

MARCHAM BELLRINGERS

You may have noticed recently that bellringing in the village is becoming increasingly sporadic of late. One of the reasons for this has been the lack of recruitment of new learner ringers over the last few years. We are now in a position to teach anyone who has an interest or even just a curiosity about what may be involved.



Local ringers in full peal

Marcham has six bells. We try to practice each Monday evening between 7.45pm and 9pm. We also try to ring between 9.30am and 10am on Sunday mornings for service. I say 'try' because we do not always have enough ringers to ring all of the bells. In addition we ring for Weddings and we also visit other towers locally to broaden our experience. Ringing can be a very rewarding art to pursue. It requires good hand/eye co-ordination and cannot be accomplished without working very tightly as a team. The art can appeal to anyone who is at least 11 years old. Its a bit like learning to ride a bike - once you have learnt it, you will never forget it.

If you would like to find out more, or would like to give it a try, please contact me and I will (hopefully) answer all of your questions. I am currently running teaching sessions on Monday evenings from 7.15pm at the Tower. Look forward to meeting you.

ANDY UTTING

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

working together for a safer community
Neighbourhood Watch is the largest voluntary organisation in the UK. It is run by volunteers in the community and is the best known and most effective example of the police and community working in partnership to reduce crime, build safer communities and improve quality of life. There are approximately 160,000 schemes across the UK, covering about 10 million households. Insurance statistics show that houses in active schemes have a 1 in 344 chance of being burgled compared with the national average of 1 in 35. If you put the correct locks on your doors and windows your chances drop to 1 in 1350.



The Benefits of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

- Working together as a group helps to make your community a safer and friendlier place to live
- As a group you have a stronger voice
- Tackling specific local problems is easier in a group
- A group can identify and support the more vulnerable members of their community together
- Pooling local knowledge to improve community safety benefits everyone
- It's free to join!

help us to help you make a difference.

For further information on setting up a scheme, or to find out if one already exists in your road, please contact Anne Barber in the Watch Office at Abingdon Police Station on 01235 556938.
July 2005

South East and South West Oxfordshire

Primary Care Trusts



Ophthalmology/Cataract Choice

Since January 2005, patients that are diagnosed as suffering from cataracts have been offered a choice of at least 2 places that they can be treated. This process did not involve a significant change to the previous processes for GP's and optometrists, but it does enable patients to choose as to where they can have their first out patient appointments.

The process works like this:

Your GP will be informed by your optometrist that you may need cataract surgery, you will be advised to make an appointment with your GP. Your GP will discuss the treatment available to you. Your GP will then advise the patient care advisor of your requirements. Patient care advisors are employed by the NHS and will give you unbiased practical information on the choices for surgery. The patient care advisor will telephone you and explain the choice of the places in which you can have your surgery. They can provide you with a range of information on:

- How long you may have to wait for your first appointment
- An estimate of when you can expect to have your actual cataract surgery if needed.
- Give you the location of the place, and provide information about local amenities and transport links.

You do not have to make up your mind straight away and you may want to talk to your family or friends before making the choice.

Once you have told the patient care advisor about your decision they will make the booking for you, offering you a range of appointments at a local hospital or treatment centre.

You will then receive a letter in the post confirming details of this appointment with information about what you should expect.

Current choices being offered to patients in the South of the county are:

- Oxford Radcliffe Hospital
- Netcare Treatment Centre – Wantage
- Great Weston Swindon
- Royal Berkshire Hospitals

So depending on appointment availability and how far patients wish to travel there is a good choice. Oxford Radcliffe hospitals, Great Weston and Reading are the traditional providers.

Netcare is an independent provider commissioned by the NHS, this facility is in the form of a mobile unit that is situated in Wantage at the Church Street and Newbury Street practices, Mably Way, positioned to the left of the building. The unit itself is self contained and is scheduled to visit on a regular timetable. The unit arrives on an articulated lorry at night to cause minimum disruption. There are three different units:

- Preoperative
- Theatre
- Post operative

The theatre unit being the largest, it is self contained. Netcare provide their own staff and are governed by the same authorities, regulations and standards that oversee NHS providers.

If you have any further enquires please contact Christine Hewitt, Assistant Director of Modernisation at South East and South West Oxfordshire Primary Care Trusts on 01235 205558 or email your comments to christine.hewitt@swoxon-pct.nhs.uk.