

The
Marcham
Society

MARCH 2022
Volume 5, Issue 3

Newsletter

The Visit to Kingston Bagpuize House

Tuesday 22nd February 2022

The storms that came in February caused us to postpone our visit for a week, but that proved to be the right decision as when we were able to go, the sun shone brightly and the skies were blue.



At the end of the beech avenue, the house was guarded by four tall Wellingtonian trees which our host, Virginia Grant, explained had mostly escaped damage in the storms. The gardens were beautiful, carpeted with many different varieties of snowdrops; with early daffodils and hellebores adding to the colour.

Our map of the grounds showed 16 different varieties of snowdrops to be found and Virginia explained that one such variety, *Galanthus Elwesii*, is named after a descendant of the Elwes family of Marcham Park.

Our tour ended in the tea room, of course, where we were served with a magnificent array of cakes. We will see Virginia again on Monday **27th June**, when she gives her talk to The Marcham Society on "*The History of Kingston Bagpuize House*".

The Outing to Kingston Bagpuize House





Our thanks to Virginia Grant for the visit, to Shirley Eccles for the organisation of the outing and to Bartle Frere for the photographs of the house and gardens.

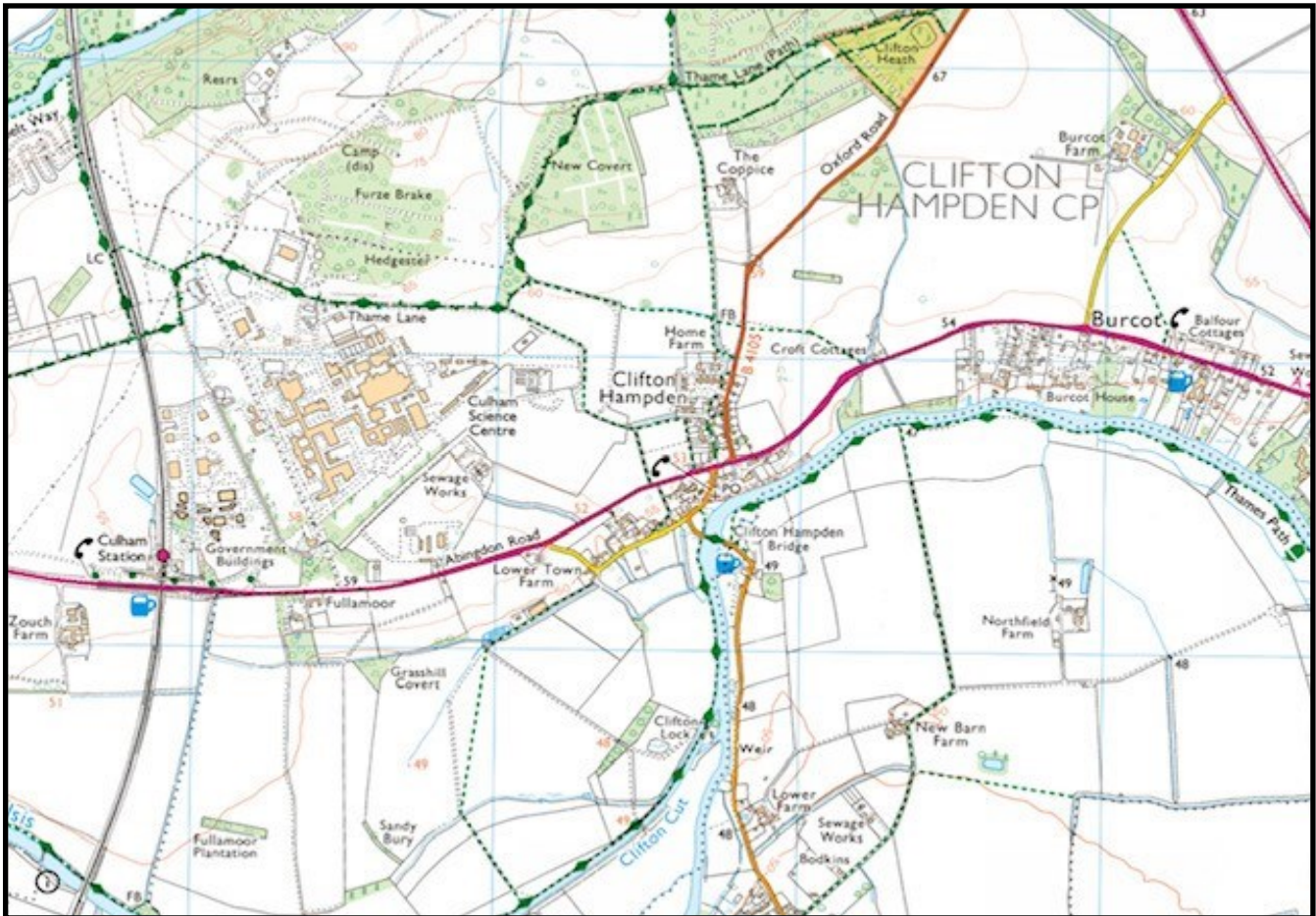
The February Mid-Week Walk

Eric and Sheila Dunford organised another enjoyable midweek walk on Thursday 10th February. The walkers met at 12.30 for lunch at the 'Barley Mow' in Clifton Hampden.

The plan was to do a figure-of-eight walk in the direction of Nuneham Courtenay including a stretch of the Thames Path.

(See the map below with thanks to the Ordnance Survey).

For information about the next Midweek Walk, planned for **Thursday 10th March**, from the 'Flowing Well' in Sunningwell please email Eric : e.dunford@btinternet.com



A GROUP PHOTO FROM THE FEBRUARY MID-WEEK WALK



THE FEBRUARY TALK IN THE MARCHAM CENTRE

“Treasures beneath our feet and the Watlington Hoard”

Monday 28th February 2022

The Watlington hoard was discovered by James Mather in 2015. During his career in Marketing, James developed a hobby in metal detecting and he had several major finds including individual Treasure items and several hoards.

Once retired, he had his most important find to date, the very valuable and archaeologically significant Watlington Viking Hoard, now on permanent display for all to see at The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.



His talk covered some background information on metal detecting, a selection of interesting local finds but concentrated on the discovery, excavation, conservation and significance of the Watlington Hoard.



After giving his talk and answering questions from the audience in the Marcham Centre and from those online, James showed examples of his finds and also replicas from the hoard. Many thanks for a fascinating talk that enthralled us all.

THE FEBRUARY TALK IN THE MARCHAM CENTRE



NEXT EVENT and FUTURE DATES

This publicity for March's talk is also to be found in MAD News and on Facebook



The
Marcham
Society

Monday
28th March
7.15 for 7.45pm
Marcham Centre



The Lost Villages of Oxfordshire *Dr Muriel Pilkington*

The Lost Villages of Oxfordshire is based on the fact that there are nearly one hundred Oxfordshire villages mentioned in Domesday Book and in the records of the 12th and 13th centuries which have been lost. They have completely disappeared or are now just preserved in the name of a street or a few buildings—sometimes a church, a farm or just some ruins and ridges.

Muriel Pilkington will try to explain why this has happened and she will look at the main reasons why rural Oxfordshire remained a poor county right into the 19th century. It is really only in the recent past that it has become relatively more prosperous.

Muriel read History at Oxford and then taught the subject for over 30 years, becoming head teacher of Wycombe High School. In her partial retirement, she has maintained her keen interest in the local history of Oxfordshire.

For more information contact
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk
www.marchamsociety.org.uk
Facebook: [marchamsociety](https://www.facebook.com/marchamsociety)

Dates for the Diary

Unless otherwise notified, future meetings will be held in the Main Hall of the Marcham Centre

Monday 28th March :
“The Lost Villages of Oxfordshire”
by Dr Muriel Pilkington

Monday 25th April :
Members' Evening - speakers to be announced in due course

Monday 23rd May :
“High Society Scandals in Oxfordshire”
by Julie Ann Godson

Monday 27th June :
“The History of Kingston Bagpuize House”
by Virginia Grant

Saturday 16th July :
Summer BBQ

IN THE HALL:

The Main Hall will be open at **7.15 pm** and we will aim to start the talk at **7.45 pm**. As for previous meetings, there will be Covid Protocols in place for the meeting (details are to be found on the website).

Please could all those attending in person be sure to sign in with Shirley Eccles. Guests attending the talk in the hall should see the Treasurer, John Guast, upon arrival.

ON ZOOM:

For those at a distance, safeguarding or feeling cautious about Covid, there will be a Zoom link sent out by email beforehand. Those on Zoom will be held in a waiting room until **7.30 pm** and during the talk will be muted. If they have questions at the end of the talk, they will be able to use the chat function. These questions will then be relayed and repeated by the speaker for the audience in the hall.

If you have friends wishing to join online, please ask them to email: membership@marchamsociety.org.uk