

COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORT

The County Council should be in a position shortly to start the budget setting for next year 2011/2012. It is likely to be a difficult process. The settlement from the government is made up of an array of grants, some of which are specific to certain functions of the council. Oxfordshire is what is known as a "Floor" authority and has occupied this position for many years. This means that the amount of funding from central government has a "Floor" below which the amount of settlement cannot be reduced. This is all very well, but this mechanism has worked against the County for far too long, and the "Floor" has become a "Ceiling" which means Oxfordshire gets a capped settlement. I have argued that this floor is reviewed and Oxfordshire gets a fair and proper settlement in future, but in the light of the economic conditions we face in this country, I won't hold my breath!

We await the Planning Inspector's findings to Defra concerning Thames Water's plans for a reservoir in our area. As far as I am able to understand - having studied this process since it become public some 20 years ago now - there is no requirement for a reservoir in our area for the next 20 years, if indeed it is ever needed. It has been accepted that a restored Cotswold Canal from Saul Junction on the Sharpness Canal to Lechlade via Stroud would cost a third less than a reservoir to build and would only cost water customers money when it is actually pumping water from the Severn to the Thames. The output of this scheme is up to twice that of a reservoir. The only people who do not like the idea are Thames Water.... Severn Trent are very happy to supply us with what we require in terms of water from their area! Watch this space as they say!

At long last, Marcham has come fully to life! A bold statement, but let me explain why I say it. In November 2004, the Institute closed, and community facilities were lost to the people of Marcham. There has been much anger and hostility towards the Anson Trust who closed the Institute and then spent valuable and scarce funds on some half-baked "plans" to close the school and move it out of the centre of the village. Other "plans" included the selling off of the open space on the sports field were equally unwelcome by many people in Marcham. The school was not treated very well by these "plans", but with a concerted effort by the Headteacher, The Governors and Parents - along with a generous benefactor - the school now flourishes, and has further plans to improve the well-used facilities. At long last, a group of Marcham residents have formed their own community group to move forwards with plans for community facilities and to take up the assets and responsibilities of the Anson Trust. The Anson Trust - to its credit - seem content for this to happen and for the village to have good facilities again. Well done to Mike Hoath for being so receptive to the wishes of the residents of Marcham. Jim Asher and his wonderful team of volunteers have a mountain to climb, but with the help and support of the residents of Marcham, there is every reason to believe that they will succeed.

I can only wish them and the residents of Marcham all the best in the coming months and years and hope to be invited to the opening of the new facilities when they are completed.

I wish the people of

Cothill, Frilford, Garford, Gozzard's Ford, Marcham and Tubney a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

COUNCILLOR IAIN BROWN OCC

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THE ANSON TRUST

Damage to the Walnut Trees on the Anson Field

During the recent windy weather, a bough of the walnut tree situated in the car park of the Sports Scouts and Social Club was blown down. The debris was removed by a local tree surgeon and at the same time the directors notified the Tree Protection Officer (TPO) at the Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) who came out to visit the site. A report on the condition of the trees has been prepared and submitted to the VWHDC by the tree surgeon on all 3 walnut trees on the Anson Field (one on the southern boundary, one near the play area and the damaged one in the car park). This report is currently being studied by the TPO to decide on any remedial action needed.



THE DIRECTORS

ARTHUR ANSON MEMORIAL TRUST LTD.

**British Telecom
High Speed Broadband**

Does Marcham want improved high speed internet in its area? BT is encouraging residents to vote for their area. Whilst Marcham has less than 1000 properties, if 75% of the people using the Frilford Heath exchange register, then BT will engage with the community to see what it can do in the area. Individuals can vote for their area to receive BT's highspeed broadband by visiting www.racetoinfinity.bt.com. Only 12 votes so far have been cast out of a total of 756. Vote now and this area could be the next to enjoy superfast broadband.

OAP Christmas Presents

Due to the economic situation of the club, we are not in a position to give out OAP presents this year.

The Committee, Marcham Ex-Servicemen's Club

Christmas Entertainment: Christmas Draw

The Christmas Draw will be held on Saturday 18th December starting at 8.30pm
Tickets are for sale in the Club now.

New Years Eve 8.30pm till late

This year we have **Something Special** singing in the club

Downsizing! Bargain household items for sale

Packard Bell PC, Windows XP, about 5 years old, with scanner, pair loudspeakers and its own computer table	£49
Office desk chair, black, castors,	£15
Ottoman stool with removable lid and interior storage space, red	£14
Single beds (2), mattress, pine headboard	£25 each
Single mattress	£12
Retro desk, 1960s	£19
Hexagonal coffee table, dark wood, glass top	£14
Large pine wardrobes (2)	£28 each
Queen Anne wing chair, blue	£19
Small chest of drawers (3 drawer)	£11
Small chest of drawers (5 drawer)	£18
Small TV with DVD and freeview	£9
Wooden 2 drawer filing cabinet with files	£17
Mirror, dark wood/gold frame, large rectangular	£12
Mirror, gold frame, large rectangular	£15

Plus assorted kitchenware, lamps, vintage collectables - please call to arrange viewing - Buyer collects

Call Mary, 390368.

Could you be a Bin Buddy?

If your neighbours are out during the day, why not agree to put their bins away in exchange for another favour like keeping an eye on your house while you are away.