



*The  
Marcham  
Society*

# Newsletter

## Programme Resumes on 11th September

The new season of Marcham Society lectures starts on 11th September and is also the meeting at which we have our AGM. Committee member Malvin Drakley will be providing the talk entitled:

### Seeing Britain from the Sea

Refreshments will be served from 7:30 p.m. and the meeting will start at 7:45 p.m.

## Subscription Payments Stay at Same Rate

Please remember to bring your cheque book (or cash) to renew your subscription. We are pleased to say that subscription rates remain unchanged for 2018-19:

Single £12, Family £21

Page 1	New series of talks starts 11th September
Page 2	Restoration of the Church Bier Progress
Page 3	Archiving Meeting  Two Committee Members Retiring



## Bier Restoration

Committee member Malvin Drakley has rescued the bier that is owned by All Saints' church in Marcham but which has been stored in a barn at Manor farm for many years and, as can be seen by the top picture, it was in a sorry state. Malvin has started the restoration by dismantling all the components and sanding down the wooden structure as can be seen in the second picture.

Since May much more work has been done and the pictures below are from

June of this year. Progress is being made!

*What is a Bier? - a movable frame on which a coffin or corpse is placed before burial*

### Dismantled Components and Cleaning

The work of restoration is slow and painstaking. Wheels which have not turned for many years, hinges that are seized and axles that are dry and ungreased can be made to work again by cleaning away the rust and judicious use of lubrication. As can be seen in these latest pictures from Malvin it looks like the wooden mallet (gentle persuader) oil can and can of WD40 are all in operation here.



## Volunteers at the May Archiving Meeting at Manor Farm

**Archive Meeting,  
Wednesday 3rd**

**October 2:30 p.m.**

There will be another chance to help catalogue the contents of the archive boxes in the Boardroom at Manor Farm. We are close to completing the first phase of the cataloguing and there may be an opportunity to participate in a workshop day with the Berkshire Local History Association to talk to others about the issues surrounding local society archives and ways to resolve those.



### Joy Myatt and Marge Hall Retire from the Committee

For over 15 years Marge and Joy have served on the Committee. Over this time, Joy has looked after our refreshment needs, cheerfully lugging food and drink to meetings and events. She has also put up meeting notices around the village.

Marge did sterling work on sales of the book *Marcham Remembered*, liaising with local shops and dealing with individual requests, as well as selling and keeping up stocks of other Society publications - making sure that they were available for sale at meetings. She also helped organise several group holidays.

Both can always be relied upon to do whatever has been asked, with energy and good humour. We will miss them both at the committee meetings, but I am sure they will continue to be active members of the Society.