

**MSSSC: Marcham Sports, Scouts & Social Club**  
**The pavilion & field off Morland Road**

November was a relatively quiet month for the club, apart from another successful quiz night and a well attended real ale night. December is not going to be as quiet though, we have got something going on most Friday evenings.

On the 5th we are holding a Christmas Family Disco. There will be Christmas music, games and party bags. Make a note, it should be just right to get us all, especially the kids, in the mood for the approaching festive period.

On the 12th the club will be hosting the Cricket Club Christmas draw. There is always a fantastic selection of prizes, mostly food and drinks. Visit the bar at any time to buy your 'squares', you have to be in it to win it.

Our Christmas Quiz will be on the 19th. At least some of the questions will have a seasonal theme so brush up on your reindeer names! Be there at 8pm for an 8.30pm start.

Please note we will NOT be opening on the last Friday in the month (Boxing Day). To compensate (we still need our monthly fix of proper beer) we will be putting on real ale for the events on both the 12th and the 19th. Also as a special incentive to join us on these two nights, we will be putting on a selection of fine wines. This follows some rather hurtful comments regarding our normal splendid offering (you know who you are!). Seriously, if this is successful we aim to try the same on future real ale nights. To see if our idea of 'fine' is the same as yours, please come and try some.

The 19th will be our last Friday opening until the new year so our next Friday opening wont be until the Quiz Night on the 9th January 2009, a great opportunity to discuss weight loss plans and to compare new jumpers and socks.

*Thanks to all who supported the club in 2008, have a Happy Christmas and New Year, we look forward to seeing you in 2009.*

Please don't forget we are open every Saturday after the home football match.

**REGULAR BAR OPENING TIMES**

Every Friday - 8pm to 11pm

Every Saturday - after Football or Cricket

**DECEMBER SOCIAL EVENTS**

*Cricket Club Christmas Draw* – Friday 12th at 8pm

*Christmas Quiz Night* – Friday 19th, 8pm for 8.30pm start

**JANUARY 2009 SOCIAL EVENTS:**

*Quiz Night* – Friday 9th at 8.30pm

*Real Ale night* (and a selection of wines) - Friday 31st at 8pm (Last Fri every month)

*We look forward to seeing you at the club*

For more info contact Geoff Dix, secretary on 391577

**MARCHAM SOCIETY MEETING, 11.11.08**

On 11 November the Marcham Society enjoyed a fascinating talk by Liz Woolley, who became interested in the Parish of St Thomas the Martyr when her son attended the nursery in the old school there.

Recorded as early as the 12th century, this parish grew up between Oxford Castle to the east and Osney Abbey to the west. It was always a poor area, with locals and itinerant workers packed into boarding houses and one-up-one down homes. In 1875 there were 10 pubs in within a distance of 285 yards and the police patrolled in pairs.

However, new tenement blocks built during the late 1800s had indoor plumbing.

St Thomas' residents were proud of their parish and there December 2008

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS, CLUBS, SOCIETY & PLAYERS**

was a strong community spirit.

Temporary residents stayed whilst working on the building of the canal in the 18th century. The coming of the railway in the 1850s brought in more workers and cut the parish in two. Residents also worked at the castle mill, the Oxford colleges and, later on, at the Coopers marmalade factory in Park End Street. The biggest employers were the breweries - Swan, Lion (later Morrells) and Eagle (later Halls). Brewing continued until Morrells closed in 2003.

Successive vicars of the 12th century St Thomas' church tried to help improve their parishioners' lives. Funds were raised locally for a new school, which was opened in 1904 and was a model for its time.

Between the 1950s and 1970s much of the old housing was cleared and residents dispersed to other parts of the city. Now the area is due for change again with the beginning of the new West End development and proposals for 1200 new homes. *JF*

**MARCHAM PLAYERS**

**Trafalgar Day + 1**

You can never be sure what Marcham Players will be up to next. Last autumn they lurked in Cumber's barn and almost roasted a live Guy Fawkes on a huge bonfire.



This year a motley crew foregathered in church and stirred our hearts with song and story that told of Nelson's famous victory and our seafaring traditions. With the Vale Voices to lead the singing we were regaled with many old favourites like "Blow the man down", "Tom Bowling" and "Hearts of Oak". The audience thoroughly enjoyed joining in some of the best known shanties like "What shall we do with a drunken sailor?". (We were shown what to do with him!). Interspersed with the music we were treated to a wide range of poems and prose which recalled our nautical history from the days of Queen Elizabeth I to the Little Boats at Dunkirk. As we have come to expect from the Players each item was carefully chosen and well presented.

The performance was not the only pleasure of the evening - we found that the grog and ship's biscuits laid out during the interval were extraordinarily delicious. During this break we were able to look at various nineteenth century artefacts and study the plan of the Battle of Trafalgar carefully set out with model ships to mark the battle lines.

Well done to all those who took part; thank you for the time and energy expended for our enjoyment. What would we do without the enthusiasm of people like Christine and Tim who have inspirations and carry them through? On this occasion thanks must go as well to those who fitted a ship's crew and its deck, lighting and props into part of a church. Roll on the day when we can once again applaud the Players in a hall!

*JMC*

Joey Maclean (01865 391242), or Dave Hutchinson (01865 391964), are the people to contact for membership details.

[www.marchamplayers.co.uk](http://www.marchamplayers.co.uk)

**NOVEMBER CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

**ACROSS:** 3 Ozone 6 Accent 9 Bush 10 Norm 11 Pandemic 13 As 15 Shy 17 Tow 19 Castle 20 Angels 22 Rat 23 Top 25 WI 27 Elephant 29 Star 30 Soap 31 Twenty 33 Coast

**DOWN** 1 Tibia 2 PC 4 Zinc 5 North 6 Asp 7 Charity 8 Timewatch 12 Detergent 14 Sea 16 Yes 18 Against 19 Cat 21 Law 24 Outdo 26 Imply 27 Eros 28 Toy 32 No

**BY ALISA**