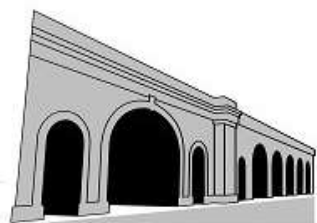


THE BUTTERCROSS BULLETIN



The Mayor presenting a Civic Award to the Chippenham Museum

Issue No 173



**CHIPPENHAM
CIVIC SOCIETY**

August 2019

..

In this issue

From the Editor

Planning Roundup

Jennifer Rudd

Tribute to Don Little/Bi-annual Awards & Membership Matters

Mike & Marilyn Stone

Chippenham Carnival

Don Little

Constitutional Club

Don Little

Mayor of Lowden

Chris Dallimore

Secret Spitfires

Claire Selman

Chippenham says farewell to the HSTs

John Scragg

Volunteering is a family affair

Elaine Davis

Committee 2019/1920

The following were elected to the committee at AGM on February 25 2019

Chair

Mike Stone
26 Awdry Close
Chippenham
SN14 0TQ
Tel: 01249 446385
Email: stone48@live.co.uk

Vice Chair

John Scragg
33 Field View
Chippenham
SN15 2QT
Tel: 01249 657089
Email: scragg.chippenham@btinternet.com

Treasurer

Colin Lynes
11 Bolts Croft
Chippenham
SN15 3GQ
Tel: 01249 448599
Email: colin@crlynes.wanadoo.co.uk

Membership Secretary

Marilyn Stone
26 Awdry Close
Chippenham
SN14 0TQ
Tel: 01249 446385
Email: stone48@live.co.uk

Sally Lynes
Geoff Barrett
Jennifer Rudd
Melissa Barnett
Mary Norton

Elaine Davis
Ryan Peare
Dory Scott
Steve Lile
Richard Fowke

From the Editor

Welcome to the August edition of the Buttercross Bulletin. After a slow start summer arrived with a mini heatwave. As I write these notes there is much speculation – Will the all-time record summer temperature be broken this year?. That remains to be seen but the warm and sunny weather has enabled us to enjoy some of the activities for which our town is noted. Unfortunately the Soap Box Derby had to be cancelled, but already favourites such as the Folk Festival, the Fun Day in John Coles Park and the Carnival now in its third year after being reinstated have been enjoyed. The use of the Splash Pad in John Coles Park has shown yet again how the idea of providing such an asset has given much pleasure to our younger citizens and is the envy of many other councils

Happy reading

Bulletin Editor : contact details

Mary Norton

155 Queens Crescent

Chippenham

SN14 0NW

Email mfenorton@tiscali.co.uk

Anyone having suggestions or contributions on matters of interest relating to Chippenham for our next edition, please contact me – details as above

CHIPPENHAM CIVIC SOCIETY WEBSITE

www.chippenhamcivicsociety.co.uk

Like us on facebook/ChippenhamCivicSociety

Disclaimer

Chippenham Civic Society cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to unsolicited photographs or manuscripts or any errors of fact. The views expressed by contributors to the Buttercross Bulletin are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Civic Society

.The Bulletin can be sent by email as an electronic PDF version – please let us know via the website at www.chippenhamcivicsociety.co.uk

PLANNING ROUNDUP JULY 2019

Jennifer Rudd

1 19/04609/FUL

The Mill House, Methuen Park

This is an application to demolish the Mill House which is off the Bath Road in Methuen Park. There will then be another Aldi store built of this site. This is presumably to serve Corsham as Chippenham already has one.

2 19/0692/LBC

4 St Mary's Place

This is an extension which only affects the rear of the house which is a part of the listed terrace.

3 19/06116/FUL

Goldenley care Home, Forest Lane, Pewsham

There is a plan to demolish the existing care home 'Goldenley' which is empty now, and replace it with 7 new residential units.

4 19/05308/LBC

38/39 Market Place

The office of Audrey, Baily and Douglas have applied to replace the rotting modern windows on the second floor on the South Elevation, the side which faces the Market Place. This is an important listed building in the heart of the Conservation Area but this looks to be a straight forward like for like repair.

5 19/06319/TPO

Wiltshire College

Not sure what is happening here! The original planning application asked for permission to fell 2 poplar trees. This has changed to 20% reduction in 2 copper beech trees. This is of interest because we understand the college is back on the market again. We hear that this is because the developers do not want to build flats that look out on to a multi-storey carpark when they thought they would be overlooking the park. What a surprise!

..

6 Middlefields

Work has started on building 34 Houses at Middlefields, off Hungerdown Lane. These are being built by GreenSquare Housing Association. They will be available early 2021 for rent and shared ownership

‘Objection to new gag on planning’

This was the heading in the Gazette and Herald this week which alarmed us somewhat! The article goes on to say Councillors believe that the proposed changes could be undemocratic. Being somewhat disillusioned with the planning process already I have been trying to find out more. I asked several councillors what is involved but received no reply, presumably they are as confused as me.

The officers were more helpful though insisted I went through the Communications department before I used their reply. I tried but being 12th in the queue at this point I gave up.

The main area of concern seemed to be that elected councillors contributions were to be limited to 5 minutes. Members said this is often not enough time to explain complicated issues on behalf of their community. Another member said the protocol says there has to be a planning reason to call in an application and because it is in the public interest is not a planning reason.’ Call in’ means an elected member can ask for the planning application to be discussed at a council meeting rather than it being decided by the planning officer. Officers can stop plans being called in by elected members if they do not meet the criteria. There were other problems with the document and it has been referred back to the Standards Committee which will, in due course, consider and make further recommendations to the Council.

Watch this space!

..

A TRIBUTE TO DONALD LITTLE

Mike Stone

Long term member of the Civic Society Donald passed away recently. He served as both Treasurer and edited the Buttercross Bulletin. Over the years he collected a huge amount of postcards, postal history, programmes and pictures of Chippenham. He has left his entire collection to Chippenham Museum for the benefit of the town he was proud to live in. Don was also involved in many other organisations and a fuller tribute will appear in a future Bulletin. If you have any memories or stories of Don then please make contact with Mike Stone.

RECENT BI-ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Mike Stone

The Bi-annual Awards took Place on Tuesday, 18 June in St Andrews Church. The event was hosted by Jack Konynenburg. Recently Jack was involved in an accident and a full report of the evening event will appear in later edition of the Buttercross Bulletin.

All members of the Civic Society wish Jack a speedy recovery

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Mike & Marilyn Stone

A reminder of the remainder of our Social Programme for 2019:

Tuesday 17 September	‘Operation Wansdyke’ by Jeremy Dix
Tuesday 15 October	‘Saving Britain’s Art Treasurers’ in ww11 b by Nick Mc Camley
Tuesday 19 November	‘Meadow in my Garden’ by Paul Jupp

THE CHRISTMAS EVENT

Tuesday 17 December‘

**Wiltshire Follies’ by Jonathan Holt
Christmas event at The Cause**

There now follows on the next pages articles by Don Little

HOW IT ALL BEGAN.

1923

The origins of Chippenham Carnival started when Chippenham Cottage Hospital was built in 1899. To raise funds for the hospital, a Garden Party was held each year. This was always a grand affair with many dignitaries from the area manning the various stalls. The average proceeds to the hospital from these parties were about £130.

On Wednesday, August 1st 1923 a Carnival and Motorkhana was held in place of the usual garden party. John Coles Park was chosen as the venue and this was the first time any such gathering was held there.

**CHIPPENHAM COTTAGE HOSPITAL
CARNIVAL AND MOTORKHANA**
In The JOHN COLES' PARK, CHIPPENHAM,
On Wednesday, August 1st, 1923.
HUGE ATTRACTIONS, DISPLAYS & AMUSEMENTS.
Open at 3 p.m. by
LT.-COL. SIR AUDLEY D. NEELD, BART. C.B., C.V.O.
Procession of Decorated Cars,
Cycles and Trolleys.
Entrance Forms for Cars from F. A. HAKE, Esq.,
Lloyds' Bank, Chippenham.
Entrance Forms for Cycles and Trolleys from
E. H. SHORLAND, Bate Villa, Malmesbury Rd.,
Chippenham.
Bands, Dancing, Side Shows, Various Stalls,
Musical Chairs on Cycles, Wireless, Tennis and
Bowls Tournaments, etc., etc.
Admission—3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 1s.; after 6 p.m. 6d.
(including tax.) Children Half Price.
Further particulars from—
MISS DONA BECKER, Marshfield Road.
E. H. SHORLAND, Bate Villa, Malmesbury Road.
LOUIS S. BROWN, 7, High Street, Chippenham.
12838G

The event was opened by Sir Audley Neeld accompanied by Hon. Lady Neeld. This was held in the bandstand at the upper end of the park. Sir George Mashiter (Chairman of the Hospital Committee) presided and was supported by the Mayor and Mayoress (Mr & Mrs A. F. Williams). After all the speeches the real business of the day commenced. There was a large number of stalls of a very varied character dotted about the park. Amongst the stall were many which were selling items and produce and others such as bowling for a pig in which the public were able to try out their skills. Throughout the afternoon music was provided by the Chippenham Salvation Army Band.

Part way through the afternoon there was a display of Swedish Gymnastics by the juvenile classes of the G. W. R. (Swindon) Gymnastics Society. This was followed by a parade of

children's decorated prams and scooters for which there were awards.

The principal spectacular event was the procession of decorated cars etc. It was formed up at the hospital at six o'clock, with Mr Joe Buckle being Chief Marshal and headed down through the town headed by the Chippenham Town Band. The streets were crowded with spectators right up to the park. There were private cars which had been decorated as well as trade vehicles and bicycles. Prizes were awarded for the best entries, when they arrived at the park. A jazz band also took part in the parade. This one can say was the first Chippenham Carnival Procession.

When all the entrants had arrived at the park and prizes given there was an ambulance display followed by a display by Chippenham and neighbouring fire brigades.

A special attraction during the day was a "Mile of Pennies" starting from the Old Palace to the park.



The first penny was laid on the edge of the pavement in the morning and by mid-day had grown considerably, but the promoters were unable to accomplish the task they had set out to do. The trail stretched down the High Street to the Bridge and a good many pounds were raised for the hospital. The event was arranged by Mr H. R. B. Coventry of Monkton House ably assisted by the Red Cross and railway workers.

The net receipts from the carnival for the hospital amounted to £355.



One of the decorated private cars in the procession

After the success of the last years event it was decided to run the Carnival on the same format again and Saturday 12th July was chosen. Messrs. Tilley and Culverwell was invited from the Committee to conduct an auction sale in the park on Carnival day, and an advert was placed in the local paper inviting entries of livestock, produce, furniture etc. for sale, the gross proceeds being handed to the Committee.

JOHN COLES PARK, CHIPPENHAM.
COTTAGE HOSPITAL
CARNIVAL AND FETE.
SATURDAY, JULY 12th, 1924.
MESSRS. TILLEY AND CULVERWELL
have accepted an invitation from the
Committee to conduct an AUCTION SALE in
aid of the Hospital Funds in the above Park.
ON CARNIVAL DAY, SATURDAY,
JULY 12th,
and they will be pleased to receive entries of
either
A Beast, Sheep, Pig, Calf, Poultry.
Produce, Furniture
or any other items for inclusion in the Sale,
the gross proceeds of which will be handed to
the Committee.
Your kind support to this deserving cause
will be greatly appreciated.
Auction Office,
34, Market Place, Chippenham. 25467

The afternoon proceedings were again opened by Sir Audley Neeld (President of the Hospital). This took place in the bandstand and they were accompanied by Sir George and Lady Mashiter (Chairman of the Hospital), the Mayor and Mayoress Dr. and Mrs Nixon, Dr. and Mrs Laurence, Messrs E.M.Awdry (Hospital Secretary), L.H.Marshall (Hospital Treasurer), J.Brotherhood and other dignatories.

After speeches from Sir Audley and Sir George the real business, the raising money then began. All around the park were stalls containing useful and fancy articles for sale manned by the ladies of the town. There were many competitions taking place including skittling for a pig for the men and a side of bacon for the ladies, the bacon having been presented by Messrs C & T Harris of Calne. There was a doll presented for guessing the name, a clock to guess the time when it stopped and a load of logs to guess the weight.

Later in the afternoon there was a parade of children's decorated prams scooters etc. The entries were divided into various classes and judged by the Mayor and other well known towns people and prizes awarded accordingly.



In the early part of the evening there was a procession of competitors from the hospital to the park. The procession was headed by the Fire Brigade and the Town's Prize Band. Crowds of people lined the streets as the procession passed through the town. Judging took place on arrival in the Park. First prize for decorated motor lorries was won by Nestle Milk Company, second was F.C.Mortimore and third equal Miss Houlston (Hospital Ward) and Wiltshire Bacon Company. After the judging and prize giving there was tug of war contest in which Christian Malford won the prize.



Chippenham Fire Brigade leading Carnival Procession

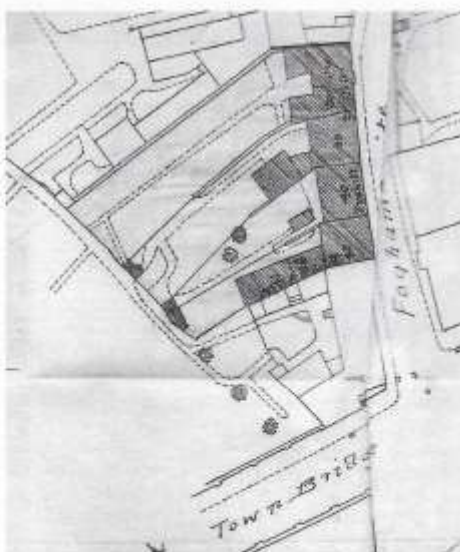


First Prize Winners Nestle Milk Company

CHIPPENHAM CONSTITUTIONAL CLUB

D.Little

The Constitutional Club building situated in Foghamshire celebrates its Centenary this year. The style of building is classed as free English Renaissance Style and has a total frontage of 89 feet to the main thoroughfare. The contract for the building was signed on 21st September 1908 and the building took 6 months to complete at a cost of £2427. The Club was officially opened on 5th May 1909. To allow for the building the Club had to purchase cottages in Foghamshire numbers 37 to 43. Cottages Nos.37-39 cost a total of £350, No.40 was £150 and Nos. 41-43 £230. The site was purchased from Sir Henry Fludyer.



Five of the cottages fronted Foghamshire and two were at right angles to them. The contract for the building of the Club was placed with Messrs. Downing and Rudman of Chippenham.

Chippenham was a very different place in those days. Beer was 1 shilling and 2 pence per gallon with a 15% discount and whisky was 17 shillings and 9 pence per gallon.

Special Guest of Honour for the opening of the Club was Viscount Ridley, Chairman of the Tariff Reform League. The other main dignitaries present were Lieutenant Colonel Sir Audley Neeld, C.V., M.V.O., the Hon. Lady Neeld, Mr and Mrs George Terrell, Sir Prior Goldney, C.V.O., C.B., Colonel M.Neeld and Mr H.H.Palaret



The row of cottages demolished to make way for the new Club.



The new Club opened in 1909. This has changed very little in 100 years except the gates on the side entrances have been removed and solid doors fitted.

The front and ends are of Atworth stone masonry, with Bath Stone dressings. The main and central entrance is emphasised by a slightly projecting porch of Ionic columns and bases, carrying an entablature and circular balustraded balcony with enriched mouldings, and this feature is continued in the upper story with enriched pilasters carrying an entablature over which is arranged a circular panel, containing the Borough Arms and flanking date panels the whole being finished with a moulded coping of domestic Gothic treatment. The other entrances are of arched Bath Stone construction, one leading to the rifle range and skittle alley, the other by means of a glass loggia to members entrance to saloon and dining room. From the central porch the hall leads directly to the main saloon, 35 feet by 15 feet, fitted with serving counters 26 feet long and heated by an open dog grate in a recessed fireplace with oak settle and windows glazed with tinted leaded light. Overlooking the road and directly accessible from the main saloon are a spacious smoke room and a members dining room.

A prominent feature of the ground floor is the billiard room, which is accessible from all parts, this being 35 feet long by 26 feet wide with two full sized tables. The room is fitted with oak panelled seating.

A private residence for the steward adjoins the club with a spacious kitchen and grill for serving the dining room. Extending along the greater part of the western boundary is the large building containing the skittle alley and rifle range with a floor area of about 2500 square feet. The rifle range will allow several marksmen to fire together. The building can be readily used as an assembly room as all the fittings are moveable. The seating capacity estimated at approximately 480.

The above describes the club on its opening day but the inside of the building has changed a great deal since then. It is interesting to note that following the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, Captain Barrett of the 16th Queens Lancers which were attached to the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry was given permission to use the rifle range to train recruits. Captain Barrett was the father of Charlie Barrett a past Chairman of the Club.

THE MAYOR OF LOWDEN

Chris Dallimore

The Mayor of Lowden was a title given to a resident of Lowden elected by his fellow villagers to represent them and highlight any issues or concerns on their behalf.

Mock mayors (sometimes also known as Sham mayors) were predominantly found in the West Country. In more recent times they have had a mini-revival, especially in Cornwall. In fact my early research suggests that although not solely a West Country phenomenon, it was more common place here.

The Mock mayor ceremonies often became intertwined with folk tradition. Maybe we could restore the office of Mayor of Lowden and link this up with the Folk Festival or even have a float in the reborn Chippenham Carnival?

A new Mayor of Lowden was chosen at a banquet every November. Thomas Sims was the host of the banquet for many years, as landlord of the Plough Inn. Before this, the event took place in the Rowden Arms around the corner. A special licence was required to extend the opening hours of the public house, often as late as 11pm.

The Plough Inn may not be familiar to all our readers. It was situated on the main road through Lowden, now a busy 'rat run' for commuters and a built up residential area. The pub was where Chequer's Yard is today, closing in 1968 and then demolished in 1972.

Originally it was a 'fetch and carry' pub. There was no bar. Instead the landlord would take the customer's glass, either kept at the pub or brought along with them, go down into the cellar to get the drink straight from the barrel. He would then carry it back to the main lounge, known as the 'tap room'. The ladies however would be required to all sit in the 'little room', as it was customary for men and women to separate.

Another service provided was a 'jug and bottle door' on the side of the pub. This was used as a kind of takeaway serving hatch. Often children would be sent by Father to get his pint, possibly with an occasional sip to prevent spillage.

Lots of effort went to the Mayoral ceremonies. 'Seals of Office' are mentioned and Mr F Thatcher painted a room in the Plough Inn for use as a banqueting Hall.

'Constable, was another role linked to this occasion. It was often recorded that he was never called upon!

Below is an example of a Mayor in full regalia, I wonder who he was?



When the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 was passed, Lowden fell outside of the Corporation of Chippenham. Self-identity from Chippenham at this time was important to those in Lowden who were generally unhappy with becoming part of the town. This was because they felt that the town did not do the best of jobs with the upkeep of local amenities, roads etc.

It was poking fun at the establishment, but was met with good humour on both sides. This sentiment often changed if there was criticism of crime and public health issues.

Still, the 'establishment' such as the Neeld's and Goldney's were often cited as donors. The gathering brought all classes together and promoted constructive discussions.

The banquet, and the title of Mayor, is believed to have died out due to the food shortages during the First World War.

Also related to the Mayor of Lowden Office, was the more serious issue of pig farming. In response to landlord's lack of support during difficult times for pig farmers, The Lowden Pig Insurance Society, known as the 'Pig Club' was set up in 1888. Swine fever had spread through the area several years earlier. By 1890, 269 pigs were insured, and the club also met at the Plough. There were lots of piggeries in Lowden including at St Peters Close and the Quadrangle.

Timeline

1835 – the Corporation of Lowden was created when 178 Boroughs across the country, including Chippenham, were reformed.

1870 – Believed to be the first year of an Annual Banquet to formally elect the new mayor for the ensuing year.

1875 – First year that Mr J Brown filled the role of Chairman. He was to carry out this duty for many years.

1877 – Banquet held at the Rowden Arms courtesy of Mr Drewett.

1888 – Lowden and District Pig Insurance Society was started.

..

1890 - 'Massive' chain of office donated by W Gardner of the High Street.
This came with a badge with the initials 'B.O.L' for Borough of Lowden

1894 - New chain of office used, which is the one now on display in
Chippenham Museum. What Happened to the old one?

1914-1918 - The great War ends the tradition in Lowden.

Mayor of Lowden

1878	John Bristow
1880	Joseph Brinkworth
1886	F Beale
1887	Joseph Brinkworth
1888	J C Barter
1889	F Thatcher
1890	Thomas Sims
1891	Mr Scott
1895	Thomas Sims
1896	F Thatcher
1897	T Bristow
1898	E Stallwood
1899	C W Spencer
1900	D Fry
1901	F Rowley

..

1904	W Hillier
1906	James Rose
1907	Harry Ball
1908	C W Spencer
1909	S Sims
1911	Mr Blanchard

An important part of our town's history which few people know about. Do visit the museum to see the 'New' chain of office donated by W Gardner in 1890. It would be wonderful if the old one could be traced.

.



Secret Spitfires Film Screening

They built thousands of Spitfires hidden in
sheds, garages, bus depots and a hotel
but nobody ever knew

A TRUE STORY OF
ORDINARY PEOPLE DOING
EXTRAORDINARY THINGS

the
**SECRET
SPITFIRES**
DIRECTOR'S CUT



Where: Neeld Community & Arts Centre, Chippenham

When: Tuesday 3 September

Time: 4pm, doors open 3.30pm

Cost: £7 , £5 Friends of Chippenham Museum, book via museum

Contact: heritage@chippenham.gov.uk and 01249 705020

Secret Spitfires is a documentary film about how WWII Spitfire fighter aircraft were built in secret in the heart of Southern England. This screening takes place on the 80th Anniversary of the declaration of WWII and will include a Q&A session with Norman Parker, history advisor for the film and WWII Spitfire engineer. All proceeds will go towards supporting the Friends of Chippenham Museum and associated charities.

Secret Spitfires

Claire Selman

Event title	Secret Spitfires Film Screening
Date/s	Tuesday 3 September
Time	4pm (doors open 3.30pm)
Location	Neeld Community & Arts Centre
Description	Secret Spitfires is a documentary film about how WWII Spitfire fighter aircraft were built in secret in the heart of Southern England. This screening, arranged by the Friends of Chippenham Museum, takes place on the 80th Anniversary of the declaration of WWII and will include a Q&A session with Norman Parker, history advisor for the film and WWII Spitfire engineer. All proceeds will go towards supporting the Friends of Chippenham Museum and associated charities. Tickets are £7 (£5 for Friends of Chippenham Museum) and can be booked in advance by visiting the museum or contacting 01249 705020 and heritage@chippenham.gov.uk The Friends of Chippenham Museum support the museum in a number of ways including fundraising, promoting activities and organising an enjoyable social programme. As well as a regular newsletter Friends are invited to exhibition openings, talks and special activities. Membership is £5 per year, visit Chippenham Museum to join.
Cost	£7, £5 Friends of Chippenham Museum
Age	-

Venue address	Neeld Community & Arts Centre, High Street, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 3ER
Email	heritage@chippenham.gov.uk
Telephone	01249 705020
Website	http://www.chippenham.gov.uk/chippenham-museum/volunteers-and-friends
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Chippenham-Museum-470054093527226/

Chippenham says farewell to the HSTs

The HST (High Speed Train) or 'Intercity 125' was intended only as a stop gap until the introduction of the APT (Advanced Passenger Train) which was being developed in both diesel and electric form. But the failure of the APT meant that the HST became a mainstay of non-electrified inter-city lines in Britain for the next forty years. From 1976 it progressively replaced loco-hauled trains on the Great Western and East Coast Main Lines and went on also to serve on East Midland and Cross Country routes. Its speed of 125mph revolutionised rail travel and certainly put Chippenham within



reasonable commuting distance of London. Delivery from 2017 to GWR of a fleet of new bi-mode (diesel and electric) Class 800/802 'Intercity Express Trains' built by Hitachi in Japan, UK and Italy has now been completed and the last HSTs out of Paddington ran on 18th May 2019. They have served us well, and GWR gave them a good send-off: four trains were lined up at platforms 1 to 4, to depart between 6 and 6.30pm for

Plymouth, Cheltenham, Hereford and finally Bristol, Taunton and Exeter. As seen in the photo, the last of these called at Chippenham at around 8pm and departed with a cacophony of sound from the horns at both ends of the train. At the front was the last power car to be built (43198) wearing the latest GWR green colours while at the rear was the first production-standard power car (43002), this one wearing the original IC125 livery, re-applied in 2016 to mark 40 years of HST operation.

This was not quite the end as the same set called at Chippenham on a special farewell tour of the GWR network, with proceeds going to charity. It is seen from Cocklebury Lane Bridge (with power car 43002 at the rear) heading for Paddington at around 0550 on the morning of 1st June 2019. Some of the GWR HSTs have gone to Scotland to upgrade their inter city services while some others have been retained by GWR to work more local services in Devon and Cornwall and between Taunton and Cardiff. These have just four passenger carriages and are being modified to meet the latest access requirements including fitment with new electrically operated doors. GWR call them Castle Class rather than HSTs and they are not, I think, scheduled to exceed 100mph.



Report by John Scragg

Volunteering is a Family affair for Peggy

Elaine Davis

In June each year Volunteers' Week highlights the contribution millions of volunteers make to organisations and charities across the UK. For the museum this national celebration is an opportunity to say a massive thank you to over 50 volunteers who generously give their time, enthusiasm and knowledge. One such volunteer is Peggy Burgess.

Peggy joined Chippenham Museum in 2001. "I didn't want to retire" she says" but my husband was unwell so we retired and I looked after him and it was alright during the first summer but after the first winter of being at home I knew I needed to get out and do something more..... but what?" "My first love was nursing but my second was history" she continues "so I phoned up the Museum and they said come in for an interview! Well that was a laugh, my daughter Miranda came with me and she said Mum doesn't want to volunteer she wants to be an exhibit, and they phoned the next day!" Peggy became a regular volunteer on the front desk and also ran a number of children's activities, but, not content with volunteering herself, over the years Peggy has encouraged other members of her family to come along.

Daughter Miranda is also a volunteer and along with her mum is one of the founding members of the 'Create and Donate' museum group. This talented group of crafters produce items for sale with all the proceeds going to the Friends of Chippenham Museum. Peggy has now also recruited Granddaughter Ruth "I've been coming to various clubs and workshops at the Museum since I was young with my parents and grandparents" Ruth says "I've always loved the opportunities provided by the Museum to bring families, with all different interest together. By volunteering just a little it is a positive thing for the community." 18 Years on Peggy is still an active member of the Museum's wonderful volunteering team "I don't do as much as I did" she says " but I love events like this."

Peggy refers to the commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the D Day landings. Peggy along with Ruth and Miranda, has been welcoming visitors to the "We'll Meet Again" display created by local historian Richard Broadhead, in Chippenham's medieval Yelde Hall.

"I enjoy every minute of volunteering" Peggy says "I have not been absent much only when Mike (Peggy's husband) died. I took a week off but then phoned up and said I want to come back, I was told that I didn't have to but I needed to, I needed to get back to get my brain in order"

In 2018 the museum marked Peggy's contribution at the Volunteers' Christmas party. This annual event for the Museum is an opportunity for the Town Mayor to give Volunteer Service awards to recognise 5, 10, 15 and more years of support. For the first time the Museum gave a Lifetime Achievement Award to celebrate the 17 years of dedication and enthusiasm shown by Peggy.

"I get so much enjoyment from volunteering" Peggy says "I have said many times that the Museum is stuck with me"

And the Museum would have it no other way!

The Museum would like to thank all its volunteers for all their work and continued support.



Volunteer Peggy Burgess, and her Granddaughter Ruth also a volunteer