

*The  
Marcham  
Society*

# Newsletter

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter. Some may think that because the Society is not hosting lectures that nothing is happening. This is far from the truth. This edition will report on the new subscription payment system to be introduced, the progress on Coral Rag 10, the Society's preparations for the MaD Weekend, our search for new Secretary and a local history emergency with a happy ending.

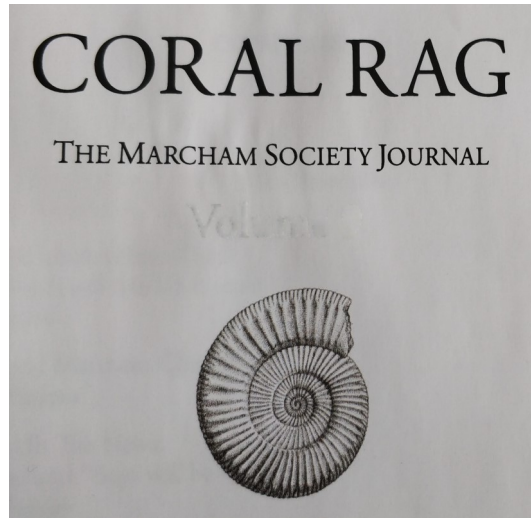
## We are changing the way we are doing things

Please look out for a communication (via email if we have your email address) from Simon Blackmore, our Membership Secretary, concerning the payment of subs and a pre-payment option for Coral Rag 10. (spblackmore@gmail.com)

The subscriptions will be due from the 1st of September each year and we are holding the prices at £12 for individual and £21 for family membership, but rather than everybody paying at the door during the first few meetings we have decided on a new plan which Simon will be implementing. This will allow for easier and quicker access to the venue and no confusion as to who has paid their subs and who has not. Only visitors will be asked for cash at the door.

Page 1	Changing the way we are doing things
Page 2	Coral Rag 10 content and availability
Page 3	Village Model Rescued from Demolition.
Page 4	Dates for the Diary
Page 5	Dates for the Diary cont'd

Coral Rag is the journal of the Marcham Society, last published in 2012. We are proud to announce that the new edition will be available for purchase in time for the MaD Weekend at the end of September.



## Coral Rag 10

The publishing group within the Marcham Society have been working hard and have accepted contributions on a range of subjects within the spheres of interest of the Society.

From local history we have articles concerning the first half of the twentieth century, ranging from WW1 and its impact on Marcham, another on Cothill School before and after WW1, the golden age of cycling around Marcham and surrounding areas in the 1920s.

Many of our members will remember Bernard Higgins and we are including a transcript of his reminiscences as recorded by Sheila Dunford. In the archaeology section we include the recently excavated Anson Field and the Big Leas field walking. Lastly, from our natural environment, an article on English hedgerows and our regular Plants of the Parish section. There is also an ancient Roman recipe that can still be made today - 'Modern Marcham Mulsum'.

The Institute has been a feature on North Street for very many years built by the Anson Trust in the early twentieth century.

Everything except the façade will be demolished very shortly as part of the development of the Anson Field and the new village hall.

## Village Model Rescued from Demolition.

I was passing the Institute on the afternoon of the 20th August and noticed that the doors were open and I wandered in. There were three workmen there and they had a handmade model of the village, that they had found, sitting on a table in the hall. The Institute is about to be demolished and this model was destined for the skip, so I asked to have it and they said no problem. It measures 4ft across and is 5ft 5in long, and it needs some repair work as well.

It was made by the Cubs some years ago, under supervision from Chris Ricketts, after Kings Avenue was built, but before any of the recent housing developments. Transport away from the Institute was an issue, but the workmen (pictured) kindly lashed it to their (rather large) forklift truck and it currently sits in the Chairmen's garage waiting a new home., rescued from the demolition. A local history disaster averted.



Thanks to these men and their forklift we rescued the model of the village.



---

## *Dates for the Diary*

---

10th September AGM followed by 'Two Hats', a talk by Brian Gower

The new season kicks off with the AGM. Judith Fontaine, after 17 years of incredibly dedicated service to the Society, has decided to retire. Her work behind the scenes, making sure everything runs smoothly, has been hugely appreciated and she will be much missed. This creates an opening for her replacement. If anyone feels they would like to offer themselves for consideration prior to the AGM, please email or speak to me: [petersteere@sky.com](mailto:petersteere@sky.com), 01865 391030 or 07783619101. I will be officially announcing the vacancy at the AGM.

After a short AGM (It was about 15 minutes last year) we will then have an entertaining talk from Brian Gower, which he has titled 'Two Hats', which is rather intriguing as he used to own a shoe shop not a hat shop....I look forward to seeing everybody there.

28th and 29th September Marcham and District Weekend (MaD Weekend)

The weekend at the end of September is a date to remember because there will be a range of activities and exhibitions throughout the village to raise funds for the facilities within the new village hall. The Marcham Society will be exhibiting and also there will be a stall to buy publications and for new members to join. Watch out for both and come along and support the event.

---

*Dates for the Diary*

---

Thursday, 5th September.

This month's walk from Upton to Chilton will follow the pretty valley through which the railway climbed into the Downs towards Newbury.

We will meet at The George and Dragon Inn, Reading Road, Upton (Map Ref: SU512867, Post Code OX11 9JJ) on the A417 between Harwell and Newbury at 12.30 for lunch and 1.30 for a walk of about 4 miles returning via the Lynch Way.

Members free, non-members £1; all welcome!