

Old Marston Parish Council

Spring Bulletin 2010

Welcome to our 9th bulletin, keeping you up-to-date with the work of your Parish Council. You can also find out more on our notice boards outside Mortimer Hall and the Jack Russell Pub, in the Marston Times and on our website: www.oldmarston-pc.gov.uk. We would love to hear from you – you can contact us via the Parish Clerk Mrs Kate Stratford on 07717-476765 or e-mail clerk@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk. Any comments on the bulletin send to Duncan Hatfield on 07706-998224 or e-mail bulletin@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk.

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The Elections

The next election day will be Thursday 6th May 2010. All twelve seats of the Parish Council will be contested. Also half the City Council and Parliament will be standing for election. For more information on voting or standing for election contact City Council Electoral Office on 01865-249811. The voting station will be at Mortimer Hall.

Parish Councillors

All members are trained in and abide by Code of Conduct and Standards – any member must declare any vested or prejudicial interests at the start of each meeting. Our current members are:

Charlie Haynes, Chairman	Roy Jones
Wally Cox, Vice-Chairman	Barrie Lewis
Duncan Hatfield (Editor)	Graham Swift
Gill Cox	Angie Tiwari
Peter Cox	Nils Bartleet
Michael Cadd	Hugh Deam

Our Meetings

Members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings. If you would like to speak at our meetings please contact the Parish Clerk who will send you a request form.

Fun Day/Open Day

We will be holding an open day fun day for everyone on Sunday 18th April 2010. There will be a range of activities in the Mortimer Hall recreational ground for children and adults, and exhibition inside Mortimer Hall and an opportunity to view the latest developments inside Mortimer Hall and an opportunity to meet your parish councillors. For more details contact Rachel Honey on 01865-245 423



Parish Clerk

Our current parish clerk Kate Stratford took over from Roy Garner who retired in April 2009 after nearly 50 years service. We held a leaving party for Roy which was attended by the Lord Mayor and Andrew Smith MP.

Recreational Grounds/Foompa

We now have a new play area at the recreational ground by Mortimer Hall. This is thanks to a committee of local parents and parish councillors (Paula Coombs, Kate Stratford, Nicola Hull, Claire Finch, Gabby Allen, Roy Jones, Gill Cox and Duncan Hatfield) known as Friends of Old Marston Play Areas (FoOMPA) who consulted local children and parents and worked hard to raise the funds. We are looking at ways of developing the site, including getting a climbing wall. The equipment is checked annually for health and safety by RoSPA.

The play areas in Boult's Lane Recreational Ground will be replaced when the new pavilion is built. The playing field has had a comprehensive drainage system installed making it one of the best pitches in Oxford, even in heavy rain. The Parish Council purchased a storage container for Marston Saints to store their equipment.

Community

The Parish Council plays an active part in the local community, and works with local groups and organisations such as the police, school, church, Marston Times and Mortimer Hall. The council also annually gives small grants to voluntary organisations serving some or all residents in Old Marston to help with their costs. Applications go out each October - more information from parish clerk

Environment

We are concerned about the local environment and oppose any over-development, especially on the green belt. We monitor the trees and overhanging hedges along highways and parks and remove or report any that are unsafe or cause an obstruction. We remove any fly-posting and report any fly-tipping. Every March we organise a litter-pick around the parish. We also have litter pickers which are available free to hire for local groups who would like to use them. A large amount of our business is now done electronically reducing our costs and amount of paper used. We receive information from the Oxford Green Belt Network, a pressure group who are campaigning for the protection of the Greenbelt around Oxford. For energy and money saving tips, contact the Energy Saving Trust on **0800 512 012**.

Highways

The Parish Council monitors the highways and underpass and reports any issues to the Highways Authority. We are demanding an urgent review of the traffic calming scheme in the village because of concerns about poor visibility, dangerous parking and the risk to cyclists, despite new 20mph limit. A County Council Transport Planning Officer attended our meeting to report on the safety audit of the traffic calming scheme through Old Marston Village. He reported that although the volume of cars had not reduced, speed has. It was noted that there is not enough space for cyclists, but there is insufficient space to provide proper cycle lanes through the village, and no money to remove chicanes.

We are also putting pressure on Highways Authority to repair our roads, some of which are badly potholed, and to improve road safety in the parish. We are also supporting the campaign for a crossing across Oxford Road near Cherwell Drive to improve safety for the children of St Nicholas School. We are working with the County Council to prevent commuter parking in residential areas. We are supporting a project to improve the footpath and stiles at Hill View Farm, the Victoria Arms and Back Lane.

New signs to Church and A&E and no through road sign on Butts Lane have been put up in response to Parish Council's request. No signs can be displayed without permission of Highways

Authority (unless temporary). The police would like the County Council to install restrictions outside the parish church. Oxfordshire County Council is undertaking a review of local bus services. The Parish Council does not want village to lose the 14, 14a, 17a, 17c buses.

Planning

Parish Council is consulted on local planning issues. Issues affecting our decisions include: loss of family homes, the large increase in homes of multiple occupation, over-development, threats to green belt, parking, traffic congestion, buildings in gardens, the village conservation area, complaints from neighbours and the 30 degrees of vision rule. We opposed the Tesco takeover of the Old Friar because of the risk of more traffic and threat to local business including the post office, which will affect residents in Parish. We are concerned that the Bungalow at Hill View Farm in Mill Lane has been granted a change of use and may be developed instead of remaining as accommodation for farm workers. The Parish Council will monitor the development particularly in relation to traffic and the greenbelt.

With large developments some money is provided for local amenities. We make suggestions on what will best serve local residents and on a name that reflects local heritage.

There are also plans to expand the capacity of St Nicholas Primary School, provide shared cycle route from Marsh Lane and Stockleys Road, and to expand the Marsh Lane recreational ground to include more football pitches, six netball pitches and increased car parking. Three Horseshoes pub was denied planning permission for change of use. The parish clerk is investigating how planning officers reach decisions.

North East Area Committee

The Parish Council has a representative on the North East Area Committee, where a lot of planning decisions are made, as well as other City Council business relating to our area. We try to make the voice of Old Marston residents heard and report back any decisions made and other information.

Financial

The Parish Council has successfully obtained a rebate from the City Council. This is for services provided by the City Council, for example parks maintenance, which is paid for in Oxford by council tax, which we all pay for, then they charged us again for doing the same work on parish land. Negotiations are ongoing but the City Council has agreed to maintain the Parish facilities similar to those in the City area from the universal Council Tax.

Our budget is approved by the Parish Council and independently audited by BDO. We are also covered by liability insurance. We are currently having our assets independently valued.

Burial Ground

The burial ground in Elsfield Road is maintained by a team of volunteers lead by Parish Councillor Peter Cox, but more volunteers are desperately needed. There is a new shed for storing the equipment used. We have a plan of improvements that include improving the drainage, clearing drainage channel near allotments, removing resident moles, having a uniform style of headstones and landscaping the surrounding land to make it more scenic (which could become part of the burial ground in the future). We are reviewing our fees to match City Councils fees. For further enquiries contact clerk: clerk@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk or 07717-476765

Allotments

The Parish Council own and maintain the allotments in Mill Lane but they are run by their own management committee. We have had a new water pipe installed to improve water supply to allotments.



Back Lane

Back Lane is an old medieval route that runs along the back of Oxford Road from Mill Lane to the recreational ground by Mortimer Hall and a short stretch from the cycle track to Raymund Road. The main part is in a very poor condition and the County Council with support from the Parish Council is due to improve the drainage and surface so it can be used all year round.

Pavilion

The Parish Council and Marston Saints Football Club are working to get a Sports Pavilion at Boult's Lane for the Parish. Planning consent has been received and a steering committee of parish councillors and Marston Saints are investigating different funding options, including a possible loan. When it has been built a new play area will be opened beside it. We will keep residents informed of developments.

OxClean 2010

OxClean is an annual citywide litter-pick event co-ordinated by the Oxford Civic Society and organised locally by Parish Councillor Duncan Hatfield on behalf of the Parish Council. This year was our third year and we had a team of 20 local volunteers who collected nearly 40 sacks of rubbish and pile of scrap metal from around the parish. For more details go to our website or call Duncan on 07706-998224. We hope to do another one later this year.

Mortimer Hall

Old Marston Village Hall (Mortimer Hall) was built in 1962, paid for by fundraising, public subscription, and a bequest from the Reverend John Mortimer on land leased from the Parish Council. It is owned by the community and run by a management committee.

There have been major improvements including a modern heating system, new storage, new toilets including an assisted toilet, a podium to replace the stage, removal of sliding wooden doors and a new front door. We have been approached by the family of the late Gordon Busfield regarding siting a clock on the outside wall and are currently in discussions with them. This development has been paid for by fundraising and contributions from various organisations including the Parish Council, North East Area Committee, Rural Community Council, St Michaels and All Saints Charities, The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, The Doris Field Trust, Oxfordshire County Council Library Service and Grassroots Grants through the Oxfordshire Community Foundation.

The next phase of work will include a new kitchen, a new wooden floor in the main hall, a suspended ceiling and new lighting in the main hall and work on the roof. If you would like to get involved or donate please contact Wally Cox on 01865-245154. Special thanks to the Committee, especially to Chris Crane, Mark Longford and Tim Cann.

Mortimer Hall Pre-school have received grants to develop the Nature Garden around the back. Areas have been left to allow wild plants and animals, and a willow dome and trees to be planted. A further grant provided a storage area and an observation area for the children.

Crime/Police

The Parish Council works closely with the local police and has expressed concern about the lack of police patrols in the parish. The police have identified three main areas of concern based on consultation with local residents: Speeding and Parking, Litter and Dog Fouling and Anti-Social Behaviour. They hold monthly residents surgeries at Northway Community Centre. For details call 08458-505505, email marstonnorthway@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or visit <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n335>. To set up a Neighbourhood Watch e-mail: rrnhwatch@gmail.com for help and advice.



Rights of Way

There are a number of rights of way in the parish. Some of the laws governing them include: keeping the paths, gates and stiles properly maintained and signposted without obstructions, uncultivated, without dangerous animals or other dangers to users. More information can be found at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/rowip/countryside

Barton Development

There is the possibility of a large scale development of Barton, including a possible park and ride which could have a major impact on Old Marston, particularly in terms of traffic. We will be keeping a close watch on this and voicing our concerns to the relevant authorities.

Marston Times

The Marston Times is a monthly local publication where you find the latest news from the Parish Council and from other local organisations. For more information contact the editor Jan Sanders on 01865-244481.

Bellringers

The St Nicholas bellringers are looking for more volunteers of any age to join them. You don't have to be particularly fit, mathematical or musical, or have any experience, or even be a member of the church. You will be sure of a warm welcome and will be taught in groups or individually by some of the best teachers in the art of campanology (bell ringing). You will be helping to keep a Marston tradition alive. Come to St Nicholas Church on any Friday between 19:20 and 20:15 or before a service to find out more or you can phone Hugh Deam on 01865-247574 for further details. Do not worry – you do not have to commit yourself if you feel that it is not for you. (Under-sixteens need permission from their parents.)

The Memorial Garden

There is one beside St Nicholas Parish Church and another one along Oxford Road on the site of the old Reading Room, a memorial to the late Reverend John Mortimer. It is a conservation area, so plants are allowed to grow wild and set seed. The grass is mown outside the growing season and weed killer is not used. It is maintained by the parish church.

Old Marston Charities Trust

The Trust is a small local charity that makes small local grants to those in need in the parish, and owes its existence to the Poor Relief Act of 1603 and a grant made by King Charles I when many of the trees were cut down. It was used to provide coal to the poorest in the parish. Contact the Parish Clerk for more details.

Councillor Profile: Barrie Lewis

Barrie was born in 1943 in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. In 1969 he moved to Cambridge where he worked for S.C.B. (Scaffolding Britain) as a scaffolder. Following this he moved to Marston, Oxford and worked for eight years at Upper Heyford for the Ministry of Defence. After this he was employed by John Lang Construction for seven years and worked a further eight years for Taylor-Woodrow.

On 11th August 1973 Barrie married Janice Elizabeth at the Oxford Registry Office. Barrie has been caring for his wife since she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1993 until she passed away in 2009. Barrie retired in 2001 and now plays an active part on the local community. He joined the Parish Council in May 2009, serving on the Planning Committee and taking an interest in issues relating to the roads and highways in the parish.

Archives

Council has a large number of archived materials – please contact clerk if you would like to view



Street Names – What They Mean

- Arlington Drive** - Henry Bennet, first earl of Arlington (bap. 1618, d. 1685) entered the service of George, Lord Digby, secretary of state to Charles I, in 1643
- Ashlong Road** - Local medieval field Ass Long Furlong in 1605, Ashlong Furlong in 1613, named in 1940.
- Barns Hay** - Named by Myra Haynes when farmyard at Cross Farm was sold
- Beechy Avenue** - unknown
- Boults Lane/Close** - Named after the farm at the end of Boults Lane, farmed by the Haynes family.
- Broughtons Close** - The Broughton family farmed Court Place Farm - named 1970s
- Cannons Field** - The Cannon family farmed in Marston in the nineteenth century
- Cavendish Drive** - Charles Cavendish (1620–1643), royalist army officer
- Cherwell Drive** - Celtic origin. 'Cher' has uncertain origins, 'well' means 'stream'. In AD681 spelt Ceruelle, AD864 Cearwellan and AD1221-6 Cherlewelle. Street named officially in June 1947.
- Church Lane** - Road runs alongside the church
- Clays Close** - After local field owned by Charlie Haynes grandparents called Great & Little Clay
- Cotswold Crescent** - Named after the Cotswold Hills on the suggestion of the Estate Developer
- Cromwell Close** - Oliver Cromwell (1599–1658), lord protector of England, Scotland, and Ireland. Came to meet Fairfax and discuss siege tactics at the Manor House (now 15/17 Mill Lane), Marston. He also observed the movements in Royalist Oxford from the church tower.
- Cumberlege Close** - The Revd. H.A. Cumberlege was Vicar of Marston 1899–1904
- Dents Close** - Named after Doreen Dent who married Oliver Haynes
- Elms Drive** - After graceful local elms before Dutch Elms disease massacred so many
- Elsfield Road** - Means 'Elesa's Land from the Wood', spelt Esefelde in 1086, Elshfyld 1232, Elsfeld in 1335. Street named 1955.
- Ewin Close** - unknown
- Fairfax Avenue** - Thomas Fairfax, third Lord Fairfax of Cameron (1612–1671), a Parliamentarian who besieged Oxford and had his headquarters at Marston. Street named 1935.
- Fane Road** - Mildmay Fane, second earl of Westmorland (1602–1666), a Royalist who turned Parliamentarian. Also John Fane, died 1824, MP of Oxford for 8 successive parliaments.
- Gordon Close** - Revd Richard Gordon (1804–77), Vicar of Marston from 1849
- Harlow Way** - Professor Vincent Harlow, who lived at 14 Oxford Road
- Haynes Road** - The Haynes family owned Cross Farm, named after Thomas Murray Haynes, died 1974 - lifelong resident of Old Marston and a building worker.
- Horseman Close** - Maiden name of Jericho girl who married into Haynes family. Field and Close named after her. Means 'horse way' spelt The Horseleys in 1557, Horse Leas in 1605 Horse Leys in c1840
- Jessops Close** - After local field
- Lewell Avenue** - unknown
- Little Acreage** - After the large house that stood here and was later demolished.
- Lodge Close** - After Olive Lodge, one of the first women to become a Deaconess (Marston 01/11/72)
- Marsh Lane** - Means 'Marshy Lane', Spelt 'The Mershe Dyche' in 1550, 'The Common Marshe' and 'Marshe Dich Furlong' both in 1605. Street named in 1940.
- Mill Lane** - Named after the water mill that probably stood near to where Sescut Farm now stands.
- Mortimer Drive** - The Revd J.H. Mortimer was Vicar of Marston 1905–1951
- Nicholas Avenue** - Sir Edward Nicholas (1593–1669), Secretary-of-State to Charles I
- Oxford Road** - Once old road from Oxford to Marston, Park Way-
- Ponds Lane** - Named after the ponds which surrounded the church, and the streams along the sides lane
- Raymund Road** - Raymund Haynes, who farmed at Cross Farm, for many years during the C19th/20th

Rimmer Close - he Revd Paul Rimmer was Vicar of Marston from 1959 to 1990

Rippington Drive - The Rippingtons were the biggest landowners in Marston in the C19th

Rylands - Named after family who live in Marston during 17th century

Salford Road - Unknown origin. (Salford means 'Salt Ford' a stream crossing on salt trade route)

Southcroft - Originally Succroft, a local field

St Nicholas Park – after the parish church

The Butts - A shooting range, originally for arrows and later for guns, especially during the Civil War

The Link - Road linking North and South parts of Carter Estate

Wards Mobile Home Park - Named after the family that owns the site

Windsor Crescent -unknown

Oxsrad

Oxsrad have a number of activities including The Community Sports Club which was launched on 29th November which is free to all 11 to 18 year olds and runs every Wednesday from 6pm to 8pm. Their integrated Youth Club takes place at the OXSRAD Sports Centre on Tuesdays between 6p.m. and 9p.m. This is aimed at 8 - 18 year olds and offers a range of sports and recreational activities each week. The cost is £3.

Local Groups and Organisations

Bell Ringers – 01865-247574 (Hugh Deam)

Church – 01865-247034 (Rev. Tony Price)

Church children's and young persons' groups and Holiday Club – 01865242239 (Jane Burd)

Church Hall bookings – 01865-248260 (Gill Hale)

Friends of Old Marston Play Areas (FOOMPA) -

Friends of St Nicholas Primary School – 01865-435432 (Tess Nowell)

Guides/Brownie/Rainbows – 07984-680858 (Sarah Beale)

Marston Medical Centre – 0844-4773870

Marston Saints – www.msfc.org.uk

Marston Times – 01865-244481 (Jan Sanders)

Marston Wives – 01865-242329 (Anne Joyce)

Mill Lane Allotments – 01865-767489 (Dr Graham Smith)

Mortimer Hall - Chris Crane on 01865-727995 E-mail: mortimer.hall@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk

Oxford Road Allotments – 01865-202104 (Tim Cann)

Oxsrad – 01865-741336

Over 50s Club – 01865-240357 (Gill Wells)

Parents Who Craft - 07780-713909 (Clare Ramsden) Fridays 14:30-16:30 cost £2.50

Preservation Trust - 01865 242918

Preschool – Gill Cox E-mail: mortimerhall1@btopenworld.com

St John's Ambulance - Mark Longford 01865-250438

St Nicholas Primary School - 01865 242838

Women's' Institute – 01865-247106 (Sue Hayes)

Useful Numbers

Trading Standards - 0845-050 7666

Traffic lights and pedestrian crossings fault reporting - 01865-815775

Library services - 01865-815509

County Council switchboard - 01865-792422

Cleaner Streets - 01865-252900

Council Tax - 01865-252870

Planning - 01865-252860

Report Potholes – 0845-310 1111

Street Lamps – 01865-815696

Website

The Parish Council has its own website which was set up by and maintained by Parish Councillor Duncan Hatfield. On our site you will find our latest information, including minutes, and contact details, local groups and organisations, local history, pictures or Marston past and present, and other useful information. The address is:

www.oldmarston-pc.gov.uk

Contact us

All business relating to the Parish Council please contact our Parish Clerk, Mrs Kate Stratford:

Old Marston Parish Council
13 Fane Road
Marston
Oxford
OX3 0RZ

07717-476765

clerk@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk

Chairman, Charlie Haynes: chair@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk

Vice-Chairman, Wally Cox: wally.cox@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk

Editor, Duncan Hatfield: bulletin@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk

Miscellaneous

Could anybody draw us a map of the parish boundaries that we could use in our publications and on our website? Please contact the editor.

PS – A request from the fire service: please test your smoke detectors

