

MARCHAM ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

This meeting took place on 28 May in Marcham School. Various reports were given but the highlight (apart from the cheese and wine!) was the presentation of the Marcham Parishioner of the Year (see cover for photo). Here is the citation:

**MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Parishioner of the Year Award**

Marcham Parish Council wishes to recognise and honour the achievements and contribution to the life and well being of Marcham made by

Eric and Sheila Dunford

Their founding of the Marcham Society and their immense contribution to its functioning in so many ways, including the holding of offices, organising meetings and undertaking research have provided parishioners with knowledge, pleasure and joy.

Their contribution to the life to All Saints' Church, in particular to its music, through membership of the choir and through the playing of the organ, is warmly and deeply appreciated by the congregation and adds greatly to the prevailing welcoming atmosphere.

Their selfless commitment and their informed and enthusiastic efforts have been pre-eminent in the establishment of the Jubilee walks in Marcham, whilst their many other contributions to the life of the village, including leading walks, running the village 'Café' and serving on the Parish Council are welcomed by all.

As a token of its appreciation and on behalf of the civil parish of Marcham, the Parish Council has presented this certificate to Eric and Sheila Dunford on the twenty eighth day of May two thousand and eight.

William Cumber, Chairman Marcham Parish Council

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S
REPORT TO THE ANNUAL
MEETING OF ELECTORS**

I promised last year to do what I could to ensure residents are kept informed and have an opportunity to express their views on the future of village facilities and the Anson Field. I met with the Anson Trust and the Neighbours around the Field and have set up an independent working party which has met three times. We are planning a public meeting and a follow-up questionnaire to Marcham residents as soon as possible after any application is lodged. This consultation exercise is with a view to informing myself and the parish council of the views of the village before any representations are made to the Vale Planning Committee. The timing of any application is not known, but the working group has received assurances from the Anson Trust that there will be sufficient notice to enable the consultation exercise to take place.

The Vale has retained its position this year as the 9th lowest charging District Council in England, but every year there is the same problem of sharing out the pie between an increasing number of services that the Vale is required to provide. The Vale has looked to do as much as possible to achieve efficiencies. Joint working with other authorities in areas such as benefits and

waste collection have demonstrated that we can keep the Council Tax low whilst continuing to deliver vital services. Doing what we can to help the environment whilst causing minimum inconvenience to residents is part of every policy area. We are committed, in the future, to weekly collections of food waste but will be asking waste contractors to run a scheme that continues to significantly decrease the amount of waste collected.

The Government scheme for bus passes has cost the council an additional £300,000 per annum and this combined with another statutory requirement to make up a deficit in the staff pension scheme has swallowed up the 4.9% increase in the Vale element of the Council Tax. I have made representations concerning the complaints I have received about the half hour delay in the use of the free bus pass. One option the Vale had was to increase the Council Tax for all residents – In South Oxfordshire, where the use of free passes is less than in the Vale it has cost an extra £13 to all residents to do this. To do this we would have faced an additional financial penalty from government, and we would have lost an ability to campaign to government to pay the full costs of the statutory scheme. We hope in the meantime to work with bus companies for reconsideration of the

COW LANE PADDOCKS

Marcham Parish Council is inviting tenders for letting for one year, the two pony paddocks at the corner of Cow Lane and Sheepstead Road. If anyone is interested in either or both plots, contact the Clerk stating the amount of the tender.

Please note the Council is not obliged to accept the highest or any offer.

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin
90 Howard Cornish Rd. Marcham.
Tel: 01865 391833

HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTIONS

Please ensure your rubbish bags aren't left vulnerable to animal and/or bird attack.

August Bank Holidays

Normal Day	Will be...
Mon 25 Aug	Tue 26 Aug
Tue 26 Aug	Wed 27 Aug
Wed 27 Aug	Thur 28 Aug
Thur 28 Aug	Fri 29 Aug
Fri 29 Aug	Sat 30 Aug

timetables and we will also continue to lobby for a fair local taxation scheme which will fully benefit people who are struggling financially.

Flooding remains a real concern for Marcham. I visited many of the home affected last year and appreciate the devastation caused. When an emergency flooding crisis occurs across the whole of the Vale, resources are necessarily prioritised to save life and areas with large populations at risk. The work of the parish council working group on flooding has a vital role to play and, working with the range of agencies involved including the Vale, has already produced an excellent flooding pack specific to Marcham residents.

During the year there has also been a full case load of housing and planning issues. The need for effective scrutiny of health services by local councillors also continues to be vital and an important part of my workload. I represent the Vale on the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and will be taking forward recent concerns about the proposed closure of a local pharmacy service.

JANE HANNA
District Councillor for
Marcham & Shippon

01235 772782
janehanna@dial.pipex.com