

Marcham & District News

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



MARCH 2019 VOL: 41 NO: 3

READ & RECYCLE!

FREE



▲ Little Snow Angels!
see page 9



▲ The work continues on the Anson Field,
views from Ed Withers' drone



▲ Marcham Pre-School
see page 9



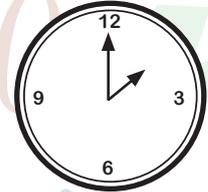
Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant
St David's Day
Friday 1st March

Lá Fhéile Phádraig
St Patrick's Day
17th March



▲ Cothill: scything reed in
snow see page 15

Spring Forward:
Clocks go forward 1 hour
on Sunday 31 March



Diary for March

| | | | | | |
|---------|--|----|---------|---|----|
| 1 Fri | Pancake Family Friday, All Saints' Church, 17.30 – 19.00 | 20 | 16 – 27 | Atom Festival Of Science And Technology, Abingdon | 15 |
| 7 Thu | Music at the Unicorn: Steve Tilston, 19.00 | 11 | 19 Tue | National Trust: Oxfordshire Castles, Trinity Church, Abingdon, 14.30 | 19 |
| 7 Thu | ABCD Film Society: The Oyster Princess. St Nicolas Church, Abingdon, 19.30 | 15 | 20 Wed | Arts Society Abingdon, Trinity Church, Abingdon, 10.30 & 14.00 | 2 |
| 8 Fri | Cricket Nets, Radley College, 19.30-21.00 | 7 | 20 Wed | Deadline for next MADNews, 17.00 editor@madnews.co.uk | |
| 9 Sat | Table Top and Car Boot Sale, Hanney WM Hall, 10.00-14.00 | 11 | 21 Thu | Marcham WI: Alpacas, Denman College, 19.15 | 7 |
| 12 Tue | Marcham Society: Simon Wenham, All Saints' Church, 19.30 | 7 | 21 Thu | ABCD Film Society: The Big Heat, Abingdon, 19.45 | 15 |
| 12 Tue | Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30 | 9 | 22 Fri | School Disco, Marcham School, from 17.50 | 9 |
| 13 Wed | Marcham Parish Council Meeting, Duffield Place, 19.30 | 3 | 22 Fri | Family Disco, E Hanney BL Hall, 19.30-23.00 | 11 |
| 13 – 16 | Abingdon Drama Club: Black Comedy, Unicorn Theatre, 19.00 | 18 | 23 Sat | Faberdashery Sale, Denman College, 10.00-15.00 | 2 |
| 14 Thu | Gardening Club, Sunningwell Village Hall, 19.30 | 11 | 23 Sat | Jumble Sale, Southmoor Village Hall, 14.00 | 18 |
| 14 Thu | Midweek Walk, The Blueberry, Blewbury. 12.30 Lunch / 13.30 Walk | 7 | 23 Sat | Cash Bingo, Grove Village Hall, 18.45 | 11 |
| 14 Thu | ABCD Film Society: Film Stars Don't Die In Liverpool, Abingdon, 19.45 | 15 | 26 Tue | Singing is Good for You, Duffield Place, 14.00-15.30 | 9 |
| 15 Fri | Cricket Nets, Radley College, 19.30-21.00 | 7 | 28 Thu | ABCD Film Society: Cold War, Abingdon, 19.45 | 15 |
| 16 Sat | Abraill19, Abingdon College, 10.00-17.00 | 2 | 29 Fri | Cricket Nets, Radley College, 19.30-21.00 | 7 |
| 16 Sat | Clubs And Societies Days, Abingdon Guildhall | 18 | 30 Sat | Abingdon And District Model Railway Club Open Day | 2 |

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

THINGS TO DO

Abingdon & District Model Railway Club



Presents:

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The Arts Society Abingdon (ex ADFAS) is holding its monthly lecture on **Wednesday 20th March, 10.30am and 2.00pm**, at Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DB.

**Underground Cathedrals:
The Architecture of London Underground,
above and below street level**

by Ian Swankie

The world's first underground railway has a wonderful heritage of architecture, ingenious design, powerful advertising posters, and unique calligraphy. Londoner Ian plots the early development of the railway and examines the legacy of Frank Pick and Charles Holden, looking at some iconic posters and celebrating the award-winning architecture of the modern 'Tube'. He will also take a peek at some of the forthcoming Crossrail stations designed by some of the world's top architects..

Non-Members welcome, £6.00 including coffee/tea. The lectures are one hour long, but leave extra time for announcements etc.

For more information on future lectures and other activities see www.theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk

or

email info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk

The Great Denman Faberdashery Sale



Pick up some bits and pieces for your projects - from fabrics to needles, buttons & more!

Next Dates:

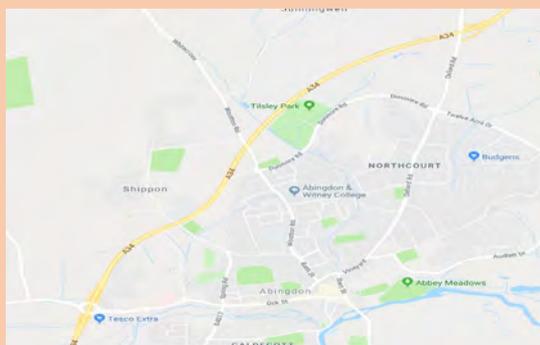
Saturday 23rd March 2019

Free Entry!

10 am - 3 pm, Denman

All proceeds go to... **theWI DENMAN**

Where to find the Show



We are always looking to recruit new members, if you would like to come along and see what we do at the club we are holding an open day on Saturday 30th of March.

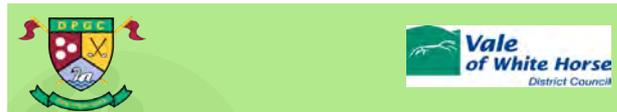
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The Secretary

pthunt.mrc@outlook.com



CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday 12 April 2019

Drayton Golf Club

Tee off: 10am

Price £50 per person

Breakfast and lunch provided

To book your place, contact

karen.dodd@southandvale.gov.uk

or phone 01235 422082



All proceeds will go to SSAFA - helping the military service, veterans and their families.



Dear Readers

We now have a date for the 40th birthday party – 23rd June and we are going to hold it at Denman College. More details as we get organised!

More memories from our 40 years of existence on page 5, anything you would like to add, please do!

Until next time



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PROOFREADING

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

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

DISCLAIMER

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

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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
Parish Council Elections

On 2nd May there will be elections for the Parish Council. Anyone who is over 18, a British Citizen and who is either on the electoral roll for the parish, or occupies land or property within the parish, works in the parish, or lives within 3 miles of its boundary can stand as a candidate. As part of the local council you will have responsibility for running local services, deciding on how much to raise through the council tax, influencing and shaping the long term development policy for the parish, and as part of the planning process, comment on planning applications in the parish.

If you wish to improve the quality of life and the environment in the local area and help deliver local projects then consider standing as a candidate for the Parish Council. The main meetings are just once a month, in the evenings, except August when there is no meeting.

The village is a busy place at the moment, planning for new community facilities, and closely monitoring developments such as the Dalton Barracks site and the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway, so if you wish to be part of these exciting times, then for further information on standing as a candidate for the Council, as well as the nomination pack, go to the Electoral Commission's website. <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk>. If you have difficulties with this site then contact the elections office at the Vale of White Horse District Council at elections@southandvale.gov.uk, or the Parish Clerk may be able to help with general information too.

The deadline for the return of the nomination form to the District Council at 135 Milton Park is 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday 3rd April. All nominations have to be submitted by hand to the District Council's offices. Post, electronic means and fax are not acceptable. It is advisable to make an appointment in advance before you visit the offices, by telephoning 01235 422528.

Annual Meeting of Electors

The Annual Meeting of Electors will take place on Wednesday 15th May at 7.30 p.m. at Marcham Primary School. All electors of the parish are entitled to attend and ask questions or raise issues affecting the parish. The Council is currently arranging the event, and in the meantime, please put a note of the date in your diaries.

Electricity Power Cuts

The Council has made enquiries of Scottish Southern Electric regarding the fairly frequent but short-lived power cuts that have been experienced in recent weeks. The response is that there is an automatic shut-off when something hits the overhead cables, and an engineer has to go out and see if there is a problem which requires a permanent solution. Sometimes, the loss of power can be the result of heavy winds

blowing things, such as tree branches, onto the line. Sometimes faults are found elsewhere. Scottish Southern always do their best to ensure that the power is off for as little time as possible. If you are dependent on electricity for home medical care, have a chronic illness, or short term medical condition, are disabled, have special communication needs e.g. if you are blind, or deaf, have children under 5 or are over 60 years old, then you can register for the Priority Service. Telephone 0800 294 3259 to register.

A415 – trench line

The Council has contacted Southern Gas Networks regarding the poorly filled trench left across the A415 just East of the entrance to the village. A deep gap had been left, and this was causing problems for motorists and particularly damage to vehicle tyres.

Planning applications

The Council has considered the following planning applications:

P19/V0052/HH Erection of single storey rear extension at 9 Kings Avenue. The Council had no objection..

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 13th March 2019 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

Would you like a bit of company or help shopping? I have DBS clearance and some free time! Call me for a chat. Gemma - 07850 873791

FRILFORD NOTICES
If you would like to be added to the parish email distribution list, send a message to frilfordparish@gmail.com

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MARCHAM AND DISTRICT NEWS is 40!

Another few snaps and snippets from the past – all from the month of March this time!

If you have anything that you would like to share with other readers, just send it to editor@madnews.co.uk to include in our 40 year round up.

SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

... We enjoyed another of Jean's cakes in celebration of Jack Spicer's 80th birthday. [Jean decided to stop baking special cakes in 2001]

PARISH COUNCIL

... have recommended that an annual competition for the most attractive garden should be instituted this spring...

▲ March 1996 Cake at the Club and a new Garden Competition

1999

Marcham parish council discussed the provision of a centre for the youth of the village to use. Chris Ricketts would be delighted to hear from people who can offer both "Time and Talent".

Green Fingers

Well, having been unexpectedly invited to pen an article every other month for insertion into your newsletter, my first task was to settle the structure of my scribblings.

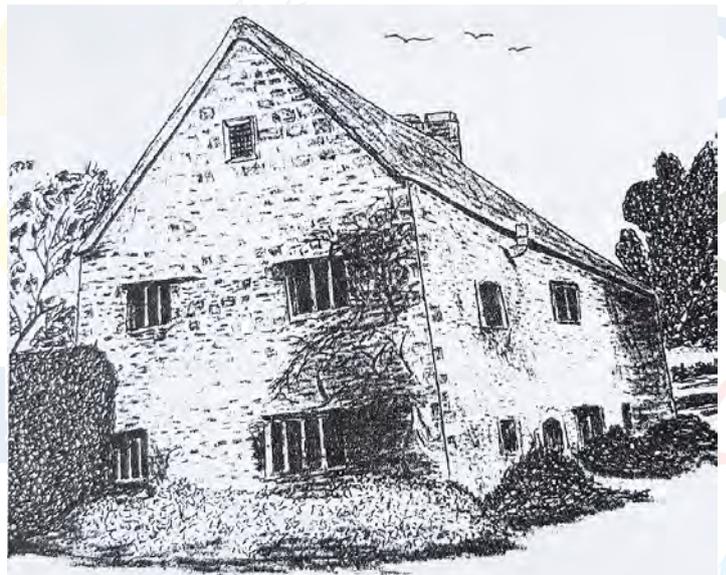
My feeling are that it may be more relevant to you, the readers, if I outlined the activities you could consider doing within your plots over the following two months.....

Stuart Mabbutt



Good News for Marcham School: ... we have been able to order a "state of the art" computer for Marcham School out of the MADNews Millennium issue profits... [In the April issue the School reports that the terminal went to Morland class - ED]

▲ March 2000 Stuart Mabbutt's first column and a new computer for the school



▲ Cover Picture March 2002 The Monastery at Marcham by Leslie Dyer

BYPASS EXHIBITION

Delivered with this issue of the Newsheet is a leaflet from the county planning office in respect of the Marcham Bypass exhibition. Please come along and express your views on this matter - it is essential that we all have our say whether for or against. See the O.C.C. item inside for more details.

I HOPE YOU WILL ALL THEN WRITE TO THE NEWSHEET WITH YOUR VIEWS - LETS MAKE THE APRIL ISSUE BIGGER THAN FEBRUARY'S!

- Sorry Tony (Blackler).

*Martin Thorne
Editor.*

▲ March 1995 Martin the Editor calls for lots of letters regarding the bypass - and apologises to Tony who ws then organising the delivery of MADNews!

2001

Mammoths at Stanton Harcourt! The subject of the Marcham Society Lecture by Kate Scott on 20th March 2001

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MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK:

Thursday, March 14th

This month's walk starts in the pretty village of Blewbury. We will eat at The Blueberry, London Road (Map Ref: SU533856; OX11 9NU), on the A417 through the village, at 12.30pm, starting our walk of about 4 miles at 1.30pm to the two Tirrold villages, with a short diversion to the impressive Blewburton Hill Iron Age hill fort on the way.



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.

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB NEWS

We held our Annual General Meeting on Friday 1 February, which was well attended. All officers of the club were re-elected.

Namely, Chair Richard Whittaker; Secretary Trevor Hill; Treasurer Ed Warwick; Vice Chair Chris Webb. Jeff Davie was elected as the Club's President for the first time, following the many years held of this office by Clive Bennett, who sadly passed away a year ago. Clive, as we all know, will be a hard act to follow,



but we know he would be very pleased that Jeff is to be his successor. Jeff is an ex-player of a few decades ago (not saying how many!) and grew up and lived in the village for most of his life. He watches matches with his wife, Carole, every week, rotating his diary between the first and second team. They also do more than their fair share of tea duties, with Jeff enjoying the occasional pint afterwards of Loose Cannon Brewery's 'Bombshell' bitter.

On the field of play, Stuart (Geordie) Armstrong is to be club captain, reversing roles with Mike Palmer, who is to be first team vice captain. Chris Webb is to 'skipper' the seconds, with Steve Hill its vice captain. Both contributing to the club's positive age discrimination policy!

Indoor nets at Radley School started last month. This is to continue through March from 7.30pm till 9pm on Fridays 8th; 15th; and 29th. Everyone welcome, so potential new members please contact Chris Webb for further details at chris.webb32@hotmail.com

For any other club information contact its secretary Trevor Hill at trevor3chancel@aol.com

We look forward to meeting any of you who may be interested in playing in our two Saturday teams.

MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

The Marcham Senior Citizens Club, due to lack of members and personal circumstances, was closed on 30 November 2018. Despite considerable effort by the committee, no increased interest was forthcoming within Marcham village. A preliminary closing meeting was held on 31 January 2019 to discuss the disposal of Club assets. At this meeting it was decided, as a token of appreciation for their support over many years, to give donations to Age UK and Sobell House. This meeting then decided that the residue of monies should be held in the bank for a period of 12 months (until 31 January 2020), to enable the rejuvenation of the Senior Citizens Club by any interested villagers.

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS CLOSURE AND HAVE A KEEN INTEREST IN RESURRECTING A SENIORS CLUB IN MARCHAM PLEASE CONTACT *John Woods (Secretary)* 391705

Marcham WI

Date: Thursday, 21st March
Time: 7.15pm
Venue: Denman College
Topic: Jane Abbott



Alpacas and the world of fabulous fluff

Our Annual Meeting is on 21st March when we'll be choosing a President and Committee for the next year. Following the business of the meeting, we will welcome our speaker, **Jane Abbott**, who will be talking about 'Alpacas and the world of fabulous fluff'. It sounds intriguing, so come along and find out more.

Please note the slightly earlier start time of 7.15pm.

New members and visitors are always welcome

For further information, please contact:

Pippa Hoath 01865 391349 pippahoath@gmail.com



The Marcham Society

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

More than Three Men in a Boat – the rise and fall of pleasure boating on the Thames

Simon Wenham

By European standards the river Thames is seemingly insignificant. At only 215 miles (346km) from source to mouth, it is not only dwarfed by the major waterways of the continent, but it is not even the longest river in the United Kingdom. Nevertheless, its location has ensured that it has held unparalleled importance to the country, and we have always liked 'messaging about in boats' on it!

*All Saints' Church, Marcham
 7.30 pm Tuesday 12th March
www.marchamsociety.org.uk*

**MARCHAM SOCIETY REPORT, 12 February 2019
 Cotswold Barns, Tim Jordan**

During the 1970s, Tim Jordan converted a barn in Eynsham into a house. This began a keen interest in Cotswold barns, which from the Middle Ages were used for the threshing and storage of grain. With the aid of excellent pictures, Tim showed the great variety of barn design and construction, from the small and simple to some on the Badminton estate, which sport turrets and crenellations.

"Cotswold" stone is oolitic limestone, which can vary in colour from grey in Wiltshire to gold near to Banbury. The roof slates (actually stone) can range in size from about 2 feet for the lowest to around 6 inches at the apex; they all have individual names. There was a large main door with a smaller one opposite for unladen carts to exit. "Arrow-slit" windows allowed ventilation without letting rain in. Some large barns had a room over the entrance for a "granger" to watch over the contents.

Over the centuries, grain storage gave way to housing of animals and farm machinery. From the early 1900s, Dutch barns began to appear and many stone barns fell into disrepair. However, since the 1980s many have been saved by being converted into homes.

JF

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MARCHAM PRE-SCHOOL

It's been a month of new experiences at Marcham Pre-School! First we explored Burns Night with a taste of haggis, Scottish dancing and some Highland games, with all the children trying their hand at 'tossing the caber'! This was all really good fun, and the children were excited to hear about traditions around the world, as we also explored Chinese New Year, with noodles, chopsticks, colouring door gods and taking home a red envelope to be filled..... and finally, another visit from Zoolab, and a chance to handle a range of animals including a dragon! The children are still talking about these experiences, and we are delighted to be able to bring these new ideas to them. Our vision is to be 'NOISIER, MESSIER AND BIGGER THAN EVER BEFORE' and I definitely think we achieved that this month!



If you would like to join our waiting list please get in touch today! We are very limited in availability for September 2019 and may be looking ahead to September 2020!

We can be contacted on 01865 392101 or Marcham-preschool@hotmail.co.uk.

Nicky Sanford,

Early Years Teacher, Marcham Pre-School 01865 392101
www.marcham-preschool.weebly.com

NEWS FROM LITTLE ANGELS

Baby Room The babies have been enjoying mark making and sensory play this month. They enjoyed making marks with their fingers and hands in this really simple activity you could try at home with your little angel. Fill a sandwich bag with a little paint / glitter glue (ensure it is sealed tight) and allow your baby to move the paint around with their hand. It's a great mess-free activity where they can explore and make connections between the marks they make! Why not give it a go at home?



Pre School Room Our little Angels in the pre school room loved the snow this month! We learnt all about where snow comes from and how ice is made! The children couldn't wait to get outside and explore. So, we all wrapped up warm in our coats, hats, scarves, gloves and wellingtons and headed onto the field to build snowmen! The children love making snow angels and experiencing the snow, for some of them this was the first time they had seen so much snow! Back inside, our pre school children have been enjoying learning about healthy eating and supporting their teachers by helping make sandwiches and prepare fruit for tea! Another great month!

Breakfast and After School Club Our big Angels really enjoyed learning all about Chinese New Year at after school club at Marcham Primary School. Using a traditional Chinese painting set, the children created traditional bamboo ink paintings. It was lovely to see the children working together to create a giant Chinese dragon paper chain, watching the older children support our younger members! Another fun-filled month!

RECRUITMENT OPEN DAY!

Are you looking for a career in childcare?

We are holding a RECRUITMENT OPEN DAY on Saturday 16th March 10am-1pm. Come along and find out more about the exciting job vacancies available.

For more info: www.facebook.com/events/331408567472080/ or
T: 01865 819992 E: kaye@littleangelschildcaregroup.co.uk

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

**Marcham Parish Council
10 Vacancies for councillors
Elections take place Thursday 2nd May**

To be eligible to apply to be a councillor you need to be over 18, preferably a resident of Marcham, on the electoral roll (although exceptions do apply), able to attend evening meetings, and above all **interested in local issues and matters that affect Marcham.**

See the note in the Parish Council's article on page 3 for further information

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Tuesday 12th and 26th March.
From 2 – 3.30pm in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place

- Sing a wide range of popular songs
- Get to know fellow villagers and forget your aches, pains and woes!

Phone 391270 for more details
Christine Whild



PTA ROUND-UP

Many thanks to everyone who came out and supported the PTA Fun Family Quiz. A good time was had by all – especially Awesome Anthony and the Termites, who scooped the £100 jackpot!! See, it's worth attending these events!



Our next fundraiser will be our second School Disco of the year, on Friday 22 March – KS1: 5.50-6.50pm; KS2: 7.00-8.00pm. £3 per child on the door. Free refreshments. For safety reasons, no wheeled footwear, and please have your children leave their mobile phones at home.

I've invested in a new lighting bar and a haze machine for my business, so the PTA discos will be even more psychedelic than ever!! I'll put out a request box in the foyer at school in the week before the disco, so please remind your children that they can request their favourite songs by posting them in the box. I can't promise to play them all, but there'll be more chance of me playing their favourite songs if I know what they are!



See you on the school run.

Peter Kidd

PTA Chair 07708 251312 peter.kidd61@btinternet.com



Wednesday 12pm in the Baptist Hall
All welcome - young and old!
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MAD event for your diaries – don't miss it!

Marcham Community Group and the local church community are jointly planning a Great Marcham & District Weekend on 27th-29th September 2019. This will celebrate 10 years of Marcham Moldova Lifeline as well as Harvest Festival. Funds raised will go to fitting out the new Community Facilities and to projects in Moldova, one of the poorest countries in Europe.



Plans are firming up, with local organisations taking on fund-raising events or activities to involve as many local people as possible in Marcham, Frilford and Garford. Events will include:

- Sunflower-growing competition
- Smart phone film competition
- Flower and produce show
- Apple Day events
- Dog show
- Quiz night
- Vintage/classic car rally
- Pub games contests
- Treasure hunt on foot
- Fun run and family sports
- Gala dinner
- Archaeology exhibition
- Harvest Festival BBQ
- Art and sculpture exhibitions
- Historic walks and church tours
- Tea, cakes and ice cream

More details in future MADNews issues. To get involved or suggest ideas, please contact

jim.asher@btinternet.com (391727) or
neil.rose.nsch@gmail.com (391168).

Working together for a big success!



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Thursday 7th March

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SUNNINGWELL & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Talk by John Negus on 'Home-grown's Best'

Thursday 14th March at 7.30pm

in Sunningwell Village Hall

New & Non-Members welcome

Entrance fee: Members £2 Non-Members £3

including refreshments

www.sdgc.org.uk

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 11th May 2019**. Come and try your hand at Green

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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

www.miltonhill.go-plus.net



Wantage & Grove Lions

Saturday March 23th

Cash bingo at Grove Village Hall

doors open 6.45pm eyes down 7.30pm

also great raffle



Friday March 22nd **Family Disco**

7.30pm till 11pm at East Hanney British Legion Hall

Children £3 Adults £5 Tickets in advance

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hope to see you there

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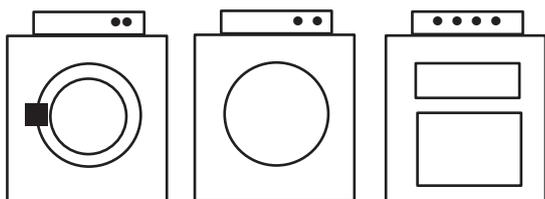
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MarchamCentre—good progress in evidence!

Site work to build the new MarchamCentre has made excellent progress in February. New electricity supplies have been laid in, ground preparation work has progressed, drain systems are being installed and site offices have arrived in the compound. Progress will accelerate now as the site gets into top gear.



In parallel, MCG trustees and committees are working to progress business plans, operation plans and details of fitting requirements. We will continue to keep people in Marcham updated regularly on progress and we are happy to answer any questions you may have about this important project for our community.

Burns Supper



Our fund-raising Burns Supper on 9th February was a big success—we were fully booked and enjoyed a fun evening of food, drink, traditional speeches and entertainment. We also raised the very useful sum of £1610 for MCG funds towards fitting out the new MarchamCentre—so a massive ‘thank-you’ goes to all of you who supported the event and to all on the team who worked and contributed up front and behind the scenes.

Look out for the Great Marcham Weekend community event and fund-raiser on 27-29th September, jointly with Marcham Moldova Lifeline - more details elsewhere in MAD News.

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

Where were you on Saturday 9th February? Thanks to the fabulous organising skills of Denise and Jim Asher and the willing co-operation of neighbours and friends many of us were celebrating the birthday of Robert Burns. We had the haggis piped in, there were wee drams to whet our lips, music, dancing and verses fitting to the occasion, merriment and community spirit throughout. Come next year to celebrate in our New Community Hall for which we raised a fair few pounds! *Thank you for a memorable evening. Appreciative Participant (name and address supplied)*

MarchamCentre—good progress in evidence!

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ABCD Film Society



ABCD Film Society's March films. Admission £6 (£3 full-time school and college students) except March 7 (£7.50 / £3.50). Email or phone us for a free copy of our 2018/9 programme booklet.

March 7 ABCD SPECIAL EVENT (1) – SILENT CLASSIC WITH LIVE PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT: THE OYSTER PRINCESS.

Classic silent comedy made by Ernst Lubitsch, one of the very greatest directors. Very modern for all its 100 years – "a comedy of manners, starring a quartet of characters who possess precisely none" -sensesofcinema.com. With National Film Theatre pianist, Andrew Youdell (Germany 1919, 58 mins, Cert PG). Plus supporting silent short film. Please note: **This screening will take place at St Nicolas Church, Market Place, Abingdon, at 7.30pm.**

March 14 ABCD SPECIAL EVENT (2) – FILM STARS DON'T DIE IN LIVERPOOL.

The story of Hollywood film noir superstar, Gloria Grahame's time in the UK in the latter part of her life, starring Annette Bening and Jamie Bell. "tremendous warmth and tenderness" (Peter Bradshaw, theguardian.com). (UK, 2015, 105 mins, Cert 15). Subject to her professional demands the film's assistant art director, Susannah Brough, will be present to talk about her work on the film.

March 21 THE BIG HEAT - one of most famous films noirs, starring - who else? - Gloria Grahame, directed by the legendary director Fritz (Metropolis) Lang. "lines such as 'I've been rich and I've been poor. Believe me, rich is better' reveal the vulnerability that always made Grahame's bad girls so human" (David Parkinson, bfi.org.uk) (USA, 1953, 90 mins, Cert 15).

March 28 ABCD SPECIAL EVENT (3) – COLD WAR. Nominated for Best Foreign Film Oscar, this film by Pawel Pawlikowski tells the story of a relationship against the background of post-war Poland as well as Western Europe with an underlying theme of a variety of musical styles. "Whatever they endure ... the film retains a quiet humour throughout" (Geoffrey Macnab, independent.co.uk) (Poland/France/UK, 2018, 88 mins, Cert 15). Dr Hubert Zawadzki, joint author of 'A Concise History of Poland', returns to ABCD to introduce and discuss the film

All screenings at 7.45pm at Abingdon Health & Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, OX14 3GD.

www.abfilms.org.uk or info@abfilms.org.uk or 01235 521976 or 01235 522163 Registered charity No. 292723

If you like to enjoy a really eclectic mix of films, why not try us out?

The beginning of a year is a time when TV programmes and the newspapers contain articles about getting back in shape after Christmas – eating more healthily and taking more exercise. Many of your readers will have diabetes so this is particularly important for them but they also have to manage their medications as well as their diet and exercise. We know that this can be difficult, especially in chilly winter weather when salads seem less appetising and we feel we need something more substantial. Our booklet, 'Diabetes – Everyday Eating' will help people to get back on track with their meals and provides inexpensive menus for breakfast, lunch and evening meals. There are 28 days of menus which help people to know what they can eat, rather than what they can't!

We also have a booklet, 'Diabetes and Exercise' to help people with diabetes. We hope these booklets will make living with diabetes a little easier for people with diabetes and their families.

We are happy to send you a copy of 'Diabetes – Everyday Eating' and 'Diabetes and Exercise' free of charge. Just contact us on 01604 622837, e-mail jenny@iddinternational.org or write to IDDT, PO Box 294, Northampton NN1 4XS



ATOM Festival 2019

more diverse, more inspirational and more science!

This year's ATOM Festival of Science & Technology takes place between **March 16th – 27th 2019**, in a variety of locations in and around Abingdon.

The festival – now in its 6th year – offers a wider range of events and activities than ever, from high profile speakers (such as BBC science presenter Dr Hannah Fry) to stand-up science comedy, science fiction authors, water rocket competitions and much more. There is a whole host of free, hands-on science activities for all ages, with the Science Dome (Sat March 16) and the legendary Science Market (Sat March 23) taking place on the Abingdon market square.

On Sunday March 24 dozens of scientists, performers, companies and research organisations will take over the Yang Science Centre at Abingdon School, in an awesome Family Science Fair. The response from the hundreds of people attending last year was incredible, and this year it is bigger and better than ever. The finale is a free science show entitled 'More than You Can See'.

ATOM could not take place without the incredible support of volunteers, scientists and sponsoring organisations, which this year include Oxford Instruments and UKAEA.

Feeling inspired? Want to know more? You can view the entire programme and book tickets at www.atomfestival.org.uk – and remember, a Festival Pass gets you into almost everything and is fantastic value at just £20. For last-minute news and developments, be sure to follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram by searching @ATOMSciFest

Science and technology affects every aspect of our lives, so get involved in ATOM, support the science community – and get closer to the fantastic science and technology on our doorstep!

www.atomfestival.org.uk



COTHILL NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

Cothill National Nature Reserve has had an exciting and busy winter period, with the local volunteer group, external volunteer groups and local contractors, working hard to maintain this internationally important Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

So, in way of an update, visitors to the area may have noticed extensive tree work, particularly on The Ruskin Reserve portion of the Nature Reserve.

Along the western edge of the Ruskin Reserve, old hazel stools have been coppiced. Coppicing involves cutting tree and scrub branches back to the main stump (called the coppice stool), which has a number of benefits to nature conservation. These include, extending the life of the tree by promoting vigorous re-growth and preventing the build-up of deadwood, as well as creating open light areas: more light and heat can reach the woodland floor, encouraging ground flora growth, which in turn is beneficial for pollinators.

Along the southern edge of the Ruskin Reserve, careful, selective felling has taken place. This felling work will allow rare invertebrates and flora, which depend on the fen being warm, open and sunny, to thrive. In addition, this felling work has created lots of deadwood habitat piles on site, which have extensive benefits for invertebrates associated with deadwood.

With spring round the corner, we are all very excited to see how our hard work on the Reserve this winter will impact the flora diversity on display in the warmer months ahead.

Natural England Reserve Manager **STEPHANIE WILSON**

For queries, please contact enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk / 0300 060 3900

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ED VAIZEY WRITES...

Highways England and the Secretary of State for Transport have been examining options for the location of the new **Oxford-Cambridge Expressway**, and have narrowed it down to one broad corridor. Within this, there are up to one hundred specific routes the road could take. Highways England will be engaging with communities and local organisations along the corridor throughout 2019 and 2020 before announcing their preferred route in Autumn 2020. There is also an opportunity here to include the A420 in the plans, which would take the route to the West of Oxford and add connectivity to Swindon, a considerable bonus. I also hope that this road can help relieve pressure on the A34, which is not currently fit for purpose and badly needs better infrastructure to support it.



I've no doubt that like me many of you were shocked and surprised to see an article in the 6th February edition of the Herald titled 'Oxfordshire physiotherapy private contract fiasco exposed in full.' I have been trying for some time to lead efforts to coordinate between the different health care managers and providers, hosting roundtable meetings and leading discussions on how to move forward in providing the correct services that residents require. Therefore I'll continue to lobby hard locally and in Parliament for better healthcare. I am meeting Ministers in the Department of Health and Social Care to discuss these important issues and will continue to engage locally as well.

Constituency Visits It was a great pleasure to plant a tree as part of the Woodlands Trust Commonwealth Canopy Project at the Sylva Foundation and receive a tour of their fantastic establishment. I've also met recently with a delegation from local parish councils to discuss improvements to the A420, and attended a working session of 'Didcot First' at Milton Park to hear updates about the local economy, businesses and community actions.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage and Didcot (Conservative)
www.vaizey.com

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Last month, I asked people to respond to my dilemma of how I should react to being asked to keep quiet on briefings that I had received on the impact of a No Deal Brexit on Oxfordshire.. Events have overtaken my concern. First, as a result of leaks from all layers of Government, there is now very little that is not already in the public domain. Secondly, on March 1st. there is now to be a briefing of all 63 County Councillors at OCC on the impact of Brexit on our County. Thirdly, the data is changing almost daily. I very much hope that the future will be a little clearer by the time I have to write my next article – but I am far from confident.

On a much more cheerful note, I want to congratulate the village of Marcham for its determination, its resilience and its patience – all of which I am confident are about to be rewarded through the delivery of the long awaited Anson Field project. For a village that has had no community centre for many years, it is remarkable how strong the sense of community is in Marcham. New residents have commented again and again how welcoming people are, and how much goes on in the village. Thanks to the enormous hard work of a group of residents with very different interests and skills, but with the common desire to get the best for the village, residents, new and old, will very soon be able to celebrate the building of brand new facilities in the heart of the village including

1. One of the best Community Halls in the area
2. Modern, well-equipped sporting facilities in the heart of the village
3. A modern, purpose-built Nursery School building
4. And an Anson Trust with a secure financial foundation – able to perform the function for which the Anson Sisters set it up – providing grants for village activities.

The rest of the world may sometimes seem to be falling to pieces, but for all its rapid growth, its traffic and its air quality issues, Marcham residents have reason to be very proud of their village.

RICHARD WEBBER Cllr OCC SC & Marcham Division.
Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Climate Emergency Motion

"The unprecedented rate of global warming is melting the polar ice caps, raising sea levels and undermining food and water security for many of the world's peoples. Action has been too slow, because economics has trumped physics. Now emergency action is the only rational response."

A few weeks ago, Richard and I went to Oxford Town Hall to hear speakers from around the globe speaking passionately about climate change and how it has become very urgent that we all take more action. We now know that the Paris Agreement of 2016, with its target to limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5° Celsius, is not ambitious enough. We need to get it down to zero, and ideally even better, if we are to avoid the disasters already mentioned. And we only have 12 years before it becomes too late! It is up to our local councils to put in policies and strategies which will encourage businesses, institutions, organisations, ordinary people as well as councils themselves to change habits to make a real difference to their personal carbon footprint and, hopefully, to encourage more councils and the government to take positive actions. Armed with plenty of information, I enthusiastically discussed with my colleagues the idea of putting forward a motion at full council, urging the Vale to sign up to the Climate Emergency, and on 13th February this motion was passed almost unanimously. So, what has been agreed? In brief, the Vale Council has pledged the following:

- 1) To join other councils in declaring a Climate Emergency;
- 2) To seek confirmation of the Government's intention to work with local government on climate change strategies;
- 3) To update policies and strategies to reduce our impact wherever possible ... this will include amending templates to include environmental impact;
- 4) To look at cost and availability of suitable training for members and officers to promote carbon neutral policies;
- 5) To work positively with partners across the district, county and wider to deliver carbon reductions;
- 6) To bring to council a progress report on the council's Climate Change Strategy and Carbon Management Plan in Autumn 2019, with information about how to adopt an early carbon neutral target in the Vale.

This is a big step for our council to take, and they join other councils like Bristol City, South Cambridgeshire, Manchester, all of whom have pledged to work towards zero carbon emissions.

You may wonder how we can make any difference to this vast global problem. But remember from little acorns grow great, big oak trees! If everybody makes a concerted effort to reduce carbon emissions, it will start to make a real difference, not least by setting an example to others. We can take such actions as changing our cars to electric ones; make sure our new buildings are carbon neutral; choose products which are sourced locally or close to Britain to avoid distant travel; walk, cycle or take the bus whenever possible and so on.

We hold the future of our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren in our hands. We do have a climate emergency and it is scary. As a 15 year old girl said,

"I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if your house is on fire. Because it is."

CATHERINE WEBBER
Cllr VWHDC - DC for Marcham and Shippon
01235 534001 or Webbercatherine1@gmail.com



Protesters in Bonn Square, Oxford

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THINGS TO DO

**Fyfield and Tubney Churches
Jumble Sale
Saturday 23rd March 2019
2.00 pm
Southmoor Village Hall
Free Entry
Refreshments**

**If you are able to help on the day or have jumble for
us then please contact
Sarah Macelvogue on 01865 390 097 or
Rosemary Kitto on 01865 390 466
or at rosemarykitto@gmail.com**

**Are you looking for something new to do, or a way of getting
together with other people with similar interests?
Come along to the Clubs and Societies Day on
16th March at Abingdon Guildhall
see www.abingdon.gov.uk for more details**

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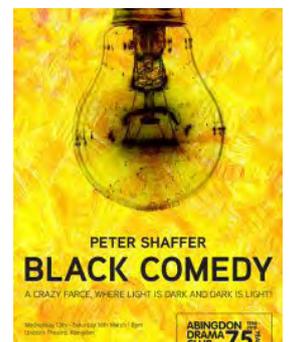
Black Comedy

By Peter Schaffer
Directed by Susi Dalton

**Wednesday 13th -
Saturday 16th March
Doors 7pm Performance 8pm**

**Tickets available from:
The Bookstore, The Abingdon
Precinct (15 Bury St)
Tickets: £10, £8 concessions
(60+, students, ADC members)
Email: tickets@unicornboxoffice.org.uk
Telephone: 0845 4636638
enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com
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Neighbourhood Team Newsletter for Marcham from Rich Osborn

Please follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale and

Twitter @tvpsouthandvale for regular updates from the South and Vale neighbourhood teams. Sign up to our alerts system at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk to receive information related to crime in your area.



Priority 1 – Burglary We are currently working with members of the Community Action Group and Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators in an attempt to make more and more areas Smartwater streets and villages. Work is ongoing in South Hinksey, Botley, Cumnor, Radley and Kennington.

There was a burglary in North Hinksey Lane overnight between 29th and 30th January where entry has been gained by smashing a patio door. If you have any information and can help at all please call 101 and quote 43190031194.

A property in Hamels Lane, Boars Hill was broken into between 31st December and 2nd February. Entry was forced to the rear of the property and jewellery was taken. Smartwater and crime prevention was issued throughout the street as a result.

Priority 2 – Violence There was an instance of disorder outside the Blue Boar Public House on 19th January. Two males were arrested and released under investigation. The team are working closely with the town's Pubwatch in order to reduce instances of violence and ensure a safe environment for those drinking responsibly.

Priority 3 – Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Two young men were interviewed in connection with criminal damage that had occurred on Friday 18th January in Queen St. The CCTV operator observed them being anti-social and PCSOs responded. Acceptable Behaviour Contracts will be issued alongside sanctions from the Youth Offending Team.

Abingdon NHPT, Oxford NHPT and the council are working to combat anti-social behaviour and street drinking in Botley. If you have information that may assist, please get in touch as we are working towards imposing Criminal Behaviour Orders for those responsible.

Offenders brought to Justice

- Lewis Felton, 29, of Deer Walk, Oxford has been convicted of burglary after targeting an address in Garford in an attempt to steal high value vehicles. Felton was remanded in custody by the court and he will have appeared at Oxford Crown Court on 19th February for sentencing.
- A 38 year old male from Nottingham was arrested on suspicion of committing theft from a victim on Turner Road, Abingdon. The male has been bailed pending further investigation.

What else have we been up to?

- PCSO Blood and PC Barraclough attended the Abingdon Shopwatch and Pubwatch AGMs. These are excellent opportunities for us to work closely in partnership with licensed premises, shops and businesses in a bid to deter and disrupt criminal offences and anti-social behaviour.
- On Monday 4th February the team held a 'Day of Action' in Abingdon town centre in light of several purse/handbag thefts. The team were at the Monday Market handing out leaflets, purse bells and purse chains to members of the community. Banks and charity shops were also visited to highlight the issue. The day was aimed at raising awareness of such offences and trying to ensure people keep their belongings as safe as possible.
- A talk was carried out on Monday 4th February at Thameside Primary School for the reception class covering 'What the Police Do' and providing education for the children around the role of the Police.
- A presentation is planned for years 10 and 11 at the Unicorn School in Abingdon on Sexting and Child Sexual Exploitation.
- A Licensing Operation took place in Abingdon on 26th January. The team worked with Pubwatch at local pubs and we staged a condition of entry period at the Punch Bowl and the Black Swan. People were swabbed on entry to look for traces of drugs.
- Drug swabbing has been carried out at licensed premises across the area's towns and villages and future operations will target those premises with high readings...

Contact us:

E-mail: AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
 Twitter: @tvpsouthandvale
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale
 Phone: 101
 Website: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

**National Trust: Abingdon & District Association
 2.30pm Tuesday March 19th, Trinity Church Hall**

On Tuesday March 19 Trevor Rowley will talk about Oxfordshire Castles at 2.30pm in Trinity Church Hall, Conduit Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DB. Oxfordshire is not a county normally associated with medieval castles, however there are well over one hundred in the county. The castles of Oxford and Wallingford are of particular importance and marked the first phase of the Norman Conquest of England. They were followed by castles such as Deddington which were involved in the redistribution of land from Saxon to Norman lords. In the twelfth century dozens of castles were built by the new Norman elite and evidence of these is to be found throughout the county. In the later Middle Ages many of these castles were abandoned, but a few survived into the era of the country house and are still occupied today. Trevor is a historian and archaeologist who has published extensively on Landscape history and the Normans. He is a wonderful speaker and this talk promises to be really interesting. We do ask a contribution of £3 for non-Abingdon & District National Trust members, but you can join on the day. For more information, ring Ruth on 01235 524119.



Taking Stock



I'm thinking again about my own habits, which seems to be a regular thing for me during the fresh newness of the year so far. Somehow, I notice myself thinking of new ways of living, working, gardening. At times they all feel like one of the same thing, but my aim is always a healthy package and balance.

This year I'm keeping my desk clearer of clutter, taking my laptop out with me during the day when I can, so I can work on the go, in some fascinating locations. By working on my laptop at my desk during the day, it's so easy to keep working on it well into the evening.

I'm finding this is already having benefits for my wider life and my work. OK, I'm getting less done, in some ways, but it's more sustainable. Moving around to work, moves ideas and perspectives around I'm certainly finding. The quality of my output looks to be of a higher standard already, and more focused.

What's all this got to do with gardening? Well, I've been involved in gardening professionally for over 30 years now, and I'm intrigued how many of the gardens I've seen actually give an insight into the owner's personality, considerations and life in general. Whether we ever own our garden shall be the subject of another article.

So, when planning your gardening approach during the coming season, try a less cluttered effort with more focus planting schemes. Try things in new places. Maybe change where the seats and viewing points are. See if standing and looking at your garden from a new angle brings any new perspectives.

We get into habits in life and how we garden. It's good to stand back and review the bigger picture.

Life's for living and gardening is for enjoying.

Happy Gardening!

Stuart Mabbutt

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

Stuart started writing for MADNews in March 2000 - see page 5 for an excerpt of his first article ED

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Welcome to March! How time flies! What a beautiful time of the year this is - spring flowers, longer and hopefully warmer days, and life is re-energised in the natural world! Those of us who are gardeners can look forward to planning what to plant and where, if we have not already begun that process weeks ago!

Over Christmas Sylvia and I were given an Amaryllis bulb, and in the past week or so, it has been growing by more than an inch per day! What a joy! However, it gives me pause for thought: what about our own growth - not physically, as that normally happens naturally, - but in the realm of our spiritual life? Do we allow ourselves to be in a place where we can take in the nutrients of the spiritual life? Do we deliberately place ourselves in the environment where our innermost being can flourish in relationship with God?

This month in All Saints' we are beginning a new Alpha course that explores the heart of our relationship with God, in a relaxed small group context, with no strings attached. It will be a great place to allow for spiritual growth, amongst fellow explorers. If you would like to take part in this, please contact me, or Tamsin, our Parish Administrator, and we will provide the details of when the exploration is beginning. We welcome people with little or no faith, or who are searching, or simply wanting to renew and deepen the faith that they already enjoy.

In All Saints' we also offer other opportunities for spiritual growth. For example, we run regular home groups in which we can enjoy each others company, share our experiences and talk about the spiritual issues concerning our walk with God. Then we have our regular Sundays services, and through these, offer different approaches and styles of corporate worship to suit a variety of tastes, from contemporary to traditional. You are warmly invited to give these a try - even if you have not crossed a church threshold for ages.

Jesus warmly invites us to come to Him, whatever state of spiritual health we may be in. 'Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' Being able to 'offload' to the One who holds us in love is deeply releasing, and health-giving. Knowing God's welcome, His forgiveness, the embrace of His love and acceptance is liberating!

So, in the coming weeks, as we look forward towards the joy of Easter early in April, may we allow ourselves room and space for spiritual growth, and allow the true beauty of our innermost being to shine!

With my warmest gratitude and greetings,

Richard

Revd Canon Richard Zair

Gospel of Mark – LIVE!

A dramatized recital by Gerald Osbourne,
with Colin Heber-Percy

Thursday 11th April, 7pm

All Saints' Church, Marcham

Free entry – all welcome

The performance will be in aid of Send a Cow.

PANGCAKE FAMILY FRIDAY

1st March
5.30-7pm
All Saints' Church

Bring your whole family!
Fun activities
Pancakes



Also coming up:

Ash Wednesday Holy Communion, 7.30pm at St. John's Church, Kingston Bagpuize.

St George's Day service
April 28th in the afternoon

Regular Sunday services at 10am & 6pm **Youth Drop-in** 5.30-8pm on Wednesdays **Wednesday mid-week communion, 10.30am** in Duffield Place Lounge. **Village Cafe**, Wednesdays 12pm at the Baptist Hall **Friday Club**, 5.30-6.30pm at All Saints' Church (primary-age)

Contacts:

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