

Dear Editor

We are becoming increasingly concerned about the number of young children using Haines Court as a cycling race track. Ever since the Council made sections of pavement suitable for wheelchairs and buggies the youngsters have made use of the 'ramps' to continually ride around in circles taking no heed of the traffic entering or leaving the cul-de-sac. They seem to have no road sense whatsoever and we are constantly seeing them race across the road without stopping to look for oncoming cars or motorbikes.

Only the other day I had stopped outside our house and, taking care to notice that all the youngsters were on the pavement opposite, began reversing into our drive. The next thing I saw one of them, who appeared to be the oldest, cycling round the back of my car on the drive. Had I not seen him in my rear windscreen he would most certainly have been knocked down. We would urge all parents to instruct their children on road safety not only on main roads but also on the housing estate. None of them were wearing cycle helmets and none of them looked before cycling across the road. Perhaps Marcham Primary school could also play a part in teaching the youngsters road sense.

R & B CARTER

Remembrance Parade



Marcham's Remembrance Parade Service will be held this year on Sunday 12 November at 10am at All Saints' Church concluding with the two minutes' silence and the wreath laying at the war memorial in Frilford Road. Last year's Remembrance Service was made memorable by the medley of songs from WWII presented by the Marcham Singers and by a poppy map showing where parishioners had served in past conflicts and where family members are serving today.

We are eager to make this year's Remembrance Service helpful and supportive to as many people as possible, remembering in prayer those on active service now as well as those who gave their lives in past wars. Please let us know the names and locations of those of our family members and parishioners who are currently serving in the armed forces.

EDDIE & PAMELA SHIRRAS

Tel: 391319 email: epshirras@aol.com

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

I was delighted to get a call from the transport correspondent of the London Times, who is planning to do a piece on roads that are still waiting to be built. And guess what? Yes, the Marcham by-pass has had the longest wait. I passed on all the details to him, and put him in touch with Meriel, so with luck there will be some national coverage on this crucial issue. I was also pleased to get a letter from the Anson Trust on their consultation with villagers about the Marcham Institute, and I will be meeting them to discuss what their plans are. (see page 9)

I am coming to the end of the parliamentary recess. I spent a week visiting the Falkland Islands, as part of my role in the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. I spent two days on board HMS Chatham, and two days at the base (which has the longest corridor in the world). Just in case you think this was a jolly, I would remind you that August is the Falklands' winter! I also spent a week working at a nightshelter in Bedford, which was very illuminating. It gave me a better insight into the problems faced by the homeless. If I learned one thing, it is that homelessness is a symptom of much deeper problems with an individual, not a cause of those symptoms. So even if everyone had access to accommodation that would not simply solve their problems. They need a great deal of hands-on support.

I am now preparing for fatherhood, and also trying to lose weight for my Arctic Challenge for charity. I will be riding a husky dog sled across the arctic wastes in February, and raising money for Crimestoppers and the Oxfordshire Community Foundation, which gives money to local charities. On the off chance you wanted to sponsor me, just go to www.justgiving.com/edvaizey - or send me a cheque!

ED VAIZEY

MP Wantage (Con)

Dear Editor

MARCHAM & DISTRICT EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB

Behind the ornate lions in North Street, lies the Marcham Church Institute. The foundation stone of which was laid on Saint Nicholas Day in 1903 by Ann Anson on behalf of her brother Arthur Henry. After his death, a large part of his estate, the Institute, houses and playing fields were indentured to the Oxford Diocesan Trust to carry out his wishes and to perpetuate the memory of his name. To the left of the Institute is the Marcham and District Ex-Servicemen's Club. It was formed after the Second World War to provide an alternative

meeting place, other than the local pubs, for the ex-servicemen of the village and their families, and the surrounding areas. Today, only a handful of the original members survive. Over the years, it was decided by various Club Committees to extend the membership to all local residents, and this still applies today.

The Club offers a comfortable, warm atmosphere and is open several evenings a week. There is a fully licensed bar, which is run on a volunteer basis by club members. Throughout the year, the Club supports Crib and Aunt Sally teams and, in addition, there are Horse Racing evenings and other entertainments, the next being on October 28th when "The Silver Fox" will entertain us. He is a vocal guitarist with a very wide and varied repertoire. The Club also holds a Christmas Draw.

In the Summer months, for the Senior Members, a Mystery Coach trip, together with drinks and supper afterwards at the Club to round off the evening is organised. In the past at Christmas-time, a party was held in the Main Institute. Entertainment was provided by various groups of village children, with drinks and supper provided. Since we have been denied the use of the Institute for these functions, we have distributed food hampers instead. The Club has donated many hundreds of pounds to numerous village groups, these include the Marcham School P.T.A. the Community Mini Bus Project all very worthwhile causes.

So you see, quite a good deal happens at the Institute. Why not join us and help support these activities?

There is an initial joining fee of £15.00, plus an annual subscription of £10.00. There are no annual subscriptions for Senior Citizens, just the initial joining fee.

Pop in, you'll see many familiar faces and you will be made most welcome.

THE EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB

FREE TO GOOD HOME

Buyer collects.

Solid mahogany oval dining table, victorian style claw leg, with leaf to extend to 7ft.

4 upholstered chairs + 2 carvers. Plate glass top to protect at 'normal' size, plus full set felt/vinyl fitted covers.

White double plain wall unit (B&Q).

Contact 01865 391441 or 9 Anson Close.

Experienced cleaning lady needed for house in Cothill Road. Will probably need to drive. 10-12 hours per week Top rates (negotiable). Please contact Katie Pryce 01865 390393.

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