



Marcham WI January 2007

A quieter month as we recover from the hectic Christmas period silently vowing to exercise more, reshape...

An excellent talk and slides by David Lockett on **14 & 15th Century Renaissance art**, using two screens he compared different artists' styles, colouring, locations in Italy. Some of the early marble sculptures are incredibly intricate and lifelike. Members brought along their **favourite Christmas card** for the display, an interesting mixture. Dorothy had taken some great photos of the Christmas gathering and the embroidered panels for the Design for Life. Three members attend a **Scrapbooking Workshop** at Tackley WI office in Jan and displayed their creative results. Bigger raffle this month with funds going to **ACWW** (Associate Countrywomen of the World) co-ordinated by Oxon Federation who chose a project in Colombia training families to grow their own veg. Hopefully this will lead to them forming co-operatives to sell off any surplus.

Showcase 2007 Periodically Oxon Federation arrange a county show of craft demonstrations and invite group and individual entries. This year's theme is **Easter Parade on Friday 23 March 2-7pm**, at Exeter Hall, Kidlington and includes a **children's class for a decorated hen's egg**. Marcham has decided to enter this year with a group entry themed 'Come to Tea'. Contact Ann-Marie Banks or Christine Whild if you would like to participate.

Coming Up

Annual Lunch: Sat 10 March, Merry Miller, Cothill. Members and guests £17.95, 3 courses, Contact Sonia Edwards by 15 Feb.

Group Meeting: Mon 2 April, 7.30pm, Sutton Courtenay village hall. **'Antiques' with Jonty Hearndon** (Cash in the Attic on TV) £2.50 Contact Nola Smith.

NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 15 February

Denman College – Craft and Cookery Building

Story of Farming in Marcham and Africa

Neil Rowe, local farmer

Display: Animal Ornament

Contacts:

Greta Goulding

01865 391592

Christine Whild

01865 391270

FRILFORD ST PETER'S WI

16 February 2007, 2pm Duffield Place

The Antiques Time Machine - Mrs Sylvia Vetta.

WYN HARMAN

REPORT ON A MARCHAM SOCIETY TALK BY TOM BUTTERWORTH

Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum and the Oxon Biodiversity Action Plan

The Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum (ONCF) was founded in 1993 to draw together the many interested groups in the county from local authorities to BBOWT, CPRE and RSPB. It aims to avoid duplication and to optimise the use of scarce resources.

One of its major activities is to coordinate the Biodiversity Plan for Oxfordshire, and Tom, as the Project Manager, explained how important it is to maintain and enhance the variety of living creatures on Earth and how we should be doing our part locally. While we tend to see ourselves as independent of the world around us the very opposite is the case. Without wildlife we would have no soil, there would be no genetic pool and plants would not be pollinated. We are very able to change and destroy our environment but, like it or not, we are all part of each habitat and ecosystem; all are interdependent. Hence the desire to preserve what we have and recover something of what has been lost.

In Oxfordshire we are aware of the many nature reserves which preserve the very special areas, but these are now seen as very fragile in isolation and climate change and disease might wipe out the small vulnerable populations contained in them. It is planned to identify special areas in the county on a landscape scale, which it is felt would be much more resilient and allow repopulation and relocation of threatened species. Several Target Areas have been proposed which represent the various types of landscape in Oxfordshire and our nearest Area is known as Oxford Heights, West. In fact a good part of Marcham Parish north of the A415 is included within it and it extends out to Cumnor and Appleton.

Tom explained that plans are still at an early stage; DEFRA is funding a coordinator who will be working with local communities and landowners to encourage sympathetic land management and monitoring. It is intended to hold open meetings in future and Tom suggested that our Marcham meeting could well be seen the first of many in the area.

Watch this space and do get in touch if you are interested in getting involved or influencing future plans.

ERIC DUNFORD

MIDWEEK WALK THURSDAY FEB 8TH

This month's walk will start at The Romany Inn in Bridge Street, Bampton (Map Ref: SP 314031). We will be walking in the area of the Shil Brook and the hamlet of Weald, about 4

miles in all. We will meet at 12.30pm for lunch or 1.30 for the walk. As always, new walkers are very welcome.

Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and details.



The
**Marcham
Society**

Annual Society Lecture

Alison Hoblyn

Turning Life into Fiction

The writing of a novel inspired by art and a love of gardens.

All Saints' Church

Tuesday 13th February 2007, 7.45pm

February 2007

Non-members £1

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

Further details: Janey Cumber (391327) or Judith Fontaine (391275)