



*The
Marcham
Society*

Newsletter

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

As I write this the Coronavirus pandemic is still part of our everyday lives and whilst we were all hoping to be able to meet in the new village hall for the new season, at least in a limited way, this has proven to be impossible. Whilst I am encouraged that so many of our members have been able to take advantage of our lectures taking place over Zoom, I am also aware that there are a few to whom this way of delivering the talks is not possible for them.

Your committee members have been looking at ways in which we can deliver our talks to as many of our members as possible and there are two developments from our recent talk on the 28th September which encouraged me. The first was seeing one of our oldest members, Jean Creasy, on the Zoom conference call being hosted in another member's home. The second is the way that Zoom has actually enabled connection with those members outside the village, from as far away as Canada or old friends who have moved away from the village but still like to stay in touch.

We have tested a method whereby we can continue to work over Zoom and when permitted, to meet physically in the village hall at the same time as using Zoom. We are calling this method a 'hybrid'. Delivering lectures in this way, we feel, will continue to allow us to develop the reach of the Society and provide a service to both those that want and can meet in person and those that are either living remotely from the village or are not able to meet at the hall for any other reason.

Page 1	Coronavirus Update
Page 2	New Village Hall Zoom talks photos
Page 3	Walks
Page 4	Walks Photos
Page 5	Walks Photos New Home for the Archive
Page 6	Future Talks and Dates for Diary

We have had two Zoom talks since the last Newsletter and below are some screenshots of what was delivered to us over the internet.

One of the advantages of Zoom is the ability to see marvelous photographs close up on your screen, which is never as good in the hall setting.

Village Hall and the Marcham Society

Once we are allowed into the village hall building MCG have offered us the big hall, because that has a hearing loop installed. We have the Guides to thank for this as they have agreed to move to the small hall on the Monday that we are due to meet and we thank them for their flexibility in this. We do not envisage being able to meet in the hall until at least the new year, but assuming we can eventually use it some time in 2021 I would like to be able to test the hearing loop and the acoustics with some volunteers from the membership who normally rely on the hearing loop, so please bear this in mind and think about whether you would be able to give us some time to help with the test.

Screenshots from two of our recent Zoom talks below

Graham Lenton: 'Why are Birds so Different?'



John Vigar: 'Balls, Bedrooms and Banquets'



Eric and Sheila Dunford felt able to recommence the mid-week walks in a limited and Covid safe way in August. Two small groups were created and the rules as they were then were observed.

Mid-Week Walks

The Marcham Society walkers were in evidence again in August of this year, when the Covid threat had receded somewhat. Eric led a small group of walkers from 'The Maybush' along the Thames path towards Longworth and back via Harrowdown Hill.







We have Moved the Archive!

One rather warm day over the Summer we moved the Marcham Society Archive away from Manor Farm to its new home in the village hall. Many thanks to Eric and Sheila Dunford and Simon Blackmore for their help in achieving this whilst maintaining safe social distancing. Also thanks to the Cumber family for being able to host it for many years and then donating the shelving for our use in its new home.



The Marcham Society was founded with three pillars of investigation in mind, local history, archaeology and natural history. In designing our programme year by year we have strived to keep those three subjects in mind. The exception has been when giving the annual lecture, where a notable villager provides a talk from their own sphere of experience or expertise.

This year Chris Brotherton will give our annual lecture, giving his experiences of building our village hall.

As you can see from the lectures we have planned, we have moved away slightly from the purely local in some cases, but we think that we have secured an attractive programme of wide interest.

Dates for the Diary

Mon 26 October :

Janice Kinory : Salt production, distribution and use in Prehistoric and Roman Britain

Mon 23 Nov

Sheila D : Marcham's Notable Houses
Simon B : Marcham in the Domesday Book

Mon 7 December

Introduction from Peter Steere, Christmas Carols and presents and online Quiz from Malvin

Mon 25 January

Annual Lecture : Chris Brotherton : Land and Sales Director of Thomas Homes Ltd. : The Marcham Community Hall - The Story of The Build.

Mon 22 February

Hugh Warwick : Linescapes : Remapping and Reconnecting Britain's Fragmented Wildlife. Rob Macfarlane : "Glorious, political, passionate, perceptive"

Mon 22 March

Marie-Louise Kerr : Oxfordshire on Canvas : How artists have captured our local area and been influenced by it.

Mon 26 April

Tim Healey : Pagans and Puritans : May Day celebrations

Mon 24 May

Ed Peveler from Chilterns AoNB : 'Beacons of the Past, LiDAR, and woodland archaeology in South Oxfordshire'.

Mon 28 June

Mark Davies : The history of the Oxford Botanic Garden, founded in 1621, celebrating 400 years.

We may be able to arrange a guided tour of the Botanic Garden following this talk.

Mon 26 July BBQ