



Friends of Wiltshire Victoria County History

The Victoria County History of England

Friends of Wiltshire VCH

WVCH Trust Registered Charity No 1102882

Newsletter No 4, June 2016

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

Chippenham's Architecture

Joint Venture

On the 19th January a very successful event was held in conjunction with the Chippenham Civic Society and attracted over 100 people.

Representatives from local architects' firms together with interested individuals met at the Town Hall to hear a talk by author and lecturer in architectural history, Julian Orbach, entitled Chippenham's Buildings Through Pevsner's Eyes and including a review of his major revision of the Wiltshire volume of Pevsner's Buildings of England.

Julian had the chance to meet and work with Pevsner in his later life and explained that he feels privileged to be able to revise and expand some chapters to include more of the Georgian, Victorian and Medieval buildings still standing in Wiltshire.

Our thanks are extended to Isabel Blackburn, Chairman of the Civic Society, for the generous donation given at the start of the event towards the VCH Chippenham Volume.

This was a most successful evening from beginning to end.



*Above: Vicky Landell-Mills, Chair of the Friends of the Wiltshire VCH, receives a cheque from Isabel Blackburn, the Civic Society Chairman, at the joint meeting in January. The donation will be put towards the publication of the VCH volume on Chippenham.
(See also picture of the audience on page 3)*

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Dear Friends

Recent Events

Recent fundraising ventures have been very well supported.

As well as the wonderful joint venture with the Civic Society, which you can read about on the front page, we had a fantastic turn out of more than 60 people at the Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre for three talks by local archaeologists. They were Recent Discoveries of Roman Settlements in North Wiltshire and Swindon, by Mike Stone, independent archaeologist; A Geographical Survey of a Roman Villa to the West of Chippenham, by Kerry Donaldson, Archaeological Survey Ltd; and A Review of the Importance of the Archaeology in Chippenham, also by Mike Stone.

Thanks are due to all those who attended this event and helped by their support to collect funds towards the continuing work of researching and editing VCH Volume XX.

Our Summer Event is to be held on the 17th of this month at Wardour Castle. All the tickets have been sold and our members are keenly anticipating a very special evening.

Work in Progress

There is growing interest in the Parishes about the writing of their histories for the VCH Chippenham volume, for example, on July 3rd there is a Parish launch event in Kington Langley, which will be attended by our Patron, Mrs Sarah Troughton, and at which John Chandler will speak. The local Parish Councils have already donated money to the project—it is an excellent start.

Not far away, in Bremhill, a group of residents are considering how they can start the ball rolling and seem keen to do so.

Our two Historians continue to work hard on their Chippenham projects: Dr Rosalind Johnson on the ecclesiastical history and Dr Daniel Gerrard on the early history. The first two chapters are progressing well and we are ready to recruit a third historian for the economic history chapter.

In addition, John Chandler has agreed to act as a consultant in support of the researchers.

Further good news is that thanks to a generous legacy we are very pleased to announce that Volume 19, which will cover The Deverills, Kilmington, Mere and East Knoyle and include existing information about the Longleat Estate, will soon be proceeding towards completion, with publication due in late 2017.

Legacies

As mentioned in our last issue, to date fundraising for the Friends has been very successful and more fundraising events are planned, but substantial sums are needed to fulfill our aim of complete coverage of the County. We are in the process of producing a leaflet outlining how, by leaving a legacy in your will, you can support the work of the Trust with no current outlay to yourself and, at the same time, offset inheritance tax liability on your estate.

If this is something you would consider and would like more information, please contact our Treasurer James Holden on 01225-869159, or email vjholden@gmail.com.

“My Chippenham” Website

Despite some technical hitches the website is very close to going live. It is not yet responding to search engines, but, in the mean time, can be viewed by entering the web address <http://www.mychippenham.org.uk>. We will email all contacts as soon as it is fully operational.

The national VCH website continues to provide general information about both the whole of England and Wiltshire in particular, including on-line links to the contents of the Wiltshire volumes already published.

<http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk>

Organisation of the Friends

Our Organiser Melissa Barnett, Curator of the Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre, and Laura Carr-Saunders, Admin Assistant, have been joined by volunteer Gil Alder, who is taking on production of the newsletter.

Membership renewals

Thank you to the vast majority of our members of the Friends who have paid their subscription for this year. However, there are still a number of outstanding payments. So, if it has slipped your mind, please send you cheque (£20 individual or £30 a couple) as soon as possible to James Holden, our Treasurer, at 1 Budbury Ridge, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1QP. (Cheques should be made payable to Wiltshire County History Trust.)

Have you considered a standing order so that the bank remembers for you?

Thanks for donations

To end on another positive note, as well as the Civic Society, the VCH Trust Wiltshire wishes to thank Wiltshire Council, Chippenham Town Council, Kington Langley Parish Council, Wiltshire Record Society and the Jack Lane Charitable Trust for their donations towards our current research on the Historical Development of Chippenham and Wiltshire.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Landell-Mills

Chairman



Forthcoming Events

You are invited by the Friends of Wiltshire Victoria County History
to tea and cake and a talk
about the Victoria County History Volume XX and the planned chapter on the Kington Hundred
4pm-6pm on Sunday 3rd July 2016
at South Sea Farm, Day's Lane, Kington Langley SN15 5PB
Entrance: FREE
Speaker: John Chandler
If you plan to come, please email how many you will be to Edward Buchan e.buchan@edr.com or Paul Gilman
paul.gilman2@btopenworld.com



Two walks led by Local Historian, Mike Stone

Saturday June 25th 2016

Historic Walk

An historic walk around Chippenham Town Centre, lasting 2 hours approximately
Meeting on Chippenham Bridge at 10am, finishing with Gallery tour and refreshments at Chippenham Museum
Cost £15 per head (Friends £12.50)

Sunday August 7th 2016

Industrial Walk

An industrial history walk around Chippenham focusing on railways, brewing, Westinghouse, etc., lasting approximately 2 hours
Meeting at the Railway Station forecourt at 2pm
Cost £10 per head (Friends £7.50)

Tickets for both walks are available from the Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre

A guided tour of
The Wiltshire Museum in Devizes
on Friday 7th October at 6.30pm
led by the Director, David Dawson,
showing the pre-historic galleries
and the Wessex Gold collection.
Bill Perry will be showing some of the
treasures of the Library and the Art Collection.
Tickets will be £35 (Friends £32)
to include a welcome drink and delicious Vaughan's
Kitchen buffet on an Autumnal theme
Booking details to follow

Roman Swindon Day

The Roman Wiltshire Day is now planned for early in 2017
taking place at the Menzies Hotel, Swindon
with speakers to include the County Archaeologist
More details to follow

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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