

# Marcham & District News

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

Your Independent Local Newsheet – [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk)



April 2015 Vol: 37 No: 4

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ 20 March 2015 Partial Eclipse over Marcham



## Oxfordshire Artweeks

400 exhibitions & open studios  
 NORTH OXFORDSHIRE 2-10 MAY  
 OXFORD CITY 9-17 MAY  
 SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE 16-25 MAY  
[www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org)

OXFORDSHIRE  
**art**  
 WEEKS



◀ Ladies who take tea: Marcham WI catching up on all the news over tea at the Upper Reaches taking advantage of the discount voucher offered by the hotel.



▲ Join in the Relay For Life see page 9



**Sculpture in the Vineyard**

- 7 acres
- 30 artists
- 200 artworks

23 May – 7 June  
 Bolthay Vineyard  
 Frilford Heath  
[www.scantlebury.co](http://www.scantlebury.co)  
 07949 260111



Free Wild Flower Seeds  
 courtesy of Grow Wild  
 Contact the Editor  
 for more details



▲ Art around Marcham ▶ see page 21

## Diary for April

5 Sun	Egg Tastic, All Saints' Church, 16.00 – 17.39	15	16 Thur	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	7
8 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3	16 Thur	Pop-Up Restaurant, Maggies, Churchill Hospital, 19.30 – 22.00	17
7 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20		20 Mon	Deadline for registering for a vote	5
9 Thur	Midweek Walk, The Tite Inn, Mill End, Chadlington 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	7	20 Mon	<b>Deadline for May MADNews, 17.00</b>	
9 Tue	Deadline for Council Nominations	3	21 Tue	Mobile Library Duffield Place: 10.05, Sweetbriar: 10.20	
14 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 – 15.30	7	24 Fri	MSSSC Quiz Night, Anson Field, 20.15	7
14 Tue	GARD AGM, Stocks Lane Farm, Steventon, 19.00	21	25 Sat	Milton Hill Bowls Club Open Day, 14.00	19
14 Tue	Marcham Society, All Saints' Church, 19.45	7	28 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 – 15.30	7
16 Thur	Have Your Say with Andy PCSO, Marcham Village Shop, 17.00 – 18.00	19	28 Tue	Ex-Servicemen's Club AGM 20.00	5
			29 Wed	AgeUK Coach Trip to Stratford	19

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

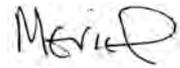
Dear Readers

This month I received over 75 emails regarding items for inclusion in MADNews (not including the paper submissions) – apologies if I didn't reply to you or your piece hasn't made it in. Please re-send it if you would like it to appear in the May issue.

I applied for some free wild seeds from Grow Wild (www.growwilduk.com) and have 15 boxes ready to distribute. The seed has to be sown responsibly so as not to disturb any other eco-systems, but I am sure there are some places around the area that could benefit from a bit of flower TLC. Email me if you have a place in mind editor@madnews.co.uk

I hope you all have a pleasant Easter

Until next time



**PUBLISHER / EDITOR**

Meriel Lewis  
8 Orchard Way, Marcham  
Abingdon OX13 6PP  
Tel: 01865 391725  
Website: www.madnews.co.uk  
Email: editor@madnews.co.uk

**ADVERTISING**

Fran Russell: adverts@madnews.co.uk  
Adverts are not endorsed and MADNews makes no guarantees as to accuracy or authenticity.

**DISTRIBUTORS**

Judith & Peter Fontaine  
14 Tower Close, Marcham  
Abingdon Tel: 01865 391275

**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.

**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.

**POLICE**

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**

Richard Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton  
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  
Tel: 01235 534001

catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

© Marcham & District News 2015

The copying of any part of this publication without written authorisation is not permitted.

April 2015

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**Parish Council Elections May 2015**

It is not too late to put yourself forward to serve the parish by being a Parish Councillor. Anyone who is interested in standing for the Parish Council elections can download a nomination pack from http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/local-democracy/elections/elections-2015/information-candidates-and-election-age or a hard copy can be obtained from the Vale of White Horse District Council or the Clerk. Completed nomination papers have to be returned to the Vale of White Horse District Council at Old Abbey House, Abingdon by 4.00 p.m. on Thursday 9th April.

**Superfast Broadband**

For those following the progress of the installation of broadband in Marcham, the latest information can be found at www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.gov.uk. Unfortunately it seems that the date for Marcham's connection for superfast broadband has been put back to at least the middle of the year.

**Sheepstead Road – Street Nameplate**

The Parish Council has received reports of the street nameplate to Sheepstead Road having been broken. This has been reported to the Vale of White Horse District Council who is the authority responsible for street nameplates. It is hoped that repairs or a replacement will be carried out soon.

**Oxfordshire County Council – Local Transport Plan**

The Parish Council has been considering the draft policies and proposals for transport in Oxfordshire. The plan will cover the period to 2031. The Parish Council was concerned that there was little emphasis on the re-opening of the Grove railway station when there are many houses planned for the area. The Council has asked that the policy be changed to include actively working with Network rail to deliver a rail station. The Council also supported the policy to create a "diamond" at Lodge Hill so that there is full access on and off the A34.

**Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications considered by the Parish Council at the March meeting.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 8th April 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

MADNews is online: www.madnews.co.uk

**PEGGY KINCHIN**

Sandra, Barbara and families would like to thank everybody who attended Peggy's funeral, sent cards and generous donations. A special thank you to Richard, the vicar, for a wonderful service. Also to the Ex-Servicemen's Club for providing the venue for tea and thanks to Sandy Nicholls for all his help.

**BARBARA HILL**

Five years ago my mother, Barbara Hill, arrived in Marcham and I would like to thank everyone for making her time in Sweetbriar so enjoyable. She was very happy in Marcham and felt welcomed by everyone she met. The new friends and acquaintances she made meant a lot to her.

Sadly, she has now passed away and I would like to thank everyone, on behalf on my family, for their support at this sad time. I would also like to thank everyone for their kind donations to my mother's favourite charity, the Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary at Brightwell cum Sotwell.

I would also like to thank the Reverend Richard Zair for making my mother's funeral truly one of thanksgiving for her wonderful life. Our thanks must also go to Paul Carter and his team who helped me so much to give my Mum the send off she so richly deserved.

VIVIENNE CRIPPS

Personal adverts in MADNews are free so if you want to put in a notice or have something to sell, call the editor on 391725 or email editor@madnews.co.uk

**MOBILE LIBRARY**

Following a public consultation, it is proposed that the mobile library will only stop at Sweetbriar in the future, but we don't know at the moment when this will start. As soon as we find out, we will publish a notice in MADNews.

**For Sale**

Kitty Bandsaw: cut width 12" depth 8"  
£175 ONO  
White enamel bath – wrong one  
bought £30 ONO  
Phone 01865 391029

**HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS**

Normal day	Revised day	Which bin?
Fri 3 April	Sat 4 April	Grey
Mon 6 April	Tues 7 April	Green
Tues 7 April	Wed 8 April	Green
Wed 8 April	Thur 9 April	Green
Thur 9 April	Fri 10 April	Green
Fri 10 April	Sat 11 April	Green

Dear Editor

Further to my letter in last month's MADNews re the strong possibility of the closure of the Baptist Church here in the village, in the words wrongly attributed to Julius Caesar before crossing the Rubicon, "The die has been cast". Sadly, a decision was reached by the members at a recent Special Church Meeting which will mean the doors of MBC will close for worship on Sunday 5th July 2015, coinciding with the 143th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone on the 3rd July in 1872. The wheels have already been set in motion, and are unlikely to stop rolling for many months yet but all may not be lost. I understand that there is a possibility that the buildings, Church and hall, MAY be used for some village events, as a temporary measure, until the new Community Centre is up and running. Watch this space!!! A special service will be held on that day at 3pm, (enabling those who attend morning and/or evening services at their own Churches to join us if they wish) to give thanks for our time there and the blessings we've received over the years. Please join us, if you can. Make a note of this date in your diary NOW. A formal announcement of this decision and notice of the special service will be made by the Pastor on the Church Page.

**TONY BLACKLER**

Dear Editor

I find myself in complete agreement with the observations and conclusions as expressed in the report from the County Councillor in the February issue of MADNews. People were led to believe that they had some influence over matters which included preparation of a community led plan, attendance at planning meetings, general objections to mass housing development due to lack of infrastructure. Subsequently it has emerged that all this time and effort has been in vain leading to the conclusion that this is not democracy but a farce. The Future of the Vale plan has requested that we comment on draft proposals covering the so called housing needs covering the locality. But what is the

point when from previous experience we all know that this a done deal? Contemporaneously a number of us have clearly established that complaining to the Vale achieves nothing. This furnishes the clearest evidence our powers are worthless leading to the assertion that the planning authority is only prepared to dance to the tune played out at Westminster. Further development can only be achieved through a framework that includes investment in a fully financed infrastructure. But instead we have this farce in the form of a National Planning Policy Framework that caters all too readily for land owners and developers who stand to make millions from the process.

The roads for example are simply not designed to cope with this volume of traffic. The A 34 provides a transparent illustration of one of the most dangerous routes in the UK with accidents occurring on a regular basis. Yet this disaster is systematically overlooked and forcing people to conclude that public safety remains utterly subservient to development plans which ultimately contribute to the problem. Further reservations have been expressed through correspondence with Thames Water concerning discharge capacity over the existing system at Marcham to deal with foul water system. As yet I have not received a response to this critical issue. Last year TW were instructed by OFWAT to compensate water users in the Thames area for misreporting the number of properties at high risk of sewer flooding. It should not escape our gaze that the £86 million came out of our own pockets as water users. Yet oddly enough they have already expressed reservations over the existing system's ability to deal with extra demands. But is little doubt in my mind that this documented evidence will be glossed on the basis that the "correct" outcome must be achieved at all costs.

More generally the planning process, if it can be described as such, unfairly penalises particular villages and green field sites. This problem will only escalate with reference to the proposed 40% increase in housing in Oxfordshire by 2031. This leads

to the conclusion that that this level of state sponsored vandalism will ultimately succeed in swamping existing facilities and infrastructure.

Councillor Webber's observation concerning failure to comply with the County and District Officer's recommendations to accept large scale applications provides an accurate reflection of our experience. This relates to the development at Kings Field when at the outset we should have been told that our views were completely immaterial and not be subject of serious consideration. But more generally informed opinion is compelled to reason that the cost of ignoring this court of public opinion can be severe.

**COLIN EVANS**

Eur Ing C Eng MPhil MSc Sen M WeldI MCQI CQP Chartered Engineer



**www.gov.uk/register-to-vote**  
**The deadline to register to**  
**vote in the general election is**  
**20 April 2015**

**ROAR**

Rural Oxfordshire Action Rally is an independent group of residents and action groups who want their views on unsustainable development to be heard loud and clear ...

So-called "sustainable development", as enshrined in the National Planning Policy Framework, has created open season for speculative developers to target greenfield sites on an excessive scale and in inappropriate locations. Local authorities which cannot demonstrate 5 years' housing land supply are now vulnerable to having planning application refusals overturned at appeal based only on an untested and presumptive economic need, completely ignoring the social, infrastructure and environmental impacts.

This is NOT sustainable development and this is NOT localism.

Should you feel angry and upset about the lack of control at local level and what is happening in planning, then consider joining ROAR and come and attend the ROAR Rally to say "NO" to unsustainable development in Oxfordshire. The local rally is being held on Sunday 12th April at 11.00 a.m. in Wantage Market Square. All parliamentary candidates are being invited to speak and the public will have the opportunity to ask questions. For more information about ROAR see <http://www.roartoday.co.uk/>.

**MARCHAM EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**21ST APRIL 2015 8.00PM [NOTE REVISED DATE]**

**All registered members are encouraged to attend**

**Your input is necessary for the clubs future**

**NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS**

At a Committee meeting on Tuesday 4th February 2014 a proposal passed that:

All members must register individually at the Club between 9pm and 11pm and pay their subscription fee if they wish to remain on the list of current Members.

Members not able to attend the Club must submit their individual subscriptions by post to the secretary at the Club

The closing date of this registration is April 1st each year

Please note that those failing to respond by April 1st 2015 will no longer be considered Members and their names will be removed from the current Members register.

Current Subscription fees: Under 65 - £10. Over 65 - £5. Chairman 8th February 2015

## Marcham WI

### Next Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, 16th April  
**Time:** 7.30pm  
**Venue:** Denman College



For our April meeting, as our original speaker listed in the programme was unable to make it, we will welcome instead Katy Dyer who will tell us 'How to Make Colour Work For You'. Do come and join us to find out which colours suit you.

*New members and visitors are always welcome.*

*For further information, please contact:*

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

### MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK.

**Thursday, April 9th.** For this month's walk in the Cotswolds we will eat at the Tite Inn (Map Ref SP324225) in Mill End, Chadlington (a short drive north-west of Charlbury) at 12.30pm for lunch, starting the walk of about 5 miles at 1.30. We shall be following streams and the river Evenlode passing through several small hamlets near Wychwood Forest. Members free, non-members £1. We are always pleased to see new faces. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.

### MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The Club's OCA Fixtures for for May are as follows:

May	1st XI	2nd XI
2	Deddington Home	Sunningwell II Away
9	Hailey Away	No fixture
16	Kidlington Home	Hanney II Away
23	Uffington Away	No fixture
30	Watlington Away (Round 1 Telegraph Cup)	Hanney II Home (Round 1 Centenary Cup)

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

And finally.....it has been reported that a somewhat inept batsman was having difficulties playing even relatively innocuous deliveries from bowlers; after a while his Captain became somewhat frustrated at the lack progress and said to him "When you bought the bat, didn't it come with operating instructions?"



CSB

### SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

2.00-3.30 pm Tuesday 14th April

2.00-3.30 pm Tuesday 28th April

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*



### ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE MARCHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This year the annual meeting for electors will take place on Wednesday 20th May at 7.30 p.m. in the hall at Marcham Primary School. The guest speaker will be **Cecile Mallet, a volunteer for Dementia Friendly** which is a branch of the Alzheimers' society. Light refreshments will be served. Please put a note of this date in your diaries.

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

#### Quiz Night

**ALL WELCOME  
FRIDAY 24 APRIL**

This month's quiz will be held on Friday 24 April 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, but if you are alone or a couple, come along, and we could fit you into an existing or even new team!

Everyone welcome, members and non members. Just turn up on the night for a friendly evening of fun and banter.

Further details from Trevor Hill – 01865 391321

*Everyone welcome - members AND non-members  
We look forward to seeing you at the club*

### MARCHAM PLAYERS

invite you "**With Great Pleasure**" to an evening of readings on the theme of **Journeys**.

Please join us in the Board Room at Manor Farm from 7.30 pm on Thursday 21st May 2015. Bring along any prose or poetry that you would like to share. Refreshments will be provided.

*For details about joining in with the Marcham Players, call Simon Blackmore 391922..*



[www.marchamplayers.co.uk](http://www.marchamplayers.co.uk)

### NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Several incidences of people being verbally abused have been reported recently and this seems to be aimed at women out running or walking in the village. We have discussed this with the Neighbourhood Police team and they request any incidents should be reported immediately by dialling 999 and please give the location, time and description of those involved. It is important to report every incident to build up a bank of information.

If you would prefer not to contact the Police you can call CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111 and make a report anonymously



The  
**Marcham  
Society**

*All Saints' Church Marcham  
7.45pm Tuesday 14th April*

## Peter Barker The Otmoor Year

Non-members always welcome £2

[www.marchamsociety.org.uk](http://www.marchamsociety.org.uk)

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

Bank Balance  
£18,620

Local Events  
£11,830

Donations  
£8,119

2014 - 2015 Membership  
Voting: 72 Junior: 18

5p Coins  
5836

Marcham  
Community  
Group



## Fund-raising continues

Marcham Community Group continues to play its part within the Community Facilities Steering Group (see page 19 of this month's MADNews), to find a way forward to develop new community facilities for Marcham, and this will be the main focus of our efforts to help make this happen.

In the meantime, MCG continues fund-raising to help play a part in financing new facilities in due course. A privately arranged Burns Supper in January raised just over £500 for MCG funds, as well as being an enjoyable evening - with a big thank-you for the support for all those who took part. We look forward to the opportunity to organise a much bigger Burns Supper, one day when we have facilities that make it possible. MCG is also making initial plans for a possible late summer social event for families—watch this space for more details.

Our next AGM/Open Meeting will be held in September 2015—yes, it will be that time again! We will have more details in a future MAD News, and there will be a further opportunity to discuss facility progress at that meeting. We continue to be grateful for the support of all our members and of the wider village, and thank you also for your continuing donations of 5p coins — it is all much appreciated — many thanks.

Marcham Community Group: Company No 7470307 Charity No 1144407  
391727 (Jim) admin@marcham.org

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



### Part-Time Work Wanted

Local mature lady, excellent references, seeks part time work. Light housework/dog walking and sitting /shopping/ appointments/companionship/light lunch preparation. Anything considered. Contact [threechickens@gmail.com](mailto:threechickens@gmail.com) or 07946530381

### Domestic Assistant

£7.65 per hour – 20 hours per week, 5 days out of 7, on a rolling rota to include weekends. The role will encompass cleaning en-suite bedrooms and public areas of Denman. A minimum of basic cleaning experience is essential and full training will be given.

### Night Duty Officer (overnight)

£8.52 per hour – 10 hours per week worked over 2 nights, plus £45.50 sleep allowance for each night worked on a rota Monday to Saturday, 8.30pm to 8.30am.

The shift pattern is split into evening, 8.30pm to midnight and early morning, 7.00am to 8.30am with accommodation provided for sleeping hours in between, however you will be on call for the entire shift. The role requires reception duties during the evening and acting as the first point of contact for our guests. It will involve dealing with guest queries and responding to calls/incidents during the night and prioritising your other duties such as administration, preparing teaching rooms and assisting with basic maintenance within the buildings. IT skills, including experience of Microsoft Word, Outlook are essential. A willingness to undertake training is also required. There will also be occasional Sunday night working and additional nights to cover colleagues during holiday and sick periods.

There's something special about Denman, come and join our team.

For an application pack, please contact Chrystal Isherwood, HR Officer, on [c.isherwood@nfwf.org.uk](mailto:c.isherwood@nfwf.org.uk) or 020 7371 9300 ext.231. Please note that we cannot accept CVs. Closing date for applications is 14 April 2015.



### Cancer Research UK, Relay For Life Oxford, 2015

Last year Paul and I took part in the Relay For Life in Oxford to help raise money for Cancer Research UK. This year we are organising the event and asking all of our friends and neighbours in Marcham to join us.

Relay For Life is a unique celebration of life and hope which unites communities to help beat over 200 types of cancer. Last year the event raised over £8,200 and with your help we are hoping to raise £20,000 this year. Teams of between 8 to 15 men, women and children, of all ages and levels of fitness can register for the event and they are asked to raise as much money as possible in the months leading up to the Relay through a wide range of fundraising activities and by securing donations. So far this year we have arranged a quiz, a Bingo night and a Tramps Supper.

Relay For Life is a great way to spend time with your friends, family and colleagues while raising money for a truly worthwhile cause. Last year we registered our family team of 15 people ranging in ages from 10 years to 72 years old.

The event is a non-stop 24 hour relay, within which team members take it in turns to walk around a track ~ this is to promote the fact that cancer never sleeps so for one night only, nor should we.

As dusk falls, the poignant Candle of Hope ceremony begins. This part of Relay For Life is when specially made Candle of Hope bags - decorated with touching messages in memory or in celebration of loved ones - are lit up with candles around the track.

All the money raised through Relay For Life Oxford funds the work of Oxford based scientists who are dedicated to saving more lives by preventing, controlling and curing all cancers.

As well as looking for teams to take part in the event, we are looking for Cancer Survivors to be our guests at the event, taking part in the opening and closing ceremonies and enjoying a VIP lunch with other Cancer Survivors.

For more information about Relay For Life visit [cruk.org/relay](http://cruk.org/relay) or contact Jacqui on 079900 37164 or at [Relayforlifeoxford@gmail.com](mailto:Relayforlifeoxford@gmail.com).

PAUL BLAKE & JACQUI JOHN

**Marcham Village Shop  
and Post Office**

**Mon - Fri:** 07.30 - 18.00  
**Sat:** 07.30 - 13.00  
**Sun:** 08.00 - 13.00



The Shop and Post Office will be closed over Easter on Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday. We'll be open as normal on Saturday 4th April (07.30 - 1 pm) and then from Tuesday 7th April (07.30 - 6 pm).

Royal Mail has changed the collection times to post boxes in Marcham and beyond!

**Cothill** (near the school) – unchanged at present. A collection will be made at 4.30 pm (Monday to Friday) and 9.15 am on Saturdays.

**Garford** (at village hall) – unchanged at present. A collection will be made at 4 pm (Monday to Friday) and 10 am on Saturdays.

**Gozzards Ford** (in the lay-by) – A final collection will be made at 5.30 pm (Monday to Friday) and at 8.15 am on Saturdays.

**Frilford** (near the Dog House pub) – A final collection will be made at 5.17 pm (Monday to Friday) and at 8.15 am on Saturdays

**Frilford** (at Millets) – A final collection will be made at 5 pm (Monday to Friday) and at 7.30 am on Saturdays

**Frilford** (by the traffic lights) – A final collection will be made at 5.15 pm (Monday to Friday) and at 11.30 am on Saturdays

**Marcham** (Haines Court) – Collection will be made at 9 am (Monday to Friday) and at 7 am on Saturdays.

**Marcham** (North Street by the Post Office) – Collection will be made at 5 pm (Monday to Friday) and at 9.30 am on Saturdays.

**Tubney** (near the phone box) – A final collection will be made at 5.15 pm (Monday to Friday) and at 9 am on Saturdays  
Please check the time on the post box you are using before posting your letters.

Marcham Post Office (North Street) – The Royal Mail collection time changes have also affected the last acceptance time for processing mail in Marcham Post Office. This means that post to be processed will be accepted up until 4.50 pm for a 5 pm dispatch weekdays and 10.20 am on Saturdays for a 10.30 am dispatch.

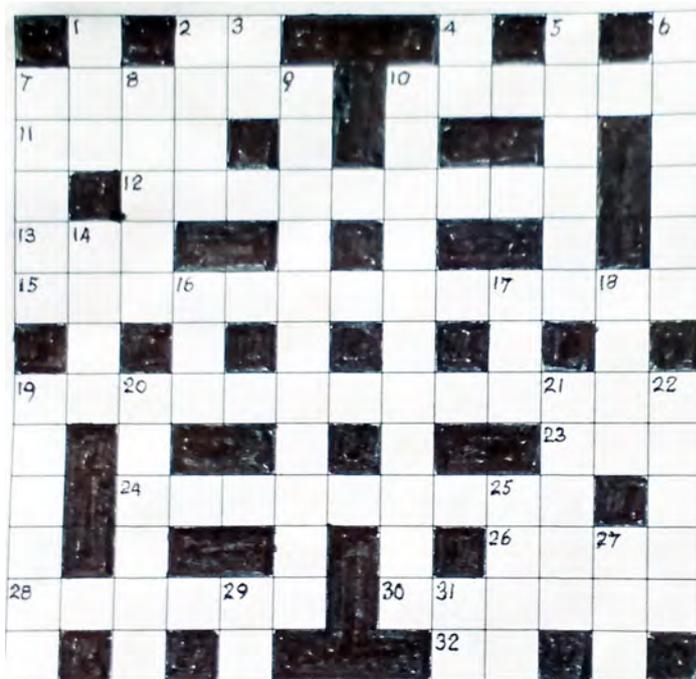
If needed, a later weekday collection at 6.15 pm will be made at Abingdon Post Office in the Co-op, West St Helens Street, Abingdon.

**Stamp prices from 30th March**

1st class stamps go up by 1p to 63p  
1st class large stamps go up by 2p to 95p  
2nd class stamps go up by 1p to 54p  
2nd class large stamps go up by 1p to 74p  
Parcel prices from 30th March  
2nd class parcels up to 2kg stay at £2.80

2nd class medium sized parcels < 2kg are reduced to £4.89  
There is now a new international large letter category, which has the same sizes and weight as a UK large letter, making it simpler to send items overseas.  
Also many services with Parcelforce have their prices frozen or reduced.

**CROSSWORD BY ALISA**



**Across:**

- 2. The Spanish (2)
- 7. Hurries (6)
- 10. Counter of votes (6)
- 11. Interested in (4)
- 12. Disclosed (9)
- 13. Carried out (3)
- 15. Causing no great excitement (13)
- 19. Where the bends are (9.4)
- 23. Trap (3)
- 24. Thinking (9)
- 26. Too (4)
- 28. Insect (7)
- 30. Books (6)
- 32. That man (2)

**Down:**

- 1. Cooler (3)
- 2. Public school (4)
- 3. The French (2)

- 4. Us (2)
- 5. Village near Woodstock (6)
- 6. Make journey (6)
- 7. Indian (5)
- 8. Knobs (5)
- 9. The hynotherapist helps you to do this (4.7)
- 10. Number (6.5)
- 14. Ancient South American Indian (4)
- 16. Moose (3)
- 17. Lubricate (3)
- 18. British queen (4)
- 19. Package (6)
- 20. Tree trunks for tossing (6)
- 21. Corners (6)
- 22. Attitudes of a people (5)
- 25. Part of the church (4)
- 27. Cunning (3)
- 31. Exclamation (2)

**Harding Bequest – a Final Update**

The Harding Bequest ceased to exist at the end of 2014. This was a trust established with money left by Mrs Kathleen Annie Harding on her death in 1974. Mrs Harding lived at The White House on Frilford Road and owned property in the village. She was a regular at evensong who, it is remembered, enjoyed the sermons so much she would record them to listen again at home later!

Over the years the Trustees have been able to use the money generously left by Mrs Harding to make awards of small grants in the Marcham area for religious and charitable purposes. The Harding Bequest has helped a wide range of village organisations. In recent years, it has been pleased to award grants to the Church (particularly in support of their Youth & Children's worker); the School; the Cubs and Guides; the Sunshine Club; the Senior Citizens Club; the village minibus; the MCG - and many more. So, on behalf of the Trustees and all the local people that have benefitted over the last 40 years,

**a big THANK YOU to Mrs Harding!**

**ED VAIZEY WRITES...**

As the General Election looms I have been reflecting on what an honour it has been to serve the Wantage and Didcot constituency over the past ten years. One of the most fantastic aspects of my role as your MP is meeting so many dedicated volunteers and getting involved in some of the many great causes in the constituency.



I am incredibly proud to have become president of SUDEP Action, a charity based in Wantage, which is working towards the prevention of sudden unexpected death in epilepsy. This charity was set up by local resident Jane Hanna OBE and provides information and a support network for the bereaved. Last month there was an important Parliamentary debate which called on the Government to address major issues facing people with epilepsy and resulted in a commitment from the Government and MP's to do all they could to raise awareness of the risks associated with epilepsy by "red-flagging" those at increased risk of fatality. They also pledged to try to reduce avoidable epilepsy related deaths.

Friends of OSCAR is a national charity, based in Didcot, of which I am also a recent patron. This charity helps children, and their families, when they are diagnosed with brain or spinal tumours. I recently attended the launch of a bag of essential items, such as toothpaste and overnight necessities, given to parents when they arrive at hospital often without time to pack. This is one of the many ways the charity supports families at such a traumatic time. Another very worthy cause that I have recently become involved in is Mission Motorsport. The aim of this national charity, based near Wantage is to aid the recovery and rehabilitation of those affected by military operations, by providing opportunities through Motorsport. Not only do they provide a support network but focus on training and direct vocational skills to help those affected to get back into the workplace.

These are just a few examples of the many good causes I have encountered and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who volunteers and helps to make this constituency such a wonderful place to live.

This month I have received letters and emails on a wide range of topics including protecting the wildlife, dementia and beer duty. However, the issue I received most correspondence on, some 100 plus emails, relates to concerns over the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). I believe the agreement does not carry the risks that some have put forward, and I am reassured that as Parliament will scrutinise the proposals and ultimately has the final veto power, a final agreement will only be reached if it is in the United Kingdom's interests.

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, Surgery details can be found at [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com)

**ED VAIZEY**, MP Wantage and Didcot (Con)

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

The problem for the poor, cash-strapped County Council is that much of the infrastructure requirement and costs resulting from all the growth going in the County falls on them. Even "New Homes Bonus" (the Government's incentive to get more building going) goes 80% to District Councils and only 20% to the County. As a result, the Districts are relatively wealthy whilst the OCC budget grows a little more desperate each year. This has meant that the infrastructure which the County must provide is getting harder and harder to fund. And this is key infrastructure around Education, Transport and Social services – all high cost items.

In Education, we have a problem of how to manage increasing pressure on our schools. Tricky decisions on "when" new classrooms, more teachers or even whole new schools are needed have to be made. Contributions from developments are supposed to generate the funding for this, but get the timing wrong and decisions wrong, and we wind up having to bus children (even very young children) around in an effort to find school places.

In Transport, new development is supposed to fund all the new roads and road improvements we need. Our problem is that this takes no account of the fact that many of our roads are already in a poor state from past under-funding.

It all points to the desperate need for a "Grand Plan". But we have one of these (maybe not at a national level but certainly at a local level. We call it, or called it, 'Science Vale UK' (it now seems to have become Science Vale Oxford). We applied for, and received large amounts of government money to fund infrastructure to cope with future growth from hi-tech industries. We are due to become, if all goes well, "Silicon" or "Bio-tech" Valley UK. To get there, we will require the right amount of the right type of housing to accommodate the employees of such industry – be they PhDs, technicians or support personnel. As we generate these jobs, we will need to be building the houses at the appropriate rate. What we must not do, and, in my view, we are in danger of doing, is anything which makes this "Grand Plan" harder to achieve. It makes no sense at all.

- 1 To be filling up our little available space with more Distribution centres providing far more low pay jobs than we currently need.
2. To be putting ever more stress on our infrastructure and most importantly
3. To be clogging up our already congested transport network such that Science Vale UK industry has no room to expand.

I hope that the next government, whoever they are accepts this message and I hope that the next District administration, whoever they are, gets a robust Science Vale Planning strategy document in place just as quickly as possible.

**RICHARD WEBBER CLLR,  
SUTTON COURTENAY & MARCHAM DIVISION OCC**

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

<https://cllrrichardwebber.wordpress.com>

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Richard and I have just enjoyed the recent sunny weather by walking all round the village and noticing what a wonderful organic layout it has. The little closes and semi-enclosed areas make for neighbourliness and community cohesion - a comment made to us only this Saturday at our Surgery. In contrast, villages like Drayton have had to struggle with ribbon development.

So let's look at some other good points in Marcham, apart from its layout: There is the Community Shop, with its Post Office open every day of the week, which is thriving. When it is our turn to help behind the counter, we notice the friendly atmosphere, the instant desire to help anyone in need, how residents like to come in for a chat, the pride the helpers have in keeping the shop looking clean and attractive (out comes the mop on muddy days) etc. And recently I have noticed that a few more people are beginning to come forward to help, so reducing the heavy load on the few.

Then there is the thriving church with all it does for the village and the youth. Recently, I saw excited children being dropped off at the church late on a Saturday afternoon for a commitment...perhaps a choir practice. No passive TV watching for them.

Furthermore, there are some excellent provisions for the elderly. Duffield Place, with its hall facility; Sweetbriar, close to the shop; the free lunch held on a Wednesday in the hall on Anson field to name just three. All thoughtfully planned. Of course I cannot overlook the good school with its committed teachers at the heart of the village, just as a village school should be.

On the other hand, we are all aware of problems in Marcham. Poor air quality in Packhorse Lane and Frilford Road has been high on our agenda recently, and we know that it is about to qualify an AQMA (Air Quality Management Area).

Secondly, we are all familiar with the run down Institute, which has become an unhealthy collection point for some of the youth of the village, as they moan that "there is nothing to do or place to go". Through talking to many of you, I am aware that the overwhelming feeling is that this old building is ripe for development. This village needs a new, modern, purpose-built Village Hall elsewhere, but frustratingly nothing appears to be happening.

Thirdly, with all the new housing that Marcham has taken should come money for its infrastructure and needs (S106), but Marcham

has been missing out on thousands of pounds. The Parish Council has tried hard to put Marcham's needs forward, but only the small requests are granted.

So what should be done? The new initiative being led by the CFSG to try to get everyone singing from the same hymn sheet is the best chance for years of solving these problems in the short and mid term. However, the best chance for permanent long term solutions, from which future generations could benefit, probably lies with a Neighbourhood Plan - but more of that later

**CATHERINE WEBBER, CLLR VWHDC Marcham Ward**

01235 534001 or catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

### MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Making the most of the lovely weather this week we have created obstacle courses, and then set up some challenges for the children to think about. With crates and planks we asked if they could work together as a team and move from one side of the playground to the other. The children excelled themselves! Giving instructions, working together, keeping each other safe, they passed the crates along the line, and without touching the ground, all the children made it safely to the other side and into the play house. How proud they were!! We have also been playing 'traditional' playground games like 'what's the time, Mr Wolf?' which the older children are now able to organise between themselves, making sure everyone gets a turn to be the wolf, and helping the youngest children to get away safely!! We will shortly be allocating sessions for September 2015 and already numbers are looking rather full. We take children from age 2 and funding is available for some families of 2 year olds plus funding for all 3 and 4 year olds.

For further details or an application form, please contact us as soon as possible on 01856 392101 or marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk or via our website [www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com](http://www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com)

### Pre-School Room

This past month we have been looking at animals from different parts of the world: arctic, desert, rainforest and the oceans. We have had lots of fun looking for animals outside using magnifying glasses and then drawing them and learning about them in books. With the warmer weather our Little Angels have been enjoying playing outside in the sandpit, using the chalks and they particularly enjoyed making their own car boot sale, with all the toys arranged outside for children to buy them! We have also had the main room decorated this month and the children have been helping to produce new displays for the walls and using the cardboard boxes as pirate ships!

### Baby Room

The babies have also been looking at animals, learning about animal noises and making animal faces using paper plates, which have made a lovely wall display. They particularly enjoyed making hand prints. The baby room have also been out and about more this month, taking walks and looking for wildlife.

### After School Club

Time flies and now we are getting near Easter already. The children have been enjoying football and rounders during the lighter evenings. They have also joined in making Mother's Day Cards and Easter Gifts. We have been looking at William Shakespeare and the children have been sharing their knowledge of the bard. A big thank you to our local PCSOs who visited Big Angels and gave a talk, which the children enjoyed. It was very informative and the children learnt all about police uniforms and how good bullet proof vests are!

If you would like any further information about Abingdon Little Angels Nursery, After School Club, Holiday Club or Art Club please feel free to call in or telephone us on 07516 474287 or email [info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk](mailto:info@abingdonlittleangels.co.uk)



### NEWS FROM MARCHAM SCHOOL

#### Pupil Report for Comic Relief - Friday 13th March 2015

On Red Nose Day at Marcham Primary School we did 'Funny for Money'. Where you wear or do something funny for money. For example you could tell your favourite joke or you could paint your face. We had a secret mission where we had to prank the teachers.

We pranked the teachers and Wolves and Giraffes class best prank was the Red Nose Day Hurricane. This was where both classes turned their tables upside down and we also put all the pencils on the floor. The Giraffes put tape around their classroom - this prank was called the sticky spiders web. Overall we raised money throughout the day. We all enjoyed seeing the teachers reactions. Some took it better than others! We all raised money for Comic Relief.

*By Chloe Nicol, Meg Pooley and Georgia Hicks*

We raised a terrific £296.79 which includes Red Nose sales. Well done everyone especially Mrs Harris who brought in extra outfits, hats and moustaches and helped the children play jokes on staff!

#### Zebras visit to the Ashmolean Museum on 18th March 2015

As part of our topic on Ancient Greeks we visited the Ashmolean museum in Oxford. Firstly we hopped on a massive bus with comfortable seats. It was a 20 minute drive and we were chatting quietly all the way. Next we arrived at the museum and were led into a room where we put our coats and bags. A few minutes later we met a lovely lady who took us to the Greek gallery where we saw some statues. After that we held some Greek objects and then we learnt about the Olympics. After lunch we went on a scavenger hunt where we found different objects on the way. We had lots of puzzles to complete and were very excited to see a Dodo. At about 2.15pm we left to come back to school. We had a great time.

*By Lara and Mollie-Mae*

#### Abingdon Science Fair

On Thursday the 19th March, a small group of two year 4 children and two year 5 children went to Abingdon Guildhall for the Abingdon Science and Technology fair. We had been planning for a few weeks and decided to do the digestive system. We made a big human body with the digestive system on it and painted it. After it had dried we put tubing on it and put ball bearings in a tray ready to be picked up and put down the tubing. We named the model Roy. When we got to the science fair we set up and went round the other stalls. At our stall we also had diagrams of the digestive system. We all staffed one and helped people label the system. If they wanted an extra challenge there were definitions to go with them. Meg said "it was amazing. We all really enjoyed it and it was a fantastic learning opportunity for us and others".

*By Amelie Y5*

#### Netball High 5 Tournament

On Tuesday 10th March, some of the netball players from Years 4, 5 and 6 at Marcham School attended a netball tournament at Fitzharrys School. They competed against other village schools in the Abingdon area, winning their group matches and coming second overall. A huge well done to all of those who competed.

#### Bisi Badminton Festival

On Wednesday 4th March, fourteen children from Years 3 and 4 at Marcham School had the very exciting opportunity to attend a badminton festival. They enjoyed learning a new sport and new skills and then put these skills to the test against other schools! All involved tried extremely hard and had lots of fun, with Marcham A coming in 5th place and Marcham B coming in 7th place out of 11 teams.

We would love you join us for an

## Egg-Tastic

Afternoon

Where: All Saints Church, Marcham

When: Easter Day 4.00-5.30pm

Easter activities, games and an eggstra amazing hunt!

Children £2 and adults free.

All donations will be given to

Lucy Hefford, Becca Rowe and Jessie Dipper

(all members of Marcham Church)

for their exciting Uganda trip in August.

Email Becca for more details ([becky.h.rowe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:becky.h.rowe@hotmail.co.uk))

**Against Breast Cancer**

**Sunday 3rd May 2015**

**Classic Oxfordshire Cycle Ride**

Support the fight against breast cancer and join us on the **Classic**

**Oxfordshire Bike Ride!** Now in its 10th year this is a fabulous cycling event and fantastic opportunity to explore Oxfordshire's stunning countryside. Choose either the 30, 60, 75 mile route or the family friendly 12 mile great escape ride. Starting and finishing at Harwell, the route is suitable for seasoned cyclists, leisure cyclists and families. Refreshments and toilet facilities are available en route.

If you would like to support the fight against breast cancer and raise vital funds to support our unique research into breast cancer and ultimately to discovering a vaccine, contact us today!

Website: <http://bit.ly/1Fh15JX>

Contact: Events Team Emma & Sarah

[events@againstbreastcancer.org.uk](mailto:events@againstbreastcancer.org.uk) 01235 534211

**So don't delay – get into the pink today!**

[www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk](http://www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk)



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY BRIDGE ??**

Did you once enjoy a game of Bridge, but have not played for a number of years? Do you still play the occasional game, but would like to play more often? Would you like to learn to play this exciting and absorbing game? If so, why not come along to Marcham Bridge Club on Monday evenings?



There is an annual subscription of £5 plus £1 per evening, which includes coffee. If you would like more information ring Joe Featherstone on 391426 or Rob Hall on 391626.

**Appleton with Eaton Tennis Club**

Our friendly club welcomes new members of any age or ability. We play all year round with coaching and club sessions throughout the week and competitive matches in the Thames Valley Winter and Wilson Summer leagues. We also have monthly indoor sessions during the winter.

Membership forms can be obtained from our membership secretary Adrian Willett (864691), or downloaded from the Appleton Village website [www.appletonwitheaton.org.uk/tennis-club](http://www.appletonwitheaton.org.uk/tennis-club)

Come and meet us and try one of our club sessions:

Mixed Sat 10-12 noon & Thurs 1.30 to 3.30pm,

Ladies Fri 9.15-11am.

We also run Cardio Tennis sessions on Wednesday mornings at 9.30 am. Contact Duncan Todd for details, [dtoddClub@helant.co.uk](mailto:dtoddClub@helant.co.uk). A coaching programme for both juniors and adults is run by Craig Amison-Smith [craigstenniscoaching@gmail.com](mailto:craigstenniscoaching@gmail.com) 07719 599582.

We look forward to seeing you!

**Abingdon Ladies Netball Club**

**Want to play netball?...**

**ALNC are recruiting!**

ALNC would like to invite netball players of all capabilities along to their upcoming training sessions in Abingdon. We train every other Tuesday at Manor Prep School and play once a week, across various divisions, in Oxford

ALNC are a competitive yet social team, so whether you want a new social sport to be part of or think it's time to get fitter for summer, ALNC caters for all!

For more information on the club and upcoming training dates please visit [www.alnc.co.uk](http://www.alnc.co.uk) or send a message to [info@alnc.co.uk](mailto:info@alnc.co.uk). We look forward to hearing from you!

Don't forget to 'Like' us on Facebook 'Abingdon Ladies Netball Club'



**Pop-Up Restaurant in aid of Maggie's the cancer caring centre at the Churchill Hospital**



When: 7.30-10pm Thursday 16 April

Where: Maggie's Oxford, Churchill Hospital, Old Road, Oxford, OX3 7LE

Price: £42.50 per person (minimum booking – two people)

Our Centre will be transformed into a beautiful dining room for you to enjoy three delectable courses of the highest quality, using locally sourced produce and hand-prepared by the amazing team at Greens Catering.

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

**BEAT BLOOD CANCER – JOIN THE 'UNSTOPPABLES' THIS WORLD CANCER DAY**

*Charity Pledge Places available for the Leukaemia & Lymphoma*

*Research Blenheim Palace Triathlon 13th-14th June 2015*

In the 10 years as a partner of the Blenheim Palace Triathlon, Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research has raised an incredible £1.5 million, but they won't stop until they've beaten blood cancer and the charity's 'Unstoppables' aim is to do just that.

Charity pledge places are available to individuals in return for raising £300 in sponsorship. Gold Pledge Places are also on offer, which come complete with an Unstoppables tri-suit, tri-belt and access to the Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research VIP area at the event for those raising £500 or more.

For more information about the places available go to

[www.theblenheimtriathlon.com](http://www.theblenheimtriathlon.com)

[www.twitter.com/blenheimtri](https://twitter.com/blenheimtri) :: [www.facebook.com/blenheimtri](https://www.facebook.com/blenheimtri)

**WheelPower Mix 96 Tour de Vale Bike Ride**

Up to 2,000 places are up for grabs for what has long been established as Buckinghamshire's biggest bike ride. In aid of WheelPower, the wheelchair sport charity based at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, the Tour de Vale fundraising bike ride has helped transform the lives of thousands of disabled adults and children in the 12 years since it began.

The ride takes place on **Sunday 7 June** with three routes taking cyclists through the delightful Buckinghamshire countryside and villages. Advanced entries are £15 for adults and free for children under 16 with an accompanying adult

[www.wheelpower.org.uk](http://www.wheelpower.org.uk)



**Plant sale**

**Fundraising for RDA Abingdon Group**

**10am-1pm Saturday 9 May**

As well as supporting the sale itself, if you normally grow your own vegetables and plants from seed and cuttings could we encourage you to sow and propagate a few more in the coming months to sell at the plant sale?

Any questions get in touch with Sarah Wilkinson on 07814 397192 or email [sarahwilkinson123@gmail.com](mailto:sarahwilkinson123@gmail.com)

**Milton Hill Bowls Club**  
**Open Day Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00 p.m.**  
 Footwear & coaching provided, no charge.  
 The Bowls Club is situated behind  
 Milton Football Club, Milton Heights  
 Interested ? Contact Colin Trinder 01865 391718

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SHARING ON THE INCREASE**

At a time when community spirit is often thought to be in decline – our local area is bucking the trend. People are increasingly turning to the website 'Streetbank' to link with their neighbours and share resources. If there are 50 houses on your street and each of them uses a ladder maybe once a year to clean the guttering, they probably don't all need their own ladder. Your neighbour might have a bread-maker you'd love to try out, while you might have a drill you can offer. Sharing doesn't just save participants money, it's also good for the environment, by making the most of under-used resources. It saves energy and cupboard space, and it's a great way to say hello to the people living nearby. People can put up requests for items they would like to borrow, and can also swap skills. Items currently available range from a barbecue to DVDs, a solar powered lamp to a lawn mower. The service is free, and anyone with access to a computer can join at [www.streetbank.com](http://www.streetbank.com).

**Summer Dance**  
**Saturday 27th June**  
**7.30-12.00pm**  
**Marcham Sports, Scouts**  
**and Social Club**



Dancing to the sounds of **Vinyl Daze**  
 Raffle :: Food will be available  
 Tickets will be on sale from April, available at  
 Marcham Village Shop, Hayley Cousins (391024),  
 Chris Ricketts( 391329) or Peter Kidd (391515)

**Have Your Say**

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

**Thursday 16 April**  
**at Marcham Village Shop**

29.05.15 at Duffield Place  
 26.06.15 Marcham Village Shop

**PCSO Andy McCormack C9461**

**Abingdon Outer Neighbourhood Team**

**Police Non-emergency number: 101**

**[www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)**

**FOR SALE**

Good home wanted for a much loved family member - our HOT TUB! We are moving house late May and unfortunately our tub will not be able to join us in our new home.

Offers around £1K - interested? Call Dave on 01865 391964

**FREE**

A single wardrobe in maple colour, with hanging rail and shelf. In perfect condition and FREE to whoever would like to collect it  
 Tel 01235 522877

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES STEERING GROUP**

The Community Facilities Steering Group (CFSG) was jointly formed in September last year by Marcham Parish Council, Marcham Community Group, Marcham Parochial Church Council, Marcham Baptist Church and Marcham Scouts, Sports and Social Club with the clear objective of developing plans for new community facilities in our village.

CFSG has set its sights on finding a solution to the long-term provision of community facilities. We recently reviewed the best way for local organisations to work most effectively and concluded that we have to work closely together if we are to find an effective solution. The Anson Trust has recently joined CFSG and is now fully involved as an integral part of the group, to enable us to fully explore all options.

Things are already in motion. We are working to develop various possible solutions with a view to coming up with a smaller number of potentially viable proposals that we can take further forward over the next few months. We will aim to keep you posted on progress with this complex set of tasks as best we can.

CFSG is not in itself a fund-raising group at this stage, but aims to represent all organisations in Marcham working together to identify the best options for the community. CFSG welcomes input from any other local group to this initiative. If you wish to have more information on CFSG, please contact Jim Asher (391727).

CFSG - Opportunities without Obstacles

**Stratford-upon-Avon Coach Trip**  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015**  
**£12.00 per person**  
 (includes return coach from Stratford)  
 Coaches will pick up from:  
 Abingdon at 9.15am Didcot at 9.30am  
 (Arriving in Stratford for 11am and departing at 4pm  
 If you would like to join us for the day and to book your place please contact:

**Laura on 07827 235429 for Abingdon pick up**

**Stacey on 07827 235460 for Didcot pick up**

Seats will only be confirmed on receipt of payment in full, in advance. Please note that the cost of this trip is non-refundable unless we are able to fill your seat.

Cheques made payable to Age UK Oxfordshire and give them to Laura or Stacey or send them to:

Age UK Oxfordshire St Edmunds House 39 West St Helen Street Abingdon OX14 2NQ marked "Stratford coach trip".

**ABINGDON**  
**AIR & COUNTRY SHOW**  
**10am - 5.30pm 3rd MAY**  
**Dalton Barracks**



[www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk](http://www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk)

Advance tickets available at  
 Abingdon Visitor & Information Centre



In aid of

**AIRAMBULANCE**  
 BERKS | OXON | BUCKS

## Dyslexia Research Trust Fun Day 6 June Oxford University Parks

Please come along and help the DRT celebrate its 20th Anniversary with our third Family Day.



Following the success of the second Family Fun Run Day, the DRT has been inundated with requests to organise another event. This year will be the DRT's 20th Anniversary and we have decided to celebrate with our third Family Day. We would like all our supporters (past and present) to come to Oxford University Parks on Saturday 6th June and share in our celebrations. We will have our 5km and One Mile fun runs together with a host of activities, entertainment, information stalls, scrumptious food stalls, tea and cakes, coffee and bacon sandwiches, and of course our beer tent!

**For more details: [www.dyslexic.org.uk](http://www.dyslexic.org.uk)**

## Undiscovered Wine Tasting

THE BLACK HORSE  
GOZZARDS FORD

request the pleasure of your company  
at their wine tasting on

29th April 2015 from 7pm for a 7.30pm start

The Evening will be hosted by our Wine Colleague Toby Chiles from S H Jones. He will be showing a selection of wines which

will be followed by a light supper.

£20.00 per person Booking required

To book: Tel: 01865 390 530

Tel: 01865 390 530

[www.the-blackhorse.co.uk](http://www.the-blackhorse.co.uk)

## Craft Material and Fabric Sale!

A sale of donated papercraft items, threads, fabric pieces and general sewing goods at:

Denman Collge

10am - 5pm 2 May

Free entrance

For more details go to

[www.denman.org.uk](http://www.denman.org.uk)



## GARD AGM (REMINDER)

The GARD AGM will be held at Stocks Lane Farm Steventon on Tuesday 14th April 2015 at 7pm followed by a Committee Meeting.

All who wish to be updated are welcome to attend, The Hon Chairman's Report will be summarized in the May MADNews.

**NICK THOMPSON** Hon Chairman GARD

## YOGA... from scratch

### New class starting April

At Manor Farm Marcham

It's not all about bending and stretching  
but about being mindful of your body and breath.

Scaravelli Inspired Hatha Yoga

For more information:

Email: [Andrea@btinternet.co.uk](mailto:Andrea@btinternet.co.uk)

07939 523083

Beatrice Hoffman and Julian Parfitt are exhibiting at their home, garden and studio in Garford, as part of the Oxfordshire Artweeks (OAW), site 340/1. They will be showing Beatrice's bronze (resin) sculptures for the home and garden, and Julian's photographs relating to natural history and the landscape; and sculpture students of all ages will be showing their work created within the last year.

Opening times 16-17 and 23-5 May, 12.00 - 18.00,  
Lime Tree Cottage, Garford, OX13 5PF  
Telephone: 01865 391502

[www.beatricehoffman.co.uk](http://www.beatricehoffman.co.uk)

[www.julianparfitt.viewbook.com](http://www.julianparfitt.viewbook.com)

ALSO Art in the Barn

Ceramics, Drawing, Glass, Jewellery,  
Painting, Sculpture, Textiles, Wood

St Audries Cottage, Church Lane,

Dry Sandford OX13 6JP

Telephone: 01865 390009

Opening Times: 11-6pm 16-17 20-25 May

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



## Sculpture in the Vineyard

Where can you see a rotating 15 foot stainless steel yacht, a blue Neolithic Egyptian goddess and a life sized horse gamboling among wildflowers in the Oxfordshire countryside? These unlikely companions will be unleashed in the grounds of **Bothy Vineyard, Frilford Heath**, as part of an ambitious sculpture show from 23 May to 7 June 2015.

[www.bothyvineyard.co.uk](http://www.bothyvineyard.co.uk)

## ABINGDON ALZHEIMERS DAY SUPPORT SERVICE

As many of you know, who read MADNews, we have a group of people who have been fund raising to support Abingdon Alzheimer's Society Day Support Service for many years. The service was, until two years ago, called Abingdon Alzheimers Club. All members of this group have either had a relation or a friend with dementia or have worked with people with dementia.

The exceptional service runs Monday to Friday and provides highly specialised day care, with activities and socialising. It also provides predictable, reliable respite for carers. The service is funded by Social Services and Alzheimer's Society. Generous residents have raised money for the service in the past, and we would like to express our grateful thanks to the people who have helped us in varied ways over so many years. But now money raised can be used to support other existing services throughout Oxfordshire and perhaps fund them to be held more frequently, or to develop new services for the benefit of people with dementia and their carers. At the moment in Oxfordshire there are:-

- 9 memory cafes each running once a month for 2 hours.
- 1 memory cafe running twice a month for 1½ hours.
- 4 carers support groups running 1½ hours once a month.
- 3 carers support groups running for 1½ hours twice a month.
- 3 Singing for the Brain groups each running twice a month for 1½ hours.

Alzheimer's Society is looking for new members to join their Singing for the Brain group in Didcot. The social activity for people with dementia and their carers enables them to express themselves and sing with others in a similar situation. Many people tell us it's the highlight of their week. Even when many memories are hard to retrieve, music can sometimes still be recalled - if only for a short while. The sessions help people with dementia communicate improving their mood and leaving them feeling good about themselves. For more information on the group, call Alzheimer's Society's Oxfordshire office on 01865 876508.



# *“The Ministry of Reconciliation”*



Several times on this page over the last year or two, I've talked about reconciliation. The example of various international statesmen and the coming out of the trenches for the Christmas Day truce showed how unity and understanding can replace hostility.

Soon after arriving in Marcham, I realised that there sadly had been a long history of disagreement between various groups in our village. At first, I couldn't understand why this was, especially since each of those groups, like the others, were made up of individuals in our community who simply wanted the best for Marcham. Gradually, I came to see the obvious .....that in essence, each group genuinely wanted the best for our village but simply saw different solutions to get the facilities that would enhance our communal life.

I am so glad that all parties in our village have now begun to come together around the table to put the past behind and work as one towards providing the facilities our village deserves and can so easily have. Our County and District Councillors, Richard and Catherine Webber should be applauded for their efforts in bringing representatives of the Anson Trust, Parish Council, Marcham Community Group, Sports and Social Club and the churches together.

It is still early days but I am not the only one among that group who is optimistic that we can finally reach the goal of getting the facilities that will hugely enrich our community. With goodwill, respect and a willingness to give ground, we can surely do this much more quickly than anyone might have dreamt possible.

---

Reconciliation is probably the most important Biblical theme. It is a concept that not only impacts our human relationships but also has huge eternal significance. The Bible includes several letters that St Paul wrote to the first churches, two of those letters were to the church in Corinth (modern day Greece). In the second one, Paul speaks passionately about the need for reconciliation. It is a subject that looms large at this season of Easter. The Message, a modern day English translation of the ancient Greek text puts part of Paul's letter like this:

*“Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah Jesus gets a fresh start, is created new. When that happens, the old life is gone and a new life begins! Look at it! All this comes from God, who settled the relationship between us and Him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with Himself through Jesus, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins..... We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.”*

Essentially there are two aspects to the Biblical understanding of reconciliation. Firstly, between human beings as individuals but even more importantly is the need for reconciliation between God and man. That's the Easter story.

We had turned our backs on God and we deserved to pay the price for that rebellion by eternal separation from our Creator. But though reconciliation between individuals or factions often needs a mediator, reconciliation between God and man is different. That reconciliation is available to each of us as individuals because God took the initiative and personally became the mediator. Jesus - God with flesh on - came and paid the penalty for our rebellion against Him.

Even though it was us that had turned our backs on Him, it was God who took the initiative to reconcile the world to Himself. In his letter to the church in Rome, Paul puts it like this: *“But think about this: while we were wasting our lives separated from God, He showed His powerful love to us in a tangible display – Jesus came and died for us.”*

That's the Easter message - the ultimate example of reconciliation. Through Christ and the cross, God opened up the way for us to be reconciled to Him.

God offers us the chance of a fresh start and a restored relationship with Him. To start that relationship is simply a matter of genuine repentance for turning your back on God, heartfelt thanks for His sacrifice and a living faith in Christ.

Making that step is life changing.

**Keith Mersh, Pastor Marcham Baptist Church**

01865 391881 or Bill Dyer - Elder 01235 814986

## **Speakers in April**

- 5 Apr - Phil Mader-Grayson
- 12 Apr - Paul Revel
- 19 Apr - Tony Valente
- 26 Apr - Janet Quarry

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