

*The
Marcham
Society*

JUNE 2022
Volume 5, Issue 6

Newsletter

The Marcham Society stand at the 'Big Weekend' on Anson Field



Plants were on sale as well as publications!



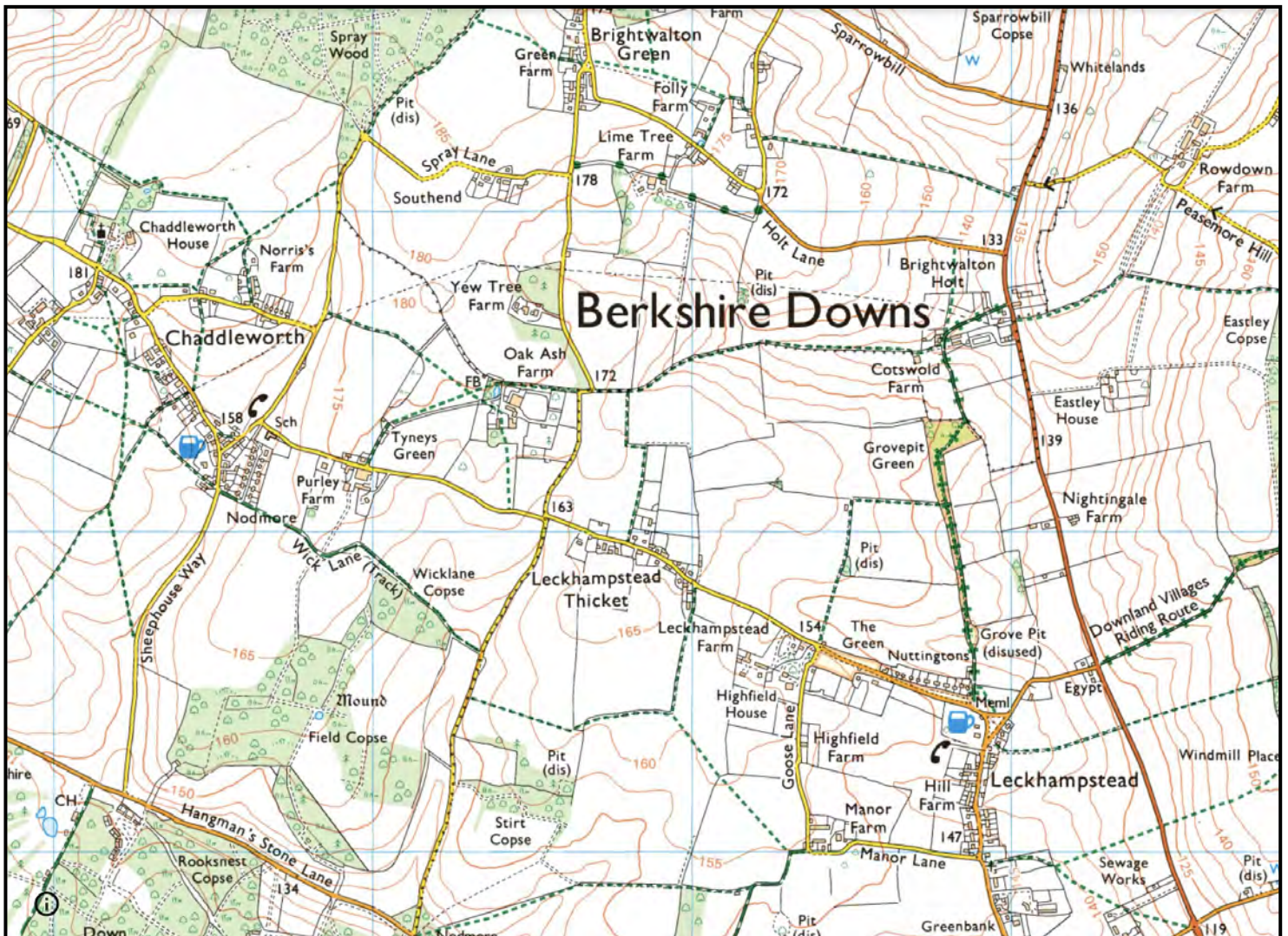
The May Mid-Week Walk

Eric and Sheila Dunford organised another midweek walk on Thursday 12th May. The walkers met for a 12.30 lunch at the 'Tbex Inn' in Chaddleworth.

The route went East via the Grove Pit Green nature reserve, then due South to Leckhamstead where we visited the church. We returned to our cars via Wick Lane, completing a circuit of just over five miles.

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

For information about the next Midweek Walk planned for **Thursday 9th June** please email Eric : e.dunford@btinternet.com



PHOTOS FROM THE MAY MID-WEEK WALK



The Ibx Inn



Leckhamstead Church



Leckhamstead War Memorial



THE MAY TALK IN THE MARCHAM CENTRE

Julie Ann Godson had to postpone her talk on 'Scandals in High Society Oxfordshire' on health grounds and at the last minute our ex-Chairman Peter Steere gave us an alternative presentation. This was an update on his DPhil studies which he entitled:

***"Limiting Infectious Disease in Late 19th Century Berkshire.
Necessary Intervention or Unwarranted Intrusion?"***

Peter highlighted the problems of disease, health care and quarantine in Victorian times and he helped us draw parallels with the present Covid pandemic, not least government imposed restrictions and public concern over infection.

The questions at the end of his forty minutes showed how much interest there was in the subject. Jim Asher away in Scotland asked about the comparative state of medical awareness in Europe and Bartle Frere wondered if any politicians at the time were caught breaking their own regulations!

The talk was well attended with over thirty people in the hall and sixteen on line via Zoom. It was good to welcome Peter back and to show him the Marcham Centre in action.



**The Audience in the Hall
and at the same time the
talk going out to those at
home on Zoom.**

THE MAY TALK IN THE MARCHAM CENTRE



A slide from Peter's talk illustrating one of the 'better' Scarlet Fever Wards.

He described other 19th century isolation units that were not quite so comfortable!



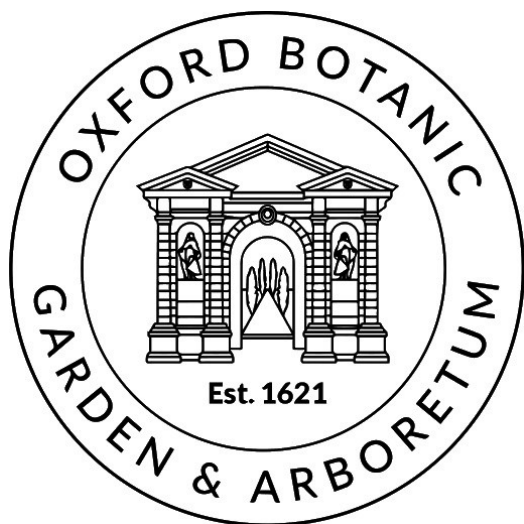
03. Scarlet Fever Ward.

THE OUTING TO OXFORD BOTANIC GARDEN

A group of Marcham Society Members met at the Oxford Botanic Garden (OBG) on Thursday 26th May and they were welcomed by Clare, one of the volunteer guides of the OBG. She explained the history of the gardens and then she started her tour. The first thing she presented was the new hybrid, the 'Oxford Physic Rose', created to mark OBG's 400th anniversary.

Other features she highlighted were the 'Screaming' Mandrake (*Mandragora Officinarum*), the Black Pine (*Pinus Nigra*) and a new bed of Parasitic Plants (including *Orobanche minor*). The Black Pine was Tolkien's favourite tree and she also alluded to Philip Pullman's *Northern Lights* and she even showed us Lewis Carol's Cheshire Cat hidden in a tree! There were also beds of botanics for gin production and a new area set aside for Mediterranean plants.

After she finished her tour, the glass houses and their exotic plants awaited before leaving for a welcome cup of tea and cakes in a café on the High Street!



THE OUTING TO OXFORD BOTANIC GARDEN



The 'Mediterranean' Flower Beds



Inside the glass houses there were large lily pads, colourful pitcher plants and carnivorous fly catchers.



FUTURE DATES

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



The Marcham Society

Monday
27th June
7.15 for 7.45pm
Marcham Centre



The History of Kingston Bagpuize House by Virginia Grant

Visitors to Kingston Bagpuize House often comment on the welcoming atmosphere when they walk into the Entrance Hall and observe that it's clearly a home and not a museum. Set in the Vale of The White Horse and surrounded by its beautiful garden and parkland, the house, is open for the public to visit and is also a perfect and exclusive venue for wedding celebrations, corporate functions and filming.

At the helm of the Estate today is **Virginia Grant**, who cares for the house with passion and determination. She will talk about the history of the house, the challenges she has encountered and how her legal training has helped her to run a historic home.

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 9th June :

The Midweek Walk

Monday 27th June :

“History of Kingston Bagpuize House” by Virginia Grant

(see the information to the left)

Saturday 16th July :

The Summer BBQ

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1st September 2022 :

*NEW ANNUAL PROGRAMME
Subscription Renewals for 2022-23*

Monday 26th September :

Annual General Meeting

Monday 24th October :

“High Society Scandals in Oxfordshire” by Julie Ann Godson

If you have ideas and suggestions for future visits, talks and events please email us on:
marchamsociety@gmail.com

MARCHAM SOCIETY ARCHIVES

Work organising, collating and recording the Society's archives continues and there are regular sessions in the Marcham Centre.

If you are interested in helping, please email: sheilajtilley@gmail.com