

*The
Marcham
Society*

**MARCH 2024
Volume 7, Issue 3**

Newsletter

Our Meetings in March 2024

Astronomy Group - a talk on "Supernovae" by Mike Greig



In 1969 Joni Mitchell sang "*We are stardust*". But since then we have learned a lot more - most of the elements in our bodies were formed in Supernova explosions.

We are overdue a supernova explosion like the Crab Nebula which was visible in daylight in 1054 AD. The remnants of that incredibly violent explosion are captured in this image from the James Webb Space Telescope.

Thursday 14th March 2024 at 7pm in the Small Hall, Marcham Centre

"Everyday life and accidental death in 16th Century Oxfordshire and Berkshire" - a talk by Steven Gunn

This talk will look at everyday life in Tudor Oxfordshire using the fatal accidents that people had at home, at work and at play.

What could possibly go wrong when greasing the cogs in a windmill, catching eels on the Thames, going upstairs to bed on Christmas Day or playing bowls on the frozen River Cherwell?

Sandford-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, 30 June 1549.

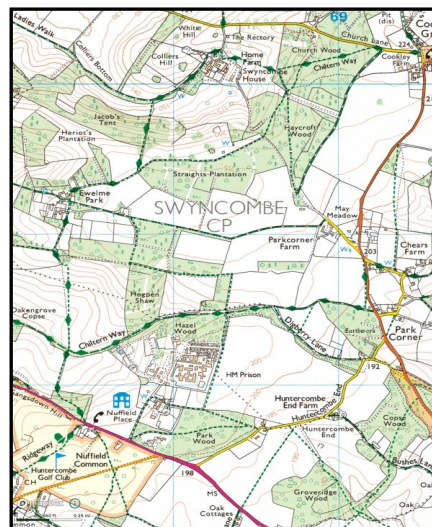


John Cowpar, aged 16, son of Richard Cowpar of Sandford, husbandman, was playing and wrestling with Edmund Ovyn, aged 17, son of John Ovyn of Sandford, on their way home from a pasture called 'le more', in the presence of John Haseley, servant of Richard Dey of Sandford, and Gilbert Jonys, servant of Thomas Stokker of Sandford. John and Edmund fell to the ground, and John got up but immediately fell again and died instantly.

Monday 25th March 2024 at 7.15 for 7.45pm in the Main Hall, Marcham Centre

Thursday 1st February Midweek Walk

Eric and Sheila Dunford organised another walk under clear skies from Swyncombe Church

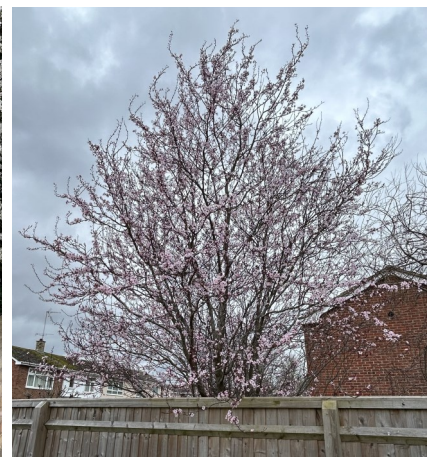
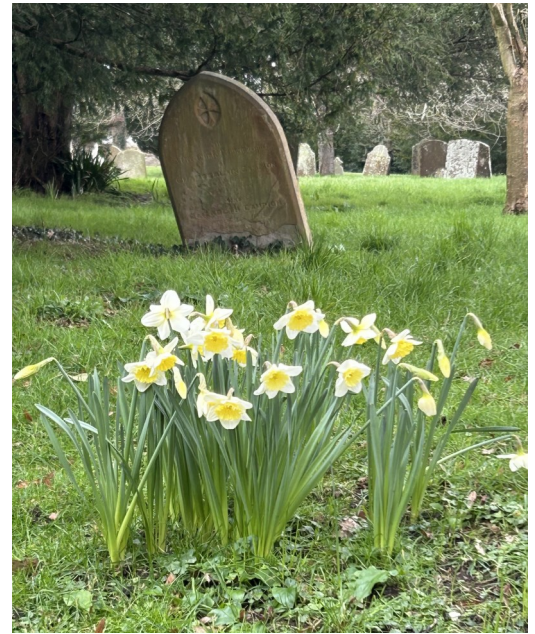


The Map on the right is with thanks to the Ordnance Survey!

For information about the next walk please email: Sheila.dunford@btinternet.com

Pictures of February in Marcham

from the Churchyard and from the development beside the A415 as well as signs of Spring from round the village.



Send interesting photos of the village by email to: MarchamSociety@gmail.com !

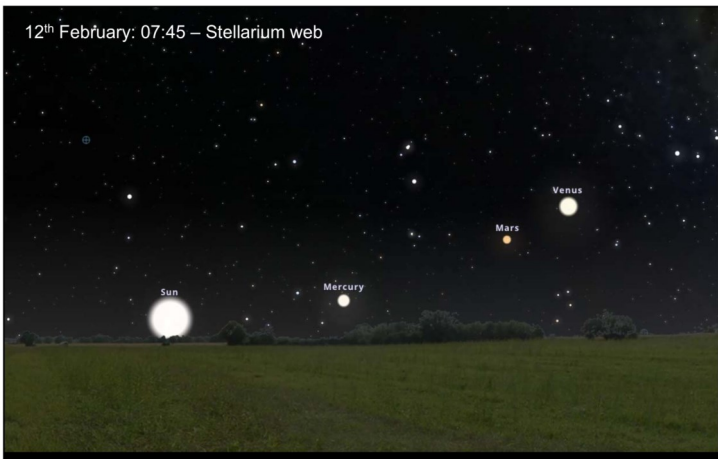
The Astronomy Group

Thursday 22nd February 2024

The regular items of News and Sightings and the Members Matter images were followed by a talk by Simon Blackmore on “*Archimedes and Astronomy*”. Simon explained Archimedes’ position in classical history and talked about his ground-breaking work on astronomy some 2200 years ago, with some of his inventions and well-known and less well-known contributions to knowledge.

We followed this with an open Q&A and discussion session, which ranged widely from the question of where water came from, why satellite launch sites in N Scotland are favoured, to how to deal with space junk and whether Roman dodecahedrons found in archaeology served an astronomical purpose.

Jim Asher



With the two pictures above Jim showed what was visible in the daytime and the night sky on 12th February. The pictures below are from Simon’s talk and the Q&A session. Copies of the slides and the text of the presentation are available upon request. Please email: MarchamSociety@gmail.com



<p>Geocentric vs Heliocentric</p>	GEOCENTRIC	<p>Philolaus of Croton 470 – 385</p> <p>Plato 128 – 348</p> <p>Aristotle 384 - 322</p> <p>Aristarchus of Samos 310 - 230</p> <p>ARCHIMEDES of Syracuse 287 - 212</p> <p>Hipparchus of Rhodes 190 – 120 AD</p> <p>Ptolemy of Alexandria 100 – 170</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">HELIOCENTRIC</p>
	<p>Copernicus 1473 – 1543</p> <p>Galileo 1564 – 1642</p> <p>Kepler 1571 - 1630</p> <p><i>“One could travel securely without hindrance through heaven and earth, if one only did not lose sight of the teachings of Archimedes” – Galileo</i></p>		

THE MYSTERY OF THE ROMAN DODECAHEDRONS

Why does one have the signs of the Zodiac?

$L = GH + (D_1 - D_2) / 2$

D_1, D_2 are the diameters of the two opposite holes of pair (a,c)

Optimum, Near, Far, Coincidence for measure

Courtesy: LORIS, Wikipeda

"Water Voles" A talk by Dr Merryl Gelling

Monday 26th February 2024



Water voles: a national approach to saving 'Ratty'

Dr Merryl Gelling

@SpireEcology
merryl@spireecology.com

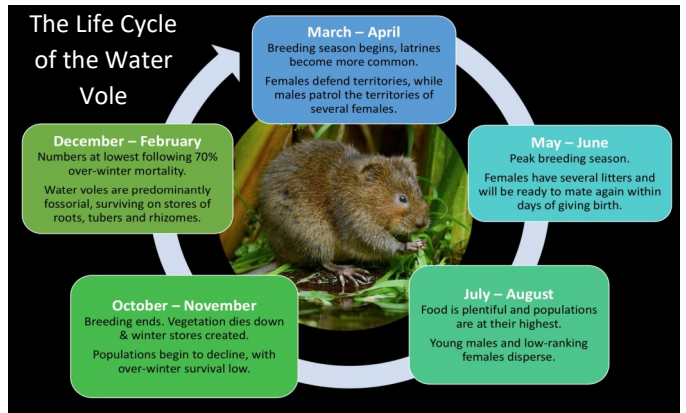


Eric Dunford welcomes an audience of fifty...



Water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*)

- Rat-sized
- Head and body 14-22cm (much larger than bank and field voles, both 9-12cm)
- Indistinct ears
- Dark chestnut brown fur
- Blunt nose
- Weight 150-300g
- Tail 1/3 of head-body length (bank vole tail 1/2; field vole tail 1/3)



Merryl Gelling gave us a fascinating talk about water voles, their habitat and how they are under threat, particularly from the invasive mink. She explained how a unified approach countrywide could save these protected rodents from extinction in the UK. Her national experience and local knowledge gave rise to many questions from the audience at the end.



Merryl speaks of the natural inhabitants of the riverbank.

Spires Ecology Ltd.

Consultancy Innovation Research

For more information on Merryl's conservation work:
<https://sites.google.com/spireecology.com/sel/home>

FUTURE DATES AND EVENTS

The next Midweek Walk is on
Thursday 7th March 2024
meeting for lunch at 12.30 pm at
The Bull, The Green, Great Milton
OX44 7NS



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

APPLETON WITH EATON HISTORY GROUP

**A history of what the
English have eaten**
a talk by **Diane Purkiss**



Thursday 7th March,
7.30pm in
Appleton Village Hall
Entry £5

Everyone welcome
Wine and soft drinks
available

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT JACKIE LEWIS
TEL.07813 602638, EMAIL JACKIELEWISTHAME@GMAIL.COM

CORAL RAG 12

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

Previous volumes are still
available from Sheila Tilley at
the evening meetings.

Programme for 2024

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

Thursday 14th March :

"Supernovae" - a talk 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

Tbc May : Visit to Buscot House

Thursday 16th May : Astronomy Group 7pm in the Small
Hall

Monday 27th May :

"Eynsham Abbey" - a talk by Steve Parrinder

Tbc June :

Visit to Ewelme Church and Almshouses with Prof. Susan
Doran - 11am

Monday 24th June :

"The Ridgeway and Lowbury Hill from above" - a talk by
Hedley Thorne

*Dates for the rest of 2024 are on the website:
www.marchamsociety.org.uk
or printed on your yellow membership card.*