

SALISBURY CIVIC SOCIETY - MARCH 2013



AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS: An Award was given for this extension to Harmony House at Harnham.

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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:

© All the photographs of the buildings achieving Awards and Commendations were kindly provided by their owners and designers.

NOTICE

The list of Officers of the Society is on the inside back cover of this quarterly. The present Chairman and Secretary wish to hand over their respective responsibilities before the AGM in 2014. For administrative convenience their handover dates will be staggered. All the other current office-holders are willing to remain in office for the coming year.

Any member of the Society who wishes to propose candidates for the posts of Chairman or Secretary, or any of the other posts, viz. Vice-Chairman, Chairman General Purposes Committee, Chairman Development Committee, Membership Secretary, Hon. Treasurer or Quarterly Editor should send nominations to the Secretary in writing, with the names of the proposer and seconder (who should be members of the Society). Candidates themselves should be members of the Society, and must be willing to stand for election. Nominations must be received by **Saturday 1st June 2013** (please note change of date).

AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS 2012-13

The Church of Sarum St Martin:

Architects: St Ann's Gate Architects, Salisbury.

Alterations and extension at Harmony House, 2 Harnham Road, Salisbury:

Architects: St Ann's Gate Architects, Salisbury.

New Entrance Foyer at Downton CE Primary School:

Architects: Footprint Architects, Poole.

New Porch at Myles Place, Salisbury:

Architects: Favonius & Co, Salisbury.

Repairs to the Beckford Arms, Fonthill Gifford, after Major Fire Damage:

Architects: Simon Moray-Jones, Bath.

Milford Street Project Murals:

Design: The Milford Bridge Project Team

Cleaning and repairs to Stone Inscription Band, Former Salisbury Infirmary.

Stone conservator: Tom Beattie, Salisbury.

Samways, Alvediston:

Designers: THF Reeve, Donhead St Andrew,
The Relph Ross Partnership, Salisbury.

AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS



An Award was given for the restoration of the lettering on the Infirmary in Fisherton Street.

After the fire ...

Beckford Arms.



After restoration.



A devastating fire at the Beckford Arms, a listed building, necessitated extensive repairs in sympathy with its status. However the judges felt that the standard of repair, especially taking into account the treatment of the interior, was beyond that required. They were particularly impressed with the stonework. They awarded a Commendation.

PROGRAMME.

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Meetings will be held at 6.30 pm - doors open at 6 pm - 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 14th March
Lecture, Frogg Moody & Richard Nash, Local Historians
Haunted Salisbury

Thursday 25 April
Visits to Salisbury Cathedral Library

Mid June
Visit

Wednesday 19 June
AGM followed by Lecture by
Loraine Knowles, Stonehenge Director, English Heritage
Stonehenge: - A New Dawn

Wednesday 24 July - 10.30am
General Purposes Committee Mystery Visit including a pub lunch

Early September
Visit

Thursday 12 to Sunday 15 September
Historic Open Days

Thursday 10 October
Lecture: Ruth Newman & Jane Howells, Local Historians
A working man's Samuel Pepys? William Small's unique memoirs of Victorian Salisbury

Thursday 14 November Lecture by Arthur Millie, Playhouse Archivist
From the Chapel to the Beehive – the story of Salisbury Playhouse and its people

Tuesday 19 November
Open Meeting In the Guildhall, at 7.30pm

*We welcome new members.
Mr David Greenwood, Miss Caroline Hampson,
Mr Bruce Holland, Mrs Mary Mitchell, Mr Philip Price,
Mr Michael Rooney, Mr Tim Tatton-Brown.*

DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN: THE OLD MANOR SITE

The previous Quarterly reproduced an estate agent's aerial photograph of the Old Manor site, described as a 'historic city development opportunity'. The particulars suggested that anyone interested in purchasing all or part of the site should contact the local planning authority, to discuss what might be achievable on it. There was clearly no immediate clamour to carry out discussions, since by late January there had, according to council planning officers, been a total of zero approaches. One local developer, more enlightened than the title often suggests, is known to have gone to inspect Finch House, the principal Old Manor building, enlivened by the thought of what might prove a very interesting project, and to have come away quite depressed by the low base from which it would be necessary to start. For Finch House years of institutional use have been followed by years of neglect, and making it fit for a new purpose seems to be a major challenge.

This apparently slow start to the current marketing exercise is thoroughly in line with the history of the whole site (which is a conservation area in its own right) since the Old Manor Hospital closed down at the end of the last century. At one time it had been a mental hospital of some size, with nearly 700 beds in the 1950s, but it was much reduced by the time of closure. It would be tedious, and unprofitable, to try to relate all the ins and outs of the tale since then, including now largely forgotten episodes as the spectacularly fruitless 'LIFT' project (Local Improvement Finance Trust, if anyone's curious), and the time when the whole site was passed to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, where it hung around for a bit before being passed back again. More recently, Wiltshire Council pursued the idea of using part at least of the land now up for sale for elderly accommodation, including dementia care, but this came to nothing, with the marketing exercise accompanied by a slanging match between the council and the sellers, the Wiltshire Primary Care Trust. 'A cynical betrayal of the people of Salisbury' was among the terms being thrown around, the proposition being that the land should have been passed to the council for a nominal sum, instead of ending up on the open market. As so often in such matters, outsiders are not in a position to make any genuinely informed judgement on the rights and wrongs of the case.

We are on safer ground in setting out exactly what parts of the site still remain unresolved, and what has happened elsewhere. Mental health care, which is under a separate organisation, the Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership, is now mainly located in three new buildings put up right at the start of the current century, accessed off Fountain Way. Some older buildings are also part of that complex, including the Victorian chapel, unlisted but acknowledged as deserving retention, though it is currently unused. The new buildings are no doubt suited to their function, but their spreading forms do little to enhance their part of the site, and their design is completely at variance with the historical character of the former hospital. In the corner of this eastern end of the site is the listed Kennet Lodge, which

was of course rescued from years of dereliction by being converted into the Quaker Meeting House.

The corner between the west side of Fountain Way and the Wilton Road is the location of work now under way to create a new GP surgery building, and other facilities. The only old hospital structure of any substance to survive here, and to be incorporated in the scheme, is the Ballroom. It dates from 1868, and although unlisted, is of some interest, not least for its essentially Georgian character, at a time when buildings of any pretension would normally be designed in an entirely different style. This was advanced by the Society in 2007 as one reason why the Ballroom deserved listing, a suggestion that met with blank looks from English Heritage. Its exterior will be largely retained, but its interior, with no listed status to protect it, will mostly be lost to subdivision. The current work will at least tidy up this part of the Old Manor site, but without adding anything of particular distinction, or responding fully to landscape needs. In particular, the lawn that extends westward from the Ballroom will be turned into a car park. Old photos show a succession of lawns across the hospital site, and a large number of trees, together creating a very distinctive character. The Ballroom lawn was the last one to survive, and its disappearance will confirm the complete failure to adopt a strategic approach to the whole site, which might have left its history at least partly readable. The piecemeal approach actually adopted has not served the city well.

Immediately west of the GP surgery site is Finch House, the main Old Manor hospital building. The name 'Old Manor' appears not to be of historic origin, and only dates from 1920. The institution originally known as the Fisherton House Asylum was opened in 1813, but it is unclear whether any of the present building dates back that far. It is largely early Victorian in appearance, with some good external features, but with apparently little of interest inside, even before it was left to moulder. No serious proposal to re-use it ever seems to have been put together, and it will take a brave soul to start to clear away the cobwebs and decay, and reconcile what seems to be a jumble of rooms and different levels, and bring Finch House back to life. It is Grade II listed, as is Avon House, between it and the western edge of the site. This is another building of roughly the same period, though architectural experts disagree as to whether it is a Regency house which has been altered, or was constructed in its present form in one go twenty or thirty years later, the sort of difference in view which is always a comfort to architectural amateurs. Much more compact than Finch House, it ought to be more readily reusable, though its condition is again unlikely to prove encouraging – an outbreak of dry rot some years ago destroyed much of the internal joinery.

Between Finch House and Avon House on the north, and the mental health care buildings on the south side of the site are further unlisted former hospital buildings, some deserving of retention, and a significant area of open land. Residential seems the likeliest use, and some elderly accommo-

dation would certainly fit well, if the open market can provide a way of achieving it.

Those parts of the main Old Manor site, south of the Wilton Road, whose futures are not more or less settled are contained in the package now being advertised for sale. The vendors are apparently prepared to sell bits of this, rather than necessarily looking for offers for the whole lot, which seems alarmingly likely to continue a process whereby the most intractable elements, notably Finch House, keep getting pushed away while easier parts of the jigsaw are solved, until logically there is nothing left except something with a market value of zero – and what happens then?

For many years the smaller part of the Old Manor site, north of the Wilton Road, was in as desperate a state as the rest, but its future is now mostly clear, though this is happier news in some parts than others. On the plus side, the two listed Paragon buildings, next to the main road, are in the process of being rescued from rot, vandalism and theft of internal features and returned to use as four houses, a project clearly being carried out to very high standards. Behind them was another house, Llangarren, in origin part of the same group, but unlisted – another blank look from English Heritage when the Society tried to change this state of affairs. It was a building of significant merit, but any chances of a bright future were effectively wrecked by a fire in 2008, which gutted it. It has now been swallowed up by a large new care home of no particular architectural distinction, in which its two principal facades remain identifiable, but which has otherwise removed it from the map. At one time in the C19th it was the home of a wine merchant, a phase marked by commodious wine vaults in its cellar, which one can only hope still survive, even if not used exactly as intended.

Llangarren is now little more than a name and a couple of walls. The one unresolved issue on this side of the Wilton Road is a small lodge building to the former house, immediately east of the new law courts, and in the same ownership as the Paragon pair. An application to replace it with a much larger building housing flats was refused, a decision upheld on appeal, and the lodge is still there, forlorn and overshadowed by the looming bulk of the judicial premises next door. It retains historical significance, as well as some visual value, as a remnant of the former pattern of use of this part of Salisbury, and it would be good if some future could be found for it. The fate of the rest of this part of the site is now settled, positively for the Paragon and less so for Llangarren.

The Paragon and Kennet Lodge represent successful outcomes for some of the disparate elements that made up the Old Manor site when the hospital closed down some fourteen years ago, and the Ballroom exterior will at least survive, though stripped of its landscape setting. Few other positive points can be discerned in a mottled and murky story, which still has a long way to go, but bears all the signs of being headed to a largely sad conclusion.

Richard Deane.



A dodecahedral Lantern was the most striking feature of this major improvement to the entrance and porch to St Martin's Church, given an Award.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – MARCH 2013

AGM and Election of Officers. In this issue you will find a notice regarding the election or re-election of Officers of the Society at the AGM on Wednesday 19th June. As always AGM's are important occasions and give members the opportunity to raise any matters they wish. The Agenda will be sent with the June Quarterly and we would prefer any matters to be raised under Any Other Business to be sent to the Secretary beforehand if possible.

I hope the AGM will be as short as possible as we have been very fortunate in getting the Stonehenge Director of English Heritage, Loraine Knowles, to talk to us about "**Stonehenge: A New Dawn**". The project is moving on apace and we will be able to enjoy a full report. So put the date in your diaries now.

Annual Awards. Our Conservation Awards Ceremony and Party for members was held in the Guildhall on 10th January with the usual excellent turnout of members and guests. Maria Bota chaired the Judging Panel and there is more detail in this edition but the recipients were, in no particular order:

Commendations

- 1) New Porch at Myles Place, Salisbury
- 2) Repairs to the Beckford Arms, Fonthill Gifford, after major fire damage

Awards

- 1) West End Alterations at the Church of Sarum St Martin
- 2) Cleaning and Repairs to Stone Inscription Band at Former Salisbury Infirmary
- 3) Alterations and Extension at Harmony House, 2 Harnham Road, Salisbury
- 4) Milford Street Bridge Project Murals
- 5) Samways, Alvediston
- 6) New Entrance Foyer at Downton Primary School

Planning Forum. The Society's annual Planning Forum took place on Thursday 21st February and was well attended with a number of short presentations on the theme '**For the Common Good - Looking After our Public Spaces**'. They were followed by questions.

Plaque to George Beare. On 4th December our second blue plaque of 2012 was unveiled at the Chapel Nightclub honouring the 18th century portrait painter George Beare who died in 1749 having lived in a house on that site. The plaque was unveiled by Dr Brian Allen, retired director of the Paul Mellon Centre for the Study of British Art in the presence of the Mayor John Collier, our Patron Lord Congleton and our President Dame Rosemary Spencer, the President of Salisbury Rotary Club Pat Allen and the Chapel Owner Jonty Newberry.

Historic Open Days The General Purposes Committee is already planning our HODs which will take place in mid September. Using a different theme this year we are looking to make use of the excellent contents of our book **“Salisbury in Detail”** and devise a family quiz with questions about architectural details that can be spotted from safe areas, mainly in the Close. This could then be used thereafter as part of a heritage trail project throughout the city. Taking part in the quiz will not entail buying a copy of the book as we own the copyright and can reproduce pictures as we wish. The planning is at an early stage but should stimulate interest in the less noticeable aspects of our buildings.

Lectures and Visits. The next lecture will be held on Thursday 14th March when Frogg Moody and Richard Nash, both local historians, will tell us about **“Haunted Salisbury”**.

We have been very fortunate in that the Chancellor of Salisbury Cathedral, Canon Ed Probert, has allowed us to have two visits to the Cathedral library on Thursday 25th April. Places are limited so please fill out the enclosed application form as soon as possible.

Salisbury Vision. Members will be aware that progress has been made with several projects which are part of the original Vision document published in 2008. The Market Place and New Canal work is underway and the contract with Stanhope to develop the Maltings and Central Car Park has been formalised. This year will see significant progress with further consultation and design.

The Civic Society has long been pressing for a proper transport strategy to be devised for the centre of Salisbury. This is not a new aspiration but one which has been extant for several decades. Two years ago we published our own suggestions in a document **“Resolving the Pedestrian/Traffic Conflict – Finding a Better Balance”** and a Wiltshire Council sponsored **“Public Realm Strategy”** has been produced and is awaiting final review. Matters are moving forward with both short and longer term priorities to which the Society will be contributing. The suggestion is that the Vision Board acts as the local ‘reference group’ for the Council as it develops its strategy and responds to changes that are already taking place. We wish to explore ways in which we may help reduce cross city vehicle movements and provide a high quality pedestrian environment and appropriate car parking to meet the needs of all users. This involves bus services, including park and ride, and more pedestrianisation and use of shared spaces. I believe that we have at last achieved a renewed focus on the City Centre and its particular traffic problems. They cannot of course be taken in isolation and must be part of the bigger picture.

Alastair Clark..



An award was given for the new entrance to Downton Primary School.



The Water Meadows Trust - see page 13.

The Harnham Water Meadows Trust is a local Charity, probably familiar to many of our members. It is supported by its Friends and includes responsibility for those Meadows to the east of the Town Path, property of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral. There are various activities which incorporate an educational service. There is no special connection with the Civic Society, but pursuit of matters historical provide a natural common interest. There has been a recent change in chairmanship and Jan Fitzjohn, one of its trustees (and a member of the Civic Society) has kindly agreed to keep us up to date.

The Harnham Water Meadows have been partially flooded for nearly three months. On 26th November 2012 the Environment Agency issued a flood warning to residents of St. Nicholas Road, The Close. By 27th December pedestrians on the Town Path from Harnham had to paddle! A map produced by the EA shows the risk of flooding from rivers and illustrates the importance of the Harnham Water Meadows in flood prevention, particularly of the Cathedral and Close, an area including Churchill Gardens and the River Avon back to the Civic Hall.

These Water Meadows probably date from about 1660. The 1787 enclosure map of Harnham shows several meadows, called 'meads', that were formed on previously drained marshland. This 84 acre area acts as a reservoir for the excess water caused by rain, a huge 'bath tub' vital to Salisbury flood prevention. The Meadows also play a part in flood prevention from Salisbury to the sea by helping the EA to regulate the flow through the barriers and gates.

The Harnham Water Meadows were long protected from development because of their importance in flood prevention, but in 1990 this internationally important heritage site was recognised and the Harnham Water Meadows Trust was formed to restore and preserve it. The Trust has reinstated the ancient irrigation system, restored hatches and created an environmental sanctuary for wildlife in this protected site of special scientific interest (SSSI).

The City of Salisbury was long famous for wool collecting and cloth manufacturing, large flocks of sheep were needed to meet the demands of the weavers, and needless to say provide mutton. Early growth of grass on the water meadows was important for these large flocks and a regular, gentle flow of nutrient-rich warm water over the cold, frosted surface of the meadows typically provided grazing a month ahead of ordinary meadows.

In January/February the warm water of the River Nadder, a chalk stream rich in lime, animal droppings and city waste spread over the meadows resulted in this 'early bite' of grass, providing rich early grazing for the flocks of Wiltshire Horn sheep. By night the flocks were taken off the meadows and 'close folded' on arable land to manure the cornfields, this increased the value of the harvest. The 'sheep-corn' system is said to have brought much wealth to Salisbury.

Floated or irrigated meadows depended on weirs raising the river level, the water was then controlled by sluices or hatches to flow over the area by means of 'carriers' cut into the top of the manmade ridges or humps. The water was controlled and spilled over, trickled down the ridge and returned to the river along drainage ditches for about three days; flowing not stagnant.

The system of channels, ridges and hatches to control the flow of water that we see today evolved over several centuries, an amazing feat of design and construction before technology and earth moving machines.

In the mid 19th C, the Earl of Pembroke made the last major changes to the meadows; new carriers, hatches and aqueducts were formed using Victorian concrete, also small bridges over the channels to enable hay carts to be used.

The numbers of sheep reduced in the first half of the 20th C as a result of mechanisation and wartime pressure to increase food production by ploughing up as much downland grass as possible to grow more wheat, barley and oats. The Harnham Water Meadows are one of the few ancient water meadows that can be seen today; it was not accessible for tractors due to it being completely surrounded by rivers and it remained unploughed and reverted to wasteland.

As a result of 20 years of voluntary work by members of the Harnham Water Meadows Trust it is now possible during winter months to demonstrate irrigation or 'drowning' on some areas of the meadows. Over the past centuries when frost was covering the ground, this pattern of 'drowning' would have occurred as the need to warm the grass would be a priority.

A very important man was the Drowner! The area was owned or leased to a number of people and they all wanted their area to be drowned or irrigated but each had to take their turn. He controlled the use of the water ensuring that the two mills, one at Harnham and the other at Salisbury, always had enough flow. Rose Cottage, located at the Harnham end of the Town Path from Salisbury was the home of the last drowner and is now the headquarters of the Harnham Water Meadows Trust.

Jan Fitzjohn.

www.salisburywatermeadows.org.uk

OPEN MEETING - NOVEMBER 2012



CONTEXTUALISM



At the Open Meeting in November these images were shown. They come from a planning application which demonstrated contextualism seeking to preserve the context of the surrounding buildings (image left) compared with seeking to enhance the context (upper two images).

CREATING WITHOUT IMITATING: NEW DESIGN IN HISTORIC CITIES OR '*A TALE OF TWO CITIES*'

The 2012 Salisbury Civic Society open lecture explored the theme of integrating new development in historic city centres and established communities. By coincidence, both speakers, John Hearne and Paul Bulkeley, live and work in Winchester, another historic cathedral city and Salisbury's near neighbour and nemesis! If Winchester can successfully introduce modern buildings into its historic fabric while still respecting the form and scale and materials of its historic neighbours, and show respect and understanding for both the townscape (the space between buildings) and the broader landscape setting of the city, then why can't Salisbury? Hence the subtitle, '*A Tale of Two Cities*', with apologies to Charles Dickens.

John Hearne, Urban Design and Major Projects Officer for Winchester City Council, outlined the need for good contextual design from a local authority perspective. Winchester like Salisbury has suffered from poor anywhere 'architecture', especially during the 80's and 90's which at its best was very poor pastiche, borrowing from a wide range of historic styles and details, and not necessarily local. Hearne stressed the importance for 'designers' to be informed and driven by local context and opportunities.

The Bourne Hill offices in Salisbury were cited as an excellent example of contemporary design where a large scale new building fits within and is connected to the historic fabric of the city but does not try to imitate or compete. It has a strong identity, is completely in context and has complete integrity - succeeding in its connection, scale, form and materials. Unfortunately it is a rare example of good modern design in Salisbury.

Over the years Winchester City Council has actively encouraged and fostered good design in a number of ways:

- ✧ A design review panel with a full range of design expertise and calling on good practice promoted by CABE and other design agencies
- ✧ In-house design expertise supporting and working closely with development control officers
- ✧ Design training for both council officers and members
- ✧ Closely working with local architects and other designers with an **enabling** attitude – discussing better alternatives rather than saying no
- ✧ Pre-application discussions and negotiations

This approach has been adopted by most authorities in recent years although sadly Wiltshire Council scrapped the Design Review Panel for Salisbury and the current Government has scaled down CABE's activities.

However, Hearne was optimistic about the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which has seen the 1000 page guidance documents distilled down to 60 pages. He was of the opinion that it was a breath of

fresh air and provided tools for those with interests in improving and enhancing our cities, towns and villages – planners, urban designers, architects, landscape designers, civic societies and for all guardians of the public realm. Hearne highlighted the following sections from the NPPF:

- ✧ *Good design is a key aspect of **sustainable development, is indivisible from good planning**, and should contribute positively to making places better for people*
- ✧ ***It should respond to local character and history**, and reflect the identity of local surroundings and materials, **while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation***
- ✧ *Planning policies and decisions **should not attempt to impose architectural styles or particular tastes and they should not stifle innovation originality or initiative through unsubstantiated requirements to conform to certain development forms or styles**. It is, however, proper to seek to promote or reinforce local distinctiveness*

Hearne was convinced that the key to achieving successful townscape and landscape is contextual design, and understanding what is going on around a site. i.e. the spatial characteristics; typologies, form and scale; topography; landscape structure and character; connections; uses etc.

Hearne went on to illustrate this with images from Winchester city centre, suburbs and villages including a number of examples of contemporary extensions to listed buildings in conservation areas which are quite clearly of this period yet respectful of the listed building and the setting of the immediate area.

Of particular interest was Silverhill, a large mixed use development and renewal scheme in the centre of Winchester, somewhat akin to the Salisbury's Maltings scheme and sharing the same architects, Allies and Morrison. This scheme is driven by the historic street pattern as well as opportunities for new pedestrian connections and views. Development will be at higher densities with more enclosure and with buildings taller than the surrounding development. It includes residential accommodation over retail units designed in a contemporary way and there will be no pastiche or period styling despite pressure from the traditionalists for a neo-classical approach,

Hearne concluded that Winchester City Council places a high priority on both conservation and **enhancement** of the built environment for the benefit of residents and tourists alike, the latter making an important contribution to the city's economy and prestige. The Council also endeavours to ensure that all new development is creative and inspiring and does not devalue the past with poor pastiche.

Continued on p18.



Samways, Alvediston. An Award was given here for extensive restoration and improvements to a house more or less untouched since Edwardian times. The Stallion yard has been preserved with sensitive work on the clock tower; a folly has been created from the water tower and a belvedere formed whose attraction will improve yet further with maturation of the stone.



An Award was given to Myles Place for this porch built on the north side to replace an unattractively modified previous structure.

Paul Bulkeley, a director of Snug Projects and a teaching fellow at Southampton University, considered the topic from a practising architects' viewpoint using three case studies of projects implemented or in the planning process.

Bulkeley started by looking at the theoretical approach to contextual design. He stated that stylistic consensus is ultimately a myth. The challenge we face is the juxtaposition of distinct architectural styles (and the philosophy that created them) in the same shared space. Design should generally be modest and fit for purpose but occasionally there is the opportunity to go for contrast.

A series of images showed the unified perfection of Bath which embodied the values of society of that period which resulted in consensual, unified design. The Victorians by contrast went for a more eclectic approach to architectural styles. He also showed examples of contemporary Dutch design reflecting the spirit of the current age where working within set parameters, an overall unity of appearance can be achieved in a series of buildings, even though each one is of a different design.

Bulkeley made the case for a new '**ism**' for design. We have had **rationalism**, **revivalism** and **eclecticism**. What is needed now in established city and town settings is **relationalism**. The most well known relational axiom is '**Love thy neighbour as thyself**'. With design this means looking for evidence of meaningful interaction between old and new, and the notion of **recognition**. Again he emphasised that design should be generated from the site and function, working within the context of the surrounding area and buildings.

Bulkeley used Monks House as one of three examples to illustrate his design philosophy. Monks House is an ongoing project on the site of a garage in the Hyde district of Winchester, an area of semi detached and terraced Edwardian houses overlooking North Walls park.

A lively question and answer session brought the event to a close.

Leslie Lipscombe.

Footnote: The National Planning Policy Framework can be downloaded from:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Due to the indisposition of Kate O'Connor, Membership Secretary, the Society Secretary, Marguerite Scott of 31 Harnwood Road, Salisbury SP2 8DD, tel 01722 328311, email: margueritescott@talktalk.net, will be dealing with membership matters for the next few months.

OFFICERS as at 1st March 2013.**PATRON: The Lord Congleton MA, Hon.LLD.****PRESIDENT: Dame Rosemary Spencer, DCMG.****VICE-PRESIDENTS: Lt Cdr David Allen, Maj Gen Roy Dixon,
Mr ARA Hobson, Mr Ken Wiltshire.****CHAIRMAN: Brig Alastair Clark.****VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr Richard Deane.****Executive Committee**

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An Award was given for this mural work at Milford Bridge. The concrete walls extending from Milford Street to Milford Hill (formed by the creation of the bypass in the 1970s) have long been an eyesore. The first stage of the work was on the south face - middle and upper pictures - and represents buildings that might have been in place had the bypass not been built. The scenes on the north side, below, represent events to celebrate the Jubilee and feature successful trompe l'oeil.

