



## Marcham WI February 2011

At the WI meeting this month we will be getting advice on "Putting every item in our wardrobe back into full use". Our speaker Carol Hunt will give tips on alterations, re-styling, repairs, embellishment and lots more! If you would like a new outfit for Spring, there will be many ideas from Carol. This will be a members' evening when everything is organised by non-committee (ordinary members). Our January meeting was well attended and a group of us really enjoyed our Sheep Day at Ducklington. In March at our annual meeting we are looking for new committee members and would welcome nominations at this month's meeting

### Future Events

- Feb 24 New Zealand day at Kirtlington
- Mar 9 Shakespeare at Denman with Jane Lapotaire
- Mar 15 Music Taster Day at Benson Village Hall
- Mar 22 Oxfordshire WI ACM, Oxford Town Hall
- Mar 25 Barn Dance at Horton cum Studley Village Hall

### NEXT MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 17 February 2011

MEMBERS' MEETING

*Re-Invent Your Wardrobe*

*Carol Hunt*

Visitors welcome - £3 voluntary contribution

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

## MARCHAM SOCIETY MIDWEEK WALK

Thursday, February 10th 2011.

For this month's walk we will go back to The Abingdon Arms (Map Ref SP565113) in Beckley at 12.30pm for lunch and 1.30pm for a walk of about 4½ miles, taking in the hamlet of Elsfield, seemingly remote and yet close to Oxford. New walkers are always very welcome so do start the year in good company. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and details.



## TELEPHONE SCAMMERS TARGET COMPUTER USERS

Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards team is warning people about conmen who are cold calling residents and claiming that their computers are infected with viruses which they can fix. The number of complaints received by Trading Standards has risen recently with 23 people reporting the scam since the beginning of December. These conmen often say they work for Microsoft or Windows, although many different names are used. They will know the victim's name and address and will suggest that their computer is at serious risk from the viruses or "malware" with which it is "infected".

### Stealing information

They may ask the consumer to shut down and re-start the computer or direct them straight to a program called "Windows Event Viewer". This will list errors, some of which will be labelled "critical". In fact, there is nothing wrong with the computer and the program is simply being used to con the victim into thinking they have a problem. If the consumer falls for the scam, they will then be directed to a website to download a program which will allow the caller to control the computer to "fix" it. All that is actually happening is that the conmen are being given access to all the data stored on the computer, which could include personal, banking and identity information. The caller will then demand payment for the so-called service provided. The victim will be asked for a direct debit or credit card payment and may also be asked to sign up to a direct debit payment scheme for ongoing "protection". If they refuse to pay, the criminal on the other end of the phone may threaten to crash their computer. Trading Standards has received reports of up to £240 being demanded as a one off payment.

### Tip of the iceberg

Richard Webb, Deputy Head of Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards, said: "We believe this is the tip of a very large iceberg. Our advice is to make sure your computer is protected with anti-virus software provided by a reputable company and never respond to a cold call. These calls are fraud and you are more likely to end up with a large bill for an unnecessary and useless service as well as risking the loss of your personal information.

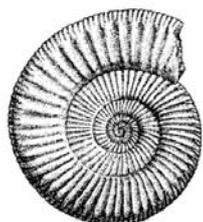
"If you do receive a telephone call like this, we advise you to hang up straight away. If you have noted the caller's telephone number or have been given a trader name or website address before you hang up, please report the call to Trading Standards at 0845 051 0845 or [trading.standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk)."

Councillor Judith Heathcoat, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Safer and Stronger Communities, said: "It is extremely important that people report any calls of this nature so our dedicated team at Trading Standards can work with anti fraud agencies to put a stop to these criminals. They should not be allowed to operate and prey on unsuspecting victims. I am relieved that we have such a hardworking and committed team of people working to protect us from these scams."



### Could you be a Bin Buddy?

If your neighbours are out during the day, why not agree to put their bins away in exchange for another favour like keeping an eye on your house while you are away.



The  
*Marcham  
Society*

## Annual Lecture Woodland Archaeology & Ecology

*Dick Greenaway*

*All Saints' Church Tuesday 8th February 2011, 7.45pm*

Next meeting 8th March 2011

A Poor Place for the Industrial Population

Non-members £2

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

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