

*The
Marcham
Society*

**JANUARY 2024
Volume 7, Issue 1**

Newsletter

Our Meetings in January 2024

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2024!**

A visit to Woodstock

*The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock has a new exhibition
on Sir John Betjeman and his teddy bear, Archie*

Wednesday 17th January at 10.30am in Woodstock

"Go West, young man!"

The Annual Lecture - A talk about his professional life by Richard Oliver

Monday 22nd January at 7.15 for 7.45pm in the Main Hall, Marcham Centre

"Titanic... did the Moon sink it?"

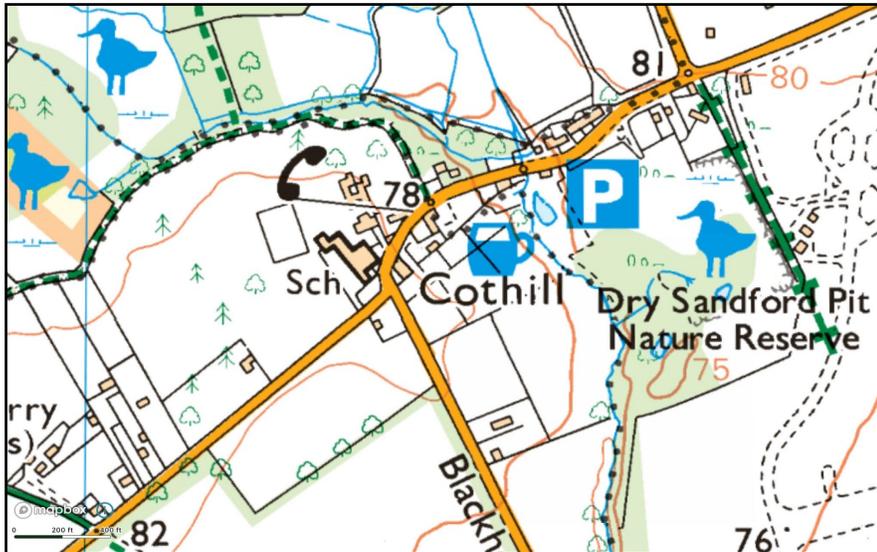
A talk to the Astronomy Group by Barry Kellett

Thursday 25th January at 7pm in the Small Hall, Marcham Centre

Thursday 7th December Midweek Walk

Eric and Sheila Dunford organised a walk from the Merry Miller in Cothill and the brief walk in wet and muddy conditions ended up at Di Hutchings' house for refreshments!

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



The next Midweek Walk on **Thursday 4th January 2024** will return to the Merry Miller for lunch and from there head through Dry Sandford and back via Row Leigh Lane.

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

Monday 11th December - the Christmas Party



December Puzzles

The Christmas Party Quiz

Malvin Drakley kindly put together a six part quiz with questions on the following topics:

1. Music
2. Shakespeare
3. Insects and Spiders
4. Famous News Events
5. Pot Luck
6. BBC's Sports personalities of the year - past winners

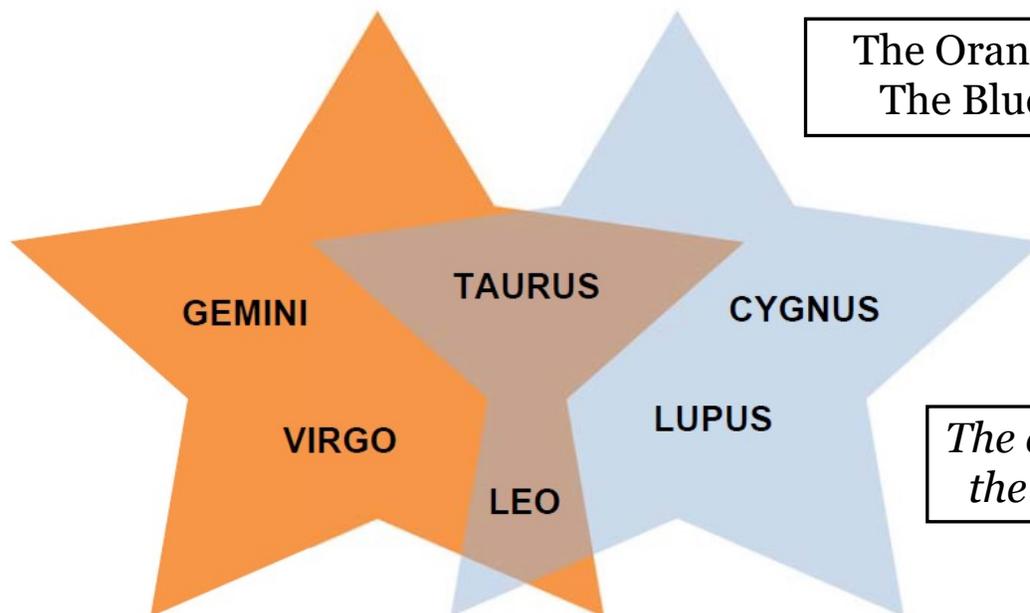
The quiz winners are shown on page 3 in the bottom right-hand photograph.

If you would like a copy of the questions and answers, email: MarchamSociety@gmail.com

The Astronomy Puzzle

Since ancient times, humans have grouped stars into constellations that form imagined patterns in the night sky. They have been named after many things and have been used throughout history for a range of purposes.

Can you work out what two classifications have been used to sort the six constellations shown in the Venn diagram below? Each star shape represents a different rule and the overlapping area in the middle applies to both star shapes.



The Orange Star = ?
The Blue Star = ?

*The answer is on
the back page!*

The Astronomy Group

“The Christmas Star”

Thursday 14th December 2023



We had our best turnout so far for the MAG meeting on Thursday 14th December. The regular items of News and Sightings were followed by the special balloon debate held on “The Christmas Star” – its origins. The debate featured ‘competing’ viewpoints debated by Nick Weldon (scriptural/biblical origins), Simon Blackmore (mythical and historical aspects) and Jim Asher (astronomical evidence).

Bartle Frere chaired the debate in a very witty and entertaining manner. The results of the debate were scored by audience votes, which were won by the vicar, Nick Weldon, who was able to ‘remain in the balloon’ while the other two were consigned to be ‘thrown out to save the falling balloon’. The Chair, however, invoked another Christmas story by bringing in Santa Claus to rescue the two to be jettisoned with parachutes, thus avoiding any casualties!

Copies of the presentations are available upon request.

Please email: MarchamSociety@gmail.com

FUTURE DATES AND EVENTS

The next Midweek Walk is on
Thursday 4th January 2024
meeting for lunch at 12.30 pm at
**The Merry Miller,
Cothill, OX13 6JW**



For more information please email:
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ASTRONOMY STAR PUZZLE

Here is the answer...

The Orange Star contains
Signs of the Zodiac

The Grey Star contains
Names of Animals

CORAL RAG 12

The last issue of Coral Rag is
available for £7 in the
Marcham Village Shop.
The cover features George
Leader Fairbrother,
a Marcham WW1 hero.

It contains many other people
and items of local interest.

Programme for 2024

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

Wednesday 17th January :

Visit to Woodstock Museum and lunch - 10.30am
Exhibition of the Life and Work of Sir John Betjeman

Monday 22nd January :

ANNUAL LECTURE :
"Go West, young man" A talk by Richard Oliver

Thursday 25th January :

Astronomy Group 7pm in the Small Hall
A talk by Barry Kellett

Thursday 22nd February :

Astronomy Group 7pm in the Small Hall

Monday 26th February :

"Water voles : a national approach to saving Ratty"
A talk by Merryl Gelling

Wednesday 13th March :

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

Thursday 14th March :

Astronomy Group 7pm in the Small Hall

Monday 25th March :

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

Wednesday 17th April :

Tour of Garford Village with Mike Greig - 2pm

Thursday 18th April :

Astronomy Group 7pm in the Small Hall

Monday 22nd April :

MEMBERS EVENING with refreshments

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