



*The  
Marcham  
Society*

# Newsletter

11th December - Christmas Social at All Saints' church Marcham.

We will be gathering at All Saints church for our annual Christmas social on the 11th December. If you have not already let Judith Fontaine know that you are coming and what sweet or savoury item you will be bringing then please do so as soon as your are able.  
([peter.fontaine172@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.fontaine172@btinternet.com))



The event will start at 7:30 p.m. And as well as the usual sparkling and convivial conversation there will be the famous Malvin Drakley quiz to keep us amused, amazed and informed.



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## Vale Community Award Nomination 2018

### Vale Community Award

The event took place in the hall at the Beacon in Wantage with around a hundred people attending. The ceremony, which took place after an official lunch, lasted an hour with over thirty other people being acknowledged for their contribution to various communities around the Vale. Each of these people received a eulogy, a certificate, and a commemorative trophy from the Chairman of the Vale of the White Horse District Council, Monica Lovatt.



Eric Dunford (left) and Simon Blackmore (right) receive their awards on behalf of the volunteers of the Trendles project from Councillor Monica Lovatt

Marcham Parish Council nominated Dr. Eric Dunford and Mr. Simon Blackmore on behalf of a team of volunteers involved in the Trendles project Marcham, for recognition under the Vale Chairman's Community Award Scheme. Local landowners, farming in Marcham, were aware of possible Roman and other remains on their land and allowed initial investigations which revealed some artefacts. Eric and Simon became interested, and as Trustees of the 'Vale of White Horse & Ridgeway Archaeological & Historical Trust' helped to support investigation of

the history of the Vale. They were successful in securing funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable archaeologists from Oxford University to explore further. As the dig progressed, more and more remains were found. They have worked well together with groups of keen volunteers, Eric taking an interest in "bone" items and with Simon's curiosity in "pottery". They have both played a significant part in setting up the computer databases, and in the recording and analysis of the finds, using stratigraphy and relative dating systems.

The Vale is rich in history and Eric and Simon have brought this to many people by arranging exhibitions of the items found, in Abingdon museum, Wantage and Marcham. They have given talks to local organisations and particularly in schools, helping the next generation understand what life was like in the Vale 2000 years ago. As well as being part of a wider team of volunteers, they have both been a vital link between those undertaking the archaeological dig and the expert archaeologists writing the reports, as with-

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out the recording and analysis of the data the effort of the dig would have been wasted. Their voluntary efforts have bene-

fitted all sections of the wider community of the Vale, by enabling a greater understanding of the history of the area. Marcham Parish Council has no

hesitation in recommending them for recognition of their achievements.

### *Bier Restoration Progress*

#### Latest Pictures

The renovation of the bier has progressed well since the last update due to the continuing efforts of Malvin Drakley and Rob Hall.



Metal components have had the rust removed and have been repainted with long lasting new paint. The wooden frame has been cleaned and re-



varnished. Meanwhile the metal chassis on which the wooden frame sits has also been renovated together with the wheels (below)



## Call for Articles for Coral Rag

### Coral Rag

The Coral Rag is the Journal of the Marcham Society and its name is taken from the local coral rag-stone, the Corallian limestone on which Marcham stands and which provided the building material for most of the old stone buildings in the village.

It was decided at the last committee meeting that the Society should publish the next volume (Volume 10) after a hiatus of some years. The many reminiscences and memorials concerning the end of the First World War were the impetus for this, but as with previous volumes, articles concerning the history of the village at whatever age would be considered for publication. A sub-committee has

been formed to consider this, meeting for the first time on the 3rd of December, so if anyone would like to contribute an article please send to:

Peter Steere

15 Harding Way

Marcham OX13 6FJ

petersteere@sky.com

## Date for Diary

### **8 January** *Annual Lecture: The Work of Wild Oxfordshire*

Sian Liwicki

Sian trained as a botanist in Reading and Singapore, returning to England when she married. She gained management and organisational experience working for the research councils, then moved into the charitable sector, working for organisations such as the Northmoor Trust and Wild Oxfordshire. In the early 2000s she and her husband, Richard, took over Bothy Vineyard. In addition to producing award-winning dry wines, they host the very popular Sculpture in the Vineyard exhibitions.