



Corsham Spotlight

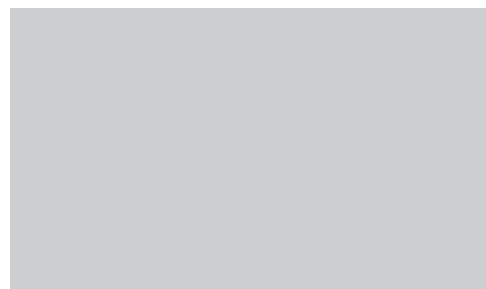
Journal of the Corsham Civic Society

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Contents

From the Chairman	1
Heritage Open Days	2
New Steet Names	2
Springfield Campus	3
Corsham Civic Society's Website	4
The Station Campaign	5
Review	7
Corsham Commemorates the First World War	8
Identifying things from old postcards	9
Pound Mead – Corsham's forgotten industrial quarter	10
Corsham Area Heritage	11



From the Chairman

Welcome to the first *Spotlight* magazine under the Editorship of David Gibbons. David took over the post from Jane Browning from 1 January this year, and, as we welcome David to the Committee and being Editor, we also thank most sincerely the four years that Jane served producing twelve editions of *Spotlight* most successfully.

We also welcome Victoria Blake as our new Society Secretary and take this opportunity of thanking Pat Whalley for holding that post during 2013, our Golden Jubilee year. Both Pat and Jane are staying on the Committee, which is good news for us all.

We also have a new Webmaster, Michael Wilkinson, and thank most sincerely Brian Gibbs for all his hard work over the years ensuring our website was up to date with news, comments and events. On the matter of the Society Website, this went online on 19 March. Michael Wilkinson, a former resident of Corsham (the *Wiltshire Times & Gazette* reporter) has designed and constructed a completely new website, which we hope members will use as well as anyone else in the world wishing to access information regarding Corsham and district.

Several people have mentioned to me about the Society's Trustees and who are they!! Well, like all charities governed by the Charities Commission, we have Trustees, four of them in fact: that's Pat Whalley, Anne Lock, Joan Maciver and myself. I suppose you could call us 'the Guardians' of the Society, answerable to the Commission as well as to the Society members. Each year we have to submit our finance statement to the Commission and ensure all the information they have regarding the Corsham Civic Society is up to date and correct.

Contributions to *Spotlight* are very welcome: please contact the Editor, David Gibbons, on 01249 712212 or at davidagibbons@me.com

<http://www.corshamcivicsociety.co.uk>

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Heritage Open Days, September 2014

This year's Heritage Open Days, or HODS, will take place between Thursday, 11 September and Sunday 14 September, and a small sub-committee of the Society is working hard to put together a programme of activities and visits for those four days. Dr. Negley Harte has kindly agreed to take people on one of his town walks, probably on the Friday and Saturday afternoon, and we have now booked the Town Hall for 7.30 p.m. on Friday 12 September for a talk with a title suggested as '*Corsham in the past: a look back to the town in the 20th century and how it has changed*'. To ensure that talk is a success, we are looking for photographs on any aspect of the town during the years 1900–2000, so if you have any such material that you think may be useful do please contact me, the Chairman on either 01249 715741 or email me at michael.rumsey@btinternet.com. Photographs of the High Street shops in past days, activities in the town, football, cricket teams, etc., anniversaries, street parties and any material that shows the town at work and play during those hundred years would certainly be appreciated. Keep those dates, 11–14 September free in your diaries, and we look forward to presenting a varied programme to you and other visitors in due course.

Michael Rumsey

New Street Names

The developers of the old HMS *Royal Arthur* site at Westwells submitted their proposed street names to the Town Council for the site they now call Wadswick Green and which will house a care home and other dwellings. The names they proposed were Wadswick Street, Corsham Lane, Jaggards Way, Neston Lane, Wadswick Way and Box Lane.

New Members

The Society is delighted to welcome:
[Victoria Blake](#)
[Peter and Mary Frost](#)
[Jean Lockley](#)

The Civic Society's Plans Committee, who review all planning applications and pass any comments to the Town Council, considered that these names lacked imagination, and they put forward names that were more relevant to the history of the site and which would consolidate the link the town has with the Armed Forces, who have the Freedom of Corsham. It was suggested the main road through the site be called Mountbatten Way, with side roads named after ships such as *Warrior*, *Trafalgar*, *Victory*, *Eagle*, *Trincomalee*, *Endeavour*, *Hermes*, *Endurance* and *Albion*. Also, 'Street' tends to be associated with built-up areas – as this is a rural site, it was suggested it should be replaced by something more suitable.

At our following meeting we were pleased to see that the Town Council had considered the names submitted by the developers to be inappropriate on the grounds they would cause confusion for both Post Office workers and visitors, and they felt the names should reflect the history and locality. The names the Council suggested were Mountbatten Way, (reflecting the fact that Philip Mountbatten served at HMS *Royal Arthur*), Ark Royal Court, Illustrious Court, Hermes Court and Invincible Court. They also wished the development name changed from Wadswick Green to Jaggards Wood, to return it to the name it was known by before HMS *Royal Arthur* was on the site. The developers were unhappy with the Town Council's proposals, looking for 'softer' names with an eye to marketing, and they attended the Town Council planning meeting on 19 February to discuss alternatives. Other names were discussed, including tree names, but nothing was

agreed, and it was decided the subject would be on the agenda at the next planning meeting on 12 March. At that meeting agreement was reached that the spine road be named Roundwood Way, after a round wood that had been on the site previously, and the smaller roads be named Walnut Lane, Ash Lane, Almond Close, Rowan Lane and Birch Close. These last five names were, apparently, Second World War Tree-class anti-submarine trawlers. But who would know that? Such is the power of developers that the link to the Royal Navy is all but lost.

Jane Browning

Springfield Campus

Before the next issue of *Spotlight*, part of the new Campus will be operational – June is the month when the new Library will open its doors. The building as a whole will be finished by the end of October, and those who have seen the progress being made will attest to the impressive speed with which Midas are building it. In February a Transcoco delegation visited the site and reported upon all the impressive environmental qualities the Campus will have – energy-saving light and taps, high-tech insulation and solar-photovoltaic panels on the roof. They reckon to cut carbon emissions by 40% compared with the existing older buildings.

And on the face of it, the Campus looks too good to be true! It is going to have everything – meeting rooms, exhibition space, bookable space and even a café. (The more critical coffee-drinkers among us will be crossing our fingers – will there be qualified *baristas*?) Free wi-fi too. Access is promised to be good, with more (and free!) car parking space, new bus stops and shelters, proper disabled access and a buggy parking centre near the main entrance. There will even be charging points for electric cars. The Community Centre will close in the summer, and facilities currently provided by the old building will move next door.

The leisure centre is having a revamp too – externally as well as internally. The gym will be extended, there will be a spinning room (whatever that is) and better shower and changing facilities. The all-weather pitch is already finished. There is even going to be a climbing wall!

Right, the car park is being expanded and redesigned. Far right, construction adjacent to the old Community Centre. Below, the Campus seen from the beautiful all-weather pitch.



Corsham Civic Society's Website <http://www.corshamcivicsociety.co.uk>

As we go to press, the new website is 'up and running' – as from 19 March. And excellent it is too, with a crisp, uncluttered feel very much in style with the best offerings on today's internet – a website we can be proud of. Good though the old website was, this one brings us right up to date. *The designer, Michael Wilkinson, writes:*

When tasked with creating the new website, I was amazed at the wealth of historical content in the pages of this newsletter in years gone by. I felt the new website had a duty to show off that work in the best possible way, so I set about putting that rich content at the heart of the new site. Each article has its own carefully-crafted page, and users can easily search the site by keyword, choose a topic or browse by date.

The website has a stunning new look – it is clean and easier to read. I have used shades of white, grey and blue to reflect the colours of the peacock in the society's new logo, which I had the pleasure of designing last year.

But this is a website that is much more than just fancy new colours. The society was fortunate enough to win support from Corsham Area Board, who have part-funded the project. With this in mind, the remit of the new website will be to become a key resource for historical and educational research on all things Corsham. We hope that our local schools will be encouraged to use it so that Corsham's young people can learn about the heritage of the town they live in.





There are three versions of the Home page (above and opposite page) with alternating pictures. By clicking on 'Articles' you can access specific topics, such as the one on the right. Far right: 'About Corsham'.



Michael would love every member who has access to a computer to have a look at the website and tell him what you think. Send your thoughts to:

michael.wilkinson@revolutionarts.org.uk



The Station Campaign

A brief history for those new to the town

Since the inception of the Society's Campaign in 1986, there have been a number of significant landmarks in the long journey towards restoration of rail services connecting Corsham with Bath, Bristol, Chippenham and beyond. Representations were made in the early 1990s to the Wiltshire Structure Plan, NWDC Local Plan and Bath City Plan; there were four Planning Appeals for car parking; and in 1998 the Bristol–Oxford service began, the first train passing by a crowd of supporters watching from Pound Mead. In 2000 Wiltshire won Rail Passenger Partnership funding of £1.28 million to rebuild the station, and in 2002 First Great Western intimated that one of their London-bound Adelante trains would stop at Corsham in the morning and evening peaks. The official timetable for 2003 actually named Corsham ... but that was fourteen years ago! So what happened? Early in 2003 the Strategic Rail Authority withdrew the RPP 'funding stream', and the Bristol-Oxford rail service was withdrawn – this after almost five years of ever-increasing ridership.

Campaign update

Last December the Government announced their decision to support an East/West rail link, so confirming the UK's high-tech IT industry triangle of London–Cambridge–Oxford. Our area sadly remains peripheral to this rail initiative. In response to her enquiry, Anne was relieved to hear from James White, the West of England Rail Officer, that he had met with his Oxfordshire counterpart and part of their 'City Deal' funding is to be used to improve the line to Didcot. As reported in these pages last year, Wiltshire Council included the reopening of three stations, including Corsham, within their top ten transport schemes for submission to the July 2013 meeting of the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Transport Body. The highway schemes were costed options but the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) have requested Wiltshire Council provide a Project

Inception Report in accordance with Network Rail Guidance, the first stage of a business case. In the meantime Katherine Park Residents Association asked Anne to speak of the campaign at their January meeting and as a result, given the support for the project indicated by those present, she is working with Kevin Gaskin (CCAN, Corsham Community Area Network) and Adam Walton (Transcoco) to produce a fresh Travel Survey to ascertain who travels where in the Corsham of 2014. Matt Harpham of the Katherine Park Residents Association has agreed to place this e-Survey on their KPRA website while Kevin Gaskin and Dave Roberts were quick to do likewise and arrange for its display on both the CCAN and Corsham Area Board websites. Our Survey of 1988 could obviously not account for the journeys of those living in the six hundred new homes of Katherine Park, quite apart from the changes that have taken place across the rest of the community in the past twenty-six years. (Some hard copies of the Survey will be made available at the Library, Town Hall and the Pound for those who need them in that format.)

At a recent meeting, attended by more than eighty representatives of local organisations, the Corsham Station Business Case received 47% of the transport vote. This result will be put to the test once again at a meeting of the Area Board on Thursday 20 March, when all the ideas with a winning percentage from each discussion table (such as Economy, Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Children & Young People, Transport, Housing, etc.) will be pitted against one another. The top three will form the projects on which the Area Board should concentrate in the next two years.

Melksham Station has meanwhile been the subject of a recent good news story. Its lamentably low level of service (four trains per day) has been increased to sixteen, due to a concerted effort which resulted in a successful bid by Wiltshire Council for Local Sustainable Transport Funding – for the TransWilts rail service. If you wish to avoid traffic congestion and parking problems, why not board the train at Melksham for your journey to Swindon, Trowbridge, Westbury or Salisbury? Check out the timetable by visiting the following website: <http://www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/plan-a-journey/>

Anne Lock



Review

Our February meeting, *Rocks and Landscapes of the Corsham Area*, was evidently not a subject that appealed to some of our members – there were a fair number of absentees. But what they missed!

Elizabeth Devon is a former Earth Science tutor at the University of Bath and is a team Member and Webmaster at Earthlearningidea. For a hands-on and interactive experience of the rocks mentioned in her talk, visit Elizabeth's brainchild, the Box Rock Circus (pictured here), only a few miles down the A4 at Box, next to Selwyn Hall. (<http://www.boxrockcircus.org.uk>)

Elizabeth Devon gave us a fascinating and very entertaining account of why the landscape here looks as it does and how it was formed. She gave us examples of how the geology of the area is reflected in so many buildings – Saint Bartholomew's Church, Corsham Court, Heywood Preparatory School, the Town Hall, Ivy House ... all are built from the Jurassic Chalfield oolitic limestone quarried in Corsham and nearby. The Mayo memorial, for example, is basically of Jurassic limestone, but with a base of Pennant sandstone, possibly brought from the Bristol area. With the deft aid of coloured sponges, she demonstrated how the layers of rock laid down, one upon the other, were uplifted, exposing different strata as erosion cut through them.

Elizabeth then took us on an enthralling time-journey through the history of the Corsham area, spanning 150 million years from about the middle Jurassic period, when Corsham was under a warm shallow sea, with a Mediterranean climate. The Brecon Beacons were the nearest land mass, and the area was prone to storms of tropical severity and volcanic eruptions. Large carnivorous fish, plesiosaurs and ichthyosaurs, swam in deep water, while ooids, spherical grains of concentric layers, were being laid down to become, over the millennia, the limestone rocks beneath us now.

The site of Corsham has moved quite a distance over those millions of years, from about 35°N to the present 51°, by the action of plate tectonics, the movement of the continents separating (at the speed your fingernails grow). By 118 million years ago, Corsham had moved to 38°N and emerged from the sea, on the edge of the Wealden swamp. 75 million years ago Corsham was located at 46°N, but back beneath a warm shallow sea, on the surface of which was an algal bloom. The sea level at this time, the Upper Cretaceous, was some 400 metres above today's level. Levels of methane and carbon dioxide were high, and during this period sea chalk was deposited. 65 million years ago the great Yucatan meteorite strike wiped out 75 percent of the species of life on the planet.

About 24 to 1.5 million years ago, Corsham was at 43°N, above the sea level again, surrounded by forested hills, with a temperature of 18–14°C. The Bristol Channel was forming, and the Atlantic Ocean had opened up. Now it was drier, more open, and plains were being formed.

Then, 1.8 million years ago came the Ice Ages, the glaciers and ice coverage advancing and retreating, and by 450,000 years ago Corsham was at the edge of an ice sheet covering much of Britain, which was joined to the main continent of Europe. Early human-type creatures (*Homo heidelbergensis*) were walking here, and about 10–12,000 years ago our ancestors, *Homo sapiens*, appeared in Britain during the last interglacial period. By now Corsham was at about its present 51°N, the ice sheet still very close, and the land some thirty metres above today's sea level. Then about 8,200 years ago, the North American glacial lakes spilt a tsunami into the Atlantic, flooding what is now the North Sea and finally separating us from Europe.

Elizabeth even gave us a glimpse of the future – not something we need worry too much about because she was talking about thousands if not millions of years ahead. With global warming and the icecaps having melted, the sea will have risen so that Corsham will be almost a seaside resort, just a few miles from pleasant beaches.

Left: Box Rock Circus.

Corsham Commemorates the First World War

Corsham Town Council took an early initiative in recognising that a number of groups would be interested in staging events or undertaking research as part of centenary commemorations for the First World War. Like most towns in Wiltshire, Corsham has a strong First World War history, including a hospital set up in the Town Hall, and a number of local organisations are planning to mark that history; the intention is to bring those groups together to share research, share resources and share ideas.

Over the next four years Corsham and the surrounding area will see and hear much more about their world war histories as local researchers make use of the records, photos and information that is available to them. The Town Council themselves are leading with exciting plans to re-enact the affairs of the 1914 Recruitment Office, to open the site of the practice trenches prepared by the Scots Guards at the Batters and to recreate the military hospital that was created in the main room of the Town Hall. The local Royal British Legion are leading on remembrance plans that will include a county-wide event in Salisbury in July, and the Air Cadets are helping to research the details of the Corsham war graves at the cemetery, which will itself be included in a local commemorative walk. Young People will be an important part of the commemorative plans, and all local schools will be supporting commemorative events including the Corsham School, who are creating artwork to support information boards for a number of displays. The Army Cadets are planning a visit to the First World War sites in France and Belgium and are researching the names on the local war memorials to underpin that visit.

A community-led concert is planned for 2014 to include musical and written pieces, with contributions from Corsham Civic Society, Ad Hoc Theatre group, local choirs, musicians and local schools. In the longer term it has been suggested that Bath University may hold another concert in 2018 to mark the end of the centenary. The Pound Arts Centre team are considering a series of projects based on the First World War, particularly involving young people and using local archive materials; and Bath Spa University are keen to involve the creative talent of locally based students throughout the next four years.

Beyond Corsham we know that the National Trust at Lacock will be staging an exhibition using material and information supplied by Richard Broadhead and that Box will be innovatively filling one of the town's fields with poppies – not necessarily grown from seed. Colerne are looking at a theatre production that could tour the local area.

Underpinning all of the events – and there will be more – is active research into the names on the war memorials, into their lives before the war, their families and where they lived and their own stories. Websites and archived materials means that much more information is available today, and the intention is to draw out more of that information to help bring the family names and events of 1914–1918 to the notice of the wider community. A good start has been made on the names on the Corsham war memorial, but a particular aspiration is to extend this further and to look at the stories of soldiers who returned from the war and went on to make contributions to the local area.

A new 'Corsham Commemorates' website will be available to share details of what is happening locally together with stories and hopefully photographs from families willing to share their own family history. If you would like more information or have plans or ideas about commemorative opportunities or have a local family story to tell, then please contact Kevin Gaskin, who is helping to co-ordinate events for the Corsham area.

Kevin Gaskin, CCAN Co-ordinator, kevingaskinccan@hotmail.co.uk, 07954 159995

Identifying things from old postcards

Last year I was fortunate to look through the large collection of postcards owned by Stephen Lord of South Street, Corsham. In among his superb collection I came upon these two postcards from Box that, with railways in them, are of special interest to me. I set myself the task of dating them and identifying the train engine.

Looking firstly at the Box Tunnel postcard, with the express train emerging, I would date this to the latter part of the first decade of the twentieth century. The engine is difficult to be precise about: whether it is a member of the 'Star' or 'Saint' class of 4-6-0s. If I could see the front cylinders, hidden in the darkness behind the front buffer beam, I would be able to say definitely which class of engine this locomotive belongs to. Any help from readers of this article would be much

appreciated. I do love the allotments on the left of the picture – the GWR let this land at a small rent to people living in Box. The distant signal that stood by the plate layers' hut on the right was put in at a later date.

The aerial view of Box postcard is an interesting one

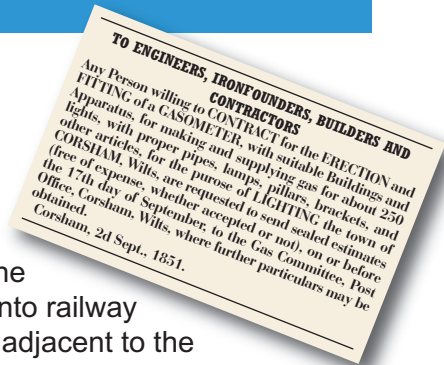
to date. The photograph was taken in the 1920s because it shows the cricket ground quite clearly, and this was given to the village by George Jardine Kidston of Hazelbury Manor in 1920. The one thing that is missing is Box Mill Lane Halt, which was built by the GWR and opened on 31 March 1930. On the top right you can see a white groove coming across the Quarry Field: this was Bath & Portland Stone Firm's tramway bringing cut blocks from the Clift Mine to the Box Wharf, which can be seen to the left of the road bridge. And between the road bridge and the tunnel entrance you can see stone-laden wagons waiting for the next freight train.

Michael Rumsey



Pound Mead – Corsham's forgotten industrial quarter

The recent completion of the houses called *Tramways* marks the end of the transition of Pound Mead from industry to housing. The industry came with the opening of the Great Western Railway through Corsham on 29 June 1841. From around September the following year, Bath stone was loaded into railway trucks by a crane mounted on a stone revetment above the railway cutting adjacent to the lane. Randell & Saunders, the proprietors of Corsham Down Quarry, planned a small gas works to light their quarry by gas, and this was the catalyst to get gas lighting for the town. A Corsham Gas Committee was formed in September 1851, and in the following month a gas holder (described as a gasometer) was erected by a Mr Cole at the new gas works.



Later another crane to load stone was added west of the first one. Stone was brought to the cranes by tramway between 1865 and 1877, when the new stone wharf opened on the south side of the railway. Stone yards were a feature of the area – by 1853 Randell & Saunders had a yard there, and this probably became the Bath & Portland Stone Firm's yard. There were also other yards in Station Road including Marsh, Son & Gibbs Ltd., (1889–1908) and the Bath and Corsham Freestone Quarries Ltd. The Strenic Construction Company made reconstructed Bath stone at the old gas works in Pound Mead from the 1930s.

Besides the industry there were five or so cottages known as Stone Crane Cottages, which appear in the Census Returns of 1871, 1881 and 1891. They housed railwaymen, masons, quarrymen and others; nothing else is known about them.

David Pollard

Very few photographs of Pound Mead and its industries are known of. David Pollard would dearly love to learn of any that may be out there and can be contacted via the Editor. *(Editor's note: I second that. My father and his father ran the Strenic company at the old gasworks site, and I spent the first nine years of my life in the little cottage next door. But there seem to be no photographs!)*



Corsham Area Heritage



Corsham Area Heritage exists to 'research, record, present and celebrate' the heritage of the Corsham Area – defined by Wiltshire Council as the physical area containing Corsham, Box, Colerne and Lacock, plus the hamlets in between. We are a voluntary organisation, not yet aspiring to charitable status, and members pay an annual fee to be 'part' of us (£10 per person or £16 per household).

We trumpet our achievements, our activities, our objectives, our very existence, by regular contributions to such periodicals as *Corsham & Box Matters*, *Spring Spirit* and our own quarterly newsletter, *Arnold's News*.

We participate in all manner of local initiatives. This year it includes the town's commemoration of the start of the First World War and Corsham's first Walking Festival, which takes place on Saturday 28 June. We will be supporting it with oral presentations during some of the walks and by supplying pre-prepared handouts for others.

As many of you will know, there are certain regular activities for which we are now recognised. These include giving our Lunchtime Talks and mounting Heritage Displays in the Pictor Room at Arnold House. The former take place on a '4th Tuesday in the month' regime (as far as possible), starting at 1 p.m. and lasting for about an hour. (Capacity is limited to twenty, so pre-registration is essential; our TIC colleagues mastermind this aspect for us.) All are Free to Members and only £2 to guests. What super value! To whet your appetite, the following is the list of talks given over recent months and anticipated in the near future:

- ▶ 28 January: *Lark Rise to Candleford comes to Hatt Farm* by Mike Pope
- ▶ 18 February: *John Fowler and the Steam Plough Works, Leeds* by Michael Rumsey
- ▶ 25 March: *Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Travelling Fellowships* by Yvonne Le Gry
- ▶ 29 April: *Work of the Conservation & Museums Advisory Service* by Tim Burge
- ▶ 27 May: *Wiltshire's Churches* by Michael Rumsey
- ▶ 24 June – *Corsham's Tunnels* by Alan MacRae.

Sometimes our Displays complement the LTTs. As we go to press we have three free displays to greet those stepping into the Pictor Room. One has been created by Mike Pope, in support of his excellent January presentation of the times when his farm was taken over by the TV people; another (pictured right) is the work of Michael Rumsey, a wonderfully detailed and illustrated story of John Fowler, who was born in Beanacre in 1826, and the Steam Plough he developed and refined for various applications through the late 1800s and into the early 1900s. The third of our current displays shows Corsham in the 1960s, comprising photographs loaned to us by Martin Joyce, the local builder. Look closely and you will see pictures of our present Library, under construction. Now, that's got

to be a classic. The Library will be moving to the Springfield Campus site in the summer – and the present structure will be demolished!

And what are our 'major objectives' for 2014? There are several:

- ▶ We want to scan our vast collection of heritage documentation so as to render it available for easier incorporation into displays and articles; also to enable us to present it to the History Centre's Wiltshire and Swindon Archives facility in Chippenham. The collection has grown so large that we just can't manage it any more. This job has started.
- ▶ We want to launch a new website to present Corsham Area's heritage, modelled on the excellent *Box Places and People* website, launched recently by Alan Payne. Alan is helping us on this one.
- ▶ Renovation works at Arnold House in 2013 unearthed a child's shoe beneath the upstairs floorboards. It's very old: want to conserve it and put it on display.

These will require a huge commitment of time and effort. We reckon we now have both. It wasn't always like this. Followers of our fortunes will know that we held an Open Day on 14 January. It proved to be very effective in galvanising interest in what we set out to do and culminated in a very successful AGM, held on 11 March. Our Management Committee has doubled to ten, with several of the new personnel bringing skills we previously lacked.

In conclusion we must declare a resounding vote of thanks to those businesses that lend us their support. There are many – but special mentions must go to Corsham Print and Right Angle Picture Framing. Where would we be without you?

Peter Tapscott, Chairman, Corsham Area Heritage



2014 PROGRAMME

Jan 17th	12.30 for 1.00	Lunch at The Methuen Arms
Feb 28th	7.30 pm	“Rocks and Landscapes of the Corsham Area” Talk by Elizabeth Devon. Elizabeth is at the Earth Science Educational Centre at Keele University.
Mar 28th	7.30 pm	“The Industrial Landscape of the By Brook” Talk by Mike Stone, the former Curator of the Chippenham Museum.
Apr 25th	7.30	“Birds to be seen in the Corsham Area” Talk by Stewart Dobson, the Deputy Chairman of the Wiltshire Ornithological Society.
May 16th	7.00 for 7.15 pm	AGM Town Hall.
Jun 27th	tba	Summer Excursion to Trowbridge Museum
Jul 25th	6.00 pm	“Corsham and the First World War” Talk by Richard Broadhead, author of several books on the Wiltshire soldiers of the First World War, the centenary of which is conspicuously approaching.
Aug 22nd	tba	Garden Party
Sep 26th	7.30 pm	“Running a Great Estate in the Twenty-First Century” Talk by the Marquis of Lansdowne, who lives at Bowood, near Calne. His estate engages in many activities.
Oct 24th	7.30 pm	“The Ministry of Defence in Corsham” Talk by Col. Rafferty, Chief of Staff, MOD Corsham.
Nov 28th	7.30 pm	“The State of the World’s Forests” Talk by Jim Ball. Jim Ball divides his time between Corsham and Rome, where he has long worked for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation in connection with forests in Africa and Asia.

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 of £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 and Historic Towns & Villages of the UK). It is our aim to promote high standards of planning and architecture, to create a wider awareness amongst the local population of environmental issues, the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area, and to secure the preservation, protection and improvement of features of public amenity and/or historical interest, both in Corsham and in the surrounding countryside.

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