



Newsletter

As I announced at the beginning of this year's talks these newsletters will now be on a quarterly basis, so welcome to the Winter 2019 newsletter. In this edition:

Christmas Social

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Looking back at the MaD Weekend

Christmas Social December 2019

The annual Christmas Social took place at All Saints' church on December the 11th this year and I am glad to say I didn't hear one word about the election spoken all evening (maybe I just had my ears blocked).



Thank you to all those who took part, brought food, designed the quiz (Malvin) and generally contributed to a convivial atmosphere all evening. This was probably the last time that we will have to use the church for this activity as the new hall should be in full swing by next year.

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The village hall project has had many false starts, as many of you will know, and now it is finally nearing completion, it is difficult to comprehend that we now have such a fantastic facility for our village.



Village Hall and New Date for Meetings

The new village hall is now nearing completion as a building and will be handed over to the Parish Council and the Marcham Community Group in February/March of 2020. Work is underway raising funds for the fit out of the interior and if all goes to plan then the Marcham Society will have the hall available for its meetings from the start of the new season in September of 2020.

Demand for the hall is high from both weekly groups and monthly groups such as ourselves. At a recent meeting of all interested parties it was thought sensible for all concerned to **change the meeting date for the Marcham Society away from the second Tuesday of the month to a Monday** (which one is still to be determined).

There are several advantages to using the hall for our meetings instead of the church; car parking, disabled access, comfortable seating and better refreshment facilities to name a few. So the small disruption of a change of routine will be far outweighed by easier access and a better all-round experience. It is also important for one of the main groups of the community to be seen to be supporting this new facility that has taken so long to come into being.



Our revenues are very small and we aim only to cover our costs with a small surplus to enable us to invest for the future of the Society. The vast majority is from the yearly subscriptions, with other smaller revenues coming from publications and refreshments.

Finances

The health of any voluntary society is governed by two things; the willingness of the volunteers to put time and effort into the running of the society and the money needed to continue its operations. We are fortunate indeed, that we are currently in a situation with the Marcham Society, that both these conditions are satisfied.

As a result of healthy finances we have been able to:

1. contribute donations to the village hall project,
2. organise our archive for the protection of the documents and artefacts for which we are custodians,
3. help to maintain the village jubilee walks,
4. become, once more a publishing society with the recent printing and publication of Coral Rag 10.

Healthy finances also mean that we are able to think about other projects. Thoughts under consideration include publishing a history of Marcham specifically aimed at young children (those for whom Coral Rag would not be appropriate) and restoration of the village model rescued from the Institute in the summer.

Also with the publishing success of Coral Rag 10 we can now plan for Coral Rag 11 in 2020.



The Marcham and District Weekend was one of the successful fund-raising activities of the Marcham Community Group. The Marcham Society participated on both days with a stand near Sharrard's barn on Saturday with Roman wine being served and relocated to the school field on the Sunday.

Reflections on a MaD Weekend

The forecast for the Marcham and District Weekend was far from promising, but bravely Sheila Tilley and Simon Blackmore volunteered to represent the Society, selling the publications (Sheila) and providing Mulsum Roman wine recipe and archaeological explanations (Simon) at Sharrards, adjacent to Simon's on Mill Road.

We also set up a running presentation of old photographs, that had been put together by Sheila Dunford, in the church on the Saturday and the school on the Sunday, so we were well represented as the villagers and their visitors strolled amongst the various exhibitions and activities.



Saturday was very blustery and as a result, it was decided to set up under cover in one of the open farm buildings. Despite the tucked away location there were over 100 visitors



Dates for the Diary

9 January Midweek Walk

For this winter walk of about 4 miles we will be eating lunch at 12.30 at The Greyhound, Main Street, Letcombe Regis (Map Ref: SU382865, OX12 9JL). Starting at 1.30 we will walk up the course of the Letcombe Brook through the nature reserve to Letcombe Basset, then up to the Ridgeway and back via Segsbury Castle. This is 4 miles with a climb to the Ridgeway, but a short cut is available!

Members free, non-members £1.

Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for further details and car-sharing.

14 January 19.30 All Saints' Church, Annual Lecture

Annual Lecture by Peter Steere: The League of Beleaguered Gentlemen – Comparing the impact of three Medical Officers of Health on the health of Berkshire residents in the late 19th century

Details of all events are on the Marcham Society website:

www.marchamsociety.org.uk