

MARCHAM SOCIETY LECTURE REPORT

Elizabeth Whitehouse:

The Morland family of old North Berkshire

Elizabeth Whitehouse has been an indefatigable historical researcher since her retirement from medical research and her interests have included the lives and activities of several important local families. She is a regular contributor to Marcham Society Exhibitions and to our Journal, the Coral Rag. Elizabeth has lived in Marcham since 1966 and is the Marcham Society Archivist.

Her researches into the Morland family started with a chance meeting with Sue Burnay who has published a book about the pubs of East Ilsley. Elizabeth has discovered that the Berkshire branch of the Morland family is almost certainly descended from a Westmoreland Morland (the family's county of origin) who attended Queen's College Oxford in the 1590s and became a Berkshire vicar. In 1711 a John Morland, yeoman farmer, purchased West Ilsley House, with a malthouse, and his son built a brewery there in 1726. The family's importance and affluence grew, and in the 1860s they expanded the brewery business with the purchase of the Eagle and Abbey breweries in Abingdon. The heyday of the family was in the Victorian era with Morlands Brewery and Morlands the Solicitors in Abingdon. The family forged connections with county families and activities, and Sheepstead House, just north of Marcham village, became the home of Benjamin Morland, and in the time of his son of the North Berks foxhounds. The Marcham connection with the family is commemorated by a Victorian wall memorial in the chancel of All Saints' Church.

Elizabeth's researches uncovered some interesting members of the wider Morland family: Sir Samuel Morland, who invented the first adding machine and worked for Oliver Cromwell's spymaster, and George Morland, the artist, whose dissolute lifestyle led him to a premature death.

Elizabeth says that the impetus for her historical research is 'her insatiable curiosity': the results were a fascinating and erudite talk enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience.

MARCHAM SOCIETY WALK

Midweek Walk on Thursday 9th March

This month's walk will cover the two Wittenham villages and the famous Clumps. We will meet at The Vine Inn in Long Wittenham (Map Ref: SU550940) at 12.30pm for lunch or 1.30 for the walk of about 4 miles. As always, new walkers are very welcome. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford on 391439 for lifts and further details.

MARCHAM SOCIETY WALK REPORT

9th February

The day commenced with lunch at The Jolly Boatman at Thrupp and we then drove to the British Waterways Depot and parked in their car park and set off towards Hampton Poyle, from there to Hampton Gay and then on to Shipton-on-Cherwell. We then came back down the towpath of the Oxford Canal to Thrupp. The weather was ideal. Normally we visit the churches but all three

were locked so we were unable to see inside. We were not able to approach the remains of the Manor House either, (burnt down in 1887), as the local farmer had got all his newborn lambs within the boundary. Perhaps it will have to be arranged again and get all the Churches open for a visit.

MALVIN DRAKLEY

Malvin's photos of this walk are on the MADNews website and also on the cover this month.

ON THE BUSES

Spring in prospect and exploring the Thames Path, made much easier by bus X15. It takes about 15 mins to the 'Rose Revived' at Newbridge (0917, and hourly, from Frilford Road, not Sundays) and a delightful walk along the river of nearly 8 miles past Northmoor Lock, Bablock Hythe (be sure to follow the signs away from the river for a bit) and Pinkhill Lock. When the path took us out on to the B4044 (between Swinford Bridge and Farmoor) we turned right and soon came to the bus stop for Stagecoach 100, every 15 mins into Oxford, and then the Marcham bus home from St Aldate's.



Reduction in the bus services through Marcham

Bus service changes from 26 March will see the withdrawal of the hourly express journeys on Stagecoach X31 through Marcham. During the day route 31 will be replaced by routes 32 / 33, an hourly circular each way Oxford - Abingdon - Marcham - Wantage - Didcot - Abingdon - Oxford.

Route 31 will provide an hourly service in the evenings (an improvement) and on Sunday.

Overall our existing daytime service from Marcham on 31 / X31 is halved - no express journeys along A34 to Oxford and a reduction to hourly to Wantage.

A new half hourly Oxford / Wantage express (X30) will run via A 420 and A338 thus missing out Marcham. Details are awaited as to whether route X30 will stop at Frilford.

The one gain for Marcham residents is a through service to Didcot (via Wantage) every hour, but taking an hour over the journey.


These changes are related to the withdrawal of Stagecoach X4, Oxford to Abingdon, which has not fulfilled expectations, often empty, Oxford Bus X3 proving much more popular. The sad outcome is that Marcham, along with other communities, will be left with just half the service it had before the failed X4 was introduced.

BUS SPOTTER

BUS STOP PRESS

Due to resurfacing work at Newbridge there is an emergency timetable in force for X15 Wallingford to Witney service between 6 and 17 March. There will be a diversion which will add to the journey time so please check before you set out. You can get details from Thames Travel on 01491 837988 or their website www.thames-travel.co.uk.



 <p><i>The Marcham Society</i></p>	<p><i>Our historic landscape</i> Karen Selway Richards: The Break-up of a Royal Saxon Manor in South Oxfordshire.</p>
<p>All Saints' Church <i>Tuesday 14th March 2006, 7.45pm</i></p>	<p>Non-members £1 www.marchamsociety.org.uk Further details: Janey Cumber (391327) or Judith Fontaine (391275)</p>