



Editorial

The Society's quest for a new magazine editor, which started when Stephanie Siddons Deighton stood down from the role at the end of last year, has reached a very satisfactory conclusion. Long-term member John Elliott will be taking on the job, starting with the September edition, and is extremely well qualified for it. John is a historian who runs a small publishing company specialising in architectural works, Spire Books. He has produced magazines before, and is a member of the editorial team of the Sarum Chronicle. The recent involvement of Salisbury Printing in layout and graphic work, particularly for the March edition and this one, will therefore no longer be needed. The Society is extremely grateful to the company for helping to fill the gap after Stephanie stood down, enabling a smooth continuation of magazine production.

The June edition is exceptionally full, with the annual committee reports, and a lot of recent activity to report on, plus important coming events. To make room, the Trustees' Report for the previous year, a traditional feature of annual reports, has not been included. It has however been sent to all members, either by email or in printed form. Other AGM material went as well, to enable members to have it all well beforehand. Of particular importance in this package is the proposed revised constitution, about which there is more on page 3.

Two linked events in the last three months are illustrated on the back cover, with reports further on. In March the exceptionally well attended talk by Steve Hobbs on the Radnor Estate, illustrated by archival material, was followed two weeks later by a visit to Longford Castle at the core of the estate. In April came the annual Planning Forum, whose focus on conservation areas enabled a look at ones in Milton Keynes, which has a surprising diversity of towns and villages within the local council area. One of the towns, Stony Stratford, was advanced as the likely origin, thanks to two inns, of the term 'cock and bull story', though in these matters there are often variant interpretations.

Looking ahead, the Society's Civic Day on June 17th, at the Guildhall, is a pioneering effort for us. Other bodies with allied interests will be there, but the prime focus will be on the Society, in the hope of arousing interest in membership in people not previously aware of us. More information about the day can be found on page 22.

Further ahead, September sees the traditional weekend of Heritage Open Days, always a good way of publicising the Society. In conjunction with the local CAMRA branch, a varied and very attractive programme has been assembled, on the theme 'Salisbury's historic pubs and inns'. Details on page 18.

Nor should the annual Mystery Visit, organised once more by Wendy and John English, be ignored. Wendy's assurance that she cannot divulge the destination, with the proviso that she's not sure whether bribery might make her change this stance, since it's never been tried, is surely something of an invitation. The new constitution doesn't specifically outlaw such things – we await the next magazine, for possible news of some pioneering effort in this direction.

Richard Deane
Magazine co-ordinator

DIARY OF EVENTS 2017

WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE AGM

Followed by a talk on the History of the Civic Society Awards Scheme by Richard Deane
6.30pm • Methodist Church, St Edmund's Church Street, Salisbury SP1 1EF

SATURDAY 17TH JUNE Civic Day, Salisbury Guildhall

See further information inside this issue

WEDNESDAY 19TH JULY Mystery Visit

Application forms inside

THURSDAY 3RD AUGUST Visit to Norrington Manor and St Mary's Church, Alvediston

This visit, the second this year, is now fully subscribed. But another has been arranged for June 2018 – details in the March 2018 Magazine.

MONDAY 14TH AUGUST (WALK) Pugin: A Gothic Architect's Early Days In Salisbury

with David Richards

Members £10.00, Non-members £12.00

See inside for how to apply

7TH - 10TH SEPTEMBER Heritage Open Days

The Civic Society will be collaborating with CAMRA on the theme of Salisbury's historic pubs.

Further details inside

THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER The Secret Garden

by Becky Twigg

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

Free to members, Non members £2.50

TUESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER Open Meeting

7.00pm • Alamein Suite, City Hall, Malthouse Lane, Salisbury SP2 7TU

Subject not yet decided

Open to all

2018

THURSDAY 11TH JANUARY New Year Party and Annual Awards Presentation Guildhall, Salisbury SP1 1JH

A detailed diary of events is available online at www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk

A Warm Welcome to our New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following to the Society:

Robert and Cylvean Aitken Sykes, Mark Davis, Gale Glyn, Jack and Margery Leeming, Woolley & Wallis Salisbury Salerooms

April Planning Forum

The 2017 Planning Forum was held on April 6th, and was devoted to the subject of conservation areas. This is the 50th anniversary of their introduction, and there will be a focus on them at the Society's Civic Day on June 17th. The speakers at the forum were two conservation officers, one local and one from a not very obvious location further afield. Jocelyn Sage, from Wiltshire Council, started by explaining the background to conservation areas, the rationale behind them, how they started off and the mechanisms they put in place to create additional controls for parts of built-up areas of identifiably high quality. She outlined her own workload, which amounts to some 50 conservation areas, some outside the local planning area because of resource issues at the council. She then went on to show examples of issues she had become involved with, including one a few yards from where she was speaking – an old tyre firm yard next to the Methodist church, now a pair of new houses in the neo-historic style. As Jocelyn said, such stylistic approaches are inevitable locally, and the key is to get them executed with conviction. Examples in Tisbury showed a success in this regard, and also something arguably rather less so.

She then outlined what was involved with a current major issue, the Old Manor Hospital site, itself a conservation area and therefore demanding her attention in an attempt to produce a development which went a bit further than just tidying up a long-term eyesore, and actually added something of value to the city. Commercial pressures made this difficult, but there were one or two successes to report on the site. Following on close behind would be more retirement housing between Castle Street and Endless Street, the subject of major proposals by McCarthy & Stone, whose outcome would have a substantial impact. On a smaller scale, a new nursing home in Tollgate Road looked like being a pleasant surprise in design terms, once finished. Jocelyn quickly covered a few other aspects of involvement with conservation areas, including streetscape improvement in New Canal and the Market Place, and attempts to control eyesores. She finished by highlighting the important role the Society has in helping to defend the character of local conservation areas.

The second speaker was Chris Hooper, who had come down from Milton Keynes to

explain what his job as a conservation officer there entailed. Unsurprisingly, this included telling people that the place's standard image was only half the story, with its council being a unitary authority which included villages and small towns within its area, as well as the new town generally associated with the name. There were 27 conservation areas, and three conservation officers, based in a council section which combined conservation and archaeology. Stony Stratford, in particular, was the antithesis of the usual Milton Keynes image, with a historic high street on what had been the Roman Watling Street, and two old coaching inns which had, according to local legend at least, generated the term 'cock and bull story'.

Olney was another historic town, while Wolverton's character derived from the Grand Union Canal together with an important railway works close to it. These had generated an earlier, Victorian new town, and a continued loss of character in its terraced housing, through changes to windows and doors, had led to an Article 4 Direction being served, which brought such changes into the planning system. Chris had

responsibility for drafting guidance documents for the Article 4, and explained problems with knowing exactly what pattern window ought to be taken as the ideal for the area, given the number and types of changes to windows which had been introduced at various periods. He also dealt with the particular issues raised by Bletchley Park, a conservation area in its own right, and one whose status derived from historic interest rather than architectural, though it did contain a listed Victorian mansion. How to treat the blocks used by the code-breakers was a big concern, especially since they were only meant to be temporary huts.

Questions covered the listing of modern buildings in Milton Keynes, something which Chris's boss was keen on, and the issue of how conservation areas could be shown to be of value, given inappropriate changes

that still seemed to happen quite regularly. Another issue raised was why Milton Keynes could manage to serve Article 4 Directions but Salisbury couldn't, even though loss of character from replacement windows was equally an issue here. The general answer was that getting such directions in place was not straightforward, and political considerations came into play.

Overall, the combination of expert speakers from two very different sorts of places worked extremely well, with insights into the meaning and value of conservation areas coming from different perspectives. As an additional benefit, those attending went away with a perception of Milton Keynes, in its totality, which few would have arrived with.

Richard Deane

Revised Constitution

The AGM agenda includes an item 'to approve the proposed revised constitution'. The current version dates from 2002, since when a new model constitution has been produced by the Charity Commission, and the Executive Committee has for some time been considering moving over to this later version.

The main changes are ones which make management of the Society a bit easier and more efficient, but have little impact on members. The deadline for notification of AGMs is reduced from 21 days to 14, a rather confusing stipulation about sub-committees is removed, and the AGM quorum definition is made more sensible. The formal 'objects' of the Society (which usually appear on the inside front cover of this magazine as its 'aims') have been revised since the current constitution was produced, and the new version allows them to be updated.

The Executive Committee's recommendation is that the changes are sensible and in no way controversial, and that the new constitution should be approved. It is 21 pages long, and to avoid undue costs printed versions have gone only to members for whom we don't have email addresses. For the others, the constitution has been sent as an email attachment. The same principle has been applied to the AGM agenda, and the minutes of the 2016 AGM.

Members have also been sent copies of the current constitution, to enable comparisons to be made.

Civic Society Visit to Longford Castle

Longford Castle's flag flew bravely over its parapets under a brilliant sky to welcome the Civic Society visit on 25 March.

Our gracious guides Alexandra, Peter and Paul explained how the original modest manor house was transformed in the Tudor period into a triangular, three-towered castle after the then-fashionable Swedish model, costs being heavily subsidised by the proceeds of a wrecked Spanish galleon gifted by Elizabeth 1. It wasn't until the early 18th century that the house came into the hands of its current proprietor's family when a Des Bouverie, passing by and fancying the pile, had enough money in his saddle-bags to buy it outright.

It was his brother Jacob who began a 300-year tradition of building the astonishing art collection which is now curated in close collaboration with the National Gallery. The Gallery currently has on loan Holbein's 'Erasmus' and has previously purchased Poussin's 'Adoration of the Golden Calf' from Longford – but that still leaves an impressive list of great artists featured in the castle's rooms and galleries: Avercamp, Massys, Gossaert from the 16th century, Van Dyck, Rubens, Lorraine and Jan Brueghel the Elder from the 17th century and Gainsborough and Reynolds from the following one. Some charming Tudor portraits recall the castle's earlier history while the Dutch collection, including Van De Velde the Younger, Hobbema, Tenniers the Younger and Franz Hals – are a reminder that the founder of the family's fortunes, the Huguenot asylum-seeker Laurens Des Bouverie, came from the Netherlands. His descendants' trading in the Levant generated the wealth that was later compounded by marriage with the Pleydell family, and subsequent land purchases across England.

Alterations to the castle's structure were proposed by James Wyatt but his hexagonal design was never executed, though a low tower was added by Anthony Salvin in the late Victorian era. Salvin more impressively enhanced the interior space with the splendid picture gallery, while his ingenious roofing of the triangular open courtyard creates a welcoming entrance hall.

There is fine furniture a-plenty, sometimes adapted to follow curving tower walls and sometimes resplendent in 18th century Genovese velvet. There is exquisite porcelain – 18th century Chinese, Rockingham, and Derby 'Botanical'. There is a fascinating sculpturally-carved steel chair dated 1574, depicting a world history in a procession of tiny figures – probably gifted from the City of Augsburg to the Holy Roman Emperor from whose Prague museum, sacked by the Swedes, it found its way to England.

The family is not without memorable characters among its sober merchants and administrators. The Countess Helen created an eighty-player, all-female string orchestra which played its way through the First World War to music specially composed by Hubert Parry, the Countess conducting with her tiara worn back-to-front to entertain the audience. At this time the castle was opened as a hospital; in the Civil War it had functioned as a horse garrison and in the Second World War it became Monty's headquarters.

The windows allowed tempting views of the park and sparkling river and as we streamed out of doors the high-definition sunshine showed the angles and shadows of the formal garden to perfection.

Fiona Donovan

Mystery Visit, Wednesday July 19, 2017

The destination for this year's Mystery Visit was suggested by a friend, living some 25 miles away. We tested it earlier this year, and had a lovely day out, which confirmed that her ideas would give Salisbury Civic Society members two interesting venues to visit, interspersed with lunch at a pretty country pub. Although that format is basically the same as Mystery Visits of recent years, we think the venues are subtly different, and in some ways, quite surprising.

Alas, you need to travel in a private car, but I hope we can arrange lifts for anyone who needs them, and, as last year, manage with as few cars as possible, in the interests of saving the planet, or at least, our very beautiful little piece of it. The total distance we drive will be 65 miles, a little less than we covered last year, and broken-up into chunks. These are fairly short, except for the final one, the homeward run, which is just under 30 miles.

We shall leave a Salisbury car park (where cars may be left for the day if their owners wish to travel in another car) at 9.15, to set off for our first venue, and refreshments. We shall spend about 1½ hours there, then drive on to the pub, booked for a sandwich lunch, with tea or coffee, and where you can of course, purchase alcohol at your own expense. An hour and a half later, we shall

set off for our final venue, where there is a choice of ways to spend the afternoon, setting off for home whenever you wish.

Tickets covering all entry charges, morning coffee or tea, and a sandwich lunch, will be, amazingly, still only £25, which is exactly the same as it has been for the past two years. (£27 for non-members). They will be distributed on a first come, first served basis, and I expect they will go quickly so please do book NOW. The application form is enclosed with this copy of the Quarterly.

However hard you try to persuade me, I shall not divulge where we are going, I hope I could withstand bribery, but have so far never been tested. But, if you need more information, do call me.

Wendy English

wenglish87@gmail.com 01722 321323

Agnes Bottenham plaque unveiling

The blue plaque commemorating Agnes Bottenham, the 14th century founder of Trinity Hospital in Salisbury, will be unveiled at midday on Thursday 7 September 2017 by archaeologist Phil Harding at the Rai d'Or in Brown Street.

As you will probably remember, Phil Harding made numerous appearances on the Channel 4 programme, The Time Team, and was recently appointed a Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Wiltshire. The owner of the Rai d'Or, Simon Wheeler, has kindly offered to supply a welcome drink and nibbles following the event but asks that Society members help serve the food.

There are 30 invitations available on a first come, first served basis. If you would like to attend and, perhaps, help with handing out the nibbles, please contact Janet Patch on patch.janet@gmail.com or 01722 330096. After the welcome drink the bar will be open for those who wish to have another.



Plaque on the Salisbury gasometer, recording its construction

The Salisbury Gasometer

While it is known that not every member is a fan of the gasometer, the Society's general position has been that it adds an interesting element to views from many different angles, and that it's an important piece of industrial archaeology, in a city where much has been lost. The gasometer has been redundant for several years now. It was working in November 2007, as evidenced by a photograph in *Salisbury in Detail*, but its drum ceased to rise and fall soon after. In 2014, at the Society's suggestion, architecture students at the University of the West of England came up with possible new uses for the structure, and the best of their ideas featured in the March 2015 magazine. A few months later, they were used for a Society exhibition outside Waitrose. The student ideas were demonstrations of the potential for re-use had imagination been applied, rather than schemes put together in the expectation that one of them might be executed.

The owners, Scotia Gas Networks, intend to demolish the gasometer, something which needs a planning application, but only to control the method of demolition, and ensure that there are no harmful effects on neighbours or water courses. An application cannot be refused because of any visual or historical contribution made by the structure. It looks as though the necessary permissions will soon be given, with demolition following this summer or autumn. Housing use will probably follow, once the site has been cleared and cleaned up, though flooding considerations could complicate things.

The only surviving part of the structure is likely to be its plaque, which is shown opposite. At the Society's request, SGN are donating the plaque to Salisbury Museum, where it will go on display outside, once it has been stripped and repainted. SGN are also bearing the cost of this work. As well as showing the date of construction, 1928, the plaque can also be seen to list several local dignitaries who were directors of the Salisbury Gas Company. These include Sir Cecil Chubb, notable for donating Stonehenge to the nation, and at that time chairman of the company running the mental asylum which later became the Old Manor Hospital. Alongside him are the names of Charles Haskins, author of a well-known book on the Salisbury guilds, and that of Sir James Macklin, commemorated in Macklin Road just west of Devizes Road, which was Salisbury's first council housing.

Removing the present paint should enable the original colour to be determined, and re-used. The colour has certainly changed over the years. It was apparently green during the war, while in more recent times it was a more or less sky blue. For the most recent repainting, the then owners asked what colour people would like, and then ignored most of the responses, and painted it a rust colour, the irrefutable logic being that it would inevitably start to rust as the paint broke down, and if the paint was that sort of colour anyway, the rusting would be less conspicuous.

For those who admire the gasometer, its loss won't be compensated for by the survival of its plaque, but that will at least retain some memory of what was once a very significant industry in Salisbury. Nothing else will remain apart from one street name, Gas Lane, whose origins will become increasingly obscure once the prominent sculptural form just east of it has disappeared.

Richard Deane

'In Danger of Collapse' – Alarming Tales from the 1980s

On February 23rd, 1993, *Le Figaro* ran a full page story headed 'La cathédrale de Beauvais menace de s'écrouler'. Those with limited French might well still pick up an intimation that something unfortunate was afoot from the 'menace' word, and indeed a dictionary would soon confirm that 's'écrouler' is a reflexive verb meaning 'to collapse'. Even without a dictionary, though, a drawing below the headline would give a clear indication of what's going on. It shows a section through the building along the east-west axis, with walls which are both astonishingly high in proportion to the space between them, and which lean outwards in their upper parts to a quite horrifying extent.

Beauvais is in the chalklands of Picardy, so to that extent has some similarities to Salisbury, but its cathedral (photo page 13) is in its overall form the antithesis to ours. While the latter, its tower and spire apart, accords with the standard English medieval model of ample length but comparatively restricted height, Beauvais careers headlong in the opposite direction. The vaulting of its choir and transepts is the highest ever created in the gothic form, reaching a height of 156 feet, but as that's all there is, with a nave never being built, the total length is only 238 feet. Salisbury manages a vault height of just 84 feet, which with a length of 442 feet creates a totally different effect. For a few years in the mid C16th the two buildings came closer together in one respect, with the completion in 1569 of a massive tower at Beauvais, reaching just over 500 feet in height, but this collapsed in 1573 and was never rebuilt.

In the early 1980s, the two cathedrals, or more accurately the two dioceses, achieved an unexpected alignment, when the then Bishop of Salisbury, John Baker, chaired a

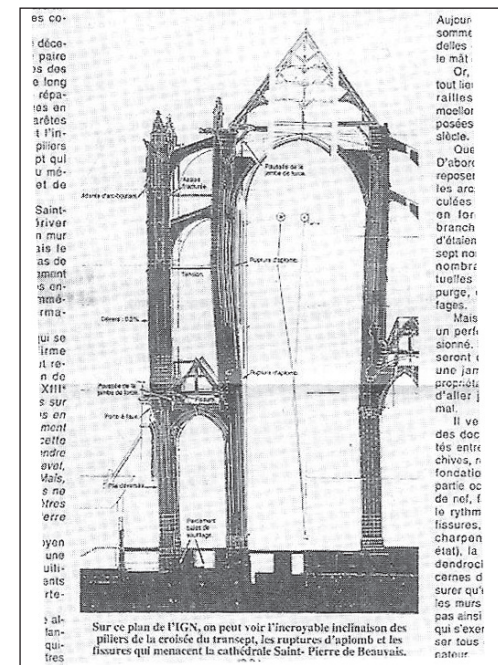
committee which in 1982 produced a report called *The Church and the Bomb*, advocating a policy of support for nuclear disarmament. At precisely the same time the Bishop of Beauvais, Jacques Jullien, was the spokesman for a group of French bishops looking at the same subject. Their report 'Win the Peace', came to the opposite conclusion, maintaining that the need to defend against communism justified the holding of nuclear weapons. In the end the Church of England's General Synod did not go along with its committee's recommendation, and the radically differing positions of the two bishops had no practical impact.

What for current purposes was a more direct parallel between Salisbury and Beauvais began to emerge in 1985, with the launch of the Salisbury Cathedral Spire Appeal for £6.5 million, and the publication by the Salisbury Journal of its spire appeal special, titled 'Save Our Spire'. While there were no 'threats of collapse', the easy convertibility of the title into SOS was certainly no accident. There seemed to be an unspoken principle at work behind the appeal, of avoiding any tie between money not forthcoming and spire falling down, but of not being too distressed if anyone made that connection.

The actual arguments used to explain why the money was needed were not in themselves alarmist. Nothing in *Save Our Spire* came close to the drawing in *Le Figaro*, which quite deliberately exaggerated the outward lean of the Beauvais walls for dramatic effect. The spire also leans, by some 27 inches to the southwest, but there is nothing new in this, leaning in this direction is a common feature with stone spires anyway, and it was not claimed as a factor in the apparent emergency. Any exaggeration at Salisbury would no doubt

have focused on the bend in the four great columns supporting the tower, easily visible to anyone looking up at them from floor level in the cathedral's central crossing. In fact, though, the bend is already so remarkable that any drawing which significantly increased it would run the risk of just looking ridiculous. A measure to strengthen these columns was included in the initial scheme, but was subsequently deemed to be unnecessary. Quite remarkably, the distortion to the columns caused by an estimated 5000 tons of stone sitting above them stabilised a long time ago, probably relatively soon after the addition of tower and spire early in the C14th, and while the columns are braced from east to west, there is nothing from south to north. No reason was seen to add anything like the X shaped scissor arches at Wells cathedral, which make a dramatic visual intervention in the cause of supporting a much lower central structure than Salisbury's.

The Beauvais collapse scare was not linked to fundraising, but was generated by a perception that danger loomed and no-one was doing anything about it. At Salisbury, most of the quoted £6.5 million figure was aimed at repairs to the stonework – as one headline within the spire appeal special puts it, 'Pinnacles and turrets are crumbling... medieval carvings turn to dust'. There were also to be two major structural interventions, though only one went ahead. The strengthening of the crossing piers would have involved pinning of subsidiary shafts to the main columns, with some infill with epoxy resin. It would have been difficult to make this invisible, so abandoning it was probably beneficial visually. The other intervention went ahead as planned, but can only be seen by making a trip to the top of the tower (recommended, particularly with new lighting of the spire interior). The three decorative bands, which interrupt the



Alarming drawing in *Le Figaro*

otherwise plain stonework of the spire at intervals, are critical parts of its aesthetic success, but to some extent compromise it structurally. Here the thickness of the spire walling, which above the stouter first twenty feet or so is around 8½", is in places no more than 5", with decay having by the 1980s reduced it further, possibly sometimes to the 3" figure used for appeal purposes. The need to replace many of the stones here would create even more weakness while the work was being done, so a scheme was devised by the cathedral engineer to bridge across the bands internally with skeletal structures in a mix of painted mild steel and stainless steel, fixed into the full depth stonework above and below.

By a very different route, something analogous was eventually decided on at Beauvais, once the need for action was accepted. Here the sub-headings to the

overall threat had a much more alarming look than the stone decay ones at Salisbury – ‘Fissures sur les voutes, inclinaison dangereuse des piliers, flottement des arcs boutants’. (Voutes are vaults, and arcs boutants are flying buttresses.) There was initial discussion of the merits of continued monitoring with minimal installation of ties, versus full-scale bracing, but it was decided to play safe, and the latter approach won out. While there have subsequently been suggestions that the braces would eventually be removed again, the chances of anyone being bold enough to do that seem slim.

The idea that bracing might only be a temporary measure finds an echo in the case of Salisbury, in some of the wording in *Save Our Spire*. This says that ‘steel girdles are to be bolted inside the spire to hold it

together while the stones are replaced’. The implication that the bracing was just a short-term expedient seems to have been something of a misunderstanding, and the steelwork remains in place to this day. Construction in lime mortar gives the spire in particular an element of flexibility, something which, in pre-bracing days anyway, could be directly experienced on any exceptionally windy day, high up in its interior, where the stonework could be felt to move very slightly. The additional rigidity added by the three substantial sets of bracing is something entirely new, and their retention has been questioned, but a great deal of expert thought must have gone into it. Long-term, when stone replacement once again becomes necessary, the braces will no doubt come into their own again.

At Beauvais, photos show the structural intervention to be obvious as soon as one enters the interior – clunky steel tirans-boutans (tie-braces) which span from walls to columns, designed to resist movement both outward and inward. At Salisbury the spire bracing is just one chapter in a long story of interventions, mainly behind the scenes, cumulatively of great significance but unknown to most passers-by. Lacking x-ray vision to show what lies behind visible surfaces, anyone wanting to fully appreciate the cathedral really needs to adopt a ‘diachronic’ or four-dimensional view, which takes account of everything that’s happened since first construction. There is a whole history of concerns about stability, built into the structure of tower and spire. At the lower level the mid C19th wrought iron beams which span the interior from corner to corner are visible enough, as are the original C14th iron braces running parallel to the walls, immediately above. But completely out of sight is a mass of engineering brickwork filling up the spiral staircases in

the lower part of the tower, dating from the late 1930s. At the top of the tower, what visitors stand on when they gaze out across the city is in fact a reinforced concrete ring beam, installed in 1968 to tie that level of the structure together, and replacing original ironwork estimated to have weighed over two tons in total. In or on the spire itself are encircling bands of original ironwork, of stainless steel cable from the early 1980s, and of copper from the early C20th. Within the C14th masonry, a profusion of individual iron cramps set in lead bind stones together, while at the same time damaging them once the iron starts to rust and expand. In the upper regions, a chunky piece of phosphor bronze dating from the great rebuild of 1950 (the stonework of the top 30 or so feet all dates from then) connects the top of the internal timber framework, itself significantly altered over time, through the capstone to the cross at the very top.

And all that is aside from additions outside the tower and spire themselves – a profusion of medieval flying buttresses, of at least five different periods, and at the SW corner the stumps of what would have been a reinforcing ‘bow’ recommended by Wren, had it ever been completed. Inside the cathedral, a glance up into the triforium and clerestory around the central crossing reveals another set of early C14th buttresses, neatly fitted into the C13th structure after the spire had been built.

Set against this picture of frequent concern about the stability of tower and spire, and significant but little noticed interventions of almost every period, the bracing across the decorative bands, while striking in scale and unmistakably non-medieval, just takes its place as another chapter, and probably not the final one. And in contrast to Beauvais, the main body of the cathedral interior remains remarkably free of obvious evidence of that



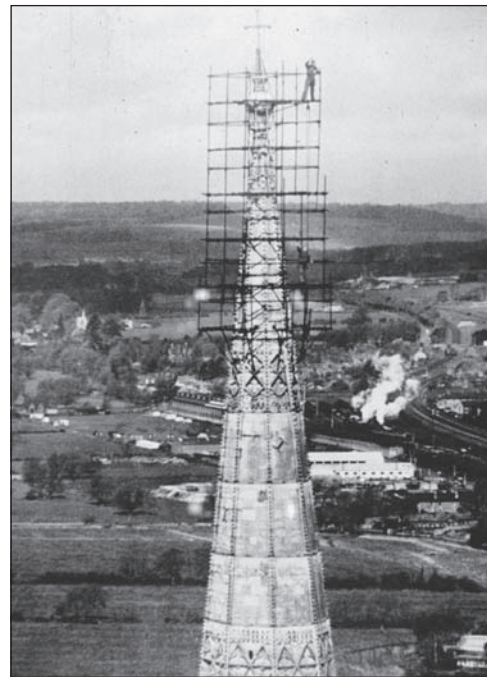
The author pictured in 1987 in a bosun's chair on the spire, during work to install the internal steel bracing



Steel brace for the middle decorative band, trial assembly on the ground

long-term concern. Whatever genius, individual or collective, drove the spire upwards in the early C14th somehow managed to combine unparalleled aesthetic achievement with structural integrity which managed, without the benefit of modern engineering expertise, to be at least sufficient, with a little help along the way. The SOS campaign of the 1980s was hardly the first of its sort – the spire was being described as ‘ruinous’ within a hundred years of its being built, quite possibly for fundraising purposes – and probably won’t be the last. And if it was a touch over-dramatic, no-one can be blamed for that. Of all buildings, our cathedral is not one to take chances with.

Richard Deane



Spire top in 1949, scaffolded prior to reconstruction. View looking west, the city beyond now much changed.

Salisbury Cathedral Spire

Photo: Peter Marsh



Beauvais Cathedral



View up spire interior

Photo: Ash Mills



Annual Report 2016 – Development Committee

1. Planning Applications

The Society continues to look at applications within the old Salisbury District Council area, with probably around 2000 of these submitted in the year. 320 were selected for examination, resulting in 49 letters of objection or comment being sent in by the Society. The latter figure is a bit higher than the historical average, partly at least because letters of active support are now being put in from time to time, which previously tended not to be the case.

2. Old Manor Hospital, Wilton Road, Salisbury

In October the first of four phases of a major scheme, which will eventually bring some 200+ retirement flats to the site, was approved, with no notice taken of some serious concerns expressed by the Society about design issues. Earlier in the year there was a chance for Society members to visit the site, and see for themselves the very poor condition into which those buildings which would be retained had fallen. By the end of the year applications had been submitted for the remaining phases, with at least one positive bit of news. A terrace of cottages towards the west end of the site, unlisted but regarded by the Society as an important component of the site's former character, had originally been proposed for demolition, but a greater concentration of new housing in a less sensitive corner of the site now meant that the terrace would be kept.

3. Murals on Market Place stonework

Though it likes murals in some contexts, a proposal to add paintings of market scenes to the disabled toilet building, and the low walls west of it, was strongly deplored by the Society. The stonework has been well done, and should last, while paintings will inevitably get tatty, with no likelihood of any budget for renewal. It is also never a good idea to paint natural stone. After previous Market Place experiences, Wiltshire councillors decided to hold a public poll, and the Society encouraged its members to vote. The outcome was two to one against murals, which certainly played a part in a decision not to offer a grant towards them. The Market Place was subsequently transferred to the City Council, with unknown consequences for the proposal. The Society's hope is that no more will be heard of it.

4. Planning Forum and Open Meeting

The April Planning Forum dealt with various aspects of the Salisbury chequers, and was used to announce the winner of a competition, formally supported by the Society, for a design to be added to a redundant shopfront in Brown Street, commemorating the Marsh Chequer. This is the only one to retain its historic character intact, and the winning design was widely applauded.

In November John Glen MP was one of the speakers at the Open Meeting on the theme of visionary approaches to the future of the area. He covered several local issues, not least the possibility of government money being secured to get the Maltings project moving again. Other speakers dealt with neighbourhood plans, and with green infrastructure. The meeting was extremely well attended, and considered a great success. Depending on how the situation develops, the Maltings might be the theme for the 2017 open meeting.

5. BP Garage site

One of the longest-running of all current planning issues in Salisbury is the future of the former garage site by St Paul's roundabout, at the junction of Wilton Road and Devizes Road. Signs that the impasse might finally end came in June, when the committee saw a proposal which moved away from a previous flats/retail focus and aimed at creating an office building. The design was unashamedly contemporary, and while there were some thoughts that the bulk was rather alarming, the general effect was perceived as refreshing. The planners apparently had one or two reservations, with a modified design expected to be the subject of an application early in 2017.

6. Awards Scheme

2016 saw work to existing buildings being looked at by the awards scheme, with a judging panel chaired by former Salisbury Museum director Adrian Green. Awards were given to Salisbury Market Place, to the Three Crowns in Harnham, in particular for repair of some exceptional plasterwork, to the Triumphal Arch and Holbein Porch at Wilton House, to the rescue of the Royal Oak at Swallowcliffe, to a very striking cottage refurbishment and extension project at Stoke Farthing, and to an extension at Park House, West Hatch. There was one commendation, to 51 High Street in Salisbury, a joint nomination which incorporated repair and re-use of the building, and the new wooden sheep outside it. Thus for the first time the Society gave an award to itself, since the creation of the sheep had been its own project.

7. Waitrose Exhibition

2015 had seen a successful exhibition outside Waitrose, based on student projects for the Salisbury Gasometer, and taking place over a weekend in September. It was decided this was worth repeating, with the theme this time being the Society's buildings awards scheme. The posters produced were applauded as being very attractive, and while getting the attention of people whose primary purpose is shopping is always going to be a bit hit and miss, it seemed reasonably certain that several new members resulted from the exhibition.

8. Statue project

After 2015's successful open meeting on public art, it was decided to try to bring back to Salisbury a bronze statue called The Man with Arms Open, very popular when it stood in the Guildhall Square for three months in 1999 as part of an exhibition. With its original location no longer available, the only practicable site turned out to be the Cheesemarket, where a new casting of the statue might fit in quite well with a redesign of the road junction. Frustratingly, the situation by the end of the year was that the chances of the road scheme going ahead were unclear, leaving the future of the statue idea equally uncertain.

9. Involvement with Other Bodies

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

Richard Deane

Talk on the Radnor Estate

An audience of over 80 welcomed Steve Hobbs, archivist at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre at Chippenham, to talk about the Earls of Radnor and their South Wiltshire estate – which was, Steve pointed out, only part of much wider holdings in Wiltshire and elsewhere, notably Folkestone and London.

The family seat at Longford Castle was originally owned by the Gorges family and constructed in a triangular shape following a Swedish model. This was retained in subsequent redevelopment. The des Bouverie family, later Earls of Radnor with the family name of Pleydell-Bouverie, purchased the castle in 1717. They were Huguenots, originally from Lille, who had earned their wealth from trading in the Levant. They had extensive dealings in Europe and the Near East in a wide range of products including fabrics, precious metals and even opium. Steve showed archive records detailing the range of transactions and recording events such as fires, sinking ships and attacks by pirates. Customers included banks, the East India Company and the founder of Yale University. The family also made charitable donations, and the second Earl of Radnor paid for a new Council House, now the Guildhall, after it was destroyed by fire in 1780. One fascinating donation, never activated by the recipients, was an offer of £500 in 1737 to the trustees of the colony of Georgia in America to abolish slavery.

On a more domestic scale, many documents illuminated daily life over the centuries for the family and those they dealt with – tradesmen, well diggers, doctors, priests, bell ringers, servants and tenants. Records included signed agreements about land boundaries, names, acreage and condition of fields, plans for flooding water meadows, details of works in Odstock church, notes on repairs to the castle, lists and valuations of possessions and much more. Some of the papers date back to the first owners.

Tenancy records also illustrate the system of copyhold, which effectively gave the tenant the right to remain for life, with the property reverting to the landlord on decease of the copyholder – though widows had a right of succession. Copyhold was not replaced by freehold till the 1920s. The borough of Downton sent a member to parliament and so the Earl of Radnor could control the votes of his tenants and have an influence in Parliament - with no secret ballot, tenants were reluctant to vote against the landlord's interests.

Many of the records were in Latin, except during the Commonwealth, when Cromwell decreed they should be in English. Steve cited some intriguing quotes, for example an injunction to clear dung now, and a reference to a penalty if nothing was done about a tree annoying the road. There was a payment to the doctor to visit the chicken woman, and another, in June 1743, for scaling teeth. More recently, visitors' books illustrate who came and went to the castle, and what they ate. British and Belgian officers' names appeared when the building was used as a hospital in 1916.

In conclusion, after answering questions, Steve urged attendees to visit the archive with its 8½ miles of shelving and extensive contents covering the whole county except for Longleat and Bowood, which held their own archives. This could be done without travelling by accessing <http://www.wshc.eu/our-services/archives.html>.

Lis Woods

'Man with Arms Open' statue

The situation with this has not really moved on since the report in the December magazine, and remains that a 'shared space' scheme has been worked up for the Minster Street/ Castle Street/Blue Boar Row junction, at the Cheesemarket, and the hope is that the statue can be fitted into the new layout.

If anything things have moved backwards, since the new scheme has now been costed, and turns out to need more money than the amount put by for it. 'Elections' have again been quoted as a reason for a final decision not yet having been taken, this time presumably the local authority ones, though it's not clear that these will have affected the situation that much. A need for more money is clearly not a good sign, with the only possibly positive aspect being the £6 million which the government has recently guaranteed towards soil remediation work at the Maltings.

Since it is hardly likely that the money would have been made available without a reasonable certainty that it would get the Maltings project going again, and a key element in this has always been a good link with the traditional shopping areas to the west and south, the Cheesemarket becomes an important consideration. It is possible this may boost the chances of the improvement scheme going ahead, but there is nothing definite on this as things stand.

Old Manor Hospital

Phase 1 of the current scheme, for retirement housing on the former mental hospital site, was approved last year, with apparently little attention paid to significant Society concerns about the design of some parts of it.

The remaining three phases are now the subject of applications, with the Society being broadly happy with the principle of two of them, if not with every detail. The most contentious phase concerns the western part of the site, centred on the listed Avon House near the Wilton Road, and also covering an unlisted but attractive terrace to its south.

An earlier proposal to demolish this was opposed by the Society, and some reconfiguration of the layout of the whole site has now enabled the terrace's retention. Much less appealing from the Society's viewpoint is the design of a range of new buildings to be added round Avon House, originally including two rather cumbersome apartment blocks, one very close to the Wilton Road and the other immediately to its south. The other buildings were largely in semi-detached form, designed as far as could be seen to resemble 1930s houses of the most banal type.

Revisions have now eliminated one of the blocks, and substituted a vaguely neo-Georgian style for the 1930s one of the semis, but with so little detail provided about materials or other key points that proper assessment of the designs is impossible. The Society has expressed its strong concern about a quite inadequate approach to a very important conservation area site.

Richard Deane

Coming Soon: Heritage Open Days 7th - 10th September



Salisbury's Historic Pubs and Inns

Salisbury Civic Society and the Salisbury and South Wilts branch of CAMRA will be collaborating on a "Salisbury's Historic Pubs and Inns" themed programme for the Heritage Open Days in September 2017.

Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture. It's a chance for the public to see hidden places and try out new experiences.

The Salisbury's Historic Pubs and Inns events will be a great opportunity to learn more about Salisbury's fascinating pubs, history and architecture. All events are free although you must pre-book the tours as numbers are limited. Event details and links to the Eventbrite booking site for tours are available from mid-June on the Salisbury Civic Society website <http://www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk/events/historic-open-days/>.

If any members without internet access are interested in booking, please phone 07974 140888.

Salisbury Pub Heritage Walks

The Heritage Open Days in September will include short walking tours of Salisbury's pub heritage. The centre of Salisbury once had over 70 pubs and there are more than 300 pub names associated with its historic buildings. Come hear the fascinating history of Salisbury's existing pubs and its many lost pubs and inns from Ed Garman of CAMRA. The walks will include refreshment stops on route.

Tours: Friday 8th Sept and Saturday 9th September 5.30pm - 7pm. Places are limited to 14 per tour and must be pre-booked via Eventbrite.

Lost and Found: An Exhibition of Salisbury's Historic Pubs and Inns

Local Salisbury artist Fred Fieber has now completed over 80 drawings of Salisbury's lost and existing pubs. The Public Library, our venue for the exhibition, is on the site of one of Salisbury's lost Inns – the Maidenhead Inn. Copies of Fred's drawings will be available for sale from the Library along with details of all the other events celebrating Salisbury's historic pubs and Inns during the Heritage Open Days.

Exhibition dates: Saturday 2nd - Saturday 9th September ground floor Salisbury Public Library.

The Wyndham Arms: first home of Salisbury's Historic Hop Back Brewery

As part of a series of events to mark the 30th anniversary of the brewery, the Wyndham Arms and the Hop Back Brewery will have an exhibition to mark the occasion in the upstairs function room of the pub.

Exhibition dates: Thursday 7th - Sunday 10th September upstairs function room Wyndham Arms.

The Rai d'Or: unveiling by Phil Harding of a Blue Plaque commemorating Agnes Bottenham

At 12.15 on Thursday 7th September local archaeologist Phil Harding will be unveiling a Salisbury Civic Society Blue Plaque outside the Rai d'Or pub and restaurant dedicated to Agnes Bottenham, C14th publican and founder of nearby Trinity Hospital.

Roman Beer: A Heritage Open Day's lecture at Salisbury Rugby Club

Come along and hear about the origins of our national drink on Thursday 7th September 7pm for a 7.30pm start at Salisbury Rugby Club. The bar will be open for refreshments.



Fred Fieber

The Haunch of Venison Pub Salisbury

This mid-C15th building is one of Salisbury's most historic and atmospheric pubs and is listed in CAMRA's National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors. Hidden away behind the upstairs restaurant and not normally accessible to the public, is the "Churchill bar" where it is said that Winston Churchill and Ike Eisenhower took refreshment when staying at Wilton House and planning the invasion of Europe during WWII. You will be able to visit this bar only during the Heritage Open Day tours.

Tours: dates and times Thursday 7th September 4.30pm - 5pm, Friday 8th September 4.30pm - 5pm. Places are limited to 12 per tour and must be pre-booked via Eventbrite.

The Former Three Crowns Inn Harnham

The former Three Crowns Inn now a family-run guesthouse, was a winner of a 2016 Conservation Award from the Salisbury Civic Society. This partly C18th listed grade II building had been derelict for some years before its restoration. What made the conservation work stand out was the rescue of some remarkable and elaborate C18th plasterwork within the building's main room, now the guest house dining room. This plasterwork will be viewed during the tours.



Tours: Thursday 7th September 13.00 & 14.00; Friday 8th September 12.00, 13.00 & 14.00. Places are limited to 12 per tour and must be pre-booked via Eventbrite.

Neil Beagrie

Chairman's Report – June 2017

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 14TH JUNE

As in previous years, the AGM will be held in the Methodist Church at 6:30 pm and I would hope all members will attend, if at all possible. This is the occasion for electing the Officers and raising any other issues of concern or interest to the Society.

Your Executive Committee has reviewed the constitution of Salisbury Civic Society and decided it needs to be brought up to date. We have circulated a new version, based on the Charities Commission model form. The changes in it are summarised elsewhere in this issue. Its adoption will be proposed as an Agenda item and be voted on for approval at the AGM.

I have to report we have still failed to find a successor to Philip Price as Secretary which is a great disappointment, and the multiple tasks remain allocated to and performed by other members of the Executive Committee. Any offers?

We are fortunate that John Elliott has volunteered to take on the role of Editor of the Magazine, starting with the September edition, which will lighten the considerable load on Richard Deane's time. Thank you, John.

After the formal business concludes, we will enjoy an illustrated talk, given by Richard Deane, on the History of the Civic Society Awards scheme. It will be interesting to hear of previously considered buildings viewed by the judging panels and see examples of successful Conservation Awards and Awards for new Architecture.

EVENTS

In the year past we have enjoyed a variety of activities, and none more enthusiastically attended than the Open Meeting in November at City Hall when our MP John Glen joined a panel of Speakers to talk on "Reclaiming the Vision for Salisbury and South Wiltshire". Active and constructive discussions by the public and panel members then followed, which could have taken the meeting well into the night!

In January, the Society's Plaque commemorating Charlotte Cradock was unveiled by Henry Fielding's biographer, Professor Thomas at 14a The Close, and we were extremely fortunate and grateful to the Champion family who provided such a warm welcome in their home, as we listened to the professor's fascinating talk about Charlotte and her inspirational role in Fielding's life.

The well-attended New Year Party event at the Guildhall was much enjoyed by all present, with the Judging Panel Chairman, Adrian Green of Salisbury Museum, introducing the projects qualifying for Conservation Awards, and our President, Dame Rosemary Spencer, presenting the certificates. The Society even benefited from an Award to itself, for the new replacement model Sheep over the hairdresser's shop in High Street!

All of the above events were well covered in the local press and our thanks to Neil Beagrie, Publicity Officer, for keeping the Society's activities in front of the public eye.

The visit to Longford Castle on the Radnor Estate was a fascinating outing and Brenda Hunt was able to double the number to 40 persons visiting, as the Estate provided an additional guide. The visit will be more fully reported elsewhere but it was a rare opportunity and on a beautiful sunny day.

The lectures have been well attended including the talk by Steve Hobbs on the Radnor Estate in early March and the planning forum held on the 6th April which was on the subject of Conservation Areas. As well as local conservation officer Jocelyn Sage, we were lucky to have one from Milton Keynes, Chris Hooper, who gave a most interesting insight into the examples of conservation areas within his administrative zone, including some buildings within Milton Keynes itself, and also the outlying villages and railway towns from past industrial glory.

Finally, we look forward to 'Civic Day' at the Guildhall on Saturday 17th June 2017, a day set aside by Civic Voice to promote Civic Societies throughout the country – details elsewhere in this issue. The official opening will be by John Glen at 10.30am, with the event itself starting at 10am, and running to 4pm. To assist Hadrian Cook who has had overall responsibility for organising the Civic Day, a support sub-committee has been formed, which includes Neil Beagrie, Richard Deane, Judy Payne, Stephanie Siddons Deighton, Anne Upson, James Woods and Dieter Scholz. Many thanks to them all for all the preparatory work on this event.

OTHER MATTERS

We look forward to September with the Heritage Open Days running from Thursday 7th to Sunday 10th, the theme being 'Historic Pubs and Inns within Salisbury', with a link to the unveiling of a blue plaque to Agnes Bottenham, founder of Trinity Hospital at 69 Brown Street (the Rai d'Or), also on the 7th September.

We continue to seek additions to our membership, currently around the 400 mark and this year welcome Woolley & Wallis Salisbury Salerooms as an addition to our Corporate Membership. If you enjoy and wish to promote the Society and its activities, do mention us to your friends and take away application leaflets from the AGM. Alternatively, encourage them to look at the website and apply from there.

This is the Society's only form of revenue and currently we are running a small deficit on the last couple of years which certainly needs to be reversed as a long-term trend.

Thank you to everybody for all your support throughout the year and the hard work of committee members and officers and I look forward to seeing you at the AGM on the 14th June 2017.

Peter I Dunbar

Chairman, Salisbury Civic Society

Housing Site Allocations Development Plan

Members will recall, from the March magazine, that this document will be key to whether development is allowed on the Britford Lane fields. They will also recall that a seemingly interminable process of revised deadlines has delayed the production of a consultation document, which will tell us whether or not Wiltshire Council see that site as suitable for housing. June this year appeared to have been finally settled on as the month for publication, but while this is still what is stated on the council website, there are unofficial reports that in fact July is now being talked about. Apparently 'the election' has been quoted as the reason for the further delay. Breath-holding continues not to be recommended.

Salisbury Civic Day, June 17th

Civic Day is an event promoted by Civic Voice, the umbrella organisation for civic societies, and is intended to be a 'national celebration of civic pride'. The day is also aimed at making local societies better known within their areas, and this year for the first time we are organising our own Civic Day. It will be on Saturday June 17th, and will be based at Salisbury Guildhall, in the Banqueting Hall. The event, admission to which will be free, will run from 10 till 4, with a formal opening by John Glen at 10.30. There will be another talk at 12.30, by Salisbury Business Improvement District manager Robin McGowan. The BID will be one of 16 local organisations taking a stall for the event, alongside the Society as the main focus. They generally comprise bodies with interests aligned to those of the Society, and there will also be an architects' surgery, where local architects will give free advice.

A lot of work has been put into the day, which should put the Society into the spotlight in a new way. While this should obviously benefit us generally, the ultimate test of success will be how many new members we can sign up, and anything existing members can do to help with this will be much appreciated.

The Society's own exhibitions will include one on its awards scheme, first used outside Waitrose last year. A new exhibition will focus on conservation areas, with this year being the 50th anniversary of their introduction. Other posters will show the range of work done by the Society, including its talks and visits, its open meetings, and its responses to planning applications. Committee members will be there, to explain to visitors what the Society does, and of course to encourage them to join.

A leaflet will be produced for the day, to serve both as information for those arriving, and as a flier to encourage people to come. It will include a competition, which will ask people to match scenes from the Salisbury conservation area with locations on a map. The leaflet, and the competition prize, are being sponsored by Woolley & Wallis Salisbury Salerooms, who have recently joined as corporate members.

We will of course be delighted to see members at Civic Day – even more delighted if you can bring with you someone you know who is not currently a member, but might be inspired to join by all the evidence on display showing the wide range of the Society's activities.

McCarthy & Stone, Castle Street/Endless Street

A current planning application, submitted by McCarthy & Stone, seeks to put 100+ retirement flats on the large Aviva office site, between Castle Street and Endless Street, with the buildings there demolished. The Society found an early version of the scheme very depressing, with a banal neo-historical pastiche treatment just used as wallpaper, masking flats with no active engagement with the streets at all. However a rethink has seen a much more honest approach, with genuinely contemporary elements. This is as important as any development proposed for the city in recent years, and its latest form is reasonably encouraging.

Applying for Civic Society Visits (apart from Mystery Visit)

In order to reduce costs and improve our service to members, we have decided to change the method for applying for places as follows:

Please either email (the preferred method) or phone me to apply for a place. If the visit is fully booked I will let you know, thus saving you the need to send me an s.a.e and cheque.

If you are successful I will ask you to forward your cheque to me and I will issue you with an e-ticket. If you are not on email I will confirm arrangements for the visit by phone. At that point I will ask for an s.a.e in order to send you a paper ticket together with further instructions if need be.

Please note that as visits have to be booked and paid for in advance we do not issue refunds.

Members are welcome to make suggestions for future visits.

Brenda Hunt

brendahunt@clara.co.uk

07774 348 789

Current visits:

THURSDAY 3RD AUGUST

Visit to Norrington Manor and St Mary's Church, Alvediston

This visit, the second to be arranged this year, for disappointed applicants for the June visit, is now fully subscribed. But members will have the opportunity to book another visit in June 2018 - details will be in the March 2018 Magazine.

MONDAY 14TH AUGUST

Augustus Pugin's Architectural Origins in Salisbury

Once again Blue Badge guide, David Richards, will lead us on this visit which will last approx 90 minutes.

Meet at the Tourist Office in Fish Row at 1.50pm. Cost £10 for members and £12 for guests, to include tea and cakes afterwards.

The 2017 Mystery Visit has been organised by Wendy English, who writes about it on page 5. Applications should be submitted using the form with this magazine.

Annual Report 2016 - General Purposes Committee

The General Purposes Committee (GPC) is responsible for organising lectures, visits, Blue Plaques, Heritage Open Days and publicity 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 2016 membership of the committee was strengthened by the addition of Janet Patch as our officer for blue plaques, Hadrian Cook (initially to cover the Society's first Civic Day in 2017) and Liz Slater, who had as yet no fixed portfolio, but generated many ideas and helped out with visits as required. James Woods remained as Chair and Neil Beagrie (publicity), Judy Howles (lectures), Brenda Hunt (visits) and Lis Woods (minutes) all continued to discharge their responsibilities admirably. Though Jenni Dougan had tendered her resignation in 2015, she continued, despite pressing family concerns, to work on plaques until she felt confident to hand over to Janet Patch – a confidence that has been wholly vindicated. I have been very fortunate as Chairman to be able to call on the services of such competent and dedicated officers.

Lectures. Four lectures were given in 2016 in the Sanctuary of Salisbury Methodist Church. In March, Mervyn Pannett of the Salisbury Saintes Twinning Association compared and contrasted the two towns, focusing on Saintes' greater richness in Roman remains and Salisbury's pre-eminence in ecclesiastical buildings; in June, Alan Wadsworth, who had led the Wiltshire Farmsteads Project for four years, talked about recording and researching the past of Wiltshire's farms; in September, the Rector of Bemerton, the Rev Simon Woodley, gave a superbly illustrated account of how, over nearly seven years, the redundant Victorian church of St John's, Bemerton, was transformed into a community centre; and in November, Julian Orbach talked about updating the Wiltshire volume of Pevsner's Buildings of England.

Blue Plaques. Technically, no plaques were put up in 2016, though we were working on one throughout the year. Progress was hampered by a change in house ownership amongst other things; but I'm happy to report that all problems were resolved with the unstinting co-operation and support of the new owners; and on January 6 2017 a plaque was put up to commemorate Henry Fielding's wife and muse, Charlotte Cradock, on her family home in The Close.

Visits. Brenda Hunt organised three popular visits during the year. The first, in April, was to the Bombay Sapphire Distillery in Laverstoke, near Whitchurch – during which each member of the party had a cocktail individually created for them. The second was a visit to Norrington Manor in June, which proved so popular and over-subscribed that two repeat visits have been organized for 2017. The third, led by David Richards, a most informative Blue Badge Guide, took us round Stratford sub Castle on a brilliantly sunny August afternoon, seeking out places and memorials associated with the Pitt family, which included two Prime Ministers.

Heritage Open Days, from September 8-11. We decided to collaborate with the events organised by the City Council, including the Devizes Road Chapel and the lower tunnel and cells of the Guildhall. Judy Howles and Neil Beagrie provided publicity, and a fun quiz.

James Woods

OFFICERS as at 1st June 2017

PRESIDENT
Dame Rosemary Spencer DCMG

VICE PRESIDENTS
Major General Roy Dixon
Mr Ken Wiltshire
Brigadier Alastair Clark

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Peter Dunbar (Chairman)
p.dunbar212@btinternet.co
01722 417847

Richard Deane (Vice-Chairman)
rdeane@madasafish.com
07974 140888

Adrian Harris (Treasurer)
scstreasurer@virginmedia.com

Charles Villiers (Membership Scout)
villiers.crv@gmail.com
01722 500173

James Woods (GPC)
lisandjames@gmail.com

Neil Beagrie (Publicity)
neil@beagrie.com

Stephanie Siddons Deighton (Website)
stephaniedsd@gmail.com
07710 945113/01722 502575

John Elliott (Magazine)
jpelliott@btinternet.com

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Paul Stevens (Acting Chairman)
admin@paulstevensarchitecture.co.uk

Richard Deane (Secretary)
rdeane@madasafish.com

Judith Payne
judith.payne@hotmail.co.uk

Leslie Lipscombe
leslie.lipscombe@btopenworld.com

Nicola Lipscombe
nicola.lipscombe@btinternet.com

Elaine Milton
emilton@emhp.co.uk

Louise Rendell
louise@stannsgate.com

Jeremy Turtle
jeremy@j-turtle.co.uk

Melanie Latham
melanielatham56@gmail.com

David Gregory
david.gregory.architects@googlemail.com

James Salman
jamessalman@designengine.co.uk

Hans-Dieter Scholz
hdieterscholz@msn.com

Edward Jameson
jamesonkempsey@gmail.com

Anne Upson
annie.upson@btinternet.com

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

James Woods (Chairman)
lisandjames@gmail.com
01722 422169

Lis Woods (Secretary)
lisandjames@gmail.com

Judy Howles (Lectures)
howles@ntlworld.com

Brenda Hunt (Visits)
brendahunt@clara.net

Neil Beagrie (Publicity)
neil@beagrie.com

Janet Patch (Blue Plaques)
patch.janet@gmail.com

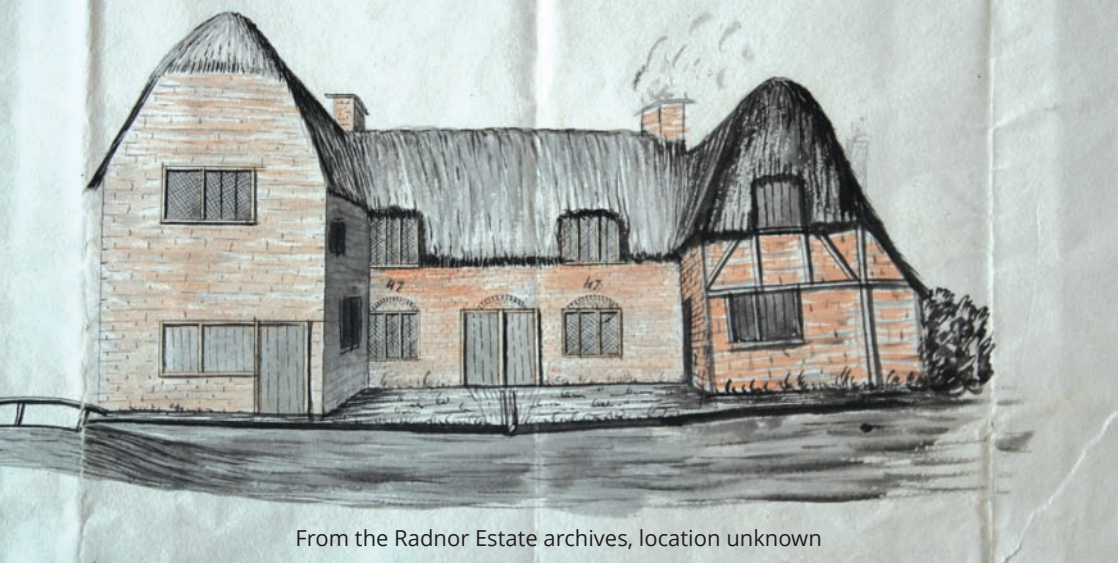
Liz Slater
liz_slater@hotmail.com

Hadrian Cook (Civic Day)
hadrian@salisburywatermeadows.org.uk



Longford Castle photo courtesy of Lord Radnor

*Houses of Samuel Bailey and George Quinton
(North View)*



From the Radnor Estate archives, location unknown

