



# Newsletter

The next Marcham Society Zoom Talk is on Monday 22nd March at 7.30

## **“Oxfordshire on Canvas” by Marie-Louise Kerr**

A talk explaining how artists have captured our local area and been influenced by it.

### **“CURATOR WITHOUT A MUSEUM”**

Marie-Louise has over 15 years' experience of working in the heritage sector, including 10 years as a curator looking after museum collections and developing exhibitions. She has cared for a wide variety of collections such as regimental, textile, social history, archaeology and the history of science.

As an esteemed public speaker and experienced media professional who has worked in both television and radio, Marie-Louise aims to deliver educational, inspirational and entertaining talks to a variety of audiences. She strives to make every event a memorable one, delivering engaging public talks on subjects that engender pride and renewed interest in the local area.

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Oxfordshire on  
canvas

## Review of the last talk

### "LINESCAPES" by Hugh Warwick

On Monday 22nd February 2021 Marcham Society members enjoyed a lecture titled 'Linescapes' given by ecologist and writer Hugh Warwick, author of 'A Prickly Affair' and 'Hedgehog' which reflect his in depth study of these animals. In May 2017, his book titled 'Linescapes: Remapping and Reconnecting Britain's fragmented Wildlife' was published.

Hugh explained how the landscape has been transformed by the lines or barriers created by human activity, in terms of hedges, walls, ditches and dykes that enclose the land. Green lanes, roads, canals and even power lines connect but they also fragment the environment and have had a significant impact on wildlife.

Linear features and field systems that can be seen on Dartmoor indicate that such fragmentation dates from the earliest times. However, a well managed landscape can provide good habitats for wildlife. Green lanes and the traditional Devon hedgerows made partly of stone wall over planted with beech can benefit wildlife as they create a micro-climate, encouraging lush vegetation. Unfortunately, as Hugh pointed out, some 60% of UK hedgerows are in poor condition providing no benefits to either landowners or wildlife.

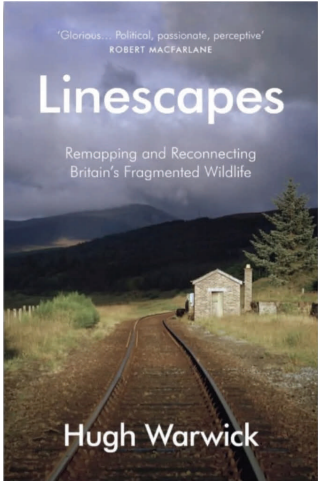
The Industrial Revolution saw the creation of canals which changed the landscape completely. Recently there has been regeneration of waterways which now provide an improved habitat for otters, leaf cutter bees and other endangered species. Railways and roads provide us with faster transport and unfortunately, as Hugh pointed out, the number of animals killed is very high but he suggested that they too can create a beneficial habitat and a useful corridor for particular species. There is much unused 'wasteland' that border these highways and with careful planning they can be surrounded with coppiced woodland. Even the salty edges of Motorways encourage such plants as Danish Scurvy grass.

Steps can be taken to alleviate the fragmentation of the countryside. The successful use of tunnels and eco-ducts can reconnect wildlife and have been shown to be effective (below left). Hugh gave us several examples of success stories, not least at the Devil's Punchbowl with the transformation of the A3 by the Hindhead Tunnel (below right). Land around all barriers can be managed with wildlife in mind but of course both the will and extra funding are needed.

A lively question and answer session followed - a big thank you goes to Hugh Warwick for his lively, interesting and passionate talk.

*Fredericka Smith*

# Photographs from Hugh Warwick's Talk



## News about Marcham Society Walks

### MarSoc Mid-Week Walks

Eric and Sheila Dunford hope that the regular monthly walks will begin again as soon as possible ... perhaps in April, if the Covid regulations allow.

We will give notice of any walks that are planned in our regular emails to members.

### The Marcham Mill Bridge

At the Marcham Society AGM last week, Eric Dunford reported that he had received the following notification by email regarding the repair of the bridge on Mill Road:

*“The project to repair the bridge is proceeding and plans are still on course to repair Marcham Mill Bridge during summer 2021.*

*A full planning application will be submitted shortly, which should be visible on the S&V planning portal as soon as they have registered it.*

*A design in principal [AIP] document has been prepared outlining what technical work is required to repair the structure so the Conservation Officer is aware of how we intend to reconstruct the bridge.*

*The planning consultation is a statutory eight weeks, then tendering and award leading to construction on site. But we are making good progress with monthly meetings between key parties with much of the design work already complete.*

*There is a shared ambition from all concerned to seek a resolution as soon as possible.”*

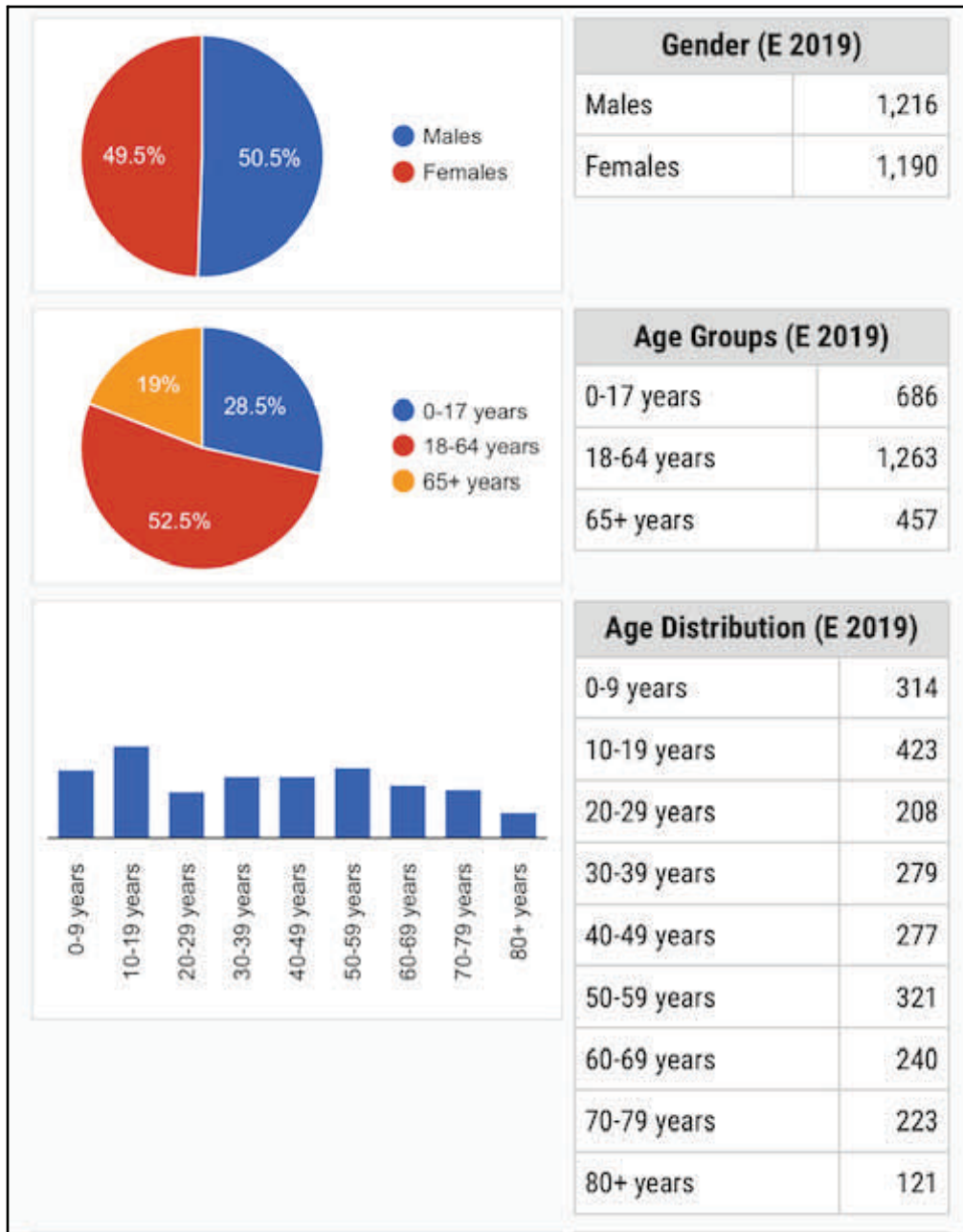
**LOCKDOWN by Christine Whild**

Like a child let loose in the 'Pick and Mix'  
Freed to be foolish, alone -  
Just the world and me;  
Read a book, write a note to a friend,  
Play the piano, and then realise  
That two hours have gone by;  
Another two hours among the weeds,  
With a robin picking worms and seeds;  
Or mowing the lawn,  
Then sit idly in the summer house, just watching;  
Wet day? I might pick up a duster,  
Or eye the vacuum cleaner.

Lockdown – I love it,  
But shouldn't say so out loud  
There's misery out there, and a crowd  
Of folks are dying each day;  
I am aware that we are in a crisis  
But there's only so much worrying that I can do.  
And kindness and generosity abound;  
God has reclaimed his world,  
And let me be part of it;  
Selfish as a toddler, heaven on Earth,  
I feel privileged and  
Allowed to be selfish -  
By decree.

# census 2021

You will have read in the MAD News about the census on **Sunday 21st March** and the chart showing the age profiles for Marcham and Shippon from the last two censuses of 2001 and 2011. Below is the estimated breakdown of the population of Marcham on its own that was carried out in 2019.



## FUTURE DATES

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.

If you have suggestions for future talks and topics for visiting speakers, please contact the Secretary,  
Shirley Eccles:  
shirley.marsoc@gmail.com

## Dates for the Diary

### Monday 22 March

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

### Monday 26 April

Tim Healey : *Pagans and Puritans* :  
May Day celebrations

### Monday 24 May

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

### Monday 28 June

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

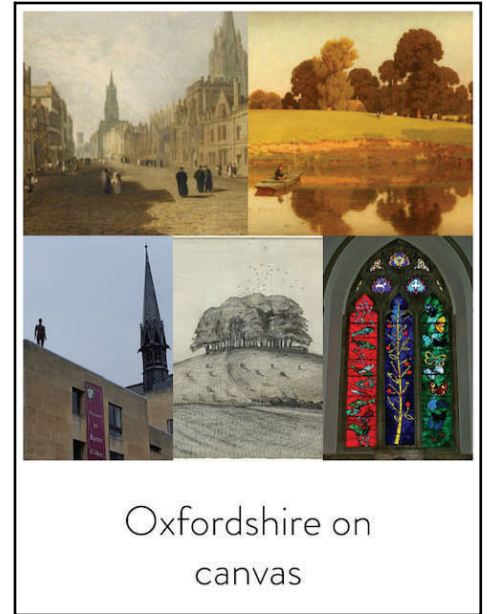
*We may be able to arrange a guided tour of the Botanic Garden following this talk if regulations allow.*

### Monday 26 July BBQ (if Covid regulations allow)

Reminders and Zoom links will also be sent to members by email.

All these events are at 7.30 pm unless otherwise notified.

Information about the programme of talks is available on the society's website and on Facebook.



[www.marchamsociety.org.uk](http://www.marchamsociety.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/marchamsociety](https://www.facebook.com/marchamsociety)