

VILLAGE FAREWELL FOR PAMELA AND EDDIE SHIRRAS



To celebrate Eddie and Pamela's time with us over the past 6 years and to remember their contributions to our village life, we will be holding an event with games, refreshments and a barn dance in the school hall on Friday 30th January from 5.30 - 9.00pm.

Do come and join in, all ages welcome. For more details contact Rachel on 391432.

If you would like to contribute towards a leaving present please send your donation to Eric Dunford (391439) cheques made payable to Marcham PCC.

RACHEL GAISFORD (churchwarden)

Pamela and Eddie will be sadly missed, they are a great asset to the community. Nothing was too much trouble, always there to visit people who were sick or in hospital. If available, would pick up to take anyone to Cafe. Eddie found out from the bus company how the service was changing. They are an extremely nice couple. They joined in with village life. We wish them well and good luck in the future.

DOLLY COX & JOY CROOK

Eddie and Pamela Shirras leave us on February 1, 2009, and we want to take the opportunity to thank them publicly for all that they have done here in the parish. Eddie came out of retirement to join us as Priest in Charge of Marcham with Garford in 2002. Since then Pamela has been ordained, and has become our curate. Both Eddie and Pamela have given unstintingly of their time and energy to lead, organise and resource All Saints' and St. Luke's, to teach and encourage church members, to welcome families bringing children to baptism, to celebrate with bride and groom those being married in church, and to support the families and friends of the bereaved at the funerals of loved ones. In the wider community they have become widely known and appreciated, through visiting, through offering spiritual support to individuals, through their work with the school, and through Eddie's extraordinary passion for buses! Theirs will be a hard act to follow. We wish them every happiness in their (second!) retirement, and offer our warmest thanks for all they have done among us.

JAMES ALLAN (churchwarden)
January 2009

FROM THE SCHOOL...

Eddie is very kind and caring. Each week he comes to Marcham School to teach us about the Lord. We have learnt so much while he has been at the school, and there will be no one else like him. All the school and people who go to Church say he's lovely. We don't want him to leave because he cares for everyone. We hope Eddie has a good future.

**GEORGE SHARROCK &
ALICIA DAVIS** (Year 5)

I love your assemblies because it is nice and I like your writing.

HARVEY EVESON-ROBERTS (Year 1)

I like the singing and I like the songs very much.

FREYA MIZEN (Year 1)

He has a deep voice.

AMBER CHISHOLM (Year 1)

It was with a great deal of warmth that Pamela and Eddie welcomed me to Marcham School in September 2007. I felt very much at home and was immediately struck by their commitment to the school as being an integral part of the community. Their support for and of the school is immense – both in spiritual and in practical ways. I am always aware of their prayerful encouragement, which means a lot to me personally and which, I am certain, contributes to the distinctiveness of our school, our ethos and our values. The very good links between the church and the school are clearly evident and have been praised by both OFSTED and SIAS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools) and this is in no small part due to their dedication and devotion. But their concern is not just with the spiritual welfare of the school; they give of their time also and are anxious to serve the school community in any way they can. Pamela has been a valuable member of our Governing body for a number of years and I know that Eddie had been Chair of Governors during the time that Lesley Clarke was Headteacher. They both pop in to school regularly to see how I and the rest of the staff are and have been generous with their time and their home, willing to listen and happy to host staff/governor events. An enormous debt of thanks is owed to them both for helping to make Marcham CE Primary school the happy and caring place it is.

All the very, very best is wished for them in their retirement – whatever form it takes – and if the urge to speak with small children overwhelms them at any time, they would be welcomed back with open arms.

VIV HUTCHINSON, Headteacher

LAND OPTION SIGNED FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING

The first step on the path to transforming leisure facilities in Marcham took place in December with the signing of an option agreement between the Arthur Anson Memorial Trust Limited and W. Cumber & Son (Theale) Limited.

Now the agreement is signed, the Anson Trust can update its plans to construct a new community building and sports facilities and to establish an adequate financial endowment for the future. The money for these new facilities will come from the sale of part of the existing Anson Field for development and the sale of the Institute in Marcham.

In the time since the original plans were shown to the village, we have had significant feedback from existing and potential users of the proposed facilities as well as many others who are interested in what we are proposing. We would like to thank everyone who has given us feedback to date and we would encourage participation in our consultations to come. We are making sure that our revised plans reflect that feedback. Further, we will make sure that the investment aspects of the plan reflect current financial conditions. Naturally our plans will be dependent upon the achievement of the necessary planning permissions.

The next stage in the process will be a detailed consultation with existing and potential new groups of users within Marcham as well as with the village as a whole. In parallel, discussions will carry on with statutory authorities. The consultation period will start early in 2009.

Neil Rowe, a long serving Trustee said "Today is a very exciting day in the life of Marcham. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to establish good quality leisure facilities in the village and to fulfil the aims of the Trust established by the Anson sisters. There is a great deal of hard work ahead but we are under way".

For further information contact:

Mr Neil Rowe, director of the Trust, on 07980 262134

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal raised £3,163.69 in the Marcham, Frilford and Garford area. Unfortunately a tin was stolen from Millets one weekend. Last year we raised £3,200.21.

Very many thanks to everyone; the house-to-house collectors who give so much of their time, the shops, garages, pubs, schools, Millets and Frosts (who have the tins), the Church (who gave the Remembrance Sunday collection) and everybody who donated so willingly.

SUSAN SPURGEON