



March 2016



This issue celebrates the New Building Awards 2015 on pages 4 - 8 with details of the judges' comments and photographs. The front cover shows the Stonehenge Visitor Centre awarded the Lord Congleton Award for New Buildings.

Richard Deane outlines the exciting prospect of a new sculpture for the city on pages 15 -17. New material is being added to the website all the time and any suggestions for additional content would be well received. You will find screen shots of the website and social media on pages 19 & 20.

For easy reference, the 2016 Diary of Events is on the back page (p 24). There's an interesting variety of talks and activities through the year which we hope you will support. Application forms for visits to the Bombay Sapphire Distillery, Norrington Manor and the Pitt Walk are enclosed; places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment!

Throughout the year you will find an introduction to committee members, starting with the Executive Committee on pages 21 & 22. Due to increased commitments, Philip Price is stepping down as Secretary of the Society. If you would like to volunteer for this interesting role please take a look on page 3.

Stephanie S-D

## A TALE OF TWO CITIES

SAINTES and SALISBURY

Mervyn Pannett - Thursday March 17

The talk will be illustrated and concentrate on Saintes: its Geography, History (from the pre-historic through the Roman era, through the medieval period when for some time it lay on the border between French France and English Aquitaine to the modern day), its Economy, where there are interesting comparisons with Salisbury and its Architecture. A notable difference between the cities is the mass of wonderful Roman remains that can be seen in Saintes. On top of that there are the ecclesiastical architectural comparisons where Salisbury is the richer.

6.30pm Methodist Hall, St Edmund's Church Street, Salisbury

Free to members. Non members £2.50

## Planning Forum RECOGNISING THE CHEQUERS Thursday April 14th

Recognising the Chequers will deal with various aspects of this very important facet of Salisbury's character, and in particular how residents and visitors can be made more aware of it.

There will be four speakers:

Local historian **Ruth Newman**, will explain how the chequers came into being, and examine some features of them.

**Wendy English**, will cover the Vanner's Chequer plaque project, which she wrote about in the December magazine.

**Barbara Evans**, who will explain the intentions behind the Marsh Chequer competition. She hopes to be able to display the winning competition entry, depending on how timings work out.

**Richard Deane**, will cover the Society's chequer naming project, described in the last magazine. This should be a good opportunity to learn a bit more about the chequers system, and to discuss how this fundamental feature of the city can be put more firmly into public view.

6.30 pm Methodist Church, St Edmund's Church Street

Free to members. Non members £2.50

**NEW SECRETARY:** After several years as secretary of the Society Philip Price will be stepping down to attend to other commitments. The role requires taking and circulating minutes from the Executive Committee Meetings and Society AGM. Responsible for posting out the Quarterly magazine and other communications to members. If you are interested please contact Philip Price on 01794 884631 [philatlarge@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:philatlarge@hotmail.co.uk)

**BRITFORD LANE UPDATE:** A critical planning document is soon to be published, for consultation prior to a public enquiry. It will tell us whether Britford Lane is one of Wiltshire Council's preferred sites for meeting a current deficit of 625 houses. For more details, and regular updates, see Current Issues on the website.

# Salisbury Civic Society New Buildings Awards Scheme 2015 Judges' Report

## COMMENDATIONS

### Extension to St Benedict's Priory, Salisbury (see page 5)

This extension was considered to be best treated as a new building in its own right, and to be appraised in terms of its own success and its contributions to its surroundings, rather than specifically in relation to the rather ordinary 1960's house to which it has been added. The judges were impressed by the fact that while its purpose is to serve the needs of a small monastic community, full account had been taken in the design of the possibility that at some point in the future it might move to a purely domestic function. This did not detract from its success in providing spaces for prayer and contemplation, and for library use, simply but distinctively detailed. Its overall form created a contemporary equivalent of the traditional monastic cloister, aided by ample glazing and copper roofs, in themselves largely out of sight but given visual expression by being carried over into the fascias. Floors paved in limestone were another indication of the use of high quality materials. The judges' overall view was that the extension had been conceived, detailed and constructed to high standards, and fully deserved a commendation.

### Old Sarum Community Centre, Salisbury (see page 5)

The increasingly extensive area of housing development at Old Sarum tends to be viewed as somewhat lacking in design merit, and the judges were delighted to find that the community centre bucks this trend, and contributes something of genuine visual merit, while still amply fulfilling its basic purpose. In an area where houses tend to be either in brick or in render, and in both cases to follow formulaic models, the community centre combines render and timber cladding to good effect, with a large area of glass providing a focal point at one end. Its low lying 'L' shape sits comfortably on its site, with attention drawn to





EXTENSION TO ST BENEDICT'S PRIORY, SALISBURY

Photograph Ash Mills



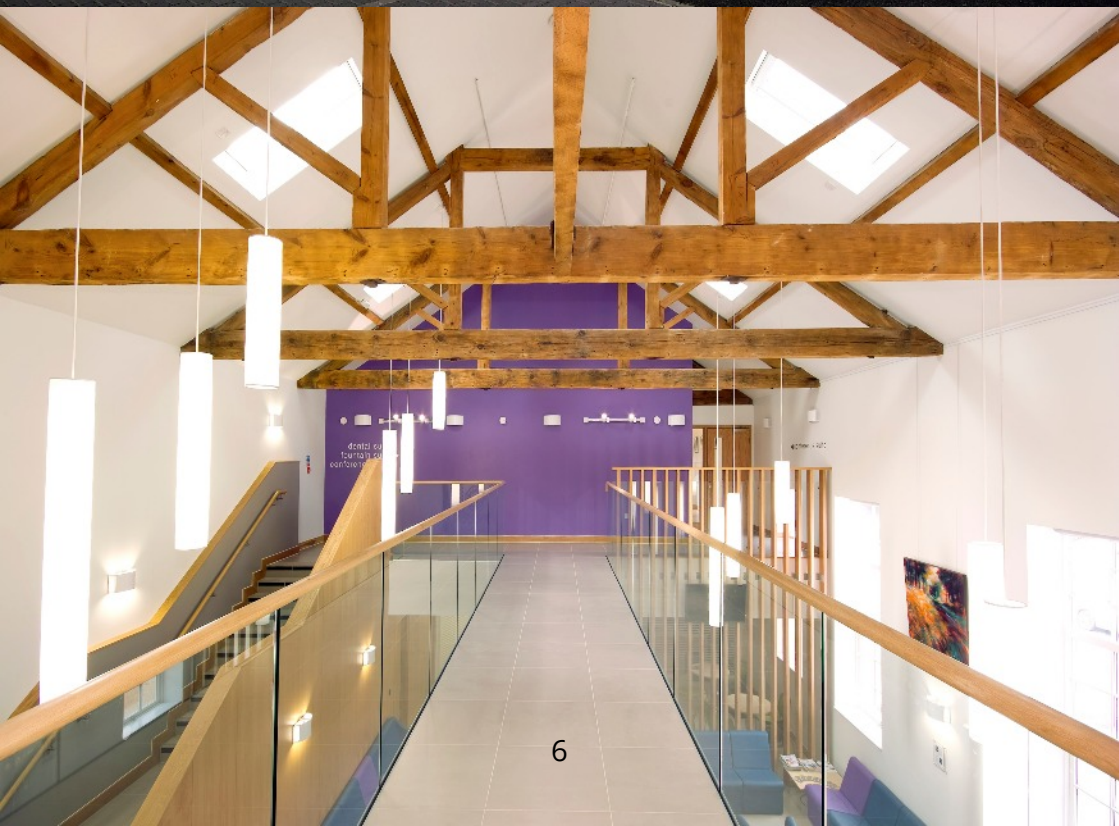
OLD SARUM COMMUNITY CENTRE, SALISBURY

Photograph Richard Deane



# FISHERTON HOUSE, SALISBURY

Photographs Salisbury Medical Practice



the entrance zone through a change in materials. The ventilation extractors have been given a deliberately chunky form, to add a contrasting accent to a roof made prominent by the modest height of the building. The internal spaces are practical and attractive, made flexible by movable partitions. In a part of the world where design aspirations beyond the mundane and the banal are hard to detect, the community centre creates in its modest and understated way a refreshing contrast, and the judges had no difficulty in deciding that a commendation would be a fitting response.

## AWARDS

### Fisherton House, Salisbury (see page 6)

The judges were pleased to find that budget constraints had not led to purely utilitarian buildings, and that a considerable effort had clearly gone into combining fitness for purpose with making a genuine visual contribution to this part of the former Old Manor Hospital site. The use of two very different materials, a buff-coloured brick and white render, had worked well, enhancing the simple design approach, which derived from the Georgian tradition but without any extraneous details. The one conscious embellishment was the coloured strips on one side of each of the windows to the front of the building in white render, and these were felt to work extremely well, adding a certain panache to an essentially simple group of buildings. The former mental hospital ballroom had been successfully incorporated, both externally with the pharmacy added to it, and also internally. Here the retention of some full-height space at one end, with roof timbers exposed, kept some of the ballroom identity intact within its very different new use. The judges expressed the hope that a future budget might be found to add to the landscaping to further enhance the buildings' setting, but overall their success in achieving the required facilities, while still making a strong visual impact on a very visible site, was felt to make them well worth an award





## BOWLING GREEN HOUSE, SALISBURY

Photograph Richard Deane



## APPLE HOUSE, BARFORD ST MARTIN

Photograph Richard Deane



## Bowling Green House, Salisbury (see page 8)

There were various reasons why the judges felt this house deserved an award, but its achievement is best summed up when viewed from half-way up Devonshire Road. To either side are standard suburban-type houses of the 1930's or thereabouts, pleasant but unremarkable, and then in the focal position at the end, as the road turns, is something quite untypical of Salisbury, but with a remarkably uplifting effect. Its combination of timber boarding, white render and plenty of glass, set within a traditional gabled shape, adds a whole new element to the street scene, refreshing without in any way jarring. The judges were particularly impressed by the contrast with what photos showed to have been the utterly undistinguished house originally on the site, parts of which survive within the structure of what is essentially a new one. The other elevations worked equally well, embodying a simple and clean approach, contemporary without in any way being over-ambitious for the location. The fact that the house was at least in part a self-build project added to its merits, and its overall impact, an extremely pleasant surprise in this quiet corner of the city, was adjudged to be outstandingly successful. Given what tends to be the usual approach, which is the bland re-creation of historic styles lacking in any conviction, others looking to design houses in similar types of locations could learn a lot from the example of this one.

## Apple House, Barford St Martin (see page 8)

This building looked interesting in the photos seen by the judges in their initial session, but a site visit was needed to bring out its full merits. The project started from two outbuildings, one a barn and one the eponymous apple house, both of them of some visual merit but difficult to re-use effectively, and recreated them in a form which retained their footprint and much of their appearance, while turning them into an extremely attractive house. The contrasts in shape and orientation, and between cladding in timber for the apple house and in metal for the barn, produced something which was interesting from the outset,

but which needed high quality design to bring out its full potential. The judges had no doubt that this had been achieved. Respect for original form did not preclude the addition of substantial areas of glazing, which created very usable ground floor spaces, while bedrooms had been tucked into an upper floor in the barn without compromising its character. The imagination shown in re-using original features in the interior, and adding new details, was applauded as going well beyond the norm. The energy rating achieved was also commendably high, with solar panels on the roof blending in very well, and full advantage had been taken of the high level position and views southwards. The overall outcome was a house which it would be hard not to enjoy living in.

### **Lord Congleton Award - Stonehenge Visitor Centre**

The visitor centre clearly had the potential to seriously compromise the character of the Stonehenge world heritage site if it had been handled unwisely. The judges' visit convinced them that in fact both the design approach to the new building, and its detailed execution, were of the highest quality. The low and gently curving roof canopy, with its multitude of thin and angled supports around the periphery, had clearly been aimed at creating a contrast with the monument itself, which lies out of sight beyond. Below the canopy was another equally effective contrast, between the transparent shop and restaurant, and the solid walled exhibition area. The vertical cladding to the latter, in chestnut wood, was deemed to be a particularly successful detail, its differing widths and colour variations giving just the right level of contrast within the overall mass. Where openings had been punched through, the interest created at their tops by the irregular termination of the boards was another neat touch. An equal amount of thought had gone into the perforation of the outer parts of the canopy, to create a dappled effect whenever the sun shines through. Underlying the whole project, it seemed clear that questions of sustainability had been properly considered throughout. There were slight variations of view as to whether the car parking could have been made less intrusive, but overall the judges had no doubt that the building was an immensely successful conclusion to the long quest for better visitor facilities at Stonehenge, and fully worthy of the Lord Congleton Award. (See front cover and p11)

STONEHENGE VISITOR CENTRE  
Photographs Denton Corker Marshall





## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2016 has begun with considerable enthusiasm and we are now reporting a significant uplift in new joining members and the re-designed website is attracting widespread attention and much deserved applause for its new look and helpful navigation as well as the links to Twitter and Facebook, with numbers following our activities rapidly increasing.

We are always seeking to add to our membership so do please mention the Society to friends, neighbours and newcomers and your children, and as an incentive or reward, new members will be invited to the first following New Year Party free of charge! I would like to extend a hearty welcome to all our new joining members and indeed wish everybody a Happy New Year.

The New Year Awards and Party held at the Guildhall on 14th January was a resounding success and whilst sadly without

our dear Patron, Lord Congleton, who passed away in December, it was a fitting tribute to him as well as the promoters of the Stonehenge Visitor Centre that the Civic Society was able to award the first "Lord Congleton Award" for outstanding new architecture. The other Awards and Commendations were well deserved and our thanks go to Katie Sporle, past Chapter Clerk to Salisbury Cathedral, for chairing the judging panel and introducing the winning new building projects.

A Memorial Service was held in Salisbury Cathedral on 3rd February for Christopher Parnell, The 8th Baron, Lord Congleton and the Society was represented by our President, Dame Rosemary Spencer, immediate past Chairman Brigadier Alastair Clark and Vice Chairman, Richard Deane and other members also attended. Our condolences go to his widow Hedi and their family.

Looking ahead, we are constantly aware of the dangers to our local environment from inappropriate and opportunistic development proposals promoted by land owners whose sole interest is in speculative financial gain and not respectful of the local adopted Planning Policies or community interests and priorities. The recent illustrations of the flooded fields along Britford Lane where the Longford Estate and St Nicholas Hospital are planning to seek permission for housing development adjacent to the flood plain, intruding on this important "green lung" alongside the River Avon, is an example of this inappropriate development.

I also wish to focus my attention on the sadly neglected riverside banks of the River Avon, as it passes through the heart of Salisbury, by the bridge on Fisherton Street/Bridge Street opposite JD Wetherspoon's Kings Head public house. (see photographs on page 14) The

continuous dumping of litter here together with the decay of the surrounding hinterland and riverside by the overgrown grass lands, unkempt trees and hedges surrounding the area is cause for concern. I am hopeful that if we engage with adjoining land owners to formulate a plan to revive the immediate area, we will have success in improving maintenance, brightening up the adjoining buildings and enhancing features that are attractive with removal of garish advertising signs and keeping it litter free.

This will involve both time as well as some money and if anyone has suggestions or ideas or wishes to be involved it would very helpful to hear from you.

That's all from me, so enjoy the March Edition of your Quarterly Magazine.

Peter Dunbar

Chairman Salisbury Civic Society



River Avon, Fisherton Street/Bridge Street



River Avon, Fisherton Street/Bridge Street



# A SCULPTURE FOR THE CITY?

As recounted in the September magazine, 1999 saw a campaign to retain for the city a bronze statue on display as part of that year's Shape of the Century sculpture exhibition. This was Giles Penny's 'Man with Arms Open' (page 17), described in the piece as 'positive and life-affirming', and something whose presence in the Market Place for several months was a delight to many'. The piece went on to state that 'the city's failure to secure him on a permanent basis still seems like a major lost opportunity'.

The Society has now decided to see if that failure can be redressed, seventeen years on. It was decided to focus the obvious enthusiasm for public art displayed at November's Open Meeting on this particular sculpture, rather than trying to go down the equally enticing, but far more complicated, route of seeing if a high quality water feature could be installed in Salisbury. This remains a long-term aspiration, but it would not

be easy, or cheap. Getting the statue back will not be exactly easy either, but at least the way it can be done is clear.

An initial success has been to find a piece from the Journal of August 19th 1999, headlined 'A sculpture for the city?', and including a photo of the 'Man'. It confirms the specific location in that year, in the NE corner of Guildhall Square, opposite what is now Nuggs, and critically the photo's caption describes the statue as 'the people's favourite'. This was based on 'the volume of positive feedback it had attracted'. Raising the money to retain the statue was something that had to be done in a short period, which proved unrealistic. However the confirmation of the enthusiasm in 1999 for this piece is invaluable, since as a gauge of public opinion nothing beats having an art work actually in place for three months, and gathering reactions to it. No work of art will ever appeal to absolutely everyone, but applause for this one seventeen years ago is a great asset – and the absence of any 'bah are they bonkers, wanting this piece of scrap metal in our city' letters in

the next couple of editions of the paper is another good sign, given the readiness of members of the negative tendency to reach for their keyboards (and probably in some cases quills), then as now.

The idea now is to purchase a brand new casting of the figure. This would require some serious fundraising, but there are one or two hurdles before that point is reached. A first step has been taken –the City Council Services Committee has decided, almost unanimously, to approve the principle of providing a location 'somewhere within the city centre'. The Society had already stated its preference for a location along the northern edge of the Guildhall Square/Market Place, somewhere between the 1999 position and the Cheesemarket, and not excluding the latter.

A cautious approach at the City Council means that approval will now have to be sought again, for a more precise location. Society committee members have now discussed where precisely within that stretch the statue would work best, and a formal letter is about to go in. Though other sites haven't been ruled out, the

Cheesemarket is the most favoured location, perhaps in conjunction with a projected (but not yet agreed) redesign of that area. It actually comes under Wiltshire Council rather than the City Council, but the suggestion for a statue there will go in via the latter.

If the Council approves a location we'd like, the next stage would be to seek planning permission, which is known to be required. Clearly both the agreement of the landowner and planning consent are needed before fundraising becomes relevant. So making good the failure to seize on the 1999 opportunity, and putting the Man with Arms Open back into central Salisbury, remains some way off, but there is a commitment to go as far along that road as is achievable – and hopefully all the way.

Richard Deane

## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our newest members Eleanor Hardie, Peter Martindale, Hugh Synge and Margaret Staniforth.



## MAN WITH ARMS OPEN

Giles Penny



## The New SCS Website/Twitter account/Facebook group page

The Salisbury Civic Society new website/Twitter account/ and Facebook group page are all now live. Please take a look, provide feedback, and use them where you can in the Society's work and publicity. We hope they will provide new opportunities to keep members up to date and engaged with our work between copies of the Quarterly Magazine, raise the profile of the Society and its work to the general public, and recruit potential new members.

The new SCS website is live at [www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk) . We hope you enjoy the new design and content. The design is thanks to the graphic creativity of Alison Newton of Catalyst Creatives with the build, skilfully and expertly carried out by Brad Houston of Trevor Peters Design. Content and ideas have been contributed by members of the Society's committees. There is more news waiting to be added and please let us know of anything that you would like to contribute.

The SCS twitter feed is at <https://twitter.com/SalisburyCivic> . If you are a twitter user, please follow us @salisburycivic and like and re-tweet the Society's posts. Non-members can also follow us on twitter, so if you have friends or family who are on twitter and interested in Salisbury's heritage, environment, and future please encourage them to follow us.

The SCS Facebook group page is also now live at <http://tinyurl.com/z2t5wp6>. We hope all who are Facebook users will join the group and please also invite friends and colleagues too who you think will be interested in the work of the Society. It complements our twitter feed and allows longer posts and discussion. It is a public group so members and non-members can join and post to it.

We hope you enjoy these new opportunities for members and the public to learn more about the important work done by the Society and to keep up to date with our activities.

Neil Beagrie (Publicity) and Stephanie Siddons Deighton (Magazine and website)

## Celebrating our Heritage • Enhancing our Environment • Shaping our Future

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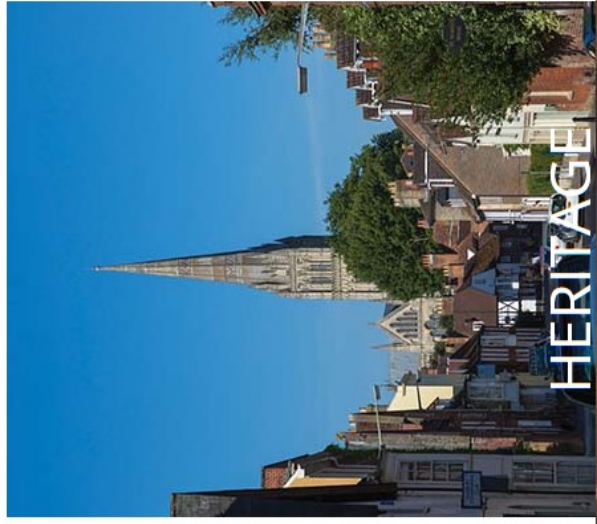
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AWARDS ▾

CONTACT





Screenshot of TWITTER Page



Screenshot of FACEBOOK Page



## Meet the members of the Executive Committee



**PETER DUNBAR, CHAIRMAN.** A self employed Chartered Building Surveyor with offices in London and Salisbury, moved to Salisbury in 2003, married to Angela in 2006. A keen ex player and supporter of Rugby Union, Vice President at Salisbury RFC and now occasionally found attempting to improve his golf handicap at Hamptworth Golf Course. Loves travel, particularly when visiting family in Australia and New Zealand. No plans, however, to ever stop living in the beautiful City of Salisbury and determined to keep it that way!



**RICHARD DEANE, VICE CHAIRMAN.** Entered Oriel College Oxford in 1967 to study Philosophy Politics & Economics, left Leeds University five years later with a degree in Chinese. Joined Salisbury Cathedral works department in 1977 as a glazier's labourer. Became a stonemason by a very ad hoc process, left the cathedral in 1997 and set up own stonemasonry business. Joined Development Committee when it was set up in 1985, secretary from 1991. Organiser of buildings awards scheme from 1996. Represents Society on the Salisbury Conservation Advisory Panel, and currently chairman of it.



**PHILIP PRICE, SECRETARY.** Philip worked in the Oil Industry for 31 years and moved to the Salisbury area prior to retirement as interested in the town, particularly the Cathedral. Secretary Salisbury Civic Society. Responsible for taking and circulating minutes from the Executive Committee Meetings and Society AGM. Responsible for posting out the Quarterly magazine and other communications to members.



**ADRIAN HARRIS, TREASURER.** I am a fully qualified Certified Chartered Accountant (FCCA) running my management accounting practice based in Salisbury (Freedom Accounting Services Ltd). Salisbury born and bred so the city runs through my veins. Married to Julia with two wonderful children. My passions are music, the arts, formula 1 and of course my photography business. I became associated with the Salisbury Civic Society in June of 2015. I have very much enjoyed my short time with the society so far and I am looking forward to being a supporter for years to come.



**CHARLES VILLIERS, MEMBERSHIP.** Entered Corpus Christi College, Cambridge in 1957 reading Natural Science, then to St George's Hospital at Hyde Park Corner qualifying in 1963. Specialist training in further London teaching hospitals, then Consultant Radiologist at the Royal Berkshire Hospital for 25 years. Moved to Salisbury in 2003. Joined Civic Society, introduced by David Allen (then Chairman) editing the Quarterly in a new format for 12 years. Widowed in 2006, remarried in 2012 to Judy Adams. Now working for the Society's membership.



**STEPHANIE SIDDONS DEIGHTON, MAGAZINE & WEBSITE.** Moved from London in 2013 where she worked in Interior Design and more recently for Scribbler, card retailers. Joined the Society in 2014, taking on the role of Membership Secretary, passing this on to Charles Villiers as she became more involved in project managing the development and build of a new website for the Society, she is presently populating the website and is also editor of the quarterly magazine.



**NEIL BEAGRIE, PUBLICITY.** Neil has lived in Salisbury for some 24 years and first moved to the city when he was working for the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England. He now runs his own business in Salisbury specialising in digital preservation and research data management. He has an active interest in the heritage and architecture of Salisbury and is working with members to raise the profile of the Society.



**JAMES WOODS, CHAIRMAN GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.** James retired to Salisbury in 1998 after a career in commercial and market research on the railways and a few years in transport consultancy. In 2007 he joined the Civic Society with his wife, Lis, and after a period of organising lectures for members became chair of the Society's General Purposes Committee in 2012. His main interests are listening to music, helping to run a local film society, surfing the internet, and running away from social engagements.

## OFFICERS as at 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016

### **PRESIDENT**

**Dame Rosemary Spencer DCMG**

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**Mr Ken Wiltshire**

**Brig Alastair Clark**

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# PROGRAMME of EVENTS 2016

Thursday March 17

## A TALE OF TWO CITIES

SAINTES and SALISBURY

Mervyn Pannett

6.30 pm Methodist Hall, St Edmund's Church  
Street, Salisbury (Details p.3)

Free to members. Non members £2.50

Thursday April 14

## PLANNING FORUM

## RECOGNISING THE CHEQUERS

with Ruth Newman, Wendy English,

Barbara Evans & Richard Deane

6.30 pm Methodist Hall, St Edmund's Church  
Street, Salisbury

Free to members. Non members £2.50

Thursday April 28 (Visit)

## BOMBAY SAPPHIRE DISTILLERY

Whitchurch, RG28 7NR

Members £17.60 Guests £18.60

(Application form enclosed)

Friday June 3 (Visit)

## NORRINGTON MANOR, SP5 5LL

Members £5.00 Guests £6.00

(Application form enclosed)

Wednesday June 15

## AGM

## THE FARM BUILDINGS of

## WILTSHIRE

Alan Wordsworth from the Wiltshire  
Buildings Record

6.30 pm Methodist Hall, St Edmund's Church  
Street, Salisbury

Open to all Members

Wednesday July 27

## MYSTERY VISIT

Please make a note of the date in your  
diaries. (Application form will be  
available in the June magazine)

Monday August 15 (Walk)

## The PITT WALK & CREAM TEA

with David Richards

Members £5.00 Guests £6.00

(Application form enclosed)

September 8 - 11

## HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Thursday September 22

## A NEW USE FOR A REDUNDANT CHURCH

The conversion of St John's Church,  
Lower Bemerton to community use.

The Rev'd Simon Woodley

6.30 pm Methodist Hall, St Edmund's Church  
Street, Salisbury

Free to Members. Non members £2.50

Thursday November 10

## UPDATING the WILTSHIRE

## PEVSNER

Julian Orbach

6.30 pm Methodist Hall, St Edmund's Church  
Street, Salisbury

Free to Members. Non members £2.50

Tuesday November 22

## OPEN MEETING

The Alamein Suite, City Hall

Free to all