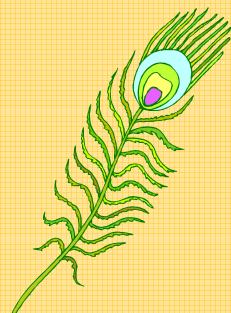


# Corsham Spotlight

March, 2005

Volume 3, Issue 1

*Newsletter of the Corsham Civic Society*



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## Editorial

Since this is our first edition of the New Year, we hope 2005 has started well for you.

We have several things to be pleased about in and around the town – not least the news that the local Police Station is to be re-housed in the old Barclays Bank building in the High Street. Do they still have a blue lamp above the door, or am I dwelling in the past?

It has also been good to see that an excellent repair has been affected to The Grove outer wall, and the building once more resumes its normal dignified presence at the top of the High Street.

We see that work has started to replace the Altus site in Stokes Road, with houses. We appreciate that the disruption to the street will be considerable whilst work is taking place, but hopefully, the final aspect from the opposite side of the road, will be better than an abandoned industrial site. We shall have to keep an eye on the potential for an increase in traffic in the street, both vehicular and pedestrian, especially with the need for many school children to use this route from the Katherine Park development, but we must wait and see.

The pizza restaurant now appears to have established itself well in the High Street, and the town has a good selection of eating opportunities both for local people and visitors. Long may it continue?

On the down side, we do have the fate of the local Tourist Information office to concern us, although we are reliably informed that the NWDC will continue to run it for Financial Year 2005/06. We do not



want the town or the tourists to lose this facility, but we would also want to know what would become of this building, left specifically to the people of Corsham, if indeed the TIC no longer had use of the building.

We are also awaiting further news on the car-parking situation in the town, and whether the proposed charging system is to become operational. Car parking appears to be totally random in the town, on double yellow lines, on junctions, anything goes. A new strategy must be devised without delay to accommodate both local people and the visitors, who must wonder what on earth is going on.

This quarter we are bringing you an article on the history of Great Lypiatt Farm, and in our July issue we hope to share some stories of the Knapp family, who lived and worked there for one hundred years, until 1995. Please take a look at the article on page 5; I am sure you will find it extremely interesting. The Society is very grateful to Geoff and his family for giving us the opportunity to record this piece of Corsham's history.

*Pat Whalley*

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE.**



## Mulled Wine & Nibbles

Our first get together of the New Year, and an opportunity to greet our regular members and to get to know many new members. It was a very sociable evening, with many photographs of 'old Corsham' on display; and just to tax the brain a little, a short quiz focusing on the town and its history. Marjorie Hancock won the prize of a bottle of wine, for the most correct answers.

We were also very grateful to Andrea Garrihy, who kindly presented to us, on behalf of the late Mrs Bowman's granddaughter, a box of photographs depicting a Corsham of many years ago, and miscellaneous information.

Since we already have a selection of Mrs Bowman's papers, we are delighted to add these to our collection. The collection will be known as 'The Bowman Papers'.

A very pleasant evening.



## Oldest House in Corsham



No 79 High Street – is known to date back further than its earliest records of 1540. It was the residence of one William Moxham in 1606, a yeoman farmer whose land extended from the High Street westwards to Pickwick village. (NB. We have a postal address for flats in Newlands Rd known as Moxhams).

## Christmas Lunch

About 25 members were able to attend our Christmas lunch at the Cinnamon Restaurant in the High Street. As usual, the food and wine was excellent, and the company friendly and amusing, what more could one

want on a December day in the run up to Christmas? We shall look forward to another similar celebration at the end of this year.

## Porters Mead

We were asked a little while ago, by Straker's, the Estate Agent for the Pickwick Motors development, if we, the Society, could provide a possible name for the new houses to be erected on this site, and having sought guidance from our stalwart Joe James, and the Trowbridge Record office, we came up with the name of "Porters Mead". The name was established as a field name from the Tything Map of 1839. We were able to confirm that there was indeed a Mr Samuel Porter, a carpenter, who resided in the area and is listed in the

Trade Directory of 1786; he also is known to have had his own church pew, registered in 1786. This information was duly passed on, and we have now learned that the Corsham Town Council has agreed that Porters Mead shall be the postal address.

How often do you look at a street name and ask, why is it called that? It is gratifying to know that some names from our local history can be remembered in this way.



## Planning Matters

At the Christmas Lunch a chance conversation with a group of members revealed just how little is generally known about the Society's participation in the Planning Application process – despite this being a major focus for civic society groups like ours, and one that we take extremely seriously. Please be aware that we, the Corsham Civic Society, through our Plans Sub-Committee chaired by Geoff Knapp, review the detail of every Planning Application submitted for the Corsham Area.

The committee, which meets approx every three weeks in the Town Hall, has the opportunity to view all the planning applications for the Corsham area submitted at that time. For planning purposes the area covers Neston, Gastard, out to the Box boundary, and out to the Rowden Arms in Chippenham.

The committee considers the planning proposals, and comments on all aspects of the design, - is it in keeping with the locality, is it in a Conservation area, is it a Listed building, is it practical for it's use, how will it affect neighbouring properties, what about vehicular access and egress, car parking, public transport? Is it environmentally friendly? In the case of housing estates, is there affordable housing included? Will there be sufficient schools, dentists, and doctors to accommodate a large development. If a commercial enterprise is it viable in our community, will it bring more traffic to the area, and as appropriate – is it catering for the disabled. Do we welcome the proposal? Are there objections from the public?

If there is a planning appeal, the Society can submit its

objections, and attend the hearing if they wish, as can any member of the public.

A written submission is then made to the Planners at NWDC. This has equal weight to the submission made by any other group or individual in the Area – including that of the Corsham Town Council. It is in no way inferior, nor is it afforded less attention by the Planners. The Planning Authority is not the Corsham Town Council. Rather, it is the Development Control Dept of NWDC that has this role, and the NWDC Area Committee makes the final decision.

The latest planning applications are on display at the Corsham Town Council Offices, Town Hall Corsham. Any member of the public is at liberty to go and view, and make comments as they wish, in writing, to local Councillors or the NWDC planning authority.

Please, if you have views on a particular Planning Application, always make a written submission to the NWDC and/or the Town Council. You are also very welcome to bring them to Geoff's attention – or to Pat Whalley's attention (Pat acts as Secretary to the Plans Sub-Committee), and you may rest assured that we will take them into account when compiling our own submission.

If you are Society member and would like the opportunity to sit in on one of these meetings, please contact our Chairman – Peter Tapscott. 01249 714453

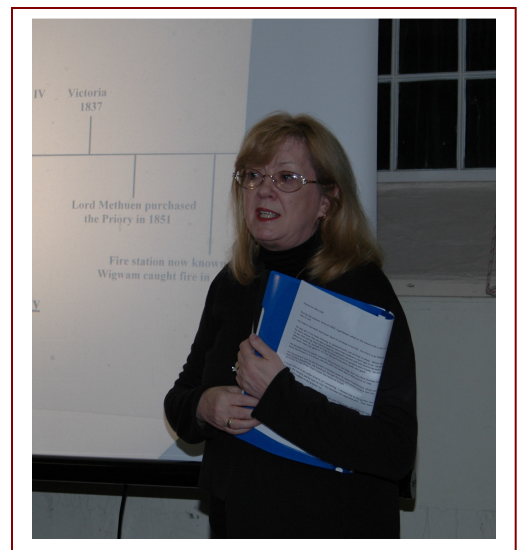
*PatWhalley/Peter Arney*

## 'A History of Heywood'

On Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, Mr & Mrs Hall, Principals of the school, gave us a very interesting insight 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, it transferred to the Abbey of Marmoutiers in the 13th century, 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 £1,516.12.2½ d., and filled it with looms.

During World War II some 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!



## The Local Plan

The local plan is a document currently effective until 2011, raised by the NWDC and has the following objectives:

- To facilitate a sustainable pattern of land uses to reduce the consumption of natural resources, whilst making best use of existing assets.
- To protect, enhance and provide housing and facilities the community need
- To facilitate good quality designs and protect existing amenities.
- Enhance the quality of life of residents and visitors to North Wiltshire through the conservation of the built and natural environment.
- To facilitate sustainable business development for a prosperous and robust economy.

The Society has recently had the opportunity to comment on the revised deposit draft document, and we are very grateful to Anne Lock who spent a great deal of time going through it, discussing it with committee members, and recording the comments the Society wished to make. Anne had been through this process before, and was therefore very aware of any changes that had been made before, and the comments the Society had previously made. Our observations have covered some 50 points of the deposit draft, and they are now with NWDC for consideration, together with other submissions from the general public.

This is a very detailed document, but if anyone would like to read it, please telephone Pat Whalley, 01249 713618, who can arrange to let you see a copy.

## Box Tunnel Memorabilia



As it is the bicentenary of I.K Brunel's birth next year, we are looking for old photographs, maps, memorabilia etc relating to the great man. We hope to at least, provide a special edition of Spotlight commemorating his influence upon our town and surroundings. Contact Eric Mahy.

(Note that, according to the Internet, Box Tunnel runs from Bath to Swindon!)

## Corsham Regina

In 1483 Richard III granted to Walter Hungerford the keeping of the parks called West Park and Home Park within the lordship of Corsham for the term of his life. (Note: Home Park is now known as Corsham Park, West Park was the area now known as Katherine Park). Walter Hungerford was one of those who betrayed Richard at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 and apparently lost Corsham.

- 1485 – Henry VII came to the throne, married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV who granted Corsham to his daughter.
- 1509 – Henry VIII came to the throne. Married Catherine of Aragon; the Manor was granted to her as part of her dower. When Henry married Katherine Parr, the land was passed to her as part of her dower until her death in 1548.

Subsequently, the Manor passed to Elizabeth I.

The above reminds us that the correct historical name for Corsham is Corsham Regina.

*Joe James.*

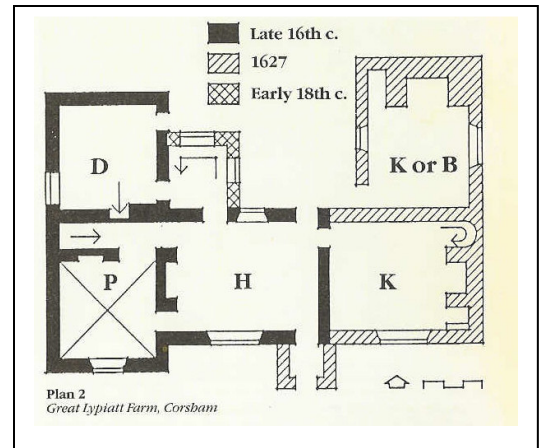




## Great Lypiatt Farmhouse, (Episode 1)

Great Lypiatt farmhouse is situated on the boundary between Corsham and Neston, near the Cotswold Families Centre. It has stood there, according to the earliest records found, since 1410, when it was known as Hancock's Lypiatt. The Hancock family held the farm for 350 years.

(The name Lypiatt comes from the Saxon word Lepegate, which is a low gate that can be jumped by deer, but not other animals. This probably dates back to when Melksham Forest spread close to the settlement of Corsham).



In 1450 we see the first mention of John Hancock as bailiff of the Manor of Corsham, under Henry 6<sup>th</sup>. The bailiff of the Manor was the most important officer after the steward. He was responsible for the supervision of the day to day running and farming of the Manor, and was chosen from amongst the chief tenants of the estate. As he was a man of status he generally had a good house, and this is certainly the case at Great Lypiatt. John was a very popular Christian name in the Hancock family, which sometimes makes it difficult to follow the history, but a Will survives of a John Hancock, who died in 1479, leaving gifts to the church, and asking to be buried in Corsham Church. He also left to the church a chalice worth 4 marks (£2.70); four candles (2p); 5p to the holy water clerk; and to the Vicar – 25p. The chapel of St John the Baptist, Gastard, received vestments worth £1. The remainder was divided between his sons and daughter.

The next recorded Hancock is Joan Hancock, widow, who died in 1546, leaving in her Will, gifts of 5p to the church for repairs. Her granddaughters received a flock bed each, with a bolster, a pair of sheets and a cover; and another to receive a hutch (cupboard or chest). The grandsons were in receipt of 'bullocks'. Joan made her son John her Executor, and instructed him to "keep, find and norish the poor innocent William Hancock, my sonne, and his brother, with meate, drink, and clothing suficient". Her son Thomas succeeded Joan. (Younger brother John lived at Pickwick) A record of Joan's' death appears in the 1<sup>st</sup> surviving Court Roll of the Manor of Corsham.

In 1574 a John Hancock married one Jane Hall, whose dowry brought the finance to enable the rebuilding of the upper end of Lypiatt. It seems that numerous marriages to wealthy brides contributed to the building and extension of the farmhouse we see today.

The kitchen was rebuilt in 1627, and a brew house and a new porch were also erected. In 1649 a stable was built (with a date stone). This is one of the earliest dated agricultural buildings in Wiltshire.

In 1659 a deed listing all the fields of Great Lypiatt Farm was produced, some of these names still survive as road names.

From a will of John Hancock who died in 1666, an inventory taken shows a comfortable, but not luxurious standard of living. In the farmhouse the normal brewing and cheese making was going on, and there were 10.



...continued

filches of home cured bacon in the pantry. The rooms over the porch and buttery were used purely as lofts.

There were 7 plough oxen (well above the standard of the day) and the farm was well stocked with cattle and sheep. In 1693, another will records that the kitchen had a settle, and a spice mortar for tasty cooking. Chairs were beginning to replace stools; there were 3 in the hall, and the parlour boasted 6 leather covered chairs. Both the hall and the middle chamber had desks. There is now a dairy with loft over, which appears to have been made by dividing the buttery.

By 1715 the house had been split and the kitchen and room above had been leased to a tenant who obviously did the farming. To accommodate the division of the house the staircase had to be removed to a turret at the back of the building. The parlour was now elegant with cane chairs and cushions, a fire grate with brass fire irons, whilst tea tables and china suggest much genteel entertaining. The pantry had 66 pewter plates, a cheese plate, and patty and pudding pans. A cellar is mentioned for the first time, containing 16 barrels of beer and a gross and a half of bottles in a 'great binn'. The most expensively furnished room was the room over the hall, still used for receiving visitors. So besides the curtained bed, there were 8 chairs, a veneered table and a chest of drawers. In the closet adjoining this room was the family silver, including a silver tobacco box and 58 silver buttons. This inventory also records – four guns and a brace of pistols, a spade and rake to cultivate the garden, and a cucumber frame.

One of the dormer windows has EH 1723 and JH 1729 carved on it, these were Edward and John Hancock. This John married, but there were no children, so the farm passed to George Freeman.

In 1764 George surrendered Lypiatt to the Lord of the Manor of Corsham, Paul Methuen.

The Tax Records of 1780 give John Milsom as the tenant of Great Lypiatt, and the Tythe map of 1839 shows William Hulbert as owner of the farm, and John Hulbert as tenant. The Hulberts were already established as farmers at Little Lypiatt farm, (situated almost opposite Great Lypiatt, in Rough Street), and had been there since 1696; so for the first time, both farms were under the same family ownership.

In 1844 the Lypiatt estate was bought at auction for £6,000 by John Bird Fuller, and remains in the ownership of the Fuller family today.

In the late 1890's Morris Knapp came to Westwells Farm as a tenant farmer, and in 1902 the family moved to Great Lypiatt farm at a rent of £170 per year, the Knapp's also rented Moor Farm (now known as Overmoor farm, and Longlands in 1935. Richard Roland Knapp took over the running of the farm in 1928, and his son Geoffrey Richard Knapp (our plan's chairman) took over in 1969, remaining there until his retirement in 1995.

The house is now let privately and the land split between two tenant farmers.

*Our thanks to Geoff Knapp, R&B Harvey 1989, Wiltshire Farmhouses & Cottages 1500-1850 – P Slocombe.*

## Corsham Primary Careers Week

Corsham Primary School held a "Careers Week" in October and asked the Society to assist by providing the services of any person who could talk to the young people about their job. The School was obviously avoiding such professions as teaching and wanted more "hands-on" occupations, if at all possible. They already had certain jobs covered, having arranged for contributions from a fire fighter, upholsterer, hairdresser, plumber, carpenter, nurse, civil engineer, robotics engineer and a sales manager.

We cast around our membership for someone able and willing to contribute the hour or two required. Forward stepped Mr Matthew Leighton-Fry, that man-about-town, loyal member of the CCS - and master baker.

Matthew went down a storm. He was assigned two classes and given the run of the kitchen and its oven. He set them to work with much enthusiasm on both sides. After an hour the children had made bread rolls, Chelsea buns and a large loaf in the shape of a wheatsheaf. Before the session was over they had devoured the lot!



## Corsham School Awards

This year's Awards Evening took place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January. As was the case last year, the Society's Special English Award took the form of a Sonnet Writing Competition, with Gale Curry representing the Society in the judging of the entries. These were of their usual high standard. The winner was Ian Batten, now in Year 9. His poem featured his nine pet chameleons.

Again, the Society's Award distinguished itself as being the only competition for which the winner actually received a prize which they retain for all-time. The others (some 250 of them) are cups or shields which are presented on the night - but then need to be returned a few weeks later for secure storage in the impressive Display Cabinet, in readiness for the next year's event. Peter French of the Corsham Bookshop assisted us by kindly donating the prize – a copy of "STAYING ALIVE - real poems for unreal times". The School designed a label to our specification and fixed it inside the book's front cover. Ian will now have something by which to recall his involvement with the Corsham Civic Society and the undoubted skills he was able to demonstrate at the age of 13.

The Speaker and Presenter of Awards for the

evening was Anne Orme, the Headteacher of Colerne Primary School. For Ian, being a resident of Colerne and a former pupil of Colerne Primary, it was fitting that he should receive his Award from the Head of his old school. The moment is captured in our picture, taken on the night.



## HODS 2005, Team Introduction

As many of you will know, having made the decision to enter Corsham for 2005 Heritage Open Days – the annual national celebration of England's architecture and heritage – we used "Nibbles Night" to put out a call for Society members to offer their services on the Steering Group for this year's event. We are pleased to report that this request has succeeded in bringing new blood to the organising team.

The Group now comprises Ron Smith, Cynthia Weldon, Jean Beech, Les Davis, Geoff Knapp, and Eric Mahy (Publicity). Peter Tapscott (2003 Co-ordinator) and Pat Whalley (2004 Co-ordinator) will help to get the new team up and running. Other members are most welcome to join. The workload could be spread more reasonably if another two were to come forward. It is a great opportunity to get to know the characters and properties that make up our area.

## The Ostler's House, Hare & Hounds, Corsham

The ostlers house formed outbuildings of the Hare & Hounds and had for some years been on the 'Buildings at risk' register, apart from limited use as a beer store the site was empty and neglected. In July 2002 the NWDC approached the Wiltshire Historic Buildings Trust (a charity formed for the sole purpose of preserving buildings of architectural and historic interest to the county), to see if they would be interested in buying the site and rescue and restore the buildings. The Trust acquired the property in 2003 and architects were appointed to design and manage a scheme for conversion to a two-bedroom cottage. The project will be complete by the time we go to press. Do go and see the new building – sit outside the rear of the Hare & Hounds with a glass of wine at the same time!!

We hope to bring you more news of this project later.



## Management of Waste in Wiltshire

The Wiltshire Waste partnership (WWP) which consists of District Councils and the County Council is a partnership committed to tackle Wiltshire's waste. It works together with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust on waste minimisation and with Hills Recycling firm who are waste disposal contractors. They see the household recycling sites as an intrinsic part of the Waste Management equation – working with local facilities like kerbside collection, mini recycling sites and composting in order to make it as easy as possible for people to recycle.

I have recently moved to an area covered by the West Wilts District Council, who has a system of two bins, one green and one black, which are emptied on alternate weeks. The contents of these go for composting and landfill respectively, and there are recycling centres available to dispose of all other waste.

A newly opened site on the Hopton Industrial Estate, Devizes claims to have received an

average of 300 tonnes each month since it opened. Ignoring the issue of transport if one has far to travel to a site, it is useful to be able to recycle plastic, cardboard and wood, as well as larger unwanted items. Recycling banks for glass, cans, paper are usually accessible locally.

We shall look forward to seeing some hard facts and figures on landfill savings resulting from all our efforts, we shall then be able to compare which of the District Councils have achieved the best results.

**Pat Britton**



## Station Campaign

We have no report this time, but you may be sure that work continues relentlessly behind the scenes. We therefore bring you a few -

### Station Snippets.

- Corsham Station was built in 1841. People travelling to Bath and beyond, would get out at Corsham – take 'the fly' to box station, and then get back on the train. Thus avoiding travelling through Box Tunnel.
- The station master lived at no 50 Station Rd, which is reputed to be haunted. There are 3 reports of children seeing "a man in a tall hat" in the house. The station master wore a 'stove pipe hat'.
- Station Hotel - was situated at the bottom of South Street, beside the railway bridge. Built by Mr Collett (a brewer at Langley Burrell), and owned by Mr Usher.
- Box Tunnel. There is a reservoir inside the tunnel, which had to be checked by the quarryman from time to time. 'Tanky Elms' tells the story of when he went in the dinghy with another quarryman to do the checking, and the Paddington to Bristol Express went through, causing waves which pushed the water height toward the very low ceiling and nearly threw them out of the boat.
- Next year we celebrate Brunel's Bi – centenary, we hope to have something special arranged to celebrate this momentous occasion.





## 77 High Street

Steve and Carol Cockeram purchased the property (Caxton House) at this address two or three years ago. Steve has a business in the Emirates and has been working on the restoration of this most interesting property ever since. We first met him when he came up to the Society's stall at the 2003 Lunch on the Lawn. He and Les Davis found that they had some common interests. Since then the work on Caxton House has proceeded – but at the pace recognised by all those involved with trying to move building works ahead without a firm specification of where you are heading. Steve has kept us informed on developments.

Last October Les provided Steve with a report on the history of Caxton House since 1900. It was generally known that the pre-1900 history of Number 77 very much linked it with Number 75, Corsham's old Temperance Hotel. Steve's restoration work has confirmed and extended this knowledge. He has written-up his findings and the Society's archives are now all the richer for his contribution. We are indebted to Steve for his efforts.

Our picture shows Numbers 75 and 77 (the one on the right). It is now clear that the properties were once interconnected. The house at the extreme right is Number 79 – reputed to be the oldest in Corsham, dating from before 1540.



## Corsham Civic Society Calendar for 2006



We have an idea for a Corsham Civic Society calendar. It would have one page per month, with each month having its own photograph – taken from our extensive and growing Photographic Collection. Some would be old, some contemporary. We have a great many to choose from. Our initial “market research” tells us that we could find ready outlets for these calendars, without cutting across the likes of Dorothy House. Ours would be a “specialist calendar”. People would buy it for themselves and for their friends/relatives. Its purpose would be to promote Corsham and, with it, the Corsham Civic Society. We would like to have it available for 2006.

The next step is to confirm the market. This requires direct contact with potential sales outlets. We have a list.

We need three members to come together to form a team to take this idea to the next stage. Our Treasurer will provide “business support”, but the rest of our Executive are rather taken up with other matters right now. Please discuss the project with your friends and get in touch with Pat Whalley with the names of three people who might form your team to take the project forward. Some work will be required – but we have done the basics and can assist those prepared to share the workload between them.



## Community Planning

The Society plays a lead role in a local organisation which is known as the Corsham Area Community Partnership (CACP). Last April, the CACP secured a grant of £25k from the South West of England Regional Development Agency to conduct “Community Consultation” in the Corsham Area and to prepare a Community Plan and an Action Plan, both to be based on the information gathered. The work is required to finish by May of this year.

The project is managed by a group of volunteers, the self-styled “Quality Futures Team”. It was this group that ran the “Corsham Community Days” 3-day event that took place in late September in the old Cornford’s Jewellery Shop in the Martingate Centre. Our picture shows the result of “community engagement” after only a few hours! Similar “roadshows” then followed at Box, Colerne, Lacock, Rudloe and Neston.

The QFT meets as and when required to ensure the project proceeds apace (it has met 17 times since its inauguration in May). The CACP organises so-called “Wider Partnership Meetings” on a quarterly basis. These are open to all. The most recent one took place in November so another one is about due. Society members are urged to come along and have their say.

The Corsham Community Day’s event was an out-and-out success. Some 400 local residents were motivated to enter Unit 15 to learn more about the project and to record their personal views on how Corsham should develop – which they did on 750 Post-its! These, and those from the other 5 events, have since been reviewed and they formed the basis of a questionnaire, which was delivered at the end of January to a representative sample of the 12,000 households, which comprise the Corsham Area. A Bristol-based market research company has been engaged to analyse the responses and to write a report for us. The deadline for the receipt of responses was 14th February. Hopefully we will have the report by the time you receive this edition of Spotlight.

The QFT is already turning its attention to writing the Community Plan and to planning exactly how it will engage with service providers to deliver those very facilities for which clear and quantifiable



expectations can be demonstrated to exist amongst the good people of the Corsham Area. It is anticipated that the structure and membership of the CACP and QFT will need to change when the project moves into this phase. Such things as a “Development Trust” then come to the fore..... However, one step at a time. A draft Community Plan is the first priority, with a further Wider Partnership Meeting being convened to review a formal presentation of it. We recommend that all our members make a real effort to involve themselves in this whole process. It is the way to achieve influence over how our town and its surrounding area develops. The project is not beholden to government – neither national, regional nor local. We are free to spend the £25k as we see fit. The CACP and the QFT is run by teams which comprise all sectors of the community. This is your opportunity to HAVE YOUR SAY. Please use it.



## Clare's Donation leads to Improved Collaboration

In mid-February Clare Raybould was intent on reducing her impressive collection of books. She had acquired a copy of *A CELEBRATION OF BATH ACADEMY OF ART AT CORSHAM*, edited by Derek Pope and printed by Addkey Print Ltd in 1997, and wondered if the Society would like to have it as a new item in our "Corsham Heritage Collection". We hastened to collect it, thanking Clare profusely for her generosity and thoughtfulness.

Precisely one month earlier – as some of you might have noticed – a splendid glass display cabinet had appeared in the Corsham TIC. This was, in fact, the result of a "deal" struck between Martin Yallop, on behalf of NWDC, and our Chairman. The cabinet had previously belonged to the Corsham Civic Society. Having no present operating base, the cabinet had become something of an

embarrassment. We yearned for it to be seen, and to be used to display items of significance to our town. Passing it into the ownership of the TIC seemed to be an ideal solution.

As it so happens the TIC staff chose to mount a display of locally-produced items of artistic merit (pottery, etc) as its first use of the cabinet. What better accompaniment to this mini-exhibition than the Society's new donation from Clare, we thought! And what better way of demonstrating our developing collaboration with NWDC's Corsham TIC.

The book – properly bearing a notice signifying its new ownership (the CCS) and its loaned-out status – now takes pride of place in the TIC display. We look forward to working some more with Vilma, Martin and their team at the Corsham TIC.

## Joe James – Award

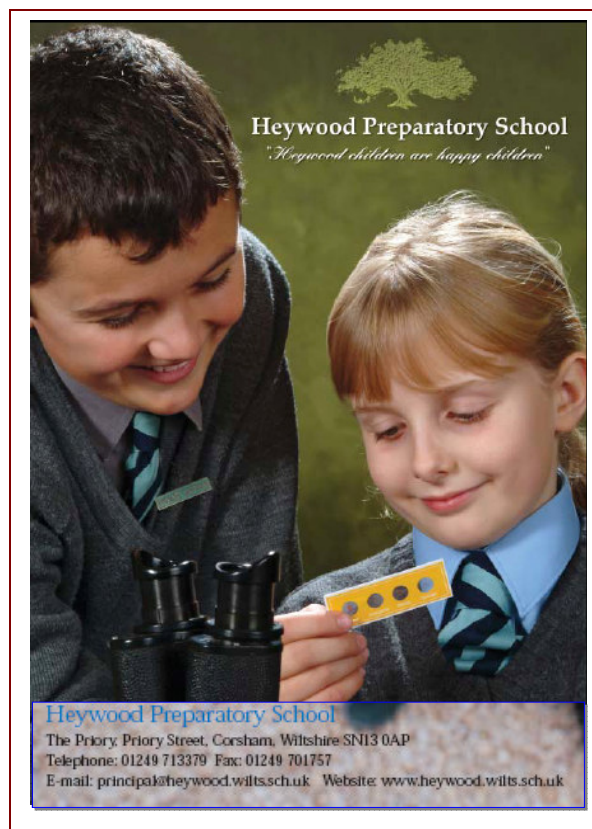
As reported in our last issue, our Chairman has been delighted to present to Joe a small certificate, which proclaims him to be an honorary life member of our Society in recognition of his immense contribution to our organisation and indeed, to the town.

Due to illness Joe was unable to attend our Nibbles night, and so the presentation was made privately at his home, when he was recovered.

Joe wished to extend his sincere thanks to the Society – he had this to say:-

*"I find it hard to come to terms with receiving an award for pursuing one's hobby! When I retired I gathered together scribbles and notes of past years and thought 'there is a little talk here'. The Society afforded me the platform and a generous reception, and then I started to get invitations from other groups! For the next decade or so I found myself on 'the circuit' and it was a great privilege to introduce aspects of the history of our town to audiences all over our immediate area. Thank you very much"*

We all look forward to hearing a lot more from you Joe, and thank you for sharing your knowledge with us.





# Corsham Civic Society

## Civic Society Officers

### President

Mrs Anne Greenly

### Chairman

Mr Peter Tapscott, 4 Charlwood  
Road, Corsham  
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### Hon Sec

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.Corsham-Civic-Society.co.uk](http://www.Corsham-Civic-Society.co.uk)

## Social Events - 2005 Programme

25 Feb	A History of Heywood by Mrs P Hall, Principal of Heywood School
18 March	'The Berks and Wilts Canal' – A Canal Trust Nominee
22 April	18 <sup>th</sup> Century Devizes. Dr Lorna Haycock. (NH&AS Wilts)
27 May	<b>AGM</b> (7pm for 7.15pm) <b>at the Almshouses, Corsham</b> followed by "Campanology, the story of bells and bell ringing" by Michael Horseman.
8 June	Evening visit to Corsham by Trowbridge Civic Society.
15 June	Morning visit from Devizes Town's History Society.
22 July	An offering by Les Davis – to be announced at AGM
August -	<b>A Day Trip &amp; a BBQ</b> – to be arranged.
8-11 Sept	<b>Heritage Open Days</b>
23 Sept	Victorian Memorabilia (Fun & Games) David Harries
28 Oct	A History of Bradford on Avon – related by Mrs Margaret Dobson.
25 Nov	Life of the village Labourer in the 18 <sup>th</sup> Century. Dr Alan Dodge.(Freshford History Society).
Dec	Christmas Lunch to be arranged

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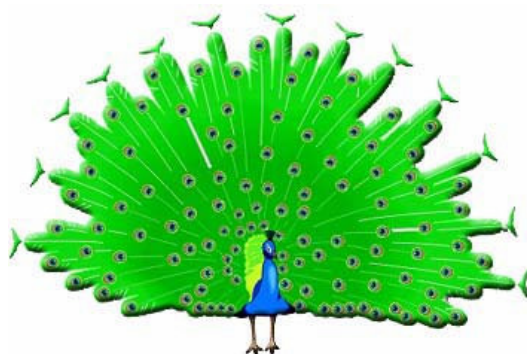
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### Corsham Civic Society

*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.*



**1, Post Office Lane  
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**Phone: 01249 712096  
Registered Charity No: 275321**