

**MARCHAM AND DISTRICT
EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB *continued***

Small Hall adjoining the Institute. It was run down, and had not been used for many years. They all agreed that the Small Hall had potential, and the vicar agreed that he would accept a peppercorn Rent until such times as the venture was up and running. Thus the present Ex-Servicemen's Club was conceived. In drawing up their charter, it was agreed that among their objectives would be:- To foster good citizenship in Marcham and District, and seek to improve the amenities in that area. Of those original ex-servicemen very few remain, but we are privileged to have one who is still a very active member today.

During the 1960's, the Club grew in popularity, and by the 1970's car-parking was becoming a problem in North Street. Discussions took place between the Club and the Anson Trustee's regarding the construction of a car-park on the grounds behind the Institute. The Trustee's applied for planning permission which was granted. Two of the conditions for the approval were, 1. To prevent the site becoming used for commercial or industrial use, and 2. In the interest of road safety. With the massive increase of traffic in North Street, it is impossible to understand that in granting Planning Permission in 2004, the 1973 Conditions were totally disregarded. In financing the development, the Trust wrote that they accepted that the Club would be the main user, but they themselves had concerns as to whether they might or might not be able to raise their agreed half of the costs. The Club subsequently paid at least 50%, and it was agreed that this would give them 20 year use of the car-park.

During these years, the Club, as pledged in its original Charter, fostered good relations with the village, and made numerous donations to local activities, including to the Trust itself, in the form of repairs to the Institute. One regrettable effect that the closure of the Car Park and Institute has had on the Club, was the necessity to increase our Bar prices, also to review our charitable activities to the village in general.

In the late 1990's, the Club's lease was due for renewal, this proved to be a long protracted affair. It was in the drawing-up of this lease that has led us to the situation we are in today.

The Club's legal representative requested that the car-park be included in the lease. The Trustees legal representative wrote that he saw no problem in this amendment.

Unfortunately, it did not get entered in the final copy of the lease, and no further action was taken by either party.

As the new century dawned, so did the rumblings of the Village Facilities Project. These entailed the interviewing of professionals for the role of Project Manager and Architect for the refurbishment of the Institute and the proposed new building on the Anson Field. In January 2004 the Trust applied for Planning Permission for seven Cottages on the Car Park, these actions were taken in spite of protests from the Club.

Over the following months there were several meetings between the parties, no progress was made. At a meeting in May 2004, the Club indicated that the loss of the car-parking facilities might give rise to an inability to pay the lease. Aunt Sally matches were played both in and outdoors throughout the year, bringing the Club a regular income. Shortly afterwards, the Club was informed that the Institute and the car-park would be closed from Sept 1st 2004. Fortunately, the Club is in a position to pay the lease which was based on a Commercial Scale, with annual increases in line with the Retail Price Index, and will continue to do so until the lease expires in 2010.

In Faringdon, on the August 31st 2004 the Planning Application

was heard, and passed. It was a very brief hearing, in the presence of people who appeared to be strangers to the Marcham village situation. In fact, one photograph that was used, showed just one car parked in North Street, and no buses. A quiet day in Marcham!

After the Planning permission was granted, the Institute and the car-park were closed. The Club had no other option but to initiate legal proceedings. At present both parties have obtained Barristers' opinion, and the case moves on.

The search for a negotiated settlement continues. Alternatives suggested by the Club, and a Third Party have so far been rejected by the Trust. A comment in a recent letter referred to the fact that the main problem seemed to be getting clear instructions from the Trust. This comment sums up the problems the Club has had with the Trustees since the negotiations of the 1997 lease.

EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB

If you have a comment on any current event or an issue that you would like to raise, please write to MADNews, collection point in the Post Office or just drop it through my door - 8 Orchard Way, Marcham. Ed

FRILFORD ST PETER'S WI

Our next meeting will be on Friday 15 July at 2.00pm in Duffield Place.

Stars of The Theatre, Mr Gerard Gould
WEH



**Marcham WI
June 2005 report**

Our May talk by Mrs Joyce Cotterill on her teenage years in a Japanese Internment Camp was very moving. She described how she and another teenage traded through the wire with villagers for extra food to the staple rice diet. This had to cease when it was putting the locals' lives at risk, if they were caught it would have meant death.

A group went to BMW Cowley for a town of the plant. Highly automated, the Mini body shell drops down on the line and is then fitted with its individual specifications by a robot.

Highlight of the month was the summer garden party held at Clare Bolton's delightful homes. The theme was 'Anyone for Tennis' with a quiz, each clue demarked by a yellow tennis ball! Thank you to her and David for laying on chairs and tables and making her garden such a pleasure to explore.

Coming up:

- a visit to Shakespeare's Gardens to Stratford by coach
- a literary lunch extravaganza to celebrate the Ox Fed'n of WI 90th birthday with two well-known speakers
- a visit to the Ashmolean Museum followed by tea
- a walk along the Thames path to include a pub lunch

NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 21st July

Denman College - Craft and Cookery Building

'Flowers al Fresco' by Fabulous Flowers of Abingdon

Competition: flowers in an egg cup

Visitors very welcome

Contacts: Greta Goulding 01865 391592
Christine Whild 01865 391270