

MARCHAM PLAYERS
AGM 15 February
All Saints Church



7.30 pm for subscriptions and meeting to follow at 8pm when the committee will be re-elected. Anyone wishing to put their names forward, please contact Joey Maclean (Secretary - 391242) or Dave Hutchinson (Chairman - 391964).

DAVE HUTCHINSON
www.marchamplayers.co.uk

Dear Readers

In this month's MADNews: Q&A from the Anson Trust, historic pictures of Gloucester Green courtesy of Bus Spotter, the Bothy Vineyard wins a design award, Marcham School is *Waking and Shaking* and volunteers are wanted for Kissing Gates

- where else do you get such variety?!

Until next time

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 February 2007

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Thames Water Reservoir

Council members were invited to attend a presentation by Thames Water on its second stage consultation process. Thames Water advised that the vehicular access to their site will be from the A34 at the Marcham Interchange along the A415 and then branching Southwards. Mr. Denton, representing the Parish Council at the meeting pointed out the existing congestion on the A34, the fears about more traffic through Marcham particularly once the Grove area has seen further housing expansion and asked questions about the Marcham By Pass to relieve the village from further traffic. Thames Water replied that they were currently seeking the views of the local people about current matters likely to be relevant to the reservoir project, and any ideas that they wished Thames Water to take into account. The Parish Council would therefore encourage residents to contact Thames Water with their comments on this second stage consultation, particularly as the road proposals could affect the village. Feedback forms were available at the exhibitions or can be obtained on request by emailing utmrd@thameswater.co.uk or calling 0800 107 8001. Alternatively comments by email to the above email address will reach Thames Water or letters can be written to UTMRD communications, Thames Water, Third East Clearwater Court, Vastern Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 8DB. The deadline for receipt of comments is 3rd March.

Council Tax 2007

The Parish Council carefully considered its budget for 2007/08 at its last meeting, and resolved to set a tax figure of £32,000. This is identical to the figures set last year. Council has set aside some funds to cover supporting village organisations and projects where the people of Marcham benefit. The Local Authorities (Members Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 does grant the power to Parish Council to pay basic allowances to their members. The members of Marcham Parish Council however decided some while ago to continue working voluntarily for the parish and not to claim allowances, thus helping to cap the parish element of the council tax.

Footpath - Church to the Cemetery

It is the time of year when this path becomes very wet and muddy. The Council has decided to investigate whether it is possible to improve the path in some way and make the path easier to walk.

Police Neighbourhood Action Group

The inaugural meeting of this group was held in January when a constitution was set up and the way forward discussed.

The group will be considering the priority issues raised by parishes in the area including speeding, antisocial behaviour, and parking. The next meeting of the group will be in February. Parish Councillor, Mr. Denton is to undertake a training course with the Police to look at Neighbourhood Policing in more detail.

The Anson Trust

The Parish Council members have now had an opportunity to meet with the Anson Trust to obtain the answers to the questions previously posed, some of which came directly from the public and others from the Council. The answers, as given by the Trust, appear on pages 7 and 9.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 7th Feb 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. L. Martin,
 90 Howard Cornish Rd, Tel: 01865 391833

FROM OUR LOCAL PC ...

Happy new year to you all!- We hope that your new year and yuletide celebrations passed over peacefully and pleasantly, and that you did not have to use too much indigestion remedy!. Christmas 2006 now seems to be something of a fading memory, however I would urge everybody who received gifts such as mobile phones and MP3 players from Santa, to use extra vigilance and not allow thieves to nab your pressies. I would recommend marking your property with your postcode with an ultraviolet ink pen. This will assist the police to return your stolen item back to you if it is recovered. I will be arranging to give your Neighbourhood Action Group Committee Members some of these, but they are available from the Crime Reduction Adviser at Abingdon Police Station.

The recent spell of bad weather has taken its toll on many fences in the area. We are aware that unscrupulous traders are in the area trying to tout for repair business. One elderly male was verbally quoted £2000 to replace his entire fence, when in reality just a couple of posts needed resetting. The trader came back the next day and started the 'work' despite not being asked to do so by the homeowner. They only disappeared when the homeowners son turned up and phoned the police. Please be aware of these ruthless traders, and where possible please make sure the elderly people that live near you are not taken advantage of. If you are approached always ask for identification and details of company address, phone number. A legitimate trader will not have a problem providing this information. The police and Trading Standards Department are very interested in finding out who these people are. Please phone 0845 8 505 505 if you have any information. Be safe!

PC PAUL REECE