



Friends of Wiltshire Victoria County History

The Victoria County History of England

Friends of Wiltshire VCH

WVCH Trust Registered Charity No 1102882

Newsletter No 7, August 2017

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Wiltshire Victoria County History, keeping you in touch with news, events and fund-raising.

2017 Summer Event at Odstock Manor

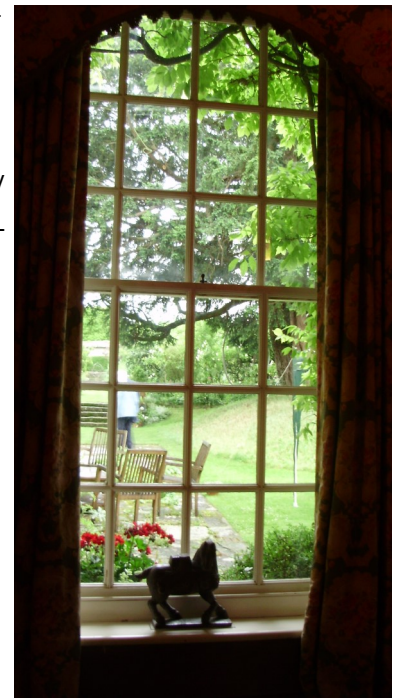
Our summer event at Odstock Manor, so kindly hosted by Lady Penny Marland on June 8th, was a great success. The sun refused to shine, there were gusts of wind, showers and rain, the date clashed with the surprise General Election, but none of this dampened the enthusiasm of the visitors for the beautiful house and gardens.

Introduced by our Patron, Mrs Sarah Troughton, Julian Orbach, who is currently revising Pevsner's volume on Wiltshire's buildings, gave an informative talk about the house, its history and former owners; showing, amongst other things, that there is a direct link between Lady Penny Marland and the Webb Family, who lived at Odstock Manor in the 18th Century.

Architecturally the contrast between Odstock and our 2016 venue at Wardour, which was built in the Palladian style, could not have been greater: encapsulating the many stages of English history and building tradition. One very interesting similarity, however, is that both houses were known for their recusant connection.

Before tea, music from a grand piano in the upstairs drawing room greeted us and Lord Marland gave an amusing and informative talk on the art that he and Lady Marland have collected over their married life, including works by Augustus John, Walter Sickert, Cecil Beaton and sculptures by Anthony Gormley and Elizabeth Frink.

Afternoon tea was a delicious selection of miniature cakes and sandwiches.



Window view of the garden at Odstock Manor.

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Dear Friends

Recent Events

Firstly, many thanks to Lord and Lady Marland of Odstock Manor for their hospitality, which has enabled us to add significantly to our funds.

We are thus able to continue commissioning work to be done on Volume XX, which covers the Chippenham area.



Mrs Sarah Troughton, the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Lady Penny Marland and Vicky Landell Mills, Chair of WVCH, listen to Julian Orbach's talk at Odstock Manor

At present Professor Richard Hoyle is working on the economic history of the town. Dr Rosalind Johnson's draft on Education is ready for submission to Central Office and will be put on the VCH web-site; she has also almost completed work on the Charities in the area, the social structures and social life. Dr Gordon McKelvie has completed the guide to historical sources essential for the guidance of our historians.

We are very grateful for the input of Dr John Chandler, who, as well as working on a revision of the introduction to Volume XX and being committed to sections of Volume XIX, pro-

vides our historians with overall guidance.

New Trustees

Two of our trustees are nominated by Wiltshire Council and, Following the Local Elections in May, Cllr Stuart Wheeler expressed a wish to continue as a WC Trustee and Cllr Ian Thorn, member for Calne Central, has been nominated. Chris Caswill did not stand for re-election on this occasion, but, as an historian and a former member for Chippenham, has been invited to continue as a Trustee in his own right.

Institute of Historical Research, University of London

The governing body of the Wiltshire VCH is the VCH in London. Based at Senate House, Bloomsbury, it is part of the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London.

There have been a number of changes at our "head office" recently with both the Director of the Institute and the Director of the VCH leaving and the organization sharing the general sense of economic pressure.

The good news is that the new Director of the Institute has been appointed, Professor Jo Fox, and will be in post in January 2018. The appointment of the new Director for the VCH will be her decision and we await this with interest.

From our point of view the link with the University of London is crucial if we are to maintain academic credibility for the work carried out here and remain in line with the traditions of the VCH.

Donations and introducing Easyfundraising

We are very grateful for a second donation of £500 from the Inchcape Foundation.

We are dependent on donations and the support of our Friends to fund the publication of

VCH Volumes.

To this end we have now registered for Easy Fundraising, which is a website that enables our supporters to earn donations for us at no cost to themselves. If you shop online you can now do it through easyfundraising.org.uk. and raise free donations for us every time you shop.

Simply go to their website, register, choose the Wiltshire Victoria County History Trust as your nominated charity and follow the simple instructions to raise money for WVCH as you shop.

Seeking Saxon Chippenham

For the past four years Mike Stone and Clive Green have led a group of local archaeologists, working in conjunction with Chippenham Museum, to locate evidence of Saxon defences and habitation. This work has been concentrated in the Chippenham garden of husband and wife Marc Allum and Lisa Lloyd From the BBC's Antiques Roadshow.



WVCH Trustee and Archaeologist Mike Stone with Marc Allum and Clive Green show the new Chippenham Town Council Chief Executive, Mark Smith, the successful dig and Roman finds in Marc's garden.

Excitingly, the excavation this year uncovered further remains of a Tudor/Stuart building and, with the removal of an earthen floor, the

site revealed a really big surprise: just under the floor was the damaged remains of a Roman cremation burial with at least seven pottery vessels.

One of the vessels is a type known as Samian Ware and was made in France. It shows gladiators chasing animals and was obviously prized by its owner as it had been repaired.

This is the first time that evidence of Roman occupation has been found near St Andrew's Church. The finds will be deposited in Chippenham Museum.

Digitisation of VCH

The VCH Central website now has available to view as pdf files four draft reports on the following topics: Chippenham Introduction and Boundaries; Chippenham Established Church; Chippenham Nonconformity and Chippenham Education. These can be viewed by going directly to the VCH Central website or by using the link on mychippenham.org.uk.

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 5th October is the date of our tour of the Swindon Steam Museum, the railway village and the National Monuments Record.

Full details and how to book are on the back page of this newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Landell-Mills

Chairman

Roman finds in Marc Allum's Chippenham garden



Forthcoming Events



Friends of the WVCH visit to the National Monuments Record and Walking Tour of Brunel's railway village and works

Thursday 5th October, 2017

Mike Stone, well-known industrial archaeologist and VCH Trustee, will meet us at 10.30am at the entrance of the Steam Museum, Swindon and guide us on a special visit to both the Museum and railway village, both important reminders of Wiltshire's industrial heritage.

After lunch we will visit the National Monuments Record, at the Engine House, for a tour of the Historic England Archive, guided by a member of their staff. The Record currently holds over 12million photographs, drawings, reports and publications from the 1850's to the present day.

Early booking is advised as the maximum group size is 20.

The cost for the day is £25.

Lunch, which will be arranged, is not included in the price.

Please contact Vicky Landell Mills on 01225-863668

Payment can be made by cheque payable to Wiltshire Victoria County History Trust, sent to 17 Winsley Road, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1QS

Or by BACS: Sort code 52-30-27 Account Number 35528168

Introducing Easyfundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online, from your weekly shop to your annual holiday, you could be collecting free donations for Wiltshire Victoria County History Trust?

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's—it doesn't cost you a penny extra.

It's as easy as 1,2,3...

1. head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wvcht/> and join for free
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Wiltshire Victoria County History Trust will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

This newsletter is distributed electronically to all those members and supporters who have supplied email addresses. If you have not already done so, please let us have your email address, so saving on postage costs in the future and also ensuring that more of your contributions go towards the writing of the VCH.

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