



As a taster for the next talk, "Dig For Victory", here are a few images that some of you may remember.

The Parish Pump is distributed free to members of The Marden Society every two months



For details of membership please contact the Hon Secretary Edith Davis on 01622 831904

The Parish Pump

The Journal of The Marden Society March 2008

Chairman's Report to The AGM - 2008

Good evening to everyone. They say that the older one gets the quicker time passes and that must be true as it doesn't seem like a year since I was last here giving my AGM address.

Once again, the Society has had a full programme of interesting and enjoyable speakers covering a range of topics from lightships to pub signs; from spies to the A25 trunk road.

To me, the most fascinating was that given by Sandra Noel in September with her archive pictures of Marriott's 1924 expedition to Everest on which her father was the official photographer. Many of these photos have only recently been seen for the first time in over 70 years thanks to the technology available from digital reprocessing. They are even more special now that there is a strong possibility that Marriott and a companion did actually reach the summit some 29 years before Edmund Hillary and Norgay Tensing and were killed on the descent rather than on the way up.

Those of you paying attention will have noticed that today is Wednesday. That's because the Committee have decided to move our meeting days for a number of reasons: to avoid clashes with other people like the Parish Council and the Gardeners who meet then, but also the keep fit ladies who seem to make an

horrendous amount of noise in trying to fight the flab! I hope you favour the move.

There has also been a change in our organization in that the History Group is now a separate body in its own right, although still affiliated to the Marden Society. We agreed this because they needed their own constitution, structure and financial controls to qualify for funding towards the Heritage Centre. It was better for both parties if they went their own way organisationally. That's why a report from them is not on tonight's agenda.

As ever, the Society would not have done what it has without the sterling work of the Committee and I would like to thank them all officially for that. I would, though, give special mention to Richard Adam who is standing down after 12 years as Treasurer. His dedication and integrity are much appreciated. I hope he will continue to serve on the general committee.

I would also like to rectify an omission from last year and that is to also thank Aileen, another founder member of the Society, for all her work and commitment to the Society for over 30 years, including her ability to prise subscriptions from you all!

If I should be re-elected into this role later this evening, this will be my last year

as Chairman as I will stand down at that 2009 AGM. This is my second spell in the Chair and it's time for some fresh vision in that role.

Thank you again for your support. As a

token of our appreciation there's a small gift for each of you in the form of a pack of notelets. If you want more we still have a few available at £2.50 for a pack of 8.

GRAHAM TIPPEN

MARDEN 80 YEARS AGO - QUIZ ANSWERS

Hopefully, you still have your copy of the last edition of the Pump, as here are the answers to the quiz posed in the Parish Magazine of February 1928:

- 1 The English cathedral with the tallest spire is Salisbury: 404 feet.
- 2 Those parishioners not eligible to stand for the positions of churchwarden were: aliens, Jews, minors, lunatics and felons (obviously before our P.C. days!)
- 3 Ordination is the rite of making a priest a deacon and consecration is the rite of making a bishop
- 4 The freehold of the church building is vested in the incumbent, whether rector, vicar or perpetual curate.
- 5 The famous devotional treaty written by a monk of Utrecht is 'The Imitation of Christ' by Thomas a Kempis.
- 6 Westminster Abbey was founded in 1042.
- 7 The Christian martyr who was

tortured on a wheel was St Catherine.

- 8 a) A paten is a shallow circular dish for the consecrated Holy Communion bread.
b) An apse is a semi-circular recess, which terminates the choir or chancel of many churches.
c) A cassock is a vestment worn by clergyman under the surplice.
- 9 The first Sunday School was founded in 1680 in Gloucester by Robert Raikes

It is not recorded how many questions those parishioners of 1928 were able to answer nor if there was a prize.

For those of you with your own memories of Sunday School (although obviously not as far back as 1680!), you may be interested to discover that the Parish Magazine of December 1912 offers the following: 'Our Empire'- a weekly magazine for Sunday schools and 'Golden Sunbeams' - an illustrated magazine for children.

JANE STEVENS

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH 2008

AT 8PM IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, OLD SCHOOLROOM

Russell Bowes

Dig for Victory

GARDEN BIRDWATCH

My bird is one of which I have only seen about five or six times in the gardens of Bramley Court. It is the largest member of the Thrush family, the Mistle Thrush.

The BTO Handbook tells us that the 18th Century Swedish biologist Linnaeus gave this bird the Latin name of 'viscivorus' ('devourer of mistletoe') when he translated the Greek word used by Aristotle to describe the thrush. Aristotle had watched Mistle Thrushes feeding on the red the mistletoe *Viscum cruciatum* around the Mediterranean. Britain, Mistle Thrushes still feed on mistletoe (a white-berried form) but it is a less important food than the red berries of holly.

Around the turn of the 19th Century, Mistle Thrushes were rare in northern Britain and Ireland. Progressively, the population and by the 1850s most of Ireland had been colonized, with Mistle Thrushes now found over most of Britain and Ireland and on woodland edge habitats, farmland and large gardens. Most Mistle Thrushes require deciduous trees in which to nest and as a point from which to issue their loud song. This can be heard December, often in windy weather, hence the local name 'storm cock'

One interesting aspect of Mistle Thrush behaviour is the way in which some



individuals vigorously defend a supply of berries, on large, isolated hollies (but also hawthorn, Cotoneaster and large clumps of mistletoe). In some instances, both birds from a pair defend a bush, driving away other birds and maintaining supply for themselves.

During the course of protecting the tree and its precious berries, the birds themselves may also feed on (unguarded) bushes or on the ground, effectively ensuring that their personal supply lasts as long as possible. Small parties of Mistle Thrushes visit gardens during late summer. The birds are more wary than other thrushes and your most likely view is one from behind as the birds fly off, uttering their rattling alarm call. You may see white spots on the tail feathers.

The nest is a large cup, placed in the fork of a horizontal branch or up against the trunk. Like those made by other thrushes, outer lining of loosely woven grasses, moss and roots, held with mud, leaves and rotten wood. The nest is completed with of fine grasses and, occasionally, pine needles. It has been suggested that pine needles may help reduce the unwanted attention parasites. The outer layer is untidier than that seen in thrushes, often containing plastic or paper.

EDITH DAVIS



For detailed information about the village don't forget to visit Marden's very own website Marden Online at www.marden.org.uk