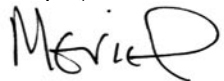


Dear Readers

Welcome to the new-look MADNews – with colour cover! There will still be black and white images inside the newsletter but I will select a few pictures each month to be printed on the cover – I am very grateful to the School for providing our first gallery. The Diary section will remain on the front so you can find it easily. I would really like to know what you think – so write and let me know. There are a lot of letters this month so some articles have been held over until January. Apologies to anyone who feels left out, but there is always next year!

I hope you all have a very merry and peaceful Christmas and don't forget the **deadline for the January issue is 15 December!**



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DEADLINES

Advertising: 5pm 15th month
Other copy: 5pm 20th month

NB There is no August issue
January deadline is 15th December

ADDITIONAL COPIES

These are available free from Marcham Post Office, Budgens at Frilford Service Station or the Editor.

NOTES The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team.

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To Friends and Neighbours
Thank you for your care and concern during my husband Len's illness and over the time of his death.
I appreciated it very much and feel supported by people in the village.
Thank You
Audrey Durrant

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Update on Reservoir

Thames Water has submitted its Strategic Business Plan to Ofwat outlining its investment requirements for the period 2005 to 2010. In August Ofwat issued its draft determination. The Environment Agency also commented on the water resources plan. Both of these statutory regulators endorsed the need for preparatory studies to be undertaken. Thames Water is currently having discussion with Ofwat and Ofwat's final determination is due at the end of the year. Environment, Planning and Engineering consultants have been appointed and they are shortly commencing studies which will:

- review the case for a major resource to meet future water demand
- review the full range of available options, including the preferred option of a new reservoir to the South West of Abingdon
- examine the likely impacts of the chosen resource on the surrounding environment through the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Litter Picking

The Parish Council has been fortunate in securing a small grant from the Vale of White Horse District Council to undertake additional street cleansing within the parish. The Parish Council is looking for someone who could litter pick for approximately 2 hours per week. Litter picker and rubbish sacks provided. The Council would be willing to pay an honorarium. Councillors themselves in the past have done this task voluntarily. If anyone could help keep the village tidy in this way then please contact the Clerk who can provide further information.

Abingdon Integrated Transport Strategy: Mitigation measures for villages surrounding Abingdon

Transport Consultants, Halcrow, have been working on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council studying transport problems in villages near Abingdon that should be addressed as part of the Abingdon Transport Strategy. The study aims to establish a short, medium and long-term programme of measures to be funded and implemented in each of the villages in the study area. Halcrow's aim is to complete

the study in March 2005. The schemes for the local villages, including Marcham, will be available for viewing by the general public at a public exhibition due to be held in January or February next year.

Play Area

Unfortunately the skale swing is broken again. The Council is considering replacing this item of equipment and possibly the helicopter, which too, is several years old. A budget will be considered in January. If anyone has an idea of what they would like to see as replacements then please contact the Clerk.

Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 8th Dec, 2004 at 7.30 p.m. in the residents' lounge Duffield Place.
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham Tel: 01865 391833

WASTE COLLECTIONS

Normal Day	Will be...
December 2004	
Mon 27th Tue 28th Wed 29th Thur 30th Fri 31st	Wed 29th Thur 30th Fri 31st Tue 4th Jan Wed 5th Jan
January 2005	
Mon 3rd Tue 4th Wed 5th Thur 6th Fri 7th	Thur 6th Fri 7th Sat 8th Mon 10th Tue 11th
Mon 10th Tue 11th Wed 12th Thur 13th Fri 14th	Wed 12th Thur 13th Fri 14th Sat 15th Mon 17th
Mon 17th Tue 18th Wed 19th Thur 20th Fri 21st	Tue 18th Wed 19th Thur 20th Fri 21st Sat 22nd

Please help us to recycle more this Christmas and New Year. The Vale's target is to recycle 25% of household waste, you can help by using your Green Box. Please NO wrapping paper or Christmas cards (take cards to a Recycling centre, WH Smith or Tesco).



You can also recycle your Christmas tree! From 31 Dec to 9 Jan your old real(!) tree can be turned into chippings for mulch to be used on the parks throughout the Vale, go to Millets Farm or Wyevale (off A34) garden centres OR Drayton, Stanford or Redbridge recycling centres.