



Marcham WI June 2006

Our annual **summer garden party** was hosted by Janet Frere in her delightful garden and (hooray!) we were blessed with a lovely warm evening. Members made a delicious array of savoury morsels and the committee provided local strawberries with cream. The theme was **dress as your favourite character from stage, screen or TV** – see photo. Clever creations included an Ugly Sister, The Lady in White, Eliza Doolittle, Floella 101 Dalmations, gun-toting gals, Dennis the Menace, The Sky at Night, Miss Marple, Gardeners' World, Jamie Oliver's School Dinners and many more! A display of **past WI scrapbooks**, one dated 1973, gave social insights into days of yore.

In May an **antiques' dealer** from Banbury provided some insights into his trade alerting members on the care needed when considering a purchase eg a large table and six chairs. Is each chair the same style, decoration and height of leg?! Some members fantasised about squeezing an antique suite into the average new-build lounge-diner.

Coming up

Aug A Shakespearean production in the new Oxford outdoor venue at The Castle, details Anne-Marie.

Mon 24 July Midsummer Fayre, Denman College, 11am-3pm, entrance by ticket, see separate advert on page XX

Sat 29 July Archery, Woodstock

Future Delights

Tues 26 Sept Pam Ayres, King's Centre, Oxford. Non-members £17 inc some transport and light refreshments. Details Pat Durrant, deadline 20/7/06

Wed 11 Oct Coach trip to Well Cathedral City, Includes entrance to Bishop's Palace and gardens. Non-members £20. Details and deadline 20/7/06

Mon 9 Oct Two Blokes and a Piano (think Flanders and Swann), Drayton. More details in Sept.

NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 20 July

Denman College – Craft and Cookery Building

Live Owls

Christine Harper

Display: bird photo

Contacts: Greta Goulding 01865 391592
Christine Whild 01865 391270

Ring or just come along to another lively meeting

FRILFORD ST PETER'S WI

Friday 21 July Duffield Place, 2.00pm

Local Journalism - Helen Peacocke.

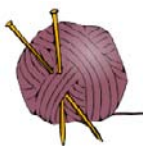
Friday 18 August Duffield Place, 2.00pm

Garden Meeting

WYN HARMAN

UPDATE ON THE KNITTING PROJECT

As mentioned last month, we finally delivered 115 jumpers, 10 blankets and large numbers of woolly hats, scarves and mittens to Hluvukani Day Care Centre on Monday 22 May. The sun was shining but we were a couple of days into a "cold snap" – perfect timing! I didn't count the children standing outside the classrooms, lined up and waiting for jumpers, but there was a point when I uttered a silent prayer



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

– there just seemed so many of them, and I couldn't bear the thought of not having enough! But it was OK, of course we had enough – and to spare. The older orphans were at school, so the larger jumpers were put away, to be given to them later. The little children joined in a chorus of thanks, then the older ones took it in turns to shout out the first one and a half verses of Psalm 23:

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures"

...Except that the pastures are not so much green at the moment as red, the red of parched African soil, because water is scarce. The only water they have at the moment is brought in periodically by tanker and is used for drinking, cooking and washing, but there isn't enough to grow any vegetables.

We were taken to see the borehole, but that has not yet been paid for, so is capped until funds become available. (We're working on it!) It's located on the site set aside for the new orphanage and hospice – about 10 acres, across the valley from the Day Care Centre.

Make no mistake, Hluvukani is an extremely challenging place, and highlights the stark contrast between village life in England as opposed to South Africa. There is desperate need, but one of the workers told us how encouraging it was to see that there were people "out there" who care.

So thank you, on their behalf, for caring.

ALISON LAWRIE 391540

MARCHAM/FRILFORD DIG 2006 - UPDATE

It's not too late to apply to dig as a local LHI (National Lottery Local Heritage Initiative) volunteer this July, so long as you get in touch with me as soon as you get your MADNews! This will be the sixth season for the dig in Trendles field, next to the former Noah's Ark pub – just off the A338 before it crosses the Ock on the road to Wantage. The 'People's Trench' will operate for the full four weeks of the dig – six days a week (Saturday is a rest day) – from Sunday 2nd to Friday 28th July. Volunteers will receive some basic training and be fully supervised at no cost. We need a minimum commitment of 2 days. Please note that anyone under 16 must be accompanied. If anyone would like to try potwashing they could come on any of the following dates: 6th, 11th, 13th, 16th, 18th, 20th, 23rd, 25th, 27th July.

Local people are welcome to visit this fascinating Romano-British site, especially on NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY – SUNDAY 23rd JULY when there will be guided tours and other attractions. Organised groups can visit during the day or the evening by prior arrangement. (For details of what has happened in previous years see Coral Rag vols 2 – 5 (vol 6 due out soon) on sale at Marcham P.O. and Cumbers Farm Shop).

For further information please contact Janey Cumber on 01865-391327/391840 or by email janey.cumber@tiscali.co.uk. If you have put your name down already you should have received details from me by now!

PACKHORSE LANE ACTION GROUP FOR SAFETY

At the Annual Electors meeting on 24 May, Steve Howell and Roger O'Neill, from Oxfordshire County Council, undertook to do an assessment of Packhorse Lane to see if any improvements could be made. Marcham Parish Council has also appointed Marjorie Evans to be their representative on the PLAGS committee. We will keep you informed of any further developments.

www.madnews.co.uk/plags

SALLY TIMBERLAKE