

THE MARCHAM PLAYERS

Their latest play "Table Manners" by Alan Ayckbourn on 7th and 8th May was a well-produced, funny, delightful, entertaining play to end their run on stage at the Marcham Institute.

It was great to be there and see the wonderfully comical interactions between the characters. I've never seen anyone eat so many bowls of Corn Flakes at one breakfast!

The six characters were played well and I have to give particular congratulations to the two younger members of the cast. They were outstanding in the portrayal of their characters - well done, Sophie and Max. The other players undertook their parts with gusto too, though I must admit that I've never thought of Richard as an old lech before!

All the workers behind the scenes deserve congratulations too. Everything ran so smoothly thanks to their efforts. The set and scenery were well designed and constructed.

I look forward to the other two plays from The Norman Conquest trilogy. If you missed this one, DON'T miss the next, wherever it is performed in Marcham. It beats watching TV hands down!

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BBOWT EVENTS

13TH ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK THE BERNWOOD JUBILEE WAY

Sunday 6 June

REGISTRATION:

Long walk 8am-9am;

Medium walk 9am-10am;

Short walk 9am -11am

covering Waddesdon, Quainton and Middle Claydon, Bucks Organisers: Wendy Carter and Gemma Swann. Admission: £6 registration fee in advance or £10 on the day. Help raise money for BBOWT's local conservation and wildlife education projects whilst enjoying a spectacular walk in the Bucks countryside. There is a choice of three routes (7, 13 or 18 miles). Walkers will see red kites, meadow butterflies, historical features, bluebell woods and fantastic views across the Vale of Aylesbury.

DOGS ON LEADS FOR THE SHORT WALK ONLY.

Coach transport provided for middle and long walk. Meet: Knowle Hill Farm, Middle Claydon, Bucks. SP 706237.

Contact: (01865) 775476 for a walk registration pack

FLOWER WALK ON PIXEY MEAD

Sunday 6 June 2 - 4 pm

A joint Event with Oxford Meads Wildlife Group and BBOWT at Wolvercote, Oxon. Leader: Alison McDonald. Admission: All £ 1. Meet: Wolvercote Bathing Place, Wolvercote. SP 487 094. Contact: Helen Ap-Rhisiart (01865) 374227.



THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2005

This prestigious annual award gives well deserved recognition to the unsung heroes of our communities - the hundreds of thousands of voluntary groups across the UK that play such an essential role in our daily lives. If you know a group

of volunteers who make a difference in your community, who devote their time to helping others, nominate them for an Award! For information and a nomination form call 0845 000 2002, visit <http://www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk> or email gjaward@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

KITES, CAMERA, ACTION!

In the coming months, the Red Kites in the Chilterns project will be bringing you 'up close and personal' with a family of red kites. The project, organised by the Chilterns Conservation Board, will be using CCTV technology to get an insight into the breeding behaviour of a pair of red kites, as they build their nest, lay and incubate eggs and rear their chicks.

A CCTV camera has been erected at a secret location in the Stokenchurch area, and live pictures of the nest are now being beamed into the Charwood garden centre at Studley Green. View the live 'Nest Watch' images at the Charwood garden centre coffee shop until late July. By the beginning of May, live images will also be available on the Chilterns AONB website www.chilternsaonb.org/caring/red_kites.html

COUNTY FLOWER WINNERS

On Wednesday 5th May, conservation charity Plantlife International announced the results for County Flowers, the campaign that invited the public to vote for a wild flower emblem for their county. With tens of thousands of votes cast, the competition was intense.

Oxfordshire, as a haven for this spectacular spring flower is now represented by the Fritillary (*Fritillaria meleagris*). Some of the best-known fritillary fields are along the flood-meadows of the Thames in Oxfordshire. The purple

bells nod on their snaky stalks at Magdalen Meadow in the heart of the city. The fritillary's habitat is wet meadows and it flowers from April-May. The bluebell was crowned the wild flower emblem for the whole of the UK.

Plantlife International launched the County Flowers campaign to highlight the threat our wild flowers are facing. A recent Plantlife report shows that, on average, every county in the UK is losing one species of wild plant every year due to habitat loss, pollution and intensive farming.

Flowers are a powerful means of expression - everyone recognises the poppy, iconic image of remembrance for those who fell in battle. The simple dog-rose has appeared on heraldic banners for over a thousand years and many towns and villages are named after plants: Bromley is named after the broom, Ramsey after ramson, otherwise known as wild garlic and of course Marcham is named for our Wild Celery, merece (*apium graveolens*).

JOIN THE MAMMALS ON ROADS SURVEY 2004

From the start of July until the end of September Mammals Trust UK will be running its annual Mammals on Roads survey, asking motorists and cyclists to record the number of animals, both alive and dead that they see on road journeys.

To take part call 020 7498 5262 or email mor@mtuk.org.

SUMMER BREAK

Don't forget that MADNews takes a break in the summer, so please submit any letters or articles for the July/August by 20th June at the latest.

