



## Marcham WI February 2009

We started our programme for 2009 in January with an excellent speaker, Valerie Threlfall, who revealed the secrets of the honeymoon suitcase from the 1840's to the present day. Her collection of nightgowns, underwear and accessories, essential for the brides of their era, were shown with amusing comments and information about style, fashion and social history. It was a very successful meeting to start the year followed by a fund raising auction.

On the 6th. February, ten of our members will be attending a celebration service at Christchurch Cathedral to mark ninety years since the formation of the Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes. This the first of a series of special events throughout the year.

At our meeting this month, we will welcome back Jayne King, a local flower arranger, who will give us a spring and Easter flower demonstration. Her arrangements will be included in the raffle during the evening. Visitors are welcome.

### Future Events

- Feb 6 90th Anniversary celebrations at Christchurch Cathedral
- Feb 10 Aqua Exercise at White Horse Leisure Centre
- Feb 19 An afternoon in Japan
- Feb 2 / 16 Heritage lectures, Exeter Hall

### NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 19 February

*Spring & Easter Flower Demonstration*

**Jayne King**

Denman College: Teaching Block

Visitors welcome - £3 voluntary contribution

Contacts for: Sonia Edwards 01865 391442  
more information Christine Whild 01865 391270

## MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

**Thursday 5th February.**

For this month's walk we will eat at The Harrow Inn (Map Ref SU450826) in West Ilsley at 12.30pm for lunch, but start our walk from a point on the road just over a mile to the west at Lands End (Map Ref; SU447833) at 1.30 for the walk of about 4 miles taking in a length of the Ridgeway.

*New walkers are very welcome. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and details.*

## MSSSC: Marcham Sports, Scouts & Social Club The pavilion & field off Morland Road

Below are our planned events for early 2009, please don't forget we are also open every Saturday after the home football match.

Thanks to all who attended our Quiz and Real Ale nights last month. Our ability to set balanced questions for the quiz are clearly improving, 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in the January quiz were separated by only two points! Come and give it a try.

### REGULAR BAR OPENING TIMES

Every Friday - 8pm to 11pm

Every Saturday - after Football or Cricket

### FEBRUARY SOCIAL EVENTS

*Quiz Night* Fri 13th 8pm for an 8.30pm start

*Real Ale night* Fri 27th (Last Fri every month)

### MARCH SOCIAL EVENTS

*Quiz Night* Fri 13th 8pm for an 8.30pm start

*Real Ale night* Fri 27th (Last Fri every month)

*We look forward to seeing you at the club*

For more info contact Geoff Dix, secretary on 391577 or geoff.dix@hotmail.com

## MARCHAM SOCIETY MEETING, 13.1.09

On 13 January the Marcham Society had a look at the Medieval Household. Our guide was Elizabeth Gemmill, University Lecturer in Local History at the Oxford University Department of Continuing Education.

In the 13th century, the nobility's homes were heavily fortified against invaders, but this need decreased over the next 200 years – apart from the border regions. Households had vast numbers of servants and included children of other nobles who were being trained. Wealth was judged by the quality of horses – a £10 horse was the medieval equivalent of a Porsche! Usually a nobleman had several homes and moved between them to conserve food supplies. All those in the aristocrat's service would wear his coat-of-arms (rather like a corporate logo).

Monasteries and priories provided care for the poor and sick and hospitality to travellers. However, laws were passed to limit the number of guests they were expected to take; one monastery was faced with a bill of over £140 after a nobleman and his retinue had stayed the night. Popular belief is that religious houses were corrupt and some were: the prioress at Littlemore not only had a daughter, but sold priory property to fund her dowry. However – as today's head teachers and hospital managers know – when inspectors conclude "All is well" it doesn't make headlines.

How did the rest live? Wealthy merchants had timbered houses, whilst others lived in close-packed dwellings. Households often included apprentices and extended family. Those with smelly or messy jobs were expected to live a good way apart from the rest.

JF



The  
Marcham  
Society

## Marcham Society Annual Lecture The Environmental Benefits of Nuclear Power Kevin Langley

**All Saints' Church**

Tuesday 10th February 2009, 7.45pm

February 2009

Non-members £2

[www.marchamsociety.org.uk](http://www.marchamsociety.org.uk)

Further details: Sheila Dunford (391439) or Judith Fontaine (391275)