# SALISBURY CIVIC SOCIETY

# **MARCH 2018**

# **DIARY OF EVENTS 2018**

### THURSDAY 8TH MARCH The Quakers In Salisbury by Rosalind Johnson

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

Free to members, Non members £2.50

#### THURSDAY 12TH APRIL

### **Planning Forum**

Possible answer to pressure for more houses – a new settlement?

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

Free to members, Non members £2.50 See p.10 for further details of this event

### THURSDAY 3RD MAY Visit to Tisbury

, Members £5.00, Non members £6.00 See p.7 for details and booking information

# WEDNESDAY 6TH JUNE

### AGM

Followed by a talk on Suburban Salisbury, by Hadrian Cook

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

# THURSDAY 7TH JUNE Visit to Norrington Manor

Please contact Brenda Hunt for details of how to book, before April 4th or after April 20th – brendahunt@clara.co.uk (preferred method) or 01722 322657.

TUESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER Visit to Bristol (Provisional, dependent on expressions of interest by members) See p.18 for further details

### THURSDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER The History and Architecture of St Thomas's Church by Tim Tatton-Brown 6.30pm at St Thomas's, Salisbury SP1 1BA

Free to members, Non members £2.50 Further details in June magazine

### MONDAY 1ST OCTOBER 'Pilgrimage' - A Walk Round Salisbury Led by David Richards Details in June magazine

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:

Leslie Baker, Sara Blackburn, Ann Dean, Clare Faull, Favonius Architects, Rosalind and Julian Hepplewhite, Amanda Newbery, Jonathan Newbery, NFU Mutual Insurance Society, Anne Ralphs and Susie Ladbrook, Eve and Brian Weatherley, the Wilton Estate, Isabel Woolley

# Editorial

As usual, the March magazine carries the results of the previous year's awards scheme, first announced at January's New Year party. The total of nine nominations in 2017 was below the historical average, but uniquely all of them were deemed to reach the requisite standard, and nine awards or commendations were given. 2015 had seen the institution of the Lord Congleton Award, for an overall winner if the judges wished to pick one out, and once again they decided to do so. While the 2015 winner had been a very public building, the Stonehenge Visitor Centre, the 2017 judges selected a private house, Gold Hill in Hindon Lane, Tisbury *(see front cover)*. The privacy extends to the house being completely invisible from Hindon Lane itself, though there is a glimpse of its garage.

However there is a view from a more distant vantage point, one that ties in quite nicely with a visit being advertised in this issue. May 3rd sees a chance to look round Tisbury, with a tour organised by the Tisbury History Society. This is scheduled to finish at the wonderful C15th tithe barn at Place Farm, now very imaginatively used by Messums art gallery, whose London home is in Mayfair. In addition to whatever exhibition is on, the barn will offer the slightly more prosaic attractions of tea and cake, likely to be quite welcome after a walk for which 'sensible shoes' are advised, on account of Tisbury's sometimes hilly terrain. Gold Hill can be seen from the end of the barn away from the road, the curved roof of its garage probably attracting attention before the house itself. A visit there, at the kind invitation of the owners, is likely in 2019 – its quality deserves to be seen at first hand.

Two other Tisbury award winners also deserve a look. For Loft House, in The Avenue just off the High Street, this will mainly involve the outside, with much of the very nicely done interior not publically visible. However Wyndham Place, a small estate in Hindon Lane not far from Gold Hill, received an award purely for its external qualities. The developers, CG Fry & Son, winners of two previous awards, have found a niche in the housing market which rewards an attention to quality and attention to detail, generally absent in the products of the larger volume housebuilders. The 2018 awards scheme will look at work to existing buildings, with suggestions always welcome.

Other pages cover a range of subjects, many to do with recent Society activity. Beyond that, however, there is the answer to the St Edmunds puzzle in the last magazine, and an opportunity for many members to consider extending their vocabulary slightly – see Lis Woods' review of a new book on the New Forest on page 17. Quite properly, this poses the questions, and leaves the answers requiring a bit of further work. And one brief look ahead, to another in the ever-popular series of Mystery Visits, may raise a different question in a few minds – 'is this really meant to say this?' For anyone who encounters that doubt, 14 pages on, reassurance is on offer here, that nothing has gone awry with the wording.

#### **Richard Deane**

Magazine co-ordinator

Cover: Gold Hill, Tisbury - winner of the Lord Congleton Award

Photos in this issue: Award winners, and Richard Deane

### Salisbury Civic Society New Buildings Awards Scheme 2017 – Judges' Report

### Lord Congleton Award

### Gold Hill, Hindon Lane, Tisbury (see front cover)

The judges are not obliged to give the Lord Congleton Award, for an overall winner, but they had no difficulty in deciding that Gold Hill fully merited it. A guite exceptional degree of thought had clearly been put into it, from initial concept to detailed execution. The site offered great potential, but this could have been nullified by a standard new house approach. What emerged was quite the opposite, a purpose-designed house of enormous character, set within gardens of outstanding quality. The adoption of a projecting Lutyens-style window as the focal point of the main outward-looking elevation, across a beautifully formulated sunken garden, was a master stroke, while the other two principal elevations, with their verandas, were equally successful. The well-handled use of local stone, found on the site, was an additional plus point, fully in keeping with the Arts and Craft ethos underpinning the project. Internally, each room created its own distinct sense of space. The circulation spaces were dramatic, functional and served the whole house well, and the double curve of staircase and landing was a wonderful configuration, with painted newel posts picking up the wallpaper design in a typical touch. Every detail had been considered, to fit into the integrated whole, and the pride taken in the project by those involved was self-evident. Energy efficiency had been considered with the same thoroughness as every other aspect, and the overall result was one which the judges took a great deal of pleasure from experiencing, and which made the Lord Congleton Award the obvious outcome.

Design Architects: David Gregory Architects Detailed Design Architects: Relph Ross Partnership

The owners of Gold Hill have kindly offered to show Society members round, and we hope to organise a visit next year.

### Awards

### Whaddon Barns, Alderbury (see page 6)

Evidence of what had been on the site previously showed buildings converted to light industrial use, appropriate to the location in layout, but of no particular merit in themselves. The judges applauded the decision to create a new barn-type building on the existing footprint, to the extent of creating walls with a slight curve in them, lending a subtle extra character to the outcome. The barn concept was seen through with full commitment, using well-chosen bricks, timber cladding and clay roof tiles, with some slate to distinguish the subsidiary range. The latter's incorporation of a cob boundary wall as part of its structure was an added bonus. Some sense of the former farmyard had been retained, with only modest openings on the inward looking side, and fenestration concentrated on the outward looking rear, where a fully glazed corner was felt to work particularly well. The barn conversion concept had been carried through to the interior, with some full height spaces creating a sense of openness, and plenty of exposed timber. Energy efficiency had clearly been fully considered, and the judges felt that the creation of the two new houses, in an enhanced version of the utilitarian buildings previously on the site, definitely merited an award.

Architects: Barclay + Phillips Architects

### Wyndham Place, Tisbury (see page 6)

Different in concept to the other nominations, in that it was a speculative venture comprising a substantial number of varying buildings, Wyndham Place nevertheless still achieved the high standards the judges were looking for. This applied both at the level of individual buildings, and in the character of the new guarter of Tisbury they have created. Rather than looking like the average volume housebuilder's estate, a lot of thought has gone into producing the appearance of organic growth typical of a large village. The total of some 90 houses is made up by a few individual ones, but mostly short terraces, in varying historic styles and with differing orientations based on an intricate street pattern, with communal areas of grass filling in the gaps. Walls are in render, stone and brick, carried out to a high standard, the brickwork in particular being way ahead of the average speculative estate. Roofs vary between slate, tiles and thatch, with details like porches well thought out, and street furniture well chosen. There are good pedestrian links, and parked cars have not been allowed to dominate the scene. The commercial buildings near the entrance form an effective contrast. The judges were also impressed that they had actually been provided, in accordance with the master plan, something not always guaranteed with mixed use developments. As a lesson to other, larger developers as to what could be achieved if the commitment was there, the estate clearly fully deserved an award.

Architects: Ben Pentreath Ltd

### Loft House, The Avenue, Tisbury (see page 12)

The judges' first impression of this project was that the timber-clad jettied front to the street set out an immediate marker for something into which a lot of thought and care had gone, and this was backed up by everything they subsequently saw. The shop space downstairs was markedly enhanced by the cunning light well along its rear edge, enabled by a narrower upper stage structure, and the brick floor, re-using material from the building previously on site, was a beautiful touch. Up the stairs, the robust industrial character of the handrail looked just right, and the clean modern lines of the upper rooms made for a very habitable space. The boarding of the ceilings had been executed with great skill, creating a groined vault in the rear room, a singular and very successful effect. The external terrace to the first floor was a major plus point, and the close-up view it enabled of the eaves line emphasised the success of the hidden rainwater system. Everything on view indicated a well thought out design ethos underpinning the whole project, developed into nice details, and executed with skill by all those involved. High energy efficiency, achieved by both passive and active means, was the finishing touch to a project for which an award was the obvious response.

Architect: John Comparelli

### The Hedges West, Bulford (see page 12)

Hedges West might seem at first glance a fairly unremarkable riverside house picking up on barn patterns to be found in the area, with black-stained timber cladding and a slate roof, but a visit soon revealed the sophistication and cleverness behind an essentially simple design. The house sits on a raft structure, taking its level from the upper end of the site, and supported by short piloti at the lower western end, to create something which should be proof against any conceivable flood event. The south elevation is the principal focus externally, with plenty of glazing to take advantage of sunlight, while the roof is extended to form a veranda, and avoid over-heating in summer. Internally, the east-west corridor on the south side is what ties the whole house together, with an extremely successful relationship between ground and first floors thanks to a full height space linking the two, enclosed by timber balustrading upstairs. The various rooms connecting to the corridor have been well thought out, with no extraneous details to mar the logic of the overall design. Underpinning the basic concept was the utilisation of positioning and internal design to maximise energy efficiency, and reduce the need for added heat sources to a minimum. The clear delight of the owners in what the house had achieved for them was testament to its success.

Architects: Favonius Architects

### Commendations

### Mathematics Building at Bishop Wordsworth's School, Salisbury (see page 13)

The judges were aware that constraints of budget, and considerations caused by the school's tight and awkward site, and its proximity to the cathedral, would limit the extent to which groundbreaking architecture was likely to be achievable, but they were impressed by the way the new block still managed to rise to something higher than the merely functional. Taking the place of a wooden hut building long past its notional lifespan, the block fits neatly into the available space. Its principal elevation makes a dignified statement of function, with its alternation of brickwork and four zinc-faced bays, projecting above the eaves line and expressing the individual classrooms within. From the east walk of the Close, just over the wall, the limited views available show something very appropriate to context, and indeed in some ways it is a shame that the new building is not more visible. Internally, the bright, clean spaces of the classrooms, with their generous ceiling heights, indicated a very successful response to the brief, while making good use of splendid views of the cathedral. The classroom block clearly met its brief in a very efficient and attractive way, and was deemed well worth a commendation.

**Concept Design:** SDBF Building Consultancy Ltd **Detailed Design:** Duygu Riley

#### Holmlea, Portland Avenue, Salisbury (see page 13)

Taking the place of a bungalow of little merit, Holmlea adds a contemporary note to a road of varying character. To the front, the projecting central bay lends a vertical emphasis, contrasting with the more spreading form of the rear. In both cases, white render and plenty of glass provide the key elements, with well-judged contrast from other materials like stone cladding. A response

to the house's orientation was key to its success, with solar gain on the southern garden side controlled by a projecting roof form, together with a brise soleil between ground and first floors. On the front elevation, the ample glazing creates a well-lit interior, with a full height space immediately inside, and the staircase set back from it, linking lower and upper floors in a very spacious way. Rooms were neatly arranged and designed to create a very habitable whole, with good advantage taken of views to the south. High quality woodwork, particularly in doors and staircase handrail, enhanced the overall effect, and good workmanship was on display throughout, fully justifying the decision to run this as a self-build project.

Designer: Chris King, Sarum Architecture

#### Lake House, Swallowcliffe (see page 13)

Traditional in its design approach, Lake House offers a fairly conventional late Georgian-type front to the village street not far away, with a relatively elaborate timber porch but otherwise quite restrained. The marginal glazing to the central first floor window, typical of that period, is a nice touch. At the rear, where a wonderful view out across a valley demands to be maximised, the style becomes more purpose-made, with three large sets of French windows taking up much of the ground floor, enabling a close relationship between the splendidly large kitchen and the landscape outside. The rest of the interior revolves round an expansive staircase hall and landing, which rises through the building to a roof lantern, generating well thought-out spaces as it goes. There is some nice detailing, for instance in arched-head doorways and decoration to the outside of the staircase stringer, and good use of materials, such as stone floors. The exterior stonework is of high quality, varying from more formal for major elevations to more rubbly for an 'extension' to the west, and the separate garage. The judges felt this was an excellent exercise in utilising a traditional approach without being slavishly bound by it, and a very habitable house had been the outcome.

Designers: TFH Reeve

#### Quarry House, Compton Chamberlayne (see page 13)

The success of this house could be very rapidly established by comparing it with three houses of the mid 1990s, in a former farmyard not far off at the southern edge of the village. While they achieved little more than a parody of the true village style, Quarry House reinstates traditional character by its position almost on the edge of the road, its use of local greensand for the front and half of the main flank elevation, and its adoption of a simple, well-proportioned Georgian style. Very similar houses, of the C18th, can be seen further up the street. Much more accommodation than is immediately apparent is achieved by extending back into the site, with good use made of the slope upwards away from the road. The kitchen sits half a level up from the front rooms, with a nicely designed staircase knitting together the various elements of the house. A well thought-out garden makes the most of the site, playing its part in a view across the house from the top of the bank behind it, which makes clear its achievement in contributing to the village. The judges particularly liked the trouble taken to sit the array of solar panels flush with the rest of the roof, minimising their impact. This, along with other details and a consistent design ethos, and not least the quality of the stonework, all played a part in making a commendation seem well merited.

Architect: Gerald Steer



Whaddon Barns, Alderbury



Wyndham Place, Tisbury

### Salisbury College proposals

There is no actual Salisbury College now of course – the correct term is 'The Salisbury Campus of Wiltshire College'. This at least retains the word 'Salisbury', in contrast to the not universally popular rebranding of Festival, Arts Centre and Playhouse as a composite 'Wiltshire Creative'. A major building project for the college site became a planning application in mid-January. The Society has put in a fairly substantial response to it, covering both architecture and landscape design.

Discussion of the proposals saw an initial focus on the loss of the distinctive 1960s former art college building at the eastern end of the site, with its unusual projecting windows (see back cover). However making more efficient use of the whole site, in order to double the number of students, made retention of it unfeasible, and the Society's letter made no reference to it. It welcomed the principle of expanding the college, but expressed some disappointment at the design of new buildings on the eastern half of the site, and recladding of existing ones near the roundabout. With it being too late for any fundamental redesign, suggestions for improvement focused on materials, and opportunities to give the new buildings a rather warmer feel than they seem likely to achieve. A corporate branding approach, to tie in with the other college campuses, was not felt to help.

The landscape design part of the response made practical suggestions for additional tree planting to that proposed, and for treatment of hedging along the Southampton Road. Wiltshire Council only employs landscape architects to a minimal extent, and the hope always is that the expertise in this discipline within the Development Committee will be properly listened to.

### Visit to Tisbury, Thursday May 3rd, 2pm

Lying 13 miles to the west of Salisbury, Tisbury is a thriving village which dates back to prehistoric times, with many stone cottages decorated with ammonites from the local stone quarries. The vernacular architecture is from the medieval period to the 21st century and Tisbury History Society will be giving us a guided tour of the village, including the impressive 12th century parish church of St John the Baptist and its surrounding cottages, the old Union Workhouse (now converted to apartments), and a restored-to-its-original condition 18th century house. Tea and cake available at the end of the tour, at the magnificent Place Farm Barn, now the home of Messum's Gallery, who have a café there. Tisbury is hilly, so please wear sensible shoes.

Members £5-00, non-members £6-00. Tea not included in these prices.

In line with the procedure introduced last year, there is no paper application form. Applications should made by email (the preferred method) or by phone. Rather than Brenda Hunt handling applications, for this visit only they should be made to Stephanie Siddons Deighton – **stephaniedsd@gmail.com**, or **07710 945113**. If places are still available, Stephanie will ask for cheques to be sent to her, and will issue an e-ticket where relevant. Members without emails will be asked to send an S.A.E. for a paper ticket. Further information on the visit will be sent at this point.

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

### Chairman's Report

My first priority in this new year of 2018 is to ensure the Salisbury Civic Society is strengthened further by an increase in membership numbers, across the three categories of individual, joint and corporate.

The latter is now receiving a greater focus from us, as recent joining corporate members have given us a renewed vigour in our engagement with the local business community, with the guidance and influence they can bring to the Society in its pursuit of the charitable objects.

Many thanks to members for responding so positively to the increase in subscription rates, which came in at the start of this year. Inevitably some members have stood down, but far fewer than the last time rates were increased, in 2003. In fact the current membership figure of 422 compares with one of 405 at the start of 2017, so a very gratifying surge in new members over the last year or so has more than outweighed the impact of putting subscriptions up.

There have been a few administrative hiccups from banks, while new standing order mandates for the changed subscriptions are processed, but we hope we've spotted everything that's gone amiss. As the membership year now runs from the point of joining, rather than from January to December as it did till four or five years ago, there will be more new mandates kicking in during the year, and we'll continue to keep an eye on the outcomes.

Overall the subscription increase has been very successful, and it's achieved our aim of getting the society's income up to a level that will meet annual outgoings more securely and predictably.

Do please mention the activities and aims of the Salisbury Civic Society to your friends and neighbours, and assist the membership drive from the 422 figure to our target of 500. 1000 was talked about in the early days of the Society, no more than a city like Salisbury merits, but perhaps a bit over-optimistic!

Dr. Charles Villiers continues with his excellent work as the new membership "scout", and Judy Payne has successfully brought the administration and recording of membership information fully up-to-date with an accessible database, recorded in Excel spreadsheet format.

Sadly Judy is standing down as membership secretary at the AGM in June, so I would welcome and encourage any interested member to apply for or seek information about this key post, which will assist and support the society.

I must also announce that Stephanie Siddons Deighton will no longer be in post as website manager henceforth, and this post needs to be filled urgently as the website is a real time window on the society and its activities and campaigns. Is there a volunteer amongst us who would welcome this opportunity to take on this vital and interesting office? (Details on page 24.) Many thanks to Stephanie for all of her hard work in creating and updating the website over the last few years.

This year, or the first half of 2019 at the latest, should see what ought to mark a critical point in the long-running Britford Lane fields story. A public enquiry, currently intended for this summer, will see an attempt by the fields' owners to have them adopted as a housing site, against the wishes of Wiltshire Council. The enquiry Inspector's verdict, to be delivered a few months after the enquiry, ought to be final (unless the law courts get involved). The Save the Meadows Campaign recognises the need to employ a specialist or specialists at the enquiry, something the fields' owners will undoubtedly be doing. The Society's trustees have agreed that it should give practical help to the campaign's fund raising towards this – details of how to contribute will be sent out to members once the campaign has the necessary structure in place.

Looking back to the beginning of the year we enjoyed a record attendance at the New Year party and architectural awards ceremony. The Guildhall was packed and we have to consider how best to arrange and accommodate so many people in future years. The quality and originality of the award winners was truly impressive, and our thanks to all involved in the selection process and in the judging panel decisions. This was truly an example of how the Civic Society encourages good quality architecture in our built environment.

Looking forward now to our Annual General Meeting to be held on the 6th of June: please do put this date in your diary now as we will want a good turnout. Beforehand we will be circulating details of the new and amended constitution, for which we shall seek approval from members voting at the AGM. To be quorate, we need at least 42 members there. With an interesting talk afterwards by Hadrian Cook, on suburban Salisbury, we hope to achieve this without too much difficulty.

Peter I Dunbar, Chairman

### St Edmund's puzzle – the answer

The December magazine had a photo of the ornamental stone cartouche at the west end of St Edmund's church, and drew attention to a curiosity in the lettering. The 'Praise him o yee children', underneath the main lettering commemorating the fact that no-one was hurt when the tower fell in the C17th, has some of its letters enlarged, in a not immediately comprehensible fashion.

The explanation is that this is a numerical anagram. The letters picked out are, in order, I, I, M, C, I, L and D. This makes no immediate sense, but rearranged in the order MDCLIII, we have the date seen immediately above, 1653, in the form it would be depicted using Roman numerals. Even without the doubled up 'e' in 'yee', the wording used to generate the anagram doesn't seem to have any obvious derivation, so it may well have been produced specially in order to convey the puzzle. Whoever commissioned and paid for the cartouche must have been in on this guirky hidden element to it, and approved it as being in keeping with the cheerful message conveyed by the main lettering, of divine providence being at work to prevent any harm to people when the tower came crashing down.



### Planning Forum, Thursday April 12th - New Settlements

The Society's annual Planning Forum will this year deal with an alternative approach to the endless need to find further housing land. Within our area, this has so far seen an inexorable process of building estates on the periphery of Salisbury and the eastern side of Amesbury, with smaller areas of new housing fitted in elsewhere. The estates are never big enough to encompass a thorough process of incorporating the necessary infrastructure, and in Salisbury in particular the whole procedure generates increasing pressures, particularly in terms of traffic, without any obvious strategic approach to mitigate the combined effect of large-scale development.

Other parts of the country have taken a more radical approach, by creating discrete, wellplanned new settlements which are large enough for these deficiencies to be remedied. Typically these might have 3000-4000 homes, often with the capacity for further expansion. The Society first advocated a similar approach in south Wiltshire in 2008, at a time when the then District Council tentatively advocated such a settlement itself, probably in the Firsdown/Lopcombe Corner area. Local discontent at the idea rapidly led to backtracking, and something similar has never resurfaced under Wiltshire Council.

Given a constant need for them to review local plan policies, we were hopeful that Wiltshire Council would supply a speaker for the meeting, but they declined, apparently because the concept of a new settlement is not currently in their thinking. Why this rules out even discussing the merits of the idea is not clear. However the three speakers we've booked should cover the topic very well.

#### The speakers are:

**Pauline Randall**, landscape architect and senior partner at Randall Thorp Landscape Practice, Manchester. Pauline is a Fellow of the Landscape Institute and an experienced expert witness, with an informed interest in the close relationships between landscape design and town planning. She specialises in strategic landscape master planning. She has been very involved with a successful new settlement at Cambourne, in Cambridgeshire, a site of 405 hectares with 3,300 homes.

Jenny Nell, head of Strategic Planning at Winchester City Council, and her colleague Nicholas Parker, a principal planning officer. Their council is in the early stages of overseeing the implementation of a 3500 home northern extension to the settlement at Whiteley, NW of Fareham. As an extension to something already there, North Whiteley does not entirely fit the specification of a settlement in untouched terrain, such as something near Salisbury might be, but it should still produce useful lessons, from a neighbouring local authority, in the field of community engagement (something Winchester seems to do rather better than Wiltshire), and in the complexities of large-scale strategic planning.

We hope this meeting will provide a valuable and much needed contribution to widening the debate about the future direction for development in south Wiltshire. We will be advertising the meeting to non Society members who might be able to play a part in bringing about such a change of focus.

The meeting will take place on Thursday April 12th, at the usual time and in the usual place: 6.30pm at the Methodist Church in St Edmunds Church Street. Admission will be free to members, £2-50 for non-members. We are confident that sound problems, which slightly marred last year's Planning Forum, will not be repeated.

# AGM and Constitution

The Society's 2018 AGM will be held on Wednesday June 6th, at the Methodist Church in St Edmunds Church Street, starting at 6.30 pm. The agenda for it, and other relevant papers, will be sent out in printed form, well in advance of the minimum 21 days beforehand stipulated by our constitution. There will be the standard items covering re-election of officers, and details of how to nominate candidates will be sent with the agenda.

The main additional item will be a recommendation to members to adopt a revised constitution. The most significant difference between the present constitution and the proposed one is an adoption of electronic means of communication, rather than formal notices to members having to be sent by post. The Charity Commission's present model constitution for bodies such as the Society specifically allows for electronic communications, and the move is clearly a sensible one. However all arrangements for this AGM obviously have to respect the existing constitution, and the package of printed documents to be sent out beforehand will be fairly bulky, including as it will the proposed new constitution in its entirety.

Another significant change made in the latter, already approved by the Charity Commission, is the definition of the quorum needed to make a vote at an AGM valid. This is currently set at 20 members, or 10% of the membership, whichever is the greater. The new constitution changes the 10% to 5%. As with the need to send documents out by post, the existing quorum figure is what counts for the 2018 AGM, so at a current membership figure of 422, either 42 or 43 members, depending on how one regards figures after a decimal point, will need to be present in order for the new constitution to be adopted. Given the importance of this agenda item, it is hoped to achieve a reasonable assurance beforehand that this number can be reached.

Other minor changes in the new proposed constitution either make aspects of the administration of the Society slightly easier, or adopt Charity Commission guidance updated since the constitution was last amended, in 2002.

#### BP Garage site, St Paul's roundabout

The December 2016 magazine had a depiction of an office building, in a very contemporary design with plenty of glass, proposed for the long-empty former garage site at the junction of Devizes Road and Wilton Road. In the end what was felt to be a more successful design, in the same sort of mode, was approved last June. Lack of action thereafter is now explained by a re-organisation in the firm for whom the offices were intended, leading to the idea being abandoned. The likelihood now is that a mainly residential building, with some shop units on the ground floor, for which consent was given in 2010, will be built instead. Such consent normally expires after three years, but enough work was apparently done at that time to constitute a start on the building, meaning that another application is not required.

The Society objected to the 2010 application, regretting its uninspired 'traditional' design treatment, and saying that 'a fundamentally different approach is the only one which can lead to a successful outcome for this key location within the city.' The office scheme was the sort of different approach asked for, but now alas seems very unlikely to ever be built.



Loft House, The Avenue, Tisbury



The Hedges West, Bulford



Mathematics Building at Bishop Wordsworth's School, Salisbury







Lake House, Swallowcliffe



Quarry House, Compton Chamberlayne

### **Roy Dixon**

Regrettably, we have to convey to members the news that former Society chairman Roy Dixon died on January 22nd, in Amesbury.

Roy had a distinguished army career, starting in WWII when he served in a tank regiment, during and after the Normandy landings. Subsequently he had various roles, most notably as director of Army Aviation. After leaving the army he served as chapter clerk at St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. He then moved to the Salisbury area, where he lived in the Borough at Downton. He became Civic Society chairman in 1991, before passing on the role to David Allen in 1997.

Roy's involvement was particularly welcome, as the first chairman, Mike Cowan, stood down after completing an agreed three years, and there was then a period without a chairman proper, with the vice-chairman, Dick Low, standing in. The 1991 Report covered Roy's arrival – 'He surveyed our small manpower, studied our paltry resources, and by smart generalship made the most of our powers'. The report recorded one notable instance of this, a major exercise in responding to a report on issues affecting the Cathedral Close, masterfully led by Roy.

The 1997 Report summarised various achievements in the following years, not least stewardship of the Society's newsletter, aided by a facility with words which had enabled Roy to produce an army guide to writing good

English. He handled the odd difficult issue with ease, for instance needing to propitiate Mill Road residents alarmed by the Society's support for road re-arrangements ahead of pedestrianising most of the High Street. As is often the case, the dire consequences they were anticipating never showed themselves.

The Society has been immensely fortunate in the calibre of chairmen it has been able to attract, and Roy's tenure was no exception. We feel very grateful for what he achieved. Jennie Hoare, whose husband Rodney was the Society's first secretary, knew him personally and has written this memory of him:

'I have very pleasant personal memories of Roy. He and my husband Rodney were old Hayleyburians and we travelled together to an Old Boy's reunion in Roy's very warm car to this totally unheated establishment - the journey was the best part of the day! He was a genial, generous and very kind host, helped in his entertaining by two delightful female chefs. On one occasion they failed to turn up (a mixup of dates), so Roy's excellent organisational skills and total lack of fuss resulted in an (almost) equally delicious lunch, at very short notice and for several people, in the local Downton hostelry. He was obviously a loyal customer they were anxious not to lose!'

The Society was represented at Roy's memorial service, in Amesbury parish church, by Dame Rosemary Spencer and Alastair Clark.

### The Next Plaque - John Marsh

John Marsh (1752-1828) was a notable English composer, who spent some of his career in Salisbury. His journals run to 37 volumes, and give very valuable insights into the musical life of the period. Preceded by a concert of his music in the Guildhall, the unveiling of a blue plaque to him will take place outside 49 High Street, one of his homes in Salisbury, on Sunday 8th July, at 6.15pm. There will be further information in the June magazine.

## Salisbury Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood plans are a fairly recent innovation, introduced under the 2011 Localism Act, and designed to enable communities to have a direct say in how their area is developed. They do not override planning policies already set in place by local authorities, but can guide how these are interpreted locally. They can also influence future reviews of those higher level policies.

Parish councils, whether so named or not, are generally the bodies responsible for formulating and introducing neighbourhood plans. Salisbury City Council is a parish council, and whether it should seek such a plan for Salisbury has been discussed for some time now. Because it is a particularly large parish, there are practical questions which would need to be asked at the outset - would there be one plan for the city, or several, and if the former option was chosen, would the plan cover all the possible aspects of such a document? It might for instance be possible to have a plan which focused in particular on housing, and said little about employment and leisure, which feature highly in many plans already adopted elsewhere.

The City Council has now launched a neighbourhood plan process, with an inaugural meeting, described as a 'kick-off session', on January 29th, which anyone interested in the subject was invited to attend. Several Society committee members were there. The first quoted aim was 'making Salisbury a better place to live, work and visit', wording not dissimilar to that used by the former Salisbury Vision when it launched more than ten years ago. Similar wording no doubt cropped up in previous 'vision' exercises which didn't even get as far as the late lamented one. So a neighbourhood plan might be seen as a reinterpretation of a long familiar theme, but its status within the planning system may finally deliver something with a long-term impact.

The January 29th meeting was given a general introduction to what neighbourhood plans were about, with those attending asked to say what they thought the city needed. There was a considerable focus on the design of buildings, using examples which did not always seem to have a very direct relationship with, or relevance to, Salisbury. What the meeting did not really do was establish how precisely matters move forwards from here. Producing a neighbourhood plan will not be cheap, and the precise extent of City Council commitment remains unclear, for the time being anyway.

For a body such as the Civic Society, which takes enhancing the general well-being of the city (and south Wiltshire generally) as its overall remit, with of course a focus on some aspects more than others, a neighbourhood plan has to be something to be taken seriously, and as far as possible to be involved in. How such involvement will play out, over the two or three years which production of a plan will inevitably take, remains to be seen.

### **Mystery Visit**

Wendy English will be organising another mystery visit this year, on Wednesday August 22nd. Lack of details will appear in the June magazine.

### When is a Door not a Door?

The new development of retirement flats on the former bus station site shows the typical approach for such things in central Salisbury in recent years – unashamedly neo-traditional. This can mean having doorways in the elevations to the streets, to try to give an authentic look, but the real access to flats being mainly via internal courtyards. The bus station development doesn't go in for this in a big way, but it does have this doorway on Rollestone Street, seen on the left. Its true nature is only clear from a photo taken during construction, shown on the right. This is a door which by definition will never open, and the interaction with the street which it suggests is a fiction.



Fictitious doors featured strongly in the first iteration of the McCarthy & Stone development in Castle Street/Endless Street, creating frontages which pretended to be historic houses when they were neither historic, nor active functioning houses. The approved scheme is much more honest, and seeks to counter the completely inward-looking nature of the dwellings by switching uses round, so that the ground floor on Castle Street can be given more of a shopfront look, with cafés and communal activities taking place behind the windows.

To be fair, both the Rollestone Street elevation of the bus station development and the one in Endless Street are by no means the worst we've ever seen locally when it comes to this sort of approach to design. The Endless Street one in particular benefits by rising to a parapet rather than eaves, mirroring something often seen in genuine Georgian buildings. The brickwork is respectable even if window arches, where they're not in artificial stone, don't use proper gauged bricks (which they could have done – very convincing arches can be bought as a single unit). Windows and doors may not be set well back behind the face of the wall as they would be in genuine Georgian buildings, but they are at least in timber. Venture beyond the street frontages, and plastic breaks out all over. This material was originally sought for the whole development, and the planners deserve some credit for insisting on something a bit more genuine for the public face of the scheme.

# New Forest – The Forging of a Landscape by Hadrian Cook

Civic Society members are familiar with Hadrian Cook as someone who contributes to the understanding and protection of our environment both in his role as a valued Society committee member and more widely, notably via the Harnham Water Meadows Trust.

In this book, he draws on his academic expertise and passion for ecology to throw new light on the development of the New Forest over time, seen both in its global context and from the viewpoint of social and economic history. The book is attractively presented, with well-chosen illustrations, including several beautiful photographs by the author.

The book aims to develop four critical themes through time: the shaping of the natural environment from human prehistory; human intervention through natural resource management; governance and management of the forest over time, stressing pressures on resources and attempts at the exclusion of certain social groups; and policies and designations to conserve the New Forest.

These are weighty themes, and the author draws on a substantial research base in exploring them, leading ultimately to a powerful call to arms to preserve this unique asset for posterity.

The book is rightly uncompromisingly scholarly, and the reader needs to come to terms with novel language (e.g. purpresture, podzolization) as well as new concepts. But the work is suffused by the author's love of a landscape which he knows intimately; just as the seriousness of his message and the academic rigour of the narrative are balanced by flashes of wit and anecdotes which bring the past to life.

At the end of each chapter, Hadrian Cook provides a helpful summary of conclusions. After tracing the threats and triumphs of the New Forest's turbulent history, his final conclusion is positive: "The present position is that we value the New Forest for being a largely medieval landscape, for its range of valuable habits and for its recreations and amenity values. Production agriculture was never destined to be a success over much of the area, because it was selected (one presumes) as a playground for the King and his retinue, where manorial returns were poor.



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The irony of history is that the Crown Estate is a close thing to nationalised land, and recent efforts to privatise woodlands fell foul of media and public opinion. This governmental debacle almost certainly leaves the forest as a common property resource, no longer for hunting, nor for intensive timber production, but for visitor appreciation. Time will tell. But the portents for the New Forest National Park look good."

Lis Woods

### A Lost Tree

The top photo on the opposite page was taken on October 24th last year, and shows a particularly fine Copper Beech tree in a private garden on the north side of Avon Approach, between Castle Street and the central car park. It could be viewed from a wide area and was, for example, a focus for the view from Bourne Hill looking down along Bedwin Street. A month previously, an application had been submitted to fell the tree, on the grounds that it was diseased. The Society objected, but the outcome was as seen below right, in a photo taken on February 6th. In the days before this the limbs had been lopped off one by one, presumably prior to felling of the now manageable residue.

The submitted application was of a type dealing with 'trees in conservation areas', to which the only council response which can prevent a tree being felled is the serving of a Tree Preservation Order. In this particular case it has to be assumed that while the tree certainly merited such an order, its diseased condition made one impractical.

Had a TPO already been in place, the same consideration would still have applied, and the outcome would probably have been consent for the felling. The crucial difference, however, is that the TPO would have enabled the council to allow the felling on condition that a replacement tree was planted. Without a TPO, no such stipulation can be made.

The tree is specifically shown in a plan in the Salisbury Conservation Area Appraisal document as being an important one, and the lack of a TPO is due to the absence of any overall strategy or policy for trees within the city, including assessing and serving TPOs when they are clearly needed. Trees define spaces and frame views, as well as providing screening, shade and habitat for wildlife, and helping to regulate air quality. The continuing loss of tree cover within the city over recent years, and the lack of replanting in private as well as public spaces, are both of great concern, as is the woeful lack of adequate tree officer resources and professional landscape advice within Wiltshire Council, something which can be demonstrated by reference to other local authorities in neighbouring areas.

Given current pressures on council funding, no increase in such resources can realistically be expected. A largely voluntary exercise in assessing trees, and pushing for TPOs where they are clearly needed, may be the only option. Work starting this summer to develop an overall tree strategy for Salisbury, led by Salisbury Area Greenspace Partnership for the Salisbury Air Quality Management Group, may provide an opportunity for this.

Meanwhile, Salisbury will be the poorer for the loss of this tree, with any replacement for it entirely at the discretion of the owners of the land in which it sat.

#### Possible visit to Bristol, Tuesday September 11th

Members are asked to let Brenda Hunt know if they would be interested in coming on this visit, before April 4th or after April 20th – **brendahunt@clara.co.uk**, or **01722 322657**. The visit will be hosted by the Bristol Civic Society, following a visit to Salisbury which we organised for them last year. The cost for members, to include train travel, is likely to be around £25.





### Historic Pubs and Inns of Salisbury

# On 9 November Ed Garman gave a detailed talk on the Historic Pubs and Inns of Salisbury. He started by saying he hoped it wasn't sacrilegious to talk of inns in a Methodist Chapel.

There were instances of two pubs with the same names, but usually one of them lay outside the historic city boundary, e.g. Kings Arms in Fisherton Street from 1831-2010, now an eastern restaurant. One landlord, Mr Lonnon, went to court accusing his wife of stealing from him; it turned out she was a bigamist.

Kings Arms in St John Street (1638-2011), now the Chapter House, was once seven tenements known as the seven deadly sins.

Star Inn in Brown Street 1455-2003 (the present building of the mid C16th), now called Rai d' Or (which was its original name) was once a rough pub. One landlady handed in her licence to the police before it was confiscated.

Deacons (Fisherton Street) was called the Star from 1871-1987, and then the Rare Joint from 1987-1989.

There were 2 George Inns within the city. On the corner of Winchester Street and Rollestone Street was the Old George, from 1625-1963. In its early days the city authorities tried to get it to use a common brewery, set up under the Puritan leadership of Mayor John Ivie. This was not a success. It had a subsidiary, the Brewery Tap, which continued until the 1970s under the George's licence.

Old George in the High Street may have been a pilgrim's hostel. It is said Shakespeare and his players came here to the rear courtyard. Cromwell slept there and later Samuel Pepys. In 1967 the lower floor was taken out to provide an entrance to the Old George Mall shopping precinct.

Ed Garman then turned to coaching Inns. A coach and four needed lots of space to turn

around, so coaching inns were on corners with entrances from both streets. One example was The Chough, formerly in Blue Boar Row and Castle Street. The earliest record of this is 1626, and the name comes from the birds on the arms of Thomas à Becket. Its large upper room was once used as a saleroom.

Interestingly there is no record of the Red Lion Hotel by name before 1752. The rear building predates this but was part of the White Bear, last heard of in 1749. The Red Lion contained the post office and was previously known as Red Lion and Cross Keys.

We were told about pubs with interesting stories. The coaching inn the Three Swans in Winchester Street was involved with the common brew house, and hosted cock fighting. By 1894 it had become a temperance hotel.

The Duchess of Albany on the Market Place was two doors down from where the fish and chip shop now is. Five suicides took place there.

The Swan Inn Harnham was next to the bridge. Its landlord drowned in a beer barrel. It was rebuilt and relocated in 1905 (now called the Grey Fisher).

At the Black Horse in Castle Street (now closed) there was a death from scalding when a brewer's assistant fell into boiling vat of beer.

There were some unusual names: the Noah's Ark in Milford Street, the Queen and Plasterers Arms in Ivy Street, the Dust Hole on Tollgate Road. This has two official names. It is also the Railway Inn. So which is the oldest pub? Contenders are the rear of the Red Lion built 1220, the Rai d Or (current building C16th but historic features are lacking), and the Queens Arms on the opposite corner, whose north range is C14th and the remainder C15th.

The Cloisters, on the corner of Catherine Street and Ivy Street, dates from the C14th but it is

Queens Armslying outside the city gates travellers would<br/>stay there after the gates had closed.ch.The question of which is the oldest pub

The question of which is the oldest pub remains, for the present, unanswered.

not known when it became a pub. The Rose

and Crown at Harnham is C14th, with its south side C16th. It was never a coaching inn;

Judy Howles

# The Maltings Development

The Open Meeting on the Maltings on November 21st was felt to be a great success, with a presentation which outlined a potentially very interesting scheme, and a lot of positivity about the whole event. After it, members for whom we hold email addresses received a four page account of what the meeting was told, based on a recording of it, and a one page summary. If any members for whom we don't have an email address would like a printed copy of one or both accounts, please phone Richard Deane on 07974 140888.

Given the availability of the accounts, it is not proposed to go into any details of the scheme here. Since the meeting no further information has been received, apparently because the signing of a commercial agreement between Wiltshire Council and the developers has been the priority. This means that the images shown at the meeting, or any more developed versions of them, have still not been released for public consumption. The consultation exercise which we were told would be part of the project has not yet been formally launched, though we have been given an email address for the architects, to which any comments can be sent at this stage. If any members would like to put comments in, please send them to us, via development@salisburycivicsociety.org.uk, and we will pass them on.

We have invited the architects to present any more developed versions of the scheme to the Development Committee, should they wish to do so. We have also made the case for the scheme to go through a process of independent design review, before an application is submitted. This is a well-established procedure, whereby disinterested outsiders with relevant skills see and make comments on a scheme prior to it being finalised. The local version was terminated when Wiltshire Council abolished the former Salisbury Design Forum, established under the District Council, but there are regional and national review panels, whose involvement here could be very useful.

The Open Meeting was told that a planning application was anticipated before the end of the summer, but given the amount of work needed to produce a detailed scheme from the outline version seen at the meeting, and the time needed for consultation if it is to be sufficiently wholehearted, this seems increasingly unlikely. We hope that the June magazine will be able to include details which show the scheme in a much more fully realised form.

### Britain on film: Railways

On Wednesday 24 January the Civic Society put on a unique film screening in St John's Place, Lower Bemerton, for both members and non-members. Some 52 people turned up to see a major new collection of rare archive films charting the history of the UK's railways up to the end of the age of steam. A nostalgic and evocative collection of films marketed by the Independent Cinema Office (ICO) documented not just the glories of the railway, but also the changing social, political and economic climates of the early 20th century.

It began with a dream-like hand-tinted silent film of 1898, in which a camera was attached to the front of a locomotive entering Conway Castle. This was followed by the earliest film kiss held by the British Film Institute National Archive - a stolen smooch aboard an 1899 steam train, intended as a comic filler sequence in one of the 'phantom ride' films popular in Victorian cinema. We then jumped nearly 40 years to show four famous trains the Royal Scot, Flying Scotsman, Cornish Riviera and Golden Arrow - in action. World War 2 bomb damage and investment cuts left the railways in a parlous state, and a 1947 film compared the situation in the UK with the almost equally dire one in the USA. In 1954 the Elizabethan Express was filmed on its non-stop 393 mile journey from Kings Cross to Edinburgh. This was exciting highspeed stuff, but nothing like as impressive as the 6 minute hurtle in 1962 from London to Birmingham, in which an impassive driver, deep in concentration, seemed oblivious to the scenery flashing past at 960 mph!

I was working myself for British Rail during the severe winter of 1962-3, undertaking a goods wagon census for Dr Beeching, and was trapped for a whole day by heavy snow in a railway hostel in South Wales. So it was particularly nostalgic for me to see the Oscarnominated Snow, filmed just as a thaw was beginning. It showed, almost lyrically, how railway staff battled the blizzards.

Finally, as the last steam train crossed the Pennines, Sir John Betjeman began to



reminisce in prose and verse to the strains of the Edwardian music-hall song 'Watching the trains go out'. He recalled the great trains of old and looked forward to railways for ever as he moved through a photographic exhibition.

There have been many famous films featuring trains in Britain, from feature films such as *The Lady Vanishes* to documentaries such as *Night Mail*. This compilation avoided everything that might have smacked of cliché. Even the Betjeman – though it can be viewed on YouTube – cannot easily be bought. The ICO showed not only the trains themselves in all their magnificent complexity, but railwaymen at work, driving, shovelling coal, serving meals, maintaining engines and track, doing all the myriad and often unseen jobs that are needed to keep a railway system going; and also passengers eating, talking, admiring the scenery...

Several attendees asked about other films in the ICO series. These include *Rural Life*, showing the beauty and variety of Britain's countryside; *Black Britain*, featuring little-seen and valuable depictions of black British life on screen; *Coast and Sea*, a nostalgic collection of films from Britain's gorgeous, varied coast; *LGBT Britain*, documenting Britain's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history on film; and *South Asian Britain*, exploring the rich history of the South Asian diaspora in England. If any of these attract you, get in touch with James Woods or Barrie Sinclair-Kemp; and if there is a good response we will put on a similar event next year.

#### James Woods

### **Empty buildings in Castle Street**

One of the questions most frequently received by the Society in recent years is 'what's happening with those abandoned buildings in Castle Street?'. An answer to this, beyond 'We've tried to find out but the owners won't tell us', is finally in sight.

The buildings in question run from the former post office, at the corner of Castle Street and Chipper Lane, up to the building just south of what is now Qudos, with boarded up windows. In 2008 an application was approved to move the post office to the northern end of the site, and turn the southern half into a boutique hotel, for the ABode group. One of the buildings, of no particular interest, would be demolished and rebuilt in a relatively contemporary style. The Society welcomed the general principle of the whole scheme.

What has happened since then is apparent from a quick look – the post office has closed, making the emptiness of the whole range complete. ABode proved reticent in the extreme as to what they planned to do, though renewal of the permission, by another application in 2012, showed that they hadn't lost interest. That permission then lapsed in 2015.

No further action or information came, until a few weeks ago, when signs were put up by a firm called Landmark Estates, of Ringwood. The Society made contact, leading to an opportunity for the Development Committee secretary to meet someone from the firm on site, to have a look round and learn what the idea is now. ABode have abandoned their plan for a boutique hotel, and Landmark have an agreement to buy the buildings from them, subject to getting planning permission for a different approach. A mainly residential scheme is now proposed, with some commercial use on the ground floors on the southern part of the site. Most of the rest will be flats. One building will still be demolished, though with a more pastiche approach to its rebuild.

Both the former post office and the Georgian house to its north are listed, as indeed are the railings and K6 phone boxes in front of the latter *(see back cover)*. Landmark have a historic buildings expert on board, well known to the local conservation officers through involvement in the Salisbury conservation area appraisal process. The firm seem committed to producing a scheme that respects the buildings, and will present their proposals to the March meeting of the Development Committee. They hope to be able to submit an application in early summer.

There does therefore finally seem to be some movement on these long-forlorn buildings. While some will regret the abandonment of the boutique hotel idea, residential is the obvious other option, and should generate the funds needed for a wholesale upgrade of the site.

### www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk

After project managing the development of and looking after the day to day operation of www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk, I am reluctantly standing down, due to other commitments.

We are now looking for someone to run the Society website.

Familiarity with managing simple online content, an internet connection and computer would be required. Training on WORDPRESS and the Content Management System (CMS) we use can be provided for anyone interested in the role who is unfamiliar with them. It's an exceptional opportunity to both refresh and develop skills and to be part of a friendly team promoting the excellent work of the Society.

Content is passed from the committees for inclusion on the site, and there is a suggestion of putting together a team to further cross committee communication and to provide additional support to the website manager. It would be an advantage to have a working familiarity with social media, Twitter, Facebook etc., but not essential. There will be someone out there, perhaps not a member of the Society yet, who will be interested in the workings of websites and I can assure you that this is very much a role that can be adapted to suit anyone who would be interested in applying.

The site has recently had an extensive overhaul with a reconfigured home page to engage visitors with easily accessible information. It's a useful tool that can be used as a noticeboard by all members of SCS and is particularly useful for introducing the Society to anyone who may be interested in joining. Far easier to jot down **www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk** than search for names and phone numbers! We are gradually putting online application forms for visits, copies of Salisbury in Detail can be ordered, back issues of the magazine can be accessed and you can keep up to date with what is going on both currently and find out about future activities. It is continually developing and it has been my hope that members will turn to **www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk** as their first point of call for information, reference and keeping in touch.

It has been a privilege to have been so involved with this project. I have discovered much and learnt a tremendous amount about the city of Salisbury and surrounding area of South Wilts through the eyes of the Society. If you have any ideas or suggestions, do please email **stephaniedsd@gmail.com** or call me on **01722 502575 / 07710 945113** and I can tell you more.

#### Stephanie Siddons Deighton

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