

**GORDON THOMAS LEWRY**

**4.6.1926 – 30.9.2007**

Romans Chapter 8 v 28

A really lovely thanksgiving service for Gordon was held in Weston-super-Mare where he passed away peacefully in a hospice after a long illness.

Arriving in Wantage in 1966 as a Senior Probation Officer for Oxfordshire, Gordon and Hazel and their four children then moved to Packhorse Lane. During his 27 years in Marcham he was also a Deacon, Secretary and latterly Lay Pastor for Marcham Baptist Church.

Gordon brought energy, charisma and a sense of humour to this role, and the congregation and church activities grew. He was the prime mover in building a Baptistry, the base being a large scrap water tank. He also designed and organised ramped access. The annual coach outing fitting in many places of interest and sustenance was always enjoyable.

Gordon also had a passion for engineering and made some magnificent model steam engines. When he was young, his Bible classes were combined with a Meccano club and in recent years he mentored teenagers in Weston through engineering workshops.

Gordon and Hazel gave support, Ministry, much hospitality and friendship to many in Marcham and beyond, over the years and they were greatly missed when they took their 'second retirement' in Weston in 1994.

A CD of the thanksgiving service is available. Do contact 01865 391592 if you would like to hear it.

**GG**

**ANSON TRUST ACCOUNTS**

The Anson Trust company (the Arthur Anson Memorial Trust Limited) has received the final accounts for the year ended 31.12.2006 and these have been submitted to Companies House.



In accordance with the Directors' policy of providing as much information about the Trust as possible to parishioners, the full accounts are available on the MADNews website (and on the Trust's website www.ansontrust.co.uk).

For those who do not have access to the website or find detailed accounts difficult to follow, the principal figures are:

Anson Field	Income £7,296
	Expenditure £29,094
Institute	Income £5,488
	Expenditure £11,158
Trust operations	Income £8,703
	Expenditure £61,451

This means the Trust made a 'loss' of £80,216 in 2006.

The figures reinforce the need for the Trust to take radical action and to reinvigorate the Trust and the facilities which are provided. Anyone wishing to see the full accounts but who does not have web access, paper copies will be available at Marcham PO.

**ANSON TRUST DIRECTORS**

[www.ansontrust.co.uk](http://www.ansontrust.co.uk)

*Dear Editor*

The Charities Commission did respond to my enquiry published here as an open letter last month, they referred me to Section 36(9)(b) of the Charities Act, which (to précis the section) would indeed permit the Anson Trust to transfer the Institute to a separately administered charity for less than market value.

Separation of the Institute into a new charity with the twin objects of its preservation and the provision of meeting facilities for the village would have some advantages including providing a simple to understand purpose for the necessary fund raising. Judging by the results of the NAF survey I suspect this prospect would also meet with considerably more approval in the village than the current Anson Trust proposals. This begs the question of whether sufficient volunteers could be found to administer another charity? Could the village persuade the Anson Trust to part with the institute? The Trust seem peculiarly determined to follow their own idea of what is best for Marcham however unpopular that is.

I am also grateful that Peter Rowe has now qualified his earlier criticisms about the NAF survey but a number of his erroneous statements still need to be corrected. Between the December and April surveys NAF collected responses from two thirds of the village, representing some 800 individuals – hardly a statistically invalid sample as he claimed. The April survey form briefly described the Anson Trust's proposals to sell part of the field for development in order to provide upgraded facilities and for those that needed more information the form also gave the web site for the Trust. Most residents who received the December survey form had already received the glossy brochure distributed by the Anson Trust. If anything the bias of the survey was in favour of the Trusts' plans.

The NAF survey asked residents if they were in favour, undecided or against (not as Peter stated "for, against, no opinion") – the questions on our form were not subjective and the undecided option allowed anyone who felt they needed more information to reserve judgement for later. Peter Rowe should note the recent survey form about the traffic experiment; if he finds something to complain about in

the NAF survey then he will presumably have even more to complain about in the traffic experiment survey form with only "for or against" options to choose. Peter is also wrong to claim that someone from NAF could sit on the Parish Council and participate in any decision-making on this particular issue as clearly some might claim we had a "prejudicial interest". If The Anson Trust still doubts the validity of the NAF survey results then they should perform their own survey, let them prove that substantially more than (as presently indicated) just 12% of Marcham actually welcome what they propose.

**BOB ANDERSON (for NAF)**

*Dear Editor,*

**Trick or Treat**

Answering the door on Halloween night I was faced with two small boys wearing the most hideous masks with mock blood trickling down A little rucksack was proffered, gently and silently.

On enquiring who the children were, one raised his mask and said they were 8-year-old twins from Botley. It would seem an elder brother had sent them out to trick or treat.

Being of the generation where children made a guy of sacking wearing ragged clothing perched on an old pram, collecting pennies (towards fireworks) when people walked everywhere, I am mystified by the October 31st rituals. Where do the pressures come from – TV, comics, peer groups? It doesn't help that supermarkets now have a wide cheap selection of costumes etc.

I appreciated our Parish Clerk's polite request (Oct MADNews) to local parents to permit their children to call on those homes where they are known.

What really stuck me was that these children did not give me the impression of enjoying trick or treating or have little understanding of what it is all about. Above all, they were very vulnerable and I felt their brother was irresponsible in sending them out alone in a strange area. I hope all primary schools warn children of the dangers and nuisance factor.

*Name and address supplied*

**MILK BOTTLE TOPS**

Thank you to everyone who has been saving "milk tops" (plastic), these many months but now that "Fund Raising Project" for the Alzheimer's Club is Abingdon Hospital is being discontinued. If you still have some please don't hesitate to leave them with me at 60 Howard Cornish Road and they can join the remaining lots we still have in the club. Thank you all so much and much appreciated.

**DORIS MCKAY**

Write to MADNews and let others know what you think about current events