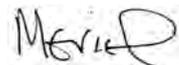


*Dear Readers*

A slightly different look to the cover this month - but for April it would be lovely to have some great pictures - that's a hint in case you missed it!

Lots of things are suddenly happening, the shop, Anson Trust and now the GMW! There is so much to get involved with in the MAD area, we are lucky that so many people are prepared to roll up sleeves and get stuck in to making the community a great place to live.

*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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March 2010*

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**Village Shop**

At the February meeting of the Council, Ms. Jane Barker, the village shops advisor from the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council gave a talk on setting up a community shop. The Parish Council is aware that the village has been without a shop for many months, and one suggestion put forward was to consider the possibility of a shop run by volunteers. Before any feasibility study can be undertaken it is necessary to gauge the level of support for this within the area. Could you therefore please complete the questionnaire on the back page of this month's MADNews and return this to the box at one of the locations indicated on the form by 15 March.

**Oxfordshire Waste Partnership**

Last year there were 4383 fly-tips across the county, which cost local councils over £250,000 to remove. This crime can have numerous unpleasant consequences ranging from environmental pollution and potential harm to children and wildlife, to economic impacts on legitimate businesses who are penalised as fly-tippers undercut their prices by not paying for legitimate waste disposal. Please be aware of fly-tipping and report any dumped rubbish to the Vale of White Horse District Council on 01235 520202, so that this can be targeted by the enforcement teams. Also please be aware of your own "duty of care" regarding rubbish removed from your home by workmen during decorating, gardening or garage clear-outs. Before hiring anyone to remove rubbish, householders should check with the Environment Agency so ensure that they are licensed waste carriers. The householder should also keep a written description of the wastes that is taken away. That way, if rubbish is found dumped and traced back to them, they will have shown they did everything within their power to ensure it would be disposed of properly. If not, you could be looking at a hefty £5,000 fine.

**Housing and Council Tax Benefits Service**

The Vale of White Horse District Council is keen to bring to the attention of its residents the following three elements of its housing and council tax benefit service:

- Surgeries – where residents can meet with benefit officers to discuss and make applications for housing and council tax benefit. The next surgery is on 25th March in the Faringdon Corn Exchange.
- Housing benefit and council tax home visits – where a visiting officer will arrange to visit the customer in their own home to assist them with their applications. To request a home visit to receive help with your forms please call 0845 300 6129.
- Benefit Fraud Hotline – A confidential service where people can report suspected benefit fraud. The Fraud hotline number is 01235 540330 or email benefitfraud@southandvale.gov.uk

**Marcham By Pass**

The Parish Council has now written to a variety of people including the County Council's cabinet members for growth and infrastructure, and transport implementation, MPs and the Regional Transport Board reminding them of Marcham's critical need for a by-pass to relieve the congestion and pollution created at the pinch point on the A415.

**Oxfordshire County Council – Street Lighting**

The Parish Council has now considered the part time night conversions of some of the street lights and has carefully taken into account the comments received from residents, whether to switch off or leave on. Recommendations have been difficult where there were conflicting views, so not all could be accommodated. A list of recommendations has now been sent to the County Council who will make the final decision following consultation with the Police.

**Annual Parish Meeting**

The annual meeting for all electors in the parish will take place on Wednesday 26th May at 7.30 p.m. in the hall at Marcham Primary School. This is an opportunity for residents to hear reports from the Parish Council, District Councillor, County Councillor on their activities over the previous year. A guest speaker too, is being planned. Please put a note of the date in your diary now.

**Dog Facces**

Residents have contacted the Parish Council saying that villagers are not picking up after their dogs when out exercising them. This is apparently so, in the Anson Field at the end of the passageway from Tower Close, and also in Mill Road. Actually it is a fineable offence not to pick up after your dog in designated spaces such as these, so would dog owners please think of others who use the field and lanes in the village and dispose of dog waste in the bins provided.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 10 March 2010 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**

**Robert (Rob) Langford**  
**1911 - 2010**

Our father, Robert Langford died on 23rd January after a short illness. He had spent the last 3 years of his life in Marcham and had very much valued the kindness and friendship shown towards him. We his daughters, Anne and Kathryn, and their families would like to say thank you for all the kind thoughts and sympathy extended to us following his death. He will be greatly missed.