

MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

It was nice to see our meeting in May so well attended and with lots going on.

We had a good tombola, table top sale and treasure hunt (which was won by Mary McIlwrath). All these things really help our funds and so enable us to supplement some of our trips out. We would like to thank everyone who so kindly donated items, also for all your odd pennies, it's surprising how they add up.

Suggestions are wanted for our annual trip to the sea in September (nowhere too far please). A tea outing has been arranged in July. At our July meeting we are holding a Mad Hatters Tea Party, competition for best decorated hat, made by yourselves, NO bought ones.

We only had a short piece in last (June) month's newsletter. Mrs Sylvia Brown kindly came along and gave us an interesting talk on her trip to Australia (at our June meeting). She had some lovely pictures which were passed around. The afternoon ended with tea, which was free, and our usual raffle.

Tea outing July 12th, pick up points: Duffield Place 2.10pm Post Office 2.15pm. **Next meeting 28th July**

EDNA CADLE & BETTY REED

Apologies to Edna for changing her surname last month by adding a 'u' where there shouldn't have been one - sorry ED

SUNSHINE CLUB

June Our social table this month was once again tins, jars, cakes etc which seems to go down very well. Thanks to all who gave and brought. This was followed by a buffet meal. Thanks to the committee for preparation, the evening ended with a raffle. Some members said they would like to go back to afternoon meetings on Mondays and socials, so a vote was taken by members and the afternoons were chosen. So 2nd June the change over was done. We will not be going back to the evenings any more.

Alice Champion spent a short stay in hospital, owing to a nasty fall, but is improving slowly. Card and flowers were given from the club.

We had one lady with a birthday this month, card was given, hope she enjoyed her day. Eve Brown has gone into hospital we wish her a speedy recovery.

We are hoping to have an outing in July, as yet not sorted out, but notice will be put up on the boards, so please watch out for it.

JOY CROOK

MARCHAM SOCIETY WALKS

Tuesday, July 5th and Thursday, August 4th.

Our July walk will start in the pretty little village of Aldworth, with its famous "Aldworth Giants", and travel north to take in a stretch of the Ridgeway. We will meet at The Bell Inn in Aldworth (Map Ref: SU556796), at 12.30pm for lunch or 1.30 for the 4 mile walk. Please note this is the **first Tuesday** in July.

Thursday, August 4th

In August, on the first Thursday, we will have our fourth visit to line of the Wilts and Berks Canal. As on our last such visit we will start in Childrey, but this time will take in Sparsholt and the short accessible stretches of the canal between them. We will meet at The Hatchet Inn in Childrey (Map Ref: SU363874), timing as for July. As always, new walkers are very welcome. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford 391439 for lifts & further details.

KENNINGTON SWIMMING CLUB

Why not get fit and enjoy yourself at the same time. We have 3 family swimming sessions a week at Radley College pool: **Monday and Thursday 8 – 8.30pm**
Saturday 9 – 10am

For more information phone 01865 739788

July 2005

NATURE WATCH (the new name for Birdwatch!)

This month some spectacular news, some delightful and some worrying.

8! You're kidding! That's how many Red Kites were seen over the Marsh, Marcham on 20 June. Swooping in within minutes of the hay being cut. A mature pair with beautiful red/orange markings on deep forked tail clearly seen against a blue sky, as they Stuka dived to catch prey. Another two perched nonchalantly watching undisturbed by the massive tractors turning the hay. Barring the M40, High Wycombe corridor, five years ago you had to search to see these magnificent birds of prey, 20 years earlier a trip to mid-Wales might result in a sighting if you were lucky. Can't wait for the second cut – but who notified the birds?



Young goldfinch, blackbirds, robins and wrens have been seen fed by devoted parents. The wrens played *10 green bottles perching on the fence*, as one hopped off into the hawthorn hedge another took its place so I lost count of how many young there were.

The late, lamented Heron – latest. A large ginger cat was seen to drag the heron by its legs into the bushes (it died the following day after rescue by the RSPCA). The cat appears to be a well-fed marauding tom which has plagued residents in Anson Close in recent years. It has left a trail of attacked, traumatised cats, causing significant vets bills, biting some people who have fed it, entering homes uninvited, not to mention spraying front door steps.

It would be a great relief if the owners of this cat could keep it in, or perhaps consider seeking an alternative home where it is the only pet for it clearly responds to affection and sole attention.

GG

BETH CHATTO GARDENS NEAR COLCHESTER, ESSEX

A coach trip to these gardens on Sat 10 Sept 05. Seats are available to non-members via (01865) 391592 courtesy of the Sunningwell Gardening Club. Entrance fee £4. Fare will depend on numbers to make the trip viable. Closing date 31/7/05.



Beth and Andrew Chatto began to create their gardens from an overgrown wasteland in 1960. There are four areas – gravel, scree, water and wood containing unusual plants for such location. Among her awards Beth has won 10 gold medals at Chelsea and written numerous books.

If you think you might be interested or require further details ring number above.

MARCHAM SCHOOL PTA SUMMER FETE
SATURDAY 9TH JULY
2 - 4 PM AT MARCHAM SCHOOL

FEATURING BAND SHOTGUN HEAVEN
DANCE DISPLAYS BY LISA'S MINI MOVERS
AND JACKIE'S GROOVERS
PLUS ALL YOUR FAVOURITE STALLS

- * FACE PAINTS
- * BEER TENT
- * MILK BAR
- * COCONUT SHY
- * PENALTY SHOOT-OUT
- * PLANTS

CUMBER'S OF THEALE ORGANIC MEAT, BBQ, CAKE STALL ETC AND LUCKY PROGRAMME PRIZE OF A MEAL FOR TWO AT THE CROWN, MARCHAM.