

MARCHAM SOCIETY WALK

Midweek Walk on Thursday, June 1st.

This month's walk will start in Crawley near the River Windrush, two miles north-west of Witney, exploring the river valley and the village and ancient Hall of Minster Lovell. We will meet at The Lamb Public House in Crawley, (Map Ref: SP341120) at 12.30pm for lunch or 1.30 for the walk of about 4 miles. As always, new walkers are very welcome. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.

ON THE BUSES

As well as visits to Dorchester, Wallingford and beyond (last month's MADNews) Thames Travel X15 is excellent for outings to the Thames Path. From Frilford Road in Marcham (0928 and every hour, not Sundays) take the X15 to Clifton Hampden, Village Hall, takes about 20 minutes. Cross the road, turn right at the lights and you're soon at the river and ready for a pleasant walk past Culham Lock, to Abingdon. On the way you cross a footbridge over Swift Ditch that was probably the main navigation until Abingdon lock was dug by the monks centuries ago. You get a fine view of St Helen's spire and surrounding almshouses as you approach Abingdon Bridge, and then up to the War Memorial for a bus home. (X15 at 05 past, 33 at 43 past). For a longer walk continue on the X15, changing at Berinsfield to the connecting 138. You can go right to Wallingford and start your (longer) walk there or else get off before Shillingford (when the bus joins the main road after Dorchester) where you will see the Thames Path sign pointing across a field to the River. That gives you views of Wittenham Clumps, you cross the river at Days Lock and continue opposite the boat houses of Burcot to Clifton Hampden. There is a pub there nicely situated for lunch – or you can bus back if that's been long enough! (X15 at 57 past hour). Otherwise continue to Abingdon as above.



BUS SPOTTER

MARCHAM/FRILFORD DIG NEWS 2006

This July 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. Lots of you will have visited the site where the University of Oxford is digging a fascinating Romano-British site. For more 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.

This year as before the public are welcome to visit (archaeologists are at work every day except Saturdays for the 4 weeks from Sunday 2nd July) - but the best day to visit will be **NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY - SUNDAY 23rd JULY** when there will be guided tours and other attractions. Groups can visit during the day or the evening by prior arrangement.

2005 was an exciting year for the dig - we had a visit by Time Team and an award from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Vale and Ridgeway Trust was awarded a Local Heritage Initiative grant for **The Trendles Project: Exploring Marcham's Past**. This grant is to help us investigate and promote the heritage of the Trendles site, in particular by involving the local community in participating in the dig in 2005 and 2006: we will be able to produce much more written and visual information, give more lectures and workshops, visit more schools, and support the excavation of a **People's Trench** to give hands on archaeological experience to local people. The People's Trench in 2005 ran for a week with great success: those

who do not want to dig all day can sit down and 'pot wash' (wash finds).

In 2006 we will operate the **People's Trench** for the full four weeks of the dig - six days a week (Saturday is a rest day) - from Sunday 2nd to Friday 28th July and are now looking for volunteers: you will receive some basic training and be fully supervised at no cost to yourself! We need a minimum commitment of 2 days. Please note that anyone under 16 must be accompanied.

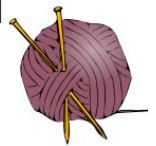
For further information please contact Janey Cumber on 01865-391327/391840 or by email janey.cumber@tiscali.co.uk. If you have already put your name down I will be in touch with you by early June.



UPDATE ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN KNITTING PROJECT

Hluvukani Day Care Centre has so far received

- 115 Jumpers
 - 8 Blankets (10 more to follow)
 - Countless woolly hats, mittens and scarves
- Thank you for your support!



ALISON LAWRIE 391540

Swap your stuff for FREE

The Oxfordshire Freecycle Networks are open to all in the local area who would prefer to "freecycle" to others, rather than throw away unwanted items such as unloved bicycles, pianos, fax machines etc.

Freecycle is an email based free swap-shop. Just "post" a message on your local Freecycle page, listing your free items or for something you want yourself. Charity organisations will be informed of this site so they too may be in touch to pick up your things.

All items **MUST** be 100% free and no commercials. You can find a Freecycle network in these areas: Banbury, Cherwell Valley, Chipping Norton, Henley-on-Thames, Oxford, Vale of the White Horse, Wallingford, Witney.

For more information visit www.freecycle.org and find a Freecycle network near you!



**Open Farm Sunday
11th June**

**Don't lie in... dig out your wellies ...
come and join us on a real farm
with your family and friends**

- where: Manor Farm, Mill Road, Marcham
- time: 1-6pm
- contact: Janey, 01865 391327
- activities: guided tours, shop open, tractors, pigs, cows, walks!

We look forward to seeing you
please remember to dress for the weather!
Farms matter – enjoy them!



Farm Sunday is a national Open Farm Day coordinated by LEAF www.leaf.org tel: 024 7641 3911

To get your letter or notice included please write to the editor by 20th month latest
June 2006