



Marcham

SOCIETY

June
2026
Volume 9
Issue 6

Our June talk in the Marcham Centre



"Oxfordshire: a way with Waste" by Paul Dumpleton

Monday 22nd June 2026 at 7.30 for 7.45pm in the Main Hall, Marcham Centre

This talk will be on how historically Oxfordshire has dealt with its waste, why things have changed and the future of waste and recycling in the County.

Paul Dumpleton is a senior waste management professional with over 30 years experience in the industry working predominantly for international waste management and renewable energy companies, with time spent in Europe, North America and Africa.

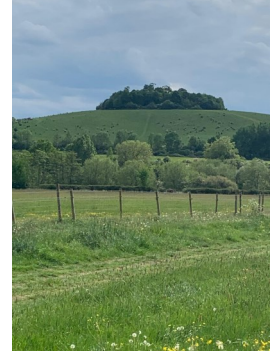
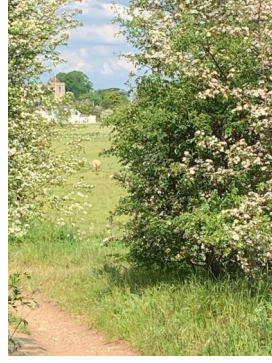
Particular areas of expertise include strategic development of infrastructure, Municipal Bidding and Local Authority tender support, multi business integration and operational responsibility for waste transfer and recycling facilities.

Paul has also been head of central Material Marketing functions for *FCC*, *Renewi* and *Suez*, and specialises in the technical development of the separation of waste to produce value added products for both recyclables and Recovered Fuel.



Photos of our May Midweek Walk

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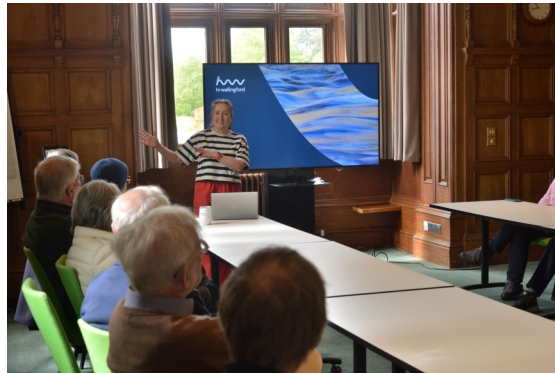
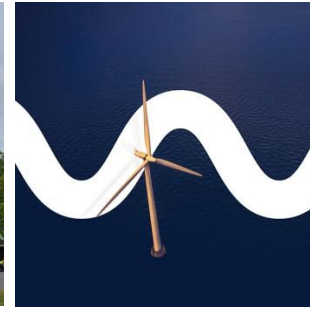


Thank you to Eric and Sheila Dunford for organising this Midweek Walk to Dorchester.
For more information on future walks, email: walks@marchamsociety.org.uk

The Big Marcham Weekend



Thank you to all those who helped and visited our Marcham Society stands at the Big Marcham Weekend.



Thank you to Shirley Eccles for organising this visit to Howbery Park and HR Wallingford...and to Andrew Steele for helping with the guiding.

HR Wallingford Ltd is an engineering and research organisation based in the United Kingdom with a focus on civil engineering and environmental hydraulics. It was created by the UK Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in 1947, to deal with 'looser boundary' problems such as coastal erosion, flood protection, and the silting and scouring of rivers, estuaries and harbours.

HR Wallingford was a government establishment until 1982, when it was privatised from the Department of the Environment to become "Hydraulics Research Station Limited". It became known as HR Wallingford in 1991. During its existence, it has contributed to advance hydraulics research. It also worked on water-related projects in the UK and around the world.

For more information : <https://www.hrwallingford.com>



The Astronomy Meeting held on Wednesday 13th May

Within the regular round-up of News and Members Matter, Mike Greig introduced us briefly to his newly acquired very compact Celestron Dwarf Mini telescope, which he had brought for us to see, with some initial galaxy images captured from Garford. New devices like this, operated with user-friendly apps, are making astronomy more accessible and affordable.

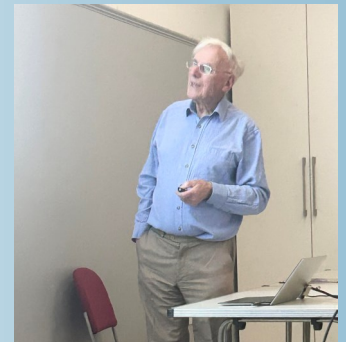


The main feature of the evening was the fascinating talk by Dr Eric Dunford on "*Challenges, Triumphs and Disasters*". Eric drew from experience over his long career in space science, explaining why it was necessary. He described a range of challenges faced doing science in space - political and financial as well as technical - in planning, launching and running missions and how failures can occur.

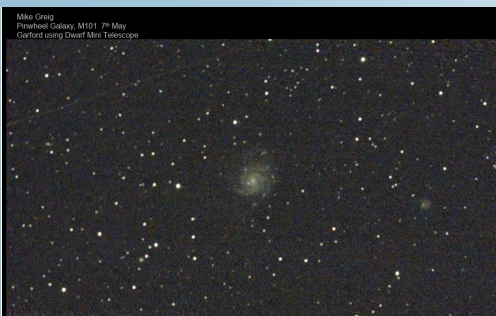
One of several examples he showed was the mission to land on the comet Rosetta which, although the mechanism to anchor it to the surface failed, produced amazing close-up images of its bizarre shape - thought to arise from two comets having merged.



Another was the Cluster mission, building and launching four identical satellites to monitor changes in the Earth's magnetosphere in 3D and in real time. The launch in 1996 from French Guiana, using an untested version of the Ariane V vehicle, failed disastrously when the rocket exploded some 20s after launch and the satellites were destroyed. That disaster was turned into triumph, when the partner organisations agreed to build four more copies of the satellites, which were successfully launched (two at a time) using Russian rockets four years later and went on to complete a successful mission, running for 24 years before a planned 'de-orbiting' in 2024.

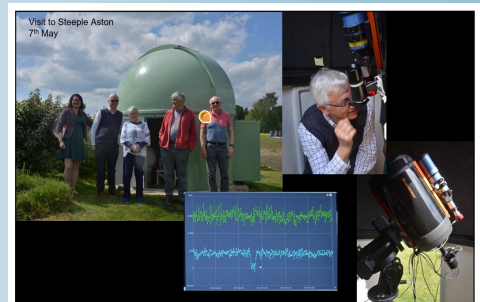


Jim Asher



Mike Greig's image taken on 7th May

Copies of all the slides presented in the meeting are available by following the links on the Astronomy page of the Marcham Society website.



The visit to Tim Haymes' observatory in Steeple Aston

The next Astronomy meeting is on **Wednesday 16th September** at 7:30pm



"Smocks and Smocking: rural craft or local industry?"

by Sally Kingsley

Practical yet decorative, farmworkers' smocks were once a common sight. Sally's talk explained the history of smocks and smocking, used by men as protective workwear - and also for Sunday best! She also told us about the clothing industry in Abingdon which in the 19th century employed upwards of 2000 workers.

Thank you, Sally, for a fascinating talk with many interesting illustrations and two fine examples of smocks to study!



"The History of Rycote Chapel"

by Ricky Smith

Richard and Sybil Quartermayne, lord and lady of the manor of Rycote, founded Saint Michael's chapel in 1449. The chapel is both a Grade I listed and scheduled monument. It is a Perpendicular Gothic building with a chancel, nave and west tower and it retains original 15th-century wooden fittings including pews, stalls and a screen.

Ricky explained her role as a volunteer guide on behalf of the present owners and Historic England. She showed photos of some of the interesting architectural features of the Chapel and told us of various royal visitors in its colourful past. A wonderful building with such a varied history... Ricky's talk inspired us all to visit the Chapel!



June 2026

Thursday 4th: The Midweek Walk meeting 12.30 pm at Wolvercote
(For more information see below or contact walks@marchamsociety.org.uk)

Monday 22nd: "Oxfordshire: a way with Waste" a talk by Paul Dumpleton
7.30pm in the Marcham Centre (See the front page)

Saturday 27th/Sunday 28th: Marcham Test Pits (See below)

July 2026

Thursday 2nd: Midweek Walk 12.30 (More information to follow)

Saturday 11th: Annual BBQ 5pm at the Bothy (More information to follow)

Saturday 25th/Sunday 26th: Marcham Test Pits (See below)



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



The next Midweek Walk
is on Thursday 4th June
meeting at 12.30



The Wolvercote

130 Godstow Rd, Wolvercote,
Oxford, OX2 8PG

<https://www.wolvercoteoxford.co.uk>

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PITS IN MARCHAM 2026

This year the same group of volunteers are planning to visit Marcham to dig again on four weekends in 2026 - but only three sites each weekend:

27th & 28th June 2026
25th & 26th July 2026
29th & 30th August 2026
26th & 27th September 2026

Hosts for these four weekends are now booked but if you would like to visit, help dig or are interested in hosting a small 1 metre square test pit in your garden at a future date, please email : marchamsociety@gmail.com