

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

Graham Hill kindly represented Marcham CC. at the Oxfordshire Cricket Association A.G.M. held towards the end of 2004. The O.C.A. Fixture List indicates that the 2005 Season begins on 30th April; the Marcham 1st XI is at home to visitors Horley and the 2nd XI is away to Kennington 2nd XI.



By way of preparation for the 2005 fixtures, the Club will be holding Nets at the John Mason Sports Hall every Friday evening (6.30 until 8.30pm) from 4th February until the start of the playing Season – with the exception of Good Friday. Please contact Terry Whittaker (391317) or Graham Hill (391415) for further details regarding Nets and playing for the Club; as mentioned last month, prospective players are always welcome. Also, please contact Terry or Graham if you are interested in umpiring on behalf of the Club. Umpires receive a fee (for each game at which they officiate) and are provided with refreshments. In conclusion, please note that the Club A.G.M. is set to commence at 8.30pm on Wednesday 9th February in the Pavilion. **CSB**

WRITING COMPETITION

Deddington Writers Group, in conjunction with Deddington Festival 2005, is organising a writing competition: short story (1500 words), non-fiction (1000 words), poem (up to 36 lines) on the theme of FESTIVAL. Entrants must be Oxfordshire residents. Entry fee: £2 (under-16 entrants in non-fiction and poetry categories, free). Send SAE for full details and entry form to: DWG Competition, 26 The Daedings, Deddington, Oxon OX15 0RT; or contact: daeda@clara.co.uk Closing date: April 16th.

EASTER EGGS

An alternative and very special Easter “Good Gift” is available from Oxfordshire charity Transrural Trust



The tradition of painting eggs at Easter goes back thousands of years. In northern Romania it is practised as an art form all year round, with women of all ages transforming blown duck and goose eggs into objects of astonishing beauty and complexity.

Transrural Trust, an Oxfordshire charity working to help poor families in the mountain areas of Romania, is selling the eggs this Easter to raise funds for their Romania project. Priced between £4 and £10, they make wonderful and very special Easter presents. We would love to see you at our special Egg Days: Fridays and Saturdays 11th/12th and 18th/19th March at 16a Crawley Mill, Crawley, Witney. There you will be able to see a stunning display of painted eggs in many different colours and designs. If you can't make it to Crawley, you can still buy from the catalogue. For details or to request a catalogue telephone 01993 771230 or visit www.transrural.org. Gillian Rose of Transrural Trust will also be judging the painted eggs competition at Shotover Country Park, Oxford, on Easter Monday, 10.30am – 1.00pm.

WANTAGE CONCERT CLUB

12 Feb 7.30 pm St Peter and St Paul Parish Church, Wantage
The Grand Tour *London Baroque*
More details from: Wantage Concert Club, The Old Bakery, Bakery Lane, Clanfield OX18 2SD.

FOR SALE

Mid sleeper bed. Solid pine with book case and pull-out table. Phone 01865 391635.

CLEANER WANTED

2-3 hours per week. Please call 01865 391725 to discuss.

CALL OF THE WILD

The RSPB will be conducting a repeat survey of breeding waders in the Upper Thames Tributaries (UTT) in spring 2005. It will cover parts of the rivers Cherwell, Ray, Glyme, Evenlode, Windrush and Thames.

It will be the most comprehensive study since 1997, and will provide essential information on the status of breeding waders in such a regionally important area. Farmers will be provided with a map of the breeding wader species on their farm and offered farm specific management advice, in liaison with Defra.

The RSPB is asking for keen bird watchers to help undertake the survey work. You will need to visit your allocated survey area on 3 occasions, April-June, for 2-3 hours per visit. Full training and support will be provided and you will have the opportunity to visit some attractive and atmospheric areas. For further information please contact Nick Droy, Central England Office, 46 The Green, South Bar, Banbury OX16 9AB . Tel 01295 676460 or email nick.droy@rspb.org.uk

WATER SHREWS SURVEY

The Mammal Society is currently running a Water Shrew Survey and is seeking volunteers who can carry out surveys from 1st July to 30th September 2005. The survey uses plastic tubes baited with blow-fly larvae. Four tubes are placed in suitable habitat and left for two weeks. They are then collected, hopefully containing water shrew scats, which can be sent off for identification if necessary. There is a simple form to fill in. To help please contact Dr Phoebe Carter on 020 7350 2200 or pcarter@mammal.org.uk.

OVER 60 YEARS OLD?

You or your parents can enjoy a secure and quiet retirement home to rent at Duffield Place, off Howard Cornish Road.

We can offer:

- Independent living for £102 per week (housing benefit available)
- 24 hour scheme manager service
- Personal alarm
- Meet new friends and enjoy new activities

Call Frances Daly on 01235-536001 for more details.

YOUR LOCAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION, THE VALE.

TALKING SCIENCE @ RAL

11 February 2005: 10:30am, 1:30pm and 7pm

“Weather forecasting? I could do that” Alex Deakin

Do you think that weather forecasting is easy and that they always get it wrong? Here's your chance to find out more. This lecture will describe the process of making a weather forecast; how the experts at the Met Office use today's clouds to predict next week's heat wave. Alex will also talk about how those detailed meteorological forecasts turn into the broadcasts you see on the television screen and give an insight into life at the BBC Weather Centre.

Admission to the lectures and open afternoon are by ticket only. Please contact the Talking Science booking line on 01235 445959 to book your tickets. Lecture Reservations must be made in advance from four weeks before the date of each lecture.

Let's get talking...