



## Marcham WI September 2008

Our Autumn programme started last month with an excellent speaker at our open meeting. The historian, broadcaster and author, **Julie Summer** brought to life the real story of the building of the **Bridge on the River Kwai**; recalling her grandfather's part in the history of the second World War in the Far East. It was pleasing to have husbands as well as other guests to join our evening and Julie kindly signed copies of her books for us (see cover photo).

During September we enjoyed an **"Evening with Anne Widdecombe"** in Oxford Town Hall, a trip to Portsmouth and a fascinating science lecture at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory where we learnt about the history and uses of plastic during the past 100 years.

This month our seasonal talk is about apples - all the different types and varieties as well as apples through the ages with samples to taste.

### Future Events

21st. October Singing for pleasure with Christine Whild

26th. October Visit to Stourhead in Wiltshire

29th. October Autumn Music Tasters Series starts

### NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 16 October

*History of Apples*  
**Gillian Franklin**

Denman College: Teaching Block

Visitors welcome - £3 voluntary contribution

Contacts for: Sonia Edwards 01865 391442  
more information Christine Whild 01865 391270

### SUNSHINE CLUB

**September** I have been asked by the Chairlady to see if anyone would like to come along and join us on our Monday afternoon Club which is held every week in Duffield Place. We start at 2.30pm, we play Bingo with a break for tea and biscuits. The meeting finishes around 4.15pm after we've had the raffle. If anyone would like to call round say about 2.15pm the Chairlady would be there to welcome you - so please come along and give it a try. No age limit will be pleased to see you. If you would rather ring first, contact our Chairlady on 01865 391536.

JOY CROOK

### REPORT FROM MARCHAM SOCIETY AGM

If you don't know a charcliffe from a partlet, you weren't at the Marcham Society meeting on 9 September. Having dealt with AGM business and been fortified with wine and nibbles, the audience sat back to enjoy a talk by Barbara Allison entitled Petticoats and Partlets. She brought along beautifully-sewn examples to show us. Anybody who was anybody in the 16th century made a will, just as we're encouraged to nowadays. However, instead of bequeathing money or stocks and shares, they left belongings. Hence, you might be left an apron or a pair of shoes, a best gown, second-best gown or even a worst gown!

Next time you oversleep and are rushing to get ready for the day, spare a thought for a 16th century lady as she dressed herself in a smock (a bit like a very long vest with sleeves), two petticoats - which were more like skirts, a jacket topped by a partlet which covered the shoulders and provided a base for a separate collar. Around the neck would be a charcliffe, a forerunner of the neckerchief. An apron would be tied around the waist. These were carefully folded to show a chequer pattern when worn, which can be seen on effigies in churches.

There was no problem with bad hair days, as the head was covered with a coif - a white linen cap - and topped off with a hat. Add a pair of knitted woollen stockings and a stout pair of shoes and she was ready to start the day. If you were wondering about knickers, they didn't wear them in those days!

JF

### MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

#### Thursday, 2 October

For this month's walk we will meet at The Wheatsheaf in Drayton (Map Ref: SU 476942) at 12.30 for lunch and 1.30 for the walk of about 4 miles through the quiet countryside towards Sutton Courtenay, including an ancient route, the Drayton East Way. *New walkers are very welcome. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and details.*

### MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

**September** We had our annual outing to the sea this year - we went to Bournemouth. The whole journey was done in pouring rain so we were a little apprehensive as to what kind of a day we would have. But we need not have worried, as we arrived in Bournemouth the rain stopped. For the rest of the day it remained fine with occasional bursts of sunshine and everyone was able to enjoy their day out. I did hear that some brave souls also had a dip in the sea, not sure whether it was just a big toe they dipped or had a complete swim but they were braver than most of us. But everyone seemed to have a great day. We have a few members who haven't been too well of late we trust they will feel better soon and rejoin us at our meetings. Our meeting in October will be on the 30th.

JOYCE PARRY



The  
Marcham  
Society

## Fungi in Your Garden

*Pedro Collins*

Next meeting: 14th November Liz Wooley  
The Parish of St. Thomas the Martyr, Oxford

**All Saints' Church**

Tuesday 14th October 2008, 7.45pm

Non-members £2

[www.marchamsociety.org.uk](http://www.marchamsociety.org.uk)

Further details: Sheila Dunford (391439) or Judith Fontaine (391275)