

**IN BRIEF****Have your bike security coded**

**OXFORD:** Police officers will be security marking bikes for free in the city centre at the start of next month.

Neighbourhood police teams will be in Queen Street, Commarket Street and Broad Street on Friday and Saturday, June 1-2 to security stamp cycles and offer crime prevention advice.

The postcodes help police officers return lost and stolen bikes to their owners.

**Two car crash**

**STEEPLE ASTON:** A motorist was taken to hospital after a collision between two cars on the A4260.

The ambulance service was called at 2.49pm yesterday, to the turning into Steeple Aston.

One person was taken to the Horton Hospital in Banbury but their injuries were not believed to be serious. Another person was treated at the scene.

**Class of 1940s**

**S OXON:** The 10th annual school reunion for former Sydenham and Chinnor School pupils has been announced.

Open to classmates from the 1940s and 1950s, the event will take place on Friday, July 13, at the Old School Room in Sydenham from 7.30pm.

Guests are asked to bring a bottle and food for a sharing buffet.

For more information call Chris Bishop on 01844 281645.

**Homes on show**

**BANBURY:** Over-55s will get a chance to look round a purpose-built housing development on Tuesday. Stanbridge House in Ruskin Road will be open from 10am to 4pm.

Most of the 70 flats – which have 24-hour support staff – have already been taken but applications are invited for rent and shared ownership.

The development includes a shop, restaurant, hair and beauty salon and facilities for classes like cookery and IT. Call 0345 606 6363 or 0345 608 4021 for more details.

**Got a story?**

Call the *Oxford Mail* newsdesk on 01865 425500

**TV battle gets dream Phantom wedding**

A BICESTER family had to battle it out on television to win their daughter her dream wedding.

The Allen family took part in Sky TV show *Battle of the Brides*, which sees two brides get the chance to have a joint wedding but they must compromise on their dream day.

Zoe, 26, wanted a *Phantom of the Opera* themed wedding, while fellow bride Cora Baxendale, of Sheffield, wanted a *Queen of Hearts* day. Both had to agree to incorporate each other's ideas into the day – with the help of their families – to win a £25,000 day.

Zoe called on her parents Paula, 47, and Pat, 53, Allen, from Defiant Close, Bicester, and sister Rachel, from Southwold, Bicester, pictured left with her.

Former Cooper School pupil Zoe Hermitage

now lives in Kent with her ex-soldier husband Kevin and their daughter Mya, three.

Sister Rachel Allen, 23, of Southwold, Bicester, said: "She went on the show because she booked her wedding and had to cancel when she found out she was expecting Mya.

"We took part in filming – both brides were there and revealed parts of what they wanted in their wedding and got to try on each other's dresses and see table decorations.

"We gave Zoe our opinions and supported her." Zoe, whose wedding took place at Fawsley Hall, in Northamptonshire, last November, said: "I had always been on the lookout for cheaper ways to have our wedding and came across an advert for the show. It was a bit of a nightmare getting to the wedding day, but on the day it was absolutely amazing."



Zoe said her dream red wedding dress, arrival transport – a gondola on wheels – and the bridesmaids' dresses, and flowers all stayed in the show, which goes out on the Sky Living channel at 9pm tonight.

**SCHOOL RUN:** Campaign to solve congestion at gates**Pupils turn wardens to tackle traffic jams**

■ Laura Jones

ljones@oxfordmail.co.uk

**NINE-year-old children armed with cameras and clipboards took to the streets to tackle problem parking around their Littlemore school.**

The nine John Henry Newman School pupils were joined by teachers, Police Community Support Officers and parish councillors in Grange Road on Tuesday morning.

They recorded examples of motorists leaving their cars on dropped kerbs, double yellow lines and in no parking zones.

Once they have compiled the results they will meet with the school's Parent Teacher Association in a bid to set up a walking bus to escort pupils from St Nicholas Road to the school gates.

Nine-year-old Amaani Khan said: "We went out in Grange Road at 8.15am and did a tally chart of all the people who parked on double yellow lines and zigzag lines and hopefully the police will do something more.

"We knocked on the windows and they put down their windows and we said 'can you move your car because you are parking on the pavement and it's hard to get through?' and then they said 'OK'.

"The people whose windows were knocked on were very helpful.

"If everybody parked in the right spaces there would be more space for people to drive and reverse and it would make it safer for children to get to school."

Helping the Year Four pupils were PCSO Lori Jones, their teacher Shee-



■ **ON PATROL:** Amaani Khan, nine, left, and eight-year-old Sabi Hussain with their clipboard and, inset, cars at the entrance to the school

Pictures: OX51906 Jon Lewis

lagh Knights and Littlemore parish councillor Dorian Hancock.

PCSO Jones said: "We get a lot of complaints from people and the school about parking and road safety issues.

"This scheme is run by Oxford City Council and they bring it to the school as the police we like to get involved and the children respond really well"

Teacher Sheelagh Knights said the scheme not only helped to educate parents about parking but also stimulated a debate in the classroom.

"A lot of English work has come out of this in terms of discussion and argument," she said. "It has helped the children to think about how to put ideas across and we've had a debate out of it

with both year four classes. The project has involved a lot of speaking and listening and using persuasive language."

Mr Hancock welcomed the crackdown on inconsiderate parking.

He said: "I think it is brilliant. I was in total admiration of the teachers and the children in their quest to address the issues."

**‘If everybody parked in the right spaces there would be more space and it would be safer for children to get to school**

– Amaani Khan



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