



## Programme 2010

Ongoing to the end of September - our exhibition at the Bath at Work Museum

11 September – a further exhibition on the Jewish Cemetery at the same Museum

15 September – a talk on the work of the Bath Preservation Trust by Caroline Kay

30 September - a Thursday evening visit to Saltford Brass Mill

20 October - Brunel and the Building of the Railway through Bath by Andrew Smith

24 October - – Guided Walk of Combe Down of the year - meet Hadley Arms, 2.00.pm

17 November – a further talk in the series by members on “My House”

## Our autumn programme

We have some really interesting and popular sessions to which we know there will be a good turnout. Bath Preservation Trust, the subject of our September talk, is the leading conservation body in the city and we are fortunate in welcoming the Trust's Chief Executive, Caroline Kay.

Andrew Smith will be talking to us about the difficulties Brunel faced and the impact the opening of the Great Western Railway had, taking in engineering, architecture, politics and social history to present a picture of one of the most significant events in the city's history. Andrew previously gave us fascinating talk on Bath's pubs and this time, the Building of Brunel's railway through Bath will include the topical ramps at Bath Spa station.

Don't forget that you need to book for the Saltford Brass Mill visit, either at our Wednesday 15 September evening meeting, or by contacting Rosemary on 833301. We meet at the Brass Mill on 30 September at 6.00pm, car parking by the river at The Shallows picnic site below Saltford.

Do come and see the Jewish Cemetery exhibition, open from 10.00am to 4.00pm and it will be a last chance to see the Combe Down History exhibition again.



## We need help from members

The Bath at Work Museum exhibition on Saturday the 11th September, 10.00 to 4.00, needs invigilators – please volunteer for an hour or two (its this Saturday – phone Malcolm on 833681 please). Our exhibition on the history of Combe Down in the Museum has been very successful and will remain on show until the end of September. The further exhibition, this time concentrating on the Jewish Cemetery will also be there on Saturday the 11th September. This will be part of a larger showing by many Bath History groups. Why not make it an outing for family and friends?

## Guided walk volunteers

Every year your loyal committee have shown round a large party of visitors. It is a popular event as part of Bath Open Week and we often have to divide the group into two in order that everyone can hear the guides. There are many in the Society who know the village even better than committee members – please volunteer to help out with this. Contact any of the committee.

## The pictures from the Old Vicarage

The historically important pictures family, given to us by late Dr Anne Turner's family, as described in the last newsletter, are now in the society's archive.



The Old Vicarage, home of the Turner family



## Jewish Burial Ground

The planned programme of restoration continues and we now have tenders from restoration contractors. Before we apply for the Lottery grant we need to further develop our plans for the site's future educational use. The help of any members with teaching experience in this field is needed.

For your diary: the Open Day will be on Sunday 31 October, 10am to 3pm – do tell all your friends. Every year we need a 'gardening party' to clear away vegetation and will want help on Sunday 17 at 10am. Has anyone a motor strimmer please?

Archaeology doesn't have to be on ancient sites. Before we disturb the surface of the cemetery, we will get in the experts to carry out geophysics investigation in case there are any unmarked graves that not be disturbed.

When the electricity supply was being installed, digging into the pavement behind the prayer house revealed a stone lined chamber which we think was a small cess pit. And a trench within the site found domestic artefacts...



*above*  
Men at work were surprised to find a pit!

*left*  
Cooking pot – how old?

## 1980s DVD of stone mining

Through our website, we have the following request from John Millar:

“This is a long shot but I thought I would try it anyway. Does anybody have a spare copy of the DVD that was made about the Bath Stone Mines that was done for the Mine Stabilisation Project? It is the one that shows Bath Stone being mined currently. Alternatively, is anyone prepared to make a copy of their own DVD as a kind gesture? In the early 1980s I was part of a group of men that reopened the mine at Limpley Stoke and I have fading memories of what the mines looked like. I would also like to show a couple of people what I used to do when I worked underground.

I would be prepared to swap a taped interview with an old retired stone miner that I recorded in the 1980s in which the miner describes life and work in the stone mines before WW2.” If you've any information please contact [jmillar@atcperth.edu.au](mailto:jmillar@atcperth.edu.au) but also keep the Secretary informed.

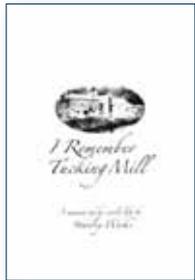
Does anyone know of such a DVD that shows Bath Stone being mined currently? If so, please let us know what you can about it, who produced it etc., and if you have a copy could you please lend it to us? We would very much like to take up John's offer of the taped interview with a pre-war stone miner to add to our Oral History Archive, and it would be good to be able to respond to his request. It sounds as though he may have some good memories of his own too.

## Publications

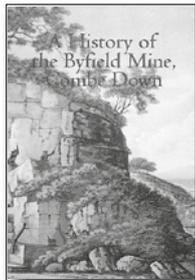
All publications are available at Society meetings and are available from the Chair or Secretary



*Remembering Village Shops* by Richard Read, normal price £15 but £12 to members

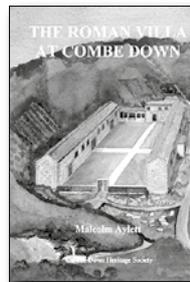


*I Remember Tucking Mill* by Stanley Wicks, £6.



*A History of the Byfield Mine* by Professor Richard Irving, £9.95.

*William Smith's Venture in Stone Quarrying* by Richard Irving, is now published on the Society's website [www.combedownheritage.org.uk](http://www.combedownheritage.org.uk). Printed copies also available.



*The Roman Villa at Combe Down* by Dr Malcolm Aylett, £4.95.

Heritage Trail leaflet

by Richard Irving and Rosemary Simmons, 50p

CD of Combe Down Past and Present - available to members only, free, but a donation is expected.

All our publications are available at Society meetings and are also from Rosemary Simmons [rosyprint@care4free.net](mailto:rosyprint@care4free.net) 833301  
12 Greendown Place, Combe Down BA2 5DD

## Contacts

Chair Rosemary Simmons ☎833301  
[rosyprint@care4free.net](mailto: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](mailto:m.aylett@homecall.co.uk)

## Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the year become due in March. If you know of members who have not received this newsletter, it might be because they have inadvertently not paid their subscription.

## Membership application for new members

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 2011 and I agree to my details being held on computer for the duration of my membership

Address

Postcode

Phone

Email

Membership options - please tick as required:

Standard  £5 Concession £3  Family £12

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) on any earnings, pension or investments, please sign here so we can reclaim the tax

Signed

Date

Payments (by cheque please, payable to 'Combe Down Heritage Society') should be sent to the Membership Secretary: Jane Briggs, Longridge, Summer Lane, Combe Down, Bath BA2 7EU. Please ask for a Standing Order Form if you would rather pay direct from your Bank. Data protection Act. The Officers of the Society hold limited information for each member which is processed using personal computers. The Data Protection Act safeguards the protection against the misuse of such data.