

*The
Marcham
Society*

DECEMBER 2023
Volume 6, Issue 11

Newsletter

Our Meetings in December



Marcham Society Christmas Party

Monday 11th December at 6.30pm
in the Main Hall, Marcham Centre

Email Shirley Eccles to book your place at the party!
shirley.marsoc@gmail.com

"The Christmas Star"

studies into its possible origins via a 'balloon debate'

Thursday 14th December at 7pm
in the Small Hall, Marcham Centre

2nd November Midweek Walk

On Thursday 2nd November, Eric and Sheila Dunford organised a walk from 'The Bell Hotel', Church Street, Charlbury OX7 3PP in the Cotswolds.
(see the map below with thanks to the Ordnance Survey)



12th November at the Wayside Cross

After the Sunday service in the Church there was a gathering for the laying of the wreaths



For the History of the Wayside Cross, see the article in Coral Rag 12

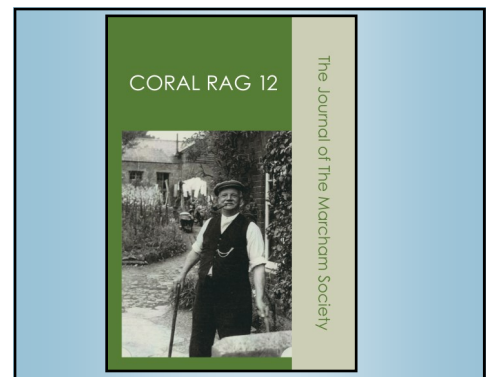
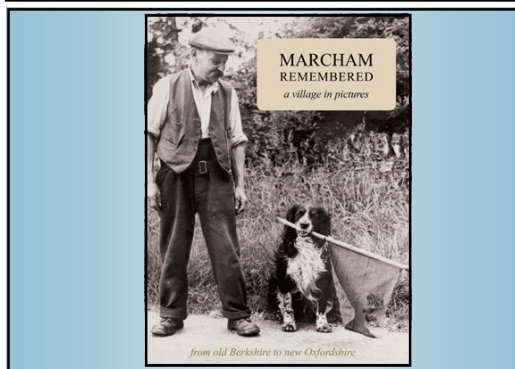
13th November Visit to Aston Pottery

Shirley Eccles arranged a trip to the Gardens and the Shop



18th November the Craft and Gift Fair

Marcham Society had a stand as part of the WI Christmas Fair in the Marcham Centre



The Astronomy Group

Thursday 23rd November 2023

"The Visible Universe" - by Max Whitby



‘The Visible Universe’ is a book of breathtaking inspiration and motivates many to venture outside and take in the majesty of the night sky. Max Whitby, co-author of the book, has worked for the BBC where he produced films for the Horizon programme. During his career he has two BAFTA awards for his work.

Max explained in his talk how he had become interested in photography, the sophisticated equipment he needed to capture clear images of space and the various problems he encountered in his project to photograph the entire celestial sphere in one image.

Copies of the presentations are available upon request. Please email:
marchamsociety@gmail.com

ASTRONOMIA – An astronomical word puzzle for November

Marcham Astronomy Group Quiz

Can you use the ten letters in ASTRONOMIA, the Greek muse of astronomy, to solve the ten clues below to reveal ten astronomical words/names? Letters may be used in each clue only as many times as they appear in ASTRONOMIA.

1. The Sun, for example (4)
2. Charged particles (4)
3. US Space agency (4)
4. Latin word for the plural of answer 1 (above), used in the Brad Pitt film title 'Ad____' (5)
5. Units of matter once thought to be indivisible (5)
6. Words used in constellation names to mean 'lesser' as in 'Ursa ____' (5)
7. Natural planetary satellites (5)
8. Prominent constellation with a well-known belt (4)
9. Mythology from which many planets in the solar system derive their names (5)
10. Inhabitants of the fourth planet from the sun, perhaps? (8)

ASTRONOMIA – *the answers are on the back page!*



**Thursday 14th
December at 7pm**

“The Christmas Star”

Hear about three
alternative explanations for
this seasonal event!

Small Hall, Marcham Centre

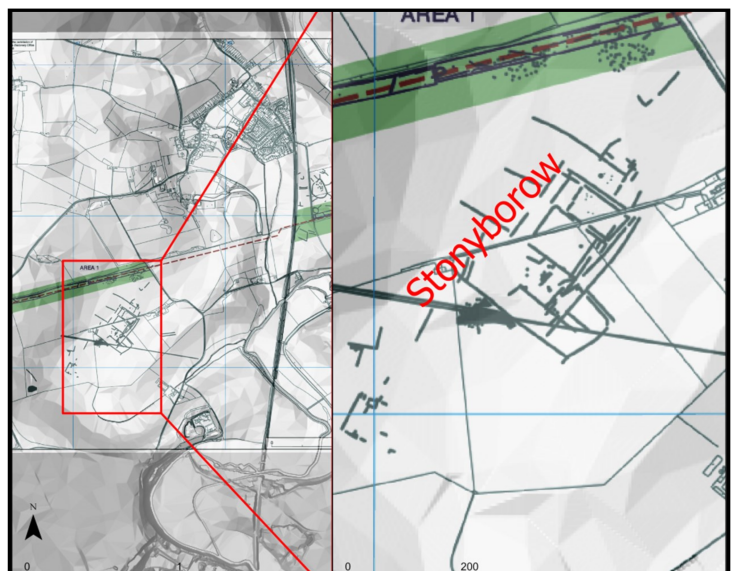
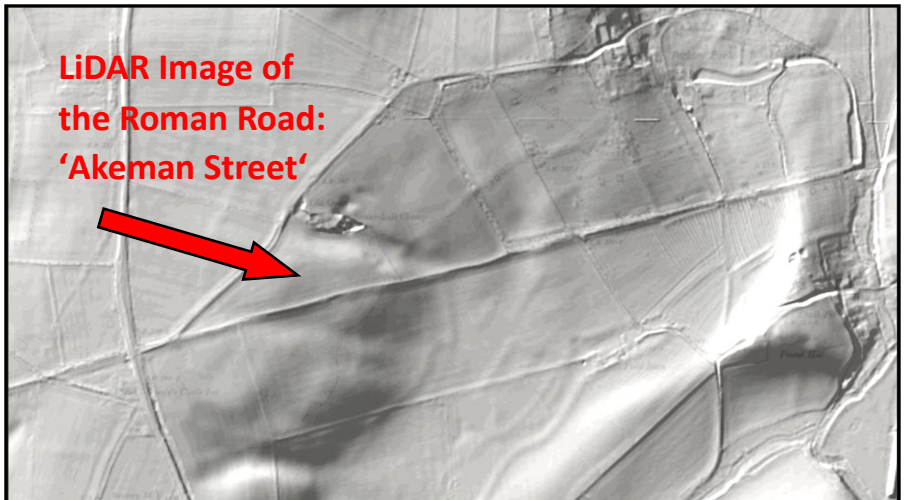
"Stonyborow - a clue to Roman settlement in rural Oxfordshire?"

by Abigail Lloyd on Monday 27th November 2023

Abigail Lloyd researches the historical landscape, focussing particularly on old buildings, churches and the bigger picture revealed through Early Medieval and Medieval place-names. Some field names have been lost, yet they are still recoverable from past records. They are valuable sources for the history of a landscape and its people.

During her analysis of field-names and charter bounds of Whitehill Township, Tackley, Oxfordshire, she lighted upon one field name in particular, 'Stonyborow' that she found of particular interest.

In her talk Abigail led us through the evidence to be found in manuscripts, on old and modern maps and also in existing place-names. In the end she showed how her research had led to the location of a Roman Settlement near Akeman Street, a site that was confirmed by crop marks and Roman artifacts found by archaeological field walking.



To learn more about the origins of English Place names: <https://epns.nottingham.ac.uk>

FUTURE DATES AND EVENTS

The next Midweek Walk is on
Thursday 7th December
meeting for lunch
at 12.30 pm at the
The Merry Miller,
Cothill, OX13 6JW
For more information please email:
e.dunford@btinternet.com

ASTRONOMIA **Here are the answers!**

1. STAR
2. IONS
3. NASA
4. ASTRA
5. ATOMS
6. MINOR
7. MOONS
8. ORION
9. ROMAN
10. MARTIANS

CORAL RAG 12

The latest issue of Coral Rag is now available for £7 in the Marcham Village Shop. The cover above features George Leader Fairbrother, a Marcham WW1 hero. There are many other people and items of local interest.

Programme 2023-24

Unless otherwise notified, meetings will be held at 7.45 pm in the Main Hall of the Marcham Centre

Thursday 7th December :
Mid-week Walk in Cothill (*see opposite*)

Monday 11th December :
CHRISTMAS PARTY in the Main Hall at 6.30pm

Thursday 14th December :
Astronomy Group 7pm in the Small Hall
"The Christmas Star" - studies into its possible origin via a 'balloon debate'

2024

Wednesday 17th January :
Visit to Woodstock Museum and lunch - 10.30am
Exhibition of the Life and Work of Sir John Betjeman

Monday 22nd January :
ANNUAL LECTURE :
"Go West, young man" A talk by Richard Oliver

Thursday 25th January :
Astronomy Group 7pm in the Small Hall
A talk by Barry Kellett

Thursday 22nd February :
Astronomy Group 7pm in the Small Hall

Monday 26th February :
"Water voles : a national approach to saving Ratty"
A talk by Merryl Gelling

Wednesday 13th March :
Visit to Ewelme Church and Almshouses with Prof. Susan Doran - 11am

*Dates for the rest of 2024 are on the website:
www.marchamsociety.org.uk
or printed on your yellow membership card.*