Dear Readers

There seem to be a lot of animals and birds featured this month: owls, swallows, blackbirds and of course Puss in Boots! The Ex-servicemen's Club have provided a feature on The Church Institute this month on page 7. The full press cuttings will appear on the website. There is one from 1903 which details the service to commemorate the foundation stone which was "well and truly laid by Miss Anson with the usual formula" – a bit early for $e=mc^2$!

I have finally been able to make space for Maurice Shepherd's poem on page 15 which should probably have appeared in the spring – apologies for the delay.

Until next time....

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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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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Best Kept Village Competition

Marcham generally received positive comments from the judges of the competition, but was unable to hold on to its third place awarded last year. The Council would thank the residents who responded to its request to keep the outside of their properties tidy, the contractors and many volunteers who undertake litter picking. The judges' full report is printed elsewhere.

Is Your Electric Blanket Safe? sponsored by the Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire County Council

Free safety checks are taking place in Abingdon on Friday 8th September or in Grove on Friday 20th October. This is strictly on a first come first served basis by pre-booked appointment only. To book your appointment telephone 01865 815600 Minicom 01865 815350

Oxfordshire County Council - Vacancies for Home Support Workers

The County Council is working with 11 key partners to provide home support across the county. They are in need of home support workers in the Abingdon and Didcot areas to assist older people and adults with a disability to remain in their own homes.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a support worker and wants to find out more information please telephone Oxford Private Care 01855 861944.

The Gap - Resurfacing

Comments have been received concerning the poor quality of the resurfacing of The Gap. The Parish Council has been informed that this work is covered by a 2 year guarantee. The County Council is monitoring the road for other defects over the next few months, as well as work done in other nearby villages. Should any repairs be required, then the contractor will be recalled under the terms of the guarantee to rectify all problems at once.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

7.30pm Wednesday 13th Sept in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.

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

Dear Editor

For the second year a pair of swallows has built a nest in the covered passageway between our house and the garage, which is well protected from predators and the weather. They have produced a family of five who are starting to flex their wing muscles and make short flights. I thought you might like a photograph of these five who spend a great deal of time chatting and squabbling! You can see the nest in the back corner on the top of a spare fencing post. *See cover for photo.*

ANTHONY RUDKIN

Lauretta Tull of Sweetbriar thanks all kind friends for the lovely cards and good wishes sent following her accident. *She is still in Marcham Road, Hospital.*

ED VAIZEY WRITES...

Some of you will have realised that MPs are currently enjoying a 76 day holiday, otherwise known as a summer recess. Basically Parliament does not sit for the whole of August and September, and in theory MPs can do absolutely nothing at all for the whole time.

Of course, it does not work like that in practice. The recess is a great opportunity to catch up on paperwork, reading and moving forward on long-term projects. Constituents still continue to write and e-mail, and there are urgent cases to be dealt with just as there is when Parliament is sitting. Some people think Parliament should sit all year round, but I think that would be a mistake. It would mean a lot of "empty" parliamentary time would have to be filled, and there would be a lot more waffle. Also, although it is very hard to explain, when Parliament is sitting, it does seem to eat up all your spare time. So, like I say, it is difficult to find the time to really get stuck into long-term projects.

Just for the record, this is what your MP is doing/has done with his recess. Two week holiday. One week in the office. One week working for a homeless charity in Bedford as part of my work with the Centre for Social Justice. One week in the Falklands as part of my work with the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. Three weeks back at my desk or in the constituency. Two weeks paternity leave (hopefully). My only liberty is I won't always wear a suit in the office. And I have grown a beard. Which I will shave off.

ED VAIZEY
MP Wantage (Con)

MP'S SURGERY WTH ED VAIZEY

5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

September	
1	**Didcot,** King Alfred Drive Community Centre
8	**Wallingford**, Town Hall
21	**Didcot**, station
29	**Harwell Business Centre**, Cockcroft Hall from 12.30pm
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