

MICHAEL POWDRILL

Michael's family would like thank all of you for your kind words and the many cards received after his sudden death. It is a great comfort to know how highly he was thought of and how much he will be missed by so many of you.

It was wonderful to see such a full church on the day of his funeral where the sun was shining brightly - just as he liked it!

A big 'Thank you' also goes out to those who helped with the wonderful refreshments provided afterwards, from the food right down to the washing up - we are very grateful.

We would also like to thank the Duffield residents, The Sunshine Club and those who donated at the church for the very generous amounts collected which will be split between Dad's favorite charities.

Thank you for being his friends and making his time in Marcham a busy and enjoyable one.

From all of Michael's family

NEIGHBOURS AROUND THE FIELD UPDATE

We met with Neil Rowe and Doug Colkin (representatives of the Anson Trust) on Thursday 1st February and informed them of the results of our questionnaire. We stressed how important protecting the Anson Field from development was to so many of us.

We also informed the Parish Council about the results of our survey. We urged the Council to reject any proposal from the Trust involving a housing development on the Anson Field unless they have clear evidence that a majority of the residents of Marcham are in favour of it. We offered our assistance in mounting a village wide survey to establish what the residents really think. We also asked if the Parish Council could verify the Trust's dire warnings about what would happen if it had to be wound up.

More details of our meeting with the Anson Trust can be found on the NAF web pages at <http://www.scilutions.co.uk/anson/> Please keep checking the web pages for the latest news from us and full details of the questionnaire results.

BOB ANDERSON 391460

NICK LAWRIE 391540

(For the NAF committee)

Dear Editor

During the worst storms that we have experienced within years happening just the other week, with winds gusting to over 80mph locally, I was completely amazed that on the worst day, when walking my dog around the field and past the school (personally getting hit by debris at

least twice), to find not only that all the children were allowed to play outside in the conditions but at least 12 pupils were only in shirts! The rest apart from about 6 pupils who were wearing coats, had only sweatshirts on and supervised by 1 adult per playground huddled up in a doorway with hat, gloves and coats cuddling cups of tea! Being a director of a local Facilities Management Company and having to insist on all our staff having to work inside due to health and safety reasons and them being grown men working within the building & groundworking industry for many years, I immediately telephoned the school and asked who was in charge of the Health & Safety at the school to be informed that it was down to the Head Mistress who was not even at the school within the lunch hour and would have to call back, and when eventually getting to speak with her she was unable to give any justifications or reasoning apart from to say "sorry we have staff shortages and internal problems" and, as a parent of 3, I find this totally unacceptable!

Are the parents of the pupils at Marcham School aware of how this School and its staff have a complete disregard for Health & Safety as well as expecting children as young as 4-years-old be self aware enough to put on adequate protection or clothing!!! No wonder have the children around here are falling ill or ending up with social problems if this is the teaching they receive from the services that are supposed to teach them and offer them protection.

V P TYRRELL

Managing Director (amvdirect.co.uk)

Dear Editor

I attended the Exhibition in Marcham School on the 27th January. I subsequently attended a Thames water workshop on Sunday the 10th February 50 people from surrounding villages were in attendance. The theme of the workshop was to get the input of all participants to flag up the type of leisure activities that should be included on completion of the proposed reservoir.

There was a short discussion at the end of the day to voice any concerns on the proposed reservoir and access roads.

My impression is that Thames water might use all this positive input into leisure activities as a sweetener when applying for planning permission in 2008, implying that locals are in favour of the project.

I will be attending the GARD meeting in the Stevenson village hall on the 23rd February as they have started their public campaign. If we are to make our opinions heard we must make a united stand. If not the A415

bypass for Marcham will be delayed for another 20 years or more, increasing the risk to residents, as the road gets busier with time and the proposed reservoir gets planning permission goes ahead.

LES MITCHELL

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

If there is one thing I have learned since becoming an MP, it is the frustration many people feel at not having control over what happens in their local communities. We are all aware of the campaigns to keep our community hospitals, or save our local post offices, and the huge concern over the growth in housing. It's a really big problem in rural areas in particular, where local services are under threat all the time. For example 70% of rural parishes do not have a post office, 75% no bus service and 83% no GP. This causes real hardship to many people, patricianly those that are less able to travel outside their local area for the essentials.

For the first time in years a serious proposal in Parliament to address the decline in many areas of community life. This has taken the form of the Sustainable Communities Bill. It has support from all parties and hundreds of charities, national pressure groups and councils. If passed it will force the government to draw up an action plan for every community to reverse the decline in quality of life resulting from closures of local shops, help small local businesses threatened by big national retailers and address the social cost of people having to drive more as less and less is available locally. You will all have the right to influence this plan through the local council. The government will have to accept the council's recommendations unless they can show good reason not to.

The central financial implication for us is that South Oxfordshire/Vale of White Horse council would be given a breakdown of how central government spends money on local services in our area. If the council disagrees with how these resources are currently spent they can come up with an alternative plan that the Communities Secretary will have to accept and implement unless he can prove that it conflicts with national government policies.

Up to date news can be found at www.vaizey.com from which you can also go to my blog. See page 17 for surgery dates.

ED VAIZEY, MP Wantage (Con)

GARAGE SALE

DIY and garden equipment
10 am Sat 10 March 2007
Garage 33
off Fettiplace Road, Marcham
(access road leading to
back of Haines Court)

Write to MADNews and let others know what you think about current events