

Landmarks in the Life of the Area Heritage Centre

- Opened in **June 2000** as a joint project between North Wilts District Council and Corsham Town Council
- Threatened with closure in **May 2006** when NWDC opted out of running tourist information centres and Corsham Town Council decided against taking on sole responsibility
- **Summer 2006**: Over 800 local people signed a petition to save the Heritage Centre
- **July 2006**: Corsham Area Development Trust (CADT) formed as a 'not for private profit company' to take on the running of the Tourist Information and Heritage Centre (TI&HC)
- **October 2006**: CADT begins running the TI&HC under the terms of an Agreement lasting 3 years
- **Early 2007**: NWDC funds a major refurbishment which makes better use of the space and provides wheelchair access
- **2009**: The cost to the public purse has been halved while visitor numbers and bed bookings dramatically increase, bringing welcome benefit to the local economy
- **2010 onwards**: The Centre continues to thrive, despite budget cuts, bringing increased benefit to the local economy. The decision has been made to widen the focus of the Centre to include the area surrounding Corsham and to re-emphasise the importance of the Heritage Centre with the Information Centre providing administration and support. The name has been changed to 'Corsham Area Heritage and Information Centre'.
- **2011 onwards**: Plans are in place to establish the Friends of the Corsham Area Heritage Centre with the aim of enhancing understanding of the history of Corsham and its surrounding area by developing the Heritage Centre.

The Corsham Area Heritage and Information Centre is located in the High Street in what was once the town house of a wealthy C18th clothier, William Arnold.

Exhibits in the Heritage Rooms illustrate how the wealth of Corsham was based on two industries - first the wool trade and later the stone mining industry. Changing displays highlight other aspects of Corsham area's past and present. The local community is now encouraged to lead the search for the many intriguing stories of the social and economic development of the area.

The Information Centre staff and volunteers have a wealth of local knowledge which enables them to support the Area Heritage Centre while meeting the needs of local residents and businesses, and offering attractions and services to encourage visitors to the area.



THE INFORMATION CENTRE OFFERS:

- Books ● Leaflets ● Postcards ● Calendars ● Photographs
- Souvenirs ● DVDs ● Charity Christmas Cards
- Directories ● Bus Timetables ● Maps and Guides
- National Express Coach Travel Bookings ● School visits
- Accommodation Booking ● Event Tickets ● Guided Town Walks, etc.

In 2010 the Centre provided assistance to 18,000 users and booked 300 bed-nights of local accommodation in the process.

Website visitor hit-rate has already exceeded 16,500 p.a.

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Corsham Area Heritage Centre

*Corsham Area Heritage
Centre needs your support*

Opening Hours:
Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm

Telephone: 01249 714660
E-mail: enquiries@corshamheritage.org.uk
www.corshamheritage.org.uk

Friends of the Area Heritage Centre

The future of the Centre will be dependent upon grants, subscriptions and donations, and the assistance, freely given, of volunteers. Sources of grants are actively being sought that would allow for an expansion of the activities.

If this search for funding is to succeed, evidence of support from the local community is essential. Hence this invitation to become a Friend. A large registered membership will demonstrate that there is strong support, even beyond that which helped to save the TI&HC in 2006.

With this popular backing in place, it will be possible to explore and display many more aspects of the area's heritage.

Do you take pride in your local history and want to see it displayed to a wider audience? If so, act now by completing the form opposite. Encourage your family and friends to register their support too.



What will my support for the Area Heritage Centre bring?



- A newsletter to keep you up to date with developments
- Invitations to exhibition previews & other events
- Invitations to meetings to discuss the way ahead on an ongoing basis
- The knowledge that you are contributing to a vibrant & useful town centre facility



FRIENDS OF CORSHAM AREA HERITAGE CENTRE MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

I would like to become a **Friend of the Corsham Area Heritage Centre**

I enclose an annual subscription of £10

£

Please make your cheque out to:
Friends of CAHC.

Please mail it, or hand it in at:
Friends of CAHC
Arnold House
31 High Street
Corsham
SN13 0EZ

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Corsham Civic Society is sponsoring Friends of the Corsham Area Heritage Centre by holding monies donated in a dedicated account, and by fielding inquiries via its website, using its 'Contact Us' facility.

See: www.corsham-civic-society.co.uk