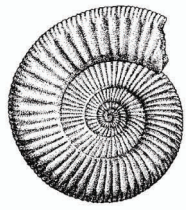


OCTOBER 2021
Volume 4, Issue 8



The
Marcham
Society

Newsletter

THE AGM AND THE NEW SEASON



A fantastic turnout for the very first Marcham Society meeting at Marcham Centre – over fifty members attended in person and others joined at a distance on Zoom via our hybrid system.

Eric Dunford presided as acting Chairman and, with the unanimous approval of the membership, two new committee members joined his team, Di Hutchings and Judith Haworth. John Guast, as Treasurer, explained the encouraging financial position of the Society and the Secretary, Shirley Eccles, spoke about the programme for the coming year through to next July 2022. Sheila Dunford then gave details of different articles contained in the newly published ‘Coral Rag 11’.

Following the AGM, members and guests enjoyed a brief chat with a glass of wine or a cup of tea or coffee, while waiting for Jim Asher’s talk which followed shortly afterwards (*see page 2*).

OUR FIRST TALK IN THE MARCHAM CENTRE

Report on: "*Butterflies, Marcham and Lockdown*" by Jim Asher

The Marcham Society were delighted to welcome their members in the village hall for the first time on Monday the 27th of September. This was notable for two reasons. It was the first time the village hall had been used by the Society and the first time since March 23rd 2020 (the Lockdown) that the Society's members had been able to congregate for one of their regular meetings.

The talks had been held over Zoom in the preceding months with the Marcham Society being one of the first of the local societies to offer this. It proved so successful that the committee decided that, on returning to physical meetings, it would be a good idea to continue to run a Zoom session in parallel, so that the more remote members, or those that felt unable to be in the hall, were still able to participate. I am pleased to say that the evening was a great success, in terms of attendance, technology working the way it should (!) and the talk given by Jim Asher.

Jim framed his talk using the background of changed circumstances due to the coronavirus. He took us on a photographic tour of both the skies and planets above us to the tiniest of insects on the ground around us, with everything in between (including us as human beings) over the time period of February 2020 to the present day. Speaking as one of the remote attendees I was able to savour the quite remarkable photography that Jim presented us with, being both projected in the hall and on my laptop screen at home. This sometimes took my breath away; my particular favourite was a picture of a Red Kite in flight near Jim's home. (*top left picture*)

In days past strange phenomena from the heavens were seen as portents of bad things and whether coincidentally or not (considering our current circumstances with the pandemic) Jim captured in photographs a partial solar eclipse in June 2020 a near conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Venus in December 2020 (*top right picture*) and the comet Neowise on its path through the night sky.

At the other end of the scale Jim's skills as a photographer and a naturalist were evident in the pictures of the butterfly's lifecycle, from eggs, caterpillars, pupae to the beauty of the final form. In between there were pictures of wildlife that emerged when humans were locked away and indeed also of human beings changing their behaviour emerging from their bunkers on a Thursday evening to 'clap for the NHS', as well as Denise, Jim's wife, playing Hop Scotch (sic.) in the deserted roadway of the 'Gap'. (*centre right picture*)

The attendance in the hall was over fifty members and there were more than ten remote attendees as well, marking this beginning of the new era for Marcham Society as one of great success. All involved are to be congratulated for providing us with both superb content in the hall and in our homes.

Peter Steere

PHOTOS FROM JIM ASHER'S TALK



THE ROUTE OF THE MID-WEEK WALK AND ITS OS MAP

Eric and Sheila Dunford organised another mid-week walk on Thursday 30th September. After meeting for lunch at the *White Hart* in Dorchester-on-Thames, the group set off on their four mile round walk.

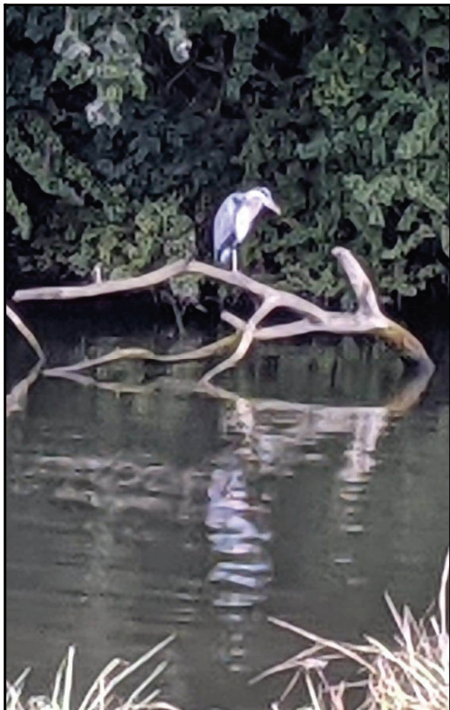
The route passed by the site of the Roman town (*Dorocina*) and the Iron Age Dyke Hills to Day's Lock, down the Thames for a short distance and then up the River Thame to Overy Mill, Hurst Meadow and back into Dorchester from the north east via the Abbey.

Please contact Eric if you are not already on his mailing list and are interested in joining the group: e.dunford@btinternet.com

Our thanks as always to the Ordnance Survey for the image below.



A FEW PHOTOS FROM THE MID-WEEK WALK



FUTURE DATES

The Marcham Society was founded with three pillars of investigation in mind:-

**local history,
archaeology
and natural history**

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In designing our programme year by year we have strived to keep those three subjects in mind. The exception has been when giving the annual lecture, where a notable villager provides a talk from their own sphere of experience or expertise.

If you have suggestions for future talks and topics for visiting speakers, please contact the Secretary,
Shirley Eccles:

shirley.marsoc@gmail.com

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www.marchamsociety.org.uk

Dates for the Diary

Unless otherwise notified, future meetings will be held in the Main Hall of the Marcham Centre (7.15 for 7.45 start)

2021

Monday 25th October :

“The History of St John’s College”
by Alastair Lack

Monday 22nd November :

Richard Venables describes his role as High Sheriff of Oxfordshire

Monday 6th December :

Christmas Party
in the Small Hall at the Marcham Centre

2022

Monday 24th January :

Annual Lecture : James Gilbert describes his life and work as Consultant Transplant and Vascular Access Surgeon

Monday 28th February :

“The Watlington Hoard”
by James Mather

Monday 28th March :

“The Lost Villages of Oxfordshire”
by Dr Muriel Pilkington

Monday 25th April :

Members’ Evening - speakers to be announced

Monday 23rd May :

“High Society Scandals in Oxfordshire”
by Julie Ann Godson

Monday 27th June :

“The History of Kingston Baguize House”
by Virginia Grant

Saturday 16th July :

Summer BBQ