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Marcham

SOCIETY

June 2025
Volume 8
Issue 6

Our next meeting in the Marcham Centre



Otmoor

A Wetland Restored

**Monday 23rd June 2025 at 7.15 for 7.45pm
in the Main Hall, Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, OX13 6TY**

This talk looks at what has been achieved in the twenty-eight years since the RSPB took over some not very promising farmland. It covers why the place was special and how we have created the wildlife haven that it is today. The second half of the talk takes a whistle stop tour through a year on Otmoor reflecting the changes in the wildlife through the seasons.



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



Photos from our May midweek walk
that set out from the Greyhound at Besselsleigh

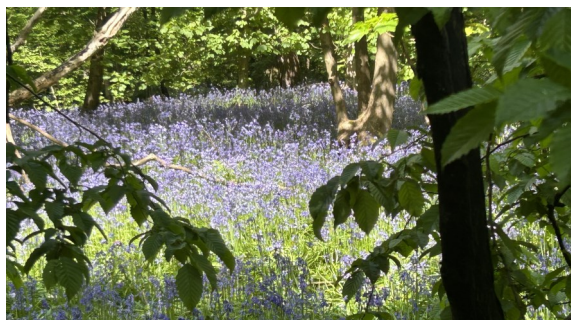
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Meeting at the Greyhound



St Laurence's Church Besselsleigh



Appleton Manor House



St Lawrence's Church Appleton



Our thanks to Eric and Sheila for
organising another successful
outing and also to Ricky for
giving us refreshments in her
garden at the end of a hot walk!

walks@marchamsociety.org.uk

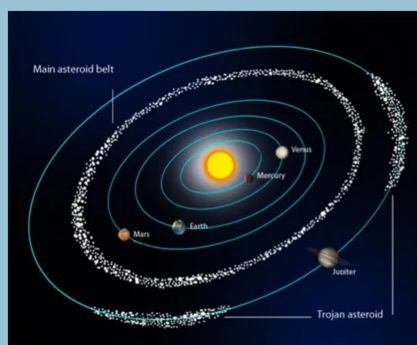
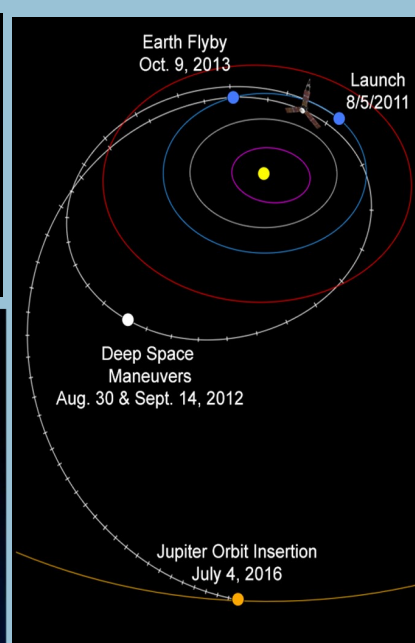
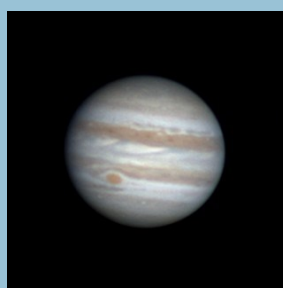
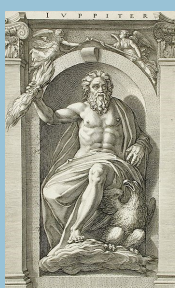




Thursday 8th May 2025

We had our regular review of news and sightings with Members Matter contributions and what we can look forward to over the coming months. The main feature of the evening was *“Learning about Jupiter – our Giant Planet”* with three short talks:

1) Simon Blackmore reminded us about the history, mythology and culture associated with Jupiter 2) Jim Asher explained what we know of the planet from Earth-based observations and 3) Eric Dunford told us what more we have discovered from various space telescopes and missions.



Jim reminded us that Venus was a prominent early morning (dawn) planet above the Eastern horizon, while Saturn was very close to the horizon in the early morning and barely visible. Jupiter on the other hand was moving low into the west in the dusky evening sky with Mars as the highest planet in the evening sky, and heading west as the nights become shorter.

After this meeting, the group is taking a break for the summer and the first meeting of the next season will be on a different day: **Wednesday 17th September**, starting at **7:30pm**.

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

The “MarSoc” Stall at the Marcham Big Weekend

Saturday 10th May 2025

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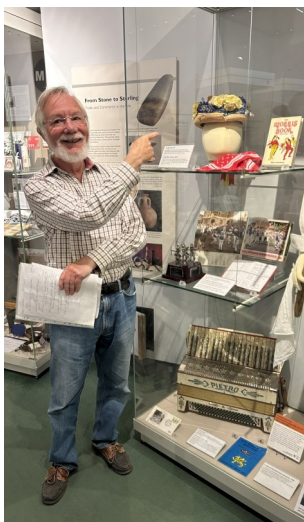
The Marcham Society encampment!



At the Big Marcham Weekend there was a lot of interest shown in our “MarSoc” stand - especially for the publications, archaeological artefacts and the telescopes. The Astronomy stand was further enhanced by its new publicity banner. Alongside Marcham Society, MAD News showed the photographs in the cover competition and asked for the public to vote. This also drew people to us. The whole event was great fun - and so very British!



The visit to the Vale and Downland Museum Wantage Monday 12th May 2025



“The OUDCE Test Pits” - a review by Bartle Frere

Monday 26th May 2025

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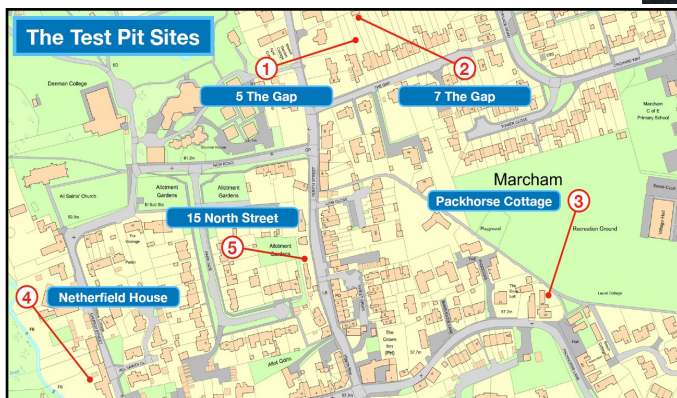
DEPARTMENT FOR
CONTINUING
EDUCATION



Following the recent Marcham Society talk by Jane Harrison on the *Excavations in the village of Besselsleigh*, a similar project was started by OUDCE, digging five one metre square test pits in Marcham.



The Archaeological Team



Test Pit 1 — 5 The Gap



Test Pit 2 — 7 The Gap



Test Pit 3 — Packhorse Cottage



Test Pit 4 — Netherfield House



Test Pit 5 — 15 North Street

Bartle Frere explained the reasons for the chosen sites and the methodology involved in the two day excavations. He invited the “hosts” of the gardens to give their reactions to the whole event. They were all enthusiastic about the project and described their interest and even excitement as objects came to light, including pottery, coins, glass and clay pipes. OUDCE hope to repeat this weekend dig next year.

2025/26 Programme

The talks and events for the coming year will be published soon.

Subscriptions are due for renewal from 1st September.

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

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

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 5th June: Midweek Walk (walks@marchamsociety.org.uk)

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 at the Bothey 6pm



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



Dates for your diary!



An exhibition to celebrate thirty years of The Marcham Society

An Exhibition celebrating Marcham Society's 30 years

Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th October 2025

in the Marcham Centre

Past and Future

Maps Photographs Archaeology Astronomy Coral Rag

History Natural History Archives Walks Refreshments

The next Marcham Society newsletter will be available online at the beginning of July