

SCHOOL NEWS

We all hope you had a relaxing Easter break and are managing to dodge the April showers!

As we start a busy new term, I'd like to bring you up-to-date with some of our end-of-term activities.

All the children from Duffield and Anson classes spent a morning enjoying a musical celebration of traditional stories in Oxford. The Hare and the Tortoise hand puppets were particularly popular!

The older children had a truly transporting experience, thanks to the RE Roadshow. This is a vast 'wagon' that pitched up outside Abingdon school. Once aboard, the children left the chilly climes of Abingdon far behind to visit Jerusalem.

Our final day of term was celebrated by a wonderful church service to which every class made a poetic, dramatic or musical contribution. We also enjoyed the seasonal reflections by the Marcham Singers. (This group of children, aged from four to eleven, meet every Wednesday morning before school to share lively array of songs.

I am very grateful to Jill Rowe and Lianne Smith for sharing their talents.) Our service was led by Eddie Shirras.



Poor Eddie and Pamela had the unenviable task of judging our Decorated Easter Egg Competition. The children had the challenge of creating eggy creatures on the theme of traditional tales, myths and legends. Apart from a wonderful collection of Humpty Dumpties, there were a few surprises, such as that well-known 'legend' – Kevin Keegan! The eventual overall winner was Josh Kingsbury, for his magnificent Jack and the Bean Stalk.

We are looking forward to a busy new term, with many of our younger children involved in growing plants. We are hoping to make ourselves "Bloomin' Marvelous" this term using planters and bedding flowers. Should anyone have any spare bedding plants, we would be most grateful for any donations. Thank you.

LESLEY CLARK.

CHARITY RACE NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who attended the Charity Race Night last month in the Institute. It was an exciting evening involving the screening of a number horse races chosen at random. The event raised over £800 for the Village School. A big thanks to all who dug deep into their wallets or purses and a special thanks to the local organisations that sponsored the races.

JOHN WATERHOUSE

FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

May I take the opportunity to update readers on a few County Council issues of particular interest in Marcham.

Bus Service: Firstly, you may well have heard that our bid to obtain Government funding to finance a new bus service between Witney and Abingdon via Frilford and Marcham has been successful and this will start in July. Details of the timetable and stopping off points are still being sorted out and I will ensure residents know these as soon as possible. It is likely that the bus will not take the detour around Howard Cornish because of the tight schedule but rather will stop at some point along Packhorse Lane. I know that recent cuts to other services have caused real problems for many residents and only hope that the new service will go some way to remedying this.

By Pass: Progress on the Marcham by pass continues to grind exceeding slow and has been complicated by the fact that now the more southerly route is to cost in excess of £5 million, Government approval is required. However, County Transport Engineers are continuing to work up the scheme and are currently undertaking the required Environmental Impact Assessment. Also I have campaigned for the scheme to incorporate a cattle/pedestrian footbridge on Mill Lane and I am pleased to report that this has now been accepted. In the next few weeks the parish Councils of Marcham and Frilford will be consulted on their views of how to manage the traffic flows at the A338 intersection. A formal Planning Application for the scheme is expected to be submitted by August of this year.

Police: Finally, I have recently been contacted by a number of Parishoners who have experienced severe problems with the responsiveness of the Police to reported crimes – including some quite serious incidents. Although the Police no longer fall under the remit of the County Council I should very much like to be kept informed of any problems residents have so that at least I can make representations to the Thames Valley force and give them the whole picture of what is happening locally.

ANDREW CRAWFORD

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FRILFORD ST PETER'S WI

Our next meeting will take place at Duffield Place on Friday May 21st at 2pm. We will be discussing the AGM Resolutions and registering our votes on them. Do come because your opinions are valuable.

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DO YOU REMEMBER D-DAY?

Perhaps because you were on the beaches yourself or because you were a wife doing her bit on the home front? Maybe you were a Scout taking on some vital tasks on the domestic scene or a child who did what had hitherto been the work of the man of your family?

Do you have letters from or to men sent overseas or other material such as diaries, at which we could take a careful and sensitive look?

Whatever your involvement, BBC Oxford would like to hear from you in relation to a major documentary for broadcast on D-Day anniversary 2004.

One of the researchers lives locally, so making contact couldn't be easier! Please call any one of the following numbers at no obligation for an initial chat:

Liz Roberts: e-mail liz.roberts@bbc.co.uk; home 01235 834295; work 08459 311444 (lo-call cost).