

Marcham & District News

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

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DECEMBER 2015 VOL: 37 NO: 12

READ & RECYCLE!

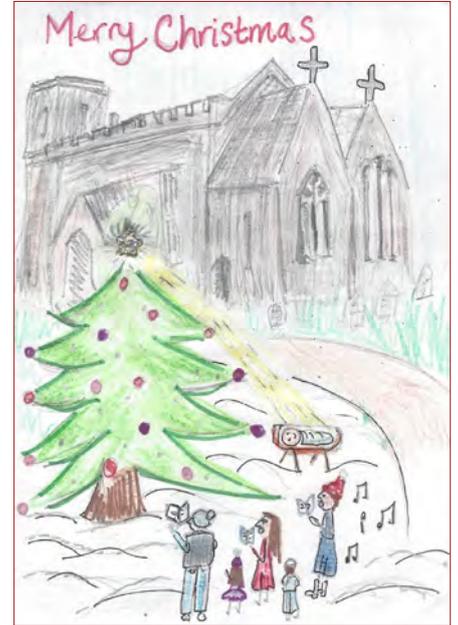
FREE



▲ Marcham Guides: learning resuscitation with Lee Swain (Abingdon Fire Station) and making poppies for their Remembrance wreath



▲ Marcham School raise money for Children in Need 2015 see page 13



▲ Picture by Emily from Marcham School



◀ Fun with hoses for Marcham Pre-School see page 13

HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS

Normal day	Revised day	Which bin?
Wed 30 Dec	Sat 2 Jan*	Green bin and food bin (no garden waste)
Wed 6 Jan	Fri 8 Jan	Grey bin and food bin
Wed 13 Jan	Thur 14 Jan	Green bin, brown bin, and food bin

* Please note that Sat collections will start from 6am, an hour earlier than usual, so remember to put your bins out the night before.
 'Grey bin' - is actually the black rubbish bin! If Wednesday is not your usual collection day please go to www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk or your local council's website for your waste collection details

Diary for December

3 Thur	Midweek Walk, The Boars Head, Ardington, 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	7	11 Fri	Quiznight, MSSSC, Anson Field, 20.15	7
3 Thur	Mobile Library, Sweetbriar 14.35 – 15.00		15 Tue	Deadline for January MADNews, 17.00	
4 Fri	Marcham School Christmas Fayre, 18.00 – 20.00	13	17 Thur	Mobile Library, Sweetbriar 14.35 – 15.00	
4 Fri	Music at the Unicorn, Abingdon: Steve Tilston, 19.00	15	19 Sat	Ex-Servicemen's Club Christmas Draw, 20.30	5
5 Sat	Women's Christmas Craft Morning, All Saints' Church, 09.30 – 12.30	15	22 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 – 15.30	5
5 Sat	Appleton School Christmas Craft Fair, 13.00 – 15.30	15	January		
8 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 – 15.30	5	15 Fri	Deadline for School Admissions applications	3
9 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3	15-23	ADC Presents: Santa in Space, The Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon	15
9 Wed	Carols and Christmas Songs, The Crown, Marcham, 20.00 – 22.00	5	16 Sat	CFSG/Anson Trust Community Facilities Public Consultation, details tbc	7
10 Thur	Marcham WI Christmas Party, Denman College, 19.30	7	19 Tue	Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme Public Consultation, Oxford Town Hall, 14.30 – 19.00	3
			20 Wed	Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme Public Consultation, Abbey House, Abingdon, 14.30 – 19.00	3

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

Dear Readers

*Whatever you are
celebrating
this month ~
I wish you
health, happiness
and peace*

Until next time



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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.

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

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Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
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For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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December 2015

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
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 of not more than 200 words, as to whom he/she wishes to nominate and the reasons why the person should receive the award.

Dumping and Fly Tipping

The Clerk, unfortunately, has over the last month had to report 3 incidences of fly tipping to the District Council. Fly tipping is regarded as the illegal dumping of waste, and as such perpetrators can be prosecuted. Fly tipping poses a threat to humans and wildlife, damages our environment, and spoils our enjoyment of the parish and its footpaths. The Vale of White Horse District Council provides a successful recycling and waste collection service for all its residents in the district. Everyone either has wheelie bins or sacks and food bins. In addition the recycling centre at Drayton is open 8.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. 7 days a week over Winter, and open even longer in the Summer, so there should be no excuse.

Longfields - Parking

Reports have reached the Parish Council that there is difficulty for motorists leaving Longfields, particularly with visibility up and down Howard Cornish Road. Cars are being left on the wide grass verge near the junction, and also on the road just at the start of Longfields itself. Would car owners in this vicinity please think carefully where they leave their vehicle.

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 children's worker in the village, outing for village children, works to the church building, the Anson Trust for grass cutting, Marcham

community mini-bus, Baby and Toddler Group, and the Senior Citizens Club.

Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Environment Agency is working in partnership to develop proposals to reduce flood risk in Oxford. The next round of public consultation events will take place during January. Tuesday 19th January at Oxford Town Hall and Wednesday 20th January, at Abbey House, Abingdon between 2.30 – 7.00 p.m. Drop in at any time to view the latest plans.

Reminder - School Admissions

**Entry to primary or infant school
September 2016**

If you are a parent or carer of a child 3 or 4 years old then you need to apply for a primary school place now. This is for children born between 1st September 2011 and 31st August 2012. You still have to apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school. For further information and to apply online go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/online-school-applications The closing date for applications is 15th January, 2016. If you do not have internet access, then you can access the internet at many of the County Council's libraries, or telephone 01865 815175 for further information

Planning applications

There were no planning applications this month.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 9th December 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

Any member of the public is most welcome to attend any of our meetings. There is a section near the start of each meeting for public participation, where any member of the public is able to speak about any topic which is relevant to the work of the Parish Council (for a maximum of three minutes). Members of the public are also welcome to observe some or all of the rest of the meeting. www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

**The Council wishes everyone a
happy Christmas**



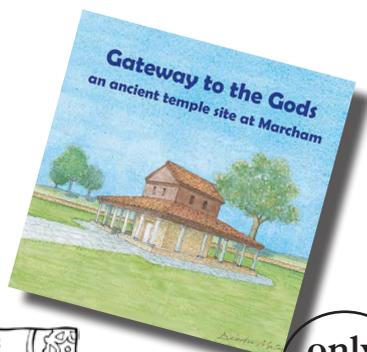
**A big thank you
to everybody who
gave so generously
to this years Poppy
Appeal.**

**The grand sum
of £4714.00 was
raised, Thank you
to all the Collectors and the Static
points who so generously let us put
our boxes in their premises.**

**Thank you once again.
Malcolm and Christine Denton
01865 391497**

**Gateway to the Gods
an ancient temple at Marcham**

The booklet all about the dig at Trendles Field is now on sale at Cumbers Farm Shop and Marcham Village Shop



only
£2

EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB

Christmas draw will be on Saturday 19th December starting at 8.30pm
Tickets are available in the club, 50p a square



An Evening of Carols and Christmas Songs
The Crown, Marcham
8pm - 10pm
Wednesday 9 December

Come and sing carols and Christmas songs along with us
Sausage Rolls, Mince Pies and Songsheets provided!
All welcome



SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!
2.00-3.30 pm on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
8th and 22nd December
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 Village Shop and Post Office

Call us... Shop: 391 993 Post Office: 391 940

Mon - Fri: 07.30 - 17.30 Sat - Sun: 08.00 - 12 noon

Last Post Guaranteed Collection Times:
16.45pm weekdays and 10.20am Saturday



It is **small shops day on Saturday 5th Dec**, pop in and do some **local shopping!** Also for anyone who is an American Express cardholder, they are giving their cardmembers £5 when they spend £10 or more in one transaction at Marcham shop and other participating small shops between Saturday 5th - Sunday 20th December. Something to think about before Christmas!

You can buy **Gift Cards** from the post office - perfect for Christmas and birthdays! The Shop and Post Office hours have changed. We are now open 07.30 - 5.30 Monday to Friday and 08.00 - 12 noon Saturday and Sunday.

Christmas hours: Close at 12 noon on Christmas eve for Christmas and re-flooring the shop and then reopen at 08.00 on Saturday 2nd January and back to usual.

Stock up on stamps while you shop!

Raffle tickets for the shop's Christmas hamper are now on sale £1 per strip.

Visit us on Facebook: facebook.com/marchamvillageshop

A Special Service for those in difficulty

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

LAST POSTING DATE	DESTINATION
International Standard (formerly Airmail) and all International Tracking and Signature services (formerly Airsure® and International Signed For®)	
Friday 4 December	Africa, Middle East
Monday 7 December	Asia, Cyprus, Far East, Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia)
Tuesday 8 December	Caribbean, Central and South America
Thursday 10 December	Australia, Greece, New Zealand
Monday 14 December	Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Poland
Tuesday 15 December	Canada, Finland, Sweden, USA
Wednesday 16 December	Austria, Iceland, Ireland, Portugal, Spain
Thursday 17 December	France
Friday 18 December	Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland
International Standard HM Forces Mail - British Forces Post Office® (BFPO)	
Friday 11 December	Static BFPOs
UK Inland Services	
Saturday 19 December	2nd Class and Royal Mail Signed For® 2nd Class
Monday 21 December	1st Class and Royal Mail Signed For® 1st Class
Wednesday 23 December	Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed®

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

We provide a range of experiences linked to current interests and aimed to meet their individual learning needs as well as following the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. Occupying a classroom within Marcham Primary School allows us to work closely with the school and support a smooth transition as the children move on.

Places for children aged from 2 years are available for an immediate start Or you can apply for a future place any time up to 2018.

Please get in touch for more details:

01865 392101 or email marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk.

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com



Sheila Dunford thanks everyone who donated cards for transformation into new ones. These are now on sale in Cumbers Farm Shop, Marcham Shop and All Saint's Church.

Proceeds will be donated to All Saints' Church and The Churchill Hospital.

**MID-WEEK WALK:
THURSDAY DECEMBER 3RD**

For this short winter walk we will be eating at the Boar's Head in Ardington (Map Ref: SU 432883). We will meet at the usual time of 12.30 for lunch and start the walk at 1.30 taking in the Estate villages of East and West Lockinge along the Ardington Brook. Members free, non-members £1. We welcome new members. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.



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

**Quiz Night
FRIDAY 11 December**

This month's quiz will be held on Friday 11 December 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 CRICKET CLUB

Further details of Teams and Fixtures for 2016 will be given in later issues when more detailed information has been received from the Oxfordshire Cricket Association. Please contact Trevor Hill (391321) for information relating to Marcham CC - including playing for or umpiring the Club.



And finally ... a Captain was looking for new players to bolster his somewhat ageing side and asked a potential new player how he was at keeping wicket. "Passable" was the reply. "That's no good!" the Captain exclaimed. "We've already got one like that. We need one that is impassable!"

CSB



**VILLAGE CAFE
EVERY WEDNESDAY
MSSSC**



Do you like a roast dinner followed by apple pie, trifle, syrup sponge pudding or home-made rice pudding with proper skin? If so **Marcham Village Café** is the place for you. It is a very popular midweek event for those people who come. If you've never been, why don't you come and join us at the Scouts, Sports and Social Club building on the Anson Field at about 12 o'clock? Bring a friend if you don't want to come alone.

*It's not just for the elderly, all are welcome
we even have a group of children
from the nursery next door!
We don't make a charge for the meal
but rely on contributions.*

Marcham WI

Next Meeting

Christmas Party

Date: Thursday, 10th December

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Denman College



We hope to see you all at our **December Christmas Party** on Thursday 10th December. Please note that this is on the 2nd Thursday of the month and not the usual meeting night of 3rd Thursday of the month. Come along, wear something **Christmassy**, and enjoy a fun evening with friends old and new. We will have a bring and share supper, but the rest of the evening remains a mystery!!

It would be much appreciated if you would bring a donation for the Christmas bottle raffle which will be held during the evening. Also, this year instead of the bran tub we will be collecting non-perishable treats for the **food bank**, perhaps wrapped in cellophane or decorated with ribbon and with a label stating what is inside.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

Community Facilities Steering Group

The Community Facilities Steering Group has been working through details of the proposals for new community facilities for Marcham with the Anson Trust and Thomas Homes. We now expect a detailed planning application to be submitted to the District Council by the end of November.

Following submission of the plans, we will be showing the latest plans and seeking the views of Marcham people in a further public consultation event on **Saturday 16th January**. This will be a good opportunity to discuss details of the submitted plans. We have still to work out details of internal arrangements for the community hall, and this will be a chance for you to let us have your ideas on what should be included. More details of this event will be circulated around Marcham in early January.

The Community Facilities Steering Group (CFSG) was set up with the clear objective of developing plans for new community facilities in Marcham and is made up of representatives from local groups with an interest in village facilities. If you wish to have more information on the CFSG, or you think you can help, please contact Jim Asher (391727).

CFSG - Opportunities without Obstacles

CROSSWORD BY ALISA

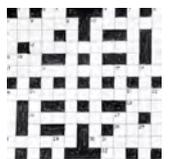
November Answers

Across:

1. Sic 4.Tuna 7. Coot 8. Hiatus 9. Bear 10. Venn Mill 11. Eleven 13. Coventry 16. Aromatic
19. Trains 20. Falconry 21. Used 23. Flying 24. Exit 25. Kite 26. Eat

Down:

1. Stance 2. Christmas Fair 3. Radley College 4. Tubney 5. Use
6. Aaron 7. Civic 12. Etui 14. Over 15. Girdle 17. Avocet 18. Crypt 19. Trunk 22. Eft



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People, Bulding & Streets,
Special Features

www.abingdon.gov/partners/HISTORY
Abingdon Area Archaeolgoical and Historical Society

Bank Balance
£20,193

Local Events
£11,830

Donations
£8,260

2014 - 2015 Membership
Voting: 72 Junior: 18

5p Coins
6703



Latest plans—nearly there!

MCG continues to work with the other groups on Community Facilities Steering Group (CFSG, see page 7) to develop the proposals and business plans for the new facilities in Marcham. At their last full meeting in early November, CFSG members voted unanimously for MCG to become the Managing Trustee for the new community facilities. This had also been the unanimous view of the Parish Council at their October meeting. There will be much work to do in setting up new arrangements as we move into and through next year, and arranging for election of additional trustees in due course, and we will keep you posted on developments.

This would be a good time for people to join/rejoin MCG to provide further support as we move into this new phase—please contact us for a membership form. We would be delighted to have you on board.

In the meantime, MCG is also planning to continue with organising community-wide social and fundraising events. Please keep your 2016 diaries clear for Saturday 11th June, when we propose to organise a community-wide ‘tea party’ event for all the family, to mark the Queen’s 90th birthday. This is also an advance warning that we will be looking for lots of volunteers to help on the day (and in preparations)! Watch this space in future MAD News issues for further details, and read about these events on the MAD News Facebook pages www.facebook.com/MADNewsUK.

Thank you for your continued support—it is much appreciated!

Moving further forward!

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

www.marcham.org



THE CROWN

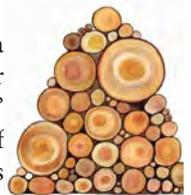
Sue, Duncan and Chris would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



If you would like to come in for a meal, we are advising that from late November through December to give us a call on 01865 391735 to check we have a table available as there are several Christmas Parties and Functions already booked. If you would like to book a pre-Christmas celebration meal please ask for a menu as we are filling up fast. We look forward to seeing you during the Festive Season and once again thank you for your support. 1 Packhorse Lane, Marcham OX13 6NT 01865 391735 www.thecrownmarcham.co.uk

LOGS FOR LABOUR IS ON AGAIN!

Would you like free firewood, or do you have a woodland that needs managing? The Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment’s “Logs for Labour” programme aims to promote sustainable use of firewood by running events where volunteers help to manage woodlands in return for logs. The events run most weekends in the winter, are about 3 hours long, and could involve coppicing hazel, thinning trees or piling up brush. All you need are sturdy gloves, shoes and a saw (only hand tools are allowed for insurance reasons)... or let us know if your woodland needs the help of volunteers.



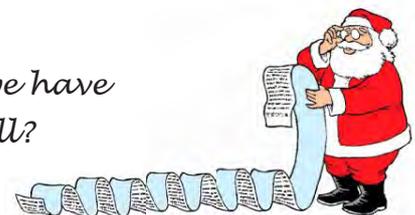
Information about events is at www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk/logs-for-labour, or ‘like’ us at www.facebook.com/oxonwood. Riki Therivel, 01865 243488



Congratulations to The Crown

Food Hygiene Rating: GOOD

Dear Santa,
Please can we have a village hall?



ED VAIZEY WRITES...

Earlier this month we stopped to remember those who gave their lives in service to their country, I was struck once again by the hundreds of people who turned up to parades and memorials. I had the honour of laying wreaths at both Wantage and Didcot along with veterans and serving men and women. Supporting our armed forces is as important as ever and I thank everyone that has donated to the Royal British Legion or any of the other Forces charities this year.

There are a few issues which have crossed my desk which may be of interest.

Last month I took part in a very interesting debate in Parliament around the issue of nuisance calls. These are an ongoing problem, especially for elderly and vulnerable people. I am pleased to say that the government and phone companies have taken steps to combat them, for instance lowering the legal threshold of what constitutes a nuisance call (and so making it easier to prosecute) and ensuring Ofcom and the Information Commissioners Office share information to tackle those who make these calls.

If you run a small business, a campaign and roadshow by "Exporting is GREAT" has been launched to encourage and advertise opportunities to businesses to export their products and services around the world. The initiative also provides guidance, training and expert advice to help first-time exporters. Do to visit the "Exporting is GREAT" roadshow, which will be in the south-east in May 2016 or visit their website exportingisgreat.gov.uk.

A new road safety dashboard has recently been brought to my attention. Created by the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS), the dashboard provides statistics for traffic accidents. Unfortunately it shows that there was an increase in the numbers of accidents in the constituency in 2014. While we all work to make our roads safer, you can find out more information at www.pacts.org.uk/dashboard.

This month, my mailbag has been dominated by letters of concern about Fracking and its potential effects on drinking water and risk of damage to the UK's National Parks. I can assure readers that Government legislation provides clear and strong regulatory protections for the environment, ensuring that fracking cannot be conducted from wells that are drilled at the surface of National Parks. Other issues that have been brought up include the dog-meat trade in Southeast Asia and the teaching of First-Aid in schools.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any pressing issues that you would like help with. Either myself or one of my team will get back to you as soon as possible and do what we can to assist. You can contact me on any matter at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or dicksonce@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 badyaljb@parliament.uk or sign up at www.vaizey.com.

So finally, as the festive season approaches, may I wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous new year.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Conservative)

COUNTY REPORT**Has Scrooge taken over Christmas?**

The Health Service is in serious trouble, Europe cannot agree with itself, austerity is biting everywhere, the roads are full of potholes and there is no way out. The County Council is threatening to cut Children's Centres, get rid of subsidized bus services and reduce the number of Recycling Centres together with many other social services in an effort to make a further £55m of savings on top of the £200m it has made in the last three years. Bah! Humbug! It's enough to make you want to give up on Christmas altogether. But even



Scrooge saw the light in the nick of time and became a benevolent optimist.

So where is the light? The national problems are, thankfully, above my pay grade. I do believe there is a small chink of light on the County Council's problems. If the County (and that means the residents) were to agree to ask Government for permission to change to Unitary Status, savings of at least £30m per year would be generated. This would be enough to save all the services currently under threat with money over to fix the potholes – and it wouldn't involve asking Mr Osborne for a penny. A happy Christmas for all!

The problem is turkeys - So what are the obstacles? These come in the form of turkeys – lots of them – all reluctant to vote for Christmas. It would mean asking District Councils (and the County Council and Oxford City Council) to agree to disband themselves in favour of ONE Council responsible for all local services. More than 200 Councillors would lose their jobs along with hundreds of employees as duplication was eliminated. It would involve smaller political parties agreeing to vote for a system, which would, for the foreseeable future, make it unlikely that they would ever control anything. And turkeys just don't vote for Christmas.

But the decision should not be in the hands of self-interested Councils and Politicians. They are all there to serve their residents, and the decision to switch to a single new council should be in the hands of the residents. It would be a big, brave decision- but it is a discussion we need to have urgently and it is the duty of politicians to stimulate it.

Like Scrooge, I want to defy the forces of darkness and wind up optimistic. I am certainly going to enjoy consuming large amounts of Turkey. A very Happy Christmas to everyone!

RICHARD WEBBER CLLR OCC

SC & Marcham Division.

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

DISTRICT REPORT

Isn't it strange when one has moments of enlightenment! Richard and I were just returning from a lovely evening out in Marcham, when I suddenly thought, no I would not write about politics for December, but instead focus on good messages to do with Marcham. After all it is the season of goodwill and I think Marcham is full of goodwill.

Look at the Community Shop and Post Office, with all its volunteers giving up their time to make sure that the shop thrives even on Sunday. (*In fact they could do with more help if anyone is willing to offer.*) Then there is the Parish Council where the councillors battle away with those often very difficult problems that arise, making sure that through discussion and careful analysis the best decisions are reached. The CFSG group, also made up of volunteers and representatives from all factions in the village, meets regularly to ensure that the massive project of designing a sports field and village hall on the Anson Field is carefully guided through many potholes, legal and otherwise...and the good news is that they are getting there. There is light at the end of what has been a very long tunnel! And then there is the church which is thriving, appealing to people of all ages and from all walks of life. Not only does it work on all sorts of caring projects here and abroad, but within the community it has recently decided to focus on helping the youth of the village by funding a new appointment of a village youth worker. This is surely a very exciting step.

As I walk around the village, I am struck by the number of caring individuals who help in clubs, such as sports clubs or Cubs and Guides, or visiting the elderly and sick, or offering to do errands for others etc. It is a village made up of individuals of goodwill, who really care, and as such you should feel proud to be part of it. Of course with so many involved and caring people, there will be occasional differences - but we should think of this as an asset, not a problem.

Marcham has every reason to be proud of itself - And that's a great message for Christmas.

CATHERINE WEBBER CLlr VWHDC

01235 534001 or catherinewebber@hotmail.co.uk

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

This term the children created their own firework pictures (using a variety of washing-up sponges and brushes!) as well as a trip to Abingdon Fire Station. Every day brings something different and we have such wonderful opportunities to follow the children's interests, engaging them in something new and supporting their play and progression. There is always so much news of what the children have done at pre-school, and the best way to find out what we do is to pop along for a visit! Please contact us on 01865 392101 or drop in for a chat. You will find us within the Primary School on Morland Road... we take children from 2 years of age and have places for an immediate start as well as taking applications for any time up to 2018! We look forward to hearing from you!



www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

MARCHAM SCHOOL NEWS

Children in Need

A magnificent effort has been made this year. Well done to everyone who donated goods to sell, bought cakes and goodies and dressed up as a 'Champion'. We were also royally entertained by a talent show.

For Children In Need Marcham Primary did a talent show to raise money. There were some fantastic dancers, funny jokes and some amazing tricks. Marcham Primary had lots of fun doing this and we all have raised lots!

By Hannah G

You raised a whopping £442.36, more than double last year's total. You should all be very pleased with yourselves, thank you.

Maths Challenge

On Thursday 5th November, Mia W, Sophie L, Samuel B, and Arthur W, went to St Edmunds School to compete in a maths challenge. There were 180 people split into 90 pairs. We had many challenges to do, including, Countdown, Find the Value and the Big Event which contained questions to complete in a certain amount of time. After the maths, we ate delicious donuts and sausage and chips. Overall we had a great day and we are proud of ourselves. Even though we didn't win we gave it our best shot.

By Mia W, Sophie L, Samuel B, and Arthur W

**Marcham School
Christmas Fayre**
Come and say hello to Santa!

Raffle with great prizes to be won!
Bar and refreshments
Arts and Crafts

Tombola
Cakes
Secret store and much more!

Friday 4th December 6-8 pm
Everyone Welcome!
Adults £1 (New Reduced price!)
Free Entrance for Children



Rainbows meet on Monday nights from 5pm until 6 at Marcham Baptist Hall. Please contact Claire McGill for details about joining! 07538 907813 or clmcgill@gmail.com

1ST MARCHAM RAINBOWS

MARCHAM BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

We have places for parents to be, new parents and babies, toddlers, carers and grandparents! Do come along with a friend if you wish, first visit is free then £2 per family.

It is an informal relaxed session, activities, toys and music for the children, and a chance for adults to chat and get to know one another – light refreshments included.

The group meets Tuesday mornings 9.45-11.15 at All Saints Church everyone in the village and district is welcome

Do come and join us! SUE GIBBLING (Treasurer)



If you are holding an event within or near the MADNews area, please contact the editor for more publicity! 01865 391725 or editor@madnews.co.uk

Would you like to contribute to the development of Marcham School?

Can you think creatively?

Do you want to be a part of making the school an even better place of learning?

Do you have ideas as to what the school should be like in 5 years time?

It is an exciting time at Marcham School and the opportunity to be part of a group planning for the school's development could be just the job for you.

We have a small number of vacancies on the governing body for co-opted governors. We are looking for anyone who is able to give up a small amount of time to help the school plan effectively for the future, working closely with the head teacher to challenge and support the school in its aim to achieve excellence in education in a safe, caring, collaborative community where learning is fun.

Governors come from all walks of life and have all sorts of skills and experience to offer. There are no particular requirements, what's most important is enthusiasm and a commitment to help the school continue to improve – so please spend a moment reading the attached information and considering whether you have some time that you could spend contributing to Marcham School's development.

As the village continues to expand, and the financial climate remains uncertain, the governors have a particular focus on trying to ensure the school can offer a place within the catchment area for every child that wants one. We would therefore be particularly keen to hear from people with financial skills, or with a particular interest in the possible expansion of the school.

Co-opted governors do not have to be parents or carers, so even if this is not for you please think if there is someone you know who would be able to support the school in this way – and encourage them to get in touch.

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to discuss them with Viv Hutchinson, Headteacher or with Rob France, Chair of Governors (marchamchair@gmail.com).

**Women's Christmas Craft Morning
9.30am -12.30pm Saturday 5th December**

All Saints' Church

Come along and have a go at making Christmas wreaths, cards, candle holders, table decorations and more.

Or... just come along and have a chat!

Refreshments provided. Entry is free, but donations towards the cost of materials would be appreciated.

Open to all women and girls year 7 and above.

For more information contact Rachel on 391432



STEVE TILSTON

Friday 4th December

www.stevetilston.com

Doors: 7:00pm | £10

Abingdon Unicorn Theatre

Tickets: www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk

& REMADE GUITARS, (Stratton Way) Coxeter House

Abingdon

Drama

Club in 3D since 1944



Directed by Susi Dalton

Evenings | 7:30pm: January Friday 15, Saturday 16, Thursday 21, Friday 22, Saturday 23

Matinees | 2:30pm: January Saturday 16, Sunday 17, Saturday 23

At the Unicorn Theatre

Telephone: 0845 4636638

www.abingdon-drama-club.com

enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com



DENMAN SHOP



Stuck for last minute presents or just looking for something for yourself?

The Denman shop has it all!

From Christmas gifts, stocking fillers and children's gifts to confectionery, books and top of the range cookery products from Wilsons, the Denman shop has plenty to offer. Pop by during our opening hours for a browse! Just ask at reception for the shop.

Open 09.00 – 17.00

lunchtime closure at 12.15 – 13.15.

Denman is open up to the 17th December. Please call us on 01865 391 991 ext. 1 and speak to Claire L for more details.

CHILLED OUT GARDENING IN WINTER



If you are new to wildlife gardening and just dipping your toe, you may wonder where you should start. I always advise, just to start somewhere, doesn't matter where, just start. That first step is always the hardest.

Look and see what wildlife is living around you already in the garden you have. Watch and learn, allowing yourself space to just enjoy your garden and building up an understanding about what is already using your garden as a home, and its preferences', may lead you to felling less inclined to 'tidy' all the time.

We live such fast and frenetic lives, hardly giving ourselves time to just 'be', or time to just enjoy our gardens. Giving ourselves space is often overlooked in the pursuit of getting on and doing stuff.

If you want to plant something straight away to help wildlife before you crack on with this watching and learning exercise, take the chance this month to plant a tree. If you only have a small garden, a small tree is fine. It will give you height but also an entire new habitat in many instances. A Crab Apple or Rowan are good easy choices. You'll be stunned how quick the birds will begin to use new trees and perches.

If things like 'weeds' come a calling, don't stress, remember you are building food chains in wildlife gardening or Food Webs which is the latest buzz term. Many of what we call weeds are good food sources for birds if we let them seed in Autumn. After a while a natural balance takes over in the garden, and these weeds are just as important to your enjoyment and insects, birds and mammals. Don't get me wrong, wildlife gardening doesn't have to be untidy as such. What I do know is gardening isn't stressful in itself, so if you are rushing around trying to keep up with the gardening, and getting yourself stressed, you must be doing something wrong.

Challenge yourself to garden in a more relaxed way, feel the acidity levels decrease in your body and watch your wellbeing improve. Good luck

Happy Gardening **STUART MABBUTT**

Wildlife Gardening Specialist 01865 747243



friends of appleton school

Appleton Primary School Christmas Craft Fair

Join us for Appleton Primary School's Christmas Craft Fair and Market. Fun for all the family including Christmas gift stalls, a brass band playing favourite carols, hog roast, hot drinks, mince pies and mulled wine, Scalextric, Father Christmas in his grotto and loads of exciting craft activities for children.

When: Saturday 5th December

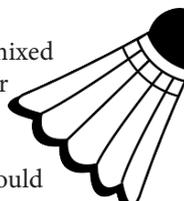
Where: Appleton Primary School OX13 5JL

Time: 13.00 until 15.30

Entry Fee: £1.00

LOCAL BADMINTON CLUB

Do you want to play badminton in a friendly, mixed club, with a wide range of ages and abilities, for both social play and league matches? HLBC meets on Monday evenings at Larkmead School in Abingdon, from September to March, and would welcome new members.



To find out more contact: info@harwellbadminton.co.uk

Dear Friends,

The shops and our TV screens leave us in no doubt - Christmas is around the corner! And no doubt some of our minds will already be gearing up for this remarkable and celebratory season - whether that is in terms of food, presents, holidays, or perhaps with a degree of dread because of past memories and sadness.

But is Christmas about presents or Presence? At the heart of the Christian celebration is a wonderful and remarkable gift: namely the Gift of God's Son - Jesus. The coming of God into the world in Jesus - what the theologians call 'The Incarnation' - is a transforming truth. God knows what it is to experience everyday life here in our world - and it was tough. Jesus' earliest years were marked by death threats, long journeys, living as a refugee in a strange country and with parents who had lost everything.

However, the events leading to Jesus birth, and surrounding His birth, left Mary and Joseph in no doubt about something else: that God was wonderfully present with them.

And for us today, the same reassurance can be true: God is present with us by His Spirit as those who trust in Christ. Jesus has promised never to leave us - that He, by His Spirit - would be with us always - until the day of His return. To know His presence deep in our souls is a wonderful thing, and a source of the deepest joy and peace.

May you, and those you love, know the gift of the presence of Jesus in your souls this Christmas, and throughout 2016.

I wish you all a truly happy Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.

Rev. Richard Zair.



Picture by Emily from Marcham Primary School

Regular church services

Sundays: 10am & 6pm at All Saints'
Wednesdays: 10.30am at Duffield Place

St. Luke's, Garford:

Sunday 20th December, 3pm: Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Day, 10.30am: Family Communion

Contacts:

Rev. Richard Zair 391319(r_zair@yahoo.co.uk)
Jill Rowe Youth and Children's Minister 390885
Tim Jack Churchwarden 01865 864900
Tamsin Gilbert Administrator 391319
Parish Office: parish_office41@yahoo.co.uk

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Coming up at All Saints'..

Women's Christmas Craft Morning, Saturday 5th December, 9.30-12.30

Carols at the Crown, Wednesday 9th December, 8-10pm at the Crown Pub!

Crib Creation Celebration, Friday 11th, 6pm

Daylight Carol Service, Tuesday 15th December, 3pm

Village Café Christmas Meal, Wednesday 16th December, 11.30am

Miss Scrooge, Friday 18th December, 6pm

Carols by Candlelight, Sunday 20th December, 6pm

Crib Service, Christmas Eve, 4pm

Midnight Holy Communion, Christmas Eve, 6pm

Christmas Day Family Communion, Christmas Day, 10am