

Dear Readers

The MADNews team would like to thank everyone and every organisation who has contributed articles, notices, reports, time, expertise, elbow grease, patience, proof-reading and finance to make sure that MADNews continues to thrive. "The Big Society" is very much in the news at the moment, but I am proud to be part of a tradition at MADNews that pre-dates that idea by some 33 years ... and counting!

Until next time



PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Meriel Lewis
8 Orchard Way, Marcham
Abingdon OX13 6PP
Tel: 01865 391725

Website: www.madnews.co.uk
Email: editor@madnews.co.uk

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Judith & Peter Fontaine
14 Tower Close, Marcham
Abingdon Tel: 01865 391275

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Advertising: 5pm 15th month
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except for Jan when it is 15th Dec for both

ADDITIONAL COPIES

These are available free from Marcham Post Office or the Editor. Postal copies are also available – contact the Editor.

NOTES

We apologise in advance for any errors that may creep into MADNews (online or print), or omissions that creep out - we don't do it on purpose!

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, who are all volunteers.

POLICE

PCSO Carly Milward
Tel: 0845 8 505 505

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Iain Brown
Janus, Westcot Lane, Sparsholt, Wantage,
Oxon OX12 9PZ
Tel: 01235 751210
Email: iainbrownconservatives@yahoo.co.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Marcham and Shippon
Jane Hanna OBE
4 Charlton Road, Wantage OX12 8ER
Tel: 01235 772782
Email: janehanna63@googlemail.com

For other councillors go to
www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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March 2011

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
Congratulations to Marcham and District News**

The Council would like to compliment MADNews on the quality of the printing and appearance of the newsletter since the acquisition of the new printer. The Council recognises the voluntary efforts of the editor and her team, and very much appreciates the opportunity of using MADNews to circulate Parish Council information to all. It is hoped that the new printer will ease the production task each month. Long may the high standard of printing continue.

Parish Council Elections – May 2011

The term of office for the current Parish Council comes to an end in May. Elections will be held on 5th May when a new Council, comprising 10 members, will be formed for the next 4 years. The Parish Council is an elected tier of local government. Its meetings are held in the evening on a monthly basis. It has been granted powers by Parliament through legislation and can only act within those powers granted. It serves just the parish of Marcham. It maintains the cemetery jointly with Frilford parish, the play area in the Anson field, village green, and allotments and can provide bus shelters, seats, litter bins etc. In addition it has a statutory right to be consulted on all planning applications in its area and its views are taken into account when the planning decision is made. It is often consulted on other local matters as well, having a representative on local committees. The Parish Council plays a vital part in representing the interests of the community which it serves and is an effective lobby group influencing the other decision makers.

Parish Councillors can either own land or work in the parish, be on the electoral roll or live up to 3 miles outside the parish boundary. Should anyone be interested in standing as a candidate, then nomination forms and further information will be available in due course from the Vale of White Horse District Council, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon tel: 01235 520202 who is handling the election process or from the Parish Clerk whose details are below. The deadline for receipt of nomination forms, which have to be returned to the Vale of White Horse District Council, is noon on Monday 4th April, 2011.

Salvation Army Textile Bank

The Parish Council has learned that the Fundraising Standards Board had asked the Salvation Army to deal with a public complaint about the charity's arrangement with its commercial clothing bank partner. The Council genuinely thought that the clothes and textiles donated in the bank in Howard Cornish Road helped local people, or raised funds to help the charity. The

Council was surprised to learn that there has been national press coverage criticising the arrangement that the Salvation Army had with clothing bank partner and is saddened that local donations may not have been used as intended. The Council is monitoring the situation, and has written to the Salvation Army.

Oxfordshire County Council – Street Lights – Night Time Conversions

The Parish Council is contacting the County Council regarding the night time conversions. That Council some while ago undertook to convert some street lights to night time conversions i.e. to turn them off from 12.30 a.m., and to switch back on, some that it had already turned off. The Parish Council, some while ago, carefully produced a list of those to be switched off and those to be left on, after considering the wishes of residents. The final adjustments to the lights were due to be carried out a few weeks ago, but it appears the works may have been delayed by the bad winter weather around Christmas time. The Parish Council is continuing to ask the County Council to complete the alterations to the timings of the street lights.

Date of Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday 9 March 2011 at 7.30pm. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. L. Martin,

90 Howard Cornish Rd, 01865 391833
clerk@marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.marchamparishcouncil.gov.uk

HELP NEEDED

We are a friendly family who live in Tubney and have 3 children (ages 10, 8, 8). I am looking for a responsible person to help out mainly Friday afternoons PLUS 1-2 nights of evening babysitting. The hours would be roughly 1:30-6:00pm Fridays. During those hours, I would ask you to babysit my 8-yr old twins and do light domestic tasks like ironing and Hoovering, and then some local driving to activities for the children. The evening babysitting would involve 1 weekend night per week and 1 weekday night. Those nights may change from week to week and can be flexible. You will need a car to arrive to our house, but you can use our car for driving the children around if you prefer. This position would suit someone who has another part-time job, is studying, or perhaps a pensioner who would like a bit of supplementary income. Must be an experienced driver, flexible, responsible, and happy to be with children! Must provide local references that I can speak with. I look forward to hearing from you at lori_bellings@hotmail.com or 07834 609 570