

Dear Editor

I write this in the midst of a hectic General Election campaign knowing the results will not be announced until after the deadline for your May edition. I should just like to take the opportunity to say how enjoyable the past 4 years have been serving as your County Councillor. Marcham Division includes no fewer than 11 parishes each with their unique characteristics and issues. What is common to them all is a true sense of community, friendliness and an interest amongst virtually everyone in what is going on in their villages and beyond. This has made the job both demanding - as it should be - but also rewarding. I decided not to stand this time to represent Marcham Division at the County Council as I felt I could not properly balance the demands of trying to run a General Election campaign at the same time as campaigning locally.

I wish MADNews the very best - I am sure you will go from strength to strength - and I should also like to thank your Parish Councillors (and in the case of Frilford, your Parish Chairman) for their support. They do a tremendous job on behalf of their communities, often unseen and unsung, and we would all be very much the poorer without them.

Finally my best wishes to whoever wins the new County Council seat, which is now, and despite my best efforts, to be known as "Hanneys and Hendreds". I will be happy to sit down with your new County Councillor to ensure that they are brought up to date with all the issues as quickly as possible. I will of course still be in the area and will doubtless bump in to many of you at one event or another.

With very best wishes
ANDREW CRAWFORD

ANNUAL MEETING FOR ALL ELECTORS IN THE PARISH

This meeting will take place on Wednesday 18th May at 7.30 p.m.

in the hall at Marcham Primary School Morland Road.

In addition to the report from the Chairman of the Parish Council on local matters there will be an account of District and County Council matters over the last 12 months.

Local organisations will be able to update parishioners on their achievements, and The Police, too have been invited to attend.

This year refreshments in the form of cheese and wine will be available at the end of the meeting.

All electors are entitled to attend and raise matters relating to the parish.

Put a note of the date in your diary now.

Dear Editor

May I start by thanking the kind people of Marcham and District that have made me feel very welcome. My name is PC Ben Peach and I am the new beat officer for Marcham and District, Appleton with Eaton and Wootton. I am based at Abingdon Police Station where I will be covering the area on a full time basis. I have been based at Abingdon for three years and have worked as a patrol officer during that time. My interests and hobbies are walking my 18 month old Labrador called George, playing golf (badly) and DIY.

I have been fortunate enough to take over the position from WPC Debbie Allen who took pride in her beat. I believe in a pro-active approach to policing with the overall aim of improving the quality of life of the community, making its people feel confident and reassured.

PC Ben Peach can be contacted on 01235 556850 (Abingdon Police Station)

Or 0845 8505505 (To report a crime).

See Ben in full colour on the cover

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

A vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council. The period of office will be until May 2007 when the next elections are held. The Parish Council is an elected tier of local government. It has been granted powers by Parliament through legislation and can only act within those powers granted. It serves just the parish of Marcham. It maintains the cemetery along with the parish of Frilford, the play area, village green, allotments and can provide bus shelters, seats, litter bins etc. In addition it has a statutory right to be consulted on all planning applications in its area and its views are taken into account when the planning decision is made. It is often consulted on other local matters as well, having a representative on local committees and working groups.

The Parish Council plays a vital part in representing the interests of the community which it serves and is an effective lobby group influencing the other decision makers.

Parish Councillors can either own land or work in the parish or live up to 3 miles outside the parish boundary.

Should anyone be interested in filling the vacancy then please contact the Clerk who can provide details of the meeting schedule and further information and/or send a letter of application by the end of the month together with brief details about yourself and your interest in the community to the Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham, Oxon OX13 6PU Tel: 01865 391833

STAGECOACH BUS 31/X31

Last month we advised there was a change to the timetable. This had been notified to the Parish Council and we passed this information on in good faith. You can always check the times by calling 01865 772250 or 0870 608 2 608 or clicking to www.stagecoachbus.com. There is a direct link to the timetable from www.madnews.co.uk or pick up a copy from Marcham Village Stores.

ANSON FIELD GOLF PRACTICE

We have been made aware that in recent weeks golf has been practised on the field, resulting in damage to property adjoining the field. Please note, as clearly stated on the permanent notices, the playing of golf is strictly prohibited and will be enforced.

THE ANSON TRUSTEES

HOMESTART AND BONHAMS ANTIQUE VALUATION DAY

Dig out your treasures and bring them along for valuation by the experts on Friday 24 June 2005 at Wallingford Town Hall, Wallingford between 11.30am and 2.30pm.



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 and cakes for sale are also available. So come along and bring your treasures, ceramics, books, toys, silver, pictures etc. (but no jewellery this time, sorry).

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

KENNINGTON SWIMMING CLUB

Why not get fit and enjoy yourself at the same time.

Come along and test the water!

We have 3 family swimming sessions a week at Radley College pool:

Monday and Thursday 8 - 8.30pm
Saturday 9 - 10am

For more information phone 01865 739788

FOR SALE

Lawnmower Flymo Vison Compact (Electric) Less than a year old and hardly used. Cost when new £80 Would accept £45 Phone: Oxford 391 462