

Dear Readers

Another packed issue this month, with a few items that have been waiting to be included for a little while. It is great to have such a choice of articles – keep the contributions coming!

Congratulations to our medal winner on the cover, I hope some of the glory will rub off on Marcham Tennis Association!

Next month will be the start of the Best Kept Village Competition but we don't need that as an excuse to Spring Clean and give all our villages a chance to gleam in the sunshine!

Until next time....



PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Meriel Lewis
8 Orchard Way
Marcham
Abingdon OX13 6PP
Tel: 01865 391725
Web site: www.madnews.co.uk
Email: editor@madnews.co.uk

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Please contact the editor

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Judith & Peter Fontaine
14 Tower Close
Marcham
Abingdon OX13 6PZ

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POLICE

PC Ben Peach
Tel: 0845 8 505 505

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Andrew Crawford
Tel: 01235 772851
Email: andycrawford@dial.pipex.com

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon
Jane Hanna
4 Charlton Road, Wantage OX12 8ER
Tel: 01235 772782
Email: janehanna@dial.pipex.com
For other councillors go to

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April 2005

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Best Kept Village Competition

Marcham this year is entering the best kept village competition. It has been commended in past competitions, and the intention this year is to try and improve the village's position in the results tables. The Council would ask everyone to co-operate by keeping the area immediately in front of his/her own property tidy. This should help enormously with the overall appearance of the village and we may even see Marcham as a winner. The first round of judging takes place between Saturday 30th April and Sunday 15th May. For those villages lucky enough to get through to the second round, judging takes place again between Saturday 28th May and Sunday 12th June.

County Council Elections 5th May, 2005 - Polling Station

As the Institute currently is not open to the public, the polling station for the County Council elections will be at the pavilion in the playing field, Morland Road. There is parking available for those who need to use their cars. Polling cards will be sent out in the usual way prior to the election. These will give the details of the polling station and the hours of opening. Should a general election be called for the same day, then second polling cards will be sent out, and the hours of poll will be extended.

Those residents not able to vote in person can do so by appointing a proxy or arrange for a postal vote. Those wishing to arrange to receive a postal vote or to appoint a proxy should contact the electoral registration section at the Vale of White Horse District Council, Abbey House, Abingdon. Tel: 01235 520202.

Annual Meeting for Electors

This will be held on Wednesday 18th May at 7.30 p.m. in Marcham Primary School. Representatives from Thames Water Utilities Ltd have been invited to be the guest speaker to give an update on the reservoir proposals. Thames Water and their agents are currently updating the plans and it is hoped that they will be in a position to attend the meeting.

Council Meetings - Public Participation

All Council meetings are open to the public. For those residents who have attended in the past the Chairman has usually asked at some point in the meeting if anyone wanted to bring anything to the attention of the Council. In future, for a trial period, the Council will have a specific slot on its Agenda for the public to speak. The time allowed for each person will be limited to 3 minutes with a maximum of 15 minutes set aside at each meeting. If you have matters for the Council then attend the meetings and have your say. The Council comprises

10 Councillors whose names and details are on the Council's noticeboard outside the Institute. If you cannot be at the meeting, then contact one of the elected Councillors or the Clerk who will be pleased to help.

New Police Beat Officer

P.C. Ben Peach has taken over from W.P.C. Debbie Allen as the local beat officer. He is a full time officer who has responsibility for the Marcham and Wootton beats. The Council looks forward to meeting him and welcoming him to the area. The non-emergency telephone number for leaving messages for P.C. Peach is 0845 8 505 505.

Neighbourhood Watch

Local neighbourhood watch co-ordinators have been advised of recent attempts of people requesting to purchase antiques and items of gold at the door. This is in fact a scam. Clearly there are professional dealers and sale rooms who can be approached should anyone wish to sell items. Residents should be cautious about dealing with anyone who calls at the door offering to buy antique objects.

Date of Next Meeting: Wed 13th March in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m. Clerk: Mrs L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham Tel: 01865 391833.

NEW DISHWASHER & COOKER

On behalf of Marcham Café I would like to thank the Parish Council for providing the funding to buy and fit a locally made commercial dishwasher to meet health and safety recommendations, and to the Marcham Charities for their donation of £200 which we have used towards a new cooker with a double oven. We are very grateful, thank you.

FRAN SIMMONS

HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS

Normal Day	Will be...
March	Easter 2005
Fri 25th Mon 28th Tue 29th Wed 30th Thur 31st	Tue 29th Wed 30th Thur 31st Fri 1st April Sat 2nd April
April	
Fri 1st Mon 4th Tue 5th Wed 6th Thur 7th Fri 8th	Mon 4th Tue 5th Wed 6th Thur 7th Fri 8th Sat 9th
May	May Day Holiday
Mon 2nd Tue 3rd Wed 4th Thur 5th Fri 6th	Tue 3 Wed 4th Thur 5th Fri 6th Sat 7th
May	Spring Holiday
Mon 30th Tue 31st Wed 1st Jun Thur 2nd Jun Fri 3rd Jun	Tue 18th Wed 19th Thur 2nd Jun Fri 3rd Jun Sat 4th Jun