

Dear Readers

I am not sure whether spring is on its way or not with the snow we have had lately! I have had some enquiries about whether there would be any support for a spring cleaning campaign for the village with special emphasis on dogs. If anyone has any ideas about what we could all do, please send in a letter for the April issue – deadline 20th March.

There are some thought-provoking letters and interesting articles this month with comments on local issues, heartfelt thanks and some fetishes for food, eggs and grouse!

I'm off to try some of the recipes!
Happy Easter




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March 2005

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Budget

Earlier in the year the Council spent a good deal of its meeting carefully considering its income and likely expenditure for the next financial year. Funds have been set aside to help local organisations and clubs which operate for the benefit of Marcham residents, and who requested grant aid from the Council. The Council has also set aside funds for improvements to the play area. For the 3rd year running, the Council managed to keep the council tax figure for the whole parish at £28,000.

Play Area

The Council has been looking at replacement items for the play area. It is proposed to remove the skale swing, the helicopter, wooden animals and boulders. These items would be replaced with a roundabout, springy animals and some toddler items which require balancing, together with any necessary safety surfacing. A final decision will be made by the Council at its next meeting. If anyone has any comments please contact the Clerk.

Villager of the Year Award

The Council has been considering the nominations received and will be choosing someone to receive this year's award. The award will be presented at the annual meeting for electors. See entry below.

Annual Meeting for Electors

The date chosen for this year's meeting is Wednesday 18th May at 7.30 p.m. This year it will be held in the hall at Marcham Primary School. Arrangements for the meeting are in hand. Please put an advance note of this date in your diary now.

Best Kept Village Competition

The Village will again be entering the best kept village competition. The first round of judging takes place from 30th April to 15th May. In the past Marcham has reached the final round of judging and has been awarded second place. With a little effort from parishioners in helping keep the village tidy, it is hoped that Marcham gets through to the final again.

South East England Regional Plan

Independent survey analysts have been appointed to collect the views on options that are being considered for employment, homes, water, educational health, transport, energy and the countryside. Questionnaire forms have been put in the Post Office. See article in Feb's issue of MADNews.

Date of Next Meeting: Wed 9th March in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.. The Police have indicated that they will be present at the beginning of the next meeting to discuss local police matters.

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

THE ANSON TRUST COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROJECT

The Anson Trust regrets the lack of progress on this project which is due to the threat of legal action over the use of the car park. Until this is resolved it is very difficult for us to make further progress.

ANSON TRUSTEES

This item should have been included in the Feb issue - apologies, Ed

Dear Editor

Village Institute

For many months now this building has remained EMPTY, not used, but heated, the Car Park to the rear is closed and barricaded, WHY? To what end have these actions been taken?

These facilities were previously "Let" to the Playgroup, Marcham Players, Marcham Parish Council, Parties, Receptions, Discos and the Youth Club as well as The Café, and the Ex-Servicemen's Club.

In the original constitution of the Arthur Anson Memorial Trust it states that The Trust Deed for the Village Institute was set up "for religious meetings or services in connection with the Church of England or for public meetings (other than political meetings), lectures, concerts, entertainments, or other recreation or amusement, and generally for any purposes having for their object the religious, moral, social or intellectual welfare and benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Marcham and the neighbourhood".

The Anson Family have made it perfectly clear that their wishes were quote 'for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Marcham and the neighbourhood'. Therefore, it is very difficult to understand the actions now being taken by the present Trustees.

GL

Dear Editor

Some of your readers may already be aware that I'm no longer your local Police Officer following my recent resignation from the Thames Valley Police. This decision has not been taken lightly by myself and I will find it strange not meeting all the lovely people I have come into contact with as your local beat officer in Marcham and all the surrounding areas. My decision has nothing to do with the communities I served, although I do feel the service has altered during my time in the force. I'm unsure who will take my place or when they will be appointed, I just hope they receive the same welcome I always have.

May I use this space to pass on my personal thanks to everyone I came into contact with during the last two years and I'm sure I'll miss everyone's friendly faces.

DEBRA ALLEN