



# Marcham SOCIETY

October  
2026  
Volume 9  
Issue 9

## ***"Beer, Sausages and Marmalade"***

Our Talk on Monday 26th October  
at 7.30pm in the Marcham Centre

Find out how 19th century Oxford became well-known for its production of Sausages and Frank Cooper's Oxford Marmalade in a talk by a local historian, **Liz Woolley**.



As an Oxford historian Liz will examine the relationship between food production, tourism and politics in the city.

  
**The  
VICTORIA ARMS**  
Old Marston, Oxon OX3 0PZ



Maps of the Jubilee Walks and other pathways around Marcham are available free of charge in the village shop.

## MARCHAM JUBILEE WALKS

These paths are open due to the goodwill of W Cumber & Son (Theale) Ltd.  
Please respect the land and only use the waymarked paths.





Page 3

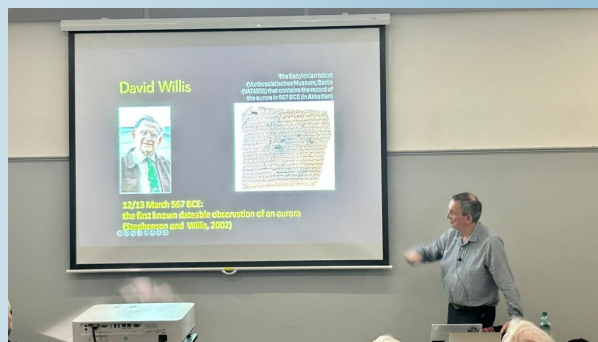
## The September Astronomy Group



Thank you to all who came to the meeting on 16th September. This was the first meeting of the 2026-27 season, with a record-breaking attendance of 53 people. The regular round-up of News and Members Matter included coverage of our big Solar Eclipse event on 12th August and our smaller Lunar Eclipse event early on 28th August, and a collection of images submitted by a growing number of our members.

The main feature of the evening was the talk in memory of David Willis, whom we sadly lost at this time last year. The talk **"Great Auroral Events"** was given by Professor Mike Lockwood FRS who was, until May, President of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Mike worked in the past with David Willis (and also with Eric Dunford). He acknowledged David's dedicated work on a range of aspects of solar science. One of the several areas in which he specialised was drawing information on solar events, including reports of aurora, from historical data over centuries, with a small number of colleagues. At the time, almost no-one else in space science was looking back in this way; more recently this area of research has become a lively topic and his early work has been of great value.



Mike talked about aurora, how they are produced and the history of extreme events when aurora are seen at much lower latitudes than usual. The aurora of 24th May (also seen from Marcham) was the third most extreme event in recorded history. He provided a fascinating account of how coronal mass ejections from the sun interact with the Earth's magnetic field generating showers of energetic electrons. Different energies of electrons result from these interactions, affecting the colour and patterns of aurora. These were amply illustrated with many examples. He also described how the changing positions of the Earth's magnetic poles have changed the optimum locations for sighting aurorae over history.

The next Astronomy meeting is at 7.30pm  
on Wednesday 14th October

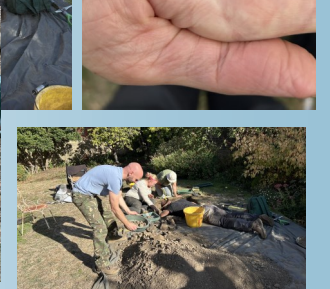
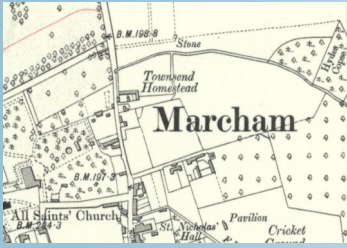
### **"Very Large Telescopes in South Africa"**

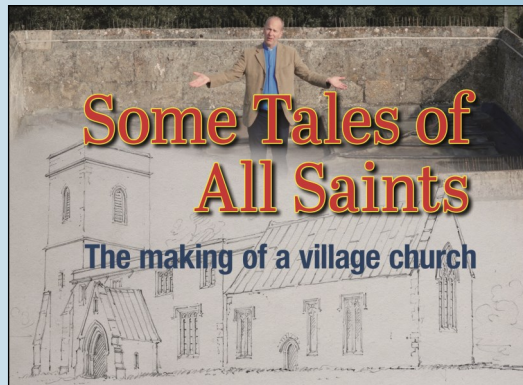
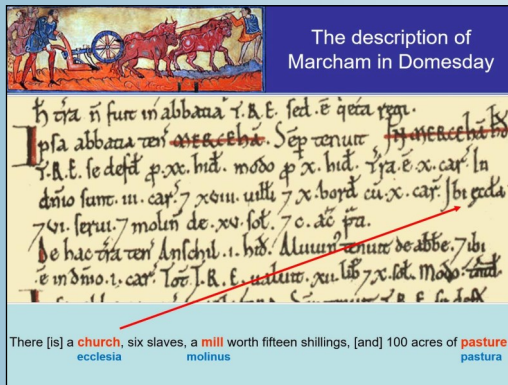
*How South Africa succeeded in hosting the world's largest optical telescope but almost lost the Square Kilometre Array!*

A talk by Phil Charles (Prof Emeritus, Oxford and Southampton)

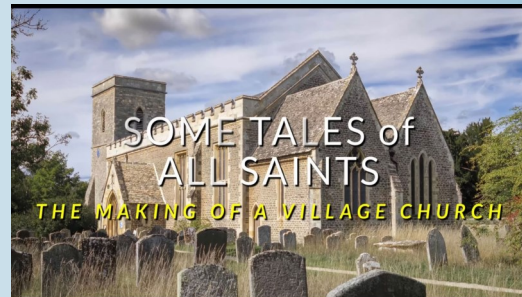


## Five Archaeological Test Pits in September Page 4





On Monday 28th September at 7.30 pm a brief AGM in the Main Hall was attended by over seventy in the audience. It was followed by **“Marcham in Domesday”** a short talk by Simon Blackmore and then a film about Marcham Church presented by Bartle Frere: **“Some Tales of All Saints”**. The Reverend Nick Weldon who was commentator in the film, answered questions at the end.



The film is now publicly available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Rfj5jpLWKUQ>

*Talks will continue take place on the fourth Monday of the month in the Main Hall at the Marcham Centre. Astronomy meetings will be on Wednesdays in the Small Hall.*

## October 2026

**Thursday 1st:** Midweek Walk meeting at The Fox, Denchworth, OX12 0DX at 12.30

**Monday 12th:** Diamond Light Source visit

**Wednesday 14th:** Astronomy Meeting in Small Hall of Marcham Centre at 7.30pm  
*"Very Large Telescopes in South Africa"*  
 A talk by Phil Charles (Prof Emeritus, Oxford and Southampton)

**Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th:** Archaeological Test Pit on New Road

**Monday 26th:** *"Beer, Sausages and Marmalade"* a talk by Liz Woolley (Oxfordshire Local History Association) in Main Hall of Marcham Centre at 7.30 pm (see page 1)



Look out for notices on our Facebook page  
 or in the latest issue of MAD News

**MAD News** www.madnews.co.uk  
 Cothill - Frilford - Garford - Gozzards Ford - Marcham - Tubney

The 2026/27 committee was elected at the recent AGM.

Di Hutchings decided to stand down. The Chairman thanked her for her years of loyal service.

Jill Tuffley offered to take her place.

## The Marcham Society

### Election of Committee

The Committee members for 2025/6 and those standing for election in 2026/7 are:

| Position         | 2025/6          | 2026/7          |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Chair</b>     | John Scoble     | John Scoble     |
| <b>Treasurer</b> | Shirley Eccles  | Shirley Eccles  |
| <b>Secretary</b> | Bartle Frere    | Bartle Frere    |
|                  | Jim Asher       | Jim Asher       |
|                  | Simon Blackmore | Simon Blackmore |
|                  | Eric Dunford    | Eric Dunford    |
|                  | Sheila Dunford  | Sheila Dunford  |
|                  | Di Hutchings    |                 |
|                  | Max Sinclair    | Max Sinclair    |
|                  | Sheila Tilley   | Sheila Tilley   |
|                  |                 | Jill Tuffley    |
|                  |                 |                 |