

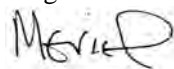
**SHORNEY EDWARDS**

Shorney Edwards, who lived in Peartree Cottage, 7 Packhorse Lane until 1987, died in January after a long illness. Although Shorney and her husband Tony moved away when Tony took up a role abroad with the RAF/NATO she was kept in touch with Marcham life by her friends in the village and returned on many occasions to supervise the maintenance of Peartree Cottage which was let out to tenants. A friendly, warm and energetic person she will be much missed and our thoughts are with Tony at this difficult time.

*Dear Readers*

I have been seeing the green shoots of recovery recently – one crocus out and daffs not far behind... not a financial miracle perhaps, but enough to make me smile.

*Until next time*



**PUBLISHER/EDITOR**

Meriel Lewis  
8 Orchard Way, Marcham  
Abingdon OX13 6PP  
Tel: 01865 391725  
Website: [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk)  
Email: [editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk)

**ADVERTISING**

Contact the Editor

**DISTRIBUTORS**

Judith & Peter Fontaine  
14 Tower Close, Marcham  
Abingdon Tel: 01865 391275

**DEADLINES**

Advertising: 5pm 15th month  
Other copy: 5pm 20th month  
except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

**ADDITIONAL COPIES**

These are available free from Marcham Post Office or the Editor. Postal copies are also available – contact 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.

**POLICE**

PCSO Laura Schmid  
Tel: 0845 8 505 505

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Iain Brown  
Janus, Westcot Lane, Sparsholt, Wantage,  
Oxon OX12 9PZ  
Tel: 01235 751210  
Email: [iainbrownconservatives@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:iainbrownconservatives@yahoo.co.uk)

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Marcham and Shippon  
Jane Hanna  
4 Charlton Road, Wantage OX12 8ER  
Tel: 01235 772782

Email: [janehanna@dial.pipex.com](mailto:janehanna@dial.pipex.com)

For other councillors go to  
[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

© **Marcham & District News 2009**

*The copying of any part of this publication without written authorisation is not permitted.*

February 2009

**PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**Parishioner of the Year Award – Last Chance to nominate**

For the past 5 years the Council has awarded a Parishioner of the Year Award to a local person or people who had devoted much time and energy working within the community. The Council is seeking nominations for the next award and believes there are many people who would be worthy recipients. The Council will be making a decision, if sufficient nominations are received, at its meeting on 11th February. Would anyone who wishes to submit a nomination, please contact the clerk, whose details appear below, sending a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to who he/she wishes to nominate and the reasons why the person(s) should receive the award. All nominations to be sent to the Clerk as soon as possible and by Monday 9th Feb. at the latest.

**Council Tax 2009**

The Parish Council carefully considered its budget for 2009/10 at its last meeting, and resolved to set a tax figure of £33,000. This is the same figure as last year. The Council took a positive decision not to increase it in view of the economic climate and the financial difficulties that people are generally facing. Council has set aside some funds to cover supporting village organisations and projects such as renovating the youth shelter in the Anson Field, putting a hard standing under the bottle banks in Howard Cornish Road and repairs to the steps at the War Memorial. 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.

**Weed Spraying on Pavements**

The Parish Council is very concerned about the state of the pavements and the fact that County Council has been unable to spray the weeds over the last 2 seasons. Cllr. Iain Brown has advised that weed spraying has come out top of the list of items that County Council members feel strongest about along side pot holes on the highway. Whilst some monies were put into the “maintenance budget” issues other than weed spraying have been more

pressing. In 2006, some roads were badly affected by very hot sunny weather, and had to be resurfaced, the extra cost to the County being some £3million pounds, some of which was found from the maintenance budget, and some from reserves, very little came from HM government, although some councils did get assistance. In 2007, the repair bill from the floods in July came out of the maintenance budget, reserves and a tiny amount from HM government. The Parish Council has set some monies aside in its budget this year to spray the weeds in case the County Council is unable to do so. The Parish Council feels that it is not its responsibility to spray the weeds but is willing to do so, should it have permission from the County Council, in order to keep the village looking tidy.

**Freedom of Information – New Publication Scheme**

The Freedom of Information Act gives you the right to request information held by public authorities, companies wholly owned by public authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and non-devolved public bodies in Scotland. Under this legislation the Parish Council has set out where access to public information held by the Council can be found. The list is on the Council’s website at [www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk) or is available from the Clerk.

**Your Vale – Your Future**

The Vale of White Horse District Council is preparing a strategy document that will help guide development in the district to 2026. It will set out where new homes, jobs, shops, roads and leisure and community facilities should be developed. A study of traffic in the Wantage, Grove to Didcot area has also been prepared (Southern Central Oxfordshire Traffic Strategy – SCOTS).

There will be a number of public exhibitions and consultation workshops during February where you will be able to discuss the issues and any concerns you may have with officers of the Vale District Council and the County Council.

- 5th February Botley Seacourt Hall
- 6th February Harwell Village Hall
- 12th February Wantage Civic Hall
- 13th February Grove Mill Hall
- 14th February Didcot, Cornerstone Centre – exhibition 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- 16th February Didcot Civic Hall, Discussion group 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. **PTO**