

## Marcham WI Summer 2005 report



Events during the summer included a visit to three gardens associated with Shakespeare in Stratford upon Avon. We wandered through a delightful arboretum with metal and stone sculptures *pictures above and cover* and willow creations. Then onto the riotous colour of Anne Hathaways cottage garden.

The Lliterary Lunch with Oxford authors Veronica Stallwood and Colin Dexter was stimulating and enjoyed by members country-wide. Organised by Oxon Federation of WI which is celebrating 90 years.

A village group visited the Ashmolean and had tea at the Randolph – I've yet to catch up with participants for feedback. The pub lunch club hopes to resume in the autumn. Also the monthly short walks.

Our July meeting had an entertaining, creative demonstration by *Fabulous Flowers of Abingdon* with novel ideas using minimal flowers and unusual foliage. The flowers in an egg cup competition produced some delightful arrangements *picture below*.

**Ladies:** If any of these events may have appealed to you, do come along and dip your toe in.



### NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 15th September

Denman College - Craft and Cookery Building

#### 'Diamond – Light for Science'

with Silvana Damerell and Dominic Sempel (RAL) who will tell us about Diamond Light Service, a prestigious new synchrotron being built at the Chilton/Harwell campus.

*Open meeting – visitors and men welcome*

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### FRILFORD ST PETER'S WI

Our next meeting will be on Friday 16 September at 2.00pm in Duffield Place. **Ock Street, Mr Norman Holmes**

WEH

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

September 2005

## OXFORDSHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2005 JUDGES' REPORT (1ST ROUND) MARCHAM — LARGE VILLAGE CLASS



A compact village which is, on the whole, very tidy and attractive, but needs its long-awaited bypass to remove through traffic. Some of the newer residential areas such as The Farthings were outstanding. It was noticed that several rows of garages were a trifle neglected. Gutters were mainly weed-free especially on the new estates, but in the older part of the village more tidying was needed. There was a little litter especially, as expected, in the youth shelter.

The allotments outside the village at Cow Lane appeared well cared-for, whereas those in the centre at Parkside are virtually derelict. The burial ground shows a marked contrast between the newest part, which is mown and generally tidy, and the older part which looked unloved and choked with nettles and brambles.

The conservation area in the churchyard is exemplary in setting out the objectives in detail, so that the visitor can understand the project. The Millennium Arboretum, with its smart information board, should become an attractive feature as the trees mature. The judges were also impressed by the middle part of Howard Cornish Drive, where the wooded area gives a feeling of space and offsets the high-density housing opposite. It was disappointing to see that the village had only one exterior notice board, which may account for the prevalence of fly posting. The garage is a sensitive point, as it is so close to North Street, but there seems to have been a commendable effort to minimize its impact.

### War memorial

The war memorial could be an attractive feature of the village, laid out with shrubs etc. but too many weeds have been allowed to flourish. The stonework was in good repair, with only modest discolouration, and clear inscriptions. Perhaps there should be an agreed limit on the length of time small crosses and wreaths can be left, because there were two bright and colourful poppy wreaths, but also another very tatty one together with small crosses lying around.

*If you have a comment about the judges' report on Marcham, share it with the rest of us and write a letter for the next issue of MADNews, deadline 5pm 20th September. Drop your contribution into the envelope at the Post Office.*

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