

Corsham Spotlight

July 2004

Volume 2, Issue 2

Newsletter of the Corsham Civic Society



Special Interest Articles:

- AGM Report.
- Heritage Open Days programme revealed
- Spotlight now runs to 12 pages!

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AGM, 2004

Almost 50 members packed the School Room at the Almshouses on 28 May 2004 for the Society's AGM. As ever, the first task was to elect President, officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman – no applicants this year again, Secretary and Treasurer) and the other members of the Executive Committee.

The stipulations of the new Constitution adopted last year had been rigorously applied, with all those wishing to apply having lodged their Nominations with the Secretary two weeks prior to the evening. The AGM was notable for the decision of John Lock to stand down from his long-held role of Treasurer. We thank John for his expert guidance and dedication to the position over many years and wish him well as his plans to wind-down take shape. (Some hopes, John – Chairman!) Additionally, and with great regret, we had to acknowledge the decision of our Membership Secretary, Pat Britton, to stand down from the Executive and from her position as the Society's Membership Secretary. Pat, we thank you for your unceasing efforts on our behalf and accept that your recent move to Melksham would make your on-foot delivery of our various communications to members somewhat difficult! We also received, with great sadness, notification from David Bowen-Jones that he felt unable to re-apply for his position on the Executive. Evidently, his business commitments and his other interests had combined of late to mean that his participation in the Society's affairs had diminished to the point of severe embarrassment to himself. We wish you well, David, and hope to see you at our Open Meetings from time to time.

Gratifyingly, we were able to welcome Dr John Harwood as our new Treasurer and Tam and Thelma Pearce as new members of the Executive. 3 in, 3 out – not a bad outcome, all things considered. The full list of names – officers and members of the Executive – can be found elsewhere in this edition of Spotlight. It should be noted that "Co-options are Always an Option" – up to a maximum of three. So look out!

This year's AGM saw a break with tradition. As a means of demonstrating the use of the presentation equipment which had been purchased with the Awards for All money we have recently secured, the Chairman delivered a visual report on the profile-raising activities that the Society had pursued over the last few months. This was extremely well received, although Peter begged that this should not set a precedent for future AGMs.

As usual, the AGM was followed by a talk by an invited guest speaker. In this case it was NWDC's David Stirling, with a talk entitled "Conservation Issues Relevant to Corsham". With the aid of slides, David gave us an alternative view of Corsham, in particular, how free standing advertising boards effect the street scene, and how shop windows filled with advertisements do nothing to enhance the attractiveness of an area.



EDITORIAL

Welcome to our summer edition of the newsletter. Since our last publication we have held our AGM which is reported earlier.

The 'Summer Walk' was a great success, the weather was beautiful, and about 19 of us strode out or strolled along - as the mood took us, until we reached the welcome sight of the Flemish Weaver, where we were joined by a further 6 members who helped us revive with the usual liquid refreshments and a very tasty Cornish Pasty Pie (see photo below) supplied by Jerry (with the help of his mum's recipe)!!! As a mark of our appreciation to Jerry and Nathalie, Peter presented to them a copy of a potted history of the "Pack Horse" as it was previously known, (as supplied by Joe James) and we hope they will frame and display the document in the bar. The general opinion seemed to be in favour of making this a regular event, and we shall endeavour to do so!



Once again 'Lunch on the Lawn' at Corsham Court was staged under blue skies, to the delight of all concerned, and with another healthy profit of £4000 + going to St Bartholomew's Church. The Society had a promotional table, which seemed to generate a great deal of interest.

Corsham Festival has had its usual success, with the item the Society initiated, - a talk by Tom Brakspear – on his family's influence upon Corsham, being extremely well received. If by chance you were unable to attend, we hope to arrange with Tom to repeat his talk at one of our Open Meetings next year, so please, look out for that.

July 4th – Independence Day, found a good number of our Society enjoying a BBQ at the Royal Oak, a relaxing, purely for fun event, which may bear repeating in the future!!

We thank you for your support.

Lots more interesting things coming up, don't forget our trip to Gloucester on Thursday August 19th. (More details inside). If you haven't already put your name down, please let Pat Whalley know if you wish to attend.

The HOD's programme is also well under way, see item inside for details.

Don't forget our extra meeting on **Friday October 15th, at Church House, 8pm.** on 'Wiltshire's Geology, the Basis of our Landscapes and Buildings'.

Since there always seems so much to report, you will notice we have had to increase the size of this publication, but we hope you will enjoy it as much as usual.



Pieces of Corsham's History

We are extremely grateful to the granddaughter of Mrs Bowman (late of Westrop Lodge, Lacock Rd, and librarian of Corsham library for many years) who has passed on to us notes and local information about the town which Mrs Bowman collected over many years. ~ These will be added to our archive, as the "Bowman Papers" and we will endeavour to bring you snippets of that information in our newsletters in the future.

We must also thank Mrs Duffy (daughter of Fred Knott) of Meadland Rd, who has passed to us a document recording the sale, by Sir Henry Hastings Goldney, Baronet, of some of the houses in Pickwick village in 1948. We have taken a

photocopy of this now rather fragile document, in order that anyone who wishes may read it, the original will be placed in our archive for safe keeping.

Mr Knott attended the sale, and thoughtfully annotated details of the sale prices of some of the buildings. Very interesting reading.

We also have had an enquiry regarding a 'whirlwind'. A Mr Michael Rutty of Bristol approached us to ask if we could substantiate a story which exists in his family. Michael is researching the Hemmings family tree. The Hemmings's were and still are a Corsham family. The story goes that, around 1890, a fully grown woman of that family, living at

that time in the Cross Keys area, was taken up into the air by a whirlwind and cast down heavily, resulting in her death. We have spoken to our "experts"- Joe James and Les Davis – and to an elderly Mrs Hemmings still living in Corsham, in addition to consulting the 1881 Census, and whilst we can confirm that the said lady did indeed live here as reported, we are unable to confirm this particular story. Should you be able to shed some light on the matter, please contact a member of the Executive. Michael is staying in touch and intends to return to Corsham shortly. We would love to be able to help him.

The Society's Executive

The first of the new Executive Committee's meetings took place on 8 June. All three new members were present. Our thanks are due to Nick and Julie Taylor at the Royal Oak for again granting us free-of-charge use of their Upstairs Room for our bi-monthly Executive Meetings for the next 12 months. These take place on Tuesdays, commencing at 2pm and according to a schedule which is displayed in our glass-fronted notice board located on a wall bounding the pathway between the High Street and the long-term car park behind the Methuen Arms Hotel.



Executive Committee Members

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Committee

Peter Tapscott
vacant
Pat Whalley
John Harwood
Anne Greenly, Anne Lock, Geoff Knapp,
Les Davis, Vida Flower, Eric Mahy, Eileen
Soanes, Norman Duckworth, Tam &
Thelma Pearce
Margaret Boswell, Pat Britton

Co-opted



Heritage Open Days, 10th September – 13th September 2004.

Our programme is well advanced, as you will see we have had little success in reducing the number of items, instead of 11 this year, we are down to nine. I am sure people will be surprised at the wealth of subjects we are able to cover in a small town such as ours, and believe it or not, we have some new ideas emerging for 2005 too!!

Here is a programme listing

Friday 10th September.

****Town Walks - as required, meet at TIC**

Saturday 11th September

St Bartholomew's Church, Church Street. 10am – 4pm

****Corsham Court – Talk on the Methuen Family at The Barn, Corsham Court, 11am- 12.30**

Monks Chapel, Monks Lane, 11am – 3pm

Chapel Plaister, Bradford Road, 10am – 4pm

Weird & Wonderful Chairs, the ArtsNoW Gallery, the Pound Arts Centre 10am- 4pm

****Galena Leadworks Pickwick Rd. 10am**

****Town Walks - as required. Meet at the TIC**

Sunday 12th September

Chapel Plaister, Bradford Rd 10am – 4pm

St Bartholomew's Church Church Street, 11.30 – 4pm

****Galena Leadworks, Pickwick Rd, 10am**

****Town Walks - as required Meet at TIC**

Monday 13th September

Monks Chapel, Monks Lane 11am – 3pm

St Bartholomew's Church, Church Street, 10am – 4pm

****Town Walks - as required - Meet at TIC**

**** Requires tickets – obtainable with a map of locations from the Corsham Tourist Office, High St. Corsham. Tickets will be available after 27 August.**

We have been extremely fortunate in obtaining sponsorship for our HODS initiative, from a local company called Inteq.

Inteq is one of the companies in the Corsham Media Park complex, and will have the status of Prime Sponsor, so you will begin to see their logo around Corsham on various HODS publicity sites.

Corsham Media Park is an integrated business, production and broadcast complex, providing an innovative environment where traditional skills and advanced technology come together to form a cutting-edge centre for all forms of media

The cornerstone of this complex is the Media Factory, a 27,000 sq ft facility, providing a range of workspace options for media related companies. 16 companies are already taking advantage of the Media Park, so that the best of British technology developers and content producers can compete cost-effectively and efficiently in the global market. The Media Park also boasts an impressive connectivity resource that lies in the miles of protected vaults that run beneath the site



Corsham Media Park are currently finalising the event that they will be hosting for HODS, and further information on this – as well as another event concerning Stické tennis – will be available at the Tourist Information Centre in Corsham. Our programme will be updated as soon as the information becomes available.



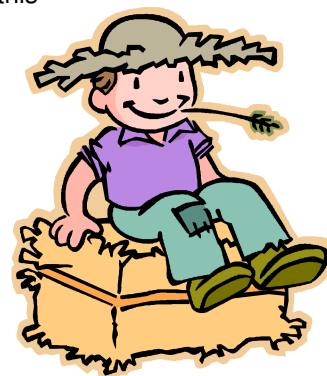
Some 'Dubious Facts' from the 1500's

The next time you are washing your hands and complain about the water temperature – think of this - In 1500's, most people got married in June because they took their early bath in May, and still smelt pretty good by June, however the brides carried a bouquet of flowers – just in case; and we are carrying on that tradition, at least in regard to the flowers !!

Houses had thatched roofs – thick straw, piled high. It was the only place for animals to keep warm, so all the dogs, cats, and other small animals lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip off the roof – Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs".

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top – hence "upper crust"!

To be taken with a pinch of salt? – I wonder where that saying originated – can anyone tell me?



Did You Know?

'The Linleys' – between Broadstone and Monks Park Lane, were all Flemish Weaver Cottages. Number 9 was the Weavers Chapel.



The Methuen Arms – claimed by John Aubrey to be the site of an ancient nunnery. Certainly it was once known as 'Winters Court'; and in 1608 'The Red Lion Inn' was established there. Note the ancient 'chequers' sign at the Lacock Rd entrance. This is a sign of Roman origin, which signifies 'hostelry'.

The Old Vicarage (no: 40 High St, opposite Indian Restaurant) is late 18th century. At the turn of the century the incumbent's wife objected to the view from her front windows, which was then dominated by a butchers shop! A new vicarage was built in Lacock Rd in 1904, but created much controversy.

It was the first red brick building (now The Chantry) to appear in Corsham – the story has it that there were 2 vicarages to be built, one in Corsham and one up north, the plans were muddled up, and the people of the north got a Bath stone building, and Corsham got red brick !!!

Telecommunications Mast

At the Planning meeting on 28th June we discovered a new planning application for a Telecommunications 'lamp post' and an equipment cabinet, to be erected along the Golden Path which runs between Newlands Road and Alexander Terrace adjacent to the Royal British Legion.

Members will be aware that there was a previous application for this equipment, which was fiercely contested by members of the public, particularly in the vicinity of Alexander Terrace and Meriton Avenue. The Society objected to it, and it was refused by the Corsham Town Council, and the NWDC. It went to appeal and lost.

It seems the company are not going to be put off; they have now increased the height of the pole from 9m to 9.2m, and moved the location of the cabinet by a few metres. We have of course, re-iterated our strong objections, and we know that local residents will do all they can to ensure the proposal does not get approval. We hope that public opinion will count for something this time!

If you object to this proposal, please write to NWDC, Monkton Park, Chippenham, Wilts.



North Wiltshire Festival



We shared another promotional opportunity with the Town Council, at the NW District Festival in Monkton Park, Chippenham on 16/17th July. We featured 4 elements, the Society's Station Campaign, Corsham Precinct – Past and Present, HODS 2004 and Promoting the CCS. We had a lot of fun piecing together the photo comparison between the original development of our Corsham Precinct and the re-development which has recently taken place to give us the Martingate Centre. We trust you were able to get along to the Festival.

As with all such events, our participation enabled us to focus our efforts on matters which are directly relevant to our overall aim and objectives – which is to stimulate interest and pride in the history, architecture and the present and developing environment presented by the Corsham area. It was extremely thought provoking to study the photographic record we have of the 'breaking through' of the High Street to form the opening to the Precinct back in the early 1960s. The shots of the demolition of Bezants the Butchers brought fond memories back to many of our members. We are indebted to the late Tom Burnard for his contribution to our photographic collection, which enabled us to cover this aspect in our display.

Corsham International Jazz Festival

The first-ever Corsham International Jazz Festival takes place the weekend after HODS – that is, Friday/Saturday/Sunday, 17/18/19 September. Seven Town Centre venues. Forty Bands. All styles, from New Orleans, through Swing to Bebop and Contemporary Jazz. Promotion of the Festival will be on a national and a local scale. The event enjoys the sponsorship of Vodafone, NWDC and the Corsham Town Council. In turn it is supporting the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Charity.



Visit to Gloucester Civic Trust.

Thursday 19th August 2004, Board coach at 9 a.m., Newlands Road. (Cost: £8).

Arrive Gloucester Docks by 10am for coffee, Presentation and guided tour at 11am. Complete at 12.30. Free time pm. for lunch and walkabout and return for home at 3.30 p.m.

£2.50 per head for guided tour.



“Round the Churches” Walk

Many of our members took part in the 12 mile “Round the Churches” Walk organised by Canon Roger Clifton and the team Ministry for Saturday 24 April. Starting at 9.30am at St Philip & St James, Neston, the tour took in St Bartholomew’s, St Cyriac’s, Lacock, St John the Baptist, Gastard and back to Neston Church where we were treated to the kind of sumptuous spread that only church-folk can put on. At each of the churches we were offered refreshments and encouragement – which was just as well because the day was hot and our route was dry and dusty. In all, some 35 completed the whole 12-mile circuit. However, this was not “mandatory” and many people joined in for the odd section. The maximum number walking at any one time approached 50. All ages were represented. All participants thoroughly enjoyed the day’s activity. We are indeed fortunate to be surrounded by such wonderful countryside.

Corsham Museum

Readers of this Newsletter will know that, of late, we have been re-doubling our efforts to establish some form of museum for Corsham. We had all-but given up on the notion that this might take the more traditional form of artefacts on permanent display at some purpose-made (or adapted) location, complete with explanatory information, and personal assistance where appropriate, and with some regular (and thoughtful) change out of the themes of at least some of the items selected for display. As we go to press, something has come to light that might be quite significant for the realisation of our dreams. As yet it is early days – but please “stay tuned” for further announcements.



Computerising the Archiving of our Photographic Collection

Using the technology skills of Brian Eatock, Jan Tapscott has commenced the task of computerising the record of our vast and ever-growing Photographic Collection. The intention is that this should make both retrieval and return-after-removal-for-display more easily accomplished.

We are extremely fortunate to have secured the services of Tam and Thelma Pearce as full members of our Executive Committee. They have personal, in-depth knowledge of the same process as it has been applied to the Chippenham collection of similar photographs. Through them we have learned that there are national categories and processes for documenting such archives, and we are presently reviewing the merits of adopting these. On the surface, adoption would further assist us when we wanted to access/import photographic images from outside. With the increased use of digital cameras and electronic records (CDs and the like), this would seem the sensible way to go.

We have also received a generous gift of a set of photographs of Corsham – including some wonderful shots of - Corsham Court, South Avenue, The Flemish Buildings, the Post Office, the High Street and the Martingate Centre on CD. Our sincere thanks go to Mr Bill Hall. (The developer of the Martingate Centre). He has very generously stated that we may use any of these photographs in the future without further recourse to him.

Some of these photographs formed part of our display showing Corsham precinct ‘old and new’ at the recent NW Festival in Chippenham. Perhaps you had the opportunity to see them?

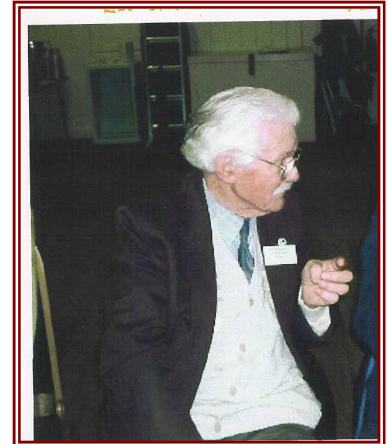


Les Davis and the Entente Cordiale

As we go to Press, the Society's Programme Organiser, Les Davis, is putting the finishing touches to his presentation to the good people of Jargeau. During his close fraternisation with the residents of our Twin Town last year – occasioned by the unfortunate accident which befell Les while participating in the annual exchange visit – he undertook to express his gratitude for the extreme kindness showed to him by the locals by making a return visit, when he was fully restored to health and vigour, to deliver a presentation to them. It will be remembered that this kindness extended to Les being furnished with a laptop computer from which he could maintain e-mail contact with his colleagues on the Corsham Civic Society's Executive Committee. Such dedication is an example to us all!

It was agreed that the subject of the presentation should be our wonderful Lady Margaret Hungerford Almshouses and Free School. The talk will be delivered in English by Les, with immediate piece by piece translation into French by a partner. Les is supplying his text ahead of the visit so as to enable the partner to prepare, thereby ensuring a slick presentation.

A thought occurs. Maybe we should plant a seed with our Twinning Association friends, to the effect that we would enjoy receiving a reciprocal presentation on a similarly restored and valued property in the Jargeau area. Perhaps one of you who is a member of both organisations could pass on the suggestion. In the meantime, we offer our profound congratulations to our octogenarian Programme Organiser – and trust that he will return to Blighty safe and sound!



Open Meetings – Improvements and Members' Response

For 2004, we were keen to make our Open Meetings a rewarding part of what the Society can offer its members. We feel that we are beginning to achieve this – and that our members are pleased with the results. It is gratifying to see the meetings so well attended, especially by our newer members, and to receive positive comments regarding our programme. Numbers have been up, both in terms of people and £s.

We did not close our Programme for 2004 with the events we listed when we first published it in late 2003. We added the Summer Walk for 2 June, "Eric's BBQ" for 4 July, the Visit to the Gloucester Civic Society for 19 August, HODS for 10-13 September and a talk on Wiltshire's Geology by Isobel Geddes on 15 October. This latter event looks like being a fascinating experience. The subject is particularly meaningful to Corsham that owes so much to the Jurassic limestone which sits beneath its feet. Please note that this is another event that must take place away from our normal home for Open Meetings. It again takes place at Church House in Church Street.

We hope to add yet further items to the 2004 list of events – and are already working on next year's Programme. Another "Awayday" is firmly in prospect. Our intention is always to respond to what we learned from your responses to the Questionnaire we put out last November. We trust you will agree we are "getting there".

Our Open Meeting programme appears later in this Newsletter



Corsham Station Campaign

The eighteen years of the Campaign to reopen our Station has been a roller-coaster ride. We achieved a safeguarding clause in the County Structure Plan and the station site delineated in the NWDC Local Plan in the early Nineties; with cross-party support the County successfully entered into negotiations for the purchase of the land - now in North Wiltshire District Council ownership. Rail Passenger Partnership (RPP) funding was the icing on the cake of the recently introduced Oxford/ Bristol rail service. May 2003, and Corsham was listed in the timetable – how sad that the Strategic Rail Authority had announced the removal of the RPP funding stream the previous January – with no prior consultation and a disregard of the effect this would have on so many Local Transport Plan aspirations for rail schemes around the country.

Friday, 27th June 2004 – Chippenham Town Hall - the venue for the EIP (Examination in Public) of the Wiltshire & Swindon Structure Plan to 2016. The Panel have chosen to hear argument and debate on the subject of Network Rail's Objection to Wiltshire's safeguarding clause and list of specific station reopenings – Corsham, Wootton Bassett, Wilton, Porton and a re-sited Melksham. Phil Tilley of WCC was robust in his defence of the safeguarding clause; Kennet District Council argues the case for Devizes to be included in that list; Consultants argue the case for a station at East Swindon. Somewhat to our surprise neither Network Rail nor the SRA send a representative. Instead, following a meeting the previous day, both GOSW (Government Office South West) and SWRA (SW Regional Assembly) representatives argued the case for the cheaper option – the bus! I had submitted a Statement on behalf of the Campaign, and in addition, my colleague in Transport 2000, Jenny Raggett and I maintained the safeguarding clause was correct; the latest Greater Bristol Strategic Transport Study had a horizon of thirty years; congestion was increasing and spreading throughout the day and buses were inevitably caught up in that congestion. The Panel Chairman later asked WCC whether it would be possible, were the Panel to recommend a Transport 2000 view, for funding to be transferred from road to rail? The County prevaricated and suggested Government Office should respond to that question – and to our surprise GOSW's answer was "No"! That the question had been posed did, however, give us a degree of optimism, particularly as it followed some raised eyebrows when the County informed the Panel that their discussions with the adjacent authorities of Bath & Bristol had been ongoing "for a month or so"! It really did appear to us that the Panel indeed felt there had been too much concentration on the "Un"sustainable Western Wiltshire Transport Corridor and insufficient attention paid to east/west journeys across the border into CUBA – Counties that Used to Be Avon!!! The Panel's Report is awaited with interest.

Anne Lock

Postscript

In the Sunday Telegraph recently there was a small booklet "The Sunday Telegraph Commuter Guide – Country Life within Reach of London."

"People much prefer Corsham, which has a Cotswold stone heart. The delicatessen proudly sells local produce and a new Heritage Centre concerns itself with the wool trade and stone quarrying. A handsome 4 bedroom stone house sells for about £400,000 to £500,000 here. A restored Grade 11 listed house with five bedrooms would cost £500,000 to £600,000. Nearer to Bath is Box"

On other pages are details of the train journey length from Chippenham and Bath stations, together with season ticket price and how often the service runs.

Ed.

Brownfield Sites

It has come to our attention that John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, has officially classified gardens as brownfield sites in recently issued planning guidance.

The advice deems gardens as "previously developed land" giving developers the green light to concrete over them. It allows builders to buy older houses with mature gardens and replace them with blocks of flats, a pattern which, if repeated can completely change a neighbourhood's character. The Tories have accused the Minister of "fiddling" planning guidelines in order to achieve the government's target of 60% of development occurring on brownfield sites. They are also pointing out the stress such action could put on local services, doctors', dentists', schools, parking and public transport.

We hope that ASHTAV will take up the baton on this subject, perhaps it could become the subject of a talk for the Society, or members could attend a meeting covering the matter.

We shall keep our eye on this, and let you know what develops.



Open Meeting Programme – 2004/5

We have had suggestions about our Social Programme, proposing that we include the remainder of the year's programme in each Spotlight, so that late additions may be included without going to the expense of reprinting our 'Programme' leaflet. All meetings will be held at 8pm at The Pound Arts Centre, Pound Pill, unless otherwise stated

23 July	Hawk and Owl Trust. Mike Rogers will give us an interesting insight into the lives and plights of these fascinating birds.
19 August	Visit to Gloucester Civic Trust, with a visit to Gloucester's Docks and an opportunity to explore in the afternoon.
10-13 September	Heritage Open Days.
24 September	Saving Buildings at Risk". Colin Johns an architect and member of the Buildings Preservation Trust.
15 October	Wiltshire Geology Group tell us about our 'Hidden Depths; the basis of our landscape and buildings." At Church House – 8pm.
22 October	A Pictorial Journey of the Somerset Coal Canal, Roger Halse gives an insight into the canal scenery and its history down the years.
26 November	"Matters of Family History". John & Beryl Hurley will give us a factual presentation of this popular tracking of our forebears.
December	Christmas Lunch to be arranged
2005	
28 January	Celebration of the New Year – a social gathering

Community Planning (CACP)

It is appropriate that we should inform our membership, of a truly exciting turn of affairs that has recently arisen in our community. A Flyer is being put out by the Management Group responsible for this whole process and, therefore, we only include the bare essentials here. The project has the potential to improve the lives of each and every one of us who has a home, works or goes to school either in the Town or in one of its neighbouring Villages. Essentially:

- After several years of preliminary work, the Corsham Area Community Partnership (CACP) has embarked upon a funded project in Community Planning.
- We are one of the few towns in the country to have secured funding to conduct this process – which demands the achievement of a timely and recognisable result because it is funded.
- The funding amounts to £25,000 and it comes from the South West Regional Development Agency. It arises from an application under the Market & Coastal Towns Initiative scheme – and two years of negotiation. In March we learned our application had been successful.
- The recognisable outcome of the process must be a document. This must record the results of a consultation process with the whole community. The process itself will be the greater achievement, since it will create an enhanced sense of "belonging" and also the "ownership" of the means to develop a Corsham Area of which we can all be justly proud.
- The Consultation Process is the key to everything. It began as far back as 1998. Now the findings recorded at that time must be verified.
- The 1998 Questionnaire revealed that it was the following that people wanted most:
- Re-open CORSHAM RAILWAY STATION and improve public transport links to the whole community area.
- Provide more and improved facilities for young people across the area.
- Improve shopping facilities in Corsham and ensure continued provision of village stores and post offices.
- An 11-strong Management Group has come together to steer the Corsham Area through the project.
- The next 9 months (i.e. up until the release of the Community Plan document) is only the beginning. The project then moves into the Implementation Phase. A different skills make-up will then be required within the Management Group. It will be armed with a credible argument that this is what the people of Corsham want. This will be very powerful when it comes to securing the real money and support.



The 2004 Corsham Primary School Special Award for Art

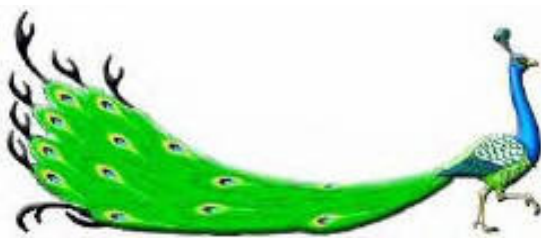
This was a new venture that went tremendously well. The school presently has about 410 pupils, divided into 13 classes. Each class held its own Art competition, with class winners being selected by teaching staff and "celebrated" at the school's own, regular "Awards Assembly". What was special this year was that the 13 "class-winners" were passed to the Civic Society's Carol Smith for the selection of the overall winner. Carol selected the entry submitted by Master Conor Scobbie. The Civic Society arranged for Conor's winning entry to be framed by Corsham's Right Angle Picture Framing, complete with a suitable inscription "window". The presentation of the framed picture was made by the Society's Chairman and Carol at the school's Awards Assembly held on Thursday morning, 10 June 2004, in front of the whole school.



This Special Award for Art follows on from the collaboration between Corsham's Civic Society and the Corsham School, whereby the Society added a Special Award for English to its two "Outstanding Contribution" Awards for pupils of that school when its Annual Awards Evening took place in January 2004. The Art Award marks a strengthening of the relationship between the Civic Society and the primary schools in the Corsham area.

As it so happens, the Primary school had just been awarded the highly prized Arts Council Gold Award for Art – so it was a special celebration. We conveyed all of this information to the Gazette & Herald who were able to respond appropriately. Indeed, they were positively keen to do so. Apparently, in recent weeks, much had been made of two local schools securing Arts Council Silver Awards. A Gold Award was really something. The Herald interviewed the School's Headteacher, Mrs Fiona Allen, and sent a staff photographer along to take pictures of the interior of the School in general – and its Brook Centre, in particular – and Conor, proudly displaying his suitably-framed prize-winning entry. The Society's own intrepid cameraman tagged along. Please see resulting photo, left.

We are hugely appreciative of the contribution of Steve Hible of Right Angle Picture Framing in the implementation of this initiative. May your reputation as a specialist artisan in our High Street flourish - so that we can continue to enjoy your support for many years to come!



Corsham Civic Society

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Tel: 01249 712270

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.Corsham-Civic-Society.co.uk

Advertising

Having looked at other publications from similar organisations, we are proposing that we open the Spotlight to advertising. There are already 'free' insertions from local Companies who sponsor our events (or the printing of Spotlight). Please contact Pat Whalley or Eric Mahy if you, or anyone you know is interested in advertising in our magazine. Rates for insertions are:

Single Insertion	Member Rate £	Non - Member Rate £
Whole Page	100.00	150.00
Half Page	60.00	75.00
Quarter Page	40.00	50.00
Sequential Insertions		
<i>2 Issues</i>		
Whole Page	180.00	270.00
Half Page	100.00	140.00
Quarter Page	70.00	125.00
<i>3 Issues</i>		
Whole Page	250.00	370.00
Half Page	150.00	180.00
Quarter Page	100.00	120.00

As you will see, it is obviously cheaper for non-members to join our Civic Society, and get the discounted rate.....

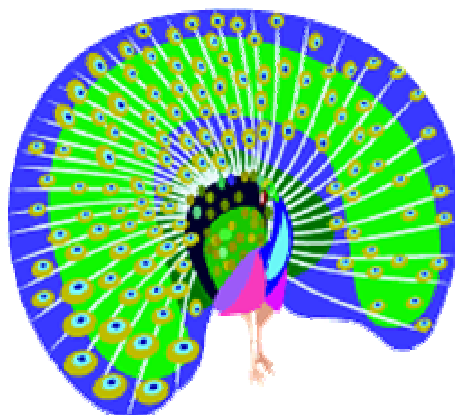
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Corsham Civic Society

Corsham Civic Society was founded in 1963 to represent the people of Corsham in all aspects of conservation, preservation and the promotion of this delightful Wiltshire town. The Society is a registered Charity, a member of the Civic Trust and ASHTAV (Association of Small Historic Towns & Villages of the UK). It is our aim to promote high standards of planning and architecture, to create a wider awareness amongst the local population of environmental issues, the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area, and to secure the preservation, protection and improvement of features of public amenity and/or historical interest, both in Corsham and in the surrounding countryside.



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Registered Charity No: 275321