

*The
Marcham
Society*

APRIL 2022
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Newsletter



Black Thorn with spring blossom on Peat Moor Lane



Photographs by Bartle Frere

The March Mid-Week Walk

Eric and Sheila Dunford organised another enjoyable midweek walk on Thursday 10th March. The walkers met at 12.15 for lunch at the *'Flowing Well'* in Sunningwell. The walk was about 4 miles through Wootton and Old Boars Hill.

There were a good many stiles for the group to climb over watched by the numerous horses in the fields. They must have thought that we were preparing for the human equivalent of the Cheltenham Gold Cup!

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

For information about the next Midweek Walk from the *Plough Inn* at Finstock, planned for **Thursday 14th April**, please email Eric : e.dunford@btinternet.com

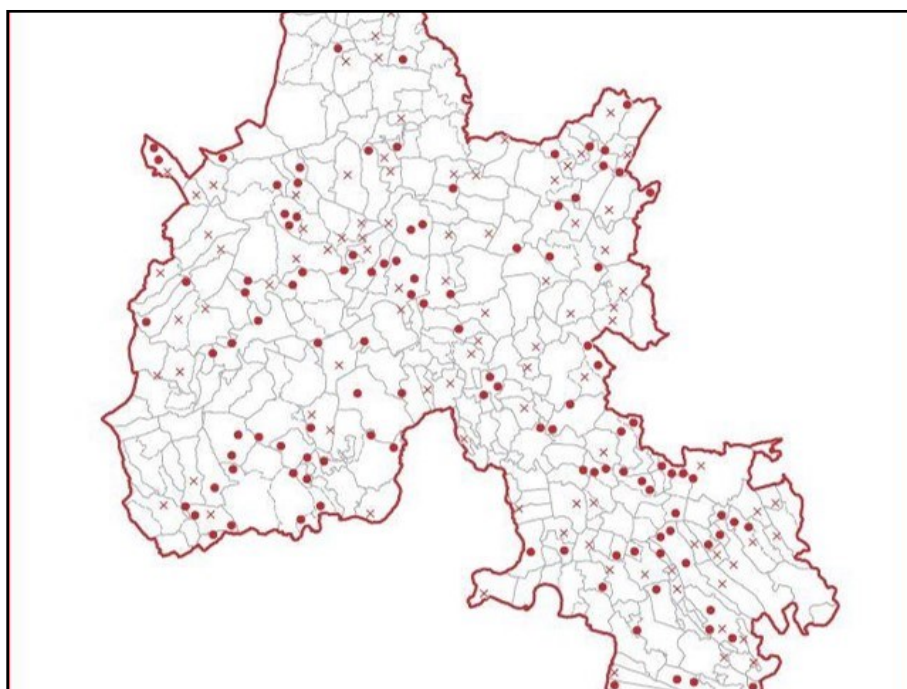


PHOTOS FROM THE MARCH MID-WEEK WALK



THE MARCH TALK IN THE MARCHAM CENTRE**“The Lost (deserted) Villages of Oxfordshire”****Monday 28th March 2022**

Dr Muriel Pilkington read History at Oxford and then taught the subject for over 30 years. She was headteacher of Wycombe High School for 12 years. Since her partial retirement, she rekindled her interest in local history and she now gives talks about topics of local historical interest.



The Distribution of 'Lost Villages' in Oxfordshire

The 'Lost Villages of Oxfordshire' was a talk based on the fact that there are nearly one hundred Oxfordshire villages mentioned in Domesday Book and in parochial and manorial records of the 12th and 13th centuries which have completely disappeared or are now just preserved in the name of a street or a few buildings - sometimes a church, a farm or just ruins and ridges in fields.

Muriel explained why these villages have disappeared and the wide range of reasons for their decline, beginning with monasterial encroachment and including disease both of humans and cattle, famine, climate change, warfare, poor farming methods, enclosure and then 'emparkment' — particularly the creation of extensive deer parks for grand country houses.

THE MARCH TALK IN THE MARCHAM CENTRE

- **A lost or deserted village** is one which has either disappeared completely or now comprises nothing more than a church, and/or manor house and/or home farm and fewer than three other houses, often including a vicarage.
- **A shrunken village** is one where the inhabited nucleus still remains but is surrounded by earthworks indicating it was once much larger.

She gave us many examples, working chronologically from Roman times through to the present day, hinting at the end of her talk that large infrastructural projects such as HS2 and airport expansions could well have a similar effect in future.



One of the many examples: Hampton Gay - a village that has totally disappeared leaving an isolated church and a ruined manor house.

Muriel gave us a fascinating insight into shifting settlement patterns in Oxfordshire linking them to historical and environmental change. Her talk was well illustrated and full of anecdotes and information. It was much appreciated by all attending in the Marcham Centre and by an equal number watching via *Zoom*.

THE NEXT EVENT and FUTURE DATES

This publicity for the April members' evening is to be found in MAD News and on Facebook



The
**Marcham
Society**

**Monday
25th April
7.15 for 7.45pm
Marcham Centre**

Marcham Society Members' Evening

Marcham Society now has over 130 members and meets on the 4th Monday of every month in the Village Hall to hear talks on topics of interest in our local area. It is the custom that once a year the Society holds a Members' Evening to hear talks on subjects of interest to some of our individual members and at this meeting we depart a little from the usual format.

Sheila Dunford will begin with a talk on the content of the archives, describing some of the stories they uncover. This will be followed by an interval with drinks, wine, teas and coffees, and cake to enjoy whilst members can peruse some of the archives we hold. We have a collection of old Marcham photos, stories and letters, all showing the rich history of the village and the characters who used to live here.



*Silver denarius (dated to 106 AD)
from Trajan's reign found at 'Trendles'*

Simon Blackmore will end the evening off with a talk on Roman coins that have been found locally in Oxfordshire.

If you are new to the village, this will be a wonderful opportunity to discover more of Marcham and meet some of its residents. We look forward to seeing you.

For more information contact
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk
www.marchamsociety.org.uk
Facebook: marchamsociety

Dates for the Diary

Unless otherwise notified, future meetings will be held in the Main Hall of the Marcham Centre

Thursday 14th April :
*Midweek Walk from The Plough Inn at
Finstock, OX7 3BY*

Saturday 23rd April :
*Weekend Walk
(see below on page 6)*

Monday 25th April :
*Members' Evening -
(see the information opposite)*

Monday 23rd May :
*"High Society Scandals in Oxfordshire"
by Julie Ann Godson*

Monday 27th June :
*"The History of Kingston Bagpuize House"
by Virginia Grant*

Saturday 16th July :
The Summer BBQ

MARSOC WEEKEND WALK

As we announced last November, in addition to the monthly mid-week walks, Marcham Society is planning occasional walks at the weekend .

The inaugural 'Weekend Walk' will be on **Saturday 23rd April**. It will start at 10.30am (meeting up at 10.15) and will be about 6 - 8 miles long.

If you would like to come and for all details including where to meet please contact Carolyn Blackmore : walkingcb@gmail.com