

Corsham Spotlight

July, 2005

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Newsletter of the Corsham Civic Society

Complementary Copy



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Editorial

It is always heartening, and sometimes surprising to a local person, to hear comments like "what a delightful town you have here", or "it is such a nice part of Wiltshire", or "we didn't know it had so much interesting history".

When you have been born in a town, and lived there for the majority of your life, you tend to forget, because it is all so familiar, that this town *is* quite a charming place. When we were in our teens – did not many of us say about our home towns, "there is nothing to do" – "it's all so boring", then we spread our wings and moved on to pastures new, probably finding other attractive and vibrant places to live, but also sometimes finding that it was quite nice to return to those old familiar places.

At Lunch on the Lawn, held on 11th June at the Court, we heard many compliments about Corsham and its surrounding villages. This annual event, once again blessed with fair weather, was certainly an example of the perfect picture of a small English town, coming together, in a beautiful setting, to enjoy a pleasant afternoon. Lots of people, some new to the town, visitors, and locals alike remarked on the setting, and what an advantage it was to be able to use this historic house and grounds for such an event.

So what has Corsham got to offer? We have historic buildings, The Court, and a beautiful Church, the Almshouses, the Flemish Cottages, The Priory (now Heywood School), a very attractive High Street with examples of architecture from the 15th century to the present day, and lots of stories to be told, particularly with regard to the people involved in the wool and stone trades. We have good schools, and centres for all manner of sporting activities.

The town is close to many beautiful villages



and the city of Bath, and dare we say it, within easy access of the M4 for commuting purposes.

What does the town lack? It would benefit from a larger choice of shops. The Martingate project is doing a great deal to uplift this area, and what we have is good – but take a look at the table on page 2, to see the diversity of shops the town boasted in the 50's/60's. Of course it has been necessary 'to move with the times' and the car has enabled us to reach the larger stores and supermarkets; but perhaps if people had more choice on their doorsteps, there would be less need for the car and car parks; and if we had a railway station – well - enough said !

The town, in the form of the Corsham Area Community Partnership, has in the last year sought the views of local people on what they would like to see done to improve the town.

That process is ongoing, see latest details on page 8. Let us hope that improvements can be made to please both the young and the old of our small but constantly growing community, and we shall continue to hear positive comments regarding the town.

Pat Whalley



Shops in Corsham over the last 50 years.

High Street

CIRCA 2000	1950/60
Methuen Arms	Methuen Arms
Strakers (part)	GD Cawtes - garage/plumber
Cinnamon	T Ives - butcher
Turners fish shop	Loves - butcher
Head Office	Dawn's hairdresser
Head Office	Southern Electric
Barclays Bank	Barclays Bank
Picture framing & Cheesemonger	Wards, then Smith's - drapers
Haine & Smith	Lord's Toy shop
Barnetts	Barnetts newsagent
Allen & Harries, Estate Agent	Farleigh's Wine Lodge
Gardenia	Café ?
Artingstalls	Royal Wilts Butcher
Frock Follies	Cleverley's Chemist
Fox - dentist	Hobbs - saddler
Hairdresser	George Cooper - grocery
Ultra Warm	International Stores - grocery
Strawberry Fields	International Stores
Rowan House (private residence)	Garage - Bowerbank?
Oxfam	Part of garage
Craft Shop	Simmons Off license
Toy shop/Home furnishings	Shergolds, Fish & vegetables
E & S Electrical	NW London Meat Co
Royal Oak	Royal Oak
Private residence	Cheviot House School
Private residence	Daymonds Bakery
Shop unoccupied	Francis newsagent
Bookmakers Ladbrooks	Another bookmakers – name unknown
Coppins jewellers	Kibby's & Dykes, Jewelers
Post office	Post Office
Private residence	Johnson's bakery
Tongs fish shop	J Harding – grocery & a Cheese shop
Kebab Shop	Copperfields Restaurant

Estate agent & Carpet shop	Macmillans clothes
Value house	H James ironmongers
Portman Bldg Society	Farthings antiques
Modernair	Miss Head/Wool shop
Optician	Optician
Bookshop/another	Beszants – butcher
Lloyds/TSB	Lloyds Bank
Job Centre/Halifax	Private residence
Auto bits	Caleb Davis shoes
Indian Restaurant	Oatley's then Co-op furniture
HSBC bank	Midland bank
CMS	Smiths ironmongers
Vets & Theodora's	Co- op grocery & furniture
Flemish Weaver	Pack Horse
Chinese Take away	Wilkins Corn Merchants
Bernies hairdresser	Coffee Bar

Pickwick Road Shops

Cornfords	The Gables, womens clothing
Cleaners	Platts, sports equipment
Halifax/ empty	Platts
Chaplin's	Pickwick Papers
Douglas Auld,dental repairs	Boots
Raycolomb - musical instrument repairs	Boots
DMS	Bulson's TV/Radio
Goughs	Marsh's fishmonger & greengrocer
Goughs	Cafe
Home Comforts	Clare Judge - hairdresser
Financial Services	Uncles - shoes
Hong Kong House	Duckworth's emporium, Honeychurch's Ironmongers

You will see the town once had – 5 butchers, 2 fresh bakeries, 2 fresh fish shops/greengrocers, 4 groceries, 2 chemists, 2 shoe shops, 3 ironmongers, 2 off licences, and 2 ladies clothes shop. You must admit there was no need to go too far afield for things you needed!

Corsham Market

In 1295 Edmund Earl of Cornwall persuaded the king to grant Corsham a market. A Market Cross was erected between the Pack Horse and the entrance to Church Street. One night in 1776 two drunks, one John Dalmer and a John Evans destroyed the cross, and it was considered to be too badly damaged to re- erect. The vandals were fined £30 – a large sum in those days. This sum presumably went towards the building of the Market Hall (now the Town Hall) some seven years later.



Corsham Station Campaign Update - June, 2005

Some of you may have read that under the new Greater Western Franchise rail services for Melksham Station are to be cut drastically. As Roger Newman of the Wiltshire Rail Society commented – their ploy was working! If one runs a skeletal service at times to suit the train operator, rather than the passenger, the latter will be few and a proposal to axe services can follow! With congestion growing in North and West Wiltshire, not to mention Swindon, this is obviously a move in totally the wrong direction, but in line with an apparent determination to ignore what could be achieved by the provision of frequent local rail services. We shall continue to repeat the Inspector's findings following the Structure Plan Inquiry in 2004

"we find it difficult to accept that bus services are the long-term solution to reducing car use".

In recent days I have been sifting through some of the heaps of Reports, Statements, magazines and correspondence collected over the years, and found a couple of fairly recent gems. I shall include two of them:

"Local Transport Today" is an excellent magazine for the public transport obsessed! That of October 2003 contained a letter sent by Jim Steer, Managing Director - strategy and planning - SRA: -

"In the longer term, universal road user congestion charging would feature on most people's action list. But this will increase the demand for rail where congestion charges bite most: on the busiest inter-urban routes and into city centres. Fortunately this is where the rail network is already focused (and should be increasingly in the future). So that's one reason to ensure rail, as part of a joined-up cross-modal strategy, is developed further where demand is greatest".

As I have mentioned in an earlier Update, the Greater Bristol Strategic Transport Study is ongoing, but at present rail across the Bristol travel to work area accounts for a very low percentage of commuter travel flows - a reported 1-2%. We maintain that is the obvious result of insufficient capacity and frequency of rail services across the sub-regional network. The following extract from a 2004 Report, written by Jonathan Bray of the PEG Support Unit, (peg being an acronym for Passenger Transport Executive Group) would appear to support that view – and if other areas can obtain funding – why not ours?

"With road congestion a growing problem it is clear that modern, efficient, commuter rail networks are a must. And where services have been modernised they are performing extraordinarily well. West Yorkshire's Airedale/Wharfedale lines are a prime example. Transformed by new, fast and frequent, electric trains, passenger growth has been running at 19% a year with the routes now enjoying a 75% market share of some commuter flows.....Reducing maintenance levels and 'bustituting' off peak rail services have been floated as options by the SRA. Modelling shows that either option would score negatively under cost-benefit analysis, driving passengers onto the roads and causing increased congestion".

Anne Lock

Review

18th Century Devizes. In April, Dr Lorna Hancock gave us a most interesting view of 18th C Devizes, including stories of the men who had done much for the growth of the town. Indeed, on a recent drive through the town we looked for several architectural features that had been pointed out to us, and it is hoped that it is not too long before our Society can arrange a guided tour of the town, in order to see and hear more.

We look forward to showing members of the Devizes Historical Society the delights of our own town on the morning of 15th June.

AGM. Since our numbers have grown it was necessary to move our May meeting from the Almshouses to the Pound Art Centre – a matter of space available and Health and Safety.

Business was quickly despatched and we moved on to 'the story of bells and bell ringing'. Michael Houseman gave us a very interesting insight into the task of bell ringing. He has rung local church bells for many a long year, and his enthusiasm rang strongly through his talk, and he couldn't leave us before picking 5 'willing' volunteers to demonstrate – with hand bells – how the 'changes are rung'. They soon got the hang of it!



A Peep at The Past

Mallie Etherds - The 'Wise Woman of Easton'

In the past, most rural communities had, what they termed, a 'wise woman'. She was usually the local midwife, able to dispense herbal medicines and in some cases was reputed to have occult powers.

Corsham was no exception; in fact Mallie Etherds was quite famous. Here is an excerpt concerning the good lady published about 1830.

"It is about seven years ago that auld Mallie Etherds (alias Mary Edwards) the noted fortune teller died, whose fame has rung in every county in England. She lived at Easton and was said to be able to command the 'spirit of the storm', make little imps dance on her table, and be revenged, from her knowledge of the magic art.

A certain butcher of Corsham, about twenty years ago was overtaken by a farmer near Box, and asked of him: "How far to Corsham?", "About 5 miles" was the answer.

"I am going thither" said the farmer. "Then we will go together" replied the butcher.

"Is there not a cunning woman near the town by the name of Edwards?" asked the farmer.

"Yes, I know her well" replied the butcher. "Are you going to her, make so bold?"

"Yes sir, I am. I have walked almost from Bristol today, for some person has stolen a horse of mine worth £20, and I am told she can tell me who had it"

"That she can. Do you suspect any persons?"

"The gypsies who have been in our neighbourhood" ruefully replied the farmer.

"Never mind sir", said the butcher, "She will tell you who had it I venture to say, for auld Mallies pretty deep".

So they walked and talked till they reached the Roebuck Inn, about a mile from Corsham and near the cunning woman's cottage.

"Now", said the butcher, who wanted a joke, "Go and take a glass while I do a little business and then I will go with you to auld Mallies".

"With all my heart" replied the farmer.

But while he was drinking the contents of his glass, the butcher made it his business to go and tell auld Mallie about the farmer and his horse, and added "Dang me, is thee doesn't stick a good story into him, and charge him a crown just for the fun of the

thing, I'll never help thee to another job"

"Be off and fetch 'un" cackled auld Mallie "and I'll do as thee tells me".

The 'little business' being finished, the butcher went to call the farmer, and both went to the cottage together. As soon as they opened the door the old woman cried out: - "Ah zur, you be come a-foot. Now your horse be gone bain't it?"

The poor farmer was astonished. However he proceeded with his questions and her answers were highly satisfactory. She told him some gypsies had taken his horse away and in a few days he would find it upon them. So she had the crown, the butcher had a treat for his trouble, and the farmer walked away with a light heart, hoping to find the horse upon the gypsies, instead of the gypsies upon the horse.

Note: The Roebuck Inn is now a private house. It is a prominent building in Lacock Rd, adjacent to Thingley Bridge.

Mary Edward's cottage? There are about six 18th century cottages in the immediate vicinity. Take your pick.

Research into Parish records reveals: "Martha and Mary Edwards, daughters of Samuel and Martha Edwards. Baptised 2nd August 1751. (Mary died in 1821).

These dates fit in well; I have little doubt that this was our 'auld Mallie'. She would have been about 70 at the time of the above.

Joe James



The Waste Local Plan

Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council are now reviewing Waste Planning Policy, due to changing government legislation.

The Waste Local Plan 2011 was adopted in March 2005 and will be available from the end of June – on line, on CD ROM and in paper format. The new planning act literally changes everything, so that instead of one document there is a need to produce: -

- a) Waste Core Strategy
- b) Waste Site Allocations Document
- c) Minerals and Waste Proposals Map

The Councils have again established a Waste Development Forum involving the local community, to discuss relevant issues and to inform on the development of a Waste Policy. Anne Lock and I will attend these meetings to represent Transport 2000 and the Civic Society. Anyone interested or who has specific points to raise can contact me at our Open Meeting.

The first meeting I attended on 7th June at Trowbridge, outlined the Forums Terms of Reference and membership, followed by the objectives and a plan of meetings which will run from now until the autumn. The second meeting on 30th June will concern itself with “The future of landfill in Wiltshire and Swindon”.

Further updates later.

Pat Britton

Great Lypiatt Farmhouse, (Episode 2)

When I was a young child, the farm comprised some 127 acres, mainly dairy cattle with a small amount of ploughed land for potatoes, oats and barley. There was also a small cattle haulage business.

A single rail track ran alongside our garden hedge which transferred Bath Stone from the Quarries at the Ridge, down to the stone wharf at Corsham Station. The empty rumbling flat bedded trolleys were pulled up the track by carthorses and on rare occasions my sister Marjorie and I might catch a free ride. Once the trolleys were loaded they freewheeled back down to the station, and we waved to the brakeman as he passed. The mines closed as the men were called up for National Service and later the track was removed for its iron.

Marjorie and I kept rabbits, guinea pigs and a pet goat each, which we had to milk before we went to school at Neston. Mother kept fowls.

Operations on the farm at this time were all performed by horse-power – transportation, mowing, and hay conditioning, although we hired a coal fired steam tractor with a threshing machine at harvest time. This was an especially good time as there was so much activity and our friends all joined in, riding on the carts etc.

This all changed when the Second World War started. The field opposite our farmhouse was commandeered, and Lypiatt Camp was constructed swallowing 20 acres. Another 20 acres was used for Leafield Camp. During summer we had to walk to school using the footpath running from where the Cotswold Centre main gate now stands to Neston Church. When they were building the two camps the mud on the road outside the farm sometimes became so bad I had to ride my bike to Stokes Road to catch the school bus to Neston, via Potley Lane.

The Corsham area changed dramatically with the influx of servicemen and workers from Bristol who manned the underground factories. Luckily we were never bombed, but I did witness one of our fighters chasing a German bomber overhead.

At this time changes in farming required us to plough much more of our land to produce extra cereals, especially wheat. With less available staff we were allocated a tractor and plough in 1939 to aid this task. At this time all fields over 10 acres had lines of invasion posts erected to minimise the risk of German planes landing. These posts were 10 “in diameter and about 8 ft high, arranged in a criss cross pattern which made all farming operations very difficult. Later in the war additional manpower was made available by prisoners of war, we had to collect the men from various camps on the outskirts of Chippenham. They helped with the



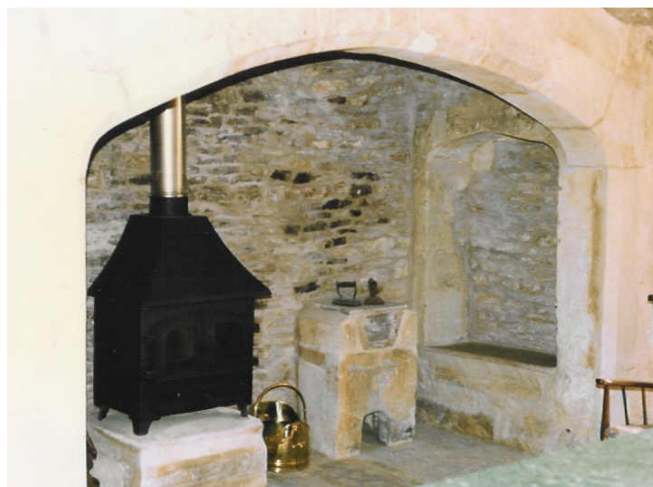
harvesting and threshing, and I remember mother making them apple pies. I was now attending school in Chippenham, and as a farmer's lad, helped to grow vegetables on school land for use in the canteen.

In 1947 I left school and worked on the farm, attending agricultural day release classes in Chippenham. More of the farmland disappeared when the Council Estate in Dicketts Rd was built, and to compensate we had more land added on the side of Ladbrook Lane and later, another 3 smallholdings that had been vacated. The farmland now totalled 250 acres. The cattle (and often furniture) haulage business which had started with 2 lorries, now increased to 5 vehicles.

The last full time cowman we employed in 1967 remained with me until I retired in 1995. He resided with his family across the field in Lypiatt Cottages.

There are 2 things that I hope the Knapp family will be remembered for:-

1. The Jubilee hedge which, with the aid of the Civic Society members we planted all down the north west side of Lypiatt Rd (from the farm to Dicketts Rd) – now a fully matured thorn hedge, and
The spectacular fireplace which I unearthed in the dining room at the farm, when the ceiling fell down to expose an arch over a possibly much older fireplace. Demolition took place with the permission of the estate and a beautiful late 16th century ingle-nook fireplace was revealed, complete with seats, and a stove on which to heat your flat irons.



Our thanks to Geoff and his daughter Catherine for this interesting insight into life at Great Lypiatt Farm.



A Peep at the Past - The Pack Horse Inn (Now Known As 'The Flemish Weaver')

The building which originally belonged to the Church (Rectory Manor) was situated on the king's land, so rent had to be paid to the local authority. During the 17th century it housed the 'Vestry' which in those days had the authority of a Town Council. In the late 1700's the premises were licensed and named "The Pack Horse". However, the 'Vestry' saw no reason to change the location of its meetings, which one might imagine were more lively in those surroundings!

Corsham was once a major centre for movement of cattle, sheep etc. In 1686 it is recorded that local hostelrys could accommodate 52 beds and stabling for 65 horses.

This is reflected in the historic pub name "The Pack Horse". Wiltshire grown wool was too coarse for satisfactory weaving, so our local cottage weaving industry looked to the Cotswolds for their raw material. The wool was transported in panniers strapped to the sides of the horses – hence 'pack horse'. In those days the Pack Horse Inn had accommodation at the rear for the drivers of the horse train, and indeed the drovers of herds of cattle which passed through the town. They would stay overnight at the inn, while the cattle would pass the night at an enclosure nearby known as the 'Laggar' in the Bences Lane area of the town.

Corsham Civic Society Calendar for 2006

We are indebted to Wyndham and Kathy Thomas, who are enthusiastically making arrangements for the production of a 2006 calendar, and a blank card, on which you can pen any message you like. They are using examples of some of our archive photographs of Corsham past, alongside views of the same area in the present.

Cost for the calendar is expected to be £ 4.50, with a reduced rate of £3 for members. Publication in October 2005 – just right for an additional Christmas present for friends and family. The card to retail at 70p each, 50p for members.

HODS 2005

It is with much regret that we have decided not to take part in this year's event. We are all busy people and there is only so much any one person can do; so we have put our new ideas on hold until next year, in the hope that there may be someone out there willing to lend a hand with this particular project, and take it forward with as much enthusiasm and interest as we have managed in the past. Both local people and visitors seemed to enjoy our presentations in 2003 and 2004, and I am sure we can provide yet more interesting items in the future.

History of Heywood

Mr & Mrs Hall, Principals of the school, gave us a very interesting insight at our March meeting into Heywood and its buildings, and demonstrated how, together with their pupils, they continually endeavour to find out more about the history of this ancient site. Given by William the Conqueror to his favourite Abbey at Caen in the 13th century it transferred to the Abbey of Marmoutiers, and was the home to a small cell of monks. A pond in the rear garden has been identified as a monastic fish pond. Formerly the Church Manor House, the site boasts a mediaeval barn, and in later years buildings were adapted to house the Fire Station and the morgue. William Stumpes, an influential wool merchant from Malmesbury bought the Abbey in 1776 for £1516.12.2.1/2d., and filled it with looms. The parchments, on which the scribe William of Malmesbury had faithfully chronicled the times, were used to pack the rolls of cloth from these looms, giving them an expensive sheen! During World War II the ladies of the WRAF were billeted there. This is a site which has seen many changes, and we hope we shall hear much more about its history in the future, especially if the long standing invitation to 'Time Team' comes to fruition!



Community Planning

As this edition of Spotlight goes to press, the work of the Corsham Area Community Partnership (of which the Society is a leading member) is reaching a major milestone in its long running project to bring about the improvements which the residents who live in the official Corsham 'Area' – Box, Colerne, Lacock, Neston, Rudloe and Corsham itself – say that they wish to see. We have kept you informed of the CACP's progress. We are now pleased to report that the 'Community Plan' is printed and ready for issue. It will be launched at a special 'Wider Partnership Meeting' to be held on Thursday 30th June, at the Corsham Town Hall, starting at 7:00pm and envisaged to end at 9 o'clock. All those attending will receive a copy of the Community Plan – a 50-page document written and produced by the CACP team. The additional incentive of a complimentary glass of wine, together with light refreshments, will surely add to the attractiveness or the whole experience.

The purpose of the launch event is to reveal how the results of the Area-wide survey that was conducted in January have been put to use and

to provide an opportunity for those who wish to be part of 'Action Groups' to come forward to join with other like-minded folk. Make no mistake, the survey and the resulting report, are potentially very powerful tools. They cry out to be used. Increasingly, the call is for 'evidence-backed argument'. This is exactly what the survey has given us, and why it was undertaken with such commitment by the CACP.

Every person who lives, works or goes to school in the Corsham Area is invited to attend on the 30th. Invitations will have gone out to those whose contact details are known to the CACP. However, attendance is open to all members of the community area a formal, written invitation is not a pre-requisite. Posters are being displayed to this effect. By the time you read this edition of Spotlight, of course, the event will have passed. You will be able to judge for yourselves how successful the evening has been. We hope you will have been impressed by what has been going on enjoyed the whole experience. If you did not, please tell us first – not everybody else!

Visiting Groups

We were delighted to welcome members of Trowbridge Civic Society (right), and the Devizes Historical Society (below) during June. Les Davis, our intrepid and knowledgeable guide, took both groups on an interesting walk around the town. Our Society is to have a return visit Trowbridge on August 10th.2005, if you wish to attend please contact the



Secretary; and we are hopeful of a visit to Devizes sometime next year – date to be notified.

Note the peacock, keeping an eye on the Devizes Historical Society!



Vandalism befalls our Notice board

The Society's glass-fronted notice board – the one which is fixed to a wall which bounds the footpath between the High Street and the long-term car park behind the Methuen Arms, and opposite the old Barclays Cash Machine - became the victim of the town's recent spate of vandalism over the weekend of 9th/10th April. In a way it was bound to happen someday. Nowadays the footpath sees relatively little usage, especially during evenings. As our picture shows, the glass was broken into a thousand pieces.



However, every cloud has a silver lining, as they say. We needed a quick and effective repair for the notice board. To render it weatherproof so that the notices of our upcoming events could remain available to those members who rely on them as a reminder of what is going to happen when. Also to entice those who are presently non-members and who might be intrigued to learn more about what the Corsham Civic Society gets up to. In any case, as long as the notice board remained in such a poor state, the image of our Society as a group of people who care for the community was severely at risk. Our Chairman took advice from the Town Council's Matthew Leighton-Fry. 'Was there a better alternative to glass and where might we turn to for a quick and cost-effective repair service?' Matthew had the answer straightaway. It proved highly satisfactory. The preferred material in this situation is perspex. The supplier – both

of the material and the fitting service – was a small business, which has been operating from the same premises on the Leafield Trading Estate for 25 years. The name is 'Baker & Baker'. Our Chairman headed in their direction immediately.

Peter met 'George Baker'. George is the driving force behind the business. Indeed, at one time the business was called simply 'George Baker'. George counts all the big firms on Leafield as his customers, as well as all the local schools, councils and trades people. He also serves the general public. George knows everybody. He supplies proprietary goods like tools, fixings and cans of this and that. Peter described our problem. George took Peter out the back and said 'There's your solution.' It was the remains of an old bus-shelter – complete with vast pieces of 1/4 inch thick perspex. George said he could get the job done for us. He would not hear of being paid for either the material or the labour.

The repair was completed within a matter of hours. George, we owe you for this – and hope that this 'honourable mention' goes some way to expressing our thanks for your ready offer of assistance in our hour of need.

The notice board needs a bit of a clean-up, and a coat of paint. Our own Geoff Knapp has undertaken to do this over the summer months. Meanwhile we have been investigating options for the re-siting of our notice board – to some location where it will see more 'footfall' and command more of the right sort of attention. We will keep you posted.



Corsham Primary School – Art Award

This was the second year we had co-operated with the staff of Corsham Primary School to present the 'Corsham Civic Society Special Award for Art'. The format was the same as last year. 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'. We had been involved in the selection of the topic (this year it was portrait work). We re-entered the scene when it came to judging the overall winner from all 13 or so 'class- winners'.

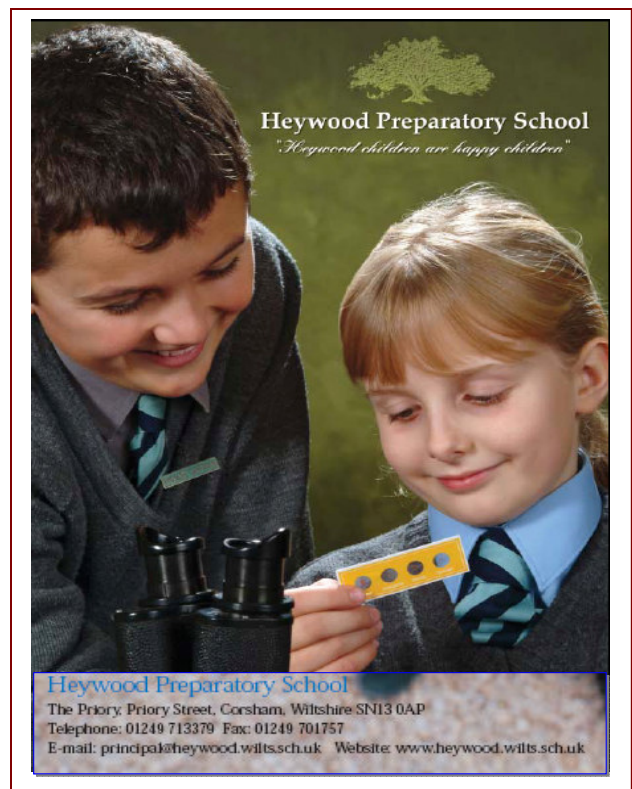
Our 'external examiner' on this occasion was the local art professional, Mr Geoffrey Williams-Glover. He worked closely with the School's Clare Moore throughout this year's competition. The standard was as high as ever. It came down to a choice between two – but they were so close. It was difficult to see the way forward. It did not seem fair for either competitor – both boys, as it so happened – to come second. We consulted with our 'prize-donor' – Steve Hible of Corsham's Right Angle Picture Framing. Steve makes an excellent job of mounting and framing the winning entry – all for nothing. He readily identified the solution to the dilemma. Both entries should be declared the winning entry, and both would be mounted, labelled the winner by means of a suitable inscription 'window' and framed – and all at no extra charge to ourselves or anyone else. What a wonderful gesture on Steve's part! We really do appreciate it.



The presentation of the framed pictures was made by Geoffrey, accompanied by your Chairman, at

the School's Awards Assembly held on Tuesday morning, 12th April 2005, in front of the whole school. Geoffrey's teaching role shone through. The young people responded well to his constructive comments. It is clearly a role he enjoys and we hope he will be able to help us on future occasions. Our picture shows the two worthy winners of this year's competition. We trust you will agree that their pictures really do capture a true likeness of the individual artist's actual features!

There was another aspect to this particular occasion. The committee that organises the St Bart's Art Exhibition each August had been looking to involve the younger element in this annual celebration of local art. Both Geoffrey and his wife, Cynthia, devote a lot of effort to the staging of the exhibition. It was a natural outcome that pupils of the School should be invited to be trailblazers in having their works included in those actually displayed as part of the exhibition. Headteacher Mrs Fiona Allen and her team eager accepted the invitation. The whole School is now really looking forward to participating in its first St Bart's Art Exhibition this coming August. For the Society, this is the icing on the cake. To have played a part in facilitating the School's involvement in this established event in Corsham's "Summer Programme" is something which pleases us a great deal.



Civic Society Open Meetings – a 'Platform' for local organisations

Ed Brand - a Corsham resident - called our Chairman one morning in January. With two others, he was just launching a "social enterprise" to recycle leftover timber from the construction industry. He had seen the article in the Nov 2004 edition of Spotlight on "Management of Waste in Wiltshire" and was calling to request an opportunity at one of our meetings to announce his intentions and to promote interest in this laudable initiative. Peter welcomed Ed's approach and it was agreed that he should address our members at the OM scheduled for 25 Feb.

Ed duly occupied the 'platform' after the evening's main speaker had finished his presentation – and was able to address the assembled throng when they had a glass held to their lips and some nibbles in their hand (at their most receptive/vulnerable, perhaps!). Ed appeared well pleased with the response he received. He pointed out that he can be contacted in future through 'Ed Brand, Wiltshire Wood Recycling, tel: 01249 714338, e-mail edmundbrand@aol.com'. He suggested that anyone interested in taking this matter further might take a look at the following three websites:

www.communitywoodrecycling.org.uk

www.bwrp.org.uk

www.woodrecycling.org.uk

The practice of using our OMs as a 'platform' for such local worthy causes then seemed to catch on. Philip

Poulson was afforded a similar opportunity to address our members at the March OM. His topic was the 'Send a Cow (to Africa)' charity. Here the object is to raise money to send a live animal to an African family and to provide that family unit with the knowledge of how to use it to sustain them over the longer period. Aficionados of Nathalie & Jerry's Sunday Evening Quiz Nights throughout the winter months at the Flemish Weaver will doubtless recognise that this is the very charity which has been the beneficiary of the irritations and frustrations occasioned by the season which has just ended.

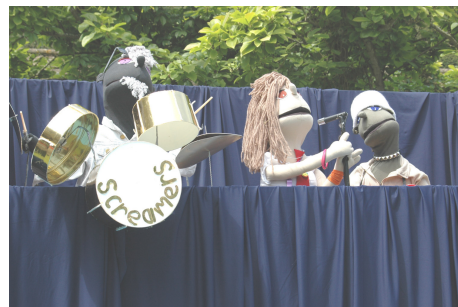
The next local organisation to be given the opportunity to address our members was St Bartholomew's Bell Ringers. This was particularly appropriate for the OM, which took place as part of the AGM on 27 May. Our own Richard Heath took the floor afterwards to tell members what goes on in the bell tower at St Barts – and to make an ap(peat) – groan! – for more people to come forward to join the group. Anyone interested please ring Pat Taylor on 01249 714159.

Your committee welcomes this extension of our role in the local community. Such 'addresses from the floor' are valued. All we ask is that they be undertaken with prior notice (one per OM is clearly the maximum we should schedule) – and with a strictly limited duration. We would not like our members to be driven to drink (any more than they currently are!)

Lunch on the Lawn

As mentioned in the Editorial, Lunch on the Lawn was again very enjoyable. In addition to the various displays, children were entertained by 'God's Glove' puppet show.

The display of old cars and motorcycles was supported by tasty cheese, tangy pickles, and chunks of delicious bread followed by strawberries and Pimms - Decadent!



Obituary

We were extremely sorry to hear of the death of Ray Greenly, the husband of our President. Ray had been ill for some time, and his quality of life had much deteriorated. Many friends and members of our Executive Committee attended his funeral at the end of April, demonstrating the high regard that existed for Ray, and the continuing support which will always be available to Anne from her friends.

Corsham Civic Society

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Hon Sec

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.Corsham-Civic-Society.co.uk

Coming Soon!

19 August	Policing the Corsham Area – with Inspector Dave Cullop.
27 August Sat. From 12 noon	A BBQ in Grounds of Heywood School. Bring your own wine. Members and guests only.
23 September	Victorian Memorabilia (Fun & Games) with David Harries
28 October	A History of Bradford on Avon – related by Mrs Margaret Dobson.
25 November	Life of the village Labourer in the 18 th Century. Dr Alan Dodge.(Freshford History Society).
December	Christmas Lunch to be arranged
2006	
27 January	Celebration of the New Year – a social gathering

All meetings to be held at 8pm at The Pound Arts Centre, Pound Pill, Corsham. **Unless otherwise stated.** Guests are welcome

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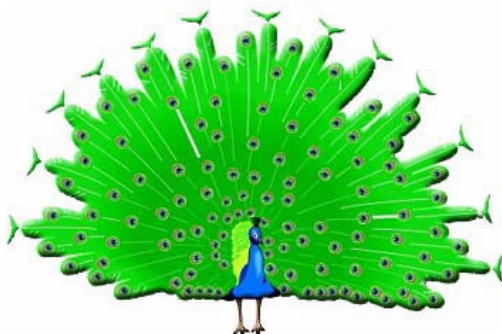
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Corsham Civic Society

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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