



# Corsham Spotlight

Magazine of the Corsham Civic Society

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

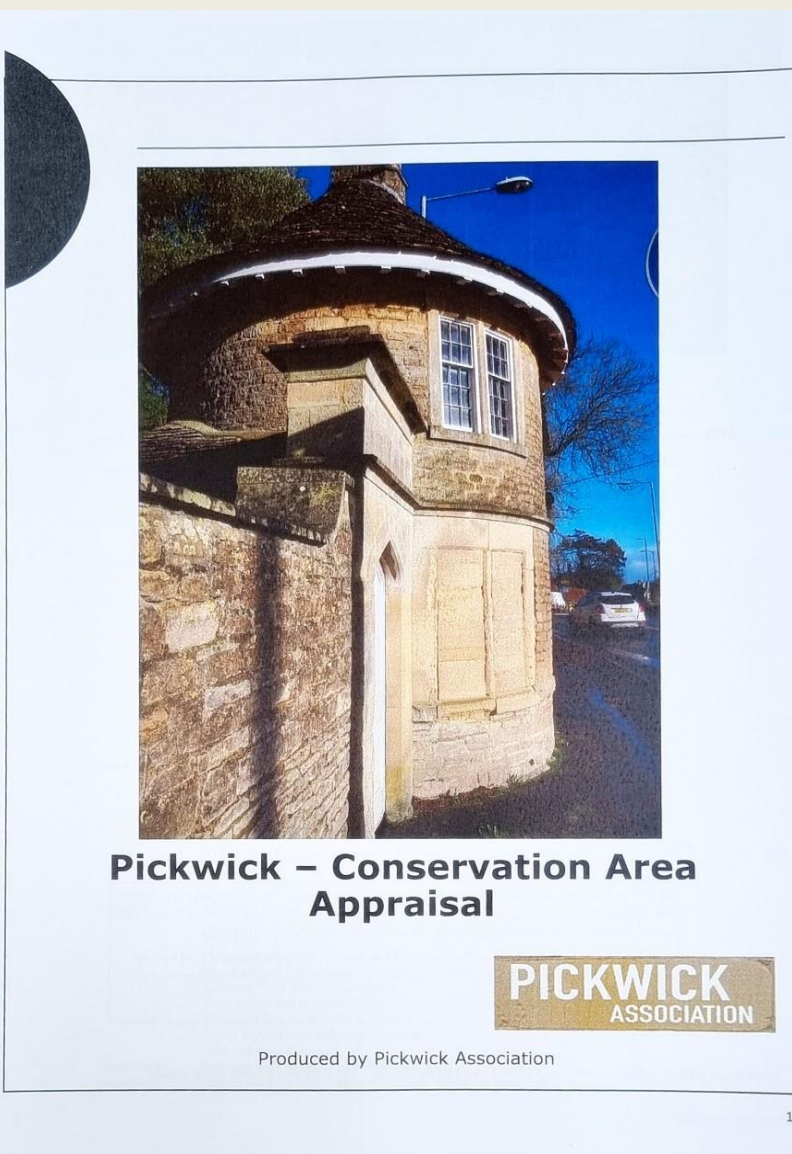
Autumn 2022

December 2022, Vol. 19, Issue 3

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*Contributions to  
Spotlight are very  
welcome. Please  
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Front cover of the Pickwick - Conservation Area Appraisal recently approved as '**material planning consideration**' by the Northern Area Planning Committee [pps. 19-21]

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## From the Chair

It's been a busy time since the last, Summer issue. Following the death of the Queen we have had the accession of King Charles III [still getting used to that] for which on Sunday 11th September I attended the *Proclamation of Accession* read by the Council's Chairman, Cllr Steve Abbott, on the steps of the town hall in front of a small crowd of invited dignitaries, including Stephanie Millward MBE, the Deputy Lieutenant for Wiltshire, and local residents.

Having been cancelled due to the death of the late Queen, the rearranged Corsham Street Fair was held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October [see pps.5-6] and was a successful event.

Political turmoil continued: Lis Truss having been appointed Prime Minister on 8<sup>th</sup> September, resigned on 20<sup>th</sup> October, setting a new record for 'transience' in that office. Michelle Donelan, MP for Chippenham [which includes the Corsham & Bradford-on-Avon areas], who had set a record for transience as Secretary of State for Education for less than two days [!], became the Minister for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport [interesting order of responsibilities] in the new government. There was good news on the culture 'front' in that the Arts Council England awarded The Pound Arts Centre in Corsham £230,469 and the Wiltshire Music Centre in Bradford-on-Avon £310,638 [over the next three years].

Also, on Wed 12<sup>th</sup> October the Northern Area Planning Committee *acknowledged and commended the Pickwick Conservation Area Appraisal* [PCAA] *as a material consideration*, in effect, supplementary planning guidance [pps.19-21]: the PCAA was written by Tony Clark and me [both 'non-professionals' as was pointed out by the Counsel representing Gladman Development at the Public Enquiry last year at which their appeal against their planning application being turned down was rejected]. A notable achievement by 'non-professionals' and an important guard against future attempts at inappropriate development in Pickwick.

Next year being the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Corsham Civic Society [CCS], plans are afoot to celebrate the occasion and I'm looking for ideas and keen to know what you might suggest? We will be having a special anniversary issue of *Spotlight* and an anniversary lunch [see insert] and I would welcome reminiscences associated with the history/aspects of Corsham and the CCS, in particular, its founding in 1963 and the subsequent first years. Please give the matter some thought and let me know any ideas that might occur.

It remains for me to wish you a Happy Xmas and all best wishes for the New Year and 2023!



**John Maloney**

## Who are we and what do we represent?

[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.

2023 will mark our diamond Jubilee and we are planning a series of events to mark the occasion.

The civic movement has had a close relationship with planning going back for more than a century and civic societies have a long history in shaping the quality of the built environment in locations all around the country.

The Corsham Civic Society is a Registered Charity and a member of The Historic Towns & Villages Forum (HTVF).

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 [see **below photo** of the nationally important 1668 Almshouses]. It is also our aim to promote local businesses and secure the preservation, protection, and improvement of features of public amenity and/or historical interest, both in Corsham and in the surrounding countryside.

Our overall purpose is to engender pride in our town and to contribute towards the vitality and well-being of Corsham's residents and that of its neighbouring villages.



**Above:** The Station Road frontage of Corsham Almshouses [photo. by John Maloney]

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## Why join the Corsham Civic Society?

- Become a member of an active society with progressive ideas on how the town and its surrounding district can be enhanced, yet at the same time preserving buildings and open spaces for future generations to enjoy.
- Benefits of membership include at least 7 meetings with talks per year (currently held at The Pound Arts Centre), with a wide range of topics covered e.g. from *Heraldry and the College of Arms*, by Thomas Woodcock FSA, Garter Principal King of the College of Arms to *Travels abroad with an Archaeologist*, by Professor Richard Hodges, President of the American University in Rome, who grew up in Box. Drinks and a chance to meet other CCS members are available at the conclusion of the talks, subject to events at The Pound.
- There is a varied programme of events throughout the year, listed at the back of each issue of *Spotlight Magazine* and on the Society's website ~ <https://www.corshamcivicsociety.co.uk/>
- The much praised magazine, *Spotlight*, is published 3 times a year.
- Visits are organised annually and there is always an annual post-Christmas lunch which is usually held early in the New Year.
- The AGM is held in May at Corsham Town Hall and there is a cheese and wine buffet at the end of this meeting.



**Above:** This year the Society organised for its members a Platinum Jubilee tea party in the sun drenched garden at Corsham Almshouses. The event included guided tours of the School Room and other associated rooms of historical interest. The food was superb and the company was even better [photo by John Maloney]

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## Achievements

The society has a track record in opposing controversial planning applications, for example:

- In 1968 the society led a campaign opposing the demolition of 1 Station Road [an 18th century house] and the adjoining block of Horsefair Cottages [17th century]. At a public inquiry, the society successfully sought a 'Building Preservation Order'. The problem was the adjacent dangerous road junction but Robin Eden [later Chairman and then President of the society] came up with an elegant road marking and signage solution, which was adopted.
- In 2010, the society effectively opposed a planning application to create a building of 12 one-bedroom flats within the grounds of the 1668 Corsham Almshouses.
- The society obtained funding and undertook the refurbishment of the fine memorial [near the Town Hall] to Charles Mayo, a notable 19<sup>th</sup> century benefactor to the town.
- For decades the society has been in the forefront of campaigns to 're-open' Corsham Railway Station. Recently, support from government and our local MP, has given rise to renewed hopes.
- Most recently, support has been given to the Pickwick Association in its opposition to the development of two fields on the Bath Road, both of which had successful outcomes at Planning Inquiries.
- The Corsham High Street Project was organised to record historic buildings in the core of the town ~ funding is being sought from the NHLF.

**For a modest Annual Membership fee of £15, you can become a member of the society, enjoy a range of benefits and support its work for the well-being of Corsham.**

**Compiled John Maloney**





## Corsham Street Fair 2022



**Above:** The crowded High Street at Corsham Street Fair [photo. Paul Meads]

Corsham Civic Society [CCS] had a stall at the rearranged Corsham Street Fair on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October. It was a very pleasant sunny day and, as can be seen in the photo above, the Fair attracted a good number of people ~ a fitting reward for Corsham Town Council for all their efforts and perseverance.



**Above:** Corsham Civic Society stall attended by [from left to right] Norma Doveton, a new member who joined on the day; Cath Maloney [Secretary, CCS Executive Committee]; Jane Cox a member of the CCS Executive Committee and Anne Lock, CCS President [photo. John Maloney].

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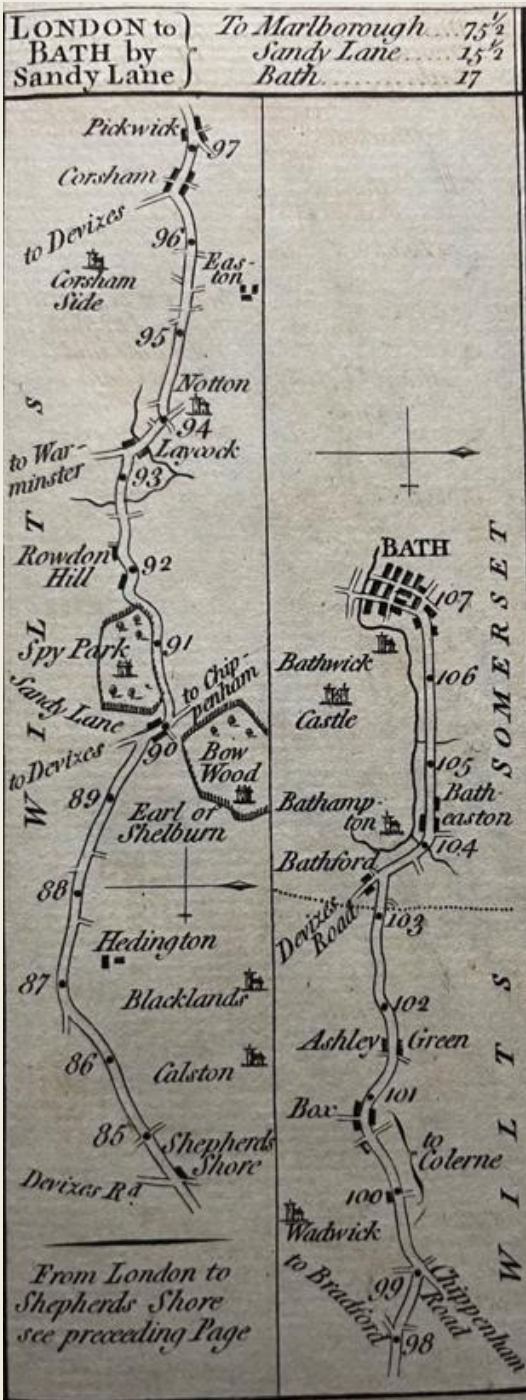


**Above:** Corsham Civic Society stall: from left, Cath Maloney [CCS Secretary, Executive Committee], Steve Abbot [Corsham Town Council, Chairman] and Jane Cox [CCS Executive Committee]: the CCS gained a welcome number of new members [photo. John Maloney].

There were stalls in the pedestrianised section of the High Street, the Martingate Centre and the rear lawn and walled garden of Digital Mansion Corsham [opposite]. Plus there was free parking all day in the town centre car parks. As well as the stalls, there was live music, arts and crafts, entertainment, fun and games and great food and drink.



**John Maloney**



## THE ROADS AND MILESTONES OF CORSHAM

In the first edition of Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's guide to the buildings of Wiltshire in 1963, the famously sober and austere author enthused about the High Street in Corsham: 'Corsham has no match in Wiltshire for wealth of good houses. There are in fact no bad ones, and there are a few of really high merit'. In the second edition in 1975, Bridget Cherry toned this down a bit to: "Corsham has no match in Wiltshire for wealth of good houses, and there are a few of really high merit". The outstanding third edition produced by Julian Orbach in 2021 reduces the comment to "Corsham High Street is unmatched for good houses". It seems a bit over the top when you think of the architecture of Bradford or of Trowbridge.

These writers, like all other historical writing about Corsham, fail to make a crucial point about the topography of Corsham. The High Street runs north-south in a region where the main traffic routes run east-west. The long-term main roads from London to Bristol, Bath and south Wales never had to clatter through the centre of the town as they did through Chippenham, Devizes or Bradford. Corsham either suffered from not being located on a main road, or benefitted from being slightly out of the way, depending on your point of view.

The first proper road to come near Corsham but not through it was the Roman road constructed in the first century AD from Londinium to Acqua Sullis, the first London to Bath Road. By the time the Saxon village of Corsham was becoming a parish in the ninth and tenth centuries, the Roman road had ceased to be a road and had become a boundary. A boundary it remains. For miles it is the southern boundary of the present parish of Corsham, as for our neighbouring parishes of Box, Lacock and Calne. It must have lost its status as a road soon after the Roman Empire withdrew from Britain early in the fifth century, since the Corsham section of the Roman road, which can still be easily traced, gets over-ridden by the mysterious 'Wansdyke' that defended something to the south from something threatening from the north.

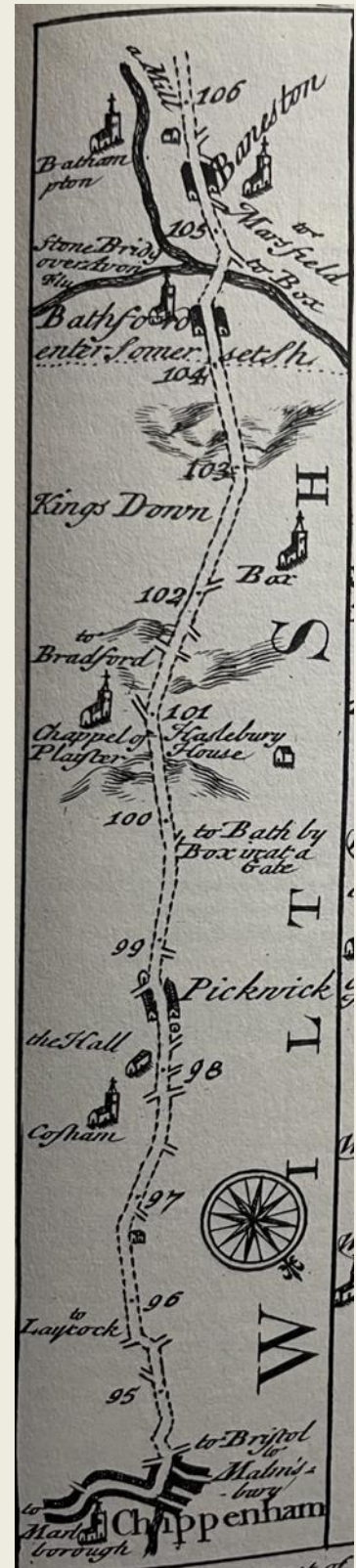


The surviving Saxon name suggests that Saxons did not know what it was, or perhaps they had forgotten, when they ascribed it to the work of Woden, their most powerful and warlike pre-Christian god.

Wansdyke, a boundary of some sort, did not become a road. The medieval route that replaced the Roman road was somewhat to the north, keeping to the high ground of 'the Ridge' through Neston. This is not now so easy to trace. This in its turn was replaced by the main London to Bath coaching road increasingly used in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This is the present Lacock Road, becoming Pickwick Road, passing at the southern end of the town. Beyond Pickwick it originally went on not down through Box but keeping to the high ground on what we now call the Bradford Road and then over Kingsdown to Bathford and through Batheaston on to Bath. To the east, its route can be easily traced through Lacock and Bowden Hill and Sandy Lane to skirt round Heddington and its abandoned route can be readily seen going up over the downs to Beckington where it joins the road still used to Marlborough.

Part of this increasingly used coaching road was turnpiked early, east from Beckington to Sandy Lane under an Act of Parliament in 1713, and west from Sandy Lane through Lacock, Pickwick, Chapel Plaster and Kingsdown into Bath under a further Act in 1726. Along this route can still be seen some prominent features to catch the eye of the fashionable travellers to Bath – the magnificent lodge to Spye Park (built with medieval stone from the former Stanley Abbey originally at Bromham House and re-erected at the top of Bowden Hill in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century), the fine classical lodges to Bowden Park opposite (James Wyatt, 1796), the splendid long stone wall of Corsham Court along the Lacock Road in Corsham (probably built in 1582), Lady Hungerford's Almshouses (1668) opposite the gates of the Avenue (c.1710) to Corsham Court, the Mansion House (1723);

and Corsham's two essays in coaching inns – the Red Lion (1608, which became the Methuen Arms in 1805) and the Hare and Hounds at Pickwick.



The increasing coach traffic on this road, with its exposed narrow route over the downs from Beckington and its steep climb down Bowden Hill, prompted the development of a new rival route further north. There had long been another east-west route through Calne and Chippenham and Marshfield, the old Bristol coaching road. In 1744 a new Turnpike Trust opened a branch from Chippenham to link up with the old Bath Road over Kingsdown at Pickwick, and in 1757 a further Act enabled the construction of more direct route from the new Cross Keys Inn through Hartham Park, bypassing Pickwick, and proceeding more directly down through Box to Batheaston rather than Bathford and so on to Bath. There was bitter rivalry between these two routes, but the northern route with its much less steep gradients quickly won out. The Red Lion in Lacock, a fine coaching inn of the 1720s, proudly built of brick in a resolutely stone area in order to stand out, failed to maintain the traffic on the southern route; Dr John Chandler has unkindly suggested it should have been called the White Elephant. The road from Beckington to Sandy Lane, the first turnpike in Wiltshire in 1713, was the first to be disturnpiked, in 1790.

The northern route prospered and grew. It was straightened in the late eighteenth century and brought through Pickwick rather than Hartham Park. The old route can still be clearly traced, but I am unable to discover when this change was made. The route was further straightened in 1797-99 by Humphrey Repton's expansion of the landscaping of Corsham Park, moving the road several hundred yards north between Chippenham and the Cross Keys. The earlier route can be readily traced by the big gates to Mynte Wood in Easton Road and the much later Corsham Park Lodge opposite. This new road, disturnpiked with the end of turnpikes in the 1870s, came under the control of the new County Council in 1889 and subsequently a trunk route, the A4, under the Ministry of Transport from 1936. It remained the main east-west route without realising it was the Corsham bypass until the building of the M4 even further north in 1971.

On the M4, vehicles move so rapidly that milestones are useless. But they were not useless in the days when speed was a function of men's legs or horses' legs. The Romans invented milestones, marking every thousand paces (mille) of the soldiers' marching.



**Above:** Bradford Road milestone



**Above:** Pickwick Road milestone



**Above:** The Lacock Road milestone

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There are no remaining milestones on the route of the Roman road which still marks the southern boundary of the parish of Corsham. They will long have provided ready recycling opportunities for later buildings. But several milestones survive from the age of the turnpikes, surviving as an agreeable reminder of an important theme of our past.

There are two surviving milestones on the original turnpike over the downs to Beacon Hill to be found by the intrepid explorer beyond the tollhouse of 1713 on the Heddington Road. There is a prominent one at the top of Bowden Hill, another less prominent at the junction of the modern A350 outside Lacock; another at the junction of the Lacock Road in Corsham with the road to the new cemetery, another in Pickwick Road, and – best of all – one on the Bradford Road just outside the parish of Corsham marking a hundred miles from Hyde Park Corner (though this has recently been painted by vandals, perhaps employed by Wiltshire Council).

The only surviving one on the victorious route through Box is rather hidden [see photo. below] opposite the old entrance to the naval site at Copenacre. The frequent widening of the modern A4 must have led to the removal of the other milestones on the new route of the old Bath turnpike. The Ordnance Survey maps show quite a few of them in the early twentieth century.

This road has been substantially replaced by the M4, moving the main east-west artery built in 1971 further to the north away from Corsham. The High Street, now partly pedestrianised and made one-way, remains unblighted by being a through traffic route, the handsome and much admired central feature of a nice little town that can smugly pretend that it has not filled so many of its surrounding fields in the last decades with ugly houses.

#### **Joint caption for the two maps:**

The two turnpike routes which passed by Corsham: the old coaching road to the south, which came over the downs from Beckington by Heddington, Sandy Lane and Lacock, branching beyond Pickwick to the new route down through Box (Bowles, 1782), and the newer turnpike going from Chippenham through Pickwick, and then keeping to the old high route by Chapel Plaster and Kingsdown (Bowen, 1720).

**Sources:** *Victoria County History of Wiltshire, IV: Economic History* (1959), 'Roads', A Cossons, pp. 254-71; *VCH Wilts. VII: Calne Hundred* (2002), pp. 32-34, 160-61; John Chandler's thoughtful essay 'All Roads lead to Chippenham' is appended to Richard Baines, *A History of Chippenham from Alfred to Brunel* (2009), pp. 145-50; Mervyn Benford, *Milestones* (Shire Books, 2002) has many photographs and is good on Wiltshire.

**Below:** Milestone On the new road to Box (now the A4) opposite the entrance to Copenacre.



**Dr. Negley Harte is an Hon. Vice-President of the Corsham Civic Society and President of the Wiltshire Record Society.**



## Your Almshouses need you

The Corsham Almshouses were founded in 1668 by Lady Margaret Hungerford, who lived in nearby Corsham Court with her husband, Sir Edward Hungerford, a commander of Cromwell's local forces in the English Civil War. After her husband's death, Lady Margaret established the Almshouses and the attached School Room, to accommodate the needy of the parish and to educate poor local boys. The complex is now an exceptional grade 1 star listed building and is a prominent part of the architectural landscape and history of Corsham.

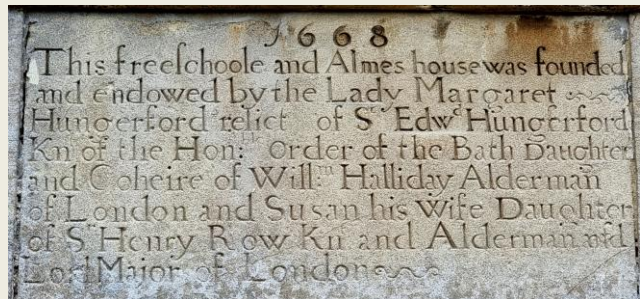
**Above, right:** Monument to Sir Edward Hungerford (1596–1648) and his wife, Margaret, St Leonard's Chapel, Farleigh Hungerford Castle.

**Opposite page, left middle:** Lady Margaret Hungerford

**Below:** The dedication above the porch on the frontage



Though steeped in the 17th century, the complex is very much alive today. Trustees continue to manage the property, whilst volunteer guides welcome visitors from all over the world, as well as hosting visits from local schools and other interested groups.



Twelve beneficiaries live in the original six almshouses and a converted stable block. The property is also now used to host community events, including some promoted by the Pound Arts Centre, the Peacock Trail and this year's Corsham Civic Society's Platinum Jubilee Garden Tea Party [Summer issue, pps. 15-17]. The trustees are very keen to see the Almshouses as not only part of the history of Corsham, but as a vibrant part of the current community too.

Whilst significant restoration work was undertaken over 20 years ago, the building now needs work to repair damage to the Schoolroom roof structure and to restore the original windows. The trustees and a group of up to eight local volunteers oversee this work and will soon need to raise additional funds to support the restoration of the building.

If you are interested in knowing more, or in joining our team of volunteers or trustees, or making donations, please e-mail us at [info@corshamalmshouses.org.uk](mailto:info@corshamalmshouses.org.uk).

**Janet Battersby, Corsham Almshouses trustee**





**Collage by John Maloney for Corsham Almshouses Trustees**



### **30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Baltic Exchange blast and its aftermath**

On 10th April 1992 at 9:20pm, the façade of the Baltic Exchange's building and the Chamber of Shipping, [respectively, 24-28 and 30-32 St Mary Axe, City of London] were partially destroyed and those buildings and nearby ones were extensively damaged [see photo. below] by a huge Provisional Irish Republican Army truck bomb attack.

I had recently left the Department of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London, Barbican – where I had been the Principal Archaeological Excavations Officer (City of London) - and established an independent heritage consultancy, *Archaeological Aspects*. In a building in nearby Lime Street I had the use of a well set-up, panelled office in return for undertaking some marketing work on the Museum of Fire [MoF] - then in Bishops Lydeard, Somerset - for the owner of a major Formula 1 insurance company who was a Trustee of the MoF.

Next morning, I had gone in early to Lime Street to collect reference material for heritage reports/tenders I had been working on, having heard that access was being restricted to the area and not realising that the building in Lime Street [approx. 600 feet south] where I had my office also had been affected by the bomb. I parked my car in the underground carpark but as I went upstairs I could see signs of damage. The floor my office was on was strewn with debris, as was my office where the windows had been blown out. But the most arresting sight was that of a large triangular shard of glass, approx. 40 cm long, stabbed right through a stack of papers into the antique desk below which I worked at. That shook me!



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With difficulty, I gathered my reports etc., from a filing cabinet that had been knocked sideways. About 11am I decided to leave and had turned out of the car park into Lime Street when quite suddenly a policeman appeared in the road waving his arms. When I stopped and wound down my window, he let rip with "Where the f\*\*k did you spring from!?" I explained and he apologised for his lively exclamation, noting that the area had supposedly been cleared in reaction to another IRA bomb warning. I told him that being in the depths of the building where I worked I hadn't been aware of that! He asked me where I was going and I told him over London Bridge to Herne Hill and he advised that I do that asap!



**Above::** This was the sight that greeted those who came to inspect the damage in the Baltic Exchange, looking into the ornate trading hall from the entrance lobby.  
**Below:** a Bentley that had been severely damaged in the basement carpark

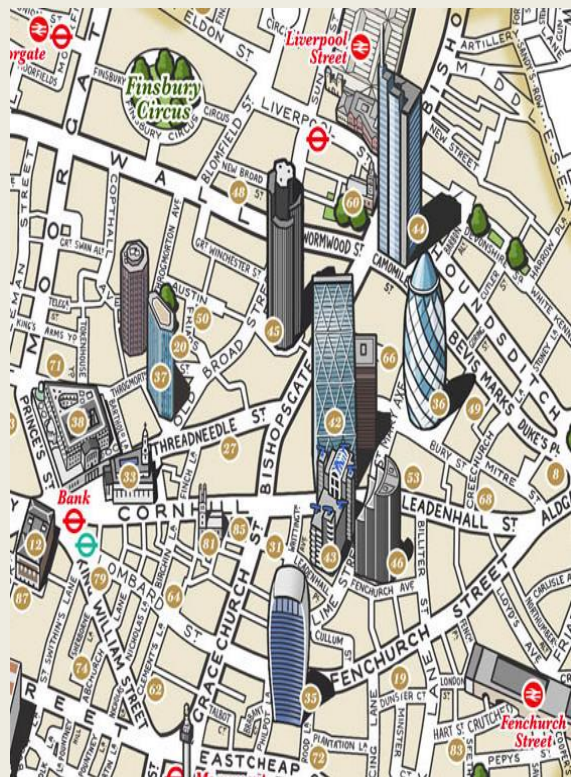


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I learnt that three people had died in the Friday night explosion and that the damage had been so extensive it was quite likely much of what remained of the buildings would have to be demolished. What sealed its fate was that it was once again damaged by the 1993 Bishopsgate bombing the following year – both incidents contributed to the formation of the Traffic and Environmental Zone, the "Ring of Steel", in the City to protect it from further terrorism. Office workers were not allowed into a number of nearby buildings that had been damaged until a week or so later.

The Baltic Exchange decided to sell its badly damaged Grade II historic building and the City of London Planning Department and English Heritage later allowed it to be demolished for redevelopment, seeking instead a new tall landmark building for the site. I tendered on behalf of my newly established company, *Archaeological Aspects*, for the archaeological consultancy and was awarded that aspect of the project. In turn, I organised a tendering process for the archaeological evaluation [test pits and trenches] which was awarded to a new contracting company, *Pre-Construct Archaeology* [PCA]. PCA's investigations confirmed the archaeological potential of the site and so I then organised the tender for the main archaeological excavation before redevelopment work commenced.

PCA, with admirable candour, decided not to make a submission on the basis that they did not have the capacity [still being new] and the tender was awarded to the Museum of London Archaeology Service, MoLAS]. In summary, MoLAS's excavations revealed significant evidence for Roman defences and medieval industry on the site. In particular, a late 1<sup>st</sup> century defensive ditch which apparently formed part of Roman London's early town boundary, a late Roman building and a burial were recorded. There was Medieval activity dated from the 11th century onwards and later evidence of terraced houses, which were eventually followed by the Baltic Mercantile and Shipping Exchange a century later, the headquarters of a global market-place for shipping freight contracts.



**Above:** map of the commercial heart of London ~ the Gherkin is mid-right, no. 36

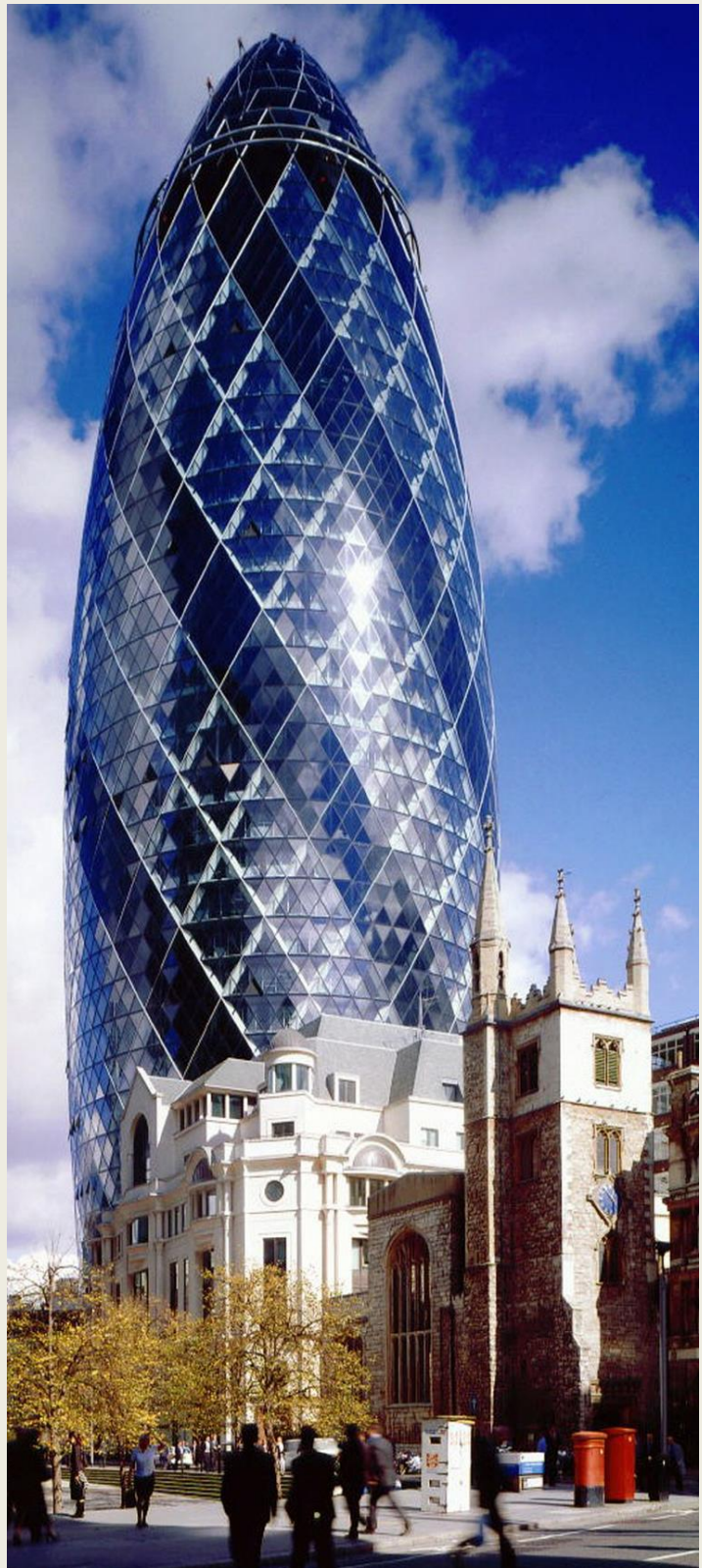
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After plans to build a 92-storey Millennium Tower were dropped, Norman Foster architects came up with a new design called *30 St Mary Axe* which was completed in 2003. With 41 floors, and 180 metres (591 ft) tall, the skyscraper, is known informally as *the Gherkin*, due to its distinctive shape [photo. opposite]. The building has become a notable landmark of London, and it is one of the City's most widely recognised and liked examples of contemporary architecture. The tower's topmost panoramic dome, known as the "lens", recalls the iconic glass dome that covered part of the ground floor of the Baltic Exchange and much of which is now displayed at the National Maritime Museum.

The building was commissioned by the Swiss Reinsurance Company Ltd,, commonly known as Swiss Re, based in Zurich and cost £138 million (plus land cost of £90.6 million), a massive total of nearly £230 million. The cost of excavating and recording notable archaeological remains was negligible by comparison.

**John Maloney**



## **Paul Meads, Corsham photographer**

Some will see me walking around Corsham with my camera and others might have seen my photos on local Facebook groups and Instagram - [https://www.instagram.com/photos\\_by\\_paul\\_meads/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/photos_by_paul_meads/?hl=en) - but let me explain why I have hundreds of photos of Corsham. In 2018, I needed to give up a field sales career to become a full-time carer for my wife. She has various health issues including a spinal condition, fibromyalgia and other conditions which means she struggles with general daily living.

Then it was that in 2019, when we moved to Corsham, I realised I needed some time for myself, even just a short break from daily routines, something different, maybe a hobby. So that's when I took my camera out and discovered the beautiful parts of Corsham. Luckily, staying here in Corsham meant I was also within walking distance from home if my wife needed anything. But I didn't mind that, there were so many parts of Corsham to discover.

This was when I started to really work out how to use my camera, learn some editing skills and develop my own photography style. I then shared a few of my local photos on local Facebook groups where people loved the photos and were interested to see more.

It wasn't until 2021 though that I had some photos printed. I asked Corsham Print to take some of my photos and put them into a Corsham Calendar for 2022. They did an excellent job and people of Corsham loved them. They appeared in shops, offices and homes and some people were buying four or five and sending them to friends and family around the world. The hundred I had printed sold out in just two weeks. I really didn't expect a response like that so naturally, I sent some new photos to Corsham Print recently and they have produced another Corsham Calendar for 2023 [which is very good, Chair ~ see centre of collage on page opposite].

I will continue with new photos around Corsham, from landscapes and sceneries, to events and commercial requests so if anyone sees me with my camera, then feel free to come and say *Hi*.

**Paul Meads**





**Above:** photos. by Paul Meads; collage by John Maloney

## **Planning round-up**

Over the last few months, I haven't seen any substantive planning applications for the area although there has been the usual raft of extensions and tree cutting etc. So, this Christmas, for the first time in many years, we are not facing major issues such as the Gladman development on the Bath Road, Pickwick or the Care UK care home [also, Pickwick] which were both 'seen off' by locals and town councillors. Oh 'Happy Christmas', indeed!

## **Pickwick Conservation Area Appraisal**

Re. local planning applications, a most welcome development has been the formal approval by Wiltshire Council of the Appraisal as material consideration in respect of planning applications ~

### ***Minutes of the Meeting of Northern Area Planning Committee, Wednesday 12 October 2022 2.00 pm (Item 63.)***

To receive a presentation on the Consultation Statement on the Pickwick Conservation Area ~

The Northern Area Planning Committee received a presentation from Tony Clark on the Pickwick Conservation Area. The presentation covered the reasoning why the Pickwick Association had gone ahead with an appraisal, with it stated that such a plan would allow greater protection of the Pickwick Conservation Area. It was outlined that the Association had looked at the geographical and physical setting of Pickwick, identified each listed building as well as suggested a detailed management plan as an annex. The work described how the Pickwick Conservation Area aligned with the Corsham Conservation area as well as identifying three important character areas (the area round Middlewick Lane/A4 Junction, Pickwick Manor and its neighbours, Beechfield). The association also made a number of suggestions as to how the Conservation Area should be managed in the future, which would be matters for Wiltshire Council to consider. It was concluded that the existing Conservation Area is fit for purpose, with positive feedback having been received.

Following the presentation, there was an opportunity for the Committee to raise any questions or statements. The following points were raised including that it would be positive for the document to be shared with Chippenham Town Council, with Cepen Park South being the nearest community to Pickwick. The Pickwick Association was praised for its work, with it acknowledged that though on the Conservation Areas Page on the Wiltshire Council website there are a number of management plans and appraisals completed from 2005-2019, only a few of the areas have got up to date plans. The importance of planning committees knowing the criteria for Conservation Areas was stressed in order to gain value from the time and effort invested into producing appraisals and plans.

*Article continues next page...*



Other areas for discussion included that Conservation Management Plans and Neighbourhood Plans have an important inter-relationship, however sometimes the focus on Neighbourhood plans can lead to Conservation Plans being given less attention. It was asked who would own the management plan, which would be a responsibility of Corsham Town Council, Wiltshire Council as well as the trustees. In addition the examples of Neighbourhood Plans and Conservation Plans were cited, where in the case of dry-stone walls Parish Councils had requested that residents repair them.

Development Management Team Leader, Simon Smith congratulated the Pickwick Association as well as Councillor Belcher and Councillor Hopkinson for their work. Simon outlined that the document would not be part of a development plan but would rather fit into the category of being a material consideration, which would be considered when determining a planning application.

The Local Unitary Member, Councillor Helen Belcher then spoke regarding the presentation. Cllr Belcher thanked the Committee as well as Tony Clark for his presentation. Cllr Belcher stated that the document had been produced by a learned community group with expertise and that over past decades Corsham had been subject to development, almost doubling the size of the town, with boundaries going beyond Pickwick which was separate. So far the document has been useful in supporting the Neighbourhood Plan as well as being used to help fight off two inappropriate developments, with it stressed that the Association does not oppose development but supports development that is appropriate.

Former Local Unitary Member, Councillor Ruth Hopkinson then spoke regarding the presentation. Cllr Hopkinson raised the following points that over time Local Neighbourhood Plans become less effective in appeals, with the same potentially true about Conservation Areas. Cllr Hopkinson raised the point that previously such appraisal was conducted with planning officers; however, with them no longer having the capacity, this is a method of overcoming the problem through local people taking responsibility for their areas. In addition, this document could be used as a blue print throughout the county to bolster the position of Wiltshire Council.

Gavin Grant moved a motion to state that the Northern Area Planning Committee acknowledged and commended the Pickwick Conservation Area Appraisal as a material consideration, this was seconded by Councillor Jacqui Lay.

**Left: Corsham Town Council during the Proclamation of the accession of HM King Charles III.**



*Article continues next page...*

**Following the vote it was resolved:**

That the Northern Area Planning Committee acknowledged and commended the Pickwick Conservation Area Appraisal as a material consideration.

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**Corsham Station Campaign**

A recent Wiltshire Council press release entitled *Corsham Station plans on track as council submits business case* reported ~

Plans for a new station in Corsham have taken another step forward after Wiltshire Council, in partnership with Corsham Town Council, Michelle Donelan MP and other local stakeholders, submitted a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) to the Department for Transport (DfT).

The SOBC looks to address the key problems and opportunities identified by the station project, including:

- To improve transport connectivity to key destinations and ensure the local community has better access to jobs, services and opportunities.
- To support the economic growth of Corsham and the wider region.
- To increase the share of journeys taken by public transport and reduce reliance on cars.
- To support Wiltshire Council to reach its 2030 net zero ambition.
- To deliver transport that is affordable and financially sustainable.

Preliminary assessments show that site of the original Corsham Station site is the best location for the new station, and four train service options have been considered: an hourly service between Bristol and Oxford; an hourly service between Bristol and London Paddington; a combination of the first two options; and two services per hour between Bristol and Oxford.

The SOBC includes an economic assessment for each of the four service options that shows that all of the options generate significant levels of demand, benefits and revenue.

The assessment also takes account of the impact on existing through passengers, whose journey times would be extended by an additional stop at a new Corsham Station. Stopping either one or, if available, both of the proposed Bristol-Oxford services provides significant benefits and revenue, and represents very high value for money. However, stopping the London Paddington service at Corsham represents lower value for money.

The proposed Bristol-Oxford service is currently being developed by Network Rail and GWR, and while it is not yet a committed service, its development is relatively advanced and carries widespread rail industry and stakeholder support.

*Article continues next page...*



Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cabinet Member for Transport, said: "This submission represents the exciting next step for Corsham Station, and while building the station may be a long way down the track, the project is progressing well and we hope our plans move through the next stages of the process with our partners in a timely manner.

"We have committed to having vibrant, well-connected communities as part of our Business Plan, and a new station in Corsham would bring prosperity, jobs and economic growth for both the town and the surrounding area. We've worked closely with Corsham Town Council, Michelle Donelan MP and local partners throughout this project, and we'll continue to do so as we look to secure this station to boost both the town of Corsham and the wider Wiltshire economy."

Cllr Steve Abbott, Corsham Town Council Chairman, said: "The Town Council is delighted that the business case has been submitted to the Department for Transport and we continue to support the work to achieve a new rail station for Corsham. Our thanks go to everybody who completed our recent public survey, which received over 1,500 responses. We also appreciate the many letters of support received from local stakeholders. The case for the station is looking very positive and we eagerly await the outcome, which is expected in the early part of 2023."

Michelle Donelan said: "As the lead sponsoring MP for a train station at Corsham, I have been busy playing a key role in helping submit the Strategic Online Business Case which will now be considered by the Department for Transport."

Many thanks to Chris Johnson for his efforts on behalf of the society

**John Maloney**



**Above:** Remembrance Day parade in Corsham High Street, 2022 [photo. Paul Meads]

## **Robin Tanner: From Goldsmiths to the Great Depression, 30th July – 8th October [exhibition in Chippenham Museum]**

This exhibition explored the life and work of Robin Tanner [renowned etcher and educationalist] during his formative years between the First and Second World Wars. Using key moments from Robin Tanner's life, such as his training at Goldsmiths College and building a new home in his birthplace Kington Langley, the exhibition explored wider themes such as the etching revival, craft and design and developments in art education.

Most of the works in the exhibition were from the recently acquired Golder-Thompson Gift in Memory of Arthur Norman. The earliest works in the gift are etchings and engravings from the 1920s and 30s which show Tanner's growing interest in etching, together with his love of the English countryside. All the works in the Golder-Thompson Gift can be seen in the museum's publication 'A Century in Print-1920-2020', available from the museum shop.



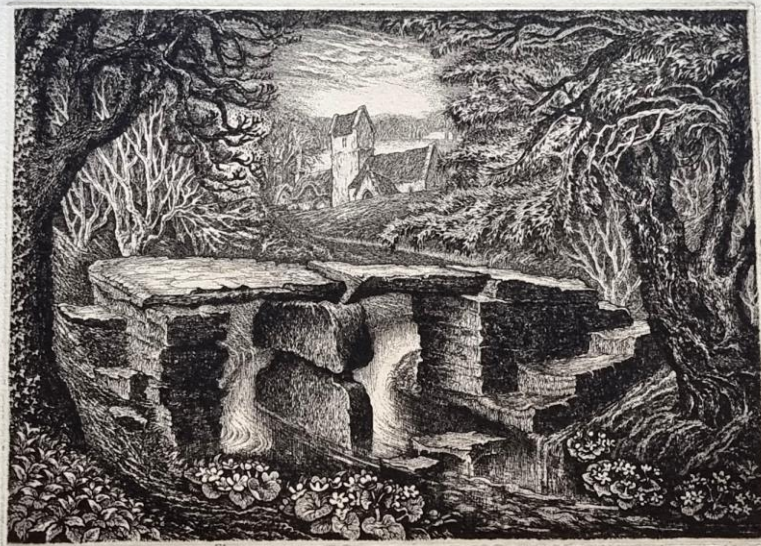
**Above:** The group from Corsham Civic Society that visited the Tanner exhibition at Chippenham Museum on Friday evening, 23<sup>rd</sup> September, being addressed by Alan Fuller, Exhibitions & Collections Officer [**right**] [photo by Melissa Barnett, Head of Heritage and Museum Services]

*Article continues next page...*



The CCS group visit to the exhibition was a very interesting and pleasant event although it was a shame that just seven of us attended. Melissa Barnett, Head of Heritage and Museum Services, greeted us cordially and immediately offered tea, coffee and biscuits, and her slide introduction to the museum was very good. The talk about Tanner's early artistic life and his etchings by Alan Fuller was excellent, as was the display. Mel took photos and before we left had put one on Twitter ~ see below.

Well done, Ali Warren [CCS [Programme & Social organiser], for making the arrangements.



**Above:** This ford [now demolished] on the River Eye at Lower Slaughter provided an access to the water mill. The church is from elsewhere, perhaps Oxfordshire.

### Recent acquisition

I have recently been given by a kind friend the above print of an etching entitled *The Clapper Bridge* by Robin Tanner. Most clapper bridges were erected in medieval times and some in later centuries. They are often situated close to a ford where carts could cross. Apparently, the word 'clapper' derives ultimately from an Anglo-Saxon word, *cleaca*, meaning 'bridging the stepping stones'.

**John Maloney**

## **Margaret Sawbridge, The Old Vicarage, 40 High Street**

This follows on from the article in *Spotlight* Spring 2022 [pps. 7-9] which highlighted a series of postcards received/sent by Margaret Sawbridge in the 1950s.

Reverend Sawbridge was very involved with an organisation called Toc H. The organisation had originally been set up by the Rev. Philip 'Tubby' Clayton, and Rev. Neville Talbot in Belgium during WW1. It was known as Talbot House or Toc H – the signal terminology for TH. The house provided a place of respite for all soldiers away from the front and the horrors of battle. There was shelter, food, companionship and, if needed, spiritual guidance, before they returned to the battlefield. The charity still exists today, and is very active in Australia.

Rev Sawbridge and his wife set up a small Toc H group for men in Corsham during the 1950s. Meetings were held in the low barn in Grove Road (now private accommodation). Men were welcomed from all walks of life, and spent a lot of time contributing to the local community. Their aims were to provide friendship, service, fairmindedness, and to work to provide a better world.

I believe the local group had dispersed by the late 1960s. The building became a bookshop for a while and then later converted into living accommodation.



**Above:** photo. of Christmas 1956 showing the Toc H Group carol singing beside Mayo Memorial.

**Pat Walley**



**Corsham Youth Club** by Pat Whalley

Corsham Youth Club was based at the Mansion House, Pickwick Road during the 1950s & 1960s. It was housed in a Wiltshire County Council local community building which was made available to any local organisation that required accommodation.

The Corsham Youth Club events and activities, which were open to young people between the ages of 14 and 21, were led by a Miss Reynolds. As a leader Miss Reynolds practised a Christian ethic with kindness and fairness at the centre of her philosophy. She also believed that children should learn respect, and other core social and moral values.

The club was fortunate enough to be well served with sports equipment and children were able to play tennis, table tennis, clock golf, boxing, badminton and billiards. The facilities also included a dart board, chess, and other table games, a new portable gramophone, and a huge selection of records for dancing. Members were also encouraged to bring their own records for dancing and listening on club nights.

Indoor sports and dancing took place in the new wing (the single storey side of the building), and the surrounding lawns served as tennis courts etc. All equipment and games apparatus and booking slots were obtained from the leader's office, and a monetary deposit was required – 3d or 4d each for a game/session. A small price to pay even in the 1950s and served to remind the young members that care should be taken of equipment.

Miss Reynolds was a full-time paid leader of the Youth Centre and was responsible for all activities held there. Besides the Youth Club, she was responsible for various educational courses such as art, pottery, photography and drama. Some of which were led by students from the Bath Academy of Art which was then located at Corsham Court and in Beechfield House.

Occasionally the club would host visiting speakers and debates, or even show films which were often arranged by the members themselves. Some members recall trips abroad including a German exchange holiday to Lubeck and a visit to Bruges. Naturally, these were led by the formidable Miss Reynolds who was accompanied by her assistant or occasionally students from BAA.

Miss Reynolds remains somewhat of an enigma. No one knew her christian name and she would talk about a life in India and the Tamils. Naturally, this has led some to think that she had been a missionary. Others, however, suggested she had come from a military family. Whatever the truth, above all else she cared about the work she was doing, she was willing to listen and believed in teaching that negotiating life was a shared responsibility. Quite an exceptional person.

**Source:** 'A study of a Youth Centre' by John Brown 1958-60. *Recollections from previous members -John Brown, Norah Gordon Farleigh, Eric Mahy, Jenny Oatley, Peter Davies.*

## Remembering some Corsham institutions from the Past

### Altus Engineering

In July 2009 we included an interview in the magazine with the previous Managing Director of the Altus – Maurice Read, who gave us a very concise record of how the firm was started by Maurice Stuart and Bob Brown in 1935, and made huge strides in the machine tool industry until 1995.

From newspaper articles which recently came to light, the range of items made at the factory make an interesting read - from gum shields for boxers, shoe accessories, moulds for crepe shoes (remember those!) and metal fishing reels, the mould cavities for grips for the Hoover vacuum cleaner, and the Vespa motor cycle, to name but a few.

There were two products in particular that the firm were justly proud of, the multichrom processing camera and their 1,000 ton hobbing press which produced dies and moulds. Another revolutionary machine was a bookbinding machine for wrapping books.

The firm's work during the war cannot go unnoticed: they provided large numbers of precision components for aircraft and machine guns etc. Many of the tools used in the manufacture of Whirlwinds and Spitfires were manufactured by the company. They were later engaged in the rearmament programme.

The firm was also well known for its 'family' atmosphere: many members of local families were employed and young people were taken on as apprentices, who stayed and went through the factory learning new skills along the way. Social and sporting events were encouraged and maintained the inclusive atmosphere. A really good example of a small business which also gave to the local community.

If you worked at the Altus, or know of relatives who gave you an account of their time there, please get in touch via the web site, we would love to add to the story.

**Source:** a number of newspaper articles which may have come from a Wiltshire Times of the day but have no dates appended to them; one a Jubilee Souvenir showing "50th Anniversary of Altus 1935 -1985" so perhaps 1985 is the clue.

**Pat Whalley**

### Beyond Corsham: A History of Colerne

Colerne: in OE, 'a building where charcoal is made or stored'. Now it is more commonly and locally known as 'the village on the hill'. Colerne is our charming neighbouring village perched high on the hill on the north side of the Weavern valley and is perfectly visible from Rudloe.

*Article continues next page...*



Its majestic position means that it is no stranger to the elements. It catches the best of the sunshine, as well as the full force of the wind, rain and snow storms which have often rendered it cut off from its neighbours.

The history of the Colerne shows how it slowly developed from a tiny settlement to the village it is now. Little evidence is available of its early history, but to the north of the parish coins were found which date to about 100BC and the Iron Age period. In the Roman period a villa dated to the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> century was built, its remains located near the airfield. Evidence of a Saxon presence is indicated by the remains of a 9th century cross in the church. Historians have queried whether it was a marker for a pilgrims' resting place. Moving forwards to the Norman period, the Domesday record of 1086 lists two settlements in the area, although there may have been more smaller ones, and that 80-100 people lived there.

During the early Middle Ages, the first known family records are of the de Dunstevilles. Walter, 1st Baron of Castle Combe in 1190 started to build a stone church at Colerne, and in 1250 the 3rd Baron Dunsteville was granted the right to hold a market in the village.

The 13th century brought further prosperity to the village with the development of the cloth trade and the establishment of fulling mills at Widdenham, Chapps and By Brook. Cloth production and stone quarrying represented the largest part of the economy through to the 14th century, although, as with elsewhere in the country, agriculture continued to be a prominent part of the local economy and shaped the life of the village.

By the 17th century, John Aubrey was claiming that "Colerne Down was famous and frequent for playing Stowball". The game was apparently played with a hard stuffed leather ball about 4 inches in diameter (10cm) which was hit with sticks about 3 yards long. Perhaps this is a local forerunner for the Scottish game of golf?

Moving forwards, the fulling mills were adapted to paper mills and then, in the 1840s, there was a demand for labourers to build the Great Western Railway. This probably resulted in an imbalance in the life of the village, with men leaving their local jobs to walk over the Weavertown valley to work on Brunel's Box Tunnel, and ultimately, the quarrying industry.

On into the twentieth century and finally in 1935 the village was connected to a water supply. Before that, people were still relying on the ancient water source from three springs and many wells. A mains sewerage supply was not provided until the 1950s.

But more disruption was to come when it was learned that between 1936 and 1938 a survey assessed the possibility of running a *Blind Landing System* [to guide aircraft in poor weather and in the dark]. Work began in 1939 to create airstrips, but because of delays due to weather and the supply and transport of goods, the site was not officially completed until almost at the end of the Second World War in 1944. From 1941 onwards grass strips were used before the runways were completed.

It was in 1940 that Colerne became an RAF fighter station. During the war many squadrons were based there and night flying was the norm. The rise in the number of personnel was phenomenal, resulting in the building of many married quarters at Thickwood. With the increase in married couples, the growth in young families put additional pressure on the local schools and services.

The RAF station was eventually closed in 1976 and the MOD passed the site to the army and the Junior Leaders Regiment of the Royal Corps of Transport. Later still, some of the former RAF hangars were used as an extension of the Royal Naval Store Depot at Copenacre to house the much larger pieces of equipment used by the navy. The site was finally closed in the late 1990s.

Today, after all the upheaval during the last century, Colerne has emerged as a tranquil and picturesque village with many attractions [see photo below], while managing to hold onto its relationship with the elements!



**Pat Whalley**



**Stuart Burrough's CCS talk: *The river runs uphill – the Kennet and Avon Canal***

The complexities of site control for large scale construction projects such as the KAC was, for example, managing workers and moving plant, remain as relevant to this day [the Elizabeth Line being the most recent - long overdue and over budget]. Those canal pioneers, such as John Rennie, were the first to meet the challenge of dealing with land owners when it came to the purchase of property.

Towards the end of the 1770s we see the completion of the Kennet & Avon as an extension of the river system for similar commercial reasons to the Erie, a point Stuart illustrated with a photo taken in 1900 entitled "The Inland Port of Bath". At that time the Avon from Bristol to Bath was indeed a 10/11 mile 'channel of commerce' shifting construction materials, commercial goods and food stuffs for the refined palates of visitors to Bath. From the Churchill Bridge one could watch boats sailing into the city. Canals connected navigable waterways, but to extend eastwards was a challenge, for example, it took ten years to raise the funds to build the Caen Locks which, from Widcombe, linked the Avon to the Kennet at Newbury, eventually reaching the Thames and the North Sea. It was considered a worthwhile investment as access to London brought bulk goods such as pitch pine floorboards, tiles and other building products, plus, importantly for Bath, passengers from London. During the 1700s, the medieval city, population 2-3000 (like present-day Box), became a fashionable metropolis of 30,000.

By the 1800s Bath was a sophisticated retail destination for its agricultural hinterland supplying food for the city, for example, the damp environment of canal transport favoured the shipment of cheese. Josiah Wedgwood became a subscriber to the canal as it enabled him to safely transport china from his pottery in Staffordshire and, indeed, he opened a shop in Milsom Street. Another product, mass-produced in Ironbridge, was Coalbrookdale cast iron items such as railings which were sold through agencies in both Bristol and Bath. Coal was also in demand for the fashionable season for visitors between September and March. The canal passed close-by - but not close enough - to the coal mines in north Somerset, so gravity tramways were used to carry the coal down to river level, Ralph Allen building the first in England in 1734.

Sidney Pleasure Gardens became a popular commercial venture in 1792 and offered every kind of attraction - bowling greens, a bandstand, a labyrinth, swings, a grotto (with a wax figure of a hermit within) and refreshment facilities. The quarter mile length of canal proposed a few years later sliced the maze labyrinth in two and was deemed unwelcome. £2,000 guineas were demanded in recompense, plus two bridges 'in the Chinese style'. The works were completed in 1807: the bridges, supplied by Coalbrookdale, were erected by that company's agent in Bath, George Stothert, also an investor in the canal. Stothert & Pitt then launched their own business, casting goods such as hinges for lock gates, tools for construction companies, cement mixers and water pumps.

The Great Western Railway sought a parallel route through the Gardens forty years later, by which time the proprietors welcomed the boost to visitor numbers the passing trains might provide.

By 1810 the first railways were being planned and in 1820 their emergence became the reason certain canals fell into a lower state of repair. A slow decline continued until the Inland Waterways Association was set up in 1946 'by a curious collection of people', led by L. T. C. Rolt. Another leading light of the movement was Robert Aickman, supported by novelist Elizabeth Jane Howard (his wife having left him to join Billy Smart's Circus). There was a desire to preserve the canals as going concerns, carriers of cargo and popular destinations for recreational boating, but this was not achieved. The Kennet & Avon Canal Association was formed and the canal restored in the 1970's, becoming the beneficiary of the largest ever National Lottery Grant. However, some cargo has been carried very recently. The great fire at Windsor Castle led to Queen Elizabeth requesting replacement stone be supplied from Limpley Stoke, to be carried by barge via the K&A and Thames to Windsor. The canals are now maintained by the Canals & Rivers Trust. It is Stuart's belief that they presently carry more traffic than in the past two hundred years, their leisure use quietly contributing a great deal to the country's economy.

**Anne Lock**

### **Reading the Coroner's Report for the Rising Sun disaster, 4th December 1957**

I have just spent the last week reading through 110 foolscap pages of the 1958 Coroner's Report into the gas explosion that occurred at 4.10am on December 4th 1957 - 65 years ago. Having lived on Box Hill since 1946, I remember the noise of the explosion which woke up the whole of Box Hill and, because it was so foggy, no one really knew what had happened except those whose homes were beside the A4 Chippenham to Bath Road. The Coroner's Report details the circumstances of the deaths of 3 people, Bill & Joyce Griffin and their 4-year-old son Andrew. Bill Griffin was the licensee of the Rising Sun pub where he and his wife, Joyce, lived with Andrew and their daughter, Jane who, though badly injured, survived the explosion along with her aunt Barbara Rogers and her two children.

The report tells of the heroic rescues of the survivors by those who lived right by the pub, and as a child I knew all these people. The report took in the evidence of those local witnesses plus those from the Police and staff from the South Western Gas Board, whose leaking pipes had caused such an explosion which destroyed the pub and caused much damage to surrounding properties.

For me the report made fascinating reading and I will be lodging the document at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, for safe keeping, and those who wish to see it there will find it filed with other Corsham Civic Society documents.

**Michael Rumsey**



**Obituary**

We are very sorry to learn of the death of Josie Richardson, nee Rossiter. (aged 85). Josie was an early recruit to the Society, and was a fount of knowledge about Corsham and its surroundings. She was born in 1937 in Alexander House maternity home in Corsham High Street. As a child she lived in Priory Street, Her father was a builder, but was more locally recognised as the proprietor of the Priory Stores which he opened in 1948. The store expanded over the years and the family had to move into a larger house – 124 Priory Street, a building designed by Harold Brakspear. As a child Josie had French lessons with Sylvia Spackman and helped a Miss Gould with her housekeeping (said to have been an eccentric lady) who lived in Priory Street. Neither occupation lasted very long, but they meant that Josie was acquainted with two eminent and musically talented Corsham families. In 1956 Josie married Alan who was in military service. They spent a considerable time together in Kenya before returning to Corsham where for over the next 50 years they lived together in a house in Paul Street

Our sympathies are extended to her family.

**Mystery photograph**

This photograph was anonymously handed in to the Town Hall and passed to the society by Sharon Thomas, Head of Community Services. Clearly, it's a maternity ward ... but where?! It doesn't appear to be the 20th century Corsham Maternity Home?

## The Benger Blaze!



Fireworks at Sutton Benger: my photographic attempts to capture the colours and effects don't do them justice

Cath, myself and our daughter, Anna, her husband, Dan, and their two boys, Owen [13] and Fred [8], went to the Benger Blaze! on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Villagers in Sutton Benger [near Chippenham] have been successfully running a and bonfire bonanza for over 12 years in the village recreational ground. This fireworks event was a spectacular family friendly, professional display with a truly huge bonfire blaze!! In a number of tents there were ales, mulled wine, soft drinks as well as local produce, BBQ food and children's entertainment. The event was in aid of supporting the village hall and charity. This year they made a contribution to a carbon offset site and, in addition, planted some trees on the recreational ground to further reduce the carbon footprint. They even organised got sponsorship from Pit Stop: it was an all-ticket event, £12 adults, £6 children [5-16 years old]. It took place at 4.30-7.30pm and although it turned out to be a rather wet evening that didn't spoil the fun: all the participants and our family had an enjoyable time!

**John Maloney**



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# CORSHAM CIVIC SOCIETY TALKS 2023

All meetings are at the Pound arts centre (telephone 01249 701628) at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. Members £2, Non-Members £5. Guests are very welcome. Please be aware that these events are subject to last minute changes beyond the control of the CCS.

- 27 Jan 23** Hadrian Cook, **Beliefs, Monuments and landscapes**
- 24 Mar** Lucienne Boyce, **Bath Suffragettes** (*in partnership with NATS*)
- 28 Apr** James Davies, **Photographing Pevsner** (this will be an illustrated talk focusing on photographing architecture)
- 30 Jun** Euan Mackenzie, **The Ancient Woodland Inventory**
- 28 Jul** Ian Bailey, **The Battle of Lansdown**
- Aug** **No event**
- 29 Sep** David Dawson, **The Making of the Kingdom Wessex**
- 27 Oct** Richard Ricket, **Introducing the Amazing Honey Bee**

- ***Please note that the Programme may be subject to changes***
- ***Other events to include – Trip to the SS Great Britain, the Annual Civic Society luncheon, the summer tea party and other 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events.***
- ***For more information email [corshamcivicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:corshamcivicsociety@gmail.com) or see the website [www.corshamcivicsociety.co.uk](http://www.corshamcivicsociety.co.uk)***

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 historical interest, in Corsham and the surrounding countryside.

Corsham Civic Society, 91 Tellcroft Drive, Corsham, SN13 9JQ, Wiltshire. Registered Charity No: 275321