

Marcham & District News

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

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



January 2015 Vol: 37 No: 1

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Cothill Pitt - vital home for plants and wildlife ... and a place for everyone to enjoy see page 5



▲ Marcham School Nativity see page 15



▲ Mill Road Santons



▲ Marcham School: Outings to Woodlands and Highclere Castle see page 15



**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**



▲ Pre-School's hi-vis walkabout! see page 15

▲ A BIG THUMBS UP to Wayne Roberts for mending a broken bench

January		
8 Thur	Midweek Walk, The Cherry Tree Inn, Steventon 12.30 lunch 13.30 walk	7
9 Fri	Have Your Say, Marcham Village Shop, 17.00 – 18.00	3
10 Sat	Councillors' Surgery, Marcham Village Shop, 09.00 – 11.00	13
13 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
13 Tue	Singing is Good for You, 14.00 – 15.30	7
13 Tue	Marcham Society: Putting Marcham on the map, John Leighfield, All Saints' Church, 19.45	11
14 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3

15 Thu	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	7
20 Tue	Deadline for February issue of MADNews, 17.00	
21 Wed	Harmony Inspires Open Evening, Appleton Village Hall, 19.30 – 22.00	9
27 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
27 Tue	Singing is Good for You, 14.00 – 15.30	7
30 Fri	Quiz Night, MSSSC, 20.15	7
February		
20 Fri	Marcham Players AGM, Board Room, Manor Farm, 19.30	7
28 Sat	ABRAIL Model Railway Show, Tennis Centre, Abingdon, 10.00 – 17.00	9

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

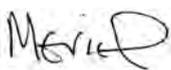
Dear Readers

Another year begins and who knows what it will bring?

For ~~2014~~ 2015, I am going to try to keep a positive mental attitude (PMA) and look for the good in all the changes that are coming to Marcham ... until proved otherwise!

My wish for ~~2014~~ 2015 is that by this time next year, we will be much nearer to having some sort of village hall ... it really has been too long. *

Happy New Year



* This message was adapted from last year's, only the date has been changed!

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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.

DISCLAIMER

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.

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PCSO Andy McCormack C9461
PCSO Myra Stokes (for Garford)
Just dial 101 (non-emergency)

CRIMESTOPPERS

Call 0800 555 111 (anonymous calls)

NHS NON-EMERGENCY

Call Free from any phone - 111

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
Tel: 01235 534001

richard.webber@oxfordshire.gov.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon
Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton
Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
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catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Community Facilities in Marcham

The Parish Council wrote to the Anson Trust offering to take a transfer of the ownership and running of the Anson field, and the buildings on it, to a village charity where the Parish Council was the Trustee. Unfortunately it was not possible for the Trust to respond to the offer before the December meeting of the Parish Council, and a full reply is expected shortly.

Parishioner of the Year Award

The Parish Council is again inviting nominations for the Parishioner of the Year Award. This is to recognise the efforts of local people from anywhere within the parish who have contributed to local community life. Marcham Parish covers the wide area from the A420 in the north to the River Ock in the South and from the A338 in the West across to and including most of Gozzards Ford in the East. The Council gives the award to anyone who, at any time, has significantly contributed to life within the parish. Should there not be any appropriate nominations, then the award need not be made. The certificate is presented at the annual meeting for electors each year. Would anyone who wishes to submit a nomination, please contact the clerk, whose details appear below, sending a short statement by the end of the month, of not more than 200 words, as to whom he/she wishes to nominate and the reasons why the person should receive the award.

Steventon Bridge

The bridge was scheduled to be closed for many months from February this year to allow for the electrification of the rail line. Network rail are reconsidering their plans and is trying to minimise the impact on the villages. A decision from the company on how they are going to proceed is awaited.

Grants

Applications for grants were considered at the November meeting of the Parish Council. The Council was pleased to be able to support the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, The Wantage Advice Centre, the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Parochial Church Council to support its childrens' worker in the village, the Anson Trust for grass cutting, and the Senior Citizens Club.

Planning Applications

The Parish Council has considered the following planning applications:
P14/V2570 Installation of conservation roof light in South facing roof slope
15 Church Street – The Council had no objections
P14/V2026/FUL Seasonal holiday accommodation, and informal public open space Land adjoining Hitchcose Farm, Cothill Road – The Council objected to the

application on grounds of creating housing development in the green belt, and the impact on the ecology of the area, traffic implications and setting a precedent for future development.

P14/V2261/LB Proposed solar panels to roof of barn Woodside, Oxford Road – The Council had no objections.

P14/V254/FUL Erection of 2 dwellings on land rear of the Red House, Packhorse Lane - The Council had no objections, as the site already had permission for 3 houses.

Additional rubbish

Christmas is a time when we all seem to accumulate extra packaging and items for the recycling bin. Please take note of the rearranged collection days over the holiday period.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 14th January 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in the residents' lounge, at Duffield Place.

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

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Chairman, Council members and Clerk wish everyone a happy new year

Have you got a problem or want to tell the police about something that is bothering you in an informal setting? Come along to our PCSO's Have Your Say meetings ...

Have Your Say

On all dates the times will be between 17:00 and 18:00

Friday 9 January

at Marcham Village Shop

09.02.15 at Marcham Village Shop
09.03.15 at Duffield Place
16.04.15 at Marcham Village Shop
29.05.15 at Duffield Place
26.06.15 Marcham Village Shop

**PCSO Andy McCormack C9461
Abingdon Outer**

**Neighbourhood Team
NAG7 Marcham, Wootton,**

**Shippon and Boars Hill
Police Non-emergency**

**number: 101
www.thamesvalley.police.uk**

Have Your Say Online

You can now send non-emergency messages to the police using the online form on the Thames Valley Police website. For you to do that please follow the link: **Have Your Say - contact your local team.** Please allow some time for a reply as the mail box is only checked at certain times of the day.

Dear Editor

A Buckinghamshire-based development company has conveniently coincided its latest planning application with the busy Christmas period, in what would appear to be an attempt to thwart any serious opposition to the development. But the strength of local opinion has already been acknowledged by Marcham Parish Council who voted unanimously to object to the application to build a holiday park in the green belt.

Cothill Pitt, which lies between Marcham and Cothill, was quarried more than 30 years ago and is now a vital wildlife habitat, where rare species manage to survive, a place full of colourful flowers and butterflies, a place where barn owls, bats and glow worms can be seen. It is one of few remaining open spaces for people to walk and for families to enjoy safely.

The developer claims: "the primary objective of this application is the improvement of the site". The reality, if permission were granted, would be the creation of a semi-urban environment with houses for tourists and increased traffic on the local roads. It would be the desecration of a precious green space, destruction of a critical wildlife habitat and wholly unwarranted building in the green belt.

There is still time to save this special place. Object now to the planning application; objections must reach the District Council by 5 January. A link to the application, P14/V2626/FUL, how to make an online objection, some reasons to object and much more can be found at www.savecothillpitt.uk or follow on Facebook at Save Cothill Pitt.

SAVE COTHILL PITT GROUP

Dear Editor

It is very welcome news that the Parish Council is taking the initiative on leisure facilities and has proposed an imaginative solution to the Anson Trust that should meet the needs of both the Trust and the village (Parish Council report, December issue).

One can only hope that the Trustees will examine the proposal with open minds. Unfortunately, the disappointing letter from Colin Bough in the same issue suggests the opposite with its unthinking rejection of Professor Bradley's earlier letter (November issue – a lucid explanation of the difference between the investment property and the functional property administered by a trust).

Mr Bough's letter shows that it will be difficult for the Trustees to think outside their accustomed box. They have my sympathy – they are volunteers who are acting as Trustees in their limited spare

January 2015

HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS

Normal day	Revised day	Which bin?
Wednesday 31 Dec	Friday 2 Jan **	Green only
Thursday 1 Jan	Saturday 3 Jan **	Green only
Friday 2 Jan	Monday 5 Jan **	Green only
Monday 5 Jan	Tuesday 6 Jan **	Green only
Tuesday 6 Jan	Wednesday 7 Jan	Grey
Wednesday 7 Jan	Thursday 8 Jan	Grey
Thursday 8 Jan	Friday 9 Jan	Grey
Friday 9 Jan	Saturday 10 Jan	Grey
		** (not garden waste)

time and it will require a special effort by all of them to look at other approaches. But I do hope they will find the time and energy to do this and, who knows, maybe they will surprise us all.

JESSICA BROD

(former MCG trustee but no longer actively involved)

Dear Editor

May I offer one observation on Colin Bough's letter in last month's MADNews? We can all respect the opinion of the Queen's solicitor, whether or not it is backed by a QC. Equally, we can all respect the opinion of Professor Bradley QC, especially after reading the relevant case report.

JIM HAWORTH

Dear Editor

Thank you to all those who supported the Garage Sale in December when Donald's tools were sorted out and sold. I'm happy to say that we were able to send £270 to the Marcham Moldova Lifeline. The tools which were not bought were later collected by a charity which mends and sharpens old tools and sends them to West Africa where they are welcomed by folk who want to make do and mend but haven't the means. If you are a D.I.Y person with tools you no longer need please get in touch with the gentleman who organises the local branch of this charity from his home in Crowmarsh. (Richard Lay 01491 839390) Thank you again for your custom - and happy carpentering!

JEAN CREASY



The initial interest in investing has been good. We are grateful to shareholders.

We are over the 1/3rd amount raised and would like more people to get in contact via the website or I am happy to chat. Involvement in a local project is a good present for children and grandchildren. If you want to know a bit more talk to me, Alice Narramore 391584 or go online at www.abingdonhydro.org.uk

We would like to thank everybody who donated money for the Stroke Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital in memory of George Lloyd. The total amount raised was £417.04.

Thank you

Doreen, Stephanie, Joanne

Ann Gover would like to thank everyone who supported the **Coffee Morning and mini Christmas Bazaar** in aid of Nyakabungo Girls' School, Kunugu, Uganda. We made the wonderful total of **£462.72**. a brilliant start to our dormitory building fund. At the moment the girls are living 50 to a room designed for 30. Thank you all very much.

Thank You

to all the people who work in the shop and post office and do such a wonderful job all year round serving us and so much more.

Nothing is too much trouble and it is all done with patience and good humour. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated team.

MP'S SURGERY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise - no appointment necessary

16 Jan	Wantage Vale and Downland Museum, OX12 8BL
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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

Marcham WI

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, 15th January
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Denman College



We wish all our members a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all at our January meeting, when **Sylvia Vetta** will be giving her talk 'How I cast away 50 people'. We hope you'll come along to hear what it is all about.

For any questions, new members or visitors, contact Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK.

Thursday, January 8th.

For this month's walk we will eat at The Cherry Tree Inn on the main road in Steventon (Map Ref: SU473918) at 12.30 for lunch. We will start our walk of 4 miles at 13.30 and explore the back ways of Steventon and Milton. Members free, non-members £1. Why not start the New Year by joining us? We are always pleased to see new faces. Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.



MSSSC: Marcham Sports, Scouts & Social Club The pavilion & field off Morland Road

Quiz Night

This month's quiz will be held on Friday 30 January in the Sports and Social Club on the Anson Field, starting at 8.15pm. Questions are on a range of subjects and aimed at everyone's ability! The quiz nights run on the last Friday of each month.

Teams of up to four people are invited.

Further details from Trevor Hill – 01865 391321

Everyone welcome - members AND non-members

Just turn up on the night for a friendly evening of fun and banter.

We look forward to seeing you at the club

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

2.00-3.30 pm Tuesday 13th January

2.00-3.30 pm Tuesday 27th January

We meet in the common room at Duffield Place. Come and join us, you will be sure of a warm welcome ... and tea and cake!

Phone 391270 for more details



Christine Whild

MARCHAM PLAYERS

The Marcham Players wish all their supporters a very happy and peaceful 2015 and would welcome their attendance at the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Friday, 20th February, from 7.30 pm, in the Board Room at Manor Farm. The future of the Players will be the main point for discussion – we need as many opinions as possible to enable us to make a decision...

For more details about joining in with the Players, call Dave Hutchinson 01865 391964 or Joey McLean 01865 391242. www.marchamplayers.co.uk



ED VAIZEY WRITES...

As I write, winter finally seems to have arrived. As the cold, wet weather is upon us, I was very interested recently to meet members of OxSAR – Oxfordshire Lowland Search and Rescue. We rely on so many unseen and unsung volunteers in so many ways, and it is good, particularly at this time of year, to remind ourselves of what they do and why.

It's not just mountainous areas that need search and rescue teams. In an urban or rural area people go missing and get lost too. Regardless of the terrain, if a vulnerable person is missing then it is vital to their chances of survival that they are found quickly. OxSAR look after us in Oxfordshire.

OxSAR are on call 24 hours a day, every day of the year. When the police are concerned about a missing person and they decide to scale up the search, they call them. Their members are all volunteers, they have full time jobs, families and commitments outside of OxSAR; yet when a call comes in many of them put their lives on hold. Within an hour and a half, they can have a mobile control unit set up, a search planner on the scene and trained searchers out on the ground looking for the vulnerable missing person. After a search, OxSAR members debrief, repack and replace equipment ready for next time and resume their normal lives – often going to work after a night out searching.

They wouldn't be able to do what they do without the generous support of the public. They are entirely funded by donations: donations of time from their members and financial donations from sponsors and the public. If you would like to support their vital and often life-saving work, please have a look at their website: www.oxsar.org.uk. OxSAR is also always on the look out for new members. Whether you might want to become an operational member and get your feet on the ground and search or you want to help them raise the essential funds they need to support the team, they'd love to hear from you. Again, have a look at their website for details.

On a less seasonal note, my mailbag this month has been dominated by concerns about the impact of the planned closure of Steventon Bridge. As you know the bridge was due to be closed for 10 months early next year. I had been assured that there was no alternative to this. But I am pleased to tell you that Network Rail have looked again at their plans, and they think there may be a way of implementing electrification at Steventon without closing the bridge at all. This is by no means a done deal, and if the alternative plan does work, it could still have some impact on the village. Nevertheless, one thing is certain – the bridge will not close in February as planned. We should have greater certainty on Network Rail's final plans in the next couple of months.

As ever please feel free to contact me on any matter at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or vaizeye@parliament.uk. Email is the quickest and most reliable way to get in touch, as I keep a very close eye on my emails and can reply very quickly. I also send out occasional general interest emails about developments in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please do email me at vaizeye@parliament.uk or sign up at www.vaizey.com. Surgery details can be found at www.vaizey.com.

Finally, may I wish everyone a peaceful and prosperous new year. **ED VAIZEY**, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)



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

Bank Balance
£18,021

Local Events
£11,328

Donations
£6,814

2014 - 2015 Membership
Voting: 72 Junior: 18

5p Coins
5640



Community facilities update

Community facilities – progress update

Community Facilities Steering Group

The Community Facilities Steering Group (CFSG), drawn from the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, the Baptist Church, Marcham School Governors, Marcham Scouts, Sports and Social Club, and Marcham Community Group is continuing to work on details of options and outline plans for new community facilities.

CFSG is reviewing the suitability of the list of sites that were identified by the Parish Council as possible in principle for new facilities and is drawing up selection criteria to short-list sites as the most suitable and to look into these in more detail. CFSG has also drawn up outline specifications for new facilities, so as to establish some basic requirements. There is much still to do.

We look forward together to a good and productive New Year in 2015, one in which real progress will be made...and we will be needing lots of your help as we gather momentum.

Marcham Community Group:
391727 (Jim)

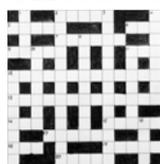
Company No 7470307
admin@marcham.org

Charity No 1144407

www.marcham.org



CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Across: 2. Elfin 5. Index 6. Jay 7. Ersatz 9. Décor
11. Bus 12. Nordic walking 13. White elephant
14. Dog 15. Alert 17. Lately 18. Yew 19. Eagle
20. Skier

Down: 1. Once 2. Exercise class 3. Netball player
4. Eyesight 8. Snowflake 10. Curling 11. Brigade
12. Nowadays 16. Part

Used postage stamp collection Marcham Post Office

Throughout 2015 Gwyneth Goss will be collecting used postage stamps to raise funds for YoungDementia UK, the locally-based charity which helps younger people with dementia and their families. Please save used stamps from your mail and put them in the collecting box in the Post Office.

- Save any stamps from your post by cutting/tearing them off envelopes
- Please leave no more than 1cm of envelope around each stamp
- Please do not damage the stamp's perforations by trimming too close
- British and foreign stamps taken

Thank you for your support.

To find out more about the charity's work visit the website www.youngdementiauk.org



A New Year's Resolution

"Come Back to Singing" – **Harmony Inspires**, a ladies A Cappella chorus, are holding an Open Evening on Wednesday 21st January 2015 from 7.30 to 10pm in Appleton Village Hall OX13 6JS. The group welcomes women of all ages who are interested in singing. It would be a great opportunity for you to come along and join in one of our weekly rehearsals to see if you would like to become a member. The more the merrier why not bring along a friend too?



To register an interest please contact Christine Casson on join-us@harmonyinspires.org or call Christine on 01235 831352.

ABRAIL 2015

Model Railway Show
for modellers of all ages

Saturday 28th February 2015
10.00am – 5.00pm

**WHITE HORSE LEISURE & TENNIS CENTRE
ABINGDON on THAMES OX14 3PJ**

**LARGEST EXHIBITION IN OXFORDSHIRE
Over 50 Exhibitors of Layouts and Traders
Marketplace for Your Modelling Needs**

Demonstrations Railway Societies

Entrance £8.00 Adult / Children Free

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times

www.admrc.org.uk

NEW TOOLS FOR A NEW ALLOTMENT

At this time of year, it's a good chance to break the mould in your wildlife gardening and spread beyond the boundaries of your own garden and get an allotment. At this time of year, allotments can often become available, but the waiting list in the towns and cities are often a lot longer than those in rural settings.



When venturing out into pastures anew and getting your first allotment, it pays dividends to purchase good tools from the start, as allotments tools are regularly worked harder than the ones you use in your garden.

It's always better to select and buy your tools in person, so you can check their dimensions and weight are suitable for you to personally use.

Buying online is easy, but can't get near handling tools before buying to convince you that you have the correct tools for you.

Just buy the tools that you need initially, and get others if and when they become necessary.

All you will need is a good spade, but I would advise getting 2 types, a large digging spade and a smaller border style spade for those hard to reach areas.

The same goes for forks, get a large one for digging and also a smaller border fork. Spades and forks made from good steel is the way to go, but make sure the handles are big or small enough for your hands to grip properly.

A trowel and a small hand fork are good for potting and planting and for those close up weeding jobs on your hands and knees.

A good robust pair of knee pads would be a worthwhile purchase too, as would a pot of wire and string plus a reel and line to mark out those straight lines of crops you see in many veg plots.

Secateurs and shears again need careful considerations when being purchased as they need to fit your hands properly or you will get blisters very quickly.

Hoes come in 2 main types. Dutch that you push away from you to weed and a draw hoe that you pull towards you to weed and you can draw up soil around your potatoes with it too for example. I have a third type called a swoe which is a cross between a dutch hoe and a scythe, which can be pushed, pulled and used to weed out paving slabs too.

A good steel soil rake and wheel barrow are other things to think about, as too is a watering can.

Finally, gloves, and I not going to offer any advice here as the choice is endless and again you need to be comfortable in them.

Buy the right tools from the start and they will serve you well, buy poor quality and it will be false economy as they just will not last and you will very quickly be off to the local garden centre to purchase yourself some more.

See you all out there then on an allotment somewhere in 2015.

Happy Gardening **STUART MABBUTT**

Wildlife Gardening Specialist 01865 747243

Run by the community for the community

**Marcham Village Shop
and Post Office
A Special Service
for those in difficulty**



Not feeling well • Parents with sick children • Worried about slippery pavements • Feeling frail?

During inclement weather the shop will provide a free delivery service to residents who cannot go shopping.



Its simple.

- Make a list of the goods you want.
- Phone the shop on 391993 with the items you require. Leave your address and contact number.
- The shop will then pick your order and deliver the goods. (We will do its best to fulfil your order as accurately as possible or will substitute a suitable alternative.)
- You pay cash on delivery

We trust this service will be of benefit to the community during the inclement weather.

Our New Year Opening Times

DATE	SHOP & PO
Thurs 1st Jan	Closed
Friday 2nd Jan	07.30 - 13.00
Sat 3rd Jan	07.30 - 13.00
Sun 4th Jan	08.00 - 13.00
Monday 5th Jan	back to normal hours
Mon - Fri:	07.30 - 18.00
Sat:	07.30 - 13.00
Sun:	08.00 - 13.00

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

Please contact Trevor Hill (01865 391321) for any information relating to the Club, including playing or umpiring for Marcham.

CSB



Services Offered, including, but not limited to...

- Domestic Cleaning (daily, weekly, fortnight)
- End of Tenancy Cleaning
- Administrative Services/Office assistance
- Household Management
- House Sitting
- Mother's Helper

Live-in Position welcome

JudyGG Services

Call Judy: 07944544290 Email: Judygg@hotmail.co.uk

Reliable & Friendly Affordable Rates



*The
Marcham
Society*

*All Saints' Church Marcham
7.45pm Tuesday 13th January*

**Putting Marcham on the map:
From Gough to Google**

John Leighfield

February meeting: Tim Healey Sex, Drink & Death in 17thC Oxfordshire

Non-members always welcome £2

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

Further details: Sheila Dunford (391439) or Judith Fontaine (391275)

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**S106 The current process. The way it works...**

Negotiations occur between County (On schools, hospitals roads etc), District (Leisure Affordable Housing) and developers to agree the size of "the cake" – the total amount of money that the developer should be asked to contribute to infrastructure in order for his development to be agreed. Such negotiations are carried out within national guidelines which protect (largely) both developer and Councils from unreasonable demands. Of the total amount of money generated by a development 1/3 goes to landowner, 1/3 to developer and 1/3 to s106.

All such negotiations take place behind closed doors at meetings and by email exchanges between Council officers and developer reps. No elected representatives are present and, until recently as the result of the Localism Act, Parish Councils have had little input. The Act tried to address this last problem by encouraging Parishes to present wish /priority lists and costings at an early stage. This has given rise to new problems.

First, Parish Councils do not necessarily have the expertise to produce accurate costings and if a project has not been costed, an Inspector would not allow it as an s106 item.

Secondly, unless the Parish Priority or some part of it can be directly linked to the consequences of a proposed development, again it will fail at Inspection.

Thirdly, where a Parish has a high cost ambition, but has already been asked to take a number of developments, there is no automatic method of allowing the Parish to garner contributions from each development towards such a project – certainly not without the help and guidance of planning officers.

As a result well-meaning Parish Councils have had ambitions towards better infrastructure seriously compromised. S106 contributions have been garnered towards better bus services they did not ask for, distant leisure facilities they feel they get little benefit from, schools that very few of their children attend and so on. This has done Localism much damage.

The present system is seen to be secretive, undemocratic and wholly against the spirit of Localism. Of course, Parish Councils cannot expect to get all their own way, but to exclude them from the process altogether is unacceptable.

We need an open system that allows the Parish to be at the same table as developers and council officers.

A system that begins to break down the perception that officers are only interested in what they can get for their own council coffers,

A system that begins to break down the perception that all developers are simply out to get away with as much as possible.

A system which encourages developers to contribute sensibly and fairly towards County, District and Parish infrastructure.

A system which begins to take out some of the acrimony that presently bedevils our planning process - one in which Councillors play a part in seeing that fair play is done to everyone involved.

Neighbourhood Planning is one of the few pieces of Localism which have survived the acrimony. Neighbourhood Planning offers an opportunity for local reps to get together with developers and officers for round table s106 negotiations. To agree how monies can be garnered and collected towards higher priced ambitions.

The present system is failing badly, and we have been too distant from it for far too long. We can, and should do something about it."

Next Surgery: Marcham Village Shop:

Saturday January 10th 9-11am

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015

RICHARD WEBBER CLLR, OCC

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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**S106 issues**

On Wednesday, 10th December at the Full Council Meeting of VWHDC, Richard and I spoke strongly about the general failings of the S106, (that area of a developer's agreement which gives the village money for infrastructure to ease the impact on the village)

January 2015

and were pleased that the Council agreed to review the system in the light of the specific points we raised. Below is a copy of what I said on behalf of Marcham.

"At the beginning of this year, all PCs were asked to put forward their wish lists and priorities of how s106 monies should be spent in their parishes. Characteristically efficient, Marcham PC immediately supplied such a list. They were then told that everything needed to be costed, so Marcham PC duly entered costings and were given the impression that some, at least, of their requests would be put into the s106 negotiation pot. Marcham has taken several sizeable developments in the past 2 years and the latest – the development at Willow Farm - was expected to generate money for several items on the list. But nothing came of it. Money was claimed for bus services – improving the bus service between Wantage and Oxford - and Leisure facilities for the Vale at large; almost nothing came from the Marcham PC wish list. After some panic emails and searching, the letter containing the wish list was unearthed by VWHDC and hasty last minute negotiations were had which resulted in £10K worth of minor PC wishes from the bottom of the list.

Clearly mistakes were made, and, although there is no doubt that everyone was acting in good faith and trying to do their best for their own areas of responsibility, the perceived damage to the way the s106 system operates was immeasurable. It seemed that priority was given to the District, County and Developer First, and that the Parish Council and Marcham residents featured nowhere.

The system is badly broken and we must speed up our attempts to fix it. Marcham's experiences are not unique. We have decisions being made behind closed doors by non-elected people. We, as Councillors, have been keeping the system at arm's length for years. If Marcham PC had been around the table or taken part in the email exchanges, these mistakes would not have been made and the PC would not feel so hopelessly helpless and inconsequential. We are responsible for s106 decisions, and we need to involve ourselves in the system far more. "

What has happened to the Kings Field Development?

Many of you will have noticed that work on the Kings Field development has ceased. This reached crisis point when I received a frantic call from a resident saying that trees were being cut down in large numbers. Immediately, Richard and I rushed over to see the sorry sight of far too many trees lying in heaps. The agreement had allowed some tree cutting but not that number. And of course we all know that once a tree has been felled, it takes years for a new one to mature. Having stopped the destruction, some of which had happened on the neighbouring land (much to the annoyance of Mr King himself), and spoken to various residents, I contacted the tree officer directly and followed this up with several consultations. I have found this officer not only very helpful but, clearly, very concerned by the abuse of the whole agreement. He has been on site several times and made extensive enquiries; on December 3rd he told me that the following actions have been agreed or are being sought:

1. No more work must happen on the field until the drainage and sewage problems have fully satisfied Thames Water
2. Most of those trees that should not have been removed will be replaced by a variety of trees of different sizes
3. Certain trees have a preservation order, and footpaths that go near them will be built in such a way as to protect the roots (that includes those trees that stand in the entrance, between two houses, onto Kings Avenue)
4. The aim is to plant more trees and shrubs on the west side of the field to act as a more substantial barrier
5. A link fence must be erected on the boundary to satisfy Mr King So that is where we are with this development. In addition to the above, we still need to have a definite answer about the site of the pump house and the size of the water tank. Otherwise, please keep an eye on the field.

Happy New Year 2015.

CATHERINE WEBBER, CLLR

01235 534001 or catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

MARCHAM BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

We meet every Tuesday at All Saints' Church, Marcham 09.45-11.15. It is a great chance for the children to play and explore. Many of our toddlers have now moved on to nursery so we have lots of space to welcome new parents/carers with little ones. First week is free then £2 per family which includes refreshments. We are a very friendly group so please come along, bring a friend if you wish. Sue Gibbling [Treasurer]. **Do come and join us!**

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Pre-school have been venturing out around the village for our usual 'weekly walkabouts', we've visited the post office, the church and the mobile library recently. Thank you to all the Marcham residents and visitors who have made us very welcome wherever we have ventured! We can now be spotted with our hi-vis vests sporting our very own logo!! You can't miss us!! We have a few afternoon sessions available for this school year and we're filling fast for September 2015. It's never too early to register, so please do contact us as soon as possible to discuss your requirements. We take children from their 2nd birthday until they start primary school, providing a fun, exciting and engaging environment through which all the children flourish as they learn through their play. Why not ring today on 01865 392101? We would love to hear from you!



marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk,

or via our website www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

MARCHAM SCHOOL

We have had a very busy term in school. Children have visited Didcot sewage works, Highclere Castle and Year 5 & 6 have just returned from a week long residential to Woodlands Outdoor Activity Centre in Glasbury On Wye. Children have also participated in skipping workshops, cycling proficiency, swimming lessons, Bridge Club, Art Club, Knitting and Knowing, High 5's, football, volleyball and Boing. Last week we had a "Festival of Lights", when we spent the day covering a wide range of activities across a spectrum of religions. Children made lamps and Christingles, wrote poetry and stories, sang "Santa Lucia" and made saffron buns in looking at festivals and celebrations from Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. Pupils in KS1 were also privileged to have Mehndi patterns painted on their hands under the keen expertise of Mrs Mulley and Mrs Parikh – who also made Indian sweets for the children to try.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who make these activities possible.

Kangaroo Class visit Highclere Castle

On Monday 8 Dec Kangaroo Class spent the day at Highclere Castle continuing our work about the Ancient Egyptians. We looked at artefacts from the period such as pots, money, and the wrapping from a mummy. We also dressed up as Pharaohs and Egyptian ladies.

Year 5 & 6 Trip to Woodlands 2014

In December the Years 5 & 6 went on a residential trip to Wales. All of us really enjoyed the trip and had lots of fun doing activities like high ropes, canoeing and caving. We also climbed Hay Bluff which is 677m high – although two groups unluckily had to descend in a blizzard! These teambuilding activities really helped to improve our communication skills and we had to encourage each other all the time. We wouldn't have been able to do any of this if it wasn't for Mrs Capel, Mr Codd and Mrs Buckett who came with us - we all had a great time and we would like to say thank you for taking us on this amazing trip. (Ashley Year 6)

"It was really fun but challenging and it made me do things I wouldn't normally do." (Amelie Year 5)

"It was epic." (William Year 6)

"An amazing experience." (Hannah Year 6)

"Exhilarating!" (Ryan Year 6)

Happy New Year

from the pupils and staff of Marcham CE Primary School

January 2015

2014 BY CHRISTINE WHILD

We started January with snow, wind and rain,
But began to think we're in clover;
Storms may better Britain again and again,
But in America, Hell freezes over!

February fill-dyke, another wet month,
Farmers are faced with a tragedy;
At Dawlish the railway was washed right away,
And Charles tells the PM "You MUST come and see".

In March, Crimea votes to join Russia,
And same-sex marriages abound;
A Malaysian Jet disappears from the sky,
Not a trace of the wreckage was found.

Pollution from Sahara was news in April.
And, in Auckland, baby George was a wow,
Peaches Geldorf died, President of Ireland came,
And Clegg and Farage debate "Europe now".

In May, we began to see sunshine,
In our gardens, we planted and weeded;
UKIP did well in the Euro Elections,
And in Israel, for peace, the Pope pleaded.

June brought the remembrance of D-Day,
Seventy years ago, began Europe's release;
But Jihadists now have conquered half of Iraq,
Will mankind simply never know peace?

July, and fine weather continued,
Best summer we've enjoyed for years;
The Govt. rolled out smart meters,
And, in a puff of smoke, half of Didcot Power Station disappears.

In August, we remembered the start of WW1,
And, up north, Pakistani men did unspeakable acts;
ISIS causes mayhem again and again,
Have our defences become yet more lax?

September, and our Scottish brethren,
Vote to stay in the UK family, together;
We go to war with Islamic State,
And the summer goes on, with warm and fine weather,

UK wine, in October, has great success
First UKIP MP in parliament,
Malala wins Peace prize, Nancy wins Bake-off,,
Ebola, to Africa, troops and Doctors sent

It was a fine and clear November,
As winter eventually set in;
Christmas seemed to come earlier,
Or is it just my whim?

And now it's once more, December,
And many bugs and colds seem to be here;
But there is always time for love and goodwill,
Though there's an election coming next year!!!

Home & Garden Maintenance

All garden maintenance covered from lawn cutting to lawn care

- * small garden designs * flower beds tidied/shrubs/bulbs planted
- * tree work - pruning/lopping/shaping etc * patios laid /cleaned
- *fencing & gates erected/repaired/painted *sheds erected/repaired

Most property maintenance covered

- * painting / decorating including outside
- * tiling * all indoor jobs covered * small carpentry work
- * guttering/replaced/cleaned * house removals& clearance

Mr G. TIERNEY Tel. 01865 730428 Mob. 07885550075

Free quotes & estimates Email Gavin.Tierney42@hotmail.co.uk



All Saints' and St. Luke's Parish Page

Dear Friends,

As we step forward onto the threshold of a New Year and look forward to all that 2015 will, or might bring, I confess that I do so with something of a heavy heart. In the past months as a community we have bidden farewell to so many members of our number through death and so many of our community are now walking that difficult path of grief and bereavement and subsequent adjustments to patterns and expectations to life that inevitably follow. My heart goes out to each one, not least because I have had to tread that path myself so many times. The comfort and hope given to me by my faith in the Lord Jesus sustains me along that hard road and I pray that he will grant similar strength and comfort to each one.

2014 was also a difficult year as we witnessed such brutality of extremist terrorism and now learn that certain security personnel in some western nations have tortured those being held for questioning. Has the human race not learned anything from the past century of wars and conflict? Why such inhumanity, my heart cries?

The heart of the problem is the problem of the human 'heart'. Left to ourselves, we humans are soiled goods; we allow bitterness, anger, envy, pride, selfishness, greed and the like, to shape our attitudes and actions, and the darkness deepens. We desperately need a change of heart – and thankfully that is gloriously possible!

That change of heart is a spiritual issue and one that Jesus offers us. With that change of heart, hope is rekindled, we see beauty instead of brokenness, light in place of darkness, love instead of bitterness and anger, joy replaces tears, peace takes the place of inner conflict – and so the transformation goes on. Such transformation is the gift of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, the Spirit of Jesus. You can read more in the letter of St. Paul to the church in Galatia – but the important fact is that such transformation is REAL!

So, as we step over the threshold into 2015, we can do so with genuine hope. God has not abandoned the human race, darkness has not extinguished light, and our Christian faith can give us the courage and inner strength to live differently. Maranatha – come Lord Jesus!

May this New Year bring light, hope and peace into our world at every level of society and into every human heart. I pray that the real presence of Christ may bring each of us the change of heart that will transform the communities in which we live

I wish you a hope-filled and peace-filled New Year!

Revd Richard Zair

We warmly invite you to any or all of our services in the Parish Church of All Saints', and to our monthly service at St. Luke's in Garford.

This month we will be starting a sermon series looking at the Gospel of Mark. Come along and discover what Mark has to say about Jesus.

Also this month there will be an information session for people interested in taking part in a unique dramatization of the Gospel of Mark, due to be performed at All Saints the week before Easter. No acting experience is necessary. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please contact Tamsin at the parish office. More information can also be found at <http://themarkdrama.com/>

Regular services:

Sundays at All Saints': 10 am and 6 pm

Wednesdays: 10.30 am Holy Communion at Duffield Place

January Dates:

Please note, **NO Men's Breakfast** – next one 7th Feb

Parish People:

Funerals:

Our thoughts and prayers go to the families and friends of Jill Davie, Peggy Kinchin, Muriel Fraser, Stella Lampitt and David Grimshaw.

Baptisms:

Our prayers are with Ella Mason and her family after her baptism.

Contacts: Rev. Richard Zair 391319 (r_zair@yahoo.co.uk)

Parish Office: parish_office41@yahoo.co.uk

Jill Rowe *Youth and Children's Minister* 390885

Tim Jack *Churchwarden* 01865 864900

Tamsin Gilbert *Administrator* 391319



LET'S GET OUT OF THE TRENCHES !!

Throughout history there have been conflicts in every area of our world but conflict is not confined to the world stage. It spills out even at a local level.

In 2014, we have seen numerous examples of conflict throughout the world. Islamic militants forming groups such as Al Qaeda, Al Shabab, the so called Islamic State, Boko Haram and others have wrought terror throughout the Middle East and Africa, as well as attacking the west in France, Canada, the UK and Australia..... Islamic militants enforcing their will because they see their particular brand of Islam as being the only way.

In the Ukraine, Russian backed militants have wreaked havoc in the east of the country, exercising their will, by power of force over the democratically elected and westward leaning government.

But imposition of one group's will over another is not limited to armed conflicts. Obama's Democrat government has effectively been made impotent by the fact that the Republicans won control of both the Senate and the House of Representatives in the US mid-term elections. In fact it seems that the Republicans, have constantly been doing its level best to prevent the Obama administration from getting through the legislation that the Democrats have been trying to enact. But what has been the result of this inability of both sides of that political divide to come together and agree a common path? The result is endless talk, arguing and disputes, often with a failure to effect change for the good of society.

Conflicts boil up repeatedly around the world because of different worldviews, or differing political or religious opinions. However, even at a local level, resolution can fail to be reached because of a refusal to consider fairly the views of others or to accept that their view, or part of it, might actually bring an even better solution than ours.

Ruth and I have been in Marcham now for just over six years and over the last couple of years, I have become increasingly aware of how groups or individuals in our own community have for many years been at odds with other groups or individuals. The refusal to engage in constructive conversation seems to have led to a constant stalemate, with a handful of people blocking others from doing what they see as being good for our village. We need to amicably discuss and genuinely listen to each other.

I am sure that we are all now very familiar with the Christmas truce of 1914, where Allied and German troops in the trenches heard each other singing carols and then tentatively climbed out of their trenches, moved forwards into no man's land, played football together, shared gifts, chatted and then realised that they were not so different after all.

It seems that for many decades, folk in Marcham have also held entrenched positions. However, I am positive that the majority of groups and individuals in Marcham genuinely do want the very best for our community but the problem is that some just see things differently from others.

As we move into 2015 I ask I pray that each of us would be willing to climb out of our metaphorical trenches. Whether we are in elected positions, whether we are individuals or part of an organisation let's all come together to listen and discuss all of the key people to literally get around the table to work together as one for the good of our village.

Let's have an ongoing and genuine exchange that involves listening attentively and fairly to each others views. Rather than digging our heels in, let's be prepared to accept that at least part of someone else's idea might actually contribute to the best outcome. I am sure that this will lead to a remarkable turnaround and we can then quickly have the facilities we need and enjoy an enhanced sense of community.

We **can** do this

Keith Mersh Pastor Marcham Baptist Church
01865 391881

or contact Bill Dyer (Elder) 01235 814986

Speakers in January

4 Jan	- Keith Mersh
11 Jan	- Colin Norris
18 Jan	- Bob Pritchard
25 Jan	- Chris Richards

Join us on Sundays at 10.30am, or call Keith if you want to chat about life and faith.