

DENMAN COLLEGE

With spring in the air – finally – the college is getting steadily busier. As well as our programme of residential courses, we start to have more day visits and other non-residential activities once the days lengthen and the gardens start to come into their own. Our Estates staff have been busy over the winter, ensuring that sluices and culverts around the lake remain free from possible obstructions.

The refurbishment of the Brunner accommodation block, and the refitting of the WI Cookery School are also coming to a conclusion. By the beginning of April we shall be saying goodbye to Knowles & Son and the other contractors who have been working on site for 18 months. Thank you to all the Marcham residents who have had to bear with the parking and traffic disruption resulting from all this work. The results will be stunning, and we look forward to having full use of our splendid new facilities.

STEPHEN HACKETT, Principal

JAN / FEBRUARY CROSSWORD BY ALISA

ACROSS: 1 Gym shoe 5 Brief 8 WI 9 Astray 12 Urchin 13 Kiosk 14 Resolutions 16 Dhobi 17 Sudden 19 Aspire 23 Siren 24 Gosling

DOWN 1 Gown 2 MP 3 Heath Robinson 4 Extinguishing 5 Blackbird Leys 6 If 7 Frisky 10 Freedom 11 Counter 15 Ideals 18 Frog 21 BR 23 GI

MARCHAM PLAYERS

The Marcham Players held their Annual General Meeting in the church on Thursday, 19th February. The present committee was re-elected: Dave Hutchinson, chairman; Joey Maclean, secretary; Tim Owen, treasurer; Stuart Brighton, Janet Frere, Deirdre Maton, Andrew Packford, Cheryll Sewell, Chris Smith. Tina Hill and Richard Hobbs were co-opted.



In the Chairman's Report, Dave mentioned the continuing problem with a venue and thanked the Church and the Cumbers for their support. The Players had organised thirteen events during the year, including outings to theatres in Newbury and Winchester; a "With Great Pleasure" evening; a summer picnic/outdoor "Winter's Tale" at Lydiard Park near Swindon; a very successful musical /spoken word "Trafalgar Day +1" in the Church and a much enjoyed Christmas Party in the Board Room at Manor Farm.

Plans for the future include more theatre trips, another play reading and a "With Great Pleasure" evening presented by the Committee with the emphasis on humour, to take place on Friday 27th February at 7.30 in the Board Room. It is hoped to put on a production in the summer of Alan Ayckbourn's "Living Together", with which there were such problems last year.

This year's Chairman's Award (£50 theatre token) was presented to Stuart Brighton, for his long and positive contribution - for his commitment, ingenuity and flair for getting things done – the Players may not know their lines, but the lighting/sound will be always be first rate.

The meeting closed with the Chairman thanking the committee for their continuing enthusiasm and support.

Any enquiries about us will be willingly answered either by our Secretary, Joey, on 01865 391242 or, Dave Hutchinson on 01865 391964.

www.marchamplayers.co.uk
March 2009

Two items from Brownies working on their Writer's Badge:

My Brownie Poem

Brownies is fun, Brownies is great,
I go on Wednesdays, I'm never late.
Ivy, Daisy, Tulip, Snowdrop and Heather,
I know they'll be there whatever the weather.
We play lots of fun and games,
Our Brownie Sixes have different names.
Badger, Rabbits, Squirrels and Foxes,
We keep our pens in different boxes.
If you ask when it's boring, I would say never,
I wish I can stay at Brownies for

EVER!

Mollie L

Fire Trip

On the 28th of January the Brownies went to the fire station in Abingdon. We talked about fire safety then had a tour of the station. We tried on some gear and look at the engine. We got a ticket from a fire in the past. We really enjoyed it and thank you Lee Swain.

Jessica Hawkins

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

The A.G.M. was held last month. Very useful discussions took place in relation to many aspects of the Club's activities and the 2009 O.C.A. Season.

In preparation for the forthcoming season, nets are being held at Radley College Sports Hall from 19.30 – 21.00 on every Friday until the first week in May. All levels are welcome. Information relating to Marcham CC (including playing for, or umpiring on behalf of the Club) may be obtained from Graham Hill (391415) or Terry Whittaker (391317). **CSB**



ABINGDON LITTLE ANGELS

Abingdon Little Angels have spent February looking at China and Chinese new year. We made cards, dragons and tried rice and vegetables. However a change of plan took over when snow stopped play for our little angels. With wellingtons, hats and gloves on, the most important thing to do was build a snowman!! What fun all of our little angels had. We also watched with amazement at all the other children on the field throwing snowballs, sledging and building snowmen. **Winter wonderland in Marcham.**

We have also had some great news, we have been awarded a grant for a new kitchen. We are hoping have it installed as soon as poss, with new units and a cooker more hot food can be provided plus giving the children the opportunity to cook. **A great start to our new year.**

For more information please contact us on 07516474287.

NATURE NOTES

The cold snap has certainly brought in many garden birds, nothing spectacular to date but the flocks of Long Tailed Tits have been delightful with six on one small feeder. This year I have mixed black sunflower seeds with peanuts which the Long Tailed Tits and Goldfinches like particularly. Less pleasing is the sparrows and starlings do too, the latter being voracious and aggressive. Cunningly all the sunflower seeds disappear rapidly leaving the less popular peanuts. **GG STOPPRESS:** The skylarks are back - their song is so uplifting. Did anyone hear them before 18 Feb...and have you spotted a hedgehog either foraging in your garden or in your hedgehog house?

