

FEBRUARY CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1 Expose 2 Staple 8 Housekeepers 9 Lapis Lazuli
 11 Or 12 Pussy willow 14 Pa 15 Stadhampom 20 First Edition
 21 Aye-aye 22 Agreed
 DOWN: 1 Echo 2 Paula 3 Sherifs 5 Topaz 6 Peril 7 Yellow pages
 10 IOW 12 Pas 13 Lapwing 16 Twice 17 Dusty 18 Olive 19 Enid

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The Head of Transport at OCC, Steve Howell, has evaluated the responses from the traffic scheme on the A415 in Packhorse Lane, and has decided on balance, that there is insufficient local support to justify changing the road layout.

This is a disappointment to me and probably quite a few other people in Marcham, who have campaigned hard for improvements to this stretch of road.

If invited by the Parish Council, Steve Howell and Ian Hudspeth (Cabinet Member for Transport) will attend the next Parish Council meeting and explain the responses to the scheme, and any other way to improve safety in Packhorse Lane. I will continue to campaign for improvements to this road, although I still believe that a bypass for Marcham must be the best long-term solution.

Last year, OCC began the process of selecting a technology and an operator to dispose of 200000 tonnes of residual waste (the black bin liner waste) in the county per annum as part of the drive to divert this waste from landfill. In April 2009, a new scheme comes into force throughout the waste industry, the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS). This scheme will force waste disposal authorities (OCC being one) to drastically reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. Failure by an authority to comply may result in a fine of up to £150 / tonne of waste over the allocation. The procurement process at OCC has reached the last phase, with two operators on two separate sites on the shortlist.

These companies have both offered Incineration (Energy from Waste) as the technology to deal with the waste. One of the companies is WRG at Sutton Courtenay, who operate the large landfill site adjacent to the power station.

Whilst there is some concern over incineration as a disposal method for residual waste, I have visited these modern facilities in the UK, Germany and Denmark recently, and have been assured as to their safety and suitability for the purpose of generating hot water and electricity from waste that would otherwise be landfilled.

I do not like the idea of storing up trouble in landfill sites for future generations, and support the diversion of waste away from landfill, where possible.

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THE OXFORD GREEN BELT WAY

CPRE Oxfordshire created the 50 mile circular walk as part of its 75th birthday celebrations, and to highlight the importance of the Green Belt, which was created around Oxford 50 years ago. The Oxford Green Belt Way joins up rights of way around Oxford, and as the Preface to the book says 'is aimed at helping people to access and enjoy the beauty, tranquility and diversity of Oxfordshire's remarkable countryside', in particular those living within Oxford, since the Way is accessible from all major bus routes. The book costs £5.00 and can be purchased from CPRE. A cheque or postal order for £6 (£5 plus £1 p&p) can be sent to: CPRE Oxfordshire, Punches Barn, Waterperry Road, Holton, Oxfordshire OX33 1PP.



More details from 01865 874780, email administrator@cprexon.org.uk or from the website <http://www.greenbeltway.org.uk/>

If you run or are a member of a group, why not write a short report about it?

SOUTH & VALE CARERS

Have you Time to Spare to Meet Someone New and Help them? South & Vale Carers Centre in Didcot are starting a new project and are looking for volunteers. Would you be interested in helping out someone caring for a relative in their own home? You would be introduced to a household where the carer and the carded-for person are living, and asked to stay in the home while the carer took some time off: perhaps an hour a month, perhaps an afternoon a week.

This would all start off with an interview for you, and references sought, and then a short training course to equip you for any situation and send you free from anxiety into your future as a volunteer! We will take care in matching volunteers and cared-for people, and you would have constant support by phone when you need it as well as ongoing face-to-face meetings with colleagues and with Chris Elliott, the co-ordinator of the scheme.

Chris is waiting to hear from anyone interested, and has much more information to give. Please email her at the Carers Centre on chris@svcarers.org.uk, or phone her there on 01235 510212. She will be delighted you've called!

White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre, Abingdon Thursday 6th March

A day of free activities aimed at the over 50s including Badminton, Dance, Health Walks, Relaxation Classes, Swimming, Tennis and Tai Chi. 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. If you can remember where you were when England won the Football World Cup, then this is for you! Transport is available. Contact Sports Development at the Vale of White Horse District Council on 01235 547646 for further information.

ANNUAL ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW ABINGDON AIRFIELD / DALTON BARRACKS, SUN 4TH MAY 08 10AM - 5PM

3 Hour afternoon Flying Display program : Arena Demonstrations Static Aircraft / Aircraft Fly In : Craft Fayre : Steam Machinery Vintage Vehicles : Hot Air Balloons : Pleasure Flights : Tank Rides Be aware there will be aircraft noise Fri 2 May - Tues 6 May.

HOMESTART ANTIQUES ROADSHOW

Dig out your treasures and bring them along for valuation by the experts on Wed 19 March at Didcot Civic Hall 10am-1pm.

Bonhams, who have been auctioneers and valuers since 1793 will be using their expert skills to value your household wonders, all in aid of Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire, a local charity helping local families with small children.

The cost of valuing 2 items is £5.00 and £1.00 per subsequent item. Refreshments also available. So come along and bring your treasures, ceramics, books, toys, silver, pictures etc.

All proceeds to go to Homestart's First Babies Group in Didcot

You never know what might be in your attic!

For more information, please contact Home-Start on 01235 511152.

In aid of Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire, supporting local families. Reg Charity No 1006230



HOME-START VOLUNTEERS

If you think you would like to be a Home-Start volunteer offering regular support, friendship and practical help to young families in the area, we would be delighted to hear from you. We are starting a Volunteers' Preparation Course starting in the near future and if you would like any further information about the course or Home-Start, please contact Hilary Mundy on 01235 511152 or at Homestartso@btconnect.com.