

*Dear Readers*

A couple of watery news items this month, Thames Water's laying pipes for running it and Ed Vaizey's using less of it – who still has a hippo in their cistern? I have bought "drought-resistant" (*allegedly!*) seed potatoes on the advice of the man on the market this year – and I don't think it will long before someone says "hosepipe ban". But on a more cheerful note – March is Volunteer Month. Where would MADNews be without volunteers? Still sitting in a pile in my front room! What would happen to jumble if it didn't get sorted and sold by volunteers? Yes, you guessed it, still sitting in a pile in my front room! And what would volunteers do without people and things to volunteer for? ... hmm I'd better get some more chairs.

*Until next time....*



**PUBLISHER/EDITOR**

Meriel Lewis  
8 Orchard Way, Marcham  
Abingdon OX13 6PP  
Tel: 01865 391725  
*Web site:* [www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk)  
*Email:* [editor@madnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@madnews.co.uk)

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14 Tower Close, Marcham  
Abingdon OX13 6PZ  
Tel: 01865 391275

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PC Ben Peach  
Tel: 0845 8 505 505

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Iain Brown  
Tel: 01235 751210  
Email: [iainbrownconservatives@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:iainbrownconservatives@yahoo.co.uk)

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

*Marcham and Shippon*  
Jane Hanna  
4 Charlton Road, Wantage OX12 8ER  
Tel: 01235 772782  
Email: [janehanna@dial.pipex.com](mailto:janehanna@dial.pipex.com)  
For other councillors go to  
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**PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER READING**  
March 2006

**PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**Thames Water - New water pipe line**

Thames Water will be laying a new pipe line in the area in order to continue water supplies in the Oxford and Swindon area. The route will go from Hagbourne West of the A34, between Steventon and Drayton, heading across the fields south of Marcham village coming out on to the A338 just South of the Frilford garage junction. It then goes around Josca's playing field and heads North Westwards to Fyfield where it joins an existing pipe to Farmoor. All public rights of way will be maintained during the works. There are plans to take all surplus soil to Steventon near the bakery, to form a noise attenuation bund to help with traffic noise from the A34. A pumping station will also be built at Steventon just South of the Drayton tip and the point where the A34 crosses over the road. The contract for laying the new pipe and getting it operational is expected to be at least one year. There will probably be some Thames Water vans and other vehicles seen through the village during the construction phase which should commence in this area in May.

**N.B.** These works are not connected to any plans for the reservoir although the planned route of the pipe does skirt the reservoir site and the proposed route for the Marcham By Pass. The drawings for the current new water pipeline project has been placed on the Council's noticeboard outside the Institute.

**A415 Tank Transporters**

Just prior to Christmas three tank transporters with tanks were seen negotiating the bends in the village. Again further transporters and tanks were seen at the beginning of February. The Parish Council has been advised that these belong to a private company which undertakes driver training, and it currently has a contract for training army personnel. The Parish Council believes that the A415 through the village is not suitable for such vehicles and is taking up the matter with the County Council.

**Haines Court parking**

Parking in Haines Court seems haphazard and sometimes vehicles block others in. The Parish Council has been considering ways of improving the parking arrangements and has been talking to the County Council. One suggestion has been a residents only parking scheme. The Parish Council would ask drivers to be considerate where

they leave their vehicles, and not cause obstruction to anyone else.

**Committee on Inclusive Transport**

This committee is an independent body (although funded by the County Council) which aims to represent people who have difficulty using public transport or the external built environment. It is a "user group" which represents older people, those with disabilities, those with young children etc. indeed anyone who has difficulty using highways, pavements, public transport and the built environment. It is inviting anyone who is aware of problem areas or is interested in its aims to contact them on the numbers below. That way, it can ensure that its recommendations include everybody's concerns.

Deborah Whelan - 01865 815591  
Gwyn Huish at Oxfordshire Council for Voluntary Action - 01865 251946

**Date of Next Meeting:** 7.30pm 8th March, in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. L. Martin,  
90 Howard Cornish Road, Tel: 01865 391833

*Dear Editor*

As I write this email, there are several police cars, two ambulances and the breakdown vehicle from Marcham at yet another accident at this fast and dangerous junction.

The recently erected gates in this area look very twee and pretty, but it would make such a welcome change to find that the money allocated for these could have gone towards something of use such as the 'cost' of reducing the speed limit on this part of the A338 - thus bringing it in line with the limit on the Doghouse (Faringdon) Rd (40mph), at Frilford crossroads (40mph), at Gozzards Ford (40mph), Tubney (30mph) etc.

This latest in a very long line of major and minor incidents at the junction contributes to making the roads of Frilford Heath dangerous to walk, cycle or ride along. I suppose as is always the case, only a major fatality will result in any action ever being taken.

*ANTONIA KEANEY via email*

**MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY**

*5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise*

<b>March</b>	
10	<b>Grove</b> , Old Mill Hall, Old School Lane
24	<b>Shrivenham</b> , Memorial Hall
<b>Contact Ed Vaizey by</b>	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	<a href="mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk">vaizeye@parliament.uk</a>
Web	<a href="http://www.vaizey.com">www.vaizey.com</a>
Tel	0207 219 3000

