

TALK OF THE TOWN

AUTUMN 2010



CIVIC AWARDS

Each year the Town Council presents Civic Awards to individuals who have made a material contribution to the advancement, well being and welfare of the people of Chippenham or demonstrated outstanding citizenship. This year three citizens were presented with awards at a ceremony held on Sunday 5th September. The service in St. Andrew's Church was followed by tea in the Town Hall during which presentations were made by the Mayor. This year's awards went to Len Weeks for his work with Chippenham Link Transport, Ruth Shaw for her work for the Central Methodist Church and for 'Signpost' (an organisation for people with learning difficulties) and Cilla Labouchere for her work for the Stroke Club in Chippenham. For more details on Civic Awards please visit our website on www.chippenham.gov.uk, email us at enquiries@chippenham.gov.uk or contact an Information Officer on 01249 446699.



TOWN CLERK TO RETIRE IN OCTOBER



After 17 years' service our Town Clerk, Laurie Brown, has retired. Cllr Andrew Noblet, Leader of the Council said: "When the Town Clerk was appointed, the Council was small and sited on the Causeway; it was Laurie who has created the Town Council we have today with major facilities in the centre of town. Over time the Council acquired the Neeld and Town Halls and Laurie led the development of the highly successful Museum and Heritage Centre ten years ago. The recreational facility at Stanley Park is due, in no small part, to his drive and enthusiasm. Nationally and locally he has ensured that the profile of Chippenham has been raised and other Town Councils have frequently sought Laurie's advice on how they could improve their own Town Councils. The present shape of the town of Chippenham is due to his efforts. The citizens of Chippenham have every reason to be grateful for his efforts in improving the quality of town life. We wish him well for a long and happy retirement.

ECONOMIC REGENERATION IN CHIPPENHAM

On Thursday 16th September, Chippenham Town Council hosted the annual Town Centre Business Forum in the Neeld Hall. Town Councillors, Chippenham Chamber of Commerce and key members of the business community gathered to discuss the present state of the town's economy. Presentations were given by Mike Stone, previous Curator of our museum, who produced a slide show on the changing face of Chippenham, John Ralph from Carter Jonas who spoke of the current state of the housing market with particular emphasis on Chippenham and Tim Martiensen from the Chippenham Vision group regarding the economic future of the town. A lively question and answer session followed. Cllr Andrew Noblet, Leader of the Council, said: "It is vital that these events are held to raise the profile of businesses in town and look to a way forward to increase communication with the business community". The event was kindly sponsored by Carter Jonas.

YELDE HALL • TOWN HALL • NEELD HALL • JOHN COLES PARK • LONDON ROAD CEMETERY • TOWN MARKETS • EVENTS
RIVERS ROUTE • STANLEY PARK • MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTRE • TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE • ALLOTMENTS
FLORAL DISPLAYS • BUTTERCROSS • CHRISTMAS LIGHTS • STREET CLEANING • STREET FURNITURE • BOWLING GREEN
• INFORMATION POINT • CIVIC & CEREMONIAL • GRANTS & DONATIONS • SEASONAL PROJECTS • CCTV •
SHOP WATCH • CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS • HISTORIC MONUMENTS

TOWN PROJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The BMX track at SP has now been completed much to the delight of our would-be BMX Olympians! The official opening was attended by the Mayor on 2 August 2010, and Chippenham Town Council will be responsible for the maintenance of the track, providing fun for all for many years to come.

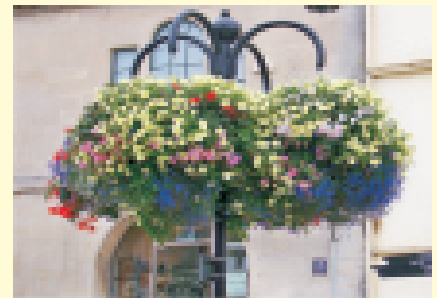


The LRC extension is on schedule and will be finished shortly. The new database has also been installed and will be up and running by the time the works are finished.

The tennis court surface and fencing refurbishment is due to commence at the beginning of October 2010. The courts will be closed during the works which should last for approximately 2 – 3 weeks.

Once again, John Coles Park has hosted a vibrant programme of band concerts on Sunday afternoons throughout the summer.

The Town Council has received many positive comments in respect of the silver birch trees in the High Street and we hope residents and visitors to Chippenham will derive much pleasure from them. Also, the hanging baskets and floral displays were again a great success, thanks to the hard work and commitment from the team of outside staff responsible for them.



The market has expanded into the High Street on Saturdays and has so far proved to be a successful and positive addition to the weekend street scene.

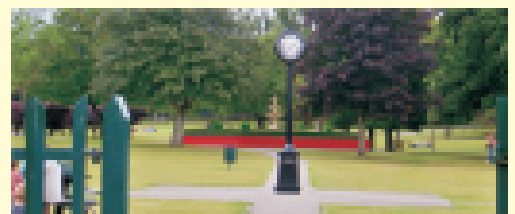
As mentioned in the previous Talk of the Town, the refurbishment of the Millenium Wall has now been completed.

A new sound system has been installed in the Neeld Hall comprising new speakers, amplifier, CD player with iPod Docking Facility and MP3 player port. This means that members of the public hiring the hall can provide their own music at a fraction of the cost of hiring a full disco.

The Neeld Hall now boasts a new mobile bar. Made of solid oak, 4 metres long, with the benefit of refrigeration and a bar cooling system which provides cold beers and ales on tap.

MOVING ON

After 15 years Ray Lane, Head of Service Delivery, has left Chippenham for pastures new. Ray, together with his team, was responsible for the appearance of the town. He ensured high standards in our parks, play areas and, where he could, in the centre of the town. He arranged for the provision of stainless steel benches, Christmas lights and the newly placed trees to say nothing of the fantastic hanging baskets. The cemetery, currently being extended, was his responsibility as was John Coles Park. We wish him a successful and rewarding future.



NEW CURATOR JOINS THE MUSEUM TEAM

Melissa Barnett has recently taken over from Mike Stone as the Curator of Chippenham Museum. Previously, Mel has been curator of a number of town museums and for the last few years has been the Museums and Heritage Officer for South Gloucestershire Council. Mel commented 'I am really looking forward to working with such a talented and enthusiastic team at the museum. There is so much that has already been achieved and the museum is something of which the town should be rightly proud'. Mel joins Paul Connell who is Assistant Curator and Julie Shore and Julie Brind who are Administrative Officers. The museum is also fortunate to employ the services of Ellie Bowden as Creative Apprentice and a team of Education Officers. There are also over 70 volunteers who help out at the museum. We have a regular programme of changing exhibitions, workshops and activities for all the family. For further information about upcoming events or details about becoming a volunteer just call into the museum or phone us on 01249 705020.

STANLEY PARK CUP 2010, SUCCESS ALL ROUND

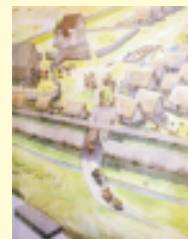
The first Stanley Park Cup Tournament was held at Stanley Park Sports Ground on 5 September 2010. This Youth Football Cup Competition was organised by the Community Football Development Officer, Pete Hussey, and aimed at local clubs and teams making the transition from seven a side to eleven. The event proved to be a great success and congratulations go to the newly formed Stanley Park Youth FC for their hard-earned win and also their recent achievement of the FA Charter Standard Award. Pete Hussey commented "The Stanley Park Cup was put on for Clubs/teams to help with youth footballers' development and also the Coaches running the teams, and I believe it has aided all those who attended, and hopefully this will be the first of many to come, as our aim is to make this an annual event". Thanks need to go to Paul Harvey and Kim Rimmer, FITC Football Coaches who helped support the day with admin and the refereeing of matches. Thanks also to Emma King from the Tourist Information Centre and Chippenham Town Councillors who between them supported the Competition with a donation of a Trophy and £500 in funding, which went towards expenses such as trophies/medals and referees for the day.



CHIPPENHAM MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTRE - EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

A New Coat of Arms for Chippenham? Paul Connell, Assistant Curator at the Museum, has been working with all the primary schools in the town looking at the origins and symbols of heraldry, in particular the meanings on the town's coat of arms. Children from each school are then going to produce their own designs for a new 'coat of arms' for their school. But rather than ask the teachers to pick the new design, we thought we would ask YOU to come and view the children's work and choose your favourite. The 'winning' designs will be amalgamated into a single design that the schools will use on forthcoming publicity material relating to their new curriculum. The exhibition of imaginative and colourful designs from all the schools will be on display in the Neeld Hall on Friday 29th and Saturday 30th October. Entry is free.

Take One Castle: Monday 18th October – Saturday 30th October. Was there ever a castle in Chippenham? Residents will know that the retirement apartments built on the site of the former Astoria Cinema (Goldiggers) are named Castle Lodge, as this is reputedly where King Alfred had his 'Villa Regina'. But was this a castle and what did it look like? Visitors to the museum will be able to find out as we host the second 'Take One' project of work of the children from local schools.



Chippenham & District in The Great War: Saturday 6th November – Friday 19th November. To correspond with the publication of a new book by Richard Broadhead, 'The Great War: Chippenham District Soldiers', we shall be transforming the museum into a World War I trench. The book is a detailed history of all those from Chippenham and the surrounding villages, who fell in the war. Rather than being just another book on the War it looks at the - often very surprising! - fate and personal history of each soldier, in the process correcting the mistakes of the time, which have resulted in many inaccuracies on war memorials and national rolls of honour. Richard will be on hand to discuss his book in more detail and sign copies

October Half Term Family Workshops – 25th – 29th October. To correspond with the 'Castles' exhibition and the BBC TV series, The Normans series, all our October holiday activities will have a Norman and medieval theme. Come and help build a Norman Castle, design a knight's shield, set a table for a Norman feast and discuss who we would invite. Find out if your name has a Norman origin. Further details and booking from the Museum. Tel: 01249 705020 heritage@chippenham.gov.uk Open: 10.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Saturday inclusive.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN CHIPPENHAM

2nd October – Autumn Festival Concert with the Wessex Male Choir at St Andrew's Church

2nd October – Model Railway Show, Sheldon Sports Centre

15th October – Hamlet at Neeld Hall

15th October – Louise Parker Quartet, Kington Langley Village Hall

16th October – Chippenham Male Voice Choir St Andrew's Church

21st October – Chippenham Trade Fair, Neeld Hall, also open to the public

Various meetings throughout the month Chippenham & District Artists contact Heidi@fmail.wanadoo.co.uk for details

Information available from Chippenham Tourist Information Centre Tel: 01249 665970,

or email tourism@chippenham.gov.uk

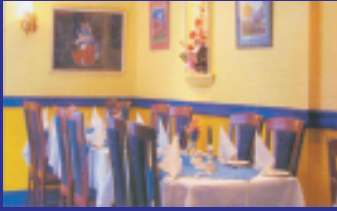
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NEW MENU

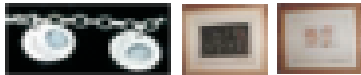
Your
Momentoes

Fingerprint Jewellery:

Bracelets, Necklaces,
Cufflinks & Key rings

Raised Impressions:

Reveals all those tiny lines
and wrinkles

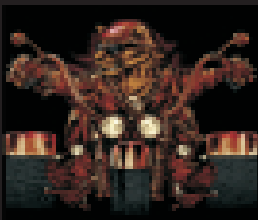


Capture the Moment with a Beautiful Memento!

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Discover Your Wild Side!

Chippenham Tourist Information Centre are proud to offer a fabulous trike experience with local firm Razorcat Tours. Whether you wish to tour this lovely area or arrange a special experience for someone, Razorcat Tours can help. Both Gift Vouchers and tours are available



The award-winning Watermill Theatre in association with
Two Gents Productions and Chippenham Town Council
presents...

Kupenga Kwa Hamlet

FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY

Friday 15th October 2010 at 7.30pm The Neeld Hall, Chippenham

Directed by Arne Pohlmeier - Performed by Denton Chikura and Tonderai Munyevu
Lighting Designed by Lawrence T Doyle



This remarkable Zimbabwean company performs its own unique version of Hamlet. Using just a few props, the two charismatic actors play all the roles, telling the story in 'township' style with a simplicity that is filled with imagination. Both thought provoking and humorous, Kupenga Kwa Hamlet looks at themes of family relationships and power set against a backdrop of life in a transitional society.

**Doors Open at 6.30pm Performance starts at 7.30pm Full Bar Available
(Suitable for age 12+)**

Tickets £10 (£8 concessions, £32 family ticket)

Further details and tickets available from
Chippenham Tourist Information Centre, Tel:01249 665970
Email: tourism@chippenham.gov.uk

Did you know? You can access the internet FREE of charge and receive FREE training at the Town Hall as part of the eChippenham initiative, a partnership between the Town Council, Waste not Want Not and Westlea Housing Association. Contact us for further details.



FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2010

Chippenham Christmas Lights Switch-On

WELLERHAUS
FAIR ORGAN

Switch on 6.15pm

ITV
ROADSHOW

JENNINGS
FUN FAIR

Market Place

FIREWORKS
at 8.00pm

STREET
ENTERTAINERS

LATE OPENING AT THE
TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE
&
HERITAGE CENTRE

Craft Fayre in the Neeld Hall
Stalls throughout High Street



Christmas Cards for Good Causes & Christmas Hampers
now on sale at Chippenham Tourist Information Centre

Organised by Chippenham Town Council



Chippenham Town Council is committed to improving the quality of town life and is responsible for many amenities and facilities in your town. If you have any comments regarding Talk of the Town, please contact us on 01249 446699 or email us at enquiries@chippenham.gov.uk