



June 2016

Celebrating our Heritage Enhancing our Environment Shaping our Future

Salisbury is a vibrant cathedral city, surrounded by the beautiful countryside and villages of South Wiltshire. People visit it or decide to live here because it is a welcoming community, working and trading in a marvellous historic setting. The challenges today are to maintain those attractive qualities and yet accommodate ongoing changes in population, lifestyle, and the economy.

The Salisbury Civic Society, founded in 1960, works to promote high standards of contemporary design in all aspects of the built environment within Salisbury and South Wiltshire, whilst safeguarding the historic buildings and landscape setting underpinning the area's special character.

Over the years, the role of the Society has expanded. Today, it is not only the principal local organisation and guardian for the built environment, but also celebrates and promotes the area's rich heritage & cultural life through a stimulating programme of activities.

Salisbury falls under two authorities, created in 2009, Salisbury City Council and Wiltshire Council. We are able to contribute effectively in many areas and are represented on several groups including the Salisbury Conservation Advisory Panel. We also have a good working relationship with Wiltshire Council, Salisbury City Council and Campaign to Protect Rural England. As a non-political organisation, the Society tries to maintain an independent stance on all matters.

Through a series of awards, talks, forums, open meetings, visits and our website we promote and provide information on the architecture, history and geography of the area.

Amongst the many activities of the Society we:

- Monitor and constructively comment on planning applications and development proposals
- Run an active and stimulating programme of events for members and the public
- Publish a Quarterly magazine for members
- Maintain our support for the projects promoted by the former Salisbury Vision
- Protect and celebrate the traditional chequer names
- Run a prestigious new buildings and conservation awards scheme
- Organise the annual Salisbury Historic Open Days and the Salisbury Blue Plaques scheme celebrating our outstanding built environment and heritage
- Promote the economic vitality of the region

Our aims:

- To celebrate & commemorate the area's rich heritage & cultural life
- To enhance & protect the built environment & landscape setting of the area
- To encourage & promote high standards of design, management & maintenance
- To provide a stimulating programme of activities for our members

We welcome new members of all ages and backgrounds.



Summer's on it's way and it's time for the AGM on the 15th, a meeting well worth attending, providing members with an opportunity to catch up with what has been going on in the Society and offering a chance to meet committee members. Annual reports from the Development Committee, the General Purposes Committee and Publicity can be found on pages 13 - 20 with the Annual Accounts as a separate insert.

There have been some excellent events already this year. A talk arranged by Judy Howles, on the town twinning between Salisbury & Saintes, (see p's 9 & 10) and a fascinating visit arranged by Brenda Hunt, to the Bombay Sapphire Distillery at Laverstoke (see p's 10, 11 & 12). The photograph on the front cover shows Thomas Heatherwick's Botanical Glasshouse at the distillery.

On Friday June 3rd there is a visit to Norrington Manor, with the annual Mystery Visit on Wednesday July 27th (see below) if you haven't already booked do so now as places go fast! There is The Pitt Walk around Stratford sub Castle with David Richards on Monday August 15th, made even better with the added attraction of a cream tea!

Elaine Milton's article on p's 7 & 8 gives an informed insight into Neighbourhood Planning and we have an update from Richard Deane on p's 5 & 6 on the Statue project.

The photograph of the Sunny Hours sundial is a detail from the Society's book 'Salisbury in Detail' available from Richard Deane at rdeanemadasafish.com, otherwise all photographs in this issue are by James Woods. If you would like to contribute articles to future editions of the quarterly magazine please contact me on stephaniedsd@gmail.com

Stephanie Siddons Deighton

MYSTERY VISIT Wednesday July 27, 2016

This year's mystery visit takes us a little further away from Salisbury, to a venue, never open to the public, except for a specially pre-arranged group, where the owner, whose family have lived there for many generations, will welcome us, and show us round. We shall also visit some smaller places of interest on the way out, and during the afternoon, and lunch in an attractive village pub.

We shall leave Salisbury at 9.0 am, and pause briefly at the Staging Post after 25 miles. This is an opportunity for a "comfort stop". We shall leave after ten minutes or so, to arrive at our destination in time for refreshments followed by a guided tour. I have booked lunch nearby, and in the afternoon, there are three possible activities, all so interesting I shall personally find it hard to decide which to do, unless it is raining, in which case there is one obvious choice. This flexibility makes it possible for anyone who feels a whole day out too tiring, to return home directly after lunch. But they will, alas, miss some delights.... Others can assume they will arrive back in Salisbury between 5.00 and 5.30. The total distance covered will be about 88 miles, but it is not challenging driving, and no section of it is more than 25 miles, through lovely Wessex countryside. As the use of private cars is essential, I am happy to try to arrange a lift for anyone who does not wish to drive. Please indicate on your application form if you can either offer a lift, or would need one.

The cost of £25 (the same as last year) includes refreshments on arrival, entrance fee, and a sandwich lunch with tea or coffee, but not alcohol. You will be able to purchase afternoon tea, but this is not included in the ticket price.

We can accommodate no more than 25 people. In previous years, tickets (on a first-come, first-served basis) have sold out rapidly, and some members have been disappointed. So, if you enjoy a day away from Salisbury, savouring the pleasure of living in such a wonderful area, do apply NOW. I am happy to answer questions - provided the answers would not "give the game away"! Do call me.

CAN YOU HELP ?

The work done by our volunteer teams are central to everything we do. Members of the Development Committee are concerned with the maintenance and improvement of our environment, responding to planning applications and supporting architectural projects of quality through our Conservation and New Buildings Awards. We host an annual Planning Forum and Open Meeting encouraging informed debate of current issues. The General Purposes Committee run a stimulating programme of events, visits and lectures for members and the public. Members take responsibility for arranging talks and visits, commissioning blue plaques, editing the Society magazine, managing the website and social media, there's a Society facebook page and we have a growing bunch of twitter followers. As the importance of our work grows we are looking for support for our activities from professional and lay people alike. We are a friendly and welcoming group, enthusiasm and a willingness to work with a wider team is all that is required, oh and a working knowledge of Word, and email would be an advantage! There are a few meetings throughout the year otherwise it's in your own time. If you are interested please go to the website salisburycivicsociety.org.uk

STATUE UPDATE

by Richard Deane

The March magazine referred to an initial decision by Salisbury City Council to approve the provision of a location for a new casting of the Man with Arms Open bronze statue within the city centre, and the need to go back to that body with a more precise siting. In early April three possible ones were put to the council, two of them in different parts of Guildhall Square, and one, the Society's preferred site, in the Cheesemarket. With the first two regarded by council officers as presenting practical difficulties, the council's Services Committee was left with

the task of reaching a view on the Cheesemarket location, and ended up with approving it, though only by a narrow majority. That particular area is in fact under Wiltshire Council control, a situation not affected by the likely forthcoming transfer of some of its assets to the city council, so the vote was an indication of guarded support for the idea of having the statue there, rather than an outright and final approval of it.

The Cheesemarket is currently the subject of a redesign by Wiltshire

Council transport officers, and consultants, with the aim of introducing a 'shared space' scheme for the Minster Street/Blue Boar Row/Castle Street junction, and thereby giving equal rights to the various users of the junction, whether on foot or in or on a vehicle. The shared space concept was the subject of the very successful 2013 Open Meeting, and its introduction in the Cheesemarket is strongly supported by the Society. Indications to date are that the statue could certainly in principle be incorporated into the redesign, but that things have not yet got to the stage of a detailed layout, and until that stage is reached it will not be clear whether the designers are happy to endorse statue inclusion as an enhancement of the scheme.

Several conditions therefore need to be satisfied before the statue once more stands in Salisbury. It

needs to be designed into the Cheesemarket scheme, and the scheme needs to go out to consultation, and then to be adopted. Planning permission would then be needed for the statue (but not for the rest of the redesign for that area), and only if it was granted could seeking to secure the funding for the statue begin. The consequence of this timing sequence would almost inevitably be that implementation of the redesign, for which the funding is already available, would take place before the new statue could be purchased, and that a space would have to be left in the redesigned area, to be filled with the statue later on. However there is no reason why this should be a particular problem. While raising the money will not be a straightforward matter, facing the problem of how to do it would at least be the final stage in the story, and would mean that various preliminary obstacles had been successfully overcome.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new members:

Mr and Mrs John FOSKETT, Elizabeth JAMES, Marcia HILLIARD
and Joe WALKER

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

A Brief Guide

The Localism Act 2011 was part of a move to devolve power more widely in Britain. It gave local communities the power to set out their own views on local planning issues (subject to regulatory constraints) within neighbourhood plans and have them formally adopted as part of the statutory planning process.

Development of housing and businesses - and facilities such as roads and schools - are interrelated. In order for parishes to plan for the future they first need to have a thorough understanding of the current position in respect of development and infrastructure. The research required is normally coordinated by a steering committee set up by the parish council, and the results are used to form the basis of the plan. Support to the steering group is provided by Wiltshire Council in the form of a dedicated link officer, and detailed guidance for producing the plans is available on the council's website.

Neighbourhood plans can establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a particular area. They can include local priorities, planning policies, proposals for improving an area or providing new facilities or infrastructure and allocation of key sites for development. The plan is normally topic-based and covers matters such as jobs, housing, education and training, retail, transport, leisure and tourism.

Once drafted, the plan is submitted to Wiltshire Council, who publicises it for consultation on its website for at least six weeks. The council is also responsible for appointing an independent examiner to check the plan meets the prescribed standards and to whom the council passes on any representations made during the consultation. It is important to emphasise that the regulations require neighbourhood plans to be in conformity with both national and local planning policy and this will form a key part of the examination of the plan. If the examiner is satisfied, then the plan will be the subject of a local referendum, run by Wiltshire Council. The referendum is entirely independent of the parish council and its steering group, and is carried out according to strict electoral conditions.

The referendum seeks the answer to one question only, namely whether or not the elector approves of the final plan. If the result of the referendum is positive, with more than 50% of those voting in support of the plan, then it is considered formally approved by Wiltshire Council (a process known as 'making the plan'). It consequently forms part of the Local Development Framework, along with the Wiltshire Core Strategy, which was adopted in January 2015. Under the law, decision-makers are obliged to consider proposals for development against the neighbourhood plan.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a relatively new form of charge that local authorities in England can place on development within their area. The money generated through the levy will contribute to the funding of infrastructure to support growth. Since 2013, where development takes place within an area that has a neighbourhood plan in place, the council must pass on 25% of the relevant CIL receipts to the parish council for that area. Areas without a neighbourhood development plan, however, may only receive 15% (capped at £100 per council tax dwelling) of the relevant CIL receipts.

To date, four neighbourhood plans have been formally made within Wiltshire, including within large settlements such as Devizes (www.devizesareaplan.org.uk) and Malmesbury, with well over 50 others under production. A neighbourhood plan is being considered for preparation by Salisbury City Council for later in 2016. The society can get involved in this process through seeking representation on the steering group to help shape the contents of the plan during the consultation phases.

Elaine Milton

VACANCIES ON THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Two officers are needed to undertake important services for our members. We have vacancies for the roles of commissioning plaques and for organising Historic Open Days. The responsible officer will lead on each subject, but all committee members contribute to their choice and discussion, and will give assistance as necessary. If you are able and happy to spare no more than a few hours a month in the service of our community, please contact James Woods on lisandjames@gmail.com or 01722 422169

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Salisbury and Saintes

On 17 March Mervyn Pannett treated us to an interesting illustrated talk on 'A Tale of Two Cities – Salisbury and Saintes', during which we learnt a lot about our French twin town and were able to draw comparisons between the two cities.

Saintes is the older city on its current site - the crossing of the Charentes River, whereas Salisbury relocated from Old Sarum. Saintes has a more turbulent history. Both are tourist towns, Saintes being a stop on the 'Camino de Santiago' pilgrim trail. Both have a diminished status in terms of local government; Saintes was once the capital of Aquitaine, but now even the departmental administration has been lost to La Rochelle. Both towns remain judicial centres though.

We learnt that the towns have been twinned for 26 years. They sit in very different landscapes, that around Saintes being dominated by viticulture (Cognac is a nearby town). To the north of the east it is hillier and not unlike other parts of Wiltshire. The local stone is a Jurassic limestone but much lighter in colour than Salisbury's local Chilmark stone and has been used more extensively for building within the town. The

Charentes River is navigable through Saintes and historic locally built barges can be seen.

Saintes was founded by a Celtic people called the Santons who gave their name to the town. However, unlike the Salisbury area where much ancient archaeology can be found, Saintes archaeological richness comes from the Roman period. The best known is the Arch Germanicus which stands on the west bank of the river but originally was a gate in the middle of a bridge which stood until 19th century as the sole crossing point. When the new bridge was built in association with major changes in the layout of the town, the arch was 'saved' and relocated – an early example of conservation.

Saintes Cathedral is less imposing architecturally than that of Salisbury and sits surrounded closely by the buildings of the town - the market is held against its walls. However, the city also retains an Abbey - although it ceased its monastic activity in 1792 and is now used as a music academy and concert venue, having been a prison and barracks along the way.

Looking at modern Saintes, like Salisbury it has become an important railway centre, it also has a redundant former hospital in the

town, though unlike the Infirmary it still lies vacant awaiting a new use despite having a commanding view over the town. Mr Pannett was keen to point out a large free car park. Both towns have museums and a theatre, though Saintes has adopted a different approach to expansion of historic buildings, favouring contrasting modern additions. Both towns have a market though Saintes has both covered and outdoor markets, the former being

dominated by food, especially fish.

We learnt that sadly school exchanges between the towns no longer take place. However, Saintes proudly displays its links to Salisbury on a 'twin towns' themed roundabout. Apparently, there are competitions held in France for the best decorated roundabout. Now there's a thought.....

Judy Howles

Visit to Bombay Sapphire Distillery

On a warm and sunny Thursday, 28 April, 25 Civic Society members went on a conducted tour of the Bombay Sapphire Distillery at Laverstoke Mill, near Whitchurch. A water-powered mill has stood on the banks of the River Test for over 1,000 years, and here we spent two well-filled hours touring the site and absorbing relevant facts and figures. We learnt about the history of distilling; the birth of what is now Bombay Sapphire in 1761 in Warrington; the two main methods of distilling and the original contribution made by Bombay Sapphire to the vapour infusion process it uses; the development of its secret botanicals formula (known only to three people at any one time, people who, for

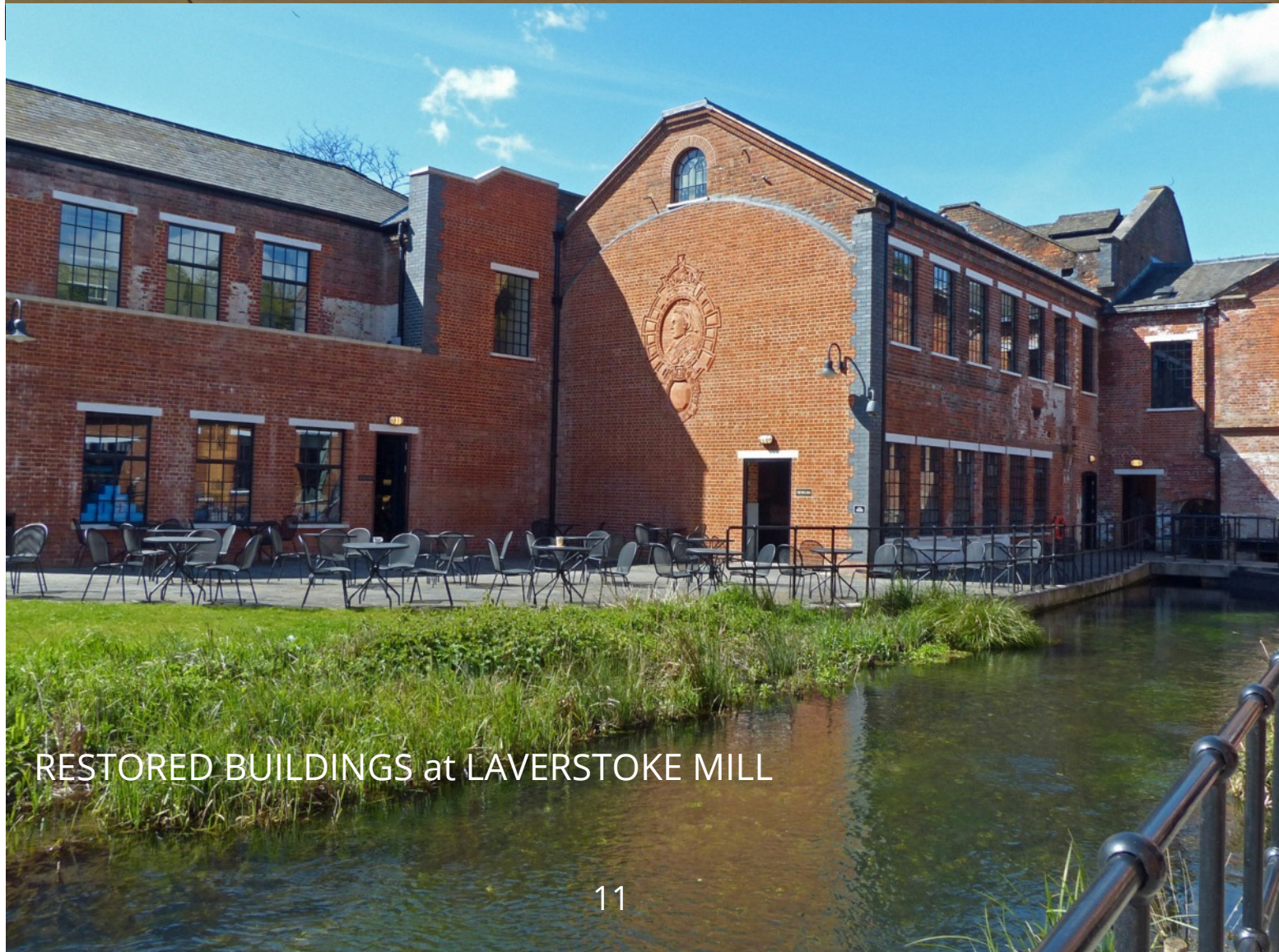
security reasons, are never together in the same place at the same time); the importance of paper-making and the printing of Indian bank notes in the fortunes of Laverstoke Mill; and, amongst much else, Bombay Sapphire's move to the mill in 2014.

The mainly Victorian red-brick buildings had been left derelict for years before the complex was bought and restored by the present owners, who commissioned award-winning British designer Thomas Heatherwick to create a new distillery and visitor centre.

We began the tour in the Botanical Dry Room, where examples of all ten botanicals used in the final product were laid out on tables for us to smell and assess. We were asked to identify from four to six scents to enable the Bar to prepare a suitable



IDENTIFYING THE BOTANICALS



RESTORED BUILDINGS at LAVERSTOKE MILL

cocktail after the tour to reflect our preferences. The aromas were divided into five categories: citrus, spicy, earthy, pine and floral, and I, for one, found it difficult to choose my favourites from what turned out to be a surprisingly varied range of sensation. But I did my duty as best I could, and I'm happy to report that the resulting cocktail was very agreeable.

We then passed two rather beautiful historical copper stills, named Thomas and Mary, after two of the most important figures in the Company's history, and much other equipment, on our way to the architectural highlight of the tour, the two joined sculptural glasshouses (one tropical, one temperate) designed by Heatherwick to house examples of the botanicals in use by the company: juniper, of course - the basis of all true gins - but also

coriander, lemon, angelica, orris root, liquorice, almond, cassia bark, cubeb and grains of paradise. The heat for the glasshouses is a by-product of the distillation process - one of very many ways in which the company demonstrates its award-winning ecology and sustainability credentials. Heatherwick is perhaps most famous for his design of the 2012 Olympic cauldron, and his greenhouses display much the same imagination and visual flair.

After viewing cabinets of innovative and beautiful cocktail glasses, and admiring the listed buildings on the site, we ended up in the Mill Bar for our complimentary cocktails. Some of us then went to the shop to buy a memento of a memorable tour.

James Woods

Salisbury Civic Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6.30 pm on Wednesday 15 June 2016

Following the meeting Dr Alan Wadsworth from the Wiltshire Buildings

Record will talk about

THE FARM BUILDINGS of WILTSHIRE

Methodist Hall, St Edmund's Church Street, Salisbury

All members welcome

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

May I begin by welcoming all new Members to the Civic Society who have joined us over the year since our last Annual General Meeting and hope we shall see you on the 15th June for the 2016 AGM at the usual venue which is once again the Methodist Church in St Edmund's Church Street.

Although I know we hire the Church on a commercial basis, I would none the less like to record my appreciation of the help they offer in setting up events and assisting with sound systems which often confuse those not used to operating them!

We held a very successful pre-meeting "drinks and nibbles" event at the City Hall prior to the Open Meeting last November when officers of the Society had a chance to meet and explain our activities to people interested in joining and which led to a good response. I believe over twenty new members have joined this year. If you know of any potential new members, do please encourage them and guide them to our excellent new Web Site.

The Open Meeting at the City Hall was very well attended and covered the general topic of "Art in Public Places" with four speakers giving excellent talks about different aspects and experiences. The Salisbury Journal carried the storey of the event and we also later went forward with proposals to translate discussion into action by a plan to bring a sculpture of "The Man with Arms Open" to a permanent site in Salisbury. This statue, by Giles Penny, has gained the support of the City Council in terms of location so now it will be a matter of seeking sponsors and fund raising to make the plan a reality.

In January we held our New Buildings Award ceremony at the Guildhall which was a resounding success and the entries drew much comment and interest from all attending. As always the Wine and Canapes before and after make it into a virtual New Year Party and if those of you who have not been to this event before would like to share the fun in 2017, we look forward to welcoming you along.

One successful Award Winner was so impressed with the overall event that they generously donated a substantial sum to the Society towards the costs of the evening!

I also have managed to secure a small financial contribution from the Stonegate Pub Company (owners of the Slug & Lettuce Pub) towards a management upgrade of the landscape around the River Avon between the Maltings Development and bridge on Fisherton Street and await feedback from the Management of the Maltings development itself. Members may recall that I canvassed this idea in the March edition of the quarterly and whilst progress is slow, I remain determined to see this area made more attractive!

The Society has maintained its stance of opposition to the Britford Lane site as a possible location for residential development and there is now an extended timetable for the Housing Site Allocations consultations process to be reviewed leading to a policy statement by Wiltshire Council at the end of December 2016 instead of the planned date of March. The likely final outcome after any Public Enquiry will not be known until the end of 2017.

On the subject of the passing of the Salisbury Vision and proposed replacement bodies, I have written to the Journal, and had published, my letter expressing the Society's disappointment that the work of the Vision has not been carried forward into either of the two new bodies and no participation opportunities given to the Civic Society in either. Richard Deane writes more extensively on this topic in his article in the current Quarterly.

Finally may I thank all of the Committee members for their contributions throughout the year, organising so many visits, arranging our talks and lectures and keeping the Society and its membership in touch with topics of interest and concern. We are seeking nominations for the posts of Society Secretary and Chair of the Development Committee at this year's AGM and if you would like to know more about what is involved, do please contact me.

In closing, I wish all readers a very enjoyable and sunny summer after our extended winter weather, even featuring snow in May!

Peter Dunbar, Chairman.

Annual Reports 2015

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

by Richard Deane

1. Planning Applications

The old Salisbury District Council area remains as the Society's geographical remit, but there is now no easy way of saying how many applications affecting it were submitted 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 380 applications were selected for examination, resulting in 51 letters of objection or comment being sent in by the Society. The latter figure is higher than the historical average, but it would be hard to read much into this.

2. Salisbury Vision

The Salisbury Vision, on whose board the Society had been represented since its inception in 2007, entered a new phase towards the end of 2014, with a new chairman and different priorities. It became increasingly difficult to establish where the Vision was going, with very limited public engagement, and its relationship with Wiltshire Council seemed to become somewhat fractious. In the end the council decided to terminate all three vision exercises in the county, the other two of them being in Chippenham and Trowbridge. There was talk of a forum being set up to in some sense continue the Salisbury Vision's work, and by the end of the year two so far unnamed new bodies had appeared, neither offering any opportunity for Society involvement. One of them seemed to have an economic focus, for south Wiltshire generally, as opposed to the purely Salisbury remit of the former Vision, while the other had some up to then undefined role within the city. Enlightenment on what exactly these bodies were aimed at, and to what extent, if any, they might represent a continuation of the Vision's work would have to wait till 2016.

3. Britford Lane, Salisbury

The early part of the year saw the launch of an exercise aimed at finding sites for an additional 625 houses in Salisbury and Wilton, driven mainly by the reluctance of volume housebuilders to take advantage of permissions they already had. Invitations to landowners to submit possible sites to the council saw considerable publicity being directed at arguably the least suitable of all such sites, at least in terms of the visual impact that would result from building on it. Two fields north of Britford Lane in Salisbury, which had previously escaped development and survived as a green finger almost up to the cathedral Close, were put forward for housing by their owners. The committee considered this idea, and found it totally unacceptable. A comment to this effect went speedily in to the planners. Subsequently the committee looked at other major sites put forward, and agreed which ones the Society might reasonably support. None were ideal, but all were immensely preferable to the loss of the Britford Lane green space.

4. Old Manor Hospital, Wilton Road, Salisbury

When the former Old Manor mental hospital closed in 2000, it was the start of a very uncertain future for a large area of land close to the centre of the city, all with conservation area status. The sale in 2014 of a substantial part of it for retirement housing was followed in 2015 by two visits to committee meetings by the project's architect, who explained a five phase scheme to bring some 200+ retirement flats to the site. The committee was unimpressed by some aspects of a stolid 'neo-historic' approach to design, which was compounded by the volume of buildings required in order to recoup the sale price. The Society's comments on the choice of tree species for some aspects of the associated planting were listened to, and some changes made, but its comments on architecture met no such response. The buildings were felt to represent a missed opportunity, but given the volume of public support for a scheme which would start to bring the site back into use, approval for the phase 1 scheme in 2016 seemed inevitable.

5. Planning Forum and Open Meeting

The April Planning Forum dealt with the twin topics of local listing and assets of community value. The former is another layer of designation for buildings, below the national listing system and less supported by legislature, but still of value. Assets of community value are buildings, or more generally facilities, which contribute to local life and are deemed worthy of some protection, essentially by introducing safeguards against them summarily being sold off for less valuable uses. The meeting agreed that identifying such assets was something with which the Society should be involved, but lack of resources mean that it is only likely to be able to do this on a reactive basis, rather than a proactive one. Local listing is something the Society could help with, but it needs a commitment from Wiltshire Council which is not yet evident. Two speakers from the Hackney Society in London added some very useful experience, particularly with regard to local listing, where it has been very much involved.

In November the Open Meeting was on the theme of public art, coupled to the idea of making the most of neglected assets in the public realm. Four speakers covered various aspects of the topic, including an acclaimed fountain incorporated into the Kings Cross redevelopment in London, student ideas for re-use of the redundant Salisbury gasometer, or at least its site, and public art in its familiar sculptural form. Considerable enthusiasm was evident at the very well-attended meeting, leading to the committee giving serious consideration by the end of the year to the idea of trying to bring back to Salisbury a bronze statue called The Man with Arms Open, well-remembered by many from the time it stood in the Guildhall Square for three months in 1999 as part of a Festival-organised sculpture exhibition. After problems with sound at the Guildhall at the 2014 Open Meeting, moving the event to the Alamein Suite at City Hall was considered to be a success.

6. Information on the city chequers

It has long been felt within the Society that more could be done to bring to public view the names of the 20 chequers, formed by the grid plan employed when Salisbury was laid out in the C13th. During the year some

action on this was finally contemplated, with a decision that the simplest approach would be to put up plaques at each of the chequer corners, bearing the chequer names. To avoid any confusion with existing street name plates, they should probably be circular, with green the most likely colour. Rough costings suggested a figure of £15,000 to £20,000 to put up all the plaques needed, for various reasons somewhat fewer than the theoretical total of 80. Possible sources of at least some of the funding were identified, but by the end of the year a prime focus on the statue project meant the chequer naming one was put somewhat into the background. Once the statue idea has either been achieved, or has foundered on one of the obstacles along the way, the chequer names will be returned to.

7. 51 High Street

With a new wooden sheep having gone into position above the shopfront to the former SPCK bookshop in 2013, financed by the Society, 2014 saw problems arising 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. A remarkably convoluted process ensued, which took up much of 2015, but by the end of the year the animal had finally returned to its position, with a new fleece utilising a completely different technique to the original one. This did not compromise the carving's original success, and as the owner of the hair salon now occupying the premises generously took on the costs of the repair, there was no further call on the Society's finances.

8. Awards Scheme

2015 saw new buildings being looked at by the awards scheme, with a judging panel chaired by former Cathedral Chapter Clerk Katie Sporle. For the first time this version of the awards scheme incorporated an 'award of awards', to match the Lady Radnor Award in the other version, which looks at work to existing buildings. The Society now has a Lord Congleton Award, named after its former president, who sadly died towards the end of the year. As with the Lady Radnor Award, the judging panel is not obliged to

identify a particular outstanding building which reaches the standards needed to trigger the award, but the 2015 panel was pleased to be able to agree that the Stonehenge Visitor Centre reached such a standard, and it therefore became the inaugural winner of the Lord Congleton Award. Ordinary awards went to Apple House at Barford St Martin, the Salisbury Medical Practice buildings on the Old Manor site in Salisbury, and Bowling Green House in Salisbury. Commendations were given to the extension to St Benedict's Priory in the Salisbury Cathedral Close, and to the Old Sarum community centre.

9. Waitrose Exhibition

The excellent work done in 2014 by students from the architecture and planning course at the University of the West of England at Bristol, on possible schemes for the re-use of the Salisbury gasometer, always seemed like a resource which the Society, having suggested the project in the first place, should try to make use of. The idea of having an exhibition based on the student ideas came to fruition in September, when a display was mounted outside the Salisbury Waitrose for both days of a weekend. The four projects used, selected from the dozen or so done, aroused a lot of interest from passing shoppers, and acted as a lead-in to conversations about the Society's work. While no great surge in membership resulted, all those who helped staff the exhibition felt that it was well worth mounting, as a contribution to widening the Society's profile, along with the website relaunch and other improvements. It was agreed that another exhibition should be considered in 2016, though with no further student work to make use of, thought would need to be given to what material to base one on.

10. 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. The Society is aware of a new national body called the Historic Cathedral Cities Alliance, but for now is monitoring its progress, without as yet joining it.

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

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 there have been some changes in personnel and responsibilities. Jenni Dougan has resigned - after many years of invaluable service - as secretary in charge of plaques, though she has agreed to continue work with one current plaque until it has been installed. Charles Villiers has taken on the role of Membership Secretary, and his previous role as editor of the quarterly magazine is being discharged by Stephanie Siddons-Deighton. Judy Howles organised this year's HODs in addition to her duties as lecture secretary; Brenda Hunt organised a couple of well-attended visits; Lis Woods has been an indefatigable minute taker, and has taken seriously her role of keeping the Chairman in order and to the point; and Neil Beagrie has been most effective in revitalising our publicity programme. I have been very fortunate in having such a dedicated and competent team to run our services to the Society's membership.

Lectures. Four lectures were given in 2015 in the Sanctuary of Salisbury Methodist Church. In March John Winders gave a splendidly illustrated introduction to the astonishingly wide variety of trees to be found in our city; in June, Steve Hannath, a Cathedral Tower Guide, enlivened our AGM with a fascinating talk on Wiltshire's rocks and their impact on the natural and cultural landscape; in September, Tony Phillips told us about the origins of the Fovant badges in World War I and about their subsequent maintenance and restoration; and in November, the architect Michael Drury enlightened us about the major repair programme to Salisbury Cathedral, from when it commenced, as a campaign to "Save Our Spire" in the early 1990s, to today, as it nears completion.

Blue Plaques. On Tuesday 15th September 2015, the Salisbury Spitfire Production plaque was unveiled on the Capita building in Castle Street by Norman Parker, an engineer who had worked on Spitfire production in Salisbury in the 1940s. The building is on the site of the former Wilts and Dorset bus engine garage, one of three garages where parts for almost 2000 Spitfires were made prior to assembly in Hudson's field.

Visits. Two fully booked visits were organised: one to Houghton Lodge and gardens, on Wednesday 15 July; and a guided walk round Wilton, led by David Richards, a Blue Badge Guide, on 19 August. Regrettably one planned visit, to The Mary Rose in Portsmouth, had to be cancelled for lack of interest.

Historic Open Days, from September 10-12. The 2015 theme was 'Go west: award winners and hospitals'. The sites were clustered to the west of the city centre and were enjoyed by some 200 local residents and visitors. Many considered the highlight to have been a conducted tour round 4, The Paragon, a private house which illustrated just how effectively an early Victorian house could be rescued from dilapidation and institutionalisation and restored to residential use.

PUBLICITY PROGRAMME

By Neil Beagrie

This is a brief overview of SCS publicity activities over the last year. The active support and involvement of other officers and committee members has been essential to the success of these publicity efforts. Hopefully all society members will have been aware of at least some of the efforts to refresh our core materials and give greater exposure to our activities and the hard work of all of the SCS committees for the built environment and history of Salisbury and South Wiltshire.

General

1. Text - Updates to existing text on the Society's mission statement and aims.
2. Logos – New Society logo.
3. New SCS publicity leaflet – New colour leaflet incorporating new logo and updated text.
4. New SCS Display board/posters - core set of new display panels for our mission and aims.
5. Develop new/existing channels and partnerships:
 - a. Public Library – invitation for Salisbury Public Library displays (SCS and historic open days display in Sept)
 - b. Website/Facebook/Twitter - new website, Facebook and twitter accounts.
 - c. U3A newsletters used as a new channel to advertise historic open days in Sept 2015.
 - d. Existing media contacts – Salisbury Journal, Valley News, are ongoing and maintained.

Specific Publicity Activities

Sept 2015 Historic Open Days (press release, posters, fliers, Library display)

Spitfire Blue Plaque (press release)

Nov 2016 Open Meeting "Making the Most of Our City"(press release, display)

Jan 2016 New Building Awards (press release, display)

Feb 2016 Public Art - promotion of "Man with Arms Open" statue permanent display (press and social media)

April 2016 Civic Society Planning Forum 'Recognising The Chequers' (online and social media)

In June, we will begin planning publicity activities for next year focusing initially on the forthcoming Historic Open Days and Blue Plaques. A new society banner will also be available incorporating the the updated logo.

OFFICERS as at 1st June 2016

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Mr Ken Wiltshire

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PROGRAMME of EVENTS 2016/2017

Friday June 3 (Visit)

NORRINGTON MANOR, SP5 5LL

Members £5.00 Guests £6.00

(Booking for this event is now closed)

Wednesday June 15

AGM

**THE FARM BUILDINGS of
WILTSHIRE**

Dr Alan Wadsworth from the
Wiltshire Buildings Record

6.30 pm Methodist Hall, St Edmund's Church
Street, Salisbury SP1 1EF

Open to all Members

Wednesday July 27

MYSTERY VISIT

(The application form is enclosed with
this magazine and is also available online
www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk)

Monday August 15 (Walk)

The PITT WALK & CREAM TEA
with David Richards

Members £5.00 Guests £6.00

(Booking for this event is now closed)

Thursday September 22

**A NEW USE FOR A REDUNDANT
CHURCH**

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

The Rev'd Simon Woodley

6.30 pm Methodist Hall, St Edmund's Church
Street, Salisbury SP1 1EF

Free to Members. Non members £2.50

Thursday November 10

**UPDATING the WILTSHIRE
PEVSNER**

Julian Orbach

6.30 pm Methodist Hall, St Edmund's Church
Street, Salisbury SP1 1EF

Free to Members. Non members £2.50

Tuesday November 22

OPEN MEETING

The Alamein Suite, City Hall, Malthouse
Lane, Salisbury SP2 7TU

Open to all

2017

Thursday January 12

**NEW YEAR PARTY and ANNUAL
AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Guildhall, Market Walk, Salisbury SP1 1JH

Please go to www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk for all up to date information
on events, current issues and latest news about the Society.