


*Dear Readers*

March marks a turn in the year when the days really feel longer and outside gets a lot more interesting (as long as you stay wrapped up!).

March is also a great month for celebrating: St David on March 1, the old Roman New Year on March 15, St Patrick on the 17th, the 25th is Lady Day, the traditional time for paying rent, and of course *Easter*.

I'll find any excuse to have fun!

*Until next time .*



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**PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**A415 Traffic Trial**

The County Council has advised the Parish Council that it has decided not to proceed with the footway around the bend near The Crown on the A415. A total of 750 households were consulted on the proposal and positive replies were received in support from 193 households representing 25% of the total. On checking the responses from households fronting the A415, i.e. those directly affected by the proposals only 30% supported the scheme. In addition the impact of the Government's recent announcement on funding for the County Council means that it is £6.5 million down over the next 3 years. As such the County Council is having to review its programme for the forthcoming years. In view of these comments the County Council has offered to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss the matter further. Arrangements are currently being made for them to attend the next Parish Council meeting, where they will also be available to receive comments on the Abingdon Traffic Scheme.

**Bus Service no. 43 Eaton via Gozzards Ford to Abingdon**

The County Council is having to make some amendments to various subsidy contracts. These have arisen owing to timing issues caused by traffic congestion, and to enhance those destinations which show signs of growth and to reduce services where there is no usage, or where other suitable alternatives already exist. The service 43 will continue to run on Mondays and Thursdays. It commences in the parish at the Black Horse, Gozzards Ford at 10.30 a.m. on both days and goes via Cothill, Dry Sandford (Church), Wotton (Lashford Lane) to arrive at Abingdon War Memorial at 10.45 a.m. Its return journey leaves Abingdon War Memorial at 12.30 p.m. on Thursdays and 13.10 p.m. on Mondays. It is important to indicate to the driver where you wish to alight, as the return journey only serves the above places on request.

**Annual Parish Meeting**

The annual meeting for all electors in the parish will take place on Wednesday 28th 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 on their activities over the previous year. The Parish Council has invited the emergency planning officer from the Vale of White Horse District Council to be the guest speaker and has also invited the new Head Teacher at Marcham Primary School to attend. It is very much hoped they will be able to be present. Make a note of the date in your diary.

**Best Kept Garden Competition**

A reminder that the Parish Council has again decided to run a best kept garden competition in the Summer. This will be front gardens only where judges can walk along pavements without entering private property. Prizes will be garden vouchers, as in previous years. Please bear the competition in mind when considering your garden planting this year.

**Howard Cornish Road – Bottle Banks**

Comments have been received about the generally untidy state around the bottle banks in Howard Cornish Road. It is the Vale of White Horse District Council which is the authority responsible for street cleansing, and they try hard to keep the area clear but, of course, have to send out contractors each time a complaint is received, so it can take quite a while for complaints to be resolved. The Parish Council would ask everyone who uses the bottle banks to do their bit to help keep the area tidy, by taking home any boxes, plastic carrier bags etc. that are used to take the glass and paper to the banks. Otherwise they blow around in the wind, contributing to the street litter.

**Trees at Junction of Howard Cornish Road / Hyde Copse**

The Parish Council has been advised by the County Council that the two trees, at either end of the short row of trees, facing Howard Cornish Road at the junction with Hyde Copse are to be felled. This is because they are overhanging the road and a danger to traffic. Complaints have been lodged with the County Council from Stagecoach bus company and local residents.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 12 March at 7.30pm. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.

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

**THE LATE  
ELLIS GEORGE  
SHACKLOCK EVANS**

Marjorie, Elizabeth and all the family would like to thank most sincerely everyone for their prayers, floral tributes, letters and cards of condolence on the death of a much loved husband, father and grandfather.

The support received from the Marcham community at this sad time has upheld us all on a great tidal wave of love.

**Thank you all again**