



Friends of Wiltshire Victoria County History

The Victoria County History of England

Friends of Wiltshire VCH

WVCH Trust Registered Charity No 1102882

Newsletter No 5, November 2016

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

The Kingtons Launch

Volume XX News

The 3rd of July saw the launch of an initiative by Edward Buchan, who is keen to get the ball rolling in the writing of the histories in both Kington Langley and Kington St. Michael. The Friends are very grateful to Edward for hosting the event in a marquee at South Sea Farm, Kington Langley.

Tea and cake were the order of the day and an address by the Lord Lieutenant, our Patron, Mrs Sarah Troughton, preceded a fascinating talk by John Chandler on the VCH Histories.

New Friends were made at the event and now the hard work of fund-raising has started.

Grants from the two Kington Parish Councils together with a donation from the famous village Scarecrow Trail mean that over £1,500 has already been raised.



Above: Vicky Landell-Mills, Chair of the Friends of the Wiltshire VCH, deep in conversation with our Patron, Mrs Sarah Troughton, the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire.

Below: John Chandler, our guest speaker, with Edward Buchan, Sarah Troughton and Vicky Landell-Mills.



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Dear Friends

Recent Events

The well-attended afternoon in Kington Langley described on the front cover is not the only event to have taken place since our last newsletter.

The VCH Friends had a great evening on the 7th October at Wiltshire Museum in Devizes, where we enjoyed a guided tour by experts.

The Director, David Dawson, showed us an example of what is regarded as the best Bronze Age collection in Britain, noted for its gold, some of which is from the time of the building of Stonehenge. We saw other treasures brought to Wiltshire from across Europe. The recently improved displays and high quality graphics tremendously enhance the enjoyment of the collection and give a better idea of the richness and complexity of life at the time.



David Dawson explains the Bush Barrow Grave finds from Normanton Down, which is just across the A303 from Stonehenge.

Moving on to the Archive and Library, Bill Perry's tour was a tantalising glimpse of the material held at the Museum, for example, the 1628 illuminated copy of the Devizes Charter; the works of antiquarians, such as, John Aubrey and William Stukeley; the albums of John Buckler's watercolours of Wiltshire churches and Robin Tanner's magnificent etchings of Wiltshire flora.

The pleasure of the evening was increased by the imaginative drinks and canapés with an autumnal theme served by Peter Vaughan of Vaughan's Kitchen in Devizes.

Over the summer Mike Stone led a walking tour of the industrial history of Chippenham. The tour visited the area around the railway station, the industrial complex of Westinghouse, Hathaway retail park and ended at Brunel's railway viaduct.

Chapter XX Work in Progress

The most advanced work is on 'The Established Church and Nonconformity', which be going on-line by the end of the year.

Our two Historians are to be joined by a third expert, Professor Richard Hoyle, working on the Economic History Chapter. All three are supported by John Chandler, acting as a consultant for Volume XX.

Dr Gordon McKelvie is engaged in listing the basic sources, as a point of reference for our future research.

"My Chippenham" Website

Our very informative website is now responding to search engines, and we would like as many people as possible to take a look at it, so that its position rises in the search results. It can be viewed by entering the web address <http://www.mychippenham.org.uk>, or by typing vch chippenham into the search bar.

Membership renewals

We are looking into other ways of generating reminders for Membership renewals, which will mean that we can remind individual members when their subscription becomes due, rather than just issuing a blanket plea.

In the mean time, if your own 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?

Fundraising - Watch This Space

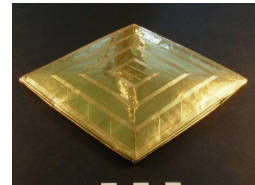
We are hoping to register with a fundraising website, which will enable Trustees, Friends and their friends and families to make donations, without any cost to themselves, simply by on-line shopping through the website. More details to follow in the next newsletter.

Fundraising has to be our main pre-occupation. Our events are fun and interesting, but we apply to charities and trusts as well, searching for those organizations whose criteria we fit. We would welcome suggestions if any Friends know of any fund-giving body to whom we might apply.

Thanks for donations

We are now in the happy position of being able to apply for a £1,000 grant promised by Wavin Plastics Ltd as the contract for the Economic History section of Chapter of Volume XX has now been awarded.

It is also gratifying to note that at the time of the Wardour Summer Event we were in receipt of donations from people who were unable to attend as well as the profit from tickets. These donations included £500 from the Inchcape organization.



Forthcoming Events

Two exciting events are already in the diary for 2017.

The first, on the 18th March, is the Day School organised by Mike Stone and made possible by a grant from the Association for Roman Archaeology. Entitled Romans in the Borough of Swindon and starting at 9.30 at the Marriott Hotel, it promises to be an extremely interesting day and the cost of £30 includes teas / coffees and a hot buffet lunch. Five talks have already been confirmed and the HM Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Sarah Troughton, has agreed to open the event. Bookings are through Mike Stone, stone48@live.co.uk.

The second is our Summer Event, on the 8th June, when Penelope Marland, has kindly invited us to tea at Odstock Manor, during her year as High Sheriff. The Manor has a long, fascinating history and a beautiful garden. Over the years Lord and Lady Marland have built up a collection of pictures and sculpture, which we will also be able to see.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Landell-Mills

Chairman



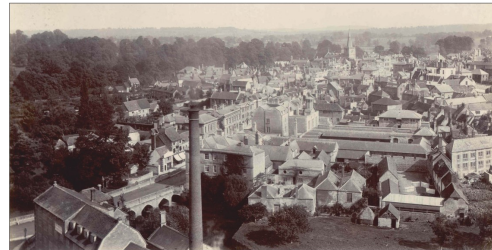
Forthcoming Events

Save the date!

Summer Event 2017

Lady Peneope Marland has kindly agreed to host
a tea at her Odstock home
on Thursday 8th June

(details to follow)



Wiltshire Victoria County History

Sponsored by the Association for Roman Archaeology

Romans in the Borough of Swindon Day School

Saturday 18th March, 2017 at the Marriott Hotel, Swindon

The Day School will cover recent surveys and excavations in the Borough of Swindon, ranging from the Thames gravels, Highworth, Purton and Swindon itself.

The following speakers have already confirmed their attendance:

A Review of Recent Iron Age and Roman Archeology in Wiltshire

Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, Wiltshire County Archivist

Archaeological Surveys in the Borough of Swindon

Dave and Kerry Sabin, Archaeological Surveys

Excavations at Groundwell Ridge

Dr Pete Wilson, formerly of English Heritage / Historic England

Roman Wanborough and Associated Villas

Bryn Walters, Association for Roman Archaeology

Roman Industry in the Borough of Swindon

Mike Stone, Vice-Chair, Association for Roman Archaeology

Tickets £30, to include tea/coffee and hot buffet lunch

(For further details and booking contact Mike Stone, stone48@live.co.uk)

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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