

Dear Readers

May is when the year really starts to come alive! The promise of "Fayres" and fetes and the excitement of May Day (I can almost smell the maypoles from here!).

The housemartins are back and all the birds seem to be in a flap about getting enough bits of twig, grass, worms and insects to keep their nests in order. Even the heron is out and about looking for fishy bits.

Thanks to all those who have sent in pictures for the cover, keep them coming.

Until next time....



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May 2005

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elections 5th May, 2005

A reminder that the polling station for this year's elections will be the *Social Club pavilion* in the Anson field, off Morland Road and *not* the Institute.

Parish Councillor: Mrs. Marion Pointer

Mrs. Marion Pointer has stepped down from being a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council acknowledges her voluntary efforts over so many years and would like to express its gratitude and thanks to her for all her hard work. She has been very active serving on working groups, and helping organise the Best Kept Garden Competition, and the Villager of the Year Award.

Best Kept Village Competition

A reminder that Marcham has entered the best kept village competition. The first round of judging lasts until 15th May. The Council would ask everyone to co-operate by keeping the area immediately in front of his/her own property tidy. We hope to be able to improve on previous years' positions on the results tables.

Best Kept Garden Competition

The Council has decided to organise the garden competition again this year. Judging will take place in June, with final round judging in July.

Parking on Verges

The Council is becoming increasingly concerned about the number of vehicles which are parking on the grass verges in the village. These are causing damage to the grass and leaving ruts, making maintenance difficult. The Council would ask that people pay attention to where they leave their vehicles.

Affordable Housing

The Council last year, with the help of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, undertook a survey in the village to ascertain the need for further affordable housing. An analysis of the results was done and reports given to the Parish Council. A conclusion was reached to investigate the possibility of extending the Longfields development. A representative from the Community Council and Sovereign Housing Association attended the last Parish Council to discuss the next stages. Matters are at very early stage and the O.R.C.C. is approaching the planning officers to talk about the principles of extending the Longfields site, positioning and layout out of any new accommodation. No drawings have been prepared and certainly no decisions taken as yet. O.R.C.C is keeping the Parish Council informed of progress and the Council, in turn, will keep the parish informed via MADNews.

Date of Next Meeting: Wed 11th May in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.
Clerk: Mrs L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham Tel: 01865 391833.

FROM THE REVD JEAN PAGE

Jonathan, Jenny and I wish to thank all those who sent cards, (more than 100 of them altogether), wrote letters or spoke to us of their sympathy following our sad loss.

We are also most grateful to those who came in such large numbers to the funeral at All Saints' Church Marcham, to share in our service of thanksgiving for Ken's life among us.

We have since received many warm comments on the way in which Jonathan conducted the service. As I could not resist responding to some of those comments afterwards, 'it's all in the genes'.

So far the church collection plus other donations adds up to £781.90 ... a truly magnificent sum for Abingdon Hospital Patients' Fund.

Thank you all for your generosity.

JEAN PAGE

THANK YOU

I would like add my appreciation of Ken Page who was the editor of MADNews for over four years, to the comments by Martin Thorne (3rd editor of MADNews) published in October 2004. Without Ken, MADNews might now be just a memory instead of the thriving part of the community it is today. I am proud to have taken my place in the succession of editors "standing on the shoulders of giants".

MERIEL, Current Editor

APOLOGIES

It seems that the gremlins got into our sophisticated collating machinery last month and some issues went out missing page 5. Spare copies were put in the Post Office but if you missed out, please let me know and I can provide the missing letters and adverts.

HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS

Normal Day	Will be...
May	May Day Holiday
Mon 2nd Tue 3rd Wed 4th Thur 5th Fri 6th Sat 6th	Tue 3 Wed 4th Thur 5th Fri 6th Sat 7th
May	Spring Holiday
Mon 30th Tue 31th Wed 1st Jun Thur 2nd Jun Fri 3rd Jun	Tue 18th Wed 19th Thur 2nd Jun Fri 3rd Jun Sat 4th Jun