www.marchamsociety.org.uk

Marcham SOCIETY

December 2026

Volume 9

Issue 11

In All Saints Church on Monday 14th December at 6.30pm



Email *shirley.marsoc@gmail.com* to book your place!

Our November Midweek Walk

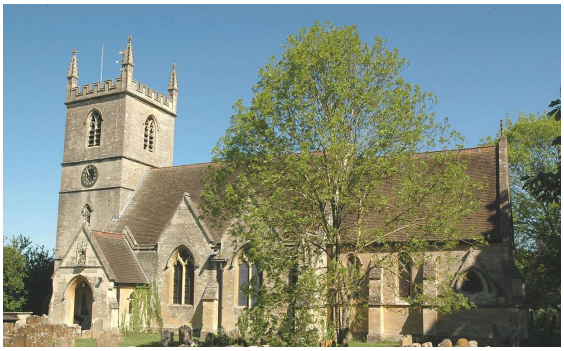
The White House
1 Grove Road,
Bladon,
Woodstock,
OX20 1RQ

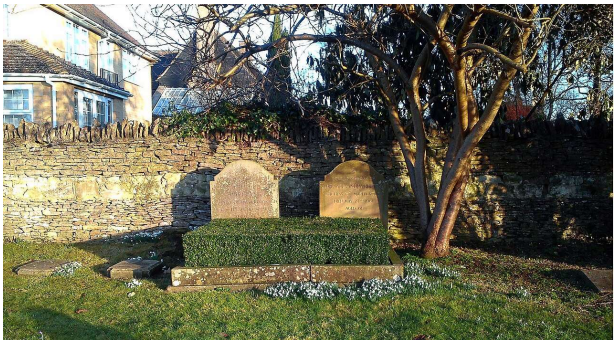


Our 5th November walk was around 4.75 miles. After leaving the *White House Community Pub* in Bladon, the group visited the church of St Martin, where Winston Churchill and other members of the Spencer-Churchill family are buried. They walked on to the village of Begbroke, taking in Bladon Heath and Begbroke wood to St Michaels church and priory. Our thanks to Martin Whild who booked our lunch and organised this outing.









The next Mid Week walk on Thursday, 3rd December 2026

For this short winter walk we will meet at ***The Queen's Head***, 26 Church Road, Horspath, OX33 1RU (Map Ref SP573049), just east of Oxford, at 12.30 for lunch. At 1.30 we will be walking about three miles towards Headington and climbing up to Shotover Plain before dropping back down to Horspath. There is a climb through the woods, but it is in the Country Park so the paths should be good.

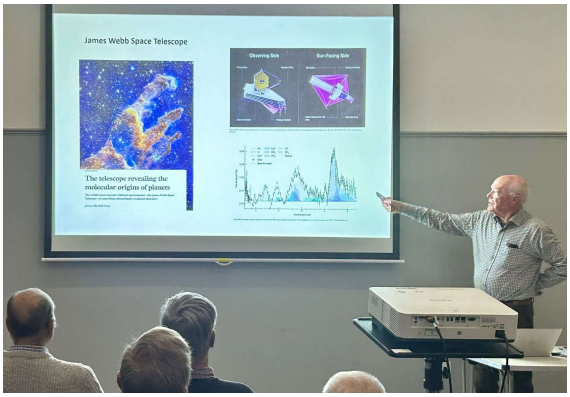
No need to pre-order, but please let us know a few days before if you are coming:
walks@marchamsociety.org.uk

The Astronomy Group

Wednesday 18th November
in the Small Hall, Marcham Centre

"Where are we really from?"

A talk by Kevin Langley



Thank you to all who came to the meeting on Wednesday evening. The regular round-up of News focussed on the big event of the day – when the Voyager 1 spacecraft passed beyond one light-day distant from Earth (at 10:16 that morning). Members Matter featured several striking images from our members – including some from the small hours! Thank you to all who sent in images.



The main talk of the evening was from Kevin Langley, who gave a far-reaching and thought-provoking talk *"Where are we really from?"* about what is known and what is theorised about the origins of life.

Kevin described scientific discoveries of increasingly complex organic molecules in interstellar space, in and on asteroids and other planets, and the various theories of how these complex molecules had formed.

PDF copies of slides presented in the meeting are available by links on the Astronomy page of the Marcham Society website: https://marchamsociety.org.uk/astronomy.php ***Jim Asher***

Our next Astronomy Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday **16th December 2026** at 7:30pm. The main feature will be three short light-hearted presentations by members, competing to propose suitable courses for an imaginary Christmas meal on board the International Space Station. It will be followed, as has become our custom, by seasonal refreshments. We encourage you all to come along.

The date for the January Astronomy Group meeting will be **Wednesday 13th January.**

Our November Talk

“Otters” by Lesley Wright

Our history with otters, how we nearly lost them and how we got them back













Lesley told us that the Eurasian otter had declined due to pollution and other threats including habitat loss and hunting. However otter populations are now recovering in many parts of Europe. In the United Kingdom, for example, the number of sites with an otter presence increased by 55% between 1994 and 2002.

In August 2011, the Environment Agency announced that otters had returned to every county in England, having previously disappeared from all but the West Country and parts of Northern England. This recovery is due partly to a ban on the most harmful pesticides that has been in place across Europe since 1979 and also partly to improvements in local water quality.

Future events and dates

December 2026

Thursday 3rd: Midweek Walk meeting at 12.30 (contact walks@marchamsociety.org.uk)

Monday 14th: Christmas Party 6.30pm in All Saints Church, Marcham

(See the information on the front cover)

Wednesday 16th: Astronomy Christmas Meeting 7.30pm in the Small Hall
"Astrochef: three courses"



January 2027

Thursday 7th: Midweek Walk meeting at 12.30 (contact walks@marchamsociety.org.uk)

Wednesday 13th: Astronomy Meeting 7.30 in the Small Hall, Marcham Centre
"Astrophotography in our light-polluted skies"
a talk by Dr Patrick Tan

Monday 25th: *"The Annual Lecture"* 7.30 in the Main Hall, Marcham Centre
by James Allan (Emeritus Professor of Eastern Art)

==========

Look out for notices on our Facebook Page or in the latest issue of MAD News

MAD News www.madnews.co.uk
Cothill - Frilford - Garford - Gozzards Ford - Marcham - Tubney

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PITS 2027

During 2025-26 there have been fourteen one metre square test pits in Marcham gardens with a variety of interesting finds - coins, bones and pottery. If you would like to host a test pit in your garden next year, please contact: *archaeology@MarchamSociety.org.uk*