

*Dear Editor*

The relative tranquillity along Frilford Road and Packhorse Lane in Marcham and indeed through Frilford over the past few weeks has demonstrated the impact of the temporary closure of the A415 to heavy goods vehicles. I am aware that some years ago an attempt to impose a permanent restriction on this stretch of the A415 was unsuccessful but that is not to say it should not be tried again.

With this in mind I have written to the County Council's Highways Director to request that he investigates once more the possibility of imposing a permanent restriction. Ideally this is an issue which would benefit from parliamentary involvement and I have therefore also requested that our MP, Robert Jackson, apply what pressure he feels appropriate on his colleague the Minister for Transport.

There will of course be resistance from the Freight Transport Association since any detour is likely to add to mileage and thus costs. As and when I get any meaningful replies I will keep your readers informed.

**COUNCILLOR ANDREW CRAWFORD  
LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PARLIAMENTARY  
SPOKESMAN**

*Dear Editor*

As a relative newcomer to Marcham, it was with some interest that I attended my first Marcham Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 9th of February. After some confusion regarding the start time I was shocked to be the only parishioner present and even more shocked by the surprise that my attendance seemed to generate amongst the councillors. It seems that they are simply not used to an audience, or at least an audience with no motive for attending other than to observe the undertakings of this important local organisation.

At a time when many people complain that politicians are distant and that the decisions that they make are made more for the media's benefit than for the electorate, I cannot understand why more people are not interested in the Parish Council. The Parish Councillors have "stood up to be counted" and are taking decisions that directly affect our day-to-day lives.

Whilst a penny on or off income tax does have an impact on our lives it is at a more abstract level than whether our children can cross the road safely on their way to a secure and modern local playground. The Marcham Parish Council is responsible for the latter types of issue and is there not only to safeguard the parish that we know and love, but also to take what is a living and dynamic parish into the 21st Century.

Democracy at any level can simply not

flourish without active participation, and the Parish Council is democracy at its lowest and yet in terms of peoples' lives, most significant level. I would therefore urge everybody who reads this to support the Parish Council by taking an interest in the often challenging work it does and by making the effort to go and see democracy in action.

The next meeting is Duffield Place 7:30pm, 9th March. I will certainly be there and I look forward to seeing many more of my fellow parishioners there as well.

**PETER ROWE**

*Dear Editor*

Last week, first thing in the morning, I noticed something rather odd with the rockery at the front of the house. The rockery has dwarf conifers and heathers. The centre dwarf conifer was a beautifully spherical Thuja Occidentalis Danica, deep green and "full" dwarf size being 14-15 years old. When I went outside to investigate there was a great big hole in the middle of the plant. A branch 1-1.5" had been cleanly sheared and it was obvious that something large and heavy had landed right in the middle of it. There is a full sized conifer protecting the plant from the road and this tree and the surrounding heathers did not have any breakages at all. No little bits snapped off... nothing.

My immediate thought had been that someone had stumbled onto my property, worse the wear for drink perhaps and fallen onto the little conifer, but no, the only damage was directly into its centre, no damage at all to the surrounding area and plants. A football I do not believe would have been capable of causing this damage no matter how hard it had been kicked.

I called PC Debra Allen to report this, not expecting the police to do anything, but in case it was related to any other incidence in the village. Debra was on leave and a very helpful police officer immediately suggested that the damage had been caused by ice falling from an aircraft! Apparently ice falling from an aircraft "happens far more frequently than the CAA will admit" I was informed by the Police. I can only think that this is a possible explanation as whatever caused the damage had been removed (or melted) and as I have said, none of the heathers had been stepped on if someone retrieved "whatever".

I suppose I should be grateful that if it was a chunk of ice that it hit a plant rather than a person or property. However, has this happened to anyone else in the village?? Does someone have a better explanation?

**NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED**

*For colour photo of the mystery see the*

*Dear Editor*

Through our excellent village(s) newspaper, I want to say "thank you" to so many people in Marcham. I have had to spend the last 4 months mainly indoors and without the undermentioned folks, one would just not cope! A BIG thank you to everyone! For:

Care and concern and help and love shown through the many telephone calls, cards (Get Well, Best Wishes), flowers, plants, shopping done for me, "drivers" at my disposal for various appointments etc, hot food brought to me (not meals on wheels!) ready to eat.

I have so many people to thank, and I hope I don't forget anyone: To my near and very caring neighbours, friends around the village, the Senior Citizen's Club, the Lunch Club, the Vicar and his wife, and the congregation for their prayers for healing for me, thank you Pamela and Eddie, wonderful to belong to extended church family!

Finally, but certainly not least, to the congregation of Marcham Baptist Church (my own church). To Claudette and everyone else at MBC, "a family" who have prayed for me, and done so much for me over these last months.

God Bless You All. My grateful thanks

**DORIS MCKAY**

*Dear Editor*

Thank you for printing the moving tsunami poem by Rachael Dredge. It encapsulated all the myriad of emotions so many of us felt. We are fortunate in having some great poets in our village, I always enjoy lines by Maurice Shepherd, and it is some time since we heard from the talented young man in Hyde Copse.

**GG**

*Hope to have space for poems next month - Ed*

**COW LANE PONY PADDOCKS**

The Council has available for letting the two pony paddocks at Cow Lane for the period 1 April 2005 – 31 March 2006.

Should anyone be interested in renting these then please contact the Clerk to the Council by the end of the month stating the amount offered for one or both paddocks.

NB The council is not obliged to accept the highest bid or any tender.

**FOR SALE**

Lawnmower Flymo Vison Compact (Electric) Less than a year old and hardly used. Cost £80 Would accept £45 Phone: Oxford 391 462

**FREE**

Microwave turntable with 3 glass triangular lugs. 12" diameter. Plant cutting or donation to MADNews. Call 391592.

**LOST**

Green recycling box, used once then disappeared, we still have the lid! 90 Howard Cornish Rd. Call 391833.