

**MARCHAM PLAYERS**

Following our previous two very successful evenings, Jean and Donald Creasy have undertaken to provide readings for another “**With Great Pleasure**”. This will take place on Friday 24th November at 7.30pm in the Board Room at Manor Farm. Do please come and join us for what promises to be a very enjoyable time. Liquid refreshments provided in the interval. No admission fee.



“**SECRETS!!!!**” *An evening of three one-act plays*

7.30 pm Friday 8th December & Saturday 9th December

All Saints Church

Tickets £5 and £4 concessions

(from Post Office last week of November)

Light refreshments

If you would like information on our events or if you are interested in joining the Marcham Players as an actor, helping out backstage or with front house please get in touch with Joey Maclean (Secretary – 391242) or Dave Hutchinson (Chairman – 391964).

**JOEY MACLEAN**

[www.marchamplayers.co.uk](http://www.marchamplayers.co.uk)

**MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB**

An excellent Centenary Dinner Dance was held at the Four Pillars on the evening of 6th October 2006. This was a most enjoyable occasion with just short of seventy people attending – including, very pleasingly, some senior ex-players. As with all Club events, many thanks are due to the organisers. Many items from the Club’s long history were mentioned during the evening and a few historical items are reported below. Thus, at a Committee Meeting of 20th March 1906, “*it was proposed and carried for new Club colours to be scarlet cap, belt and sash, members to pay for their own, and use them regularly.*” Although the use of sashes has fallen into abeyance, scarlet caps are still worn by Club players a century later.



Also it was stated that, “*The Club shall be called the Marcham Cricket Club and shall consist of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee.*”

A few years later, at a Committee Meeting held in May 1912, “Mr Etty proposed and Mr R Long seconded that Miss Anson be elected President of the Club. Mr Etty also spoke of the great loss the Club had sustained by the death of Mr Anson who had done so much for the Club and had always taken such a keen interest in its welfare.”

Also at this Meeting, “*Mr Gall said it was the wish of Miss Anson that the members of the Club should have full enjoyment of the field...*”

Regarding the 2006 Season, the 1st and 2nd XIs each finished third in their respective Divisions. The presentation of Club awards for this Season took place as part of the Centenary proceedings at the Four Pillars. Following preparative work by Terry and Graham, a few others joined them on a brisk morning recently to assist in the spreading of loam on the cricket square. This is, of course, part of the on-going field maintenance programme necessary to provide good playing facilities for the 2007 O.C.A. Season.

Please contact Graham Hill (391415) or Terry Whittaker (391317) for information regarding the Club.

**CLIVE BENNETT**

**MARCHAM SOCIETY MEETING REPORT**

Our speaker on 10 October was Peter Higginbotham, who gave a most interesting talk on Abingdon Workhouse.

In January 1835, Abingdon had the dubious honour of opening the first union workhouse in the country. There had been parish relief schemes since Tudor times, but these were often corrupt and

inefficient. The government set up a Royal Commission, which led to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, establishing a system of Poor Law Union Workhouses, supervised by locally elected boards and following national standards. Coincidentally, Abingdon had been planning to build a new workhouse at the time the Act was passed.

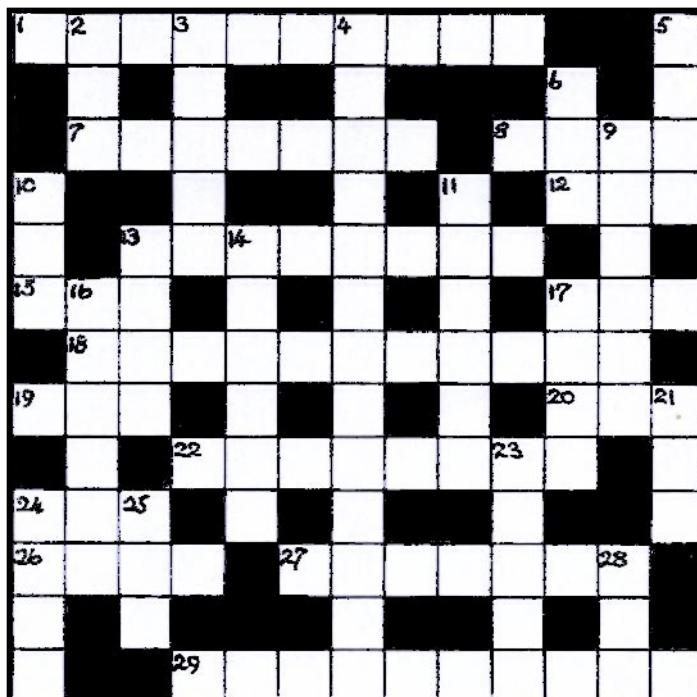
The Abingdon workhouse was on the Oxford Road, diagonally opposite St Edmund’s church. It was a 4-storey, Y-shaped building, enclosed by a hexagonal outer wall. The master could watch all that went on from the windows of his parlour in the central hub of the building.

Workhouse inmates were divided by age and sex. Men worked at stone picking, bone crushing and gravel digging. Women did cleaning, cooking and laundry work. Children were often taught skills such as shoemaking and tailoring. Workhouse life was strict and monotonous, but inmates did at least have food, clothing and shelter. Abingdon workhouse finally closed in 1932 and the building was demolished soon after.

**JUDITH FONTAINE**

*This is a very brief summary of a very entertaining talk. Visitors are most welcome at our meetings so, now that the evenings are drawing in, why not come?*

**NOVEMBER CROSSWORD BY ALISA**



**ACROSS**

- 1 One who wishes one well (10)
- 7 The Way to Morland Road (7)
- 8 Stitched (4)
- 12 TV doctor (3)
- 13 Wantage MP (2.6)
- 15 Sweet potato (3)
- 17 Public Service Vehicle (3)
- 18 Marcham Society activity (7.4)
- 19 Flying mammal (3)
- 20 Yes (3)
- 22 In a supple way (8)
- 24 Snake (3)
- 26 As soon as (4)
- 27 Cheese (7)
- 29 Bed (10)

**DOWN**

- 2 Self (3)
- 3 Clear (5)
- 4 Local carpet cleaner (13)
- 5 Floor covering (4)
- 6 Not old (3)
- 9 Drink (6)
- 10 No (3)
- 11 Plover (6)
- 13 Discharge (4)
- 14 Letters (6)
- 16 River (6)
- 17 Drama (4)
- 21 Tree (3)
- 23 Water lily (5)
- 24 Weapon (4)
- 25 Card (3)
- 28 Born (3)