

A LIFE LIKE OURS!

We hope you'll agree that the full colour photos on the front of MAD news really help to bring us to life! Here are some of the stories behind the scenes:

School Council Raises £102 for Foodaid!

Following our Harvest focus, School Council organised a 'non-uniform day' to raise funds for Foodaid. Rebecca Rowe, Chair of School Council commented "We all had lots of fun dressing as different characters". Treasurer, Helen Walker added "We collected from every door, so everyone dressing up donated. It was a great effort"

Apart from raising money, the day was also great fun, as Ashley Gardner's writing from Morland Class reveals:

Once upon a time there was a little girl called Ashley. One day she went to school dressed as a police woman because it was a fancy dress day. Some of her friends dressed up too and this is what they dressed up as, Natalie Ward dressed up as a vampire, Natalie Wiseman was a princess, Robert Gresham dressed up as Harry Potter and Jordan Goodman dressed up as a football.

The End.

Many thanks to all School Council members, and to Miss Lamb and Mrs Kingsbury who supported the children's work.

Pupil Wins Poetry Prize!

Congratulations to all our children who took part in an Oxfordshire poetry competition involving writing, designing and illustrating a poem on the theme of 'food' using ICT.

Zoe Walton in Denman class won a 'highly commended' prize and went to receive a professionally printed copy of her poem, presented by poet James Carter. Zoe explained how she had researched her ideas for the poem. "We had been thinking about how we buy food and what values this has for the growers. I looked on the Fair Trade website and really got into it, this inspired my poem".

NEWS FLASH!

We're delighted with the response to two of our newest clubs. High Fives has an enthusiastic following on Wednesdays:

Inspired by MAD news, the older children will be bringing out their own school newsletter before Christmas. They work together pooling creative, journalistic and IT skills at the Newsletter Club, run after school by Mrs Johnson. We are all eagerly awaiting the first edition!

LESLEY CLARKE

MADNews editors in the making perhap? Ed

www.marcham.oxon.sch.uk

MARCHAM SOCIETY NOVEMBER WALKS (ANTIPODEAN SECTION)

G'day from Cowaramup in South West Australia where members of the Marcham Society did the monthly walk last month. Following the usual format, we started with lunch, this time at the cafe in Cowaramup, aptly named Udderly Divine (the almond chocolate cake was!). Our walk began as we headed south alongside the main Perth to Augusta highway – as busy as our A415 and equally not to be recommended.



school building is in the village.

On the way we passed an early Group Settlement house, 2 rooms and verandah, built of timber with corrugated iron

But this was the only way to approach the Old School building. The School was founded on 19 November 1924 and closed in August 1960. It is now used by the local scout group and the new

roof. This type of building was home for the first settlers in this area in the 1920s as they cleared their allocated 100 acres of bush for dairy. A few of the original buildings are still habitable, but many, such as this one, have fallen into disrepair.

Having left the school we took a quieter route, passing a group of over 20 Straw-necked Ibis in a field, and then joined a section of the 'Rails to Trails' track where the old railway line has been turned into a safe haven for walkers and cyclists. Splendid Fairy Wrens (the males are electric blue colour), Grey Fantails, Ring Necked Parrot, and Red Wattlebirds were some of the birds spotted on this stretch of track.



Sun Orchid



Blackboy – grass tree

Along the route were several different gums, including the red-flowered Gungurra and a yellow-flowered one known as Yate from which a local honey is made. Cowaramup is full of a red-flowering climbing pea but most of the flowers belong to families which don't grow in Britain at all, such as the grass trees known as Blackboys which are highly drought and fire resistant. Also spotted were scented sun orchids along with a few alien imports from South Africa such as Watsonia. As we headed for home we visited the church (another Marcham Society walk 'must') constructed of timber in 1929, some 5 years after the school. The organ had stops for 'Hawaiian Guitar' and 'Jeannie with organ' amongst others. On contrast the next day we walked along the coastal Cape to Cape path which brought a wonderful diversity of different flowers, and birds such as gannets, osprey and southern Emu-wren, and dolphins leaping through the azure blue Indian Ocean.

If any readers would like to visit this beautiful area and take in the flora, fauna and wineries then our holiday home is available – contact C Bolton on 391391.

CLAIRE BOLTON, ERIC AND SHEILA DUNFORD

December Social

Dec 14th 7.00pm for 7.30 at Manor Farm. Bring and Share! Please let Judith Fontaine (391275) or Janey Cumber (391327) know whether you are bringing savoury, sweet or something to drink.

Midweek Walk Thursday 2 December

For our next walk we will be exploring the River Windrush and the flooded gravel pits around Standlake. We will meet at The Black Horse in High Street, Standlake (Map Ref: SP 395028) at 12.30pm for lunch or 1.30 for the 4 mile walk. New walkers are always very welcome. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.

www.marchamsociety.org.uk