

# Corsham Spotlight

March, 2007

Volume 5, Issue 1

Newsletter of the Corsham Civic Society

*Complementary Copy*

## Editorial

We hope you all had a very good Christmas and New Year; it seems such a long time ago now.

Did you manage to re-cycle the Christmas tree, the cards and all that packaging? Were you aware that you could refuse to take home items from the supermarkets that are heavily packaged? You can actually ask for the packaging to be removed. What a commotion that would cause if we all did it! As it is, it is better to buy such things as vegetables without any wrapping or a plastic bag, that way, we do not have to dispose of it. Apparently, the new motto is "Reduce, Re-use, Re-cycle". We are going to hear a lot more on this subject over the next few years I am sure, so let's get started now.

Only another month before we shall be asking for candidates to serve on our Executive committee. I know it is my annual cry, but please think about whether you might be able to help. We have a thriving Society, and so many things we would like to do, but much will go by the board if we do not have the resources to do it.

We thank you for your donations to the 'Spire Appeal' fund. Approximately £74 was collected and with matching funding from the Society we were able to contribute £148 to the fund. You will



find more information on the appeal inside this publication.

The gathering of a collection of stories of "Local Lives" is continuing, and we are pleased to publish the first two of these, in this issue, concerning Love's the butchers, and Hancock's, the coal merchants. Most of these stories will relate to people who lived and worked in Corsham during the last 75 years, but we thought it important to collect these before they are lost for ever. We hope you will find them interesting.

*Pat Whalley*

## Supermarkets for 'Seniors'

Did you see in January, the news of a Supermarket opening in Germany, exclusively for 'Seniors'? It has lower shelves, and trolleys with seats incorporated, plus a lounge area - a whole new way of looking at shopping! Hopefully one of the larger chain stores here will one day consider introducing the same. Let's hope they also provide goods in quantities which are suitable for the single buyer as well as in standard sizes.

Ed.



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## Review

We were pleased to welcome Steve Hobbs from the Trowbridge Record Office, who gave us a very interesting talk on the examples of the old Wills and Inventories that they hold. He explained how they could be accessed and what information would be available to the researcher. An engrossing subject, particularly for those seeking their family roots.

We were later able to go to the Record Office and peruse the wills of Charles Mayo and his wife Mary, which gave us a little more knowledge of the family which we shall share with you later.

Our Christmas gathering at Great Lypiatt Farm was excellent, and our sincere thanks go to our hosts Simon Truelove and his wife Sarah and the children who made us so welcome. Apart from the opportunity to see this wonderful old farmhouse at close quarters, and enjoy the food and wine, we were also entertained by the Phoenix Choir, and then asked to demonstrate our own singing skills in true Christmas spirit. To say "a good time was had by all" is to understate our enjoyment, but we did exactly that!

The New Year dinner came next and having got over the excesses of Christmas 36 of us were able to thoroughly enjoy a super repast provided by Jerry and Natalie at the Flemish Weaver. Our thanks are due to

them both and to Eileen and Wyndham for their organisation of this event.

The end of January Open meeting, held in the Jubilee Hall at the Community Centre had several strands. A Wine Tasting led by Peter Henney & David Klewin was extremely pleasant, relaxing and informative. We then had a further opportunity for socialising, with a drink and nibbles, and a chance to study some of our old photographs, with a view to identifying the location. For those who had lived in Corsham a long while, this was easier than for those who had only arrived in more recent years, but one or two of the more obscure shots had our audience foxed. A very merry and entertaining evening.

At February's meeting we were delighted to welcome Michael Burton, former head of The School of Architecture at Bristol University, who spoke to us on "The Civic Trust – 50 years on". He gave us a very interesting overview of the work of the Trust and reminded us that although we are often more concerned with the architecture of the past, it also necessary to be mindful of what we can contribute to the future, and how the Civic Trust can guide us along the appropriate path to achieve this.

## Photographs & Archives

We are once again indebted to Joe James who has donated to the Society a ledger that chronicles some of the work of Mr William Osborne, stone mason and builder, during the period 1862 – 1875.

A great deal of the work listed in this ledger is for the Methuen estate; the Mayo's (which we will share later), and for many other family names known to us such as Richard Balch, the Poynders, Neales, Hulberts, Alexanders, Spackmans, and of course many others. Mr Osborne was also responsible for the erecting and maintenance of some family tombs in St Bart's churchyard. A short extract from the ledger appears below.

Mr Osborne lived at 1 Station Road, Corsham, known as Osborne House; some of you may remember that back in the 70's, the Society were active in saving that house from demolition. The Council had decided that it should come down, because visibility was poor for car drivers when coming out of Station Rd into Lacock/Pickwick Road. Since the house was saved, the action was taken to ban traffic from turning right out of Station Rd, a situation that remains to this day, and has helped considerably.

### The account for Corsham Cricket Club.

|                            |  |          |
|----------------------------|--|----------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 1870. | To repairing wall in cricket field. Labour and material          | 4s. 6d   |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan 1871  | ½ day mason repairing wall. 1 bucket of lime, 2 barrows of dirt. | 3s. 2d   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> June 1872 | 1 day apprentice and labourer repairing wall. 1 bushel of lime   | 4s. 10d. |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> July 1872 | ¼ day mason and apprentice repairing wall. ½ load of dirt.       | 2s. 8½d  |

***Thank you Joe, another very interesting insight into our local and social history.***



## Local Lives, Leonard Love – Family Butcher

In 1935 Len Love moved with his family from Chippenham to 17 The Tynings, Corsham and opened a butchers shop in the High Street in partnership with Brian Hart, known as 'The North West London Meat Company'. (Now E&S Electrical).

This was following in the footsteps of the family, but we need to retrace our steps a little, to understand how this came about. Len's father Walter had a butcher's shop in New Rd, Chippenham, and his brother Bert had the grocery shop next door. (Now Fast Food outlets). Len was the youngest of 6 boys – Billy, Ernest, John, Reginald and Walter, he also had 2 sisters. The boys all served in the 1914-18 War, and thankfully all returned safely. Tragically, Len's father was killed whilst stopping a runaway horse at the bottom of Station Rd in Chippenham.

Len had married Lydia Platts and they had 2 children, Derek and Dawn. After Lydia's untimely death of a brain tumour in 1950, Len later married Jesse Peet, and they ran the business together.

Unfortunately, Len and Brian's partnership at the NWLMC faltered, and Len broke away to take up his own premises at no. 10 High Street in 1937, (now Turners Fish Shop) where he and his family remained as butchers until 1986.

It was whilst at no 10 High Street, that Len obtained the premises next door, for daughter Dawn, to establish a hairdressing business. (Now Head Office).

Len was one of four tradesmen who formed the original United Corsham Traders, which included Astra Motors and several other shops including a greengrocer, grocer, newsagent and of course a butcher. He was a member of the Auxiliary Fire Brigade, the Chamber of Commerce, a Trustee of Corsham Club and a Freemason. In sport he was a member of Corsham Football Club, and played Bowls; his other love was sailing and he regularly took the family to Hamble near Southampton, where he had a motor boat.

Len died in 1967 aged 65, having made a considerable contribution to the town.

He was succeeded by his son Derek, who had attended Smithfield's Butchery College at the age of 16, and became a Master Butcher in his own right. Following in fathers and grandfathers tradition he took the business forward in the same efficient manner.

Derek had a break from the business whilst undertaking National Service in the RAF, and it was whilst in Egypt, and when he wasn't feeding many

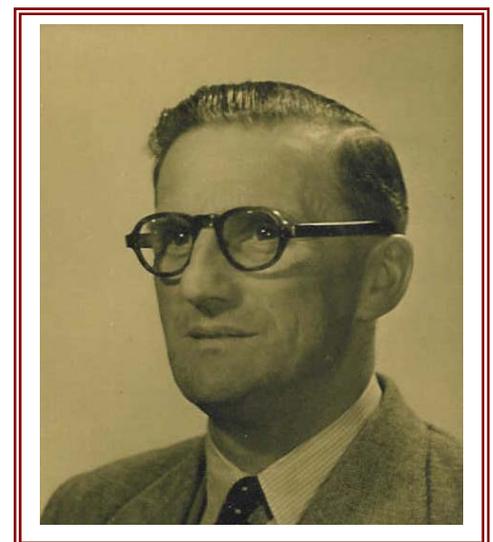
airmen and chasing snakes out of cans, his interest in hockey came to the fore, there he devised a hockey pitch out of the Suez mud; but having been a 1<sup>st</sup> Corsham King's Scout, this would have come easily to him, although it must have been hot work!!!

Derek met Anne Crowe, in January 1954, and they were married the following year. They had 2 children Julian and Vanessa. Both keen 'sportsmen', they played hockey (Derek scored over a 100 goals in one year) and tennis, and Derek's other love proved to be sailing, as a keen powerboat racer, the programme for the family weekends regularly followed the road to Poole. Derek & Anne finally gave up the business in 1986, when they retired to Majorca.

Some of you may remember that Julian took on the butchery for a while, but subsequently diversified into the bread and sandwich business which ultimately became 'Loves of Melksham'. Having made a considerable success of that, he too decided to leave Corsham and now lives in Spain.

Four generations of butchers – 70 years of which were in Corsham! Quite an achievement. Just another family of hard working people, not well known throughout the country, but who should be remembered for providing a friendly and essential service to the local community throughout their working lives.

***My thanks to Derek Love, for giving me these memories. Ed.***



***Leonard Love***



## Planning

The Society has a Planning Sub Committee of 6 members who attend the Town Hall in Corsham about every three weeks, to consider the Planning Applications which have been made in and around the Corsham area. The Society can then make their views known to the NWDC, who will take these comments into account when the application is considered. The NWDC do not have a legal obligation to do so, but have accepted that the Society should have a voice. Sometimes we are heard, sometimes not. The sub-committee have been undertaking this task for many years, and have been fortunate in the past to have members with a working knowledge of the planning process, however, recently we have lost that expertise, and would value someone who could come forward to attend these meetings, and give us an expert opinion on the planning proposals.

You would not have to be an Executive member, but could just be co-opted on to the sub committee.

Please notify Pat Whalley if you think you could help.

**Pat Whalley, Sec. Plans Cttee.**

## Local Lives, The Hancock Family in Corsham

We know that there has long been a 'Hancock' family in Corsham. Records show that in a record of the Tenants of Corsham dated 1366, there is one 'John Hancock' listed. (Ref: CJ Hall, 'An Illustrated History of Corsham') We know from Geoff Knapp's account of the history of Great Lypiatt Farm (Spotlight- March 2005) that there was a John Hancock living at the farm in 1450, who was Bailiff to the Manor of Corsham under Henry 6<sup>th</sup>. John Poulson's publication 'The Ways of Corsham' refers to ".....records of payments by the Charity Trustees for Corsham...."

- 1673 Paid Thomas Hancock towards the Militia 8s.6d
- 1680 John Hancock Treasurer paid ...for the Militia 1s.3d
- 1690 Paid Thomas Handcock towards the Militia 11s.11¼d".

What we are unable to prove is whether these illustrious people are the ancestors of the Hancock family that now live in Corsham, and who have also been in the area for hundreds of years.

We approached Clive Hancock to ask him for a story of his family's business as Coal Merchants in Corsham. He was able to provide a great deal of information, and here is their story:-



## The 'Hancocks', Carriers & Coal Merchants

Clive has a family tree going back to 1730. During the period 1821 – 1839 his Great Great Grandfather James and Elizabeth Hancock had 10 children. Their children's baptisms are recorded with all of them living at the Harp & Cross. (Now known as the 'Harp & Crown', Gastard). In the records of census for 1831 & 41 James Hancock is recorded as living with his wife and family at the 'Harp & Cross'. In 1851 the family are recorded as living at Moor Green – James was then farming. In 1861 they are recorded as living at Westwells, and in 1871 at Corshamside.

Great grandfather James Hancock, wife Mary, and 12 children are recorded in the 1861 & 1871 census as having lived at Corshamside.

Grandfather Hezekiah was born in 1874 and here our story really begins. He worked as a 'carrier', and rented a piece of The Tanyard (at the bottom of Pound Pill, behind the Primary School) for grazing his horses. In 1923 Hezekiah decided to go into coal haulage, and took over a business from a Mr Hulbert, who had land behind 'Chaplins, Pickwick Rd'. He then rented the house - no.7 Post Office Lane from Richard Balch, for his family and he was able to buy this property at auction in 1944. In 1943, son William (Bill) was working at Westinghouse, but it was decided he should come to work with his father, and so they ran the business together. At that time coal was ordered from Coal Factors, through a rep, and the coal was delivered direct from the pithead to Corsham station, from where it was collected and taken to a yard which had been acquired in Post Office Lane. As the 1960's took hold, the Corsham railway station was closed and the coal then had to be collected from Chippenham railway station. Then news came of the proposed development of Newlands Rd and the Precinct. Calne & Chippenham RDC bought the house and yard in Post Office Lane by compulsory purchase order, and in return they offered the site of the Station Hotel, Station Rd, as suitable land from which to continue operating the business. The offer was accepted, and the Station Hotel was demolished, and a coal yard established.

In 1970, it was decided that Clive and his sister Joyce should be taken on as equal partners. The four members of the family ran the business until 1977 when Bill and his wife Edith retired; Bill purchased land at the Tanyard and they had a bungalow built for their retirement retaining their share in the business until they died in 1985.

In the 1980's the firm had employed 10 people and sold 80 tonnes of coal. By 1996 there were 4 staff and only 25 tonnes of coal sold.

So it was sadly time to give up the business, and Clive sold the land for development.

Three generations and 73 years of hard work as coal merchants.

Another contribution to our Social History.

***Our thanks to Clive for this story, we shall keep it with the others we are collecting for our archive.***

### Obituary

It was with great regret that we heard in January of the death of Eileen Soanes. She had been in the RUH Hospital at Bath for several months.

Eileen lived in Pickwick village, and kept a watchful eye on all matters of planning particularly relating to Pickwick. She had been a member of our Society for many years, working on the Executive Committee, the Planning sub committee, acting as Membership Secretary, and more recently organising the Christmas/New Year dinner for members.

We know that Eileen attended the local church, and also gave her time to the National Trust at Dyrham and at Bath's American Museum; she also drove for 'Link', the local organisation that transports people on hospital visits etc, and was extremely interested and involved in all aspects of the life of the town

A very private person, we know little of Eileen's background, except that during her working years she was a Legal Secretary. She certainly kept all of us on our toes at Executive Committee meetings!

We and her many friends will miss her.



## Down Memory Lane...

Never let it be said that our Vice Chairman is not eager to sample the fare on offer from one of our increasing list of new eateries in the town. When the call comes, Peter wastes no time in accepting an invitation to represent the Corsham Civic Society at the Grand Opening of such enterprises – and so it was when Haques began trading at the old Ladbrokes unit in the High Street in August last year.

Having listened intently to the speeches, gained the benefit of the photo shoot management organized by the local press and enjoyed the wonderful food that the young couple who run the business had prepared, Peter asked to be allowed to look around the premises. He knew something of the planning deliberations which had been part of the debate which preceded the granting of the 'change of use' permission. He was particularly interested in the approach that had been used to regain access to the first floor of the building – access from the Ladbrokes unit had been closed off since the day it first arrived in our main thoroughfare.

Clutching his camera, Peter was given a conducted tour of 'upstairs'. Not unreasonably, the emphasis had been placed on getting the kitchens and serving areas operations. There was still much to be done before the first and second floors could be brought up to modern-day living standards. Some things had not changed for many years.

There was one item which especially attracted Peter's interest. He took a picture of it – and we reproduce his picture here. Clearly it is a sign that would have been affixed to the front of the building in earlier times. Presumably, the gambling connection (with Ladbrokes) is not a coincidence. Can anyone provide the story of how "H A Grant" turned into "Ladbrokes"?

*Ed*



"Who Remembers this?"



## Celebration of Christmas, 2006



As recorded under the Editor's Review, the Society enjoyed a festive evening at Great Lypiatt Farm during the run-up to Christmas. The carol singing was led by the Phoenix Singers, who first sang 'unaided by the massed ranks of the Corsham Civic Society' – and then had to tolerate their inclusion as the wine and minced pies took hold. Our picture shows Colin Howard, the Director of the Phoenix Singers, together with Freddy Connolly, one of its members. Our thanks go to all the choir's members. It was a memorable evening.

*Peter Tapscott (Vice Chairman)*

Freddy and Colin, before leading the singing



## Growing the Tourist Economy of Britain

### ***Corsham marks its 'Sacred Britain' card***

Just before Christmas, Corsham played host to the leader of the team responsible for a national project intended to place churches and other sacred venues at the heart of the tourism economy.

The project is called Sacred Britain. It is backed by the county's major church and tourism organisations and has the support of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. It has already secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Its 'Agenda for Action' was launched in November by David Lammy, Minister for Culture, who said, 'The beauty of our churches is everywhere, round every corner and in every town; But sadly people don't always take that extra step to visit them. We need to explore how church tourism can contribute to keeping these buildings as going concerns.'

The Corsham Area Development Trust, of which the Society is a founding partner, immediately saw the relevance of this initiative to the town and its surrounding villages - particularly in view of the St Bartholomew's Church Spire Appeal, which is now, of course, well underway. The Trust has set about ensuring that Corsham lays its claim to being one of the project's early focuses for attention.

While Corsham already displays all the signs of being

well-integrated where its churches, its cultural activities and its commitment to increasing its visitor attractiveness are concerned, there is much more that can be done. Greater collaboration between our various groups can bring real rewards.

An invitation was extended to Colin Shearer, the man in charge of the project team, to spend a day in Corsham and to meet as many of the key players in this area of the town's economy as the Trust could assemble in the time available. Each representative was invited to lay out his or her stall. They included the Town Council, NWDC, Corsham Court, the South West of England Regional Development Agency, St Bart's itself, the Pound Arts Centre, the Almshouses and the Civic Society. Visits were made to the Church and to the Corsham Tourist Information & Heritage Centre.

The town and its institutions gave exceptional account of themselves. Colin was clearly impressed. He was, however, able to identify some things, which we might do to improve matters even more. It seems there is a lot we can do. We now look forward to working with the Sacred Britain team to assist us achieve real benefits for the Corsham area.

***Peter Tapscott (Vice Chairman)***

## HODS 2007 – Time to get Started

It's that time of the year again – time to get planning for this year's contribution to the national celebration of England's architectural and cultural heritage. We will soon be receiving the papers inviting us to participate formally in this wonderful festival of all that is good about the country's locations, events, customs and practices. As all of us who have 'got involved' in the past have discovered, it provides a not-to-be-repeated opportunity to become closer to those properties and businesses which exist on our doorstep, but about which we know so little.

Last year's team have signified their interest to become part of the 2007 Team. That is vital. They

have the experience to ensure that the details are taken care of. However, we need new blood and we can always use some fresh ideas. Here is your chance to join in with something that gets you behind the scenes and brings you into contact with some very enthusiastic members of the community.

To explore what is in it for you, please contact the writer.

***Peter Tapscott (Vice Chairman)***



## Operation 'Christmas Child', 2006

November each year sees the start of our annual charity effort where we get involved with voluntary work on behalf of Operation Christmas Child. The idea is to send as many gift-filled shoeboxes as possible to under-privileged children in Eastern Europe and some African countries. O.C.C. is just one of the projects run by Samaritan's Purse International. Last year, O.C.C. sent over 1.24 million shoeboxes from the UK alone, more than 43,000 of which were handled by our Warehouse at Melksham.

The Melksham Warehouse, which is run entirely by volunteers, has a large collection area, taking in Yeovil, Salisbury, Glastonbury, Devizes, Farringdon, Swindon and Bath. Shoeboxes are collected from schools, churches, shops, companies and private houses, all of which act as focal points for individual donations. As well as gifts, the boxes should each contain a donation of £2 towards transportation.

Our warehouse which is at Bowerhill is rented and paid for mainly from donations from generous individuals and local companies. Its main function is to inspect the contents of every shoebox before further packing, making sure that it contains no sharp objects, toy weapons, or liquids. Previous experience has shown that spillage of liquids can ruin a large number of shoeboxes during shipment abroad. Useful liquids are packed separately before being sent. With the exception of the above, no items are removed from any of the boxes.

Should there be a shortage of contents in any shoebox, suitable additions are made from a large stock of donated goods held at the warehouse.

As a special project this year, we decided to send some hand-knitted glove puppets in as many boxes as possible. These have proved very popular with all who receive them. The idea was to knit 1,000 of these by the time we sent the boxes off. Patterns were made available, and a large number of our local knitters set to work in an effort to reach our target. It never ceases to amaze me, but we had over 3,300 puppets ready in time for shipment. You never saw so many variations on a theme! Well done every one of you.

All checked shoeboxes are packed into large cartons for onward shipment, usually by lorry or container. To keep costs as low as possible, use is made of empty lorries going back to the target country. On lorry night, usually a Friday, it's all hands to the pumps! Loading upwards of 8,000 shoeboxes, in their cartons is heavy work, so we are always very grateful to call upon some of our neighbours at Bowerhill who willingly donate a fork-lift truck and driver for a couple of hours. Aren't some folk just marvellous? We always make sure that the lorry driver, who almost invariably speaks little English, gets well fed, and takes with him a specially prepared gift from us, often for *his children*.

Last year, we sent lorries to Armenia, Bosnia, Romania and The Ukraine containing our haul of over 43,000 shoeboxes. The great thing about this charity is that we *know* that the gifts actually get to the children who always look forward to receiving them. Both the children and their parents are amazed that anyone from a 'well off' country like ours should actually care about them. We do care – that's why we put so much effort into making this happen every year. A very big thanks to all those who have donated gifts and/or their time to make this work.

**Brian & Margaret Gibbs. Neston**

## Ridgeway Care & Repair, North Wiltshire

This organisation is part of the Ridgeway Community Housing Association, which is registered as a charitable Industrial Provident Society. It enjoys financial support from the ODPM, NWDC, Supporting People and the Kennet and North Wiltshire PCT.

From "Ridgeway" you can maintain your independence in the home, whether you are healthy, elderly, disabled, or otherwise infirm. Help can be obtained with such things as adaptations to your home, building extensions, walls, or other structural items, and with other smaller jobs such as home maintenance (not gardening).

Further information may be obtained from:

Becky Bell, Project Manager

Ridgeway Care & Repair North Wiltshire,

41 New Road, Chippenham. SN15 1JQ, (01249) 460701, or: via the website: - [nwcr@ridgewaycommunity.org.uk](mailto:nwcr@ridgewaycommunity.org.uk)

*It was thought that the existence of this organisation maybe of use to members, or indeed to neighbours and families.*



## Charles Mayo - “LBC Application” Re-submitted”

The pace of the Society’s Mayo Memorial Restoration Project has picked up. While Kathy and Wyndham Thomas have been busy working with local schools in promoting the studying of the Mayo family and life in Corsham during the Victorian era, Pat Whalley (our Editor of ‘Corsham Spotlight’) has been putting the finishing touches to her research sub-project – the one which is so important to many of the other ones.

Pat has integrated what is recorded concerning the great man’s involvement in bringing mains water to Corsham. For this she has made reference to the excellent work of C J Hall, who, in 1983, set down two volumes of ‘Corsham – An Illustrated History’. They make fascinating reading. One item contained in Part One is entitled ‘Corsham Waterworks’. It tells how water was brought to the town centre in 1889 by the company of which C T Mayo was then the Chairman. Mayo had the pleasure of turning on the hydrant affixed to the Methuen Arms. Such was the pressure of the water that it shot up to the height of the building!

The water was brought to the town via a 6-mile long pipe. The article describes the source being a collection of springs at Loxwell. Having studied the O S map, and having paid due heed to the pipe’s length, it seems probable that the start of the pipeline was at Loxwell Farm, which is located just off the road that links the Lansdowne Arms, Derry Hill, to the village of Sandy Lane, opposite the Bowood Estate. No wonder the force of the water was so great when it was released in Corsham town centre!

All of which gives rise to two questions. What route did the pipeline take from Loxwell to Corsham, and is the pipeline still functioning? Does anyone know?

And finally (well for this edition, at least)...the all-important Listed Building Consent Application was re-submitted to NWDC just before Christmas. (Re-submitted because the original Application that had been submitted by Corsham Town Council before we became involved had had to be withdrawn.) We hope to receive news of a favourable outcome before you receive this newsletter.

***Peter Tapscott (Vice Chairman & Project Manager for the Mayo Memorial Restoration Project)***

## Field and Place Names from 1569

*As mentioned in the November edition of Spotlight, here are some examples of field & place names from 1569. Many other field and place names are unknown – If you can help, contact Pat Whalley.*

| TITLE                     | TODAY’S TRANSLATION         | TITLE                         | TODAYS TRANSLATION     |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Westrippes Lypgate</i> | <i>Westrop’s Leapgate</i>   | <i>Little Mynty</i>           | <i>Minty Farm</i>      |
| <i>West Law</i>           | <i>? westfield, Neston</i>  | <i>Mill Yate at le Grippe</i> | <i>Pickwick</i>        |
| <i>Forosell Hill</i>      | <i>Fussell Hill</i>         | <i>Brookleaze</i>             | <i>Brockleaze</i>      |
| <i>Brockley</i>           | <i>Gastard</i>              | <i>Danes Hill</i>             | <i>Easton</i>          |
| <i>Coppershall</i>        | <i>Coppershell</i>          | <i>Cleves</i>                 | <i>The Cleeve</i>      |
| <i>Shewells</i>           | <i>Showells</i>             | <i>Garrett’s Well</i>         | <i>The town well</i>   |
| <i>Holts Ryver</i>        | <i>Pickwick</i>             | <i>Town Gate</i>              | <i>? High St</i>       |
| <i>Snodmeade</i>          | <i>North of High Street</i> | <i>Purley</i>                 | <i>Purleigh</i>        |
| <i>Lyppyate Bridge</i>    | <i>Lypiatt Bridge</i>       | <i>Uppet Tymber Leaze</i>     | <i>Off Velley Hill</i> |
| <i>Damy Croft</i>         | <i>Damy Green.Neston</i>    |                               |                        |



## CADT “The TIC Gets Off to a Good Start”

As hopefully you now all know, the Corsham Area Development Trust (CADT) took over the running of the Corsham Tourist Information & Heritage Centre with effect from 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2006.

A special effort has been made to increase the number of Volunteers who can be called upon to occupy a position on the TIC Staffing Rota. (Please note that a further phase of this seeking out of voluntary assistance will be focused on the Heritage side of the combined unit. Work on this aspect will commence shortly.)

The Trust always recognised that the success of the whole venture would be heavily dependent upon the financial well being of the TIC part of the business – the one where money actually changes hands. Increasing the number of Volunteers was key to this.

There were 7 Volunteers at the point of transfer. It is pleasing to report that the various posters calling for New Volunteers have not gone un-noticed. There are now an additional 6 Volunteers ‘on the books’ and all providing valuable service. Not all of them come from the massed ranks of the Corsham Civic Society. We will not divulge the full identities of all 6 here. That would not be fair to them. However, we are hugely grateful for their willingness to back the project. Perhaps the Trust may take the liberty of giving their first names here. The post-transfer New Volunteers are Chris, Pat, Jan, Ron, Hilary and Linda. Many thanks to all of you – and, please, let the success of our ‘recruiting campaign’ not end there. We can still use more. Why not pick up a ‘Volunteer Pack’ when you are next passing Arnold House.

Tours of Historic Corsham are about to be introduced. Simon Williams, our guide, has declared his enthusiastic support for these. Two have already been arranged – both are for the Chippenham Twinning Association’s Anniversary Weekend at the end of April. Others will follow. Bookings are necessary and can be made at the TIC. A schedule of available tours will be drawn up.

It is, perhaps, appropriate to point out that all of the staff who are there to assist you at the Corsham Tourist Information & Heritage Centre are members of the CADT – and that the CADT is not only constituted to operate the CTI&HC. Its remit is to promote all aspects of Corsham’s tourist economy, as well as to provide community services that meet the needs of the local people.

Three aspects of these wider interests of the CADT have seen progress over recent months. The CADT has played a significant role in achieving this progress.

- Firstly, there has been the Sacred Britain initiative. This is described elsewhere in this edition of ‘Spotlight’. The Trust will be following this one up closely.
- Secondly, the CADT has played a part in accelerating the momentum behind something called the ‘Destination Wiltshire & Swindon Management Partnership’. This is the new ‘vehicle’ by which our local tourism interests will be promoted and co-ordinated. It is intended that it should be run by the private sector – with local businesses playing the lead role. The word ‘Management’ ought properly to be changed to ‘Marketing’. Along with my fellow director of the CADT (Ian Storey), I attended a meeting of this organisation in Bradford on Avon on 30 January. Corsham can gain considerably from this. We will stay with it.
- Lastly, there is what is effectively the re-launching of the organisation known for the last 50 years as The Civic Trust – to which the Corsham Civic Society is affiliated and owes allegiance as a member. It is re-inventing itself. The Civic Trust has been through a difficult time over recent years. Its funding has been uncertain. Its influence has been questionable. There is now a new team at its helm. It is working hard to correct these deficiencies. It has returned to its campaigning roots – there are several causes which are worthy of its attention! The writer serves on the National Committee of The Civic Trust. I am confident that the Civic Trust will soon become a new force to be reckoned with. Central government – watch out!

*Peter Tapscott (Vice Chairman, Corsham Civic Society, and Director, CADT)*



## Fire Badges

In our issue of July 2006, we had an item explaining the use of fire badges; the first form of fire insurance, and describing the one attached to the Halifax Building Society at 15/17 High Street.

It has been brought to our attention that there is another 'Sun Insurance mark' located at No. 5, Pickwick (shown in picture), when the original was found it had a piece missing, but with the aid of Andrea Garrihy and Galena Leadworks, the owner Mr Lewis, was able to have a replica made, which is visible at the front of the house, the damaged original is kept safely under lock and key.

Thank you to Mr Lewis for bringing this to our attention and allowing us to take a photograph.

*Ed.*



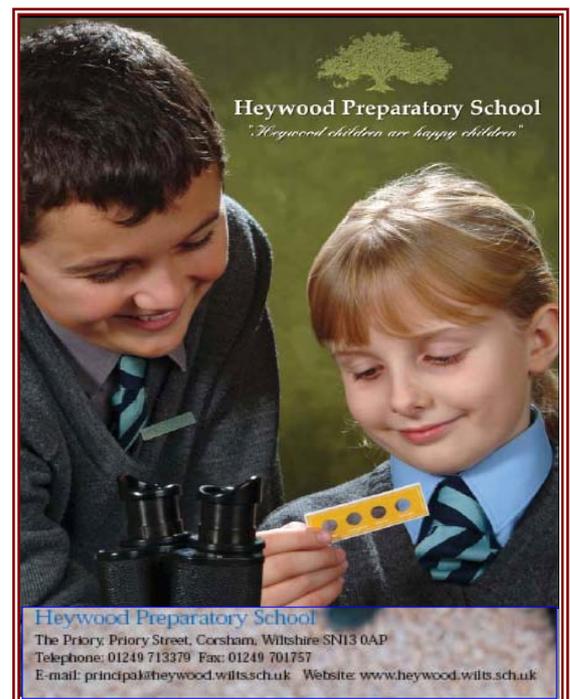
## Traffic Problems at the 'Cross Keys'

We have recently been approached by a Society member, David Bowen-Jones, particularly on behalf of the people in the Cross Keys area, asking us to support their concerns about the dangerous traffic layout and lack of speed restrictions at this busy crossroads. At the twin lane highway from Corsham to Chippenham, the opportunity to use the left hand lane - to Biddestone and Chippenham, causes particular problems when traffic tries to filter in to the Chippenham lane, with the added hazard of a bus stop immediately after the lights. Additionally there are 'end of speed restriction' signs on the approach to the lights on either side. It is considered there is a need to impose a speed restriction here, or at least erect a 'slow down' sign.

The Society were pleased to support this proposal, and wrote to the Wilts Constabulary, the NWDC, WCC, and Corsham Town Council.

We have had a very encouraging and positive response from each of these organisations. A speed survey is to be conducted by the Police, and Wilts County Council have agreed to look at the Cross Keys crossroads to identify any possible remedial measures that may be taken to improve road markings, lane arrows, and pedestrian movement.

*Ed.*



# Corsham Civic Society

## Civic Society Officers

### President

Mrs Anne Greenly

### Chairman

Mr Wyndham Thomas,  
3 Mansion House Mews, Corsham  
Tel: 01249 701683

### Vide Chairman

Mr Peter Tapscott,  
4 Charlwood Road, Corsham  
Tel: 01249 714453

### Hon Sec

Mrs Patricia Whalley,  
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Tel: 01249 713618

### Treasurer

Dr John Harwood,  
25 Woodlands, Corsham, Wilts  
SN13 0D  
Tel: 01249 701256

### Membership Secretary

Mrs Jean Beech,  
108 Brook Drive Corsham, Wilts  
Tel: 01249 713833

### Programme Organiser

Mr Wyndham Thomas,

(See above)

### Plans Chairman

Mr Geoff Knapp,  
2 South Street  
Corsham, Wilts

Tel: 01249 712270

## We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.Corsham-Civic-Society.co.uk](http://www.Corsham-Civic-Society.co.uk)

## PROGRAMME FOR 2007

*Please note – not quite all the events/venues have been confirmed, so please watch the notice board for further information.*

- 23 March "A Wiltshire Valley" with Rex Sawyer.  
27 April "The Coaching Era" with Roy Gallup & Ken Griffiths.  
18 May AGM (7pm for 7.15pm) followed by "Radstock Museum" with Denis Chedgy, Museum Director  
June Our annual 'Evening walk around Corsham'. (Date & Route to be confirmed).  
22 June "Wiltshire Toll Houses" with Ivor Slocombe. Venue to be confirmed  
27 July Venue to be confirmed.  
August BBQ & Outing. Dates & venues to be advised  
September HODS. (Heritage Open Days)  
28 Sept "Hatches Matches & Dispatches" with Gill Bowden. Venue to be confirmed.  
26 October Presentation on the 'Mayo'Project' – followed by a Round Table Discussion of 'Corsham Memories'. With members of the Civic Society. Venue to be confirmed  
23 November Life & Strife in Tudor Bath' with Dr John Wroughton. Venue to be confirmed.  
December No meeting.  
January 2008 Celebration of the New Year – a Social Gathering. Venue to be advised.

All meetings to be held at 8pm.

**Meetings February to May inclusive will be held at St Aldhelms Church Hall, Pickwick Rd.  
Other venues are subject to change. Please watch the notice board.**

Guests are welcome. Members - £1, Non members - £2

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### Corsham Civic Society

*Corsham Civic Society was founded in 1963 to represent the people of Corsham in all aspects of conservation, preservation and the promotion of this delightful Wiltshire town.*

*The Society is a registered Charity, a member of the Civic Trust and ASHTAV (Association of Small Historic Towns & Villages of the UK).*

*It is our aim to promote high standards of planning and architecture, to create a wider awareness amongst the local population of environmental issues, the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area, and to secure the preservation, protection and improvement of features of public amenity and/or historical interest, both in Corsham and in the surrounding countryside.*

**Corsham Civic Society  
Arnold House  
31 High Street  
CORSHAM  
Wiltshire  
SN13 0EZ**

**Registered Charity No: 275321**