



Newsletter

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

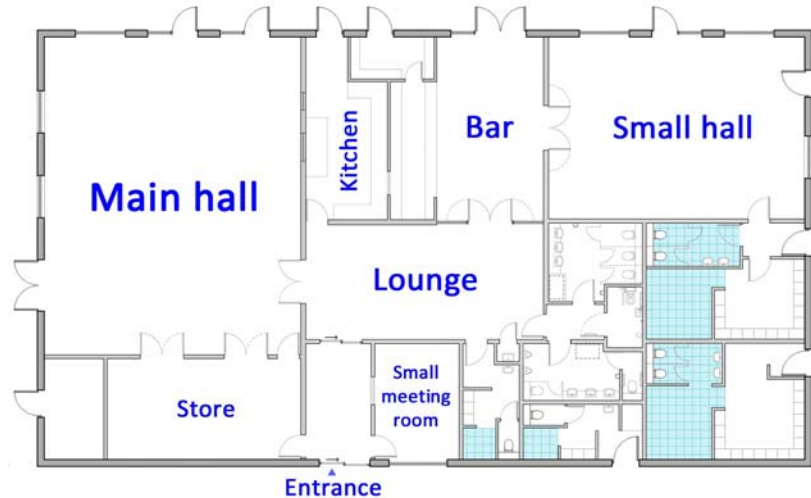
Whilst the Coronavirus is still continuing the country is now in a better position than when the Spring newsletter was published. The Society missed two talks that would have been given at the church, but for those that were able to, we provided a talk via Zoom on June the 9th, when Martin Buckland bravely wrestled with the technology to provide around 35 members and guests a fascinating talk on the Wilts and Berks Canal history, restoration and wildlife. Until such time as the Government allows us to meet as a group indoors we will be continuing this method of delivering our talks, which has proven to be very successful, judging from the feedback we have received from those that attended.



Trees learn
social
distancing -
evolution in
action.

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The village hall building, which was interrupted by the Corona-virus crisis has now been completed. This is a project that was twenty years in gestation and is a true milestone for the village. It will be great facility with huge benefit to the community.



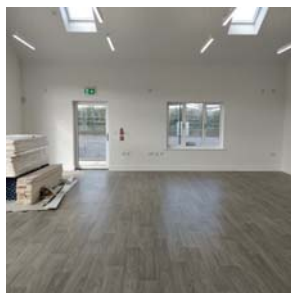
Village Hall and New Date for Meetings

Please note in your diaries that if we are able to use the new hall in September our meetings will be on the 4th Monday of the month.

If you have not already heard by other means, I'm very pleased to announce that the parish council took over the new village hall on the 19th of June and immediately granted a lease of the facility to the Marcham Community Group for 99 years.

Apart from some very small snagging issues the hall is now ready for use when the government eases the restrictions placed upon all of us and we can have at least a hope (and maybe have an expectation) that we will be using the new hall for our meetings from September onwards.

As many of you will know it has been a very long and winding road to get to this point of success. Thanks and congratulations should go to the whole of the MCG working parties, but Jim Asher in particular, in achieving what some thought might never happen.

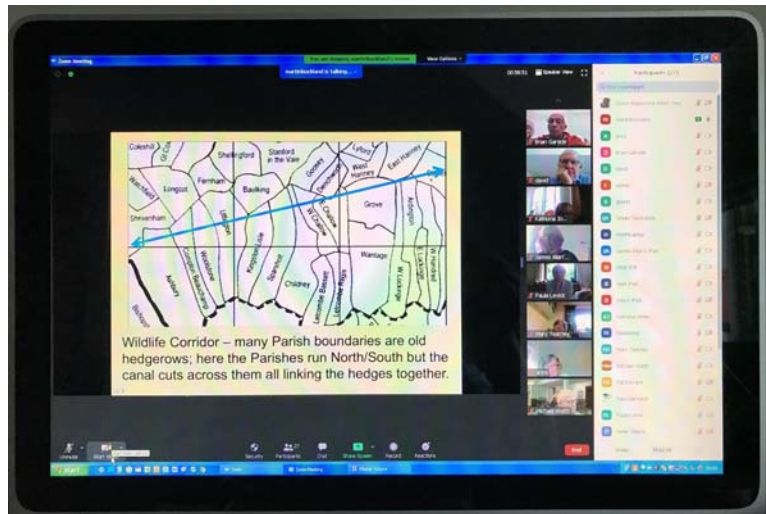


Some local societies have taken the decision not to offer any talks during the lock down. After consideration, the Marcham Society decided to offer an option to participate via Zoom video conferencing. Whilst it is understood that not every one of our members will be able to join these meetings, we are glad to say that the majority have been able to participate using this method. It is not how we want to present our talks, but we believe it is better than offering nothing at all.



Using Zoom as the video conferencing method for Marcham Society talks

Zoom has been one of the success stories of the lock-down. Prior to the crisis the company was a relatively small video conferencing operation, known mainly to the business world, headquartered in the USA. Having only been in existence since 2011, they experienced an exponential rise in the usage of their software, once lockdown became the norm for many countries. This was largely because, for consumers, it was a free and easy to use app that was available on most of the platforms that people use - PC, Apple and Android.



This increase in usage exposed some security flaws in the software which made headlines in the news media. However the company were quick to address these. Crucially there is a difference between the corporate paid subscription version and the free to use app that has become so popular.

The Marcham Society are using the paid subscription version that includes end-to-end encryption. This means that nobody can see or hear what is being transmitted over the internet unless they have been invited.

Secondly there was publicity about so called Zoom bombing, where an uninvited person took over the screen sharing option and broadcast sometimes disturbing images instead of the video screen that was supposed to be broadcast. This flaw has been entirely eliminated by the 'waiting room' feature, whereby the host (in our case Simon Blackmore) has control over who is accepted in to the video conference and they also have control over who can share their screen with the audience.

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main content is a slide titled "William 'Strata' Smith" with the following text: "Born in Churchill, Oxfordshire, he worked on the Somerset Coal Canal and realised that the different strata and fossils formed 'geology'. Surveying many more canals, roads and railways enabled him to draw the first geological map of Britain." To the left of the text is a geological map of Britain. The slide also includes the dates "(23 March 1769 – 28 August 1839)".

On the right side of the meeting, there is a "Participants (20)" list. The list includes the following names and icons:

- gbernd
- Gillian Techrelate
- HoatLaptop
- James Allan's iPad
- JANE BYE
- Jane iPad
- Joey's iPad
- Katrina Jones
- Madeline
- Mary Tearney
- Michael Watts
- Pat Durrant
- Paul Harwood
- Paula Levidi
- Peter Steere
- Rosale
- Sheila Dunford
- shelobley
- Shirley Eccles
- Tincampbell@hotmail.co.uk
- western

The Zoom interface also shows a "Start" button, "Unmute", "Start Video", "Security", "Participants", "Chat", "Share Screen", "Record", and "Reactions" buttons at the bottom. The top of the window displays "Zoom Meeting", "You are viewing martinbuckland's screen", "View Options", "00:48:56", "Speaker View", and "Participants (20)".

Coronavirus Lockdown Memories

Shirley Eccles, our secretary, has initiated a project to capture as many memories as possible of people's experience of the lockdown that we have been enduring since the 23rd of March. She is looking for anything - photo, video, audio or written memories of what it has been like, so that this can be accessed for future generations.



The memories are all personal to you and may be as simple as not being able to get a hair cut, or to more significant events such as if any family members actually have had coronavirus and what has been the experience of that. They can be serious or funny, short or long but please contribute now whilst the memories are fresh.

It is not restricted to members of the Marcham Society obviously, so please publicise this to local family and friends and send any contributions you have to:

marchamlockdown2020@gmail.com

The Marcham Society was founded with three pillars of investigation in mind, local history, archaeology and natural history. In designing our programme year by year we have strived to keep those three subjects in mind. The exception has been when giving the annual lecture, where a notable villager provides a talk from their own sphere of experience or expertise.

Future Talks

The lockdown has provided time and space to take stock about the undertakings and activities in which we are all involved. The cessation of the normal programme of activities and talks with the Marcham Society has prompted the committee to think about this and we will be meeting at the end of July to take stock of what we do, what we continue with and whether we should offer anything different in terms of subject matter for our talks for instance.

If you would like to have input into this discussion then please email me directly (petersteere@sky.com) and I will include your thoughts in our discussion for future arrangements.

Dates for the Diary

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

The next talk will be on the 14th July at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom:

[Graham Lenton](#)

'Why Are Birds So Different ?'

The 2020-21 subscriptions will be due on 1st September and the new season's talks will start on Monday September 28th, followed by October 26th and November 23rd.