

[VCH Wilts 20: Chippenham, social history draft, by Rosalind Johnson, minor amendments by John Chandler and Rosalind Johnson, for posting, 12 Feb 2018]

## SOCIAL HISTORY

### SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND FAMILIES

The social structure of market towns such as Chippenham for much of their history would have been a rigid pyramid, where admission to the higher levels was dependent on wealth and connections to other high-status families. Nevertheless, changing commercial fortunes and family circumstances, particularly the lack of an heir to inherit a business, could and did see individuals move within the pyramid, and outsiders enter in.<sup>1</sup>

Urban prosperity can be measured through taxation. In the tax assessment for 1332, Chippenham was the wealthiest borough in Wiltshire after Salisbury (New Sarum); the total tax for the borough was assessed at £16 18s.10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d.<sup>2</sup> The highest-rated individual, Nicholas Sperlynge (63s. 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d.) has not been identified, but the next two highest assessments both related to lords of the manor; Peter de la Huse of Rowden (20s. 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d.) and Edmund Gascelyn of Sheldon (16s. 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d.). Other known individuals in the list were tenants of the manors of Sheldon and Lowden, and the unknown remainder were probably merchants and artisans.<sup>3</sup> The numerical strength of the elite of Chippenham was small, possibly 20 burgesses in an adult population of 369 by the time of the poll tax assessment in 1377. However, it was among the wealthiest towns in Wiltshire, if wealth is measured in terms of moveable goods.<sup>4</sup>

The granting of the town's charter by Queen Mary in 1554 formally conferred on Chippenham the status of a borough. It also set out the terms for its government by a body consisting of a bailiff and twelve burgesses. The bailiff was chosen annually from among the burgesses, who were appointed for life, and only members of this group could vote in parliamentary elections. Below this oligarchy were the freemen of the town, numbering 103 by 1604. Being a freeman conferred the benefit of a share in the borough lands, which was not enjoyed by the 'commoners' of the town.<sup>5</sup>

The importance of the cloth trade to Chippenham is indicated in the appointment of a clothier, Henry Goldney (alias Farnewell) as first bailiff in 1554; he had already represented Chippenham in parliament the previous year. His business interests were also agricultural, and in common with other clothier families in Chippenham he farmed land around Chippenham.<sup>6</sup>

The dominance of the cloth trade in the town continued well into the modern period. It is evident in the number of 'clothiers' listed in a 1783 trade directory; of 12 Chippenham tradesmen and professionals, six were clothiers, and two more involved

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<sup>1</sup> Clark, P. and Slack, P., *English Towns in Transition 1500-1700* (London, 1976), 111–2.

<sup>2</sup> *Wilts. Tax List 1332* (W.R.S. xlv), 4–5.

<sup>3</sup> Baines, R., *A History of Chippenham from Alfred to Brunel* (Chippenham, 2009), 38–40; above, landownership.

<sup>4</sup> Baines, *History of Chippenham*, 39.

<sup>5</sup> Baines, *History of Chippenham*, 49–50, 61–3.

<sup>6</sup> Baines, *History of Chippenham*, 65, 77–8.

in the cloth trade.<sup>7</sup> The cloth trade was still buoyant in the 1790s, though by 1822 trade in the manufacture of cloth had fallen off, causing hardship to working people who depended on the trade for their livelihood.<sup>8</sup> Nevertheless, a directory of 1875 still listed the principal manufactures of the town as broadcloth and silks, as well as an extensive tannery.<sup>9</sup> The dairy industry remained important to the town, with regular cheese and cattle markets, and by 1880 the Anglo-Swiss (later Nestlé) condensed milk factory and Skurray's churns factory.<sup>10</sup> By 1903 cheese and bacon factories had been established. New industries that had arrived in the town by that date included the railway-signalling works of Saxby and Farmer, and Westinghouse, as well as gun and cartridge works and wagon works.<sup>11</sup> The dominance of the clothiers was by now long past, though the Goldney family continued to exercise a considerable influence over the town, having served regularly as bailiffs since 1554.<sup>12</sup> Professional families could now be as influential as the old trading families had once been, notably the Awdry family of solicitors.

Two other families, Hungerford and Baynton (or Bayntun), had considerable influence on the town from an earlier period, though they lived outside the borough itself. Robert Hungerford was listed in 1545 as at Bremhill, and by 1576 the Baynton family were listed with the Hungerfords at Bremhill and Foxham (in Bremhill).<sup>13</sup>

Sir Walter Hungerford, whose father, grandfather and great-uncle had all represented the county of Wiltshire in parliament, purchased the manor of Chippenham and Sheldon, with other manors and hundreds, in 1424.<sup>14</sup> In 1434 he acquired an estate at Farleigh Hungerford (Som.).<sup>15</sup> He was already active in court circles, having been appointed as one of the guardians of the infant Henry VI in 1422.<sup>16</sup> In 1442 Sir Walter and his son Robert founded a chantry dedicated to St Mary in Chippenham parish church, whose chaplains were to pray for the souls of the family.<sup>17</sup>

The family's fortunes began to decline after Sir Walter's grandson, Robert, Lord Moleyns, was taken prisoner at the battle of Châtillon in 1453, and was eventually ransomed for the sum of £6,000, part of which was raised by mortgaging the family estates. Robert was executed for treason in 1464, a fate which also befell his son, Sir Thomas Hungerford, in 1469.<sup>18</sup> The attainders on the family were reversed in 1485, when Sir Walter Hungerford, son of Lord Moleyns and brother of Sir Thomas Hungerford, deserted Richard III to support Henry Tudor at the Battle of

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<sup>7</sup> *Early Trade Dir*s (W.R.S. xlvii); above, econ. hist..

<sup>8</sup> *Universal British Dir.* (1791–8); *Pigot's Dir. Wilts.* (1822).

<sup>9</sup> *Post Office Dir. Wilts.* (1875).

<sup>10</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1880).

<sup>11</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1903).

<sup>12</sup> Goldney, F. H., *Records of Chippenham Relating to the Borough* (1889), 347–8.

<sup>13</sup> *Two Sixteenth-Century Taxation Lists* (W.R.S. x), 28, 58.

<sup>14</sup> J.S. Roskell, 'Three Wiltshire Speakers', *WAM* 56 (1956), 275, 301; *Hungerford Cart. i* (W.R.S. xlix), 77–8; above, landownership.

<sup>15</sup> *Hungerford Cart. i* (W.R.S. xlix), 224–5.

<sup>16</sup> Roskell, 'Three Wiltshire Speakers', *WAM* 56 (1956), 318; Charles Kightly, "Hungerford, Walter, first Baron Hungerford (1378–1449)", *ODNB*. <http://www.oxforddnb.com/> (accessed 27 Oct. 2015).

<sup>17</sup> *Hungerford Cart. i.* (W.R.S. xlix), 91; below, religious hist.

<sup>18</sup> Michael Hicks, "Hungerford, Robert, second Baron Hungerford (c.1400–1459)", *ODNB*. <http://www.oxforddnb.com/> (accessed 27 Oct. 2015); Michael Hicks, "Hungerford, Robert, third Baron Hungerford and Baron Moleyns (c.1423–1464)", *ODNB*. <http://www.oxforddnb.com/> (accessed 27 Oct. 2015).

Bosworth. There followed lengthy litigation proceedings between Sir Walter Hungerford as heir male and Sir Thomas Hungerford's daughter Mary as heir-general. The eventual outcome was that Mary secured the greater part of the family's lands, together with all three baronial titles, though Hungerford still retained a substantial estate.<sup>19</sup> This upturn in the family fortunes was reversed when Sir Thomas Hungerford's great-nephew, Walter, became entangled with the fortunes of Thomas Cromwell, and was executed in 1540.<sup>20</sup>

The Hungerford family retained their influence in the borough for much of the 17th century. John Hungerford was returned as one of the borough's two MPs in 1604.<sup>21</sup> Sir Edward Hungerford (1596–1648) was returned in 1621 and for both the Short and Long parliaments in 1640.<sup>22</sup> A feud with his fellow MP for Chippenham, Sir Edward Baynton, saw both men arrest the other in turn for treason, though parliament found in favour of Hungerford, who replaced Baynton as commander of the parliamentary forces in Wiltshire.<sup>23</sup> His nephew Edward Hungerford (1632–1711), later Sir Edward, represented the borough on several occasions in the latter half of the 17th century, and in 1681 was the last Hungerford to be elected to serve the borough when he was returned with Sir George Speke. His extravagant lifestyle resulted in the sale of many of his properties, including Sheldon Manor and his Chippenham estates, and the manor and castle of Farleigh to Henry Baynton of Spye Park (Bromham).<sup>24</sup>

The Baynton (or Bayntun) family of Bromham were at one time the most important gentry family in north central Wiltshire, and like the Hungerfords exerted an influence over Chippenham. That influence began when John Baynton (d. 1526) inherited Bromham in 1508. His son Edward became a courtier under Henry VIII, a sheriff of Wiltshire, and in 1534 was appointed warden of the forests of Chippenham and Melksham. At the dissolution of the monasteries he obtained possession of former abbeys and manors, including nearby Stanley abbey.<sup>25</sup>

Edward's son and heir Andrew threatened the family inheritance with a series of poor decisions, which saw the family embroiled in lawsuits for several years after his death. Sir Edward Baynton (c. 1520–93), Andrew's brother, eventually regained control of the family holdings in Stanley, Bremhill, Chippenham and other property.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Michael Hicks, "Hungerford, Sir Walter (*b.* in or after 1441, *d.* 1516)", *ODNB*. <http://www.oxforddnb.com/> (accessed 27 Oct. 2015).

<sup>20</sup> D.J. Ashton, "Hungerford, Walter (1503–1540)", *ODNB*. <http://www.oxforddnb.com/> (accessed 23 Oct. 2017).

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/hungerford-john-1560-1636> (accessed 20 Sept. 2017).

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/hungerford-edward-1596-1648> (accessed 20 Sept. 2017).

<sup>23</sup> John Wroughton, "Hungerford, Sir Edward (1596–1648)", *ODNB*.

<http://www.oxforddnb.com/> (accessed 20 Sept. 2017);

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/bayntun-sir-edward-1593-1657> (accessed 20 Sept. 2017).

<sup>24</sup> [http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1660-](http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1660-1690/constituencies/chippenham)

[1690/constituencies/chippenham](http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1660-1690/constituencies/chippenham) (accessed 27 Oct. 2015); Timothy Venning, "Hungerford, Sir Edward (1632–1711)", *ODNB*. <http://www.oxforddnb.com/> (accessed 20 Sept 2017).

<sup>25</sup> Alison Wall, "Baynton family (*per.* 1508–1716)", *ODNB*. <http://www.oxforddnb.com/> (accessed 27 Oct. 2015).

<sup>26</sup> Alison Wall, "Baynton family (*per.* 1508–1716)", *ODNB*. <http://www.oxforddnb.com/> (accessed 27 Oct. 2015).

Sir Edward's oldest surviving son, Sir Henry Baynton (1571–1616) was elected as one of Chippenham's two MPs in 1589, though in his remaining parliamentary career he represented Devizes or the county seat of Wiltshire.<sup>27</sup> He served as deputy lieutenant for the county, and was an active magistrate. Sir Henry's eldest son Sir Edward Baynton (1593–1657) was elected MP for Chippenham in 1626 and again in 1640 for both the Short and Long parliaments of that year.<sup>28</sup> Despite his quarrel with Sir Edward Hungerford, he retained his seat after Pride's Purge in 1648, sitting to the end of the Rump in 1653.<sup>29</sup> After the destruction of Bromham by Royalist troops in 1645, he built a new house at nearby Spye Park.<sup>30</sup>

Sir Edward's eldest son, also Sir Edward Baynton (1618–79) kept a commonplace book in which he recorded many of his activities in local government. These included matters concerning Chippenham, notably accounts relating to the repair and maintenance of the highways, an order in 1670 to levy a rate in the parish for the repair of the highways, and an account of rents due towards the repair of Maud Heath's Causeway.<sup>31</sup>

The family's influence went into decline after Sir Edward's eldest son and heir Henry Baynton (1664–1691) died young, and although on his death he had left a young son, John, the direct Baynton line died out with John's death without issue in 1716. John Baynton left his major estates to his nephew Edward Rolt, on condition that he take the name Baynton Rolt.<sup>32</sup>

Members of the family represented Chippenham in parliament from 1589 and for much of the 17th and 18th centuries. Sir Edward Bayntun Rolt, elected in 1774, was the last Baynton to represent the seat. The last of the family to live at Spye Park was John Bayntun Starkey, who sold the estate in 1864 to pay off debts incurred in an unsuccessful attempt to establish a horse-racing stud.<sup>33</sup>

## SOCIAL WELFARE

Little is known of social welfare in medieval Chippenham. The hospital of St Laurence, in the town in 1338, may have been a leper hospital.<sup>34</sup>

In 1619 the parish owned an almshouse, the churchwardens paying Sir Edward Baynton 2s. annually in rent.<sup>35</sup> It is not known where this almshouse was

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<sup>27</sup> <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/baynton-henry-ii-1571-1616> (accessed 20 Oct. 2017).

<sup>28</sup> Alison Wall, "Baynton family (per. 1508–1716)", *ODNB*. <http://www.oxforddnb.com/> (accessed 27 Oct. 2015); <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/bayntun-sir-edward-1593-1657> (accessed 20 Sept. 2017).

<sup>29</sup> Alison Wall, "Baynton family (per. 1508–1716)", *ODNB*. <http://www.oxforddnb.com/> (accessed 27 Oct. 2015); <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/bayntun-sir-edward-1593-1657> (accessed 20 Sept. 2017).

<sup>30</sup> *Commonplace Book of Sir Edward Bayntun* (W.R.S. 43), xi.

<sup>31</sup> *Commonplace Book of Sir Edward Bayntun* (W.R.S. 43), xii.

<sup>32</sup> Alison Wall, "Baynton family (per. 1508–1716)", *ODNB*. <http://www.oxforddnb.com/> (accessed 27 Oct. 2015).

<sup>33</sup> Bayntun-Coward, H. (ed.), *Notes on the Bayntun Family* (Bath, 1977); Alison Wall, "Baynton family (per. 1508–1716)", *ODNB*. <http://www.oxforddnb.com/> (accessed 27 Oct. 2015); <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/constituencies/chippenham> (accessed 27 Oct. 2015).

<sup>34</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1334-8, 565; Thomson, S. M., *Wiltshire Almshouses and their Founders* (Warminster, 2016), 40–1.

situated or how many people it supported, though the parish burial records of the 1650s indicate that both men and women were assisted.<sup>36</sup> It may have ceased to operate shortly thereafter as in the churchwardens' accounts Sir Edward Baynton is paid for the ground where the almshouse 'latelie' stood, and in 1660 the almshouse ground was let to Thomas Harris for seven years at an annual rent of 4s.<sup>37</sup> The parish continued to pay rent for the almshouse, or the site where it had once stood, at least to 1673, but there is no other evidence for its existence.<sup>38</sup>

Poor people were relieved by both the parish and the borough. In 1649 the borough accounts include payments of 2s. 6d. given to poor persons who came with passes, 6d. to three soldiers, 4d. to the relief of one soldier, and 6d. to a further three soldiers.<sup>39</sup> The churchwardens' accounts also record people being given relief, probably travellers with a brief authorising them to ask for charity because of misfortune, such as the 'distressed minister' relieved in 1673.<sup>40</sup> In addition, poor townspeople might benefit from charities set up for their relief<sup>41</sup> and from charitable donations made in wills, such as that made by Elizabeth Hawkins, who left £5 for the relief of the poor in 1659.<sup>42</sup>

Accounts for the overseers of the poor in Chippenham survive from 1705. The 18th-century accounts show the overseers relieving the poor either by regular monthly payments, or by 'extraordinary' or occasional payments. The overseers also paid rent for certain poor people.<sup>43</sup>

A parish workhouse was set up in 1736.<sup>44</sup> This experiment was short-lived; it was still in operation in December 1739, but by the following April the workhouse contents had been sold.<sup>45</sup> It is not clear why the project was abandoned, since the result seems to have been an increase in the overseers' expenditure in the years following the sale. This may have led to the decision to re-establish a parish workhouse in 1753. In that year the overseers agreed that a master and mistress were to be appointed at a salary not exceeding £20.<sup>46</sup> This workhouse is said to have stood in Mac's yard in the Butts in Chippenham.<sup>47</sup> Certainly by 1830, if not earlier, the parish workhouse was situated in the Butts on the site of a former cloth factory.<sup>48</sup>

The offerings made at services in the parish church were sometimes used for poor relief. In 1783 the vicar, Thomas Weekes Dalby, stated that the proceeds of the offertory were distributed by him to the poor in the form of bread, meat or clothing.<sup>49</sup>

Under the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act poor law unions were established, administered by a locally elected board of guardians. The Chippenham Union represented the following parishes, as of its inaugural meeting on 3 December 1835:

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<sup>35</sup> WSA 415/6, f. 1v.

<sup>36</sup> WSA 811/7.

<sup>37</sup> WSA 415/6, f.57v; 811/95, f. 31r.

<sup>38</sup> WSA 415/6, f. 83r.

<sup>39</sup> Goldney, *Records of Chippenham*, 218–19.

<sup>40</sup> WSA 415/6, ff. 65v, 83r.

<sup>41</sup> below, charities for the poor.

<sup>42</sup> TNA: PROB, 11/292/179.

<sup>43</sup> WSA 811/123, ff. 89v–92r.

<sup>44</sup> WSA 811/125, f. 131v.

<sup>45</sup> WSA 811/125, f. 191v.

<sup>46</sup> WSA 811/126.

<sup>47</sup> A. Platts, *A History of Chippenham AD 853-1946* (1947), 55–8.

<sup>48</sup> WSA H5/190/1.

<sup>49</sup> *Wilts>Returns 1783*, (W.R.S. xxvii), 61–2.

Avon, Biddestone St Nicholas, Biddestone St Peter, Box, Castle Combe, Chippenham, Christian Malford, Colerne, Corsham, Ditteridge, Draycot Cerne, Grittleton, Hardenhuish, Kington Langley, Kington St Michael, Lacock, Langley Burrell, Leigh Delamere, Littleton Drew, Nettleton, North Wraxall, Pewsham, Seagry, Slaughterford, Stanton St Quinton, Sutton Benger, Tytherton Kellaways, West Kington and Yatton Keynell.<sup>50</sup>

The 1834 Act severely restricted payment of outdoor relief to the poor. As a result, individuals and families were often faced with a stark choice of entering the workhouse or attempting to survive without any assistance. Many refused to enter the workhouse.<sup>51</sup> Nevertheless, the 18th-century workhouse at Chippenham and the Lacock workhouse became inadequate for the needs of the poor of Chippenham Union, and concerns were expressed that at the Chippenham workhouse young people were being kept with adult criminals and undesirables. It was also presented to the guardians that a single workhouse would be cheaper to run than continuing to maintain both establishments, at Chippenham and Lacock.<sup>52</sup>

In 1857 the Board of Guardians voted to build a new workhouse at Chippenham, and in September that year identified a suitable 8 a. site at Rowden Hill, available for £200 per acre. The architect Christopher Creeke of Bournemouth was contracted to design the new workhouse, following a visit made by the guardians to his workhouse at Blandford Forum (Dorset). In April 1858 the tender of R.P. Watts, builder of Chippenham, was formally accepted for the construction, and in June a loan of £13,100 for the purchase of the site and the construction was agreed.<sup>53</sup> The inmates of the former workhouses moved to their new accommodation in September 1859, the Board of Guardians holding their first meeting in the new workhouse on 7 October 1859. The old workhouse buildings at Chippenham and Lacock were sold.<sup>54</sup>

The 1834 Act did not restrict private charity in the town.<sup>55</sup> In 1853 Charles Bailey, a Chippenham surgeon, established a charity to provide accommodation for distressed members of the medical profession or their widows. Six villas were built at Brookfield in Langley Burrell.<sup>56</sup> In 1875 they were described as situated along the Bristol road.<sup>57</sup> The subsequent history of the charity is obscure, but it may be the same Charles Bailey charity that in 2017 was one of the linked charities of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund.<sup>58</sup>

In 1884 five cottages were built as almshouses on land at Lowden, the gift of Elizabeth Utterson.<sup>59</sup> The charity, known as Mrs Utterson's Almshouses, was established to provide accommodation for aged and infirm women of the parish. The residents were to be members of the Church of England. The occupant of the central cottage was to act as custodian; this cottage could be occupied by a married couple, but the other four dwellings were for women only. Elizabeth Utterson gave money to be invested to provide the occupants with an allowance; in 1905 the four inmates and the caretaker received 3s.6d. per week in winter and 3s. per week in summer. They

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<sup>50</sup> WSA H5/110/1.

<sup>51</sup> WSA H5/110/1.

<sup>52</sup> WSA H5/110/11.

<sup>53</sup> WSA H5/110/11.

<sup>54</sup> WSA H5/110/11; WSA H5/190/1.

<sup>55</sup> See below, 'Charities for the Poor'.

<sup>56</sup> WSA 873/211.

<sup>57</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1875).

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 14 Jun. 2017).

<sup>59</sup> WSA 2568/13; Thomson, *Wiltshire Almshouses*, 40–1.

paid no rent, although the indenture establishing the charity allowed the trustees to charge a small rent if necessary to cover repairs, insurance and administrative costs.<sup>60</sup> In 2015 the charity continued to manage the five almshouses for the benefit of elderly Chippenham residents.<sup>61</sup>

A limited measure of relief remained available to those poor still living in their own homes, since the records of Chippenham Union demonstrate that out-relief continued to be given after 1834. Relief was given to deserving cases such as those unable to work through infirmity, or for expenses such as burying a child.<sup>62</sup> In 1865 429 persons from Chippenham were assisted by out-relief in the half-year to 25 March and 438 in the following six months.<sup>63</sup> This had decreased by 1891 to 298 persons in the half-year to 25 March and 293 in the next six months.<sup>64</sup>

A charity soup kitchen operated on two or three days a week during the winter, at least from 1867 when the kitchen is recorded as being situated in St Mary's Street, and eligible poor persons could buy a quart of soup for a penny.<sup>65</sup> In 1888, in recognition of the prevailing distress among the poor, the soup kitchen supplied bread free of charge.<sup>66</sup> The year 1888 was one of great hardship in the town, and a relief fund was set up to provide further assistance.<sup>67</sup> The soup kitchen ran for a number of years, possibly up to 1915, but it may not have operated every year, and parts of its history are obscure.<sup>68</sup>

Churches and chapels may have assisted their own poor. By Easter 1917 the vicar and churchwardens of Chippenham had established a fund for the poor and needy, which had collected and distributed £17 8s. 5d. in the previous year, the money coming from a single donation of £10, together with money from collections in the church and thank offerings at private communions.<sup>69</sup>

Despite charitable relief, and the limited amount of out-relief available from the Board of Guardians, the workhouse remained the place of last resort for the poor. In the half-year to Lady Day 1865, 64 men, women and children from Chippenham had been resident in the workhouse for periods varying from a few days to the full six months, out of a total of 319 persons admitted to the workhouse; and 43 men, women and children from the town were admitted in the six months following, out of a total of 311 admitted to the workhouse.<sup>70</sup> Vagrants were admitted on a casual basis, as they had been in the old workhouse in the Butts.<sup>71</sup> By 1880 the Chippenham workhouse employed a married couple as master and matron, as well as a chaplain, medical officer, schoolmaster and mistress, porter, nurse and assistant nurse.<sup>72</sup> The Chippenham Union also appointed, separately from the workhouse medical officer, a Union medical officer and a vaccination officer.<sup>73</sup> In the half-year to 25 March 1891, 79 Chippenham residents received relief in the workhouse, out of a total of 227

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<sup>60</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 274–6.

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).

<sup>62</sup> H5/142/1–8.

<sup>63</sup> H5/142/2.

<sup>64</sup> H5/142/7.

<sup>65</sup> WSA G19/991/1–2.

<sup>66</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gaz.*, 15 Mar. 1888, 8.

<sup>67</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gaz.*, 15 Mar. 1888, 8.

<sup>68</sup> WSA G19/991/1–2.

<sup>69</sup> WILBR 5600.

<sup>70</sup> WSA H5/142/2.

<sup>71</sup> WSA H5/142/1–8.

<sup>72</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1880).

<sup>73</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1880).

persons admitted, and in the half-year following 85 people from Chippenham entered the workhouse, out of a total of 229 admitted.<sup>74</sup>

With the introduction of old age pensions in 1909 and a limited form of unemployment and sickness benefits in 1911, the threat of the workhouse receded for many poor persons. The numbers in the workhouse did not decrease significantly in the immediate aftermath of these legislative changes; 279 paupers were admitted to the workhouse in the year to 25 March 1912, and 237 in the year to 31 March 1915.<sup>75</sup> But the Chippenham Union workhouse, later the Chippenham Institution,<sup>76</sup> increasingly concentrated on admitting those unable to care for themselves.<sup>77</sup> On the night of 1 January 1930, of 171 persons in receipt of relief in Chippenham institutions, 44 adults were sick or infirm, 83 adults certified under the Lunacy or other Acts, and only 34 adults were not suffering some form of infirmity.<sup>78</sup> Ten children were cared for in institutions, probably not in Chippenham but in a children's cottage home at Velle Hill (Corsham).<sup>79</sup> The workhouse continued in use until the advent of the National Health Service, when it became St Andrew's Hospital, later Chippenham Community Hospital. Much of the 1859 workhouse still survives as part of the hospital premises.

### *Charities for the Poor*

A number of charitable gifts to the poor of Chippenham are recorded from 1600 onwards. Mr Bull had given £20 to be lent out to poor tradesmen in sums of £5. Sir Henry Bayntun left £20 as a stock to be lent out yearly to poor artificers and tradesmen in sums of £6 13s. 4d. Richard Woodland gave £5 to be lent out as the bailiff and burgesses should think fit. In 1623 the bailiff and burgesses received £5 from Richard Pearse for the benefit of the poor. In 1627 William Geale gave 40s. to be lent out by the bailiff and burgesses annually, and in 1630 the vicar William Proudlove gave 40s. for the same purpose, as did Thomas Hawkins, from whom the bailiff and burgesses received £10 in 1639.<sup>80</sup> The borough records also record other gifts and bequests such as that made in 1603 when Hugh Atwill, a former rector of Calverleigh (Devon), gave 20s. to the bailiff and burgesses to keep the poor at work.<sup>81</sup>

The strategy of distributing charitable money ran into difficulties over distribution and repayment. About 1609 it was noted in the borough records that money had been given by various persons for the assistance of young married couples and the elderly poor, but these benefactions had not been used as intended. It was resolved that the stock of money would henceforth be loaned to those persons whom it was intended to assist, no person to have an annual sum less than £3 or greater than £5.<sup>82</sup> However, a memorandum of 1617 noted that many of those who had been lent money had failed to repay the loan, resulting in trouble for the bailiff and burgesses in chasing up payment, money being unavailable to assist others in need, and discouraging potential benefactors. The bailiff and burgesses ordained that

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<sup>74</sup> WSA H5/142/7.

<sup>75</sup> WSA H5/142/8.

<sup>76</sup> WSA F13/207/1–2.

<sup>77</sup> Ruth Marshall, *Chippenham Memories* (Stroud, 2005), 87.

<sup>78</sup> *Persons in Receipt of Poor-Law Relief* (Parl. Papers 1930 (146), xxv), p. 453.

<sup>79</sup> <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Chippenham/> (accessed 22 Oct. 2017).

<sup>80</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 240; Goldney, *Records of Chippenham*, 16–18, 58; TNA, PROB 11/177/283.

<sup>81</sup> Goldney, *Records of Chippenham*, 16–18, 325.

<sup>82</sup> Goldney, *Records of Chippenham*, 35.

in future, if such loans were not repaid as agreed, legal action would be taken to recover the money.<sup>83</sup>

Despite this decision, it appears that the whole of these gifts was eventually lost. The charities' report of 1834 noted that no mention of them was made in the corporation book beginning in 1684-5 and ending in 1774, and no other information could be found.<sup>84</sup> The charities' report published in 1908 also noted that the parliamentary returns of 1786 did not make any mention of these gifts.<sup>85</sup>

The difficulties encountered in administering loans may have encouraged later charitable donors to make provision for the poor as straightforward gifts of money, clothing, food or fuel. The number of charities making gifts of clothing or blankets to the poor may reflect the importance of the cloth trade in Chippenham. These later charities used the interest on an endowment of property or investments to provide an income. In the 1870s some charitable endowments were appropriated to provide scholarships for secondary education.<sup>86</sup> Many of the charities listed below survived into the late 20th century, although those with a fixed endowment saw their income decline in real terms, leading to eventual removal from the register of the Charity Commission.

*Ann Bradbury's Charity:* In her will of 1834 Ann Bradbury left the interest on £100 to provide blankets for the aged and deserving poor of the parish of Chippenham on St Thomas's Day, excepting every fifth year, when the money was to be used to maintain the tomb of her sisters in the churchyard, and the surplus, if any, to go to the vicar and churchwardens for their pains. In 1904 it was noted that tomb had last been repaired in 1896, and 24 blankets distributed in 1903.<sup>87</sup> In 1917 nine blankets were purchased for distribution.<sup>88</sup> Having a fixed endowment, the charity's income from the interest declined in real terms, and by 1948 the income was being disbursed as cash gifts of 5s.<sup>89</sup> The charity was still in existence in 1962 but had ceased to exist by 1998.<sup>90</sup>

*Rebekah Church's Charity:* In her will of 1842 Rebekah Church bequeathed the residue of her estate to be invested and the interest used to provide cloaks to be distributed on 1 November each year to poor elderly women of the parish.<sup>91</sup> The sum invested was £304.<sup>92</sup> According to the Charity Commission report of 1908, the cloaks were to be marked 'R. Scott', but it does not explain why. By 1904 16 cloaks, no longer badged, were usually distributed each year.<sup>93</sup> During and after the First World War coats, rather than cloaks, were distributed. The number of persons receiving coats declined as the purchasing power of the interest reduced over the years, though between four and six coats were still distributed every year from 1920 to 1936. Rugs

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<sup>83</sup> Goldney, *Records of Chippenham*, 45–6.

<sup>84</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 240.

<sup>85</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 276.

<sup>86</sup> See chapter 'Education'.

<sup>87</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 269–70.

<sup>88</sup> WILBR 5600.

<sup>89</sup> WSA L2/58.

<sup>90</sup> <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).

<sup>91</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 271–3.

<sup>92</sup> J. J. Daniell, *The History of Chippenham* (1894), 162–5.

<sup>93</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 271–3.

were distributed after the Second World War.<sup>94</sup> The charity was recorded as registered in 1965 but had ceased to exist by 2005.<sup>95</sup>

*William Colborne's or The Freemen's Charity:* The charity established by William Colborne was also known as the Freemen's Charity. By a recital of 1781 appointing new trustees, it appeared that £1,000 had been invested in trusts by William Colborne declared in a trust deed of 17 November 1769. The dividends were to be used for the assistance of freemen and the widows of freemen, in money, clothes, provisions or otherwise at the discretion of the trustees. The accounts were kept for many years by Anthony Guy until his bankruptcy in 1829, after which it was found that after 1798 the only dated distribution of funds up to 1828–9 had been in 1822.<sup>96</sup>

By 1834, the dividends were being distributed in or around January each year to poor freemen and their widows in sums of between 10s. and £3, according to need. At the distribution made in February 1833 35 persons received assistance. By June 1896 only 47 persons were entitled to benefit from the charity, none of whom was in necessitous circumstances. The funds were therefore appropriated to a charitable foundation, administered by the governing body of Chippenham District County School, for educational purposes. This foundation, approved in 1900, included the charities of Bridge, Colborne, Ray, Scott and Woodroffe, and one-fourth of Sir Francis Popham's gift.<sup>97</sup>

*Robert Gale's Charity:* Robert Gale, citizen and vintner of London, by his will of 1628 left £20 a year to the poor of Chippenham to be paid out of his estates of Claypool (Lincs.) and Brassington (Derbs.), to be distributed at the parish church on the feast of St Thomas by the bailiff and six of the oldest burgesses of the borough. They were to receive 20s. for their pains, and a further 20s. was to be paid to a preacher for a sermon.<sup>98</sup>

Surviving records suggest that the poor benefitted from the charity throughout the 18th century.<sup>99</sup> In 1834 it was reported that the sum of £22 was being paid annually to the bailiff of Chippenham from the estates of Christ's Hospital in London, less 5s. for the receiver's pains. The sermon was preached annually by the vicar, who remitted his 20s. to the poor. The clerk and sexton received 10s. out of the charity for their work in distributing the gift. The gift was distributed in half crowns (2s. 6d.) to all the deserving second poor (that is, those not in receipt of poor relief) of the town of Chippenham, and on occasion to the whole parish.<sup>100</sup>

In 1902 the charity benefitted 169 recipients. The income was applied in payment of £1 to the vicar for preaching a sermon, 3s. to the sexton, and £1 towards a dinner for the trustees. The remainder was distributed in sums of 2s. 6d. each to poor persons resident in the ancient parish of Chippenham.<sup>101</sup> The charity continued to make cash gifts to the poor, the sum increasing to 5s. by 1942, and between 1951 and 1954 between 71 and 75 persons still benefitted from the dole each year.<sup>102</sup> By 2014

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<sup>94</sup> WSA L2/59.

<sup>95</sup> <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).

<sup>96</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 239–40.

<sup>97</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 248–52.

<sup>98</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 236.

<sup>99</sup> Goldney, *Records of Chippenham*, 92, 94.

<sup>100</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 236

<sup>101</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 260–1.

<sup>102</sup> WSA L2/59.

the annual income was still £22 a year, and this sum was received and distributed with Sir Francis Popham's charity.<sup>103</sup>

*Goldney's Charity:* In his will of 1681, proved in 1684, Gabriel Goldney bequeathed his nephew, also Gabriel Goldney, land and a house at a place called Millfield, together with two other grounds adjoining it called Cogswells and one other ground called Hatts, on condition that he and his heirs should pay the sum of £6 yearly to buy six coats for honest poor labouring men of the parish of Chippenham. The coats were initially distributed at or around Christmas each year.<sup>104</sup> By 1904 the six coats were still distributed annually.<sup>105</sup>

The Goldney charity later amalgamated with the Gundry, Wicks and Bradbury charities to operate under the working name of 'Goldney and Gundry with John Wicks and Ann Bradbury'. As the Goldney and Gundry Charity it was registered with the Charity Commission in 1967 but was voluntarily removed from the charities register in 2009.<sup>106</sup>

*Gundry's Charity:* William Gundry, in a codicil dated 1851 to his will of 1844, bequeathed the sum of £500, the interest to be expended in coals or clothing to be given to poor persons residing in the parish of Chippenham, the distribution to be made on 14 February each year, being his birthday. Beneficiaries received 1½ cwt of coal, known as 'Valentine' coal.<sup>107</sup> In 1904 131 persons received coal.<sup>108</sup> The value of the interest on the endowment declined in real terms over the years, and by the 1920s the distribution in some years dropped to 1 cwt per person. By 1948 50 persons received 1 cwt of coal.<sup>109</sup> In 1967 the charity was amalgamated with the Goldney charity to form the Goldney and Gundry Charity.<sup>110</sup>

*Mrs Hawkins's Charity:* In 1638 Mrs Hawkins of Chippenham left the interest of £10 to be paid by the bailiff to six poor widows of freemen. By 1834 the interest at 6% was 12s. annually, and continued to be distributed to six poor freemen's widows on Candlemas day.<sup>111</sup> By 1904 the sum of 10s. per year was being distributed, but only a few widows were now eligible.<sup>112</sup> From 1905 to 1930 one widow each year received 10s. A change in the charity's investment in 1931 saw the annual rate of interest drop to 8s. 8d. This appears to have been distributed annually to one poor widow at least until 1954.<sup>113</sup> By 2015 the charity was no longer in existence.<sup>114</sup>

*Sir Francis Popham's Charity:* Sir Francis Popham gave lands at Foxham in Bremhill and Dale Mead in Christian Malford to benefit poor freemen. A report of 1834 that gave the date for the foundation of the charity as 1735 was, according to the Charity Commission report published in 1908, incorrect, and the first payment of £6

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<sup>103</sup> <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).

<sup>104</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 236.

<sup>105</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 247.

<sup>106</sup> <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).

<sup>107</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 273.

<sup>108</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 273.

<sup>109</sup> WSA L2/59.

<sup>110</sup> WSA 811/228.

<sup>111</sup> Daniell, *History of Chippenham*, 162-5; *Endowed Charities, 1908*, 236.

<sup>112</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 261.

<sup>113</sup> WSA L2/60.

<sup>114</sup> <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).<sup>114</sup>

was in fact made to three poor freemen on All Saints' Day 1638. By 1826 the charity's property consisted of a piece of land called the Slough at Foxham and several detached pieces of pasture land in Dale Mead which had been let for seven years from Lady Day 1826 for £21 per annum. This income was distributed at £2 each to nominated poor freemen; if there was a single pound remaining it was given to the junior of the freemen. The land in Dole Mead was sold in 1839 and 1842, and the money invested. At a meeting on 15 November 1873, it was agreed that money should be taken out of the funds of Sir Francis Popham's Charity to be added to the funds from Scott's, Woodroffe, Bridges and Ray's charities to make up to £50 per annum the income of the newly-established fund for educational purposes. One quarter of Sir Francis Popham's endowment was to be used for educational purposes in Chippenham. The money not earmarked for educational purposes was to be distributed to poor freemen or their widows (£6), and the remainder by the trustees to poor persons residing in the borough, after various items had been deducted.<sup>115</sup> In the year end to 30 September 2014 Sir Francis Popham's Charity had an income of £10,640, and its activities were stated to be the benefit of the poor and needy of the parish by annual distribution by trustees.<sup>116</sup>

*Ray's Charity:* Thomas Ray of Salisbury, in his will of 1615, left his house and tenements in Gigant Street, Salisbury to poor clothiers in the towns of Trowbridge, Chippenham, Westbury and Marlborough in turns. By the time of the 1834 report the property consisted of 13 very small tenements in Gigant Street, all in a bad state of repair, for which the total annual rent was £30. From 1817 to 1829 the charity had been administered on behalf of all four towns by Anthony Guy of Chippenham, but on his bankruptcy in 1829 it was found that no proper accounts had been kept, and the distribution had not taken place in accordance with Ray's will. The decision to increase the annual rent on the properties from the £15 charged under Mr Guy may have been prompted by losses of over £43 sustained during Mr Guy's administration.<sup>117</sup>

In 1873 it was decided that the income from Ray's charity, then amounting to about £12 annually, be appropriated for educational purposes.<sup>118</sup> The whole of the property was sold in 1877 for £1,120 and the money invested. The share of the parish of Chippenham in the stock was one fourth.<sup>119</sup>

*Robert Sadler's Charity:* In his will of 1838 Robert Sadler left the interest on £300 with the stipulation that of this no more than £20 annually was to be spent on keeping his tomb in good repair, and the remainder to be spent providing drab cloaks of the type known as 'Duffel' to poor elderly women of the parish of Chippenham. The distribution was to take place on 17 October each year, being his birthday. Sadler's estate was insufficient to provide the proposed endowment of £300, and the charity was established with a sum of £80 17s. By 1903 the charity was distributing coats to men, rather than cloaks to women, perhaps because women were receiving cloaks from Rebekah Church's charity. Eight coats were given away in 1903, though as none had been distributed the previous year the distribution may not have taken

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<sup>115</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 237, 247, 248, 261–2.

<sup>116</sup> <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).

<sup>117</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 235–6.

<sup>118</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 247.

<sup>119</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 248.

place annually.<sup>120</sup> The charity is recorded as registered in 1962 but was removed from the Charity Commission register in 2001.<sup>121</sup>

*Henry Smith's Charity:* In 1642 Henry Smith, a citizen and silversmith of London, left an estate at Longney (Glos.) in trust to the Governors of Christ's Hospital for the benefit of 23 parishes, of which Chippenham was one. The rents from the estates was to be expended for the relief of the poor in the purchase of clothing of one colour with some badge by which the donor might be remembered, or else in the distribution of bread, meat or fish on every Sabbath day, publicly in the church.<sup>122</sup>

In Chippenham the distribution of its share of Henry Smith's gift seems to have been made on or near to St Thomas's Day, 21 December. In 1645 10 men and 15 women were provided with coats at a cost of £8 11s. 4d. There are no accounts or lists of recipients for some years, implying that the coats may not have been distributed annually.<sup>123</sup> By 1766 they were being distributed to men only, and the number of coats distributed had fallen. In that year seven men received coats at a cost of £17 16s. 7½d., and the following year ten coats were distributed.<sup>124</sup> The charity's accounts are incomplete, but by the early years of the 19th century the number of coats had increased. In the months between Michaelmas 1818 and December 1819 27 were distributed; between Michaelmas 1819 and November 1820 23 were given out.<sup>125</sup> This increase may have been due to the use of a cheaper cloth. The badge required by Henry Smith was still sewn on to the coats in 1834.<sup>126</sup>

By 1904 eight or nine coats, of a value of 25s. each, were usually given away each winter. There was no longer any distinctive mark to show that they were the gift of Henry Smith.<sup>127</sup> By 1917 the proceeds were being distributed in the form of beef to the poor.<sup>128</sup> The charity later widened its remit to cover assisting the poor, sick, disabled or elderly within the parish of Chippenham, and to provide funds to be spent on almshouses and facilities within churches and church halls if these were to benefit the poor, infirm or elderly. It was voluntarily removed from the Charity Commission register in 2009.<sup>129</sup>

*Wicks's Charity:* John Wicks, gentleman of Chippenham, died in 1689 and left in his will 8½ a. of land in Pipsmore Field to the minister and churchwardens, to provide clothing for the people of the town.<sup>130</sup> This was to be distributed on 29 March each year to the poor of the town and parish, or on the next day following if 29 March fell on a Sunday. The sum of 6s. 8d. was reserved for the minister and churchwardens. The land was leased by the minister and churchwardens throughout the 18th century.<sup>131</sup> By 1783 William Pope was paying £8 a year rent for the 'Shirt and Shift

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<sup>120</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 270–1.

<sup>121</sup> <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).

<sup>122</sup> Daniell, *History of Chippenham*, 162–5; *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 237; WSA 811/92, vol.1, ff. 1r–3r.

<sup>123</sup> WSA 415/6, ff. 94r–104v.

<sup>124</sup> WSA 811/92, vol. 1, ff. 4v–5r.

<sup>125</sup> WSA 811/92, vol. 1, f. 10r.

<sup>126</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 238.

<sup>127</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 265.

<sup>128</sup> WILBR 5600.

<sup>129</sup> <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).

<sup>130</sup> Daniell, *History of Chippenham*, 164.

<sup>131</sup> WSA 811/92, ff. 1r–2r.

Grounds', though by 1792 the land at Pipsmore was known as the 'Smock-grounds'.<sup>132</sup>

In 1767 27 men and women received garments from the charity, and 24 men and women in 1770.<sup>133</sup> By 1819 the charity was receiving £18 in rent from the land, and distributed 45 shifts to women and 30 shirts to men.<sup>134</sup> By 1837 it was receiving £18 10s. in rent, and was distributing shirts and shifts to 63 men and 94 women.<sup>135</sup> By 1847 72 men and 70 women received garments.<sup>136</sup>

By the time of the 1834 charities' report the distribution had for some time past been made at Christmas rather than March. The land was being let at an annual rent of £18 10s. Rather more shifts than shirts were made each year, but the amounts spent on men and women were equal. The minister and churchwardens give their 6s.8d. to the charity.<sup>137</sup> By 1905 about 50 garments were distributed annually to poor persons in the ancient parish of Chippenham.<sup>138</sup> The charity was still operational in 1917, when 42 garments were made up.<sup>139</sup> The charity was recorded as registered with the Charity Commission in 1962 but was removed in 1998.<sup>140</sup>

### *Medical Practitioners and Hospitals*

About Whitsuntide 1611 Chippenham was visited by a serious outbreak of plague that lasted for some five months. The parish register recorded that 180 people were buried in the year to March 1612, and of those 130 were due to the plague.<sup>141</sup> The outbreak placed a severe strain on the resources of the town, though through the mediation of local magistrates other towns in the locality provided support.<sup>142</sup>

Stringent measures were put in place throughout Wiltshire whenever plague threatened. In January 1666 the Wiltshire magistrates issued an order prohibiting inhabitants of the county from receiving goods from areas known to be affected by the plague, and imposing restrictions on the hospitality that could be offered by innkeepers and on the movements of pedlars and beggars.<sup>143</sup> Such measures seem to have been successful so far as Chippenham was concerned; no further plague epidemics are recorded in the town after 1611.

Plague was not the only infectious disease that could devastate a town. Until widespread vaccination became common, Chippenham faced recurrent outbreaks of smallpox until well into the 19th century. A particularly serious epidemic visited the town in 1711.<sup>144</sup> In 1748 the overseers' accounts include references to an isolation house, probably for smallpox and other infectious diseases, though it is not known for how long this was in existence.<sup>145</sup> Attempts were made to control smallpox outbreaks by providing inoculation at no cost to the poor. A campaign of 1779 saw

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<sup>132</sup> WSA 811/92, vol. 2, ff 19v, 24v.

<sup>133</sup> WSA 811/92, vol. 2, ff. 9r, 66r-66v.

<sup>134</sup> WSA 811/92, vol. 1, f. 11r.

<sup>135</sup> WSA 811/92, vol. 1, ff. 46r-47r.

<sup>136</sup> WSA 811/92, vol. 1, ff. 66r-67r.

<sup>137</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 238.

<sup>138</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 265.

<sup>139</sup> WILBR 5600.

<sup>140</sup> <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).

<sup>141</sup> WSA 811/6.

<sup>142</sup> *VCH Wilts.* v, 319-20; Goldney, *Records of Chippenham*, 38.

<sup>143</sup> WSA 212B/7195.

<sup>144</sup> Daniell, *History of Chippenham*, 102.

<sup>145</sup> WSA 811/126.

429 people inoculated; in 1785 136 received inoculation, and 273 persons in 1793.<sup>146</sup> A handbill of 1829 warned the townspeople that those infected with smallpox risked prosecution if they exposed others to themselves, but also offered vaccination to poor children at no charge.<sup>147</sup> Cholera was another threat, with nine deaths in the town during the epidemic of 1831–2.<sup>148</sup>

Parish register entries suggest that medical practitioners in Chippenham in the early modern period were largely barber-surgeons and apothecaries, rather than physicians.<sup>149</sup> There is little evidence of midwives, though the registers record the burial of midwives Joan Drake in 1588 and Joan Bond in 1622.<sup>150</sup> In 1783 a town directory listed three surgeons practising in Chippenham.<sup>151</sup> By the early 1790s four men were practising in Chippenham as ‘Surgeon, Apothecary and Man-midwife’, and one was practising as an apothecary and druggist.<sup>152</sup>

By 1842 four surgeons were resident in Chippenham, as well as four chemists and druggists.<sup>153</sup> There were still no physicians practising in the town, but the beginnings of modern general practice in Chippenham began to develop during the later 19th century. In 1875 two physicians (both practising as physicians and surgeons) were listed in a trade directory.<sup>154</sup>

Doctors’ fees could be a prohibitive expense for working people, and one option that developed to mitigate the impact of such fees was to join a ‘club’, paying a certain regular amount to cover such costs. In the years before the National Health Service one Chippenham practice operated such a club whereby each family paid 1s. per month to cover all medicines and fees.<sup>155</sup>

Chippenham lacked any hospital provision until 1899, when a cottage hospital was built along London Road, with eight beds.<sup>156</sup> By 1903 it could accommodate 16 patients and had an operating theatre.<sup>157</sup> Later known as the District Hospital, it continued to serve the town until 1994, when the site was sold and the buildings demolished.<sup>158</sup>

Also in 1899 the Joint Isolation Hospital for the district was built on a then-rural site at Frogwell.<sup>159</sup> It had 32 beds, and was built at an eventual cost of £1,372.<sup>160</sup> The hospital was later renamed Frogwell Hospital. In 1987 it had 13 general practitioner beds, a ten-bed unit for young disabled persons, and physiotherapy facilities.<sup>161</sup> In 1995 the site, along Lords Mead, was put up for sale with planning permission for residential development.<sup>162</sup>

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<sup>146</sup> *VCH Wilts.* v, 323.

<sup>147</sup> WSA 811/100.

<sup>148</sup> *VCH Wilts.* v, 324.

<sup>149</sup> WSA 811/6, 7; Peter Elmer, research document on Wiltshire medical practitioners, n.d.

<sup>150</sup> WSA 811/6.

<sup>151</sup> *Early Trade Dirs* (W.R.S. xlvii).

<sup>152</sup> *Early Trade Dirs* (W.R.S. xlvii).

<sup>153</sup> *Early Trade Dirs* (W.R.S. xlvii).

<sup>154</sup> *Kelly’s Dir. Wilts.* (1875).

<sup>155</sup> WSA 4236/7.

<sup>156</sup> WILBR B9392; *Burdett’s Hosp. Annual* (1899), 370.

<sup>157</sup> *Kelly’s Dir. Wilts.* (1903); WSA 4236/7.

<sup>158</sup> WILBR B9392; WSA 4236/7.

<sup>159</sup> WSA J1/166/1.

<sup>160</sup> *Kelly’s Dir. Wilts.* (1911).

<sup>161</sup> WSA J1/164/15.

<sup>162</sup> WILBR B2217.

During the First World War a Red Cross hospital, staffed with Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurses, operated in the Town Hall, which had been altered for the purpose. The first patients arrived on 5 November 1915. Demand was such that the original provision of 40 beds was inadequate; a further 40 were added in August 1916, and by November 1916 100 beds were available. By this time the hospital had expanded into the Neeld Hall and the Corn Exchange.<sup>163</sup>

Maternity provision in the years immediately after the First World War was basic. Most births still took place at home, though provision for pregnant women improved when in 1924 a scheme was introduced in Wiltshire to allow expectant mothers two free ante-natal examinations.<sup>164</sup> A county council infant welfare clinic opened at Chippenham in 1925.<sup>165</sup> Complicated midwifery cases were referred to the maternity home in Corsham until a new facility was opened in Chippenham in the early days of the National Health Service.<sup>166</sup> This was situated in the Greenways area of the town, and has since been demolished.<sup>167</sup>

St Andrew's Hospital was established shortly after the creation of the National Health Service in the 1859 workhouse buildings at Rowden Hill, by then known as the Chippenham Public Assistance Institution. Nearby Rowden Hill House became a nurses' home.<sup>168</sup> By 1959 the hospital had 156 beds and 56 nursing staff.<sup>169</sup> Although many new buildings were later added to the site, as of 2015 the original 1859 workhouse building remained, and the hospital, now Chippenham Community Hospital, was continuing to serve the town.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

### *Law and Order*

A 19th-century historian branded Chippenham as 'notorious for riotous assemblages of the populace'.<sup>170</sup> Shortly after the town received its charter in 1554 some persons were fined for riots and unlawful assemblies, and in 1630 there were disturbances at the enclosure of Pewsham forest. In 1647 the townspeople attacked some excise officers and the quarters of Sir Thomas Fairfax's troops. A turnpike gate was destroyed in a riot in 1727. Further riots were reported in 1765 and 1767.<sup>171</sup>

Rioting was not the only violent crime to occur in the town. In July 1643 William Iles was killed by a soldier in St Mary's Street.<sup>172</sup> Highwaymen robbed racegoers in 1742.<sup>173</sup> In 1782 William Pease robbed the Chippenham mail coach. He was executed in Salisbury for his crime the following year, and his body was brought back to Chippenham to be hung in chains near the site of the crime.<sup>174</sup> Chippenham also saw other serious crime, such as an arson attack on a flour mill in 1816.<sup>175</sup>

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<sup>163</sup> WSA 1769/56.

<sup>164</sup> WSA 4236/7.

<sup>165</sup> *VCH Wilts.* v, 335.

<sup>166</sup> *VCH Wilts.* v, 335; WSA 4236/7.

<sup>167</sup> *Buttercross Bulletin*, 77 (Nov. 1995), 4–5.

<sup>168</sup> WILBR B4404; WSA 1911/8HC, 9HC.

<sup>169</sup> *Wiltshire Times*, 11 Sept. 1959.

<sup>170</sup> J.J. Daniell, *The History of Chippenham* (1894) 107.

<sup>171</sup> Daniell, *History of Chippenham*, 107–8; F. H. Goldney (ed.), *Records of Chippenham* (1889), xi–xvii.

<sup>172</sup> 811/6.

<sup>173</sup> *Stamford Mercury*, 26 Aug. 1742, 3; *Derby Mercury*, 26 Aug. 1742, 3.

<sup>174</sup> WAM xlvi (1937–9), 429.

<sup>175</sup> WSA 1959/5, 132–3; *Morning Chronicle*, 3 December 1816.

The perceived threat to law and order, including poaching, prompted several Wiltshire towns to establish prosecuting societies in the first half of the 19th century. Chippenham's society was founded in 1809 as the Chippenham Association for the Prevention of Robbery and Thefts and the Protection of the Persons and Property of the Members. It was funded by membership subscriptions, which were used to fund rewards for information leading to the conviction of offenders. Handbills were distributed advertising rewards in cases where members had been the victims of crime. The society would also contribute towards the costs of prosecution lawyers and witnesses in criminal cases. It is not known when the society ceased to operate, or whether its existence was continuous, but it was recorded as meeting in 1868 as the Chippenham Town Association for the Prosecution of Felons.<sup>176</sup>

Occasional riots still occurred in the town nevertheless. In September 1822 a dispute between the men of Chippenham and Kington Langley led to rioting on the streets of Chippenham in which two men were killed and several people injured. Eleven rioters were committed for trial at the Lent Assizes of 1823, of whom nine were discharged, and the remaining two men acquitted.<sup>177</sup> During November and December 1830 Chippenham itself remained untouched during the agricultural rioting which took place in the district (despite arson at Pewsham), but apparently only because the rioters fled on hearing a rumour that troops were coming.<sup>178</sup>

At the parliamentary election for the borough in July 1865, the Liberal candidate William Lysley lost to the two Conservative candidates, Sir John Neeld and Gabriel Goldney. Lysley's supporters rioted, attacking the premises of known Conservative supporters, and caused damage estimated at over £1,000.<sup>179</sup> In 1874 the diarist Francis Kilvert wrote of threatening behaviour by the mob at another borough election. This passed off more peacefully, but the disturbance may have been behind the resolution passed later that year to appoint two police constables for the borough, rather than one.<sup>180</sup>

A borough lock-up was situated under the council chamber in the Old Town Hall, now Yelde Hall. It is not clear when it ceased to be used, although it was still described as the borough lock-up in council records of 1888.<sup>181</sup>

### *Inns and Public Houses*

Chippenham, as a market town, had many inns. An early record is of the Bell Inn in High Street, known as such in 1326.<sup>182</sup> By 1620 there were four inns and eleven alehouses.<sup>183</sup> An account of accommodation in Chippenham in 1686, compiled for the purpose of billeting soldiers, recorded 164 guest beds in Chippenham (including Tytherton Kellaways), and stabling for 208 horses. In Wiltshire only Bradford on Avon, Chippenham, Marlborough, Salisbury and Warminster had more than 100 guest beds, and of these Chippenham had the greatest number of guest beds after Salisbury.<sup>184</sup>

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<sup>176</sup> WSA 415/439.

<sup>177</sup> WSA 541/3.

<sup>178</sup> Daniell, *History of Chippenham*, 110–11.

<sup>179</sup> WSA 137/99.

<sup>180</sup> W. Plomer (ed.), *Selections from the Diary of the Rev. Francis Kilvert*, vol. 2 (London, 1969), 407–10; Goldney, *Records of Chippenham*, 176.

<sup>181</sup> Goldney, *Records of Chippenham*, 185, 186.

<sup>182</sup> J. S. Davies (ed.), *Tropenell Cartulary*, vol. 1 (Devizes, 1908), 81.

<sup>183</sup> N. J. Williams (ed.), *Tradesmen in Early-Stuart Wiltshire* (W.R.S. xv), 25–7.

<sup>184</sup> J. Chandler, 'Accommodation and Travel in Pre-Turnpike Wiltshire', *WAM* 84 (1991), 83–95, at 85.

By 1745–7 there were 29 licensed premises in the town,<sup>185</sup> but this total had fallen by 1830, when 2 inns and 17 taverns and public houses were listed in Chippenham.<sup>186</sup> Despite the coming of the railway in 1841 the number remained static; 16 hotels and public houses were listed as late as 1875, when there were also seven beer retailers;<sup>187</sup> by 1899 Chippenham still had only 18 hotels and public houses, though by this date a trade directory listed a commercial hotel and a temperance hotel in addition.<sup>188</sup> By 1939 there were 23 hotels and public houses, as well as two temperance hotels, in Chippenham Within, and a public house in Chippenham Without.<sup>189</sup>

### *Benefit and Friendly Societies*

Friendly societies flourished during the late 18th and 19th centuries. They acted as benefit clubs to provide financial support in cases of sickness and death, though their social aspect was also important.<sup>190</sup> A number of benefit and friendly societies were established in Chippenham during the 19th century, usually holding their meetings in one of the town's inns. Under the Friendly Society Acts from 1793 to 1855 such societies had to have their rules enrolled and certified. The earliest known Chippenham society to be enrolled was the Society of Broad and Narrow Cloth Weavers in 1794. This was followed by an un-named friendly society meeting at the Bear Inn in 1806, the Friendly Society of Clothworkers (1807), the Royal Oak and Friendly Society of Handicraft Tradesmen (1808), the Tradesmen's Philanthropic Society (1833), a friendly society meeting at the Great Western Inn (1837), the Order of Odd Fellows (1844), the Chippenham Friendly Society meeting in the vestry of the Baptist chapel (1851), the Ancient Order of Foresters (1853) and the Wiltshire Loyal and Independent Benefit Society (1854).<sup>191</sup>

Some of these societies may have been short-lived. By 1847 only three societies founded up to that date were active in Chippenham; the Tradesman's Philanthropic Society, the Odd Fellows, and an un-named society meeting at the Three Crowns Inn, possibly the same as that previously meeting in the Great Western Inn. This folded in 1855. The Wiltshire Loyal and Independent Benefit Society lasted less than two years, closing in 1856.<sup>192</sup>

The societies often held an annual dinner or similar event around Whitsuntide. The Unity and Loyalty Lodge of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows held their annual festival in May 1888, where it was reported that the Chippenham branch had spent £120 in sick pay and £52 in funeral allowances during the previous year.<sup>193</sup>

Benefit and friendly societies continued to operate in the town well into the 20th century. In 1939 the Wiltshire Working Men's Conservative Benefit Society, the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society, Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows, Pioneer Sick Benefit & Provident Society, the United Patriots Benefit Society, the Royal Liver Friendly Society, the Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society and the Stroud

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<sup>185</sup> WSA A1/325/6, 8.

<sup>186</sup> *Pigot's Dir Wilts* (1830).

<sup>187</sup> *Kelly's Dir Wilts* (1875).

<sup>188</sup> *Kelly's Dir Wilts* (1899).

<sup>189</sup> *Kelly's Dir Wilts* (1939).

<sup>190</sup> D. Hey (ed.), *The Oxford Companion to Local and Family History* (Oxford, 1998), 195.

<sup>191</sup> WSA A1/390. It is not known at which Baptist chapel the Chippenham Friendly Society was meeting.

<sup>192</sup> WSA A1/390.

<sup>193</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gaz.*, 24 May 1888, 8.

Mutual Benefit Society were all listed in a trade directory, along with a Freemasons' lodge. While some of these societies may have retained their role as social clubs, as well as providing financial support to members in need, the role of many of these societies were more akin to financial institutions than the benefit and friendly societies of the previous century.<sup>194</sup>

### *Recreation*

A 'new recreation ground' opened in 1889.<sup>195</sup> A recreation ground is shown on a map of 1912 along Cocklebury Road, behind the secondary school.<sup>196</sup> This may have later become part of the school grounds.

John Coles, a Birmingham chemist, settled in Chippenham, and on his death in 1916 left £4,000 for the culture and education of the people of the town. His legacy contributed towards the purchase of 15 a. of land as a recreation ground.<sup>197</sup> The park, known as John Coles Park, opened in 1923.<sup>198</sup> That summer it hosted a carnival and display of motor vehicles in aid of the Cottage Hospital.<sup>199</sup>

The private estate of Monkton Park was sold in 1919.<sup>200</sup> By c. 1960 it was in council ownership, and as the housing estates around it were built, the grounds were developed for recreational purposes. A golf course was established, and an open-air swimming pool built.<sup>201</sup>

By 2016 Chippenham had two recreation grounds; John Coles Park and Monkton Park. A third facility, Stanley Park, had been established as a sports ground.

### *Libraries and Museum*

The Chippenham Literary and Scientific Institution was founded in 1833. At its first annual meeting in 1834 it had 45 members and 78 volumes in its library. Various artefacts and scientific apparatus had been donated, including a pair of globes from Joseph Neeld, then M.P. for the borough. By 1835 the society had use of a room in which to house its library and collections,<sup>202</sup> and by 1875 it was based in premises on the Market Place.<sup>203</sup> In 1887, in celebration of the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria, it was proposed that a purpose-built building be erected in the Market Place for a literary and scientific institution; this building, to be used by the inhabitants of the town and beyond for purposes connected with science, literature and the arts, was opened by 1889. The land was gifted by Sir John Neeld.<sup>204</sup>

In 1925 Chippenham Council decide to establish a branch of the county library scheme in the town, worked by voluntary effort and without cost to the rates.<sup>205</sup> By 1939 the library was established in the Market Place, and was also the office for the

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<sup>194</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1939).

<sup>195</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gaz.*, 7 Nov. 1889, 3.

<sup>196</sup> OS xx.14, 1:2500 scale, 1912.

<sup>197</sup> M. Stone, *Chippenham Then & Now* (Stroud, 2011), 16–17.

<sup>198</sup> WSA 1769/97(i).

<sup>199</sup> *Wiltshire Times*, 21 Jul. 1923, 5.

<sup>200</sup> WSA G19/155/7.

<sup>201</sup> M. Stone, *Chippenham Then & Now* (Stroud, 2011), 48–49; M. Stone, *Chippenham (Town and City Memories)* (2006).

<sup>202</sup> WSA G19/992/1.

<sup>203</sup> WSA 415/465; *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1875).

<sup>204</sup> WSA G19/150/50.

<sup>205</sup> *Western Daily Press*, 23 Jul. 1925, 9.

Literary and Scientific Institution.<sup>206</sup> A purpose built public library, which served as divisional headquarters of Wiltshire Library & Museum Service, was opened in Timber Street in 1973, and remained in use in 2018.<sup>207</sup>

Other libraries may also have been established in the town. A working men's library is known to have existed at Landsend in 1857.<sup>208</sup> A Boots library was operating in Chippenham in 1949.<sup>209</sup>

Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre opened in 2000 in premises fronting the Market Place.

### *Cultural Life*

There was no cinema in Chippenham before the First World War, but moving picture shows were occasionally shown at Poole's Yard and in a wooden shack near St Paul's school. A public hall and roller-skating rink had been built along Station Hill in 1910, and films were shown there from 1911.<sup>210</sup> In 1913 the hall was leased to Albany Ward, who operated several cinemas in the west country. He refurbished it as the Palace cinema, whose façade can still be seen on Station Hill.<sup>211</sup> The Chippenham Public Hall and Skating Rink Ltd voluntarily wound itself up in 1920 and Ward may have given up the lease at this point.<sup>212</sup> The Palace cinema continued to operate until 1936, when the Gaumont cinema opened in Timber Street.<sup>213</sup> The Astoria cinema opened in Marshfield Road c. 1938.<sup>214</sup>

The Cause music and arts venue opened in 2002. The building had been sold to North Wilts District Council, who left it vacant for many years before putting it on the market in 2000.<sup>215</sup> In 2015 another venue, the Neeld Community and Arts Centre, was re-opened following a major refurbishment.<sup>216</sup>

### *Sport*

Horseracing is known to have taken place in Chippenham in the 18th century. Robberies took place at a race meeting held in 1742, and there are newspaper reports of racing taking place in the 1760s and 1790s.<sup>217</sup> Race meetings may not have been held continuously during the 18th and early 19th centuries, but several races took place in the town during the period 1808–16.<sup>218</sup> This appears to have been followed by a period in which no meetings were held, as an attempt was made in 1839 to re-establish horseracing in the town. As the land was owned by the corporation (suggesting that races had been held on the borough lands), the mayor was able to

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<sup>206</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1939).

<sup>207</sup> Information from Dr John Chandler.

<sup>208</sup> *Somerset and Wilts. Jnl.*, 19 Dec. 1857.

<sup>209</sup> *Wiltshire Times*, 17 Sept. 1949, 2.

<sup>210</sup> WSA G19 760/57; Sheldon School, *Early Cinema in Chippenham 1911–1936* (1984).

<sup>211</sup> Sheldon School, *Early Cinema in Chippenham 1911–1936* (1984).

<sup>212</sup> WSA G19/994/9.

<sup>213</sup> Sheldon School, *Early Cinema in Chippenham 1911–1936* (1984).

<sup>214</sup> WSA G19 760/404, 428.

<sup>215</sup> <http://thecausemusicandarts.com/history-of-the-building/> (accessed 18 Feb. 2016).

<sup>216</sup> *Talk Chippenham* (Autumn 2015), 1; <http://www.chippenham.gov.uk/neeld/> (accessed 29 Mar. 2016).

<sup>217</sup> *Stamford Mercury*, 26 Aug. 1742, 3; *Derby Mercury*, 26 Aug. 1742, 3; *Bath Chron.*, 20 Sept. 1764, 4; *Salisbury and Winchester Jnl.*, 8 Sept. 1766, 3; *Bath Chron.*, 19 Sept. 1793 3; 30 Aug. 1798, 3.

<sup>218</sup> *VCH Wilts IV*, 381; J. H. Thomas, 'Society, economy and sport in Wiltshire 1700–1914: some initial thoughts', *WAM* 102 (2009), 275–87, at 281.

defeat the proposal over concerns of immorality at such occasions.<sup>219</sup> Race meetings are known to have been held in 1857 and in 1898, with at least one further meeting in 1901.<sup>220</sup>

A Chippenham football club was formed c. 1873,<sup>221</sup> and was active throughout the 1880s.<sup>222</sup> Before the Second World War the two main clubs in the town were Chippenham Town and Chippenham Rovers. After the war a surge of interest in the game saw attendance increase to the extent that over 2,000 people are said to have attended matches by either team.<sup>223</sup> A third team, Chippenham United, was formed in 1947. United became a professional team in 1948 with a reserve team of amateurs, playing on a ground at The Firs, Hungerdown Road. Declining interest in the game resulted in Chippenham Rovers amalgamating in 1960 with Corsham, on whose ground Rovers had been playing. United folded in 1962, and their ground became a residential development.<sup>224</sup> Of the three teams, Chippenham Town alone was still playing in 2017, based at its ground at Hardenhuish Park on the Bristol Road.

A cricket match was played at Chippenham races in 1798, although it was not until 1837 that a cricket club was established in the town.<sup>225</sup> By 1888 there may have been three cricket clubs meeting in Chippenham, the Town, Langley Burrell and Avon clubs, though it appears that the Avon club later disbanded. The Town club eventually secured a permanent ground at Hardenhuish Park in 1889, where it was still playing in 1959.<sup>226</sup>

In 1878 agreement was reached for a bathing place at the edge of the River Avon, with the tenants allowed to erect a shed for bathers to change.<sup>227</sup> A swimming club may have been founded in the town, c. 1877, and the bathing place became its base. It was in use until shortly after the Second World War.<sup>228</sup> In 1948 the baths were closed following concerns over pollution from the open river. Swimmers had to use facilities in other towns until a public open-air swimming pool was opened at Monkton Park in 1960.<sup>229</sup> A new indoor swimming pool was opened at the Olympiad sports centre in 1989, and despite local opposition the Monkton Park baths were demolished.<sup>230</sup>

Other sports are known to have been played in the town from the late 19th century onwards. Chippenham Hockey Club was formed in 1890.<sup>231</sup> A golf club was

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<sup>219</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Jnl.*, 9 Sept. 1839, 4; 30 Sept. 1839, 4.

<sup>220</sup> *Hampshire Advertiser*, 10 Oct. 1857, 4; *Bath Chron.*, 25 Aug. 1898, 5; *Sporting Life*, 7 Nov. 1901, 2.

<sup>221</sup> Thomas, *WAM* 102 (2009), 275-87, at 284.

<sup>222</sup> *Bristol Mercury*, 23 Feb. 1886, 6; *Bath Chron.*, 11 Aug. 1887, 2; *Devizes and Wiltshire Gaz.*, 15 Mar. 1888, 8.

<sup>223</sup> D. Twydell, *Defunct F. C.: Club Histories and Statistics* (s.l., n.d.), 63, 65.

<sup>224</sup> Twydell, *Defunct F. C.*, 67, 68, 82, 90, 92-3.

<sup>225</sup> *Bath Chron.*, 30 Aug. 1798, 3; *Salisbury and Winchester Jnl.*, 3 Jul. 1837, 3; *Southampton Herald*, 16 Sept. 1837, 2.

<sup>226</sup> Wiltshire Museum Library Mss 282 Box 244 Chippenham Cricket Club, typescript 'Chippenham Cricket Club 1842-1959' by Arnold Platts and H. S. Northover.

<sup>227</sup> WSA 1769/53.

<sup>228</sup> WSA G19/760/112; *Bath Chron.*, 22 Mar. 1900, 7; *Wiltshire Times*, 20 Feb. 1909, 5; *Wiltshire Times*, 9 Oct. 1954, 12; M. Stone, *Chippenham Then & Now* (Stroud, 2011), 48-9.

<sup>229</sup> WSA G19/168/1; *Wiltshire Times*, 9 Oct. 1954, 12; M. Stone, *Chippenham Then & Now* (Stroud, 2011), 48-9.

<sup>230</sup> WSA 3632/4/5; M. Stone, *Chippenham Then & Now* (Stroud, 2011), 48-9.

<sup>231</sup> Wiltshire Museum Library Mss 282 Box 244 Chippenham Cricket Club, typescript 'Chippenham Cricket Club 1842-1959' by Arnold Platts and H. S. Northover.

established in 1896.<sup>232</sup> The cricket ground at Hardenhuish Park was used for archery practice, and a bowls club was established at Hardenhuish Park in 1912. Croquet may also have been played on the site.<sup>233</sup> Lawn tennis was played in 1886 on two courts at Pond's Island.<sup>234</sup> A tennis club is known to have been established by 1930,<sup>235</sup> and by 1934 the club was playing on courts at Hardenhuish Park, where the game was still being played in 1951.<sup>236</sup>

By 1938 the following sports clubs were using the Hardenhuish Park sports ground: tennis, cricket, bowls, hockey and croquet.<sup>237</sup>

By 2016, in addition to the tennis and bowling facilities at John Coles Park, sports facilities were also provided at the Stanley Park sports centre. These included an artificial grass pitch and a BMX track, as well as facilities for local football clubs.<sup>238</sup> Other facilities in the town included the Olympiad swimming pool and golf facilities at Monkton Park.

### *Allotments*

In 1840 Joseph Neeld gave a grant of land for allotments for the deserving cottagers in his neighbourhood, and £3 to be distributed to those whose allotments were the best cultivated. It is not clear where these allotments were situated.<sup>239</sup> Allotment gardening was well-established in the town by 1878, when classes for allotment holders were part of that year's horticultural show.<sup>240</sup>

The Allotments Act of 1887 required local authorities to provide allotments if there was a demand, but the following year it was reported that Chippenham was already well-supplied with plots.<sup>241</sup> Maps of 1886 and 1900 show several allotment sites in and around the town, though many of these were later lost to Chippenham's expanding residential development.<sup>242</sup> These included the allotment gardens at London Road by the Quaker burial ground, which was developed for housing between 1924 and 1937.<sup>243</sup>

Allotment land was not entirely lost to development, and by 2016 Chippenham Garden & Allotment Society was managing six allotment sites on behalf of Chippenham Town Council.<sup>244</sup>

### *Societies and Events*

As a market town Chippenham was a focus for cultural life in the locality, and a number of societies are known to have existed in the town, though the existence of

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<sup>232</sup> WSA 3010/19.

<sup>233</sup> Wiltshire Museum Library Mss 282 Box 244 Chippenham Cricket Club, typescript 'Cricket' (s.n.).

<sup>234</sup> Wiltshire Museum Library Mss 282 Box 244 Chippenham Cricket Club, typescript 'Cricket' (s.n.).

<sup>235</sup> OS xxvi.2.4, 1:500 scale, 1886; Wiltshire Museum Library Mss 282 Box 244 Chippenham Cricket Club, typescript 'Chippenham Cricket Club 1842-1959' by Arnold Platts and H. S. Northover.

<sup>236</sup> WSA 4055/1-2.

<sup>237</sup> WSA 4055/1, 206-7.

<sup>238</sup> <http://www.chippenham.gov.uk/stanley-park/> (accessed 29 Mar. 2016).

<sup>239</sup> *Bristol Mercury*, 4 Apr. 1840, 2.

<sup>240</sup> *Bristol Mercury*, 29 Aug. 1878, 3.

<sup>241</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette*, 8 Mar. 1888, 8.

<sup>242</sup> OS xx.14, 1:2500 scale, 1886, 1900, 1912, 1924, 1936.

<sup>243</sup> OS xxvi.2, 1:2500 scale, 1924, 1937.

<sup>244</sup> <https://chippenhamallotments.wordpress.com/> (accessed 26 Apr. 2016).

many of them may have been short-lived. A book club may have been established in 1809, and there are records of a book club from 1812, 1829 and 1862.<sup>245</sup>

Chippenham has had an active music scene at least since the early 19th century. James Morris Coombs, composer, and organist at St Andrew's church from 1789 until his death in 1820, published several of his own sacred and secular compositions, and edited the anthology *Divine Amusement* (1819–20). He was director of music at benefit services held in Bremhill and Chippenham for the dependants of those who fell at Waterloo.<sup>246</sup> His son, James Morris Coombs II, also a composer, succeeded him as organist, and directed a one-day festival of music in Chippenham in 1822.<sup>247</sup>

The 19th century also saw a secular music scene develop in Chippenham, with performances by both local and visiting musicians.<sup>248</sup> The Chippenham Harmonic Society was founded in 1838, and the Chippenham Choral Association in 1858.<sup>249</sup> Musical activity in the town continued up to the First World War, with a Gilbert and Sullivan society founded in 1911, and the Chippenham Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society in 1913.<sup>250</sup> Although musical and dramatic performances in the town were affected by both world wars, productions resumed in peace-time.<sup>251</sup>

Horticultural and related societies became popular in the 19th century, holding annual competitions and displays. A dahlia society held its first annual show in 1835.<sup>252</sup> A horticultural society was established c. 1871.<sup>253</sup> Horticultural shows were particularly popular in the early years of the 20th century, with shows held at various times for spring flowers, sweet peas, roses and chrysanthemums.<sup>254</sup> A flower club for floral art was established in 1962, and continued to put on floral displays in the parish church and other venues in 2017.<sup>255</sup>

A Temperance Society was established in the town by 1863, when Revd Robert Martyn Ashe sold land to Chippenham Temperance Society for the sum of £425.<sup>256</sup> A Temperance Hall in Foghamshire had been built by the 1870s.<sup>257</sup> In 1874 the diarist Revd Francis Kilvert, whose father was rector of Langley Burrell, recorded taking a group of children to the Temperance Hall in Chippenham to see a panorama of the African travels of Dr Livingstone.<sup>258</sup>

Brass band music became popular in the late 19th century. The Salvation Army formed a brass band in 1886.<sup>259</sup> A town band, known as the Chippenham Town Silver Band, had formed by the late 1890s. It eventually became a leading band in the

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<sup>245</sup> WSA 1769/74.

<sup>246</sup> C. Kent, *Music, Organs and Composers of St. Andrew's Parish Church Chippenham*, draft, 2016, 17–33, 147–8.

<sup>247</sup> Kent, *Music, Organs and Composers*, 35–46, 148.

<sup>248</sup> WSA G19/996/1; Kent, *Music, Organs and Composers*, 62.

<sup>249</sup> Kent, *Music, Organs and Composers*, 62.

<sup>250</sup> WSA G19/996/2.

<sup>251</sup> WSA G19/996/1, 2.

<sup>252</sup> *Devizes and Wiltshire Gaz.*, 17 Sept. 1835, 3.

<sup>253</sup> *Wiltshire Independent*, 3 Sept. 1874, 2.

<sup>254</sup> WSA G19/990/6.

<sup>255</sup> *Buttercross Bulletin*, 165 (Aug. 2017), 20–1.

<sup>256</sup> WSA G19/998/2.

<sup>257</sup> *Spinke's Illustrated Penny Chippenham Almanac and Directory* (1877).

<sup>258</sup> W. Plomer (ed.), *Selections from the Diary of the Rev. Francis Kilvert*, vol. 3 (London, 1969), 121.

<sup>259</sup> *The Local Officer*, Jun. 1905, 412; programme for Jubilee Celebrations 1881–1931, in Chippenham Salvation Army Corps History book, 1938–1974.

Wessex Brass Band Association, but a fall in membership led to its closure in 1953. It was reformed in 1992 as a military style wind band, known as the Chippenham Town Band.<sup>260</sup>

Weekend festivals have sometimes been held to celebrate the music of American singer Eddie Cochran, fatally injured in a car accident on Rowden Hill in 1960.<sup>261</sup> The town also hosts an annual folk music festival, the 47th such festival being held in 2018.<sup>262</sup> The folk festival has a long connection with a morris side founded in 1977, the Chippenham Town Morris Men.<sup>263</sup>

## EDUCATION

### *Before 1900*

Little is known of education in medieval Chippenham, although a grammar school may have existed in the town in the 1420s.<sup>264</sup>

In 1656–7 the churchwardens' accounts of St Andrew's noted a payment to workmen for viewing the vestry where a schoolhouse was intended, but it is not certain if a school was established.<sup>265</sup> In 1674 the Presbyterian Benjamin Flower was presented by the churchwardens of St Andrew's for teaching school, possibly without a licence.<sup>266</sup>

By his will of 1661 Richard Scott left his house in Cook Street for the use of a schoolmaster, if a school should be established.<sup>267</sup> William Woodroffe, by his will of 1664, gave an annuity of £5 to be paid annually out of lands in Chippenham called the Breach to a schoolmaster for teaching ten poor boys.<sup>268</sup> The free school seems to have been established following Woodroffe's bequest in the house left by Scott, but it was not until 1733 that it was eventually conveyed for this purpose to the bailiff and burgesses by Scott's great-grandson, also Richard Scott, who gave the sum of £20 towards repairs.<sup>269</sup>

A school opened in 1713 for 24 boys, which was endowed with £10 a year in land, and £20 a year subscribed by the inhabitants and neighbouring gentry. It was still in existence in 1730.<sup>270</sup> This may be the free school or another, otherwise unknown, charity school. In 1735 there was a grammar school in the town which taught 46 boys under the headship of William Thomas Daudett, a churchgoer who brought his pupils to church regularly. There was another, smaller, school in the town led by one Daniel Berry, a drunkard previously gaoled for fraud.<sup>271</sup>

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<sup>260</sup> *Buttercross Bulletin*, 166 (Nov. 2017), 17–19,

<sup>261</sup>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/wiltshire/content/articles/2009/02/27/the\\_death\\_of\\_eddie\\_cochran\\_feature.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/wiltshire/content/articles/2009/02/27/the_death_of_eddie_cochran_feature.shtml) (accessed 26 Apr. 2016).

<sup>262</sup> <https://www.chippfolk.co.uk/> (accessed 22 Dec. 2017).

<sup>263</sup> *Buttercross Bulletin*, 165 (Aug. 2017), 21–4.

<sup>264</sup> N. Orme, *Education in the West of England 1066-1548* (1976), 40.

<sup>265</sup> WSA 415/6, f. 59v.

<sup>266</sup> WSA D1/54/6/1, Chippenham. See below, religious history.

<sup>267</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 234.

<sup>268</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 234–5.

<sup>269</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 234–5.

<sup>270</sup> T. Cox, *A Compleat History of Wiltshire* ([1730]), 198.

<sup>271</sup> WSA D1/47/3.

Mary Bridges, in her will of 1764, left £10 for the use of the free school. In 1774 the money left by Mrs Bridges and the interest earned to that date was invested to provide an annual payment of 15s. to the schoolmaster for teaching two poor boys.<sup>272</sup>

By 1834 the house in Cook Street bequeathed by Richard Scott was used as both the school house and lodgings for the schoolmaster of the free school. Ten poor boys were instructed through William Woodroffe's gift, and two through the gift of Mary Bridges. There were a further 22 paying scholars,<sup>273</sup> which had reduced to 16 by 1858.<sup>274</sup>

Robert Cock, vicar of Chippenham, by his will of 1719, left the residue of his estate for the establishment and support of a charity school for girls. After Cock's death in 1724 a field along the Bristol road was purchased by the trustees, and the rent used to support a schoolmistress.<sup>275</sup> By 1825, when the money was transferred to the new National School for girls, 25 girls were being taught at the school.<sup>276</sup>

A number of small independent schools were established in the town, particularly before widespread provision of denominational education. The evidence of newspaper advertisements suggest that many were short-lived, though the boys' school run by Richard Weaver opened in 1786 and remained in the town until Weaver relocated to Corsham in 1801.<sup>277</sup> A trade directory of 1830 listed five independent schools, including one commercial school.<sup>278</sup> In 1858 there were five dame schools in Chippenham, with about 90 children under instruction.<sup>279</sup> These would have been held in private houses and provided a basic education.<sup>280</sup>

A National (Church of England) school began in 1824.<sup>281</sup> By 1833 there were 104 boys and 56 girls attending the school on weekdays, and 114 boys and 67 girls attending Sunday classes.<sup>282</sup> Despite an annual income of £8 from Cock's gift and additional charitable donations of around £22, the school was struggling to stay solvent.<sup>283</sup> Nevertheless, with the aid of a Treasury grant of £170, new school buildings were erected in 1836 for 500 children.<sup>284</sup> By 1858 a mixed school of 100 to 120 children was taught by an uncertificated master in a large upper room. Below this room was an infants' classroom where another 100 to 120 children were taught by an uncertificated mistress.<sup>285</sup> By 1876 the school had an average attendance of 222 pupils, although it had accommodation for 522 children.<sup>286</sup>

A British (non-conformist) school was opened in 1844 in Ladds Lane.<sup>287</sup> It moved to a new site on Wood Lane in 1858.<sup>288</sup> In 1858 about 90 to 100 boys were

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<sup>272</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 235.

<sup>273</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 235.

<sup>274</sup> *Acct. of Wilts. Schs.* 14–15.

<sup>275</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 239, 266.

<sup>276</sup> WSA 4332/69.

<sup>277</sup> *Bath Chronicle*, 29 Jun. 1786; *Salisbury Journal*, 20 Jul. 1801.

<sup>278</sup> *Pigot's Dir. Wilts.* (1830), 795.

<sup>279</sup> *Acct. of Wilts. Schs.* 14–15.

<sup>280</sup> *Acct. of Wilts. Schs.* 14–15.

<sup>281</sup> A. Platts, *Wiltshire Schools: a short history* (n.d.).

<sup>282</sup> Platts, *Wiltshire Schools*.

<sup>283</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 239.

<sup>284</sup> Platts, *Wiltshire Schools*.

<sup>285</sup> *Acct. of Wilts. Schs.* 14–15.

<sup>286</sup> *Return of public elementary schools, 1875–6* [C. 1882], H.C. (1877), lxvii, 280–1.

<sup>287</sup> Platts, *Wiltshire Schools*; *Slater's Dir.* (1852–3).

<sup>288</sup> Platts, *Wiltshire Schools*.

taught by a master and 70 to 80 girls by a mistress, both uncertificated.<sup>289</sup> A subscription appeal from 1868 records one department for boys, and another for girls and infants.<sup>290</sup> In 1876 the school had accommodation for 201 pupils, and an average attendance of 157.<sup>291</sup> The school was extended in 1898–9, and became Westmead Council School in 1905.<sup>292</sup>

A small school for Roman Catholic children was established in the newly-opened chapel in the town in 1855. In 1866 the Sisters of St Joseph of Annecy opened a convent in Marshfield Road, and ran a school until their removal to Malmesbury in 1884. Chippenham was then without a Catholic school until 1938.<sup>293</sup>

Land was conveyed for St Paul's National school in 1857 and the school opened in 1858 at a cost of £1,767.<sup>294</sup> Sixty to seventy boys were taught by an untrained master preparing for certification, with the assistance of a pupil teacher, and 70 to 80 girls by an uncertificated mistress, also with the assistance of a pupil teacher. Housing for teachers adjoined the school.<sup>295</sup> By 1876 St Paul's school was recorded as having accommodation for 324 pupils, and an average attendance of 188.<sup>296</sup> The increase in population in St Paul's parish during the 19th century saw a separate department for 99 infants added in 1896.<sup>297</sup>

Boys and girls living in the Chippenham Union Workhouse attended school in the workhouse, learning vocational skills.<sup>298</sup> In 1858 there were 60 to 70 pupils in the workhouse school, under one teacher and three industrial instructors, who taught cooking, housework and sewing to the girls, and field labour and gardening to the boys.<sup>299</sup>

Lowden school, a Church of England primary school, opened in 1896.<sup>300</sup>

The boys' free school continued in the house left by Richard Scott until shortly before 1860, when the small income and lack of money for repairs led to the school's closure. At a meeting of Chippenham charity trustees in 1873 it was decided that the money from Scott's, Woodroffe's and Bridges's gifts, amounting to £18 annually, and from Ray's charity amounting to about £12 annually, together with a sum of money invested in the name of Mr Phillips, should be used as an endowment for educational purposes, with money from Sir Francis Popham's charity used to make up the endowment to provide a sum of £50 per year. These schemes, approved in 1875, provided scholarships for boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 15 years to attend secondary school.<sup>301</sup>

Secondary education in Chippenham remained in private schools until the establishment of the Chippenham District County School. The impetus behind this school was the establishment of day classes begun in September 1895 by the

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<sup>289</sup> *Acct. of Wilts. Schs.* 14–15.

<sup>290</sup> WSA F8/600/65/1/5/1.

<sup>291</sup> *Return of public elementary schools, 1875–6* [C. 1882], H.C. (1877), lxvii, 280–1.

<sup>292</sup> WSA F8/500/65/13/1, 22 Jun. 1898, 26 Jun. 1899, 31 May 1905.

<sup>293</sup> J. and N. Coggles, *St Mary's Parish 1855–1998* (1998), 79–80.

<sup>294</sup> A. Platts, *St Paul's County Primary School: Centenary Souvenir* (1957); *Acct. of Wilts. Schs.* 14–15; *Bath Chronicle* 15 Apr. 1858, 8; *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 17 Apr. 1858, 8; WSA F8/600/65/6/32/1.

<sup>295</sup> *Acct. of Wilts. Schs.* 14–15.

<sup>296</sup> *Return of public elementary schools, 1875–6* [C. 1882], H.C. (1877), lxvii, 280–1.

<sup>297</sup> Platts, *St Paul's Centenary*.

<sup>298</sup> See Poor Relief above.

<sup>299</sup> *Acct. of Wilts. Schs.* 14–15.

<sup>300</sup> WSA F8/500/65/5/1, 15 Jun. 1896.

<sup>301</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 247–8.

Education Committee of the Borough of Chippenham under the superintendence of Edward Newall Tuck, and the recognition of the fact that the private grammar school was in an unsatisfactory condition and its numbers decreasing. A day school for boys was established in 1896, and a girls' school followed in September 1898. Both schools were initially conducted in rooms hired or lent for the purpose.<sup>302</sup> A new school building was opened on Cocklebury Road in December 1900.<sup>303</sup> Scholarships were provided through a foundation which administered the gifts of Scott, Woodroffe, Bridges, that part of Ray's charity applicable to Chippenham, and one-fourth of Sir Francis Popham's charity. Separate scholarships were provided by Colborne's charity.<sup>304</sup> In 1901 there were 99 pupils on the roll, below the full complement of 380 as the completion of the school buildings had been delayed.<sup>305</sup>

Technical education in the town had also been in private academies, until in 1893 the borough appointed Tuck to organise technical classes for the town and district. Classes were held at various locations in the town and surrounding villages.<sup>306</sup> By 1904 evening classes in technical, commercial and other subjects, including cookery and dressmaking, were being held in the District County School on five days a week with an average attendance of 36 students. The school also provided classes for pupil teachers training at elementary schools in the area.<sup>307</sup>

#### 1900 to 1945

In 1904 a report on the National school condemned the building as unsafe and unsuitable, and the county council ordered its closure.<sup>308</sup> This decision was fiercely resisted, and the lack of alternative accommodation delayed its closure.<sup>309</sup> By September 1906 there were still 141 boys, 115 girls and 92 infants attending the school.<sup>310</sup> The school finally closed in December 1906, apparently without final notice having been given to the teachers.<sup>311</sup> Children transferred to other schools in the town, including Westmead and the new Ivy Lane school.<sup>312</sup>

In early 1907 Westmead school was enlarged when a new building was completed on the opposite side of Wood Lane to the existing school. The infants' department transferred to this new building, and the mixed department remained in the old school.<sup>313</sup>

Ivy Lane, a mixed council school, opened in 1907 with 245 children on the roll. The headmaster was assisted by four certified teachers and one uncertificated teacher, and three pupil teachers. Academic standards and behaviour were poor.<sup>314</sup>

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<sup>302</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 253–5.

<sup>303</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 239–40, 248–58.

<sup>304</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 239–40, 248–58.

<sup>305</sup> WSA F8/700/4/1/2/1, 16.

<sup>306</sup> WSA F8/700/4/1/23/1, A. Platts, *A History of the School: Chippenham Grammar School, 1896–1956*, 2.

<sup>307</sup> *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 257.

<sup>308</sup> WSA F8/600/65/5/26/1, report of 6 Feb. 1904.

<sup>309</sup> WSA F8/600/65/5/26/1.

<sup>310</sup> WSA F8/600/65/3/27/1.

<sup>311</sup> WSA F8/600/65/5/26/1, letter of 7 Feb. 1907.

<sup>312</sup> WSA F8/500/65/13/1, 7 Jan. 1907; F8/500/65/3/1, 7 Jan. 1907.

<sup>313</sup> WSA F8/500/65/13/1, 7 Jan. 1907, 8 Feb. 1907; OS Map 1:2500, sheet Wilts xxvi.2 (1900 edn, 1924 edn, 1937 edn).

<sup>314</sup> WSA F8/500/65/3/1, 7 and 8 Jan. 1907.

Two years later the head reported an improvement, but there were still areas of concern.<sup>315</sup>

In 1927 St Paul's school transferred to Wiltshire County Council's control, and a reorganisation saw older children from the top two classes at St Paul's transferring to Ivy Lane school.<sup>316</sup> The younger Ivy Lane children transferred to St Paul's.<sup>317</sup>

By 1914 the number of scholars at the District County School was still only 120, but had increased to 318 by 1922. By 1935, although numbers had dropped to 288,<sup>318</sup> the Cocklebury Road school buildings were proving cramped for the number of pupils. In 1939 the preparatory department, which had taken children up to the age of 11, was closed, and the rest of the school moved to the 40 a. site of Hardenhuish Park.<sup>319</sup> It was a grammar school, although the name of the new school was to be Chippenham Secondary School.<sup>320</sup> Some accommodation was provided in the old manor house, and the remaining facilities in new buildings. In 1940 the school recorded 414 pupils on the roll, which included eight in the sixth form and 25 evacuees.<sup>321</sup>

A major reorganisation of Chippenham schools took place in 1940. Westmead school retained both its infant and junior departments, Ivy Lane became a junior school, and St Paul's and Lowden schools were to take infants only.<sup>322</sup> The Cocklebury Road premises, formerly occupied by the District County School, became a mixed senior school.<sup>323</sup>

The Roman Catholic order of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God came to Chippenham in 1937. In 1938 the sisters opened the private St Margaret's school at their convent on Rowden Hill, initially with 18 pupils. With the arrival of wartime evacuees numbers increased rapidly, and a new extension was opened in 1940, by which time the numbers had increased to 120.<sup>324</sup>

Frogwell school was opened in 1943 as a primary school taking children under the age of eleven from new estates in the town. It had 31 children on opening, with a headmaster and two certified assistant teachers.<sup>325</sup>

### 1945-2000

By 1947 technical, commercial and recreational classes were being held in various venues in Chippenham and elsewhere.<sup>326</sup> In 1948 a new technical college opened in Cocklebury Road providing day-release classes in technical and commercial subjects.<sup>327</sup>

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<sup>315</sup> WSA F8/500/65/3/1, 24 Jul. 1909.

<sup>316</sup> WSA F8/500/65/3/5, 30 Mar. 1927.

<sup>317</sup> WSA F8/500/65/3/5, 1 Sept. 1927.

<sup>318</sup> WSA F8/700/4/1/23/1, Platts, *Hist. Grammar School*, 13.

<sup>319</sup> WSA F8/700/4/1/2/5, 29 Nov. 1938, 25 Apr. 1939; F8/700/4/1/23/1, Platts, *Hist. Grammar School*, 13–14.

<sup>320</sup> WSA F8/700/4/1/2/5, 31 May 1938; WSA F8/700/4/1/23/1, Platts, *Hist. Grammar School*.

<sup>321</sup> WSA F8/700/4/1/23/1, Platts, *Hist. Grammar School*, 13–14.

<sup>322</sup> WSA F8/110/65/1/1, Wilts. County Council General Education Committee, Teaching Staff Sub-committee, 18 Oct. 1940; F8/500/65/5/1, 25 Oct. 1940; F8/600/65/4/3/2, 30 Oct. 1940.

<sup>323</sup> Platts, *Wiltshire Schools*.

<sup>324</sup> Coggles, *St Mary's Parish*, 80–3.

<sup>325</sup> WSA F8/500/65/2/1, 1 Dec. 1943.

<sup>326</sup> WSA F8/750/2/1, 3 Dec. 1947.

<sup>327</sup> WSA F8/750/2/1, 24 Sept. 1947, 22 Oct. 1947.

The Cocklebury Road site remained in use by the secondary modern school. In 1956 another reorganisation of schools in the town saw two single-sex secondary modern schools established.<sup>328</sup> The new boys' school had 520 pupils on its roll, and the girls' school had 486 pupils.<sup>329</sup> The girls' secondary modern school moved to new premises at Hardenhuish.<sup>330</sup> The boys' secondary modern school remained in Cocklebury Road until it moved to new premises at Hardenhuish in 1959.<sup>331</sup> All three secondary schools then shared the Hardenhuish site.

St Margaret's school became a primary school in 1955. The fees were beyond the means of many Catholic families in Chippenham, and in 1959 St Mary's Primary School opened on the Rowden Hill site, providing a state-funded education for Catholic children. New school buildings were opened in 1962. The independent school of St Margaret's continued in the original convent building until 1968.<sup>332</sup>

In 1965 the eleven plus exam was abolished, and pupils of secondary school age transferred directly to either Chippenham Boys' High School or Chippenham Girls' High School.<sup>333</sup> These provided an education for young people aged 11 to 16.<sup>334</sup> Pupils of academic ability could transfer at age 13 to Chippenham School.<sup>335</sup> In September 1965 there were 610 boys on the roll at Chippenham Boys' High School and 646 girls at Chippenham Girls' High School.<sup>336</sup>

Monkton Park primary school was built in 1967 to serve the new residential development around Sadler's Mead.<sup>337</sup>

In January 1972 Westmead junior school was subject to an arson attack. The school office and a classroom were seriously damaged, and all the log books for the junior school destroyed.<sup>338</sup> In April of that year there were 86 children on the roll in the infants' school and 181 in the junior school.<sup>339</sup>

St Paul's school moved in 1973 to a new site at The Oaks. The Park Lane buildings were later demolished and residential properties built on the site, although the master's house was still standing in 2016. In 1973 Lowden infants' school moved to new premises in Lord's Mead as St Peter's primary school, and began to take children up to the age of eleven.<sup>340</sup> The former school buildings were sold for residential development.<sup>341</sup> A new primary school, Redland, opened in Brook Street in 1973 with approximately 160 children.<sup>342</sup>

It was found to be disruptive to have pupils transferring at age 11 and again at 13,<sup>343</sup> so in 1975 the three secondary schools were merged to provide two co-educational secondary schools for ages 11-18. These schools became Hardenhuish

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<sup>328</sup> WSA F8/500/65/12/1, 27 Jul. 1956.

<sup>329</sup> WSA F8/500/65/12/1, 10 Sept. 1956; F8/500/65/15/1, 10 Sept. 1956.

<sup>330</sup> WSA F8/500/65/15/1, 10 Sept. 1956.

<sup>331</sup> WSA F8/500/65/12/1, 16–20 Mar. 1959.

<sup>332</sup> Coggles, *St Mary's Parish*, 84–7.

<sup>333</sup> WSA F8/115/4/1/1.

<sup>334</sup> WSA F8/500/65/1/1, 23 Jul. 1965; F8/500/65/15/2, 9 Sept. 1965.

<sup>335</sup> WSA F8/115/4/1/1.

<sup>336</sup> WSA F8/500/65/1/1, 9 Sept. 1965; F8/500/65/15/2, 9 Sept. 1965.

<sup>337</sup> <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/126188> (2004), (accessed 6 Mar. 2017).

<sup>338</sup> WSA F8/500/65/14/1, 20 Jan. 1972.

<sup>339</sup> WSA F8/500/65/13/4, 17 Apr. 1972; F8/500/65/14/1, 20 Apr. 1972.

<sup>340</sup> WSA F8/500/65/5/2, 20 Jul. 1973; F8/500/65/5/3, 5 Sept. 1973, 25 Oct. 1973.

<sup>341</sup> WSA F8/600/65/4/26/2.

<sup>342</sup> F8/600/65/9/24/1, *Redland School Brochure* (1986).

<sup>343</sup> WSA F8/115/4/1/1, folder 3.

and Sheldon Schools.<sup>344</sup> The former buildings of the girls' high school were to house the lower school of Hardenhuish School.<sup>345</sup> The boys' high school buildings became Sheldon School.<sup>346</sup> Pupils transferred to these schools from designated catchment areas.<sup>347</sup>

Westmead school closed in 1989, and the pupils transferred to the newly-built King's Lodge primary school on the Cricketts Lane development.<sup>348</sup> Two new primary schools opened in the 1990s: Charter school in 1994,<sup>349</sup> and Queen's Crescent in 1996.<sup>350</sup>

Allington School, a special school, had been established by 1950. In 1997 it had 56 boys on the roll, aged 11 to 16 years. It closed c. 1998.<sup>351</sup>

### *After 2000*

In 2011 there were ten primary schools in Chippenham: Charter, Frogwell, Ivy Lane, King's Lodge Community, Monkton Park Community, Queen's Crescent, Redland Community, St Paul's, St Mary's Roman Catholic and St Peter's Church of England schools. Outside the town, but within the environs of Chippenham, were the primary schools of Christian Malford, Langley Fitzurse (in Kington Langley) and Kington St Michael. There were three secondary schools in Chippenham; Hardenhuish, Sheldon and Abbeyfield schools. Chippenham had one special school, St Nicholas School, taking pupils from the ages of three to 19 years.<sup>352</sup>

Chippenham's third secondary school, Abbeyfield, was established in 2000 for young people aged 11 to 16 years. It moved to a new purpose-built site along Stanley Road in September 2001. In 2002 it had 332 pupils on the roll aged from 11 to 14.<sup>353</sup> In 2006 the school began accepting students aged from 16 to 18 into a sixth form, and new sixth form accommodation was opened in 2008. By 2009 the school, which took pupils from the eastern area of Chippenham and nearby rural settlements, had 947 pupils, of whom 150 were in the sixth form.<sup>354</sup>

Hardenhuish school became an academy in 2010. In 2013 it had 1,596 pupils, of whom 303 were in the sixth form.<sup>355</sup> Sheldon school became an academy in 2011. In 2012 it had 1,802 pupils on the roll, of whom 410 were in the sixth form.<sup>356</sup>

By 2014 St Nicholas special school was taking children from age four to 19, and had 72 pupils, of whom 10 were sixth-formers.<sup>357</sup>

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<sup>344</sup> WSA F8/115/4/1/1.

<sup>345</sup> WSA F8/500/65/15/2, 11 Jul. 1975.

<sup>346</sup> WSA F8/500/65/1/1, 31 Aug. 1975.

<sup>347</sup> WSA F8/500/65/1/1, 23-27 Jun. 1975; F8/500/65/15/2, 23-26 June 1975.

<sup>348</sup> WSA F8/500/65/13/5, 21 Jul. 1989; F8/500/65/14/1, 21 Jul. 1989.

<sup>349</sup> WSA F8/223/4, *Admissions to Primary & Secondary Schools in Wiltshire: Central Area* (1993).

<sup>350</sup> WSA F8/223/4, *Education in Wiltshire: A Parent's Guide* (1996).

<sup>351</sup> WSA F8/610/7.

<sup>352</sup> Wiltshire Council, *Directory of Wiltshire Schools, 2011/12* (2011).

<sup>353</sup> <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/131969> (2002), (accessed 6 Mar. 2017).

<sup>354</sup> <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/131969> (2009), (accessed 6 Mar. 2017).

<sup>355</sup> <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/136296> (2013), (accessed 6 Mar. 2017).

<sup>356</sup> <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/136632> (2012), (accessed 6 Mar. 2017).

In 2000 the former Chippenham Technical College, by then known as Chippenham College, merged with other tertiary education colleges at Trowbridge and Lackham (also Salisbury from 2008) to form Wiltshire College.<sup>358</sup> New buildings were opened in 2016 at a cost of £21,000,000 on the Chippenham campus in Cocklebury Road, and in 2018 the college was offering a range of vocational courses, including engineering, commerce and construction.<sup>359</sup>

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<sup>357</sup> <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/126552> (2014), (accessed 6 Mar. 2017).

<sup>358</sup> The Chippenham, Lackham and Triowbridge Colleges (Dissolution) Order (2000), SI 2000, 2728

<sup>359</sup> <http://www.wiltshire.ac.uk/About-Us/Our-Campuses/Chippenham> (accessed 7 Feb. 2018).