

Our Meetings in October

Thursday 19th October 2023

7pm in the Small Hall at the Marcham Centre

"When the Chips are down" by Chris Frost

A talk about the effect of extra-terrestrial radiation on modern electronics to be given to the Astronomy Group. All Members welcome, Guests £5

Monday 23rd October 2023

7.15 for 7.45pm in the Main Hall at the Marcham Centre

"It's a Bat's Life" by David Endacott

The talk with a PowerPoint slide show describes a year in the life of bats from birth to hibernation and work done by the Oxfordshire Bat Group. David Endacott will describe the bats and will discuss the populations in Oxfordshire, their conservation needs, activities and surveys carried out at roost sites.



David works with the Oxfordshire Bat Group which provides a rescue service for grounded, sick or injured bats with the aim of getting them back into the wild whenever possible. Captive injured bats will be shown after the talk including 'Norman', the noctule rescued from Cothill Woods.

Our Outing on 18th October



Tour of Nuffield Place Home of Sir William Morris Wednesday 18th October 10.30 & 10.50am

Following our talk by Marie Louise Kerr in June, we have arranged two tours of Lord Nuffield's home at Nuffield, in the Chiltern Hills, 4 miles east of Wallingford. William Morris began his career as an apprentice to a bicycle repairer in Oxford in the 1880's and became one of the greatest industrialists and philanthropists of his time. The house was completed in 1914, enlarged in 1933 and he lived there until his death in 1963. It was originally bequeathed to Nuffield College and later given to the National Trust who manage it today.

We have arranged two guided tours of the house for a maximum of 8 people on each tour. Tours are 45 mins long, one at 10.30 and then one at 10.50am. Following the tour there will be a chance to explore the beautiful gardens. For National Trust members the tours are free but non-members will be charged £11 on entry.

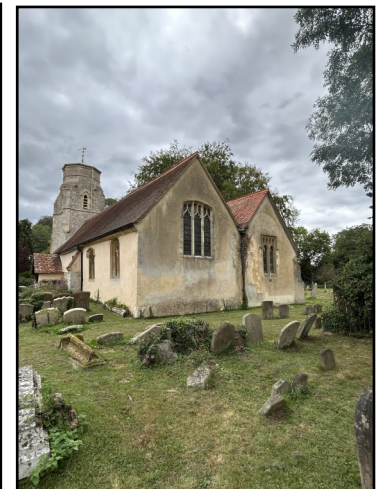
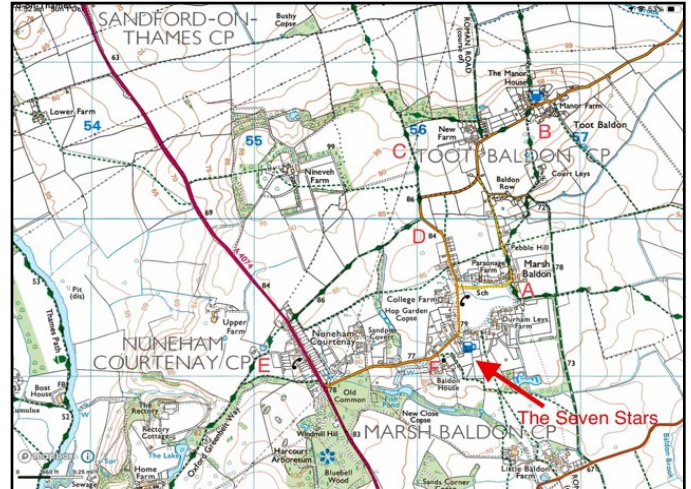
After the visit we invite members to have lunch at the *Maker Space Café* at the Old Crown Pub on the left side of the A4130 on the way home. This is an interesting place, as not only is it a cafe but also a craft centre, recently featured on TV.

**Numbers are limited so please contact Shirley Eccles to book your place:
shirley.marsoc@gmail.com**

The September Midweek Walk

On Thursday 14th September, Eric and Sheila Dunford organised a walk from the 'Seven Stars' at Marsh Baldon. A large group of enthusiastic walkers were very well catered for in the pub and then after lunch we set off promptly on a circular route that included Toot Baldon, Nuneham Courtenay, the Oxford Green Belt Way and a little bit of a Roman Road!

(see the map below with thanks to the Ordnance Survey)



More photographs from Midweek walks are available on request.
To ask for a link, please email:
membership@marchamsociety.org.uk

Alfred the Great—Local Lad made Good

Monday 25th September 2023
Main Hall, Marcham Centre

Alfred the Great: Local Lad Made Good

Mike Cooper







Following the AGM on Monday 25th September, we were treated to a interesting and well-presented talk on Alfred the Great given by Mike Cooper. Mike studied History at Reading University and has worked as a librarian but he also referred back to his childhood and his favourite 1956 Ladybird book on Alfred.

He told us of the fact and fiction surrounding Alfred’s life with many fascinating illustrations. For example he pointed out that the statue in centre of Wantage was more likely to represent Lord Wantage than be a true likeness to Alfred himself. Mike showed the same humour as he explained contrary to popular belief ‘what Alfred was not’ during his life – as you see from the slide below!

Mike has kindly made the slides from his talk available to Members who missed the talk or those who want to be reminded of the detailed account and the many dates that he gave us.



The audience in the Main Hall of the Marcham Centre

Alfred Wasn't...

- Called “Alfred” – he was *Aelfred*
- King of England...*ever*
- Called “the Great” in his lifetime
- Anointed by the Pope (probably)
- Founder of the Royal Navy
- Anything to do with cakes..at all ...probably

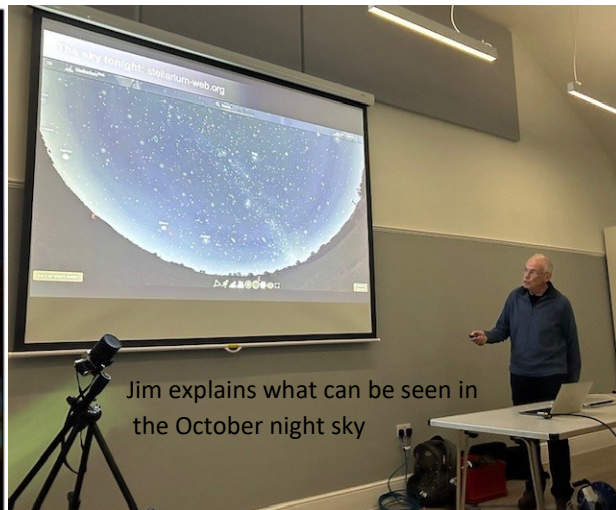
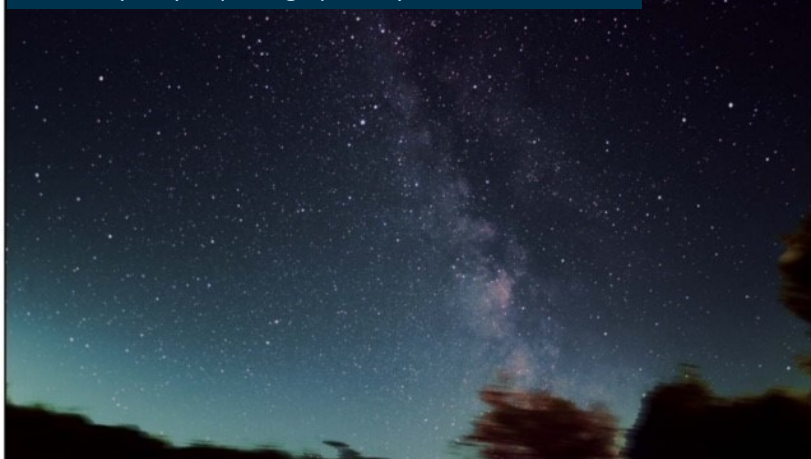


To receive a PDF version of Mike’s PowerPoint, email: membership@marchamsociety.org.uk

The Astronomy Group

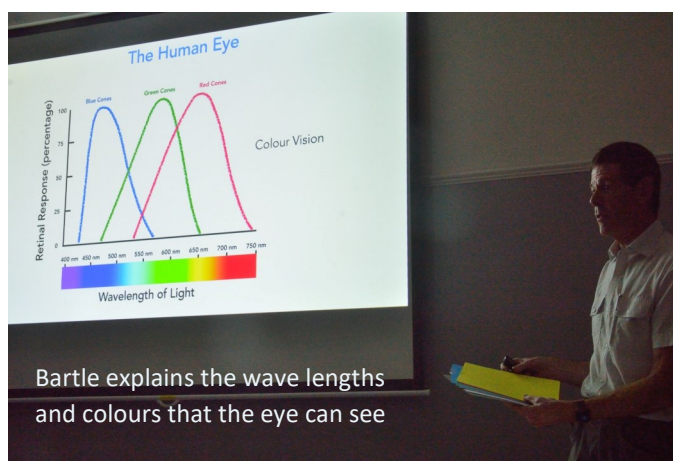
Thursday 28th September : "Summer Round Up, Solar Eclipse and Colour in Space"

The Milky Way as photographed by Jim from Marcham

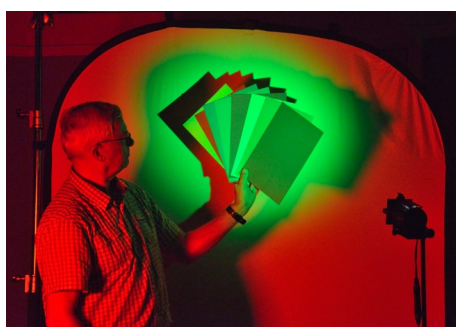


Jim explains what can be seen in the October night sky

Jim Asher gave a summary of astronomical news and showed photos taken during the summer...



Bartle explains the wave lengths and colours that the eye can see



...and then Bartle Frere then gave a talk on colour and light called "Dissecting the Rainbow" and he demonstrated how we perceive colour and why this affects our view of distant stars and galaxies. Copies of the two presentations are available upon request. Please email: membership@marchamsociety.org.uk.

FUTURE DATES AND EVENTS

The next Midweek Walk
is planned for

Thursday 5th October

We will be meeting at 12.30 pm at

Eastbury Plough Inn,

Eastbury, RG17 7JN

Please email:

e.dunford@btinternet.com

CORAL RAG 12



The Journal of The Marcham Society

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*

Wednesday 18th October :

Visit to Nuffield Place, the home of Sir William Morris
- there are two tours: 10.30 and 10.50am. See page 2

**Contact Shirley Eccles if you would like to join this
visit. Numbers are limited so do book your place!**

Thursday 19th October :

Astronomy Group 7pm in the Small Hall
"When the Chips are down" talk by Chris Frost

Monday 23rd October :

"It's a bat's life" talk by David Endacott

Monday 13th November :

Visit to Aston Pottery - 10.30am

Thursday 23rd November :

Astronomy Group 7pm in the Small Hall
"The Visible Universe" talk by Max Whitby

Monday 27th November :

"Stonyborow - a clue to a Roman settlement in rural
Oxfordshire?" talk by Abigail Lloyd

Monday 11th December :

CHRISTMAS PARTY in Small Hall at 6.30pm

Thursday 14th December :

Astronomy Group 7pm in the Small Hall
"The Christmas Star" - various studies into its origin
via a 'balloon debate'

*The dates for 2024 are on the website:
www.marchamsociety.org.uk
or printed on your yellow membership card.*