



Marcham

SOCIETY

December
2025
Volume 8
Issue 12

Our Christmas Party on 8th December



An Invitation
to all Members and their partners

Marcham Society Christmas Party

Monday 8th December 6.30pm

All Saints Church Marcham

Free Drinks but please bring a dish,
either sweet or savoury
which should be **FINGER FOOD** only.
There will be a quiz and other entertainment.

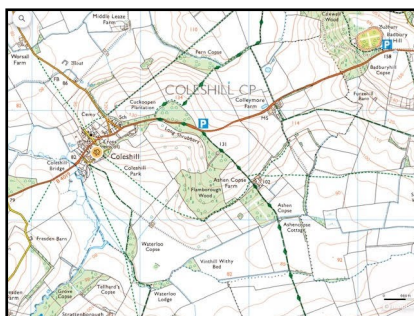
Book your place now by emailing
shirley.marsoc@gmail.com

Be sure to give your name
and the type of dish you are bringing.

Parking near the church is limited.
please consider car sharing if you are not arriving on foot.



November's Midweek Walk from Coleshill Page 2



The next midweek walk is planned for **Thursday 4th December** Contact: walks@marchamsociety.org.uk

Guided tour of the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, Botley Wednesday 12th November 2025

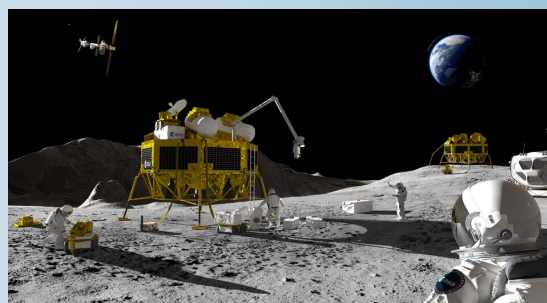




Page 3

The Astronomy Meeting on Wednesday 19th November

Following the round-up of News and Members Matter images over the last month, the main feature of the meeting was a fascinating talk by Dr Ludovic Duvet from the European Space Agency (ESA) at Harwell on “Argonaut: Europe’s Lunar Lander Programme”.



Ludovic started by emphasising the importance of Moon exploration and research and the particular benefit of landing near to the south pole of the Moon, where it is possible to find areas constantly exposed to sunlight and good for generating electrical power; and other areas in perpetual shadow and cold enough to have permanent reservoirs of ice, providing a valuable resource of oxygen and hydrogen to provide a means for growth of plant material and a source of fuel.

He then went on to discuss the various countries and organisations seeking to land missions on the Moon. In particular, he spoke of ESA’s Argonaut mission to place a lunar lander near the south pole of the Moon in 2030, followed by further missions in later years to develop an expanding base there.



MAG Telescope

Please note that the Astronomy Group has a 5” reflector telescope and tripod available for use by the members. Please contact Astronomy@MarchamSociety.org.uk if you are interested in borrowing it. We can arrange some help to set it up and get it working.



Jim Asher

Comet 2025/A6 Lemmon imaged at 19:30 on 25th Oct 2025 in the Western sky at close to its maximum brightness. It has an orbital period of about 1,350 years, so this is its only appearance in the current millennium!

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 17th December** at 7:30pm featuring a festive debate on “*How does Santa Navigate?*”

“God’s Acre” by Robert Evans

Monday 24th November 2025

Page 4

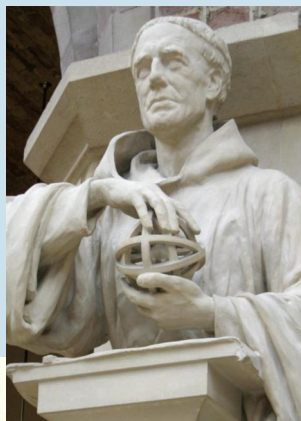


Bob is a resident of Sunningwell and a retired professional historian with an interest in local history. His talk rested on a little published collection of tales about Sunningwell people, a light-touch but an easy way of telling stories about our communities, as he explained on the night. Through funerary monuments and churchyard gravestones we discovered interesting characters and famous people from Sunningwell, Boars Hill ... and even from Marcham!



Bishop John Jewel
(1522-71)

Roger Bacon
(c 1220-92)



THOMAS BASKERVILLE.

Thomas Baskerville
(1630-1700)

Alfred Cripps (1894-1915)



Pte. A. E. CRIPPS, Sunningwell,
Grenadiers.—Killed.



Frank Thompson (1920-44)
poet and secret agent

The 2025-26 programme

Unless otherwise announced, talks will take place in the Main Hall at the Marcham Centre. Doors open at 7.15 for 7.45pm start.

December

- Thursday 4th:** Midweek Walk 12.30
- Monday 8th:** Christmas Party in All Saints Church 6.30pm
- Wednesday 17th:** Astronomy Meeting 7.30 Small Hall, Marcham Centre
A Christmas debate: "How does Santa navigate?"

January

- Thursday 8th:** Midweek Walk 12.30
- Thursday 15th:** Guided tour of Hook Norton Brewery at 2pm
- Wednesday 21st:** Astronomy Meeting 7.30 Small Hall, Marcham Centre
"Stars and Stones: megalithic alignments"
by Simon Blackmore
- Monday 26th:** "Bugs, Drugs and Goats – how not to plan a career"
- the Annual Lecture by Caroline Manders

Look out also for links, photos and reminders on the Marcham Society Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/marchamsociety>



Guided tour of the Hook Norton Brewery OX15 5NY

Thursday 15th January 2026 at 2pm



To attend please email: shirley.marsoc@gmail.com