

Corsham Spotlight

November 2009
Volume 7, Issue 3

Newsletter of the Corsham Civic Society

Editorial

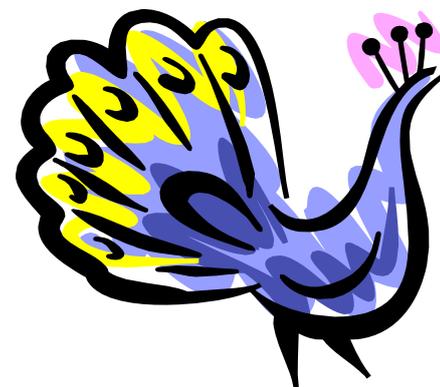
I am pleased to announce that we have a new Editor to take us into 2010 - Jane Browning. Jane has been a member of the Society for some 10 years and having previously worked for the MOD is now retired. Jane has a great interest in family and local history, and is keen to discover many more new and old stories about our town. We are delighted she is 'on board'.

Community has been to the fore these last few months. With the establishment of the unitary Wiltshire Council, Area Boards have been set up to involve the local communities. Area Boards "give you the power to influence what Wiltshire Council does in your Community Area" and "can help to make sure that decisions about local issues are made locally". These principles are being put to the test straight away here in Corsham. The Corsham Area Board, which encompasses Box, Colerne and Lacock, has met three times since the council was established in May this year, one of which was an additional meeting due to the concerns of residents about the effects of the new traffic proposals resulting from the developments at Basil Hill and Spring Quarry. There has not been room in this edition to expand on the remit and work of the Area Board, but the article on Page 8 gives further information on the subject of the traffic proposals. The next Corsham Area Board is on Tuesday 8th December at the Town Hall with refreshments at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. The web link is: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandlivin/g/areaboards/corshamareaboard.htm> for those with access to the internet.

That is a cue to remind you The Civic Society has its own web site: <http://www.corsham-civic-society.co.uk>

You will read we had to cancel our summer trip through lack of support. We would very much like suggestions as to what venues members would like to visit. You can let us know at any meeting, phone us (details on back page) or use the link on the web page.

May I please thank everyone who has contributed to the Spotlight newsletter since Eric and I took it over in July 2004.



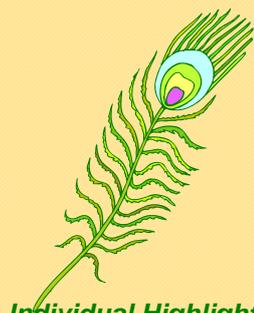
Firstly, I could not have done it without Eric's help with the original layout and graphics. He set it up and added the photographs, etc.

Secondly, we needed your contribution of articles and you have not let us down.

Now we are leaving the production in Jane's hands, and we know that she will do a great job. She has many excellent ideas, but will still rely on your help, so please, keep the articles coming in, and when you hear a good local story, pass it on.

Many thanks,

Pat Whalley.



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Chairman's Message

There are just a few weeks left of 2009 and may I take this opportunity of wishing all the Society's Members and friends the compliments of the Christmas season and hope that 2010 will be a Happy New Year.

During 2009 the Society has lost 3 stalwart members in Joe James, Les Davis and Vida Flower. I feel very privileged to have known all three. Though we have lost these good people, we have also welcomed a number of new members, six new members following the Heritage Open Days. We hope they will enjoy the benefits of the Society and we thank them for their support.

2009 sees Pat Whalley retiring as Spotlight editor and I delighted to say that Jane Browning is stepping into Pat's shoes, helping her with this edition. To Pat, we say 'thank you' for giving us one of the best Civic Society magazines in the UK. We are proud of 'Spotlight' and enjoy showing it to friends and visitors. To Jane we say, welcome to this new post and we will all try to give you plenty of interesting material for future publications.

I hope you enjoyed all the activities, meetings etc that have been organised in 2009 and I hope you will agree that our 2010 programme is just as exciting.

Michael Rumsey

Review

We started July with our annual walk, this time around the top of Box. An intrepid crew braved an evening full of rain and obscured views, but everyone did their best to enjoy themselves, and gratefully returned to the Quarryman's Arms for food and beverage afterwards. Those who were not so inclined to get wet, assembled at the Quarryman's Arms at the appointed time, but took shelter within its walls whilst the 'brave' went forward into the unknown! Nevertheless 'a good time was had by all', and we shall try again next year.

Dr Negley Harte's discourse on "Who were the Flemish Weavers" showed there is a need to do a lot more research on the subject. Although it is doubtful that we shall ever manage to prove one way or another whether the 'Weavers' that settled in Corsham, were in fact Flemish. The search will continue.

Our August outing was planned to be at the American Museum at Claverton Down, Bath. But due to a lack of support the event sadly had to be cancelled.

In September Dinah Starkey gave us a most interesting talk on "Two Tudor Gentlemen". These men were in the employ of the Seymour family, and when the family star was in the ascendancy as Jane Seymour married Henry VIII, William Sherrington and John Thynne, benefited much from this elevation. William was able to buy Lacock Abbey and village.



Lacock Abbey



Longleat House

John purchased a former Carthusian Priory together with land in three parishes on the borders of Wiltshire and Somerset which he bought on his own account in 1540. This is the land on which Longleat now stands, and for which building he was responsible. Thynne took thirty-seven years to design and build this great neo-classical house with four facades. A perfectionist, he employed only the best craftsmen, including the English master mason and architect Robert Smythson and the French mason Alan Maynard. He suffered a setback in 1567, when there was a major fire at the house. However, during the long process of construction, Longleat became known as the centre of a new school of building.

We were treated with a viewing of some of Steve Flavin's postcards in October, this time of Hartham and Biddestone. Steve is an avid collector of local postcards and is enthusiastic in his sharing of them. The presentation brought back memories to many in the audience.

Pat Whalley



Heritage Open Days: 10th-13th September 2009

We were extremely fortunate to have pleasant weather over these four days, and an almost 100% take up of the items we offered. The Visit to Corsham Cellars was very well received. We only wished we could have provided more places for that particular event. The Olga Lehmann display in the Corsham Heritage Centre demonstrated that even when you were constantly working underground during the war years, there was some light relief provided by the many animal drawings and more frivolous murals from the pen of this extraordinary artist. The opening of the delightful Monks Chapel provided once again an intriguing look into our religious past. Simon Williams 'Historic Walks of Corsham' gave many the opportunity to wander through the town and learn of our local heritage. Almost all the tickets were taken up. See *the article below for a report of these last two events*. Nick McCamley gave us a wonderful talk based on his book about 'the Secret Underground Cities' beneath our feet, and in particular the Armament depots in the region. Not to mention his youthful exploits which encouraged his enthusiasm for this subject. One hundred and twenty tickets were issued! We have to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the event, and in particular Corsham TIC who issued the tickets and managed the advertising in the town.

Many thanks to everyone. We plan to arrange a further event in 2011.

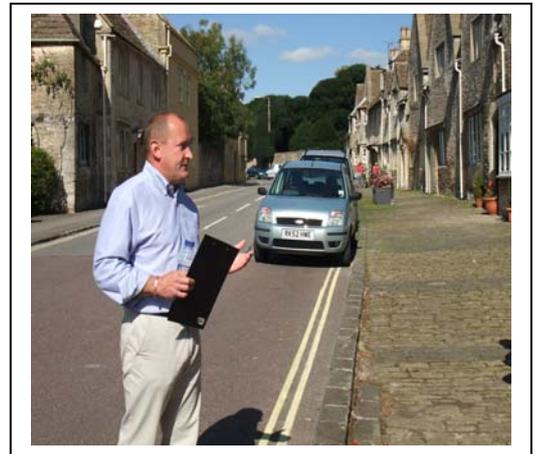
Pat Whalley

Historic walk of Corsham and Monks Chapel

I thoroughly enjoyed my guided tour of Corsham with Simon Williams on the Saturday afternoon. Even though I have lived so close to the town all my life and thought I knew a great deal about the town centre and its buildings, one hour with Simon ensured I learnt a little more. I can now use this information to pass on to my visitors when I show them around the town.

On completing the walk, I drove next to Monks Lane and visited Monks Chapel. If you read Nikolaus Pevsner's book on Wiltshire buildings he says this about the chapel:

'Congregational Church, probably a 'five-mile chapel'. C17, a plain oblong, with two-light windows and one five-light dormer-like upper window placed under the eaves, which curve up from it. The interior is intact, with a gallery on three sides, box pews, and the pulpit'.



Simon Williams at the Flemish cottages

This building is a complete gem and is beautifully kept by the members and friends. I have spent many hours sat in the box pews, as a child, listening to my father preaching on a Sunday afternoon. I am privileged to have a number of recordings of his services made by the members for distribution to people unable to attend the service due to ill health. I remember ascending the steps to the pulpit to read the lesson for my father, especially in his later years, when he was able to sit down and have a short rest.

During my visit Pat Britton made me a cup of tea, which was very much appreciated, while Geoff Knapp and I took turns in remembering the names of people who used to worship there, such as Janet Gale and Mr Tilley. Janet used to play the harmonium and I think on one occasion I played it for her. If you have never visited this delightful listed church, do contact Geoff Knapp, he will be delighted to help you.

Michael Rumsey



Monks Chapel with Geoff Knapp with two visitors at the Open Day



Claremont Ladies College & Claremont Nursing Home, The Linleys, Corsham.

We received a query via our website in Jun '09, asking about the history of Claremont Nursing Home, and after some considerable research among Census and local Directories the following story has emerged. It has been virtually impossible to separate the story of the college and its subsequent use without touching on local lives in living memory – there may well be more to come!

Information between 1791 – 1875 shows no reference to 'Claremont' as a building of note, so there is no evidence of when it was built.

The first mention of a College for young ladies is shown in Kelly's Directory for 1875 when Sarah Butler was Principal, with a governess Catherine Freeman and one pupil. During 1880/81 it seems that she shared the Headship with a relation, Emma Butler. By 1885 a Mrs. Clara Milne was Principal and in 1891 Agnes Tennant and Laura Rigden are shown (aged 32 & 34) as an English teacher and Music teacher respectively.

By 1895 these two ladies were the joint Principals of the College and they held the post, with about 22 pupils aged between 11 and 19, for some twenty years until 1914/15. There are people in Corsham still, who can remember these ladies. Obviously, these were ladies of substance, very well educated and enterprising women, who did a great deal for the town. It seems that during WW1 Agnes Tennant ran the local Women's Land Army. She also became a Parish Councillor (1919 –1941) during which time she served as Vice Chairman and Chairman and later became a magistrate. Miss Rigden also served on the Parish Council from 1934-37. In 1946 these ladies gave the land and paid for the memorial to be built at the WW1 Garden of Remembrance at the junction of Station Rd/Stokes Rd. (but that is another story.)

There is a newspaper cutting in our archives, circa 1914/15, reporting on two performances of Shakespeare's 'Loves Labours Lost', by the pupils of Claremont College, held at the Parish Rooms (Pound Pill) in aid of the Red Cross Hospital, (Town Hall) and the Red Cross Blanket Fund. This raised the princely sum of £11.10s.2d. (Approx. £11.51p). (*More information on the WW1 hospital to come.*)



Claremont 1907



and as it is today

© Photos courtesy of Claremont Homes

According to Kelly's Directory, a Rev. and Mrs. Berry ran the college between 1915 and 1920, and there is an advertisement for the school in that volume. However the next entry found in 1923 shows the house to be in private hands. Mr. J.D. Taylor occupied the house until 1939. There is then a gap of information until 1944, when from planning application papers held at the WRO, we find that the property is owned by Osborne & Sons (Builders) of Osborne House, 1 Station Road. The applicant is the Rev. Warrington, who resided at Monkton Combe in Bath. By 1945 the Rev. Warrington had secured the property as his own, and made applications for extensions to the building to convert it into an 'Old Peoples home'. The establishment opened in 1946. These applications continue until 1947. The Rev. Warrington died in 1961, and Warrington Homes became a Limited Company, run by Trustees, and so we see 'Claremont' as it is today.

Sources: various Trades directories. Peter Henderson's book "100 Years of Corsham Parish", census and WRO held records.

Pat Whalley



North Wiltshire ASPIRE Pathfinder Project

The ASPIRE Steering Group had known for some time that the outcome of the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the 5-Pathfinder Project was likely to be made known in September, albeit towards its end. I was told to expect a telephone call on Friday the 25th, with a meeting having been arranged at the offices of the Churches Conservation Trust in West Smithfield, London on the following Monday – the purpose of which was to discuss the 'way forward' with the Project, irrespective of the HLF decision. I booked my ticket to London in advance and waited.

In the meantime there was welcome distraction for all those who cared to get themselves to Westminster Abbey on the 16th. Being the day before my 65th the opportunity was too much for Jan and I to pass up.

The event was a service to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Churches Conservation Trust, that very body that I had developed quite a relationship with, over the course of the preparation of the ASPIRE Project bid – which, for me, went back to the autumn of 2006. The Trust is the national charity protecting historic churches at risk. These are buildings for which there is no longer a religious need. Typically they are parish churches with unique features, representing much that is good about our country's heritage. The Trust has saved over 340 such special buildings, which attract 1.5 million visitors a year. The main sponsors are the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and the Church Commissioners of the Church of England. Much of the work is undertaken by volunteers.



Westminster Abbey

The Chairman of the Trust is Loyd Grossman, OBE. He gave a reading, as did others. The address was given by The Very Reverend Victor Stock, Dean of Guildford – now there is an inspirational speaker! The Choir and the Organ blended beautifully, with the space above adding to the depth of the sound. Attendance was by written invitation. The tourists who normally have access to the Abbey must have wondered what was going on. It was a truly wonderful occasion.

Nine days later came the news none of us wanted to hear. The HLF had turned our ASPIRE Pathfinder bid down. We gathered on the 28th to find out why and to discuss how the objectives of the Project might be pursued in other ways. Three of the 5 Pathfinders are already well on their way, enjoying funding from their local destination management, i.e. tourism, organisations or their dioceses. Regrettably the North Wiltshire ASPIRE Pathfinder appears to have very little chance of such support. However, there is English Heritage funding available – in fact there are two sources of such funding from English Heritage which might be combined to our advantage – and the writer is even now seeking to access those funds to ensure that North Wiltshire does not lose out. The good people of the Churches Conservation Trust are lending special assistance to the cause. Watch this space!

Peter Tapscott, Project Co-ordinator,

Civic Society English Prize

Year Seven at Corsham School were this year asked to write a short piece on the subject of "Friendship" - a topic that they found quite demanding. As usual the entries were judged on behalf of the Society by Ron Smith who decide to award the prize to Evie Polson, and he presented this to Evie at the School Prize Giving on Thursday November 5th.

Our thanks go to Ron for adjudicating.

Editor



LOCAL LIFE - Robert Newton Gordon-Farleigh

The Gordon-Farleighs ran The Wine Lodge in the High Street in premises currently occupied by Allen and Harris. Their daughter Nora has kindly given us an insight into the history of the business and family life.

My Dad worked for Eldridge Pope, first in Bournemouth, then in Bath, moving to Corsham when he bought The Wine Lodge on 2nd December 1935 from Rees Pharmacy where Mr. & Mrs. Baines had run it as a Wine Merchants. It had both an Off and On Licence which meant drink could also be consumed on site. My Mum often talked about customers sitting around in what we called the Office drinking till 10 o'clock gone at night.



The premises of the former Wine Lodge

One of my brothers remembers Dad telling him that the property now known as The Wine Lodge was the subject of an irrevocable licence (See below) which was granted to the property by one of the King Charles's (he can't remember which one). He understood only three were granted in this country. Later, part of the property was divided and let as a Chemist. Mr. Cleverley was the first Manager followed by Mr. Thorn. We always shared the phone which was passed through a hatch to the person the caller wanted.

When Dad was called up he employed a manager, Mr. Sidnell, who stayed on after Dad was returned home after his accident for a while to help Mum run the shop.

I was in the middle of a family of seven children, five of whom were born in Corsham nursing home. Mrs. Hurst was the midwife there at that time. I can remember being allowed to see the new baby in 1946 on my way to school in the morning. We also used to go up the road to collect our National Health orange juice in the shop near to the park entrance. Mum purchased sweets with the coupons and we were all given three a day. We were not often allowed out on our own, usually going out with my brothers and sister, most often across Corsham Park where we spent many happy hours. When I was older I played hockey, tennis and cricket for Corsham clubs and my working life was just across the road from home as my first job was at Lloyds Bank.

Our House had seven bedrooms: a Lounge, Drawing Room, Bathroom and Kitchen spread over three floors with a nice-sized garden behind. Dad grew vegetables and flowers. We also had a large store at the rear and cellars running under the shop and stairs. In extreme weather the cellar flooded and we used to all head down there to make sure the bottles were stored high enough in the racks to be safe.

In the early years an errand boy and my elder brothers delivered orders to customers using sack trucks. Then we had two errand boys who did deliveries on a bike with a carrier in the front which could hold a box. Later Dad employed three men to work for us Harry Brennan, Reg. Gardiner and Douglas Fenney. When Douglas left, Victor Partner replaced him. Then in 1950 he bought a Robin Reliant three-wheeled Van which meant he could deliver to a much wider area. I can remember trips to Aylesbury, Ross on Wye and Cirencester.



Robert and Elsie Farleigh in their back garden



Three other Vans followed in 1955 a Ford, 1960 a Commer 15 cwt and in 1964 and Austin 10cwt.

Xmas time was very busy for us as Alcohol could not be taken away in the afternoon so the shop stayed open till about 10 or 11.00 o'clock at night. One of my jobs was to keep the shop shelves full up, fetching bottles up from the cellar and stores. Dad had many of his own brands including Court Leet Sherry and Vitner Brand Ports which were delivered to us from bonded warehouses in Bristol. These came in large barrels and we used to bottle, capsule and label them (usually about seven and a half dozen bottles) for 15 shillings. This was hard work and took several hours.

Due to bad health Dad retired to Prospect in 1965. He died in 1987 aged 79 and Elsie, my Mum, lived to the age of 97 dying in 2006.

Norah Smith, Devon

The Wine Lodge

In 1617 at a Court Baron of the Lord of the Manor of Corsham Patents were given in order to regulate or restrict trades which involved danger to public morality and order. One of these Patents was the Patent for Inns. Under it one, Mompesson, and two other persons were appointed Commissioners with authority to give or refuse licences for Inns. It appears that Christopher Nott was the first to obtain a licence in respect of premises then called "The Red Lion" but now known as "The Methuen Arms". The date of the grant of this Licence is uncertain. (original spelling retained).

The first reference to the premises now known as "The Wine Lodge" being licensed that appears in the Court Rolls, is at a Court Leet and View of Frank Pledge with the Court Baron of Paul Methuen held the 25th day of October in the Sixteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord 1775 before Henry Merewether Gent. Steward of the Manor. "On this date Edward Lee, John Heath and Martha Anne Mary Edwards, surrendered into the hands of the Lord of the Manor, All that messuage or tenement brewhouse and garden with the pump and use of the well thereto adjoining and belonging then in the occupation and possession of Walter Kington Taylor together with a way or road leading from the Street of Corsham, over the passage leading from the Street into the said garden, and also the north wall of the said garden with the necessary house at the corner thereof, and also such part of the west wall of the said garden from the said north wall as far as the same runs to the Aishler part of the said wall being in length thirty one feet To the use and behoof of Sarah Hulbert Elizabeth Hulbert and Anne Hulbert."

The earlier history of the premises is obscure but it is possible that the premises, with other premises, were surrendered into the hands of the Lord of the Manor on the 23rd October 1751 when Isaac Kingston, John Hancock, Anthony Guy and Samuel Edwards were admitted tenants.

Pat Whalley

Corsham Market

We are delighted to see the re-introduction of a weekly (Tuesday) market to Corsham, thanks to the combined efforts of Wiltshire Council and the Town Council. The use of the pedestrian end of the High Street has brought colour and movement to the area, which it is hoped will encourage people to the centre of our small town. The produce on sale is of excellent quality, and reasonably priced, so we look forward to a boost in the local economy, and an increased footfall in the High Street. Fresh fish and local fruit and vegetables are still available from the stalls in the Methuen Arms car park. Please make sure that your neighbours are aware that the market is in place.

Similarly the Corsham Farmers Market, once monthly in the Precinct, can only be an asset to the town. Long may these initiatives continue.

Pat Whalley



The Civic Society Initiative

The civic society movement is one of the country's unsung treasures and its network of over 1,000 voluntary civic and amenity societies and 250,000 members plays a crucial role in defending and celebrating the character and quality of the places where we all live. Unfortunately, April 2009 saw the demise of the Civic Trust of whom we were a member. But we have seen the emergence of the Civic Society Initiative to fill the void and it may be that it is a good opportunity to reassess what is needed in the civic society movement.

Own the future

"Own the future" is the report of the Civic Society Initiative and presents the results of the extensive debate about the future of the civic society movement since June 2009. It also draws together a set of proposals and issues to move things forward. The results confirm there is a real demand from civic societies to work together as a movement and to establish a new national body which is independent and core funded by civic societies. They show that civic societies want to be more influential, more rooted in their communities and more effective in the way they work. They are proud of the places they champion and they want others to share in their passion and respect what's important. The report also puts the spotlight on some of the reasons why civic societies are not yet achieving their potential and presents some important choices for the future.

"Own the future" includes a summary and a set of proposals for moving forward. There is overwhelming support for a new national body with a very different feel to the Civic Trust. It should be federal and grassroots in its culture and governance. Civic societies want the national body to be independent and recognise the need for its core funding to come from civic societies if this is to be guaranteed. The report proposes that civic societies contribute financially according to the size of their membership and invites views on a range between £1 and £3 per member. £1 per head will not guarantee independence and the national body would be only able to provide only basic services. £3 would provide full independence and meet civic societies' ambition for services and lobbying. The value to members of the new day access pass to National Trust properties is worth up to £14 and members will also benefit from the new insurance arrangements with Bluefin.

There is debate about the priorities for the new national body and more work to do on its governance and set up. There is also debate about whether civic societies are better grouping together more locally than Government regions and the advantages of networking more around issues of common interest.

All the proposals need further discussion.

Five issues stand out which would benefit from more scrutiny:

1. Whether the principles of the movement (collective, networked, independent, federal) and a new national body (campaigning, responsive, light footed, grassroots) are sound.
2. The balance of priorities for the work of the new national body between representing the movement, supporting societies and helping societies network together.
3. How civic societies can best network and share experience - including the proposals to build this around clusters of civic societies and thematic issues rather than Government regions.
4. Defining the common thread uniting the civic society movement - founded on the importance of place, pride, identity and community.
5. The balance between securing independence for the movement and funding it through contributions from individual civic societies on a per capita membership basis.

Copies of *Own the future* can be downloaded from the website at www.civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk. If you would like a printed version then please contact Ian Harvey on admin@civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk

Jane Browning



The Waste Local Plan

It seems a long time since we had any news about Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals and Waste Core Strategies. Our society has now been informed that the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) for 2006-2026 have been formally adopted and can be viewed at Council offices and at all libraries within Wiltshire and Swindon.

DPD	Council	Date adopted
Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Core Strategy 2006-2026 DPD	Wiltshire Council	16 June 2009
	Swindon Borough Council	30 April 2009
Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Core Strategy 2006-2026 DPD	Wiltshire Council	16 June 2009
	Swindon Borough Council	16 July 2009

All documents, including copies of the Adoption Statement, Adopted DPDs, Inspector's Reports, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) reports and SA Adoption Statements can be viewed on the Council website <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/environmentandplanning/planning/planningpolicy/mineralsandwastedevelopmentplan.htm>

Pat Britton

Adopt a Grave

The Town Council is responsible for the upkeep of the closed section of St Bartholomew's churchyard, behind the church, but care of the remaining area is undertaken by families and local volunteers.

The Civic Society agreed some years ago to look after the graves of the Pictor and Mayo families and that of Captain Daniel Clutterbuck. A group of half a dozen volunteers originally took on the task of occasional weeding and oversight of these graves.

It is now time for the society to find a small group to replace them. If you are interested in lending a hand please contact one of the following Committee Members: Geoff Knapp, Pat Whalley or Jane Browning. Contact details are on Page 12.

Jane Browning



Mayo family grave

The Faulds Explosion

During the HODS talk by Nick McCamley on the wartime activities in this area, and the huge amount of armaments then held underground, Norman Duckworth was musing how lucky there was not a major accident in this district. He reminds us that others were not so lucky!

At RAF Fauld on the 27th November 1944, some 4000 tons of various bombs exploded (it appears that some fused bombs had been put back in store), leaving a crater some half mile wide and one hundred feet deep. Seventy five people were killed including civilians and Italian POWs. But there is a moral to this tale – a Distress fund was set up; the Trustees realized that some of the Italian dependants were in straightened circumstances and were granted a donation. Far more detail on the incident can be found at: [-www.carolyn.topmum.net/tutbry/fauld/fauldcrater.htm](http://www.carolyn.topmum.net/tutbry/fauld/fauldcrater.htm)

There was a near miss at Eastlays quarry during this period when some 500 pounders broke loose in the shaft. Fortunately they had not been fused. Other than that – nothing too serious!

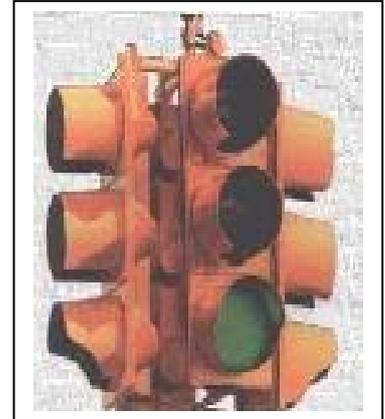
Norman Duckworth



Wiltshire Council's traffic scheme for Corsham

The latest project to incur a large amount of disquiet in Corsham is the intended introduction of new road layouts in the Corsham area including four new sets of traffic lights on the A4 between the Cross Keys and the junction with Leafy Lane, and lights at the Leafy Lane/Bradford Road junction. This became known in the summer when it was included as an item in the July 2009 Corsham Area Board. Planning permission had already been given with work scheduled to start autumn 2009.

It is the development of the MOD facilities at Basil Hill and plans for Spring Quarry that has led to the traffic lights at the junctions of the A4 at the Hare and Hounds, at Park Lane and Leafy Lane. The study that identified the need for these traffic lights and changes to road junctions in the Westwells/Five Ways took into account proposed traffic flows to 2020 based on national figures. A future development at Hartham Park is behind a set of lights at Hartham Lane.



The planning application by the MOD for the development at Basil Hill did not include any upgrades to the roads. However, the Council approved the planning application subject to a number of conditions. Conditions may be placed on developments but they must be relevant to the development itself. Condition 22 required details of schemes to upgrade various road junctions to be submitted and agreed with the Council within six months of the start of construction or prior to occupation. One area of concern is that by extending the upgrade to include traffic flows in 2020 the Council is including a condition that is wider in its scope than is necessary.

A special Corsham Area Board meeting was held in August to answer the many questions posed by residents at the earlier meeting. The residents of Pickwick are particularly affected and you may have seen the protest boards at the Hare and Hounds. Pickwick is a Conservation Area and their concerns centre around lack of consultation, traffic lights and the attendant signage, longer delays than currently, and the additional emissions from static traffic.

There is also the concern that the roads in the Neston area will be used as short cuts, particularly by those living in the Melksham area, and that other local roads will be used to circumvent the many traffic lights that will exist. The visual aspect is also of concern, especially in a generally rural area: the top of Box Hill is a well known beauty spot with an incomparable view down Box valley.

Following strong representations from the local community the Council has decided to review some of the traffic impact assessment work that supported the planning applications. This includes updating traffic counts at the junctions, re-assessing the movements associated with Katherine Park and updating modelling work. The review is expected to be completed by mid- November.

Requests for further information can be obtained from:

Dick Tonge – Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport – richard.tonge@wiltshire.gov.uk

Cllr Jane Scott – Leader of the Wiltshire Council — Jane.scott@wiltshire.gov.uk

Dr Keith Robinson – Chief Executive of Wiltshire Council - Keith.robinson@wiltshire.gov.uk

All at County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8JN

and Corsham Town Council – towncouncil@corsham.gov.uk

Jane Browning

Altus Engineering – continued

You may remember the article in July's Spotlight on Altus Engineering, which was started by Maurie Stuart and Bob Brown. Bob's son has been in touch with the Society and is keen to preserve the Altus history on a more permanent basis. To this end he has requested that we ask the membership, or anyone else, for their reminiscences of their time at Altus and for any photos of the interior of the building.

Ed.



Contact with Members by E-Mail

We want to continue using a variety of ways in order to communicate with our members. It would be useful to have the option of using e-mail to do so from time to time.

This would be in addition to, and not a replacement for, existing methods as we recognise that not everyone has or wants to use e-mail.

By setting up an electronic distribution list for Society Members we could provide an extra service of passing information at short notice, for example, when there is an unavoidable need to change the speaker at one of our monthly talks and providing reminders about events. It could also be used to inform members of the exhibitions Wiltshire Council put on at short notice in the Town Hall. Privacy will be maintained as individual e-mail addresses will not be visible to other members.

If you wish to be included on the proposed 'group list' please pass your details, by e-mail, to Jane Browning at janebrowning6@hotmail.co.uk

Retirement of Canon Roger Clifton from St. Bart's.

We were extremely sorry to hear of the retirement of Roger Clifton from the Greater Parish of Corsham due to ill health. Having lived in the town for many years he has unstintingly served this parish, and the many friends he has made will miss him terribly. He is also a member of our Society, and in recognition for his contribution to the town, we have asked him to become our Honorary Vice President. We also wanted to express our thanks to him for his service to the area with a presentation of two books, one on Bath (his new home), and one on Corsham – hopefully to remember us by!

Thank you for all you have done as an incumbent at Corsham, Roger. We do hope that you will enjoy a very happy retirement, and do come and see us when you are able.

Ed. on behalf of the CCS membership.

Obituary – Vida Flower

We were extremely saddened to hear of the death of Vida Flower, a Civic Society member of many, many years.

Vida was born in New Zealand in 1930, but her family came back to the UK and lived in Twyford where she attended school and later went on to obtain a science degree and work for a time in the Pirelli Laboratory.

Vida met Brian a civil engineer, at Southampton University and they were married in 1953.

They lived at Thames Ditton for a while, and then in the late 50's Brian's work took him to Canada. By now there were two additions to the family, John and Geoff, and after another of their many house moves they were to be found in Wales, where Vida taught science, and was working hard for the Girl Guide movement as a Commissioner. The WRVS also claimed her time.

They eventually retired to Corsham, where they were very well known in the town, and followed many different pursuits. Vida, when not taken up with the family, (sons now married and four grandchildren to love and pay attention to), was also a committed member of the Civic Society, the WI, the Bowls club, the Flower Arrangers club, the local church and the good neighbour scheme. An energetic and lovely lady who will be sorely missed by all her friends and acquaintances for many years to come. We are so glad to have known her.

Pat Whalley



Corsham Civic Society

Civic Society Officers

President

Mrs. Anne Lock,
Little Lypiatt Farm,
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Chairman/Treasurer

Mr. Michael Rumsey,
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Tel: 01249 715741

Hon Sec

Sally Fletcher,
56 Brook Drive,
Corsham.
Tel: 01249 713048

Membership Secretary

Mrs. Jean Beech,
108 Brook Drive,
Corsham.
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Social Organiser

Mrs. Joan Maciver,
15 Moor Park,
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Programme Organiser

Dr. Negley Harte,
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Stokes Road,
Corsham.
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Mr. Geoff Knapp,
2 South Street,
Corsham.
Tel: 01249 712270

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.Corsham-Civic-Society.co.uk

FUTURE PROGRAMME

December 2009	No Open Meeting
15 th January 2010	New Year Social Evening at the Town Hall
26 th February 2010	The Railways of Wiltshire by Michael Rumsey
26 th March 2010	Sir Harold Brakspear 1870 – 1934: Local Architect and Antiquary by his grandson Tom Brakspear
23 rd April 2010	How Cloth was made in Wiltshire by Ken Rogers
14 th May 2010	AGM (Town Hall- 7 for 7.15pm)
18 th June 2010	Corsham and Geology by Dr. Eric Robinson
	CCS Walk (Date to be confirmed)
23 rd July 2010	Corsham and the Hungerfords by Guy Hungerford
August 2010	No Open Meeting - CCS Outing and/or BBQ (Dates to be confirmed)
24 th September 2010	Family History and English Surnames by Professor David Hey
22 nd October 2010	The Work of Corsham School by Martin Williams
26 th November 2010	An Evening of Carols and Christmas Songs: Secular Song and Dance or Devotional Anthems by Wyndham and Kathy Thomas
December 2010	No Open Meeting

All meetings to be held at 8pm at the Pound Arts Centre (unless otherwise stated).

Venues may change. Please check our notice board at "The Century".

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

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 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
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Registered Charity No: 275321

Contributions to Spotlight are welcome.
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