



Marcham WI September 2005

The long awaited invitation to visit Highgrove, Prince Charles' estate, was greatly enjoyed. Passports checked, cameras and mobile phones left on the coach, we were guided round the many individually-designed gardens by a charming local volunteer.

It has taken 25 years to transform parkland and pasture into: formal avenues, wild areas, colour-co-ordinated, walled, wooded, acid boggy gardens many containing soothing water features, giant pots, sculptures, busts, statues. The yew tree topiary was amazing, traditional and eccentric shapes. Equally fascinating, the 'Stumpery', roots of ancient trees upturned creating natural designs through which ferns grow.

In the arboretum, there is a dedicated glade to Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother known as the 'Healing Garden'. It includes an exquisite, circular sculpture of young fairy-like figures. Nearby, 'The Sanctuary' a delightful small building constructed of natural local materials with cob walls reminded me of a Hansel and Gretel House.

A complete contrast, the 'Carpet Garden' based on a Turkish-style carpet pattern. Containing tiles, mosaics, Mediterranean planting and waterways surrounded by a cleverly-designed wall, it felt like an outside room. This garden won a silver Medal at the 2001 Chelsea Flower Show and was then rebuilt at Highgrove.

This wonderful visit which took us right up to the house on three sides, ended with a delicious cup of tea and Highgrove biscuits in a hospitality building line with watercolours by Prince Charles. A trip to the tastefully stocked gift shop and plant area gave members an opportunity to contribute to the Prince of Wales Charitable Foundation which supports many charities.

It was good to see several men at our open meeting for the illuminating talk on 'the Diamond Light Project at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory' which was excellently presented. Cheese and wine was served and there was a display of holiday souvenirs.

Coming Up:

- Riverside amble with tea following arranged by Long Wittenham WI
- Trip to Lechlade and Buscot with walk and pub lunch
- An evening with Gervase Phinn (life as a schools inspector in the Yorkshire Dales)
- An appearance by Elizabeth 1st in full costume in Steventon

NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 20th October

Denman College - Craft and Cookery Building

Talk on the City of Florence

Mrs Pam Newall

Competition: Something Italian

Contacts: Greta Goulding 01865 391592
Christine Whild 01865 391270

Visitors always welcome

FRILFORD ST PETER'S WI

Our next meeting will be on Friday 21 October at 2.00pm in Duffield Place. **The Falkland Islands, Dr Dorothy Evans.**

WEH

If you run or are a member of a group, why not write a short report about it?

October 2005

SUNSHINE CLUB

September This month we had our "Garden Party" although not in the garden! It was a very nice afternoon, with a tombola, which always brings a lot of interest, we don't always win what we set out to, so it draws us to have another try and who knows! Alice Champion had a table selling some of her cards, hand-made. They were very nice and different from those one buys, we would like to thank her for her contribution to the funds, and also wish to thank all those who kindly give and those who brought. A very nice tea was laid on and enjoyed by all cakes were home-made by our chairlady. The afternoon ended with a very nice raffle. Thanks to our committee for their help, we did nicely for the funds, which will benefit all the members.

We had two ladies with birthdays this month. Each had a card from the club, hope they enjoyed their day. We are very pleased to welcome three new members to the club and hope they will enjoy. If anyone would like to join us we would be pleased to see you. Call on 391-695 for further information.

Seems we coming to the end of summer - shame. We all know what comes next, but don't think we want to go into that yet! Eve Brown is now home, card and flowers given, we hope she will soon be back.

Our next social afternoon will be October 6th 2.30pm.

JOY CROOK

DO YOU NEED HELP?

Experienced live-in carer available.
Please contact Jane on 01993 704120.

MARCHAM SOCIETY BLACKBERRY WALK

Midweek Walk, Thursday, October 13th.

Our walk will start in Weston-on-the-Green near the junction of the A34 with the M40. Note that road works on the A34 may cause some delays. We will meet at The Chequers Inn on the B430 (Map Ref: SP533188), at 12.30pm for lunch or 1.30 for the 5 mile walk. Part of the walk will be along the Oxfordshire Way and we will be visiting Bletchingdon and Kirtlington

As always, new walkers are very welcome. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford 391439 for lifts & further details.

MARCHAM CRICKET CLUB

At the end of the O.C.A. Season this year the 1st XI finished fifth in Division 2 (narrowly behind the team in fourth position) and the 2nd XI finished fourth in Division 7. Readers may recall that both Marcham XIs were promoted at the end of last Season; each has done well in attaining a "mid-table" position in the first year in its respective higher Division.

The Club celebrates its Centenary Year in 2006 and it is hoped to mark this in a number of ways; more information regarding any events to be organised in this connection will be available in due course. This month's historical item is from relatively recent times and relates to a fixture played late in the year.

As may be imagined, October is not a month in which the weather is likely to be the most reliable for playing cricket. Nevertheless, on 3rd October 1971 Marcham CC. played a match against a visiting team representing B.B.C. Radio Oxford. On what was reported to be a "beautiful Indian Summer day" the visitors scored 109 and Marcham 102.

As always information regarding Marcham Cricket Club may be obtained from Terry Whittaker (391317) or Graham Hill (391415).

CSB

