

TASK FOR THE MONTH

Are you, like me, struggling to keep up with all that work that needs doing out there in the garden?

Unfortunately, my own garden leaves a lot to be desired at this time of year, as me and my growing team of gardeners are busy keeping all my clients' gardens tidy, to think too much about my own. Which is why I will keep this article short, as time is against me. Especially as the wife is patiently waiting nearby to do our nightly slug and snail patrol around the most delicate plants in our own garden. Anyways, you are all probably to busy out there in garden to have much time to read my ramblings anyhow!

Things you can be doing this month, although you probably know all this anyway, are sowing more turnips which you can store through the winter. If you can find the seed, the dark skinned turnip called Chirk Castle has a fantastic flavour even after a long period in storage.

With your tomatoes, feed, feed, feed and feed some more, and you must keep the watering even and constant. If long dry spells occur between waterings it can cause the tomatoes to put on a growth spurt and split.

Sow some Parsley, which will also be used during the winter. It is worth growing this in a rectangular patch, so that a wooden frame covered in polythene can be put on it in bad weather. Attack weeds to keep them in check and do not let them seed, remember the old saying "Ones years seeding means seven years weeding". In the strawberry patch, early-layered runners should now be ready for severing from the parent plant. Do not allow them the dry out either.

This is also a great month for increasing your stock of Pinks in the flower garden, by taking, what my grandfather used to call "Pippings". These are the tips of growths, which are 2 inches long, which are cut off and inserted into boxes of sandy soil. Finally, if your Jerusalem artichokes have become very tall with the danger of them blowing over, cut off a foot or so at the top. I assure you this will not have a detrimental effect on your crop.

That's it for this time, as I can see an army of slugs and snails marching up our garden and my wife poised to grab them as soon as I have finished typing.

More next time..... *Happy Gardening*

STUART MABBUTT

WELCOME PACKS

It is the time of year, again, when I speak to the named contacts about all village organisation mention in the Welcome Pack. The Welcome Pack is full of local information, contact details and a daily record of all the events which happen in Marcham.

My job is to update the packs regularly and make them available to everyone who asks for one. If you know of any person of family who is new to the village please call me and I'll bring a pack so that you can take it to them. It is a good way to meeting new people and I'm sure they will appreciate you for being a good neighbour.

DENIS ASHER

24 Fettiplace Road, 391727.

July/August 2008

**MSSSC: Marcham Sports, Scouts & Social Club**

The pavilion & field off Morland Road

LOGO COMPETITION

If you read our article last month you will know we are looking for a logo for our club. Thanks for all those already received, there are some excellent ideas. There is still time to enter, designs should be submitted by email to geoff.dix@hotmail.com or by post to 19 Orchard Way. Please supply your name address & age. **Prize?** The honour of your design featuring on our letterheads, posters, MADNews articles, etc. Entries by the end of July please. *Good Luck.*

Please see our advert for the Summer Dance. This is our grand event for the year & we hope hundreds of you will attend. There will be a marquee alongside the pavilion so we won't be at the mercy of the weather. Lots of effort is going into arrangements to ensure everyone has a fantastic night. Please tell your friends & order your tickets.

REGULAR BAR OPENING TIMES

Every Friday - 8pm to 11pm

Every Saturday - after Football or Cricket

JULY SOCIAL EVENTS

Quiz Night There is no quiz night this month due to the Summer Dance. Please see the box advert

Real Ale night Fri 25th July, 8pm (Last Fri every month)

FUTURE EVENTS

August Bank Holiday Real Ale Festival starting on the 22nd. There is no MADNews in August so make a note of this event in your diaries

We look forward to seeing you at the club

For more info contact Geoff Dix, secretary on 391577

Summer Dance

Friday July 11th 8pm 'til late Over 18s only
With local band Shameless + Black Box Disco

Tickets £5 BBQ food available

Entry by Ticket only available from the bar or from:

Trevor Hill 391321 trevor3chancel@aol.com

Chris Ricketts 391329 chris.ricketts47@btinternet.com

WAS IT WASN'T IT?

Yes it was! A **CUCKOO** calling across the Marsh (on 20/05/08 at 8.30pm) heard for the first time in several years. Enquiries established other Marchamites had heard it during the past 2-3 weeks, though weeks, though some wondered, at first, if it was a Collared Dove which can sound similar from a distance.

A pair of **SKYLARK** were up and singing their hearts out on 24/02/08. They seemed to disappear during the cold, wet spell in March, rarely heard in April but have made a welcome return in May - more of a *murmur of skylarks* than an *exhibition!*

Glad to report to the Editor that mixed, small flocks of **SWALLOW**, **SWIFT** and **HOUSE MARTIN** have been circling during April and May. No news yet of the latter two nesting in Anson Close - they generally prefer older properties.

Other specials in Feb/March, 3 **COMMON SNIPE** and 1 **CURLEW** calling, also in flight. An immature **GREY HERON** put in two brief appearances in late May checking out the fish menu in the brook. Fingers crossed for Grey Wagtail and Kingfisher in coming months.

GG

