



# Corsham Spotlight

Journal of the Corsham Civic Society

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

Spring 2018

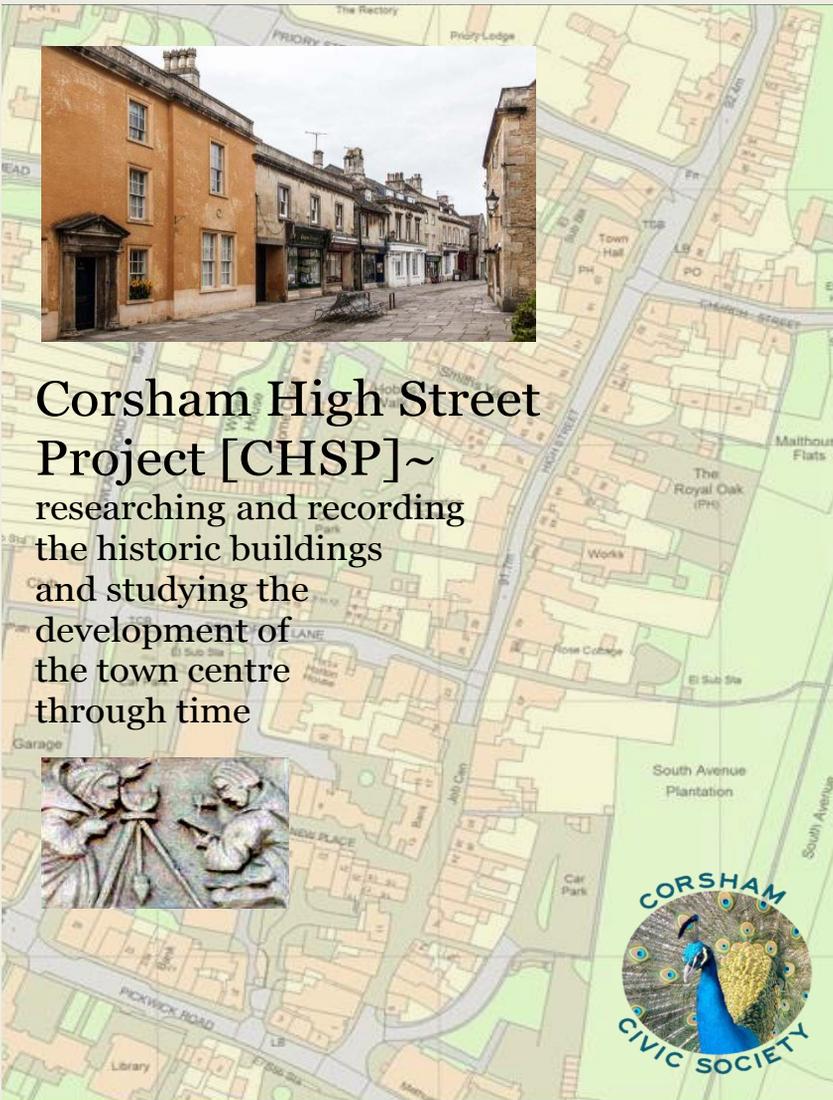
March 2018, Vol. 15, Issue 1

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*Contributions to Spotlight are very welcome. Please contact the editor, John Maloney, at: [johnmaloney2003@aol.com](mailto:johnmaloney2003@aol.com)*

## Corsham High Street Project

**Corsham High Street Project [CHSP]~**  
 researching and recording the historic buildings and studying the development of the town centre through time




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## ***From the Chair***

To all readers of this magazine edition, both members & friends, this is, for the last time, and after 9 years, my last 'starter for 10!' It has certainly been a privilege to have Chaired this Society and I've received an enormous amount of help and advice from my fellow committee members and from the membership at large. It is now time for me to merge into the background and allow someone else to lead the Society forward and we do need someone, please don't think that you would be unable to do this job, I'm sure whoever reads this and thinks, 'I think I could do that', then please put yourself forward either at the AGM in May or beforehand, to the committee, we shall be pleased to meet you.

Since our last magazine issue last November we have lost 2 members. Don Rogers, my dear railway friend, who passed away in December and towards the end of this February, our Honorary Vice President, Wyndham Thomas. You will find tributes to these two people and the late David Pollard in this edition.

At the same time as I'm standing down as Society Chair, Joan Maciver is putting away her apron and retiring as Social Organiser. Joan, ably assisted by her husband John, has ensured we have wine and dined over the years with the Wine and Cheese party, which normally follows the AGM, and also the Society Dinner, which morphed into the Society Lunch. For all your efforts Joan, we would like to thank both you and John for the cool headed way you have organised these events plus the occasional cream tea.

Our Secretary, Victoria Blake, is also retiring and is being succeeded by Cath Maloney, who kindly offered to step into the breach. Victoria's minutes of our bi-monthly committee meetings were normally in my email in tray within 24 hours, sometimes even quicker and for all she has done for the Society, we sincerely thank her.

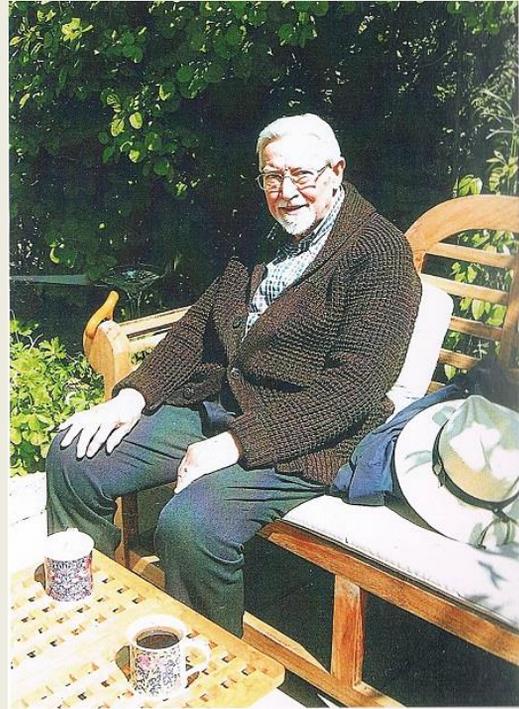
Finally, I wish to thank the Society for allowing me to be Chairman for the last 9 years, for a Corsham born boy, it's been a great honour – thank you most sincerely and all good wishes for the future.

**Michael Rumsey**

*Contributions to  
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welcome. Please  
contact the new editor,  
John Maloney, at:  
johnmaloney2003  
@aol.com*

## Wyndham Thomas, Honorary Vice President – an appreciation

I first met Wyndham when he was Society Chairman between 2006 and 2008 and he persuaded me to become the Society's Treasurer and join the Executive Committee. I enjoyed the way he chaired the meetings, always ready with a smile and a good suggestion. He was a calming influence over all matters and worked extremely hard to ensure that the Society became well known in Corsham. With his wife Kathy, they produced a Corsham Anniversary calendar in 2005 and this was followed in 2007 with an excellent set of cards entitled 'Corsham – Past & Present'. During 2009 he organised the Society's programme, then handed



that work over to Negley Harte who has continued Wyndham's work of finding excellent speakers to talk on a very wide range of topics associated with the area and also outside of the area.

In 2016 Wyndham produced a book entitled 'Verse Diaries'. He generously donated all the monies raised by this book to the Society. After spending some time in hospital he wrote a second book entitled 'From my Hospital Bed' and all the monies from this book are being donated to the 'Friends of the RUH'.

I last saw Wyndham at the end of last November when I delivered his and Kathy's copy of 'Spotlight'. Though a little thinner, the sense of humour was still there and we all enjoyed coffee and biscuits together. Wyndham and Kathy were both honoured by the Society by being made Honorary Vice Presidents, which I know made them both very surprised and happy. I shall certainly miss Wyndham's wise counsel on various matters that have been raised over the years.

On behalf of the Society, I have given our condolences to Kathy and their sons, Ben & James. I hope the accompanying photograph of Wyndham will help us all remember the wonderful kind and humorous person he was.

**Michael Rumsey** [I still have copies of 'Verse Diaries' and 'From my Hospital Bed' at £5 each].

## **Don Rogers – an appreciation.**

Members were sad to learn at the Society's first meeting of 2018, held on January 26<sup>th</sup>, that Don Rogers had passed away in December at the age of 85 years. Don enjoyed attending the meetings, always entering the hall through the pavement level fire door as his mobility was not good. He listened intently and often asked pertinent questions and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

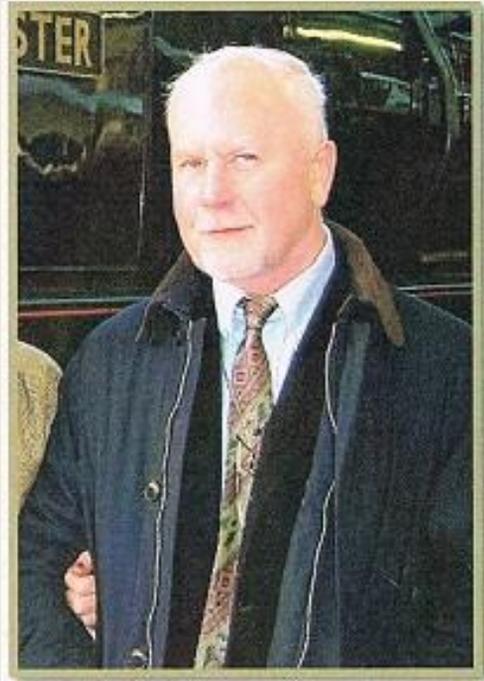
Don contributed an excellent article on his working life on the railways in the Summer 2016 edition of our magazine 'Spotlight'. It was so appropriate that his article appeared then in the edition that celebrated 175 years of the Great Western Railway, the company he was proud to join all those years ago. He wrote his article long hand and passed it to me for word processing, though his writing was sometimes difficult to read, the whole article was for many, an interesting read and I spent some happy hours going through his piece to double check on some of the indecipherable words. Don also accompanied me to Hartham Park to advise on the railway aspect on the History of Corsham exhibition held there 2 years ago. To listen to Don describing his work on the railway was for me a very great pleasure and I shall miss him very much from our meetings. The photographs below were given to me by Don and shows him as a young boy aged 8 and also one of his favourite jobs driving the 'Calne Bunk' the local name for the Chippenham to Calne branch passenger train powered by Collett's wonderful 1400 class 0-4-2 tanks.



**Michael Rumsey**

## **David John Pollard 1941 – 2017**

My friend Mollie and I first met David while we were all attending a railway history weekend at the Snowdonia National Park Education Centre at Plas Tan y Bwlch near Porthmadog, where we found out that all 3 of us lived in the same portion of Wiltshire, David at Seend and Mollie and I in Box and Corsham respectively. We then found out about David's passion, the stone quarries of this area and the specific stone quarry he owned, the Hartham Park mine.



David was born in Trowbridge in December 1941 and later moved to Bristol where his father was a signaller at North Somerset Junction which is situated just outside Temple Meads station. David's interest in railways stemmed from those early days when he spent hours in the signal box with his father watching the large number of trains passing by each day. He was educated in Bristol, latterly at the Bristol Technical School, then moved to the Swindon Works of British Railways to commence his apprenticeship as a fitter and turner following in the engineering footsteps of his grandfather. In March 1960, David felt privileged to be at the naming ceremony of the Class 9 heavy freight locomotive 92220 'Evening Star' the very last steam locomotive to be built by British Railways, as he had helped to construct this particular engine which is now housed in the National Railway Museum in York.

With Swindon Works closing in March 1968, David moved on to further his education by obtaining an engineering degree and also, while studying in Twickenham, he met, and later married, Nina Roberts, who was doing an art foundation course. David then worked at the Guinness Brewery in Hammersmith and then at T.H. White.

In the 1980's, David was fortunate to meet a sculptor who owned an underground stone quarry in the Corsham area and who wasn't sure what to do with it. After researching the history of the quarry, David took the plunge and having no previous experience in stone quarrying, bought the quarry which lies between Bradford Road and Park Lane.

After many years of hard work and at great expense, the first stone was brought out of the Hartham Park mine in 1999 and over the years production has increased and an average of 5,000 cubic metres of stone have been quarried during the last few years.

David was a most interesting person to talk to, quietly spoken, but with a vast knowledge of railways, stone tramways, industrial archaeology and Bath stone quarrying and his magnum opus on stone quarrying in this area will be hopefully published within the next few months.

In September 2013, the Society's Golden Jubilee year, David gave a talk to members entitled 'The

History of Stone Quarrying' which will be remembered by all those who attended that evening. David attended my talk last July 'The ABC of the GWR' and added several points of interest to the discussion that followed the talk. We shall miss David's knowledge and expertise very much and extend to his wife Nina and son Thurstan our sympathies at his passing.

## **Michael Rumsey**

## **Membership News**

We extend a warm welcome to the following who have recently joined the society:

Mr & Mrs David Taylor  
 Mrs Geijsen-Conroy  
 Larry Porges  
 Pam Berry  
 Edward Barnett  
 Jacquile Stewart



## Corsham Civic Society executive committee vacancies

Applications are invited from members for the posts of Chair and Social Organiser. Please send to Michael Rumsey, 19 Tellcroft Close, Corsham SN13 9JQ. The society is thriving with new members every month for some time and appreciation of its various activities and quarterly newsletter.

## Corsham High Street Project [CHSP] gets going

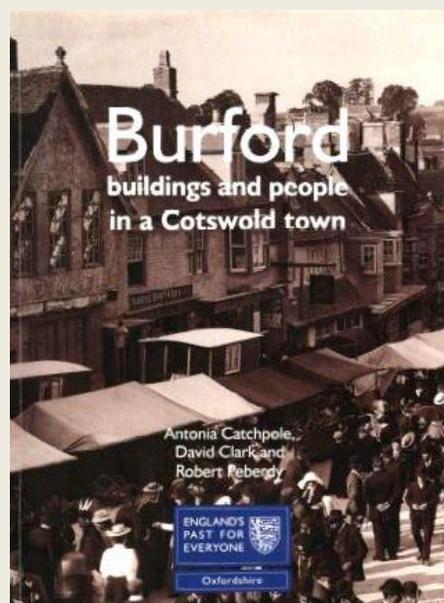
An inaugural meeting of the project committee was held on 15<sup>th</sup> February in Corsham Town Hall: lead roles were identified and matters such as governance, insurance, Health & Safety, recording and photography, finance and funding, and publicity were discussed. We have a committed committee of mainly local people with various types of expertise that the HLF would expect for a project of this kind.

A poster has been produced [see front cover] and a letter to owners of properties in the High Street has been drafted. A launch for owners and all those interested is planned at the Town Hall during the second week of April. We have started to make informal contact with owners of properties in the High Street and have had really positive, enthusiastic responses. A publicity campaign has been drawn up and is about to commence eg an interview on Corsham Talking radio will take place shortly before publication of this issue; various Corsham websites will be contacted as well as the Herald & Gazette etc.

There is an exciting prospect of an early trial run due to the roof being removed shortly from a most interesting – ostensibly late 17<sup>th</sup> century - building in the High Street.

An exemplar for this sort of project was undertaken at Burford, Oxfordshire, and resulted in the publication, *Burford: buildings and people in a Cotswold Town* by Catchpole, Clark and Peberdy [2008]. For the launch, one of the Burford senior managers has been [invited to give a talk about this splendid project.

**John Maloney**



## Work begins on Mansion House

Town councillors were invited to a site visit on Thursday 22 February. The building contractors are a company called Beard's [so I didn't feel out of place] and we were shown round by Suzanne Gough, Senior Project Manager, Wiltshire Council, to whom we were grateful.

Clearing the trees from in front of the Georgian façade and returning the missing urn to the gate pier have already improved the view of the front of the building. The removal of the former 1960s council library revealing the magnificent 1720's frontage completely uncluttered is a true eye opener [photo., middle of collage : this is how it should remain with the new glass and steel extension located at the back of the building against the later Victorian changes c. 1896.

As no provision was made for even a basic Level 1 Historic Building Recording survey [pers. comm.] I will organise my photographs and notes and offer them to the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre.



*Article continues next page...*

Despite many years of neglect and some vandalism, internally there are many elements that appear to have survived quite well and we were assured by Suzanne that they are to be retained, although that assurance was somewhat tempered by the admittance that the budget has been cut. Most of the features, in particular, the numerous fireplaces, are Victorian but a typically Georgian fireplace in the kitchen and the roof structure are reminders of the original date of construction. Grudgingly, I have to admit that there is even one rather impressive graffiti mural.

Interestingly and, perhaps, significantly, given the uninformed dismissal by Wiltshire Council officers of any archaeological potential beneath the former library [Autumn issue, pps. 5-7], I observed some 1.2m of 'made ground' above the uppermost geological deposits on the site which was confirmed by a Beard's representative. The made ground can be seen in the sections of the trenches in the photos below, the trenches having been dug for the pouring of concrete for the foundations of the extension building. The significance of the made ground is that it comprises 'man made' deposits which for this area is notably thick. Generally, the uppermost natural geological 'brash' is not far below the surface, certainly not as much as 1.2m below. It appeared that the made ground did contain some 'stratification' and remains of foundations not associated with the library ie archaeological deposits ~ it's a great shame that no provision was made to ascertain or evaluate their potential.



**John Maloney**

### **The Corsham Neighbourhood Plan [CNP]**

The six-week community consultation on the draft Corsham Neighbourhood Plan ended on 13 December 2017. The responses received have been carefully considered and, where appropriate, changes made to the Plan. The CNP has now been passed to Wiltshire Council for 'validation' and following on from that they will then carry out a further six-week consultation – expected to start in 2-3 weeks time - with the wider community and statutory consultees. So, don't miss that opportunity to comment:

<https://www.corshamneighbourhoodplan.co.uk/gatheringevidence.php>

## The character of Pickwick and the CNP

The Pickwick Association comments and the responses are on the link <https://www.dropbox.com/s/kt6e2w8hy66763h/CorshamReg14%20Responses%20-%20final%20Feb%202018.pdf?dl=0>, pps. 163-172.

Whilst I commend all concerned with the amount of work that has been done on the Corsham Neighbourhood Plan and its comprehensive scope, I'm disappointed that the *Character Area assessments* are rather colourless and anodyne with key heritage characteristics actually missed. I use as an example, Pickwick. In common with others, I feel that it was a mistake to tie Pickwick in with Copenacre when there appears to be no link other than the modern Bath Road. As Hartham, Middlewick etc were identified as individual areas, how much more so should that be the case with Pickwick which is so highly distinctive and a quite separate and early village settlement apart from Corsham. Pickwick is very much older than Copenacre, and is quite different in character, not least, in having some 44 listed buildings, a notable number for such a small settlement and also is a designated Conservation Area in its own right. The historic core of Pickwick is of a singular, distinguished appearance due to its Georgian aspect: it was a notable Quaker settlement [referenced in the Goldney family papers ~ *Spotlight*, Spring 2015, p8] and has an unusual number of buildings with datestones of the time ie 1708, 1730, 1739 and 1745 [see below]. The Quaker settlers established their own Meeting House, Boarding School and burial ground [*Spotlight*, Spring 2017, p14]. None of these aspects are mentioned and yet are precisely what has given Pickwick its distinctive variety of historic buildings, notable character and unusual ground plans. Unfortunately, therefore, the character assessment misses out on a really significant aspect of Pickwick's character which sets it apart from any other part of Corsham and which should have had attention drawn to it. Allied to which is the regrettable lack of an update to the Pickwick Conservation Area statement which should have been included to reinforce the need for protection of this heritage.

Turning to the matter of the datestones I have arranged below a pictorial representation of the key features ~



37 Middlewick Lane ~ L H  
1745



*Article continues next page...*



45 Pickwick, above a blocked up doorway on left there is a 1708 datestone set in a triangle ~

H

I A

1708

To the right of that building is a stained glass window and clock set into the wall of the former Quaker Meeting House and School.

**BOTTOM:** The Masonic Hall, 43 Pickwick ~ below the door pediment is the masonic symbol of the crossed set square and compasses.





24 Pickwick ~ H  
A o S  
1730

8-10 Pickwick ~ S  
I o N  
1739



**John Maloney**

## Septimus Kinnear, Corsham's first test cricketer

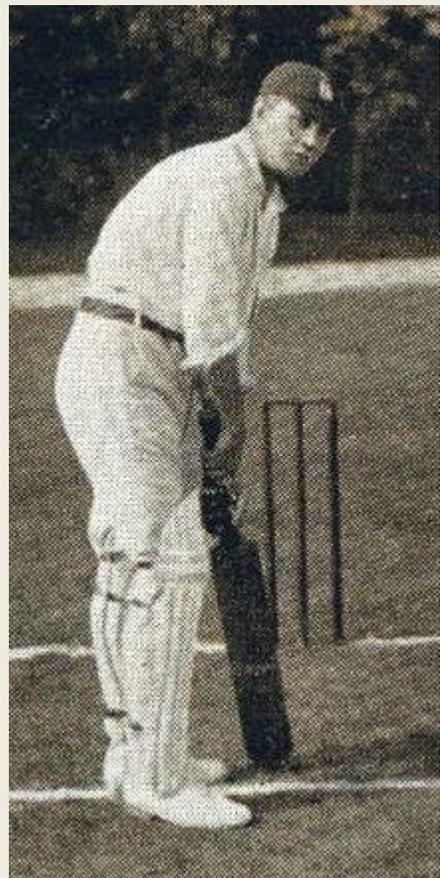
A line of Kinneirs, mainly medical men, moved from Fife with their arms, crest and motto in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and settled in north Wiltshire. Septimus was born in No 12 Pickwick [my house ~ see <http://www.corshamcivicsociety.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/July-2016-spotlight.pdf>, p19] on 13 May 1871 - inevitably, given his Christian name, he was seventh of the children in a family of thirteen. Henry Kinnear, his father, and family lived in Pickwick during 1869-1880 and he worked for Pickwick Brewery [adjoining 12 Pickwick] as a commercial traveller.

A left-handed batsman and occasional right arm bowler, Kinnear made his debut for Warwickshire in 1898 and played for the team until 1914. "Possessing exceptional grace of style without the exaggeration of pull that so often marks a left handed batsman". Overall he was credited with scoring 15,721 runs for Warwickshire. Septimus played in one Test Match in 1911 against Australia in Sydney. In the first test he opened the batting with Jack Hobbs. The tour had come as a reward for his most prolific season with the bat, when he scored 1,629 runs in 20 matches, including a career best 268 not out, at an average of 49.36. He was named one of Wisden's Cricketers of the Year in 1912 and was considered to be one of the finest batsmen that ever played for Warwickshire.

His brother, Arthur, played for Corsham 1<sup>st</sup> XI for over 20 years and captained the club during some very successful seasons.

Septimus died in on October 16<sup>th</sup>, aged 55, whilst motor cycling on his way home from playing golf.

**John Maloney** [*With thanks to David Smith who drew this to my attention and kindly provided much of the text*]



## ***Redrow playing dirty again ~ Bath Road shenanigans continue!***

In the Autumn issue we related how Wiltshire Council's failure to deal with two crucial issues – Land Stability and Minerals Planning consents – in their 2013 refusal of planning consent for this site left loopholes without which Gladman's appeal to the Planning Inspectorate would have been much more likely to fail.

Now we draw attention to a series of recent activities by Redrow Homes, aggressive tactics that appear to be aimed at convincing the local population that their (Redrow's) right to treat this as their construction site is a done deal. It is absolutely not: as stated in Autumn issue, Condition 22 explicitly prohibits - until it can be proven that noise and vibration from quarrying beneath the site can be managed with certainty - the start of any development. With Gladman just about to start their third attempt on this challenge, any decision on discharge of the critical condition is months away – which must be frustrating for Redrow.

In January, Redrow applied for permission to remove the large tree on the island at the junction of Bradford Road and the A4 where, if the development were to go ahead, a roundabout would be constructed. Considerable and righteous indignation in the local community eventually prompted the Highways Officer to intervene resulting, we can only surmise, in advice to Redrow that they limit their actions to severe pruning of the tree, putting a fence around, and an ugly green hair net on, it – activities that the Highways Department seem powerless to prevent but which at least stop the use of the tree by foraging bats.

Many passers-by may not have realised that Redrow's large unsightly 'Coming Soon...' advertising hoarding, in situ for the past 18 months, has been unlawful since its planning permission expired early in November last year. When this was pointed out Redrow, rather than merely seek retrospective approval, eventually submitted a new application. It contained a host of factual errors, even one claiming that the sign was not actually there at all.

When the flaws were pointed out in detail to Corsham Town Council by town councillor and PA committee member John Maloney, they roundly called on Wiltshire Council to reject the application. Pickwick ward councillor Ruth Hopkinson made clear that she would 'call in' the application if officers were minded to approve it – meaning that it would have to be considered by Wiltshire Council's full planning committee in public.

Faced with the prospect of having their cavalier approach to regulations widely publicised, Redrow withdrew the application. Not only that, on 28 February they replaced the sign unilaterally with one which - they claim - is allowed by 'deemed consent' under the advertising regulations. It seems that the sign Redrow erected is just as unlawful as the one they removed. (While certain advertising signs are allowed under those regulations they appear to be limited to 0.3 square metres - or 2 square metres for land on which building is ongoing.) Redrow's new sign covers 4 square metres - and thus still appears to require the specific approval of the Council. The Pickwick Association pointed this out to the Planning Officer who now agrees and says that he will 'communicate with the applicant that they need to reduce the size' of the sign. You really couldn't make this up!



We then have Redrow's outrageous and unnecessary removal of the remainder of the stone wall along the A4 (which is officially classed as 'not being Development for the purposes of planning regulations').

And most recently their equally outrageous application to close the public right of way footpath across the site, linking the A4 with the Conservation Area. In the belief that development has actually started Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way Officer was happy to OK that, quite unaware that such action before commencement of development appears not to be provided for in legislation. His reaction to the objections he has now received is still awaited.

So there we have an orchestrated series of cynical and provocative moves by Redrow Homes; all of them triggered expressions of concern by local residents and cries of 'Foul ref!'. We know Council officers have too much on their plate these days, but the trend is clearly to show proper concern for the regulations only after complaints by residents. It's very clear that Redrow is used to getting away with this simply shoddy work and bullying behaviour. It's time the Council stood up to them!

**Pickwick Association**

## **SAVE THE DATE - CORSHAM WALKING FESTIVAL 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

**Corsham Walking Festival returns for its fifth year**, already a firm fixture for all who love the great outdoors and enjoy Walking Festivals. Whatever your walking ability or interest, this our largest event offers walks that will tempt you.

There are 27 walks planned over the three days of the Festival, many of them themed with talks given by experts. Many walks start from the Springfield Campus in Corsham, others from local villages, all are carefully planned to offer insights into Corsham and the local area, landscape and history of our beautiful countryside.

Walk themes capture the industrial and rural history of region including Hartham Park Estate, Brunel's railway, Corsham quarry tramways, manor houses, and wildflowers and longer routes out to Castle Combe, Colerne and Solsbury Hill.

This year we are offering a free walk programme featuring the Children's Treasure Hunt, Peacock Walk, Sustainable Walk, Nordic Walking Taster and the mindfulness Walk.

Children will love the Treasure Hunt, whilst families and groups can join in our Peacock Walk to test their powers of observation around the local area.

Join members of the local environmental and sustainability group, to explore places in Corsham where sustainability is being put into practice, including community orchards, wildflower community gardens and solar power installations.

For the body and mind we have a new Nordic Walking Taster and our regular Mindfulness walking session both taking place within Corsham Court.

There is also a Saturday evening quiz and buffet, a favourite of past Festivals, with a chance to test your general knowledge against our Quiz Master.

All the Festival walks will be described in detail on the Festival website: [www.corshamwalkingfestival.org.uk](http://www.corshamwalkingfestival.org.uk) that will be updated in March to promote the 2018 Festival. Hope to see you there, but do book early to avoid disappointment. **Booking opens on the 3 April.**

Free parking at the Springfield Community Campus throughout the Festival.

**Barry Cox**  
**CWF2018 Publicity Coordinator**

## Winston Churchill Memorial Trust (WCMT) Fellowships Travel to Learn – Return to Inspire

Each year more than 100 Fellowships are awarded for [a wide range of projects](#). The Fellowships provide a unique opportunity for UK citizens to travel overseas to bring back fresh ideas and new solutions to today's issues, for the benefit of others in the UK. This allows them to maximise what they can achieve in their lifetime, both as leaders and role models to inspire others, but also in personal development terms.



These opportunities are offered to people of any age, gender, ethnicity or religion, with or without educational qualifications, and in any occupation or none.

The WCMT also fund up to 10 undergraduate bursaries at [Churchill College Cambridge](#), as well as an Archive By-Fellowship at the [Churchill Archives Centre](#), each year.

Churchill Fellows have a strong passion to make a difference to others. In particular WCMT support those who would not normally be able to take time away from work to research their ideas, or who would find it difficult to access funding through other channels. Many applicants work in the public services such as nursing, teaching, social work and probation, or in the community and voluntary sectors, where this kind of opportunity is rare. The WCMT also fund individuals to preserve particular skills and crafts.

Those [Fellows](#) who are selected are highly motivated individuals, who return with a focus and vision to improve their profession and community.

The award of a Fellowship has [a profound impact on individuals who return](#) with a greater belief in their own abilities, as well as benefiting others through the new ideas brought back to the UK. Often a Fellowship serves as a catalyst that unlocks an individual's potential. It can accelerate their career, developing them as a leader in their field of expertise or as a role model, and continues to be a motivating influence long after they have returned from their travels.

*Article continues next page...*

The applications process opens in May of each year and closes in September.

### **Categories (published in May)**

Every year the WCMT invite applications from across a range of different areas of research, or categories. The [Advisory Council](#) carefully selects these categories according to the challenges facing UK society.

A number of categories are delivered in [partnership](#) with organisations who are experts in the funded area. These partnerships usually run for three years and offer our Fellows opportunities to share their findings, and exchange ideas and best practice with relevant networks of professionals. If a project doesn't fall within the remit of any category an application can be made in the '[Open](#)' category.

For further information access the website: [wmct.org.uk](http://wmct.org.uk)

I am happy to assist those who wish to apply:

[larry.stcroix@btinternet.com](mailto:larry.stcroix@btinternet.com) ~ I also provide talks to groups (by invitation).

### **Larry St Croix**

#### **Churchill Fellow 1986 (Legal Advisory Services)**

*Travelled to the USA and Canada culminating in an inspirational, influential and fulfilling experience [Member of Corsham Civic Society]*

#### **~ A clarification ~**

In the last edition of *Spotlight* (Autumn 2017), we wrote about a discrete stand-alone project to capture the heritage of shops, shop fronts and signage in Corsham. The Civic Society remains supportive of such a project, to be delivered alongside the work with the Wiltshire Building Record survey of Corsham High Street. However, the initial project proposal, which had been scoped for us by Paul Kefford (a local resident with years of heritage policy experience), had been submitted to the Civic Society for discussion, rather than as a fully-scoped (and costed) project, and we accept that publishing details of the proposal in *Spotlight* was a little premature. If there are readers of *Spotlight* who would, though, be interested in developing Paul's initial scoping into a programme of work, we should be delighted to hear from you.

#### **\*Stop press\***

Congratulations to Ben Thomas, elder son of Kathy and the late Wyndham Thomas [see p2], who as co-curator has won the Global Fine Art Award for organizing the Raphael Exhibition which was seen by 65,000 visitors to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and more than 300,000 in Vienna. The fine, large catalogue published with the exhibition has already been re-printed five times.

## The Lady Margaret Hungerford Almshouse and Schoolroom

The volunteers of the Almshouse are planning a birthday party for the town to celebrate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of this important historical Corsham monument. It is to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018, following the date 16.06.1668 inscribed on the Schoolroom/Chapel bell.



*Lady Margaret Hungerford*

There will be a marquee in the garden serving tea and cakes, a choir and an historical exhibition. Admission to visit the Schoolroom/Chapel will be waived for the day of the celebration.

We are open to any ideas and information Civic Society Members may have about the building or its function that could be included in the exhibition.

Please contact: Margaret Smith 01249 715459



### Corsham in Focus ~ answers and results

This very successful book was a smash hit at Corsham Books selling a record number of some 440 copies.

1. Almshouses porch, Pound Pill: window on right/south side
2. Methuen Arms: left side of door in South Place/Lacock Road
3. 110 High Street (last door before Court wall)
4. St Bart's: above door facing folly, north transept (Methuen Chapel)
5. 44 South Street (ex Richmond Tools)
6. Baptist Church, Priory Street: grave of John Thomas Dunsdon, by body's right foot
7. Iron squeeze stile, the Drung or Lovers' Walk (path from South Avenue to the High Street/Post Office Lane)
8. Corner of High Street and Martingate, above Parker's Gallery
9. Mayo Memorial, High Street: over water trough at back
10. Between almshouses 3 and 4, Lacock Road (over door of number 3)
11. 9 Church Street, second floor, right window
12. The Pound: left side of gate at side (boys') entrance from footpath beside cricket ground/bowling green
13. Corner of 30 Pickwick Road, top of Providence Lane
14. 45 Pickwick Road: left gate post
15. 43 Priory Street, over front door
16. St Bart's churchyard (front): chest tomb of William Hulbert and family, to left leading to stile into park, inscription facing church
17. 71 High Street: front door
18. Wellerslea, 124 Priory Street, from gate
19. 77 High Street (Caxton House): left side of canopy over front door
20. 62 Pickwick Road: porch, old County Police Station (Dorkings Lodge)
21. Southleigh, 22 South Street: porch
22. The Rise, 31 South Street, date stone and finial
23. Hare & Hounds roof finial with sundial, seen from wall of Pickwick Manor
24. Ivy House, 2 Priory Street
25. 18 Pickwick Road (Pond Close)
26. 6 Bences Lane
27. 41a Pickwick/Bath Road
28. St Bart's: handle of vestry door to right of main porch
29. Right side of gateway arch to Corsham Court, Church Square
30. Window in side of 18 Pickwick, seen from number 20 (Bramble Cottage)
31. Parkside, 36 High Street, front wall
32. Town Hall, over front entrance
33. Side of Previous, 54 High Street
34. Corner of Pickwick Road and Alexander Terrace, by S&K Autos
35. St Bart's: figure to left above WWI memorial tablet
36. 62 Pickwick Road: right front wall
37. The Grove Coach House, Pickwick Road (Estate Office)
38. St Bart's: on left above window in south wall, right of tower
39. Porch of 64 Pickwick Road (Selborne House)
40. Hungerford almshouses bell tower
41. 4 Bath Road/Pickwick (Old Parsonage), chimney to right when facing front door
42. Turret on the Pound, nearest Pound Pill end/auditorium
43. Old fire station, Spring Gardens/Priory Street (Heywood nursery)
44. Paul Street, side of 12 Pickwick Road (The White Lion)
45. Over front door of Ivy House, 2 Priory Street
46. Springfield Campus: opposite gate to swings/end of tennis court, above café, lower right of large blind window
47. Fencing on railway footbridge
48. Front wall of 55 High Street (over Garden Veterinary Group)

49. 42 Pickwick (Ostler's House)
50. 4 Church Street: inner right side of hood over door
51. Shed to right of 17 Pickwick/Bath Road (Pickwick Cottage)
52. Alexander Terrace, first-floor window in brick building set back between number 23 and old laundrette
53. Right of Corsham Court green gates, High Street/Cross Keys Road
54. 12/14 Pickwick, between front doors
55. Gatepost, 1 South Street (Home Lea)
56. The Grove, Pickwick Road: above front door
57. Masonic Hall, Pickwick ('This is not no 45' on door)
58. Top right corner of window, the Old Shop, 20 Station Road
59. Grave of Lucy and William Ball, old Congregational Church graveyard between Grounded and Coop: last stone against wall backing on to car park
60. 12 Hastings Road
61. Rear of Gospel Hall, Hastings Road
62. Side wall of 3 South Place, overlooking garden of 4 South Place
63. Cheviot House, 76 High Street
64. 58 Pickwick Road
65. Memorial to Clara Jones, old Congregational Church graveyard between Coop and Grounded, middle of wall backing on to car park
66. St Bart's: north wall, above door into nave
67. War memorial, east side, Lacock Road
68. Porch window, 29 Paul Street
69. Mansion House coach house, Pickwick Road
70. Top right of folly, from Church Street
71. Rear roof of Cheviot House, 76 High Street
72. 25 High Street: canopy over Post Office Lane entrance
73. Garden fence of Ash Villa, 5 Pound Pill
74. Left gate of Grove House, Pickwick Road
75. Gazebo in garden of Parkside, 36 High Street, from High Street car park
76. Old Tan Yard, view from Pound Pill
77. Side wall of 28 Station Road
78. Back of war memorial, Lacock Road
79. 16 Paul Street
80. Tablet on School Room, South Place
81. Scout hut, the Laggar
82. 90 High Street
83. Above Automattic, 17 Pickwick Road
84. Gable of 4 South Place, from South Avenue
85. Bellwood, 45 Pickwick (wall of Masonic Lodge)
86. St Bart's: north wall, left of rose window
87. On door in wall between St Bart's and Corsham Court
88. 9b and 9c Red Forge, Station Road
89. Fire station doors, Beechfield Road
90. Springfield Campus: wall overlooking swings, sixth light from right/fifth from left when facing building (to right of number 46)
91. High Street/Cross Keys Road, on wall near Corsham Court green gates
92. 79 High Street
93. 7/9 Alexander Terrace
94. Old Dairy, corner of Priory Street and Bath Road (Batley's/Webb's)
95. 8/10 Bath Road, Pickwick, under eaves
96. Mansion House, Pickwick Road, under number 69
97. Station Road Garage, 49 Station Road
98. The Pound: above main entrance
99. Methuen Arms barn, South Place
100. Ivy House, Priory Street, to right of front door

Some people who entered have asked to be told their score. If you would like to know how you did, please get in touch ~ <https://www.weavernbooks.co.uk/contact>.  
Meanwhile, congratulations to the following who recorded 'perfect' answers and whose names were entered into the draw for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes:

**Hilary Austin**  
**Jackie Ball and Emma Langdale**  
**Humphry Barnikel (1st prize)**  
**Anne Chapman**  
**Matthew Chapman**  
**Eileen Cook**  
**Gordon & Christine Coutts**  
**Susan Curtis**  
**Michael Derham (3rd prize)**  
**Mike and Karen Hayter**  
**Ruth Ross (2nd prize)**  
**Isla Russell**

## **Martingate Centre murals**



Two murals reflecting Corsham's culture and heritage have been painted on the side of the Martingate Centre by artists Rob Cowan and Phoebe Tonkin depicting the town's vibrant history [above] and its links to peacocks. They were commissioned by the Bill Hall, the owner of the centre, and decided on by members the Pound Arts, the Peacock Trail, Corsham Town Council.

Russ Tunney, director of Pound Arts, said: "We were really excited to support this mural project and believe that the two artists have created pieces of work that truly represent and celebrate this historic and creative town. "We hope that everyone will enjoy the murals for many years come and will encourage lots of conversations about what Corsham means to them."

*Courtesy of the Herald & Gazette*

## **Review of *Fragrant Harbour to abode of Peace: An English Judge in the Far East* by David Leonard [Judge in the Court of Appeal in Brunei] ~ society talk, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Michael Rumsey introduced David Leonard who gave us a talk on Brunei, where he had been a high court judge. Probably like most members of CCS, I didn't know much about Brunei, so it was really interesting to find out that it had to be sent judges from Hong Kong and when Hong Kong was handed back to China in 1997 David, a magistrate there, was asked to become a high court judge in Brunei. Located on the north coast of Borneo, Brunei was a British Protectorate from 1888, gaining its independence in 1984. Its population is similar to that of Wiltshire but its area is much bigger. The people are mainly Malay, with Chinese and Borneo natives and about 20% foreign workers who do the manual work. Their wealth is from oil and they have a high standard of living. The religion is mainly Islam with some Christians and Buddhists. The language is Malay, English and Chinese. It is ruled over by a benign Sultan. Brunei in a nutshell is described as being a safe, peaceful and friendly place, characterised by its water villages and mangrove swamps – all very lush and beautiful.

The government officially consists of a monarchy (drawn up by the British) but the Sultan, Hassam Bolkiah, now wields absolute power. There was an uprising in 1962 after which the sultan got rid of the opposition. He built a parliament and became its president, with all other positions going to members of his family. There is no Habeas Corpus or judicial review and increasingly there is Sharia Law. Non-Malays and foreigners are discriminated against and Christians kept under control. The Sultan loves a good drill from his military but they couldn't really stand up against a proper fight so he pays the British Gurkhas to protect him. The British army trains in the jungle. Brunei is cultured, with good museums, shops and restaurants in the capital, magnificent mosques, lovely colourful costumes and dancing.



However, there is no entertainment, no alcohol and no tourists. Islamic banking is replacing normal banking and HSBC has vacated its premises. Further introductions of Sharia law eg against homosexuals provoked a threaten boycott by Americans of its hotels, so implementation of this law has been 'suspended'.

The royal palace is luxurious with over 1000 rooms where during the day guests are obliged to wear black and at night white. All government ministers have to appear in uniform adorned with lots of medals; this prompted a reaction amongst the magistrates so they dress in suits! A two-week wedding ensued when the Crown Prince got married. David and his wife Frances attended, Frances in the required black and white outfit designed in Wiltshire but made up in Brunei. All the guests received presents from the couple, given in carrier bags. It sounds a fascinating place, beautiful but with its problems. A thoroughly enjoyable and informative talk!

**Cath Maloney**

# CORSHAM CIVIC SOCIETY 2018

All meetings are at the Pound arts centre (telephone 01249 701628) at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. Reduced rates for Members [£1] and Non-Members [£3] due to logistics of any longer providing free tea or coffee or £1 off a glass of wine. Guests are very welcome.

- 23 Mar (meeting at Corsham Primary School, Pound Pill)  
John Maloney: *'A Career in Ruins'*  
John Maloney, now editor of *Corsham Spotlight*, was formerly Principal Archaeological Excavations Officer for the Museum of London
- 27 Apr Sir David Wilson: *'What are Museums for?'*  
Professor Sir David Wilson, FBA, FSA, is the former Director of the British Museum
- 18 May AGM at the Town Hall
- 29 Jun (Note that this is not the usual Friday)  
Thomas Woodcock: *'Heraldry and the College of Arms'*  
Thomas Woodcock, FSA, is Garter King of Arms
- 27 July Richard Hoyle: *'The Industrial Revolution in Chippenham'*  
Professor Richard Hoyle is the former General Editor of the Victoria County History of England
- 28 Sept Dorothy Treasure: *'The houses of Corsham High Street'*  
Dorothy Treasure is the Principal Building Historian of the Wiltshire Buildings Record
- 26 Oct TBA
- 30 Nov Michael Rumsey, Dr Negley Harte, John Maloney and others: *'The History of Education in Corsham'*  
Michael Rumsey is a retired primary school head-teacher, Negley Harte is a retired university lecturer, John Maloney is a retired archaeologist

• Please note that the Programme may be subject to changes