

MARCHAM SOCIETY ANNUAL LECTURE

The subject of Lesley Grey's talk was "Climate Change" and, if you came with an open mind on the possibility of global warming and mankind's role in causing it, you will have come away far better informed and probably feeling you should have walked to the meeting rather than bring the car. Lesley gave some fascinating facts, obtained from many different sources from many parts of the world which together added up to a very convincing story.

In her position as a research professor in Climatology at Reading University, Lesley has access to the latest data and she started by showing how the Earth's temperature has increased by 0.7°C since the start of the industrial age, with consequent glacial retreats and melting of the ice sheets. However she was able to show how the temperature has changed over the last 400,000 years using evidence from ice cores, with fluctuations of about 10°C. So why are we worried? The problem is that we have and are still changing our atmosphere very significantly. Carbon dioxide and methane, the "green-house gasses" which prevent heat from escaping to outer space, have increased by unprecedented amounts and are now up to twice the levels previously experienced.

Computer models of the atmosphere explain the changes over the last 150 years very well, but only if the human contribution is included and the very same models predict a rise of some 3.5°C (or more) by 2100, with much greater concentrations of the greenhouse gasses. This may not seem a bad thing with the prospect of a balmy Mediterranean climate in prospect, but it might not quite work out like that and some parts of the world will experience catastrophic changes and extreme weather and the effects on agriculture and wildlife will be severe. In any case uncontrolled experiments on our whole planet seem foolhardy, to say the least.

What can be done? The Kyoto agreement to limit carbon emissions was unprecedented, but limited in scope and even then the world's largest polluter has not signed up. The International Commission on Climate Change has become successively more concerned in its statements over the last 15 years. Unless our whole consumer society changes its ways soon, our grandchildren will be faced with enormous challenges and even with (politically impossible) instant changes it would take decades for the atmosphere to begin to respond.

Thank you Lesley for a very informative, if uncomfortable, evening.

ED

MARCHAM SOCIETY WALK: THUR 7 APRIL

Come and enjoy a breezy walk on the Downs, including two miles along the Ridgeway. We will meet at The Harrow Inn in West Ilsley (Map Ref: SP470826) at 12.30pm for lunch or 1.30 for the four mile walk. As always, new walkers are very welcome. Members free, non-members £1.

Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.

EXHIBITION 7TH – 8TH MAY

In May 2005 the country will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of VE Day, (Victory in Europe) at the close of World War II. Members of the Marcham Society are planning an exhibition relating to life in the village preceding the hostilities, through the war years 1939-1945 and the post-war recovery period.

If any of the readers of MADNews have any photographs or memorabilia they would be willing to loan to the organisers or personal experiences they would like to record, please contact the Society's Archivist, Elizabeth Whitehouse Tel 01865 391389.

WHAT'S IN YOUR DUSTBIN?

Vale Urges Residents To More Recycle Paper

The Vale of White Horse District Council has just completed an analysis of the refuse, garden waste and recycling that is put out by householders for collection by the Council contractors Cleanaway. The cost of the analysis was funded by Defra, and involved taking a random sample of 500 households in the Vale. These were classified into categories according to economic and cultural factors such as age, family structure, likely spending etc.

A team of experienced staff carried out the analysis and hand sorted all the waste to find out how much of each material was from each home. It was found the contents of the average bag of refuse contained 26% paper 12% plastics and 4% glass, all of which could be put into Green Boxes for recycling.

Currently we are only recycling around 22% of our waste in the District, but with your help, by making full use of your Green Box, the Vale get nearer its target of 29% recycling from 2005.

So please, have a look at the list below and see just what you're throwing away which we could be recycled. Here is a reminder of what you can place in your Green recycling box:

Paper: newspapers, junk mail, pamphlets, catalogues, kitchen paper, telephone directories, brown & white envelopes households bills, magazines

Plastic: any plastic bottles eg bleach, milk, containers, drinks, yoghurt, bubble bath

Glass: jars, bottles (any colour clean)

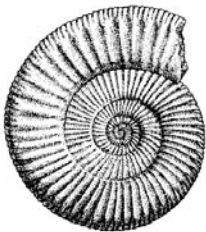
Metal: food cans (clean), aluminium foil (clean), drink (clean), biscuit tins (flattened)

Textiles: clothing (in separate bag), shoes (in separate bag), sheets, tablecloths etc

Other: mobile phones, aerosols, batteries (in small clear bag), car batteries, (place beside box).

For a free or second Green Recycling Box, or if you would more information on waste and recycling please give the waste team a call on 01235 520202, email waste.team@whitehorsedc.gov.uk or write to The Vale of White Horse District Council, Abbey House, Abingdon, OX14 3JN.



 <p><i>The Marcham Society</i></p>	<p>John Wilson will be talking about farming in the 19th century and showing us artifacts from Cogges Farm, Witney</p>
<p><i>All Saints' Church</i> <i>Tuesday April 12th 2005, 7.45pm</i></p>	<p>Non-members £1 www.marchamsociety.org.uk Further details: Janey Cumber (391327) or Judith Fontaine (391275)</p>

Don't forget to look at OUR website: www.madnews.co.uk