

**MARCHAM SOCIETY**

At the meeting of the Marcham Society on Tuesday 20th January we were given a most interesting talk and slide show about the N.T. Buscot and Coleshill estates; Juliet Phipps is employed by the N.T. as property manager. We were first given an overview of the origins and history of both estates and the contributions made by their various owners.

Conservation of the environment is encouraged and promoted with maintenance of hedges, provision of headlands and tree planting to encourage wildlife.

The woodland areas are managed for timber extraction and replanting of indigenous hardwood trees; areas of 1960 softwood plantations are being replaced by hardwoods.

The river Colne, which had become canalised over the years, has been restored to a more natural meandering course which is beneficial not only to wildlife but also for the prevention of flooding, with better use made of the water meadows.

All public access areas have to be maintained and kept litter free; these areas include the great barn at Coxwell which is also part of the estate.

There are also many archeological sites on the estate which have to be protected; one of these is the site of the medieval village of Buscot which was abandoned following the great plague; the present village being on a neighbouring site.

This was a most informative talk and enjoyed by all present.

*R. V.S.*

**MARCHAM SOCIETY WALK**

**Midweek walk, Thursday February 5th**

The next Marcham Society Midweek Walk will be on the first Thursday of February. We will meet at The Lion in Culham (map ref. SU 504951) at 12.30 for lunch or 1.30 for a walk through Sutton Courtenay and a bit of Thames Path. New Walkers welcome. Members free, non-members £1

Ring Claire Bolton on 391391 for lifts or further details.

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**DYING TO GET HOME?**

“Each year, up to 760 people are killed or seriously injured as a result of speeding in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. That means 2 lives are ruined by speed every single day.”

The revelation comes as the media are putting increasing pressure on Police and Local Authorities to reduce the amount of speed cameras on the road, when it is clear that the problems caused by speed are just not going away.

Despite all of the best efforts of the Police and Local Authorities, despite targeted speed enforcement on the roads with the worst casualty histories, despite an explosion in the amount of driver education about the dangers of speed, the lives of 2 people every day are still ruined or terminated by speeding drivers in Thames Valley.

Its not as though drivers in Thames Valley have not been made aware of the dangers of speeding. As well as the Governments’ national ‘Think! Slow Down’ campaign, The Safer Roads Partnership have been running a major radio campaign and Thames Valley Police run the largest Speed Awareness programme in the country. Almost all of the 9 local authorities are using Speed Indication Devices for driver education, and across the whole region there has been a history of speed enforcement to deter drivers.

**The Real Cost Of Speeding**

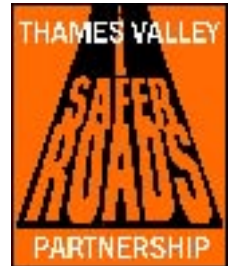
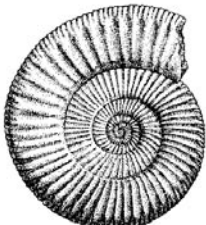
Using Government estimates, Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership believe the cost of speeding in Thames Valley to be nearly £300m a year in reported injury accidents alone. When non-injury bumps & shunts, and unreported injuries (such as minor whiplash) are taken into consideration as well this figure could rocket even higher.

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*The  
Marcham  
Society*

*The Institute, North Street  
Tuesday February 17th 2004 7.45pm*

**Marcham Society Annual Lecture**  
**Culture or Hobby: Student  
or enthusiast?**  
**Eddie Shirras reflects on 50 years of  
chasing buses & photographing them**

Non-members £1  
Further details: Eric Dunford (391439) or Judith Fontaine (391275)