comments must be submitted by 16 May. **It is worth sending in your comments, whether you support or oppose the proposals.** The planning committee will take note of individual letters or emails received during the consultation period.

By the time you read this MCG will have decided at its meeting on 24 April how it should react to the application although the MADNews copy deadline does not allow us to report the outcome of the meeting in this issue. However, irrespective of what the MCG membership decides, we urge everyone to find out what exactly is proposed in the application and to make their own decision on whether the proposals are right for the village.



The key planning issue is whether the advantages of the proposed new facilities outweigh the associated disadvantages. Would the proposed new facilities offer enough to compensate for their less convenient edge of village location and the loss of the existing village centre facilities and half of the existing open space? We understand that this issue will also be covered in the village-wide consultation that will be arranged early in May by the Parish Council and our District Councillor, Jane Hanna.

What else can you comment on?

MCG has produced a simple 'toolkit' guide to the relevant planning policies that has been distributed to members and is on our website www.marcham.org. Its aim is to help members and others to make relevant comments on the planning application based on some knowledge of the Vale's planning policies.

You could, for example, comment on whether the proposals meet the various criteria set out in the Vale local plan, such as the number of houses in the proposed development, the importance of the local amenity that would be lost, or the designs of the proposed buildings. You could also comment on infrastructure (the impacts on the school and local roads are among issues that have been raised at MCG meetings). Whether you oppose or support the application you could say that, if it does get planning permission, infrastructure improvements will be necessary to cater for the increase in the local population.

There is more in the guide. If you do not have access to the internet and would like more information please phone one of the contact numbers given at the bottom of this page.

Great Marcham Jubilee Weekend. Friday 1 June—Monday 4 June

Four days of fun starting on the Friday evening. Various MCG events. For full details see pages 7 and 17 and www.madnews.co.uk/gmjw

Comments to the Vale District Council by 16 May



Marcham WI April 2012

Our April Meeting was held in The Ferris Room at Denman College, and the talk this month was given by Christine Blowham, the well-known local Historian and Author. Her subject was "The social history of Doll's Houses" illustrated with slides of wonderful houses from the 16thC onwards.

NEXT MEETING

7.30 pm Thursday 17 May 2012 Denman College
Discussion of this year's Resolution on Midwives

Gillian Cane: It's a Girl's Life in the Army

Bring a piece of Army memorabilia for a display

Future events

11th May Malvern flower show visit
17th May Anglesey Abbey Visit, Cambs
28th June Classical Concert and talk, Birmingham our

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

**Local WI - Part of a great Organisation -
A Voice for Women**

MARCHAM PLAYERS

Just a reminder that we are meeting in the Board Room at Manor Farm, Marcham on Friday 11 May 2012 for an informal play reading, commencing at 7.30pm. This is not a cunning plan to audition for a future production - rather



is it an opportunity for members and non members of the Players to come together for a pleasant social gathering with a play reading being the focal point of the evening. All welcome - come along and swell the numbers!

The proposed visit to London to see "Singing in the Rain" is still on our agenda but ticket demand has been such that it is likely this will not happen until September earliest - further details will be published when a definite date is decided.

Any enquiries regarding Marcham Players can be made to Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964 or Cheryl Sewel on 01865 391200

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

MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

Thursday, May 3rd

This spring walk will explore part of the Oxford Canal and a really attractive part of the Cherwell valley. We will meet at The Red Lion in Steeple Aston (Map Ref: SP 471258) at 12.30 for lunch or 1.30 for the walk. The route of 4 miles follows the waterways to the now-peaceful and pretty village of Upper Heyford, with views of the famous Rousham eye-catcher. Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.



We'd like to thank everyone who came along to our second Open Day in March where we signed up a further 25 shareholders to Marcham Village Shop.

This month we received confirmation that our loan application to Co-Operative & Community Finance has been successful, which means that we will also qualify for a matched grant from Plunkett Foundation and we can now start work on refurbishing the shop, with a view to opening in late Spring / early Summer. Our application to run a "Post Office Local" within the shop is well underway, in the meantime the Post Office will remain responsible for our current services.

For more information call:

Chris Ricketts (391329) or Ruth Mander (392861)

THE POST OFFICE

We will shortly be closing to make way for your community shop – Marcham Village Stores. Thank you for all your custom and support. It has been a pleasure to have provided a temporary Post Office for Marcham.

ABDULAND ANNE

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The Marcham Cricket Club OCA Fixtures for May are as given below. Please contact Trevor Hill (391321) for information relating to Marcham CC - including playing or umpiring.



CSB

May	1st XI	2nd XI
5	Freeland II Away	Great Horwood III Home
12	SSJ Willows Home <i>Steve Dixon Memorial Cup</i>	No fixture
13	No fixture	Britwell Salome II Away <i>Centenary Cup</i>
19	Kidlington Home	Dedddington II Away
26	Hanney Away	Sunningwell II Home

Stay Independent

If you are over 60 years old and wanting to own a retirement property without the burden of maintenance and repairs, Anchor-managed properties may be the answer. Ladygrove Paddock is a purpose-built development managed on the residents' behalf by Anchor. At Ladygrove Paddock you can live your independent life to the full. A typical bungalow comprises 2 bedrooms, bathroom (fitted with shower), lounge, kitchen/diner, GCH, separate communal laundry room. Service charges are put together in accordance with the terms of your lease. They cover the costs associated with the upkeep of the estate, including insurance of the building and maintenance of the communal areas. For more details you can contact out Customer Centre on 01845 140 2020.



The
**Marcham
Society**

Wildlife of Thrupp Lake

The Earth Trust

All Saints' Church Tuesday 8th May 2012, 7.45pm

Following meeting 12th June 2012
Visit to Wytham Woods

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. There are toys, storytime and an activity for the children, refreshments and a friendly welcome for all. The first visit is free, then just £2 per family each session. Just turn up, or phone Ellie on 391277 if you would like someone to introduce you!. **Do come and join us!**

**NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL:
KANGAROOS CLASS**

Our topic last term was toys, which was a big hit with the children. We went to Woodstock Museum to look at Victorian toys and games to help with our topic. The children were amazed at how different things were back then and were horrified at the thought of an outside toilet!

Luke Pinches, age 7: *I really enjoyed the visit to the Woodstock Museum. We saw a tub that children had to go in if they had a disease or a cold. My favourite toy was one that you pushed together and an acrobat flew up in the air.*

Eva McAtamney, age 6: *At the museum we saw these little puppets. You twist them and they danced which was great. I liked the skipping ropes best as I'm good at skipping. I liked the fact that we could play with the toys.*

This term our Topic is Gardener's World and this will take us through to the summer. We were lucky enough to have a walk around Marcham and we looked at how land is used in the village. We talked about the village and how it is changing. As part of this topic we are also planning on planting seeds and growing lots of different things. The children will nurture the seedlings and it will be exciting to see the progress of the plants over the coming weeks.

Amelia Marah, age 7: *We had our class assembly just before the Easter holidays and I read out my Cinderella in Australia story which I enjoyed doing. I also showed the parents my puppet of the Queen in Sleeping Beauty. I enjoyed the walk around the village and we looked for different uses of land. We also looked at plants and the different kinds of nature. The walk was really good as I saw parts of Marcham that I didn't know was there!*

EAGLES CLASS

As part of our topic this term Eagles class have been researching climate change. We looked at many different aspects but were particularly inspired by a website called ARKive which focuses on nature. Part of their objective was to run a competition called the Creative Climate Change Challenge. Eagles class submitted videos of our performance poems about endangered Polar Bears and we are delighted to announce that we were awarded FIRST PRIZE in the under 11s category. The winning poem entitled 'Polar Jackson' was written and performed by Marcus and Kalina. This will be available to view via the ARKive website. Congratulations to them both! ☺

MRS WALDMAN – teacher of Eagles class.

**The Amazing Abingdon Hospital
Charity Quiz Night**

7pm Monday May 14th

The Boundary House, Oxford Road, Abingdon

Prizes worth over £100!!!

PLUS – Fantastic Evening Raffle with over 30 prizes

Teams of 4 £16 per table

For more details contact Abingdon Community Hospital

League of Friends c/o The Treasurer, 11 Ladygrove

Paddock, Abingdon Tel: 01235 527668

May 2012

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

We are extremely pleased and proud to announce that every aspect of Marcham Pre-school has been judged by OFSTED as

**Outstanding!**

Some of the Inspectors comments were:-

- Marcham Pre-school playgroup makes outstanding provision for children.
- A team striving for the best for the children in its care.
- Parents and carers speak very highly of the support and exceptional progress their children make."
- Routines and procedures at the beginning & end of each session ensure safety & outstanding care.
- Excellent relationships are maintained that contribute to significant strengths in each child's personal and social development and promote positive behaviour.
- Children develop excellent skills to support them in their future learning.
- All children's individual needs are very well met and all children are suitably challenged.

Our full report can be seen at www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/CARE/EY364409

To celebrate this wonderful achievement the staff, children and parents celebrated with an OUTSTANDING PARTY (non-alcoholic of course!!) on Friday 30th March which was great fun and enjoyed by all.

To register your child for **OUTSTANDING** pre-school provision, please contact us on 01865 392101 or visit our website at www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com.

We accept children from 2 years of age but it's never too early to get your child's name on our waiting list!

01865 392101 07749 245313

marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

"this is one of the most exciting and happy settings that I have been to and I would be happy to send my grandchild here"
OFSTED Inspector at Marcham Pre-school, March 2012

WANTAGE AND DISTRICT NCT EVENTS

- Thursday 10 May, NCT Coffee Morning/Playtime, 11am, Tree House Play Centre, Didcot, host Katherine, 01235 223177. Non-members very welcome.
- Friday 11 May, NCT Toddler Splash, 9.30am, Didcot Wave, host Lisa, 07967 107226. Non-members very welcome.
- Thursday 17 May, Bumps Evening (for mums-to-be), 7 – 9pm, The Bear Hotel, Wantage, contact Catherine, 07985 535357. Come and meet and chat with other parents-to-be and with members of the NCT in an informal setting.

TAG NEWS: TRIATHALON

On Tuesday April 10th, 8 members of TAG did a Triathlon involving Cycling, Running and Swimming between Marcham, Larkmead school and Abingdon School. Amazingly it stopped raining just before we set off and started again just as the last person got home - thank you to those who were praying for us! They all did really well - they covered about 60 miles between them, and will hopefully raise about £260 to share between Sport Relief and an activity for themselves later this term. *Well done! Paul and Jill are really proud of all of you!!*



Comments -

- It was good but I was worried people would see me, but it was still really fun anyway*
- It was a real challenge when I had swum the mile and had to go all the way back. It was fun though and it was really enjoyable.*
- I think it was really good, and something that I'm glad I didn't miss. It was challenging in some respects, but something I'd love to do again.*
- It was fun, I would love to do it again*
- I found it really challenging, especially the cycle back, but I knew we were doing it for a good cause.*
- It was so fun, but challenging at the same time.*
- It was hard but fun!*
- It was really challenging and I really enjoyed it.*
- It was good watching everyone take part.*

continued from page 7

1 - 4 June 2012



The **Beacon-lighting** will be carried out at 22:00 as part of the national Jubilee beacon celebrations. Full details, timings and a map of all events will be published in the free GMJW Event Guide, a printed colour brochure which will be distributed to all houses in the MADNews area in late May. Details of events will also be displayed at the Post Office. Many people have been working hard to plan this weekend. We need many more pairs of hands to help with small jobs – fetching, carrying and stewarding - during the weekend. Just 1 hour will be valuable - if you can help please contact Jim or Denise Asher (391727).

This is the jubilee event that everyone will be talking about! Don't miss it! Bring friends and family!

The main purpose of GMJW is for all to have a great time. After costs have been covered, any surplus will be split between funds for community facilities and donations to selected good causes.

**MARCHAM AND DISTRICT
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ**

**Saturday 13th May
Quiz start about 8.30
Members and Bona Fide Guests**

**EX SERVICEMEN'S CLUB
NORTH STREET, MARCHAM**

**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



Final preparations for the Opera are now in full swing! Tickets are selling fast so don't delay in getting yours from Jenny Warwick on 01865 392 076. We are pleased to announce that, in addition to the performance, there will be an auction in the interval where you can bid for locally donated prizes (the experience of being a farmer for the day, quality meat products, champagne, an evening's babysitting and much more.....) Again, all proceeds going to Send a Cow.

A final word on the dress code - if you want to dress up that's lovely but you don't have to. Black tie and posh frocks are actively encouraged but not compulsory!

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

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

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MADAGRAMS by Jay
Is Your Road Hidden Here??

HEN EGRET
PARTED ICE FLOAT
SERB WAITER

Answers from last month...
SOON CLEANS= ANSON CLOSE
SELF IN GOLD = LONGFIELDS
OH SAD, DESPARATE = SHEEPSTEAD ROAD

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 the
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

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

Freelance Administrator Needed

A locally based charity is looking for a self-motivated individual for long-term, home-based work as a key member of a virtual team.

The work involves processing membership applications and conference registrations (including payments), maintaining a membership database, preparation of mailings, and general admin as required.

It is essential that you are:

- Proficient in Word and Excel
- Competent with figures
- Able to work accurately under pressure with a keen eye for detail.

The workload is cyclic and requires flexibility with working hours and occasional use of own car.

Typically the workload would be around 600 hours annually. However, weekly hours can vary from 2 to 40 hours, with the busy periods in Jan-Mar and Sept-Nov. We would need you to start as soon as possible.

Please send your CV to Michelle Glanville by email: michelle@medical-interaction.com and call 01865 391836 with any questions.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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

WILDLIFE ON ALLOTMENTS

Wildlife gardening, when growing food crops, encourages huge ranges of insects which in turn offer a natural control of the pests that infest our crops. Companion planting bases itself in the same theory.



Spreading compost increases soil based invertebrates (creatures without backbones) which Hoover up vast quantities of pests. Growing flowers with flat petal like daisies and chrysanthus attract hover flies which eat aphids. Having a patch with dead wood and good ground cover gives beetles somewhere to inhabit which again feed on our pests. Growing clover in the paths between the allotment plots will encourage bees that pollinate your crops.

Often we grow more on the allotment than we need, if you have a surplus why not leave them to go to seed and leave them all winter. This will give the birds a food source and insects somewhere to hibernate.

Weed only if you have to, this limits moisture loss when disturbing the ground, and encourages a natural ground flora that in turn attract insects. The main thing is not to be too tidy when allotment gardening, let everything grow but allow nothing to dominate.

Happy Gardening,
STUART MABBUTT

Wildlife Gardening Specialist, 01865 747243
 See Stuart's advert opposite page 5



award winning
 organic vegetable boxes delivered to your door

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT
WWW.RIVERFORD.CO.UK
OR CALL JAKE ON 01865 249854

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 ROOM



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60 Barrow Road, Shippon OX13 6JQ

Tel: 01235 538546

- Great Atmosphere
- Great Traditional Pub Food
- Extensive range of Wines
- House wines from £7.50 a bottle
- A selection of Real Ales

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH: TRAD JAZZ
 LAST SUNDAY IN EVERY MONTH: FOLK MUSIC

The Bear and Ragged Staff, Cumnor

- Restaurant and Conservatory refurbishment now complete. The Bear looks stunning!
- Sunday Roasts, 2 courses including glass of wine from £15.00.
- Game Specials served on the last Wednesday of the month and the following three nights,
- New Winter menu featuring Venison, Pot Roast Guinea Fowl, Faggots, Traditional Fish and Chips among many other YUMMY offerings!
- 84 seat restaurant serving contemporary style English food using local produce.
- All kinds of functions and parties catered to.
- 4 kinds of pizza to eat in or take away.

28, Appleton Road, Cumnor, Oxford, OX2 9QH Tel 01865 862329
www.bearandraggedstaff.com




Great Marcham Jubilee Weekend

1 - 4 June

www.madnews.co.uk/gmjw

The **Great Marcham Jubilee Weekend (GMJW)** is coming very soon! – a major community fun event for all in Marcham and District. The main events are over the Jubilee weekend - Saturday to Monday, 2-4 June, although there are events before then – including *The Mikado* on 19 May.

On the evening of **Friday 1 June**, there will be a 'Pub-style Quiz' at the Sports and Social Club, £10 per team of four. To book in your team, contact Meriel Lewis (391725) or Jim Asher (391727).

The SSSC plans also to sell Real Ale over the weekend.

The big event for all, young and old, from Marcham and the surrounding villages, runs on **Saturday 2 June**, with a bring-and-share Street Party Banquet starting at midday in Morland Road. Remember to bring plates of food to share. Drinks will be available. Entertainments in Morland Road and around the school will include:

- Children's fancy dress contest – royal theme
 - Maypole dancing
 - Fire Service and Police displays (as available)
 - Marcham Jubilee games
 - Made in Marcham crafts display
 - Marcham Remembered photo show
 - Decorate-a-biscuit for youngsters
- and many other entertainments on the day!

At the end of the afternoon, there will be a sing-along by a Red White and Blue children's choir.

During the weekend, the village shop plans to be open and there will be an exhibition of local artists' work at Manor Farm.

On **Sunday 3 June**, Marcham will be opening up, not just to local people, but attracting visitors from further afield. Invite your friends and families!

- Morning Open-air service at Manor Farm –bring a picnic lunch
- Open farmyard at Manor Farm, with tractors, animals, sheep-shearing, trailer rides, and Victorian fairground rides
- Art exhibition and sale at Manor farm
- Teas and Coffees at the farm and the church
- Local organisation displays in the church
- Open Tower – Bell-ringing display and visits to the top of the church tower for a unique view (all children must be accompanied)
- Vintage car display and gardens at Denman
- Treasure Hunt – on foot around Marcham (all children must be accompanied by adults)

On **Monday 4 June**, there will be:

- Art Exhibition and sale at Manor Farm
- Guided walk by Marcham Society
- Another chance to try the Treasure Hunt
- Open tower at the church (young children must be accompanied)

At about 6:00 pm there will be another sing-along led by the Red White and Blue children's choir, this time at Manor Farm.

This is followed by a Barbeque, Barn Dance with bar and Beacon-lighting at Manor Farm - tickets from Denise Asher (391727), Rachel Gaisford (391432) or the Farm Shop:

- £5 per adult/£3 per child up to 27 May; and
- £6 per adult/£4 per child after 27 May. It pays to book early!

The **Beacon-lighting** will be carried out at 22:00 as part of the national Jubilee beacon celebrations.

Full details, timings and a map of all events will be published in the free GMJW Event Guide, a printed colour brochure which will be distributed to all houses in the MADNews area in late May. Details of events will also be displayed at the Post Office.

Many people have been working hard to plan this weekend. We need many more pairs of hands to help with small jobs – fetching, carrying and stewarding - during the weekend. Just 1 hour will be valuable - please contact Jim or Denise Asher (391727).

See also: This is the jubilee event that everyone will be talking about! Don't miss it! Bring friends and family!

The main purpose of GMJW is for all to have a great time. After costs have been covered, any surplus will be split between funds for community facilities and donations to selected good causes.

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 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 the

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



All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page

Dear Friends,

The Swallows are back! I recorded seeing the first Swallows on Friday 13th April – something which always lifts my heart, as I love their chattering song and their arrival heralds the coming of the warmer months of the late spring and summer. I think they are such brave birds, flying thousands of miles from Africa to spend the summer here. Amazing!

There is much to look forward to in May in so many ways, quite apart from the arrival of Swallows! This year we have the fun of **Opera in the Cow Shed** on Saturday 19th – if you have not bought your tickets for this, time is running out! In the Christian calendar we continue to celebrate this Easter season, and all the joy and hope this brings, and look forward to **Ascension**, and latterly to the celebration of **Pentecost**. This is a rich season in many ways, reminding us of core truths about our faith in Christ, which nourish and enrich everyday life. The calendar in the next column gives details of services to mark these special celebratory events.

Then just round the corner we have the special Jubilee celebrations, which promise to be great fun! Again this will be a time when we can join together for community events, and enjoy being a community together.

In this often uncertain world it is important to include times of fun and celebration. In Christian terms, we live in the age of the Spirit – which is why Pentecost is a key festival in the Church's year. The Holy Spirit is mysterious, personal, wonderfully active and alive with Life! It is the Spirit who enables our relationship with Jesus, empowers us for active service, equips us for worship and witness – the One who brings faith to life, and who sustains us with joy!

Enjoy a wonderful month!

Revd Richard Zair

Prayer for the Month:

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for your gift of the Holy Spirit. Please help us to celebrate his life with us, and to enter into the joy he brings to life and faith.
In Jesus' wonderful name. Amen.

MAY calendar:

Men's Breakfast: Saturday 5th May
8.30 am at the Sports, Scouts and Social Club.

Opera in the Cow Shed: Saturday 19th May
Opera Anywhere perform *The Mikado* in the Beef Barn at Manor Farm. Bring your picnics from 6pm for a 7.30pm performance. Bar available. Tickets £15 each from Jenny Warwick (392 076) – all proceeds to Send a Cow. NB. Black tie and posh frocks actively encouraged but not compulsory!

Ascension Day: Thursday 17th May
Holy Communion at **9.30am** in All Saints'.

Pentecost: Sunday 27th May
All Saints' services at 10 am and 6 pm

Parish People:

On March 25th, Sophie-Gail Stella Feldon was baptised at St. Luke's, Garford. We welcome her into the church family.

On April 16th, the funeral took place of the late Vera Alice Harpham, who died aged 96 and had lived in North Street, Marcham for many years. Our sympathy to her sons, family and friends.

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: Sunday 20th May at 10.30am

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

Marcham Baptist Church

Pray 4 Muamba ?!

Footballer Fabrice Muamba dropped on the pitch as if dead. The next thing that happened, after the paramedics reached the Bolton midfielder, was that a member of the opposing team dropped on his knees to pray - No one jeered.

Almost immediately and in the days following his collapse, there was an outpouring of prayer requests on Muamba's behalf. Even the tabloids were a part of this call. On The Sun's front page, in large bold type, quoting Muamba's fiancée were the words, "**God is in control – praying for Muamba**".



Muamba's supporters flooded Twitter and other social media platforms with messages of prayer and encouragement. Former Bolton manager Phil Brown, who saw Muamba collapse, said: "*It's very hard to believe what you're seeing. There are a lot of religious players and to see them all crouching down and dropping to their knees and praying was shocking.*" Bolton manager, Owen Coyle led a chorus of requests from players and fans around the world asking people to pray, with Spurs striker Jermaine Defoe saying "*Pray for Fab. God willing he will pull through.*"

On the day after the incident, I found it amazing but very encouraging on a TV news program to see Gary Cahill, former Bolton Captain who had spent two seasons playing alongside Muamba, pull up his shirt in front of the TV cameras to reveal a vest with "**Pray 4 Muamba**" underneath it. He was not mocked. Fabrice is not yet fully recovered but is now sitting up in hospital as the picture shows. Rev. Owen Beamont, the chaplain to Millwall football club commented that a surprising number of players find prayer entirely natural. "*They pray from instinct, like the rest of us,*" he said.

So what's going on? Is it as simple as there are no atheists in intensive care? This isn't marginalised religion. It's a public demonstration of faith and prayer that in some ways is hard to reconcile with the popularly held, western worldview, where many would often ridicule faith in God. Many would, perhaps out of bravado or embarrassment deny religious faith or even the existence of God but when faced with crisis, turn to prayer. Prayer is a natural cry from the human heart when desperate situations confront us but it need not, and should not be limited to those circumstances. Saint Paul in the Bible exhorts us to 'Pray without ceasing' but what scripture is not saying is that we need to get on our knees constantly but simply indicating that prayer should be a natural conversation with our creator – a conversation that should and easily can take place throughout our day. Yes, this can include prayers that ask for help in tough times but also should be an expression of thanks, or simply asking God to be with us and to guide us through the decisions of life.

Prayer is simply a conversation between us and the God who knows us and who wants us to know Him. Amazingly, through a whole variety of ways, God can answer and even speak back to us. Christianity is not about dry religiosity - it is about a living and growing relationship between us and our Creator who gave Himself for us at Easter and who wants us to give ourselves to Him in response and to live our lives for Him.

Keith Mersh, Pastor Marcham Baptist Church

For further information on church activities contact

Keith Mersh - Pastor 01865 391881

Bill Dyer 01235 814986

Marcham Baptist is affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain

***Join us on Sundays at 10.30am
or call Keith if you want to talk
about life or faith***