

Are you interested in Marcham and its surroundings?

Did you know



that **The Marcham Society** has published a number of booklets on the history and natural history of the locality?

The latest one is **Coral Rag 5** which has a series of articles commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of the 2nd World War, as well as articles on the gravestones and plants in the churchyard and an update on the Manor Farm excavations. **£3.50**

Also available:

Coral Rag 4, Coral Rag 3 & Coral Rag 2 all **£3.50**

The Ayris Family Receipt Book **£3**

A Tale of Two Benches **£3**

Any 4 for £10

All a fascinating read about the village and the local area.

Available at Marcham Post Office and Stores, at Cumbers Farm Shop, Manor Farm, and at Marcham Society meetings.

Marcham Society Lecture on The Geology of Oxfordshire

In 2000 the Oxfordshire Geology Trust was formed with the objectives of protecting geological sites, raising awareness of them and giving public access. It is funded by several bodies, including English Nature and the Heritage Lottery fund. Jane Worrell became its Director in 2004 and she came to tell us about the Trust and the exciting geology in the county.

In many ways the study of geology started here. William Smith, a canal surveyor born in Churchill, was the first to recognise that the rocks appeared in layers or strata, the most recent at the top, while William Buckland was the first Professor of Geology at Oxford and was the first to recognise that giant extinct reptiles or dinosaurs existed. In fact the very first one found was from Stonesfield and, more recently, quarrying has revealed amazing giant footsteps still preserved from the time when these giants were making their way along a sandy sea shore just north of Oxford.

Jane pointed out that the earliest rocks, about 200 millions years old, can be found in the north of the county while they are increasingly younger as one travels south-east, with the chalk, at 65 millions years being the youngest. These formed during the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods when the county was only 30° north of the Equator and enjoyed a steamy monsoon climate.

Travelling from north to south we encounter successive layers of limestone rocks which provide building stone such as Hornton ironstone and Taynton limestone, to Headington Stone and the Coral Rag from our own region. In between lie wet vales with clays which were laid down in deep dark seas.

The whole region is rich in Jurassic fossils and many can be seen in the University Museum. Visits can be made to several old quarries, Dry Sandford Pit for example near at hand. It is hoped to arrange a field trip with the Geology Trust next summer to visit some of these.

We came away with a much clearer picture of how the rocks beneath our feet have influenced the landscape and provided the unique character of many of our villages. Jane Worrell, as a young and very enthusiastic professional, showed us that geology can be fascinating and a passion for children of all ages!

ERIC DUNFORD

MARCHAM SOCIETY WALK

Midweek Walk, Thursday, November 10th

This month's walk is close to home covering a section of the Thames Path between Bablock Hythe and Appleton Lower Common. We will meet at The Red Lion in Northmoor (Map Ref: SP422029), at 12.30pm for lunch or 1.30 for the walk of just over 4 miles.

As always, new walkers are very welcome. Members free, non-members £1. Ring Eric Dunford 391439 for lifts & further details.



Megan Price
whom many of you will recognise from visits to the dig, will give us an insight to Victorian archaeology with the help of lantern slides..

All Saints' Church
Tuesday 8th November 2005, 7.45pm

Non-members £1 www.marchamsociety.org.uk
Further details: Janey Cumber (391327) or Judith Fontaine (391275)