



# Friends of Wiltshire Victoria County History

*The Victoria County History of England*

*Friends of Wiltshire VCH*

WVCH Trust Registered Charity No 1102882

Newsletter No 9, May 2018

**The Newsletter of the Friends of the Wiltshire Victoria County History, keeping you in touch with news, events and fundraising.**

## Anatomy of Collecting

The fundraising talk, in Bradford-on-Avon on the 18th March, by Wiltshire based antiques expert and tv presenter Marc Allum was an unqualified success, despite the best efforts of the snowy weather to prevent the event.

Marc, who lives in Chippenham in a house he believes to be on the site of King Alfred's encampment, started his talk by explaining collecting and how he came to be interested in antiques. He described collecting as 'historically inherent' in all of us. As a child he started out collecting free things, such as, sea shells and stones with holes in them: items don't need to have value to be of interest.

When he later worked in an auction house, he never wanted to specialise and his collecting, likewise, is very eclectic. So when he joined Antiques Roadshow he still didn't become a specialist and is just as likely to be asked to talk about a 1960's jacket or a collection of bottles.

As he spoke, Marc talked about items brought along by the audience, again an eclectic mix; a bone dagger from Papua New Guinea; a 500 year old Egyptian kohl pallet; a bosun's whistle that had been a christening present in India in 1818; a Nepalese thunderbolt; and a mid 20th century jam jar opener.

Marc drew the proceedings to a close with an amusing anecdote about a violin, which had survived the Titanic sinking, proving that ordinary objects can be made interesting and valuable by extraordinary situations.



Marc Allum, antiques expert and Antiques Roadshow presenter at Bradford-on-Avon

### IN THIS ISSUE

Antiques Talk	1
IHR London VCH Day	2
Bremhill Parish Project	2
Data Protection	2
New Historian	3
Talks and Scarecrows	3
Forthcoming events	4
Data Protection	

Dear Friends

The year is passing quickly and we are fast approaching our Summer Event on the 11th June, which is now our main fundraiser.

We are very grateful for the wonderful generosity of the Earl and Countess of Inchcape, who are hosting the evening for us at their home, Manor Farm, Clyffe Pypard.

Once again all tickets are sold and we are hoping for a balmy summer evening.

### **Institute of Historical Research, University of London ; our parent body**

On the 17th May the Institute held a whole day of presentations and discussions about the VCH. One of our Trustees, Bill Perry, represented us at the event.

After an introduction by the new Director, Professor Jo Fox, the morning continued with talks on 'Using the VCH as a Heritage Consultant', 'Recent Developments and Future Direction of SAS Publications', 'Humanities Digital Library and Open Access' and 'WW1 War Memorials Project'.

In the afternoon three speakers, including our own John Chandler, spoke on current issues, such as, the effective use of volunteer researchers.



Professor Jo Fox

### **The Bremhill Parish Chapter of VCH Vol 20**

Following a launch meeting attended by over 50 people and which resulted in a database of over 70 volunteers, the Project is working closely with the WVCH Trust to produce the Bremhill Parish chapter of Volume 20, together with a stand alone book of Bremhill history.

The research and writing is being co-ordinated by

professional historian Louise Ryland-Epton, who has five years experience of post-graduate research and is completing a dissertation on eighteenth century welfare.

Volunteers have visited the History Centre in Chippenham and the Wiltshire Museum in Devizes and will attend training courses in the use of primary sources.

Initial funding has already been secured and the campaign is now starting in earnest with approaches to local grant-making organizations as well as private individuals.

We hope that other parishes may be inspired to follow this lead, initiated by Martin Nye of Cadtenham Manor, Foxham,



### **Data Protection**

Recently all our readers will have been contacted about the imminent changes to the Data Protection laws affecting all charities and fundraising groups.

From the 25th May we will no longer be able to send out newsletters and notices about events and fundraising by email unless we have that person's express permission to hold their details for the purpose.

If you received this newsletter by email and you wish to receive subsequent issues we must have your permission to that effect.

If you have not already done so, please reply to the email you will have recently received via Mailchimp as a matter of urgency. We don't want to lose any of our Friends and supporters.

**Matthew**



**Kilburn, Historian**

English towns and villages for over a century, and has now turned its attention to Chippenham, the town and its surroundings. John, who is acting as consultant editor to the project (and one of the contributors) will describe its methods and progress, its excitements and frustrations; and he will try to convey something of his lifelong fascination with the history of places and the people who have shaped them.

Matthew has joined us to research and write the chapter on Chippenham Government.

Matthew has worked as a research editor for the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, a researcher for the House of Lords 1660-1715 in the History of Parliament and on the Oxford English Dictionary. He has taught and lectured for various departments and programmes and continues to contribute to several research projects.

From the North-East of England, Matthew now lives near Oxford, where he studied for his first degree and his doctorate in eighteenth century British Royal history.

**New Trustees**

We are pleased to welcome Mr David Moss and Mrs Rosemary Addington as Trustees.

David has worked in both the Civil Service and the aviation industry and, since retiring, has been very active as Chair of the Bradford-on-Avon Preservation Trust. Rosie is a staunch supporter of both the VCH and the Chalke Valley History Festival.

In addition to two new Trustees, we are welcoming Mr Michael Wade to the new position of President, with a special interest in raising funds.

**Two Chippenham Talks**

*Rewriting the History of Chippenham, Tuesday 19 June 2018 at St Andrew's Church, Chippenham*

*By John Chandler BA PhD FSA*

The Victoria County History has been active in researching and writing definitive local histories of

Entry is free; however, donations will be welcome on the night.

*Building Georgian Chippenham  
By Mike Stone on Thursday 2nd August at 7.30pm  
at The Town Hall, Chippenham*

Mike is one of our Trustees and a very knowledgeable speaker on all aspects of Chippenham's history. This talk forms part of the Chippenham Museum Georgian Season.

Tickets are £4 each, available from Chippenham Museum.

Finally, the annual Kington Langley Scarecrow Festival will take place over the weekend of the 16th and 17th June. Centred on the Scarecrow Trail around the village green the theme this year is 'Books'. They have an excellent web-site giving further information.

Yours sincerely,  
Vicky Landell Mills  
Chairman



Bradford-on-Avon in the snow.  
18th March 2018

## Forthcoming Events

### ***Rewriting the History of Chippenham***

A talk by Dr John Chandler **BA PhD FSA**  
on Tuesday 19th June 2018 at 7.30pm  
at St Andrew's Church, Chippenham  
Entry Free. Donations are welcome.

### ***Kington Langley Scarecrow Trail and Festival***

16th and 17th June 2018

### ***Building Georgian Chippenham***

A talk by Mike Stone on Thursday 2nd August 2018 at 7.30pm  
At The Town Hall, Chippenham  
Tickets £4 each from Chippenham Museum

***This could be the last WVCH newsletter you receive.***

***Don't miss out on future editions.***

As with all organisations, from the 25<sup>th</sup> May we will have to comply with new data protection laws and we would not want any of our friends or supporters to miss out on news of future projects and events.

Therefore, we are asking everyone on our mailing lists to give their consent for us to continue to send you our newsletters, events posters, etc and please rest assured that the information we hold will only be used for this purpose. Obviously, as a Charity, we are mindful of costs and so we encourage everyone to receive information by email if at all possible.

**If you have not already done so**, please email us at [gilalder55@gmail.com](mailto:gilalder55@gmail.com) using the sentence shown in bold below, adding your name and email address, so that we can check that we have the correct, up-to-date contact details for you:

**I consent to being contacted by the Wiltshire Victoria County History Trust and Friends, by email and/or post, so that I may be kept in touch with future news, events and fundraising.**

(You may also give your permission by post to the address below if you would prefer.)

Finally, we don't want to lose touch with anyone, but if you wish you may withdraw your consent at any time by sending us an email or writing to Mrs Gil Alder, 9 Buckingham Road, Chippenham, SN15 3TE.

This newsletter is distributed electronically to all those members and supporters who have supplied email addresses and given their express permission for us to contact them in this way, so saving on postage costs in the future and also ensuring that more of your contributions go towards the writing of the VCH.

[gilalder55@gmail.com](mailto:gilalder55@gmail.com)