

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

A fine season for Marcham Cricket Club culminated in both sides being promoted, the second successive year this feat has been achieved. Some great performances in both teams, some superb cricket, several very good teas, some fine beer and very few rainy days all combined to make it a season to remember. Next year will see the First XI competing in O.C.A. Division Two whilst the Second XI will play in Division Seven.

There will be net practice starting in the New Year for those interested in coming along and getting involved. Dates will appear in a forthcoming issue of the MAD News.

SIMON DAVIE

ST ANDREW'S DAY 30 NOVEMBER

Although Andrew and his brother Peter were two of the original apostles, very little is known about Andrew. He was a fisherman from Galilee, who went on to spread the Christian religion in Greece and Asia Minor and is believed to have been killed by being crucified by the Romans on a diagonal cross in Patras in Southern Greece.



He is patron to: Achaia, Greece; Amalfi Italy; anglers; Burgundy; diocese of Constantinople; diocese of Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA; fish dealers; fish mongers; fishermen; gout; Greece; Lampertheim, Germany; maidens; old maids; Patras; Russia; singers; sore throats; spinsters; women who wish to become mothers and of course



Scotland.

There are two reasons why Andrew was adopted as the patron saint of Scotland. In AD 345 the Emperor Constantine the Great decided to move Andrew's bones from Patras to Constantinople, a Greek monk, St. Regulus or Rule, was instructed by an angel to take a some of these relics to "the ends of the earth". He was told to stop on the Scottish coast, where he founded the settlement of St. Andrew. Another 'bony' explanation is the 7thC Bishop of Hexham, St. Wilfrid (or Acca) brought a relic of the saint back from Rome and they landed in the hands of the Scots King, Angus MacFergus, who installed them at St. Andrew's to enhance the prestige of the new bishopric. The saints remains were probably destroyed during the Scottish Reformation but the site of the relics is now marked by a plaque in the ruined Cathedral in St Andrews. Interestingly, some of Saint Andrew's bones were taken to Amalfi in Italy. From there the church sent some fragments in 1879 to Scotland and in 1969, Pope Paul VI gave some further relics to the Catholic church in Scotland during a visit to Scotland. The other reason is that when King Angus, faced with a large invading army, prayed for divine guidance, a saltire (the diagonal cross) appeared in the shape of a white cloud against the blue sky. Angus won a decisive victory and decreed that Andrew would be patron saint of his country. However, it was not until after Robert Bruce's victory at the Battle of Bannockburn (1314) that the Declaration of Arbroath named St. Andrew the patron saint of Scotland forever and the Saltire became the national flag in 1385.

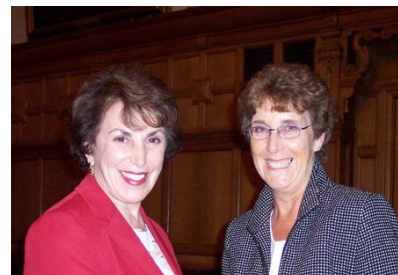
Whatever the reasons, have a dram on 30 November!

DIDCOT & DISTRICT CAB FUNDRAISER

We have a small grant for a part time, temporary Fundraiser, paid on an hourly rate of £9.33. We need someone to research and identify sources and make the applications as appropriate. Experience is desirable but not necessary if there is plenty of enthusiasm. Hours will be in the day time and office based, but irregular due to the nature of the work. For more information or an application form (CVs not accepted) please contact the Bureau Manager on 01235 512839. Closing date 12 November 2004.



Marcham WI



Edwina Currie with Marcham WI President, Carole Sands

Edwina Currie ex-MP, novelist and broadcaster was the speaker at Oxford Town Hall for the half-yearly WI County meeting. Held in September, 350 attended. Her talk was interesting and entertaining as she dealt deftly with some of the more sensational aspects of her experiences. Regrettably the sound system at this prestigious venue is still lacking. (A year ago Jennie Bond ex-BBC Royal Correspondent regaled double the number of WI members which suggests royalty is more popular than politics!)

In November the local group meeting (seven WIs) invited Anne Capstick who spoke candidly of her experience of overcoming breast cancer six years ago. A great believer in positive thinking, her talk emphasised family, friends and neighbours reactions to her diagnosis and how humour and knowledge helped to make the long treatment process more bearable for all.

This month Marcham WI was addressed by Alice Foster on the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford who gave a fascinating, illustrated talk on artists from the Italian, pre-Raphaelite, Dutch and French schools from the 15th to 19th centuries.

Members brought along their 'treasures' which included a shard from a Roman bowl, a tiny brooch given to a member when she was a bridesmaid in 1927 and two Victorian pieces from a lady's boudoir.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 18 November, Denman College, 7.30pm

18th century crewel work – Maureen Robertson

Mini-auction: good opportunity for Christmas gifts

Non-members welcome

Contacts: Greta Goulding 01865 391592
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IT'S NOW.....

- WHAT:** Marcham and St Peter's WI fundraising event
- FOR:** Equipment for the new children's hospital in Oxford
- WHEN:** Saturday 6 November 10.30am – 12.30pm approx
- WHERE:** Duffield Place
- ON OFFER:** Stalls
Raffle
Refreshments

Saleable items for stalls very welcome, please contact: Greta Goulding 01865 391592

FREE ENTRY