



Corsham Spotlight

Magazine of the Corsham Civic Society

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

Summer 2022

September 2022, Vol. 19, Issue 2

Contents

From the Chair	1
From the CCS's Archive	2
Memorabilia: 70 years of Royal Celebrations	4
Muddy Stilettos Awards	5
Memories of 60 years Ago	11
History of 2 Station Road	12
The Hancock Nexus	13
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Garden party	15
Summer in Corsham	18
Planning Matters Round-up	20
'Hand in Glove'	21
From launch to Relaunch	22
Another Post Box	25
Robert Tanner: From Goldsmiths to the Great Depression	26
What Lies Artily Beneath Corsham	27
Lancefield Studios	30



Queen Elizabeth was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is mourned most deeply in her passing [King Charles III].

*Contributions to
Spotlight are very
welcome. Please
contact the editor,
editor.corshamspotlight@gmail.com*

Officers and Committee Members:

President

Anne Lock

Tel: 01249 716086

Chair

John Maloney

Tel: 01249 715159

Secretary

Cath Maloney

Tel: 01249 715159

Treasurer

Elizabeth Addison

Tel: 07919 352002

Membership Secretary

Michael Rumsey

Tel: 01249 715741

Social Organiser

Alison Warren

Tel: 07939 535932

Programme Organiser

Alison Warren

Tel: 07939 535932

Planning Matters

John Maloney

Tel: 01249 715159

Spotlight Editor

Stuart Boydell

Tel: 07920 474641

Proof Editor

Cath Maloney

Tel: 01249 715159

*Contributions to
Spotlight are very
welcome. Please
contact the editor,*

Stuart Boydell,
editor.corshamspotlight
@gmail.com

From the Chair...

This is my first such editorial having recently taken over from Michael Rumsey, following the AGM in May. I completed the writing of this piece two days after the society's very successful Platinum Jubilee garden tea party and on a day with a welcome break in the very hot weather we have had for the last two weeks or so. Despite the elevated temperature of 32°C, 46 people attended the garden party and no one was taken ill or got sunstroke which was a great relief. The party was held in the garden of Hungerford Almshouses and everyone who came seemed to really enjoy the occasion, as well as the splendid cakes! Much needed funds of £400 were donated to the society and during the course of the proceedings a presentation was made to Michael Rumsey [further details of the garden tea party and the presentation are in an article on p.15].

In these very uncertain times, for example, political scandals, the government on hold for a new Prime Minister, the war in Ukraine and consequent effects with fuel and gas price hikes, recession and inflation, evident climate change, continuing concerns about Covid and isolation and 'wokeness' controversies, it is important to take every opportunity to gather together for mutual enjoyment, support and *bonhomie* - the garden party was such an occasion!

Recently, a number of stalwarts have retired from the Executive Committee: Pat Whalley, Margaret Smith and John Holmes who we thank for their notable service. I'm pleased to be able to report that we have replacements for the committee: Alison Warren [Social and Programme organiser], Chris Johnson [Corsham Station representative] and Jane Cox. They are most welcome because of their attributes and the experience and vigour that they bring to key activities. For my part, I hope to provide a lead to development of the society, such as its website and social media; increase links with other societies/associations; spread knowledge of the society, its history and activities, and undertake a membership drive.

To that end the society will be represented at local and other events and during 2023 - its 60th anniversary - there will be special undertakings, for instance, displays and articles [one has been requested by *Wiltshire Life* magazine], a special issue of Spotlight and another summer garden party.

With best wishes,
John Maloney

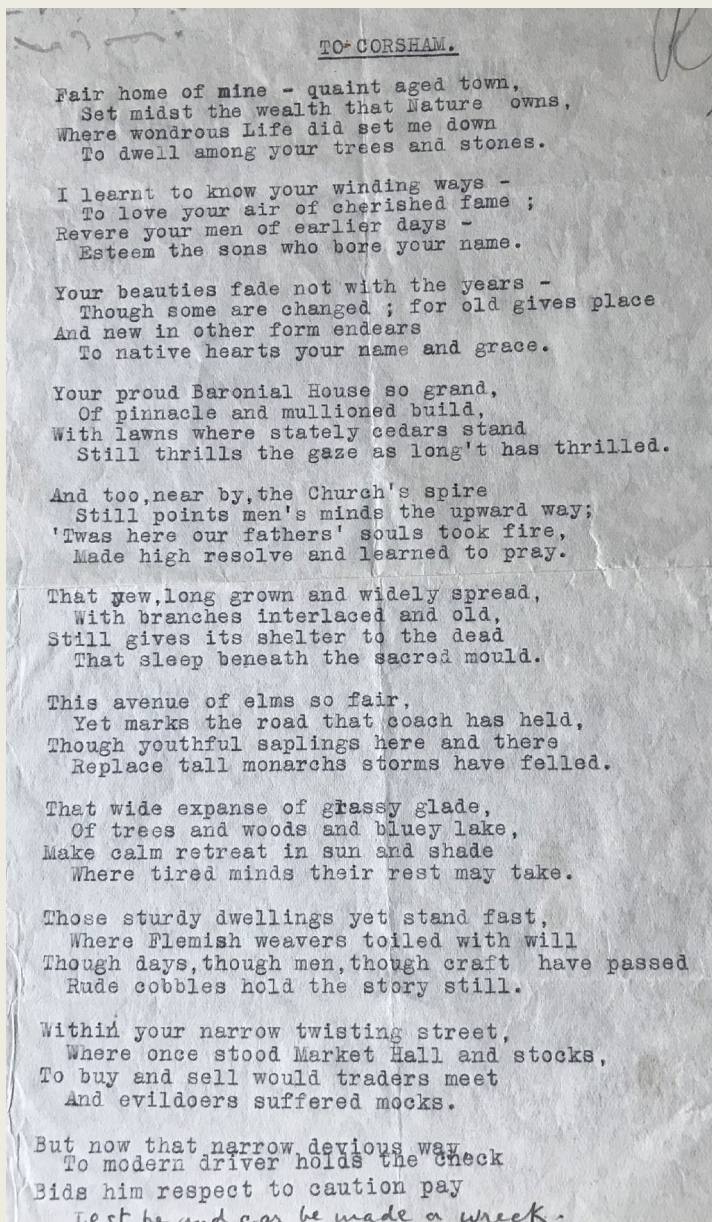
Front cover photo. ~ acknowledgements
To House & Garden

From the Corsham Civic Society's Archive

I have been trawling through the Society's archive again and I have found another absolute gem! This time, I discovered an August 1936 poem entitled *Verses on Corsham* by Jack Hulbert.

The poem, which is two pages long, is accompanied by five sides of handwritten notes along with quotes from Hulbert's diaries. The notes were clearly written much more recently than summer 1936 but give a small view into Hulbert's life and the local, national and international events that fill his diaries.

During the month the poem (below and opposite) was written, for example, Hulbert wrote in his diary that he had seen the first signs of the "government's preparations for munitions work" while walking through Pockeridge Park.

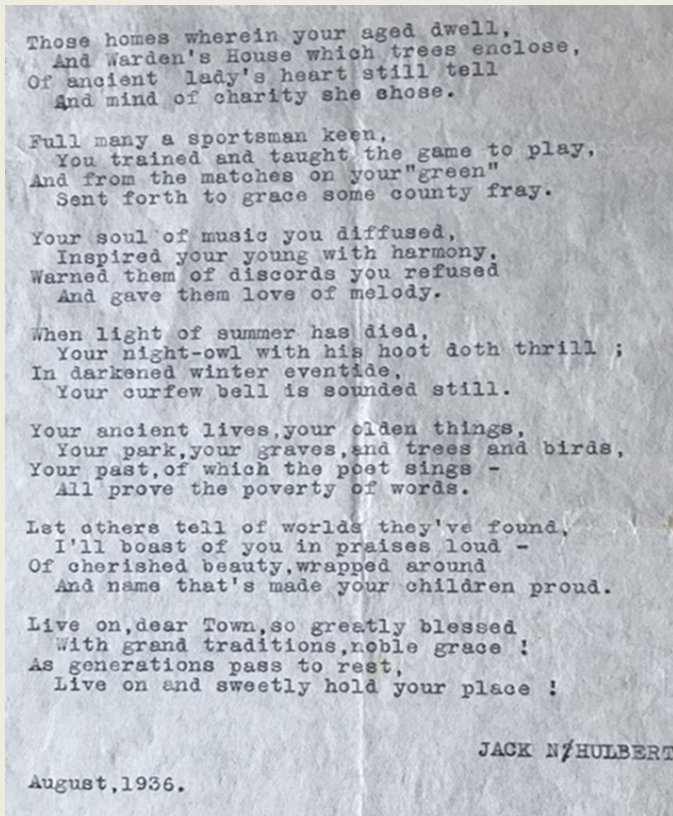


The text speaks for itself, but what is especially remarkable is how Hulbert's Corsham of August 1936 still closely resembles our Corsham in August 2022.

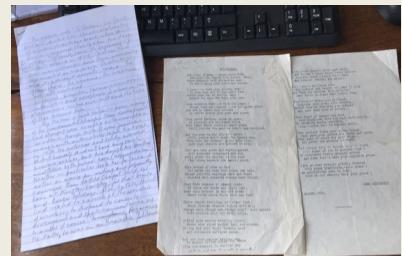
Instead of typing the poem out, I chose to photograph it to help present a more authentic appreciation of the document I have here before me.

The paper is slightly thicker than tissue paper with a few pencil notations at the top of the first page. The paper is pleasantly yellowed with age and on the back you can feel the impressions made by the keys on the typewriter.

Article continues next page...



The Society's archive is held at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre in Chippenham. The collection is largely made up with donations from people who are keen to see that the history of Corsham, and its people is preserved for future generations to enjoy and learn from. The Society is always very pleased to receive more material.



Stuart Boydell, Editor

Recent bequests

Brenda Higson postcard album Sharon Thomas [Head of Community Services, Corsham Town Council] contacted me to say: *Brenda Higson, has just been in. She said she'd been in contact with Michael [Rumsey] regarding her mother's postcard album and giving it to those who would appreciate it, as she has no family to leave it to. Her mother was Alice Mary Hulbert and she worked for the Spackmans. A lot of the postcards were sent to her by Mrs Spackman from holiday destinations, but there are also some lovely Corsham postcards in there too.*

Rising Sun explosion coroner's report A gentleman called Anthony Acton, living near Bath, contacted the CCS website enquiring whether the society would like "the official verbatim record of the evidence given at the Coroner's inquest disaster into the explosion at the Rising Sun in 1957". I replied 'Yes!'

Mr Acton wrote; *I'm delighted your Society can accept this document. I do not think many of these transcripts would have been produced and even fewer will still survive after all this time ... some of the evidence, including for example the descriptions of the pub and the long history of gas leaks on Box Hill around it, the scene at the Bath Gas Works in the middle of the night as the explosion registered on their instruments as a sudden drop in gas pressure ... and the experiences of the Box policeman and the neighbours who in the middle of a freezing cold night heroically rushed through the flames to rescue 3 children and 1 adult alive, make a dramatic though tragic story.*

John Maloney

Memorabilia: Commemorating 70 Years of Royal Occasions

For centuries we have been celebrating royal occasions by producing commemorative trinkets. More recently, these have included mugs, plates and special sets of stamps, coins and items of clothing. This year's Platinum Jubilee celebrations have produced many items for people to purchase and in the accompanying photographs I'm just showing some of the items I've either been given or purchased over the years.

In 1953, the pupils at the two Corsham schools, the Council School and Regis School, were given a choice of either having a coronation mug, a spoon or a copy of the Anointing Spoon, I chose the coronation spoon as seen in the photograph.

Also shown are various plates and mugs all celebrating special occasions in the Queen's 70-year reign. The silk scarf, designed by Corsham artist, Anna Juliet, is one of only 70 printed and now takes pride of place in my lounge. The Corsham Gallery has also sets of glass coasters for the Platinum Jubilee along with the silk scarves for people to purchase. As we shall not see another Platinum Jubilee in our lifetime, perhaps these are the items to collect for the future.

Anna Juliet's stunning silk scarf is proudly displayed in the centre of the photograph. The rest of the collection include items from HM the Queen's Silver, Golden and Diamond jubilees



**Article & photographs by
Michael Rumsey**

Corsham Businesses: Muddy Stilettos Awards 2022

Now in their 9th year, the hotly contested Muddy Stilettos 2022 Awards included 27 brilliant local indie businesses winning the coveted lifestyle awards across Wiltshire.

Readers of the Muddy Stilettos award have been nominating and voting *en masse* for their favourite independent businesses across 27 different lifestyle categories and shining a light on the most creative, unique indie businesses in our local counties. Some 75,000 businesses were nominated in total, with 765,000 votes cast as part of this much coveted national lifestyle awards, making it the most popular Muddy Awards to date.

These Awards always create a real sense of community spirit, a great way for customers to say 'Thank you' to brilliant local businesses for all their hard work and for businesses to have an accolade to help them reach new customers.

Hero Brown, founder and editor-in-chief of Muddy Stilettos says: *I set up these awards 9 years ago to give local lifestyle businesses a chance to shout about how brilliant they are. After two years of multiple lockdowns and a hard climb out of such disruption, it's been an honour to showcase the most awesome lifestyle businesses across Wiltshire, in partnership with 'Healthily'. The response to this year's Muddy Awards has been astonishing – thousands and thousands voted giving such a fantastic boost and a well-deserved pat-on-the-back to so many. I hope it will give the winning businesses even greater confidence to keep persevering, growing and being creative.*



On behalf of Corsham Civic Society members and the community at large we would like to express many congratulations to local businesses who have been awarded a 2022 Muddy Stiletto award, and the local winners include:

- Theodora's Flowers, Corsham High Street
- Precision Pilates Studio, Abacus House, Newlands Road, Corsham
- Methuen Arms Boutique rooms, Corsham High Street
- Pound Arts Centre, Pound Pill, Corsham
- Harp & Crown, pub and restaurant, Gastard

Article continues next page...

Theodora's Flowers

Theodora's family business spans 35 years in floristry. She has a great passion for flowers and has been trading in Corsham for over 27 years. Theodora's daughter, Fleur, is very much part of the business and together they enjoy employing their artistic floristry skills in the widest possible sense. The business is fully independent and, therefore, has free reign to respond to the needs of its customers whilst offering the best possible value. Theodora's specialises in the creation of beautiful custom bouquets, sympathy flowers, wedding flowers, flowers for parties, births and much more.



Customers often comment on how pleased they are with the friendly service and the quality of the product and realise that everything is made with passion and commitment.

Photos: Larry St Croix

Daily deliveries mean that the flowers are always as fresh as possible which helps to ensure the best possible floral gesture for all occasions.

Telephone: 01249 715340

Website:
www.theodorasflowers.co.uk

Further contact details accessible on Website.



Theodora (left) with Fleur in their shop.

Article continues next page...

Precision Pilates studio

Precision Pilates studio have won yet another award making this three awards in the first 14 months of opening.

Precision Pilates studio was crowned with the Muddy Stilettoes Award 2022 for Best Pilates/Yoga Studio in Wiltshire, though they were up against some tough local competition. *We have now won this award two years in a row and I am absolutely thrilled. My team and I have worked so hard over the past year to deliver great classes to the local and wider community. We have an amazing loyal client base to which we would like to say a huge thank you,* says Amber Edenbrow.

The studio opened in May 2021 by founder Amber Edenbrow who had dreamt of opening a pilates/wellbeing studio for many years. Amber, pictured on the left, first started her pilates business in September 2016 running classes in local village halls and community centres. After several years of looking for a dedicated studio space, Abacus House, Corsham, proved the ideal location. Having grown up in the area, Amber was keen for her business to provide a service to the residents of Corsham and surrounding towns and villages.



Amber Edenbrow (left) and Pilates instructor Natalie Uff (right).

The dedicated studio offers a packed timetable, currently 22 classes per week including mat pilates, power pilates, Barre fitness, platinum pilates for older adults and yoga. As well as the weekly classes the studio runs pilates for beginners, for children aged 10-16, and 'Gong Sound Journey' events at the weekends and holidays.

Amber Edenbrow is a fully qualified pilates teacher; she also offers one to one sessions on the 'Pilates Reformer', 'Wunda Chair' and 'Tower and Arc Barrel'.



Telephone: 07725 316 923

Email:

hello@precisionpilatesstudio.co.uk

Website:

www.precisionpilatesstudio.co.uk

Photos:

Award presentation: Ellie McCullum

Studio building: Larry St Croix

Studio Interior: Red Forge Studios

Methuen Arms Boutique rooms

A stunning Georgian coaching inn, The Methuen Arms offers cosy and comfortable to stylish and spacious, refurbished rooms [example **left**] to their customers - everything they need for the perfect staycation, family break or romantic getaway.

All of their 19 rooms are individually decorated with modern-rustic furnishings and equipped with ensuite bathrooms, organic Bramley toiletries, mini-fridges, digital safes, Roberts DAB radios, Smart TVs and free Wi-Fi.

The Assistant Manager Kim Szczotko, Head Housekeeper Corrinne Thompson and the staff at The Methuen ensure that their customers and guests receive the best possible service in the hope that they experience a memorable visit to Corsham.



**Kim Szczotko, Assistant manager (left),
Corrine Thompson, Head Housekeeper (right).**

Telephone 01249 477779

Email: methuen@butcombepubs.com

Website: www.butcombe.com

Photos: Larry St Croix

Article continues next page...



Pound Arts Centre

Jon Mansfield, Deputy Director of Marketing and Operations, and staff ensure that both the local community and visitors to Corsham enjoy the facilities that the centre offers.

Jon and his staff are looking forward to a new season of events that will take place from September this year and onwards.

The centre is a welcoming and vibrant venue with a 100-seat auditorium and exhibition space, café bar, parking, and baby-friendly facilities. The centre also includes rehearsal and workshop spaces, a studio housing three resident artists and a community workshop. The mission of the centre is 'Connecting people through creativity'.

The vision of the centre is to be engaged with breath-taking artistic experiences regardless of their background or circumstances; to be a creative catalyst and place of refuge, discovery and nourishment for the public and artists alike; to maintain and grow a sustainable flagship arts provision across the region that acts as a model for excellent work that engages the soul, stimulates the mind and entertains the community.

Telephone 01249 701628

Website: www.poundarts.org.uk

Photo: Larry St Croix

The Harp & Crown

Mathew and Genna Acourt, run the Harp & Crown pub based in Gastard, near Corsham. They have created an environment and service that has received the best pub in Wiltshire award. It is described as a traditional freehouse pub with a creative vegan menu using seasonal ingredients and a minimal waste approach to deliver a fully plant-based menu with varied options to suit a range of customer needs.



Article continues next page...



Telephone: 01249 591838

Website: www.harpandcrownpub.com

Email: hello@harpandcrownpub.com

Mathew and Genna also run a registered charity known as the 'Coppershell Farm Sanctuary' based in Corsham. This is an animal rescue and re-homing sanctuary providing shelter for animals in need which has required Mathew and Genna to work tirelessly over the years to build a safe and welcoming sanctuary for neglected, abandoned or unwanted animals.

Article & Photos: Larry St Croix

'Amore' the new Italian Restaurant in town

I've had the pleasure of enjoying a number of superb meals in this newly opened restaurant and thought that I would share this fantastic restaurant with the *Spotlight* readers. I thoroughly recommend our new restaurant in the town and I wish them success with their new venture.

The dining atmosphere is delightful and the waiting staff are friendly, polite and most helpful in ensuring you've ordered the dishes that you would enjoy. They are always on hand to explain any of the items which appear on the menu, giving patrons a taste of Italian cuisine and hospitality.



Wines, beers and soft drinks are available and the restaurant is open for lunches and evening meals each day of the week with roasts available on Sundays.

Their details are as follows:-
'Amore', Italian Restaurant and Bar. 21, Pickwick Road, Corsham.

Tel: 01249 701110.

Email:

Info@amore-corsham.co.uk

Website:

www.amore-corsham.co.uk



(Left: Alex, Toni & Christian)

**Article & photos:
Michael Rumsey**

Memories of Sixty Years Ago

A 3913		
Auchenshuggle	6d	Maukinfauld Road
Maukinfauld Road	GLASGOW CORPORATION TRANSPORT Ticket available only on Tram on which it was issued. NOT TRANSFERABLE Issued subject to Byelaws.	1277 London Road
1277 London Road		Fraser Street
Fraser Street		Bridgeton Cross
Bridgeton Cross		Kent Street
Kent Street		Queen Street
Queen Street		Anderson Cl.

Glasgow Numerical Pig. Co. Ltd.

At the beginning of September 1962, I was staying in the Lake District beside Rydal Water when I found out that on the 4th September the tramway system in Glasgow would be running for the last time.

During the 20th century most large towns and cities in the UK had functioning tramway systems but due to disruption during the years either side of the 2nd World War some tramways closed for good. Bath trams, for example, finished in 1939 and the Bristol trams closed in 1941. London came a bit later and finally dispensed with its trams in 1952. The closures continued until in 1962 when Blackpool and Glasgow were the only places in the UK where you could take a ride on a tram.



On Tuesday September 4th, I took the local train from Keswick to Penrith and for a 25/- day return I travelled up to Glasgow where I spent a very happy time having three journeys along the final route being used. I retained my ticket and have treasured it ever since: hence the photographs published here plus a photo taken in the early 1960s.

Thankfully, local authorities are seeing the benefits of tramway systems. Consequently, they have been making a comeback with modern articulated stock and these can be found in Croydon, Manchester, Wolverhampton-Birmingham, Sheffield and now in Edinburgh, hence the last photograph. Once upon a time there were thoughts of Bath having a modern tramway system but these have faded away again.



Article & photographs by Michael Rumsey, Newly elected Honorary Vice President of the Corsham Civic Society

History of your House – 2 Station Road

In view of the CCS's interest in finding out the history of the buildings along High Street, I was prompted to see what I could discover about my old home in 2 Station Road. It is on the junction with Grove Road and opposite the entrance to the Pound Art Centre.

Whilst I knew it could not compete with the many special houses in the High Street, it was nevertheless someone's home and may have a story to tell. This is what I discovered:

In 1837 the tithe rolls show there were three houses and a garden owned by a veterinary surgeon, Robert Glasby. Glasby is recorded as being in the property in 1841 and 1851.

After 1850, there were proposals for roads to be built at South Street and Station Road. Parts of the lands then belonged to a Thomas Ball and Thomas Evans. Evans was a limeburner. Presumably parts of the lands were sold off to create South Street and a more useable Station Road.

In 1854, there were four houses on the site fronting Station Road: one less than now, but all on the land that forms part of No. 2, as well as the outbuilding which is now accessed via Grove Road. The outbuilding is now one low building which has been turned into accommodation and two garages, one of which is the Grove Tool Shed.

In the Censuses for 1881 and 1891, No.2 was the home of John Ball with his wife Sarah and their four children. Ball was a blacksmith and wheelwright, and most likely would have used the low building for his workplace. Was John a descendant of Thomas Ball the previous landowner?

Between 1901 and 1921, local maps still show the side building to be classed as a smithy, so presumably such work was still being undertaken there. The 1911 census tells us that John Ball was still a blacksmith living in the property.

These details are interesting because my mother always told me that our house was the coachman's house for Corsham Court. I found this hard to believe because of its distance from the Court. Perhaps it is more likely that it was the living and working accommodation of the Court's blacksmith since the Methuen family would not want the noise of a blacksmith close to their home.

I have no further details of the building until 1941 when my parents rented the accommodation from a Mr Head. I believe the property was sold on several times, but remained a rental until my father moved into Jargeau Court in the 1980s.

Perhaps you live in a house locally that may be a hundred years old plus, and still has a history; if you find out – please do let us know.

The Hancock Nexus

We were very pleased to hear from Steve Hunt, who had found our website and reference to the Hancock family at Great Lypiatt Farm, and the tale of our own 'Customer Smythe' who left his father's farm in Westrop to go and seek his fortune in London. His success as a Port Customs Officer for London under the reign of Elizabeth I led him to eventually return to Corsham where he bought and rebuilt Corsham Court. We asked Steve, a direct descendant through his paternal line, to write a piece showing his connection to these families.

In 2005 and 2007 *Spotlight* included articles on the Hancock family. Recent research has shed further light on the interesting story of the Hancocks of Corsham, in particular their links to two important families of the local area, the Mountjoys of Biddestone and the Smythes of Corsham Court.

Sybilla Hancock was baptised here in Corsham in 1634, one of the four daughters of John Hancock, a yeoman at Lypiatts. There were also two sons, the second son Thomas married Christian Arch of Fowlswick and they were the progenitors of the Hancocks of Westwells. In 1613, their father John Hancock had been a beneficiary of the will of his father, also called John, and had been bequeathed "two great maultinge stones and my Ryck Stadle stones". In his own will, dated 19th Jan 1663/1664, John Hancock bequeathed to his eldest son, yet another John Hancock, a number of items including his yoating stones and rick staddle stones.

What are these interesting items listed as being handed down from father to son? Yoating stones were used for soaking barley as part of the brewing process. Rick Stavell (or staddle) stones were mushroom shaped stones on which a granary or hay rick was placed to keep it off the ground to protect it from vermin and damp. They were obviously important items and, therefore, sufficiently significant to be bequeathed specifically rather than within the household goods.

Sybilla Hancock married Thomas Mountjoy of Biddestone St Peter in 1652. The banns of marriage were read at Corsham in June/July 1652. However, there is no record of the marriage at Corsham, nor at Biddestone St Nicholas. Perhaps the marriage took place at Biddestone St Peter for which there are no known records.

Sybilla had a number of children who left a mark on the world. The eldest son, William Mountjoy, inherited the Mountjoy lands at Biddestone. His brother, Thomas Mountjoy, was a Bristol merchant trading with Virginia. Two other sons settled in Virginia in the latter part of the 17th century, while another son, Edmund, was a soap maker in Bristol and became Mayor of Bristol in 1718.

There is a story that during Edmund's mayoralty the ducking-stool was used as a cure for wives who scolded their husbands. After ordering the ducking of an errant wife, a Mistress Blake, Edmund was ridiculed as he was apparently widely known to be 'hen-pecked' himself.

Sybilla's marriage to Thomas Mountjoy had been a significant social step up for the Hancocks. Thomas was the son and heir of William Mountjoy. William had acquired the manor of Biddestone St Peter in 1624. As Lord of the Manor of Biddestone St Peter, William Mountjoy and then his son, Thomas Mountjoy, enjoyed a significant social status within the area.

The marriage of Sybilla to Thomas Mountjoy linked the Hancocks with the Smythes of Corsham Court. Sybilla's mother-in-law, Alice, was the daughter of Henry Smythe of Corsham Court. Alice and William Mountjoy were married on 1st April 1624. Henry Smythe was the fourth son of Thomas (Customer) Smythe and Alice Judde. On the death of Thomas (Customer) Smythe in 1591 Henry's eldest brother, Sir John Smythe, inherited Westenhanger Castle in Kent, while, his second brother, Sir Thomas Smythe (a leading mover within the Virginia Company), inherited property in London. The third son, Henry, inherited Corsham Court along with other lands in Wiltshire.

Sybilla lived to be 90 years-old. She was buried at Biddestone in 1724. In her will she gave five pounds to the poor widows of Biddestone.

Corsham Gas works

One story leads to another. Whilst writing about the Hancocks, Steve Hunt was reminded of another member of his extended family who was caught up in a near-disaster at the gas works, then sited in the Pound Mead area. The *North Wiltshire Herald* [9th March 1928] reported:

"A BRAVE DEED – Mr William Oliver has saved the town from a serious misfortune. About midnight a fire broke out at the Gas Works, where he is manager, and Mr Oliver, who was in bed, was alarmed by his stepson, who was on duty. On rushing downstairs, he found the engine house on fire, and with some wet sacks thrown over his head and back, he crawled under the flames to where there were seven stop valves, which he succeeded in turning off. With the help of his wife and step-daughter, who worked heartily at their task, the flames were then got under. Had not Mr Oliver acted with such promptitude, a terrible explosion would have happened, for only about five yards away was a full gasometer, as well as over one thousand gallons of tar and two dumps of coal."

The gas was apparently held in three containers. The smallest of these held the supply for Neston Park and was piped there via Elley Green, connecting with some of the larger properties en route. The street lights were controlled by a man on a bicycle who carried with him a pole with which to turn them on and off. The by-product tar was conveyed by pipe to the station wharf.

The earliest known use of gas in Corsham was in 1862 at the Congregational Church – now the Grounded Cafe.

The celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Garden Tea Party with a presentation to Michael Rumsey

The society was fortunate in being able to hold its Platinum Jubilee garden tea party in the garden of the Corsham Almshouses [also known as the Hungerford Almshouses after its founder] and Schoolroom complex. The buildings date to 1668 and were founded by Lady Margaret Hungerford who lived with her husband Sir Edward Hungerford in nearby Corsham House (now known as Corsham Court). Lady Hungerford was left a wealthy widow after her husband's death and in 1668 she put her Puritan values into practice by building the almshouses for a Master and six elderly people and, unusually for those days, a schoolroom for the education of poor boys. Ever mindful of Puritan philosophy she wrote 45 ordinances for her beneficiaries to live by. 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 community-based projects involving the schools and the Peacock Trail; the complex is occasionally used for outside events including a film location! Twelve beneficiaries live in the six almshouses and in a conversion to the stable block. The almshouses are regarded as amongst the finest surviving examples in England and the Schoolroom as being an exceptional example for the time.

A major renovation of the window lintels in the schoolroom is due to begin shortly and it will be closed to the public for around 12 weeks. There is a list of projects in train to improve the residences, and other projects such as energy efficiency schemes. A trustee told me that some fundraising will be necessary to keep the complex afloat and the society wishes them well in their efforts: enquiries to info@corshamalmshouses.org.uk.



The Station Road frontage of Corsham Almshouses [Photo. by John Maloney]

One of the almshouses' volunteer guides, Margaret Smith, a long-time society member, kindly made arrangements for the society to have access to the gardens, the buildings and the facilities. A core group of the society's Executive Committee set up the event and deserve high praise:

Article continues next page...

Michael Rumsey [former Chairman], Alison Warren [Talks Programme organiser and Social Secretary], Cath Maloney [Secretary], Stuart Boydell [Spotlight magazine editor, and his friend Niall], Jane Cox [Executive Committee member] and Anne Lock [President]. Thanks are also due to Sharon Thomas [Corsham Town Council, Head of Community Services] and grounds team member, Brendan, who, respectively, loaned a gazebo, chairs and tables and delivered/collected them.

Some 46 people attended and donated £400 - a much-needed contribution to the societies' funds after depletions caused by suspension of membership fees due to Covid and loss of income from talks.



The Corsham Civic Society Platinum Jubilee garden tea party in full swing in the Almshouses garden! [Photo by John Maloney]

Many society members and others who attended the garden party were very appreciative of the occasion, not least the cakes! I received a gratifying email from Roger & Pamela Trulove: *Dear John, We would like to thank you and the CCS committee for a most enjoyable afternoon. The venue and whole atmosphere were first class, and the cakes were delicious! Many thanks to all involved.*

And from Sharon Thomas, Head of Community Services, Corsham Town Council: *Hi John, We were delighted to support the event. I'm so pleased to hear – and see – that you all had such a good time and, most importantly, didn't melt. Great news about raising funds for CCS too.*

During the tea party, a presentation was made by me to Michael Rumsey:

"On behalf of our membership, the Executive Committee would like to convey their sincere thanks, Michael, for your commitment to the society both as a longstanding member, and until the AGM 2022, as our chairman for the past 13 years, and to make a presentation to you. Much appreciated were:

Your concern for the 'health' of the Society and its members, particularly in the last few difficult years, which has been an example to anyone who ever 'volunteers' to join a group such as ours – and who wishes to ensure its continuity.

Article continues next page...



Above, Left: John Maloney, the new society Chair, and the retiring Chair, Michael Rumsey: Michael is looking at one of his gifts, the *British Rail* book, signed by the author, Christian Woolmar [**Photo by Stuart Boydell**].

Above, Right: a [horse] mounting block in the Almshouses garden ~ are there any others in Corsham? [**Photo. by John Maloney**]

You could also be relied upon to step into the breach on hearing of an unforeseen hitch with a speaker who had been taken ill or failed to attend for another reason. Whether it was demonstrating your great interest in visiting religious buildings, with the accompanying excellent photography, or your first love – Trains! We have all been privileged to learn a great deal more about the history of the railways than we ever thought we would need to know! But the talks always showed your wide interest in the subject, so we were carried along with your enthusiasm, and enjoyed them all over the years.

Although concerns for your health have now led you to conclude you should resign as Chairman, you made it clear that you wished to continue as a member of the Executive Committee and as Membership Secretary, so your interest in the work of the Society will continue undiminished.

*We thank you, Michael, for all you have done and here is a hefty book [*British Rail*, signed by the author, Christian Woolmar] that I hope you will find interesting, and a framed print generated by the society's magazine, *Spotlight* [a collage of doorhoods and porches in *Pickwick*] which I know you liked.*

PS My thanks to Anne Lock and Pat Whalley for drafting presentation points.

John Maloney



The civic society garden tea party ~ Photo. by Stuart Boydell]

Summer in Corsham and Pickwick

Summer 2022 will certainly be a memorable one for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the extended period of very fine (perhaps too fine) weather. Corsham has been a riot of colour and events marking a much needed return to normality after the lost summers of 2020 and 2021.



The Pickwick Manor Jubilee

Picnic on Saturday 4th June

included an excellent choir singing folk songs and sea shanties. Lucy and Tom Brakspear hosted the picnic in their manor gardens [**Left** and **Below**]. As with so many occasions this summer, the weather was perfect. A good time was certainly had by all!



Pickwick Open Gardens

The collage (**Right**) shows some the highlights of the Pickwick Open Gardens event which took place on Saturday 18th June. The trail started and ended at Pickwick Manor with a superb spread of tea and delicious cakes.

The trail included a number of very pretty gardens, some offering refreshment's such as prosecco and ice cream!

Photo. opposite, Top Middle: In one garden the influx of visitors didn't appear to disturb an elderly tortoise!

**Article and photos by
John Maloney**





Above: Corsham Shop signs, Part 2



Corsham 10k run 2022 [Above]

The first person home in the 10k run was William Grace [Endurance Club] in a time of 32:29.6 minutes and the 2k race was won by Finn Charlton in a time of 5:55.6.

The 10k race started and finished at Corsham Football Club. It was a beautiful day and attracted a large, good natured crowd.

Harvest time on the Bath Road, Pickwick: every year at about this time the Bath Road, Pickwick, and its front gardens are covered by straw [Left] which streams off tractor loads [often quite large] as they ply up and down the road.

(Top left & right) collages designed by John Maloney;
(Bottom left) photo. by John Maloney.

Planning Matters Round-up

This month, as for so many months, planning applications were mostly for tree pruning and extensions but the following may be of more significance:

Extracare Land at Copenacre Way, Bath Road [PL/2022/05318: Modification of Section 106 agreement for 15/00058/OUT to enable the transfer of the Extracare land to Wiltshire Council. [This is when the developer has not been able secure such a facility as specified in the planning consent and, therefore, is a method of getting the land transferred to Wiltshire Council ownership so that they can get on and do something with it, eg residential care and/or affordable housing].

8 and 9 Bences Lane [PL/2021/08302, PL/2021/11694]: Join 2 no. dwellings with orangery extension and re-decoration of rear elevation. Margaret Smith [former society Planning reviewer] has commented that 'from the visual and quality of work aspect there can be no reason to refuse'.

13 High Street, Corsham: On 21st April, a group from the society were kindly shown around this interesting building by Andrew Hall the owner of the Martingate Centre [an article will follow in a later issue].

Andrew recently informed me that the basic architecture was finished a long time ago, but he and his team are still dealing with all the important details needed to ensure that our Planning and LBC applications are accurate.

He says: *I have made the job far harder for myself by insisting that there is no fossil fuel on site so we are having to be meticulous in our understanding of how much energy the building will need, how to minimise that and how to deliver it – all in a way that is sensitive to the building's heritage.*

I am very keen to demonstrate what can be done to ensure a viable future for our Grade II listed buildings in the context of global warming and high energy costs. So we are looking at things like heat pumps, extraction systems, kitchen equipment, specialist low temp radiators, solar panels and batteries etc. It turns out that there is no speedy way for designing these systems, and how they interact, unlike whacking in a gas boiler and some cast iron radiators which is what would normally happen. But it is important work and we are getting through it all steadily.

Regardless of these technical design issues, I am really excited about the vision for the Hotel and Brasserie, the partners I am working with (more on that another time) and the positive impact it will have in Corsham. We will get our applications in during the autumn, and would welcome any support from your readers during consultation!

In the meantime, we will be posting key updates on Martingate's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/martingatewilts>

The society group who visited in April were very impressed with Andrew's enthusiasm and description of the scheme and I think that it is something that the society can wholeheartedly support. Good luck!

Care UK Pickwick care home scheme: the developer's appeal was rejected. For the Planning Inspectorate Appeal/Decision report: <https://www.corshamcivicsociety.co.uk/appeal-dismissal-decision-report-care-uk/>

Land north of Bath Road: The following was received from Tony Clark, Pickwick Association: *We were delighted to see the first harvest of winter wheat being brought in from Stafford's field alongside the A4 in Pickwick. The field has reverted to its historic role in food production rather than being the potential catalyst for the demise of the underground quarry below. Gladman's failure to submit foundation plans capable of demonstrating that some of the buildings on the site could be isolated from noise and vibration from the quarrying works was the primary cause for the Planning Inspectorate's rejection of the plan to build 150 houses and two office blocks on the site.*

We remain concerned however that the demolition of much of the former stone wall along the main road - done by the potential developer to ensure an early start to the now abandoned project - gives more than an unsightly introduction to Corsham when approaching from Bath: <https://www.corshamcivicsociety.co.uk/decision-to-dismiss-the-appeals-by-gladman-concerning-bath-road-proposals/>

I would add that I have been struck once again about the iniquity of a system that can leave local people/organisations seriously out of pocket even where the developer loses an appeal. What price the much-vaunted Localism Act 2011? Despite the odds, however, Pickwick Association members, Wiltshire Council and local councillors have an impressive track record in combating unwanted developments!

John Maloney

'Hand in Glove' - Do You Know a Local Glove Maker?

Historic England are seeking bids for funding 'from overlooked historic places' with particular interest in 'recognising and celebrating working-class histories'. Corsham's stone mines are well documented, but our glove making history isn't. Ali Warren rose to the challenge and 'Hand in Glove' was submitted before the May 23rd deadline. In June, Ali got an encouraging but not unexpected, negative response. However, the Society's curiosity has been roused and we hope to delve deeper into this area. CAN YOU HELP? Do you or your friends know of a glove making relative? Has a friend, relative or neighbour ever mentioned having a connection to that industry in Neston/Corsham? Please help us explore their histories by raising this subject, and, should they respond with snippets of information, please do get in touch with the Society via our website or by emailing us on corshamcivicsociety@gmail.com

From Launch to Re-launch



Ian Caskie's brilliant lecture on the SS Great Britain entitled 'From Launch to Re-launch' began with an illustration no-one in his audience was expecting - a portrait of Samuel Cunard whose Royal Mail operated between the UK and America.

In the 1830s a paper entitled "Investigation of Steam Engine on Way People Travel on Land & Water" led to the proposal for four wooden paddle steamers to be built. A rival bid in Bristol needed a Chief Engineer, a post that was given to Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806-1859) the man whose portrait we had expected to see! An obvious design fault when ocean sailing was their inability to keep both paddles rotating in heavy seas, limiting the ability to steer a steady course.

However, the 'Great Eastern' was capable of carrying 4,000 passengers and was used by Cable & Wireless to lay the first transatlantic telegraph cable. However, the 'Great Western' was the first of three built in the dock adjacent to the M Shed.

Wooden ships had a maximum 200ft length and were weighty. Brunel's vision to use wrought iron for the hull of the Great Britain was transformational, creating a lighter and faster vessel of 300ft. The Rainbow was built similarly, but the Archimedes was driven by a prototype propeller. A report on this prototype was made public but encountered much resistance. However, eventually, in order to create the biggest, fastest iron-hulled transatlantic liner (thirty years after the Battle of Trafalgar) the Great Britain was built and ready by 1843.

To mark its launch Prince Albert attended as guest of honour. He invited Mrs Clarissa Miles to launch the liner but she sadly failed to take successful aim and it was Prince Albert who saved the day from a distance of twenty feet with a spare bottle of champagne!

Tickets to attend that ceremony cost 5/-. Scepticism of the design remained, however, and on her first voyage between Liverpool and New York only 40 people from a potential 250 passengers bought tickets. The voyage took 15 days. In the end she only completed a further three trans-Atlantic crossings before a different route was chosen. She then started sailing south and foundered in Dundrum Bay, Northern Ireland, where she remained for a year before being rescued, which bankrupted the company.

When gold was discovered in Australia in 1850/51, there was massive demand to emigrate. A member of the Gibbs family (of Tyntesfield House connection) bought the Great Britain and added an extra deck to provide further passenger accommodation for 700. She now carried 1,500 in steerage and 500 passengers in first class (plus crew and an amazing number of live animals - no freezers then of course).

Article continues next page...

The journey to Melbourne took two months, journeying faster under sail than steam, being square-rigged and making good use of the trade winds, only firing up when needed.

In 1854-5 the Great Britain carried 44,000 troops to Crimea whilst in 1861-2 she carried the English cricket team to Australia, including the wicket keeper, a brother of W. G. Grace.



From diaries kept over that long voyage, one learns how the long hours were passed with activities that included playing backgammon, chess, draughts and musical recitals and reading the ship's newsletter, the *Great Britain Times*.

Strict segregation according to class and gender was enforced. The midships accommodated families and married couples, conveniently dividing the single male and female passenger quarters. As a first class passenger, Mrs Hodgson kept a diary from which we learn that "the diet of those in steerage was adequate, but for those in first class the meals were amazing." Other diary entries mention sea sickness and rats, "one lady, having awoken to find her toenails being nibbled". Over thirty voyages to Australia took 16,000 emigrants to a new life but by 1876 she was no longer insurable and was sold in 1882.

The Great Britain was bought by Anthony Gibbs who stripped her down and filled her with cargoes of coal or wheat. Now under sail once more she made two round trips to the west coast of America, but in 1886, wild seas off Cape Horn forced Captain Henry Stap to seek shelter in the Falklands. In Port Stanley repairs were estimated to cost more than she was worth so her owners sold her to the Falkland Islands Co. for £2,000. Her working life ended in 1933 when she was scuttled and left to rust in Sparrow Cove.

After the Second World War, the RN suggested she should be used for target practice but in 1967 Ewan Corbett, a naval architect, wrote a letter to *The Times* suggesting she be rescued and brought home. He had long recognised her importance and his imaginative salvage plans were deemed possible but prohibitively expensive. However, a man with imagination and the means was Sir Jack Hayward (who also bought Lundy Island and gave it to the nation) and he and Sir Paul Getty financed Corbett's plan to raise the hull onto a giant pontoon. An 18" wide crack was discovered in the process which led to an appeal for - mattresses! Over eighty were given and these were cut into strips and jammed in to seal the slit.

Article continues next page...

Water was pumped out of the hull, the side realigned, and come the Spring, securely strapped to the huge, floating pontoon and, pulled by tugs, she set off on the 8,000 miles to her birthplace in Bristol, arriving at Avonmouth three months later. Thousands watched as on 5th July 1970, she was towed under Clifton Suspension Bridge. On Sunday, 19th July 1970, exactly 127 years to the day from her launching and at a time when the tide was considered right, she cleared the bridge by 7". The gates were closed twenty minutes before the water level dropped.

Ian was proud to inform us that the SS Great Britain and the "Being Brunel" exhibition has attracted over 200,000 visitors annually whilst their Education Programme supported 11,000 school visits. It has won thirty local, national and international awards and in 2019 was chosen as "the most friendly and welcoming museum in Europe".

Why not join the Society's visit to the SS Great Britain being arranged by Alison Warren – on 17th September.

Anne Lock

Photo p.22 [StockSnap.io](https://www.stocksnap.io)

Photo p23 Simon Elliott



VISIT THE SS GREAT BRITAIN WITH THE CIVIC SOCIETY

Following Ian Claskie's excellent talk in April a visit has been arranged to see the SS Great Britain in all her glory in Bristol Docks on Saturday 17th September.

The visit will include the opportunity to see the ship and the new museum, a private tour and a soup and sandwich lunch. Participants will be expected to



make their own way to the venue but car sharing will be encouraged.

Cost of the visit will be £25 to members of CCS and £27.50 to non members

To book or for further information contact Ali Warren on corshamcivicsociety@gmail.com



Another Post Box

My article in the last issue of *Corsham Spotlight* (Spring 2022) on the Post Boxes of Corsham was not intended to be a comprehensive list of all the post boxes in Corsham, but more specifically to draw attention to the survival around us in the platinum anniversary of the present Queen's reign of post boxes bearing the cipher initials of her predecessors back to her great-great grandmother. Examples were cited and illustrated of post boxes from the reigns of Queen Victoria (1837-1901), King Edward VII (1901-10), King George V (1910-36), King George VI (1936-52) and Queen Elizabeth II (since 1952) – all reigns in fact apart from the brief reign of King Edward VIII in 1936.

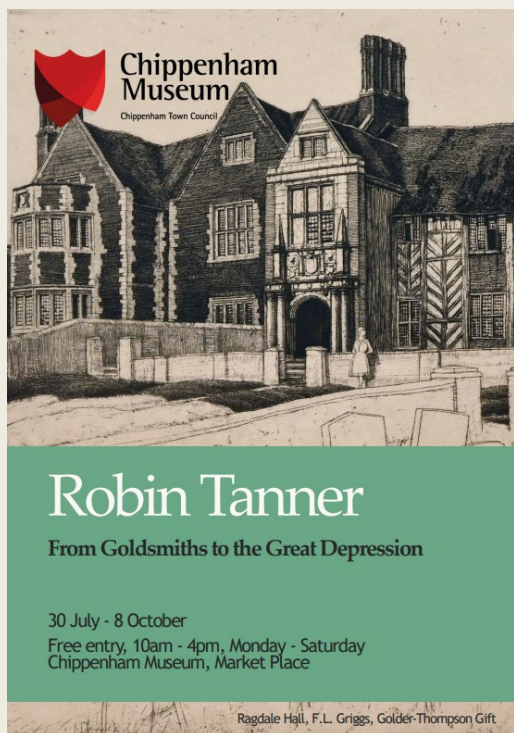
I was however wrong in saying that the only 'G VI R' box is the fine pillar box which is slightly hidden away in the centre of Pickwick. The indefatigable Michael Rumsey has drawn my attention to the free-standing wall post box proclaiming 'G VI R' in the centre of Rudloe. He points out that this was erected in about 1943 to cater for the large amount of temporary housing (all now destroyed) provided thereabouts then for the considerable numbers of people brought to Corsham to work in the secret underground munitions stores in the former stone quarries.



Michael has kindly provided a photograph of this significant reminder of an important moment in Corsham's history and a very difficult period in the history of Britain. We must never overlook such quiet reminders of our past.

Dr Negley Harte

Look out for Dr Harte's excellent article on the history of local milestones coming in the Autumn 2022 issue!



Robert Tanner: From Goldsmiths to the Great Depression

Chippenham Museum's free exhibition explores the life and work of Robin Tanner during his formative years between the First and Second World Wars. It uses key moments from Robin Tanner's life, such as his training at Goldsmiths College and building a new home in Kington Langley. The exhibition also explores wider themes such as the etching revival, craft and design and developments in art education.

At the heart of the exhibition are works from the recently acquired Golder-Thompson Gift in Memory of Arthur Norman. These etchings and engravings from the 1920s and 30s form the earliest works and help better understand Tanner's blossoming interest in etching, wedded to his love of the English countryside.

The exhibition has also been used as an opportunity to relaunch the edited version of Ernest Hird's book *An Appreciation of the life of Robin Tanner*, published by Chippenham Museum, £11.99



Photos: Melissa Barnett, Chippenham Museum. **(Top left)** Ernest Hird signing copies of his book; **(Right)** Mark Golder and Brian Thompson with Mayor Councillor, Liz Alstrom at the launch of the Robert Tanner exhibition.

What Lies Artily Beneath Corsham

In 1995, the artist Olga Lehmann (1912-2001) wrote a letter to Sir George White of Bristol Aerospace explaining how his father, Sir George Stanley White, had commissioned her to paint murals on the canteen walls at a subterranean factory making Centaurus engines for war planes in 1943. The factory was located around 120 feet below ground at Spring Quarry in Corsham during WWII.



Olga Lehmann painting ARP (Air Raid Precautions) officers during WWII



Olga Lehmann's working sketch of the underground factory at Spring Quarry Corsham

Olga Lehmann knew the architect David Aberdeen (known as a designer of the Aircraft Assembly Buildings at Filton). He was studying at the Bartlett School of Architecture whilst Olga was at the Slade School of Art in the 1930s. Aberdeen approached her to ask her to paint the murals, which were intended to brighten up the place and boost morale for those who were busy underground building the engines and would very rarely see daylight. Amongst others, the mural subjects Olga chose included pre-historic animals, horse racing, sports, sailors,

mermaids and the circus. In the management block she also painted pictures onto removable boards which were framed. To do this job, Olga enlisted the help of her friend, mural painter Gilbert Wood who was working in the film industry and with whom she had often worked.

Miss Lehmann, who, after WWII, built an award-winning career designing film sets and costumes for Hollywood movies, explains in her letter that her first impression of the underground factory reminded her of the film *Metropolis*. Outside was a dull and boring landscape, then after going through a small coal-mine type entrance leading to a large service lift, she descended to the bottom into a wide tunnel with a square ceiling. It was lit by the kind of neon strip lighting which Olga had never seen before and gave the effect of daylight. There were enormous pipes threading their way along the ceiling at the top of the porous Bath Stone walls and she recalled that some of the pipes were painted red.

Article continues next page...

The labyrinthian network of tunnels all branched out in different directions and mostly went downhill. There were small electric vehicles being driven up and down, operated by girls in overalls, who looked like the figureheads on ships.

While underground, Olga Lehmann visited the store where she was able to purchase her workwear, a boiler suit and some clogs. She also recalled visiting the first aid department, although we are not sure why. The Bath Stone that she and Gilbert painted the murals on had been primed and base-coated in a particular cream colour and it was thought that the murals would need touching up several months later due to the damp and porous conditions of the walls.



**Gypsy Encampment Mural by Olga Lehmann - Spring Quarry
Secret Underground Cities (Folly Books)**

After months of communication, in around 2007, the Ministry of Defence agreed to take me underground to discover the murals. What an adventure and privilege it was as I travelled down towards the earth's crust, in what was probably the same lift that Olga Lehmann used. Donning a hardhat and apprehensive about what to expect, suddenly, from the maze of cold, deep, dark tunnels below Corsham, torchlight revealed many of the wonderful artworks in seemingly pristine condition. Each canteen area had taken a week to a fortnight to complete and Miss Lehmann fitted the job in around her regular film work. The murals were painted in 3 colours, red, blue and black, possibly the same colours that were being used to paint the Centaurus engines.

Article continues next page...

Olga Lehmann, as revealed in her 1995 letter, was surprised to learn from Sir George White that over fifty years after painting the murals they were all still visible. According to Oliver Dearden, a trustee of Bristol Aero Collection, the murals were painted in 3 different canteens in the factory, covering a vast area. Of around 76 that were photographed and documented it is not apparent how many now survive. Photographic records are kept in the National Monuments Record Office at Swindon.

English Heritage in association with Oxford Archaeology did a values study of the MoD Corsham murals in 2010 and classified the murals as being of "Outstanding value and a national treasure!" I often wonder about the condition they might be in now and hope (and dream) that one day, some of the murals might be accessible to the general public if parts of Spring Quarry ever became a subterranean museum of Corsham's WWII history.



Permission:
Images 1 & 2
(p.27) are
reproduced
with
permission
from the Olga
Lehmann's
Estate.
Images 3-6 on
p.28-29 are
reproduced
with
permission
from Nick
McCamley:
Secret
Underground
***Cities* (Folly**
Books)



Article: Mandie Stone
artsofstone@yahoo.co.uk

Jane Scott and Lancefield Studios, Pickwick

Hello Pickwick,

Some of you may be aware that tucked away at the rear of Lancefield Place, Pickwick, there lies a big building that is largely hidden from view. You might have seen the green bit that looks rather like a school or office building, you may also have noticed over the last few years how completely overgrown and neglected it has been, with creepers and ivy covering most of the place.

My name is Jane Scott, I'm a potter with a dream. I first laid eyes on the studios in Lancefield Place in August 2021. I swore after the last house renovation that I never wanted to go through the agony of it all again. The next place would be 'all done up'... it was too late, I had already fallen in love with the place, the idea of what it could become and the potential of it all. Half an hour after viewing the property I made a full asking price offer. I got the keys in early March this year and started work.

The vision for the place is a complex of artists' studios and workspaces, welcoming professional dynamic creatives from all backgrounds and practises to share their energy and passion for the arts and become part of Corsham's outstanding arts community. A thriving hub of interesting folk using the space as it was designed, hosting open studio events and welcoming the community to connect and interact with what's going on here. The icing on the cake would be the light-filled multi-purpose teaching space, and specialist ceramics' studio hosting classes, workshops, untutored studio time, private tuition and group bookings.

The building had been empty for around 8 years and the creepers took over; there was ivy squeezing its way into every crack and crevice and creepers galore infiltrating every drain, air vent and gap. The spiders had firmly established their home here and with cobwebs galore, the whole interior resembling something like Miss Havisham's' dining table... I had my work cut out that's for sure.



Eight weeks later, bruised, battered, dazed and with considerably less coins in the coffers, we opened our doors to the public on 1st May. At this point I would like to thank my very tolerant and lovely neighbours for putting up with what must have been at times noisy, dusty and disruptive works going on here.

Article continues next page...

I very much appreciate your kindness and tremendous support, it really does mean a lot to me.



Above, background: All the buildings from the green structure on the left to the stone building, far right [formerly part of the old Pickwick Brewery] - are now Lancefield Studios. Taken from the garden of 12 Pickwick, [Photo: **John Maloney**]



Above: Pottery teaching classes in session **Above, Right:** some products of the Jane Scott Ceramics [Photos: **Jane Scott**]

We now have nine beautiful studio/office spaces and the most wonderful teaching space where I also run my pottery. There are vegetables growing in the garden and a beautiful wildflower garden buzzing with bees and creepy creatures that prefer to be outside rather than inside.

We are still filling up the studio office spaces and the place is evolving. We do have a fantastic art photographer and a painter in residence and the pottery is in full swing, so the process of creativity here has begun.

We are very pleased to announce that there will soon be printmaking and jewellery making workshops happening here very soon alongside the ceramics classes. There are regular hand building pottery classes in studio 9 running on:

Tuesday evenings 6.30pm - 9pm

Wednesday mornings 10am - 12.30pm

Wednesday evenings 6.30pm - 9pm

The new Autumn 2022 term for the pottery classes starts on Tuesday 6th September but you can always join up mid-term and if you know that you might miss some sessions you can make them up during any other class or as independent studio time ~ just contact me about that.

You can find out more information and book a place in the pottery classes here at: www.janescottceramics.com

You can also book private tuition if you would like a one-to-one pottery experience or perhaps get some friends together for a group booking, maybe you have children who might like a pottery party; either way you will be made very welcome here and whatever you make will be solidified into the memory of your day.

The artists information and contact details are available on the website ~

www.lancefieldstudios.co.uk

Or you can call me directly on: 07813718853.

I very much look forward to meeting my neighbours and becoming part of the lovely Pickwick community.

Jane Scott



RIGHT ANGLE
Picture Framing
Serving Corsham since 1985

For all types of picture framing & art materials too!

OPEN
Mon. to Fri. 9-5.50
Sat. 9-4

20 High St
Corsham
Tel 01249 716051

www.rightanglepictureframing.co.uk

The advertisement for Right Angle Picture Framing features a red background with a yellow border. At the top, the business name "RIGHT ANGLE Picture Framing" is written in a stylized font, with "Serving Corsham since 1985" below it. In the center is a photograph of the shop's exterior, which has a red frame and large glass windows. Below the photo, the text "For all types of picture framing & art materials too!" is displayed. At the bottom, the opening hours are listed, followed by the address "20 High St Corsham" and the telephone number "Tel 01249 716051". The website address "www.rightanglepictureframing.co.uk" is at the very bottom.

CORSHAM STATION latest:

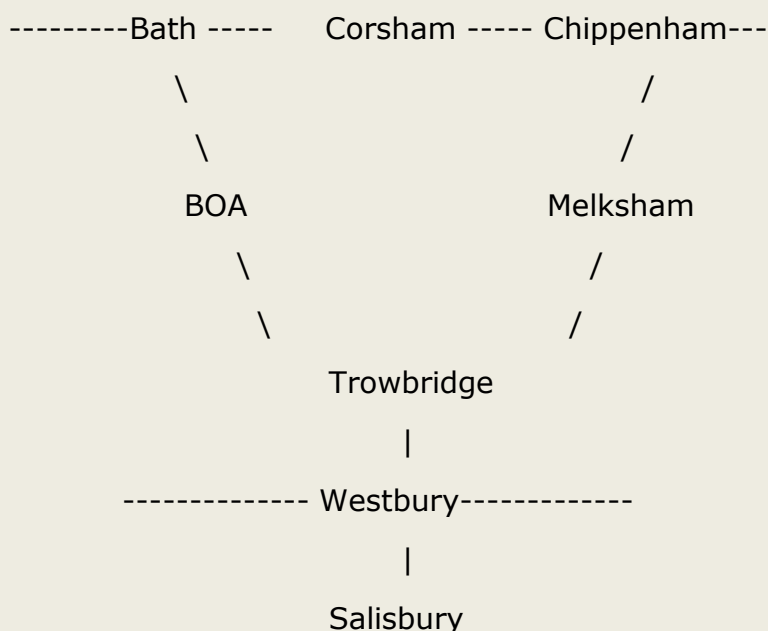
The Civic Society has campaigned for nearly 40 years for Corsham Station to be reopened and now has a Corsham Station Friends Group who work on the Campaign/will be updated with progress.

We are also represented on the Town Team (by Chris Johnson) with Corsham Town Council, Trans Wilts and other stakeholders, supporting Wiltshire Council in putting forward a Strategic Outline Business Case to the Department for Transport for the reopening of the station. The project has received a £50,000 grant from the Department of Transport and it is planned to submit the case in the Autumn.

Thank you to all those who completed the recent survey – there were over 1500 responses and the vast majority were supportive. Local stakeholders (employers, schools etc) are also being consulted prior to submitting the case.

Assuming the project passes all its key stages in a timely manner, it is estimated that work to build the new station could begin in 2026 and be completed and operational by 2028.

Assuming the bid is successful then we believe enhancing bus links with the surrounding area will be key to maximising rail usage and minimising pollution. With that in mind discussions with Trans WILts resulted in us putting forward a bid to the GWR Community Investment Award scheme for a grant of £20k to assist in investigating a "Rail-Bus Integration scheme in North Wiltshire" serving Corsham and surrounding villages, and linking the station with Bradford On Avon and Melksham stations. The study would include consultation with the existing bus providers, neighbouring councils and Wiltshire Council and would include looking at what part Demand Responsive Transport should play. As the rail network looks as follows round here



A triangular service linking these 3 stations will also enhance travel options and could be implemented in advance of the station opening.

There were 300 applications to the scheme and our application was unsuccessful this time but we have been invited to apply again next year.

We will continue to campaign for the Station to be reopened and if you would like to be kept up to date/show your support please join Corsham Station Friends (£5 p.a.) by contacting Chris Johnson at corshamcivicsociety@gmail.com.

Chris Johnson



Corsham Stationery, 19 Pickwick Road,
Corsham, Wiltshire SN13 9BQ

01249 712 122

shop@corshamstationery.co.uk

www.corshamstationery.co.uk

 Find us on Facebook!

Arts & Crafts
Business Services
Printing & Copying
Stationery
and much more...



Corsham
...for a
Sunny
day out

Award-winning
independent
shops



Arts, antiques,
books, toys, fashion,
food and more...

Great places to
eat and drink



Historic High Street

Plus FREE Two
Hour Parking!



www.corsham.gov.uk/visit 

mander
duffill

— Est 1947 —

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
TAX & FINANCIAL ADVISERS

WHAT WE OFFER:

- Accountancy and Tax Services
- Tax Compliance, Planning and Advice
- International Tax Planning and Advice
- Business Sales and Acquisitions
- Company Restructuring
- Company and Business Start-ups
- Management Accounts, Bookkeeping and VAT Services
- Payroll and Auto Enrolment
- Research and Development
- Financial Services
- Investments
- Protection
- Inheritance Tax Planning
- Pensions and Retirement Planning

GET IN TOUCH:



info@manderduffill.com



01249 650441



The Old Post Office
41-43 Market Place
Chippenham SN15 3HR

Offices also in Devizes,
Malmesbury and London



CORSHAM CIVIC SOCIETY 2022

All meetings are at the Pound arts centre (telephone 01249 701628) at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. Guests are very welcome. Fees: Members £2, Non-Members £5.

- 17th Sept Visit to the SS Great Britain [for further details contact corshamcivicsociety@gmail.com]
- 23rd Sept Robin Tanner Exhibition – Chippenham Museum, private view of exhibition and the galleries. Begins at *7pm start ~ refreshments will be provided.
- 28th Oct Matt Chapman, **A life in drystone walls**
- 25th Nov Ben Thomas, Reader in History of Art at Kent University, **How Should Art be Displayed**
- Dec No meeting

- *Please note that the Programme may be subject to changes*

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