

STUFF – ANCIENT AND MODERN

Saturday 26th May saw the Marcham Players presenting “Stuff – Ancient and Modern” at Manor Farm. Due to the weather the planned picnic in the Cumbers’ garden had to be changed to a delightful evening in the Threshing Barn. This turned out to be an ideal venue for such a varied programme of ten items. The evening was charmingly interspersed with “Smile and Song” interludes from Christine Whild, Melanie Birdsall and Ian Smith. The theme of “Ancient and Modern” was introduced and carried through by Cheryl Sewell. Starting the readings from “1066 and All That”, Tina Hill read an excerpt from the Roman Era that included an account of how the Britons misunderstood Caesar’s saying: “Veni Vidi Vici”.



“Unhand me Squire” followed and was narrated in melodramatic verse by David Hutchinson – a story of wicked Squire Sir Jasper (played by a splendidly moustached young Will Cumber) winning by devious means the heart of fickle Fanny Adams (Sarah Narramoor). She was ably supported by other very welcome newcomers to Marcham Players, Maite Smith, Ruth and Jenny Narramoor, Ellen Walton and Sarah Waterhouse. Grandma (Janet Frere), Percival (Max Hutchinson), Mr and Mrs Adams (Andrew Packford and Jeni Hobbs) all played their parts with their usual wit and gusto. Janet Frere then followed the Romans with a reading about the English Civil War, largely featuring the struggles between Cavaliers and “Roundheads” – the latter especially suitable as cannonballs apparently!

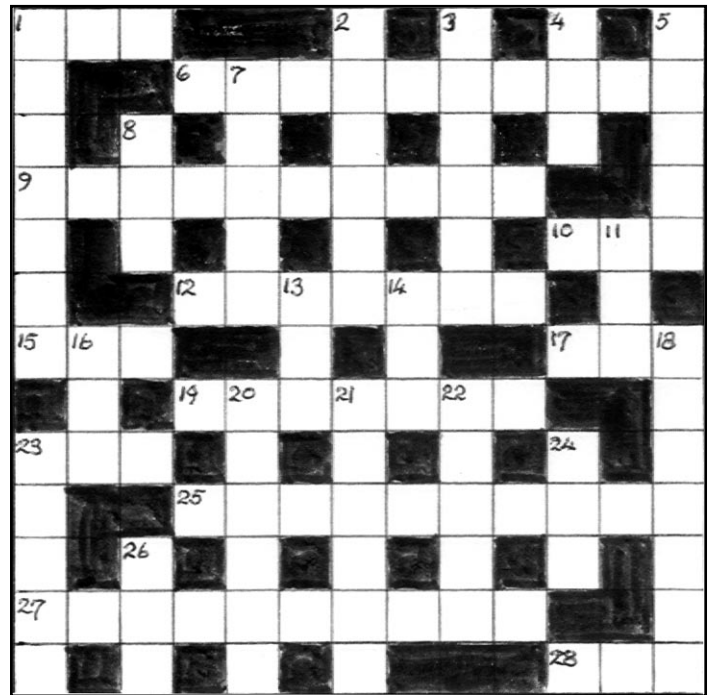
Fortified by drinks and after a delicious supper masterminded by Joey Maclean, we returned to our blankets and overcoats in the barn to hear Richard Hobbs, bedecked in the Sun naval hat, subjecting Nelson (Will Cumber in the Times) to 21st Century Health and Safety. Nelson’s final defence was a modern PC resort to “Kiss me Hardy”!

Joey Maclean’s reading about the Victorians of course included a regular reference to being “not amused” and lead us into “The History Boy”. Here Tim Owen gave us insight into a “traditional” History lesson, culminating in Chain mail and brandished Broadsword with a rallying cry for “England and Saint George”. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the penultimate piece – a radio skit on Macbeth with amusing sound effects and varied voices from Cheryl, Joey, Tim, Andrew, Will Cumber senior and junior. The programme concluded with Ian Smith singing the “stately Homes of England”. After an evening of such talent and evident enthusiasm, we look forward to Marcham Players producing their next performance and perhaps the return to a full length play – the Threshing Barn might well prove a suitable theatre, who knows?

SIMON BLACKMORE

www.marchamplayers.co.uk

SUMMER CROSSWORD BY ALISA



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 15th (6.7.4.3) |
| 1 Conveyance (3) | 3 Shrub with yellow flowers (6) |
| 6 He records how long it takes (10) | 4 Suitable (3) |
| 9 Oxford district (10) | 5 Conveyance (5) |
| 10 Lodging house (3) | 7 Village near Kidiington (5) |
| 12 See 2 | 8 Pig’s home (3) |
| 15 Writer (3) | 11 The present (3) |
| 17 Bird. (3) | 13 Fish (3) |
| 19 See 2 | 14 Female rabbit (3) |
| 23 Annoy (3) | 16 Sort of axe (3) |
| 25 Go fizzy (10) | 18 Young hare (7) |
| 27 Amuses (10) | 20 Shows willingness (6) |
| 28 Rainy (3) | 21 Ship’s drift (6) |
| DOWN | 22 Donated (5) |
| 1 Conveyance (7) | 23 Female fox (5) |
| 2 19 12 Happening on the | 24 Employment (3) |
| | 26 Dined (3) |

OUR KNITTING PROJECT HAS SNOWBALLED!

In my December update, I mentioned the soft toys we had taken out to Hluvukani for Christmas, the “thank you” email we received read “What a heart-rending success ... Every little mite clung to their respective present as if their very life depended on it. There was never any envy amongst any of them, and if they dropped their present by mistake and a care-giver tried to replace it with another present, all hell would break loose: no, they wanted the first-given present back!”

I also mentioned the football kit that had been given to us by West Ham football academy (via a Marcham family), if anyone is interested in seeing photos or reading further details, they can be found on the WHUFC website: the link is http://www.whufc.com/articles/article.php?page_id=8519#

In April this year, we were able to take over 100 jumpers and nearly 30 children’s blankets to Hluvukani. That was a special day, as the children were much more forthcoming than they’d been the last time we went – as you’ll see from the photos, they interacted much more positively with us (see photos). The day care centre now has running water but also nearly twice the number of orphans to look after! And NOW, as I write, we have well over 100 soft toys etc ready for shipping to S Africa in time for Christmas, and W Ham has once again most generously given us an AMAZING amount of kit. Needless to say, jumpers and blankets are still coming in as well! So all we can say is “thank you” from the bottom of our hearts for reaching out to these children who have so little but to whom your generosity means so much. **ALISON & NICK LAWRIE** 391540



**APPEAL
MAY 2007**

Due to the generosity of you, the villagers of Marcham, the grand total of £482.52 was collected and handed over to Oxfordshire’s Senior Fundraiser David Jones, at the Branch HQ in Abingdon, who, on behalf of the Red Cross, sends his grateful thanks for your continued support.

I am extremely pleased to announce that this is the highest amount collected in the village since I was first asked to arrange this collection in 1994, up by nearly £140 on last year and would like to thank all who contributed for being so generous. I would also like to add my thanks to the other volunteer collectors who gave up their valuable time delivering (and collecting) envelopes – a first this year - and knocking on doors with their collecting tins for this very worthy cause.

TONY B
July/August 2007