

Down End House, Chieveley, Berkshire,  
RG20 8TG Telephone (01635) 248334  
12 March 2010

Dear Editor

I am writing to you in response to two recent letters in the Marcham & District News, from Mr H Logan (March issue) , and from an unnamed correspondent (November 2009 issue).

Mr Logan is correct in saying that the land in question (of which I am owner) is fenced and that the only basis of public access is by my permission. It is not, however, right to suggest that this is a new state of affairs: the land has been fenced off for many, many years. It has always been necessary to fence the field completely as it has always been used for grazing animals, and in recent years there has also been an electric fence within the fixed fence during the grazing season. I have recently carried out renovations and repairs to the fence, particularly on the west side.

Although it is correct to say that permission is revocable, and that I have been asking people to seek my permission before walking on any of my land in Marcham, I have never revoked any of the permissions which I have granted (over 60 families).

The reason why permission is necessary is that there is no public right of way or any right of public access on the land. I need to manage the land, and also to cover adequately the issues of risk and liability in case of an accident.

The land is grazing land and has to be stocked. That is its primary purpose, so any access has to defer to the need for stock retention and management.

I have no current intention of stopping everyone walking on the land (as suggested by Mr Logan), but I would have to reconsider that policy in the event of any actual claims being made.

Until that time, local people are welcome to walk there with my permission, provided they apply to me first.

I have no intention to dedicate any public right of way on any of my land at Marcham. That has been the policy of successive owners and occupiers before me, so any previous public access which may have taken place cannot have been as of right.

The letter in the November issue (writer unnamed) gives a misleading impression about past access to the orchard, which would have been physically impossible for any member of the public. There was stringent security around the site because it was used for scientific research. The adjacent bridleway is of course open to the public. (The orchard was burned because it was seriously infected and therefore a danger to other fruit trees.)

Yours sincerely,  
**JOHN DUFFIELD**

If you wish to apply for permission to access Duffield land, you should write to: John Duffield, c/o Sheepstead Farm, Sheepstead Rd, Marcham, Abingdon OX13 6QG

See [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk) for more details  
May 2010

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**Cemetery**

Mrs. Jeanette Franklin who has served on the Burial Committee representing Frilford since 1992 has moved to Dorchester and has therefore resigned from the committee work. We would like to thank Mrs. Franklin for all her hard work and voluntary efforts over the years. Her contribution and support has been very much appreciated. We look forward to welcoming her replacement in due course. He or She will be appointed by Frilford parish at its annual meeting of electors.

A reminder that in order to help keep the refuse in sections suitable for appropriate recycling and disposal would everyone who uses the bins in the Cemetery please put flowers, foliage and green items in one bin and plastic wrappings, pots etc in the other bin. This year, in particular, there seems to have been a great increase in the activity of moles in the Cemetery. The Committee has employed a contractor to try and deal with this problem. He has made several visits and hopefully has been successful.

**Arboretum - Spinney**

The small wooded area at the Southern end of the Arboretum has been cleared of dead wood and generally tidied. The contractors have done an excellent job of clearing this area. The logs produced have been left in a woodpile in a shady corner to encourage wildlife.

**X15 RH Transport Bus Service**

RH transport has agreed to at least consider re-routing the X15 around the village again when next reviewing the service later in the year. This is good news, should it be possible to re-route the service, for those who otherwise would have to walk to either of the two stopping places on the A415.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 12 May 2010 at 7.30pm. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.

**Clerk to the Council:** Mrs. L. Martin,  
90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833  
clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk  
[www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Plant Sale :**

**Sat 22 May 10am - 12 noon**

Sunningwell & District Gardening Club are holding their annual plant sale in the village hall. Great selection of flowers and veg., cakes and refreshments.



If you have surplus plants you would like to donate I can take them over on Friday. Contact Greta Goulding 01865 391592.

Dear Editor

May I thank everybody who turned out to help with the **Litter Blitz**. A band of willing people make a huge difference to the village and over 20 bags of rubbish were collected. May we also appeal for people to dispose of rubbish through the correct channels and not just throw things into hedges or onto to footpaths. We would also remind users of the bottle bank in Howard Cornish Road to only leave the correct recycling in the bins and not leave rubbish behind them for others to clean up. Marcham looks good so let's all be proud of our environment and keep it clean for all to enjoy.



**A415:** A meeting has been held recently involving all the parishishes along the A415 with the objective of forming a joint group to promote an alternative to the current A 415 route which is deemed unsuitable as a major East – West route. It is proposed to hold a meeting with the County Council and local government officials to speak with one voice and promote a serious alternative to divert HGVs off our roads.

**MALCOLM DENTON**

**Chairman Marcham District Council**

Dear Editor

Thank you Brownies! This year the daffs planted all around the village by the Brownies and their leaders some years ago, have seemed particularly colourful. A lovely boost after our tough winter.

Equally heart-warming was finding a Dad and his 3 young children armed with litter pick-ups, working their way round the Anson Field during the Spring Litter Blitz on 17th April.

**GRETA GOULDING**

**Marcham and District Ex-servicemen's Club, North Street, Marcham, OX13 6NG**

**Notice to all life members**

All life members including widows and widowers of members are reminded that they must register in writing to the secretary at the above address, or register at the club each and every year they wish to remain on the list of current life members. The closing date of this registration is April 1st. each year. Due to the late display of this notice, for this year 2010 only, the date of registration is to be extended to 1st July 2010.

Please note that those failing to respond by July 1st 2010 will no longer be considered members and their names will be removed from the current register of life members.

Chairman 26th March 2010