

First, a Commemorative Book to tell the story of the stabilisation project.

Second, a Public Art Project to provide a permanent reminder of our stone mining heritage as well as some short-term events to bring enjoyment to the village which has suffered great anxiety in recent times.

Third, an Interpretation Centre at Ralph Allen Yard, Rock Hall Lane, to house the archaeological, historical, geological and engineering records of the stabilisation. There will also be a virtual 'fly through' of the mines, a bat cam and exhibits about the bats as well as exhibits telling the story of the development of Combe Down from the Roman Villa onwards. There will also be an 'underground experience' to reconstruct what is was like to work in the mines. The Centre will have an active educational programme for all ages and will be able to offer another meeting place.

A Public Art Project Manager will shortly be appointed. The manager will evolve a brief for art works in consultation with residents. The manager will also be responsible for seeing that the works are done on time and to budget. There is no intention to try to impose anything on the village that is why it is so important that we all take part in the consultations and contribute ideas and enthusiasm.

Wanted - memories of stone mining

Can you help? We want to collect as many memories of stone mining and quarrying as possible to contribute to the Legacy plans for the Commemorative Book and the Interpretation Centre exhibits.

Perhaps you heard stories from your dad, grandfather, uncles or family friends? We want memories of people, events, work practices, accidents, fights, celebrations, tools, tallies, pay and conditions - anything remotely connected with stone mining can all add to the picture. Have you any photos? Was the miner's reputation for drinking and fighting justified? What did the womenfolk think about it?

Denise Chantry, one of our members who has been doing some research for our archives for which we are most grateful, is going to write a letter to The Chronicle to ask the wider readership for the same information. Please contribute to the Legacy.

Old Shops Project

After the presentation on the Old Shops Project at the AGM in March we distributed 20 copies of our research findings so far, for comments and additions. Many thanks to those who have returned their copies with their input – the additional memories, facts, and photos are fascinating and have really hit the spot so we are very grateful. You have also given us lots more work to do!

Some copies have been passed on two or three times to interested members, but there are quite a few that have not yet been returned yet. So, if you still have a copy please return it as soon as possible to Richard Read, 137 Church Road (830957) or Phyllis Brown, Colworth, The Avenue (832134) or call and we will get it picked up. On the other hand, if you have not seen a copy and would like to, please give us a call and we will get a copy to you, although we will have to set quite a short deadline.

Friends of Firs Field

The AGM of the Friends of Firs Field reported the results of their recent survey of what changes local people want to see on Firs Field. 865 questionnaires were issued and 208 returned, a response rate of 24%. The features/activities that found favour with the majority of the respondents were a quiet corner, a Boules piste, a football goal, a basketball ring, wild grass area, a commemorative fir tree, more trees, more bins and more seats. The Heritage Society Committee would like to see the actual numbers of replies since 'the majority' might be quite a small number. Because, at the meeting, application for 'village green' status was supported and most people wanted to retain the open aspect of the field, and because 76% of those questioned did not reply, The Heritage Society Committee thinks that the results of the survey do not necessarily represent the real views of the village. We would like to hear the views of our own members please.

Roman coffin and archaeology

Many members will have heard of the finding of a new Roman coffin in a garden off Summer Lane which was promptly excavated by Bob Whitaker, Bath & Camerton Archaeological Society Chairman, and Richard Sermon, B&NES Archaeologist. We await detailed expert assessment. Meanwhile, the whole question of the

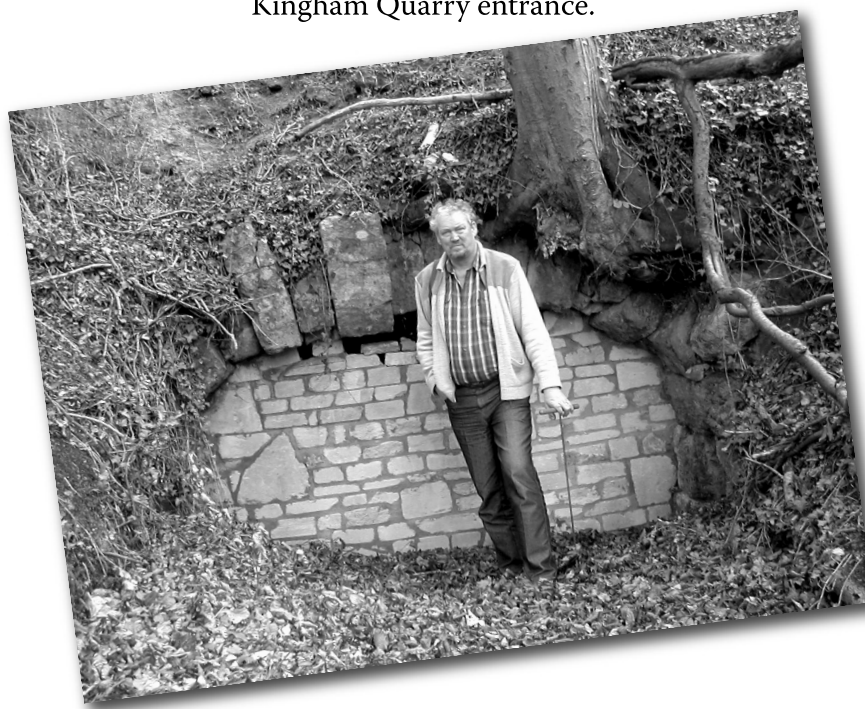


The coffin contained part of a skeleton, thought to be that of a young man.

Roman landscape in that area is being reviewed in collaboration with the Heritage Society. If Roman Combe Down interests you, you can't do better than read our 2006 publication, 'Combe Down Roman Villa', which may need much updating to include recent evidence.

William Smith Project

Back in 2005, those interested in the further investigation and presentation of William Smith's stone mining got together a group. This went on hold for several reasons, but has now begun a fresh start. Under the leadership of the Society, but in collaboration with the Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society, Avon Industrial Buildings Trust and the BRLSI, we plan work to prove exactly where Smith mined and transported his stone. Dick Irving's July lecture will bring us up to date. This picture show Dick in front of the Kingham Quarry entrance.



Publications

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

I Remember Tucking Mill by Stanley Wicks, £6.

A History of the Byfield Mine by Dick Irving, £9.95.

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

Heritage Trail leaflet, 50p

Combe Down Past and Present. A CD of pictures from old postcards and recent photos taken from the same spot, price: a donation

The 'Tombstone Guide' of the Jewish Burial Ground giving information on the lives of many of those buried there has been published in collaboration with the Friends of the site and taken up by many visitors on the Open Day last October.

From other publishers available from Rosemary Simmons, 01225 833301 rosyprint@care4free.net.

Around Combe Down by Peter Addison £6.99.

Crow Stone by Jenni Mills £10.

Awash with Ale, 200 years of imbibing in Bath by Andrew Swift and Kirsten Elliott £12.99.

Ring the Grooves of Change, Brunel and the coming of the Railway to Bath by Andrew Swift £12.

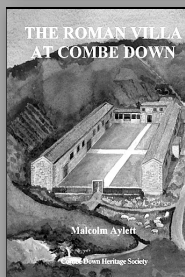
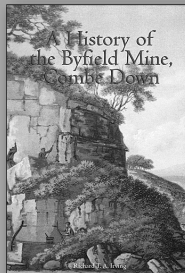
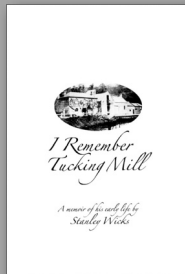
The Lost Pubs of Bath by Andrew Swift and Kirsten Elliott £15.

Bath Pubs by Andrew Swift and Kirsten Elliott £12.99.

All Roads Lead to France, Bath and the Great War by Andrew Swift £30.

The Myth-Maker, John Wood 1704-1754 by Kirsten Elliott £10.

Geraldine Simmonds has attractive hand made cards for sale (01225 840953)



Are you a member?

Combe Down Stone Mines Community Association continues to watch the interests of householders during the stabilisation scheme.

Friends of Firs Field which has a remit to represent the community in the restoration of the field on completion of stabilisation.

Membership of both organisations is free. Further information from the Stone Mines Information Centre, which has now moved to 199 Bradford Road (formerly 'Strands'), opposite Combe Road.

Bath's only Jewish cemetery, now disused, is in Combe Down. The **Friends of Bath Jewish Burial Ground** plan to restore the site and kept in touch with developments and receive Newsletters. Subscription £3 a year; the treasurer is Norman Marks, Tanglewood Lodge, Corston BA2 9BA. Brochures giving an outline of the site available from the Heritage Society Secretary.

Other organisations

Listed alphabetically. © std 01225 unless otherwise stated.

Avon Industrial Buildings Trust 01228 477612

Bath Preservation Trust

1 Royal Crescent, Bath BA1 2LR 0338727 admin@bptrust.org.uk. Museums at No 1 Royal Crescent, the Building of Bath Museum, Beckford's Tower and the Herschel Museum

Bath & Cammerton Archaeological Society

Active in many areas around Bath 0761026

Bath Records Office Guildhall 0477421

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	
<hr/>			
I apply to become a member of the Combe Down Heritage Society until 31 March 2008 and I agree to my details being held on computer for the duration of my membership			
Address		Postcode	Phone
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
		Email	
<hr/>		<hr/>	
Please tick membership option required		Total amount enclosed	Ages of children (if family membership)
Standard £3 <input type="checkbox"/> Student £1 <input type="checkbox"/> Family £7 <input type="checkbox"/>		<div></div>	
I am sending an additional £ <input type="text"/> as a donation to the society			
If you pay Income tax (PAYE) please sign here so we can reclaim the tax		Signed	Date
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>

Payments (by cheque please, payable to 'Combe Down Heritage Society') should be sent to the Membership Secretary: Jane Briggs, Longridge, Summer Lane, Combe Down, BA2 7EU. Please note any interests or skills you have which might be relevant the Society



COMBE DOWN HERITAGE SOCIETY

a sustainable future for heritage

Newsletter

Number 13 | May 2008
www.combedownheritage.org.uk | Registered charity no 1116550

Dates for your diary

The following is our programme for the remainder of 2008. You may wish to put these events in your diary. Indoor meetings take place at the Combe Down Junior School. Refreshments at 7.00, meetings start promptly at 7.30pm. Admission: members free, non-members £1. For all our meetings, do keep an eye on the notice boards in the Stone Mines Information Centre and by the Co-op.

Wed 21 May

'Local Turnpike Roads' a talk by Brenda Buchanan.

Sat 28 - Sun 29 June

Phyllis Brown's House, 'Colworth' in the Avenue will be open for viewing – an unusual, charming example of mid-Victoriana, lived in by three generations.

Wed 23 July

'William Smith and his venture into Stone Manufacture' a talk by our President Dick Irving.

Weds 17 Sept

'Roman Roads around Combe Down and Bath' a talk by Bob Whitaker.

Weds 15 Oct

to be arranged.

Weds 19 Nov

'A Georgian Village' a talk by Alan Dodge of Freshford.

A guided tour of the Corsham underground war time bunkers has been arranged for June but, sadly, we must report that all of the 20 places were booked at our April meeting.

Reports

In **February**, Marek Lewcun told us of the Prior Park 18th Century garden which he had excavated last year. This was an important addition to our knowledge of Ralph Allen and Marek's lucid presentation was much enjoyed.

In **March**, following the AGM, Janet Read reported on the valuable work of the Oral History Group and Richard Read on the progress of the Shops research.

In **April** there was a talk 'About the Somerset Coal Canal' by Adrian Tuddenham who reviewed



the history and construction of the canal, much of it from an engineering standpoint. We were startled – and given a new insight into industrial Britain, by the playing, at considerable volume, of a recording of the early steam engine in the pump house at Crofton.

In **May** we arranged for a special showing of 'The Titfield Thunderbolt' at the Little Theatre. There was a full house and many were sadly turned away because only the small auditorium was used. Tim Lunt gave a prescient rundown on the background of the film and memories were exchanged at the bar afterwards.

Stabilisation project legacy

When the stabilisation of the stone mines is completed what will be left to remind us of this massive project of infilling 45 acres of tunnels beneath our feet?

A Legacy Group has been set up with representatives from the Combe Down Heritage Society, The Combe Down Stone Mines Community Association and Friends of Firs Field. It is considering three exciting proposals.