THE BUTTERCROSS BULLETIN





Awards for Civic Society Principals (Page 6)

Issue 190

CHIPPENHAM CIVIC SOCIETY

Summer 2025

Committee

As elected at the Civic Society AGM on Tuesday, 15 April 2025 at Chippenham Rotary Hall.

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The Bulletin can be sent via email as an electronic PDF version - please let us know via the website.

From the Chair

Dear Members

The AGM took place on Tuesday, 15 April in the Rotary Hall, Station Hill, Chippenham. A good turnout of 44 members were in attendance. Our President Jack Konynenburg took the Chair, Mike Stone was unanimously elected as Chair and John Scragg was unanimously elected as Vice Chair. All other members of the Executive Committee were elected on block (see the list on the inside page of this issue).

The Treasurer, Philip Cozens gave his report and proposed that we should raise the annual subscription from £18 to £20 as from 1 December this year. Members are reminded to change their standing orders before renewal. This was unanimously accepted by members present. (See accounts page 5).

The Chair thanked Elaine Davis for all her efforts in getting out the two issues of the Buttercross Bulletin. I would like to thank all members and other people who have submitted articles, along with an increasing number of letters from both members and the public.

The Membership Secretary, Marilyn, reported that we are still losing members, some of whom have been members a long time. I repeat that we need to increase membership.

The website, looked after by Geoff Barrett, continues to attract a regular number of hits per year.

The programme of speakers for the year attracted on average 40 members per session. Thank you to members who continue to recommend speakers to me.

The Chair thanked all the members of the committee for their work over the last year. There was no AOB from the floor and the meeting closed at 7.42 pm.

After the AGM Melissa Barnett, Head of Museum & Heritage Services at Chippenham Town Council gave an illustrated presentation of the last 25 years of Chippenham Museum. An overview of her talk can be found on page 15. Chippenham Civic Society continues to be a stakeholder in the ever-growing museum collections, and we can look forward to a 50th year, which will be in 2050 - see you there!

Annual Heritage Lecture, St. Andrew's Church Tuesday, 17 June 2025

The Chippenham Civic Society, in association with the Friends of St Andrew's Church, are holding a special heritage lecture this year. The topic is 'The Life and Times of King Alfred the Great.' This will be presented by Mike Stone, Chair of Chippenham Civic Society. Prior to the evening lecture there will be an unveiling of a new Blue Plaque on the front wall of Chippenham Museum, to commemorate the victory of King Alfred of Wessex against the Danes of King Gunthrum.

The presentation will cover the early life of Prince Alfred and his succession to the throne in 871 AD, his continual wars with the Danes, the building of England's first navy, his

capital at Winchester and the importance of London. The events of 877 AD to 878 AD and the strong connections with Chippenham will form a central part to this presentation and will include a summary of what Alfred's Royal Ville at Chippenham looked like.

The Blue plaque unveiling will take place at the front of the Museum from 6.45 pm to 7.00 pm. A contingent of Vikings/Danes will be turning out for the unveiling. The Annual Heritage lecture on the' Life and Times of King Alfred the Great' will commence at 7.30 pm in St Andrew's Church. Refreshments, provided by the Friends of St Andrew's Church, will be served at the end of the lecture.

Please put this date in your diary and we hope to see as many as possible for this special evening commemorating Chippenham's connection to King Alfred the Great.

A Newsletter will be sent out in August with the programme until December 2025.

Mike Stone – Chair



Receipts & Payments Account
for the Year Ended 30 November 2024

Presented at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 15 April 2025

Receipts	2024	2023	Payments	2024	2023
Membership subscriptions	1804	1,768	Newsletter & photocopying	861	998
Donations received	195	386	Room hire & speakers	746	668
Bank interest received	50	24	Stationery/stamps	165	137
Gift aid on donations	306	772	Website costs	50	67
Book sales	10	41	Miscellaneous		67
Ticket sales	126	348	Awards Evening		120
Refreshments			CPAG – Artists	390	1500
Sundry Income	5.3	1518	Gifts - retiring committee members		25
			Accountancy		498
	2,496	4,857		2,212	4,080

Cash Funds last year end	5,550
Net of receipts/(payments)	234
Cash funds this year end	5,784

Statement of Assets & Liabilities at 30 November 2024

Assets	2024	2023
Scottish Widows Bank	3214	3,164
Cash at Bank	5784	5,550
Cash funds	8998	8,714

Other Assets

Stocks	75
Calf sculpture	2,775

Liabilities

Accruals

Membership Matters – Awards for Civic Society Principals

It is with great delight that we announce the recognition of the work and achievements of both the Civic Society Chair, Mike Stone and our President Jack Konynenburg by Chippenham Town Council.

Civic Award

Each year, Chippenham Town Council presents Civic Awards to individuals, organisations, and groups who have made a material contribution to the advancement, wellbeing, and welfare of the people of Chippenham or demonstrated outstanding citizenship. In April it was announced that Mike Stone is one of this year's recipients of the award.

In announcing the award, the Town Council said

> "Mike has always displayed a sense of 'civic pride' and community engagement, from his early career as a police officer through to his subsequent career as a museum curator and published historian.
>
> As a long-time supporter and leader in the Chippenham Civic Society, he has been involved in many local community projects, including the restoration of the Buttercross, Civic Society Award nominations and the Blue Plaque scheme.
>
> Mike is a lifelong promoter of both local and world history, engaging others through his books, talks and boundless enthusiasm. He is well-known within the Chippenham heritage community as an organiser and supporter of local charities and events and continues to play an active part in the Chippenham Civic Society, Wiltshire Victoria County History Trust (volume 20 Chippenham), and many other projects."



Mike will be presented with the award on Civic Sunday, an annual event that acknowledges the work and contribution made by the many local organisations, groups, and individuals who enhance the quality of town life in Chippenham. After a community church service at St. Andrews Church the Mayor of Chippenham will present the awards to the winners at a civic reception at the Neeld Community & Arts Centre

Honorary Freeman 2024

Honorary Freeman is the highest honour Chippenham Town Council can award a member of the local community. The award process takes place every four years, in the final year in the term of each council and recognises those who, in the opinion of the Council, have rendered exceptional service to the town.

We are delighted that our president, Jack Konynenburg has been recognised for his services to the town by being awarded the title of Honorary Freeman. Jack was presented the award at a private ceremony on 25 March 2025, accompanied by family, friends, and invited guests.



Image courtesy of Chippenham Town Council

Image above shows Jack receiving the award of Honorary Freeman from Chippenham Town Council Mayor Cllr Conor Melvin

We asked Jack about his career and work that led to this award.

“I was both surprised and thrilled when in December the Town Council invited me to be awarded the title of Honorary Freeman of Chippenham. I understood that this was in recognition of the many projects that I have helped bring to reality that have improved the town.

The Mayor Conor Melvin presented me with the award at a ceremony on 25 March, alongside Rodney Jefferies MBE.



Image courtesy of Chippenham Town Council

Rodney was recognized for his military service as a gunner and trumpeter in the Royal Artillery, and the training of young buglers and drummers in the air and sea cadets, his support of young people through the scouts and other uniformed groups, alongside many other community initiatives.

Image shows Rodney receiving his award of Honorary Freeman from Chippenham Town Council Mayor Cllr Conor Melvin

I lived the first ten years of my life in Utrecht in the Netherlands, and my mother's remarriage brought me to Hull in East Yorkshire in 1957. After studying architecture at Bristol and Westminster Universities, and a period in London working for Southwark Council, my family in 1981 came to Chippenham primarily to be near my work in Swindon.

Looking back now it is interesting to reflect that if someone had told me in the 'Swinging 60s' that I would spend well over half my life in a Wiltshire market town I would have fallen off my chair! New York, Paris, Berlin perhaps but Chippenham?

At first, it was because we fell in love with a house in St Mary Street which we refurbished to make our home. But very soon I learned to love the town too. Its fine urban spaces, the variety of architecture (not all good), the swathe of nature alongside the river running through the town, and the strong sense of community.

It 1987 I became Principal Architect at North Wiltshire District Council at a key time in the development of Chippenham. Emery Gate shopping centre had just been completed, and there was talk of the ugly Sainsbury store moving out of town to enable Borough Parade to be developed in a more sensitive manner. Avenue La Fleche had opened, creating a possibility to reduce traffic flowing through the town centre and the Civic Society had just bought the remains of the Buttercross for £300 from the owners of the Manor House in Castle Combe, where it had stood for 100 years after removal from the Market Place.

I was fortunate that my superiors at the Council allowed and encouraged me and my team to help plan and implement the many projects that significantly enhanced the town from the mid-1990s to the early 2000s. These include the part pedestrianisation of the High Street and creation of a traffic free Market Square, with the restored Buttercross in a new position between the two. The Civic Society, as owners of the building, was a key partner in this project. The new Borough Parade Shopping Centre was also created, with a restored Neeld Hall as its centrepiece.

When the charity Sustrans obtained a large award from the National Lottery for the creation of the National Cycle Network, I persuaded them to provide a link through North Wiltshire. The charity then provided part funding for the route from south of Chippenham

through the town on the old railway line to Calne and beyond. This included three striking bridges, the Blue Bridge off Baydon's lane, Black Bridge across the Avon, off Riverside Drive, and a timber suspension bridge at Black Dog Hill across the A4. The latter was one of 10 'Millennium bridges 'in the UK.



Black Bridge

Some of my projects had little, if anything, to do with the council. In 1999 the Chippenham schools came together to plan a 'Millennium Wall' with each schoolchild under the age of 12 designing and making a tile within specific themes, one for each school. These were then cast into a concrete structure which was a very complex project. (see page for more on the Millennium Wall page 18). I have also, over a period of about 25 years, helped year 10 DT students at Sheldon School draw up their own proposals for the town.

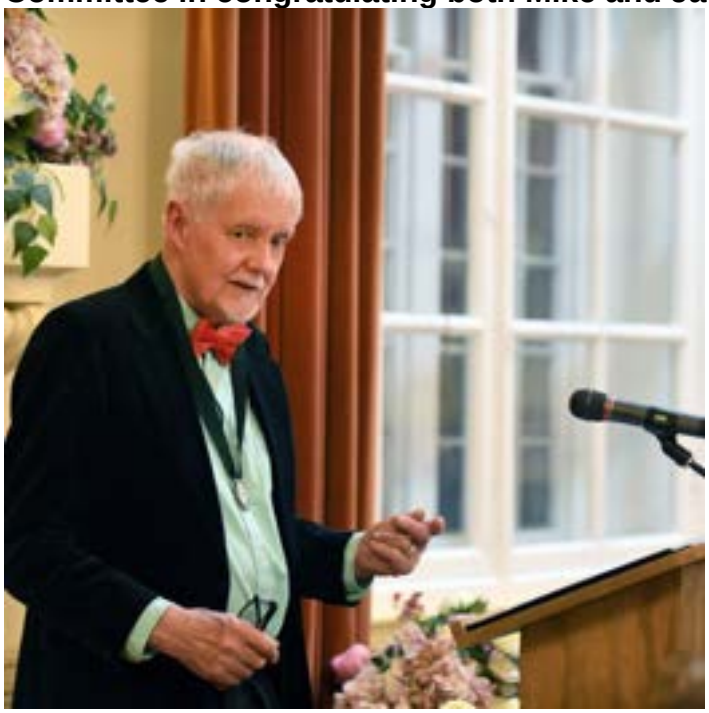
Since retirement I have remained active helping charities with their construction projects. I also give advice and draw up proposals for people who wish to alter their homes, in return for a donation to Doorway homelessness charity.

In 2005 I met my wife Jan, and together we have carried out our own piece of town centre regeneration, the creation of our own home and work to adjacent listed building on what was previously Phillips Removal company. This project, and the modernist building it includes, has generated much interest when frequently it is open for Heritage Open Days".



Chippenham Millennium Wall

I am sure that all members of the Chippenham Civic Society will join the Executive Committee in congratulating both Mike and Jack on their well-deserved awards.





Letters to the editor

At the end of last year, the editor was contacted by Mr Martin Robins regarding the unveiling of a life-sized statue of Sir George Dowty at Glebe Farm, Lower Stanton St Quintin.

Sir George Dowty's Statue



A bronze statue was unveiled last year honouring West Country engineering pioneer Sir George Dowty.

The statue is situated on the driveway of the 16th century Grade ll Listed Farmhouse at Glebe Farm, Lower Stanton St Quintin home of Martin Robins Chairman of the Sir George Dowty Memorial Committee.

Sir George Herbert Dowty (27 March 1901 – 7 December 1975) was an English inventor and businessman. In the 1930s he founded Cheltenham-based Dowty Aviation producing aircraft components such as hydraulic systems, undercarriage units, and warning devices.

At one time the company employed 15,000 people across Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. Including Mr Robins who was an employee at the Dowty group for 10 years from the early 1970s.

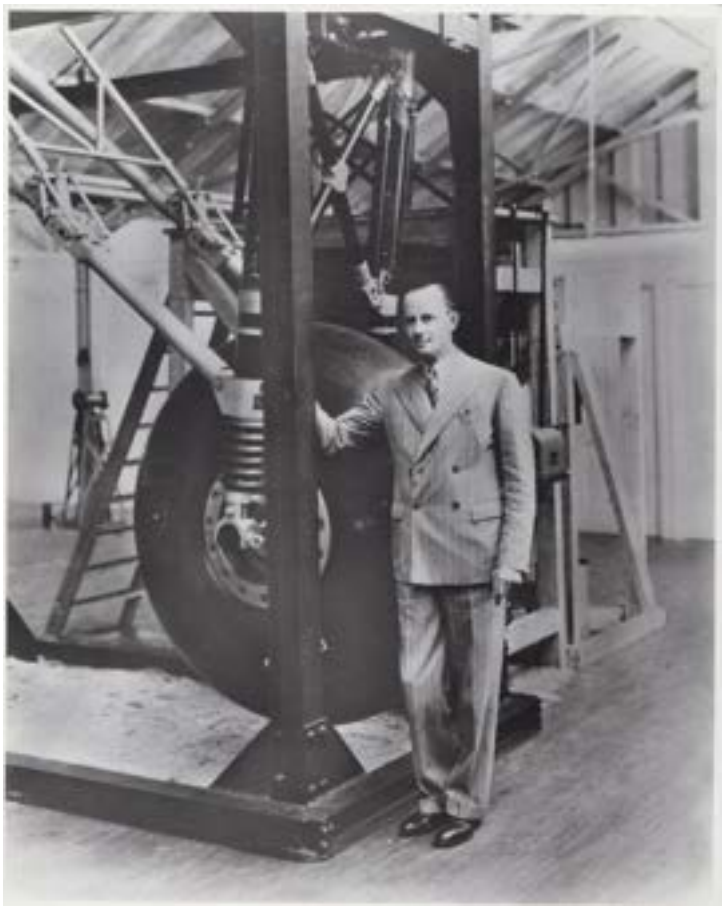


Image courtesy of Dowty Heritage

Mr Robins says of the statue "It's a unique piece of workmanship. It's a good reflection of both the man and the contribution he made to the country.

The life-size bronze statue of Dowty commemorates his contribution to aviation engineering and features him standing with one hand resting on the wheel of a Lancaster bomber. Dowty designed the undercarriage of the aircraft, which was used as the RAF's principal heavy bomber during the latter stages of World War Two.

In 1956 Dowety was knighted for his services to the industry.

Appropriately the statue currently stands by a replica of a bomb dropped in the driveway during the Battle of Britain which failed to explode



While the aim is for the statue to be given a permanent home at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford. The number of visitors to it in its current location have risen steadily to an average of 100 a week. Many of the visitors are from overseas and a combination of history societies, military associations and private individuals who have Dowty connections.

We thank Martin Robins for supply this information.

Unveiling ceremony Image courtesy of Martin Robins

We are very grateful to all society members who contact us with letters or comments to go into the Bulletin. If you would like to have your say on anything Chippenham related, please contact: Elaine Davis, edavis@chippenham.gov.uk.

Chippenham Buildings Then & Now - No 11 Mike Stone

To celebrate our President Jack Konynenburg receiving his Honorary Freeman of Chippenham award, I have looked through the Civic Society archives and found the two newspaper articles regarding the relocation of the Buttercross in the Market Place. Members should look at Issue Number 187, Winter 2023 on page 15 for the history and location of the Buttercross.

The newspaper headlines as 'Red Letter Day for a Dream that Jack Built'. I think we would all agree that the Buttercross and its location really is in the heart of Chippenham and Jack, along with all the other fundraisers, Councillors and volunteers managed to raise the £85,000 to complete the work.

Knowing Jack, he would probably say 'I didn't do much and it was down to all the other members of the Chippenham community'. However, the award made to Jack mentioned in this Issue, demonstrates his long-term vision for both the built environment of Chippenham and how he was able to assist in many other projects which have enhanced the town.



Please note that Images for Part 2 of Westinghouse from 1953 to present will appear in the next issue.

'Town turns back the clock to revive its long-lost heart

AN architect's dream of bringing back the long-lost heart of Chippenham finally started to be realised yesterday.

Jack Konynenburg was on hand to oversee the dismantling of the old market building so it can be brought back to the town.

The crumbling Buttercross has been languishing for 104 years in the grounds of the village school at nearby Castle Combe.

Recapture

The stone column building with Cotswold tile roof was moved out of Chippenham as part of a redevelopment in 1889.

Now the clock has been turned back as the town wants to recapture its market feel as part of a modern revamp.

The Buttercross is to become the focus of a new market which will take over from a car park in Market Place.

Tarmac will be replaced by a traditional stone surface as the area is pedestrianised.

One of the main brains behind the scheme is Mr Konynenburg, the architect for North Wiltshire district council.

He first broached the idea of bringing back the Buttercross four years ago to give the town centre an attractive facelift.

Appeal

Mr Konynenburg said: "I am delighted to finally see this starting. It has been a labour of love for me."

He is a member of Chippenham Civic Society which has launched an appeal to raise £200,000 to fund the facelift.

Corsham stonemason Barry Baldwin started the delicate task yesterday of dismantling and recording the structure so it can be accurately rebuilt next year.



Jack Konynenburg with mayor James Gore and Civic Society's John Morice



The market building pictured in happier days

Celebrating 25 Years of Chippenham Museum

Melissa Barnett



This year, Chippenham Museum marks a significant milestone – 25 years since its relocation to its current premises. At the recent Civic Society AGM, Melissa Barnett, Head of Museum & Heritage Services at Chippenham Town Council, delivered a detailed history of the museum to a packed hall.

It was on 23 March 2000, that the museum first opened its doors to the public in two elegant Georgian townhouses facing on to the Market Place.

The concept of a museum in Chippenham though dates to the Victorian era, with the idea first being proposed in 1855. However, it wasn't until 1963 that a group of local historians and volunteers, supported by the Borough Council, took over the medieval Yelde Hall and launched an appeal for items. Despite initial doubts about the project's viability, the museum proved to be a resounding success, with a small group of volunteers working tirelessly to make it a reality.



A List of Articles Exhibited

IN THE

TEMPORARY MUSEUM AT THE NEW TOWN HALL, CHIPPENHAM,

September 11th, 1855.



A Victorian catalogue for a temporary museum at the Town Hall & plans for a voluntary run museum at the Yelde Hall in1963

As one newspaper article from May 1964 noted, *"It started with a bang, but no one thought it would last. Chippenham just doesn't want a museum, they said. Public interest, it was forecast, would fade and die. But a small group of volunteers, who organize the museum project in the ancient Yelde Hall, Chippenham have proved them all wrong."*



Initial plans for galleries at a new museum in 2000



Official opening with HRH Prince Philip 2001

Since its relocation, the museum has undergone remarkable growth and development. With the support of Chippenham Town Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund and other organisations, the museum was able to employ its first professional staff and develop its initial galleries. The appointment of its first professional curator in 2000 marked the beginning of a new era, with further funding enabling the museum to expand its facilities and services.

In 2001, the museum was formally opened by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, following its expansion onto the second floor and the creation of new storage facilities, research areas, and an education wing.

Since then, the museum's collection has grown significantly, with over 45,000 objects collected, catalogued, and cared for. Displays are constantly being changed and updated, ensuring that there is always something new to see. The addition of a gallery space in 2017 allowed for bigger and better temporary exhibitions while the museum's improved frontage and entrance have also enhanced the visitor experience. The museum was delighted to receive a Civic Society award for this development.





Exhibitions in the gallery space that many will remember as a Victorian schoolroom and kitchen.
Photos: Little Bath – Gossip & Scandal in Georgian Chippenham & Golddiggers Memories.

Recent developments, including the expansion into the adjacent building, have enabled the museum to create bigger temporary exhibition galleries with dedicated activity space and new permanent galleries for their important and developing contemporary art collection.



Image of Recent temporary exhibition in the new gallery space John Hitchens- Migrating Thoughts

Today, the museum continues to thrive, with a team of professional staff and knowledgeable volunteers working together to provide a first-class experience for visitors.

The museum's commitment to excellence has been recognised through Arts Council England's Museum Accreditation and a Visit England award. As the Museum looks to the future, it remains dedicated to preserving and showcasing the town's rich heritage, providing a valuable resource for visitors and locals alike.

Chippenham Museum is provided by Chippenham Town Council and offers a free service to the community and visitors to the town.

To find out more please download our free digital guide on Bloomberg Connects, the free arts and culture app.

www.chippenham.gov.uk/chippenham-museum/chippenham-museum-bloomberg-connects/

Twenty-Five Years On - Celebrating two millennium projects

Elaine Davis

2000 was a very busy year for Chippenham. As well as the relocation of the museum the town joined the nation in marking the new millennium with several exciting projects. Twenty- five years on we look at the legacy of two of those projects.

Chippenham Millennium Wall

In March 1999 a feasibility study was undertaken to explore the idea of a project involving local schools, to create a piece of public art to mark the millennium. In the study documentation the planned art piece was described as being …

‘on a scale, and in a way, not often attempted’.

The uniqueness of the project was to lie in the creative involvement of nearly 4000 children, representing the towns primary and secondary schools, to decorate a 50-metre-long wall. It was planned for the wall to run along the National Cycle Route, in green space between Avenue Le Fleche and the River Avon.

As previously mentioned, the project was supported by Jack Konynenburg and with the addition of local potter Christpher White as coordinator, funding was agreed.

Each school were assigned a theme and, supported by a local artist, students all under the age of 12, produced a tile which was fixed to the structure of the wall.



Tiles ready for placement on the wall. Image from Chippenham Museum collection



Each tile featured a miniature low relief sculpture, made by impressing or engraving a design.

As well as creating an attractive piece of public art the project aimed to engage the young people, through the themes for the tiles, with their cultural heritage and develop a sense of local pride. Themes included transport, buildings, industry, cultures, people and environment.

The structure itself was designed by 6th form students from Hardenhuish. While a scheme to link the whole assembly using a single blue line to represent the river, was designed in detail by Hardenhuish student Alister Hadnett as part of his A level Design Technology course.

Image shows Christopher White adding the finishing touches to the tiles on the Millennium Wall. Image from Chippenham Museum collection.

After over a year of planning and hard work the Millennium Wall was completed and officially opened by HRH the Duchess of Gloucester on 3 October 2000.

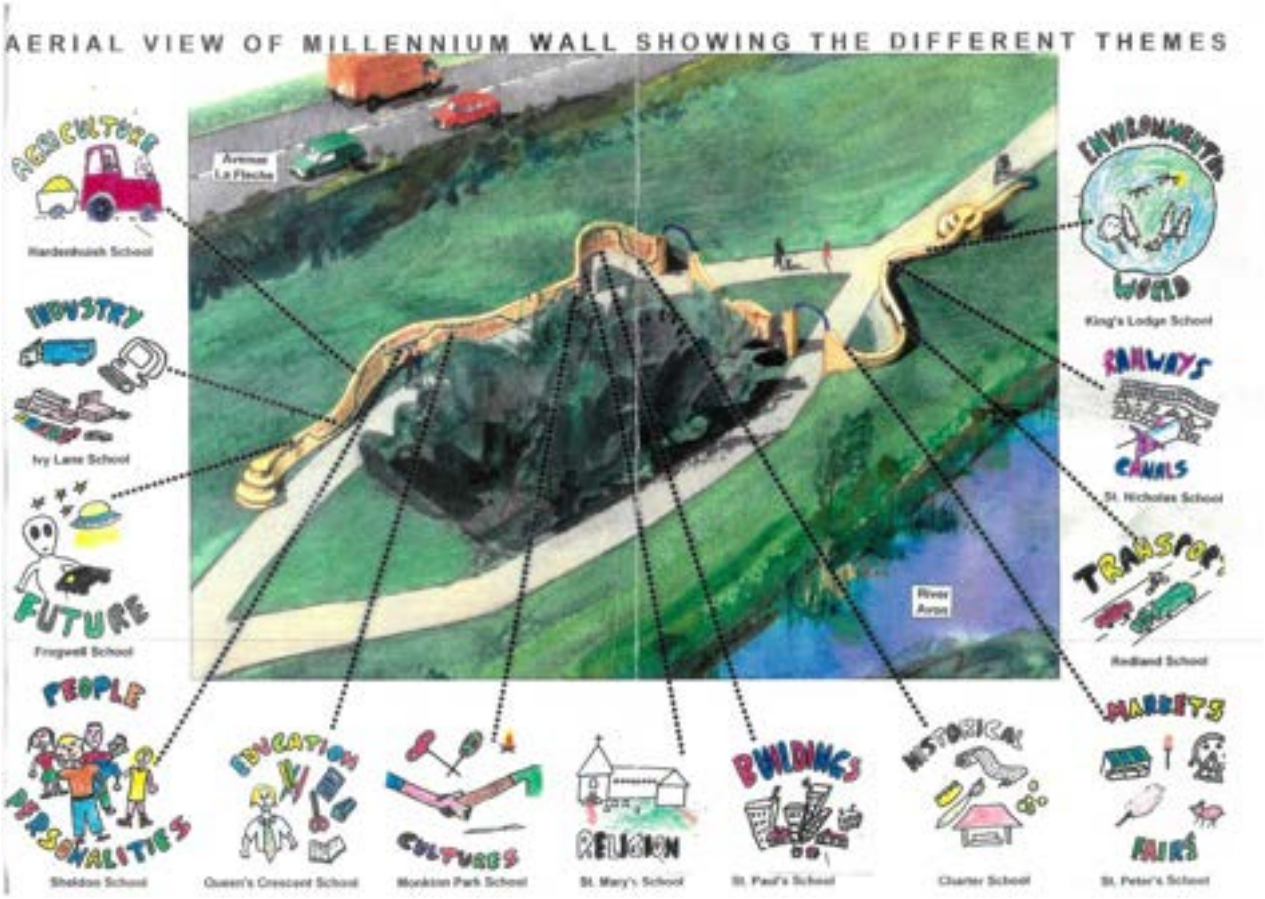


The Duchess unveiled a plaque in front of those who had been instrumental in ensuring the project was a success along with many of the young people who had contributed artwork to the overall design.



Jack Konynenburg introducing the Duchess of Gloucester to Christopher White and Alister Hadnett above and St Marys School children celebrating at the opening of the Millenium Wall below. Images from Chippenham Museum collection.





Illustrated map of wall location and themes

Despite the ravages of wind, rain and floods the wall has stood the test of time and in July a celebratory event will be held to mark its 25th Anniversary.

As We See It

In 2000 the ‘As We See It’ project engaged three young people to produce a photographic record of Chippenham at the start of the new millennium … “Marking the turn of the new century, the people of Chippenham as seen through the eyes of young photographers”.

The project, funded through an arts development grant from North Wiltshire District Council was led by Terry Buchanan, former Chief Photographer for the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England.

The young photographers pictures featured people from the town, and captured a moment in time of shops, businesses and events, through their eyes, as they saw it. Over four months more than 500 photographs were taken, recording everyday people in everyday poses.

The resulting images and negatives were deposited with the museum providing a rich and varied archive, covering hairdressers to market stalls and weddings to fun fairs, producing a snapshot of life at the start of the new millennium

One of the aims of the project was for the images to form the basis of a visual record at the start of a new millennium that would be made public and used as a future education resource or historical record.


As we See it - 2000


As we See it - 2000


As we See it - 2000

Inspired by the concept, and to mark the 25th anniversary of the original project, members of Chippenham Museum's afterschool photo club have set about recreating the project and bring it up to date.

The museum after school photography club has been running for over 6-year and its members, aged 11 to 17, have embarked on numerous ambitions projects. The club, now run in association with the Little Photo Company meet monthly and since February, the young photographers under the guidance of local professional photographers Tash and Steve, have been producing a new set of photographs, capturing the town as they see it, 25 years on.



To replicate the original project, the group are taking photographs in black and white using roll film, with cameras recently donated to the club. While film photography has had a resurgence in the past few years, this is a challenge for the young photographers, who are more familiar with their digital cameras. However, to acknowledge this development in photography over the past 25 years and bring the project up to date the group are also capturing street scenes and local businesses using digital technology.



With guidance from Tash and Steve, the young photographers have undertaken a number of photo shoots in the Market Place and High Street. capturing the shops and businesses along with the people of the town.



Using the original project images as reference the group have aimed to recorded similar scenes showing both similarities and differences in the shops.

Through the images the group have begun to identify lifestyle changes over the past 25 years. Such as the move from video to online streaming, bringing to an end the much-loved video shop!

The well-stocked haberdashery is also now missing from the town. This led to the group considering if this represented a move in previous years away from making clothes to the trend for fast fashion. It was hoped however, that the prominence in the Market Place of the busy tailoring business, which provided so many photo opportunities, suggested a growing desire for more sustainable options.









As news of the project has spread, the group have been invited to businesses on the outskirts of the town, recently visiting Red Squirrel Plumbing and Heating and Lloyds Equestrian Rug Wash!





While the work by Chippenham Museum Photo Club will form the core of the project the aim is to expand the recording opportunity.

To develop a rich and varied archive of the town and community the museum is asking for people to share, their photographs of everyday life in Chippenham both past and present. On 30th August the museum will be running a special ‘As we see it’ Saturday. It will be a chance to catch up on the photo club’s activity but also an opportunity to get involved.

While images taken so far by the group will be on display alongside photographs from the original 2000 project it is hoped that people will come along with their own images to loan or donate to enhance the record and help tell a more comprehensive story of the town and its community.

Engaging Young People with Heritage — Elaine Davis

As seen from the projects discussed in the previous pages, the new millennium offered an opportunity to work with young people to record and celebrate their local environment. Sadly however, it seems unlikely that such a project as the Millenium Wall would have the same input from our local schools today. Delivering a broad curriculum has meant more pressure on their time and schools generally are less able or willing to take part in town wide projects.

The development and influence of new technologies have also made it more difficult to engage young people with their local heritage and culture. Developing a sense of place and fostering a feeling of pride in young people for the area they live in has become more difficult. It could be said that today's young people are increasingly looking inward and are more isolated from their surroundings.

To challenge this, Chippenham Museum have been looking for innovative ways to engage its younger community and encourage their input into the development of the collection and museum displays. Building on the success of its young photography group last year the group lunch its Young Curators group.

The development of the group initially came about after the request from several young people for volunteering opportunities required for completion of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The group now attracts young people aged 13 -18 wishing to do volunteering work not only as part of their DofE but also to enhance their CV, UCAS application or as a way of undertaking valuable work experience within a museum setting.

The aims of the group are to support the museum's engagement programme by collaborating with staff and other volunteers to develop and delivery displays, activities and events using the museum collection, exhibition programme and locality to inspire, educate, challenge, and stimulate a diverse audience.

The group meet once a week during term time and since its start in October last year have helped with developing and planning children's activities for the museum's annual twelfth night event and school holiday drop-in activities.

The group have also developed their own project 'Spiling the Tee' as part of the museums 'threads' year dedicated to clothing, memory and identity, and have explored the most ordinary piece of clothing, the t-shirt!





After a call out for donations and loans of t-shirts the group spent time researching the many bands, groups and events featured and had a fun session exploring different options for displaying them, before installing the display in the galleries.

All the hard work was made worth it when the young people were joined in May by family and friends at a special event to celebrate the opening of their pop-up display.

Below is an extract from the blog written by the Young Curators.

> T-shirts have stood the test of time when it comes to clothing. Clothes have evolved into a major statement of personal style and expression. T-shirts are probably one of the most changeable and universally loved items of clothing around the world. Whether it's dressing casually for a walk in the park or using it to show off your favourite band, t-shirts have become much more than just something to wear.
>
> One of the most interesting aspects of t-shirts is how they allow us to share our thoughts and emotions without saying a word. They're like a silent conversation starter and windows into ourselves. A vibrant, bold colour can give off a vibe of optimism or excitement, while a deep black might suggest something more serious, maybe even a hint of sorrow or introspection. It's almost like the colour is a mood ring, letting people around you know how you feel at a glance. They hint to our inner emotions through mere fabric.
>
> It doesn't just stop at colour! The designs often reflect who we are, our beliefs, and our passions. The history of the t-shirt is rich with political statements, pop culture references, and even personal milestones that have been immortalised on fabric. Think about all the iconic band tees, movie quotes, or even activist logos you've seen throughout the years.
>
> Have you bought a t-shirt from a gig you saw recently, your favourite football club or do you still hang on to the t-shirt you've outgrown? These t-shirts hold greater value than their threads.
>
> In the end, t-shirts are more than just clothes. They reflect who we are and what we stand for. So, next time you slip into your favourite t-shirt, take a moment to think about what it says about you. You might be surprised at how much it reveals.

The museum would like to thank Aarusha, Alex, Alice, Delta, Iarann, Lucy, Ted and Tyler for their work on the 'Spilling the Tee' project

The pop-up display will run from Saturday 17 May to 19 July.



Spiling the Tee pop-up display, Chippenham Museum Young Curators Group.