

Dear Editor

Whilst returning home from walking my dog on the night of Saturday 6th September, I was 'clipped' by the wing mirror of a car whilst walking around "The Bends" on the A415 in Marcham.

The car did not stop and although I was not injured, beyond a slight red mark on my arm, I did get the registration number and immediately reported the incident on the Police non-emergency number. I was first informed that somebody would come out to see me, which I must admit I thought was a little optimistic on a Saturday night, before being re-contacted and told that as nobody was available I should make a statement the next day at a Police station.

I duly reported to Abingdon Police station on Sunday, and although the receptionist at the station was exceedingly helpful and made several phone calls to clarify if anybody was available to take a statement, and what the correct procedure actually was, the net result was that as I had not been injured the Police would not be able to take the matter further.

As a realist I am fully aware of the pressure placed upon limited Police resources and that prioritising does have to take place. However, I am very concerned that although in this case nobody was injured, that might not have been the case. If I had been slightly further out in the road, was elderly, or as in the case of my neighbour, was carrying a baby in a car seat the situation may well have been very different.

Therefore, from a "health and safety point of view" I cannot understand why this "near miss" is not to be followed up in some way. If a driver is not adequately skilled to judge the distance between their car and a pedestrian they are surely a danger to themselves and other people. I have also asked myself if their reason for failing to stop was the result of something more than ignorance of the fact they had hit somebody: Was the vehicle insured; was the vehicle taxed; was the vehicle in a roadworthy condition; was the driver entitled to drive or was the driver within the drink-drive limit? I would like to put on record that as a resident of "The Bends" I personally was not in favour of the traffic scheme proposed by the Council, and even in light of this incident my view has not changed, as the 'cons' definitely outweighed the 'pros'. However I did expect that if an incident did ever happen, the Police would act in some way. Perhaps I should merely be grateful that the driver of the Volvo car was not a member of the shooting fraternity, and having winged their prey, didn't come back and "stretch my neck" to finish me off.

PETER ROWE
October 2008

Dear Editor

On Monday 4th August at approx' 12-45pm my husband was involved in a road traffic accident at Frilford Crossroads, but was thankfully not seriously injured.

Having joined my husband at the scene, we had a very long wait for the recovery truck to arrive. While we waited, we were approached by a very nice lady who lived nearby, who brought us a very welcome cup of tea each and a cake, having seen us waiting forlornly next to the wreck.

We did not exchange names so we will be grateful if you can publish this letter so that we can express our thanks and appreciation for her thoughtfulness and concern.

Many Thanks

PAM AND ROBIN CLAY

Dear Editor

Please allow me a few minutes to explain my long love of Marcham. I was born here in 1952 and apart from a couple of years away from Marcham it has always been a good happy place for my family and me, but over the last few years this village has lost so much.

What has built this village and the community over the centuries has been the people of Marcham, working men, business professional, labourers, councillors, mothers, grandparents, friends and neighbours. Most of these people built this village with love and pride are now in Marcham cemetery, the one place that they should be respected and laying in peace. They gave their love and dedication to Marcham in some way or another and helped build our future here, so why isn't the grass neat and tidy, the paths free of weeds and the flowers, whether real, silk or plastic, on a loved one's grave be allowed to be removed?

I love nature and respect it and over the decades of the years we have lived alongside of each other, so I am sure that in God's world there is room for us and nature to continue living together.

ELOISE WRIGHT

Dear Editor

I feel that a response to M Shepherd's (Mossy) letter is necessary even though I have spoken to him, outside the Institute Hall, something that I have done many times but have not seen him inside "it's quite sometime since I have been inside I must admit" says he! So whoever put the ideas into his letter this info is for you. The equipment, old furniture, personal goods have been stored there to help various organisations i.e. Chris Ricketts (Africa), Playgroup, Baby and Toddler, Church, Marcham Players and not least ME.

Since my 7 or 8 years in Marcham, Barbara and myself have lived a life of uncertainty

so many of the old packing-cases and suitcases are at the ready, no money has ever been exchanged or given to me or anyone else as far as I know.

I do not wish to comment on the other issues mentioned.

JOHN CLINKARD

OBITUARY

Herbert Reynolds (Bert Hallett)
10th January 1910 –
29th June 2008

Bert was born at Bletchley and as a child lived in eight different places in the West of England and Wales before learning his gardening skills from his father at what is now the WI HQ - Denman College at Marcham in Oxfordshire. After leaving home he worked on seven different estates in the Surrey and Sussex, and finally at New Alresford and Twyford Moors before retiring to Colden Common. He was a greenhouse specialist and an expert at presenting flowers and vegetables for exhibition.

From 1943 to 1947 he did National Service as a Bevin Boy miner in the Kent coalfield. He was a railway buff, and a model railway enthusiast, but his passion was for music especially choral. He loved Welsh singing and sang in choirs for more than 60 years, including the Cheriton Singers. He also took part in BBC's Songs of Praise at Alresford in 1976.

He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Church and many of the organisations in the village where with Ruth he enjoyed a happy and fulfilled retirement.

He leaves three sons, a daughter, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

TED HALLETT August 2008

THE LITTLE LITTERPICKER

I am the little litterpicker
The smallest one by far
And I would just like to say
Why do people drop their litter?
The fair streets of Marcham to mar.

I am the little litterpicker
The smallest one by far
And I would just like to ask
People, please pick up your litter
It's surely no great a task.

I am the little litterpicker
The smallest one by far
And I would just like to state
Let's all take care of Marcham
And keep it beautiful and great.

Marcus Owsnett Age 6

Written after The Big Cleanup 20 Sept 2008