

SALISBURY CIVIC SOCIETY - JUNE 2015

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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 though 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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Illustrations in this issue:

*© Alastair Clark, Richard Deane,
John Winders, Charles Villiers.*





PROGRAMME.

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.

THE QUARTERLY EDITOR AND THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Mrs Stephanie Siddons Deighton has volunteered to take over as Quarterly Editor from Charles Villiers who has been editing the magazine since 2004. He has agreed to take over her duties as Membership Secretary. The changes will take place at the AGM on Wednesday 17 June 2015.

Wednesday 17th June

AGM at 6.30pm

followed by

Steve Hannath

Chalk and Cheese - 'Wiltshire's Rocks and Their Impact on the Natural and Cultural Landscapes'

Wednesday July 15th - 2pm

Visit - Houghton Lodge and Gardens

Friday July 17th

Mystery Visit - Wendy English

see page 26

Wednesday August 19th

Tour of Wilton with David Richards

Thursday 10th September

Tony Phillips

'The Fovant Badges - Origins in WWI and subsequent evolution; their rescue and annual maintenance'

Thursday 12th November

Michael Drury

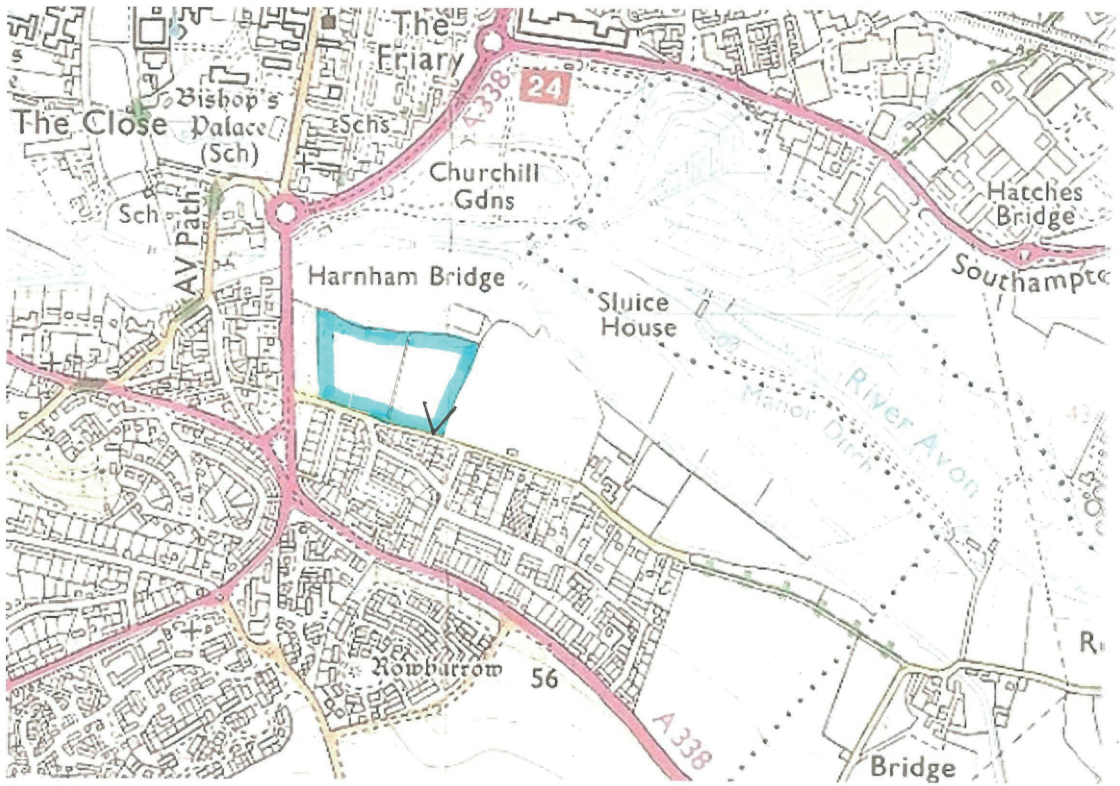
Salisbury Cathedral and the Major Repair Programme

Tuesday 17 November

Open Meeting

In the Alamein Suite at City Hall





View of proposed Britford development site towards the Cathedral Spire from **V** on the map above.





CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT - JUNE 2015

FORTHCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM on 17th June will commence at 6:30pm at the Methodist Church in St. Edmund's Church Street as in previous years and following the official business, election of Officers and any other matters arising we will receive a talk from Steve Hannath titled "Chalk and Cheese – Wiltshire's Rocks and their impact on the Natural and Cultural Landscape".

We will learn a most fascinating insight into turning "rocks" into buildings and as an example, how to distinguish all the very different strands of Chilmark Stone which has come to be used as a generic name that covers stone from the Vale of Wardour's Portland Stone and member deposits in Tisbury, Chilmark and Chicks Grove and all featured in the construction of Salisbury Cathedral, contrasting with the polished Purbeck Marble columns.

OFFICERS

We are delighted that Adrian Harris will now be standing for election as Hon Treasurer to take on the mantle of Ron Millar who has magnificently continued in the role of acting Treasurer whilst his replacement has been recruited. Adrian has considerable expertise in the accounting field and is also an active advisor to the Salisbury Festival board as well as having notable skills as a photographer.

I wish to record for all to be aware that without Ron's tenacity and determination the Society would have had serious problems with its banking and other consequential financial arrangements this year. Arising from poor and limited communications and dysfunctional management of Trustee accounts by the Royal Bank of Scotland, we nearly had our banking arrangements terminated without notice. In challenging the bank through branch and national headquarter's "Complaints" division over several weeks, Ron managed not only to rescue the accounts status but also secured another written apology and an offer of compensation which naturally was accepted. Thank you Ron on behalf of all the Members!

Also standing for office, as the new Publicity Officer, is Neil Beagrie who will be taking on the role from Ron Smith who has performed that important service to the Society for many years and retires with our grateful thanks. I am sure we have an able and enthusiastic candidate in Neil and in spearheading a fresh campaign for new Members and awareness of our activities we hope to see our membership return to exceed the historic target of 400.

On the subject of membership, Stephanie Siddons-Deighton has agreed to take over the role as editor of the Quarterly Magazine from Charles Villiers and our thanks to Charles for a very successful production run in your time in office. Stephanie has relinquished her position as Membership Secretary to Charles who now has new challenges ahead of him!





SALISBURY VISION (NO MORE)

Members will have seen in the press the various statements by Wiltshire Council that they have decided to withdraw support from the Salisbury Vision and it has now been extinguished as a body.

This was probably a result of financial constraints and limited Officer time available as much as a lack of specific direction towards identifiable results from the Vision Board and its Chairman, Alex Tregellas.

I hope that the positive work of the Vision in previous years in identifying areas of potential development improvement and revival of economic prosperity can be built upon by those responsible now and we await the announcement from Wiltshire Council as to the construction of a replacement "Forum" drawn from local interest groups including BID and The Civic Society.

I will keep in close touch with Richard Walters of Wiltshire Council Major Projects and report any developments.

DEVELOPMENTS

Speaking of developments, we hear nothing positive from Wiltshire Council in regard to any progress or further development plans for the **Central Car Park site and the Maltings** redevelopment. Stanhope appear to be wrestling with unforeseen subsoil ground conditions (what were they assuming I wonder?) and of course the purchase of Sainsbury's store, and the surrounding retail precinct by investment fund Henderson, puts a very different slant on the likely outcome. We continue to hold our breath but I suspect a new policy statement will emerge before too long and that might bring some surprises!

Wiltshire Council have managed to produce a plan showing possible additional Housing development sites in and around Salisbury with a wholly unsuitable inclusion of flood plain land near to **Britford Lane** and it staggers belief that such an important landscape site alongside the River at the approach to the City was even considered for inclusion. The Society has already written at length objecting to the possibility of the site being developed and Salisbury City Council and numerous members of the public have done the same. We will also review any further Applications carefully and object where necessary.

It almost looks like an act of ill-considered vandalism by Wiltshire Council and regardless of individual site conditions, there must be a balance to ensure the local infrastructure and services of schools, hospitals, doctors and the like are available in support of the "housing targets".

Peter Dunbar, Chairman.





GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REVIEW *[BY JAMES WOODS]*

The General Purposes Committee (GPC) is responsible for organising lectures, visits, Blue Plaques, Historic Open Days, publicity and quarterly newsletters on behalf of the Salisbury Civic Society. One member of the committee usually leads on each of these subjects, but all members contribute to their choice and discussion. During the year membership of the committee declined: James Woods remained as Chair and Jenni Dougan (plaques), Charles Villiers (Quarterly editor), Brenda Hunt (visits), Judy Howles (lectures) and Lis Woods (minutes) all continued to discharge their responsibilities admirably. Four members resigned: Alan Clarke, who had been engaged on our blue plaques programme for seven years, not only leading on identifying suitable candidates and organising all the necessary steps towards installation, but also developing and maintaining a Blue Plaques website; Jean Lunnon, who had been masterminding our Historic Open Days (HOD) programme for five years; Jennifer Blake, who had helped to run our visits and HOD programme; and Ron Smith, who had been in charge of publicity. The jobs undertaken by Alan, Jean and Jennifer have been taken by other members of the committee in addition to their other roles: Alan's assistant, Jenni Dougan, is now in the lead on the Blue Plaques programme; Judy Howles has selflessly taken on this year the demanding role of organising HODs in addition to her duties as lecture secretary; and Brenda Hunt is now in sole charge of our visits programme. Ron Smith's place has been taken by a new recruit to our committee, Neil Beagrie, whose role will, I hope, be confirmed at the 2015 AGM. I can hardly praise enough the contributions of these officers for their services to the Society's membership.

Lectures. Four lectures were given in 2014 in the Sanctuary of Salisbury Methodist Church. In March Robert Key, Salisbury's erstwhile MP, and Chairman of Salisbury Cathedral's Magna Carta 800th anniversary committee, gave a fascinating account of the ambitious steps being taken in Salisbury to celebrate in 2015 the signing of Magna Carta; in June, David Andrews, CEO of VisitWiltshire, gave an in depth account of the work carried out to promote Salisbury to the nation; in September, Tom Beaumont James, former professor of archaeology at Winchester university, spoke about Clarendon, from royal palace to Georgian mansion; and in November, David Richards, a Blue Badge Tourist Guide, assessed the traumatic political and social changes that served as a backdrop to his examination of witchcraft in Salisbury during the 17th century.

Blue Plaques. Just one plaque was put up during the year. On Wednesday 14th May 2014 the Salisbury Civic Society President, Lord Congleton, unveiled a Blue Plaque on the former home of Horace and Katharine Farebrother to celebrate 100 years of education on the site. Leehurst Convent School opened there in May 1914, becoming La Retraite Convent School in 1953, joined by Swan School for Boys in 1996 and renamed Leehurst Swan School in 2007. The site is now the school administration block.



Visits. The Committee organised two popular visits during the year, both blessed by splendid outdoor weather. The first, in April, was to Amesbury Church, Museum and Abbey, taking in the gardens of Amesbury Abbey and a talk, before going to an ancient Mesolithic spring near Blick Mead. The second was a guided walk round Dinton in May, led by David Richards, a Dinton resident and Blue Badge Guide, and terminating with tea in his beautiful garden.

Historic Open Days, from September 11-13. The 2014 theme 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 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. 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 interesting buildings and the people who inhabited and worked in them over the centuries. The tours were appreciated both by visitors and the newly arrived, who received a useful introduction to the city, and by long-standing residents, who had the opportunity to discover hidden corners and view familiar scenes from a fresh angle.

ANNUAL REPORT 2014 – DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Applications

The old Salisbury District Council area remains as the Society's geographical remit, but the Wiltshire Council planning applications set-up now covers the whole county, without sub-divisions to enable any easy calculation as to how many applications were submitted locally during the year. The historical figure of somewhere around the 2000 mark probably gives a rough indication. What can be said with more certainty is that 367 applications were selected for examination, resulting in 33 letters of objection or comment being sent in by the Society. The latter figure is slightly down on the previous two years, but it would be hard to read much into this.

2. Design Review

For many years the Society was involved with the Salisbury District Council Design Forum, which brought together local architects, plus some lay members, to give views on the design merits of proposed schemes, sometimes at planning application stage and sometime prior to it. The Forum was widely regarded as a very valuable body. The transition to Wiltshire Council in 2009 saw an initial pledge by the new local authority to maintain the Forum, and indeed to replicate it across the rest of the county, but this was never implemented. It soon became clear that the council had no real commitment to the Forum, and it was finally abolished at the end of 2010. The Society was never convinced that pledges to provide alternative methods of reviewing new designs had been properly fulfilled, and with encouragement for design review bodies



coming from national government, it was decided during 2014 to press Wiltshire Council for reconsideration of the decision to do without one locally. An exchange of letters with the head of the planning service in the council included the quoting of several specific examples where a review panel might have been able to improve the quality of recent buildings, not least one remarkably clumsy component of the new medical centre in Avon Approach. Replies from the council were not willing to concede that there was anything amiss in the way it handled design matters, and made it clear that no amount of pointing out cases to the contrary, or drawing attention to review bodies functioning well elsewhere, would lead to it changing its mind on the issue. In the end the Society was forced to concede that the chances of making any progress on the matter were zero. It continues to believe that the disappearance of the Design Forum is a significant factor in the failure of standards of design in the area to rise above what tends to be a depressingly low level.

3. Market Place

With the repaving and other work to the Market Place completed, attention focused primarily on the highly unsatisfactory state of the bins storage area, prominently placed and quite often an offensive eyesore. With an acceptance by Wiltshire Council that the situation was unacceptable, the committee considered possible measures to improve the area, with one of its architect members, James Salman, coming up with an ingenious proposal for a different method of containing the bins. This was passed to the council, and appeared to be given serious consideration, but by the end of the year it remained entirely unclear what stratagem was going to be adopted to remedy the situation. The Society also suggested that the radically improved state of the Market Place paving was not matched by some other facets of the space, and that in particular elements of public art, provided they were considered with sufficient imagination, might be able to give it an element of life and sparkle that it rather lacked. It transpired that some 'heritage artworks' were in the pipeline, but while there was some indication of what they might look like, a rather confused picture persisted as to the timetable for achieving them, and the amount of public involvement in their final shape.

4. Planning Forum and Open Meeting

The April Planning Forum looked at various aspects of listed buildings, and the practical effects which listed status had on what could be done to such a building. Sound problems at the venue, experienced on occasions in the past and particularly bad at this meeting, rather compromised the Forum's success, but by the end of the year there were assurances that measures were being taken to improve things. In November the Open Meeting was on the theme 'Do we need green spaces?' Three speakers covered various aspects of the topic, considering the health benefits to be derived from access to open spaces, and the part they can play in benefiting the country's wildlife,



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which is under threat from a variety of pressures. There was also a scrutiny of the current status of public parks, like so many facilities endangered by reductions in local authority resources, and alternative modes of providing for them, which have proved successful elsewhere. The excellent range of speakers was unfortunately not done justice to by further sound problems, though the venue was a different one from that for the Planning Forum. The 2015 Open Meeting will be held elsewhere.

5. 51 High Street

With a new wooden sheep having gone into position above the shopfront to the former SPCK bookshop in the previous year, 2014 saw the addition of a plaque below it, to explain the origins of the animal, which dates from use of the shop by a firm known as Stonehenge Woollen Industries. Unfortunately by the end of the year the plaque was referring to something no longer there, since problems developed with the animal's coating, which had been ingeniously textured to create a fleece, and the carving had to be taken down for remedial work. Establishing an exact timetable for this proved difficult, but certainly by the middle of 2015 the animal ought to be back in position.

6. English Heritage study on Salisbury

During the year English Heritage carried out an investigation of the way historic towns dealt with pressures from development, with specific towns picked out for individual studies on different aspects of the topic. Salisbury was included, with the emphasis being on the way views into the city from outside it had been protected. The *raison d'être* of the investigation was that the particular towns should be ones perceived as having positive tales to tell on whichever issue was being focused on in each case, so the implication was that Salisbury was felt to have done quite well on the question of views. The Society provided one of the three individuals interviewed for the Salisbury study, with the other two coming from Wiltshire Council. The resulting report confirmed that by and large views had been quite well protected, and the long-standing 'Forty Foot Rule', which prevents developments rising above that height except for the odd small-scale feature on top of a building, was credited as the major factor in achieving this success. However the report also referred to changes in the policy background, with the county-wide Wiltshire Core Strategy replacing policies dating from district council local plan days, and expressed some concern that a weakening in detailed policy wording might give some leeway to developments which would previously have been blocked. It is too early to say whether this is a genuine concern, but it is certainly something the Society will need to keep an eye on.

7. Awards Scheme

2014 saw work to existing buildings being looked at under the Conservation Awards Scheme, with a judging panel chaired by former Cathedral Chapter Clerk Mark Elcomb. An earlier intention to have the panel chaired by the Salisbury-born architectural critic Jonathan Meades had to be rethought, after





the emergence of differing perceptions about the scheme's judging process by the two parties. The judges had no difficulty in deciding that there was a fitting recipient for the Lady Radnor Award, which goes to the most outstanding project in the Conservation version of the awards scheme, but only if one is felt to rise to a sufficient standard to merit it. This year repair work to the two Paragon buildings on the Wilton Road was deemed to be of quite exceptional merit, and to fully deserve the Lady Radnor Award. Ordinary awards went to repairs to the cathedral chapter house, conversion of the former Tollgate pub in Salisbury to residential use, an extension at The Knapp in Tisbury, and conversion of a barn in Long Close, Downton to residential use. Commendations went to the Little Paradise facilities at the cathedral, a new bellcote at Little Langford church, and repairs to stables in Wylke. During the year the national umbrella group for civic societies, Civic Voice, launched its own awards scheme, but with only one award for the whole country, and significant restrictions on the material that could be submitted on nominations, it was decided not to become involved with it.

8. Salisbury Gasometer

In previous years students from the architecture and planning course at the University of the West of England at Bristol had carried out projects looking at ways of redeveloping the Maltings/central car park, and Churchfields. This year they turned their attention, at the Society's suggestion, to the Salisbury gasometer, a redundant structure whose site was bound to be seen as a redevelopment opportunity sooner or later. The Society's motivation was the belief that the gasometer is both a valuable relic of industrial history, and an interesting contributor to the city's skyline, and that it would be sad if it was simply bulldozed away with nothing left to indicate it had ever been there. The resulting student schemes showed a very imaginative approach to re-use of the structure, with a wide range of possible functions being visualised. In practice simple retention of the metalwork and conversion to a new use is unlikely to be feasible, not least because of pollution issues, but the student work was extremely valuable in indicating possible approaches to the site which retained a memory of the former use, and created something more interpreting for the city than just more bland housing, always likely to be the default option in such cases if nothing is done to point the way to other possibilities. 2015 would see publicity for the schemes in the Quarterly, and hopefully an exhibition on them in the city.

9. Involvement with Other Bodies

The Society continued to be represented on the Salisbury Conservation Advisory Panel, and to be linked to the Salisbury Area Greenspace Partnership. Copies of the Society's Quarterly go to the CPRE, with the latter's newsletter coming the other way.

Richard Deane.





HOUSING NORTH OF BRITFORD LANE

The idea of building around 100 houses on two fields north of Britford Lane, within the Salisbury conservation area, has been raised as part of an exercise to find more land for housing, carried out by Wiltshire Council.

The Development Committee has discussed this proposal, which to date is a general one, with no details of any actual scheme, and the Society has sent the following statement to the planners:

'The Salisbury Civic Society wishes to express a strong objection to the idea of building on these fields.

'The Society believes that the landscape impact of development here, and the consequent damage to the city's landscape setting, would be completely unacceptable, irrespective of whatever design was put forward. It believes that the fact that fairly intensive development has taken place over the years south of Britford Lane, with the land to its north left undeveloped, is an indication of a long-term perception that the character of the city benefits immeasurably from the green corridor which runs in almost up to the cathedral, and that there is no justification now for altering this situation.

'Other sites put forward to make up the perceived deficit in housing land will also have points against them, but it is unlikely that any of them present such a fundamental challenge to the city's character.'

Later this year the Council will select from the many sites put forward in and around Salisbury for additional housing, and publish its preferred list, which will then go into a formal consultation process. The Society will repeat its objections if the Britford Lane site appears in this list, and will also scrutinise all the other selected sites.

On May 21st the Salisbury Journal printed a story on Britford Lane, which correctly stated that the Society was among the objectors to the idea of housing there. However it then quoted reasons for the objection, and attributed them to the Society, when in fact they were words we had never used. On investigation, it turned out that the paper had taken them from a statement put out by Salisbury City Council. While all the Council's reasons for objecting may well be valid, they include issues which the Society decided not to focus on, in the belief that the visual impact of development on the fields should be at the centre of any debate on the proposal. The Journal is expected to print a correction to its original story, on June 4th.

This map shows the two fields, in the context of surrounding parts of the city. It clearly indicates that the fields form a significant part of the green corridor referred to in the statement.

The symbol "V" on the lower boundary of the fields indicates the viewpoint from which the photograph below was taken, looking northwards across the fields towards the cathedral.





PLANNING FORUM - LOCAL LISTING

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The annual Planning Forum took place on April 16th, and dealt with the twin topics of local listing and assets of community value. The former is a procedure by which lists are established of buildings which do not meet the standards required to gain nationally listed status, but which are still of some value. Such lists are useful, though they do not confer any formal protection on the buildings selected. That this is an area with which the Society should be involved was confirmed by a show of hands at the end of the Forum. There was also agreement that assets of community value should be taken on by the Society, and this subject will be covered in a subsequent Quarterly. Local listing will need to be explored in co-operation with Wiltshire Council, something confirmed by the two speakers at the Forum from the Hackney Society in London, whose very successful local listing initiative has been carried out in association with their local council.

The talks at the Forum included images of buildings in Salisbury which give some indication of what types fall into the locally listable category, and where the dividing line lies between it and full national listing. The buildings come from three categories – ones which have been nationally listed at the Society's suggestion, ones which have been put forward for listing by the Society but without success, and ones which would not merit full listed status, but would probably be classed as locally listable. Unsuccessful candidates for national listing status could be expected to be locally listed as a matter of course.

Buildings submitted for listing (*illustrated pp 14-15*)

1) Salisbury Railway Station. Success – the station was Grade II listed in 2008, following a detailed submission by the Society. Listed status has subsequently ensured the use of a good quality timber/plastic composite material for timber replacement. Attempts by some to invoke listed status as a reason for not putting barriers in the booking hall were a predictable failure.

2) Hillcote, Manor Road, Salisbury. Success – Grade II listed in 1999, at the Society's suggestion. Arguably the masterpiece of the noted Salisbury architect of the late C19th and early C20th, Fred Bath. Typical of his eclectic approach, and awash with high quality detailing and use of materials.

3) Salisbury Eel Trap. Success – Grade II listed 2001, at the Society's suggestion. On the Avon S of Churchill Gardens, constructed probably early C19th, to also serve as a sluice house. Very prominent feature in the landscape when viewed from the upper parts of the cathedral tower and spire.

4) Dinton Lodge, Dinton. Success – Grade II listed 2004, at the Society's suggestion. Partly submitted out of curiosity as to the date, leading to the conclusion by an English Heritage architectural historian that it was mainly late C19th. Described as having 'distinctive and rather unusual architectural detailing'. Also unusual is the floor to the front porch, in a blue-ish stone produced as a by-product of the construction of a nuclear bunker S of Chilmark.

5) Old Manor Ballroom, Salisbury. Failure – submitted by the Society for listing in 2006, partly on the grounds that for its date of 1868 it was a remarkable example of the survival of the Georgian style. Rejected by English Heritage, who failed to find it distinctive enough as a piece of mental hospital architecture. The photo shows it after incorporation into a GP surgery complex. Listed status could have ensured the retention of more of its original character.

6) Llangarren, Wilton Road, Salisbury. Failure – submitted by the Society for listing in 2006, alongside the Old Manor Ballroom. Originally part of a group with the listed Paragon buildings immediately to the S, but felt by English Heritage to have been too much altered to deserve listed status. Now incorporated into a care home, with further alteration which could have been controlled had it been listed. Once the home of a wine merchant – it is not known whether its capacious wine cellars still survive.







See the accompanying text on pages 13 and 16.





7) Old Fire Station, Salt Lane, Salisbury. Failure – submitted by the Society for listing in 2010, with particular reference to its terracotta detailing. Built 1907 (for a cost of £1630), doubled in size in 1935, with very faithful replication of the terracotta. Rejected by English Heritage as not being something sufficiently special. Conservation area location means that there would be control if anyone wanted to demolish it, and a recent change from social services use to offices has not led to any damaging changes.

Unlisted buildings deserving of locally listed status (*illustrated p15*)

8) The Mount, Elm Grove Road, Salisbury. Arguably deserves full listed status, and a foregone conclusion that it would be placed in any list of locally listed buildings. High quality front elevation with an array of arched windows, good buff-coloured terracotta detailing all over, iron finials to gables, chimneys stuffed with entire families of chimney pots.

9) 37 Fowlers Road, Salisbury. Probably dating from around 1900, not especially distinguished architecturally, but given real presence by its tower. The room at its top is a striking component of views into this part of the city, quite apart from the 270 degree view it provides for anyone looking out from it. Only from close by is there a slight loss of quality from the replacement of the original windows in plastic, something which locally listed status would not have given any control over.

10) 2-12 Manor Road, Salisbury. A typical example of a late Victorian terrace, relatively plain but with some added detail in the window heads, and considerably enhanced by the two storey bays. This type of building would probably be deemed locally listable, unless too altered by later changes.

11) Barn in St Edmunds Church Street, Salisbury. A component of the relatively diverse character of the southern part of the street, though recent housing development have tended to reduce this. The barn is too modest to merit full listed status, but it is an important contributor to the street scene, and would certainly deserve to be locally listed.

12) 7 Wain-a-Long Road, Salisbury. Close to the fully listed Hillcote in Manor Road, which was built in 1896, and probably similar in date. Slightly more restrained in character, but still full of good detailing. Quite possibly this house was also designed by the architect of Hillcote, Fred Bath, and if this could be proved full listed status might well be conferred on it. Local listing would be a certainty for it.

13) 18 Manor Road, Salisbury. Another house from the good quality ones to be found in the Milford area, where development was too late in date for many of its buildings to be choices for full listing. The combination of terracotta door head and stained glass to the fanlight, with the house number worked into it, would enhance the case for local listing.

14) 64 Tollgate Road, Salisbury. Shown in the illustration to an advertisement as the engineer's house to a boot factory, which was built in 1892, and typical of a good quality house of that period. The shaped gable, window arch in alternating brick and stone, decorative tile hanging and original timber windows would certainly mean it merited local listing. The left-hand part is a later extension, but with the upper parts carefully carried out to ensure that, the integral garage aside, the original character was maintained.

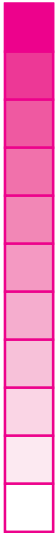






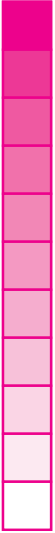
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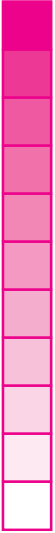






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INTERESTING TREES IN SALISBURY AND WHERE THEY CAN BE FOUND JOHN WINDERS

On 12 March we were treated to a talk by John Winders. He explained that he comes to the topic as an amateur, having learnt all about the subject through U3A over the past 2 years.

With the aid of excellent slides he took the audience through his learning journey by showing firstly the tree in its location and then identifying the species, which gave everyone a chance to try and identify it themselves under their breath and then see if they were right.

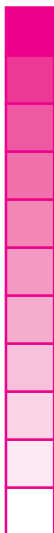
He started off in Stratford Sub Castle, showing Sycamore, Ash & Maple and then identified some key trees in the churchyard - a Lime avenue – which was a fashion started by Louis XIV embraced by state-ly homes, an English Oak and a commemorative Turkey Oak . He cautioned that this was not perhaps a wise tree to plant since it grows very large, showing another commemorative tree of the same species in Wilton Park in its full glory. Perhaps not a good portent either, since the Stratford tree was to commemorate Prince Charles's ill-fated first marriage and the Wilton tree commemorated a visit by Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia, who as Emperor of Russia then became 'the enemy' during the Crimean War.

He introduced the locational element of different species - Beeches, which are shallow rooted, high up on the downs; Oaks, which are deeper rooted, in the valleys. Continuing along the Avon Valley we saw waterside trees, Weeping & Crack Willows and Alders and White Poplars which have hairs on undersides of their leaves giving a silvery appearance.

Lower down the valley in Churchill Gardens are Black Poplars. The Lombardy Poplar stands tall and straight but is vulnerable to wind damage. There are Yews up at Old Sarum. These with their distinctive red 'berries' (it is the seeds within these cones that are poisonous), are often found in churchyards, and may predate the church.

Moving to Victoria Park he showed us one sweet chestnut (a rarity in Salisbury).and various conifers. On its northern boundary are Scots Pines (we learnt all pines have needles in groups) to the south, cedar trees. There is a Giant Redwood, a species which can also be seen towering adjacent to each of the Bemerton churches.

Mompesson House garden has a 'Golden Rain' tree but remarkably one can also be found in the street in Shakespeare Road. He asked us to think what would Salisbury's most distinctive feature be from space - the Cathedral? No it's the ring road! An unlikely but excellent place to find unusual trees owing to imaginative planting. An Indian Bean Tree and Tree of Heaven at St Pauls Roundabout, a Hand-





kerchief Tree and Ginkgo Biloba near Exeter St. and the neat Horn-beams leading down the verge from the Marlborough Road overbridge. He then identified Waitrose car park and the verge in Newbridge road as other locations worth a visit for unusual trees such as the Dawn Redwood.

His measured and informative presentation, which ended with the poem 'Think like a tree' by Karen Shragg inspired his audience to 'affirm life's magic' and search for trees in unlikely places.

I, for one, will be seeing the ring road in a fresh light.

Judy Howles.

THE WHITE HART HOTEL - BY DON CROSS

C L Dodgson, Charles Dickens, Percy Shelley, Peter Paul Pugin, Wifred Owen, J M Barrie, Bernard Shaw, Henry Wood and Mr Churchill (1888) are just a sample of the huge number of signatures to be found at the hotel as well as those of an extraordinarily high percentage of Americans.

Anyone with even a slightly sceptical turn of mind will have turned the pages of this Hotel Register wondering how many of the famous signatures in it were genuine. These large volumes used to be found, until recently, in the comfortable reception lounge of the White Hart in Salisbury. However, as explained in the Introduction to a Short History of the hotel by Don Cross, the author has done his best to authenticate them. Expert help has been called upon in most cases. The work done so far provides tempting opportunity to provide more convincing proof – as the author points out research is needed into local newspapers and contemporary records, yet to be studied, and of course such research would reveal further connected matters.

The White Hart has existed, firstly as an Inn then as a Hotel, on its present site since the 14th Century – not the oldest hotel in the city, that honour belongs to the Red Lion. Don Cross has limited his research to the Register Volumes 1880 to 1915. The Rev. C L Dodgson from Christ Church, Oxford signed the Register in 1873, surely authentic as Lewis Carol but how certain can we be about Mr and Mrs John Kennedy (1891)? Is he ancestor to the famous Boston clan – we are not told for certain.

Plymouth, Devonport and Falmouth were the principle ports for those arriving from America; these passengers travelled by train to London, pausing at Salisbury. Thus a large number of the signatories



were American, many distinguished. However around 1910, with the new larger liners needing a larger port, trade was lost from the western ports to Southampton, so reducing this source of international trade.

The American proportion is impressive and enquiry there would reveal how many were of importance, for example one of about eight mentioned in 1891 was a Mrs Alfred Roosevelt. Other famous surnames appearing include Kellogg, Kennedy, Edgar Wallace, Bush, Clinton, Emerson, Vanderbilt, Vansittart, Guggenheim, numerous bishops and an archdruid.

Although the authors memory is sometimes a little shaky (Victoria was not yet Queen when she visited with her mother in 1830, Sir Edward Heath was never Member of Parliament for Salisbury – he just lived here in his retirement – and the old Law Courts are now solicitors' offices, not flats) his careful perusal of these Registers, familiar to many of us, provides an encouraging basis for serious historical research into life in Victorian Salisbury.

Further included is a long and detailed account of the rise of Military matters in South Wiltshire and the Plain including activities in the air. Mention is made of M. le Comte Zeppelin, German inventor of the airship, in 1910, the year of the Bournemouth Air Show at which the Hon. Charles Rolls was sadly killed. Baron von Richthofen, the Great War German air ace, had visited the White Hart in 1907.

Charles Villiers.

The Book is available from The White Hart Hotel, price £6.

THE PINK CATHEDRAL SPIRE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

For twelve days in this month the Cathedral Spire will be floodlit in pink. This is to highlight the Race for Life, the Salisbury element of which will be held on Sunday 12th July, starting at Hudson's Field.

To participate, telephone 0300 123 0770 or visit raceforlife.org





John Winders
on Trees.
p22

Tulip Tree and a
flower

Catalpa tree and
flowers

Beeches on the
West Walk in the
Close





MYSTERY VISIT - FRIDAY 17 JULY 2015

Do you enjoy a day away from home, getting out and about a bit, visiting places of interest and beauty? If so, I think you will enjoy coming on our Mystery Visit. It will take you to see two contrasted venues, both within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, one very old, one at the forefront of modern technology: and, in-between, lunch in a pretty pub, in the heart of the countryside.

We shall set off from Salisbury at 9.15. You can get yourself coffee and tea at our first venue. We shall leave there at 12.30, go on to our booked lunching place, which we shall leave again at 2.15, for our final venue. We expect to arrive back in Salisbury between 5 and 5.30 pm, approx..

We shall all need to travel by car, and I am happy to arrange lifts for anyone who would like to join us, but does not drive. The round trip will cover some 58 miles, broken into four manageable chunks.

The total cost is £25 per person, which covers all entrance fees, and a sandwich lunch with tea or coffee (but not alcohol). Please indicate on your application if you can either offer a lift, or if you would like to have one. I expect that those who travel as passengers may like to give their driver something towards the cost of petrol etc.

Alas, we can accommodate only 20 people on the visit, and tickets will be allocated by "first come, first served". So if you like a bit of a mystery, visiting as a group places you would not be able to go alone, and lovely countryside around you, do apply NOW!.

I am happy to answer any questions – except "Where are we going?"
!! Do call me.

Wendy English.
wenglish87@gmail.com
01722 321323

*We welcome The Rev'd and Mrs Robert Prance as
new members.*





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John Winders on Trees
 Lombardy Poplars in Churdhill Gardens

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