

# Newsletter

## Committee News

It was agreed at the recent committee meeting (26th March) that Simon Blackmore, long-time committee member, would take on the role of membership secretary for the society with immediate effect. This should help the society to be able to keep in better touch with its members.

Sheila Tilley, a newer committee member, has been enthusiastically taking on the role of looking after publications for the society and has expanded this to become the project co-ordinator for the publications group, a newly set up sub group of the committee to specifically work on the publication of Coral Rag 10.

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## Mid-week Walks

The walks take place monthly and are advertised in both the Marcham and District News and on the Marcham Society website.

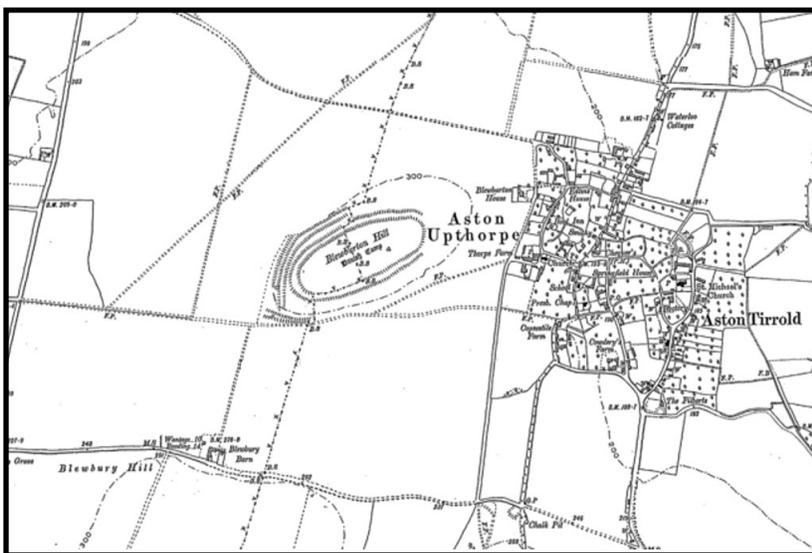
Members free, non-members £1. Visitors are particularly welcome.



Blewburton Hill

The recent walk to Blewburton Hill shows the group's continuing interest in Iron Age fortified settlements. Blewburton Hill is the site of an Iron Age hillfort located near Aston Upthorpe. It was a univallate hillfort (with a single rampart). The hill fort may have been occupied from the 4th century BC to the 1st century BC, and replaced a small settlement surrounded by a stockade, which is estimated to have been built in the 5th or 6th century BC.\*

\*[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blewburton\\_Hill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blewburton_Hill)





The hillfort encloses an area of approximately 4 hectares (430,000 sq ft). There was an 11-metre (36 ft) wide entrance on the west side of the fort, which may have possessed an overhead walkway. The gateway was protected by a ditch behind it, although this was later filled in. Unusually, a number of horse burials were found within the entrance. The gateway appears to have been set back within an approaching corridor between the rampart. During the second phase of the fort, excavated postholes demonstrate that it possessed a double gate.\*

\*[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blewburton\\_Hill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blewburton_Hill)

The walk took place on a blustery but bright day.

It included a visit to a local church and lunch at The Chequers in nearby Aston Tirrold.





the Great C



Church of St. Michael, Aston Tirrold, and The Chequers pub: sustenance for body and soul



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## *Coral Rag Progress*

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### Coral Rag

The Coral Rag is the Journal of the Marcham Society and its name is taken from the local coral rag-stone, the Corallian limestone on which Marcham stands and which provided the building material for most of the old stone buildings in the village.

Another meeting of the publications group took place on the 11th March. It was agreed at the meeting that the new Coral Rag 10 should retain the same format as previous issues and that there should be contributions from local history, including personal reminiscences, archaeology, with reports on local finds and items on natural history with focus on the village surroundings.

The next meeting will take place on the 7th of May and it is not too late to take part. One area needing help is the reading and collation of local sources for the local history section. The idea of 'research buddies' was put forward and accepted by the group. Research can often be a lonely business, so if you would like to contribute, but would prefer to do this with a buddy, please get in touch with Sheila Tilley, (sheilajtilley@gmail.com) or any member of the committee.

### Date for Diary

9 April The Making of Chipping Norton, Dr Adrienne Rosen

*The Making of Chipping Norton: History & Buildings 1150-1750*

Adrienne Rosen will be taking us through the history of Chipping Norton between 1150 and 1750 by examining the evidence that can be found in the buildings, with support from documentary evidence. Chipping Norton today is a thriving Oxfordshire market town of some 6,500 people at the eastern edge of the Cotswolds. Its handsome Georgian houses and iconic tweed mill are well known, but the town's history goes back much further, and by looking closely at its buildings and streets, survivals from earlier times can be found, all the way back to its medieval origins, to explore both what remains of its early fabric and what was once there. Adrienne is co-author (with Janice Cliffe) of a recently published book of the same title.