

Dear Editor

Anson Trust, Community Facilities Project.

In response to the Anson Trust article in last months MADNews regarding the "Lack of Progress" on their Community Facilities Project" due to the threat of legal action. This is a long standing issue, and at a meeting on 25th May 2004, between the Trustees and The Ex-Servicemen's Club to discuss "Current Drawings/Plans for the Institute Site" it was minuted that the Club had objected to the plans that had been submitted, and that they felt it was incumbent on the Trustees to negotiate a settlement to enable the project to proceed. As a result of lack of action by the Trustees, the Club initiated legal action. The receipt of our Claim has now been acknowledged by the Central London County Court where a hearing will be heard in due course, unless a negotiated settlement can be reached.

SECRETARY, EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB

Dear Editor

We are grateful to you for informing us of the above letter.

In view of the impending court case and our desire to find a solution without going to court we do not feel it would be helpful to comment further at this stage.

Yours sincerely

JAMES ALLAN AND NEIL ROWE

for the Anson Trust Company

Dear Editor

I write as co-ordinator of the Marcham Café and user of the Anson Trust village hall(s). I wonder how many beneficiaries of the trust realise what is happening at present. There is a pending court case initiated by the Ex-Servicemen's Club in order to vary the proposals of the Anson Trustees and my concern is that there will be no winners other than the legal profession.

The Anson Trust wishes to sell the land behind the Institute and the back of the building, leaving the hall the same size, and car park reduced, in order to build a new facility on the Anson field.

The Ex-servicemen wish to keep the back end of the hall building and more of the car park so that the numbers of houses built is reduced from 6 or 7 to 4. They argue that the village wants to keep the Institute and most of the car park. Do its members own this decision? Please everyone give your views and inform both sides.

Court action is risking a great deal for both sides. If the Ex-servicemen win the court case the Anson trust are likely to have to sell the asset to pay legal costs. That would be the end of the Ex-servicemen's lease. A developer buying the Institute and land is

unlikely to have any regard for us, or the institute. Only the façade is listed and would need to remain. If the Anson Trust wins the financial damage will be considerable. At worst both sides risk losing everything.

When the café moved from the Institute, people had concerns, but most have found the new venue of the Sports and Social Club building an improvement in access, comfort, acoustics (one man said he could now hear the conversations around the table) and as caterers we find it much easier and less time consuming to do our job because the kitchen is immediately next to the hall.

Though the Anson trustees have acknowledged past mistakes, the recent trustees I believe have done their best to meet the objects of the trust. To maintain and preserve the hall in memory of the Anson sisters is not one of the requirements.

FRAN SIMMONS



Are you aged between 8-11 years old, looking for a fun packed evening once a week? If so your local cub pack needs you. We meet on Tuesday evenings from 6.30-8.00pm in the winter and 6.30-8.30pm in the summer. We look forward to seeing you soon. **BALOO** 5th Abingdon (Marcham) Cubs

MARCHAM EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Club on Tuesday 26th April 2005, commencing at 8p.m. All members are urged to attend to express their "Points of View" and elect Officers and Committee members for the coming year.

GARDENING CLUB

For more details about meetings, please contact Malcolm Skinner 07665 387275

STAGECOACH BUS 31/X31

Please note there has been a change to the timetable. Check before you travel by calling 01865 772250 or 0870 608 2 608 or www.stagecoachbus.com. There is a direct link to the timetable from www.madnews.co.uk or pick up a copy from the post office.

FOR SALE

HP Laserjet 6L Mono Laser Printer A4 size, light use only. Only two toner cartridges used. Excellent Condition. Bargain £25 ono. 01865 391961.

Chinese Rug. 100% wool pile, 6'x4' fringed. Pale green/blue background with multi-coloured pastel flowers and leaves. Condition as new, cost £290, accept £60 ono. 01865 391961.

AAF8 Abingdon Arts Festival
12/3/05 - 9/4/05
www.abingdonartsfestival.org.uk
Programme available from
Abingdon Library

BBOWT, the Local Wildlife Trust will hold a Spring Fair on Saturday 9th April 2005 at 10am - 3pm. This will be held in The Abbey Hall, Guildhall, Abingdon and also on the Market Square.



www.bbowl.org.uk

Home-made cakes, gifts, jewellery, clothes, china, books, toys & games and family-friendly activities. **Display of live owls.** All welcome, admission free.

BBOWT has many nature reserves in this area so we welcome the support of local people. Contact S Jarvis 01865 371297.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY WHIST?

Then why not come to the Abingdon Hospital League of Friends whist drive on the first Friday of each month, starting at 7 pm in the Day Hospital. Friendly company, good prizes and refreshments provided. All profits go to the hospital, so you can enjoy yourself and support a very good cause at the same time.

Skills for Families

- * Want some new ideas for playing with your baby?
- * Want to encourage your toddler to learn?
- * Want to help your child at school?
- * Not sure how to help with homework?
- * Wobbly about your own maths or English?

Join a Skills for Families course now! Find out more from Karen Fairfax-Cholmeley 01295 265427 or email karenfair@bancec.org.uk

It's fun, friendly and FREE!

LANDSCAPE & WILDLIFE WALKS

Leisurely walk through Oxfordshire investigating the landscape, history and wildlife of the former Royal Forest of Wychwood.

Meetings: 4
 Fee: £19.50
 Time: Tue 10.15am-12.45pm
 19 April to 10 May
 Contact: Chris Minay
 01235 550840