



Marcham WI February 2005

If there were any jaded January faces they were soon transformed listening to our stimulating speaker, Rachel Myers who wowed us on plants to make our gardens interesting, especially in winter. She suggests taking a photo monthly from the same angle and then analysing the garden in it different phases. Maybe it needs more colour contrast, height or plant variety. Rachel is keen on grasses with their range of colours and informal appearance. Plenty of ideas before the digging, planting, weeding, splitting, pruning, mowing ... starts and the deck chair gets an airing, eventually!

Jan's competition (Flower photo) – see photos of entries. We were delighted to many new faces (and a gentleman) from surrounding villages and Abingdon and a veritable posse from All Saints Close. Who knows we may yet wrinkle out the occupants of No 1.

Last December some members visited Waddesdon Manor (NT) to see the house 'dressed for Christmas'. Here the Rothschild collection is house; beautiful antique furniture and a magnificent Georgian silver dinner service were blended with tasteful Christmas decorations, each room being colour co-ordinated. A quiz based on an item in each area promised a magnum of champagne – no news of a winner in our party, yet.

Less impressive was the exorbitant £4 parking charge (non-NT members) which gave access to the gift shop, restaurant/cafe and the grounds. Had it been warmer and time permitted, a walk may have been tempting but disappointingly the grounds lacked colour and strangely, the many statues and fountains were all clad in tarpaulins. However some mirth was caused by scarecrows dressed normally and positioned in active postures which were disconcertingly realistic.

Imminent

- Spring coffee morning: Fri Feb 10, 10.30am at Sonia's, 21 The Farthings, bring & buy, raffle etc. Anyone welcome.
- A trip to Oxford Playhouse: Tues Feb 14th, to see Alan Ayckbourn's new comedy 'Improbable Fiction'. Contact Anne-Marie.
- Pub meets at The Crown recommence: Either Mons or Thurs. Liaise with Sylvia 391607. Anyone welcome.
- New Year lunch: Sat 4 March, Merry Miller, Cothill. £15 Deadline 16 Feb. Contact Mary 391867.

Coming Up

- Belly dancers on March 16 (and our AGM)
- Oxford Fedn of WI – AGM – Wed Mar 22, Oxford Town Hall, daytime. Always great speakers.
- Area meeting – Mon April 24, Steventon 'Walking with Wolves' – real ones! Tickets available at February meeting.

NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 16 February

Denman College – Craft and Cookery Building

Members' Evening

No speaker but an evening of participation, surprises and entertainment (with the committee doing the tea/coffee – so that will be scones then?).

Contacts: Greta Goulding 01865 391592
Christine Whild 01865 391270

Ring or just come along and join a friendly group

FRILFORD ST PETER'S WI

Friday 17 Feb Duffield Place, 2.00pm
Traditions of Easter: Mrs Christine Whild.
WYN HARMAN

KINGSTON BAGPUIZE AND SOUTHMOOR BOWLS CLUB

Although we are in the middle of winter, this bowls club is a hive of activity with many competitions and matches still taking place as well as a number of social events, which will continue right throughout the coming year. (Like the old Windmill Theatre in London, our motto is "We never close"). Our full size, six-rink bowling green is located on the old A420, next to the Millennium Green, in Kingston Bagpuize, just before the Hind's Head pub on the mini roundabout and has an artificial surface that can be played on all year round with a pleasant clubhouse and bar.

The club is currently playing in the Indoor Short Mat Winter League and play in Division 2 of the Vale of White Horse League after being relegated last season. At the time of writing we are in fourth place hoping to regain a place in Div. 1 next season and enjoy local derby matches against teams from Hanney, Steventon, Wantage and Wootton and also play teams from Lambourne and Uffington. The matches are friendly but competitive. Home matches are played on Friday evenings and the Away matches could be on other weekday evenings - (usually only one match per week though).

The club also holds a Club Winter Triples League for its members, playing OUTSIDE on the main green (weather permitting) and enjoyed by all those that take part. As a matter of interest, we have been running this competition for four years now and play from October to December and until this year have only had to cancel one match (and no-one has been troubled with frost-bitten fingers!!!). We also play on Sunday mornings with the games lasting approximately one hour.

Another winter event we take part in is the Bob Edwards Trophy competition, which takes place at Carterton Bowls Club, playing against teams from around the Oxfordshire area, and at the moment are in the top half of the league.

We are a friendly club with a happy atmosphere and are always looking for new members. As you can see from the above there are plenty of winter activities for bowlers of all standards, which other local clubs can't match.

With the start of the Summer season, (end of April), there'll be the usual weekend "friendlies" – both home and away, (as well as some midweek fixtures), where the emphasis is on enjoying oneself in the company of like-minded people, plus lots of social events including quiz nights and BBQ's etc. There will, of course, be daily opportunities to play some casual bowling with other members, or alone if you prefer.

If you think the short mat bowling sounds interesting or fancy the flat green bowling in the summer or even just want somewhere to socialise, please feel free to contact me for more details (or contact the Club Secretary, Peter van de Mortel on 01865 820817). We have no upper age limit, but the lower limit is 10 years, but let me assure you that bowls is no longer an old man's game – just watch the TV!!! Young men and young women play, and play on equal terms. Give me a ring NOW. You can start any time!

TONY BLACKLER (01865 391519)

Northcourt Centre, Abingdon is having a Craft Fair!!!

8th April 2006, 10am—3pm

£10 per table—book now!

Contact: Trine Lucy, 32 Norman Avenue, Abingdon

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If you run or are a member of a group, why not write a short report about it?