the Parish Council - Malcolm Denton - that OCC do not put the mockers on the scheme by painting something on the road outside the shop!

Secondly, Marcham School took a great leap forward on Thursday 15th October, when the new classroom for the reception year children was officially opened.

What a treat to be invited to such a happy and positive event! I was shown around the school and the new classroom by a very bright and enthusiastic member of the school council, and found the whole visit very rewarding.

Remarkable to think that the project did not begin to take shape until January this year, but was ready for use by the start of the new school year!

There are many people to thank for the success. The enthusiasm of the Headteacher and the determination and drive of the School Governors, coupled with the design team and management, proved to be a winning combination.

Marcham has a first rate school with room for a young and growing community.

Finally, but by no means last, was the meeting organised by our able Member of Parliament - Ed Vaizey - on the plans of the Anson Trust. All credit must go to the members of the trust who did not shy away from answering some very difficult and engaging questions from a sometimes angry public. There were some residents of Marcham who had made up their minds beforehand not to attend such a meeting, as it would cover no new ground. They couldn`t have been more wrong. I never assume the outcome of a meeting beforehand. I think Ed Vaizey did Marcham a big favour by arranging and Chairing - with some degree of aplomb - the meeting on Friday the 16th October. Marcham deserves the facilities it needs for a growing village, hopefully the village will be properly involved sooner than some had intended, but not too late to have a real input.

STOP PRESS yesterday, against officer advice, members of OCC`s Planning and Regulation Committee refused planning consent for both of the proposed Incinerator sites in the County! You would not have put money on that outcome!

IAIN BROWN

Tel: 01235 751210

Email: iain.brown@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Janus, Westcot Lane, Sparsholt, Wantage, Oxon OX12 9PZ.

Dear Editor

Deadlock Unlocked

At last, signs of hope! Thank you to the initiators of the stimulating village meting on 16th October, to Ed Vaizey for keeping the peace, and to the representative speakers for their thoughtful if complex presentations.

The closure of The Institute (Dec 2004) and proposed development on the Anson Field (2006) has cast gloom and caused strife in Marcham for five long years. Currently, displaced groups, clubs and facilities are scattered throughout the village at venues kindly offered on a temporary basis but which do not meet all the users' needs.

Marcham requires a central, purpose-built village hall with surrounding green space, access and parking, suitable for all age groups catering for various activities. It became apparent from the buzz at the meeting that many villagers want to regain community feeling, pull together and be actively involved in major decision, and are willing to fundraise towards a new hall.

Several radical proposals were floated and hopefully will be followed up by the various parties. Now that community spirit is ignited, let the momentum be maintained by setting a date for a progress meeting, open to all.

GRETA GOULDING

Dear Editor

Litter Blitz

May I thank all the volunteers who turned up on Saturday 10th October and those that apologised because of prior commitments. The village looks so much better after a "Blitz" and if a few more people came forward we could really make a huge difference to the village environment.

Special thanks to our local PCSO's who came to help and they don't even live in the village!

If you would be prepared to help on a future "Litter Blitz" could you please e Mail or telephone me with your contact numbers and I will add you to the list of willing helpers

The Parish Council have arranged for extensive weed killing in the village and to maintain the roadside could we please ask residents to just hoe and clear any vegetation in front of their property.

Considering we have a population of in excess of 1600 it would be gratifying to think we could encourage a few more people to join our team to keep Marcham tidy.

I look forward to hearing from you

MALCOLM DENTON

391497 Malcolm_denton_954@msn.com

Dear Editor

I have lived in Marcham for over 30 years, It has saddened me deeply, lately, that where I have walked my many dogs over the past years to see that, Orchard Farm (Dow chemical) has been pulled down. It is not that I care about the buildings on Cow Lane but the old orchard and the building by the deep water, I am sure, many new residents to Marcham would not know that they exist. The old building at the bottom of Cow Lane had long before hens running about but it also had bats and I have seen owls as well. The orchard was alive with numerous animals and the ones I saw on a regular morning were hares and a beautiful owl.

In Berkshire they are trying to preserve old orchards as many of our local wildlife need these to survive, why is this not happening here!?

The residents who back onto the copse in Longfields would love to see sunlight in their back gardens but for the last ten years this has not happened. So why has it been so easy for the new owner of Orchard Farm to demolish buildings have a bonfire for over a fortnight continually all day and burning into the night and in so doing destroy the British wildlife habit in the orchard?

Name and address witheld

Dear Editor

Sunday Lunch.

I am an allotment holder at the Cow Lane Site. At 9.15 on Sunday morning 11th October I visited my plot to gather some vegetables as we were entertaining our familes and grandchildren for lunch. Can you imagine my horror to find that some low-life had already been and helped themselves to some of my vegetables, left behind the unwanted foliage for me to clear up, and carried out some totally un-necessary damage to other plants. Do these people not appreciate the expense, hard work and time that goes into growing one's own vegetables and that stealing them is a most despicable act. Perhaps they just don't care - what a state this nation is getting into. No doubt they won't have a conscience, I just hope they might have eaten too much and suffered from indigestion. If they really want fresh vegetables might I suggest they grow their own !!!!

Name and address witheld

MSSSC: Marcham Sports, Scouts & Social Club
The pavilion & field off Morland Road

Bar Open Every Friday Night Don't forget the bar is now open every Friday night and every week there will be at least one guest real ale available. The club is also open every Saturday after football or cricket.

Support your local teams.

We look forward to seeing you at the club

For more info contact Geoff Dix, secretary on 391577 or geoff.dix@hotmail.com