

Dear Readers

A big thank you to **John Guest** for performing emergency first aid on the duplicator last month - I am very grateful as previous editor, Martin Thorne and I had already got inky up to our elbows trying to sort it out! And this month to a local firm for allowing me to use their photocopier - without which you would not be reading this issue!

I was saddened to hear of the deaths of both Christine and John Carter of Millets Farm. I hope to publish a profile of them and their contribution to the community in the December issue.

Bill Oddie keeps popping up on my computer reminding me that it is autumn - well, with fungi the size of footballs, I don't think I need much reminding!

Until next time....



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November 2005

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

New Housing in Oxfordshire to 2026 under the South East Plan

47,000 homes need to be built in Oxfordshire between 2006 and 2026. Sites have been found for just over half this number, including over 3,000 at Didcot and are already identified in the County Council's Structure Plan which covers the period up to 2016. Beyond this date a further 21,000 homes will have to be constructed. Some can be accommodated on land which has previously been developed, but others will have to be built on greenfield land. The County Council has been carrying out consultation on where best to locate some of these additional greenfield site homes. One option was to site a further 4,000 in Didcot, with others in the North of the county near Bicester. A second option was focusing more on the South of the county putting 4,000 in Didcot and 2,000 in Grove/Wantage. The Parish Council has carefully considered the County Council's options of allocating new housing in Bicester, Didcot, Grove and Wantage. The Council had great concerns about further development in the Grove/Wantage area owing to a lack of good transport links and has resolved to suggest its own option to site housing near the existing suburbs of Oxford. This option was more sustainable because no major upgrades of transport links would be needed to connect the new houses with employment centres in Oxford. The suggestion supports the plans and aspirations of Oxford City Council.

Affordable Housing Update

In May this year the Parish Council last reported on affordable housing. At that time a decision had been made to consider extending the Longfields development. Since then, block layout plans showing a possible layout of a further 13 units have been prepared by Sovereign Housing Association, and which have been agreed in principle by the planning officers at the District Council. The Association too has lodged a bid with central government for the funding costs for construction, and will continue with the elevation drawings in the hope of securing funding. The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council has advised the Parish Council that in the new year it will arrange a brief exhibition of the drawings to show the villagers what is proposed. A planning application will then be lodged. The project to provide more affordable housing is steadily progressing. If the timescale is observed, and funding and planning consent granted, it is hoped that construction would start later in 2006.

Fireworks

The Firework Regulations 2004 : It is now

an **offence** for a person under the age of 18 to possess an adult firework in a public place. An adult firework is defined as something other than a cracker snap, party popper, sparkler, cap etc. In addition no person can use an adult firework between the hours of 11.00 p.m. and 7.00 a.m. unless on certain specified occasions eg. 5th November, Chinese new year etc. It seems that each year the period when fireworks are let off last for several weeks. The Council would ask that residents be considerate for their neighbours and the many pets and animals in the village, and notify others when any fireworks are going to be lit so that villagers are aware and arrangements can be made to keep pets indoors.

The A415 - New Crossing

The new crossing on the A415 at the end of the cycle track is now operational, and serves cyclists and pedestrians who approach from all directions. The Council would encourage users to cross at the appropriate point by the lights to ensure their safety and not to try and cross at other points or to dart between the traffic.

Thames Valley Police - Independent custody visitors

The Police is appealing for new volunteers to serve as independent custody visitors. The Authority has a statutory duty to manage an independent custody visiting scheme which provides a vital check on the way detainees are held while in police custody. Should anyone be interested in volunteering then please contact the Clerk who can provide further details.

Date of Next Meeting: Wed 9th Nov in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 8.00 p.m.
Clerk: Mrs L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham Tel: 01865 391833.

Dear Editor

May we through the MADNews say a big Thanks to pupils, staff and parents of Marcham primary school, for the donations of their recent Harvest Festival to Duffield Place. The gifts were outstanding and fully appreciated by all.

With kind regards and best wishes from all at **DUFFIELD**.

*A Thanksgiving Service
for
John and Christine Carter
will be held at
Dorchester Abbey
at 3 pm
Thursday 3 November*