



Even as Christmas approaches, Holly is not the only source of colour.

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## **SALISBURY CIVIC SOCIETY**

PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE, SECURING OUR ENVIRONMENT,  
SHAPING OUR FUTURE

***To promote high standards of planning and architecture  
To educate in the architecture, history and geography of the area  
To secure the preservation, development and improvement of features of  
public interest within the former Salisbury District***

- The Salisbury Civic Society, which was founded in 1960 as the Salisbury & District Preservation Trust, is involved with the past, present and future of the City and its district. This generates a substantial amount of work which is carried out largely by the Development Committee.
- Its meetings are monthly. New planning applications are examined where they concern listed buildings or conservation areas. Other applications are also looked at where they have special relevance to the future of the city and district. The remit is both ancient and modern. Opinions are formed and comments made where appropriate by this committee the members of which are a mix of both lay and professionally qualified, including architects.
- The Society keeps its members well informed and arranges a very active social calendar. Interesting visits are arranged as well as an exceptional programme of lectures. There is also a scheme to install Society Blue Plaques which are prized by their recipients. All this is the responsibility of the General Purposes Committee.
- The Society's remit is broad so that complex wider issues can be addressed such as the Salisbury Vision, where the Society is represented on the Executive Board.
- The Society is a charity and there is no connection with or formal affiliation to any Local Authority. However the Society is frequently consulted by the Local Authority and has built up a respected working relationship.
- There is a prestigious Architectural Awards Competition, covering both Conservation and New Build with the Awards being presented each year at a New Year's party, traditionally in the Guildhall. Each year a person of distinction is invited to chair the judging panel.
- Members are kept informed through our website, by emails and this quarterly publication.
- The affairs of the Society are overseen by the Executive Committee. Committee lists are on the inside back page.

Contributions to this Quarterly on any relevant subject are welcomed by the Editor and will be acknowledged. Opinions expressed here are those of the contributors and not of the Society, unless attributed.

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Jane Howells and Ruth  
Newman, David Richards,  
Hampshire Record Office and  
Charles Villiers.

## **PROGRAMME.**

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Meetings will be held at 6.30pm - doors open at 6pm - in the Sanctuary of the Methodist Church in St Edmund's Church Street unless otherwise stated. Details of visits and any changes will be notified on this page and on the Website.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January  
**Annual Architectural Awards and Commendations**  
Presentation Party in The Guildhall at 6.45pm

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March  
**John Winders**  
A look at the interesting trees in our City  
and where they can be found

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April  
**Planning Forum**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June  
**AGM at 6.30pm**  
**Steve Hannath**  
Chalk and Cheese - 'Wiltshire's Rocks and Their Impact on the  
Natural and Cultural Landscapes'

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September  
**Tony Phillips**  
'The Fovant Badges' - A synopsis: 'Origins in WWI and  
subsequent evolution; their rescue and annual maintenance'

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November  
**Michael Drury**  
Salisbury Cathedral and the Major Repair Programme

***We welcome new members .....***

Mark Osmond, Dr Nick Coulson  
and Jim and Heather Platt





(See pages 12 & 13) Elizabeth Harris (née Clarke) married James Harris of 15 The Close in 1745. A friend of Henry Fielding and Handel, he was a wealthy patron of the arts, which for Elizabeth was principally music. But increasingly she became enamoured of the theatre, seeing Garrick with their daughters Louisa and Gertrude in regular visits to London. Louisa was an accomplished singer, regularly performing in private houses, unusual for the time. Their house, later Malmesbury House, was a centre of musical excellence even entertaining royalty, the Duke of York arriving at short notice in 1762. James Harris set up the annual St Cecilia Concerts which later became the Salisbury Festival.

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENT - THE GASOMETER

When the Society came to select six of the images in Salisbury in Detail for an exhibition soon after publication, five of them came from the book's core area of historic building elements. The sixth, however, was deliberately chosen to show that there are things of value elsewhere as well. It was a shot of one corner of the gasometer, showing three of the wheel-tipped arms which steadied the drum as it rose up and down within its framework when it still functioned, all in a rusty hue which is probably now a combination of actual rust and applied paint.

The gasometer is certainly not universally loved. The Society's Development Committee, however, has never seen it as an eyesore, but rather as an asset to the city, both as a piece of industrial archaeology and as a sculptural element that provides a welcome variant among rooflines dominated by standard housing (and without costing the £22 million of the 2012 Olympic Park's Orbit, to some eyes not much more interesting as a work of public art). The suggestion, sometimes made, that it compromises views of the cathedral is hard to sustain.

The gasometer appears in the book's 'Miscellany' section, where the introductory text says, of another image, that it 'tells us how the city has altered, the diversity of its long industrial past now just an occasional shadow amid modern streets of houses and shops and offices', and later suggests that 'our surroundings are subtly enriched by these pointers to a different past'. The gasometer is clearly neither very subtle nor very shadowy, but its contribution to diversity is correspondingly significant, a bold accent in a city which, outside its historic core, is being rendered increasingly bland. The Moose Hall on the Devizes Road nearby was derelict and unloved in its later phase, but contributed three quirky features to the Society's book, something beyond the ambitions of the featureless block of flats which replaced it.

An approach to architectural history known as 'diachronism' tries to see buildings in terms of their whole lifetimes, not just what we see at any given moment. From this 'four-dimensional' viewpoint the visible cathedral, for instance, is just a slice in time, with the true nature of the building one that embraces all that's happened to it since it was built. An interesting notion, though the practical consequences are unclear.

Equally, council planners may not worry too much about the diachronic angle, but for Salisbury city there is certainly a case for that deeper view. The remarkable history of what was once the sixth largest city in the country may be expressed in part through its buildings, but there is a whole additional story of trades and industries which is almost lost. The Gibbs Mew brewery, not so long ago a major feature, is now reduced to one street name, 'Brewery Lane'. Maltings were once a common building form, but survive only in fragments, and in another name. The railway lines which until the 1960s ran through the Maltings into what is now the library have left no trace, and slightly further west the railway water tower, a leftover from the days of steam, has now disappeared.

Elsewhere other street names hint at what has departed. St Ann's Street was at one time Tanners Street, while Silver Street may reflect the importance of silversmiths in the C16th and C17th. In the quarter century leading up to the Civil War Salisbury was the largest centre of silver spoon production anywhere in the country outside London. Other trades have left little or nothing behind. The crucial role of cloth production is erased from the map, bell-founders only reveal themselves by the occasional archaeological discovery, cutlers and clay-pipe makers have slid into oblivion. Joiners Hall survives, as does Shoemakers Hall behind the frontage of Salt Lane, but Weavers Hall and Tailors Hall have gone, the latter as recently as 1971. For the most part, Salisbury's enormous variety of trades only shows itself in the Museum.

The gasometer only dates from 1928, but still represents a strand of Salisbury's long industrial history, the local production of a vital fuel. There are those who see it as a relic of a discredited reliance on fossil fuels, which deserves to be erased from the skyline. Others prefer to see an opportunity to show how we can move on from that era, and point to examples elsewhere of similar structures pressed into new uses. The listed Kings Cross gasholder, now to be re-used as an events space and park, and ones on the continent now converted to a planetarium, flats, performance spaces and workshops. Engage a positive mindset, and all sorts of possibilities open up.

Two recent events have pushed the gasometer up the agenda. Eleven architecture students from the University of the West of England have now used it for a project, and come up with a remarkable range of schemes for its re-use, all worthy of thought. And the owners, Southern Gas Networks, have submitted a 'prior notification' application to the council for its demolition. This is to control the means of demolition, with no option of objecting to the principle of it. Not in a conservation area, and unlisted (too recent, and too plain, to merit listed status), the gasometer has no statutory protection.

Demolition is not due before April 2015, and could be any time up to September 2017. The March 2015 Quarterly will include illustrations of some of the student projects, in the hope of converting even those who currently see the structure as a eyesore to a new view. No doubt housing will be what the owners seek, once the site is combined with the currently vacant National Grid land right next door. But this is a flood zone, where there is a presumption against such use, and a commercial one would be more likely to get approval. Something among the student ideas might have a chance of making sense in money terms, but levelling the site would thwart any possibility of this. Rather than once more erasing a major part of Salisbury's past, and leaving only the street name 'Gas Lane' as a hint of it, how much more positive it would be to seek to retain the gasometer, whole or in part, and make it the focus of a development (which might include some housing) that actually built on history to add something new and interesting to the city.

*Richard Deane.*

## SALISBURY IN DETAIL

In his report to the June meeting of the Society's Executive Committee, Ron Millar included a breakdown of the financial position regarding the Society's book *Salisbury in Detail*, since it was published in October 2009. Up to the date of his report, a total of 2445 books had been sold, with a total of £27,883.35 received for them. After the deduction of printing and other costs, this left a net profit of £4189.20. 395 books remained unsold at that time, so the final profit will clearly be significantly higher.

Sales continue at a fairly modest level, with Waterstones and Waitrose the chief outlets, after the sad demise of the Cross Keys Bookshop. There have been three print runs to date, with the first reprint in December 2009 and the second in June 2010. Another reprint is unlikely. As the number in stock reduces, a time will probably come when copies are no longer put out to retail outlets, and a residual stock is retained just for direct sales by the Society, which will keep the book available that much longer. Direct sales, at full price, will have the incidental effect of increasing the profit from the residual stock, making the final profit figure even more satisfactory.

Considerable thanks are due to Trethowans, who have provided excellent storage facilities for the book at their offices on the London Road, from its initial publication. The whole project, which was started by the offer of money (not included in the financial figures) from the estate of a Society member's parents, to whom the book is dedicated, has been a remarkable success, and as it winds down there is the satisfaction of knowing that it has been the spark for similar efforts elsewhere. 'Peterborough and its Villages in Detail' was published in late 2012, and an Eastbourne project is currently being tackled with considerable enthusiasm, though whether the outcome will bear an 'in Detail' title is not yet known. In June a copy of the Society's book was presented to the chairman of the City of Winchester Trust, that city's civic society, in the hope it might encourage something similar there.

There are a very large number of towns and cities with the potential for an 'in Detail' book, and indeed the Society's effort cannot claim to be the first in the field. It was a copy of a book with black and white photos of bits of London buildings, borrowed from Salisbury Library many years previously, that gave the idea of devoting the donation to the project in the first place. That particular publication was titled 'The London Book', but when it was later reprinted in paperback, in 1986, it was called.... *London in Detail*. No great surprise that someone else had got to that title first, even if we didn't realise it at the time. The title is ultimately a fairly obvious one, and the Society has never claimed any copyright on it. There's a lot of work in such a project, but if any other civic society decides to tackle one, they should find the outcome, as we did, extremely satisfying.

*Richard Deane.*



Anthony Hobson, who has died recently at the age of 92, was a Vice-President of the Society for many years. His obituary in the Daily Telegraph read:

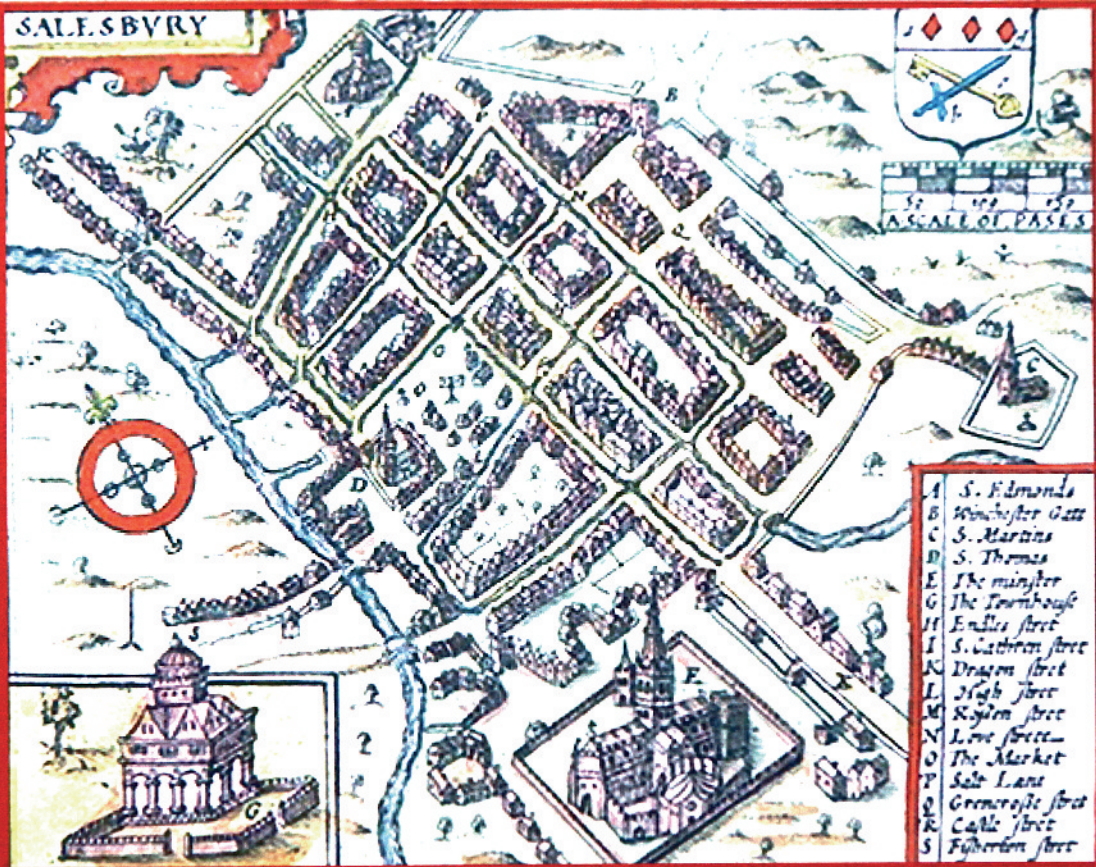
'Anthony Hobson, who has died aged 92, was a gentleman scholar of the old school, the world's greatest expert on Renaissance bindings and an all-round bibliophile of great distinction. Many academic honours were showered on Hobson, but his position in the book world was recognised by his presidency, from 1985 to 1999, of the Internationale de Bibliophilie, where his patrician elegance, considerable charm, command of languages and deep scholarship made him a magisterial figure.'

He lived in a rather nice house in Whitsbury where he was Churchwarden for many years. His once fellow churchwarden (owner of the Whitsbury stud), explained that whereas he looked after the silver etc, which include their Salisbury-made chalice and paten of 1673, Anthony was responsible all the liturgical matters. On his 70th birthday he was honoured with a festschrift in the form of a published collection of essays on his subject. In its introduction Dennis Rhodes revealed the respect with which he was held:

This multilingual collection of essays celebrates the seventieth birthday of A.R.A. (Anthony) Hobson, for many years head of Sotheby's book department in London, and well known as a scholar of bookbinding history. Like his father, G.D. Hobson, Anthony Hobson has made substantial contributions to one of the more recalcitrant subdisciplines of the history of the book, and one notorious for inaccurate scholarship. (It was Paul Needham, I think, who once remarked in print that pretty much all of the literature on binding published before 1920 should be assumed to be wrong and misleading.) Hobson has published three major works: *French and Italian Collectors and Their Bindings* (1953, published as a Roxburghe Club book and thus very difficult to find), *Apollo and Pegasus* (1975), and *Humanists and Bookbinders* (1989). He also wrote *Great Libraries* (1970), a picture book which nevertheless contains a good deal of original research and observation.

*Charles Villiers.*





### **JOHN SPEED, MAPMAKER**

John Speed was the son of a Cheshire tailor and in London was supported by Sir Fulke Greville who recognised his skill in historical research. This led to his acquiring space to work in the Custom House by courtesy of Queen Elizabeth. He is buried with his wife in the Church of St Giles-without-Cripplegate, where stands this memorial. His work as a historian is considered mediocre in comparison with his mapmaking. His atlas 'The Theater of the Empire of Great Britaine contained County maps of England Wales and Ireland plus a map of Scotland as well as many town plans. He also published a genealogy, from the Scriptures, from Adam to the Virgin Mary.

*This map was published in 1611.*

**OFFICE OF TREASURER**

I am delighted to be able to announce that Alison Pascalidis has agreed to take over this key office from Ron Millar; the Society is extremely fortunate that such a dedicated and well qualified volunteer has emerged - thanks to Charles Villiers for this recruitment. We will support Alison as she gets used to the various complexities of finance and management of a this Society. Our gratitude goes to Ron Millar for his tireless work over many years and agreeing to assist Alison during her forthcoming year in office.

**OPEN MEETING**

The evening held at the Guildhall on 25<sup>th</sup> November was well attended considering the wet weather and our three speakers gave very interesting responses to the title "Are Green Spaces Necessary"? Thanks to Nicola Lipscombe for organising the guest speakers.

**Steve Maddern** is head of Service Health Improvement at Wiltshire Council and suggested that the decline in outdoor activity and exercise, as well as the decline in creating green spaces was contributing to the progressive ill health in our society. Cholera, typhoid and smallpox have been replaced as our main challenges by obesity, hypertension and mental disorders. Outdoor activities and simply walking would do more good than diets but ten times as many books are published on diets as there are on walking!

**Gary Mantle** Chief Executive of Wiltshire Wild Life Trust spoke movingly of the loss of species, particularly birds but also wild flowers and trees and stressed the importance of gaining support for conservation measures which have proved to give results as well as planning Green Spaces more wisely in new housing developments. However, his experience is that the push for more housing is swamping the Wild Life and Green Space aspects and hopes for more educated and sympathetic developers is rarely matched by reality.

**Paul Bramill** Director of Bramill Landscape Design and past Chair of the Parks Charity, Green Space, gave an interesting guide to the origins of formal parks creation and the development of green spaces as contributors to healthy, joyous life styles and also to the economic value added to residential developments that gave the park setting a focus and prominence.

Salisbury Green Space Partnership is looking for more support so go to it if you will!

**SALISBURY VISION BOARD**

I attended the 12<sup>th</sup> November meeting of the Vision Board which followed that in June when Alex Tregellas, the Chairman, gave his views and the results of research into the scope for economic regeneration in the Salisbury District.

There is a "new" Vision emerging which is focused on how to enhance opportunities for existing and potentially new employers to develop more high tech and science based establishments and lead to greater average salary levels and wealth creation. The logic is that by promoting Salisbury and its great knowledge catchment, attractiveness and the intellectual property it can lead to greater investment and prosperity to give funding for physical improvements to the area.

Facilities at PHE Porton Down, Boscombe Down and Salisbury NHS are world class operations and need promotion to attract potential business opportunities.

I am keeping a close interest on how this will transpose itself into particular action and timing for the established Vision Projects and whether they are re-considered at all and if so how.

Certainly the Vision plan to commission a new study of "infrastructure needs and resources" is welcome as sustained growth without the supporting infrastructure is not going to work.

A new Vision "Brand" is to be developed and published as soon as possible together with web site and other targeted audiences.

### **SOUTHAMPTON ROAD PLANNING APPLICATION**

This is now on hold as are the applications along London Road pending a re-assessment of retail activity and balance by Wiltshire Council.

### **MARKET PLACE**

The unsightly refuse bins and sometime accumulations of loose rubbish adjacent to the public lavatories continue to mar the otherwise impressive renewal of the surface to Market Place. Both public outcry and letters, including one from the Civic Society, have drawn undertakings from Wiltshire Council to examine 'improvements' to this situation: we await details. We are now having some dialogue in this respect.

### **HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

I close by wishing all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing as many as possible at the New Year Party and Awards Ceremony on January 15th 2015.

*Peter Dunbar.*

### **HISTORIC OPEN DAYS**

The 2014 theme for Salisbury Civic Society's 'Historic Open Days' was 'Hotels, Inns and their Chequers'. The Society, with financial support from Wiltshire Council, paid professional City Guides to conduct free tours over 3 days (11th to 13th September) so that the public could learn about some of Salisbury's rich history and architecture.

A total of 200 participants in groups of up to 15 took the 18 tours, which were centred on three chequers: Cross Keys, Antelope and White Hart. Three venues, the Cathedral Hotel, the Cloisters Inn and the White Hart Hotel, welcomed the guides and groups for an introductory explanation of the city's original chequer, or grid, system. This was followed by a walking tour of the relevant chequer, highlighting past and present inns and other interesting buildings and the people who inhabited and worked in them over the centuries.

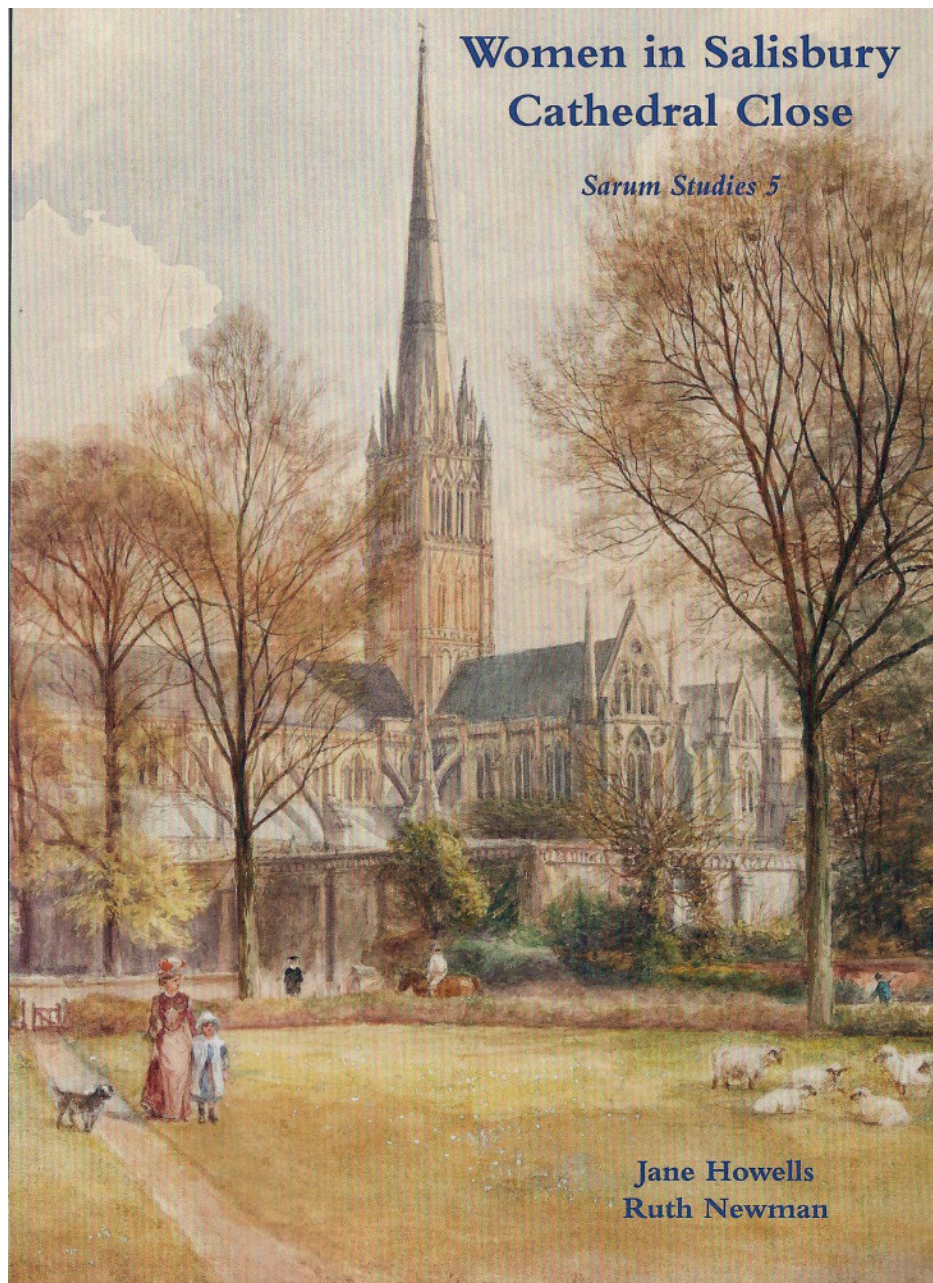
Sadly, after a long period of hard work for the Society, Jean Lunnion and Jennifer Blake have retired from the General Purposes committee. So we are now looking for one or two replacements for this important role.

If you are interested in joining our committee please contact its chairman, James Woods, on 01722 422169 or on [lisandjames@gmail.com](mailto:lisandjames@gmail.com)



# Women in Salisbury Cathedral Close

*Sarum Studies 5*



Jane Howells  
Ruth Newman



**WOMEN IN SALISBURY CATHEDRAL CLOSE BY  
JANE HOWELLS AND RUTH NEWMAN**

Salisbury Cathedral is indeed fortunate in that it is perfectly framed. Sadly not many other famous edifices enjoy such a perfect setting: built in what is now a park-like site, surrounded by interesting buildings. This little book will greatly add to one's appreciation of the Close. It has several features that will please not only the casual visitor, but especially those who have the time to linger.

The main subject concerns the development of a feminine influence in the Close, but it has much more to offer. First of all the book is a joy to handle: its pretty cover and excellent print, is complimented by its useful chart on page 5. To be able to orient oneself, clearly and quickly is a true boon. Two other features to appreciate are the apposite illustrations accompanying the essays and the useful notes at the close of each which tempt to further study.

The early years of the Cathedral allowed no opportunity for women's interests as the clergy were celibate until the Reformation and for quite a while after that. They started to play a part in Cathedral politics in the 17th and 18th centuries mainly through wealth and influence on their husbands. It was in the second half of the 19th century that they really came into their own: the boys' school Bishop Wordsworth, which originally was open to boys and girls, was within the Close, but on relocation, the girls were moved further out. The Boys' Choir boasts of a 900 year history while the Girls' was only created in 1991. Pioneers in further education for woman, such as the Principals of two Oxford Colleges who at times lived in the Close, came into their own and today women who have made their way in many walks of life find life in these surroundings most congenial. Now women have achieved full status in the Anglican Hierarchy, a Woman Bishop can be expected.

For the general public, what should be of particular interest are the chapters concerning Constable and Whistler.

Jane Howells and Ruth Newman are to be congratulated on their research which has resulted in such an attractive book.

*Yvonne Fox.*

## POLITICS RELIGION AND WITCHCRAFT IN THE 17TH CENTURY BY DAVID RICHARDS

At the Methodist Church on Thursday 13th November David Richards, Blue Badge Guide and acknowledged authority on Salisbury, gave a talk whose lively content more than lived up to its title.

Initially he reminded us of the extraordinary richness of the history of the 17th Century. It included for example the Glorious Revolution of 1688 – the disappearance of the King to France with the accession of William and Mary – and the Bill of Rights arguably as important as the Magna Carta in its effect on the constitution of today. This was followed by the Act of Settlement making it impossible for a Roman Catholic to reign as Monarch, a situation only relieved last year with an Act that allowed marriage to a Catholic. Guy Fawkes, the Civil War, the execution of Charles I and the era of Oliver Cromwell emphasise the turmoil of the times. All this followed the acquisition of the Crown by the King of Scotland.

It was in 1611 that John Speed produced his familiar map (we were shown an attractive version recently coloured and see page 9), then in 1612 the City was granted a Royal Charter making it a Free City: the Bishop's authority was thereby limited – he resided in the Bishop's Palace and stayed there. The Assizes for Wiltshire were held at the Town House, long since burnt down, on the site of the present war memorial in the Market Place; the prison for the County was in Fisherton Street, and was large, extending to Crane Bridge.

In his design in 1220 for the new town of Salisbury (New Sarum) Bishop Richard Poore made provision for water supplies for everyone by running channels down the middle of the streets, a feature visible in Speed's map. These persisted till the 19th century. Meanwhile they were a source of disease as no sewers were provided at the time. Plague and smallpox were rife, presumably cholera too. The relationship of filthy water to bad health and death was well recognised so that thirst could only be safely quenched with beer. Before the advent of commercial breweries this was brewed at home by the women. Thus drunkenness and petty crime was rampant. Life was hard tough and difficult, and short.

It is difficult to understand why, at a time when art and science were becoming dominant, witchcraft and superstition was so prevalent. The era of relics in all the churches had ended at the time of Henry VIII. Before then there were numerous relics in the Cathedral – all we have now is the Magna Carta. In earlier times there had been the Toe of St Mary Magdalene and the Tooth of St Ann. You could expect Rupture, Madness and Toothache to be cured by visiting the tomb of St Osmond, second Bishop in the Old Sarum days. There is a statue of St Roche

on the west wall of the Cathedral – to touch it brought benefit. He is depicted with his dog and his tunic raised to reveal a bubo from the plague: his survival gave him miracle powers all over Europe. In 1632 King Charles I visited Salisbury establishing his divine touch by touching victims of the King's Evil, scrofula, which was tuberculosis of the lymph nodes in the neck, a condition which ordinarily would be self limiting in any case.

We then heard various necessarily rather morbid accounts, expertly told, of various acts of witchcraft. Dominant among these was the story of Mistress Anne Bodenham who was hanged at the Fisherton Spike in 1653. She was 80 and the servant of a Dr Lamb, himself described as a wizard and a quack. His end came when after release from accusation of rape he was murdered after a visit to the theatre by those who did not believe in his innocence. During his incarceration he was comfortably accommodated in gaol and was visited by George Villiers, 1st Duke of Buckingham. Buckingham was already unpopular because of his manipulation of the monarchy (by which he became very rich and well connected) and his political incompetence. This friendship can only have had a bad effect on both their reputations. Lamb was known as the Duke's Devil, so runs the doggerel:

Who rules the Kingdom? The King.  
Who rules the King? The Duke.  
Who rules the Duke? The Devil.

George Villiers was a very clever man but I would like to think that the other features of his character have not been projected into his extensive family.

Shortly after Lamb's murder outside the theatre, The Duke himself was murdered in Portsmouth (1628).

Anne Bodenham - see her picture on page 17 - specialised in not only curing sickness but finding lost items, an especially rewarding skill which was later to be responsible for her downfall through the family of a Mr Goddard of The Close. David Richards wrote in detail about this and many other related matters in Issue 9 (2009) of the Sarum Chronicle.

Contrasts within the century are illustrated particularly in 1660 when the Royal Society was formed with the encouragement of the new King. It is still the most prestigious scientific society in the world. Founder members from this locality were Bishop Seth Ward and Sir Christopher Wren.

In 1684 was the date of the last execution of a witch in England, in Exeter, but the practice continued in Scotland till 1722.

The talk was not marred by the speaker's own joking claim that he never allowed the truth to interfere with a good story. However I would challenge anyone to detect any inaccuracy. The audience was very appreciative.

*Charles Villiers.*

## **CLARENDON - FROM MEDIEVAL PALACE TO GEORGIAN MANSION**

On 25 September, an audience of over 70 people was absorbed by a very informative and well illustrated presentation by Tom Beaumont James of the history of the Clarendon Estate. The talk was in two parts: firstly, the medieval palace, which is a ruin of which more, has gradually become uncovered, and secondly the Georgian mansion, which has now been restored but is not open to the public. A show of hands established that a large proportion of audience had visited Clarendon.

To put the talk in context, we were informed that this year is the 850th anniversary of the Constitutions of Clarendon, a document which was a precursor to Magna Carta and formed the basis of legislation and the 'spirit' of the church in England. This was agreed between the bishops and the king, Henry II (apparently a violent man) and the archbishop. However the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas a Becket, although initially appearing to agree, eventually refused to sign. He was prosecuted and found guilty so he fled to France. He returned in 1170 when in December he was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral and so canonised in 1173.

There is little left now of Clarendon Palace and there has been extensive tree damage over the years, though vegetation clearance has now made the site 'legible'. The estate was arranged as lawns in the north, coppices in the middle and pasture in the south. It was the biggest deer park in medieval England. Although disparked in 1664, with the exception of the south west corner severed by the Alderbury By-Pass and the railway, the estate remains intact to this day and public roads pass around it not through it.

The park was in royal hands perhaps from the 7th century through to 1660, but the medieval palace developed from the twelfth century was abandoned by 1500. We were given a chronology of the estate's owners and some amusing asides about their lives and stewardship.

The palace site extends along the top of an escarpment. There were once stables for 100 horses. After extensive 'wall-chasing' in 1921 little interest was shown in the site until 1930s when Tancred Borenius undertook excavations. A circular medieval tiled floor was recovered from the site, the wine cellar steps were uncovered and a pillar of Purbeck marble and pieces of Caen stone and local greensand and Tisbury stone were found on site as well as samples of plaster and much else.





Anne Bodenham conjuring up five Devils  
at her home in Fisherton.

Remains of Roman villas have also been found below the escarpment

Clarendon House is Grade 1 listed and was built c 1719 -20 and extended in 19th century. The service wing was demolished in 1979, since which time the house lay unoccupied until sold in 2006. The current owners have restored it to live in, along with the gardens and 1930s swimming pool. Its architect is debated. It was fascinating to see 'then and now' photographs of the interior. It has been used as a film set in the past – most notably for Kubrick's Barry Lyndon.

After such a fascinating talk, I am sure I was not the only one keen to explore the topic more widely and revisit the site.

*Judy Howles.*

#### **INCREASING OUR MEMBERSHIP**

With the recent success of Salisbury in Lonely Planet's Top 10 cities and their glowing comments about the area, now is a good time to encourage friends, family and local businesses to join the Civic Society. If existing members could recruit just one new member each we could double our numbers overnight, ambitious but it would be a good start!

Whilst promoting high standards of planning and architecture, the Society has a great deal to offer members; hosting a lively programme of talks about the buildings, history and geography of the area and arranging visits to places of interest both in and around the city. The website [salisburycivicsociety.org.uk](http://salisburycivicsociety.org.uk) and the quarterly magazine are packed with useful information about ongoing projects. It's a great way to get to know Salisbury, discover all sorts of new things and meet people who care about this fabulous city of ours.

There is no bar to membership, everyone is welcome, local businesses, anyone and everyone who is interested in Salisbury. Subscriptions are paid annually: Students £5; Individuals £15; Families £23; Corporate £50. Either give me a call on 01722 502575 or mobile 07710 945113, or e-mail [stephaniedsd@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniedsd@gmail.com) and I will be delighted to give you more information.

*Stephanie, your new membership secretary.*

**OFFICERS as at 1st DECEMBER 2014.****PATRON: The Lord Congleton MA, Hon.LLD.****PRESIDENT: Dame Rosemary Spencer, DCMG.****VICE-PRESIDENTS: Brig Alastair Clark, Maj Gen Roy Dixon,  
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In his talk (see page 14) to the Society on Politics, Religion and Witchcraft referred to the Doom Painting in St Thomas's Church. The devil is emerging from the flames of hell to pull in the unfortunates, unclothed, and including a bishop and two crowned heads as well, it appears, a stigmatised witch. In medieval times the clergy would rely on this imagery as much as preaching to keep the people in awe of their sin.