



**Marcham**  
**SOCIETY**

**January  
2026  
Volume 9  
Issue 1**

## **Our 2026 Annual Lecture**



**“Bugs, Drugs and Goats – how not to plan a career”**  
**The challenges of keeping livestock: antibiotic resistance**

**The Annual Lecture by Caroline Manders  
on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
7.15 for 7.45pm in the Main Hall,  
Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, OX13 6TY**

Caroline will talk about her career and how she came to work as an Associate Professor of Animal Science in the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development at Reading University.

Her research has helped goats in Nepal, beef cattle in Brazil, dairy cows in Bangladesh, cattle and poultry in Fiji and young chicks in UK. She has lived in Marcham for over 20 years with her husband (John) and their two sons.



## Photos of our 2025 Christmas Party at All Saints

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## The Twelve Days of Christmas for Marcham Society

On the twelfth day of Christmas our Chairman offered me...

*Twelve Newsletters*

*Eleven Files to archive*

*Ten Walkers walking*

*Nine Astronomers gazing*

*Eight Lively lectures*

*Seven Local visits*



*Six Maps of Marcham*

*Five Ammonites*

*Four Coral Rags*

*Three Test Pits*

*Two Monthly Meetings*

*An Email from the Society!*

## Christmas Dingbats

Here are links to the twenty questions and the answers:

[https://marchamsociety.org.uk/MarSoc\\_Christmas\\_Dingbats\\_2025.pdf](https://marchamsociety.org.uk/MarSoc_Christmas_Dingbats_2025.pdf)

[https://marchamsociety.org.uk/MarSoc\\_Christmas\\_Dingbats\\_2025\\_Answers.pdf](https://marchamsociety.org.uk/MarSoc_Christmas_Dingbats_2025_Answers.pdf)

(Links also available on the programme page of the website)

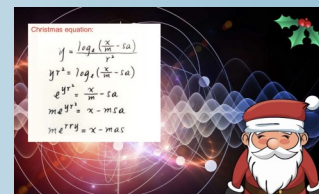


# Santa would vote Green and Scrooge would go for Reform, poll finds

Many voters see Father Christmas as a left-wing progressive who would back Zack Polanski's party – although people tend to think he would share their own views



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## The Astronomy Meeting held on Wednesday 17th December

Following the round-up of News and Members Matter images over the last month, the main feature of the meeting was the Christmas debate:

The question posed for this debate was **“How does Santa navigate?”**

- how he visits all these kids, with reindeer and a sleigh on skids.

Alison spoke of old folklore and rich traditions gone before,

the colour of his fancy coat and how his reindeer fly about.

Bartle explained his navigation, by aeronautic calculation with stars, a compass, GPS, we wouldn't expect him to tell us less.

My part: to explain how Santa Claus can fit demands of physics laws

His race to cover all the earth is a feat for a man of such a girth.

To deliver the billion gifts he's lifting, needs speed that leads to Doppler-shifting.

In retreat his coat is red, towards us it turns green instead

and relativistic time dilation slows his age-related degeneration.

But, if flying at hypersonic speed, atmospheric friction's high indeed.

Overheating is a major risk; he'd burn up, toasted to a crisp.

Now, have we seen him at first hand, what scientific evidence stands?

His presence seems to fly us by, we've never seen him, that's no lie.

In physics terms, it's time to twig – he's a Macroscopic Quantum...thingamajig!

He may be kind, he may be old, but coherence means he must stay cold.

Hence a very needful tactic, to reside in the freezing Polar Arctic.

His presence spans across the world, through time and space his sleigh is whirled

It penetrates through solid walls, forget the chimney, no soot falls.

But if you see him, what disaster, his wavefunction collapses like lath and plaster.

He's everywhere throughout the night, that explanation must be right.

So, how does Santa navigate? Through a universal quantum state!

They seek him here, they seek him there, the physics says he's everywhere

Is he in heaven, is he in hell? - that elusive quantum Santa-rnel!

Finally let's hope that...in his quantum leaps through space and rhyme,

Santa will still be remembered ... for a very long time!

Jim Asher



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The next Astronomy meeting is on **Wednesday 17th January** at 7:30pm featuring a talk on **“Stars and Stones : Megalithic Alignments”**

### **The 2026 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.*

### **January**

- Thursday 8th:** Midweek Walk from Harwell 12.30 (see below)
- Thursday 15th:** Guided tour of Hook Norton Brewery at 2pm (see below)
- Wednesday 21st:** Astronomy Meeting 7.30pm 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 (see page 1)



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



The next Midweek Walk is planned for **Thursday 8th January 2026**

Contact: [walks@marchamsociety.org.uk](mailto:walks@marchamsociety.org.uk)

For the first walk of 2026, on Thursday, 8th January, we will be eating in The White Hart, High Street, Harwell, OX11 0EH (SU493894) at 12.30 and walking at 13.30. This will be shortish walk, allowing for the still early sunset towards Hagbourne Hill and returning via the Winaway.

### **Guided tour of the Hook Norton Brewery OX15 5NY**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 2pm**



To attend please email asap: [shirley.marsoc@gmail.com](mailto:shirley.marsoc@gmail.com)