

Marcham & District News

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FEBRUARY 2017 VOL: 39 NO: 2

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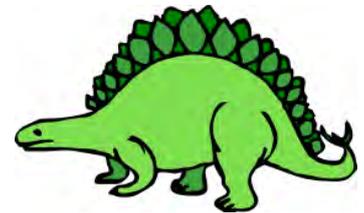
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▲ The dinosaurs are coming!
.... page 13



▲ Who's in the box? page 13



▲ The Big Knit page 15

Diary for February

2 Thur	ABCD Film Society: Chronicle of Summer, 19.45	15	16 Thur	Marcham WI: Malcolm Nelson The History of Smuggling, Denman College, 19.30	7
6 Mon	Sunshine Club, Duffield Place Residents' Lounge, 14.00	9	20 Mon	Sunshine Club, Duffield Place Residents' Lounge, 14.00	9
8 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3	20 Mon	Getting Ahead: Legal Matters, Duffield Place, 10.20	9
9 Thur	Dalla, Music at the Unicorn, Abingdon, 19.00	9	20 Mon	Deadline for March MADNews, 17.00: editor@madnews.co.uk	
9 Thur	ABCD Film Society: The Mystery of RW Paul, 19.45	15	23 Thur	Senior Citizens' Club, Duffield Place Residents' Lounge, 14.30	7
13 - 17	Marcham Dinosaur Adventure Week @ Little Angels	13	23 Thur	ABCD Film Society: '71, 19.45	15
13 Mon	Sunshine Club, Duffield Place Residents' Lounge, 14.00	9	24 Fri	MSSSC Quiz Night 20.15	7
14 Tue	Marcham Society: Tony Gillman, All Saints' Church, 19.45	9	25 Sat	Wantage & Grove Lions: Cash Bingo, Grove Village Hall, 18.45	13
14 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 - 15.30	7	27 Mon	Getting Ahead: Falls, Duffield Place, 10.20	9
16 Thur	MidWeek Walk: Shepherd's Hut, Ewelme 12.30 lunch / 13.30 Walk Icknield Bank Plantation	7	27 Mon	Sunshine Club, Duffield Place Residents' Lounge, 14.00	9
			28 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 - 15.30	7

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

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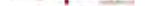
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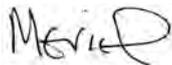
February is a time for renewal – there are buds on the trees, snowdrops and daffodils are peeping out and the birds have definitely got spring in their song.

Apparently spring moves at 1.9mph - just over 3km/h as it travels up the country from south to north. This has been calculated by Springwatch by looking for the appearance of seven-spot ladybirds, oak leafing, hawthorn flowering, orange-tip butterflies and the swallow returning from Africa.

This type of study is called phenology (as opposed to phrenology which is looking at the bumps on your head).

Hmm ... time to get back to work and stop Googling!

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

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

DISCLAIMER

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

The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team, who are all volunteers.

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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon

Catherine Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton OX14 4HJ
Tel: 01235 534001

Webbercatherine1@gmail.com

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Council Tax 2017

The Parish Council has carefully considered its budget for 2017/2018 looking in detail at its income and expenditure. The Parish Council has resolved that it requires funding of £49,500 for the next financial year. The Vale of White Horse District Council will provide a grant to the parish of £370, as part of the council tax reduction scheme, and the remaining parish council tax element will be £49130.

Parishioner of the Year Award

Thank you to all of you who have taken the time and trouble to write to the Council to put forward nominations for the Parishioner of the Year Award. The Council has a working party that is now considering all the nominations in order to prepare a shortlist for the Council to consider in due course.

Bridleway 17 – Bridge Closure at end of Mill Road over river Ock

A closure order has been made to enable bridge reconstruction which is yet to be commenced. The effect of the order is to temporarily prohibit persons and vehicles using the bridge that spans the river Ock south of Marcham Mill. The closure order has been made until 21st January 2020. *Please see the letter from Oxfordshire County Council on page 5.*

Marcham Garden Competition 2017

The Council will again be running the Best Kept Garden Competition in 2017. No entry forms will be required and judges will assess gardens from the roadside without the need for entering properties. Please bear the competition in mind when planning your gardens and planting your seeds.

Sheepstead Road – street lights

The Council is pleased to note that the County Council, after several months, has now managed to replace the two broken street lights in Sheepstead Road. These will improve the safety of those walking the area when it is dark.

Oxfordshire County Council – Unitary Authority Bid

The County Council is proposing to abolish all six councils (county and district) and to replace them with a single new unitary council for the whole of Oxfordshire. “A Fresh Start for Oxfordshire” has just been published, and the County Council would like to hear views on what is proposed, so that it can consider points made before submitting a final bid to central government for a decision.

Information can be found at www.oneoxfordshire.org

Planning applications

The Council has considered the following planning applications:

P16/V3211/HH Single storey rear extension at 6 Orchard Way. The Council objected as the extension appeared to be an overdevelopment

of the plot with inadequate onsite parking.
P16/V3072/HH Single storey rear extension at 6 Parkside. Council had no objection as no additional bedrooms were being created.

P16/V2986/FUL Variation of condition 12 (Drainage) of P15/V0612/FUL (61 dwellings off Hyde Copse).

P16/V3224/FUL Erection of 49 dwellings with associated means of access, car parking, footpath links, amenity space and landscaping off Sheepstead Road. Council supported the development, but commented on various aspects of the proposals.

P16/V3147/FUL Replacement dwelling, swimming pool and garage building at Studland House, Woodside. Council had no objections but commented on traffic during construction and the protection of trees.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 8th February 2017 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

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.



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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 on Wednesdays? 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.

Personal adverts in MADNews are free so if want to put in a notice or have something to sell, call the editor on 391725 or email editor@madnews.co.uk
The deadline for all personal adverts is 20th of the month.

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Dear Editor

Marcham Mill Bridge

I am writing as Countryside Access Team Leader with Oxfordshire County Council to update residents on the position with Marcham Mill Bridge which carries Public Bridleway Marcham 17 over the River Ock. As you are no doubt aware, the Bridleway has been closed over the bridge for quite some time due to failure of the bridge deck and the significant risk to public safety that this presents. The closure recently came up for renewal, and in the interests of economy we applied to extend this until 2020. Purely for the reason that it is much more efficient to seek a three year closure than to reapply if a 2017 opening is not possible. I assure you however, that we are working hard behind the scenes to ensure that the route is reopened well before 2020.

Negotiations with a range of interested parties towards a mutually agreeable solution are ongoing. These are primarily centred on the exact nature of the repair and ensuring legitimate users can be accommodated within the conservation constraints of the bridge's status as a listed structure. I am unfortunately not yet in a position to offer a firm timescale for the repair and reopening, but will endeavour to keep you updated as and when a definitive plan of action is agreed.

For the time being, the temporary barriers remain in place to ensure public safety. I encourage all residents to continue to observe these, and not risk trying to access the bridge by any means to avoid the genuine risk of accident and injury that would result.

I fully appreciate the frustration that the continued delay will cause to those who have been waiting so long for access across the river to reopen. Please rest assured that we are taking all possible steps to make this happen as soon as we possibly can, whilst ensuring safety and making the best use of public funds.

Kind regards,
JAMES BLOCKLEY
 Countryside Access Team Leader
 Oxfordshire County Council

Dear Editor

Cats and Antifreeze

During January we lost our beautiful 10-year-old cat Lulu. She died from ingesting a toxin - likely anti-freeze - and we found her in agony and unable to move. The vets were unable to save her but she was medicated before she died from a cardiac arrest due to kidney failure, so at least her suffering wasn't prolonged.

A week later our 9 month old kitten Bertie became ill from the same thing. Luckily the vets were able to save her with 5 days' worth of fluids and antibiotics to treat infected ulcers due to her kidney failure. She's now home and recovering and we are keeping her inside for the foreseeable future. Unfortunately another cat from our road Tower Close died the week after Lulu from anti-freeze poisoning and Pudsey's family were as devastated at her loss as we were.

As I write a 4th cat from Orchard Way (Loki) is still missing. This whole episode has scared our children, caused sleepless nights and meant we no longer feel it's safe to let it cat out during the cold weather. The

problem is that either someone has spilt/ thrown away anti-freeze or someone's car has leaked it. And cats don't know it's toxic so unfortunately it's fairly common.

PLEASE, PLEASE be careful when topping up anti-freeze, windscreen washer and using de-icer. I'm hoping this was an accident and that no one is evil enough to do this on purpose. If you have a cat and see any signs of illness (off food, sick, crying, depressed, smelly) please get them to the vets immediately. I wouldn't wish this on anyone else.

Thanks for all the supportive messages.
AMANDA DAVIES, Tower Close

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Marcham Parish Council currently has a vacancy for a member of the public to become a Parish Councillor. The meetings are held monthly on the second Wednesday in the month except August. If you feel you would like to get involved in making decisions about your local community, and make a significant contribution to the area in which you live or work, then please contact the Clerk for further information:

Mrs. L. Martin
 Clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk
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LAST ORDERS: Customer will not be served after the closing time of the shop and Post Office - don't forget we are volunteers!

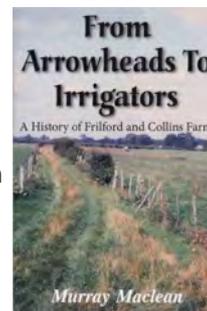
HOLIDAYS: If you're going away don't forget you can order your foreign currency from the Post Office. Euros are usually in stock but order any currency before 1pm and collect next day! Sterling available all the time! Sending money overseas or to penniless students in the UK?

*February - the month of romance and pancakes ...
 and mint imperials only 50p a quarter*



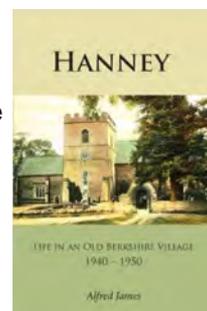
Local History Books on Sale at Marcham Village Shop

From Arrowheads to Irrigators: The History of Frilford and Collins Farm by Murray MacLean



AND

Hanney: Life in an Old Berkshire Village 1940-1950 by Alfred James



These are both fascinating and give a lot of detail about the history of the local area.

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Marcham WI

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, 16th February

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Denman College

Open Meeting, everyone in the village is welcome

Our next meeting on Thursday 16th February is our Open Meeting, when we are looking forward to welcoming **Malcolm Nelson** who will be speaking on the 'History of Smuggling'. Everyone is welcome and we hope that you will all be able to come and join us and bring along your friends, husbands or partners to hear what promises to be a fascinating talk. Wine and cheese will be served following the talk and we will also be having a **Dutch Auction**. So, come along and learn more about the WI and meet friends old and new..

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Tuesday 14th February

Tuesday 28th February

From 2 – 3.30pm

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Christine Whild



MARCHAM SOCIETY MID-WEEK WALK: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH.

This month's walk is in the southern Chilterns. We will eat at The Shepherd's Hut Inn, Ewelme (Map Ref: SU 638918) at 12.30pm, but start our walk a short drive away to the east at a triangular road junction by Icknield Bank Plantation (SU 666914) at 1.30. We shall be walking by Swyncombe Church whose famous snowdrops should be near their best. Parking is limited at the starting point, so please help minimise the number of cars.

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



MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

Leaflets have been distributed to all residents of Duffield Place and Sweetbriar giving them details of our activities and expressing our need for new members. To date two people have expressed interest.

Our next meeting is on 23 February at 2.30pm in Duffield Place lounge. Just turn up.

Our February meeting is our usual AGM followed by members memories of wartime Britain. The usual tea and biscuits will be served whilst we proceed with our usual raffle. At our committee meeting no progress had been made with RAF Benson for our planned visit in March, however that will not stop us having a pub lunch during March.

NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME

For more information contact
John Woods (Secretary) 391705

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

Quiz Night 24 February 8.15pm

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. Questions are on a range of subjects and aimed at everyone's ability!

SIX NATIONS

The following 'six nations' rugby matches will be televised live in the club during February and March.

Others may be shown, by request.

SATURDAY 4 FEBRUARY @14.25 IRELAND v SCOTLAND

SATURDAY 4 FEBRUARY @16.50 ENGLAND v FRANCE

SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY @14.25 IRELAND v ITALY

SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY @16.50 ENGLAND v WALES

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY @14.25 SCOTLAND v WALES

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY @16.50 IRELAND v FRANCE

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY @15.00 ENGLAND v ITALY

SATURDAY 11 MARCH @16.00 ENGLAND v SCOTLAND

SATURDAY 18 MARCH @17.00 ENGLAND v IRELAND

In addition the club bar will also be open on all Fridays during February. The bar opening times will be 8pm till 11.30pm.

Further details from Trevor Hill – 01865 391321

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The "small print"!

- ★ Participants must be **female** ★
- ★ The ability to read music is not essential ★
- ★ Under 18's **must** be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times ★

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MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

This Season begins on a sad note ... Sidney Wright, a long time supporter of the Club, has died at the age of 92. The sight of Sid arriving on his bicycle was a familiar feature of many home matches!

As previously mentioned the 1st XI's Season begins 29th April and the first match for the 2nd XI is 6th May.

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

Finally.....it was a hot and sticky afternoon and a batsman was having a bad time. He had not dealt effectively with any of the five deliveries a bowler had made in the present over. As the bowler returned to bowl the last ball of the over the batsman turned to the wicket-keeper and said " Phew, what I couldn't do to a bottle of beer!". "Hit it with the bat would be my bet!" quipped the wicket-keeper.

CSB



DUFFIELD SUNSHINE CLUB

It is with great sadness that we have to report that our Treasurer Mo Tidbury passed away on December 12th, she will be missed by all the members after looking after the club for many years.

As a club, we meet on Mondays at 2 o'clock in The Residents' Lounge, Duffield Place. Any new members will be very welcome. We play some games of Bingo, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and finish off with a raffle about 3.30pm.

Any further information, please contact me on 391384 or just come and join us on a Monday afternoon at 2pm for a social afternoon.

ALL WELCOME

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- 20th Feb - Legal matters- Lasting Power of Attorney & making a will
Rachel Stafford is a local solicitor who does home visits
- 27th Feb – Falls – what causes them? How to prevent them? How to access the falls prevention service?
Shirley Wong – nurse practitioner specialising in falls
- 6th March – Sensory Impairment team – for visual and hearing problems
Jess Brown – advisor and specialist in the Sensory Impairment team
- 13th March – Why get active? How to keep on the move? Let's have a go together!
Sarah Wheatley from generation Games, Age UK Oxfordshire

For more information contact Rachel Gaisford on 391432

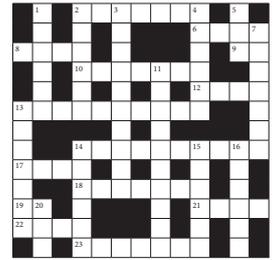
CROSSWORD BY ALISA - answers

Across

- 2. Jujubes 6. Each 8. Eros 9. To 10. Hundred 12. Even 13. Salamander 14. Extensions 17. Oven 18. Tankard 19. OE 21. Echo 22. Near 23. Enjoyed

Down

- Africa 2. Joshua 3. John Martin 4. Sender 5. Act 7. Hobnobs 11. Redundancy 13. Solomon 14. Entire 15. Indeed 16. Nephew 20. Eel



CHALLENGES IN PORT DESIGN (AND WAYS TO SOLVE IT) BY JANE SMALLMAN

The Society was fortunate to have Jane Smallman, ex Managing Director of HR Wallingford, to present to us in January. She is the President of Institute of Marine Engineering Science and Technology (IMarEST), Chair of Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and a visiting Professor at the University of Edinburgh. Some may wonder why the landlocked village of Marcham would invite someone to talk about port design. The connection is that Jane has lived in the area for many years and the Society has regularly asked luminaries who live in the village or close by to give us the benefit of their experiences.

Jane gave a fascinating talk of all the problems associated with port design and the challenges of each type. She showed three classes of port and used the examples of Felixstowe and Peterhead in the UK as examples of an estuary port and a coastal port respectively, and then lastly Dahej in India which is an exposed jetty design out into deep water. She showed, through the help of on-screen animations the various problems and solutions when designing ports, and the computer model simulations as well as physical models that are needed to show the water and wave flows. Whilst this subject needs a complete grasp of the mathematics and physics of water movement to fully understand it, Jane was very successful in making the subject easily accessible for a general audience. There followed a large number of relevant questions that Jane answered clearly and it was an indication of the audiences' appreciation just how many questions were asked of the presenter. Our thanks to Jane for taking the time to enlighten us.

Visitors are very welcome at our meetings. The charge is £2, which includes light refreshments.

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

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ED VAIZEY WRITES...

2017 has arrived with quite a full in-tray for me as your local MP. Issues such as the congestion on the A34, the continued campaign to re-open Grove station, my campaign to secure better fertility treatment for people in Oxfordshire, and the need to secure continued investment in science and technology post-Brexit will take centre stage.



The early months of this year will see us take the formal step to begin leaving the European Union, an issue that will dominate the agenda in the House of Commons.

One of the issues I am most contacted about is local health services, and I share many of the concerns my constituents have raised about the ongoing review, known as the Sustainability and Transformation Plan. I am very unhappy with how the process is being undertaken, and the constant delays to publishing anything meaningful is having a severe impact on local services. Prior to Christmas two GP practices failed in a bid to secure funding to expand their premises to cater from growing populations.

This situation is becoming very urgent, and I will be meeting local NHS chiefs early in the New Year to try and get from them a clear timeline for the STP, so that we can all have a say in how our health services are developed. I am also seeking meetings with health ministers to discuss the failed capital bids for GP surgeries so I can understand why they were turned down so we can have greater success in the future.

In January I will be also co-hosting a debate in Parliament on the provision of IVF treatment. This is an area that I have campaigned on for some time, and I am frequently contacted by constituents who are having difficulty funding fertility treatment. I fear that this area is seen as a treatment that local health services can easily cut and reduce. I will be making Ministers aware of my concerns, and hope they take some action to further protect this important service. January also saw my first public meeting on Brexit, held at the Beacon in Wantage at 18:30 on Friday 20th January. I will be holding a second meeting from 19:00 on Friday 3rd February at Didcot Civic Hall. I am looking forward to meeting many of you at these events and hearing your views on Brexit.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Conservative)

Contact Ed Vaizey MP by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	dicksonce@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
News	http://bit.ly/EdVaizeyMP
Tel	0207 219 6350

COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Unitary Government – time for Oxfordshire residents to decide.

It was confirmed by both sets of the expensively-commissioned experts that Oxfordshire's Local Government is badly in need of improvement and that Unitary Government in some form is the obvious way forward. The estimated savings from forming a single Unitary Council (replacing the present County and 5 District Councils) amount to more than £20m every year. When the issue is explained to residents, almost all I have spoken to respond "Surely. It's a no-brainer. So why are we not getting on with it?"

There seem to me to be two types of argument that are raised against a single oxfordshire Unitary solution. The first type all boil down to Councils and councillors desperately arguing for self preservation. The second group of objections is more worthy of an answer.

With large councils comes a reduction in democratic accountability. But how many of us know our District or County Councillor? How many of us even know what the different councils do? I certainly didn't before I got directly involved. At present there are 63 County Councillors. The experts reckon there would be 120 Unitary Councillors in a one Oxfordshire Unitary Council. In other words, each councillor would be responsible for half the number of people. Councils would no longer be able to pass the buck between

each other. There would be one council responsible for all local services, one council to make the big necessary decisions and one council to blame if things go wrong. In my view, that would give local government more not less democratic accountability.

Every day we delay in going Unitary wastes public money – that is the money that you and I pay in our Council Tax. £20 million of savings every year is the equivalent of £60,000 every day – the equivalent of what it takes to fill many potholes and to support a Children's Centre or two of the bus services we are about to lose. Can we really afford to delay further? As someone who has spent the past four years facing the dreadful choices that austerity has offered, I have to ask - is the prevarication any longer morally justifiable?

However you feel on this issue, I very much hope that all residents of Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay, Drayton, Marcham and Shippon will join me on entering their views on the OCC website where a consultation is about to begin - **consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk**. It is about time that ratepayers rather than councils or councillors should be allowed their say.

RICHARD WEBBER CLLR OCC SC & Marcham Division.

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Action on Air Quality

It is some time since I last wrote about Marcham's AQMA (Air Quality Management Area) in Packhorse Lane, which includes the entrance and exit roads to the Lane. As you know, in 2013 a breakdown of the emissions (nitrogen oxide and nitric oxide) suggested that the traffic through the lane could be divided as follows: 84% cars with 46% emissions; 13% LDVs with 18% emissions; 3% HGVs with 31% emissions; less than 1% buses with 5% emissions. As you can see the biggest pollutants are the HGVs and we all suspect that the figure of 3% is way below what it should be now. This is what we want to find out.

County Council have no resources to carry out another survey in this present tight economical climate, as it is a very expensive action. So this is where you can come in. The County Council are very happy for us, that is you and me, to do our own survey under their guidance, which they can then use to help make decisions, hopefully to ban HGVs on the A415 through Marcham and to redirect them. This is our main target! To achieve this, we will need volunteers to man certain points on the road over a day, which will start quite early and stretch late into the evening, when we know quite a lot of traffic passes through.

In addition to counting traffic travelling through Packhorse Lane, we would like to do the same for HGVs that turn into Faringdon Road from Abingdon and the A34. We have long argued that this road, which runs through open rural countryside with a few single or groups of houses set well back from the road, is much more suitable to take these big lorries, as the pollutants they generate have space to dissipate quickly into the air before doing any lasting harm. Packhorse Lane, on the other hand, is a narrow lane built for the horse and cart and with tightly-packed houses close to the road it makes the perfect "canyon" setting to hold onto these evil pollutants much longer. However, the main argument against redirecting HGVs along Faringdon Road is that it is a B road and it would be very expensive to upgrade to an A road. But we know that in the past it was an A road and it already has to cope with heavy army vehicles going to Dalton Barracks – we need to find out how many HGVs are already using this road.

It has been very frustrating to know that we have an AQMA in Marcham and yet nothing is being done about it, apart from paper work! More and more evidence is showing that NOX gases, along with its probably more dangerous partner-in-crime, particulate matter (PM), is a "silent killer", so at last here is an opportunity to do something practical that might make a difference. If you feel that you would like to help and could spare an odd hour or two please contact Richard or me. We would like to set up a working party in February to discuss our tactics and then to set up a date for the actual survey.

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC

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NEWS FROM LITTLE ANGELS

Time flies when you are having fun and it certainly does here at Little Angels! January has been



a busy month in our nursery and pre-school rooms, while we are pleased to return with the Breakfast and Afterschool club. Did you know we now open earlier? To help ensure you can beat the traffic and get to work on time we are now open from 7.30am.

Baby Room Our youngest angels have enjoyed the January blues by exploring sensory play. There has been play dough which they loved getting their hands sticky in and water play to splash and experiment with. At the moment some of our little angels are pulling themselves up and taking those first few stages to walk, working alongside their parents we are supporting this important development milestone by providing lots of space to encourage them to stand and walk, supporting and encouraging them to take their steps.

Pre-School Room Here our older angels have also been exploring sensory play this month, we have had lots of different textures such as sawdust with our insect models, grass, rice, couscous and pasta. Its a great way to support language development and maths-how many spoons does it take to fill your cup? We also have been enjoying the weather, looking at how the grass makes music when we step on it, finding ice to see what happens to it when the sun comes out and warms it up! There was also a visit from a wiggly worm, everyone was fascinated to see how the worm moves and we then researched where worms live.

However, one of pre-school Angels realised we have a mystery bandit!! The Mystery Bandit is taking bits of our puzzles - we can't find them. Here at Little Angels we follow the children's interest in play, supporting it with encouraging new ways of learning - therefore we became detectives to find the Mystery Bandit. We looked outside for clue such as footprints or other signs that the Bandit had been there. We also looked inside to see if we could find where the Bandit had hidden our puzzle pieces. I am pleased to say we found the pieces and the mystery of where they were hidden was solved. However, we have not found the Mystery Bandit - maybe you would might have some clues of where they are???

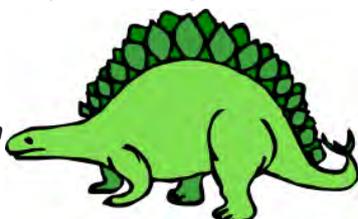
Breakfast and After School Club Everyone returned for the Spring term excited and ready for school. Their imagination is fantastic and we have been making ski slopes together in groups out of blocks and any items we can use in the room. Working together in a group is an important skill - talking about our own ideas, changing them by listening to others and supporting each other to also allow collaboration between each other.

Hockey has also been on our agenda, playing hockey matches with Serious4Sport coach James. It is a fun competitive game where we can work together as a team.

To find out more and see what we have been up to follow us on Facebook- www.facebook.com/littleangelsmarcham and take a look at our new website: www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

February half term –

looking for something to keep them entertained in February half term? Then come and join us for



Marcham Dinosaur Adventure week.

Monday 13 February - Friday 17 February

AFTER SCHOOL DROP-IN FOR SECONDARY AGED YOUNG PEOPLE.

Come join us at the Baptist Chapel on Packhorse Lane after school for any amount of time (until about 6pm). There will be the chance to play games and generally spend time with friends.
Contact Rob, the Parish Youth Worker for more information, rob@marchamyouth.org

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

This term we've been exploring lots of skills from throwing, catching, mark making, counting, washing, twirling, running and stopping, funky fingers, manipulations, exploring ice, spider's webs and frosty patterns, AND exploring cardboard boxes!!! We have an 'imagination station' where children can explore with a range of open ended items, designed to be 'whatever you want it to be'. As you can see from the photograph, it's great fun!!!



We are now full for this year and will soon be allocating places for September 2017, please do get in touch to register your interest. Telephone 01865 392101 or email marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk

www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

PTA Round-up

The sums have now been done, and I'm very proud to say that our Christmas Fayre took a total of £2,185.84.



Parent Teacher Association

Deducting expenditure, that means a profit of £1,736, money that will go towards assisting the school in providing a full and rounded education for our children. For example, we donated more than £800 to fund the cost of coaches for the school trip to the pantomime in December. Doing so make this event more affordable for all parents at what is a very expensive time of the year. **So, many thanks to everyone who organised and supported our Christmas Fayre.**

On a slightly different subject, the school has secured a commitment from the County Council to build two new classrooms, increasing the school's capacity by approximately one-third to cope with the demand of new housing developments in the village. With the help of the school governors, the PTA is looking to raise the funds necessary to equip the classrooms with chairs, desks, IT equipment and everything in between. We have received two significant donations, meaning we already have £1,281 towards our target. If you work for a local company that might consider making a contribution towards equipping the new classrooms, please let me know and I will get in contact with them. We will be extremely grateful for any and all help we receive.

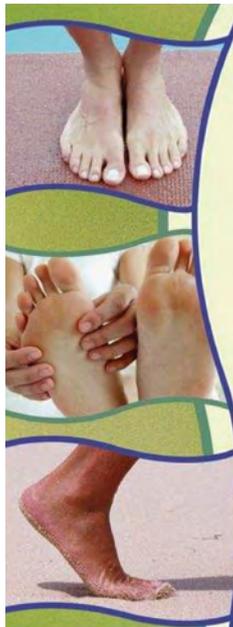
If you would like to learn more in how you can help with our school fundraising, either drop me an email at peter.kidd61@btinternet.com, or call me on 07708 251312. Every bit of extra help is very welcome.

See you on the school run
Peter Kidd, PTA Chair

Wantage & Grove Lions are holding a cash bingo at Grove village hall on Saturday 25th of February
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eyes down 7.30pm
hope to see you there



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ARE YOU INTENDING TO EXTEND YOUR HOME OR DO ALTERATIONS? IF SO, DON'T FORGET THE PARTY WALL ETC. ACT 1996 – BUT WHAT IS IT?

Without stating the obvious, but I will, it is an Act that came into effect in England and Wales in 1996. Although actually it's been around in London since 1939, known as The London Building Act 1939, but its origins lay right back in 1666.

Those of us who remember our history lessons will realize that this is the date of the Great Fire of London, after which it was decided that never again would fire be allowed to spread so easily between buildings across party walls and narrow streets.

The Party Wall etc. Act 1996 (The Act) introduced a procedure for resolving disputes between owners of neighbouring properties, arising as a result of one owner's intention to carry out works which would affect the party wall, involve the construction of a party wall or boundary wall at or adjacent to the line of junction between the two properties or excavation within certain distances of a neighbour's structure and to a depth lower than its foundations. Needless to say there are always aspects of The Act which contain procedural details, many of which I could not really cover in this brief article, but my objective is to remind building owners of their legal responsibility when wishing to undertake works to the party wall, boundary walls, extensions, loft conversions and any excavations which are in close proximity to neighbour's structures and that means within 3m and under certain situations within 6m. The Act also cannot be implemented retrospectively, i.e. after the work has commenced or been completed.

The Act gives notice to the adjoining owner(s) by the building owner of proposed works, which also includes various periods of time before intended the intended works can commence.

In the event of the adjoining owner(s) not responding to the notice within 14 days, or not agreeing to the works, then the adjoining owner(s) are in dispute and both parties have to appoint surveyors, this results in a Party Wall Award being produced.

Also part of The Act's procedure usually involves undertaking a schedule of condition (soc) and if work has commenced this survey can be affected by the works.

Whilst The Act has no bearing on any planning or building control consents, its important to remember that any approved drawing which includes details that encroaches onto adjoining owners property or air space does not mean that you can implement it, and if you follow The Acts' process it still will not give you the automatic right to do it.

The golden rule is always discuss things with your adjoining neighbour(s) before doing anything, it may not remove your duties and responsibilities as required by The Act, but it tends to make projects progress a lot easier.

There is a lot of information about The Act available on the Internet, e.g. www.gov.uk/guidance/party-wall-etc-act-1996-guidance plus The Faculty of Party Wall Surveyors - www.fpws.org.uk/ or 01424 883300 and many others, or if you would like some help or clarification I am more than happy to assist.

John Martin MCIQB MFPWS

John.gmartin@hotmail.co.uk 01865 391833

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10.00am – 5.00pm Saturday 18th March 2017
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Supporting
OXFORDSHIRE PROSTATE
CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
OXFORD TOWN HALL St. Aldates, Oxford
SATURDAY 4TH MARCH 2017 - 7pm

TICKETS £15 Available from:
Tickets Oxford (Playhouse Theatre)
01865 305305 / ticketsoxford.com
Oxford Museum Gift Shop
(Town Hall St Aldates) 01865 252334

John Prout 01235 521307 / johnprout1@btinternet.com



ABCD Film Society

Thursday screenings this month



Feb 2 CHRONICLE OF SUMMER, classic 1961 cinéma-vérité documentary about Parisian life. (France, 91 mins, Cert 12) + 6 minute short film

Feb 9 THE MYSTERY OF R W PAUL Why did he stop making films in 1908? Illustrated talk by Prof. Ian Christie of Birkbeck College.

Feb 23 '71 Thriller with Jack O'Connell as a soldier sent to West Belfast during the troubles (UK, 95 mins, 2014, Cert. 15) + 5 minute short film

All screenings at 7.45pm at Abingdon Health & Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, OX14 3GD. Adjacent parking. Admission £6 – school and full-time college students £3. (Longer term membership also available). www.abfilms.org.uk or info@abfilms.org.uk or 01235 521976



**Do you knit?
Or do you know
someone who does?**

You could help Age UK Oxfordshire raise vital funds for our Information and Advice Helpline. Every year we take part in 'The Big Knit' which is a partnership between Age

UK and Innocent Drinks. We ask people to knit little hats to go on top of smoothie bottles and for every hat we send to Innocent Drinks, 25p is donated to Age UK Oxfordshire. This year we have a target of 28,000 hats to reach by summer 2017 and we really need your help to spread the word far and wide: we need your little knitted hats! If you knit, you could visit our website to take a look at some of our knitting patterns and get inspired! <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/news--campaigns/the-big-knit/>

PERSONAL SERVICES

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www.thepetpal.co.uk



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FOOD AND DRINK

THE CROWN

Your friendly village local
We have a dart board, pool table
and a garden

Children are welcome
until 9.00 p.m.

Dogs are welcome in the bar area



OPENING HOURS		FOOD SERVED
Monday	5 - 11pm	No Food
Tues - Sat	Noon - 11pm	12-2pm & 6.30-9pm
Sunday	Noon - 11pm	Sunday Roast: 12-3pm

Booking is advised at the weekends

See our website for more details

1 Packhorse Lane, Marcham OX13 6NT

01865 391735

www.thecrownmarcham.co.uk

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www.cumberfarms.co.uk

Monthly Quiz Night

7.45pm start 2nd Monday of each month

£1 entry fee for each person

Winning team takes all!

4 people per team max

(to keep it fair and as space is limited)

Next Quiz: 13 February

Advance Notice of Work

From March 6th – April 7th refurbishment will be taking place, during this time we will be able to keep the bar open as much as possible but due to the substantial work on the kitchen we will be unable to serve food - please call us or take a look at our Facebook page for updates: TheCrownatMarcham

half term
activities

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THINGS TO DO

EVERYONE WELCOME!

You are invited to a craft sale at Denman
Saturday 18 March 2017, 10am-3.30pm
Free entrance and parking

All proceeds go to Denman (charity registration no. 803793)

www.denman.org.uk

Earth Trust Events

Sunday Drop-in: Build a Bug House: Sunday 5th Feb, 10am-2pm.

Come and give wildlife a helping hand! At this Sunday drop-in you can make a bug house to go in your garden for all the local creepy crawlies to enjoy. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Creepy Crawly Comics: Monday 13th Feb, 10am-3pm.

You'll be the bees' knees at creepy crawly comic drawing after attending our session with popular cartoonist Neill Cameron, whose work features in The Phoenix comic. You'll explore the nature reserve and then create a comic inspired by what you saw. For 7-11 year olds; parents welcome to stay. £30; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (ask about our discount for siblings).

Planetarium: Tuesday 14th Feb, 3pm-6.30pm.

Science Oxford is bringing their pop-up Planetarium to the Earth Trust Centre! There'll be 30 minute slots in the Planetarium followed by astronomical activities. £9 per child, 1 accompanying adults free (subsequent adults £4.50); booking essential.

Woodland Adventure: Wednesday 15th Feb, 10am-12pm.

An expedition for 5-8 year olds. Use your detective skills to explore, build and play in the woods! £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Wildlife Wednesday at Mowbray Fields: Wed 15th Feb 10am-2pm.

Our roving Wildlife Wednesday visits a different Earth Trust community nature reserve each school holiday. Come out and play and learn about your local wildlife! This event is supported by Whittard. £2 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Build a Bird Box: Thursday 16th Feb, 10.30am-12pm & 1.30-3pm.

Take home a handmade bird box and help encourage more wildlife to your garden. All tools provided. £15 per box; booking essential:

Discover and Play: Friday 17th Feb, 10am-12pm.

Forest School for the under-5s is back this half term so join us for a morning of play and discovery in our woodlands. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Song Writing Workshop: Climb That Tree

Saturday 18th February, 11am-12pm.

Have a go at making some music and having a sing-along with singer-songwriter David Gibb. For children aged 6-11 years. £6 per child; accompanying adult(s) free; booking essential.

More details www.earthtrust.org.uk Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4QZ 01865 407792

HOLIDAYS

B&B Rafter's

Join us and discover
A place to relax



Contact: Mrs Sigrid Grawert

Abingdon Road
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Abingdon, Oxfordshire
OX13 6NU

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SITUATIONS VACANT

Marcham Little Angels is committed to providing expert, safe, and personalised educational care delivered in



an inspirational, fun and supportive manner by a dedicated team of committed locals experts in small day care centres, operating as an integral part of the local community.

We are looking for someone with the same values to join our fun and dynamic team, a

Cleaner

The role will be to weekly provide our nursery a deep clean out of our operating hours. The working hours are 4 hours per week at a competitive salary dependent upon experience. Experience of cleaning schedules and processes would be desirable but not essential, as training will be provided.

At Little Angels we are committed to safeguarding the children in our care therefore the successful candidate will be required to complete an enhanced DBS disclosure and provide two references. For further details or to request an application form please contact Kaye Merriman on 01865 01865 819992 or kaye@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk.

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February 2017

All Saints' Church Page

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Dear Friends,

I hope this New Year has begun well for you. January was, for me, playing 'catch me if you can' – it was a very busy start to the year, and I am hoping February will be less hectic!

By the time this edition of MADNews is published there will be all manner of signs of nature preparing to burst into new life, and even now the crocus and daffodil bulbs are budding – hurray! Soon we will be celebrating the spring and the prospect of bright colours and fresh green growth!

But I wonder about the well-springs of life in you and me? Are we bursting with new energy and life, or simply struggling on, simply 'ticking over' rather than 'full throttle'?

In what turned out to be a very significant conversation with a woman beside a water well in the Middle East, Jesus talked about 'springs of living water' that he alone could provide. Those springs of life-giving water were a reference to the Holy Spirit, who would be poured out at Pentecost. That 'living water' is a gift from God the Father, from whom we can ask for such life enhancing and deeply renewing 'water'. "How much more will my Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him" promised Jesus to his learning followers. The promise remains. As the old hymn says:

*'I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink, and live':
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in Him.'*

'Soul revival' is something I believe we all need. In a world that would squeeze every last ounce of energy from us, how we need those sources of renewing, life-enhancing inner 'springs'. Don't let pride or embarrassment get in the way of your receiving the 'water' that Jesus alone can give. Simply come, ask, receive, and allow the Spirit to give to you, as the Father promised.

May February be a renewing month for us all, with the anticipation of new life and hope for what lies ahead.

With my warmest best wishes,
Richard

Regular services

Sundays: 10am & 6pm at All Saints'

Wednesdays: 10.30am at Duffield Place

Saturday 4th February – Men's Breakfast

Thursday 23rd February - Women's Pamper evening

GETTING AHEAD

A series of free mini talks to equip you, your carer or family. Monday mornings, 10.30-11.30am at Duffield Place Lounge. Starts 20th Feb. For more information contact Rachel Gaisford on 391432

Contacts: Rev. Canon Richard Zair 391319 (r_zair@yahoo.co.uk) * Jill Rowe Youth and Children's Minister jill.rowe.ycm@googlemail.com 390885 * Rob Finch Youth Worker 07888331708, rob@marchamyouth.org * Tim Jack Churchwarden 01865 864900 * Debbie Flint Churchwarden 01865 391056 * Tamsin Gilbert Parish Administrator 391319 * Parish Office: parish_office41@yahoo.co.uk