

*The
Marcham
Society*

**SEPTEMBER 2024
Volume 7, Issue 8**

Newsletter

Our next meetings in September 2024

The Aurora by Alison Lawrie



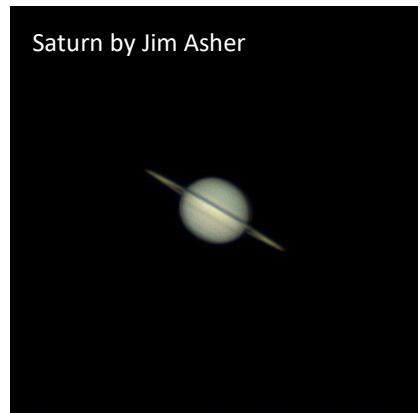
**The Astronomy
Group**

**Thursday 12th
September** at 7pm
in the Small Hall,
Marcham Centre

A round-up of
Astronomy sightings
over
the summer months

followed by a short film titled 'Lost Alignment' presented by Aaron Simpkins

Saturn by Jim Asher



Monday 23rd September 7.15 for 7.45pm in the Main Hall, Marcham Centre.

This meeting will include a short AGM before

'England's Oldest Town? The Archaeology of Abingdon'

A talk by Roger Thomas

Roger is a professional archaeologist who grew up in Abingdon. He spent most of his career working in archaeological roles at English Heritage (now Historic England). He is also currently chairman of the Abingdon Area Archaeology and History Society (AAAHS).



An Iron Age coin of Cunobelin
found in Abingdon*

Abingdon famously claims to be 'the oldest town in England', the oldest continuously occupied town in the country. Taking this claim as a starting point, Roger's talk will look at the impressively rich archaeology of Abingdon and its environs, which has major sites and discoveries of every period from the prehistoric onwards. The talk will also consider the relationship between the archaeology of Abingdon and that of Marcham, including the important Roman temple site at Manor Farm, Marcham.

**Cunobelin (Shakespeare's Cymbeline) ruled in SE England in the decades before the Roman invasion AD 43*

Thursday 4th JULY - Midweek Walk

The Group set off from The White House, Bladon, Woodstock, OX20 1RQ



Thursday 1st AUGUST - Midweek Walk

From the "Brewery Tap" in Abingdon back to Marcham via Drayton and the Mill Road bridge.



"The Annual Barbecue" Saturday 13th July 2024



A big thank you to Richard and Sian for hosting our Summer BBQ at the Bothy

SOME LOCAL MARCHAM FINDS



The coin above was found recently in a garden in the middle of Marcham.

It is rather difficult to recognise but on the right is a detailed description and a likely date.



Constantinopolis Nummus

A Roman bronze commemorative coin issued by the Emperor Constantine the Great, surrounded by a silver pendant casing. The obverse of the coin depicts the personification of the city Constantinople, as a helmeted female. She is shown holding a spear across her left shoulder, her head turned to the left. Along with her crested helmet she has a characteristic laurel wreath on her head and wears the imperial mantle. A legend surrounds her, reading *CONSTANTINOPOLIS*, confirming her identity. The reverse depicts another female figure; Victory. The goddess is shown facing left, also holding a spear. She places one foot on the rudder of a ship, whilst leaning against a round shield. These emblems are characteristic of the deity's representation. Underneath the deity are the letters *TR.S*, which denotes the mint at which this coin was produced, Trier. The coin is encased in a silver shell, attached to a round suspension loop.

Date: AD 331-333

A ROMAN COIN

found by Anna Byrne

We can try to recognise and even date any interesting pottery or coins found in Marcham gardens. Please do contact the Marcham Society:-

marchamsociety@gmail.com



The decoration probably represents the antlers of a deer

'SAMIAN WARE' also called 'terra sigillata'. This piece of decorated Roman pottery was found locally on a country walk. This pottery was probably made in Gaul in the second century AD and exported to Britain. The stylised decoration is the result of a standard mould and was originally part of a hunting scene - the antlers of a deer are evident and the piece might have been part of an elegant bowl as in the image below.



ROMAN POTTERY

The Midweek Walk

The Trout Inn



The September Midweek Walk will be on
Thursday 12th September
meeting at
the **Trout Inn, St John's Lock,**
Farington Road, Lechlade GL7 3HA
(SU223991) at 12.30

The start of the walk will be as usual at 13.30. and we will be visiting the remote hamlet of Inglesham, with its Saxon Church, walking to the Thames and back down the river.

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



Marcham Open Gardens

Sunday 1st September
2-4.30pm



Marcham Moldova Lifeline
Raising money to help refurbish a community facility in rural
Moldova

Programme for 2024

*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.*

=====
1st September - Subscriptions for 2024-25 are due
=====

Thursday 12th September:

The Midweek Walk 12.30 & Astronomy Group 7pm

Monday 23rd September: Annual General Meeting

"England's Oldest Town? The Archaeology of Abingdon"
- A talk by Roger Thomas

Thursday 17th October: Astronomy Group 7pm

Monday 28th October:

"Fungi of Oxfordshire's Golden Triangle" - A talk by
Judith Webb

Thursday 14th November: Astronomy Group 7pm

Monday 25th November:

"Excavations at Besselsleigh Manor" - A talk by Jane
Harrison

Thursday 12th December: Astronomy Group 7pm

Monday 23rd December: The Christmas Party

Marcham and District News

MAD News for September 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