



Marcham

SOCIETY

May 2025
Volume 8
Issue 5

Our next meetings in the Marcham Centre



The Astronomy Group
Thursday 8th May
at 7pm

The main feature of the next meeting will be the theme of “**Learning about Jupiter: our Giant Planet**” – with three short talks about (i) the discovery, naming, mythology and culture surrounding Jupiter; (ii) what we know of the giant planet from earth-based observations over the years; and (iii) what we have learned from space-based telescopes and various space missions to Jupiter

The Monthly Talk
Monday 26th May
7.15 for 7.45pm



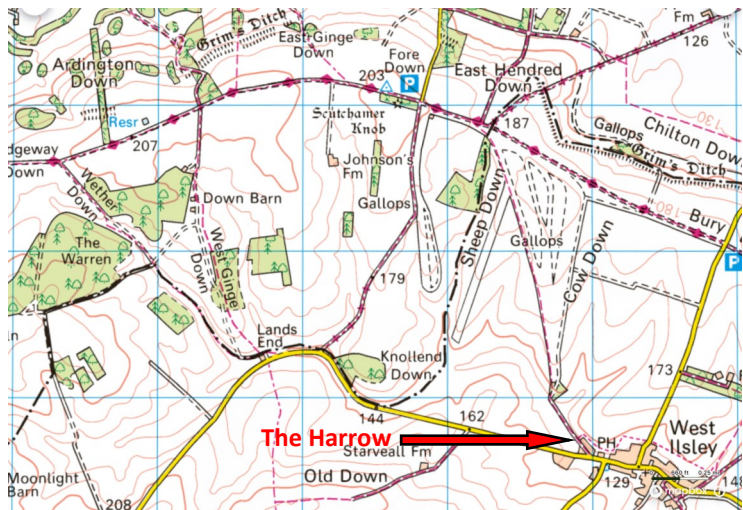
A short summary of finds from the OUDCE test pits in the village followed by

1644 : Marcham in the Civil War
Simon Blackmore



Photos of our last midweek walk from the Harrow at West Ilsley

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*Thanks to Eric
and Sheila for
organising
another good
choice of pub
and a successful
walk !*



Our Visit to St Mary's Church and Iffley Village on Monday 7th April 2025



Following the round-up of recent news and Members' Matter images, featuring the Moon passing in front of the Pleiades and various planetary images, we had a main film showing the total eclipse of the Sun as seen from Turkey in 2006 made by Keith Bartlett and introduced by Max Sinclair, which conveyed in a very direct way the atmosphere and the impact a total eclipse has on those who see it. We also enjoyed a very short film to show the speed of light (made by Airplane Mode) and another about the Scale of the Universe, made by Epic Spaceman. The links for the two short films are shown below. *Jim Asher*



The Moon as seen from Garford



The Moon as seen from London



The Moon as seen from Marcham

Tonight's feature

Max Sinclair introduces:

Total Solar Eclipse, Turkey 2006



Tonight's 'B-movies'

**Watch these on
YouTube !**

Two short films:

'*Speed of Light*' by Airplane Mode (very short!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BTxxJr8awQ>

and

'*Scale of the Universe*' (short) by Epic Spaceman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1rzlm7Rtyw>

What to see in the coming weeks

April

- 21st: Mercury at greatest W elongation (early morning twilight)
- 25th: Crescent Moon nr Saturn and Venus (early morning twilight ~5am)

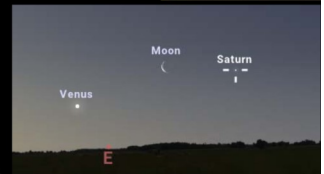
Planets visible: (Me), V, Ma, J, (U) Moon: Full: 13th Apr New: 27th Apr

May

- 2nd: Minor planet Vesta at opposition (binoculars)
- 4th: Mars at N edge of Beehive cluster (binoculars)
- 14th: Minor planet Juno at opposition (telescope)
- 23rd: Venus, crescent Moon and Saturn in line (04:00!)
- 28th: Very thin Moon above Jupiter in NW (about 22:15)

Planets visible: V, Ma, J, (S), (U)

Moon: Full: 12th May New: 27th May



MAG Telescope

Please note that MAG has a 5" reflector telescope and tripod available for use by the members.

For more information, please email: astronomy@marchamsociety.org.uk

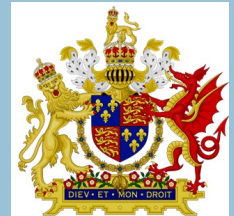
“George Owen, Royal Physician” - a talk by Paul Whitton

Monday 28th April 2025

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**This talk by Paul Whitton explored the fascinating life of Dr George Owen who was Royal Physician to three monarchs:-
Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I.**



Dr George Owen (1499 – 1558) was granted the lease of Hinton Waldrist Manor and we started by discovering how this local medieval castle and house became a royal manor. We then went to Oxford to see how George Owen entered the world of Tudor medicine.

The talk also looked at the perils facing a physician to a powerful and unpredictable king like Henry. We heard about some of the curiosities of Tudor remedies, with the help of an apothecary. He even worked on translations with Katherine Parr.

As part of his reward for service to monarchs, Owen was granted many properties in the Oxford area. We looked especially at Godstow Abbey, Wolvercote, and Cumnor Place, finding there two beautiful ladies who came to tragic ends.

Finally, we reflected on his legacy, how he raised standards in medicine through the Royal College of Physicians and became an MP. Maybe his greatest achievement was simply to survive those years of service to Henry VIII !





2025 Programme

*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.*

Thursday 1st May: Midweek Walk from the Greyhound, Besselsleigh

Saturday 3rd - Monday 5th May: Flower Festival in All Saints Church

Thursday 8th May: Astronomy Group 7pm: "Learning about Jupiter - our Great Planet" - a set of three short talks.

Friday 9th - Saturday 10th May: Big Marcham Weekend

Monday 12th May: Vale and Downland Museum visit 1.30 pm

Monday 26th May: A Review of the OUDCE Marcham test pits followed by "1644 - Marcham in the Civil War" - a talk by Simon Blackmore

Thursday 12th June: Abingdon Abbey Buildings guided tour 2pm

Monday 23rd June: "Birds of Otmoor" a talk by Peter Barker

Saturday 12th July: Members' Summer Barbecue 6pm



Look out for links, photos and reminders
on the Marcham Society Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/marchamsociety>



Phillippa Stacey of Feathered Glass
Kiln-formed Glass Art Exhibition & Workshop

Pop in to see original artwork by your local artist

**Venue
204**

10-11th & 15-18th May 11am-6pm
12th 1pm-6pm

Pear Tree Cottage, 7 Packhorse Lane,
Marcham, OX13 6NT

Parking here or on Mill Road and North Street. Short walk back to The Crown pub, turn towards Abingdon on the A415, when the paving runs out just walk through the little gate to our garden. Here you can have a sit and enjoy the flora before continuing to the studio.



MAD News for May and also past issues
are available on line:

[https://www.madnews.co.uk/
index.php](https://www.madnews.co.uk/index.php)



Monday 12th May at 1.30pm

A guided tour of the Museum,
Including its highlights such as
the Anglo-Saxons and Alfred the Great
followed by afternoon tea in the café.

£7.50 per person

Contact Shirley : shirley.marsoc@gmail.com