



CHIPPENHAM

OUR HISTORY

A Collaborative Community Effort

This festival is a proud collaboration involving [Chippenham Museum](#), the [Wiltshire Victoria County History \(VCH\) Trust](#), the [Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre](#), [Chippenham Library](#), the [Chippenham Civic Society](#), [Chippenham Town Council](#), and numerous local community groups.

Find Out More

For the full interactive programme, podcast links, and the weekly 'Radical Science' blog, please visit [One Chippenham](#).

Follow real-time updates and community stories on the [Chippenham: Our History Facebook Page](#).

For details about the Wiltshire VCH, ongoing blogs, and up-to-date research on local history, visit the [Wiltshire Victoria County History Website](#).

View what's on at the museum and access online booking or the online shop at the [Chippenham Museum Official Site](#).

For event details and historical collections, check the [Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre Events Page](#).



This summer, Chippenham embarks on a landmark celebration of its past. Inspired by the launch of the Victoria County History (VCH) Wiltshire Volume 20: Chippenham and its Environs—the definitive “Big Red Book” of our town’s story—this programme brings centuries of research to life. From Local History Month throughout May to the official book launch in July and throughout the summer, join us for a season of stories, blogs, exhibitions, and community celebrations.

Celebrating the Victoria County History 'Big Red Book'

Programme Highlights



The Companion Book: *Chippenham – Our History* by John Chandler.

Available now in the Chippenham Museum Online Shop (£14.95).

'Our History' Podcast: Launching in June.

Meet the researchers and hear the tales behind the town's evolution.

Available on One Chippenham and all major platforms.

'Brief Lives' Writing Project: Join our community-wide effort to write short, punchy biographies of Chippenham people, past and present. Hosted at Chippenham Museum from August.

John Aubrey Exhibition: This June. Wiltshire and the World.

Discover the legacy of our famous 17th-century local antiquarian at Chippenham Museum

What's On This Summer

May

Weekly (May – September) | WALK: Guided Heritage Walks.

Discover hidden corners of the town. Thursdays 7pm & Saturdays 2pm at Chippenham Museum. Booking essential. FREE.

Weekly (May – September) | OPENING: Yelde Hall Openings (Market Place). The historic medieval hall is open on selected Saturdays throughout the summer from 10:30am to 1:30pm. FREE. Check the Chippenham Museum Website for open days.

Throughout May | DISPLAY: William Lisle Bowles. Held at Chippenham Library.

23 May | WORKSHOP: Aubrey Origami Workshop. Get inspired by antiquarian John Aubrey with a special 17th-century paper-folding activity at Chippenham Museum. FREE. Drop-in from 10:30am to 3:30pm.

22–25 May | FESTIVAL: Chippenham Folk Festival. A joyous four days



celebrating folk music, dance, and tradition.

Enjoy a town art trail with April Barlow and much more.

24 May | BALL: Harriet Willes' Ball. Follow the story of Harriet

Willes, who lived in Christian Malford in the 1790s and collected tunes and dances in her musical scrapbook. Special afternoon of her favourite dances. Open to age 11 to adult. Held at the Neeld Hall from 3:45pm to 5:15pm.

26 & 28 May | WORKSHOPS: Creative activities inspired by Local History Month. Drop-in half-term sessions at Chippenham Museum from 10:30am to 3:30pm. FREE.



30 May | TALKS: Chippenham History Day. A day of expert talks covering archaeology, architecture, railways, and coaching inns at the Town Hall.

Tickets are £6.00, available from the Neeld Box Office.

June

4 June | TALK: Agnes Mylles: The First English Witch. Presented by Louise Ryland-Epton at Chippenham Library at 7:15pm. FREE.

6 June | TALK: John Aubrey. Presented by Louise Ryland-Epton at 2:00pm at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. FREE.

9 June | TALK: The Incredible Inheritance of Joseph Neeld MP. Presented by Julian Orbach for the Chippenham Civic Society. Held at St Andrew's Church at 7:00pm. All welcome. FREE.

13 June – 19 Sept |

EXHIBITION: Wiltshire and the World: John Aubrey and the Quest for Knowledge. Exploring the fascinating scientific world of John Aubrey. Hosted at Chippenham Museum. FREE.



17 June | ONLINE TALK: Edward Newell Tuck: Headmaster of Chippenham Secondary School, politician, historian. Presented by Chris Dallimore at 7:30pm. Tickets are £10 per screen. Booking essential via the [Wiltshire VCH Website](#).

18 June | TALK: The History of Chippenham Carnival. Presented by Mike Stone from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Booking essential via the [Chippenham Museum Website](#).

July

1 July | ONLINE TALK: The Black Death in Wiltshire. Presented by Mark Forrest at 7:30pm. Tickets are £10 per screen. Booking essential via the Wiltshire VCH Website.

4 July | EVENT: Chippenham Carnival. The historic, vibrant celebration returns to the town streets!

7 July | WALK: Mindful Meander. Join local artist April Barlow on a mindful walk beside the River Avon to reconnect with nature through art. Tickets are £6 with all materials provided. Booking essential through the Chippenham Museum Website.

9 July | LAUNCH: Official Launch of VCH Volume 20. Invitation only event.



25–26 July | RE-ENACTMENT: Battle in the Park. Civil War re-enactments and living history in Monkton Park. Hosted by Chippenham Town Council. FREE.

August

1 August | CRAFT: Astronomy Day. Explore the solar system with Sirius Astronomy and take part in astronomy-inspired craft activities. Part of the Aubrey celebration at Chippenham Museum. Workshops run 10:30am – 11:30am and 2:00pm – 3:00pm. Ages 6+ (accompanied by an adult). FREE. Booking essential via Eventbrite.

September & October

16 September | ONLINE TALK: Valuing Ordinary Women's History with Lucy Whitfield. Online for the VCH at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 per screen. Booking essential via the Wiltshire VCH Website.

19 September | EVENT: Heritage Open Day. Display of the Our History community project at the Yelde Hall, featuring the



Allsorts Choir, the 'Brief Lives' writers project, and the crafty café at Chippenham Museum. Held at Yelde Hall. FREE.

September (TBC) | SYMPOSIUM: Chippenham's Worthies. Hosted at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre.

October | EVENT: Blast from the Past - A day of Timber Street memories. At the Hub there will be: A 'Goldigger Revival disco' with 'A Bit on the Side' offering a variety of mocktails and Gaumont Cinema and Top 20 revisited. Other businesses in the street will be involved in various activities on the day.

21 October | ONLINE TALK: Science, Folklore and the Unexplained: John Aubrey's Natural History. Online for the VCH by Louise Ryland-Epton at 7:30pm. Tickets are £10 per screen. Booking essential via the Wiltshire VCH Website.



Regular Events

Moonrakers' Educafe: Held fortnightly at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. A dedicated community space to chat and connect with history at its core. Starts 27 April from 10:30am to 2:00pm. FREE.

Heritage Café: Hosted at Chippenham Museum by the Friends of the Museum. Features a short talk with a local theme plus a chat with light refreshments. First Friday of every month from 2:00pm to 3:30pm. FREE.

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