

**A MARCHAM PLAYERS' PRODUCTION**

**"HANCOCKS HALF HOUR" FRIDAY, 19TH DEC 2003**

In Medieval banquets Lords and Ladies at table were used to dining, drinking, talking and at the same time being entertained – the Institute this Friday night gave us the same privilege, with ample space for the numerous audience to sit comfortably and be served a variety of delights! We enjoyed home made soups, British cheeses and mince pies – the anticipation of a Christmas raffle and good company set the scene for the amusing entertainment.

We did not have to cast our memories back as far as medieval jesters, but some in the audience I am sure were too young to remember the BBC broadcasts of the fifties. For them too the timeless humour of Hancock had appeal. For those of us who, before television dominated our lives, remember all too well "Hhhancock's Hhalf Hour" on the radio, it was even more amusing to see the familiar face of Will Cumber as Tony Hancock leading the cast of Dave Hutchinson as Sid James and James McDonald as the Australian Bill Kerr. Hattie Jacques was played by Tina Hill and Donald Creasy imitated the unforgettable voice of Kenneth Williams.

The original Radio programme "The Diary", first performed on the Home Service in 1956, needed no visual prop, but a magnificent reconstruction of an old BBC microphone, built by Donald and Deidre Maton, dominated the centre stage focusing our attention on the voices rather than the action. However as Hancock drifted into his heroic dream world in true Walter Mitty style it was accompanied by Stuart Brighton's specially conceived sound effects and Joey Maclean's audience prompts of "MURMUR", "ROAR" and "CHEER!".

The reading was clear and had pace and variety – the "Half Hour" quickly passed and we were left wanting more and praising all the participants and especially the dynamic leadership of the director, Janet Frere, who had co-ordinated the cast. To round off the evening in a truly festive way, Tina handed us Song Sheets and, with Carols known well before those early days of Radio, we all sang traditional favourites of old in time-honoured fashion.

**SIMON BLACKMORE**

**TOOLS FIT FOR RE-USE**

A new garden tools re-use scheme is now operating at Oxford's Redbridge Waste Recycling Centre. People are being encouraged to put their unwanted manual garden tools in a designated container at Redbridge from where 200kg of re-usable garden tools are collected each week for redistribution to community groups, wildlife conservation projects and schools. So those who can't afford to buy loads of spades, forks, hoes and trowels, can now get them for free (and reduce the amount of rubbish we send to landfill at the same time). Contact Kate Aydin (kate.aydin@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

•••••  
**BROADBAND4MARCHAM – STOP PRESS**

• Register your interest in broadband now at  
 • <http://www.broadband4marcham.net> and  
 • give yourself a chance to win a year's free  
 • subscription. *Registering does not necessarily*  
 • *mean that you have to take up the service!*  
 •••••

**New MAD distributor needed**  
 for The Dog House area. Please contact Judith or Peter on 391275 if you could deliver MADNews to eager readers every month!

**MARCHAM SENION CITIZENS CLUB**

Here we are once again, hope everyone had a nice Christmas, now we start another new year, hope it proves a good one for all. Our Christmas party held on Dec 16th was most enjoyable, plenty to eat and drink (thanks to the caterers) and the children from the local school who came along to entertain us, singing some really nice carols and playing handbells they worked extremely hard, including teachers, well done to you all. Each child left with sweets or chocs, a donation was made to the school. Members had a free raffle prize and fruit on leaving.

Some members had a trip to the playhouse to see the panto "Jack and the Beanstalk" going back to our childhood! We all enjoyed a pleasant afternoon, it was lovely to see all the young children in the audience getting involved and so excited. We are sorry to hear Dolly's mum (Mrs Carter) isn't so well (in hospital as I write) we all wish her a speedy recovery, also other members who have been poorly of late hope they are feeling better again.

**EDNA CADLE & BETTY REED**

**FRILFORD ST PETER'S WI**

Our first meeting in 2004 will be held on Friday, February 24th at Duffield Place at the usual time of 2pm. Our speaker will be Mrs Joyce Hardcastle, whose subject will be "Twice Over the Wall". We hope you will all come. Visitors will be very welcome.

**WEH**

**TALKING SCIENCE**

Public lecture: Friday 13 February 2004 7pm

**What is nanotechnology?**

Explore the world of the very small with Professor Tony Ryan of Sheffield University.

This lecture seeks to expose the myths behind the headlines and find out whether we are looking at fantastic facts or frightening fiction. Recommended age 11 and over.

To reserve a free place at any of the lectures, please contact Lisa Faircloth on 01235 445789 or email [l.h.m.faircloth@cclrc.ac.uk](mailto:l.h.m.faircloth@cclrc.ac.uk).

**HELP**

Help with cleaning required in Marcham for 3 hours a week. Phone 01865 391730.



If you are interested in hosting a Body Shop at Home party, please contact LeeAnne on 07967 354014 for more into. You will receive a free makeover and a Body Shop gift.

**CHILDMINDING VACANCIES**

Registered childminder (NNEB childcare qualifications) has term-time vacancies. Call Anne on 391303