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NOTES The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team.

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Electric Lights to be replaced

The Parish Council has been advised by the County Council that during the financial year that has just started, the bracket street lights which are affixed to wooden electricity poles will be replaced. Works will be carried out in Frilford Road, Mill Road, North Street, New Road, Parkside and at Gozzards Ford. If you spot Southern Electric contracting vans in the village over the next few months, then replacing lights is what they are doing.

Changes to Mobile Library times

With effect from the week commencing 2nd June the mobile library will stop at Duffield place at 10.05 a.m. instead of 9.25 a.m. and will then go on to Sweetbriar in North Street and stop at 10.20 a.m. instead of 9.40 a.m. Would all mobile library users please note the library will now be in the village 40 minutes later than usual.

SE England Regional Housing Board

The Regional Housing Board has been transferred to the Regional Assembly. This brings together regional housing and planning priorities. The Housing Strategy document which covers the period 2008 - 2011 is available on the Assembly's website at www.southeast-ra.gov.uk. This April 2008

sets out the housing policy for Oxfordshire and the rest of the South East.

Youth Shelter

The youth shelter has been in situ in the Anson field for about 20 years. It has proved extremely popular over the years with the youngsters for whom it was intended and others who sit and take a break whilst in the field or watch the sports being played. The Council has begun to think about a new shelter for the field. It is wondering whether this might be better situated away from the children's play area, and the Anson Trust has agreed that it could go between the existing portacabin and the footpath on the Southern side of the building. There are a variety of shelters and seating areas on the market these days and it will be easier to buy a ready made one rather than construct our own as was the case 20 years ago. The Council is inviting comments on the style and design of a new shelter and should anyone have any ideas or thoughts then please contact the Clerk.

Oxfordshire County Council – Report a highway problem

Did you know you can report a highway problem direct to the County Council? Matters such as dangerous pavements, potholes, road markings, street lights not working, blocked drains and paths obstructed by vegetation etc. can all be sent via email to the County Council. Go on to the County Council's website at www.Oxfordshire.gov.uk on the left hand side click on Roads and Transport, then towards the bottom of the page you will see "report a highway problem" For those without access to the internet the telephone number for most matters is 0845 310 11 11 with option 2 enabling you to be put through to someone who deals with the Vale of White Horse area. The telephone number for reporting street lighting faults however is 0800 317802.

Concessionary Bus Fares

The Parish Council has been pursuing with the Vale of White Horse District Council the difficulties that the 9.30 a.m. start for the bus pass has brought to the residents of Marcham, particularly when there is a 9.23 a.m. bus that leaves the village. Unfortunately it looks, for the time being, that there is no chance of any review of the start time. The response received is printed on page 5.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 14 May at 7.30pm. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.

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

COUNCILLORS' REPORT

After several meetings and visits on site, I am delighted to confirm that the 8 children who were unable to start at Marcham primary school in September, will now be offered places at the school. The headteacher and governing body, along with officers at OCC and myself have agreed to pursue a plan to enlarge the school for September

2009. This should ensure that the future of the school in Marcham is assured for at least the foreseeable future, and should grow unaffected by any proposals, announcements, schemes or any other kind of visions from bodies outside the running of the school. The school is an asset to the village and to village life in Marcham, I will do all I can to see that it thrives. This is in line with support from the Parish Council and the Church in Marcham.

The issue of a proposed reservoir is once again in the news, as we await the publication of the much anticipated Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) by Thames Water and the Environment Agency. We certainly need a secure water supply, but should Thames water be responsible for supplying millions of litres of water per day to other water companies in the southeast of the country as well as their statutory responsibility to their 8 million existing customers? Thames Water are reliant upon the Environment Agency for their flood risk data and modelling for a flood alleviation scheme along the tributaries of the River Ock, we all need to voice our concerns about flooding, especially since the dramatic events of July 20th last year. The consultation period for the WRMP is 16 weeks, our views in this area are more important than most, it is essential to respond to the proposals to have any influence.

Finally, I joined other District and County Councillors at the Easter festival at Dalton Barracks on March 30th. The County Council allocated a sum of £100K to be spent on projects at military bases across Oxfordshire. The community centre at Dalton Barracks bid for funding and received £19.3K towards refurbishment and renewals of furniture, the play area and a welfare suite. The centre is open to the public for hire and provides essential support for families whilst members of the army are away on active service. Whilst Dalton Barracks is not strictly within the area covered by the MADnews, it is our closest contact to those who volunteer to serve our country.

Look out for the next open day, it is well worth a visit. **CLLR IAIN BROWN**

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HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS

Please ensure your rubbish bags aren't left vulnerable to animal and/or bird attack.

May Bank Holidays

Normal Day	Will be...
Mon 5 May	Tue 6 May
Tue 6 May	Wed 7 May
Wed 7 May	Thur 8 May
Thur 8 May	Fri 9 May
Fri 9 May	Sat 10 May
Mon 26 May	Tue 27 May
Tue 27 May	Wed 28 May
Wed 28 May	Thur 29 May
Thur 29 May	Fri 30 May
Fri 30 May	Sat 31 May