

Marcham & District News

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APRIL 2018 VOL: 40 NO: 4

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



Pippa Hoath



▲ Jubilee Paths see page 15



▲ Pre-School at 'big school' see page 11



Mike Youngman

▲ Winter Visitors: Redwing (top) and Snipe



▲ Little Angels in the snow see page 11



▲ Murder at Marcham WI see page 7



Easter 2018 Waste Collection Date Change
Green waste, food and recycling

~~Wednesday 4 April~~ **Thursday 5 April**



Diary for April

4 Wed	Marcham's AQMA Meeting, All Saints', 18.30	9
5 Thu	Music at the Unicorn: TRADarr, Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon 19.00	15
7 Sat	Music in the Vale: Lionel Sainsbury, St Denys' Church, Stanford-i-t-Vale, 15.00	2
10 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 – 15.30	5
10 Tue	Marcham Society: All Saint's Church, 19.30	7
11 Wed	Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30	3
11-14	Abingdon Drama Club, A More Perfect World, Unicorn Theatre, 19.30	17
12 Thu	Midweek Walk: The White Hart Inn, Hampstead Norreys 12.30 lunch / 13.30 walk	7
12 Thu	Sunningwell Gardening Club, Sunningwell Village Hall, 19.30	11
14 Sat	Wantage and Grove Lions Bingo, Grove Village Hall, 18.45	15

18 Wed	The Arts Society Abingdon, Trinity Church, Abingdon, 10.30 / 14.00	2
19 Thu	Marcham WI, Denman College, 19.30	7
20 Fri	Deadline for next MADNews, 17.00: editor@madnews.co.uk	
24 Tue	Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00 – 15.30	5
24 Tue	History of Garford, Garford Village Hall, 20.00	3
25 Wed	Café moves to the Baptist Hall, 12.00	5
25 Wed	Frilford Parish Meeting, Abingdon Prep School, 19.00 – 21.00	3
26 Thu	Senior Citizens' Club, Duffield Place, 14.30	7
27 Fri	Quiz Night at MSSSC, 20.15	7
28 Sat	Milton Hill Bowling Club Open Afternoon, 14.00 – 17.00	15

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

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The Arts Society Abingdon (ex ADFAS) is
holding its monthly lecture on **Wednesday
18th April 2018, 10.30am and 2.00pm**, at
Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon,
OX14 1DB.

**TAVM (Animal/Vegetable/Mineral)
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For more information on future lectures and other activities
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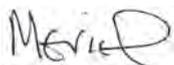
Dear Readers

The clocks have changed, daffodils in the garden ... and snow! It must be spring!

Pippa and Martin have had unusual visitors (see front cover) and there is a survey running where you can record any wild mammals living near you – see page 13.

Cafe has moved to a new home and is open to everyone for soup and a pudding, first sitting is at 12.00 on 25th April, yum yum!

Until next time



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Jane Mander

DEADLINES

Advertising: 5pm 15th month
Other copy: 5pm 20th month
except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

ADDITIONAL COPIES

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

DISCLAIMER

We apologise in advance for any errors that may creep into MADNews (online or print), or omissions that creep out - we don't do it on purpose!
The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team, who are all volunteers.

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Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

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
Annual Meeting of Electors**

The Annual Meeting of Electors will take place on Wednesday 23rd May at 7.30p.m. in Marcham Primary School. All electors of the parish are entitled to attend and ask questions or raise issues affecting the parish. The Council has arranged for Jonah Maddocks, the Emergency Planning Officer from the Vale of White Horse District Council, to be the guest speaker. He will talk about how Marcham, as a community, can be best prepared for any emergency issues that may arise. This is particularly topical and of interest, given the bad weather experienced this winter, past flooding and gas leak in the village.

Thames Water – Draft Water Resources Management Plan

Thames Water is consulting on how the company should provide a secure and sustainable source of water for its area for the foreseeable future. It plans to reduce leakages by 15% by 2025, and also take more water from the river as well as building a new reservoir south of Marcham. Anyone can comment on the proposal, and the deadline for responding is 29th April. To find out more information, and to have your say on the plans, visit www.thameswater.co.uk/yourwaterfuture.

Speed Limit – A415

Concerns have been raised regarding the speed limit along the A415 between the village and the A34. Questions have been put to the County Council about a possible reduction in speed, as other roads such as the A338 and the Milton Road, Drayton have had lower speeds recognised. It is reasonable to assume that what can be achieved in other areas should be able to be achieved for Marcham.

Data Protection

New data protection requirements will be introduced from 25th May. Councillors and Clerk have been on a training course to find out more about the proposals and how the data held by the Council will be affected. For example, the Council has contracts with allotment tenants, and has on file details of next of kin for those interred in the cemetery. A working party has been set up to look in more detail as to what the Council will have to do in order to be fully compliant.

War Memorial

The Council is looking at what can be done to tidy and conserve the war memorial in readiness for Remembrance Sunday later this year, particularly as this is the 100 year anniversary of the end of the First World War. A stone mason has been approached with a view to cleaning and restoring it including work to reseal the open joints and broken stone.

Planning applications

The Council has considered the following planning applications:

P18/V0361/FUL Erection of timber framed general purpose agriculture building at Marcham Mill. The Council had no objections.

The Council was also notified about P18/V0371/LDP An application for a lawful development certificate to convert the loft at 8 Abingdon Road. The Council did have some concerns regarding the increase in bedrooms without corresponding increase in parking, and the change of street scene with windows in the roof.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 11th April 2018 at 7.30p.m. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place. Please check noticeboard outside the Institute and/or the Council's website www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk in case arrangements change.

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

FRILFORD NOTICES

**Parish Meeting AGM will be held
7pm-9pm on Wednesday 25 April at
Abingdon Prep School**

Planning updates: P18/V0254/FUL - Stonepitt Barn, Kingston Road, Frilford - 3000sqft house on agricultural land

For more information or to join the Frilford Book Club, Parish Email or WhatsApp Group
email.frilfordparish@gmail.com

**A HISTORY OF GARFORD
BY MIKE GREIG**

Garford has a fascinating history from pre-historic times, through Anglo-Saxon charters, mentions in the Domesday Book, Open Fields, Royal Manor, and Parliamentary Enclosure.

Garford has not changed much in over 1,000 years which makes it easier to see historical features. Garford's small size also makes it possible to put together an almost complete record of its history.

Mike will illustrate his talk with a wide range of old maps, photographs and original documents.

**8pm Tuesday 24th April
Garford Village Hall, OX13 5PE**

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Dear Editor

Re the letter from John Woods on page 5 of your March issue, I wholeheartedly agree with his comments. The service has been diminishing over the recent times and since mid February 2018 has been unusable at times with innumerable losses of connection.

MIKE HARRIS

Dear Editor

I have recently moved to Marcham from sleepy Dorset, where I was in receipt of broadband speeds of 75Mb/s through BT broadband.

I was astounded by the lack of provision when I moved my existing account to Marcham. With unreasonably poor service from BT I have cancelled my broadband contract.

Since then I have taken out a monthly broadband contract (1 month cancellation period) with Three that uses 4G mobile phone technology. It has been smiles all round on Leas Lane where I am in receipt of a much more acceptable 30Mb/s download and 6Mb/s upload speeds. This is enough for my business requirements during the day and streaming of video on several tablets and our main Smart TV in the evening and weekends.

BT need to up their game.

Can I suggest you use your Sunday morning 6am internet browsing to shop around for better provision and vote with your feet.

ADAM GRADY

Dear Editor

Broadband Blues & More

So far contact has been made with seven villagers all with problems. Mostly they are from minor Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and individuals have solved their problems by changing providers with varying success.

Significantly three of the seven reside in The Farthings. The remainder are in the old part of Marcham and the Howard Cornish estate. Comments such as 'bad connections due to rusty wiring', 'poor speeds' and 'poor customer service' are common among these contacts.

What has become apparent is that major ISPs manage better results than others.

I have been convinced that my present minor ISP is not providing a good service and have therefore decided to change to a major ISP. This should happen in late March and any improvement will be very welcome.

Watch this space.

JOHN WOODS

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

Dear Editor

Following your note of how many people now live in the Marcham Area, the contrast with 1911 (at the census) is striking. In Marcham there were 665, in Garford 127 and Frilford 132, a total of 924 (plus 27 at Cothill School). The oldest of the population was 90 and had been born in the reign of George IV, the youngest was 6 weeks old - she did not die until 2004. Think of the change to Marcham that these two must have seen!

MIKE HOATH

Dear Editor

I owe huge thanks to so many lovely firends and neighbours who have been, and continue to be, such a practical and personal support, especially after a recent burst pipe in the loft.

That brought even more helpers to fix, repair, hoover and make me sage and comfortable on a very cold day.

You are all wonderful, and I am deeply grateful to everyone involved.

GRATEFUL OF MARCHAM



CAFÉ MOVES AGAIN *New venue and a new menu*

Marcham Village Café, held on Wednesdays in school term time, is on the move again! This time from the SSSC to the Baptist Hall in Packhorse Lane (the A 415 bends). Local lifts can be arranged.

We will run a modified form of café in the new, but reduced-in-size, premises, starting on Wednesday, April 25th. If you would like to come for a serving of home-made soup and pudding at noon, or whenever you arrive, you know you will always be given a warm welcome. Initiated by the Parish and Baptist churches jointly, Village Café has always been a community enterprise. We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone (past and present) for their generous support and help. We would also like to thank the Cumber family for supplying our meat at a reduced rate.

We wish you a very Happy Easter and look forward to seeing you on April 25th!

JENNY ALLAN AND JANE JACK, 01865 391373



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Christine Whild



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Try our weekly sale of fresh seasonal produce, baked goods, garden plants, preserves and handicrafts at St Nicolas Church, Abingdon on Friday mornings from 11.00am to 1.00pm – in the church yard weather permitting, otherwise in the church. The production team is a diverse group mainly based in Abingdon.

A share of the proceeds goes to the church. Contact Geoffrey Currey for further details on geoffrey@tgcurrey.plus.com



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Marcham WI

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, 19th April

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Denman College

Speaker: **Russell Cherry,**
'The Thames from its Source'



Marcham WI had a fabulous evening at the March meeting, all in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, when we helped solve the Whodunnit mystery of who murdered Dr McDogood on the RMS Whodunnit. Eight of our members volunteered to dress up and act out the roles, while we all tried to work out who had committed the terrible crime. Following a fun and very successful evening, we were delighted to raise £150.10 for such a worthy cause.

The speaker for our April meeting will be **Russell Cherry**, who will be giving his talk **'The Thames from its Source'**. We look forward to seeing you all there and hope to learn something new about the river on our doorstep.

New members and visitors are always welcome

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com

MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK: THURSDAY APRIL 12TH

This month we will revisit the ancient Berkshire village of Hampstead Norreys, but this time use a number of permitted paths giving access to the upper reaches of the River Pang. We will eat at The White Hart Inn, Church Street, RG18 0TB (Map Ref SU529763) in the village at 12.30pm for lunch and will start our walk of about 4 miles at 1.30pm.



Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for further details and car-sharing, especially if you are not on our email list as sometimes late changes have to be made. Members free, non-members £1. We always welcome new walkers.



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April - sherbert lemons - the same colour as daffodils – only 60p a quarter!

Marcham Sports, Scouts & Social Club
Anson Field



QUIZ NIGHT - FRIDAY 27 APRIL 8.15pm

A QUIZ NIGHT is being held on Friday 27 April in the club room. As usual teams of up to four persons. Everyone welcome. Don't worry if you are on your own or just a team of two, we will make sure that you join another team!

We have a wide range of questions to suit everyone



- which are not too difficult!!!!

We look forward to seeing you,
For further information call Trevor Hill on 01865 391321

MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

At our Annual General Meeting on 22nd February all matters were completed satisfactorily, including finance, welfare and programme. The programme includes an outing to a garden centre in May, two pub lunches, visits to Southmoor movie afternoons and two visiting speakers.

Our April 26th meeting is a visit from a group of 'Singing is Good for You' members. Should be fun. All welcome to attend We meet in the Lounge at Duffield Place at 2.30pm on the last Thursday of each month (except August and December).

NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME

For more information contact

John Woods (Secretary) 391705

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The season is fast approaching, with preparation work continuing on the cricket square. The club commences its matches on 28 April with the first team playing away at Kilkenny. The first home fixture is on 5 May for the first team, and 12 May for the seconds against Watlington II.



There is a club pre-season 'get together' for a practice match at the ground on Sunday 22 April, starting at 2pm. All potential new players are welcome, just bring yourself, even if you have no kit at the moment. Youths from 14 years of age are being encouraged to play, despite the club only having two adult teams at the moment. It's relatively straightforward to include youths into the club's second team for some matches during the summer.

Nets are continuing on Friday evenings throughout April (6,13,20 and 27) from 7.30pm until 9.00pm at Radley School. All potential players welcome.

Any general queries can be made to the secretary Trevor Hill (07748696733).

TH



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or Judith Fontaine (391275)

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ED VAIZEY WRITES...

South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse have announced a partnership to promote our area's scientific prowess. Part of the partnership includes bids for new infrastructure, which could see a new Science Bridge to help traffic around Didcot, a Didcot to Culham link road and improved cycle networks around the town. We should find out if the funds are allocated in the next few months. A pilot study on green spaces around Didcot as part of the "garden town" plans has also been started. The results of the study will define green buffer zones for the garden town development plans and help protect open spaces and pedestrian routes around the whole garden town area. More information, and an excellent video, can be found at www.sciencevale.com.



This month I was pleased to host the Cycling Minister, Jesse Norman MP, in Milton Park to view new cycling infrastructure improvements, including the new Backhill Tunnel. The Government has committed £100,000 of funding to cycling safety projects, including reducing the cost of e-bike batteries through recycling used laptop batteries. I also visited JISC in Harwell, which provides broadband for all our universities and colleges, and saw the excellent new Renaissance Retirement Homes in Wantage.

The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning group have opened a consultation of local health services (yet another one!). You can register to take part on the 'Get Involved' section of the NHS Oxfordshire website. Our local health services have been under serious pressure, particularly with the closure of Wantage Community Hospital. I encourage everyone to share their views.

In February I received 456 items of correspondence (emails and letters) from constituents. Subjects raised with me included the NHS, Brexit and free trade.

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	Sign up at http://bit.ly/EdVaizeyMP
Tel	01235 768 888

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

POTHoles

"You can turn your back on a pothole.

You cannot turn your back on a needy child."

As we enter the end of a decade of austerity, Oxfordshire, along with many other Councils responsible for Highways, has taken some tough decisions to protect our children's and adult social services from the worst of the cost cutting - at the expense of the highways budget. We now spend less than half what we spent on our roads and Highways ten years ago. Meanwhile social service costs and demand go up and up. There is, of course, a limit to how long we can continue to do this. Roads do not deteriorate at a steady rate. After a few years of neglect, the rate of deterioration falls off a cliff. And the cost of bringing the roads back into an acceptable condition escalate dramatically. In other words, our present policy of "managed decline" is inevitably storing up more and more trouble for the future. We are, potentially, handing over a massive problem for our children.

I find this very uncomfortable. So what are the possible solutions?

First, if we can actually get the Growth Deal in place, the money it gives us to develop the major road network will allow some of our present budget to be diverted to repairing the smaller A and B roads.

Secondly, whilst we demand that Government gives more money to the Health Service, more money to social services, more money to environmental protection and more money to Education, we need to persuade them that there is now a major problem in underfunding of road maintenance.

Thirdly, Councils, including Oxfordshire, need to be allowed and encouraged to borrow against their assets to spend money on roads. Every pound we spend keeping a road from falling off that cliff is future pounds saved.

Without good roads, local economies cannot thrive. Building ever more houses without a safe, effective route to and from work will put people off coming to live here. It will also put off companies from setting up and staying here. Without good roads, our social services suffer as people find it harder to get to shops, to schools and to hospitals.

To bring our roads back to an acceptable condition will, it is estimated, cost more than £150 million – and that's just Oxfordshire. We cannot wait for Elon Musk to fly us about in rockets or in supersonic underground tunnels and we would all prefer not to have to risk our tyres and our suspensions every time we take to the highway.

Step one is for all of us right up to Central Government to recognize the scale of the problem. We can hide from it no longer.

RICHARD WEBBER CLLR OCC SC & Marcham Division.

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

What can be done about the traffic in the AQMA of Marcham?

At the beginning of this year, Richard and I had a long meeting in the County Council to hear what conclusions Highways had reached on our traffic survey and our request to ban large HGVs, with their excessive air polluting powers, from Packhorse Lane. After all, the Vale has removed the threat of building nearly 500 houses south of Marcham in their LPP2 (Part 2 of the Local Plan) for traffic and air pollution reasons. We really thought we had a good case. But alas the message we received was not what we wanted to hear.

We are living in a very congested area of the County. The A34 attracts a very large number of HGVs travelling from the south, as it is the main north- south trunk road. En route there are various critical points where the road is barely managing to keep the traffic moving satisfactorily on it. Botley interchange is one such critical point (and incidentally it is also an AQMA). The A415, which includes Packhorse Lane, relieves Botley interchange by taking some of the heavy traffic which wants to travel west to the A420 or east from the A420 to the A34. Absurd as it might sound, the A415 with its narrow, tight bends is historically a main trunk road and County Highways do not want to remove HGVs from this road only to exacerbate the infamous problems at Botley interchange. A similar argument was put forward for every alternative route we suggested, such as steering the HGVs via Wantage instead.

The Faringdon road, which travels through Gozzards Ford and comes out on the A338, seemed to be a good alternative, as much of the road travels through open countryside with most houses set well back. But it is a B road and as such cannot legally take the weight of large HGVs, although we know many HGVs use it to bypass Marcham. To upgrade this road to an A road would be as expensive as putting in a bypass, I was told.

We made other suggestions, such as putting traffic lights at each end of Packhorse Lane which could limit the number of cars and lorries travelling through it at any one time by alternating the direction of travel. Or, we could impose a time restriction for HGVs using the lane. But every suggestion had a reasonable argument against it.

This leads me to the main point of this article which is to let you know that both the CC Highways Officer and the Vale Air Quality officer have very kindly agreed to come to Marcham to talk to you about the traffic and air quality issues around the A415 through Marcham and to give you the chance to ask your questions. You may even come up with a novel solution which no one has thought about! The meeting will be held at **All Saints' Church, Marcham at 6.30 on 4th April**. Please tell your friends or anyone else who you think might be interested in this meeting. Both Richard and I look forward to seeing you there.

CATHERINE WEBBER Cllr VWHDC

01235 534001 or Webbercatherine1@gmail.com

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PTA Round-up

A very happy Easter to you all from the Marcham Parent Teacher Association. I hope the weather sorts itself out and we can all enjoy some proper springtime temperatures for the holiday.

Many thanks to everyone who came along to our Easter Family Bingo night. Your support is always very much appreciated. Our next event will be the **School Disco on Friday 11 May**, and please make a note in your diary for our **Summer Fete on Friday 13 July**. In between, we are planning a **Family Quiz night on 23 June**. So there's lots going on, and I'll keep you up to date here, on the Marcham Parents Facebook page and in the regular school newsletters.

If you'd like to join our merry band, we're always looking for new faces to add to the team, so don't be shy – drop me a line or give me a call.

Peter Kidd

PTA Chair 07708 251312 peter.kidd61@btinternet.com



Parent Teacher Association

MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

Not only is 2018 the 50th Birthday year for Marcham Pre-school, but we are also celebrating our 11th year within Marcham School. Being on the school site brings so many benefits for the children and makes the transition from pre-school into 'big' school a fun, smooth and familiar one! Throughout the week the pre-school children have the opportunity to share activities with the Reception Class, and most recently we have joined their PE lesson learning about balancing and how to use equipment safely. We are now looking very full for September 2018 and will be finalising spaces/sessions in the next few weeks. If you would like to join our waiting list (it's never too early! Our youngest 'waiters' are just 2 weeks old!), please get in touch as soon as possible on 01865 392101 or marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk or come along to our 50th Celebrations on 13th May 2018!!



www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

NEWS FROM LITTLE ANGELS

It's been another very busy month here at Marcham Little Angels! Have a read to find out what we have been up to this month...



Baby Room Our babies have loved lots of messy play this month, they enjoy playing with various resources in our sensory tray. Their favourite activity this month was edible paint! Such a great idea, we used natural yoghurt with a hint of food colouring – try it at home! The babies loved making lots of different marks with the paintbrushes and used their hands to make handprints, lots of fun had!

Preschool Room Our preschool room have really enjoyed our role play area this month! Lots of our little angels have become big brothers and sisters recently. We always support our little angels through lots of transitions in their lives and what better way to prepare them than to turn our whole role play into a baby clinic. The children have loved learning to feed the baby dolls, change their nappies, give them their milk, and put them to sleep! We welcome all their new brothers and sisters into our little angels family!

Breakfast and Afterschool Club The children at breakfast and afterschool club have loved playing out in the snow this month! They had lots of fun building snowmen, making snow angels, and even having snowball fights on the field, lots of fun had! The afterschool club children have also been working together well as a team to work on life size scale constructions – they built a life-size robot out of plastic blocks wow! We love seeing them work together: team work makes the dream work! :

If you would like to be part of Little Angels Family, where our home is your home, please contact us on 01865 819992 or marcham@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk, see www.littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk and follow us on Facebook: littleangelsmarcham

Vale Chairman's Charity Fundraising Show

Saturday Night at the Wantage Beacon

7pm Saturday 12 May

including singing, comedy, music and more ...

Tickets cost £13.50 each or £10 for concessions available from the Beacon 01235 763456 or Karen Dodd 01235 422082 or karen.dodd@southandvale.gov.uk

All profits from the show will be shared between the Children's Air Ambulance and the Alzheimer's Society.

SUNNINGWELL & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Dr Hazel Roberts will talk about 'growing food not glut'

Thursday 12th April at 7.30pm in Sunningwell Village Hall.

New and Non Members welcome.

Entrance fee: Members £2 Non members £3

www.sdgc.org.uk

Sunday 13th May 2018

Classic Oxfordshire Bike Ride

Ride for Research in our 25th year!

A fabulous opportunity to explore Oxfordshire's stunning countryside from the saddle. Choose from either the 12-mile family ride, 30 or 60-mile distances (returning in 2018) or, if you are feeling brave take on the revamped 75 or 100 mile routes that have been significantly altered for this year's ride! All 5 routes pass through pretty villages and lush spring countryside as you wend your way alongside the Thames from South Oxfordshire up to Abingdon and into the Vale of White Horse. Starting and finishing at Harwell, the choice of routes means this ride is suitable for seasoned cyclists, leisure cyclists and families alike. Refreshments and toilet facilities are available throughout all routes.

This year is our 25th as a registered charity and Sunday May 13 marks the exact day! We have designed and created a special edition cycling jersey to celebrate, that can be yours absolutely free when you raise sponsorship. *

Help fund our unique research into the secondary spread of Breast Cancer, contact us today!

Website: www.bike-events.co.uk/

Location: Harwell, Oxfordshire

Contact: Events Team: Richard & James

Email: events@againstbreastcancer.org.uk

Telephone: 01235 858282



*conditions apply

Southmoor & Kingston Bagpuize Gardening Club

will hold their next meeting on Tuesday 3rd April 7.15 for 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Draycott Road, Southmoor. The topic for this month is a fun and fascinating talk to inspire us all with ideas about what to do with those awkward corners in the garden. Guest speaker **Darren Lerigo** has some inspiring ideas from many parts of the world. Members FREE, visitors always welcome at £3 including tea or coffee and refreshments served after the talk. We also have a members table offering tips and plants etc plus a grand raffle.

For more information about the Gardening Club visit us on Email: skbgardeningclub@gmail.com or telephone our secretary Paul Gill on 01865 82

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Marcham Centre plans—on-site work starts soon

We are fast approaching the start date for on-site work to prepare for the building of new community facilities for Marcham. We expect the first stage of the work, archaeology to investigate the parts of the field that will be built on, to start on Tuesday 3rd April. This is a planning condition which will involve extensive excavations within a fenced-off area of the field. We will not have a clear finish date for that work until these excavations are fully underway, and therefore the start date for the main site work remains uncertain. We are planning on the basis of at least 3-4 months for archaeology work.

We continue to work through increasingly detailed of the plans for the building, with the main layout essentially agreed (with some details to be worked through). These are being discussed in a working group, drawn from the CFSG working group, the Parish Council Working Party and the MCG team, with Anson Trust and Thomas Homes.



As previously announced, the existing MSSSC building was closed for regular use from **31st March 2018**, but is needed for use by the archaeology team during weekdays.

During the archaeological investigations, although the existing MSSSC building will be used by the archaeology team during weekdays, we have made special short-term arrangements for the breakfast and after-school clubs to continue to use the building on weekdays, for Marcham Cubs to use the building for their weekly evening meetings and for Marcham Cricket Club to use the building at weekends, which may extend to the end of the cricket season. In these cases, we have agreed that these special arrangements are subject to four weeks' notice once we know when the archaeology will finish and construction can begin.

Organisations who have used the facilities are making arrangements for temporary re-location elsewhere. Anyone wishing to book for the Baptist Hall should contact Tamsin Gilbert (info@allsaintsmarcham.org).

The Community Facilities Steering Group (CFSG) will continue to oversee the project and MCG will continue to keep everyone in Marcham updated regularly on the project and will be happy to try to answer any questions that people may have as this project moves forward.

We are keen to recruit more members of MCG. This helps to support our case for external fund-raising to complete/equip the new facilities. Please contact Jim Asher (jim.asher@btinternet.com) for details and a membership form. Annual subscriptions are £5 (single) and £8 (family).

On-site work starts soon!

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

www.marcham.org



I-Spy, with my mammal eye...

Wildlife charity People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) is calling for Oxfordshire volunteers to take part in its annual Living with Mammals survey, by asking members of the public to survey a garden or local green space once a week. PTES is keen to hear from anyone in the UK who can give up some of their time this spring to help spot the likes of the Mrs Tiggywinkle and Fantastic Mr Fox.

This year, the survey runs from Monday 26th March until Sunday 24th June 2018.

Volunteers can choose any green space to survey: this could be a rural or urban garden, an allotment, a park, or a green space near to work, as long as the site is within 200 metres of a building. Once a suitable space has been identified, PTES is asking volunteers to visit this site for a short amount of time each week, and record any sightings of mammals, or the signs they leave behind, such as droppings or footprints.

Volunteers can submit their findings online at www.ptes.org/lwm, which is also home to a guide on how to spot mammals, and how to tell a pine marten from a polecat, if you're lucky enough to see one!

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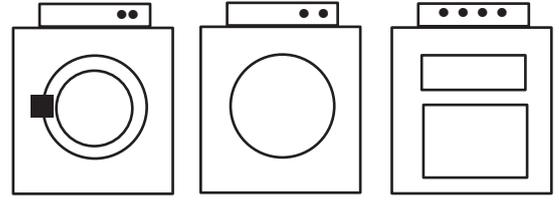
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MARCHAM'S JUBILEE PATHS

On Dec 18th 2001 Eric Dunford reported to the Marcham Society that the routes of the Jubilee paths on Manor Farm Land had been agreed with Will Cumber snr. Eric had been in touch with the Oxfordshire County Council Field Paths Officer who was helping us investigate the availability of grants towards signs, bridges and gates. A meeting was organised for May 15 2002. Unfortunately an application to the County Council failed to provide the funding needed and a further meeting was arranged for early November. By April 2003 estimates for bridge building materials had been received. Funding was promised by the Parish and District Councils and Marcham Society agreed to contribute £200. An application was made to The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) who administered grants from the Landfill Tax. TOE were initially unable to consider our application before September, but grants from the Parish Council and Marcham Society meant that work on the bridges could start during the summer with the TOE funding being used for the gates at a later stage. TOE was persuaded to make an earlier assessment and a grant to cover four bridges and seven gates was agreed. Will Cumber snr had offered to provide Waymark signs and Claire Bolton started working on a leaflet map design.



By September we had received a grant from Innogy (£500) following an advertisement by Didcot Power station in the Abingdon Herald, further grants came from TOE (£750), the District Council (£250) and Marcham Society (£200), and work on the bridges started on September 11th. An assessor from the Campaign for Rural England (CPRE) visited on behalf of TOE visited and was very impressed by our proposals. Claire had produced a draft map.

We finally received £1,831.50 in grants and donations and the Parish Council, who had agreed to cover any shortfall, gave us a further donation of £395.55 to cover the outstanding amount.

Work started on the 13th September 2003 with a work-party of eight starting bridge building over Marcham Brook between Squire's Lee and Longmoor, west of Mill Road. This was finished the next weekend, followed by repairs to a footbridge SE of Meadow Farm. There was more bridge-building on Oct 4th. The final bridge was finished the following weekend with a group from the youth club joining us and a photographer from Innogy came to take some publicity pictures. We have to thank Mark Wiseman for putting several old telegraph poles in place for us to turn into bridges with planks and handrails. We were also grateful to Bill Pointer who drove to Lewknor in his van on several occasions to pick up kissing gates. The first kissing gate was installed at the bottom of Mill Rd by the Ock on October 16th. On 23rd October a start was made on the last one by the Black Horse by cutting a gap in the hedge. This was finished on the 25th followed by a few weeks spent putting in signposts. The weather throughout October was hot and dry which was great but made the ground hard when it came to digging holes for gates and signposts. The final three signs went in on the 4th December.

The paths were officially opened by Will Cumber Snr on December 6th 2003 which coincided with the 100th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Institute.

Initially Marcham Society issued a map drawn by Sheila Dunford and Claire Bolton but in 2007 we received a further grant of £318.50 from TOE to publish a printed leaflet which was delivered to each household in the parish, and is still available from Marcham Village Shop.

SD

Wantage & Grove Lions are holding a Bingo at Grove Village Hall on Saturday 14th April doors open 6.45pm, eyes down 7.30pm great raffle & refreshments
hope to see you there



MILTON HILL BOWLING CLUB

Potash Lane, Milton Heights, OX14 4DR
(next to Football Club)

The club is holding an **open afternoon** between 14:00 – 17:00 on Saturday 28th April 2018. Come and try your hand at Green Bowling, no booking is required just turn up. Bowls are for all ages and a fun way to keep fit and flexible. No experience is necessary, we would prefer you to wear trainers, but overshoes can be provided. See our website for more details or contact Colin Trinder 01865 391718



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If you need help to keep your house tidy please don't hesitate to ring Gabi.
References are available



Cleaning
Ironing

07771 391209

The World Premiere of
A More Perfect World
 By Tony Green
 Directed by Maria Crocker
 Wednesday 11th - Saturday
 14th April | 7:30pm.

**ABINGDON
 DRAMA
 CLUB**

ADC - in 3D since 1944
www.abingdon-drama-club.com

Not suitable for under 12s

Tickets available from:

Mostly Books, Stert St, Abingdon

Tickets: £10, £8 concessions (60+, students, ADC members)

Email: tickets@unicornboxoffice.org.uk

Telephone: 0845 4636638

enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com

It's 1978 – 60 years since the end of the Great War. Three people are drawn together to be interviewed for a documentary on the realities of their experiences during the conflict. A soldier, an officer, and a nursing volunteer all discuss events. Together they use the platform to push against the culture that is telling them how to feel about their experiences...a culture that is in the process of building the myth around them.

40 years later, their recollections are finally to be broadcast – the myth now written.

Based on real experiences of First World War veterans, "A More Perfect World" by Tony Green, takes place in three different time zones - 2018, 1978 and during the years of the First World War.



MARCHAM SOCIETY TALK
13TH FEBRUARY 2018

Our speaker on 13 March was George Candelin, chief bird-ringer for the Oxfordshire Ornithological Society, who gave us a very interesting insight into the history and practice of bird-ringing. At one time, it was thought that birds who disappeared during the winter spent these months in reed beds, or in mud at the bottom of lakes, until a Danish bird-watcher had the idea of winding a piece of wire around a bird's leg and wrote up his findings. A formal ringing scheme began in Britain in 1937 and years of training are needed before a ringing licence is earned. Ringing is not painful or restricting and allows worldwide monitoring of migration patterns, habitats and numbers. Weather conditions, farming practices, loss of habitats and disease can have dramatic effects on numbers. It was awe-inspiring to see the migratory routes which are taken and heartening to hear of a system of international collaboration to monitor the wellbeing of birds. JF

COTHILL NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE WORK PARTY
 Would you like to help carry out vital conservation work to ensure the future of the rare plants and creatures which live in the National Nature Reserve in Cothill Woods? Natural England runs a work party to meet on the first Friday in the month between 10am and 3pm, led by Senior Reserves Manager, Leo Jennings. Tasks include reed cutting, scrub clearance and woodland thinning/coppicing. If you would be interested, please contact Leo Jennings - Leo.Jennings@naturalengland.org.uk

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

THE PEOPLE'S COUNTRYSIDE

An Oxfordshire Team has launched an ambitious bid to give nature in the county and further afield a 'voice' – through a TV/Online show **The People's Countryside**.

www.thepeoplescountryside.com

Facebook: [thepeoplescountryside](https://www.facebook.com/thepeoplescountryside)

Twitter: [CountrysideTV](https://twitter.com/CountrysideTV)



Stuart Mabbutt the Presenter, William Mankelow the Photographer and Ross Arrowsmith the Videographer are running a Kickstarter crowdfunding campaign to fund their next project of the TV/Online show **The People's Countryside**. The show will explore the often overlooked, partially disused, old Wycombe Railway line that used to run from Oxford to Princes Risborough, highlighting how nature has and is reclaiming the area along the line.

Stuart, the presenter, says, "We want to examine the social and industrial history of the line, filming rare footage of trains still running on the used section near the BMW factory, as well as showcasing why the old track bed through the village of Horspath is a key 'green corridor' linking Shotover Country Park (a Site of Special Scientific Interest) with the wider countryside".

The old railway tunnel through the village of Horspath now houses one of the most important bat hibernaculums in the county. A volunteer group has spent many 100's of hours in the tunnel since 1999 installing accommodation in that tunnel for thousands of bats to hibernate.

The Kickstarter campaign will start on March 30th running until April 28th. Check out the draft of the fundraising campaign before it goes live www.kickstarter.com/projects/220900427/210897820?ref=366430&token=80b3448c. £4000 needs to be raised in 30 days, otherwise the team don't get a penny and can't undertake the project. Online pledges will also be possible via the website once the campaign goes live <https://thepeoplescountryside.com/get-involved/>.

Stuart Mabbutt, Wildlife Gardening Specialist

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

MADNews has sponsored Stuart to make 10 radio show podcasts in 10 days and you can listen to all the programmes via the link on www.madnews.co.uk or Stuart's Patreon page www.patreon.com/stuarmabbutt

Earth Trust Events

Tuesday 3rd - Thursday 5th April 2018

Easter Activity Trail

Pick up your map and explorer backpack from the Earth Trust Centre and head out for a self-led adventure in the woods

Friday 6th April 2018 Tree Climbing

Use ropes and harnesses to explore Little Wittenham Wood's treetops in 1hr sessions with The Great Big Tree Climbing Company.

Monday 9th April 2018 Mud Pie Monday!

Drop in for Mud Pie Monday – buckets of mud and buckets of fun!

Tuesday 10th April 2018 Spring Activity Trail

Pick up your map and explorer backpack from the Earth Trust Centre and head out for a self-led adventure in the woods!

Tuesday 10th April 2018 Night Safari

Join us for this night-time expedition to discover Wallingford Castle Meadow's wildlife, who knows what we might find?

Thursday 12th April 2018 Family Bushcraft

Bring the whole family and go wild! Explore the woods, make shelters, learn how to make a fire and use a knife safely.

Friday 20th April 2018 Newts, Frogs and Toads

Come and find out more about the amphibians living in the ponds in Little Wittenham Wood.

www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson

Little Wittenham, Abingdon OX14 4QZ Tel: 01865 407792



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HOLIDAYS

B&B Rafters




Contact: Mrs Sigrid Grawert

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Marcham
Abingdon, Oxfordshire
OX13 6NU

Tel 01865 391298
Fax 01865 391173
enquiries@bnb-rafters.co.uk
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Abingdon County Hall Museum Exhibitions

Abingdon County Hall Museum have an art exhibition of the work of Robert Strange recently celebrated in Artists and Illustrators Magazine - very colourful and appealing to all the family. From 1st April onwards 10 am to 4 pm except Mondays.

A new Automotive Design show opens on 14th April looking at the continuing success of MG design, now with a century as an international brand.

Audio tours of the town are available from the roof area, also the option of booking a celebration or tea.

On 8th April, the day of Abingdon-on-Thames Head of the River Race, there will be a celebration of the Upper Thames Patrol and the local Home Guard with a memorial being unveiled at Abingdon Lock. There will be some of the little ships involved in 1945 D Day, nostalgic food more on www.thamesatwar.co.uk



ABINGDON COUNTRY MARKET HAS MOVED!

The Market will now take place on the the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10am to 12 midday at The Salvation Army Hall in West St Helens Street.

There will be refreshments available and even "bacon butties". Come and support shopping and eating locally!



With the expectation of spring on the way, many of us will be going for walks and working in the garden. People with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes are no exception to this but they do need to take a little more care, especially of their feet. Unfortunately, we have found that some people with diabetes are not aware that they need to take the extra care of their feet.

Around 130 diabetes-related amputations take place every week in this country alone, mainly as a result of foot ulcers but 80% of these are avoidable with proper foot care. So, people with diabetes should have their feet checked at least annually by a trained healthcare professional and should also be taught how to look after their feet themselves.

To try to reduce the risks of foot damage and amputations, the InDependent Diabetes Trust (IDDT) has published a FREE booklet called 'Diabetes – Looking After Your Feet'. This is designed to help people to look after their feet by knowing what to look for and when to seek treatment to keep their feet healthy and avoid foot ulcers. If foot ulcers are left untreated they can eventually lead to amputation, which drastically changes a person's quality of life.

A more active life in the spring can also mean a change in eating habits, so our booklet, 'Diabetes – Everyday Eating', which contains 28 days of menus of everyday, affordable meals, and much more, is also useful to help people manage their diabetes.

All our booklets are FREE, so we hope you will let your readers know that we can help. They can obtain a copy of 'Diabetes – Looking After Your Feet' and 'Diabetes – Everyday Eating' by contacting IDDT: telephone 01604 622837 or email: jenny@iddtinternational.org

**DENMAN COLLEGE
Catering Department (Thomas Franks)
Marcham OX13 6NW**

PERMANENT PART-TIME AND CASUAL BAR STAFF

We are looking for reliable, friendly, welcoming and 'can do' people who can work in a team and on their own supporting our catering services in our bar.

Having previous experience in a similar role would be an advantage but not a necessity as full training will be provided.

Hourly rate £8.43, the work pattern will be flexible, based on a 6 hours per shift (5pm to 11pm).

PERMANENT FULL-TIME, PART-TIME AND CASUAL KITCHEN ASSISTANTS

We are seeking flexible, reliable, friendly, welcoming and 'can do' people to support our kitchen team with pot wash duties and kitchen preparation work.

We operate 7 days weekly and any rota will be based on up to 5 days out of 7 for permanent team members

We have a number of non-permanent shifts. All work will include breakfast, lunch and dinner shifts on a rotational basis.

Hourly rate £8.43. The earliest start will be 7am and the latest finish will be 9pm.

PERMANENT PART-TIME AND CASUAL WAITING STAFF

We are seeking people to join us for the spring and summer seasons. The hours can be extremely flexible, and will include being available to work at weekends and in the evenings.

Hourly rate £8.43.

Contact: Humphrey Sheppard

Email: catering@denman.org.uk

Catering Department (Thomas Franks)



There are 6.7 million blocked drains each year in the UK

**A plumber could cost over £200 to clear pipes
How can we keep our drains blockage free?**

Fatberg fighting tips - Make a fat trap

Margarine tubs, plastic pots and jam jars make handy containers to capture cooled, leftover cooking fat and oil. Please dispose of the fat in the food waste bin.

Clear plates

Scrape plates of food and fat before washing up or loading the dishwasher.

Use a bin

Keep a bin in the bathroom for everything that isn't pee, poo or toilet paper. Don't flush wetwipes - they don't break down in the drains, whatever the packet says!

www.binit.thameswater.co.uk

Bin it - don't block it.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Dear Friends,

This month begins with the glorious celebration of Easter Day! Easter is about the wonder and joy of new life. The resurrection of Christ is **the** pivotal event in human history – it changes everything! As the great first century writer and missionary, St. Paul, wrote: 'But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead ...For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.' Wow!

The implications resulting from the resurrection are far reaching and many. Some of the implications are as follows:

- Christ is alive and that He is who He said He was,
- that death has been overcome,
- that there is life beyond death,
- that all human beings are accountable to Christ,
- that we can have hope for the future, and
- that life with God is ongoing, that heaven is real!

On Easter Sunday we will be having a service of celebration at 10am. Please do come along, and enjoy the celebration! And if the whole thing raises questions for you, why not consider attending a discussion group run by the All Saints' community, and find out more?

As we celebrate Easter it is a personal pleasure to observe the spring flowers bursting into bloom, the flowering shrubs and trees full of colour and scent, the wild birds busy with building nests, and the hedgerows greening with new leaves. Easter is about the wonder and joy of new life, and nature in this country reinforces that joy, as it bursts with new life and growth – simply wonderful!

I hope you enjoy Easter this year – and its message of hope in a world that so needs this message.

A very hope-filled and happy Easter!

Richard



Village Café has a new venue and a new menu. From **April 25th** it will be **Wednesdays, 12pm at the Baptist Hall** (term-time only). All welcome.

Regular Sunday services at 10am & 6pm

Men's Breakfast, Saturday 7th April, 8.30am at the Baptist Hall

Men's Night, Monday 9th April, 8pm at the Crown

Youth Drop-in restarts 18th April

Changing Room (Women's Breakfast), Saturday 19th May, 8.30am at the Baptist Hall.

St. George's Day service, Sunday 29th April, 10am at All Saints' Church.

Contacts:

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vicar@allsaintsmarcham.org

Jill Rowe Children's and families Minister 390885
families@allsaintsmarcham.org

Rob Finch Youth Worker 07888331708,
rob@marchamyouth.org

Rachel Gaisford Older person's worker 391432

Tamsin Gilbert Parish Administrator 391319
info@allsaintsmarcham.org