



A Society Award was given to **The Diocesan Education Centre, Wilton.**

The entrance end uses local stone to set the tone for the building, complementing this with unfussy use of windows and timber boarding for the rest of the structure to the west. Internally, the full height atrium space along the building's spine was felt to be extremely successful both visually and functionally, enabling a natural system of ventilation. The spaces for various uses sit comfortably either side of this, designed to fit the centre's requirements without any unnecessary flashiness, with a particularly successful upper room with built-in privacy taking advantage of the added height at the centre of the structure. The clinching factor in establishing the building's overall achievement was its grass and wildflower roof, which from the north helps immeasurably to fit the centre into its rural setting. *See the back page.*

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## **SALISBURY CIVIC SOCIETY**

PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE, SECURING OUR ENVIRONMENT,  
SHAPING OUR FUTURE

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

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

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

**Editor: Dr Charles Villiers.**

**Printing: Salisbury Printing.**

**Registered Charity no. 293143**

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## 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.

### **Thursday 13 March**

Lecture by Robert Key, former Salisbury MP.  
*'Our Magna Carta' : Salisbury Cathedral's 1215 Magna Carta and 800th Anniversary Celebrations.*

### **Wednesday 9 April - Amesbury visit at 2pm**

Application form enclosed

### **Thursday 24 April - Planning Forum**

Listed Buildings - Why do they get listed and what does this mean?

### **Monday 19 May - Dinton Visit**

Guided visit by David Richards, Blue Badge Guide.

### **Wednesday 18 June**

AGM followed by Lecture by David Andrews of Visit Wiltshire,  
 'The role of Visit Wiltshire' in attracting visitors to Salisbury & South Wiltshire.

### **Friday 25 July**

Mystery Visit.

### **Late Summer / Early Autumn**

Visit to Houghton Lodge.

### **Thursday 11 to Saturday 13 September**

#### **Historic Open Days**

"The theme this year will be 'Hotels and their Chequers'.  
 There will be free tours with professional guides on Thursday 11th, Friday 12th and Saturday 13th September 2014. More details in the June Quarterly.

### **Thursday 25 September**

Tom Beaumont Jones,  
 former professor of archaeology, Winchester University,  
*'Clarendon – From Royal Palace to Georgian Mansion'*

### **Thursday 13 November**

David Richards, Blue Badge Tourist Guide,  
*'Religion, Politics & Witchcraft in 17C Salisbury': a brief look at the turbulent C17, these traumatic political and social changes are the backdrop to an examination of witchcraft in Salisbury.*

### **Tuesday 25 November**

Open Meeting in the Guildhall at 7.30pm.





**The Library at Wyndham Park School, Salisbury** was given a Commendation. The interior was particularly applauded for its creation of an environment which could only encourage the schoolchildren to take advantage of the facilities it offered. All four sides of one half of the building had been filled with windows, to produce a light and spacious feel and provide excellent views of the greenery beyond.

The Society's annual open meeting has always been aimed at looking at a current topic of local interest, in an area where there are genuine prospects of some improvement being achieved, and at trying to get the maximum possible audience for the evening. The 2013 event, held on November 19th, was the 17th in the series, and had the title 'Taking an Alternative Look at Traffic Management'. Its focus was the concept of 'shared space', which creates a more equal relationship between different types of road users, with benefits all round, and which had already been covered by the very successful open meeting of 2004. The Society was lucky enough to get the speaker then, Ben Hamilton-Baillie, back again for the 2013 meeting, this time with two co-speakers, and with a specific case study to build the talks round.

In 2004 shared space had shown its worth on the continent, but was a relatively untried approach in this country, and likely to be regarded with some suspicion by council highways officers. The intervening years had seen a marked shift, with schemes carried out in the UK, the highest profile one perhaps being the reconfiguring of Exhibition Road in Kensington, and with the Department of Transport having produced a manual on the subject. The scheme presented to the meeting was in the town of Poynton in Cheshire, where a busy and complicated road junction on the edge of the town centre had been radically reworked. The meeting benefited enormously from the presence of a councillor from Poynton, Howard Murray, who showed a video illustrating what had been done there, and proved to be a very entertaining and persuasive advocate of shared space.

Ben Hamilton-Baillie was responsible for designing the Poynton scheme, and was able to talk about the details of it, as well as covering more general points about shared space and how it worked. The third speaker was Ian Walker, from the Department of Psychology at Bath University, who has a specialist interest in shared space and the ways in which people relate to it, and also happens to be a Salisbury resident. The combined expertise of the speakers, the detailed involvement of two of them in the work

at Poynton, and the illustration of what was achieved there, all helped to present a vivid picture of the potential clearly contained within the shared space concept.

What came across very clearly was that while drastically reducing the primacy of motor vehicles over pedestrians is of benefit to the latter, as one might expect, it can also help ease the passage of motor vehicles as well. The key to the whole shared space idea is that it obliges motorists to think about what they are doing, rather than putting them in a situation where kerbs, white lines and traffic lights dictate the course of events and very few choices have to be made. The speeds at which vehicles move will be reduced, which is of course of benefit to pedestrians and cyclists, but because there are no longer any phases where vehicles are forced to be stationary, their journey times can actually be shortened. Before and after shots at Poynton demonstrated this working out in practice, and all the attendant benefits. Before showed lines of vehicles stacked up at red lights, pumping out fumes, with pedestrians hovering nervously waiting for the brief intervals when it was safe for them to cross over. After, everything moved at an even pace, with vehicles proceeding round loosely delineated roundabouts, through which cyclist and pedestrians made their way with equal ease.

The before part of the video included interviews with sceptical locals - "I can't see it working" - with the same people after the project's completion happy to admit that actually it did work. Councillor Murray stressed that an important driver of the project was the perception that traffic was eating away from the town's economic vitality, with many shops unoccupied. Now, he told us, not a single one was empty. Journey times to work or school had been reduced, and the accident rate was down. Achieving all this had, not surprisingly, not been plain sailing, with a lot of flak coming Councillor Murray's way in the early stages, and endless struggles with council highways officers, who came out of his talk as the villains of the piece. To a complete outsider this seemed a bit harsh, since one would assume that some basic level of co-

operation from them was necessary in order for the project to go ahead at all, but his description of the difficulties they caused was clearly heartfelt. One obvious question, duly put by the leader of Salisbury City Council, was how this substantial scheme was funded. Howard's answer was somewhat indirect, covering the hard work entailed in seeking money from a wide range of bodies, rather than going into any great detail. Sometimes assurance of money from one source would unlock another source, but what those sources might be would differ from case to case. Another point that came across from Howard was his stressing that a shared space scheme by itself was not enough. It had to be well designed, and as far as he was concerned that meant it ideally had to be designed by Ben Hamilton-Baillie. Since Ben is unlikely to be able to design everything in this field, one has to hope that Howard was being unduly pessimistic about the abilities of other practitioners.

Towards the end Ian Walker shifted the focus to Salisbury, and what might be achieved there by an adoption of shared space principles. He was able to report that significant progress in acceptance of them had already been made, as demonstrated to one of three task groups set under the aegis of the Salisbury Vision to consider aspects of transport in the city. This particular group, covering the public realm, has Ian among its members, together with two representatives from the Civic Society. In September it heard a report from a Wiltshire Council transport officer, who had been tasked to consider options for pedestrianising Blue Boar Row, a Vision policy which had been brought to the forefront of current thinking partly as a result of the impending bus station closure. After examining the implications of pedestrianisation there, and its knock-on effects in neighbouring streets, the officer had come to the conclusion that actually these effects caused too many complications, and that a shared space treatment for the street would make more sense. There was clearly a great advantage in hearing this news just prior to seeing a dramatic demonstration of how shared space could work. Obviously the situation in Poynton was very different, but it was



also much more complex, and the challenges the scheme there faced were significantly greater than anything Blue Boar Row might present. In other words, if the approach worked in Poynton, it certainly ought to work in central Salisbury.

After the three talks proper, there was an opportunity for Ben Hamilton-Baillie to briefly run through a few thoughts that had occurred to him earlier in the day, while making a quick excursion through parts of Salisbury. His practised eye had spotted several cases where the city could do better, including clutters of signs which had survived the Society's attempt to highlight such eyesores, in a campaign that was directly sparked by Ben's previous talk in 2004. All in all, this was an immensely satisfying open meeting, setting out real achievement elsewhere and its implications for Salisbury, in a manner that was lively, entertaining and thought-provoking. The inevitable question is how to build on what we heard, since it would be a real shame if the potential for action revealed by the meeting was never exploited. One obvious answer to the question lay in Howard Murray himself, with his enthusiasm for what had been achieved in Poynton, and his willingness to travel many miles to tell the story to others. If Salisbury is to make real progress in implementing anything in the same vein, a champion within the ranks of councillors is really needed - and realistically it needs to be one from Trowbridge, rather than the City Council. Several members of the latter were present, in an audience which must have numbered at least a hundred, but no-one from Wiltshire Council seemed to be at the event, which was a shame.

As far as the Society is concerned, one major reason for choosing this theme for the meeting was a recognition that the impending Maltings redevelopment would necessitate the best possible links between it and the market place and surrounding area, which would imply a reconfiguring of the Cheesemarket area, and which would benefit immensely from a reduction in traffic flow from Minster Street to Castle Street. Aspirations for the pedestrianisation of Minster Street and Silver Street had come to

*Continued on page 15.*





**Rock Cottage, Chilmark** was given a Commendation, credit being given to a fairly uncompromising contemporary approach in a very thoughtful way. The large areas of glazing with fully controllable timber louvres, which are a striking part of the design, front the more private sides of the house, while those which are to some extent publicly viewable are faced with local stone.

**St Paul's Community Centre, Salisbury** - a Commendation was given reflecting the decision to go for a very different stylistic approach to the surroundings. The combination of contemporary glazing with traditional brickwork worked well, and the recessing of the upper of three storeys, thereby creating a balcony space, giving a welcome three dimensionality to the front elevation.



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT MARCH 2014

### **1. Awards Ceremony and New Year's Party.**

The year started in exceptionally fine form with a very well attended New Year Party held at the Guildhall on Thursday 9th January and following a very enjoyable sampling of fine wines selected by Ron Smith and an excellent buffet kindly prepared by and served under the supervision of Margaret Clark, the assembled members and guests settled down to enjoy the presentation of the Civic Society Awards and Commendations for new architectural achievements in the previous year. Certificates were presented by Dame Rosemary Spencer, our President and followed a brilliant introductory description of entries by the Chairman of the judging panel Gareth Machin, Artistic Director of the Salisbury Playhouse. We were given an excellent insight into the reasoning behind the selection process and the individual aspects of design features that were worthy of recognition.

Our Guests this year included the Lady Mayor, Penny Brown and Salisbury Member of Parliament, John Glen, as well as those professional designers, builders and their Clients who received the awards.

Details of the Commendations and Awards can be seen on our website, [www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk).

### **2. Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers.**

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 18th June 2014 and we are this year looking for candidates/nominations to stand for the post of Honorary Treasurer and also Membership Secretary. Ron Millar is looking to stand down as Treasurer after many years of tireless service to the Society and will be happy to work alongside a new officer, as there is a great deal of responsibility and background knowledge required handling the finances of a Charitable Body such as ours. Presently we are fortunate that Marguerite Scott is fulfilling the latter role as a temporary volunteer until a replacement is found. Please let us know if you would like to have your name put forward or would like to nominate a suitable candidate(s).

Our Guest Speaker addressing the Society after official business ends will be David Andrews of "Visit Wiltshire" who will give a Lecture entitled "The Role of Visit Wiltshire in attracting visitors to Salisbury & South Wiltshire".

No doubt some interesting feedback from the first year of operation at the new Stonehenge Visitor Centre will be included as there are mixed reviews so far.

### **3 Plaques.**

The follow up to the installation of the replacement sheep by the Society at 51 High Street in November last year will be the unveiling of the Civic Society plaque at 51 High Street on Thursday 13th March at 12:00 noon and the formal unveiling will be carried out by Dame Rosemary Spencer.

Later in the year, on 14th May the Civic Society plaque will be unveiled at Leehurst Swan school to commemorate the centenary of the founding of that particular educational establishment on the site and we are delighted to be able to mark that special occasion.

### **4 Historic Open Days.**

This will comprise a professionally supervised visit to three Listed hotels located within ancient Chequers of Salisbury and will take place on Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th September. The selected venues are The Cathedral Hotel, The Red Lion and The White Hart Hotel. More details of arrangements and timing will be circulated in due course but this will be a fascinating insight into the historic structures and the Chequers themselves.

### **5 Lectures and Visits.**

On 13th March we have Robert Key giving a talk on the subject of the Magna Carta and will no doubt give us interesting insight into its origins and effects and in particular on how the Country changed as a result of King John "sealing" his fate with the Barons and the Church!

Details of other forthcoming events are on the inside facing page.

### **5 Salisbury Vision.**

I have attended two meetings of the Salisbury Vision Board as representative of the Civic Society. At present the Board and Wiltshire Council are seeking applications for the post of Chairman of the Vision Board as Alastair Clark is at present holding the post of Interim Chairman following the resignation last year of Sir Christopher Benson. It is an unpaid voluntary role and a leading figure from the Private Sector is being sought with invitations to apply on the Salisbury Vision website.

At the February meeting I am pleased to report that a resolution was adopted to formally submit to Wiltshire Council the results of deliberations by the three Transport Reference Groups and their recommendations. In particular the Reference Group 2 includes my predecessor Alastair Clark and Richard Deane and their remit is The Public Realm





*On the left:* The New House, Nursery Rd, Salisbury was given a Commendation reflecting its clean contemporary feel providing a refreshing change in an in-fill development.



Strategy, Pedestrianisation, Shared Space and Tourism. Whilst more work on details needs to be done the outline recommendations adopted by the Vision Board from this Group are:-

- a) Immediate implementation of the new finger post signage.
- b) To ask Wiltshire Council to implement shared space along Blue Boar Row.
- c) To ask Wiltshire Council to carry out a modelling experiment into turning off some or all of the City Centre traffic lights .
- d) Invite Wiltshire Council to publicly consult on the draft Public Realm Strategy with a view to adoption.

It remains to be seen how these ideas are received at Wiltshire Council along with the other Groups' ideas for Passenger Transport and Car and Coach Parking.

The Central Car Park development proposals are due to be updated by Stanhope and Wiltshire Council at an open meeting of the Area Board on 20th March and we anticipate news of significant progress in formulating ideas for this key site which it is hoped will generate renewed enthusiasm for visiting Salisbury as a destination for shopping, leisure and entertainment.

I will ensure that Salisbury Civic Society views are fed back into the planning process along with the consultations that Stanhope may have with our Development Committee members in due course.

I look forward to receiving any new ideas from Members in regard to future visits, activities and speakers who will inform and stimulate our continuing concerns for and interest in the welfare of our Salisbury City environment.

*Peter Dunbar.*

**Latch Cottage, Laverstock**, shown on the left, upper picture on page 12, received a Commendation this year: Attractively coloured render, old clay roof tiles and a nicely detailed timber porch all helped to make the front elevation stand out from most of its neighbours, and similar care had been taken over the traditional feel of the interior.

### **ANNUAL AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS**

At the Annual Award Giving party in the Guildhall in January, the following were presented by our President, Dame Rosemary Spencer:

Awards:                      Cloudberry House, Donhead St Mary.  
The Diocesan Education Centre, Wilton.  
The Lynchets, Mere.

Commendations:        Rock Cottage, Chilmark.  
St Paul's Community Center, Salisbury.  
Latch Cottage, Laverstock.  
Library at Wyndham Park School, Salisbury.  
New House, Nursery Road, Salisbury.

The buildings (this year New Buildings were considered) are illustrated on the colour pages with captions incorporating a few of the Judges' comments. These comments can be seen in full on our website.

*(The above lists are made in no significant order.)*

### **LEE Hurst Swan School**

The Headmaster and Staff Warmly invite you to the unveiling of a Blue Plaque produced by the Salisbury Civic Society to mark a Century of Education on the School site on Wednesday 14th May at 3pm followed by a Reception in the Walker Hall, with the cutting of a Centenary Cake.

R.S.V.P. Mrs Fiona Nokes PA to the Headmaster  
patohm@leehurstswan.org.uk

***We welcome new members:***

*Mr David Carpenter, Mr David Gregory, Mr  
John & Mrs Madeleine Tennant.*

*Continued from page 8*

seem unrealistic, once the possibility of a route bypassing both them and the southern end of Castle Street had been ruled out by the emerging overall shape of the likely Maltings scheme, and the Society had decided to go for a shared space approach for Minster Street/Silver Street instead. In the event, this had been overtaken by the unexpected council focus on Blue Boar Row, with the likelihood that if shared space was to be introduced into the city centre, it would happen here first. The Society's desire to see the pedestrianisation of Blue Boar Row probably predated the policy advocating the same thing in Minster Street/Silver Street, but the council officers' decision that shared space was the way to go in Blue Boar Row prompted the Society to consider whether it should change its own policy for the street. A decision was deferred till after the open meeting and what it had to tell us about the shared space principle, with the next Development Committee meeting agreeing, in the light of what members had seen, to go along with the council's thinking, and back shared space in Blue Boar Row.

A council view on what should ideally happen in that street is not the same thing as a decision to go ahead with an actual scheme, with funding as ever being a critical issue. At the very least, however, the mood has changed, and it would not be too absurd to hope that action will eventually follow. The Society's annual report for 2004 noted that at the open meeting for that year, Ben Hamilton-Baillie responded to a question as to how Salisbury might achieve the kind of road improvements he had advocated with the comment that it might take 20 years to get anywhere. We're now nine years into that timeframe, and if we can't manage something within the next eleven, it will, to put it mildly, be a pretty poor show.

*Richard Deane.*

## **SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE - ARTHUR MILLIE**

On 14 November we were treated to a very lively and entertaining talk by Arthur Millie, Archivist of Salisbury Playhouse, entitled 'From the Chapel to the Beehive – the story of Salisbury Playhouse and its people'.

He gave us a fascinating chronological account of the theatre's history from its birth as a garrison theatre in a former chapel through to the present day in a purpose built theatre whose fly tower resembles a beehive in shape. He spoke about the contribution made by Reggie Salberg and drew our attention to actors who had trod the boards at the playhouse in their early days and gone on to become household names. He told tales of famous playwrights and directors and how the theatre got its name.

He brought along some exhibits of old programmes, playbills and photographs as well as copies of his book 'Playhouse Memories' which is available from the Playhouse price £ 8.00. The current theatre, for which the foundation stone was laid in 1976, was finished 3 months ahead of schedule as a result of the most successful fund raising campaign of any British theatre. When built, it was identical to the Mercury Theatre Colchester, by the same Essex based Architect, Norman Downie, but differs now following remodelling in 1995 and the further recent extension.

Amongst other gems we learnt:

- When it was a garrison theatre the public could only attend performances if accompanied by someone in the services.
- The orchestra pit of the old theatre regularly flooded and audiences could get wet too as the roof leaked.

Happily today we can enjoy a visit to the theatre without recourse to an umbrella. Many of the audience were regular theatre goers and were able to add accounts of further incidents from the past and recall those mentioned. Not all theatres have an archivist so we are lucky to have one, and one with such a wealth of information. If you weren't there, you missed a treat.

*Judy Howles.*





**The Lynchets, Mere** was given an award. A previously unoccupied site, right beneath the castle hill which is one of Mere's most prominent features, presented both a challenge and a great opportunity for the designer of the new house. The site has been cut back into the bottom of the hill, so that from above the green roof acts as a natural extension of the hill slope, making the house unobtrusive. Internally, the use of a single storey format in a space much higher than that of the average single story house had paid major dividends, enabling the creation of a liberating interior full of light, with carefully thought-out openings and a simple palette of white walls and warmly coloured timber doors and floors. Guest accommodation had been sensibly fitted in on one side of the house, leaving the main space as a fully integrated unit for the wheelchair-bound user, future-proofed as far as possible with a great deal of thoughtfulness.



**Cloudberry House** - see the back page - was given an Award, the staircase, stone flooring and attention to detail receiving especial mention.

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER**

At this Year's AGM I will have been "in post" for 16 years, and having attained !! years of age, I have advised the Executive Committee that it is time for me to retire gracefully.

The message is therefore that, if you would like to be considered for this important office, or alternatively, if you know someone who would be a suitable candidate please let me know.

The post requires a detailed working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, Internet Explorer and Outlook Express. The Accounting Software used is Quickbooks which is very simple to use with a little training. It is important that the candidate should have knowledge of Charity Regulations and Gift Aid.

I have in mind that the appointment would initially be as a deputy, followed by a full appointment at this year's AGM.

Tel/Fax: 01722 328283    [Ronald.Millar@virginmedia.com](mailto:Ronald.Millar@virginmedia.com)

### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY VOLUNTEER TO REPLACE MARGUERITE SCOTT**

When Kate O'Connor had an operation last spring I took on membership as well as being Society Secretary. Having been Society Secretary for over 19 years I handed over to Philip Price at the beginning of December 2013 but remained responsible for membership. I would be very grateful if someone who has a computer could volunteer to become Membership Secretary, which involves keeping a record of members and ensuring they pay their annual subscriptions. Will anyone interested please contact me on 01722-328311 or email address [margueritescott@talktalk.net](mailto:margueritescott@talktalk.net).

## ***OFFICERS as at 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014.***

***PATRON: The Lord Congleton MA, Hon.LLD.***

***PRESIDENT: Dame Rosemary Spencer, DCMG.***

***VICE-PRESIDENTS: Brig Alastair Clark, Maj Gen Roy Dixon,  
Mr ARA Hobson, Mr Ken Wiltshire.***

***CHAIRMAN: Mr Peter Dunbar.***

***VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr Richard Deane.***

### **Executive Committee**

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The roof of the Diocesan Education Centre - see the front page.



**Cloudberry House, Donhead St Mary**, was given an award. The judges accepted that there was no claim to innovation but the overall finish including the stone and slate, slimline double glazed windows, natural stone floors and fireplaces, and the unforced likeability of the interior made certain claim to an award. *And see page 17.*