



## Marcham WI June 2007

Fascinating evening coming up on 19 July – come and hear about Bess of Hardwick, she of 4 husbands, confidante of Elizabeth I and jailor to Mary, Queen of Scots!

Lovely coach trip to Kew Gardens in May, gorgeous weather but wind and rain the previous weekend had polished off the azaleas. Several themed gardens and sculptures were new and it seemed much larger than I remembered. A few members visited the newly refurbished Kew Palace which is only accessible via the gardens and costs extra.

On June 6th the National Federation held their AGM at the Albert Hall. (Tony Blair's handclapping episode several years ago gave the WI great publicity.) Main resolution this year was the Govt's proposed closure of some beds in community hospitals. The motions opposing this policy was carried almost unanimously was reported widely in the media.

Others speakers included Stuart Rose from M&S who have been holding focus groups with several WIs re fashions for the over-50s, having recently woken up to the fact they were losing their core market.

A senior man from The Post Office endeavoured to explain (or justify) the rationalisation of the PO outlets (ie decimation) to coincide with the complicated, least user-friendly postage system ever invented. This has no doubt driven more people to use electronic communication and monetary gifts rather than travelling to and queuing up at distant PO... when a quick check on the kitchen scales used to suffice.

### Looking forward to

Trip to London Tues Aug 7 visit Bank of England Museum or 'do your own thing'.

### Coming Up

Coach visit to Ironbridge Gorge and Victorian Town Tues 11 Sept Non-members £27 Deadline 15 July  
Celebrity evening with Ben Fogle. Tues 25 Sept 7.30pm Oxford. includes light refreshments, transport from P&R to venue. Open to non-members £18, booking 3 Aug -1 Sept.

### NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 19 July  
**Bess of Hardwick & Hardwick Hall**  
*Dr Gillian White*

*Visitors very welcome £2 includes tea and biscuits*

Contacts: Greta Goulding 01865 391592  
Christine Whild 01865 391270

## CENTENARY MIDWEEK WALK

*A brief description of the Centenary Walk organised by Eric Dunford on Thursday 31st May.*

Eleven people only, turned up to Broughton at the car park of "The Saye & Sele Arms" pub, for the commencement of the walk. We walked through sunshine, black cloud, pouring rain and thunderstorms and had to negotiate some "macramé" tied farm gates. There were descriptions, by Eric, of the Battle of Edge Hill and the fact that we were walking on an old salt road. We got back to the pub for a very good lunch, and were joined by two more, so 13 of us then went into Broughton Castle for a private tour, led superbly by our guide, Ian. We were taken around the house and had things explained to us in a very professional style. We even went out onto the "leads" as it was known, or the roof, as we knew it. We then had a tour of the gardens and Lord Saye & Sele himself came out to talk with us. From there we went into the church and Eric treated us to a solo on the church organ. A very good way to end the 100th walk.

**MALVIN**  
July/August 2007

## SUNSHINE CLUB

**JUNE:** We were all very sorry to hear of Hubert Smith's passing. Our hearts go out to Joyce Smith, a sympathy card and flowers were given. We will be thinking of her and the family. One other would like to mention is Jean Reeve who had come on to our committee in March and kindly took on the treasurer's position but had to give up due to health reasons. We are very sorry and all hope she will improve in due course, will always be welcome to the club when ever she feels like it. Card and flowers have been given from the club. Will start re-writing newsletter every month from September. I'm sure we all wish the team a very happy break, thanks for all your hard work. **JOY CROOK**

## MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

At our May meeting we had a talk by Eddie Shirras about his family and the amazing coincidences he and his wife found, how their lives had crossed in so many ways long before they had even met. I wonder how many of us would find a few surprises from our past. A very interesting talk.

Our outing to Aston was another happy trip. A lovely tea was provided by the WI (oh, those wonderful cakes) in a very smart village hall. Afterwards a tour of the local countryside looking so lovely at this time of year made an enjoyable end to the tea outing.

It was with regret we hear of the death of Hubert Smith, a long standing member of our club. Our sympathy goes out to Joyce and her family at this time. Our next meeting will be on 26th July.

**JOYCE PARRY**

## MARCHAM EX-SERVICEMENS CLUB

### OAP Coach Trip

**Saturday 18th August 2007 2pm outside the club**

Forms will be available from the Club, Post Office and Wednesday Lunches on the run up to August.

## MIDWEEK WALKS

**Thursday, July 12th.** The July walk will revisit the General Elliot Public House (whose proprietor now runs the Crown in Marcham) in South Hinksey (Map Ref: SP 511043), which can be reached via a slip-road off the A34 just past the Hinksey Interchange (mind you don't miss it!). We will follow a permissive path to North Hinksey, then Cumnor Hill and Chilswell for a total of about 5 miles. We will meet at 12.30pm for lunch or 1.30 for the walk.

**Thursday August 9th.** The August walk is a short one of about 3½ miles. We will start at The Bell in Ducklington (SU359075) and walk to Witney, returning via Cogges and the River Windrush, timing as for July.

As always, new walkers are very welcome. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and details.

## ON THE BUSES

A summer outing ... walk down Whitehall from Trafalgar Square and catch bus 53 to take you over Westminster Bridge, past the Elephant and Castle, down the Old Kent Road then through New Cross and Deptford and up the hill to Blackheath. Get off as the 53 reaches Greenwich Park (well known on TV as the start of the London Marathon), walk in the Park to the famous Observatory next to the Meridians and then just take in the view: the one-time Naval College, the River and Canary Wharf beyond. Down the hill to Greenwich - lots of eating places and, sadly, only the fire damaged Cutty Sark. From the nearby station catch a train on the DLR (Docklands Railway) to Bank under the river and then through the Isle of Dogs, so much to see - get off and on at Heron's Quay for a break. Get there by train from Oxford or Didcot to Paddington, get a Day Travelcard to use on bus and DLR. From Paddington get bus 15 or 23 to Trafalgar Square, from Bank 23 back. **BUS SPOTTER**

