

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Constables Ham Field

The field in Mill Road known as Constables Ham is available for letting on an annual basis. Should anyone be interested in being considered for the tenancy, then please contact the Clerk for further information.

Oxfordshire County Council - Countryside Service - Public Rights of Way Improvement Planning

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a new statutory requirement on highway authorities to prepare and produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan to satisfy the Government's aim of better provision for walkers, cyclists, equestrians and people with mobility problems.

The County Council requires assistance in identifying problem areas, and where the access to the footpath network could be improved. This is not a request for identifying existing maintenance problems, but for situations where items like the removal of a stile or improved drainage would allow a path to be more accessible to people with mobility problems. The Parish Council holds a questionnaire form which has to be returned to the County Council by the end of January. If anyone has any suggestions as to path/bridleway improvements, then please let the Clerk know by the end of the month.

Affordable Housing

At the December meeting the Council heard a presentation by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council and the Vale of White Horse District Council on affordable housing. The Council members learned how any new properties are now funded, the different housing waiting lists which are in existence, and about the percentage ownership of a property which is available under a shared ownership scheme. The Council has agreed to work with the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council to assess the local need for more affordable housing in the parish. More information about the needs survey will appear in future issues.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 14th January, 2003 at 7.30 p.m. in the residents' lounge Duffield Place.

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham Tel: 01865 391833

Good cleaner needed

I am looking for a good and reliable cleaner in a private house once a week or once a fortnight. Good rates of pay. If you are interested, please call 01865 390213

We would like to thank all our friends and neighbours for their kind messages and cards following our sad loss of Dennis. These have been a great comfort to us all, also for their generous donations given to 'Cancer Research UK' the amount at present being £699.80.
JOY MYATT AND FAMILY

MARCHAM EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB

How many of you are aware as you drive up and down North Street that behind those Ornate Red Lions lies the Marcham Institute Hall, the foundation stone of which was laid just 100 years ago. To the left of the Hall is the Marcham and District Ex Servicemen's Club. It was formed after the Second World War to provide an alternative meeting place, other than the local public houses, for the ex-servicemen of the village and surrounding areas and their families. Today only a handful of the original members survive. Over the following years it was decided by various Club Committees to extend the membership to non ex-service persons, and this still applies today.

The Club offers a comfortable, warm atmosphere and is open several evenings a week. There is a fully licensed bar, this is run on a volunteer basis by club members. Throughout the year the club supports Crib and Aunt Sally teams and in addition there are Horse Race Evenings and other entertainment. Naturally there is a Christmas Draw and Annual Dinner.

For the Senior Citizens of the village the club donates in the summer months a Mystery Coach Trip together with drinks and supper after at the club to round off the evening. This is followed at Christmas by a party in the main hall, entertainment by various groups of village children, followed by drinks and supper. Over the years the club has donated several hundreds of pounds to village groups deemed to be worthy causes these include the Marcham Primary School and PTA, the Community Mini Bus project, Madnews Computer and the restoration of the Wayside Cross.

So you see it all happens there, why not join us and help support these activities. There is an initial joining fee of £15.00, plus an annual subscription of £10.00. Pop in and you'll see many familiar faces and you will be made most welcome.

Dear Editor

As most madnews readers are no doubt aware, the Marcham exchange is not yet broadband enabled, and only local residents registering their interest will change that. What they might not be aware of is that the exchange now has a broadband trigger level! If 200 people on the Marcham exchange register their interest in broadband with BT (www.btopenworld.com/votebroadband) then the exchange will be triggered and we could soon be enjoying the benefits of broadband. The good news is that as of today (1st December 2003) there are already 108 pre-registrations on the Marcham exchange, which means only another 92 households need to register their interest to trigger the exchange.

In case some readers aren't aware of the benefits, the most important are :

a) 10x faster than a standard dial-up modem connection

b) Doesn't tie up your BT phonenumber. You can make phone calls while on the internet!

I hope this is of some interest, and might make it to the next madnews letters page, if you haven't already had numerous emails from other broadband-mad residents.

LEE BROWN

MARCHAM BROADBAND CAMPAIGN STEPS UP A GEAR

Campaigners working to bring high speed broadband internet to Marcham have received a boost with the setting of a target for the number of people needed to sign up for the service. The Broadband4Marcham group has been working to increase awareness of what broadband can mean for local people and businesses and the setting of a demand "trigger level" for the local area has given the campaign a new impetus.

Kevin Woodley from the Broadband 4 Marcham Campaign said: "The focus of our campaign has been to get a trigger set so we have something to aim at. Now a trigger has been set the campaign is stepping up a gear so we can get enough people signed up to bring broadband to Marcham. The exciting thing about broadband is that it gives you access to the Internet at ten times the speed of a normal modem and means you don't have to wait an age for files to download. It's also miles better for websites with graphics and video content and can help small businesses be much more competitive. Our campaign is to make more local people aware of what it would mean for them and get them to register so BT will bring this technology to our area and we can all benefit from it."

With broadband you can use the phone at the same time as being connected to the Internet and because there are no call charges for broadband Internet you know exactly how much you are spending while you're online.

BT has encouraged the campaign group and has provided them with material for a leafletting drive in the area. The group plans to deliver 700 tailored leaflets to help push the level of interest up to the trigger target.

For more information contact:
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getit@broadband4marcham.net;
www.broadband4marcham.net
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To get your letter included please write to the editor by 20th month latest