

# Corsham Spotlight

July, 2007

Volume 5, Issue 2

*Newsletter of the Corsham Civic Society*

*Complimentary Copy*

## Editorial

You may have noticed that our web site has a "contact us" facility which has produced many interesting queries since the site began. Some ask if we have photographs of houses or shops in 'old Corsham', some ask about specific people when they are researching their family trees. One gentleman collects War Medals, and researches their history -he had bought a medal which had belonged to a man in Corsham, we were able, with the help of Joe James, to provide him with some detail, and we are hoping he will come and talk to us about his collection at one of our open meetings in the future. Other questions have related to planning applications, asking our views and help in some cases.

At the end of April I had a telephone call from Alison Crossley who lives in Ross on Wye. She was seeking information about 'Dicketts House, Prospect", where she had discovered a great uncle of hers had once lived. His name was William Littlejohn Philips OBE.JP, and he had worked for the engineering firm of Spencers Moulton of Melksham, later he had moved to the Bournemouth area.

Having contacted the lady now living at 'Dicketts' - Mrs Pat Willford told me that her family had lived there since 1981. Mrs Willford knew little about the history of the house, except that it had been built by the Fuller family in about 1911, and had been let - on one occasion to William Littlejohn Philips. It had also been requisitioned during WW11 by the MOD to accommodate WAAFs. We later discovered that William was living in the house in 1936.

It is believed the name 'Dicketts' can be attributed to the 'Duckett' family, who held Hartham House from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century until approx 1830, when it was sold to the

Methuen family. Presumably the Ducketts owned this parcel of land during their period of occupation.

We have passed this information on, but if you know anything else about 'Dicketts House' please let us know. It would be good to discover more.

We never know what the postbag or e - mail will bring; but it all adds to our growing picture of the life and times of Corsham.

If you have any interesting stories of old Corsham, please let us hear from you.

*Pat Whalley*



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## Review

At our meeting in March we were given the opportunity to meander down through Wiltshire's Nadder valley. Rex Sawyer led us through the countryside, with the aid of slides and pictures, and many wonderful stories of the people who had lived and worked in the area. It certainly aroused such interest that some members later went to the area themselves.

April provided a look at the "Coaching Era", presented by Roy Gallup & Ken Griffiths. We travelled from horse and cart, to open carriages, and on to covered coaches, along tracks and grassy lanes, until we reached cobbled streets. What an asset these wheeled vehicles must have been, but how uncomfortable over a long journey! There is something to be said for the good suspension we have in our cars today.

May brought an early start to the meeting for the AGM, followed by a riveting talk about the birth of the Radstock Museum. Denis Chedgy is the Museum Director, and has been involved in the starting up of the enterprise. Led by an enthusiastic Dr Chilcott, Denis and many others had worked tirelessly to find a

home for the museum and the very necessary funding to get it underway. Now the museum is established there is a continuing need to promote and encourage people to visit. If they are all as enthusiastic as Denis, I am sure that they will go from strength to strength.

The summer walk revealed slightly fewer members ready to pound the by-ways. The course took us over the Batters, Ladbrook Lane, Lacock Rd and the Park, before resting at the Flemish Weaver, to be welcomed by our new hosts Helen and David, and to be fed extremely well – as we have come to expect from this establishment. Thank you to the team for looking after us so well.

At June's open meeting we took a look at Wiltshire Toll Houses with Ivor Slocombe. What an interesting subject, we shall all be much more observant in future as we travel around the county, looking for the many clues that identify a building as a toll house. We shall also ask our own Les Davis to enlighten us as to where Corsham's toll houses stood. A later item for Spotlight no doubt!

## Visit to Highgrove

As members will know, such was the interest in this visit a draw had to be held to identify those who would attend, there were 47 names of people expressing an interest - and only 25 places available.

Strict security abounds – you must produce a photographic identity before you go in; no cameras, phones or picnics are permitted. If you have been before, you may not go again. All quite reasonable rules when you consider the location and the hundreds of people who wish to visit this prestigious estate.

The chosen few duly caught the coach, on quite an unsettled May morning, equipped for any weather, and true to form, as we started our walk, the heavens opened. However, it was not to last too long, and for most of the walk we managed without umbrellas.

The gardens are extremely well attended, mostly by lady gardeners we noticed.

We started at the Thyme walk, a pathway interplanted with thyme and flanked by yews clipped into eccentric shapes, and overlooked by a bronze gladiator. The Woodland garden was secluded, filled with ferns and hostas – one of the Prince's favourite flowers, and dotted with tree stumps, not your average 'stump', but those which have died and retain their many arms shooting out in all directions. Ferns have been grown out of the centre of the stumps – an idea for your own garden!! The Azalea walk and walled Kitchen garden were also sights to behold, and provided many ideas for our gardens in the future. The Wild Flower Meadow approaches the eastern side of the house; four and a half acres of land full of continually changing wild flowers, all cut down at haymaking time, and grazed by sheep over the winter period, ready to bloom again in the spring. There were a further 6 gardens to be seen before we were entertained in the Orchard room, with tea and biscuits, and needless to say - before we were let lose at the shop!

It was a wonderful visit, and I hope I have given you a flavour of how pleasant it was - structured but not regimented. If you get the opportunity, do go to see for yourselves. *Ed.*

**CIVIC SOCIETY BBQ. (Members only) 11<sup>th</sup> August at Heywood School Gardens, Priory St. Corsham.  
12.30 – 2.30pm. Please bring your own chair and liquid refreshment.**

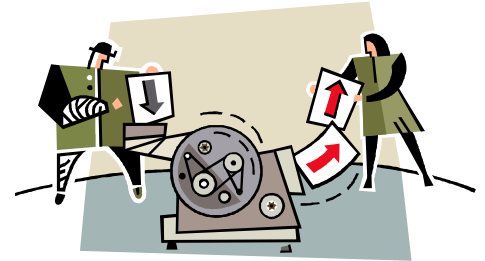


## Corsham Print

For five years now, Corsham Print has supported Corsham Civic Society. They print our 'Spotlight' magazine entirely free of charge to ourselves, as well as providing an excellent service for many of our publicity needs.

They are not a large Company, and so this generosity is particularly welcome, as it must represent a significant investment by them. As sponsorship by anyone requires that the sponsor identifies with 'winners', it also represents their level of confidence in our Society, in that they allow their sponsorship to be mentioned Spotlight.

*Thank you, Corsham Print*



## Growth of the Tourism Economy National Recognition for North Wiltshire

We've made it! Readers of the March edition of this journal will have seen that, under the leadership of the Corsham Area Development Trust – (of which the Society is a founding partner) we were attempting to secure a position for this locality as one of the limited number of early focuses for the national project, then called 'Sacred Britain'. Well, it turns out that we have been chosen to be one of the six 'ASPIRE Pathfinders', as the project is now called. (ASPIRE stands for 'Audience Development for Sacred Places in the Regions of England'.) It seems that our efforts have not been in vain.

We have had to jump through various hoops, but in May we learned that 'North Wiltshire' is now one of the six – alongside Bristol, (central) London, West Midlands, NorthWest England and Northumberland. Truly exalted company!

We have received excellent support for our attempt to achieve this recognition. This has come from a wide range of organisations with a vested interest in increasing the number of visitors who avail themselves of whatever is on offer as a tourist attraction. Support has been both local and regional. Just before Christmas it was the turn of those organisations immediately local to Corsham to demonstrate their belief that making churches and other sacred places more inviting and more accessible could improve the overall attractiveness of this area to visitors of all persuasions.

It soon became clear that evidence of strong local support would not be sufficient. We needed to be able to demonstrate support at both the county level and at the regional level. Bearing in mind the limited number of 'Pathfinder' opportunities that the ASPIRE Project Manager could accept, endorsement at the regional level was always going to be essential. In our case, this meant securing the support of SouthWest Tourism, based in Exeter. On the tourism front, closer to home, it meant securing the enthusiastic support of the newly-formed Wiltshire Destination Management Partnership, while, clearly and equally, we needed the backing of the Bristol Diocese.

We lobbied our case hard with all these bodies. When the day of reckoning came – in May – we were ready. Letters and e-mails of support were placed on the table. Verbal statements of support were expressed. The concept of the North Wiltshire 'cluster', comprising sectarian and non-sectarian visitor attractions was explained. It won the day. Now the work really starts!

*Peter Tapscott (Vice Chairman)*

**KENNET & AVON CANAL TRIP – FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST. 3-7PM.**  
(Members only) Meet at Brassknocker Hill. If transport is needed  
please contact Wyndham Thomas.



## Local Lives, Memories of Growing Up in Corsham by Hon Mrs Elizabeth Fraser.

For our new readers perhaps we should explain the family connections, which led us to ask for this most interesting item.

*Elizabeth Fraser, nee Methuen, and her two brothers John and Robert, were born in Corsham and lived at Ivy House, Priory Street, the children of Grace and Anthony Methuen.*

*Field Marshal Lord Methuen was father to Paul and Anthony. Paul, the eldest son later took his place as Lord Methuen and was a very well known artist. The title then descended to John Methuen (Elizabeth's eldest brother) and is currently in the hands of Robert (the second eldest son) who lives in Derbyshire.*

"My first memory as a four year old in 1932 was that of being taken to the South Avenue in Corsham Park where the Scots Guards Regiment were gathered to be on duty at my Grandfather's, the Field Marshal Lord Methuen's funeral. I remember the smell of the food being cooked, and the horses being got ready and the noise of the champing on the bits; I also remember the many canvas tents.

Another memory was later on in the 1930's of Grey Owl coming to Corsham Court and talking with us children at a party organised by my Uncle and Aunt, and my Mother. (Grey Owl was an American Indian, who appeared in all his regalia, and told the children stories of the lives of his people). It was held in the Music Room and we children all sat on the floor enthralled with what he was telling us. I have a feeling that this was in aid of a charity, but I was only about eight or nine years old and would not have known.

My Uncle and Aunt were childless and were extremely kind to my two brothers and myself – we were, in a way, the children they never had. We bicycled in the gardens and woods, we climbed the trees – one of my favourite pranks was to get up into the yew hedge with a water pistol and aim it at people walking into Corsham – I did get punished!

During the war I was away at school, but in the holidays met up and played with the evacuees and others, in particular the children from Bristol who were at the Court in the summer holidays, while the Westonbirt School girls were away on their holidays. (Westonbirt School was at the Court from 1939 – 1944 as their buildings had been taken over, I believe by the RAF during the war).

My Mother was very involved in helping in any way she could, especially after Bath was bombed – she had been brought up to think how she could help- others not so fortunate as herself, and really devoted her life to other people.

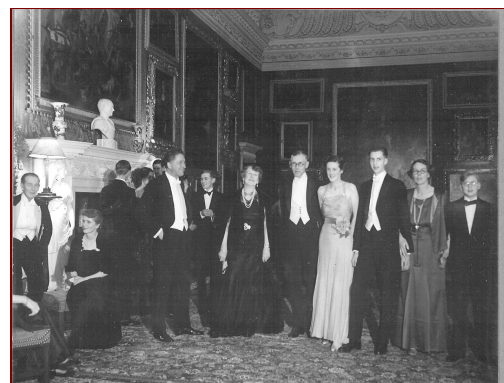
This as I grew into my late teens and left school was put into practise. I learnt to work with young people at the Mansion House, under the watchful eye of Miss Reynolds, who was Corsham's Youth Leader. I was encouraged to be involved with the Brownies, which was great fun, and especially so when I was asked to organise a Brownie Division of young refugee children from Eastern Europe who were housed at Thorney Pitts, off the Bradford on Avon road, between the two Fiveway crossroads! A young Georgian lady acted as my translator.

I was so fortunate to be involved when I was still in my teens with all this work. The great asset of all this was that I was learning to grow up in a community and hopefully play ones part. I owe a lot to my life in Corsham, and how it helped me in my future life in Somerset.

I was married in 1956 and my Uncle Lord Methuen insisted that I should be married from Corsham Court, which was wonderful. My Uncle and Aunt had also insisted that my brothers John and Robert, held their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday parties there, and now of course I realise how privileged one was.

*Uncle Paul, Aunt Norah, Daddy, Me, John, Mummy, and Robert*

*The Dance, for John's  
Coming of Age,  
January 4<sup>th</sup> 1947*



When my husband retired in 1991 my brother John, Lord Methuen asked us to come back to Corsham, and it gave me a great thrill to come back to a place I have always loved, and to which I owe so much".



## William John Light, Parish Clerk

William (Bill) John Light was born in 1902 and brought up in Birmingham. He attended the Church Training College for Lay Workers in Stepney in London.

One year in the long summer holidays he cycled from Birmingham to Dover, took a ferry to Calais, and cycled or hitched lifts to Paris where he became a guide to English Tourists. Evenings were spent in the library learning about Paris, and the money he earned paid for his next year in College. He left College in 1924 and did missionary work in the Belgian Congo.

Returning to England he worked for the community around Limehouse (Chinatown) in London, before being appointed as Curate in the small mining town of Craghead in County Durham.

Here he met his future wife Catherine (Kitty). They married and moved to Newcastle upon Tyne, again working in the community, but now out of the Ministry. In later life he became interested in the Society of Friends (Quakers) influenced by his friend in Corsham, Warwick Holman, who was a schoolteacher at the Chippenham Grammar School, and a practising Quaker.

When the war started and with the heavy night bombing of the docks around South Shields and Newcastle, he moved his wife and two children to a remote house on a farm in Northumberland, coming home only at weekends. It was a seven-mile 'round trip' for Kitty to walk to the shops, going through fields of cows and sheep along a mainly unmade road.

Bill came to Corsham for an interview for the position of the first warden of the Community Centre in Beechfield Road. The journey took 21½ days from Newcastle because of train delays and snow.

The family moved to Corsham in 1944. The Community Centre had been built to serve the local people and the families who had moved to Corsham to work in the wartime underground factories. They lived in pre-fabricated houses, which had sprung up around the town.

The Centre was also the focal point for the RAF, Navy, and Army personnel who were stationed nearby.

During his 20 years at the Centre it grew with a Drama Group performing a wide variety of plays; an Over 18's group- the highlight being their annual Gang Show; snooker, table tennis, and films for children on a Friday night which gave him a headache because of the volume of noise! Modern and Old Tyme Dances and all the activities of a lively Community Centre were provided. On retiring, he was honoured by being elected President of the Corsham Community Association.

Bill devoted his life to public service and his love of Corsham. Elected to the Rural District Council he served first as Chairman of the Finance Committee and later as Chairman of the Council. He was also Clerk to the Parish Council. Here he guided (!) the council members toward important developments of the industrial estate at Leafield, and the replacement of the 1000 pre-fabricated buildings with modern council houses. The new town centre, Martingate, was also top of the agenda.

He was Chairman of the Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council, and after government re-organisation he was elected to the North Wilts District Council. In later years he resigned to devote his full time to Parish Council affairs.

As the town correspondent for the Wiltshire Times he not only reported on local events but also used this vehicle to voice his views when things were not going quite as he expected.

He died in January 1986 from throat cancer (he had been a very heavy smoker).

'Light Close', near the Regis School was named after him, for all the work, dedication and foresight he brought to Corsham and its people.

*Thank you to Hilary Light & Rose Sugar, for giving us this reminder of the many ways in which their father had contributed to life in Corsham.*





## Heritage Open Days, 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2007, Programme

In addition to proven favourites such as Town Walks and St Bartholomew's Church, this year's Heritage Open Days will feature an Exhibition of photographs, archive drawings and work by local schoolchildren – all based on the history of the Mayo Memorial and its Victorian context. Volunteers are needed to steward these (at the Town Hall on September 6<sup>th</sup> & St Bart's on September 7-9<sup>th</sup>) as well as other events.

Also worth noting in your diaries are the talks by James Methuen Campbell and Stephen Flavin – at Corsham Court and The Almshouses, respectively. Tickets for these (from CTIC *in person* only) are limited but *not* for Robin Jackson's Introduction to the fine 1881 Organ at St Bart's on Sunday afternoon (Sept.9<sup>th</sup>).

Just an hour of your time will ease the pressure on the organising committee. Please contact Jean Beech or myself with offers of assistance.

**Wyndham Thomas**

Date	Event	Tickets required
Thursday 6 Sept	<a href="#">St Bartholomew's Church</a> : open 10am – 4.30pm	None
	<a href="#">Mayo Exhibition</a> Town Hall:- 11am – 5pm	None
	<a href="#">Talk on Paintings Collection</a> by James Methuen-Campbell, Corsham Court Barn: 6pm – 7.15pm	TIC (50 max)
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<a href="#">St Bartholomew's Church</a> : open 10am – 4.30pm	None
	<a href="#">Mayo Exhibition</a> St Bartholomew's Church - 10am – 4.30pm	None
	<a href="#">Tour of refurbished Arts Centre, The Pound</a> , Pound Pill. 11am – 1pm	None
	<a href="#">Tour of State Rooms</a> Corsham Court: with James Methuen-Campbell. 3pm – 4.15pm	TIC (35 max)
	<a href="#">Illustrated Talk on Edwardian Corsham</a> by Stephen Flavin. Corsham Almshouses, Pound Pill: 6.30 – 8pm	TIC (35 max)
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<a href="#">St Bartholomew's Church</a> : open – 10-11.30am and 1.30 – 4.30pm.	None
	<a href="#">Mayo Exhibition</a> - St Bartholomew's Church: open – 10-11.30am and 1.30 – 4.30pm.	None
	<a href="#">Town Walk – Historic Corsham</a> : start 11am in Church Square	TIC (15 max)
	<a href="#">Tour of refurbished Arts Centre: – The Pound</a> , Pound Pill 3.30 – 5.30 pm	None
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<a href="#">St Bartholomew's Church</a> : open 11 am – 2.30pm	None
	<a href="#">Mayo Exhibition</a> St Bartholomew's Church: - 11am – 2.30pm	None
	<a href="#">Town Walk: Historic Corsham</a> : start 11am in Church Square	TIC (15 max)
	<a href="#">St Bartholomew's Church</a> : Talk and demonstration of Church Organ - Robin Jackson 2.30pm.	None

Entrance to all Events is Free. Tickets are required for some events due to capacity limitations.

Tickets are only available from Corsham Tourist Information Service (TIC), from Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2007.

Please attend in person – the TIC regrets that a “request by telephone” service is **not** available.



## Down Memory Lane

In our March issue, we showed a picture of a sign, which had been found during the renovation of the business premises, which is now 'Haques Indian Takeaway' in the High Street. The sign proclaimed "**H.A. Grant Turf Accountant**", and we asked readers what they could tell us of Mr Grant.

A copy of 'Spotlight' was sent to a contributor in Wales, which in turn led to a phone call to Chippenham, and the identification of someone who remembered Mr Grant.

Mr Bill Hutchinson tells he remembers that between about 1946 and the 1960's when he lived in Stokes Road as a child and young man, their garden backed on to what is now known as Williams Grove – it was then used as Smith and Lacy's (builders) Yard.

There were 2 houses, one was occupied by Bert Grant, and he ran his betting business from his garden shed. He was not then licensed as a Turf Accountant, but he had a partner – a Mr Payne who came from Bath. When Bill was older he sometimes went to the dog racing with Bert. Bill does not recall Grant's ever being in the Haques property, although he believes that Ladbrookes moved there in about 1971.

Our very own local historian Joe James can add to this. He remembers the Smith & Lacy yard and its office block being located to the right of the site in a prefabricated building. He recalls that during WWII Mr Grant was on 'special' war work, we know not what that was. But he resumed his profession after the war, from this particular shop in the High Street. Apparently not a popular man, a Tory, he strongly resented living in 'Williams Grove', because that had been named in honour of a local Labour Councillor. In fact, he refused to recognise the name! He and his wife eventually retired to live at Kingsdown.

Ed.

## Planning Matters

### Development on Front & back gardens – Media request

A message from the Civic Trust

"We are aware that the increase in the development of back gardens is a growing cause for concern for many of our members. Channel Four are making a film about this issue and have approached the Civic Trust for help. They would like to hear from people across the country about their experiences of this issue.

If you have a story to tell about how inappropriate development in back gardens has affected your area or the damage that the loss of gardens and trees is doing to your local area please contact Hannah Mummery on [hmummery@civictrust.org.uk](mailto:hmummery@civictrust.org.uk) as soon as possible. Tel. 020 7539 7901.

*You may like to e mail Hannah direct, or you can let Pat Whalley know (01249 7113618) and she will pass it on. The Plans sub committee has a few ideas of its own, and will be sending some suggestions.*

## True or False?

*The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread "thresh" (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on they kept adding more "thresh" until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was then placed in the doorway to stop the slippage.*

*Hence the saying "a thresh hold."*



## Letters

As a result of our March issue which included the story of Loves – Butchers, I received a letter from Angela Swales, one of our members, who lives in Mansion House Mews, and recalls the Chippenham members of the Love Family who lived and worked in the town.

Angela tells us:-

“My mother used to shop regularly at Len’s father’s shop in New Road, Chippenham, which after his father’s death was run by Reg. They supplied all the meat for our family including ‘melts’ for our ginger cat. I well remember the shop being stocked for Christmas with the whole family working through the night plucking poultry and jointing meat. Those were the days before mass refrigeration when the poultry were hung up by the neck outside the shop, because it was cooler. (And they prayed for a cold spell before Christmas). They always used to go to the Fatstock show too, and buy up some of the prize-winning cattle with the result that beautiful sides of beef were displayed in their window. It was a quality butchers.

We also shopped at Bert Love’s grocery shop next door. I used to accompany my mother, and remember sugar being sold in traditional blue bags, and biscuits sold loose from glass topped tins. There was a wonderful aroma of spices and food mixed together.

Both shops had wooden floorboards and sawdust on the floor. Now both shops are cafés!”

**PHOTO OF LOVES SHOP IN  
CHIIPPENHAM 1920'S.**

*Our grateful thanks to  
Chippenham Civic Society  
for allowing us to use this*



## Where is ‘Luzzle Well’?

One of our recent queries has been about the location of Luzzle Well - supposed to have been a quarry area.

With Joe James help, we have concluded that it was probably a nickname for a meeting place, or a corruption of a local name.

Only the following come anywhere near –

Ladbrook Lane – was known as LUDbrook - the name of a Celtic river god.

Byde Mill was once known as LYDES (Old English LYD – a torrent)

Hudswell – looked promising, but in 1775 it was called Hoods Well.

Does anyone out there know where Luzzle Well is? If so please let me know.

*Ed.*





## Corsham Station Campaign Update - June 2007

How to compress all the events of the past few months into a few lines for "Spotlight"? The last Update was written in August 2006 - since then I have ensured authorities across the Greater Bristol area are aware of the impending Planning Application for Basil Hill - a development which will assuredly lead to more cross-boundary journeys between Corsham, Bath and Filton Abbeywood. During March I attended four transport meetings - the first being TravelWatch SW in Taunton. At this I was recommended by Chris Green (ex-Virgin Cross Country) to explore the Cost Benefit Analysis applied to transport schemes by the Scottish Executive. A similar enquiry has been made of the Welsh Assembly. There followed the W.Wilts Rail Summit in Trowbridge whilst at the end of that month I sped to Bristol to join fellow rail campaigners for a meeting with the Shadow Transport Minister. (Chris Grayling arrived, full of apologies, three quarters of an hour late, having been held up in M32 traffic! - at last someone from Westminster has experienced Bristol congestion - we all cheered) He appeared to have a good grasp of the lack of local services and inferred Bristol commuters should have as good a rail service as his constituents - an unbelievable "train every ten minutes"! 'Tis good to dream!! Andrew Griffiths of FirstGroup spoke at the Rail Future AGM in Bristol in early April, and the Corsham Local Transport Plan meeting was held in the Town Hall two weeks later, where Allan Cready (WCC) referred to a statistic he had seen which inferred "the majority of Corsham rail passengers would previously have been travelling by bus! This latter meeting was also attended by Matt Firth who works in North Bristol, and has recently joined our Committee. A new Station Campaign website is under construction.

A statement reported in a recent edition of a local newspaper, implied that the Corsham Station Campaign had been inactive for the past five years. Peter Blackburn and I have written to them, in order to refute this statement. We listed thirteen actions, among them - defending the rail safeguarding clause in the Structure Plan at the EIP in Chippenham; giving a power-point presentation to the Community Partnership; writing a magazine article for the MoD, and distributing leaflets in Corsham regarding the Greater Bristol Strategic Transport Study - the list was lengthy - and demonstrated that work had continued, even without media attention.

*Anne Lock.*

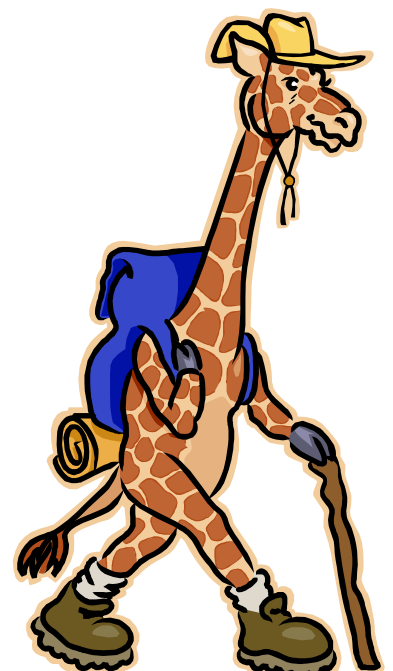
## CCS Summer Walk

Promptly at 6.30pm on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, some 19 members of our group stepped forward in rather doubtful weather, to tread the paths of Corsham, and to enjoy good company and chatter, with the prospect of good food and drink to be had at the Flemish Weaver when the last step had been taken.

The walk (about 1 ½ miles, took a route from Newlands Road, into Station Road, past the 'restored Pound Arts Centre' (work in progress, but looking close to completion), down Pound Pill and into the Batters, on to Ladbrook Lane taking a short cut through the newest part of the cemetery until it meets Lacock Road. Here, the group took the opportunity to make use of the new access into the Corsham Park, up to the Church, and thence to the Flemish Weaver.

We must congratulate James Methuen Campbell, (Corsham Estate) for providing the excellent recently completed car park (55 spaces) and its associated disabled access to the Corsham Park from Lacock Road, which whilst supplying an excellent facility, relieves the need for car parking in Church Square. (This is not a car park for shoppers, but purely for those who wish to enjoy the Park).

The meal at the Flemish Weaver was extremely good, the weather was kind to us, and it was considered that a good time had been had by all. We shall look forward to the next walk.



## People behind the Scenes

With the exception of December, the Civic Society meets monthly to listen to talks on local heritage or to enjoy social events such as the Celebration of the New Year, the Summer Outing, the Town Walk and the BBQ. When Kathy and I moved to Corsham in 2003, we were very impressed by the smoothness of the organisation of Open Meetings especially. We quickly came to realise that there are a number of 'unsung heroes' behind the scenes who ensure that publicity is distributed, meeting rooms are booked and opened, chairs put out, refreshments provided, speakers engaged and met - and lights put out at the end.

Let's take an average Open Meeting, for example. Jean Beech (our Membership Secretary) has recently taken on the additional job of room booking and she or Pat Whalley collects the keys from the relevant address so that the room can be set out (usually by other members of the Executive Committee – Eric, Geoff, or the first to arrive). Jean also collects the token admission-charge, distributes publicity or copies of Spotlight, and greets visitors. Meanwhile, one of the Programme Planning sub-committee will have arranged to meet the lecturer and to set up any equipment required (this often involves asking Peter Tapscott, our Vice Chairman, to bring along the screen which he kindly stores at home!). The three members who plan the year's programme (Les Davis, Tam Pearce and myself) will have met several times during the previous year and written numerous letters to book speakers and confirm dates. Posters have been printed and distributed, fees negotiated and arrangements finalised with John Harwood (our Treasurer). By the time the interval arrives, Trudy and Morgan Davies will have produced wine, soft drinks and nibbles. Someone will have been primed to propose a vote of thanks and to help the speaker pack up equipment (and be paid, if a fee or donation has been asked for). Then the arrangements go into reverse as the room and kitchen is restored to order, lights checked and keys returned. Inevitably, Jean or your Chairman being the last to leave. This is, perhaps, as it should be, but there is certainly scope for more members to participate in running the Society. We have just elected a new committee and officers at our AGM on May 18th but still have several vacancies, including the important one of Hon. Secretary. Please give some thought to how you might assist by 'shadowing' one of our unsung heroes, deputising in cases of absence, or volunteering to help in other ways by offering your talents or time. Please chat with me informally (or with one of the other officers) if you would like to be nominated for the Executive Committee or would like to help in some other capacity. There are many other Society activities where assistance would be welcomed.

In the next Spotlight I will be singing the praises of the members who edit and produce our house newsletter – something of which we should be very proud indeed!

*Wyndham Thomas. Chairman*

As no-one who visits the Corsham Town Hall end of the High Street can surely avoid noticing, work has finally begun on physically restoring the Mayo Memorial. The required scaffolding was erected mid-June. The entire restoration works are due to be completed within a period of four weeks – so, if all goes to plan, Rob Fleming and his merry band should have cleared site by the time you read this article.

The Project has really moved on apace since I last reported to you. Listed Building Consent (for the work we wished to do to the Memorial) was granted by NWDC mid-March. There was then need to revalidate the quotations that had been obtained last year, select the specialists we wished to engage to undertake the work, run the costs and commercial terms by the Heritage Lottery Fund people, agree the schedule, check such things as insurance and safety certification – and put pen to paper on the contracts. Helpfully, Corsham Town Council took responsibility for insuring the monument itself. (It does, after all, own the structure, as far the Law is concerned.)

We were extremely pleased to be able to place the work with Rob. His is a local company and he and his family live in Corsham. We always aim to support the Home Economy. In reality, it was not a difficult decision. His work on the Pound Arts Centre, Osborne House and Gatesgarth speak volumes for the quality of his work. Anybody seeking reassurance need only access his website.

Meantime, the 'Increasing Community Awareness' aspects of the Project go from strength to strength. Please refer to our website [www.corsham-civic-society.co.uk](http://www.corsham-civic-society.co.uk) for details.

*Peter Tapscott (Vice Chairman & Project Manager, Mayo Memorial Restoration Project)*

## Mayo Project Makes Major Strides Forward



## Spire Appeal, St Bart's Church - Update

In the November 2006 edition of 'Spotlight' I drew members' attention to the Talents fund- raising scheme that St Bart's PCC had set up as part of their SPIRE appeal. It has proved to be immensely successful, with a total of £4,842 being raised. Apart from numerous coffee mornings and sales of home-produce, there have been some ingenious enterprises such as carving wooden key-rings – and we in the Civic Society were able to donate £140 as a result of the impromptu collection after Roger Clifton's informal talk at November's Open Meeting. The other excellent news is that the total amount of nearly £48,000 raised so far has enabled the Appeal Committee to go ahead with plans to create a much-needed Kitchen and WC at the back of the church.

However, there is still a long way to go before the Appeal target of £250,000 is reached and the tower and steeple are made safe and secure for the next century or so. Recently the Appeal Committee announced a programme of fund raising events that included an American Auction (March), an Easter Egg Hunt (April), The Big Breakfast (April), a Concert by the Temperance Seven (May), a Grand Ball (June), and a Treasure Hunt and Picnic (July). All of these were, or promise to be, great fun so please look out for further details of dates, etc, in the church, town and local papers. Above all, the Spire Appeal needs to maintain its momentum so that support will be ongoing. Another Talents scheme will take place later in the year and we in the Civic Society can help by talking about it to our friends and workmates, by participating in as many events as possible, and inventing fund-raising schemes of our own (remember my challenge last year?). St Bart's Church is a major part of our heritage, after all!

*Wyndham Thomas. Chairman*

PS: Inspiring Verse, the anthology of favourite poems, was published at Easter and can be purchased at Corsham Bookshop or St Bart's at the bargain price of £5 (at least!). Other books, including a Collection of Favourite Recipes, will follow shortly.

## Wiltshire & Swindon Waste Core & Minerals Core Strategy Development Plan Document 2006 – 2026

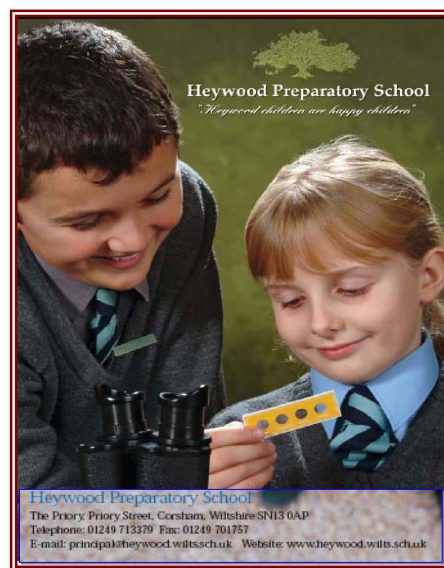
When the previous review was carried out in 2006, those consulted raised important issues, and so the Council decided to carry out a further consultation so that any issues & concerns could be reconciled before The Waste Core Strategy is submitted to the government in the autumn.

The revised Preferred Options Report was produced for Public consultation and ran from May 4th until 19th June this year.

The Core Strategy sets the long-term Vision & Strategic Objectives for spatial planning for waste management and it considers the options available through the planning system to the Councils and communities in the County and Borough. It also sets a strategic policy framework for other Waste & Minerals Local Development Documents, including the Development Control Policies Document and Waste Site Allocations Document.

The subject is too complex for further description in this magazine but anyone who has an interest can view this latest document on the County Council's website [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/core-strategy-waste](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/core-strategy-waste) or a hard copy in Corsham library. I also have a copy plus The Adopted Wiltshire & Swindon Waste Local Plan 2011 which I hold for Corsham Civic Society.

*Pat Britton 01225 705445*



# Corsham Civic Society

## Civic Society Officers

### President

Mrs Anne Greenly

### Chairman

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3 Mansion House Mews, Corsham  
Tel: 01249 701683

### Vide Chairman

Mr Peter Tapscott,  
4 Charlwood Road, Corsham  
Tel: 01249 714453

### Hon Sec

Mrs Patricia Whalley,  
27 Elm Hayes, Corsham  
Tel: 01249 713618

### Treasurer

Dr John Harwood,  
25 Woodlands, Corsham  
Tel: 01249 701256

### Membership Secretary

Mrs Jean Beech,  
108 Brook Drive Corsham,  
Tel: 01249 713833

### Programme Organiser

Mr Wyndham Thomas,

(See above)

### Plans Chairman

Mr Geoff Knapp,  
2 South Street Corsham,  
Tel: 01249 712270

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

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

## PROGRAMME FOR 2007

*Please note – not quite all the events/venues have been confirmed, so please watch the notice board for further information.*

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 11 <sup>th</sup> August       | BBQ at Heywood School garden. 12.30 – 2.30 bring your own chair, members only  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> August       | Kennet & Avon Canal Trip. 3pm – 7pm.   |
| 6-9 <sup>th</sup> September   | HODS. (Heritage Open Days)   |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> September    | "Hatches Matches & Dispatches" with Gill Bowden. The Pound, (Arts Centre) Pound Pill, Corsham  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> October      | Presentation on the 'Mayo' Project' – followed by a Round Table Discussion of 'Corsham Memories'. With members of the Civic Society at The Pound |
| 23 November                   | Life & Strife in Tudor Bath' with Dr John Wroughton. At The Pound  |
| December                      | No meeting.  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2008 | Celebration of the New Year – a Social Gathering. Venue to be advised.   |

All meetings to be held at 8pm.

**Venues may be subject to change. Please watch the notice board.**

Guests are welcome. Members - £1, Non members - £2

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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.*

**Corsham Civic Society**  
**Arnold House**  
**31 High Street**  
**CORSHAM**  
**Wiltshire**  
**SN13 0EZ**

**Registered Charity No: 275321**