

Tsunami

Rubbing and crashing together
 Enemy plates on the surface of the earth
 Triggering an almighty quake
 Which gave the murderer birth

A rolling wall of hungry aggression
 Gathering ammunition from the sea
 Rapidly approaching the land
 Watching helpless civilians flee

Frothing and rolling, whooshing and flowing
 Roaring and churning, pushing and growing
 A ferocious, merciless monster
 Showing no signs of slowing

Suddenly without warning, it struck!
 A gaping mouth feasting upon the land
 Destroying everything in its path
 Nothing or nobody could withstand

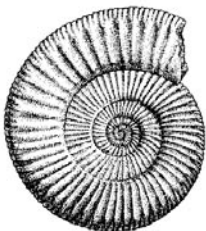
As seeds are scattered on a field
 As sugar is stirred into tea
 Many reaching a watery end
 Swallowed by this grave of sea

After devouring the land
 When it had completed its violent spree
 Like a naughty dog to his owner
 It retreated back to the sea

It had chewed the debris and tasted the flesh
 Then satisfied that it had been fed
 It left the damage and destruction behind
 Leaving many missing and dead

It didn't seem to care what victims
 All colours, ages, races and creeds
 Now people all over the world are helping
 Sending food, money and general needs

By Rachael Dredge

 <p><i>The Marcham Society</i></p>	<p>Gary Lock will be giving us an update on last year's archaeological dig near the Noah's Ark.</p>
<p><i>All Saints' Church Tuesday February 8th 2005, 7.45pm</i></p>	<p>Non-members £1 www.marchamsociety.org.uk Further details: Janey Cumber (391327) or Judith Fontaine (391275)</p>

MARCHAM SOCIETY TALK

Members of the Marcham Society listened to a fascinating talk on the history of Witney at the January meeting. Our speaker Charles Gott took us from Witney's first recorded mention in 969, through ownership by various Bishops of Winchester to the seventeenth century founding of Henry Box School. As a taster for the Society's guided walk around the town in June he explained how the town was laid out in the early 1200s and showed us slides of some of the older buildings. A couple owned by two Oxford Colleges were used by them as retreats in times of plague. We were also shown pictures of some of the excavations of the Norman Bishops Palace and the splendid King Johns' loo. A wonderful appetiser for our visit later in the year.

CMB.

MARCHAM SOCIETY WALK: THUR 3RD FEB

This month's walk we will be from West Hanney to Denchworth, returning via the edge of Grove. We will meet at The Plough Inn in Church Street, West Hanney (Map Ref: SU405927) at 12.30pm for lunch or 1.30 for the four and a half mile walk. New walkers are always very welcome. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.

EXHIBITION 7TH - 8TH MAY

In May 2005 the country will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of VE Day, (Victory in Europe) at the close of World War II. Members of the Marcham Society are planning an exhibition relating to life in the village preceding the hostilities, through the war years 1939-1945 and the post-war recovery period. Photographs from the Marcham Archives will form a focus for this presentation of life in a rural community but the Society would be very pleased to include any material from past or present residents.

Any photographs or items relating to the organisations formed to fight the war on the 'home front' would add to our knowledge of coping with life in 'war-torn' Marcham.

Safety: Air Raid Precautions A.R.P.
 The Home Guard (Marcham & Frilford)
 Fire fighting

Work: R.A.F. Works Dept. No 11 at Marcham Park
 Factories at Abingdon & Oxford
 Emergency Maternity Homes at Oakley Park and Frilford St. Peter

- Food Rationing • Dig-For Victory Campaign • Evacuees •
- Prisoners-of-War • Salvage Drive • 'Saucepans for Spitfires' •

If any of the readers of MADNews have any photographs or memorabilia they would be willing to loan to the organisers or personal experiences they would like to record please contact the Society's Archivist; Elizabeth Whitehouse Tel 01865 391389.

GRETA'S TWEETERS!

Surreal or what?

2am 28 Dec 2004 on a crisp, clear still night with the moon waning, three Robins were heard calling from nearby deciduous trees. In the distance the half-hoot of a Tawny Owl. Magical. Could domestic Christmas lights left on have confused the Robins? Has anyone else heard birdsong at this unearthly hour (for which blame the cat)?

GRETA GOULDING

A little bird has told me that Cocky at the pet centre died at a great (but unspecified) age on Christmas Day 2004. He was a popular character locally and will be much missed. Ed