



Friends of Wiltshire Victoria County History

The Victoria County History of England

Friends of Wiltshire VCH

WVCH Trust Registered Charity No 1102882

Newsletter No 6, May 2017

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

Roman Swindon

The range and diversity of Roman Britain hidden right beneath our feet was illustrated and described during our very successful Day School entitled 'Romans in the Borough of Swindon', which was held at the Marriott Hotel, Old Town, on March 18th.

Opened by our Patron, the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Sarah Troughton, speakers included Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger on recent Iron Age and Roman Archaeology in Wiltshire; Dave and Kerry Sabin on Archaeological Surveys in the area, including what can be revealed by the techniques of geophysics and airphoto analysis; Dr Pete Wilson on Excavations at Groundwell Ridge; Bryn Walters on Roman Wanborough; and Mike Stone on Roman Industry in Swindon.



The WVCH stand at the Marriott Hotel event

110 people attended and those who attended were very complementary about the location and content.

The Marriott Hotel proved to be an excellent venue, with a good auditorium, delicious meals and refreshments and easy parking on site.

On the day we were able to promote the work of the WVCH, and receive the welcome addition of over £2,400 to funds, which was helped by generous sponsorship by the Association for Roman Archeology.

IN THIS ISSUE

Romans in the Borough of Swindon	1
Recent Events	2
Work in Progress	2
Website news	3
Membership Renewals	3
Fundraising and Donations	3
Forthcoming events	3,4

Dear Friends

Recent Events



Mike Stone introducing the speakers at the start of the Romans in the Borough of Swindon Day School

Firstly, I must start by extending many congratulations and thanks to Mike Stone for both organizing and running The Romans in the Borough of Swindon Day School held in March, which was a resounding success (see page 1).

Thanks are also due to Sue Wilthew, John Hurley and Frank Marshall, who stood down as Trustees last Autumn, for their valued support.

When the WVCH was being launched as a separate fundraising entity, John Hurley, as Secretary, and Frank Marshall, as Treasurer, were invaluable for their professional expertise and experience in easing the move away from Wiltshire Council.

Their place has been taken in part by Melissa Barnett, Curator of Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre, who has agreed to become a Trustee. Melissa is our Volunteer Co-ordinator

and brings to the position of Trustee a wide knowledge of both the history of Chippenham and the workings of the museum world, as well as an infectious enthusiasm.

Volume XX Work in Progress

Various areas of work on the volume have made noticeable strides forward recently.

Both sections of the Religious History are now available to view on-line on the VCH web-site (www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk) and the Social History chapter is making good progress, so drafts of this should be also available on-line in the near future.

John Chandler, as our Consultant Editor, is drawing together and completing the work on the 'Chippenham: Introduction' chapter, whilst Professor Hoyle has made a start on the Economic History, which is on track to be completed in the summer.

The sources checklist, the definitive list of sources which need to be referenced by our historian, is scheduled to be finished this month and will then join the other sections on-line.

Volume IX Progress

Alongside Volume XX, we are now able to report that the draft for the Kilmington chapter of Volume IX has been submitted to VCH Central Office. John Chandler is finding time in his very busy schedule to continue his work on West Knoyle, before moving on to cover Mere.

Bremhill and Kington

Our two new parish groups, of Bremhill and Kington, are both keen to continue moving forward. Bremhill want to involve local people as much as possible and are looking into possible funding sources.

The Kingtons have raised £1,800 so far

Membership renewals

Don't forget, if your Friends' renewal date has arrived, please send your 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 Victoria County History Trust.)

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

."My Chippenham" Website

We still need as many people as possible to take a look at our web-site, so that its position rises in the search results. Go to: mychippenham.org.uk.

Thanks for donations



Vicky Landell Mills, Chair, Chris Caswill, Trustee, Professor Richard Hoyle, Historian, Mike Stone, Trustee, with Mr Kevin Bell, Site Manager of Wavin UK

It was my pleasure to attend the presentation of a cheque by Wavin UK on the 26th April. They had pledged £1,000 to cover research into the economic development of the town of Chippenham and we were finally in a position to receive this donation. As a leading British manufacturer of plastic pipes and one of the foremost employers in Chippenham, they were keen to fund this research. Representatives of the WVCH were also treated to a tour

of the factory and were impressed by the cleanliness and organization of the works.

We were also in receipt recently of the sum of £500 from Lady Penny Marland, the host of our summer event. It is also gratifying to note that people who are unable to attend the event at Odstock are kindly sending donations instead.

Forthcoming Events

We are all greatly looking forward to our Summer Event, on the 8th June, for which planning is well in hand. Lady Penny Marland, The High Sheriff of Wiltshire, has kindly invited us to tea at her home, Odstock Manor. Julian Orbach, who is currently revising and expanding Nikolaus Pevsner's Wiltshire volume in The Buildings of England series, has agreed to give a talk during the afternoon about Odstock Manor's long, fascinating history. The Manor itself has beautiful gardens and an interesting collection of pictures and sculpture, built up by Lord and Lady Marland, which we will be able to see.

This event has proved really popular and is now fully subscribed, so all we need is some sunshine on the day.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Landell-Mills

Chairman



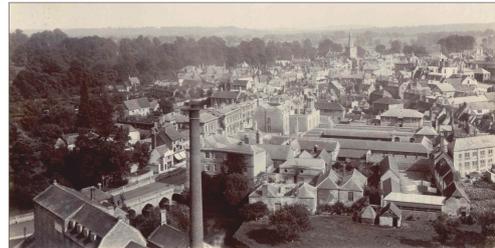
Forthcoming Events



Autumn Event 2017

We are hoping to arrange a visit to the
Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England
at Swindon

(details to follow)



Wiltshire Victoria County History

Summer Event

Thursday 8th June 2017



The High Sheriff of Wiltshire, Lady Penny Marland
Has kindly agreed to host an afternoon at her home
Odstock Manor, Salisbury

In support of the Wiltshire Victoria County History
Tea will be served, there will be a talk by Julian Orbach
and a tour of the house and garden

Ticket numbers are limited
Please contact Vicky Landell-Mills
vicky@landellco.com



FULLY BOOKED

Photograph of Lady Penny Marland by Henry Hunt

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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