



Dates for your diary

Thurs 27 Sept

Excursion to the famous Butcombe Brewery at Wrington includes coach travel, tour of the brewery followed by refreshments (soft drinks available). Coach leaves the Rockery Tea Gardens, North Road, at 5.45pm with a pick-up point opposite the Forester & Flower. The coach cannot wait at the latter point and prompt arrival before 5.45pm is essential.

Return approx 10pm. Open to members and guests but limited to 35 people. Price £8.

Apply to the Secretary at 13 Williamstowe, BA2 5EJ, 01225 833681, m.aylett@homecall.co.uk

Wed 17 Oct

Illustrated talk at the Combe Down Junior School, 7.00 for 7.30pm, by Nick McCamley, author of several books on stone mines.

Sun 28 Oct

A guided walk around Combe Down as part of Bath Open Week. Free, open to all, new residents specially welcome. Start at The Hadley Arms at 2.00pm. Lasts approx 1½ hours.

Wed 21 Nov

Book launch at the Combe Down Junior School, 7.00 for 7.30pm, for the Society's latest publication *I Remember Tucking Mill* by Stanley Wicks. We plan speakers on the location of Tucking Mill and the rambles described in the book. There will be short readings from the book to convey this delightful account of growing up in the early part of the 20th century. Illustrated by old photographs and a map, this will make a charming but inexpensive Christmas present.

Wed 12 Dec

Grand Heritage Quiz Night at The Hadley Arms, The Avenue/North Road, at 7.30pm. Free entry, buy your own drinks, nibbles provided. Another hilarious evening with the Society.

Open days

Sat 8 Sept 10.00am to 4.00pm

Sun 9 Sept 2.00 to 4.30pm

Union Chapel, Church Road will be open and as part of Heritage Open Days. There will be an exhibition about the Quarrymen's Chapel and the part it has played in the growing village community since 1815. Guided tours can be arranged if required, but individuals are particularly welcome. Refreshments available.

Anyone who has any old photos of the Chapel and its activities (for instance, outings to Weston super Mare) and is willing to have them considered for display should contact Doug Garraway on 834738 or Brian Martin on 837123, who can also give fuller details of the Open Days.



The Union Chapel CDHS Addison archive

Sun 21 Oct 11am to 3pm

Bath Jewish Burial Ground, corner of Bradford Road / Greendown Place. A brief history of the cemetery and a Tombstone Trail with details of the lives of many of those buried there will be available. Land for the cemetery was sold by Henry Street in 1812 after he had quarried it for stone. The last burial was in the 1940s, since when it has been neglected. Further information from the Secretary of the Friends of the Bath Jewish Burial Ground, 01225 8333681.

Old shops in Combe Down



The workshop that we held in May 2006 to revive everyone's memories of the old shops in Combe Down generated a lot of really interesting and valuable information, and we are sorry that we have been so slow in coming back to you with some feedback. Richard Read has now taken over as the coordinator of this project, and has been working over the last few months with a team of Phyllis Brown, Jane Briggs, Olive Webb and Rosemary Simmons to process the memories, together with information from other sources like directories and Parish magazines. In addition, Frances Stobart has done a wonderful job for us, going through her back copies of the Combe Down Parochial Magazine from 1902 to 1956 and listing all the adverts for shops that were in them.

Richard says, "It is just fantastic how self-sufficient the village was for shops; not just for the necessities of life but for the little luxuries as well.

We now know of well in excess of 40 premises on Combe Down that at some time in the last 100 years were shops of some kind - ie sold goods to the general public. In many cases we have already found out a lot about them, but in some others we still know hardly anything except the fact that they were in existence at a particular time. In some cases even the exact location is still unclear. However, we are sure that there will be someone out there who will remember!"

The aim will be to finish this phase in the autumn so that we can present the findings of the project so far back to Society members. We will do that in a way that we hope will encourage even more memories to come back, as well as giving us a chance to correct factual errors and any misunderstandings that may have occurred in the first stage.

If you have any thoughts or ideas on shops you remember or people who worked in them, which you think should be added in now, please call Richard on 830957



Heads down at the shops workshop

Milestones, turnpike trust markers and traditional 'finger posts'



Signpost opposite the King William IV CDHS Addison Archive

Following the completion of a successful project to survey and restore milestones and turnpike markers in the parishes of Bath & North East Somerset Council in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it is hoped to secure funding to extend the project to include markers in our patch.

There is an interesting example of a Bath Turnpike Trust marker at the

junction of Combe Road and North Road and examples of well maintained markers can also be seen near the Cross Keys Public House.

However in the near future it is hoped to secure the small sum to restore the broken "finger" and repaint the traditional finger direction post opposite the King William public house. This work will be carried out by a specialist local forge at Kelston.

Finger posts vary in style from county to county and the Somerset posts have a distinctive pyramidal shaped top inscribed with S.C.C and are painted in black and white stripes. As you drive out of the county you will notice many regional variations. Local features such as drain covers, gate post details, walling styles encourage a sense of place and should be protected as they help give Combe Down an identity of its own.

Claverton Pump

The Society had a very enjoyable evening visit on 10 July, going from the Brassknocker Basin by the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust's boat Jubilee to the



Claverton Pump. Members of the trust gave us a detailed tour of this very unusual pumping station which once lifted water

from the River Avon up to replenish the canal situated some way further up the hill. Extensive renovation of the intake sluice has recently been completed by the enthusiastic members of the trust.

The fine evening and return canal boat journey concluded an excellent society outing.



From top: view of the pump; members get a close look; Jubilee cruising at Limpley Stoke *photo Robert Coles*; on board at Claverton

Crow Stone – a novel



Jenni Mills

Society member Jenni Mills joined us when she was researching her novel, an exciting mystery set around a stone mine. The 'Greendown Mine' is fictitious but several of the characters are thinly disguised personalities familiar to many of us! Jenni has worked in broadcasting as a television presenter and producer for both ITV and BBC, making award winning programmes including several on landscape archaeology and history. She lives in Bristol.

Lauded by critics, Susan Hill has written 'Ingenious, well plotted ... really holds the attention. It's a damn good read.' And Jenni Murray said 'An amazingly accomplished first novel – intricately plotted with a terrific, engaging protagonist. Anyone who has so much as a hint of claustrophobia or fear of pot holes should read it only in daylight with the windows open.'

Publications

All publications are available at Society meetings

Published by the Society

and available from the secretary

A History of the Byfield Mine

by Dick Irving, £9.95.

The Roman Villa at Combe Down

by Dr Malcolm Aylett, £4.95.

Heritage Trail leaflet, 50p

Combe Down Past and Present. A CD of pictures from old postcards and recent photos taken from the same spot, price: a donation

From other publishers

available from Rosemary Simmons,

01225 833301 rosyprint@care4free.net.

Around Combe Down by Peter Addison £6.99.

Crow Stone by Jenni Mills £10.

Awash with Ale, 200 years of imbibing in Bath by Andrew Swift and Kirsten Elliott £12.99.

Ringing the Grooves of Change, Brunel and the coming of the Railway to Bath by Andrew Swift £12.

The Lost Pubs of Bath by Andrew Swift and Kirsten Elliott £15.

Bath Pubs by Andrew Swift and Kirsten Elliott £12.99.

All Roads Lead to France, Bath and the Great War by Andrew Swift £30.

The Myth-Maker, John Wood 1704-1754 by Kirsten Elliott £10.

Geraldine Simmonds has attractive hand made cards for sale (01225 840953)

Donations

Hydrock has again made a generous donation and we are grateful for a further £200 this year.

Wessex Water has presented us with £250 towards the costs of our activities. In July, Rosemary Simmons and Richard Read met with Marilyn Smith, Head of Public Relations for Wessex Water to introduce the Heritage Society. Marilyn was very interested and supportive of what we do, and when the Wessex Water community involvement committee met in August it agreed to make the donation. Rosemary Simmons said "we really are very grateful to Wessex Water for this generous gift."

Are you a member?

Combe Down Stone Mines Community

Association which continues to watch the interests of householders during the stabilisation Scheme.

Friends of Firs Field which has a remit to represent the community in the restoration of the field on completion of stabilisation.

Membership of both organisations is free. Further information from the Stone Mines Information Centre, open Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

Other organisations

Listed alphabetically. ☎ std 01225 unless otherwise stated.

Avon Industrial Buildings Trust ☎01228 477612

Bath Preservation Trust

1 Royal Crescent, Bath BA1 2LR ☎338727 admin@bptrust.org.uk. Museums at No 1 Royal Crescent, the Building of Bath Museum, Beckford's Tower and the Herschel Museum

Bath & Cammerton Archaeological Society

Active in many areas around Bath ☎761026

Bath Records Office

Guildhall ☎477421

Bristol Industrial Archaeology Society

Gill Sheppard, 10 Teewell Hill, Staple Hill, Bristol BS16 5PA. gsandg.sheppard@btopenworld.com

Bathwick Local History Society

Meets on the second Monday of each month and welcomes non-members.

Contact Sheila Edwards ☎463902 or 460389

Bradford on Avon Museum Trust M Wilkins, Mosel Cott, Wine St Terrace, Wilts BA15 1NP

Friends of the Survey of Bath & District

☎01373 834396

South Stoke Local History Group

Welcomes new members. Contact Sylvia Williams on ☎832921

Weston Local History Society

Welcomes visitors and charges £1 for non-members at their monthly lectures. Membership is £5 or £8.50 a couple. Contact Prue Brice ☎315342, 6 Westwood Gardens, Weston BA1 4EJ

Saltford Brass Mill

☎0117 986 2216

Widcombe and Lyncombe History Study Group

Welcomes non-members to its meetings at 7.30pm usually on Thursdays. Contact Margaret Burrows ☎480749 or Fay Briddon ☎310127. Brenda Beeton does walks ☎317026

Contacts

Chair Rosemary Simmons ☎833301
rosyprint@care4free.net

Secretary (and of the Friends of the Jewish Burial Ground) Malcolm Aylett ☎833681,
13 Williamstowe BA2 5EJ m.aylett@homecall.co.uk

Overdue subscriptions

Some membership subscriptions for this year are overdue so if you haven't renewed yet **please do so now**. Otherwise we feel we must make this your last newsletter. Pay direct to the Membership Secretary, details below.

Membership application

If you are already a member, there is no need to fill this in - simply send your payment to Jane Briggs (see below)

First name

Surname

I apply to become a member of the Combe Down Heritage Society until 31 March 2008 and I agree to my details being held on computer for the duration of my membership

Address

Postcode

Phone

Email

Please tick membership option required

Standard £3 Student £1 Family £7

I am sending an additional £ as a donation to the society

Total amount enclosed

Ages of children
(if family membership)

If you pay Income tax (PAYE) please sign here so we can reclaim the tax

Signed

Date

Cheques (payable to 'Combe Down Heritage Society') or cash may be left at the Stone Mines Information Centre or sent to the Membership Secretary, Jane Briggs, Longridge, Summer Lane, Combe Down, BA2 7EU. Do not put cash through the post. Please note any interests or skills you have which might be relevant the Society