

MARCHAM & DISTRICT NEWS

Dear Editor

The decision by the Anson Trust to ditch the refurbishment of the Institute comes as no surprise. The cock-eyed two-halls idea was obviously just a sop to the opposition to selling the Institute. It is a bad situation not helped by the threatened court case which will produce no gain for anyone but the lawyers. Three cheers for Neil Steptoe and his sensible letter last month.

If a new hall is to be built, I still feel that the Anson Field is the wrong site and would like to put forward another idea. A lovely piazza-like development could be created by building the hall on the site of the barn in Sharrards farmyard with vehicular access as now from Mill Road and an attractive carparking area and pedestrian access formed on the scruffy bit of land between the hall and the main road, incorporating the dovecot and the war memorial. This would make a vast improvement to the appearance of the village from the main road and it would be the sort of scheme I should have thought would be bound to attract lottery money.

A really worthwhile development like this might inspire others in the village with enthusiasm (which present plans do not) and help alleviate the disappointment and heartache of those of us who value the Institute. Perhaps a place on site could be found for the lions. It would also leave the Sports, Scouts and Social Club in peace to carry on as before and avoid the clash of sporting events with functions, such as wedding receptions, which appears to me to be one of the least desirable aspects of the present proposals.

I realise that this would depend on the willingness of the land owners in question to part with their land and hope that they will forgive me for the suggestion. If a new hall must be built, let's take the opportunity to provide a really good solution rather than one forced upon us through lack of proper funding.

JANET FRERE

Dear Editor

The Anson Trust

I disagree with the Directors of The Anson Trust Company's announcement in October's MADNews. Their suggestion not only destroys an historic part of the village but also leads us to believe that we would not be in the same trouble a few years hence.

Originally there were two buildings, until the fine old wooden cricket pavilion deteriorated and was eventually burnt

down. Presumably the Trust progressively sold off 11 out of the 12 cottages which they were given by the Ansons.

I suggest the solution is now to develop the available land at the back of the Institute, build a news sports hall and restore the Anson hall, but raise money locally to supplement this and inaugurate an on-going Halls Fund to support them.

JACK SPICER

Dear Editor

Further to the latest scheme/dream of the Directors of the Anson Trust Company, and a personal entry in the MAD News June 05 by Colin Bough, a Director of the above, we see in this short period another "About Turn".

No longer the modified proposal of retaining the Institute, and selling off part of the site for development, which were the result of consultation with the parishioners and groups within the village. Now it is the whole Institute site that is up for sale.

We are led to believe from our legal representative, that one of the legal companies used by the Trust were hardly aware of the details of this plan. He felt it was "Very much a long term plan to come into operation at the end of our lease" If this is the case, "What of the Institute"?

The present Lease expires on 31st December 2010, it is a Protected Lease and no doubt there would be strong legal claims should there be any problems renewing it.

What the Ex Servicemen's Club, and we are sure the rest of the village would like, is a realistic time scale for these proposals.

Back in July we approached the Trust over the reopening of the Institute. In August a formal letter through our solicitor was sent, offering to pay for Safety Inspections required for the issue of a Licence, and the Licence itself. To date, no reply. These financial offers were made as Colin Bough in his letter had stated "The reopening of the Institute was not feasible in current circumstances".

Does all this mean that the Institute will remain closed, unused, until 31st December 2010 when our present lease expires? That is 6 Christmases away, will we be denied the opportunity to provide the Senior Citizens with their Christmas Lunch and entertainment by the children of the village?

We are sure that the whole community await with "Bated Breath".

**COMMITTEE
EX SERVICEMEN'S CLUB**

INSTITUTE & OTHER LETTERS

*At the going down
of the sun and in
the morning, we will
remember them*



Dear Editor

Much has been said about the Ex-Servicemen's Club the past few months. I would like to point out to young and not so young that the Ex-Servicemen's Club was not formed just so that a few men could meet for a drink and a game of cards. It was also formed as a mark of respect for all those young men taken for wartime service.

They did not ask to go and they did not refuse to go. Many of them had seldom been out of their own village, suddenly they found themselves in uniform and at war. What was their feelings when on June the sixth 1944 they stepped off a landing barge, and found themselves up to their chest in water and their legs tangled in barbed wire? What was it like to see the man just in front of you have his head blown off? What was it like to reach the beach and see a man with horrific stomach wounds calling for his mother? What were the thoughts of the men as they went down in a glider at night to land in the sea, the glider torn apart when it hit metal stakes, a number of those men had a leg ripped off? If it had not been for those brave men and many more like them, we would not be enjoying freedom today.

For our tomorrow, they gave their today.

MAURICE SHEPHERD

Dear Editor

Re: Cheryll Sewell's article on Harry Dyer
I was born in Marcham and can remember Mr Dyer Senior's Farm up The Gap and what we called 'The New Estate' was orchards and farmland. I can remember looking into the dairy and seeing the milk being put into churns.

Nearly 30 years later I came back to the village to live in 29 The Gap. This house and 24 a, b and c were built in a field that used to belong to John Gross who lived in Pack Horse Land next to my paternal grandmother.

SUE BLAKE (née Russell)

FOR SALE

Small beech-effect vanity unit suitable for cloakroom or en-suite. Perfect condition. Unused - still boxed!! £50 for quick sale. Tony B 391519 (anytime)

WANTED

Twin cassette tape, preferably with radio, but not essential. Ring 01865 319592

Write to MADNews and let others know what you think about current events