

Dear Readers

The recent snow brought out lots of local sculptors and photographers and the results are on the cover! Thanks for all the photos, sorry I couldn't use them all - but there are more to see on the website

[www.madnews.co.uk](http://www.madnews.co.uk).

Valentine's Day is supposed to be the day when the birds start pairing up for the spring, so I am looking forward to an increase in their songs over the next few weeks. Don't forget to keep feeding them!

Until next time



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

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February 2010*

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**Parishioner of the Year Award – Last Chance to nominate**

For the past 6 years the Council has awarded a Parishioner of the Year Award to a local person or people who had devoted much time and energy working within the community. The Council has been seeking nominations for the next award and believes there are many people who would be worthy recipients.

The Council will be making a decision, at its meeting on 10th February. Would anyone who wishes to submit a last minutes nomination, please contact the clerk, whose details appear below, as soon as possible, sending a short statement of not more than 200 words, as to who he/she wishes to nominate and the reasons why the person(s) should receive the award.

**Council Tax 2010**

The Parish Council carefully considered its budget for 2010/2011 at its last meeting, and looked in detail at its likely income and expenditure. The precept in both 2006 and 2007 was £32,000, and in both 2008 and 2009 was £33,000. The Council has started a website, undertaken work to trees in the Churchyard, contributed to clearance in the Cemetery, undertaken weed spraying, renovated the youth shelter and put tarmac under the bottle banks in Howard Cornish Road. In order to achieve all this it has spent some of its reserves. This year it has set a council tax figure of £35,000. This is a total increase of just £3,000 over a 5 year period. The Local Authorities (Members Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 does grant the power to the Parish Council to pay basic allowances to their members. The members of Marcham Parish Council however decided some while ago to continue working voluntarily for the parish and not to claim allowances, thus helping to cap the parish element of the council tax.

**Waste Collections from October**

The Parish Council sent a representative to a recent meeting at the District Council's offices in Abingdon to learn about the new waste collection service which is due to start on 4th October 2010. The new scheme will follow the pattern already in operation in South Oxfordshire District Council's area. Households will be issued with four bins; green wheelie bin 240 litres for recycling; grey wheelie bin 180 litres for residual waste (landfill); green carry bin 23 litres for food waste, and green 7 litre box for food waste (in kitchen). Brown bins for garden waste remain optional, and will still cost £38 per year.

Further details about the scheme will be made available over the next few months, but it is understood that the bins will be delivered in August. Food waste bio-degradable bags (made of corn starch) will be issued initially, with further supplies to be bought from supermarkets. The recycling and residual waste bins will be

micro-chipped, and waste is weighed as it is tipped, not for charging households but for national statistics. The recycling bin will now take all plastic, and cardboard. Existing green boxes can either be recycled or kept for home/garden use. Except for recycling, no waste will be collected which is not in the relevant container (i.e. no more loose bin bags allowed). Food waste will be collected weekly, and recycling and residual waste fortnightly. Anyone who is infirm and finds it difficult to put out the relevant bin on collection day will be helped by the bin men who will fetch and return. The District Council is already identifying properties where there may be difficulties, such as flats, or properties a long way from the road, and will issue more information about the scheme in due course.

**Marcham By Pass**

It is some time since reference to the Marcham By Pass last appeared in the press. The Parish Council wishes to keep this as a top item, and in the fore front of the minds of those who make the decisions. It is currently preparing a list of people to contact and write to in order to maintain the priority of the By Pass.

**Oxfordshire County Council – Street Lighting**

Some months ago articles were placed in MAD News about the County Council's proposal to switch off street lights between 12.30 p.m. and 5.30 a.m. The articles sought the views of residents. Marcham Parish Council, following the comments received, asked the County Council to leave on specific lights and asked that consideration be given to turning off alternate lights. The County Council has admitted to jumping the gun and has begun to turn off consecutive lights in certain roads. Two parish councillors are walking the village to assess the lighting situation and will be making recommendations to the Parish Council which can be considered at a future meeting. Formal proposals will then go to the County Council.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 10 Feb 2010 at 7.30pm. in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place.

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

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**JACK DIX**

Jean, Teresa, Geoffrey, Leslie and families would like to thank everyone for the many cards, messages of sympathy and donations to Abingdon Alzheimer's Society or South and Vale Carers Centre at this sad time.

Our sincere thanks also to those who attended the funeral or gave their time to help at the Sports and Social Club afterwards.