

Our next outing in November 2024

Visit to the Aston Martin Heritage Museum Thursday 21st November 2024 at 10.30am



More than 110 years of Aston Martin history is waiting for you at the Aston Martin Heritage Museum at Drayton St Leonard near Berinsfield.

The vehicle collection ranges from A3 - the oldest surviving Aston Martin in the world - through definitive models from every era to cars of today. Among Sir Stirling Moss's overalls and trophies from the heyday of Aston Martin Racing, you will be immersed in the automotive story of one of the most famous marques in British history. The tour will take about an hour and a half.

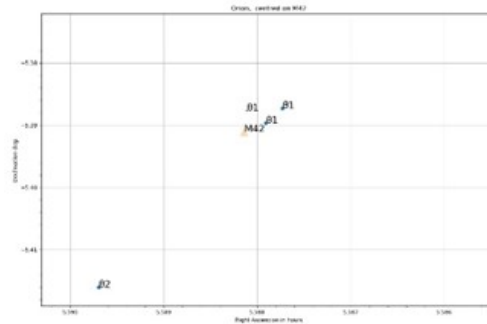
Directions : To find the museum take the Wimblestraw Rd off the A4074 which becomes Burcot Lane and then Dorchester Road and as you pass the village sign "Drayton St Leonard" turn right and carry on to the very end of the road.

Lunch : We hope to follow the visit with lunch at The Wandering Kitchen Cafe which is located on Burcot Lane by Queenford Lakes, about a mile from the museum. It is a small café and pre-booking will be necessary so please let me know your choice of lunch from the menu at www.thewanderingkitchen.co.uk

To join the outing, contact: shirley.marsoc@gmail.com

THE ASTRONOMY GROUP

A round-up of astronomy sightings during October, followed by "*DIY Star maps*" - a short talk by Bob Anderson



and a short talk/Q&A on how to choose a telescope
Thursday 14th November 2024 at 7 pm in the Small Hall,
Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, OX13 6TY

THE NOVEMBER TALK

"Conflict and good living: excavations at Besselsleigh"

a talk by Jane Harrison

Monday 25th November 2024 at 7.15 for 7.45pm in the Main Hall,
Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, OX13 6TY

Jane Harrison is an Early Medieval specialist and fieldwork director who has run excavations across Britain. She has taught at Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education, worked with Newcastle University, published widely and most recently excavated on Hadrian's Wall, and sites in Oxfordshire and North Northumberland.



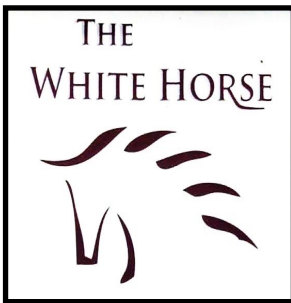
Photo : Adam Stanford, Sumo Services

This talk will discuss the deserted Besselsleigh Manor and village site in its wider Oxfordshire context. Besselsleigh is a great example of a place we now overlook that was once of considerable local significance.

Now a peaceful parkland area, the site was occupied from the Roman age to the nineteenth century and continuously from the Anglo-Saxon period. Over the years it saw advances in comfortable living, park design and women's education, as well as playing host to some important visitors and a significant role in the English Civil War.

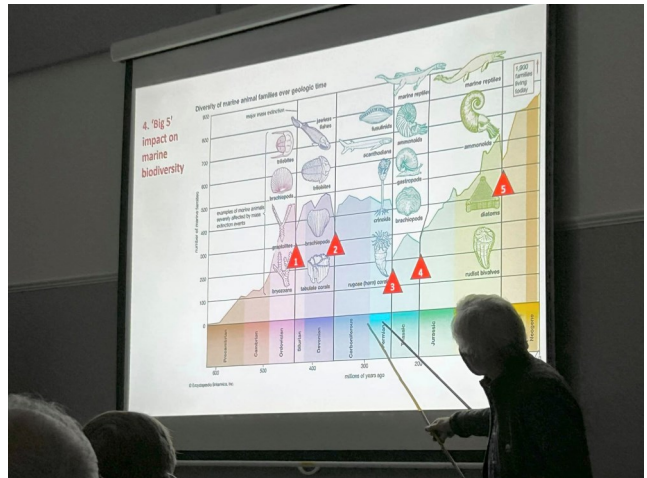
Thursday 3rd October - The Midweek Walk

The Group set off from the White Horse, Stonesfield, Witney, OX29 8EA at 12.30

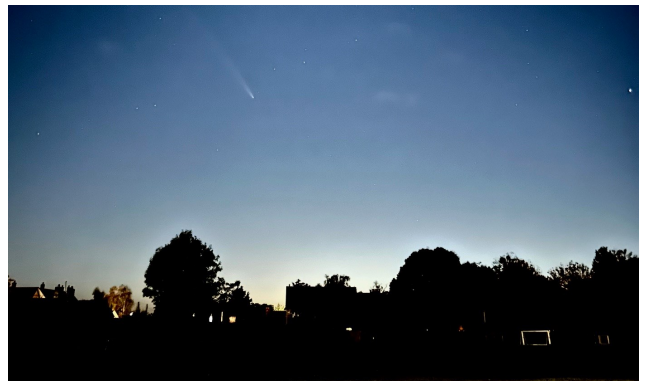


The Astronomy Group met on Thursday 17th October

A round-up of Astronomy sightings during October followed by a talk 'Biodiversity / evolution - effects of bolide impacts' presented by Julian Parfitt



From the terrace of the Marcham Centre we also managed to see and photograph the comet 'Tsuchinshan-Atlas' In the darkening sky over Anson Field...
...using cameras and iPhones!



‘Standing with Giants - British D-Day 80th Memorial Exhibition’

An outing to Stowe Gardens on Thursday 10th October 2024



"Fungi of Oxfordshire's Golden Triangle"

A talk by Judy Webb given on Monday 28th October



Judy Webb is a local ecologist who has been fascinated by fungi for many years and leads surveys for the *Fungus Survey of Oxfordshire* which is a local group who love fungi and are concerned with recording fungal species for conservation purposes.

Fungi come in a multitude of forms; from mushrooms, toadstools, brackets and boletes to puffballs, stinkhorns, coral fungi, rusts, smuts and mildews. Many are essential to plant and tree growth, some cause disease, many are important in decay and re-cycling. All sorts in many colourful forms are to be found in the exceptionally wildlife-rich area on the Jurassic Corallian sands of the Marcham - Cothill - Frilford area, *the 'golden triangle'*.

For more information on *Fungus Survey of Oxfordshire* with more photos and newsletters:

<http://www.fungusoxfordshire.org.uk/aboutus.html>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fungusoxfordshire>



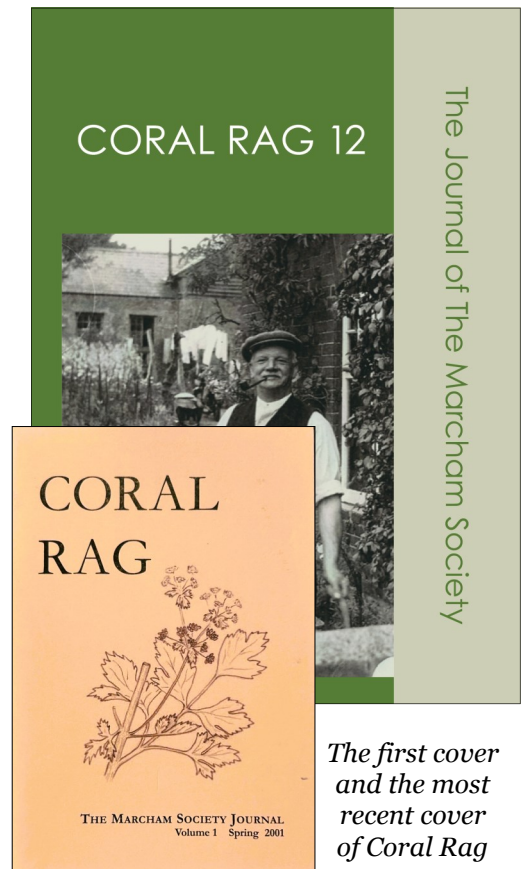
'CORAL RAG'

Coral Rag is the Journal of the Marcham Society and its name is taken from the local coral rag-stone (Corallian limestone) on which Marcham stands. To quote Eric Dunford who wrote the foreword of the first volume in 2001:

"This title was chosen to show that we want to contain some lighter material as well as the more serious reports, but it also draws attention to the fact that our whole environment is based on the Corallian rocks beneath our feet and that most of our old buildings are made of this 'rag' stone."

Since then there have been another eleven volumes published with a variety of articles covering Archaeology, Natural History, History and many other topics that relate to the parish of Marcham and the surrounding countryside.

Most of these past volumes are still available in the Village Shop or from Sheila Tilley at our regular meetings.



CORAL RAG 13

To celebrate the thirtieth year of the Marcham Society, we would like to publish a further volume, Coral Rag 13. We have a few articles already submitted but we would like to invite the members to write a contribution that involves the natural history, the past or more recent history of the village or its parish.

We would hope to review and collate articles by the end of January with the plan to be in print by Summer 2025. If you have a suggestion or an interest in writing a short piece, please contact:

Sheila Tilley: sheilajtilley@gmail.com

The Midweek Walk

The November Midweek Walk will be on
Thursday 7th November
 meeting at the



**Fox and Hounds,
 Christmas Common,
 OX49 5HL**

For more details on this or future walks please contact Eric Dunford:
e.dunford@btinternet.com
 01865 391439

Programme for 2024/25

*Unless otherwise announced, evening meetings will be held in the Main Hall of the Marcham Centre.
 Doors open at 7.15 pm for 7.45 pm start.*

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Thursday 7th November: Midweek Walk 12.30 pm
See on the left of this page for more information

Thursday 14th November: Astronomy Group 7pm
"DIY Star maps" by Bob Anderson; Choosing a telescope

Saturday 16th November: Christmas Craft Fair
See on the left of this page—we will have a stall there!

Monday 25th November: "Excavations at Besselsleigh Manor" by Jane Harrison

Monday 2nd December: The Christmas Party
NB This is a new date

Thursday 12th December: Astronomy Group 7pm

2025

Thursday 16th January: Astronomy Group
 "What JWST is teaching us about galaxies" a talk by Prof Andy Bunker

Monday 27th January: Annual Lecture:
"World Youth Service and Enterprise Charity"

Thursday 13th February: Astronomy Group
 "Solar missions and the role of RAL" a talk by Richard Harrison

Monday 24th February: "Coleshill: Nerve Centre of British Resistance." A talk by Gillian Cane



CHRISTMAS CRAFT & GIFT FAIR

RAFFLE ★ ORNAMENTS ★ GIFTS
 REFRESHMENTS ★ CRAFTS ★ JEWELLERY

Saturday 16 November | 2pm - 4.30pm
 Marcham Centre

Marcham and District News

MAD News for November and also past issues are available on line

<https://www.madnews.co.uk/index.php>

If you would like to help with the production of MAD News please contact the editor : *editor@madnews.co.uk*