



# ARNOLD'S NEWS

News from Corsham Information & Heritage Centre

Summer 2010



## WELCOME TO ARNOLD'S NEWS

**W**elcome to *Arnold's News*, the newsletter of the Corsham Area Development Trust (CADT).

Our purpose is to develop the tourism economy of Corsham by offering information and services to residents and visitors, and *Arnold's News* is intended to inform both our members and the general public about the range of services that our Corsham Information & Heritage Centre (CI&HC) provides.

### WHAT IS THE CADT?

The CADT is a not-for-profit company registered at Companies House. It has members rather than shareholders (17 at the last count) and membership is open to all. The CADT operates through a Management Committee of volunteers. Since our AGM in April, this has comprised:



**Peter Tapscott** (Chairman and Director)  
**Ian Storey** (Director)  
**Alistair Cormack** (Treasurer)  
**Pat Whalley** (Secretary)  
**Michael Rumsey** (Corsham Civic Society representative)  
**Paul Coleman** (Local business representative - CMS Ltd)  
**Bill Hall** (Local business advisor - Martingate Centre)  
**John Lock** (Local business advisor - specialising in accountancy)  
**Ruth Hopkinson** (Corsham Town Council observer)

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*Corsham Information and Heritage Centre is operated by the Corsham Area Development Trust (CADT), formed in 2006 as a 'meeting of minds' between the Corsham Civic Society and the Corsham Chamber of Commerce.*

*The CADT's primary purpose is to develop the tourism economy of Corsham by offering information and services to residents and visitors.*

## LATEST NEWS - NEW OPENING HOURS

**W**iltshire Council, our main source of direct financial assistance, has progressively reduced our funding - from £35,000 three years ago, to a seriously restrictive £18,750 from April 2010.

In attempting to accommodate this reduction and maintain our service, it has been necessary to amend the opening hours of the Centre to 10.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Saturday and to increase our reliance on volunteers over this extended selling-opportunity period.

We are fortunate that this direct financial funding is not our only source of assistance from local authorities. We also benefit from the free use of part of Arnold House, through an agreement with Corsham Town Council. This is extremely valuable to us, as having to pay even minimal rent for this space would threaten our very survival.

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## NEW MEMBER OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**W**e are delighted to welcome Paul Baker (pictured right) as a new member of the Management Committee. Paul is the Owner and MD of Rudloe Stoneworks Ltd and brings unique local knowledge to our organisation.



## DEVELOPMENTS AT THE METHUEN ARMS

**T**he CADT'S Chairman, Peter Tapscott, recently contacted Mr Martin Still who, with his wife, Debbie, has acquired the freehold of the Methuen Arms and has embarked upon the considerable task of refurbishing it to a high standard. Peter was invited to tour the premises, to appreciate both the size of the undertaking and the top-quality public house/hotel/restaurant that is the intended result.



Martin (pictured right) confidently predicts that early November will see the bars, dining facilities and some bedrooms open for business. With 150+ covers on a Saturday night, the new Methuen Arms will be a great addition to the Corsham hospitality scene.

## MEET THE TEAM

Corsham Information & Heritage Centre is run by two part-time job-share managers, Beryl (top) and Cheryl (bottom), supported by two part-time paid members of staff and a team of 16 volunteers.

This dedicated group of people ensure that the Centre is able to provide a high level of service to both the local population and visitors.

The team also produces a local 'What's On' facility every week, covering Corsham and the surrounding area. This is distributed to local businesses and public noticeboards as well as being posted on our website [www.corshamheritage.org.uk](http://www.corshamheritage.org.uk) - which also contains a town map and other useful information and links.



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## OUR SERVICES

Corsham Information & Heritage Centre provides a wide range of information, gifts, accommodation booking and travel services including National Express tickets, as well as:

**Books, leaflets and postcards,  
Souvenirs & DVDs  
Charity Christmas cards  
Maps and guides  
Directories, bus timetables  
School visits & guided walks.**

A programme of changing exhibitions relating to aspects of local history runs throughout the year. Admission is free.



We always welcome new ideas for exhibitions and artefacts to demonstrate the wealth of history that our town has to offer. If you have any such items, please get in touch and help us ensure that visitors leave knowing more about the area.

## WHY "ARNOLD'S" NEWS?

**O**ur newsletter takes its name from William Arnold, Corsham's 17th Century clothier (pictured right).

William's family were originally from Lacock. His marriage to Jane Gibbons, daughter of a wealthy Corsham merchant, brought him to the town where they made their home in the building that now houses the CI&HC.

Arnold House later became the home of the Pictor family, who owned a stone mining business in Corsham at the height of the 'stone boom'. In 1959, the last known member of the family to remain in Corsham, Dorothy Joan Pictor, passed away, bequeathing Arnold House to the (then) Parish Council to be used for the benefit of local people.

In addition to the rooms occupied by the Centre, there are two residential flats in the building, plus a meeting room used by the 'Miss Pictor Club' and other local organisations run by the people of the town.



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## GET INVOLVED

**A**s with all voluntary organisations, there is a continuing need for people to come forward to assist in the running of the CADT and its CI&HC. The Management Committee needs additional members. The day-to-day running of the Centre is covered very efficiently by the managers, leaving the committee members to make policy decisions and to seek to ensure the future of the Trust. Meetings are normally held every two months.

If you feel you could assist in maintaining this most useful town asset, please contact us at:  
**Corsham Information & Heritage Centre**  
**Arnold House, 31 High Street, Corsham**  
**Wiltshire SN13 0EZ**  
Tel: 01249 714660  
Email: [enquiries@corshamheritage.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@corshamheritage.org.uk)



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