# www.marchamsociety.org.uk



# The Marcham Society

# NOVEMBER 2023 Volume 6, Issue 10

# Society Newsletter

# **Our Meetings in November**

#### "The Visible Universe"

(Capturing the entire celestial sphere in a single image) a talk to be given to the Astronomy Group by Max Whitby

Thursday 23rd November at 7pm in the Small Hall, Marcham Centre



'The Visible Universe' is a book of breathtaking inspiration and motivates many to venture outside and take in the majesty of the night sky. Max Whitby, co-author of the book, has worked for the BBC where he produced films for the Horizon series. He has two BAFTA awards for his work.

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

Monday 27th November at 7.15 for 7.45 in the Main Hall, Marcham Centre

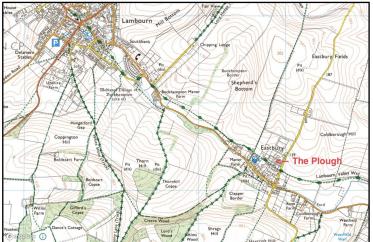


Some field-names have been lost, yet they are still recoverable from past records. They are valuable sources for the history of a landscape and its people. Through analysis of the field-names and charter bounds of Whitehill Township, Tackley, Oxfordshire, and one field-name in particular, 'Stonyborow', combined with recent archaeological data discovered in the area, light is shed upon Roman settlement near 'Akeman Street'.

# The October Midweek Walk

On Thursday 5th October, Eric and Sheila Dunford organised a walk from the 'The Plough' at Eastbury. We walked by Cleeve Wood, the Watts Bank Reserve and Hungerford Gap towards Lambourne on a circular route. Passing the site of the medieval village of Bockhampton, the path took us along an old railway track and brought us back to the pub in Eastbury.

(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

# **Our October Events**

## The Visit to Nuffield Place (Wednesday 18th October)





## The Opening of the Mill Bridge (Saturday 21st October)





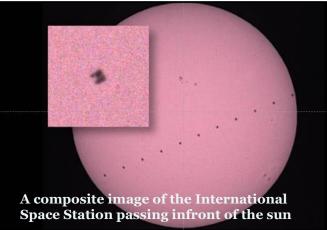




# **The Astronomy Group**

Thursday 19th October 2023





## "When the Chips are down" - by Dr Chris Frost





We had a good audience for the second MAG meeting of this season on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October, although the weather was again not suitable for outdoor observations.

The regular items of News and Sightings were followed by a fascinating talk by Dr Chris Frost from the Rutherford Appleton Lab (RAL) on "When the Chips are Down" – the impact of space radiation on electronics. He described the historic development of integrated circuits and micro-chips and their increasing susceptibility to neutrons produced by cosmic rays hitting the upper atmosphere.

These affect electronics and can result in unexpected failures, especially concerning if they happen in safety-critical systems such aircraft and car control systems. Chris described the test simulations (at accelerated rates) that the ISIS Spallation neutron source at RAL provides for various companies involved in chip design and electronic systems.

Copies of the presentations are available upon request. Please email: membership@marchamsociety.org.uk.

# "It's a Bat's Life" - a talk by David Endacott Monday 23rd October 2023

## **Oxfordshire Bat Group**

Oxfordshire Bat Group are volunteers who share a passion for bats. The group is a registered charity and proud partner of the Bat Conservation Trust. Their goal is to foster the recording and conservation of bats within Oxfordshire and the wider UK. To that end they aim to increase the appreciation and understanding of all aspects of bats within our community and beyond.















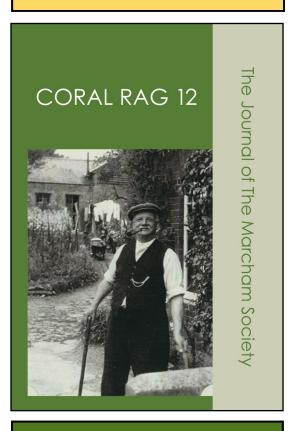
To learn more about David's work: www.oxfordshirebats.org/what-we-do.php

# **FUTURE DATES AND EVENTS**

The next Midweek Walk is on
Thursday 2nd November
meeting for lunch
at 12.30 pm at the
Bell Hotel, Church Street,

Bell Hotel, Church Street, Charlbury, OX7 3PP

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



## **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

### 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'

#### 2024

#### Wednesday 17th January:

Visit to Woodstock Museum and lunch - 10.30am

### Monday 22nd January:

ANNUAL LECTURE:

"Go West, young man" talk by Richard Oliver

#### Thursday 25th January:

Astronomy Group 7pm in the Small Hall

**February**: Visit to MINI Production Line (TBC)

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