



# Corsham Spotlight

Journal of the Corsham Civic Society

<http://www.corshamcivicsociety.co.uk>

**SUMMER 2014**

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**Corsham Civic Society welcomes new members. Join us to enjoy talks on local subjects, trips to interesting places and the company of local people interested in both the history and future of this lovely Wiltshire town. For membership contact Jean Beech on 01249 713833**

## Heritage Open Days, September 2014

Heritage Open Days in England were first started some years ago by English Heritage, but they have now been joined by the National Trust in organising a series of events around the country during four days from Thursday 11 September until Sunday 12th. Local groups, Civic Societies, Conservation groups, etc., plan and produce a list of activities which are advertised nationally on the 'HODS' website, [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

Under each county you will find a list of buildings, churches and listed structures that will be open free of charge during those four days. We, the Corsham Civic Society, plan events every other year, and for 2014 we have five different events operating on the first three days. New this year is a tour of the Bath Stone Quarry Museum Trust's collection at Mason's Wharf, Potley. This collection of items all associated with quarrying in the area, has been gathered together over the years, by a Society member, David Pollard. It is well worth visiting, and there are two group visits with ten persons each time on 11 September. Secondly, the auction house of Gardiner Houlgate, which is based in the Leafield Industrial estate, are willing to take a



*Michael, Negley and Jane manning the stand at the Corsham Armed Forces Fête on Saturday 5 July.*

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**Lord Methuen**

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Spotlight are very  
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**Members**

The Society is  
delighted to  
welcome:

and saddened to  
record the death of  
Mrs. Joan Bickford

group of ten behind the scenes at their headquarters, which we are sure will be most interesting. One of my colleagues, Jean Beech, has worked extremely hard to organise an exhibition of paintings by local art groups at the Pound Arts Centre for the first three days. This is a first for us, and we hope people will enjoy this new venture. Dr. Negley Harte is undertaking two of his historical walks around the town's centre, finishing at the Pound, and finally I shall be presenting an illustrated talk at the Town Hall entitled 'Corsham in the 20th Century'. I already have some fascinating photographs of Corsham through the years, but if anyone has anything of interest – a photograph of a shop outside or inside, or a special event in Corsham between 1900 and 2000 – please do let me know.

We hope that many people, including the Society's membership, will take this opportunity of obtaining tickets for the events listed below. May I take this opportunity of thanking my subcommittee colleagues of Margaret Shewring, Jean Beech and Joan Maciver for their continuing help and support.

*Michael Rumsey*



## Organised events

**Thursday 11 September Bath Stone Quarry Museum Trust**

**collection** at 5 Mason's Wharf, Potley Lane, Corsham, SN13 9FY. Two visits, at 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m., ten people in each group. Tickets required.

**Friday 12 September Tour of the Gardiner Houlgate Auction**

**House**, Leafield Way, Corsham, SN13 9SW, at 2 p.m., maximum of ten people. Tickets required.

**Dr. Negley Harte's historical walk in the town** starting from the Parish Church car park at 2 p.m., maximum of 25 people. Tickets required.

**Illustrated talk – 'Corsham in the 20th Century'**. Town Hall at 7.30 p.m. Maximum of 125 people. Tickets required.

**Saturday, 13 September Dr. Negley Harte's historical walk in the town** starting from the Parish Church car park at 2 p.m., maximum of 25 people. Tickets required.

**Thursday to Saturday, 11–13 September 'Corsham in Colour'**, an exhibition of paintings of the Corsham area from local art groups to be held at the Pound Arts Centre, Pound Pill, Corsham, SN13 9HX. It will open from 9.30 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. No tickets required.

All tickets will be available from the Corsham Area Information Centre, Arnold House, High Street, from 10 a.m., Saturday 16 August until Wednesday 10 September.

## Lord Methuen, 1931–2014

*Dr. Negley Harte, historian, Vice-Chairman of the Corsham Civic Society, writes:*

Corsham has heard with sadness of the death of Lord Methuen. Robert Methuen was the 7th Baron Methuen and the first of his line not to live at Corsham Court. He died in Derbyshire soon before his 84th birthday on 9 July 2014; he was born in Corsham on 22 July 1931.



The Methuens traced their origins to the wolves of Hungary and other romantic beasts among the nobility of Scotland, but they first became known in Wiltshire as making their fortune in the fine cloth industry of Bradford on Avon in the late seventeenth century. In 1745 the wealthy young Paul Methuen of the day decided to buy the Corsham Court estate in order to set himself up as a gentleman and shake the dust of commerce off his feet.

He was very successful in this task. He soon had Corsham Court greatly expanded to include the important art collection built up by his famous kinsman. The Methuen famously memorialised in the Methuen Treaty of 1703 with Portugal left the art collection he had built up to his cousin, and 'Capability' Brown was engaged to extend the house to provide for the notable collection. Port replaced claret, and Corsham came unexpectedly to have a major art collection.

The extensive cloth industry premises were sold off, and many other properties in the rest of Corsham were bought. Another major collection of art arrived and was incorporated. In 1806 the *Red Lion* on the old London-to-Bath coaching road was rebuilt and renamed the *Methuen Arms*. The Methuens had come to own most of Corsham. They became well established as gentlemen on a notable scale, MPs and so forth, and in the honours list of the new Queen Victoria in 1837 the then Paul Methuen was raised to the peerage as the first Lord Methuen.

The 3th Baron was a famous Field Marshal (d.1932), and his son, the 4th Baron, became a famous artist (d.1974). It was through his connections that the Bath Academy of Art, bombed out of Bath, came to be settled at Corsham Court after the war. The childless 4th Baron was briefly succeeded by his architect brother, who became the 5th Baron for barely eighteen months in 1974–5. His eldest son John succeeded as the 6th Baron. John Methuen was well-known and well-liked in Corsham, where for some years he was a member of the Town Council. He is remembered for drinking lunch in the *Methuen Arms* and walking back afterwards down the High Street, greeting all the citizens by name and inviting some of them back to the Court for another drink. He gave memorable parties.

When John Methuen died unmarried in 1994, his brother Robert became the 7th Baron. He had quite a different personality: he was quiet, serious, modest, unshowy, an engineer by profession. He was educated at Shrewsbury, a public school well-known for engendering clever irreverence, and after National Service in the Royal Signals at the intellectually grand Trinity College, Cambridge, where he read the unaristocratic subject of engineering, graduating in 1957. His schooling did not make him given to irreverence, nor

did his college make him an intellectual. Robert Methuen became a working engineer. He was first a design engineer for Westinghouse Drake & Signal Co. in Chippenham for the ten years after he graduated; then he had seven years at IBM as a computer systems engineer; and in 1975 he went to work for Rolls-Royce in Derbyshire. He was just retiring from Rolls-Royce in 1994 when by extraordinary coincidence, as he admitted himself, his brother died, and he himself became the 7th Lord Methuen and a member of the House of Lords – the ideal retirement job.

Robert Methuen had married in 1958 and had had two daughters, neither of whom was eligible to inherit either the title or the settled estate in Corsham. He chose therefore to remain in Derbyshire and commute to London for a few days every week when Parliament was sitting to take his place in the House of Lords. Moreover, in 1993 he divorced his wife, known and liked in Corsham, and married a Viennese lady who was quite unknown in Corsham. They remained happily married. His cousin, James Methuen-Campbell, took up his place as lord of the manor in Corsham.

Robert Methuen took his duties in the Lords seriously, rarely speaking but assiduously sitting on many committees, not just the Science and Technology Committee. 'They must have been glad to have an engineer in the House,' I said to him on one occasion. 'Well,' he said calmly, 'there are four of us.' He was regarded as so steady a member of the Lords that when most hereditary peers were excluded after the House of Lords Act in 1999 he was elected as one of the 90 hereditaries who were retained, one of four such peers taking the Liberal Democrat whip. He was astonished to find himself on the government benches after 2010 when the coalition government came in.

He was a healthy, active man, never ill until fatally so for a few weeks before he died. Members of the Civic Society will remember him coming to speak to us in the Pound Arts Centre a couple of years ago about the work of the House of Lords. He spoke carefully, sensibly and intelligently about that strangely constituted but remarkably useful institution.

He leaves his widow and the two daughters of his first marriage, the second of these having herself three daughters; so Robert Methuen had the satisfaction of grand-daughters, but not of heirs who could succeed.

James Methuen-Campbell becomes the 8th Baron Methuen, after a 'knight's jump' in the chess of succession. He is the grandson of the brother of the artist Lord Methuen, the 4th Baron. He has been resident in Corsham, running the estate since 1994, and is well-known and liked in the town, despite his quiet and retiring manner. He is a highly regarded music critic and author and keeps careful tabs on what is happening in Corsham. In recent years he has been training up his nephew, the young Gulliver Methuen-Campbell, to be his heir, and he too has become well-known in the town and well-liked. He will, in due course, succeed to the Corsham estate but not to the title, since his succession is through his mother, James's sister. Corsham will continue to value its close connection with the Methuens, and they too will continue, though lords die away.



## The Mayo Grave

Members will remember the considerable work done by the Society to achieve the restoration of the Mayo Memorial at the end of the High Street between 2005 and 2007. The CCS are also committed to the 'Adopt a Grave Scheme' for the St. Bartholomew's churchyard (we adopted three graves: Mayo, Clutterbuck and Pictor), and have found that the lettering on the Mayo grave has become very loose, to the extent that soon it will be unreadable.

Since people remain interested in researching their family history and the history of the local community, it was felt that we should take steps to retain the identification of this grave for future generations, and we obtained the necessary costings and permissions to attach a small plaque which identifies details of the commemoration of this man who was held in such high esteem by his contemporaries.

Pat Whalley



*Left: Mr, Garrett, a descendant of Mary, wife of Charles Mayo, visits the grave while on a family research trip from Australia, c.2008.*

*Below: A plaque is now attached to the Mayo grave to record the details of the dates relating to Charles Mayo, his wife Mary, and their daughter Florence. 2014.*

## High Street Paving

Concerns are being raised about the condition of the paving in the High Street, where flagstones are being broken and often replaced by tarmac. This is sad and avoidable. Many people think that vans and market stalls are responsible for the damage. The Town Council has put up 'No Vehicle' signs (ugly in themselves), but they seem to make no difference. Are they enforced? These flagstones have been there for more than half a century, since pedestrianisation. They lend a special character to the High Street. Can nothing be done?





## Reviews

In March we had a talk by Mike Stone, Curator of Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre until 2010 and the author of several books on the history of Chippenham. He took us on a fascinating river trip down the By Brook to tell the story of what for many centuries was a thriving industrial area. This quiet valley had a busy past. Along its twelve-mile length at one time or another were 23 mills, four dating back to 1066, eleven running during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and one from the beginning of the twentieth century. The water current was fast, making it ideal for water milling. There were mills there in Roman times to grind corn and fulling mills in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries; these reverted to grain as the decline of the woollen industry set in during the seventeenth century. There were paper mills, the first recorded in 1488, rag mills (to feed the paper mills) and breweries. At Slaughterford, for example, Chapp's Mill was originally a fulling mill, then a paper mill in the 1860s, only closing in 1993. The talk was illustrated with images of past and present, including those parts of the mill buildings that remain.

The following month, Stewart Dobson, Deputy Chairman of the Wiltshire Ornithological Society, presented a talk entitled 'Birds to be seen in the Corsham area'. There are many, but they come and go as their habitats change, and the location and fate of predators is closely linked to that of their prey. This area surrounding Corsham provides a good mix of potential bird habitats – Salisbury Plain is a broad expanse of relatively untouched land (except by tanks!), and the restricted areas often offer good, safe habitats. Bradon Forest is a significant area of woodland, as is Savernake, while the rolling open countryside of the Marlborough Downs is ideal for many species. Stewart likened the Cotswold Water Park (pictured below), a larger area of water even than the Norfolk Broads, to a 'service station' for wildfowl. Corsham lake is itself a magnet for them, one of the best birdwatching areas, with quite a considerable variety of birds to be spotted. Even railway cuttings, relatively undisturbed areas save for the noise of passing trains, provide safe habitat.

Among the many species discussed were the Great Bustard, reintroduced to the area with mixed results – he recalled seeing one over the M4 motorway – and the Common Crane, reintroduced from Slimbridge via the Somerset Levels. Unusual visitors include a Red Flanked Bluetail (which he described as a robin resprayed!) that turned up at Marshfield from Siberia, and there are increasing sightings of hoopoes flying over Corsham. Stewart also gave us some hints on how to approach birdwatching – a key tip was getting to know bird song as a means of identification – and discussed walks and maps. Particularly noticeable was the audience participation – everyone seemed to have a sighting of something in particular, manifesting a great deal of local knowledge and interest. And there was much discussion at the end of the talk about the killing of migrating birds in Cyprus and Malta.

*David Gibbons*





## TV Comes to Corsham

It's not quite Hollywood, but near enough. In May the BBC used part of the High Street as a location (substituting for late 18th-century Truro) for its forthcoming *Poldark* series (broadcasting next year), while an independent company, Hat Trick Productions, used Church Street and part of the High Street for the next in its *Suspensions of Mr. Whicher* series, set in the 1860s. You would not think it now, but the roads and shops were convincingly transformed for a few days each time, the Post Office and Coppins in particular taking on interesting new identities, as these pictures show.



Above: Michael with Detective inspector Jonathan "Jack" Whicher, alias Paddy Considine. Below, Coppins in two guises; and a fake bookshop in front of Haque's.



The Post Office in literary mode and as a sweet shop. For the *Whicher* filming a 19th century letterbox appeared, offering collections every quarter of an hour. This was, of course, 19th century London ...





## Goodbye Community Centre ...

With the Campus due to open later in the year, Corsham Community Centre has been demolished, and all the facilities and activities there will be transferred to the new building.

The Community Centre was built in the 1940s, so it has served us well for three-quarters of a century. Many will even remember, as infants, going to school there. The *Logan Manuscript*, recently donated to the Society (and the subject of an article in the November issue of *Spotlight*) contains an interesting leaflet, issued in 1949 to extoll the virtues of the Centre and encourage people to come and use them.



Top to bottom: in the 1940s; 2014; being demolished ...

## Corsham Community Centre

### NOTES

If enough people apply to join, we shall start classes for women in Crafts, Dressmaking, and Keep Fit. These will be afternoon classes, designed for women who find it difficult to get away from their homes at night. They will be held at the Centre, and will be open to non-members of the Centre also, so if you are interested please let me have your name so that I can fix a starting date.

As a result of the recent Exhibition of Pictures by local people, it has been decided to re-form the Painting and Art group at the Centre, and here again I would be glad to know of any who would like to join such a class under expert guidance.

A Gramophone Society will start its monthly sessions on September 23rd when a varied programme of records will be presented by Mr. W. G. Edwards on our new Record Player. Sessions after this will depend upon what the members want.

We wish to recommend the Supper Club meetings this year. The Committee has managed to secure the services of several interesting speakers, and those who come to listen will be assured of a well spent evening.

We make a start with Plays again this month with Eden Phillpott's popular comedy "Devonshire Cream," and I hope very much that we shall be able to beat last year's attendance at plays. What is the matter with us at Corsham, where apparently only half of one per cent. of the people are interested enough to come and see our plays? I suspect that the truth lies somewhere near the fact that to the majority, drama and the Theatre are unknown experiences and therefore not ever to be tried out, even as an experiment. I wish those of our good friends who have not had the experience, would come and see one of the plays, and then judge the results upon themselves.

Our Older Folks Club goes from strength to strength but there is still room in the Hall for a few more to join us at the monthly meetings, and at the other end of the age scale, the Over Eighteens Group is keen to enlarge its circle of members.

Yours sincerely,

W. J. LIGHT,

Secretary.

President :  
Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, P.C., M.P.

Vice-President :  
Mrs. A. K. M. Christie



## Visit to the Trowbridge Museum

*Dr. Negley Harte, Programme Organiser of the Corsham Civic Society, former Chairman of the Trustees of the Devizes Museum, writes:*

The Civic Society's summer excursion at the end of June was to the Museum in Trowbridge, situated in the centre of the Shires Shopping Centre on one floor (and soon to be two floors) of a surviving old woollen cloth mill next to the little River Biss. To climb the stairs into the Museum is like escaping from the brash future into the calm past.

It is a quite remarkable museum. It contains many wonderful things, but the main interest of its collection relates to the textile industry, which was so important in Trowbridge in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, surviving into the twentieth century and not ending until the 1960s. There are spinning jennies, weaving looms, teasels for carding and all sorts of technological bits and bobs that were once of crucial importance in a thriving woollen cloth industry.

We were privileged to have as our guide Ken Rogers, the distinguished former County Records Officer, who many will remember speaking a couple of years ago to the Civic Society about cloth-making in Wiltshire and who has published a great deal on the subject. He in fact was largely responsible for establishing the Museum and for collecting many of its prize exhibits. He expertly explained the complexities of the making of cloth and its changing technologies.

The Trowbridge Museum was established by the notably civilised Town Council of Trowbridge in 1995, and it now provides some £200,000 a year to maintain the Museum, enabling it to employ professional museum staff in addition to the enthusiastic volunteer supporters. There are only two town museums in the entire country that support museums with professional staff – only two in the entire country. The other is in Chippenham, where the civilised Town Council supports that agreeable museum, both of the recent Curators of which have spoken to the Corsham Civic Society in the last couple of years. It is an unrecognised claim to fame of Corsham that it is situated a few miles between these two outstanding town museums.

We were only a small group visiting the Trowbridge Museum, but we included some local residents very well versed in Corsham – dare I mention, for example, Pat Whalley and Geoff Knapp, both of whom had surprisingly never visited the Trowbridge Museum before. All were astonished by the interest of the Trowbridge Museum and decided that it was a neglected gem.

It needs to be added that the philistine Wiltshire Council, based now even more grandiosely in Trowbridge, a stone's throw from the town's Trowbridge Museum, provides a grant of £35,000 a year to the County Museum in Devizes, a level of grant established many years ago. The Wiltshire Museum in Devizes wins plaudits and grants from national sources on some considerable scale but struggles to survive. We all loved our visit to the Trowbridge Museum; but may I ask, why does Wiltshire not do what Trowbridge does?

## Corsham Commemorates the First World War

In the last edition of *Spotlight* we outlined some of the early plans and ideas for local commemorations of the First World War as we approach the centenary of its start. Those plans continue as we learn more about the servicemen who gave their lives during the war, those men who served and returned and the people of Corsham who supported the war effort at home. A new website has been created to bring together research and events relating to the war: [www.corshamcommemorates.weebly.com](http://www.corshamcommemorates.weebly.com). It will grow as stories and information are built up. It has the names and information about the names on the Corsham War Memorial and other stories, which it is hoped will increase with help from families of servicemen who served in the war or from descendants of men and women who lived through that most difficult of times from 1914 to 1918. Everyone is encouraged to share their stories and family memories – one of the aims of the work during 2014 through to 2018 is to bring Corsham-related information together in one place for the benefit of current and future generations.

The contribution that Corsham made to the First World War effort can be bookmarked by the very early deaths of Frank Fisher and William Carter on board HMS *Amphion* on 6 August 1914, less than 36 hours into the war, through to William Merrett in March 1920, some four months after the main war finished. It can further be characterised by the nurses led by Lady Goldney who staffed the Military Hospital established in the Town Hall and by the residents of Corsham who kept things going at home and who supported injured and recovering servicemen in the Hospital and gave lodgings to refugees from Belgium.

These people and times are the subject of ongoing research, and they will be remembered in events that are being scheduled over the next four years. A special commemorative service is to be held at St. Bartholomew's Church on 3 August – the eve of the declaration of war in 1914 – and a reconstruction of a Recruitment Office in the Town Hall and a month-long exhibition in the Tourist Information Office will follow on 19 August. More details will follow about these events. Corsham Area Heritage is also providing a representation of a kitchen of the period in the Pictor Room at Arnold House during the month of August, and a pictorial display of some of the local men who returned from this horrendous period in our history.

### Countdown to War 100 Years Ago

**28 July** Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia

**31 July** Russia, Belgium and Austria-Hungary order General Mobilisation

**1 August** Royal Navy Mobilises

**2 August** Germans enter Luxembourg and demand passage through Belgium, which is refused

**3 August** Germany declares war on France; Britain orders General Mobilisation

**4 August** British ultimatum to Germany; war declared at 11 p.m.

Mention should also be made of the talk by Richard Broadhead about 'Corsham and the First World War' at the Pound on 25 July and of the Wiltshire Council and MoD Commemoration Service that will be held at Tidworth Military Cemetery on 30 July to which they hope to welcome up to 10,000 guests – a significant number, which matches the number of Wiltshire men who lost their lives during the First World War period.

While research can provide a certain amount of information and dates, it is only family stories, photographs, diaries or heirlooms that can 'fill in the blanks', and the hope is that people will be able to share those over the coming four years



as commemorative events stir memories and prompt a desire to know more about family history and involvement in the war. Part of the project is to help people with that research and to share some of those stories that are emerging. If you have a local family story to tell or have plans or ideas about commemorative opportunities, or would be interested in helping with research about Corsham servicemen, then please contact Kevin Gaskin, who is helping to co-ordinate events for the Corsham area.

Kevin Gaskin, CCAN Coordinator  
[kevingaskinccan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kevingaskinccan@hotmail.co.uk)

*Right: Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry on exercise during the years before the war.*

*Below: The loss of Amphion as depicted in the contemporary pages of Illustrated War News.*

## Corsham Commemorates World War One in Concert

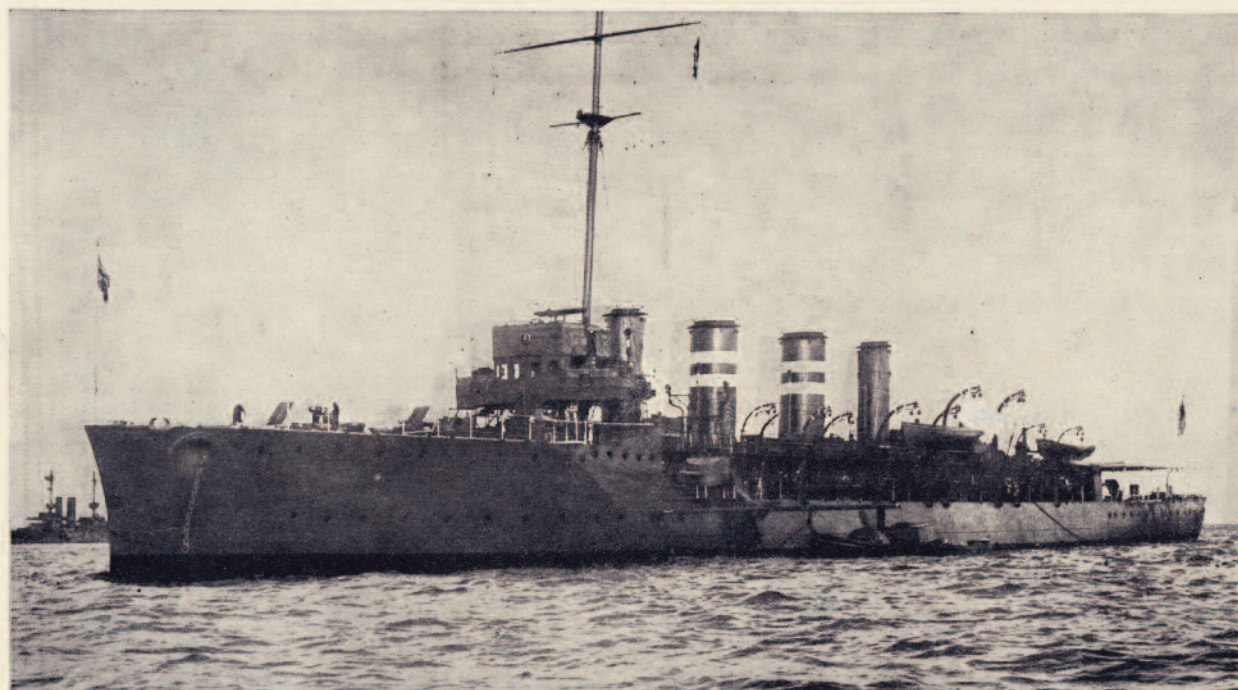
**Songs, poetry and letters from the front.**

7 p.m., 18 October 2014 at Corsham School

Tickets will be available from September from the Tourist Information Centre in the High Street

Tickets £5 each; under 15s £3

SPONSORED BY CORSHAM AREA HERITAGE  
AND THE TOWN COUNCIL



### SUNK BY A SYSTEM OF MINE-LAYING "NEW IN WARFARE," THAT "SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE CIVILISED WORLD": THE "AMPHION."

It was announced on August 7 by the Admiralty that, in the course of reconnoitring after the German mine-layer "Königin Luise" had been sunk, the "Amphion" struck a mine and foundered. The explosion shattered the fore part of the ship, and caused practically all the loss of life. As mentioned on another page, showing her at sea among destroyers, over 100 of the crew were killed, and twenty

German prisoners also perished. The captain, 16 officers, and 135 men were saved. In connection with the loss of this vessel, Mr. Churchill said in the House of Commons the other day that the system of Germany in laying mines was new in warfare and "should be considered by the civilised world."—[Photograph by C.N.]

## 2014 Programme

All meetings are held at the Pound Arts Centre (telephone 01249 701628) unless otherwise stated. Members £2, Non-Members £5, which includes free tea or coffee or £1 off a glass of wine. Guests are very welcome.

17 January	12.30 for 1.00	<b>Lunch</b> at The Methuen Arms
28 February	7.30 p.m.	<b>Rocks and Landscapes of the Corsham Area</b> Talk by Elizabeth Devon
28 March	7.30 p.m.	<b>The Industrial Landscape of the By Brook</b> Talk by Mike Stone, former Curator of the Chippenham Museum.
25 April	7.30	<b>Birds to be seen in the Corsham Area</b> Talk by Stewart Dobson, Deputy Chairman of the Wiltshire Ornithological Society.
16 Mayh	7.00 for 7.15 p.m.	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> at the Town Hall.
27 June		<b>Summer Excursion to Trowbridge Museum</b>
25 July	7.30 p.m.	<b>Corsham and the First World War</b> Talk by Richard Broadhead, author of several books on the Wiltshire soldiers of the First World War
22 August	To be announced	<b>Garden Party</b>
26 September	7.30 p.m.	<b>Running a Great Estate in the Twenty-First Century</b> Talk by the Marquis of Lansdowne, who lives at Bowood, near Calne. His estate engages in many activities.
24 October	7.30 p.m.	<b>The Ministry of Defence in Corsham</b> Talk by Col. Rafferty, Chief of Staff, MOD Corsham.
28 November	7.30 p.m.	<b>The State of the World's Forests</b> Talk by Jim Ball, who divides his time between Corsham and Rome, where he has long worked for the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in connection with forests in Africa and Asia.

**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 and 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, 91 Tellcroft Drive, Corsham SN13 9JQ, Wiltshire, SN13 0EZ. Registered Charity No: 275321*