

MARCHAM PLAYERS

I was recently asked to write a few words about membership of the Marcham Players for inclusion in MAD NEWS. My personal experience started with an increasing awareness of the interest being developed by our son Max towards acting. He had appeared in school performances both at primary and senior school level and eventually took a small part in a Marcham Players production some three years ago. He was one of several young people in that particular production. Pat, my wife, and I were both very impressed with the level of support and friendship shown towards all the young members of the cast, and ourselves, at this time. We attended both nights of the play – we were almost “groupies” I suspect!



Subsequently we have endeavoured to attend the twice yearly productions by the Players in the Institute and then I ventured into the Board Room at Manor Farm one evening, between productions, to take part in a play reading for friends and supporters of the Marcham Players. These are still held regularly and can be a comfortable entrée into the world of amateur dramatics without the worries of forgetting your lines. Then, about fifteen months ago, I received a telephone call from Janet Frere asking me to read the role of Sid James in a public performance of an episode of a “Hancock’s Half Hour” radio show which the Players were performing that Christmas. I took the bait – ego is a difficult emotion to control – and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being on stage without the trauma of actually having to learn lines! About this time I was also invited to join the committee of the Players which I did – I had never before realised the amount of dedication, fun, commitment and sheer enjoyment which was available, not to mention the friendship.

Finally, the ultimate experience arrived early in 2004, a phone call, again from Janet Frere, a most persuasive lady when needs be, and before I knew what was happening I was a cast member in the May 2004 production of “Table Manners”, a full length production with what to me seemed to be acres of pages of script to learn. It wasn’t easy, but it was great fun. The thrill of hearing an audience laugh was very heartening. What capped it for me was the opportunity to be on the same stage as our son Max.

Marcham Players is always seeking new members – please don’t be put off by nerves or a belief that acting is not for you – perhaps it’s not, but you can also help us in so many other ways. If you just wanted to be part of the support team, either in front of house or have some particular practical skill we could use backstage, do

consider joining us. We also arrange social gatherings and visit other shows and performances both locally and in London during the year – it really is great fun. Come and join us – if you are at all interested please telephone our secretary, Joey Maclean on 01865 391242.

Better still, why not come to our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING in the Upper Room at All Saints Church, Marcham at 7:30pm on FRIDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2005. Business is conducted after an initial period of socialising and “getting to know you etc”. If you are unable to make this date we have another play reading in the Board Room at Manor Farm, Marcham at 7:30pm on Friday 18 February.

DAVID HUTCHINSON

SUNSHINE CLUB

January: Here we are into a New Year once again and one nobody would have dreamed could have started so distressingly for the people of the tsunami floods – our hearts go out to them. Our donation for this quarter will be going to this appeal. A collection was taken at the club which raised £15. This was added to the donation making a total sum given £65. Many thanks to all. As we have only started back on 17th Jan, not much news this time. Our chairlady Kath Norton, was unable to join us due to ill health. She was also unable to come to the Christmas dinner not being well. A get well card signed by the members, hoping she will soon be on the mend. We had our Christmas dinner on 13th Jan at the Lantern in Steventon, which was very nice. The meal, as always, was excellent. We ended with a good raffle, out thanks to those who kindly gave. Three of the members were unable to join us at the meal. So we arranged to have a dinner taken to them. These are some of our long-standing members, we hope they enjoyed it. We’ve had two ladies with special birthdays this month, each had a card and a packet of biscuits from the club. We hope they enjoyed the day. Our social afternoon next month will be on February 3rd 2.30pm. Table will be anything, Notice will be put up.

JOY CROOK

MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

No club news for December as we had no meeting. We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas. Best wishes to all for 2005.

We look forward to seeing everyone for the February meeting (AGM) 24 Feb 2.30pm.

BR & EC

Marcham WI

January report



A few of our members were in for a shock when they saw their picture on the MADNews cover. At our Christmas social, groups were given a bag of bits and invited to make a fashion statement with a green bin liner as the base. Results were novel, hilarious, hideous but good fun.

This month Clive Jones gave a superbly illustrated talk on his tours of New Zealand. The pictures were excellent, bringing the culture and countryside alive and rivalled the magic of BBC1’s Billy Connolly roadshow! How empty the roads seem, no need for relief roads around their villages....

NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 17 February

Denman College

“Go to Work on an Egg” Workshop with Christine Whild

Bring a favourite egg cup or cosy!

Guests and non-members welcome

Contacts: Greta Goulding 01865 391592
Christine Whild 01865 391270



The Marcham Players in full flow