

STOP PRESS

A415 Traffic Trial

Unfortunately the County Council has not received many responses regarding the traffic trial on the main road. It is planning to deliver a letter to each household with a pre-paid reply envelope so that the views of the villagers can be gathered. The Parish Council would encourage you to reply to the County Council so that a decision can be made as to whether the narrowing around the bends becomes a permanent feature.

Dear Readers

Just enough space to say don't forget the clocks go back at 1.00 am on 28 October!

Until next time. *Meriel*

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NOTES The Editor reserves the right to alter, omit or hold over copy to another issue. The views expressed in the Marcham & District News are not necessarily those of the editorial team.

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October 2007

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Vale of White Horse District Council – Register of Electors

The District Council is currently compiling the new register of electors for the area. Please complete the white form which you should have recently received via Royal Mail and ensure that the District Council is aware of who occupies your property. Otherwise you will lose your chance to vote.

Trick or Treat - 31st October

It is approaching that time of year when children can be tempted into going out trick or treating. Normally it is a harmless pastime for children, but it can also be both frightening and intimidating. Much distress is caused by unexpected knocks on the door or loud noises. Some residents may welcome treat or treating, others do not. If your children do have to go out, please encourage them to call only on those whom they know and to respect the wishes of anyone who does not wish to participate. If you do get an unexpected caller, make sure the chain or door bar is on before you open the door. Do not let anyone in your house unless you are happy with their identity. If you need to talk to the police call 0845 8 505 505 or dial 999 in an emergency.

Fireworks

The Firework Regulations 2004: It is 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, and the Parish Council has already received comments regarding some being let off in September. 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.

Grants

The Parish Council considers any requests for grants at its November meeting. Therefore, if there is any worthy and needy organisation where Marcham residents benefit which is considering applying to the Parish Council for a grant, then please write to the Clerk before the end of October stating the purpose of the grant and supplying a copy of your organisation's accounts.

Cemetery

Works have been taking place in the Cemetery to improve the state and condition of it. The old broken fencing in the South Eastern corner has been removed, as well as the large pile of soil and dead flowers and wrappings. The central hedge has been

cut back. Works are still on going to clear the Western side of brambles, to cut back the yew tree near the entrance gate where it overshadows some of the graves, to tidy the edges of the grass at the paths and to re-seed certain areas. There are plans to install a new waste container. Once installed it can be used for the dead flowers, but in the meantime, would users of the Cemetery please be careful of where they dispose of unwanted items.

Allotment Rent Collection

The Clerk will be in attendance in the residents' lounge at Duffield Place between 6.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 10th October, 2007 for the purposes of collecting the allotment rent. Would all allotment holders please remember to bring their rent cards.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 10 October at 7.30 p.m. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. L. Martin,
90 Howard Cornish Rd, Tel: 01865 391833

AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN MARCHAM

Thirteen new homes have just been completed in Marcham near Abingdon in the Vale of White Horse District in Oxfordshire. The £1.6m development is the third phase of affordable housing in the village built by Sovereign Housing Group, part of the Oxfordshire Rural Housing Partnership. The much needed family homes were made possible by local landowner and Parish Council chairman William Cumber who provided the site.

Assistant development director Mark Allnut said: "We're very grateful to the parish council for being so proactive in its approach to meeting village housing needs. This development is sympathetic to the local surroundings, and shows what can be achieved when housing associations and parish councils work together."

The development was funded mainly by Sovereign, with £460,000 of government subsidy, and features two, three and four bedroom family homes, for rent or shared ownership.

The Parish Council requested a Housing Needs Survey which was carried out by the Rural Housing Enabler at Oxfordshire Rural Community Council in 2004 and revealed a need for up to 27 new homes. The new homes were designed by Sovereign's in-house architects and planning was secured in April 2006.

See cover for picture

CLEANER WANTED

2 to 6 hours a week, to help busy teacher.
Please phone 391950, C. Robichez