

SPRING GARDENING

Spring is in the air or as the Italians call it "*Primavera*"

Activity in the flower garden bursts into life at this time of year. If you have prepared the ground previously and the soil is



beginning to dry out and warm up, this month is ideal for planting new roses or herbaceous perennials without too much worry about loosing them in bad weather conditions.

If you have not already done so remove any dead growth from around your bearded/flag Irises. The more sun you can get down to the roots, the better they will flower in future months. These Irises love being baked, so the hotter you can get them, the better they are.

Increase your stock of snowdrops by lifting them, green foliage and all. Then divide and replant them where you want them. As stated in previous articles, snowdrops are one of the only bulbs that you transplant "*in the green*". Most other bulb varieties have to be allowed to fully die back after their flowering period before being moved.

At the end of this month, you could consider planting out new gladioli corms. Try planting them 6-9 inches deep and they should be able to survive in the cold weather next winter, so avoiding the need to find time to lift them in the autumn and store them until weather improves the following spring. By planting gladioli so deep assists them in being able to stand up to the winds buffeting effects without too much extra support.

Go on, put that new found enthusiasm that comes upon us, when the weather improves and evenings draw out to good use. Our gardens are desperate for tender loving care after the winter we've just had.

Happy Gardening

STUART MABBUTT

INTRODUCTORY WINE APPRECIATION COURSE

AT BOTHY VINEYARD, Easter 2008

Directed by Michael Palij MW, one of only 250 Masters of Wine in the world, WineMatters has been running passionate and informative wine tuition courses since 1994. For the first time Wine Matters will be holding an introductory course in the art and science of wine (and also spirits) at Bothy Vineyard. The course is great fun as well as being very informative.

The quality of the wines (generally six at each session) is of paramount importance; these are very carefully chosen, with a number being drawn from Michael Palij's personal stock, so that the course gives the chance to try some older and more expensive wines.

A unique approach to tasting technique is used which is reinforced each week through the themed tastings. The class sizes are kept small and friendly to allow for greater discussion. It includes a food and wine matching module. Participants need no prior knowledge of the subject.

The course fee of £285 includes all tastings as well as additional information such as a book pack.

The course will run by Karen Hyde on Wednesday evenings, starting on 19 March. Please email Karen for further information (Email: karen@winematters-oxon.co.uk T: 07855 026734) or visit www.wine-matters.com.



Marcham Society welcomes YOU!

Are you interested in hearing interesting talks on a variety of local topics? Or how about a monthly walk starting with a pub lunch? We also have occasional visits, barbecues and socials, plus our very own publication, Coral Rag (on sale at Marcham Post Office). Visitors are very welcome (cost only £1), so just turn up at Marcham Church on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm. Details of talks and walks are published in MADNews, otherwise please phone Janey Cumber (391327) or Judith Fontaine (391275). For walks contact Eric & Sheila Dunford on 391439) see page 9 for the next one.

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

Although the weather seems to be generally improving it is early in the year and there is plenty of scope for more wintry conditions before the start of the OCA Season in May. It is intended to give details of Marcham CC's fixtures in later issues of the Marcham and District News.



Turning now from the future to the past, this month's historical offering comes from an Annual Meeting held in early 1925. Accordingly, it was proposed at that meeting that the Membership Subscription be set at 3 shillings. For readers not familiar with pounds shillings and pence it may be noted that the amount of 3 shillings is 15 pence in present currency. Despite the fact that this may seem very small, the sum is not a trivial amount when seen in the context of the average annual income of many people at the time.

Details of playing for the Club and other information regarding its activities may be obtained, as is usual, from Graham Hill (391415) or Terry Whittaker (391317).

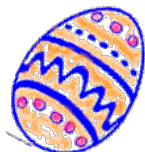
CSB

Jean and Ray Park
 have moved to
 Oaken Holt
 Eynsham Road
 Farmoor
 Oxford OX2 9NL



Jean: 01865 864151 :: Ray: 01865 864259

Thanks to all our friends in Marcham for the cards, best wishes and flowers we have received.
Visitors will be very welcome



Write to MADNews and let others know what you think about current events