

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Cow Lane Pony Paddocks

The Parish Council is inviting tenders for letting for one year, the two pony paddocks at the corner of Cow Lane and Sheepstead Road. If anyone is interested in either or both plots, would they please contact the Clerk stating the amount of the tender. N.B. The Council is not obliged to accept any or the highest tender.

Annual meeting for Electors in the Parish

This year the annual meeting for all electors in the parish will take place on Wednesday 26th May in the Institute at 7.30 p.m. This parish meeting may, by law, discuss all parish affairs and pass resolutions about them. This is an opportunity for electors in the parish to raise any items relating to parish matters. The Parish Council, the District Councillor and County Councillor will give a report on what has happened in local government and the parish over the past year. In addition Marcham CE Primary School and the Anson Trust too have been invited to participate and give up-to-date reports on their activities over the past year. Make a note in your diary of the date of this meeting.

Affordable Village Housing

Each household in the village should have received a questionnaire. These can either be posted free of charge to the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council in the envelope which came with the form, or placed in the box in the Post Office. A reminder that the deadline for responses is 15th April. Spare forms as well as those for registering on the District Council's housing list can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

Best Kept Garden Competition

A reminder that the competition is being judged this month.

Allotments

Following the clearing of allotments last year, there has been an increasing interest in growing fruit and vegetables and the number of tenants renting plots has increased significantly. Allotments which were previously unworked now have tenants. The Council would take this opportunity to remind all tenants of the main terms of the tenancy agreements namely: a) The Allotment Garden shall be kept in a clean, decent and good condition and properly cultivated, and shall use it only for, the production of fruit, vegetables and flowers for domestic consumption by himself and his family; b) No nuisance or annoyance shall be caused by the Tenant to any tenant of any other part of the Allotments provided by the Council. Now that the digging season is getting underway, the Council would ask that if anyone other than the tenant ie. other family members or children of the allotment tenant visit the plot, then they should remain on their own plot and not trespass and interfere with the use of the adjacent plots.

Community Award

The Council is conscious that there are many good and kind people who voluntarily give their time and energy working within the community and making improvements for the benefit of others. The Council is considering starting an annual award scheme for people who have made a real difference to the community. Look out for further details next month.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 14th April, 2004 at 7.30 p.m. in the residents' lounge Duffield Place.

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Rd, Marcham Tel: 01865 391833

LONDON MARATHON

Gavin Sharrock will be taking part in the London Marathon on Sunday 18 April. He will be running to raise money for the Miscarriage Association. If anyone would like to a form to sponsor him, please contact him at 7 Orchard Way, Marcham or phone 391455.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS

Distraction burglars and rogue tradesmen call at several homes before they strike and do not stop until they find a potential victim. These bogus callers appear credible by claiming to be Utility workers, Council officials, or even Police officers. They are persuasive and articulate, easily talking their way into people's homes, where they will then steal money and valuables. Current research shows that older people are their main targets. Lines to watch out for include "I'm here to check the pipes", "I need to turn the water off", "I'm interested in buying books/antiques", "Can I borrow a pen/paper to write a note", "I am from Age Concern, can I take down the number of your pension book". Neighbourhood Watch advises that when answering the door: stop and think are you expecting anybody; put on the chain before opening the door; check and ask for identification. Close the door and call any organisation involved. If in doubt don't let them in, if they do not go away call the police on 0845 8 505 505. If you have information about someone you suspect as a burglar then ring **CRIMESTOPPERS** on 0800 555111.

Sheds/Garages

There have been a series of shed and garage break ins in the Didcot and Wallingford area. Ideas from neighbourhood watch to make your shed and its contents secure are:

1. Ensure that your shed is situated in an open, visible position.
2. Install security lighting.
3. Lock tools, cycles, mopeds, motorbikes and lawnmowers inside the shed. If you chain larger items together it makes it more difficult for the thief to remove them.
4. Security mark valuable items.
5. Fit good quality locks and door and window hardware.
6. Replace ordinary screws with non-return screws or coach bolts.
7. Secure the door with a strong pad-bar or with a hasp and staple.
8. Use a close-shackled padlock.

**Make a note of the new POLICE telephone number:
0845 8 505 505 (for non-emergency calls)**

VILLAGE FACILITIES PROJECT

The Anson Trustees would like to report on the very positive and successful meeting held with the Charity Commission in March. The Charity Commission has given approval to the Trustees to modernise the existing trust by forming a new incorporated company. This process will create the opportunity to broaden the base of the trust by allowing a wider range of people from the community to sit on the board of directors.

Equally important, the Charity Commission have also given formal permission for the overall village facilities project scheme to proceed. As mentioned in last month's issue of MADnews, the order of works for the overall project is firstly to proceed with the reduction and refurbishment of the Institute, followed by the housing development at the rear of the Institute, then the building of the new sports and community centre on the Anson Field, and lastly, by the upgrading of the footpath running between the new facility and the Institute site. The Trustees intend to start the work on the Institute by 1 September this year.

The embryo Development Group of Doug Colkin and the Trustees has been enlarged to include Geoff Dix, Malcolm Denton, Nick Lawrie and Trevor Hill, in readiness for the project progressing. Representatives from the Development Group will be meeting with architects to discuss the first stages of the project, and will also be providing a report on progress at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on the 26th May in the Institute.

THE ANSON TRUSTEES