

Corsham Spotlight

Newsletter of the Corsham Civic Society

March 2011

Volume 9 Issue 1

In this edition:

Editorial	1
Vacancies	1
Review	2
Dated buildings	3
New members	3
Community Centre	4 - 5
Lacock archives	6
Buildings award	7
New publication	7
Letter re. Sainsbury's	8
Letter re. THIC	9
Neale & Gough Brush-works	10
Community Campus	11
Photographic competi- tion	11
Answers to November's crossword	11
2011 programme	12

Contributions to Spotlight are welcome.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.Corsham-Civic-Society.co.uk

Editorial

I have taken the opportunity of a new computer and a new, hopefully easier-to-use, publishing programme to change slightly the look of Spotlight. New technology takes a while to get used to, but I am hopeful that it will make my life easier. I will apologise up-front and hope you will forgive any errors that may have found their way into this edition.

The extreme weather we had before Christmas has dimmed rather with time. Taking advantage of the drier period now upon us, offering me a chance to tidy the garden after the earlier ravages, I notice there are many, many ladybirds sheltering in nooks and crannies in the vegetation, often several huddled up together. I admire their tenacity to endure the cold blast they experienced in December.

In view of the interest that is currently being shown in the site of the Community Centre at Beechfield Road and its possible future development, I thought you might like to learn a little of its history.

Please do look at page 11 and the photographic competition we are organising. This is part of Civic Day on Saturday 25th June, a celebration of what makes the place where we live attractive, enjoyable and distinctive, when there will be activities across the country under the umbrella of Civic Voice.

Jane Browning

Vacancies

Much work is done behind the scenes in our Society and, as the saying goes, many hands make light work. We are looking for new people to join the committee, to bring fresh ideas and to share the load. We will therefore be looking to increase the number of committee members at the AGM in May. Specifically, we shall be looking for a new chairman, as Michael Rumsey is reluctantly resigning, although he is willing to stand as deputy chairman. Nomination papers will be available at the meeting on April 15th. Please do give this serious consideration.

We also need a secretary for the planning group. This group meets every three weeks, for about an hour, to look at the latest planning applications, primarily to alert the community where necessary and to provide grassroots input from local people who care about how change happens. The meetings are usually held on Monday afternoons to align with the Council's planning timetable. Please phone Geoff Knapp on 01249 712270 if you would like any further information.

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Review

Wyndham's musical theme for November, *An evening of Carols and Christmas Song* was well received, and attracted extra visitors. His talk was sub-titled *Making a song and dance about it*. Wyndham told us how the story of the carol is ancient and complex. The word *Carol* is derived from the French word *carole*, a dance accompanied by singers. They were sung during celebrations such as harvest-tide and Saints' days, as well as Christmas. Some of the oldest carols include "We saw three ships", "The Coventry Carol" and "The Holly and The Ivy". The format of the festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, today associated with King's College, Cambridge, was a format first drawn up by Bishop Benson and the Reverend Walpole at Truro Cathedral, on Christmas Eve 1880. Many carols were sung in the vernacular. In Yorkshire, especially around Sheffield, there is still a living tradition of carolling. Wyndham cited "The Big Set" at Cock Inn, Oughtibridge, who sang in the early part of the twentieth century. Wyndham had brought along several recordings of carols, and the final carol we listened to was one by Jake Thackeray, which was greatly appreciated by the audience.



Photo: M. Rumsey

The New Year heralded our annual celebration at the Town Hall. The group 4+1 played jazz favourites and we enjoyed a splendid supper thanks to Joan Mciver and her helpers. President Anne Lock presented the 2010 Buildings awards—see Page 7.

The Society's annual dinner in February at The Methuen Arms was attended by over 40 members. Our Chairman presented Martin Still, the owner of The Methuen Arms with a print of Pockeridge House, for which the Society had been asked to find a home.



Photo: M. Rumsey

David Dawson, Director of the Archaeology and Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes gave a most interesting talk in February. The Museum is arguably the best Bronze Age

archaeological collection in Britain. We were given the history of the Museum and, as an example of the Museum's fine collections, David described the finds at Bush Barrow, less than half a mile south of Stonehenge. In 1808 William Cunningham, a wool merchant, excavated over 300 barrows over a period of 15 years. He recorded everything he found and his original notes are kept at the Museum. The finds included a finely-decorated belt hook made from sheet gold, a dagger with a bronze-aged blade set with 140,000 gold studs, thinner than human hair, laid out in a regular pattern and a gold lozenge used to fasten a cloak. We were taken through the different ages of man and what finds have been made within our locality. Many at the meeting were unaware that there is a long barrow within shouting distance. Lanhill Long Barrow, a Neolithic chambered long barrow dated 3500-2500 BC is just off the A420 on the Biddestone side of Chippenham. It is some 190 feet by 90 feet wide and six feet high. The Museum's web site was highly recommended <http://www.wiltshireheritage.org.uk/>.

Dated Buildings in Corsham

Dr. Negley Harte, Chairman of the Corsham History Group, has been conducting a survey of buildings in Corsham that have a date on them, whether on a date-stone or on a dated rainwater-head or a commemorative inscription of some sort. It seems apparent that there is a higher than average number of buildings bearing dates in Corsham than in other towns, even fine Wiltshire towns such as Devizes or Bradford-on-Avon.

This is not the result of a policy of the Methuens, lords of the manor here since the late eighteenth century – very few Methuen buildings have a date on them. It may well have something to do with the strong local tradition of stone-cutting and stone-masonry. The date-stones themselves are interesting works of vernacular art, many of them strikingly elegant, as well as being quietly resonant of the date they proclaim.

Dr. Harte has now listed almost all of them, and Michael Rumsey, keen photographer and Chairman of the Corsham Civic Society, has agreed to photograph them all once the weather is better. It is thought that they might together produce an interesting little illustrated book that could reveal much about the town.



Photo: M. Rumsey

The fine, simple, elegant, clear date-stone on the front of the house of Geoff Knapp (Hon. Vice-President of the Corsham Civic Society) in South Street, a street with an interesting number of date-stones, revealing the building development of the street, close to the railway station, at the time of the greatest expansion and prosperity of the trade in Corsham stone in the 1880s and 1890s.



Photo: M. Rumsey

A photograph of the date-stone carved on another house in South Street, part of a lovely group of dated houses in South Street and its cross-streets Grove Road and Hastings Street, all proudly bearing dates between 1880 and 1907, the great period of stone-quarrying for Corsham.

Negley would like to hear about dates on buildings not evident from looking at the façade of the building. He knows of several examples of dates on the backs of buildings, and at least one date inside a building. He would be very pleased to be told about dates on buildings that cannot be seen from the street, on the backs of buildings or outbuildings, or inside buildings in any way.

Please let him know about anything he may not have been able to observe at N.Harte@ucl.ac.uk or phone him on 01249 713529. He will be keen to hear and, in due course, Corsham will be pleased to know.

New members

We welcome the following new members:
Sylvia Nutt and Linda Kettlety.

E-mail addresses

We often have need to contact members at short notice. This can be for a variety of reasons, such as change of speaker/venue, important council meetings, consultations. It helps us to be able to do this electronically as it saves time, effort and money. So can I remind those of you who have not yet registered your e-mail addresses with the Society to do just that by giving your e-mail address to michael.rumsey@btinternet.com

Corsham Community Centre

In 1943/44 nine hundred and ninety nine pre-fabricated bungalows had been built in Corsham to house migrant workers coming to employment in the munitions stores one hundred feet beneath the town of Corsham. These estates were established on land in the area we know as Bences Lane, Beechfield Road and Boxfields. Corsham Community Centre was established for the newcomers and for the many service personnel, navy, army and air force, stationed in this garrison town. In 1944 the Centre was opened by the Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevan MP, the then Minister of Labour.

Mr William Light, later to become Parish Clerk, was appointed as the first Warden, and it was during his 20 years at the Centre that it grew to be a venue for entertainment, sporting activities and education, as well as a base for many local clubs. The list is extensive:- Table tennis, badminton, weekly children's film show, skittles, Old Tyme Dances/modern dancing, with a 'proper' dance band, bridge, photographic club, whist drives, gardening club, drama group, over 18's group, caledonian dancing, country dancing, annual fruit & vegetable show and various evening classes.

There are many people in Corsham who will have taken part in these events. If you are one of them you may like to go on to the website for Corsham Community Centre Info@corshamcentre.com. Perhaps you have a story to tell or photographs to share.



Corsham Community Centre

For a time there was a school class from Corsham Council School, now the Pound Arts Centre, run at the Centre in 1949/50, due to a shortage of space in the main building. A pupil remembers a teacher Mrs Hayes, who rode a 'sit up and beg bicycle,' and that surplus Naval Action war rations were also issued to the children there until 1953. No need for coupons!



SCHOOL CLASS 1953

LEFT – RIGHT

Back Row:- Marlene Davis, Pat Winter, Joy Howell, Shirley Unwin, Pam Gale, Gillian Dyke

Middle row:- Miriam Hiscocks, Sylvia Luffman, Keith Cooper, Kenneth Oatley, ? Stephens, Brian Wright

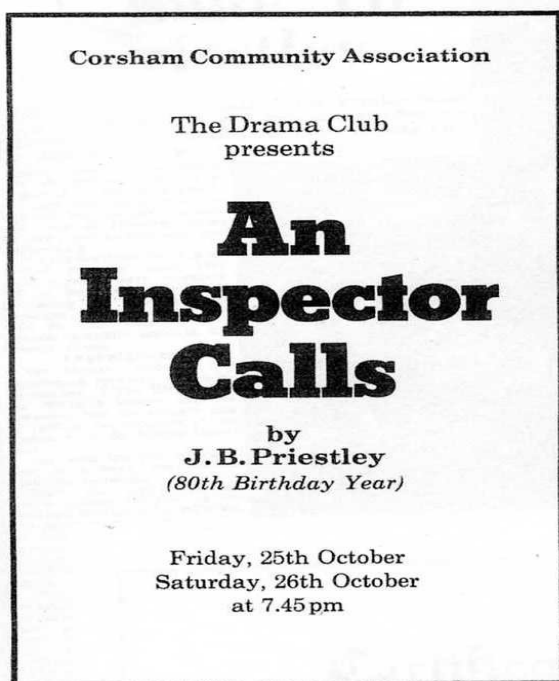
Seated on chairs:- Eileen Connelly, Margaret ?, Margaret Hale, Audrey Field, Josephine Rossiter

The Corsham Drama Group regularly put on plays which were very well received by the local populace. Some may remember :-

"Ladies in Retirement" – produced by Alison Curry 1950,

"The Palace Footman" – a Light opera 1952,

"The Open Verdict",
 "Ten Little Niggers"- 1954
 "The Heiress" - directed by Muriel Lethbridge; and
 "Gaslight" - 1971.



Admissions that follow a suicide

An Inspector Calls, by J. B. Priestley, Corsham Drama Club, Corsham Community Centre.

PIRSTLEY'S drama about a mysterious caller mobilising the consciences of a complacent, prosperous family achieves a very good level of tension in this production by Muriel Lethbridge.

The contributions that all members of the dinner party at the Birling's house have made towards the suicide of an apparently unknown young girl are unravelled at a steady pace which ensures maximum interest from the audience.

And the strange inspector's relentless questions and revelations have the desired effect in finding the weak point of all these apparently tough-skinned pinnacles of middle-class respectability.

With Sheila, the daughter, breaking point comes with the admission of her petty guilt in front of her new fiancé, Gerald.

With her father, it is the knowledge that his precious business has suffered, and with her mother, the realisation that the son, Eric, has crashed from the pedestal she has built for him.

But while the production works well in establishing the positive examples of suspense, it loses some of its impact in the final act when the questions are of a more abstract nature, and the definitions are far less clear-cut.

All the principal members of the cast merit praise for drawing the characterisations so distinctly, and

Newspaper clips of the 1974 Production of "An Inspector Calls" by J.B.Priestley

A club for The Over 18's in the town ran from the late 1940s to the mid 1960s. This filled a gap in young peoples' entertainment requirements in the town, after outgrowing the youth clubs.

Summer activities included sports and visiting seaside resorts, such as Charmouth, Devon, and sometimes camping. The winter was devoted to the 'Gang Shows'. These revues were produced and directed by club members, together with Ethel Barker and Joe James. The final production was in about 1959 when the pantomime 'Aladdin' was presented.

The club members enjoyed doing these Revues almost as much as the appreciative audiences received them !

Pat Whalley

Lacock Archives

At the Corsham Area board in February we learnt that the historic archives of the Talbot family of Lacock Abbey and elsewhere dating back to the 12th century have been on deposit at Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre since 1991. The current owner is now planning to sell the collection, but would like to keep the collection together and keep it in the public domain. Her preferred purchaser is Wiltshire Council.

The archives of Lacock Abbey and the families which owned it form a unique collection for the history of the local area. It contains over 100 boxes of archives, arising from the lives and work of the Talbot, Davenport and Feilding families and their estates, from the 12th-20th centuries. It includes estate records, personal papers, naval records, and material relating to the East India Company, amongst others.

Lacock itself is a very special village which has remained virtually unchanged for decades, thanks to the stewardship of the Talbot family and their generous gift of the village to the National Trust. Its great historical interest enables Lacock to contribute significantly to the local economy via tourism. The archives are integral to a good understanding of this historic settlement. In addition they are important for the family history of those who were tenants of the estate, as well as for general academic research. There is also an on-going legal value to the records, for example, to help with foot path, boundary or other property-based issues.



Photo: www.history.wiltshire.gov.uk

Any large estate or family archive is a complex jigsaw puzzle – the pieces of it interlink and cannot be removed without affecting the meaning and value of the whole. It is therefore vital that the collection can be kept intact. It is also vital for ease of research that it remains publicly accessible.

The present archives do not include the pre-eminent collection of correspondence, papers, photographic images and books of William Henry Fox Talbot (1800-1877), the pioneer of photography. In 2006 his descendants (including the owner of the present archive) generously donated the W. H. Fox Talbot papers to the British Library. The family papers that remain with the Lacock Archive do, however, include much of interest in relation to Fox Talbot's life and his close family and provide the background and context of his upbringing.

The purchase price is likely to be very high and therefore Wiltshire Council will have to apply for external funding. The most suitable source of funding appears to be a Heritage Lottery Fund Heritage Grant, with a timeline of approximately one year in total. A Heritage Grant can only be up to a maximum of 95% of the purchase price, and therefore Wiltshire Council will have to contribute 5% either as cash or 'in kind', for example through volunteer hours. Potential assistance with funding will be sought from all possible sources and local support will be especially welcome. The application will not just be to acquire the archive, but also to plan activities to help people understand and enjoy the collection.

As part of the application for grant funding, it is vital to demonstrate that there is support for this project in the local community. Corsham Civic Society are happy to give their support and will be looking to see how they can contribute to the project.

The following benefits would arise from a successful Heritage Grant application:

- Acquiring the archive will prevent it being split up, thus enhancing its usefulness for research, and will
- ensure it remains publicly accessible for the people of Wiltshire, for posterity,

- The grant would significantly improve access by paying for staff time to catalogue the collection and make the catalogue available on-line,
- The grant will include funding to help people from all different backgrounds, including children and young people,
- to understand the collection and use it more – for example through educational resources and the creation of an exhibition at Lacock Abbey which would enhance visitor experience of this important heritage site, (location for many TV series and films), and help to reveal the community behind the village's history,
- The project provides an opportunity to involve the wider community in volunteering to help with preservation, cataloguing, indexing and other tasks. Volunteers would enhance their soft skills which might provide for some a pathway leading to a return to work. This work would be a blue-print for future community projects.

Anyone who would like to be involved with the proposed project in a voluntary capacity, or by making a donation, is advised to get in touch with Negley Harte at N.Harte@ucl.ac.uk or phone him on 01249 713529.

Jane Browning

2010 Buildings Awards

President Anne Lock awarded the 2010 Buildings Award at the annual celebration in January 2010 in the Town Hall. Martin and Debbie Still received a certificate for the work they had commissioned on the Methuen Arms. Runners-up award was presented to Humphrey and Elizabeth Barnikel for the renovation on Parkside, High Street, a Grade II listed building, the home of Michael Tippett 1960-1970.



Debbie and Martin Still receive their certificate from President Anne Lock, with Chairman Michael Rumsey looking on.....



.....and Humphrey and Elizabeth Barnikel receive their certificate.

New Publication

Corsham Memories from 1901 by Pat Whalley will be available priced £9.99 at our April 15th meeting. It is a compilation of the memories of locally-born people, on how Corsham looked when they were young and the development of the town over the succeeding years.

These two pages contain two recent letters sent by the Civic Society

Sainsbury's Planning Application: Letter to Wiltshire Council

17th February 2011

Wiltshire Council.

Dear Sirs,

Planning Application Reference – 10/04602/FUL

I am writing on behalf of the Corsham Civic Society to register our objection to the planning application by Sainsbury's at Chippenham, reference 10/04602/FUL.

Our principle objection is that the expansion of the business at London Road, Chippenham will have a detrimental effect on the vitality and viability of the town of Corsham. Wiltshire Council wishes to have thriving local businesses. Corsham used to have 2 greengrocers, 2 butchers, a delicatessen, a cheese shop and 2 small supermarkets. There has been a 50% reduction in the number of these businesses. As Sainsburys opened so their battle to keep customers commenced. The small businesses in Corsham, including those in Neston and Box, will be threatened by any Sainsburys expansion. The fact that car owners can park for free at Sainsburys but must pay car parking charges at Corsham adds to the incentive for shoppers to travel to Sainsburys.

Appendix H3 of the planning application states there will be no impact on the shops in Corsham. No evidence is given for this statement. Given that Sainsburys is just 2 miles away from Corsham, and 2 bus stops away, that claim appears to be highly speculative. Sainsburys dwell much on their consultation with local groups. Given this closeness to Corsham, in fact Sainsburys is equidistant between Corsham and Chippenham town centres, it would have been expected that Corsham's interests should have been included in the consultation process. Corsham is most certainly within the "10 minute" journey time referred to in Sainsburys impact assessment.

Appendix G looks at the viability and vitality of Chippenham, but there is no corresponding look at the vitality and viability of Corsham and local villages. These settlements, being smaller than Chippenham, will be all the more vulnerable to increased competition from a huge supermarket. We feel strongly that a decision on this application should not be approved on the basis of an incomplete impact statement, supported only by a sweeping and self-serving generalisation by the company.

The design of the building does not appear to have taken the visual impact into account when viewed from a long distance. The height of the new building together with the lit sign high above the actual building would be visible from miles around –from the grounds of Corsham Court to Cherhill Down. Do we really want to walk in these beautiful surroundings only for the eye to be drawn to this development, which is reminiscent of a factory, the white cladding so totally out of keeping with the surrounding landscape and architecture?

Our objections are fully supported in that the planning application is in contravention of the following policies:

A. The North Wilts Local Plan:

Policy C1 Para 1, new developments should promote or maintain the long term economic health of the local economy

Policy C1 Para 2, respect for the quality of the natural and built environment

Policy C3 i), new developments should have respect for the local character and distinctiveness of the area with regard to the design, size, scale, density, massing, materials, siting and layout of the proposal;

Policy C3 vi) they should promote sustainable patterns of development that will reduce the overall need to travel and support increased use of public transport, cycling and walking;

Policy C4 Business Development, where “out-commuting” is to be discouraged with business development to be concentrated within the main larger development. This does not mean the edges of towns.

Policy R5 (iv) – the development would have a detrimental effect on the vitality and viability of the town centre

B. Strategic Objective 5 to Wiltshire 2026 “enhance the vitality and viability of town centres”

C. PPS 4- “Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth” which encourages supermarket-led development in town centres to combat out-of-town and edge-of-town development. In particular

EC1.4d(ii) – the development will lead to reduced competitiveness and retail mix

EC3.1(d) it will have an unacceptable impact on town centres.

With the increasing emphasis on localism and letting local people have real powers to decide what gets built and where, and the possibility that short term economic gain (by Sainsburys) will not compensate for the loss of local character (of Corsham, Chippenham and surrounding villages), we urge Wiltshire Council to deny this planning application.

Corsham Area Heritage & Information Centre– Letter to Corsham Town Council

7 March 2011

The Chairman
Corsham Town Council
Town Hall
Corsham SN13 0EZ

Dear Chairman

At the CADT Operations meeting held on Wednesday 23rd February it was proposed, and seconded, that the Corsham Civic Society be asked to write to the Town Council, as landlord, about the threatened loss of the Heritage Centre at Arnold House.

This facility is valued by the local community as well as by visitors to the Corsham Area. As you know, it tells the story of the cloth industry and also the stone mining activity, upon which much of Corsham’s history and wealth is based. In addition, since CADT took over the operational responsibility from NWDC, a number of significant additional heritage exhibitions have been mounted. The most recent of these is based on the work that local schoolchildren have done about the history of the Corsham Area. This is exactly the kind of work that the Civic Society supports, as it engages the young people of our population in our local history and it enables their work to be shown to a far wider audience than at the school premises alone.

You will realise that Arnold House is of significant historical importance because it embraces a mediaeval building which was the marital home of William Arnold. It is his dynasty that went on to build Mansion House and Grove House, which grace the town today.

It is also the registered office of the Corsham Civic Society, so we have a legitimate vested interest in its future use.

The Society is concerned that it appears that the Town Council does not value the offering sufficiently to support it financially, at least in part, beyond the next few months, even though we are certain that the local population wish it to continue. I think you will be aware that almost no Heritage Museum or indeed Tourist Information facility can operate unsupported by the public purse

Arnold House was gifted for the benefit of the people of Corsham by Joan Pictor in 1959 and the relevant stone mining history needs explanation in her memory.

The Society awaits your official response.

Neale & Gough Brushworks, Pickwick Rd, Corsham.

We have many small industrial units in Corsham producing many different products but probably none operating for as long as 150 years, as was the Neale & Gough Brushworks in Pickwick Rd. No evidence has been found to link these names to Robert Neale, the clothier of Corsham, or to the family of Goughs Solicitors.

The story begins in Bath, with a man named John Horsey, who was making brushes in the Manvers Street area in 1811, and having prospered decided to transfer his business to Corsham. He first moved to Meadlands, Pickwick, where he built the workshops and commenced manufacture. The family settled in well and became part of the congregation at Priory Street Baptist Church. All was going well, until one day when the bass (from which brooms are made) was boiling merrily away and a great deal of smoke was issuing from the fire. Unfortunately, Mr Thomas Poynder of Hartham House happened along on his horse and the smoke caused the horse to shy, alarming its rider, who promptly decided to get rid of this problem and gave Mr Horsey, his tenant, notice to quit his premises.



Google picture

The UK's 19th century "new broom" was the bass-broom. Bass meant plant fibres of various kinds, especially palm fibres, imported from distant parts of the British Empire. The fibre "bristles" were inserted into the familiar shape of wooden brush head on wooden handle.<http://www.oldandinteresting.com/besoms-brooms.aspx>

Not to be dismayed, Mr Horsey quickly found alternative premises in Pickwick Rd, where he was able to purchase two cottages with a lengthy garden at the rear, in which he could re-establish his business.

John Horsey and his wife Hannah had three sons: twins Ralph and John and Peter and a daughter, Selina. Father and sons worked well together until the death of the father in about 1860 and although business was good, it was decided that it could not sustain three proprietors. So John sold his share of the business to his two brothers and took himself off to Frome, where he established a separate brush-making business.

In due course the daughter, Selina, married William Neale and on the death of brother Peter, William became a partner with Ralph. Following the death of Ralph, William became the sole owner. Unfortunately, William was to die at the age of 45, in 1880, and it was left to Selina to carry on the firm and care for three daughters: Selina Horsey Neale, Esther, and Louisa.

The 1881 census records that Selina, widowed, was head of the household and running the brushworks, employing 5 men and 3 boys. She lived with Esther, aged 19, Louisa aged 17, and Hannah, her mother, who was then aged 90 and who died later that year. Daughter

Selina was a governess in Bath at this time.

By 1891 daughter Selina had returned home and was acting as clerk, Louisa was the housekeeper and Henry Gough was Manager. Esther had married in 1884. Louisa and Henry married in 1892. Selina senior died in 1894, leaving the business to her two daughters, Selina and Louisa, who, with the help of Henry Gough, continued to run a favourable business. In 1900 they replaced the workshop with a two-storeyed brick building, which survived only until 1920 when it was destroyed by fire. Undeterred, a new building was erected and business continued apace.

When Henry Gough died in 1938, his son Alan was able to take over and managed the business with the unmarried Selina until she sold out her share to him in 1954. She died in 1957 at the age of 98. The business was still thriving in 1961. *(Can anyone tell us what year it finally closed?)*

Fire and heat seem to play a serious part in this story, but since we do not know what types of brush/brooms were being manufactured it is difficult to be quite sure what was happening. Brushes at this time were made of many things such as birch twigs, hog bristles, camel/squirrel hair, cocoa-nut, palm fibres. It was a mixture of plant fibres which made up the 'bass broom', which apparently was the cause of the smoke screen over Pickwick and upset Mr Poynder. Bristles could also be bound and dipped in melted pitch. The firm installed gas-powered engines in 1920. Was that perhaps as a result of the latest fire?

It seems that this business flourished originally on the trade with breweries, which used the hard brush produced by the thousand at Corsham. Later of course, the need for stove brushes, sweeping brushes, and dandy brushes for horses declined and other outlets had to be found. Apparently a new market was found in the milk-producing business, where there was a continuing need for hard sweeping brushes and smaller ones for cleaning the equipment. Needless to say the firm needed a "travelling salesman", and this duty was undertaken by Mr Abraham Amor, who was employed for over 50 years. Originally he travelled with a horse and van, then in 1912 a motor vehicle was obtained - a pioneer venture in using a motor van for trade purposes in Corsham. On the retirement of Mr Amor,

Alan Gough took over the duties of salesman, and was a very well known figure in almost every milk-producing farm for hundreds of miles around.

We know that the firm was still operating in 1961, but have no further information. Acknowledgement is due to an article written by William Light, Parish Clerk, sometime in 1961, which sparked interest in investigating this local business further.

Pat Whalley.

Decision on a Community Campus

Following a positive response from the public consultation held in late 2010 on the idea of creating a 'community campus' on Springfield, Wiltshire Council agreed in February to fund the project as one of five in Wiltshire. With the aim of letting local people influence the design and operation of the new centre, a committee has been established made up of representatives of the Community Centre Association, the Springfield Users Group, Corsham School, the Town Council, Corsham Community Area Network (CCAN) and the Area Board. They will co-ordinate the project with Wiltshire Council.

The next stage during March/April was to invite comments from local organisations on a Working Proposal describing the range of facilities to be provided (based on input to the initial consultation). This was to find out whether the proposal did in fact meet the needs of the Corsham Community Area. The timetable for the campus project is very tight so keep an eye on local notice boards and the press for further developments. An initial planning application is expected in June/July and the proposed opening date of the new campus is 2012.

Interim reports and dates of relevant local meetings are being passed on via the Society's e-mail list.

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



Answers to November 2010 crossword

Across

1. Cicada
9. Historic
10. Lea
11. Gingernuts
12. Ages
13. Nosy parker
17. Esse
18. Learn
19. Jack
21. Rift valley
23. View
24. Didgeridoo
28. Norm
29. Planning
30. Artful

Down

1. Villages
2. Harassment
3. Marginalia
4. Shin
5. Isle
6. Town
7. Big toe
14. Small
15. Pennyroyal
16. Rejuvenate
20. Clearcut
22. Icicle
25. Gent
26. Rain
27. Digs

Photographic Competition for ALL ages - 5 to 99!!

Photos to be taken in the Corsham Community area—that's Box, Rudloe, Colerne, Biddestone, Corsham, Neston, Gastard and Lacock.

One entry per person in either colour or black and white. All entries to be landscape and mounted on card. Name, age and address or school address on the back of the mounted photo.

Subject for the Photos.

Children 'My Favourite Place'

Max; size incl. Mount 12"x9" or 305mm x 230mm

2 age groups, Primary 5-11yrs & Secondary 12-18yrs

Adults 'My Favourite Building'

Maximum size incl. Mount 20"x16" or 500mm x 410mm

Entries to be taken to the Corsham Area Heritage & Information Centre, Arnold House, High Street Corsham between **June 1st & 10th.**

The best 36 pictures will be selected by the judges to be used in a Calendar for 2012.

Full display will be available at the Town Hall on Saturday, 25th June 2011, Civic Day.

2011 PROGRAMME

Jan 14th	7.30pm	New Year Social Gathering at Town Hall. £5 includes refreshments
Feb 9th	7.30pm	Dinner at The Methuen Arms
Feb 25th	7.30pm	“The Archaeology of Wiltshire” <i>Talk by David Dawson, Director of the Wiltshire Heritage Museum in Devizes.</i>
Apr 1st	7.30pm	“My first ten months as an MP” <i>Talk by Duncan Hames, MP for the new constituency of Chippenham.</i>
Apr 15th	7.30pm	“The work of the House of Lords”. <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	AGM at Town Hall.
June 24th	7.30pm	“The Aims of Corsham School” <i>Talk by Martin Williams, Headmaster of Corsham School.</i> <i>CHANGED FROM 17th June</i>
Jul 22nd	6.30pm	“The History of Hartham Park”. <i>Meet in the foyer at Hartham Park. 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	Members’ Garden Party (dependent on fine weather) £3 includes cream tea.
Sept 23rd	7.30pm	“Some Interesting buildings in and around Corsham”. <i>Talk by Pamela Slocombe, organiser of the Wiltshire Buildings Record.</i>
Oct 28th	7.30pm	“West Country Carriers and Stage Coaches before and after Turnpiking, 1680-1840” <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	“The Churches of Wiltshire”. <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.

Corsham Civic Society
 Arnold House
 31 High Street
 CORSHAM
 Wiltshire SN13 0EZ
 Registered Charity No: 275321