

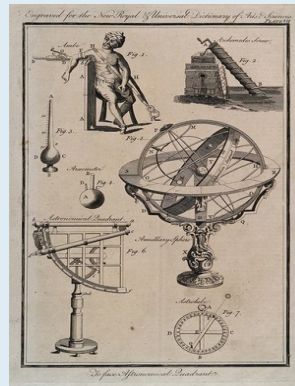
*The  
Marcham  
Society*

**FEBRUARY 2024  
Volume 7, Issue 2**

**Newsletter**

**Our Meetings in February 2024**

**Astronomy Group - a talk on “Archimedes and Astronomy”**



**Thursday 22nd February 2024 at 7pm in the Small Hall, Marcham Centre**

**Water voles : a national approach to saving ‘Ratty’**



**Monday 26th February 2024 at 7.15 for 7.45pm in the Main Hall, Marcham Centre**

Meryll Gelling has undertaken research on water voles for over 20 years. They have disappeared from over 90% of their geographical range. We will learn about the ecology of water voles, as well as threats to their survival and the work that is ongoing to reverse the decline and bring 'Ratty' back as part of our local habitat.

# Thursday 4th January Midweek Walk

Eric and Sheila Dunford organised another walk from the Merry Miller in Cothill



## Early January - photos of the Mill Road flooding



The road and the fields under water



The Mill Bridge surrounded by water

# The outing to the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock

Wednesday 17th January 2024



# The Annual Lecture - 22nd January 2024

## "Go West, young man" A talk by Richard Oliver

This illustrated talk covered the history of Newfoundland, the work of the *International Grenfell Association* and Richard's role in the 1970s as a travelling dentist caring for people on the northern Atlantic seaboard of the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland.

Richard flew 2,500 miles from the UK to Gander, 170 miles to St Anthony in the North of the island before covering the last 50 miles over land to his base at Roddickton.

September 1974



Richard also told us about the history, the culture and the geography of Newfoundland.



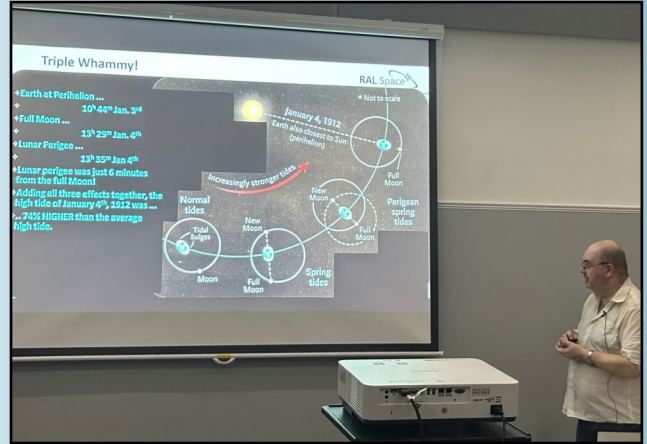
Richard brought souvenirs of his time in Newfoundland, including a bottle of 'Screech' Rum!



# "Titanic... did the Moon sink it?"

A talk to the Astronomy Group by Barry Kellett  
Thursday 25th January 2024

The regular items of News and Sightings and the Members Matter images were followed by the invited talk by Barry Kellett (from the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory) with the intriguing title "Titanic...did the Moon sink it?".



One of Barry's slides explaining the fateful journey of Titanic

Barry raised the first point about the impact of the Moon on Titanic – there was no moon, so that made icebergs harder to see for the lookout on watch (like the mystery of the dog in the night?)

Barry also described an exceptionally high tide that occurred about 100 days before the fateful night, which arose from a highly unusual combination of the moon being closer to earth and the earth being at its closest to the sun at a spring tide. There is a theory that this exceptionally high tide made have lead to more icebergs than normal being calved from a glacier in Greenland, the main source of icebergs arriving in the NW Atlantic.

He discussed the main problem with that theory, that icebergs typically take much longer than 100 days to get from the calving glacier to the shipping lanes, although an exceptionally high tide might dislodge an iceberg stranded in a bay on the route south and cause the hazard.

Jim Asher

Copies of the presentations are available upon request.  
Please email: [MarchamSociety@gmail.com](mailto:MarchamSociety@gmail.com)

# FUTURE DATES AND EVENTS

The next Midweek Walk is on  
**Thursday 1st February 2024**  
meeting for lunch at 12.30 pm at  
**"The Maker Space", RG9 5SJ**



For more information please email:  
[e.dunford@btinternet.com](mailto:e.dunford@btinternet.com)

APPLETON WITH EATON HISTORY GROUP

**The history of the  
English village explained:  
where does Appleton fit in?**

a talk by  
**Dr Trevor Rowley**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm  
in Appleton Village Hall**

Everyone welcome  
Wine and soft drinks available

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT JACKIE LEWIS  
TEL.07815 602658, EMAIL JACKIELEWISTHAME@GMAIL.COM

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## CORAL RAG 12

The last issue of Coral Rag is  
still available in the Marcham  
Village Shop.

The cover features George  
Leader Fairbrother,  
a Marcham WW1 hero.

## Programme for 2024

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

### Thursday 22nd February :

*"Archimedes and Astronomy"* by Simon Blackmore  
Astronomy Group - 7pm in the Small Hall

### Monday 26th February :

*"Water voles : a national approach to saving Ratty"*  
A talk by Merryl Gelling - 7.15pm in the Main Hall

### Thursday 14th March :

*"Supernovae"* by Mike Greig  
Astronomy Group - 7pm in the Small Hall

### Monday 25th March :

*"Everyday life and accidental death in 16th Century  
Oxfordshire and Berkshire"* A talk by Steven Gunn - 7.15pm  
in the Main Hall

### Thursday 28th March :

Visit to MINI Production Line - 9.50 am

### Wednesday 17th April :

Tour of Garford Village with Mike Greig - 2pm

### Thursday 18th April :

*"Why Astronomy Matters: Space Weather and other  
examples"* by Mike Hapgood RAL - Astronomy Group 7pm  
in the Small Hall

### Monday 22nd April :

MEMBERS EVENING with refreshments

*Dates for the rest of 2024 are on the website:  
[www.marchamsociety.org.uk](http://www.marchamsociety.org.uk)  
or printed on your yellow membership card.*