

MARCHAM SOCIETY

On Tuesday 20th April, David Clark, a lecturer on Vernacular Architecture and the Secretary of the Oxfordshire Buildings Record, gave an illustrated talk to the members which showed us how to read buildings to discern evidence of their past.

The essence of treating a building as an historical document is to apply the formula consisting of seven words beginning with the letter S. The speaker explained that by viewing the site, the structure, the skin, the services, any spaces within the property, any stuff such as furniture and belongings, the souls or residents and any symbols found there may reveal an unexpected history. A number of slides illustrated the technique. An agricultural barn was found to be a 14th C. hall house, a terrace of cottages was a 19th C. example of urban industrial housing having been built by the local railway company for their employees.

A detailed examination of the structure of the roof will reveal clues to the age of the building. Blackened timbers may indicate the existence of an early hall with a central fire built before the construction of a chimney. The use of brick and stone were shown as materials that had been used to cover a cruck framed cottage. The type of bonding of the layers of brick can date the property as techniques and fashions changed through the centuries. The outer walls or skin may be adorned with lime wash which was traditional in this area, the style of the windows will aid the dating of the building. An exploration of the attics, classified as storage space may reveal that it was a domestic space inhabited by the servants. The recording of a building prior to demolition can supply clues to the construction techniques used and the various uses made of the inner space, which may be to domestic, commercial or manufactural.

The villages of the Vale and the Downs are rich in vernacular buildings, properties built by local craftsmen from local materials. The speaker encouraged us to examine our village properties to reveal the history hidden within.

ELIZABETH WHITEHOUSE

SUNSHINE CLUB

MAY Here we are again, how each month seems to fly by. The social table was again anything with thanks to all for an interesting assortment yet once again. Our social part was going down memory lane. By looking back over club photos of time gone by, which was nice and enjoyed by all. This was followed by a finger buffet supper and to end the evening as always we had the raffle. Three ladies had special birthdays, one in her 90s. Each had a card and present of a tin of biscuits each. We have not changed over from plants it's not always easy for some to look after. So hope they enjoyed the change and their day. Not much news this time – shall be looking towards possible an outing in July/August and our yearly garden party to come.

JOY CROOK

MARCHAM SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

At last the weather has changed, we shall all start making our gardens look smart with the new seasons plants, then we can sit back with a cup of tea and enjoy all the hard work we've done.

Our April meeting included a good clothes sale, thanks to all members for items donated, I'm sure all who bought are more than pleased with their bargains.

It's nice to hear Florrie Batchelor is now back home, and Elsi Carter is getting on famously, we hope to see them back at our meeting in the very near future.

A note for your diary, this year's garden party will be held on June 24th, we all hope for a nice sunny day. Our sea outing has still to be decided on.

Most people will have heard before you read this that the tea outing arranged for 17th June has been altered to an earlier date (temporary booked for 10th June) no coaches being available for 17th, due to it being Ladies' Day at Ascot, it will be a different venue than was first planned. Sorry, not a lot of club news!

BR & EC

MARCHAM SOCIETY WALK

Midweek Walk, Tuesday June 15th

The next Marcham Society Midweek Walk will be on the third Tuesday of June. We will meet at the Eagle Tavern in Little Coxwell (Map Ref: SU 280934) at 12.30pm to eat. The 4 mile walk will start at 1.30 from the National Trust's Great Barn in Great Coxwell, taking in Badbury Iron-age Hill-fort. New walkers are always very welcome. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.

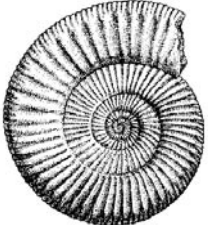
FRILFORD ST PETER'S WI

Our next meeting will be on Friday June 18th at 2pm in Duffield Place.

Our speaker will be Mrs Dorothy Wise who will talk about "Introducing William". "Who is William?" you may think. Then you must come to the meeting to be introduced! I am assured that it will be interesting. Visitors will be very welcome.

WEH

MARCHAM EX-SERVICEMEN'S Club
CHARITY DANCE
26TH JUNE 2004 AT 8.30pm
Music by RPM
All PROCEEDS will go to LOCAL CHARITIES.
OVER 18's ONLY
TICKETS £7 EACH FROM THE CLUB

 <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: serif;"><i>The Marcham Society</i></p>	<p>Visit to the Wilts & Berks Canal lock restoration at Wootton Bassett Saturday 19th June. 10.30am Contact Judith Fontaine (391275) for further details. Non-members £1. Numbers limited so priority given to members.</p> <p>Walk and Barbecue at Sherwood, Frilford Road Sat 10th July. Adults £5, children £2.50 Meet at the church at 6.30pm to walk or 7.30 to eat. Contact Sheila Dunford (391439) by July 7th to book.</p>
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