

Wiltshire

Information courtesy of Chippenham Museum & Wiltshire Museum (Wiltshire in 100 Objects project) with contributions from the Aldbourne Heritage Centre.

Kodak folding camera c 1940

William Henry Fox Talbot of Lacock was an English scientist, inventor and photography pioneer who invented the salted paper and calotype processes, precursors to photographic processes of the later 19th and 20th centuries.

Lent by Melissa Barnet, Chippenham Museum.

Police book, photograph and whistle

Wiltshire Constabulary was formed on 13 November 1839. It was the first of the County Forces to be created under the 1839 County Police Act. Its motto, *Primus et Optimus*, means 'the First and the Best'.

Lent by Chippenham Museum Education Service.

Chalk pieces and wool

For centuries, agriculture was the main occupation for most people in Wiltshire. From the first Neolithic farmers, the landscape has been shaped by farming and the production of food.

'Chalk and Cheese' reflects the traditional split between the lowlands of the north-west where dairy farming prevailed and milk, cheese and butter which were produced on the rolling down of the south and east where sheep and corn were dominant.

Lent by The Aldbourne Heritage Centre, and Chippenham Museum Education Service.

Crotal bell made by Robert Wells, late 18th century

A tradition of was started by William and Robert Corr around 1670. They cast Church Bells and also specialised in so-called crotal or rumbler bells, small almost spherical bells attached to harness and livestock, the design of which they perfected. It is thought they also produced the first musical handbells. Other founders, notably the Wells family continued the village industry in Aldbourne for nearly 200 years.

Lent by The Aldbourne Heritage Centre.

Photograph of Hathaway's Butter Churn exhibition

The family firm of Hathaway's was established in Chippenham in 1869. The founder, George Hathaway was a cooper who developed barrel shapes to contain milk for making butter

Lent by Melissa Barnet, Chippenham Museum.

Butter pat

Ribbed butter pats are the best way to cut and shape your own butter without it melting. The ridges help to hold the butter, but also imprint an attractive design.

Lent by Chippenham Museum Education Service.

Recipe for lardy cake from a secondary school cookbook, 1950s

This represents the traditional Wiltshire, and much loved, Lardy Cake. This is sold at many bakeries throughout the county. Taken from a school text book belonging to Beryl Gilligan

Lent by The Aldbourne Heritage Centre.

Map (ancient), postcard (modern)

Wiltshire is a place people travel to and travel through. Visitors have been coming to its iconic monuments thousands of years but others are passing through on route between London and the West of England and South Wales. Natural features have been overcome by engineering feats such as the Caen Hill Locks on the Kennet and Avon Canal and Brunel's Box Tunnel on the Great Western Railway Line allowing new ways of travel to develop.

Lent by Melissa Barnet, Chippenham Museum.

Wiltshire Regiment postcard and Remembrance cross

Land was first purchased for military training on Salisbury Plain in 1897 and now it is the UK's largest training area. At times conflict has been on Wiltshire soil during the Saxon period and throughout the English Civil war.

The Wiltshire Regiment, a line infantry regiment of the British Army was formed in 1881 and was amalgamated with the Royal Berkshire Regiment in 1959 to form the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berks and Wilts)

Lent by Chippenham Museum Education Service (postcard) and Melissa Barnet, Chippenham Museum (Remembrance Cross).

Book detailing how Americans should behave whilst in Britain, c 1943

Many thousand American servicemen were stationed in Wiltshire, whilst training for D- Day. The 101st Airborne Division (the Screaming Eagles) trained in Aldbourne from Sept 1943 to D-Day.

Lent by The Aldbourne Heritage Centre.

Stonehenge and Salisbury Plain postcard. Replicas of prehistoric flint artefacts

Stonehenge has played an important role in the history of Wiltshire since the sarsen stones were first erected around 2500BC. We know people have been travelling long distances to the site for thousands of years. Why it was built and what it meant to people in the long distant past is much debated but today this iconic prehistoric monument is a major tourist attraction supporting many aspects of the county's economy.

Lent by Melissa Barnet, Chippenham Museum.

Bronze Age scraper

Scrapers, used for removing flesh from hides or working with wood, can be found all over Wiltshire and represent continuity of settlement since prehistoric times .Scrapers can be found in large numbers whilst walking on the downs. This example was found near Aldbourne around 1900.

Lent by The Aldbourne Heritage Centre.

Moonrakers postcard and book of dialect

This name refers to a folk story set in the time when smuggling was a significant industry in rural England, with Wiltshire lying on the smugglers' secret routes between the south coast and customers in the centre of the country. The story goes that some local people had hidden contraband barrels of French brandy from customs officers in a village pond. While trying to retrieve it at night, they were caught by the revenue men, but explained themselves by pointing to the moon's reflection and saying they were trying to rake in a round cheese. The revenue men, thinking they were simple yokels, laughed at them and went on their way. But it was the moonrakers who had the last laugh.

Lent by Chippenham Museum Education Service.

Photograph of Aldbourne Dabchicks ceremony and duck to represent the dabchick (little grebe)

Natives of Aldbourne are called “Dabchicks”. According to legend a strange bird appeared in the pond. The oldest man in the village was brought in a wheelbarrow and wheeled round the pond three times before pronouncing it to be a ‘Dabchick’. The inhabitants of Ramsbury thought this was ludicrous and many a fight ensued when they called the young man of the village Dabchicks but the name stuck and is now worn with pride.

Lent by The Aldbourne Heritage Centre

Wiltshire flag

Designed by Trowbridge flag enthusiast Mike Prior, it uses the Great Bustard as its centrepiece. Previously extinct, the large bird is now part of a ten-year breeding programme on Salisbury Plain.

A circle of six rocks is also featured in the centre of the flag, representing both the stone circles of Avebury and Stonehenge and the six counties on to which Wiltshire borders.

Lent by Melissa Barnet, Chippenham Museum.

Postcards of white horses

Wiltshire is the county for white horses. There are or were at least twenty-four of these hill figures in Britain, with no less than thirteen being in Wiltshire, and another white horse, the oldest of them all, being just over the border in Oxfordshire. Most of the white horses are chalk hill carvings, and the chalk downs of central Wiltshire make it an ideal place for such figures.

Lent by Chippenham Museum Education Service.

Weaving loom shuttle

For 500 years from the 1500's the textile industry dominated the towns and larger villages of Wiltshire. The cloth industry reached significant levels of production in the 1540s with thousands of cloths being made on hand looms.

Industrialisation and mechanisation brought further expansion.

Lent by Chippenham Museum Education Service.

Model steam engine

The Swindon Works opened in 1843. It was the hub of locomotive manufacture from the mid-1840s until its closure in 1986. For over 100 years the Works built iconic locomotives for the Great Western Railway, such as the King and Castle Classes.

Lent by Melissa Barnet, Chippenham Museum.

Westinghouse photographs

The Westinghouse Brake and signal Company (previously Saxby and Farmer) in Chippenham has manufactured brake systems for all classes of railway vehicles throughout the world since 1881.

Lent by Chippenham Museum Education Service.