

*The
Marcham
Society*

APRIL 2023
Volume 6, Issue 4

Newsletter

THE MEMBERS EVENING on Monday 24th April



DAY BY DAY REMASTERED

Day By Day is a 30-minute film, made in 1993 and whose purpose was to promote the role of the Church within the village. This short film has recently been restored and on Members Evening there will be the first public screening of this remastered snapshot of Marcham from 30 years ago.

**All Marcham Society Members are encouraged to attend...
More information is available on Page Six**

THE MARCHAM SOCIETY ASTRONOMY GROUP

We had another good turnout for the MAG meeting on **Thursday 16th March**. The clouds unfortunately again prevented us looking at the skies. The regular Recent News/Sightings and Things to Look Out For in the coming weeks were followed by a discussion about telescopes and cameras.



Thank you to those who brought along their own telescopes. These provided a good range of the different types of instrument available for astronomy (the photo on the left shows some of those on display).

Thank you also to those who contributed images which helpfully illustrated the results you can hope to get with different approaches. We are keen to feature images captured by our members in future meetings so, if you get the chance, please take a shot or two and email me with an image file.

We have formed a small steering group, consisting of Eric Dunford, Simon Blackmore and Jim Asher to exchange ideas for future meetings, including external speakers. If you have any thoughts or requests for topics for talks, discussions or other activities, please contact one of us.

On the right is information on the 'dwarf' planets. We spoke about Ceres which is to be found in orbit in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. It has a diameter of about 950km (a little under half the diameter of Pluto and less than 30% of the diameter of our moon). It is currently about 240 million km distant from Earth and was first discovered in 1801.

Although Ceres is the fifth largest of the minor/dwarf planets, (Eris being the largest) it is by far the closest to Earth and therefore the easiest to find in the night sky.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, on **Thursday 20th April**, at which we hope to have a brief talk by Eric Dunford and David Willis and a discussion on the topical subject of Auroras (Northern Lights).

For information about meetings please contact
 Jim Asher: jim.asher@btinternet.com

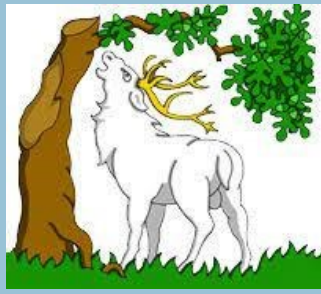
Dwarf Planets in the Solar System

In 2006, the organization responsible for classifying celestial bodies, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) decided that a new class of objects was needed. Pluto, considered a planet since its discovery in 1930, was reclassified into the new "dwarf planet" category. To date, five dwarf planets have been found, although some astronomers expect there may be as many as 50 in the solar system.

	ERIS	PLUTO	HAUMEA	MAKEMAKE	CERES
Year of discovery	2003	1930	2003	2005	1801
Diameter (mean)	1,445 miles 2,326 km	1,430 miles 2,302 km	892.3 miles 1,436 km	882 miles 1,420 km	591.8 miles 952.4 km
Orbital period (Earth years)	561.4	247.9	281.9	305.54	4.6
Distance from sun (times Earth's distance)	68	39.5	43.1	45.3	2.8
Orbital inclination (degrees)	46.9	17.14	28.2	29	10.59
Rotation period	25.9 hours	6.39 Earth days	3.9 hours	22.5 hours	9.1 hours
Moons	1	5	2	0	0

SOURCE: NASA KARL TATE / © SPACE.COM

The Marcham Society hosts the BLHA



BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

To the Marcham Society

I am writing as Chairman of the Berkshire Local History Association (BLHA) to thank you for all that the Marcham Society did for us on Saturday last. I thanked a number of people at the time, but probably not all of them, so please feel free to pass this message on.

We had waited a long time to get to Marcham – when we first planned the meeting it was before the new Centre was built! From start to finish, I feel that the people at Marcham did their best for us – making everyone feel welcome, finding out what was required and when, and providing refreshments and giving us four informative and occasionally surprising and amusing talks.

As for the walk in the afternoon . . . weren't we lucky with the weather! And of course it's always special to gain entry into old buildings and private grounds that you can't usually get to see. I'm not surprised that members of the Marcham Society wanted to come along. I'd like to thank the people who made all this possible.

The funniest incident of the day for me occurred in the archaeological hut. A young girl was being photographed holding a large piece of Iron Age pottery, intrigued by the finger-prints of the potter on its rim. When the archaeologist mentioned that it had probably contained human bones, she almost dropped the pot in horror!

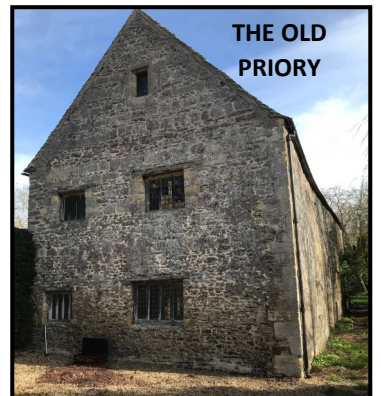
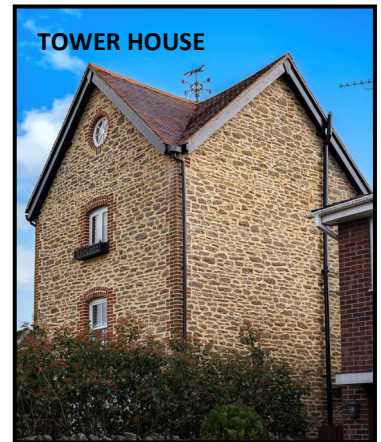
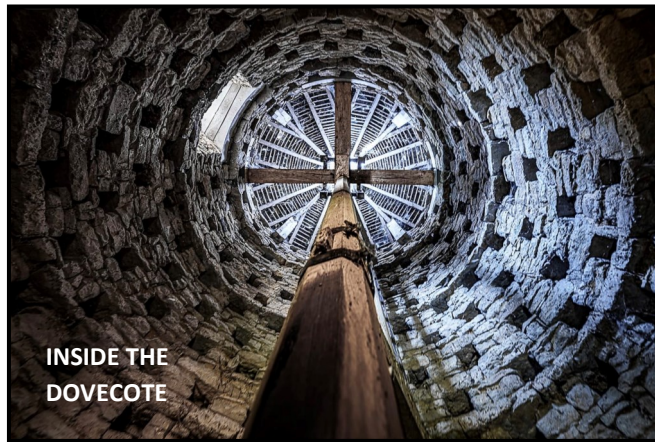
Anyway, I now have some good photographs, and happy memories of the day, which I shall long remember. Like most of the visitors, Marcham is a village I had driven through before and I had visited nature reserves at Cothill and Dry Sandford, but had little idea of what had gone on around there in the past and what was left to see.

With thanks and very best wishes, David (*David Cliffe, Chairman of BLHA*)



The President of BLHA, Joan Dils, addressing the meeting in the Main Hall at the Marcham Centre

The Historic Walk round the village with BLHA



THIS MONTH'S TALK IN THE MARCHAM CENTRE

“The Blue Plaques in the Vale”

The talk on 27th March was given by Robert Evans FBA, Regius Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Oxford. Until his retirement he specialized in the post-medieval history of east-central Europe. He is now interested in local and ecological history and he has been Chair of Abingdon Area Archaeology and History Society. He is also Chair of the *Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Board* and he gave us a fascinating talk about the history of Blue Plaques and how they vary around the country. He then gave many examples from Oxford, Abingdon and in the Vale explaining why people and places deserved to be remembered and merited a plaque. Bob entertained us with almost a hundred slides and an exceptional plaque to pass round the audience.



FUTURE DATES AND EVENTS

Publicity below from MAD News.

Information is also published on Facebook, on the website and updates are also sent to members by email.

www.marchamsociety.org.uk



The
**Marcham
Society**

Monday 24th April
7.15 for 7.45pm
Main Hall
Marcham Centre

Members Evening

To begin the evening, there will be a short talk

Gozzards Ford and the Turnpike Road

After a break for refreshments, there will be a 30 minute film:



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Upcoming Events (please with the organisers)

- Thursday, 13th April 12.30pm: Marcham Society Midweek Walk – for more details contact e.dunford@btinternet.com 01865 391439
- Thursday, 20th April 7pm: Marcham Society Astronomy Group, Small Hall at Marcham Centre – for more details contact jim.asher@btinternet.com 01865 391727

For more information contact membership@marchamsociety.org.uk

www.marchamsociety.org.uk

Facebook: [marchamsociety](https://www.facebook.com/marchamsociety)

Programme 2022-23

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

Thursday 13th April 2023

Mid-week Walk at 12.30 pm

(See information below)

Monday 17th April 2023

Guided visit of Cothill House at 3.00pm

Thursday 20th April 2023

Astronomy Group, at 7pm

Monday 24th April 2023

MEMBERS' EVENING

(See information on the left)

Wednesday 17th May 2023

Tour of Garford Village by Mike Greig, at 2pm

Monday 22nd May 2023

'Chimney Meadows—floodplain restoration' by Lisa Lane

Tuesday 20th June 2023

Guided Walk in Chimney Meadows Nature Reserve at 10 am by Lisa Lane *(see above)*

Monday 26th June 2023

'The Two William Morrises of Oxfordshire' by Marie-Louise Kerr

Wednesday 5th July 2023

Visit to Aston Pottery Gardens, at 11am

Saturday 15th July 2023

SUMMER BARBECUE

(Evening: details to be announced)

The next Midweek Walk is planned for

Thursday 13th April 2023

starting at the "Black Prince" for lunch
2 Manor Rd, Old Woodstock, OX20 1XJ

Please email Eric in advance to book:

e.dunford@btinternet.com