

Dear Editor

Please find below the text of a letter I received from Thames Valley Police, after escalating my concerns about the incident on "The Bends" I highlighted in last month's MadNews.

Dear Mr Rowe,

Thank you for your letter regarding the traffic incident you were involved in, in which as a pedestrian you were struck on the arm by a passing vehicle, causing reddening to the skin.

I acknowledge that you reported the incident, in person, at the front counter of Abingdon Police station at approximately 7pm the following day and spoke with a female station duty officer.

I apologise that details were not taken from you. I understand that all police officers were committed and unable to complete a formal statement. However, a record should have been taken by the counter staff. I will ensure that this officer receives any necessary advice.

In view that you obtained the index number of the vehicle which struck you I will forward your letter to...the Administration of Justice Department at HQ. The Traffic Enquiry Team may be able to conduct further enquiries into this incident.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you feel you wish to discuss the matter further and I hope that your arm is no longer in any discomfort.

Yours sincerely, Ian Money

Sector & Neighbourhood Inspector, Abingdon

Vale of White Horse Police Area.

Inspector Money rang me to explain further his response to my escalation and I have also received a statement form to allow me to officially detail the incident in support of any "further enquiries".

PETER ROWE

MARCHAM AND FRILFORD BURIAL COMMITTEE AND MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Both the above bodies have recently approved expenditure to improve the Burial Ground as many people have been concerned about the condition of the area as it has become overgrown especially in the original part of the area. Apart from regular maintenance we need to clear a considerable amount of overgrown vegetation and then set a regular maintenance programme to keep the area in good condition.

Already new bins have been installed to allow dead flowers and other matter to be disposed of properly.

Part of the clean up meant that we had to
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clear graves of items that could be caught by the contractor's strimmer. A working party carried out this work as sensitively as possible and dead flowers and loose items were removed for safety but unfortunately this action offended some people.

Let it be made very clear this was never an intended consequence and it is deeply regretted if it did cause offence. We believe everyone that had cause to complain has been visited personally and the circumstances explained.

We believe for future clarity it will be sensible to draw up some simple guidelines to help people understand what is acceptable to place on graves so as they can be maintained by our contractor in a safe and proper manner. A working party has been established to review the advice we can give and this will be circulated as soon as possible.

We hope all parishioners agree the Burial Ground does need more maintenance and we trust the village fully supports this initiative.

As part of the improvement programme we hope to have help from some community groups from the probation service to clear the path running from the Burial Ground up to the Church although this may not happen until the New Year.

We will keep the village informed of the work as it takes place.

Thank you for your understanding:

MALCOLM DENTON Chairman

Marcham Parish Council

MURRAY MAC CLEAN – Chairman

Marcham and Frilford Burial Board

Dear Editor

The Big Village Tidy Up.

Following the success of the "Big Village Tidy Up" it may be time to consider setting up a Volunteer group to undertake various tasks around the village to improve or environment on a regular basis.

We have already proved that a few people devoting a few hours time can make a real difference and if this was to be carried out on a regular basis we could really make a huge improvement to our home. May we draw attention to the gentlemen of Duffield Place who have made such a difference to the appearance of the complex by just devoting a few hours each week. It is this community spirit that makes a difference.

We live in an age where as much as we would like to think our County, District and parish councils will fully maintain our infrastructure we know because of financial pressures we

will not have all the jobs done that we would like.

If anybody is interested in putting in a few hours once a month could they please contact Malcolm Denton by phone or E Mail. Once we have gauged interest we will hold a meeting in a local hostelry to discuss the best days and times to progress this initiative.

We should take heart from other local villages that have already established Volunteer Groups and Shipton-under-Wychwood now boast a group of 50 willing people undertaking many different projects going beyond the normal weeding and litter picking. Charney Basset also has a well established group called the Charney Army.

We would like to think that it is not just retired people that volunteer but let's have some youngsters as well. We all know of jobs that need doing so let's not wait for others but take the initiative and do something for ourselves.

MALCOLM DENTON 01865 391497

malcolm_denton_954@msn.com

Dear Editor

The thanks of all of us are due to the team who have cleared up the area round the War Memorial on the main road, cutting back the bushes and putting down fresh gravel. It will make such a difference for the wreath laying on Remembrance Sunday, 9 November. Thank you

EDDIE SHIRRAS

DENMAN COLLEGE

The celebration of Denman College's 60th birthday all went very well: it was lovely to be joined by so many of our neighbours on the Sunday. I do hope everyone enjoyed the chance to look round: and I hope we can find other occasions to do something similar before too long. Special thanks to all the children from Marcham School who charmed us all with their delightful singing and dancing.

We still have builders working on site - refurbishing the 1970s Brunner/Gwalia accommodation block. There should be little in the way of 'heavy' traffic as a result, as it's a much smaller job than the last one. By April 2009 we will be all en-suite: something that might have amused (or perhaps appalled?) the ladies who were here when we opened in 1948.

Looking forward to the next 60 years...

STEPHEN HACKETT Principal