


**Marcham/Frilford Archaeological Dig
Local Heritage Initiative Grant**

July 2005 was the fifth season for the dig in Trendles field - where the Vale and Ridgeway Trust is working in partnership with the University of Oxford. In the corner of the parish next to the former Noah's Ark pub (off the A338 Wantage Road as it crosses the river Ock) there is a remarkable Romano-British site which many local people have now visited - some of you on National Archaeology Days when you have been alternately beaten by sun and rain!

In the June MADNews we were able to announce that the Trust has been awarded a lottery grant for a new initiative 'The Trendles Project: Exploring Marcham's Past'. This grant is to help us to investigate and promote the heritage of the site by involving the local community in the project. Last July local volunteers had the chance to dig for a week - in 2006 there will be more opportunities for volunteering at the site, with basic training and full supervision. We also run guided tours of the site for many local schools and groups. This winter we are launching a Lecture and Workshop programme: there will be workshops on Coin Identification, Field Walking, Human Bones and (during the 2006 Dig itself) Finds Identification. These free workshops can only accommodate limited numbers and although local people will have priority places will go on a first come first served basis! Hear more about our plans for the Project at our Open Project Launch Meeting, open to all!

Please contact Janey Cumber for further information Manor Farm, Marcham, Abingdon OX13 6NZ 01865-391327
Email: janey.cumber@tiscali.co.uk



Local Heritage initiative

The Vale and Ridgeway Trust invites you to
the Official Launch of

'The Trendles Project: Exploring Marcham's Past'
on Tuesday 6th December 2005
at All Saints' Church, Marcham at 7.30 pm

Speaker: Dr. Gary Lock 'The story of the Trendles Project'
Seasonal Refreshments Displays



Learn to play bridge
Qualified English Bridge Union teacher
£10 per hour (min. 2 hours).
Welcome to bring your own partner
Contact 07765 708945

ON THE BUSES

It's a sad sight when a bus goes on its way to Wantage or Witney with hardly any passengers on board. When the Abingdon / Witney bus (X15) was introduced the message was 'use it or lose it' so we were very pleased to go to Abingdon and back the other day in buses more than half full. The X15 timetable, during the day, has been changed just a bit - buses now leave Marcham a couple of minutes earlier and depart Abingdon (opposite the War Memorial) a bit later. Journeys serve the College in Wootton Road all day which does make it easier to get to that part of Abingdon and lots of schools eg there is a stop under Faringdon Road (Larkmead etc) bridge in Copenhagen Drive. Some X15s go via Wyndyke Furlong in the Business Park too so let's hope more people decide to leave their cars at home

BUS SPOTTER

To get a notice or small advert included please contact the editor 01865 391725
November 2005

MARCHAM PLAYERS PRESENTS...

Despite adversity, and with special thanks to the Vicar of Marcham Eddie Shirras for permitting the use of Marcham church for the staging of special events, Marcham Players seems to be going from strength to strength. Having recently staged a sell-out evening in combination with the author of the Vicar of Dibley, they are now staging a production of *The Canterville Ghost*: a light-hearted ghost story.



When a American millionaire takes his family to Canterville Chase, a fine Tudor House, they discover that it has been haunted for 400 years by Sir Simon Canterville, who had murdered his wife. When the Americans meet up with the ghost, various unexpected events occur. For the rest of the drama you must attend the Marcham church Friday 18th or Saturday 19th November. The performance commences at 7.30pm. Tickets as usual from The Post Office and at the door of the church on the night of attendance. It is guaranteed to be an exciting and entertaining evening. We look forward to seeing you all.

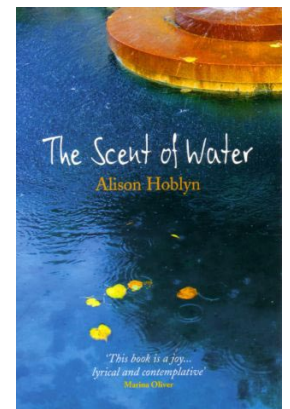
The Marcham Players web-site is now available online, at www.marchamplayers.co.uk. If you would like to join Marcham Players please ring Joey Maclean 391242.

ANDREW PACKFORD

MARCHAM BELLRINGERS

If you wish to join in and pull for Marcham, please contact **ANDY UTTING** 01865 391709, 07803 054745, uttinga@aol.com

The Scent of Water is a first novel by artist **Alison Hoblyn** who lives in Tubney. She woke up one day, at the turn of the century, and wondered whether she could achieve a longstanding desire to write fiction. After taking several OUDCE (Oxford University Department of Continuing Education) classes in creative writing she decided to stop taking courses and start writing seriously.



The result is a story that spans two years from April to April; roaming from Tuscany to the Cotswolds and Oxford. It touches on art and beautiful gardens and follows Ellie, a widowed artist, at a pivotal time in her life. Its underlying theme is hope; spirit-lifting reading for dreary November!

The Scent of Water out November 2005 for more details see the website www.transita.co.uk/title_scent_of_water.htm

The Mouse House

Local author, **Joan Carter**, has recently published "The Mouse House", delightful bedtime reading for all! Only £2.99, it is available from Joan directly or from bookshops in Wantage, Witney, Wallingford and Oxford and Abingdon.

Both books are available from...

THE BOOKSTORE

15 Bury Street, Abingdon (in the precinct) Tel: 01235 539200