



Marcham WI April 2006

Oxfordshire Federation AGM in March at Oxford Town Hall was an entertaining day with talks by Hilary Moriarty, a regular humorous contributor to the national WI magazine, **Home and Country**. Also by the son of James Herriott who accompanied his veterinary father when a youngster on his many rural calls; John Kelly, Emergency Planning Response Officer, outlined the County's preparations in the event of a major incident in Oxon and the role of the WI together with other voluntary organisation.

This year there were 4 bursaries drawn for 2-day courses at Denman College. Not bad for a £1 lucky dip!

This month our speaker was **Geoffrey Bailey** who has run an independent shoe shop in Wantage since the 1980s which specialises in quality shoes and special service, newspapers, coffee and armchairs were mentioned. This informative talk took us through all aspects of independent retailing such as buying power, origin of production and why sandals appear in shops in March. when this year, spring is still struggling to appear in late April.

Locals may recall Bailey's Shoes in Bath St, Abingdon which our speaker's grandfather opened in 1903 and finally closed in the 1990s; it has been missed.

We had a bring and buy table towards funds for our annual bursary. Nola told us about her bursary Parchment course which she had enjoyed greatly. Examples of her parchment cards were on display, beautifully crafted.

Some of the activities WI has on offer:

- Indoor Bowls competition
- Resolution briefing meetings for National Federation WI AGM, Cardiff
- Earthquake workshop
- Life Painting/Drawing workshop
- Competition to write a children's story
- Members photos for 2008 calendar
- County quiz
- Golf lesson
- Spring walks through the county, some followed by traditional tea

NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 18 May

Denman College – Craft and Cookery Building

Some Dos and Don'ts of Antiquing

Michael Bull

Discussion on Resolutions for the National WI AGM

Display: small items of interest

Contacts: Greta Goulding 01865 391592
Christine Whild 01865 391270

Visitors always welcome

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If you'd like to see your writing in MADNews, contact the Editor on 01865 391725
May 2006

FRILFORD ST PETER'S WI

Friday 19 May Duffield Place, 2.00pm

AGM Resolution plus The Steventon Singers.

WYN HARMAN

MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

Our meeting on 27 March was well attended and after the early formalities we had a speaker who gave us a talk on how to hold on to more of our money instead of it going to the tax man! Quite a few interesting points were raised by some of our members and all seemed to find it of interest. Afterwards we had our tea and biscuits and a very large raffle.

On April 6th we had the first of this year's outings. The Windmill Restaurant was our venue for lunch and all enjoyed a carvery meal followed by a mouth-watering array of sweets. Then on to Lechlade and a visit to the garden centre. With so many plants around and spring in the air, it was no wonder the coach boot was filled with plants of every description on the way home. There will be many pretty gardens in Marcham during the next few months I'm sure, happy growing to all! Our next meetings will on May 25th.

J PARRY

The Postman

Have you seen the postman
Has he been around
Is he running a little late
Or simply gone to ground?



A clever man, the postman
I've clocked him over the ye;
Sometimes he makes you have a laugh
But another time it's almost tears

He can get down your garden path
Sometimes at a steady old jog
He slides them through the letter flap
And it doesn't wake the dog

But it's different with the freebies
They all seem to come in pairs
He whacks them though the
letter box
And they're halfway up the stairs.



The dog is going mad by now
And I thought about letting him out
But what do you do with bits of postman?
You just can't leave them lying about.



He enjoys delivering freebies
He's well aware they make you curse
But don't say anything to him
It just might make matters worse.

May thanks to our busy postman
And to the milkman just the same
No doubt they will be around tomorrow
Again, again and again.

Maurice Shepherd