

Dear Readers

It's Official – Spring has Arrived....

Well our pond is full of frogs anyway!

Their burbling fascinates the cat and it's only a matter of time before he comes in covered in weed and dripping pond water over everyone.

A lot of people are seeking your opinions this month: Marcham Parish Council wants to know what you think about having traffic lights on the A415 (see the third column on this page), the Vale are inviting comments on the re-submission of a planning application for 10 houses on those same bends (see page 7); and Thames Water need feedback on their Stage 2 proposal by 3 March (see www.thameswater.co.uk/utmrd).

You can also get your thoughts published here, just write to me at the address below or pop a letter in at the Marcham Post Office collection point.

Until next time



PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Meriel Lewis

8 Orchard Way, Marcham

Abingdon OX13 6PP

Tel: 01865 391725

Website: www.madnews.co.uk

Email: editor@madnews.co.uk

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Contact the Editor

DISTRIBUTORS

Judith & Peter Fontaine

14 Tower Close, Marcham

Abingdon Tel: 01865 391275

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NOTES The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team.

POLICE

PC Paul Reece

Tel: 0845 8 505 505

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Iain Brown

Tel: 01235 751210

Email: 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

For other councillors go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Council Elections – May 2007

The term of office for the current Parish Council comes to an end in May. Elections will be held in May when a new Council, comprising 10 members, will be formed for the next 4 years. The Parish Council is an elected tier of local government. Its meetings are held in the evening on a monthly basis. It has been granted powers by Parliament through legislation and can only act within those powers granted. It serves just the parish of Marcham. It maintains the cemetery jointly with Frilford, the play area in the Anson field, village green, arboretum and allotments and can provide bus shelters, seats, litter bins etc. In addition it has a statutory right to be consulted on all planning applications in its area and its views are taken into account when the planning decision is made. It is often consulted on other local matters as well, having a representative on local committees. The Parish Council plays a vital part in representing the interests of the community which it serves and is an effective lobby group influencing the other decision makers.

Parish Councillors can either own land or work in the parish, be on the electoral roll or live up to 3 miles outside the parish boundary. Should anyone be interested in standing as a candidate, then nomination forms and further information can be obtained from the Vale of White Horse District Council, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon tel: 01235 520202 who is handling the election process or from the Parish Clerk whose details are below. The deadline for receipt of nomination forms, which have to be returned to the Vale of White Horse District Council, is noon on 4th April, 2007.

Annual Parish Meeting

The annual meeting for all electors in the parish will take place on Wednesday 16th May at 7.30 p.m. in the hall at Marcham Primary School. This is an opportunity for residents to hear reports from the Parish Council, District Councillor, County Councillor and the school on their activities over the previous year. The guest speaker this year will be a representative from the Environment Agency who will be talking about Thames Water's proposal for a new reservoir. *Please put a note of this date in your diary now.*

Carbon Savers Action Day

A carbon savers action day will be held in the Guildhall, Abingdon on Saturday 10th March between 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. Learn how to reduce energy use and carbon emissions in all aspects of life. Experts on hand to give advice. A series of presentations on climate change at 1.00 p.m. For more information call The Carbon Savers Line on 0800 028 2855 or visit www.carbon-savers.co.uk

A415 Proposed Meeting with County Council

The head of Transport at Oxfordshire County Council, Mr. Steven Howell, has been having talks with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Cllr. David Robertson about draft proposals for trialling a signal controlled one way working on the narrow section of the A415 in order to provide a pedestrian walkway. Representatives from the Parish Council have been invited to meet with officers from the County Council to discuss the details of what is being suggested and any possible implications of the trial. A representative of PLAGS will also be invited to attend. Also see the article by PLAGS elsewhere in this issue.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 14th March 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.

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

FROM OUR LOCAL PC ...

Hello hello hello! I trust that everyone is now all recovered from the snowball and tobogganing accidents and looking forward to spring rolling in with a vengeance. I wanted to take this opportunity to keep you up to date with what crimes are taking place in the area at the moment, so that you can help yourselves to ensure that you do not become the next victim. Across the vale we have been seeing an increasing number of thefts from and of motor vehicles recently. Many of the vehicles are parked in pub car parks or beauty spots, and have been targeted between 1600 and 2200 hrs. Most of the cars broken into have had laptops stolen. Car keys have also been stolen from a coat pocket which was draped over a patrons chair and the car pinched. There are obvious remedies here – take your valuables out of your car at all times and ensure your keys are somewhere where you would feel a thief fiddling about spring to mind! I don't want to teach you how to suck eggs, but clearly these basic crime prevention advice tips are not being adhered to by everyone.

Many of the villages up and down the A420 corridor have been experiencing high value burglaries over the last couple of months. Many of the affected houses have had antiques stolen. Similarly to the vehicles, if you have high value articles, please keep them out of sight away from windows etc. Any behaviour that you deem as suspicious, for example persons looking through windows or callers requesting to look at and value your antiques, we need to know about it. Please call us on 0845 8505505 with any information that can help us to apprehend these rogues. Alternatively please email us on ruralabingdon@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk . We will be only too pleased to hear from you. *Be safe!*

PC PAUL REECE