

*The
Marcham
Society*

MAY 2022
Volume 5, Issue 5

Newsletter

Sun spots and the Moon's surface, two photographs taken from Marcham

These pictures were taken by Jim Asher using his telescope and special camera.

Jim hopes that there will be a group of Marcham Society members that will share his enthusiasm for all things astronomical.

Right The Moon shot shows the Copernicus crater (largest on the lower left) beyond the end of the Appenine Mountain ridge, the huge Mare Imbrium above left and the smaller Sea of Serenity (Mare Serenitatis) lower right.



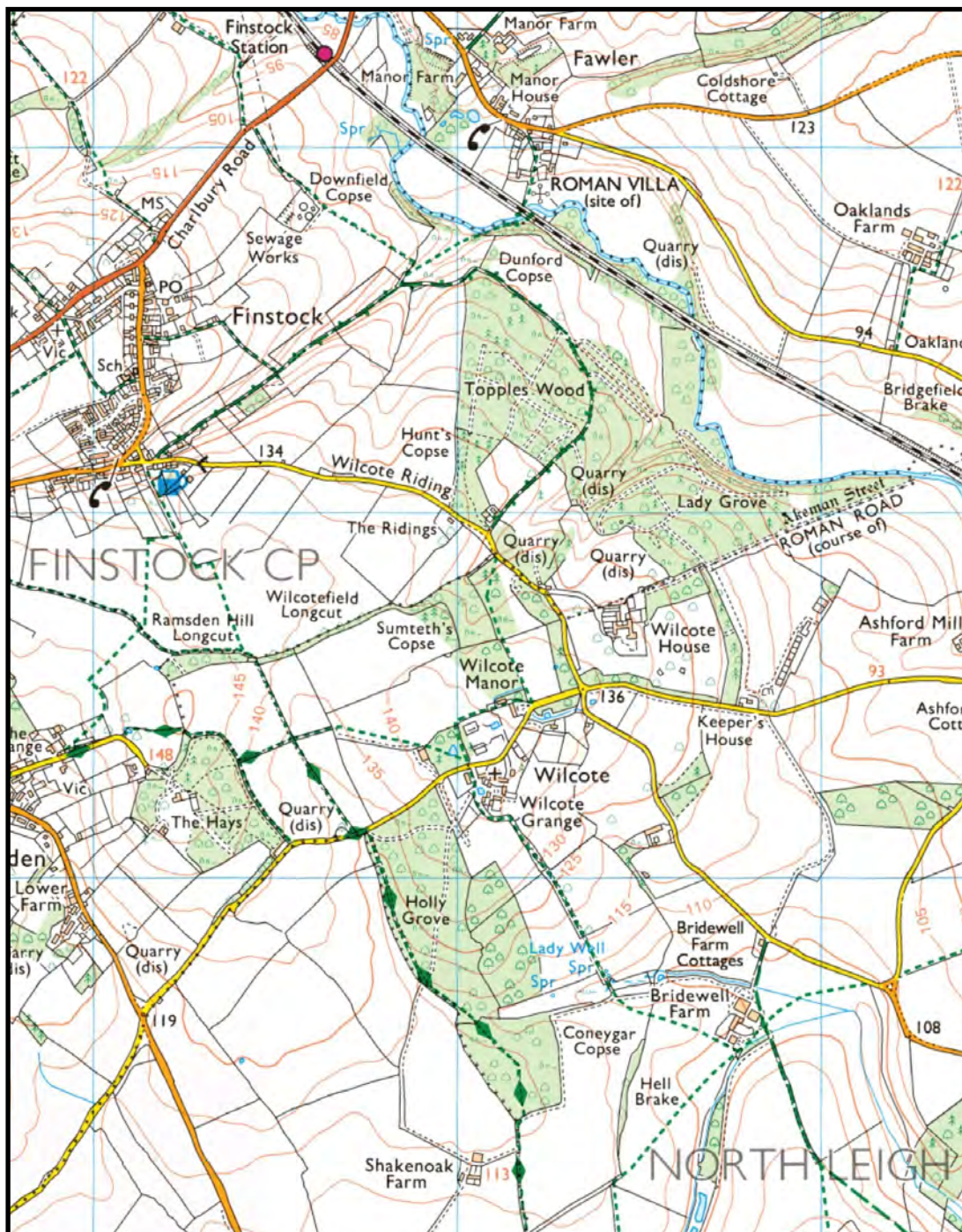
The April Mid-Week Walk

Eric and Sheila Dunford organised another midweek walk on Thursday 14th April. The walkers met for a 12.30 lunch at the 'Plough Inn in Finstock. The route went south from Finstock through Holly Grove and a mix of woodland and Cotswold fields. The walk returned in a loop via Wilcote, then passing close to the Evenlode.

The photographs on the opposite page were taken by Bartle Frere.

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

For information about the next Midweek Walk planned for **Thursday 12th May** please email Eric : e.dunford@btinternet.com



PHOTOS FROM THE APRIL MID-WEEK WALK



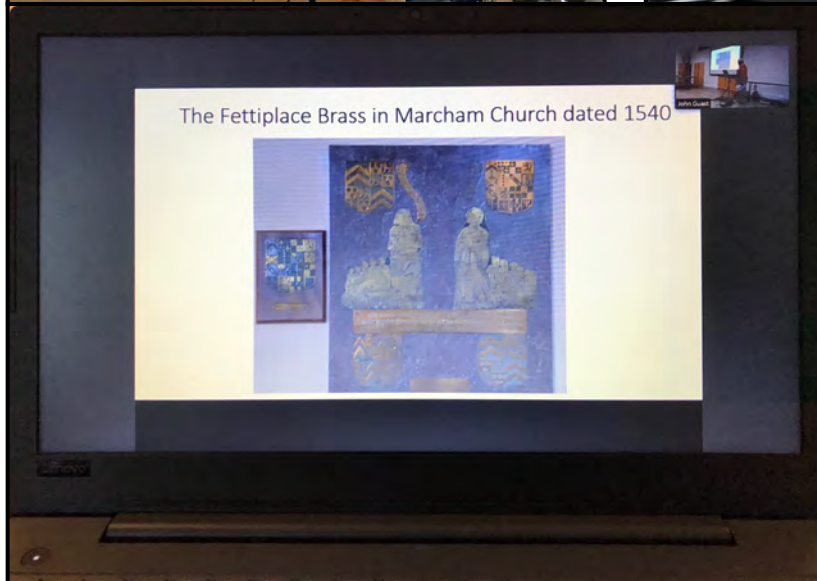
THE MEMBERS EVENING IN THE MARCHAM CENTRE

The Members Evening started with *'The Marcham Society Archives'* a talk by Sheila Tilley. Sheila explained the purpose of the archive and she gave examples of interesting items that it contains. Sheila Dunford followed with a talk *'Using the Archives'* and she showed how the information about Marcham held in the archives could be used for research and answer questions about the village and its inhabitants in the past. In both talks, the members were encouraged to help maintain the Archives and even do their own personal research.

The half time break gave members the opportunity to chat over refreshments and eat delicious homemade cakes. At the same time there was a rolling projection of 500 of the Society's photographic archive that gave rise to much comment and conversation.

The evening ended with a third talk entitled *'Roman Coins from Southern Oxfordshire'* given by Simon Blackmore. Simon talked about the many finds of coins recorded on the 'Portal Antiquities Scheme'. He gave details of the Didcot and Chalgrove Hoards as well as the coins found at Roman sites at Dorchester on Thames and Marcham, both of which were excavated under the auspices of Oxford University with the help of local volunteers.

The evening was well attended with over fifty people in the hall and a dozen on line via Zoom.



THE MEMBERS EVENING IN THE MARCHAM CENTRE



Found in 1995 and now also on display in the Ashmolean



Discovered in 2003 and now it is on display in the Ashmolean Museum.

4,957 bronze coins were found in a pot. Some were 'silvered' but all dating from AD 251-279 - a time of crisis between AD 200 and 300 when central control was lost.

The 'Gallic Empire' broke away from Rome and was ruled by Postumus, Victorinus and Tretricus.

DIDCOT HOARD

A soldier would take ten years to earn the value of the hoard

126 Gold coins struck between AD 54-160



DIDCOT COIN HOARD	
Nero	7
Vespasian	12
Titus, Caesar	3
Domitian, Caesar	8
Titus	0
Divus Vespasian	2
Domitian	3
Nerva	1
Trajan	31
Plotina	2
Hadrian	35
Sabina	3
Antoninus Pius Caesar	1
Antoninus Pius	15
Faustina I	1
Diva Faustina	1
Marcus Aurelius	1
Total	126

CHALGROVE HOARD

THE GALLIC EMPERORS The images of the emperors are very alike with their rays-of-the-sun crowns (radiates), longish hair and flowing beards. Only the young Tetricus II is unbearded.



Four slides from the talk on local Roman Coins. The Didcot and the Chalgrove Hoards are on public display at the Ashmolean Museum.

TO FRILFORD

TO WANTAGE

Distribution of coins by trench

Marcham / Frilford Excavations 2011

Features: Excavated, Projected, Previous trenches, 2011 trenches

metres

Over 2,000 Roman coins, spread out over the site and associated with certain features:

- A The Temple
- B The 'Amphitheatre'
- C The 'Cruciform Building'
- D The Drainage System

MARCHAM / FRILFORD

2544 Roman Coins

372 totally unrecognisable (15%)
 981 estimated to a century (38%)
 446 dated to a century (18%)
 745 dated to an emperor (29%)

Predominantly 4th Century

TRENDES COINS by century

Proportion of all Roman coins across the Trendes site by period

ALL 2,544 TRENDES COINS as at 11th April 2016

Reasons for 'abandoned' coins

Different coins may have been abandoned for different reasons

- *Lost by accident*
- *Savings hoard / Bank*
- *Avoiding taxation*
- *Discards / Recycling*
- *Security in times of trouble*
- *Offerings or Ritual Deposit*

THE NEXT EVENT and FUTURE DATES

This publicity for the May talk is also to be found in MAD News and on Facebook



The
Marcham
Society

Monday
23rd May
7.15 for 7.45pm
Marcham Centre



Scandal in High Society Oxfordshire

Secret love affairs, murder, blackmail, poisoning and extortion: most of us enjoy a good scandal. And it's even more fun when it involves our so-called 'betters'.

Julie Ann Godson will present a selection of tales of Oxfordshire toffs in trouble, from the Tudor period right up to the modern age. Few will fail to be impressed by the sheer variety of ways in which the upper classes of the county have contrived over the centuries to behave badly – and often to get away with it.

All Julie's Oxfordshire history books are available on Amazon.

For more information contact
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk
www.marchamsociety.org.uk
Facebook: marchamsociety

Dates for the Diary

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

Thursday 12th May : *Midweek Walk*

Saturday 14th May :
Marcham Big Weekend
(see the information below)

Monday 23rd May :
"High Society Scandals in Oxfordshire"
by Julie Ann Godson
(see the information on the left)

Thursday 26th May 2pm:
Outing to Oxford Botanic Garden

Thursday 9th June : *Midweek Walk*

Monday 27th June :
"History of Kingston Bagpuize House"
by Virginia Grant

Saturday 16th July :
The Summer BBQ
(details soon to be announced)

MARCHAM BIG WEEKEND

Saturday 14th May 12 noon–4pm

As advertised in MAD News there will be various stalls at the Marcham Big Weekend and the Marcham Society is planning to hold a stand like last time.

We will have publications on sale and archives on display to interest visitors.

Please do come yourselves, ask your village friends to call by the stall and maybe even encourage them to join up if they are not already members!