

THE BUTTERCROSS BULLETIN



Winter Comes to Chippenham (page 14)

Issue No 171



**CHIPPENHAM
CIVIC SOCIETY**

February 2019

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Committee 2018/19

The following were re-elected to the committee at the March AGM

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Sally Lynes
Geoff Barrett
Jennifer Rudd
Melissa Barnett
Mary Norton

Elaine Davis
Ryan Peare
Dory Scott
Steve Lile

From the Editor

From the Editor

Belated Happy New Year greetings to all and welcome to the February 2019 edition of the Buttercross Bulletin.

You will see there is a change of editor, sadly Elaine decided to relinquish editorship at the end of last year after two very successful years, and I have been asked to take over as her successor. Elaine you will be a very hard act to follow.

Since our November edition among many celebrations leading up to Christmas were the arrival of Father Christmas on Saturday 24 November during the weekend of early Christmas activities, the re-enactment of the spontaneous celebration of the end of WW1 and the unveiling of the commemorative tapestry. The latter being an idea of Peter and Teresa Hutton, which was enthusiastically taken up by schools to mark the end of WW1, the resulting efforts being displayed in the museum.

Happy reading

Bulletin Editor: contact details

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

Deadline for contributions to the May edition is 31st March

CHIPPENHAM CIVIC SOCIETY WEBSITE

www.chippenhamcivicsociety.co.uk

Like us on facebook /ChippenhamCivicSociety

Disclaimer

Chippenham Civic Society cannot be held responsible for any 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 via email as an electronic PDF version - please let us know via the website at www.chippenhamcivicsociety.co.uk

Planning Matters Round Up

The Editor

Due to unforeseen circumstances there is no detailed summary of Planning Matters available in this issue. It is hoped that 'normal service' will be resumed in the May edition.

As most people are aware there a number of controversial matters in the pipeline, some of these being:

Future development on the site of the Sadlers Mead car park

Further development of more Retirement and Care Homes in our town

The latest plans for a Skate Park

Be assured that we shall be keeping a close eye on these and any other matters of concern to our members

Membership Matters

The Civic Society would like to wish all members a very happy new year for 2019 and look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

Membership Renewal: A reminder that membership renewal for 2019 was due by 31 December. If you pay by standing order please ensure you have changed it to the new fee of £15 per household or £20 for corporate/ business

A reminder to all members- Please don't forget to inform the Membership Secretary of any change of address, email address or phone number.

Best wishes

Marilyn – Membership Secretary

CHIPPENHAM CIVIC SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Rotary Hall, Station Hill, Chippenham

Monday 25 February 2019 at 7.30pm

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DAY & DATE DUE TO AVAILABILITY AT THE ROTARY HALL

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the AGM held on 20 March 2018 and Matters Arising
- 3 Chair's report with additional reports on the web page, Buttercross Bulletin and events and news from Chippenham Museum.
- 4 Treasurer's Report
- 5 Election of Chair
- 6 Election of Vice-Chair
- 7 Election of Treasurer
- 8 Election of Executive Committee
- 9 AOB

VACANCIES ON THE COMMITTEE

We are going to lose members of the Executive Committee and we are therefore looking for members to volunteer to join our team. We meet about 5 times a year at 6.00 pm at the Borough Lands Charity, meetings normally last about 1 hour. If you are interested please contact Mike Stone for further information.

Short presentations

After the AGM there is an opportunity for members to give short presentations on any aspect of Chippenham and the surrounding areas. For planning purposes please contact Mike Stone to discuss your subject and book a slot on 01249 446385 or stone48@live.co.uk

Mike Stone
Chair



Chippenham Museum has a new temporary exhibition space. This was funded by an Arts Council England Grant which provided for new display cases, lighting systems and environmental controls. The work was complimented by an upgrade in security and decoration by Chippenham Town Council who run the museum service.

This secure and flexible space now allows the museum to fulfil the criteria set to borrow objects and collections from other institutions. In the last year there has been a full programme of exhibitions in the space showing Chippenham related items on loan from National Museums and from collections nearer such as Bristol, Devizes and Trowbridge.

However, our main focus has always been to showcase our own collections and to celebrate local stories and events.

The improvements were timely as an HLF funded project, 'Creative Wiltshire', run by the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, also allowed us to expand our permanent collection by providing for the purchase of contemporary creative material. This included fine art, studio pottery, silver and sculpture.

Our first exhibition in our new space featured the work collected by the 'Creative Wiltshire project' and included pieces by some of the many influential artists, such as Howard Hodgkin, William Brooker and Robin Tanner, who moved to North Wiltshire during the 20th century for work, study or a simpler life. This follows a long tradition leading back to the Antiquarians John Aubrey and John Britton. All have been inspired by the beauty of the local landscape which in 1894 the historian Rev J J Daniell described as the "Garden of Wiltshire"

However, our research showed that although it is widely known that Chippenham and the area surrounding it is rich with creativity; this has not always been celebrated as it deserves.

So, this year, the museum wishes to expand its offer of exhibition space to the community. From May to July 2019, we are looking for local artists, designers and makers to be involved in a new annual programme of exhibitions and displays: -

ARTSPACE@Chippenham Museum is open to solo artists working across any medium and to individuals or groups of artists interested in exhibiting together. You will be expected to live or work in North Wiltshire.

- Spaces are available for 2-4 weeks between 4 May – 16 July
- Hire is free for this year only

- Single or double gallery spaces are available
- Change over day on Fridays
- Opportunity to sell items in museum shop & hold workshops

If you are an artist and would like to find out more about the space and dates available, further details are available at www.chippenham.gov.uk/museum



To apply, please complete an ARTSPACE exhibitor form and return by email to heritage@chippenham.gov.uk

The deadline for applications is Sunday 17 February, with successful artists notified by early March.

If you would like to discuss your application please call the museum on 01249 705020 or email heritage@chippenham.gov.uk

We are also delighted to be supporting the Peacock Arts Trail for the first time this year. Running from Saturday 5 October – Sunday 13 October 2019 the Peacock Arts Trail was established with the aim of celebrating the arts in Corsham and the surrounding towns and villages in North West Wiltshire.

The Arts Trail itself will provide nine days of open studios and galleries giving the public the opportunity to meet the artists, see their work and discover new art forms. www.peacockartstrail.co.uk. The museum is offering the Yelde Hall and Gallery 5, a smaller space within the museum, to local artists who wish to take part in the trail.

At the same time, a major exhibition “Strange and Wonderful Beings”– the Work of Rosemary and Clifford, on loan from the Victoria Art Gallery Bath, will be on display in the temporary exhibition gallery. There will be a full programme of talks and workshops to accompany the exhibitions and displays.

Finally, don’t miss our revamped museum shop which, as well as selling books, souvenirs and educational toys, displays and sells some great local crafts. We are delighted to offer jewellery by Tamara Eggleston of Barking Hen Jewellery, stained glass by Peter Berry, who was commissioned to make the museum’s beautiful 50th anniversary panel on display in the stairway, and pottery by ceramist Jane Scott.

New Exhibition

What's in Store? – Behind the Scenes at the Museum

1 February – 23 April, free entry

A rare opportunity to view objects from the museum stores and find out about what happens behind the scenes to care for the museum's collection of over 35,000 objects.



Return of the Chippenham Gladiator Bowl!



After months of fundraising by the Friends of Chippenham Museum, and painstaking work by Beth Baker, Senior Conservator at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Chippenham's Gladiator bowl is now on display for the first time.

The reconstructed bowl, which featured in the February 2018 issue number 167, now has pride of place in our latest exhibition *What's in Store? – Behind the Scenes at the Museum*, along with other objects found during the 2017 excavations in St Mary Street.

The museum would like to thank Marc Allum and Lisa Lloyd for all their support and for giving the objects found in their garden to the museum for the benefit of the town.

Activities and events

Half Term Activity - Canal Days

Tuesday 19 & Thursday 21 February, 10.30am to 12pm & 1pm to 2.30pm -free entry, drop-in



Meet the volunteers of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust this half-term at Chippenham's medieval Yelde Hall and have a go at lots of fun free activities celebrating Chippenham's local canal.

The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust is a charitable organisation working to preserve, conserve and improve the route of the historic Wilts & Berks canal once came into the heart of Chippenham.

This activity is suitable for ages 5 – 11; fewer than 8s must be accompanied by an adult.

Westinghouse Memories

Saturday 16 February 10am – 4pm -free entry, drop-in

Call in and share your memories of Westinghouse and its legacy in the town. See some of the objects recently added to the museum's Westinghouse collection and learn about our plans to document this important industry in Chippenham.



Goldiggers Remembered

Saturday 16 March 10am – 4pm -free entry, drop-in

Did you rock out to Iron Maiden at Goldiggers? Or dance with Devotion? If so join the museum and Wiltshire College staff and students for our special Goldiggers Remembered day. Bring along your memorabilia and share your memories of Chippenham's famous music scene.



Objects in Focus

Join us for a series of short lunch-time talks which explore the stories behind some of the objects on display and how they help our understanding of the past.

Each week we focus on a different object starting at 1pm and lasting for approximately 15 minutes these bite size talks are perfect for a different lunch time treat.

Thursday 14th February - Wedding Dresses from the Collection

Thursday 21st February - The Ambrose Neate watch

Friday 1st March – Mayor of Lowden Chain

Friday 8th March – Reconstructing of Saxon Chippenham

Tuesday 12th March – Modern Collecting

Thursday 21st March – Indexing the Spinke's Directories

Friday 29th March – Betty Hooper's gift from her Starlettes

Wednesday 3rd March – Florence Hancock

Wednesday 10th March – A Saxon Spear Head

Chippenham Street Names

Chris Dallimore

I began researching the street names of Chippenham back in 2016, with the idea of compiling my findings in some type of quick reference book. I launched my Facebook page not long after, and I soon began to realise that especially for recently built streets, I would require local knowledge.

It was the reaction by the people of Chippenham that made me realise I could make much more of my project than just a simple list. Also, I wanted people to feel that they could be interested in the whole of their town's history, not just of their own specific street.

My research took me all over the town looking for clues. I relied heavily on the superb records at Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre and books on local history. If I was ever stuck on a name, the collective local knowledge of Chippenham was there to call upon, through the use of online social media. So many have wanted to help, and hoped that their pictures would be included in my final draft. The beauty of the Street Names Project has been that it is partly my research and partly the energy of Chippenham that has made it all happen.



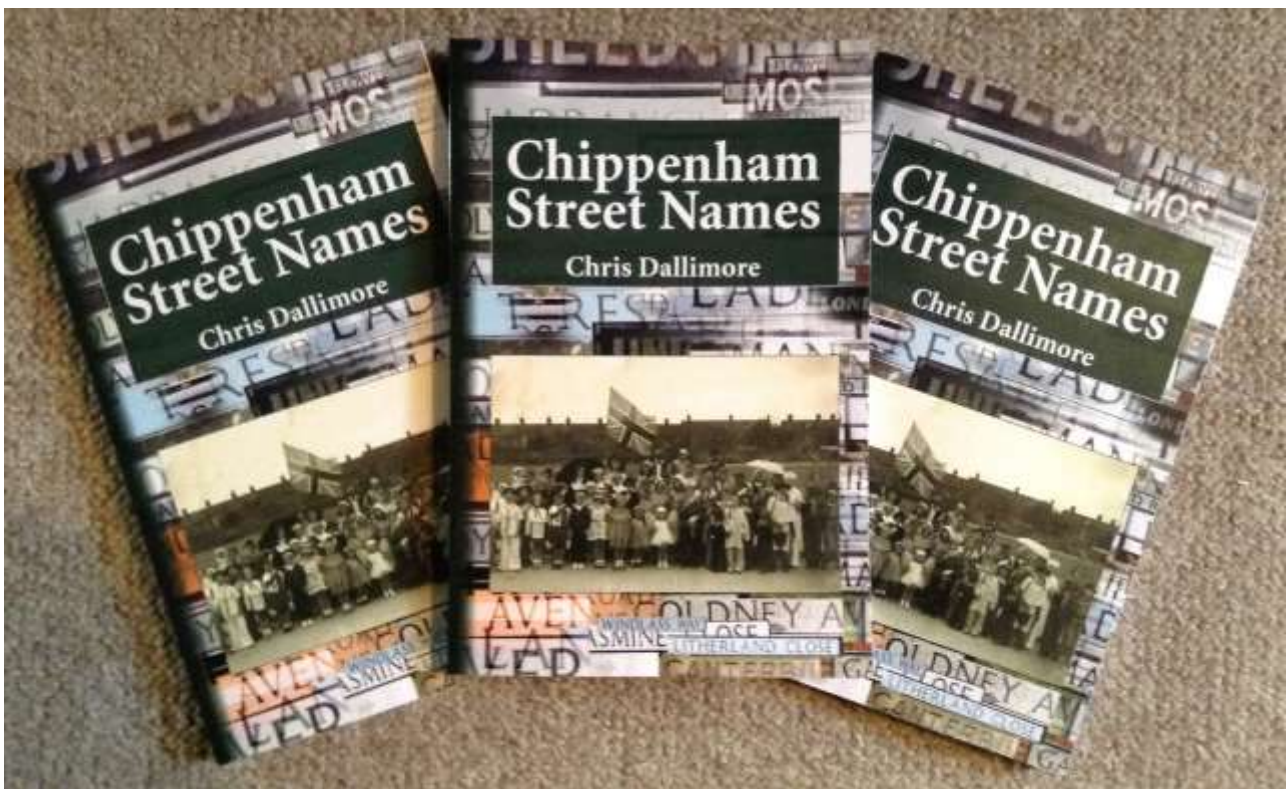
The many unique photographs, memories and anecdotes are still coming in and I am working with Chippenham Museum to ensure they are recorded and made available to those without access to the internet. This will be a huge task, but it is one that I relish the thought of getting my teeth stuck into.

Of course, I already have my next volume of Street Names to work on. I am already finding out lots of great information about the area around Chippenham. This next book will be called - Chippenham Street Names: The Villages.

I aim to cover all Villages and hamlets around Chippenham as far Hullavington in the north, Lacock in the south, Foxham in the east and The Shoe in the east. Other villages will one day be covered by other volumes connected to their respective nearby town.

I became vice-chair of the Friends of Chippenham Museum at the last AGM, and I am hoping to contribute to the work of the Museum in any way I am able. I have pledged a donation to the FCM funds for each copy of any Chippenham related book I sell. This money will be used for purchasing new artefacts for the museum and for restoration work, beginning with that of the Roman Samian Ware bowl.

Looking forward, I hope to continue working with the people of Chippenham and welcome any information or photographs on the villages surrounding our fine town.



Follow Up

Sandie Webb

Some weeks ago Sandie gave one of her very interesting talks to the Civic Society, and shared many interesting photos with us, together with some fascinating details of the background information connecting the subjects with Chippenham.

However she also said that there are occasionally times when despite all her efforts the origin is difficult to trace. Can someone help with this one please? The Editor



This is a photo that I would love someone to help me with, in the centre of the picture giving over the cheque is Fred Evans, the ex-secretary of CTFC who set up Chippenham United in 1947/8 in opposition to the Hardenhuish Park club.

I think the 'spiv' in the background 'with the moustache' might be Eric Harris. Dad of Anita Harris, but I have not been able to get this confirmed by her via her agent (just no reply) The men seem to be in front of the Neeld/Town hall, and we know that around this time they purchased the Firs ground from Mr Goldney, so is he there?

The gent to his left is also featured at the new ground as a physio, who is he?

So many questions, so few answers.

Can someone help?

Winter Came to Chippenham

Well it had been quite a reasonable winter so far – that is until almost the end of December. There had been no White Christmas and not too much scraping ice off the car – that was until the last week of December.

Until then it had been unusually mild and many snowdrops had appeared together with other flowers such as yellow and mauve crocuses.

But a dramatic change, we were suddenly threatened with rain and strong winds, bad enough, but worse was to come, the snow, dreaded by most but loved by many children. The last day of December was the day, left it late in the Chippenham area though. Some drizzle and sleet at bed-time, but oh what a difference by breakfast on Friday 1st February.

Snow came down steadily during the night and was falling quite thickly throughout the morning. Regular news bulletins kept us up to date with such things as flights and train cancellations, school and road closures and general advice on special care needed. By early afternoon the worst was over but by the damage was done.

In Chippenham many businesses and offices were open and many people struggled to work however some businesses closed early in order that workers would, hopefully, be able to travel home safely.

Stanley Park was closed on the Friday and the weekend. There was some damage at John Coles Park where the net over the Multi Use games Area came down, bringing with it the perimeter posts. There was some considerable damage due to the weight of the snow. The affected area has been cordoned off pending repairs.

Fortunately on the Sunday a thaw set in meaning that things were returning to normal by the start of the working week, and those who had been unable to get their cars out to the road were able to move again

Let us hope it will be the only disruption of the winter, and that thankfully it was only a short one.

St Nicholas School Chippenham

This is a school for children with special educational needs (SEN), and affectionately known by many as 'St Nicks'. It is a very special school helping many children and their families in the Chippenham area.

In addition to the school at Malmesbury Road Chippenham there is also a further establishment at Poplar College, Cocklebury road Chippenham to which the pupils may transfer at the age of 16, to continue their education.

This is an amazing school, the dedicated staff give the children the care, help and support they need, and make them feel valued in the community.

The facilities are excellent and include a Hydrotherapy Pool, access to Health Professionals, Speech and Language help, Paediatric appointments, Occupational Therapy among many others. Now Wiltshire Council (WC) are proposing to close the school along with two others and build a new school to replace all three.

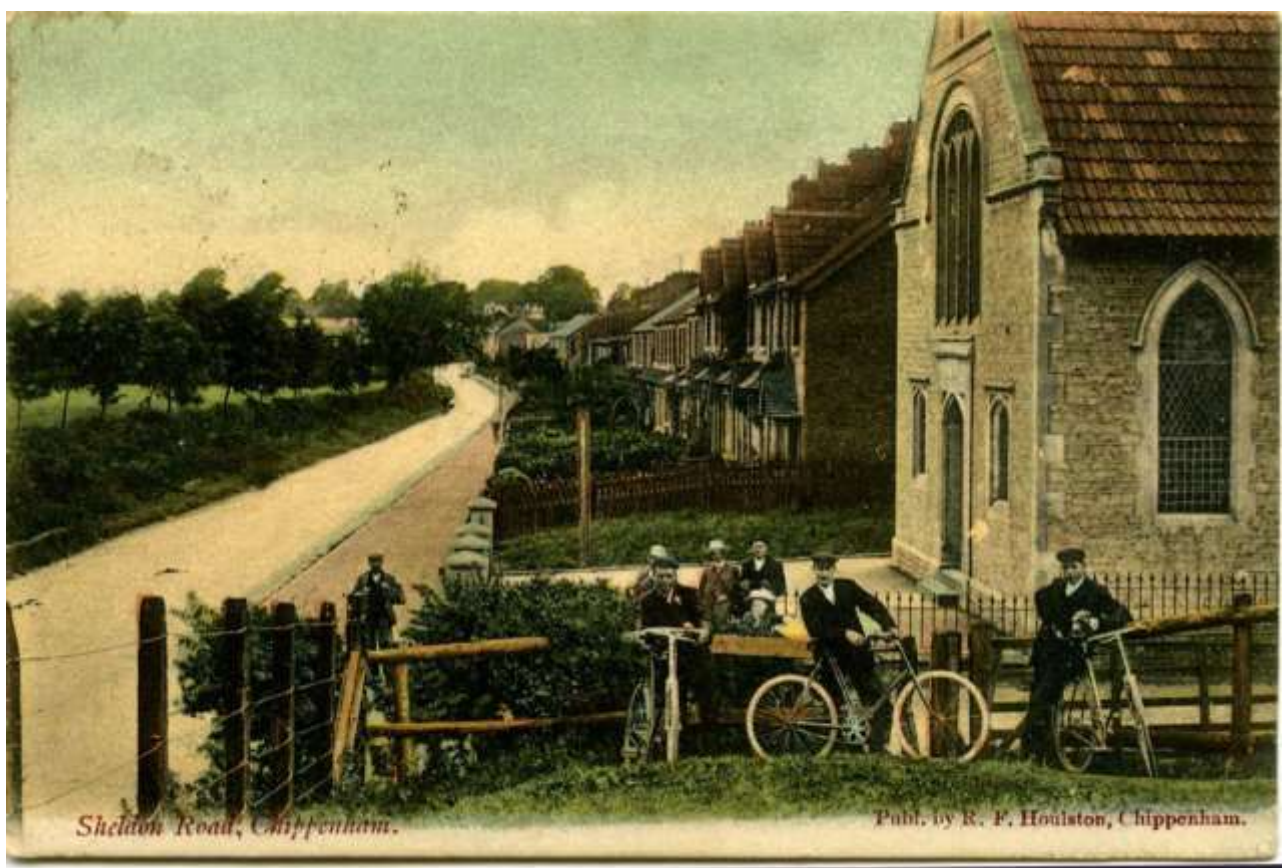
Such action would mean disrupting the lives of so many children and families for little purpose. The facilities WC say will be available are already available in Chippenham.

The proposed new school is to be sited in a rural area without suitable transport for pupils of the present school to get to it in a reasonable time. If buses are provided they will have to follow roundabout routes to reach their final destination meaning the children first on the bus would be likely to spend more than one hour each way travelling to school. This is not acceptable especially for children in wheelchairs.

Travelling would be along rural roads and particularly difficult during the 'rush hour' morning traffic or in bad weather. Parents who take their children to school may find it difficult to make the necessary arrangements as there are some who have one or more attending other schools. Parents would also find it much more difficult to attend meetings with staff and specialists or to collect children if they are ill.

No mention has been made of the Poplar College which caters for students up to the age of 19, what will happen to them.

The community says think again WC, there has not been adequate consultation with the families affected. If a new school is needed build it as an add on to the existing school, or to another site in Chippenham. These children need our help to enable them to live as normal a life as they possibly can



Images taken from *Chippenham Street names*. Author Chris Dallimore