

*The
Marcham
Society*

JUNE 2024
Volume 7, Issue 6

Newsletter

Our next meeting in June 2024

The Ridgeway and Lowbury Hill from above

Hedley Thorne

7.15 for 7.45pm Monday 24th June

Main Hall, Marcham Centre OX13 6TY

Since becoming the IT Operations Manager for Heathrow Airport, Hedley Thorne has retreated to the Ridgeway in his spare time as an antidote to the relative chaos of his job. He has combined his love of flying with the use of drones to produce aerial photography of historic landscapes.



Liddington Castle

In his talk Hedley will be explaining the techniques that he employs to photograph key sites along the Ridgeway, how drone photography is used in collaboration with landscape art and archaeology and how perception of historical monuments is enhanced by views from above. He will give details about one site that he photographs most frequently, Lowbury Hill, explaining some of its possible historic connections.

Thursday 4th May - Midweek Walk

Eric and Sheila Dunford organised another enjoyable walk setting out from The Mason Arms, Station Road, South Leigh, OX29 6XN



For information about the next Midweek Walk please see page 6 and email: e.dunford@btinternet.com or ring 01865 391439

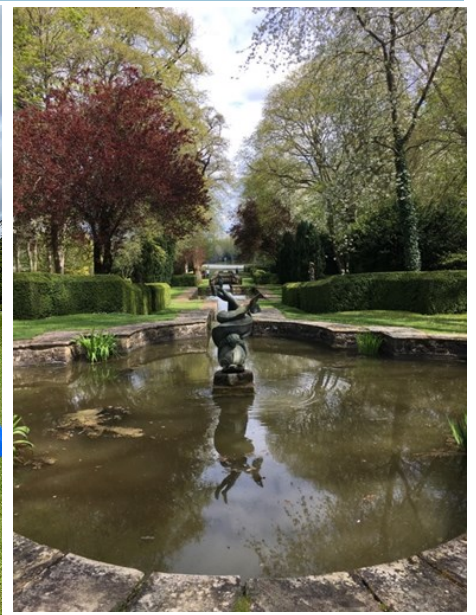


The Marcham Society stall with the Astronomy display at the Big Marcham Weekend on Saturday 11th May 2024
There are more pictures of the event on page 15 in the June issue of MAD News :

<https://madnews.co.uk/archive/2024/06jun/jun-2024.pdf>

Pictures from the visit to Buscot Park

Thursday 23rd June 2024



The Wisteria Avenue, the Terracotta Warriors and a duckling stranded in the pond!



Buscot House was built by local landowner Edward Loveden between 1779 and 1783 and is a magnificent example of late 18th Century Italianate country houses, inspired by the architecture of the Renaissance architect, Andrea Palladio. In the 19th Century it was turned into a “model agricultural estate” and purchased in 1889 by the present incumbent’s great grandfather, the 1st Lord Faringdon.

It is now in the care of the National Trust but remains the family home of the 3rd Lord Faringdon. It is approached by a wonderful sweeping drive and enjoys views of the Thames, with mature woodland walks, a small lake and the Italianate water garden, designed by Harold Peto.

Many thanks to Shirley Eccles for organising this outing.

The Astronomy Group

Our Members contributions meeting last night went well with a range of topics after the regular News, Recent sightings and Members' Matter sections, which included images from various people of the amazing spectacle of the Aurora on Friday 10th May from Marcham, Cow Lane and Garford.

We learned about **Urania**, the Greek muse of Astronomy from Simon, Shirley showed a few stellar images from her trip to **New Zealand**, we shared a brief biography of the French astronomer, **Charles Messier** (the 'Ferret of Comets') and Bartle introduced a film by '**Epic Spaceman**' called '*The Mind-blowing Scale of the Milky Way*',

This film conveys the vast scale of our galaxy very effectively and is well worth watching if you missed the meeting. If you would like to watch it (or watch it again), it is accessible on YouTube and the link is given below right.

The meeting finished with a brief trailer for Aaron's film, which we hope will be ready to view in full after our summer break, at our September meeting.

If you get time, you may like to listen to the BBC R4 program '*In your Time*' with Melvyn Bragg (accessible on BBC Sounds) discussing what is currently known about the planet Mercury.

We take a break over the summer months. The next meeting will be on Thursday 12th September, reverting to our original timing – starting at 7:00pm.

Jim Asher



Above : Multi-coloured Aurora seen on 10th May 2024 at 23:27 from Cow Lane looking west with stars of Leo (*upper left*) and Caster and Pollux (*lower right*) prominent in the background



'Epic Spaceman'

This is a journey into the scale of the galaxy we live in, the Milky Way, our home in the vast cosmos we call the Universe.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsRmyY3Db1Y>

"The Lost Abbey of Eynsham" by Steve Parrinder

Monday 27th May 2024

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The Lost Abbey of Eynsham is of interest not just to local historians but to those with an interest in the development of monasticism and medieval art and architecture, particularly the Romanesque.

Eynsham was one of the few religious foundations in England in continuous use from the late Saxon period to the Dissolution.

Its first Benedictine Abbot was the internationally renowned scholar and teacher, Aelfric, and it was frequently visited by medieval kings given its close proximity to the royal hunting lodge of Woodstock.

Hugh of Avalon, later canonised, was appointed Bishop of Lincoln at a royal council at Eynsham in 1186. Shortly afterwards the abbey achieved fame with the Vision of the Monk of Eynsham which is said to have influenced Dante.

Its reputation was further enhanced when Eynsham acquired an important relic, the arm of St Andrew in 1240. In the later Middle Ages, the abbey went into decline and was beset by scandal.

It surrendered to the Crown in 1538 and the huge structure was gradually demolished and pillaged for its building materials. Now, nothing remains in situ above ground.



Eynsham Museum and Heritage Centre

<https://eynshammuseum.org.uk>

Eynsham Museum and Heritage Centre (EMHC) is a registered charity that was established in 2021 in order to showcase some of the wonderful objects that bring to life Eynsham's long and distinguished history, nurture pride in the community for its roots and provide inspiration for future generations.

The next Midweek Walk is on

Thursday 6th June 2024

meeting for lunch at 12.30 pm at
**The Swan, Compton,
RG20 6NJ**



Compton is a few miles east of the A34
and best reached through East Ilsley

For more information please email:
e.dunford@btinternet.com

or

Ring 01865 391439

Programme for 2024

*Unless otherwise announced, evening meetings will be held in the Main Hall of the Marcham Centre.
Doors open at 7.15 pm for 7.45 pm start.*

Thursday 6th June :
Midweek Walk (*see opposite*)

Monday 10th June :
A visit to Ewelme Church and Almshouses with
Professor Susan Doran - at 10.30 am (*see below*)

Monday 24th June :
"The Ridgeway and Lowbury Hill from above" a talk by
Hedley Thorne in Main Hall, Marcham Centre

Saturday 13th July :
Our Summer BBQ at 5pm (*details will be emailed to members*)

1st September - Subscriptions for 2024-25 due

The programme of events for 2024-25 will be available soon
on our website: www.marchamsociety.org.uk



Visit to Ewelme and St Mary's Church

Monday 10th June 2024
at 10.30am



This tour is for Members only and numbers are limited to 20. The fee is £10, part payable to the Tour Guide, Professor Susan Doran and part will be donated to the Church funds.

If you would like to come please email : Shirley.marsoc@gmail.com and then pay £10 online to "The Marcham Society" Sort code: 09-01-54 Account: 72461087" Please give your surname as a reference plus the code "EWE"

Alternatively deliver a cheque payable to "The Marcham Society" to Shirley Eccles, 43 Harding Way, Marcham OX13 6FJ

MAD News for June is available on line:

<https://madnews.co.uk/archive/2024/06jun/jun-2024.pdf>

On page 5 there is a eulogy to Jean Creasy who was a long standing member of Marcham Society