



# Newsletter

As I announced at the beginning of this year's talks these newsletters will now be on a quarterly basis, so welcome to the Spring 2020 newsletter. In this edition:

Coronavirus Arrangements

New Village Hall

A Look Back at This Season's Talks

Mid-Week Walks

## Coronavirus (COVID-19)

It is with great sadness that we have decided to postpone all of the remaining talks for this season, heeding the government's advice on gatherings and social distancing. Where we can, we are re-booking our speakers for next year in the hope that by then we will be able to meet normally again.

In the meantime I hope everyone involved with the Society stays safe and well and for those that can access the internet a reminder that there are vast resources online for all our interests; history, archaeology, and natural history.

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The village hall project is very nearly completed. Before the coronavirus outbreak the expected occupation date was May 2020 and we are still hoping that is achieved and that we can start using the hall from September 2020

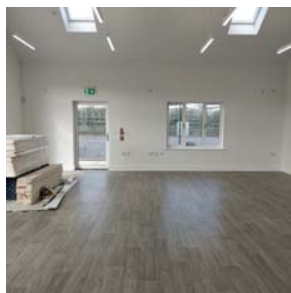
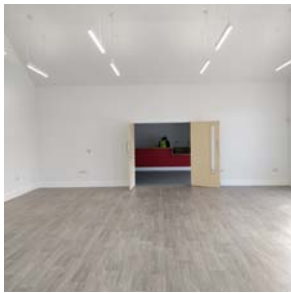


## Village Hall and New Date for Meetings

Discussion has been continuing as to the best date to use for our meetings in the new hall. **We have now decided that the 4th Monday of the month** will be the one that we will request of the Marcham Community Group (MCG).

I made a visit to the nearly completed hall on Friday the 13th of March and I am pleased to report that the heating was working and the lights were on, the flooring was finished and the windows were being measured for curtains and blinds.

The Marcham Society will be using the small hall (new pictures to the left) which has plenty of space. Our needs for audio visual equipment and a hearing loop are still being discussed but these should be in place by September.



This season's Marcham Society talks have been curtailed of necessity so this is a look back at the highlights (and lowlights) of the 2019-20 season since the last newsletter.



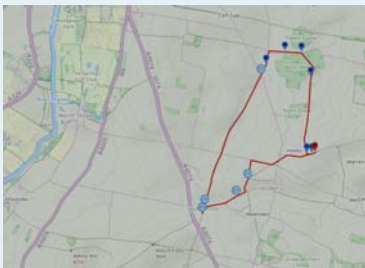
## Look Back at the end of the 2019-20 Season

The January Annual Lecture is deliberately chosen for January to be given by somebody local to the village because of the possibility of inclement weather making organisation of the meeting potentially difficult.

This January's meeting was an exemplar with regards to difficulty. It was a 'dark and stormy night' and arriving at the church it was soon obvious there was no power. Despite this over twenty members had gathered and refreshments were being served whilst we waited for the power cut to be over. It began to dawn on us that this was no longer a short interruption in power, so quickly committee members found candles, torches etc to give as much light to the church as possible and a vote was taken as to whether to carry on with the lecture or to cancel the evening. The vote was overwhelmingly in favour of carrying on so the talk on the Medical Officers of Health of Berkshire *The League of Beleaguered Gentlemen* was delivered in the gloom without the aid of slides or microphones and loudspeakers.

Fortunately the February and March talks turned the season from the lowlight of January to highlight, as first we had the breath-taking photography of Roger Wyatt with his talk, *Birds and Wildlife of the Ridgeway and Beyond* and then, what has turned out to be the last talk of this season, the excellent Liz Woolley gave us *The Development of Oxford's Suburbs 1850-1914*. Both of these talks garnered very positive feedback for the presenters and our aim should be to continue that quality of talk for the Marcham Society.

The regular walks organised by the Marcham Society are something that we hope we can continue. Exercise and fresh air will help all of those who are otherwise being asked to stay at home.

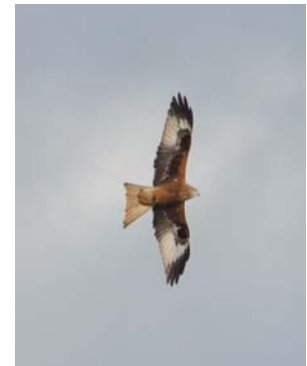


## Mid-Week Walks

Below are the photographs from the very well attended mid-week walk from February (near North Stoke) .



Intrepid Walkers



Red Kite





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## Mid-Week Walks Cont'd.

March walk took place to the west of Chadlington



Knollbury Hill Fort Chadlington



Wide Open Spaces Around Sarsden

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## *Dates for the Diary*

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Please keep an eye on the website for updates on our activities and Simon Blackmore will send round email communications when we have something to share as well.

**[www.marchamsociety.org.uk](http://www.marchamsociety.org.uk)**