

# Corsham Spotlight

November 2010  
Volume 8, Issue 3

## Newsletter of the Corsham Civic Society

### Editorial

In order to accommodate additional information about the speakers for the monthly meetings I have made some small changes to the layout of pages 2 and 12

By popular demand from the committee, I have included the first crossword to appear in the ASHTAV newsletter. Something to ponder on over Christmas. Answers in the March Spotlight.

We have arranged for our annual dinner to be held at The Methuen Arms on 9<sup>th</sup> February, in part to celebrate its rebirth. We hope many of you will join us.

I wish you and your families a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

*Jane Browning*

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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)

### David Mosdall

The Committee were very saddened to hear of the death of David Mosdall, our Treasurer on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010. David took over the role of Treasurer in 2009 as he was finishing his initial treatment for cancer. It unfortunately returned. He fought it bravely and remained cheerful and refused to give up his role in the Society. We benefited much from his expertise and considered counsel.

The thoughts of the entire membership will be with his wife Pat and their family.

*Jane Browning*

### New members

We welcome the following new members:

Yvonne Cora Le Crys, Mr & Mrs I Garrard, Mr & Mrs J Bradley and Mr J Slater & Ms Jane Gay.

### Small bites

- Following a ballot at the October meeting, evening meetings at the Pound, starting in February 2011, will now begin at the earlier time of 7.30pm. Full details of next year's programme is on page 12.
- Membership cards for the Civic Society will be issued in the New Year.
- Please inform the membership secretary, Jean Beech, of any change to membership details, such as address.
- The society was instrumental in achieving an extension of funding for the Tourist Information Centre until March 2011.



**President**

Mrs. Anne Lock.  
Little Lypiatt Farm.  
Rough St.,  
Corsham.  
Tel: 01225 810357

**Chairman**

Mr. Michael Rumsey,  
91 Tellcroft Close,  
Corsham.  
Tel: 01249 715741

**Hon Sec**

Sally Fletcher,  
56 Brook Drive,  
Corsham.  
Tel: 01249 713048

**Treasurer**

Vacant

**Membership Secretary**

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

**Social Organiser**

Mrs. Joan Maciver,  
15 Moor Park,  
Corsham.  
Tel: 01225 812225

**Programme Organiser**

Dr. Negley Harte,  
St Aldhelm's Cottage,  
Stokes Road,  
Corsham.  
Tel: 01249 713529

**Plans Chairman**

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

Contributions to Spotlight are welcome. Please contact Jane Browning (Editor)

on 01249 716013 or at

[janebrowning6@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janebrowning6@hotmail.co.uk)

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

**Registered Charity No: 275321**

**Message from the Chairman.**

At the forefront of our minds currently is the sad loss of David Mosdall, our Treasurer, earlier this month. He performed a sterling job and I could always rely upon his sound advice on any matter financial.



Celebrations at the  
Chippenham council offices

would be detrimental to the whole area, but it seemed that English Heritage and the Council Planners were in agreement for the project.

Many hours of candle burning by so many people produced letters of objection, petitions etc and for those attending the Wiltshire Council Planning Meeting in Chippenham in August, pleasure at last that commonsense prevailed and the application refused. An article on the deliberation of the council is on page 3.

At the Annual General Meeting, held in May, Geoff Knapp tendered his resignation as an Executive Committee member after many years service and our grateful thanks to Geoff echoed around the room. It was with great pleasure, at our September meeting, that I presented Geoff with a framed certificate making him our second Honorary Vice President of the Society, to which Geoff was pleased to respond.

2010 has seen a wide variety of speakers at the Pound Arts Centre open meetings and 2011 promises to also be an interesting programme. Our thanks go to Dr. Negley Harte for his work in creating our programme of meetings for this year and for the New Year, and we look forward to welcoming you to all our meetings in 2011.

*Michael Rumsey*

**Civic Society English Prize**

Year Seven at Corsham School were this year asked to write a short piece on the subject on "The Journey that I will Never Forget". As usual the entries were judged on behalf of the Society by Ron Smith. He found it almost impossible to pick out one individual winner, and so in consultation with the Head of English, he decided to give a small part of the prize to the runner up. The winner was Ellie Hayward of form W7. Ellie was presented with the English Prize at Corsham School on 21 October. The prize for the runner up was given privately to Isabell Ingledew also of form W7.

Our thanks go to Ron for adjudicating.

*Editor*



## Review

To fill a vacant slot in the July programme due to the non-availability of the published speaker, a Buttercup and Weeds garden party was held in our President's garden. All who attended agreed it was a delightful afternoon. The weather was kind to us and it gave an opportunity to relax and chat in beautiful surroundings.

The September meeting by Professor David Hey gave a fascinating insight into the history of English surnames. Surnames can tell us much about the social history of England. They were brought to England with the Norman barons after the Conquest. There was a greater range of names in the Middle Ages, despite a lower population than we have now, but many died out as a result of the Black Death. Even with the current mobility of the population there are still surnames distinctive to local areas, such as Entwistle and Sowerby in Lancashire, Micklethwaite and Hepworth in the West Riding of Yorkshire and Gallop and Snook in Dorset. The most common surnames are those of occupations, but even then distribution differs, with many in Norfolk/Suffolk, but very few in Cornwall, Devon and the Southwest. Smith is the most common surname: in the 1881 census 1.3% of the population had that surname, some 422,733 individuals. Then there are those named after place names, 'locative' names, which account for about a quarter of all surnames. These include Bagshaw, in the High Peak of Derbyshire; Ollerenshaw, meaning a small wood characterised by alder trees; Greatorix, spelt variously, also in the Peak District; Baverstock, a south Wiltshire village. Surnames derived from personal names include Cobbold, Old English for "famous" or "bold". Then there are nicknames, such as Daft, meaning meek, a Nottinghamshire name, which in 1664 was concentrated in one parish. The name has spread a little but the east Midlands is still its stronghold. Occupations have provided some very localised names. Dymond, a dairyman, is strong in the West Country. Boler is a White Peak, Derbyshire name for a lead smelter and Neate, a shortened name for Neatherd, is found in Wiltshire. Finally, there are those surnames which cannot be explained and which, no doubt, have changed over time. One such local example is Flippence, a Wiltshire name, possibly a form of Philip. Professor Hey was good enough to agree to provide a note on the derivation of the surname of the winner of a raffle. His findings on the surname Weldon appear on page 8.

October saw another change to the published programme. We were indebted to Professor Ron George who stood in at short notice and gave an illuminating talk on the Bath Academy of Art in Corsham, 1946-86, and its recent return as Bath University. The origins go back to when Bath-born Henry Cole, later Sir, organised the Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace and appealed for a network of regional art schools. A public meeting in Bath raised £150 to secure an art school, which opened in 1854. In the 1880s this became a Technical School, next to the Victoria Art Museum. Walter Sickert taught students and was a mentor to Lord Methuen, himself a Royal Academician. Clifford Ellis was the principal and negotiated with Lord Methuen to move The Academy to Corsham Court on a 99 year lease after it found itself homeless after the bombing of Bath in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. The academy gained national and international importance but the social revolution of the late 60s and 70s when students wanted to be in cities, when art schools merged with universities and degrees and not diplomas were required was the death knell of the Academy in its then form. The Academy relocated to Bath and was integrated into the university.



Woodburytype of Henry Cole by  
Lock & Whitfield

However, with the recent pressure on accommodation in Bath due to increased student numbers, it was decided to renew the acquaintance with Corsham Court, also making best use of the lease that still has many years to run. It has higher degree awarding powers and is a centre for research, postgraduate studies and continuing professional development for teachers. Many contemporary fine artists such as the sculptors Peter Randall-Page and Professor Michael Pennie and printer Jack Shirreff can be found at the facilities at Corsham Court. We were pleased to hear that the University has ensured that the work required to bring the University's facilities in the Court up-to-date, suitable for today's post graduate students, has very much involved local businesses. The University has also established good working relationships with The Pound and The Corsham School, itself a specialist arts school.

*Jane Browning*



## Lady Margaret Hungerford Almshouse Planning Application Decision

In the last edition of Spotlight the Editor included the comprehensive letter which contained the Civic Society's many objections to the second proposal put forward by the Trustees of the Charitable Trust for a single block of nine units within the gardens of the Almshouses.

The first proposal for twelve units in two blocks brought forth over one hundred letters of objection. This second application engendered 92 letters of objection, plus a petition objecting to the development containing 1036 signatures but 46 letters in support – the latter bearing a remarkable similarity as being from *visitors to Corsham who were well aware of the lack of this type of accommodation in the town!*

On Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> August, with the application due to go to Committee that evening, Wiltshire Council (WC) saw fit to change its recommendation from "Application be referred to the Secretary of State as a departure from Policy H7 of the NW Local Plan 2011 with a resolution that the Application be permitted....." to "As the Application was received after 20 April 2009 Circular 02/09 applies, which does not require referral of an application because it is a departure from the local plan....the application be Delegated for conditional approval, following completion of a legal agreement to secure housing requirements and contribution to public open space". This meant that objectors would be denied the opportunity of writing/lobbying the Secretary of State following the decision of the Planning Committee – something which they may have been minded to do by applying for a Call In, had it not been for the terms of the original recommendation.

On the evening of 11<sup>th</sup> August the public gallery in Monkton Park was packed, standing room only, to hear three objectors and three proponents of the scheme speak for three minutes each, to be followed by debate by the members of the Committee. Sir Michael Hopkins' proposal relied on Policy H7 – Affordable Housing on Rural Exceptions Sites: WC had recently fought a Planning Inquiry at Cricklade which relied on the same claim. The Inspector had dismissed that application and Cllr. Peter Davis made good use of this decision in his lengthy and comprehensive submission. His views were supported by Cllrs. Colmer and Douglas, in proposing that the Trustees' Application be refused. A proposal that was eventually carried by six votes to three. The relief was enormous but the Trustees have six months in which to appeal the decision, or could come forward with a further application. We recommend you watch the WC Planning website.

We have since written to English Heritage (EH) to call them to account for the lack of parity which they have displayed with regard to the setting of our almshouses, compared to that granted to The Ivy. Their response was insipid, uninspiring and absent – our question unanswered. There is presently an English Heritage Consultation to seek views on how people view the "settings" of their heritage assets. We are hoping very many people and organisations will take the opportunity to make their views clear. Prior to the planning meeting we had fantastic support from members, and others, who travelled to Bristol to protest outside EH offices when we handed in our letter of complaint.

Anne Lock

## A Corsham Community Campus?

Wiltshire Council is proposing to develop the current Springfield site (off Beechfield Road) to create a 'community campus' providing a number of services for the Corsham community area all under one roof. The campus might include leisure, adult social care, youth services, a library, a cafe and internet services, and more modern 'community space' to replace the community centre. Locating several services on one site would result in long-term savings in running and maintenance costs.

If approved, the project would be paid for, in part, through capital funding already proposed for the Springfield Leisure Centre. Other funding could also be available from the disposal of sites currently providing services that would be re-located in the new campus, such as those at the Mansion House and Library in Corsham.

Wiltshire Council have asked the Corsham Community Area Network (CCAN) and Corsham Town Council to consult with local residents. **You are invited to express your views on the idea in one or more of the following ways:**



- Completing a questionnaire (as enclosed with this newsletter)
- Attending the public meeting to be held on 1 December in the Community Centre (6.30 pm for a 7 pm start)
- Sending an e-mail to the CCAN Co-ordinator ([kevingaskinccan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kevingaskinccan@hotmail.co.uk))

If you would prefer to set out your views in a letter, you can send them to me (56 Brook Drive, Corsham SN13 9AY) for passing on to the Corsham Community Area Network, who will be preparing a report on all the feedback received from the public by 15th December.

*Sally Fletcher (representing Corsham Civic Society on the CCAN Steering Group)*

### The Tulip Tree *Liriodendron tulipifera*

(yellow poplar, saddle wood, canoe wood, white wood)

In the debate over the Almshouse proposals, the Tulip tree often had a mention and I thought a few comments on it and its descendants might be appropriate.

The Liriodendrons belong to the Magnolia family and their cousins can be found in the fossil record. The modern genera are from North America; the first imports of seed were sent from Pennsylvania, by John Tradescant the Younger, in 1638. The specimen at Kew was planted in 1770.

The timber is fine-grained, with a slight greenish tinge, and easily worked and was much used in the furniture industry. The branches tend to be rather brittle and have an unpleasant habit of breaking away at unexpected moments!

The flowers arrive in June but are a little unobtrusive; Karl Linneaus referred to the reproductive gubbins, rather earthly as "twenty or more males in one marriage". (What do taxonomists do in their spare time??)

I do not think that the Almshouse tree is particularly ancient, I feel that it was planted in the 1930s and carries its age very well.

Personal note—because of our family's long association with the Almshouse, and in celebration of our Golden Wedding, Jane Watling made a gold brooch, for June, by copying a leaf.

*Norman Duckworth*



## Frank Gerrish 1883 - 1917

Genealogy is an interest of mine. Adding names to a family tree is fine but sometimes we need to look at the personal stories of the individuals. This voyage of discovery began last year when a cousin showed me a letter which had been retrieved from the effects of a great-aunt who died in the 1950s. A transcript of the letter is shown on page 7. I can just about remember the great aunt but neither my cousin nor I knew anything about the writer of the letter.

My daughter Helen Coombs joined me in the research. So what did we discover?

Frank Gerrish was born on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1883 at Priory Lane, Corsham, the son of William and Elizabeth Gerrish, formerly Harding. William Gerrish gave his occupation as a Slater. He was my paternal Great Grandfather. We don't know if Frank was baptised, but we know that the family used the Baptist Chapel opposite their house. Frank appears on the 1891 census aged 8 when living at 53 Priory Road, Corsham. His occupation is given as scholar. He is also on the 1901 census at 10 Ashcroft Cottages, Priory Road, Corsham, occupation Breadmaker. We established that he signed up to a seven year apprenticeship to A. Bird, Baker, of Corsham. Kelly's Directory for 1889 has an entry for Corsham: Bird, Alfred, Confectioner, High Street.

On 1<sup>st</sup> March 1906 Frank left Liverpool on the S.S. "Kensington". He was 22 at the time and declared that he had between £7 and £10 cash. He was able to read and write. The records show he had no distinguishing marks. The ship was bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada and Frank's ultimate destination was shown as Toronto. His occupation is shown as Confectioner but this has been crossed out and replaced by Farmer. The columns are stamped "British Bonus Allowed".

Did the alteration in the entry have any significance?

The British Bonus was a commission paid by the Canadian Government's Immigration Branch to steamship booking agents in the U.K. for suitable immigrants. The immigrants themselves did not receive the bonus. The Bonus was a subtle marketing tool used by the Canadian Government to encourage steamship booking agents to recruit suitable settlers (farmers, domestics, etc.). For most of the passengers on the Passenger List on which Frank Gerrish appears, the occupation the passengers have stated has been crossed out and "Farmer" written in. They are all stamped "British Bonus Allowed".

Frank arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1906. On 24<sup>th</sup> November 1907 Frank crossed the border from Vancouver to the United States. His occupation was given as "Confectioner" (not farmer). His last permanent residence was Calgary, Alberta and his father is shown as Wm. Gerrish, Corsham, Wilts. Frank's details were then 5' 7" in height, Fair Complexion, Brown Hair and Blue Eyes. He is shown as being neither a Polygamist nor an Anarchist.

At some stage he must have crossed the border back from the U.S. to Canada because in November 1908 he crosses from Victoria, British Columbia to the U.S. again. That this is the same person is verified by reference to his original immigration into Canada and his place of birth.

There is then a gap in the traceable records but on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December 1916 he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force at Show Ground Camp, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. He gave his trade as Landscape Gardener. He had a scar (tattoo) on his left wrist (did he gain this whilst at sea?). Oddly, he is not on the 1910 Australia Census, 1910 U.S. census or the 1911 Canadian Census. In response to the question "Have you been an apprentice?" he says "Yes, A. Bird(Baker) Corsham, England, 7 years". On 11 November 1916 he embarked from Sydney and disembarked at Devonport, England on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1917. His description was given as 5' 7 ¼ inches, 122lb in weight, his complexion was fair, he had blue eyes and brown hair.

He was sent from Folkestone on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1917 and arrived in France on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1917. He was hospitalised in France on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1917 and rejoined the battalion (in France) on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1917. His Army Record is recorded in great detail, on a typed Army Form B 103, showing Regimental No. 6306: all this in the middle of a bloody war. The final entry on the form is dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 1917 "Killed in Action".



On 6<sup>th</sup> October 1917 the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion, to which Frank belonged, was engaged in the Battle of Broodseinde, part of the Battle of Passchendaele. There were 20,000 casualties on each side. Three days of heavy rain turned part of the ground into a morass. The overall result was British and Commonwealth troops advanced 1,000 yards.

12<sup>th</sup> May 1917

My Dear Floss,

*I am writing just a line to let you know that I am quite well & hope this will find you in good health. We are having very hot weather here. It is a difficult job writing letters these days as we can say nothing regarding military life. The add: which I am sending will always find me: No 6306 Pte F.G. 18<sup>th</sup> Batt: A.I.F. France & I shall be always looking out for a letter. It was a pity I missed seeing you the last (missing words) down. When we return I hope (to have?) a good long stay home then I shall be able to have a good tour around. I received a letter from Aunt Janet the other day she sent a photo of Reg & George she takes it very much to heart Reg being killed George has not been in the firing line yet he is some where in Salonica. We get 4 packets of cigarettes given us every Saturday from the Aus: Comfort fund just received our supply. Will close now.*

*From your loving brother Frank xxx*

Transcript of letter from Frank Gerrish to his sister, Florence

Frank's father was sent a package containing his effects and these were acknowledged by William Gerrish of Priory Street on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1918. William returned a hand-written note "Can you please tell me what became of my son's bible and watch which were not returned?". The reply was that no official report had been received concerning these items.

Nine Victoria Crosses were awarded during the Battle of Broodseinde.

Frank Gerrish has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial in Belgium.

Inside the arch of the Memorial, on tablets of Portland Stone, are inscribed the names of 56,000 men who served in the Ypres campaign and have no known grave. The Menin Gate Memorial was opened on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1927 and since then, with the brief interval of the German Occupation in the Second World War, the City of Ypres has conducted a ceremony at the Memorial at dusk each evening to commemorate those who died in the Ypres campaign. Frank Gerrish's name is located at panel 85 at the Australian War Memorial.

Colin Coombs

## Who remembers the Meccano Magazine?

My father bought me my first Meccano Magazine when I was 9 or 10 and I was an avid reader until it stopped production in the 1960's. I was therefore delighted when Pat Whalley handed me two editions from June 1930 and October 1931. The covers have long disappeared, but the rest of the magazine is in remarkably good condition and is well worth a read. The variety of articles is amazing and must have thrilled many a boy, whatever age from 9 to 90 it would seem. There are articles on modern inventions, the latest airplanes, boats, ships, railway engines, plus information about stamp collecting and the advertisements are just amazing to see, what prices!! All the illustrations are in black and white, but they are of good quality and I'm sure these would inspire the young model makers of the day to try to make such a thing with their Meccano set.



I not only inherited my father's Meccano set, but had one of my own plus his Hornby clockwork 'O' gauge railway engines from 1924. On Christmas Day, 1949, I received my very own Hornby Dublo electric train set, it cost £12.10s, two and half weeks normal wages in those days. I still have the engine 'Sir Nigel Gresley' an A4 streamlined L.N.E.R. express engine, and two tinsplate teak style coaches. The engine is still in working condition and has pride of place in my glass case 61 years after manufacture.

If anyone would like to see these two magazines, do contact me on 01249 715741 and I will deliver them to you and will collect them afterwards for another reader.

Michael Rumsey



## DERIVATION OF SURNAME WELDON

I expected the explanation of the surname **Weldon** to be straightforward, but spelling variations complicate the issue. The obvious conclusion is that it is derived from the place of that name in Northamptonshire. This indeed seems to have been the source of the surname, for it was often recorded in Midland counties in the 1881 census. However, the national distribution of the name in 1881 shows that the 1206 Weldons were scattered thinly in Midland and Northern England (with the usual grouping in London). There was no obvious concentration of the name at that time. It seems to have had more than one place of origin.

One possible explanation for the wide distribution of the Weldons in the North is that they were recent immigrants in search of work in the industrial districts, for the published hearth tax returns of the 1660s for the West and East Ridings of Yorkshire, County Durham and Derbyshire record no Weldons. But this doesn't seem likely, for they were scattered thinly.

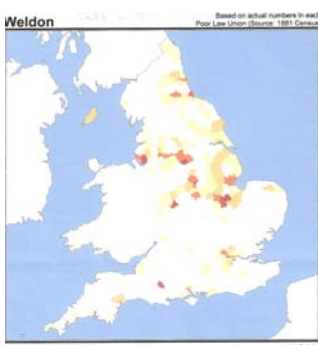
One possibility is that some of the families named Weldon started off as Welton. Welton is a common minor place-name in various counties, including Cumberland, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Northumberland, the East Riding and Somerset. The Nottinghamshire hearth tax returns of 1664, for example, name two households named Welten in the parish of Wellhaugh.

Another possible variant spelling is Wilden, which was also scattered widely in 1881.

But it seems to me that the most likely explanation for the scattered Weldons in the North and the Midlands might be that their name is a variant of Wheldon. The 505 Wheldons in 1881 were found principally in North Yorkshire, County Durham and Tyneside. The Durham hearth tax returns of 1666 record six households of Wheldons. The North Riding hearth tax returns of 1673 record three households of Whildons, one Wheldon, one Weldon (in Richmond) and four Wildens.

We should also consider Wheeldon. The 1881 census named 1476 people with this name, with a strong concentration in and around the Peak District (475 in Derbyshire, 286 Staffordshire, 194 Lancashire and 153 in Stockport). This surname is derived from a small place called Wheeldon in the parish of Hartington on the Derbyshire-Staffordshire border. Numerous Wheeldons are recorded in the Derbyshire hearth tax returns of 1670.

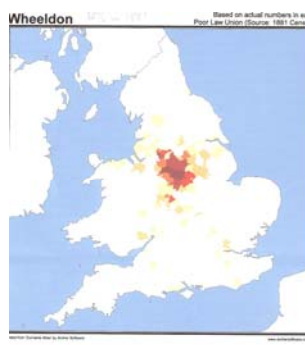
The scattered distribution of the Weldons in 1881 suggests that the name arose in a variety of ways that can be resolved only by detailed genealogical research and perhaps with the help of genetics. Nevertheless, the distribution maps suggest useful lines of enquiry.



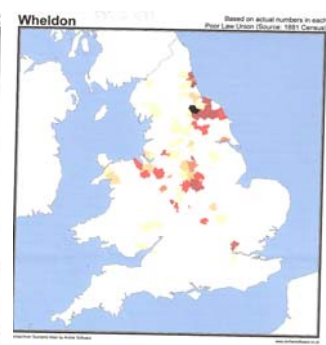
1881 distribution map for  
Weldon



1881 distribution map for  
Wilden



1881 distribution map for  
Wheeldon



1881 distribution map for  
Wheldon

David Hey



## “THE CO-OP” RETURNS TO CORSHAM

Many people who are new to Corsham may not realise that there was a Co-operative stores in the town previously. It occupied the buildings that we now recognise as 51/53/55 High Street, a Veterinary surgery Walter/Macfadden, (notice the 'Beehive' sign in the gable to the front), the Pizza Parlour (VLR ) and Theodora's flower shop.

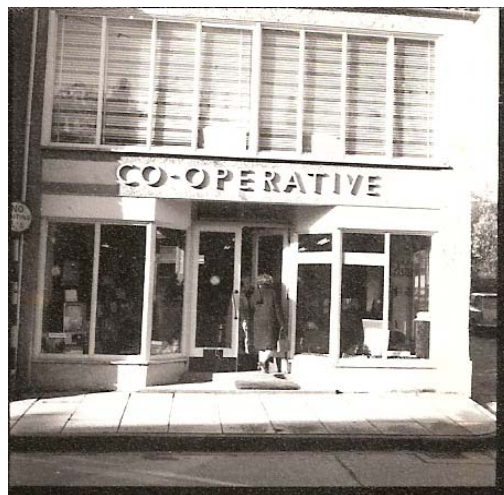
It was the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers who were responsible for the formation of the Co-operative Society in 1844. As the mechanisation of the Industrial Revolution was forcing more and more skilled workers into poverty, a group of 28 weavers and other artisans in England decided to band together to open their own store selling food items they could not otherwise afford. They designed the now famous "Rochdale Principles" and over a period of four months they struggled to pool together one "Pound sterling" per person for a total of 28 pounds of capital. On December 21, 1844, they opened their store with a very sparse selection of butter, sugar, flour, oatmeal and a few candles. Within three months, they expanded their selection to include tea and tobacco, and they were soon known for providing high quality, unadulterated goods. The English CWS and Co-operative Group "The Co-operative Group" formed gradually over 140 years from the merger of many independent retail societies, and their wholesale societies and federations. In 1863, twenty years after the "Rochdale Pioneers" opened their co-operative, the North of England Co-operative Society was launched by 300 individual co-ops across Yorkshire and Lancashire. and by 1872, it had become known as the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS).

### But what of the Co-operative stores in Corsham?

Local knowledge has failed to reveal exactly when the Corsham stores might have opened at 53-55 High Street, although we understand that the Co-operative bought this land to build these shops in 1906, and the shops were certainly there just before WWII. A local lady, Nellie Thomas, remembers that it sold haberdashery, clothes, and it had a butchers and a grocery department. In fact 'you could go in one end and come out the other with almost everything you wanted'. A bit like the supermarkets of today! Another local lady, Mary Lodge, worked there between 1945 and 1951. One feature of the store was the 'piped cash register', the sort of machine where your payment was put into a container, which then travelled up the wall, along the ceiling to the upper floor, where someone was waiting to open it, issue change and a receipt, and send it back down to the counter.



51/53/55 High Street



23 High Street

It seems that this was Corsham's first superstore, and of course you received a dividend payment with something like 1d in the £ returned to you, which you could save perhaps until Christmas when more groceries etc were needed. Now we have examples like Sainsbury's and Nectar cards! Nothing is new is it?

This was not the only Co-op Store, though. There was also one at the junction of Post Office Lane and High Street, where the Jaipur Indian restaurant now stands. This is also remembered as a Co-op furniture store and Auction House. It later became known as Oatley's furniture store.

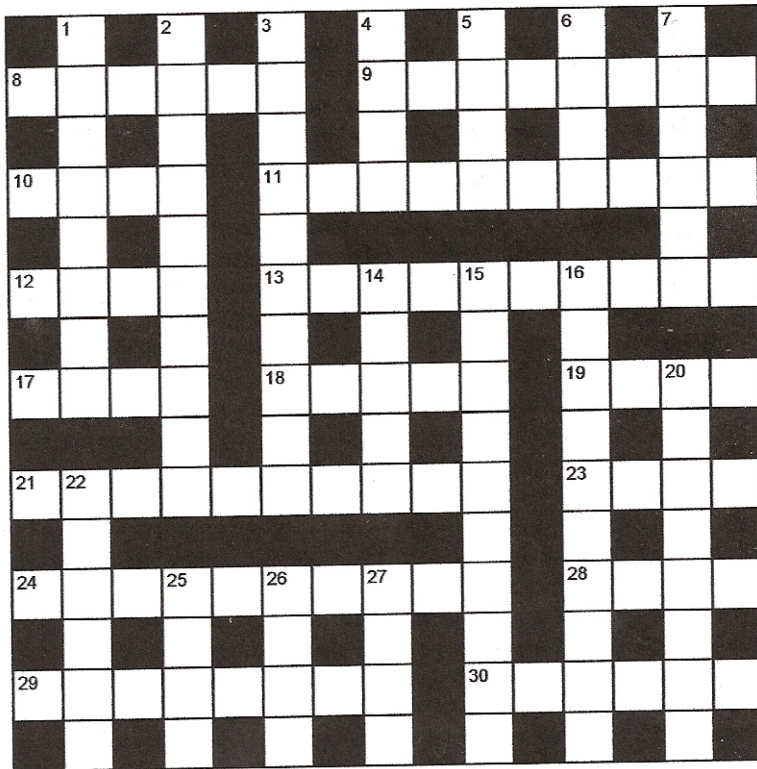
The store in the High Street finally closed down sometime between 1953-55.

Now we have a new Co-operative supermarket to the town.

*Pat Whalley*



## ASHTAV Crossword



Software © 2010 crossword-compiler.com

## Across

- 8 Chirpy invertebrate (6)  
 9 Second segment of the association (8)  
 10 Argument (4)  
 11 Favourite snacks (6,4)  
 12 Rock of (4)  
 13 Abides behind lace curtains (4-6)  
 17 Essential being (4)  
 18 Discover clearness (5)  
 19 Knave (4)  
 21 Flirty vale in Africa (4,6)  
 23 Bird's sight (4)  
 24 Antipodean drone (10)  
 28 Standard (4)  
 29 Projected changes (8)  
 30 Aesthetically crafty (6)

## Down

- 1 Fourth segment of associations (8)  
 2 Angler in march nets a shoe (10)  
 3 Written asides (10)  
 4 Delicious en daube (4)  
 5 Surrounded by water (4)  
 6 Third sector of association (4)  
 7 Major digit (3,3)  
 14 First sector of association (5)  
 15 Medicinal mint (10)  
 16 Partially reincarnate in this incarnation (10)  
 20 Indubitable cruel cat (5-3)  
 22 Cold stalactite without the calcium carbonate (6)  
 25 Singular man (4)  
 26 Rarely on the Iberian flat lands (4)  
 27 Victory through gardening (4)



## BUZZARD

*Buteo buteo*



RSPB Images

My life floats lightly. Even the smallest  
feathers on my eyelids  
flicker in the air.

as only a raptor knows how – almost  
soundless, whispering, through  
wind.

does fur see? A short flash  
of brightness, before there is  
screaming

death is long past. I am a killer. I know  
my art.

Scuts\* come and go, below. I let air slip  
through my flight  
dropping

What view of the soles of my feet  
as light curves upon  
sharpness

in the strength of my grip? It is brief.  
When my bill hook strips open  
Flesh

\*short rabbit tails

*Linda Snell*

Corsham Poetry Group

## Vacancy for a Treasurer

The Society now has a need for a Treasurer. If anyone feels able to help in this role, please contact Michael Rumsey, the Chairman, or any of the Committee.

*Jane Browning*



## 2011 Programme

Jan 14th	7.30pm	<b>New Year Social Gathering at Town Hall.</b> £5 includes refreshments
Feb 9th	7.30pm	<b>Dinner at The Methuen Arms</b>
Feb 25th	7.30pm	<b>"The Archaeology of Wiltshire"</b> <i>Talk by David Dawson, Director of the Wiltshire Heritage Museum in Devizes.</i>
Mar 25th	7.30pm	<b>"My first ten months as an MP"</b> <i>Talk by Duncan Hames, MP for the new constituency of Chippenham.</i>
Apr 15th	7.30pm	<b>"The work of the House of Lords".</b> <i>Talk by Lord Methuen who lives in Derbyshire and plays a prominent part as one of the remaining hereditary peers in the House of Lords.</i>
May 13th	7pm for 7.15 pm	<b>AGM at Town Hall.</b>
June 17th	7.30pm	<b>"The Aims of Corsham School"</b> <i>Talk by Martin Williams, Headmaster of Corsham School.</i>
Jul 22nd	6.30pm	<b>"The History of Hartham Park"</b> . Meet in the foyer at Hartham Park. <i>Includes a visit to the Sticke Tennis Court and Hartham Chapel. Allan Bosley, Chairman of Corsham Town Council will lead. He is long associated with Hartham Park and its business park.</i>
Aug 6th	4-6.30pm	<b>Members' Garden Party</b> ( dependent on fine weather) £3 includes cream tea.
Sept 23rd	7.30pm	<b>"Some Interesting buildings in and around Corsham"</b> . <i>Talk by Pamela Slocombe, organiser of the Wiltshire Buildings Record.</i>
Oct 28th	7.30pm	<b>"West Country Carriers and Stage Coaches before and after Turnpiking, 1680-1840"</b> <i>Talk by Dorian Gerhold, principal Clerk of the House of Commons and author of several important works on the history of the coaching and carrying trades, as well as on Putney and Westminster Hall.</i>
Nov 25th	7.30pm	<b>"The Churches of Wiltshire"</b> . <i>Talk by Michael Rumsey, retired headmaster and Chairman of the Corsham Civic Society.</i>

All meetings to be held at the Pound Arts Centre, 01249 701628, unless otherwise stated.

Guests are very welcome. Members £2, Non-members £5, includes free tea or coffee or £1 off a glass of wine.

### 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 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.

