

Marcham Community Group

Marcham Community Group would like to thank everyone who attended the public meeting at Marcham Primary School on Friday 22nd of October at which plans for a community facility were presented, and for the useful discussion, comments, feedback and offers of help that followed. 108 people attended the meeting, of whom 80 provided written feedback on the night. We are delighted to announce that the support and response was very positive - over 99% supported the proposals (80% without reservations). The Group has taken this as a clear mandate to proceed with its plans. In addition, generous donations from those who came on the night covered the cost of the meeting with a healthy surplus to kick-start our fundraising efforts.

It is now essential that we capitalise on the momentum from the meeting and progress the Marcham Community Group's plan to the first major stage.

**Watch
This
Space!**

What is the Marcham Community Group's plan?

Full details of the Marcham Community Group's plans will be found on www.marcham.org - going live soon.

In summary, the Group intends to offer another option for the future of community facilities in Marcham. Following the announcement that the Anson Trust would be seeking to develop part of the sports field to pay for the development of a new community facility, a new group was established to explore another option.

The group aims to

- Retain the field in its entirety and keep it as a recreational facility in the heart of the village;
- Provide a new purpose-built community building - which is developed, planned and built in full consultation.
- Manage the facility once built;
- Develop a sustainable business plan for the facility to maintain it for future generations.

What's next?

The first stage following the public meeting is to start the process of setting up Marcham Community Group as a Charitable Company. The Group has been hard at work and is preparing the necessary legal documentation and details needed to meet Company Law and Charity Law requirements, which we hope to complete in December. We are taking specialist legal advice to protect the best interests of the community in the long term.

After this, we will be looking to produce a full, publicly available, consultation plan which explains how we are going to talk to you about our project in more detail. There will also be a fundraising plan in development, and we will be coming to you for your ideas and help in supporting this.

We will continue the process of public consultation over the coming months to seek to ensure that we understand the needs and concerns of everyone in the community.

How to become involved and help?

Fundraising will remain an essential part of building and maintaining a community facility. Here are some ideas to help:

- Pledge a donation to the Marcham Community Group – we will start collecting funds when we are formally set up and we have opened a bank account for the Group.
- Once we are set up as a formal charitable company, you could pick up a Waitrose 'Community Matters' leaflet and nominate the Group to benefit from up to £1000 each month. More details will follow later.
- Invite some friends around for dinner to discuss the ideas and explore what you want from a community facility and use it as an opportunity to raise some money as well.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Marcham resident Alice (Lal) Campion celebrated her 100th Birthday at home with many friends and family on 13th November 2010

Alice was born in the East End of London, the second of five sisters. Talking to her now and her memories is a century full of our family history. She even has clear memories of her father returning from France in the First World War! Alice was not a well child and spent several months in hospital, a testament to her constitution is that she is now 100 years old.

Her mother died in 1931 when Alice was twenty and soon after she married Charles Campion who had been her childhood sweetheart. Life for most was not easy in the inter-war years but Alice and Charles had a happy marriage but they were not blessed with children. The Second World War saw Charles in the Navy and stationed in Malta where in subsequent years Alice and Charles enjoyed many holidays with the friends he had made there.

Alice first came to Marcham in the 1940s when her family was evacuated from London during the Blitz. She and husband Charles moved to Stanford-in-the Vale in the 1950s to run the local pub "The Prince" which they eventually converted into a family home that they named 'Campdene House'. There has always been a close relationship between Alice and her sisters and this was never more evident when her elder sister Eliza (Lilie) and her husband Ted

with their son Keith came to live with them in Stanford-in-the-Vale. The youngest of the five sisters, Violet (Vi), had married and moved to Dry Sandford, so there has always been family close by.

Alice and Charles moved back to Marcham in the 1970s where she was close to not only her own family but Charles' family as well. She had always taken an active part in village life in Stanford in the Vale and this continued in Marcham. When both Alice and Violet were widowed it seemed only natural that as sisters that they shared a house and this is where they are today. Nieces and nephews keep in contact so that the family links are still there.

On the day of her 100th Birthday Alice received a letter of congratulations from the Queen, and from Pam Ayres, a close neighbour and family friend in Stanford-in-the Vale, a personal message and signed copy of her latest book. The day was also marked by the Chairman of the Parish Council, David Walton, who presented Alice with a bouquet of flowers.

Alice has one other sister 'Florence' (Flo) surviving. She lives just outside Melbourne, Australia and a video link was set up on the day so that all the family could be together even if they were half the world away. To show how the five sisters were united Flo, on her last visit to England, gave each of them a gold chain and had all the five girls in a circle and they each fastened the chain of the next. To this day they all wear these chains with pride and love.

see cover for pictures of Alice through the years