

Dear Editor

Closure of the Post Office

The closure of the Post Office and Stores in Marcham, while it lasts, is little short of a disaster for many older people who depend on it for day-to-day needs – including social security, newspapers, bread, drinks, groceries, lottery tickets and the like. Then there are the mothers who need something extra for the family supper, and don't have the luxury of a second car to drive to the supermarkets in Abingdon whenever they wish. Another group is of those who work from home and need to post items of many shapes and sizes – they may have a car at their disposal, but they now face a drive into Abingdon, or over to Kingston Bagpuize. *What a gain for the environment this is!*

If the Post Office Authority had decided to close the Post Office, I hope that the village would have been up in arms, and that (as has happened elsewhere) there would even have been protesters to stop the traffic in North Street. But the closure has come about for quite different reasons. And all we can do is to acquiesce silently in the loss of a valuable social amenity.

Few of us are party to the unsuccessful negotiations that must have taken place and which have led to the closure. Nor, for that matter, were many of us party to the decision-making that led to the closure of the Village Institute by the Anson Trust (just a few yards away from the Post Office and Stores). Does this provide food for thought about the public accountability that is borne by those who control buildings that are vital to the local community, whether these are charitable trustees or company directors?

ANTHONY BRADLEY

Dear Editor

Please can I thank Mike Blanch for airing his views on bonfires in the April edition of the MADNews.

I wholeheartedly agree with his comments. Bonfires are smelly, smoky and anti-social. If people are no longer allowed to poison our air with cigarette smoke I wonder why they are still allowed to make us breath in these highly toxic and carcinogenic fumes. There are many greener ways to dispose of your rubbish so please Marcham lets keep our air clean for all of us to enjoy.

ALISON YOUNGMAN, Anson Close

Thanks to all those who helped with the **Marcham Tidy Up** on 28 March. About 20 people, including some very enthusiastic youngsters, turned up to don hi-vis jackets, grab bin bags and tidy the village. Litter was a high priority on the recent Marcham Village Survey so it was great to see people coming along to really make a difference.

Dear Editor

ANSON TRUST UPDATE

Following the announcement of the signing of the land option (January MADNews), the Anson Trust is keen to ensure that villagers are made aware of developments, particularly via MADNews.

Presently the Trust is holding preliminary discussions with interested commercial parties. These are at a very early stage. However, the Directors can say that they envisage that the elements of the scheme previously announced will form the basis of future plans. There are two very important differences

- Marcham School will not be involved in any way in the development (this reflects the wishes of the school);
- and as a consequence of the 'credit crunch' and its effect on land values, there will be a reduction in monies available for development and therefore the scope of what can be delivered will be affected.

Consultation with respect to facilities will be initiated with user groups and other interested parties in the near future whilst information about other aspects of the plans and appropriate consultation will take place when firmer details are known.

In addition the Trust, within its severe financial constraints, is seeking to maintain and improve the facilities and environment on the Anson Field. In particular the surroundings of the Anson Field, have been cleared and tidied up and the car park has been resurfaced with Farringdon binding gravel. It looks much smarter, and has a surface which will not damage the mowers on the cricket pitch should any of it migrate in that direction.

THE DIRECTORS, The Anson Trust

Dear Editor

Marcham Post Office and Stores

Residents will have seen that the P.O. and Stores is on the market as a lock-up shop unit. We are working with Post Office Ltd. who have confirmed their wish to maintain a post office in Marcham, and hopefully a limited service will be provided until a new sub-postmaster is in place. We hope that the village will offer their support to a new tenant in due course. We wish the outgoing tenants, David and Julia, all the best for the future.

Any enquiries should be made to Paul Richardson of Richardson Commercial, on 01635 42631.

WILL & JANEY CUMBER

Directors, W. Cumber & Son (Theale) Ltd

GARFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
will take place in the Village Hall, Garford on Tuesday, 19th May 2009 at 7:30 p.m.



**Marcham
Moldova
Lifeline**

**COMMUNITY MEETING,
HELD 1ST APRIL 2009**

Jim Asher opened the meeting by describing how the MML came into being as a joint church and community venture to support the work of Agape amongst very vulnerable communities in Moldova. He then introduced Mary Innes, Chair of the MML Steering Group, who explained how the friendship between Agape, Abingdon School and All Saints' Church has grown over the past couple of years.

A Moldovan pupil from Abingdon School, Mihai Clapaniuc, spoke eloquently on the problems of his country and how important it was to encourage his generation into staying rather than taking their skills abroad; whilst Ruth Atkins outlined some of the practical ways that she had observed Agape working during her recent visit.

Eric Dunford, Treasurer to the project, explained how the PCC of All Saints' had made a commitment to raise a set amount of money over a two year period to help stabilise the cash flow received by Agape. A number of regular pledges have already been made by parishioners, and a separate bank account has been set up to manage this.

There was positive discussion about ways that the village as a whole could be involved both in fundraising and practical long term support, with some interesting ideas being suggested. The meeting was attended by representatives from many community groups active within the village, along with other interested members of the public and the local County Councillor.

MML thanks Abingdon Little Angels for their generous contribution to this project. Information packs and further details are available from Mary Innes (390368) and Denise Asher (391727).

ISIS Chamber Orchestra

MOERAN – SINFONIETTA

Vaughan Williams *The Lark Ascending*
Mendelssohn *Symphony No. 3 'Scottish'*
Leader – Andrew Lack
Conductor – Paul Cox

**All Saints' Church, Marcham
Saturday 23rd May 2009, 8pm**

Tickets: £10 (£8 Concessions), available on the door.

All proceeds from this concert will go towards the Moldova Lifeline project.

www.isischamberorchestra.org.uk