Corsham Spotlight

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*Contributions to **Spotlight** are very welcome.*

Please submit articles to Pat Whalley at: patsay642@outlook.com



Queen Camilla: Her majesty gives her approval.

Poppy Fever Hits Corsham

The counting finally stopped at 32,000. A campaign to cover Corsham with poppies led by members of the Peacock Women's Institute was supported well by the town and even attracted a royal visit.
The project has exceeded everyone's expectations.



Church Cascade: St Bartholomew's Church face was adorned with poppies (photo with kind permission of Paul Meads).

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From the Vice Chair

Well, here we are again - or rather here I am again, trying to find something absolutely riveting with which to enthral you. On the social and entertainment side, several of us spent a lovely sunny afternoon sitting in dappled shade in the garden of the Lady Margaret Hungerford Almshouses. The cakes provided by our members were great, and thankfully, by restricting the amount brought, we broke even with just a few taking a doggy-bag home. One pleasant surprise was the attendance of the Sanders family, who so kindly hosted us on our visit to their home, Rudloe Manor.

We have had two talks, the first from the daughter of one of the original members of the SAS, which was very interesting and informative. The second could not have been more different. A very full house listened to a delightful talk by Michael Rumsey's former deputy, talking about her visits to St. Helena, think Napoleon, attended by two members of island families and to Ascension Island, where some six of her audience had spent some time. It was a most entertaining talk. Details of these talks can be found on pages 7-8.

Our last talk of the year was a homegrown affair. David Leonard gave us his thoughts on Chapel Plaister. Given how much we enjoyed his description of heading the judiciary in Brunei, it proved to be a real eye-opener on a place we have all driven past or through but have never stopped at.

And now to 2026… You should all have received an email from Michal Rumsey informing all members that, from January, we will be holding our meetings in St. Aldhelm's church. Welcoming, warm, comfortable seating, no distractions, plenty of parking by the Co-op and a well-lit approach to the venue –and with tea or coffee after the talk – what more could we ask for. You can see the details of the 2026 talks on the back of the magazine.

Looking forward, our annual lunch will take place on Friday 27th February. The venue is the Il Vello d'Oro in Shaw. The menu and order form are loose inside this magazine. If you have no transport, please let me or Gill know, and we will arrange transport as we did for the visit to Rudloe Manor.

In the meantime, on behalf of your committee, may I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year, whatever the Chancellor has done to your pay packet!

Edward Barrett



St Aldhelm's Church, Pickwick Road, will host CCS events going forward

The Corsham Tapestry Project

The stitchers are working hard to produce their selected images. So far, we have six completed and another twenty-six underway. At our last monthly meeting in November, we had five new members join. With some twenty-six stitchers now on the active list, and another ten who are unable to participate at the moment, things are looking bright.

To this must be added several potential stitchers who, until now, have been very busy knitting and crocheting the poppies for Peacock WI; we may soon be a force to be reckoned with. We are now meeting every month, some chat but mostly to collect a new line drawing and image and threads or to hand in completed images for later appliqueing onto the back cloth.

Edward Barrett

Membership Subscriptions

In line with the current financial situation that most societies/clubs face across the board, the executive committee have concluded that after a period of some 10 years with no change to our subscription, there is a need to increase membership fees for 2026.

From January the following subscriptions will apply:

Single person, - £20 per year

Joint membership - £30 per year

5-year membership - £80 per person

Please note that annual subscriptions are due in January.

Poppy Fever Hits Corsham

In the 17th century, tulip mania was sweeping through the Netherlands. Bulbs changed hands for thousands of guilders as people tried to get the best and most unusual colours. Some were bankrupted by the craze.

But believe me, that was nothing compared with the number of poppies that were created by people to honour Remembrance in Corsham this year.

The story starts in November 2024, when some members of Peacock Women's Institute went to visit the Holt poppy display and were struck by how lovely it was. Added to this was the fact that some of us had also seen the display at Atworth, and an idea was born. Couldn't we do the same thing for St Bartholomew's here in Corsham?

Various people were consulted; a "poppy committee" of members of the WI who would be doing the craft side, support from the Town Council and from the church. It was agreed that what was needed was 10,000 poppies to create a cascade on the church. It seemed a tall order, but doable, and the message went out to everybody to get knitting and crocheting.

The first challenge was supplies. Very quickly we became short of red wool. The discount shop did its best and people bought wool far and wide. One person went to buy red wool from the Guildhall market in Bath and when she bought up all the red wool they had, the shopkeeper remarked, "You from Corsham, then?!"

One important factor was that in February, BBC News West interviewed Margaret Winskill about the project. She is, as well as being an excellent craftswoman, clearly very good at the interview. A slow news day and a good interview meant that the details of the poppy project went out onto the BBC News website and were seen all over the world. It wasn't until much later that it was discovered how important this interview was to become.

We were lucky enough to be allowed by Andrew Hall, the owner of the precinct shops, to take over a vacant shop right in the centre from mid-April. This rapidly fulfilled two functions: firstly, as a centre for operations and as one of the places where poppies could be left, but also as a community hub where people could just drop in and have a chat. As it was so central, people would come in and simply say hello.

Of course, there were other attractions. Anyone who wanted to learn how to knit or crochet could get a lesson there, and there was always a cup of tea and a biscuit available – not to mention the attentions of Baxter the dog!

Things were going reasonably smoothly, although the poppies were slow in coming in. In August, only 6000 poppies had been collected, and, whilst the target of 10,000 still seemed possible, it was becoming more challenging.

And then things started moving. The collection points at the Town Hall, St Bart's and the poppy shop started to fill up, sometimes needing to be emptied every day. Parcels from around the country and all parts of the world started to arrive from people who had seen Margaret's article and had some connection with Corsham and wanted to contribute.

The poppies were counted into bags of 250, and Elaine Dent (the president of Peacock WI and chair of the Poppy Committee) gave over her summer house for storage, but it became clear that there were many more poppies coming in than the original 10,000, and other places to put them became something to consider.

They decided to decorate the planters down the High Street, and the main gate by the War Memorial at the top of Pound Pill was to get a display featuring an 80 for the anniversary.

At this point, people from the Poppy Committee were also engaging with the young people in the community. Small groups of ladies went into the primary schools and made pompom-style poppies with the young learners, teaching them both about the joy of making them but also why we wear the poppy in November.

Scouts and Guides, Cubs and Brownies, Beavers and Rainbows all got a visit too. This led to even more people coming to the shop in the Precinct as the children wanted to make more. One pair turned up one day and stayed for hours, sending their parents home with instructions to collect them later.

And the poppies kept coming. At around 30,000 messages were sent out to ask people to stop. By this time, the shop had become the centre for sewing the poppies onto the netting that would make the cascade (although one was done at the church too) and also onto the strips that would make arrangements on the planters.

The counting finally stopped at 32,000, although they were still coming in dribs and drabs, so the final figure is somewhat unknown. What was known was that the project had succeeded beyond anyone's expectations.

Along the way, a group of the Poppy Committee, led by Pippa Owen and fuelled by prosecco, decided they would write to Buckingham Palace and invite a member of the Royal Family to see the cascade. This was in February, and it was a distant memory when Elaine had a letter from the Palace in August to say that the Queen was going to come.

There followed months of secrecy. People were invited to a launch event on the 28th October with a reference to a VIP, but only a few people knew who that was.

This added a layer of complexity to things, especially in the run-up to the Queen's visit. The cascade was due to be put in place by Minety's who had offered the services of a cherry picker and a team to get the nets on the church tower on the Thursday before the Royal visit and the launch, but the weather was too windy and too wet for safety and for a couple of days it looked like the cascade might not go up. But everything came together and Corsham was able to put on a wonderful show for the Queen's visit.

If you had been around the poppy shop that morning, you would have been aware of a lot of WI members muttering, "Ma'am like ham, not farm", but the visit was a great success, as the subsequent press coverage showed. Corsham even made it into HELLO magazine!

The poppies will remain in place until mid-November, when they will be taken down, dried out and carefully stored for the community to make use of in future years.

And what next? Don't forget the ongoing Corsham Tapestry if you are looking for another craft-based project… and Elaine has a twinkle in her eye about a plan for next summer. Who knows? But it shows that when it comes to putting on a show, Corsham punches well above its weight!

Alison Warren



St Bartholomew's Church poppy cascade (credit Paul Meads)

Remembrance Sunday

Although the Society was not directly involved in the Remembrance Sunday event on 9th November, several of our members participated. The town was honoured that one of the Wiltshire Deputy Lieutenants, Lord Talbot of Malahide, joined us and he was very impressed by the services and by the excellent turnout of townsfolk in support.

Smile-a-while

As some of you may know, I am also the President of the Corsham Branch of the Royal British Legion. A week before the event above, the chairman, wearing a navy-blue jacket with RBL in very bold lettering, and I were standing next to the War Memorial discussing matters for the parade. He was holding a takeaway cup of coffee.

A lady approached us and told us we were doing a wonderful job, and she wished to make a donation. We responded that we had no poppies. She told us not to worry and proceeded to donate some coins - straight into the mouthpiece of the chairman's coffee cup! After much laughter, we accepted her money and she departed wearing a wide smile.

Edward Barrett

Jack Archer – 'A Life in Ink'

This was the title of an exhibition held at the Pound in Corsham at the end of August, to celebrate the talents of one of our longest-serving members. It was produced by his daughter and son as a surprise for Jack! We were also surprised and delighted that his work was being acknowledged. Jack is now living at Claremont – Warrington Homes, and it was so nice to see him looking so well.

But what did we learn about Jack? Born in London in 1925, he left school with no clear idea of a career path, but with his recognised artistic bent, he was directed to the drawing office of Tyler & Co, a railway signalling engineering firm. After a spell in the RAF, he secured work with a large aircraft manufacturer, De Havilland and Vickers, as a technical illustrator.

By the 1960s, he was expanding his creative talent into watercolour, pen and ink print, but he did not lose sight of his first love, drawing. New technologies, which were coming in at the end of Jack's working life, led to a demand for manuals, guides and publicity material published by the MOD, but occasional exhibits and pieces of institutional artwork too.

So how did Corsham meet Jack, his lovely wife Jean, and his children Karen and Keith. They came to live in the town in the late 80s, where they quickly became part of the community, and over the years, Jack joined many of the clubs and societies in the town.

The list is endless, "and not necessarily in the right order!" Jack loved to cycle and became part of The Chippenham Wheelers. He loved history and joined the Civic Society. He loved to sing and was a member of the Silver Ring Choir in Bath and Corsham Choral Society. He belonged to the Garden Society and volunteered for the local Food Bank. He was a Church magazine distributor for St Bart's. When he wasn't doing all of that, he was practising his calligraphy skills, illustrating posters, writing poetry and children's books, with illustrations, of course.

Such a busy life. How did you fit it all in Jack? Our heartfelt congratulations. .

Pat Whalley



Jack enjoying a 'glass' at his exhibition.

Review

At our end of **July** meeting, David Dawson, Devizes Museum director, gave a most interesting talk on the subject of 'Uncommon/people, Folk Culture in Wessex'.

There are of course, many examples of our folk culture – Bonfire Night, Oak Apple Day, the Moonrakers legend, the May Day celebration at Cerne Abbas, festivals and songs, passed down through the ages, but very often we don't know how long ago they started.

Many are assumed to be 18th century, but we can be sure that the winter solstice at Stonehenge precedes these. As does the celebration of Wassail on the 12th night, when apple trees were the subject of songs designed to bring them back to life in the new year and ensure a good crop.

Other folk art is demonstrated in barge ware, pottery and sewing crafts, ships in bottles, and corn dollies to name a few. And it seems that we continue to produce new folk art and customs which will be passed down to our children and our children's children. A charming legacy.

Let us hope these customs will continue.

August brought our garden party at the Almshouses. Fortunately, it was a beautiful day, and everyone was suitably fed and watered. We were a small party, but we enjoyed splendid cakes and scones – what more could you want, on a lovely summer's day.

Our thanks are due to everyone who helped with the catering and movement of tables and chairs to make sure we all had a comfortable seat, and the ability to socialise together.

In **September**, we were delighted to welcome Lorna Almonds Windmill, daughter of 'Gentlemen' Jim Almonds, one of the founding members of the famous SAS.

Lorna gave us an insight into her father, his values and achievements that were sometimes unseen by the public. This was a remarkable man, skilled in so many areas and, as is an important requirement of the SAS, able to adapt to any given situation.

The dramatic portrayal by the media, of those who are invited to join the SAS (yes, you have to be invited) may be exaggerated and sometimes mis-reported, but one cannot understate the bravery, commitment, and talent of those who are accepted to join this elite group, and their ability to adapt to meet the requirements of the moment wherever they are in the world.

In **October**, Wendy Reynolds, a former visiting primary teacher on West Falkland, gave an illustrated talk entitled 'Recollections of Ascension Island and St. Helena'.

During the 17 years that Wendy had taught in the Falkland Islands, she had landed many times on Ascension Island but the passengers on the RAF transport were not allowed to leave the airbase while the plane was being refuelled.

Some years later, she did return for a holiday and gave us a fine selection of photographs showing the barrenness of some parts of the island, while other parts had lush vegetation. A number of our visitors at the meeting had been stationed on the island and were able to give their impressions of living there.

St. Helena is very different in appearance, though both islands have a volcanic past. Jamestown, the capital, was where they stayed for several weeks when they explored the island, visiting the house where Napoleon was living during his exile after the Battle of Waterloo.

Again, we had visitors who had lived on the island, and one guest even remembered sitting on top of the giant tortoise when he was 7. 'Jonathan', the giant tortoise, is 192 years old this year and holds the record for being the oldest living land animal. Many questions were asked by the audience, which Wendy and those who had connections with the island readily answered.

This will have been Wendy's 3rd talk to the Society these last few years, and we thank her most sincerely for taking the trouble of journeying from Lympstone, Devon, to speak to us.





Above: Johnathan the 192-year-old tortoise

Left: Napoleon statue on St Helena

November, after a small hiatus, the venue changed to St Aldhelm's Church where everyone thoroughly enjoyed David Leonard's talk on the history of Chapel Plaister. Started under the auspices of the Salisbury Diocese in 1340, by the 15th century, it had become a route and shelter for pilgrims on the way to Glastonbury. A scallop shell badge can be seen above the doorway which indicates a welcome to the chapel. It was all but abandoned in the 16th century, but in Victorian times it was thankfully restored. There is a kneeler in the chapel which pictures a mask, two pistols and a gallows. This is a reference to a notorious highwayman who frequented the nearby ale house, one John Poulter, who tried unsuccessfully to avoid the gallows by reporting on all his known associates, but this was not enough to save him. A truly fascinating building which deserves a visit. The chapel is open on Wednesday afternoons, from May to September 2-4pm; and a service is held every third Sunday of the month at 6pm.

The Swords of the State of Scotland

Having published a book entitled Ceremonial Swords of Britain in January 2017, I was contacted by Mark D. Dennis in late 2022 about the creation of a new sword from Scotland. After the usual pleasantries and touching on several technical matters, we agreed to wait till mid-2023 to further discuss the sword, which by then would be nearing completion. Images and details of the sword appeared in the press on 1st July 2023.

Mark and I continued to communicate, but it was not until I decided to produce this article for Spotlight that we entered serious discussions. I noted that he was an American born in Los Angeles and told him of my birth in the Hollywood Hospital. He responded that he had been born in that very same hospital just a few years after me. Coincidence or what?

Although not part of the royal collection per se, the Scottish Sword of State is an important part of the celebrated Honours of Scotland, the country's regalia, which includes the Scottish crown and sceptre on display in the Crown Room of Edinburgh Castle. In 1502, King James IV ordered a Sword of Honour with a scabbard. It was carried by the King at a meeting of the Parliament in 1503. James V ordered a refashioning of this sword.

Around 1506, the 'Warrior Pope', Julius II, patron of Michelangelo, commissioned the first of three identical swords as ceremonial emblems of temporal authority. This first sword was presented, along with a consecrated hat, to King James IV in 1507, with the others presented in 1509 to the King of Hungary and in 1512 to the Swiss Confederation.

The three Honours were first used together at the coronation of the nine-month-old Mary Queen of Scots in September 1543. The sword was used at the lavish coronation of Charles I at Holyrood Abbey, Edinburgh, in June 1633. It was last used formally at the Coronation of Charles II at Scone in January 1651. In 1652, during the Commonwealth, it was hidden in Dunnottar Castle and later buried in Kinneff parish church, where the blade was broken to fit the hole and the scabbard bent in three. It was returned to Edinburgh Castle in December 1660. In 1707, due to the Treaty of Union, which forbade the removal of the Honours from Scotland, it was locked in a chest in the castle, where it remained for 111 years, until February 1818. In 1941, it was again hidden in Edinburgh Castle amid fears of a German invasion.

On 24th June 1953, it was taken out again, and taken by the Lord Lyon King of Arms, escorted by the Queen's Bodyguard, the Royal Company of Archers, to the High Kirk of St. Giles in Edinburgh's High Street where a Service of Thanksgiving for the Order of the Thistle took place in the presence of the new Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II. At the close of the service, the Crown, Sword and Sceptre were, in turn, presented to Her Majesty, who returned them. They were taken to the Crown Room at Edinburgh Castle, where they have since remained.

The sword is the sole survivor of the several Swords of State acquired by James IV and James V. It can no longer be used in the ceremonial life of the Nation as, over the intervening five centuries, the lead mixed into the silver alloy of the hilt by the Renaissance Italian craftsmen has crystalised to the point that the hollow hilt will now crumble under pressure. Much of this information has been extracted from 'The Honours of Scotland'.



The length of the sword in the scabbard is 5 feet 5½ inches (2.658m)
The weight of the sword in the scabbard is 11 lbs (4.99 kg)

The Sword: The sword and scabbard were made by Domenico da Sutri in the period of the so-called High Renaissance, and their sumptuous appearance reflects the decorative style then in vogue in Italy. The slim, steel blade, which was broken in half to shorten it during its period of interment, is etched beneath the protecting plates with on one side the figure of St. Peter and on the other that of St. Paul. In the fuller is etched: JULIUS II PONT MAX: (Julius II Supreme Pontiff). The etched lines of the figures and lettering were originally inlaid with gold. The hilt is silver-gilt and was all of repoussé work. The quillon-block has two stylised oak leaves (broken at the points) which form a protecting plate over the scabbard. The quillons are dolphin shaped (with mouth to the block): symbolic of Christ's Church, tapering to end in three points, the centre one an acorn. At some stage the dolphins have been cast from the originals and replaced. The grip, which is in the form of a double baluster with central collar, is decorated with oak leaves and acorns; symbols from the Arms of Pope Julius. The massive pommel is circular and flat and four inches across and once had inset enamelled plates.

The Scabbard: The wooden scabbard is covered with dark crimson velvet and the edges are bound in silver-gilt galloons. It is mounted with silver-gilt repoussé work. On the obverse the chape bears a large section of blue enamelling and a small finial. The main length of the scabbard is divided into three roughly equal sections by two bands which once held enamelled plates. The three areas are filled with elaborate decoration (missing in places) of oak leaves, acorns, dolphins and grotesque masks. The mouth locket has an enamelled panel bearing the arms of Julius II and above the arms is the symbol of the papacy – crossed keys linked by a tasselled cord surmounted by the papal tiara. This form of ornamentation is repeated on the reverse. Quite large sections are missing on both sides due to the folding into three it received during its periods of interment. Unusually the scabbard is nearly 12 inches longer than the sword blade indicating that they were not made to go together. Uniquely, this sword has a 4ft 9in (1.499m) sword belt.

Edward Barrett

This article will continue in the next issue of Spotlight.

Monks Lane & Monks Chapel

Can I introduce to our newer arrivals in Corsham, one of our most historic buildings, and its immediate area? If you travel from the centre of the town toward Gastard and Melksham (B3353), having passed along Prospect and the Warrington Homes for the elderly, the road narrows at Lindley's, and almost immediately you find a turning right into Monks Lane. It might look inconsequential, but just up a slight hill, there is a unique building – Monks Chapel.

In 1662, King Charles II had been restored to the throne, and his Parliament, having set about revising the English Prayer Book, decreed that all ministers should use a new fixed form of service and consent to the new Book of Common Prayer. Those who did not conform were prevented by law from preaching within five miles of a Borough town.

So those who did not agree, known as 'Dissenters', built Monks Chapel, five miles from Chippenham, the borough town. Beneath the high and imposing pulpit from which the preacher had a very good view of the surrounding countryside, there exists a door through which he could escape if the Chapel was raided by the authorities.

Monks is an area where families have lived for generations, so the legend that a tunnel was made along which a preacher may escape to the security of Monks House is very feasible. The interior has its original box pews, so take a moment to imagine what it would have been like to sit listening to a long and heartfelt sermon by the preacher of the day. The seats are very narrow, encouraging everyone to sit up very straight; there was no chance for anyone to fall asleep!

The lane itself starts with a farm on the left, once believed to be a monastery, and rises to a quarry, of which a large proportion was later used by the MOD for storage, and now is occupied by industrial units, although the remainder continued as a quarry until well into the 1980s. The cottages on the hillside may have been for agricultural workers initially and perhaps quarry workers in the mid-1800s.

The two semi-detached houses just below the chapel were sold in 1897 for £200. In the roadside wall of No. 4 is a shaped stone inscribed - "J A Porter killed March 22 1787." It is believed that his head was crushed when he fell from a cart whilst the horse was bolting.



The Chapel



In memory of J Porter 1787

A journey further up the hill brings you to 'The Whores Pond'. In October 1594, some women of ill repute were taken to the pond at the top of Monks Lane for immersion. They were placed individually on a cucking stool (ducking stool), which was a device with two very long shafts with wheels at one end. The woman could be strapped between the parallel shafts and pushed into the water. She was then dipped and fully immersed several times, then pulled back from the water. Presumably, this was deemed to be a punishment for her perceived sins.

The earliest identified records of this area go back as far as 1366, where a list of tenants in Corsham included Joan the Hore, paying five shillings, and owned 30 acres. It seems that for hundreds of years, Monks Lane has been a fine example of the saying "all life is here", and we should not overlook it as part of Corsham's history.

Source: '*The Ways of Corsham*' by John Poulsom; Bath Stone by Messrs Perkins, Brooks & Pearce.

Pat Whalley

Planning Matters

The Society tries to keep an eye on controversial developments in our area and, where appropriate, express support for local feelings. There have been concerns recently about three locally proposed large-scale developments, namely the battery storage site near Neston, the data centre adjacent to Westwells village and the housing estate proposed for the land north of The Bath Road, Pickwick. The Civic Society has responded to Wiltshire Council in each case.

In the case of the large field site north of the A4 Bath Road, Pickwick, now at its Appeal Stage, there was a meeting on Tuesday 25th at the Council offices in Chippenham. It was an appeal against non-determination by Wiltshire Council Inspectorate and the reference number is APP/Y3940/W/25/3370482.

A further, smaller application concerns Acorn Property Group, who are seeking to build 11 houses on the last remaining open space in Pickwick Conservation Area. The site is north of Bath Road in the middle of the village and behind two listed buildings at 17 and 19 Pickwick. Under the local plan the council has previously rejected this site for development, even on a smaller scale.

If there is a local development proposed in your area on which you have a view, you could tell us about it, or go to the Wilts County Council website – Planning Matters – insert the relevant address/site description, and put forward your own opinion.

Pat Whalley

Corsham Station Campaign Update

The Corsham Railway Station Town team met on 5th September this year and Sarah Gibson MP confirmed her agreement to be the sponsor for the station (replacing Michelle Donelan). This is important as a sponsoring MP, inter alia, endorses any bid to DfT, acts as a political advocate for the project and works with councils and/or community/rail user groups to develop proposals.

On the negative side, the government has scrapped the RYR (Restoring Your Railways) Fund. However, Sarah had spoken to Lord Hendy (Minister of State for Rail) and the government is, apparently, receptive to economically viable cases for new stations.

Sarah had also spoken to Colin Skellett OBE, Chief Executive of YTL UK Group, who had helped achieve a new station at Filton and was happy to meet the Town team – he will attend the next meeting in December.

It was unclear whether the previous SOBC (Strategic Outline Business Case) had been assessed by the government – this will be chased as it is considered Corsham has a strong case in that, once built, the station would be profitable, i.e. a contributor to government finances.

The Town team also discussed the Bath and Wiltshire Metro Proposal, but agreed that it was ambitious and long-term, and Corsham Town Council will aim to understand more about its implications for Corsham.

Finally, direct trains from Bristol to Oxford started again on September 20th after a break for summer – they will run twice a day each way on Saturdays only as part of an ongoing trial. This is important as this stopping service is the one that would stop at Corsham if/when a station is built.

Pat Whalley

Lloyds Bank, High Street

It is nice to see the scaffolding has come down at the front of 13 High Street, the building that we still refer to as the old Lloyds Bank. We are looking forward to seeing the transformation inside, hopefully early next year!

Well done to everyone concerned, another great addition to our High Street.



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CORSHAM CIVIC SOCIETY TALKS 2025/2026

All meetings are at St Aldhelm's Church Pickwick Road Corsham SN13 9BD 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.

23rd Jan	Carole Britton, Author of **Past, Present, Presence, The Companion Guide to The Athelstan Pilgrim Way**, a walk inspired by Hilary Peters
27th Feb	**Annual Lunch** The venue is the Il Vello d'Oro in Shaw
27th Mar	Presentation by Corsham Town Council officers explaining the **Neighbourhood Plan Review for 2026**
24th Apr	**People & Places of Chippenham** (Chippenham Museums 25th Anniversary) with Melissa Barnett, Head of Museum & Heritage Services
15th May	**AGM** Town Hall Corsham 7pm
26th June	**Restoration of the Assize Building Devizes** A talk by David Dawson, Director of Wiltshire Museum, Devizes
24th July	**The Characters of Bath through History** An insight to be given by one of the Mayor of Bath's Guides
15th Aug	**Annual Garden Party** at Lady Margaret Hungerford Almshouses
25th Sept	**Our Speaker will be Morgyn Davies** Subject to be advised.

Please note that the programme may be subject to changes.

For more information email: corshamcivicsociety@gmail.com or see the website: 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