



ARNOLD'S NEWS

News from Corsham Area Heritage & Information Centre

Summer 2013



MADE IN CORSHAM IS HUGE SUCCESS

Since opening its doors in April, Made in Corsham has already raised more than £2,000 for our local artists and artisans, and retail sales have doubled across the first two months of trading.

Based in Arnold House on Corsham High Street, the new shop stocks quality products made by hugely talented individuals in the Corsham Community Area. The range currently includes jewellery, soft furnishings, candles, glassware, toiletries and preserves.

This new retail space provides our local makers with a showroom on the High Street, while helping generate income to keep Corsham's Information Centre open for both residents and visitors.



Made in Corsham now has 25 local suppliers and is currently full to capacity. Interest in the shop has been so great that there is a long waiting list of local makers hoping to sell their products here too. As a result, we have already held a number of retail events in the Pictor Room next door and will be holding more of these events going forward.

The shop is open every Tuesday to Saturday from 10.00am to 2.00pm, so please pop in and see us or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MadeinCorsham for news and events.

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CATA Takes Off
Court Conferences
Arnold Needs You!

Corsham Area Heritage & Information 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

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENARY MARCH AND EXHIBITION

On Monday 15 July, the High Street came alive with a centenary recreation of the arrival in Corsham of the 1913 Land's End to London Women's Suffrage Pilgrimage. Women of all ages marched down the High Street carrying banners and placards, accompanied by local schoolchildren.

100 years ago, Corsham was the only town in the area to greet the women kindly - an event celebrated with speeches followed by a restorative lunch at the Town Hall for the marchers and townspeople.



Following the day itself, Corsham Library and the Pictor Room in Arnold House hosted exhibitions covering the wider aspects of the women's suffrage movement and Corsham's small but important part in its history.

PICTOR ROOM NOW AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

Following its recent redecoration, the Pictor Room in Arnold House is now available for private hire. Initial users have included Corsham Chamber of Commerce, Transcoco and Wiltshire Council. This flexible new space on the High Street has also hosted a series of exhibitions by Corsham Area Heritage and several special retail events by Made in Corsham.

The Pictor Room is available to local individuals and groups for events, exhibitions, talks and meetings for up to 20 people. For further information or to make a booking, please contact andrew@visitcorshamarea.co.uk.

ARNOLD HOUSE CELEBRATES ARMED FORCES DAY

On Saturday 29 June, Arnold House joined the Corsham community in celebrating Armed Forces Day. We extended our opening hours and Made in Corsham hosted a number of stalls in the Pictor Room, selling products made by our local artists and artisans.

Corsham High Street was filled with local people and visitors, who had come to see the parade and browse the stalls dotted along the roadside. Many of them also visited us at Arnold House, increasing footfall and boosting sales of our locally-made products.



HERITAGE

COLLABORATION WITH BATH STONE QUARRY MUSEUM TRUST

Corsham Area Heritage (CAH) has struck up a highly promising relationship with locally-based David Pollard and his Bath Stone Quarry Museum Trust Ltd. David owns - and has mining rights to - Corsham's sole-surviving quarry, as well as a workshop unit at Mason's Wharf, Potley. What David doesn't know about quarrying and the underground tunnels beneath Corsham isn't worth knowing.



David is an engineer and a businessman, and is writing a book which describes his experiences. He has a vision for the future which includes the establishment of a Stoneworks Heritage Centre. CAH can help David and the Trust to realise these dreams. In the shorter-term, we can connect David with the local community, especially those who wish to see things they have never been able to see before.

OUR LUNCHTIME TALKS PROVE EVER MORE POPULAR

The monthly lunchtime talks organised by Corsham Area Heritage continue to attract wide interest. Priced at £2 for non-members and free to members, they are held on the 4th Tuesday of every month, commencing at 1.00pm.

May's talk was delivered by Rosemary Simmons on the subject of the Combe Down Stone Legacy Centre. June's was by Colonel Gordon Rafferty, Chief of Staff at Basil Hill Barracks, supported by Nigel Spreadbury-Clews, Head of Establishment. The talks were excellent and enjoyed a full house. The July talk is by Ed Brand of Wiltshire Wood Recycling. We'll draw breath in August and return in September.

WHEN CAWTE WERE IN THE HIGH ST

The Cawte family once established a garage on the site that now forms the entrance to the long stay car park behind the Methuen Arms. Grandpa Cawte's sons, Fred and Charlie, expanded the business and, in time, Charlie's two sons, Bert and Gilbert, continued in the family tradition.

According to Joe James, Mr Cawte decided to go on a trip to America. At Southampton, he was badgered by a man who was so anxious to sail that he paid him a considerable sum for his ticket and Mr Cawte came home. The ship that the man sailed on was the Titanic....



(This story was taken from "Corsham - Facts & Folklore", by Pat Whalley, with grateful thanks)

TOURISM



CORSHAM AREA
Tourism Association

NEW TOURISM ASSOCIATION TAKES OFF

Corsham's Information Centre helps more than 17,000 customers every year. Following the withdrawal of Wiltshire Council funding in April, it quickly became obvious that we could only maintain these important services if local businesses became more involved - hence the establishment of the first Corsham Area Tourism Association (CATA).

Many thanks are due to the first group of members for supporting local tourism and helping to keep our local Information Centre open this year: The Methuen Arms, Guyers House, Woolley Grange, Lorne House, Myrtle Villa, the Martingate Centre, Made in Corsham, Silver Compass and Mailboxes Etc.

For more information on members' businesses and a full list of the benefits of CATA membership, please visit the new website www.visitcorshamarea.co.uk.

CORSHAM COURT - INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE DESTINATION

We all know how stunning Corsham Court is for a visit, but did you realise how it's also fast becoming a major international destination for residential conferences?

In recent months, we've been working with Bath Spa University to source local accommodation for dozens of delegates visiting Corsham from all over the world to attend a series of conferences hosted by the Postgraduate Centre at the Court.



Bath Academy of Art moved to Corsham in 1946, providing higher education in the subject areas of specialist art and design, teacher training, performing arts and combined arts. Bath Spa University now retains the long-term lease at the Court.

ARNOLD HOUSE NEEDS YOU!

Arnold House is operated by a dedicated team of local volunteers, and we are always on the look-out for friendly and outgoing people to join us in running both the Information Centre and our new Made in Corsham shop. For further information, please email andrew@visitcorshamarea.co.uk or pop into Arnold House for a chat. We're open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am - 2.00pm.

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