

**MARCHAM PLAYERS**

**Jack Spicer**

Had you been passing Marcham Church late one sunny, Summer's evening, in the late 1970s – early 1980s (memory fails me!). You might have seen a group of monks, legging it rapidly through the Church yard, over the wall, and into the Vicarage. Were these spectres of a by-gone age from Abingdon Abbey? No, they were actors in a Marcham Players' production of 'Everyman'. Finding they sang at the beginning and the end only, they would spend the time in between, drinking sherry in the Vicarage!



One of the singing monks was Jack Spicer. Jack always said he was no good at learning lines, but with his beautiful voice, it was no wonder that he was asked on several occasions to narrate. Who could forget his voice from the pulpit in the Church narrating both **Son-et-Luminares**? Or, although not seen, it was his voice that narrated the video clips for 'We'll Meet Again'.

But not only did Jack appear in Marcham Players' productions, he was a great supporter. He rarely missed coming to watch our productions, and always had a kind word for Marcham Players. He and Elsa frequently came to our Christmas Dinners and our Summer barbecues. I couldn't help thinking, last night, at the first Marcham Players' barbecue for years where we were not all huddled together for warmth, that somehow Jack was smiling down on us! Thank you Jack for your loyal support over so many years, and we wish Elsa good luck as she goes to pastures new.

**CHERYLL SEWELL**

**With Great Pleasure - 5th May 2006**

I cannot think of a more enjoyable way to pass a warm sunny evening than to sit peacefully being read to by an array of expressive voices, imparting humour, pathos, knowledge, insight, and joy upon us. During this comfortable two hour interlude, presented to us by our host readers, I was able to picture, through a rich tapestry of colourful, interwoven, poetic images, the natural window of a year with its seasons and seasoned emotions reflecting back upon us.

Even for those of us who never quite understood poetry and need some convincing, I cannot imagine a more inspiring way to be introduced to the pleasures of poetry than by the talented Christine Whild, who not only gathered together and explained with such clarity and infectious enthusiasm, a collection of her favourite poems, but also treated us to an unexpected exposé of her own creative works. She modestly assures us we can all be inspired to write. I wish teachers at school had been this encouraging!

**JANE PACKFORD**

**Theatre Visit - 31st May**

The annual visit to London's Globe Theatre took place on May 31. A day touring some (or was it just one!) of the capital's ancient architecture in the Strand area by some of the group was followed by a dinner in the Globe Theatre restaurant overlooking the Thames. The production of *Titus Andronicus* which followed our meal was awesome – you may well have read in the national press that at every performance members of the audience are receiving first aid following some startling scenes of blood curdling content – our visit was no exception! All in all an immensely varied and memorable day in the capital.

Our next public production will be "A Summer Miscellany" on Friday 7 July in All Saints Church, Marcham at 7:30pm. This will be a light hearted evening of singing songs both old and new with contributions being skilfully directed by Christine Whild. Tickets – £5 and £4 – can be obtained from the Post Office and the price of admission will include light refreshments. Do please come along *July/August 2006*

and support us as well as enjoying a frothy and pleasant evening in good company!

We are always pleased to welcome new members to the group – details of benefits and costs can be obtained by contacting either our Secretary, Joey Maclean on 391242 or myself on 391964.

**DAVE HUTCHINSON**

[www.marchamplayers.co.uk](http://www.marchamplayers.co.uk)

**MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB**

The Centenary 10-10 Tournament went extremely well. Many thanks are due to all those involved in organising it. Weather conditions were excellent and the proceedings were much enjoyed by players and spectators. Matches began at around 10.30am and the Final ended after 8.00pm; "a good day's cricket" was the general consensus. The Final was a close match between Wootton and a Marcham Invitation XI in which Marcham were ultimately successful.



As another event to mark its Centenary Year, please note that the Club is holding a "get-together" for all those involved in Marcham cricket over the years. This is set to take place after the O.C.A. fixture on Saturday 12th August. If you have been involved with Marcham Cricket Club over part of its long history, please come along and have a chat and perhaps a beverage. Indeed, why not come and watch some or all of the match beforehand? We look forward to seeing you.

The forthcoming O.C.A. fixtures are:

	1st XI	2nd XI
<b>July</b>		
1st	Watlington (Away)	Horley II (Home)
8th	Eynsham (Home)	Shrivenham II (Away)
15th	Shrivenham (Away)	Marsh Gibbon II (Home)
22nd	Broughton (Home)	Westbury II (Away)
29th	Freeland (Away)	Hook Norton II (Home)
<b>August</b>		
5th	Garsington (Away)	
6th (Sun)		Freeland II (Away)
12th	Kings Sutton (Home)	Kings Sutton II (Home)
19th	Faringdon (Home)	West Ilsley II (Away)
26th		Combe II (Home)

The 2nd XI was successful in the 2nd Round of the Osberton Cup and now goes on to the Quarter Finals.

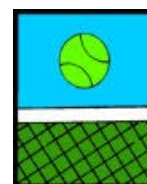
The following items relating to July and August were kindly supplied by our historian (both are from *The North Berks Herald*). Thus, on 15th July 1882 it was reported that, in a nine-a-side match, Marcham Boys scored 16 and 20 and Appleton Boys 58. On 15th August 1896 it was noted that, in a match between Abingdon and a Marcham Vicarage XI, the Town won by 135 runs to 60.

As usual, details relating to Marcham CC. may be obtained from Graham Hill (391415) or Terry Whittaker (391317).

**CLIVE BENNETT**

**MARCHAM TENNIS ASSOCIATION**

There is still time to register to play tennis all summer (and winter if you like!) call Meriel on 391725 to arrange to pay and pick up a key. The costs this year are: Junior £13, Adult £21 Family £43 (key deposit £4).



*Please bring your old key if you have one.*

The nets may stay up once school has finished for this year but when it starts again in September, **PLEASE** put them away.

**JENNY & MERIEL**