



Coming soon

Wednesday 18 February

a talk with slides and video on 'Underground in Combe Down'. Neville Redvers-Higgins of Oxford Archaeology has stunning new film taken in the mines. Doors open at 7.00pm, the talk starts at 7.30pm. Chris Tipping, our public art sculptor will also be there to meet you.

For your diary

There will be meetings on the 22 April and 17 June. Keep an eye on the notice boards in the village centre for details of all our meetings.

2009 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 18 March

7.30pm at Combe Down Primary School

The society needs you! There are two vacancies on the Committee. If you have an interest in any of the village's past and present, please come and join us. This is an exciting and important time for us in planning vital aspects of the community's activities. Nominations should be put in writing to the Secretary with your signature and that of a seconder by 18 February.

Please let us know of any matters you would like discussed at the meeting.

What does the Committee do? Could you help?

It does:

- decide on talks & meetings
- organise guided walks
- organise research & education
- build a history archive
- help plan a community centre

It does not:

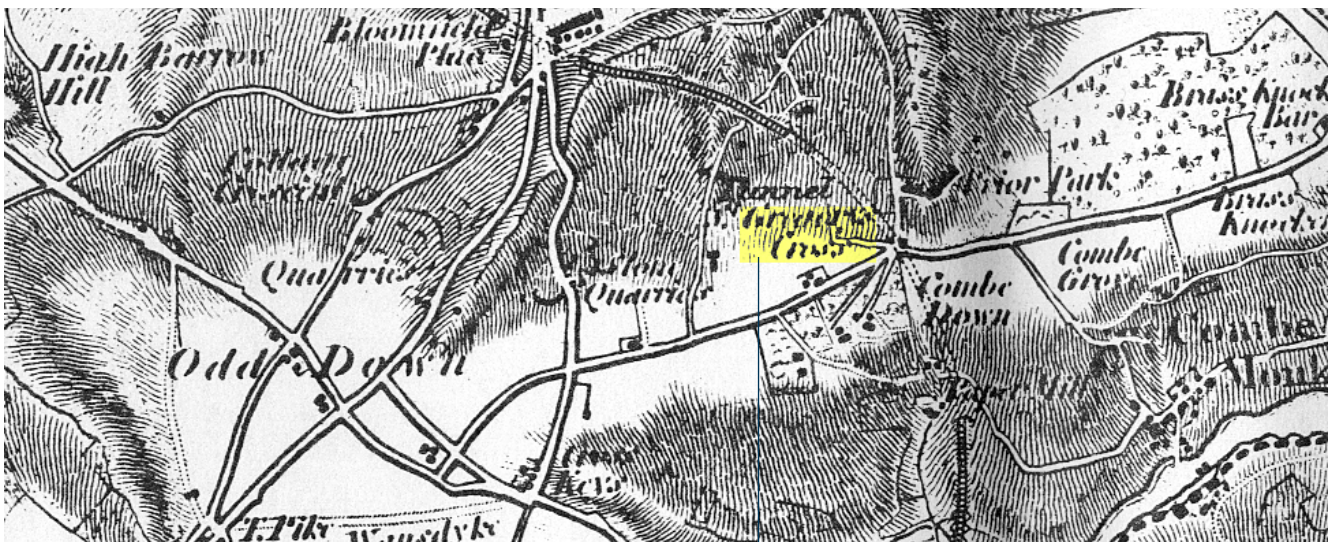
- talk about politics
- talk about planning
- try to be a Parish Council
- organise Public Art
- talk and not make decisions

Olive Webb has had to resign from the Committee because of the pressure of other commitments. We thank her for her valuable contributions, in particular for running the Buildings Records project which has resulted in a valuable archive.

This project will be running for a long time yet as we are recording all the buildings in Combe Down. So far we have done only 256. The records are housed by the Chair of the Society should you want to see them.

Following the brief AGM on 18 March there will be presentations by members:

- Update on the Shops Project by Richard Read
- Update on William Smith by Malcolm Aylett
- 'Mysteries of St Gregory's Cross and the curious tale of Richard Jones' by Rosemary Simmons



'Gregory's Cross' marked to the north-west of Combe Down on the 1817 Ordnance Survey map

Information Centre

The Stone Mines Information Centre at 199 Bradford Road is a valuable source of information on all aspects of the stabilisation. The Heritage Society has a file there with our reports which includes the minutes of committee meetings.

Legacy Group.

The Society is represented on the Legacy Group by Rosemary Simmons, Malcolm Aylett, Richard Read, Olive Webb and Jane Briggs. The CDSMCA, the FoFF and our councillors also represent the village. Other people represent B&NES offices and the project managers.

Plans for Ralph Allen Yard



A developer for the site is being appointed as we report. The plans of Nash Partners, the architects, were revised to give more space to the Heritage Interpretation Centre and the management and contents of the Centre are being explored. Your Society will not be running the Centre but we are playing the leading role in setting it up. Please tell us if you have ideas or want to make any contribution to this.

Details of the development, including of course the proposed residential units, will be subjected to full Planning processes and this will be an opportunity for further public consultation.

Firs Field

Several meetings have discussed changes to the original Planning Condition for the restitution of the field after the stabilisation. These have been in line with the results of surveys carried out by the FoFF and the Stabilisation Project and there has

been considerable public consultation. Later in the year there will be a second phase of consultation to decide upon some additional features. The Information Centre holds details of this and also of new parking bays in The Firs.

William Smith Project

Archaeological excavation done jointly with the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society last September dug trenches in front of what we think was William Smith's quarry in Summer Lane. Members will remember that last year our President, Dick Irving, told us about his recent research into Smith's archive when he found further evidence of the building of a railway. But its exact course was not known. The main aim of our exercise was to look for signs of a railway coming out of the mine which would eventually end at Smith's stone works at Tucking Mill. Following the dig, we carried out survey work to measure the relative levels of the quarry and the top of the Bluebell Steps which was a possible route for the railway.



Lines and sleepers of William Smith's era – what we were looking for

Come to the March meeting and hear all about the project so far.

Please help

we really need your memories of stone mining. 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?

Picnic in the mines



We are delighted to print these photographs, taken at a picnic on Sue Wedlock's birthday in 1980. Her husband Fred met two people who were using the stone from the mine to carve garden ornaments. Sue tells us, 'They invited us to look around the mines, and when Fred told them it was my birthday, they decided to surprise me with a party. They brought in a crate of beer and made



tables and seats from stones. We even had a chess set! Someone brought a tape recorder with music and we all had a great time.'

The Society has a few other pictures taken by residents over the years but is keen to have more – they can form an important part of our now extensive archive. Please let the Secretary have any underground pictures you can share with us.

The Society Archive

Since the Society was inaugurated in 2005 it has accumulated a variety of historical material. Of particular interest and importance are the 660 or so pictures which we have had from about a dozen sources, the most important being the archive of the late Peter Addison, author of 'Around Combe Down'. Frances Stobart, who died last year, also contributed a number of black and white



Capt Borland who built the Williamstowe Chapel

photographs taken by her relations early in the last century. You may remember that we had a Lottery grant to scan slides and photographs and these images are held digitally so that they can be easily displayed on screen or incorporated into publications (such as this newsletter). A

keen member regularly scans the internet for local pictures on sale, mostly picture postcards of early 20th century, and we hold copies of many of these. Another member, Dan Brown, holds Bath's main

picture archive and images are available from him on www.bathintime.co.uk.

We mention the Building Records project above, which is a valuable record of the situation at the beginning of the 21st century. Buildings change with unexpected rapidity and it is important that we hold details before these take place.

Our Oral History project is also catching important aspects of the past whilst they are still available since those with valuable knowledge of the early part of the last century will not remain available indefinitely! We scooped an interview with the now famous Harry Patch last year, taking him to those parts of Combe Down which he remembered so well.



Inscription on the old telephone exchange

Please add your own material to the archive. We look forward to the time when the Society has its own headquarters and the archive will be better stored and displayed.

Other organisations

We hold contact details for all the other groups working in heritage, history, archaeology and related disciplines. Contact the secretary at 13 Williamstowe or email m.aylett@homecall.co.uk

Publications

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

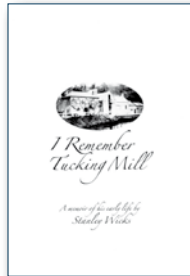
I Remember Tucking Mill
by Stanley Wicks, £6.

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
by Richard Irving and Rosemary Simmons, 50p

CD of Combe Down Past and Present - available to members only free, but a donation is expected.



Contacts

Chair Rosemary Simmons ☎833301
rosyprint@care4free.net

Secretary (and of the Friends of the Jewish Burial Ground) Malcolm Aylett ☎833681,
13 Williamstowe BA2 5EJ m.aylett@homecall.co.uk

The Data Protection Act

The officers of the society hold limited information for each member which is processed using personal computers. The Data Protection Act safeguards the protection against the misuse of such data.

Information held for each member comprises name and address, telephone number, e-mail address where applicable, subscriptions paid, gift aid status and special interests. This information used to administer the membership list and to provide address labels for Newsletters and other notices.

The membership list may also be used by officers for managing the society and for any other purpose as may be legally required of us. We will not pass our membership list on to any other organisation for any purposes.

Members have the right to request that some restrictions be placed on the use of the information held on them. Any members having such concerns should write to the Membership Secretary.

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
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I apply to become a member of the Combe Down Heritage Society until 31 March 2009 and I agree to my details being held on computer for the duration of my membership

Address	Postcode	Phone
Email		

Please tick membership option required Standard £3 <input type="checkbox"/> Student £1 <input type="checkbox"/> Family £7 <input type="checkbox"/>	Total amount enclosed <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Ages of children (if family membership)
I am sending an additional £ <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> as a donation to the society		

If you pay Income tax (PAYE) on any earnings, pension or investments, please sign here so that the Society can claim back your tax.	Signed	Date
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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