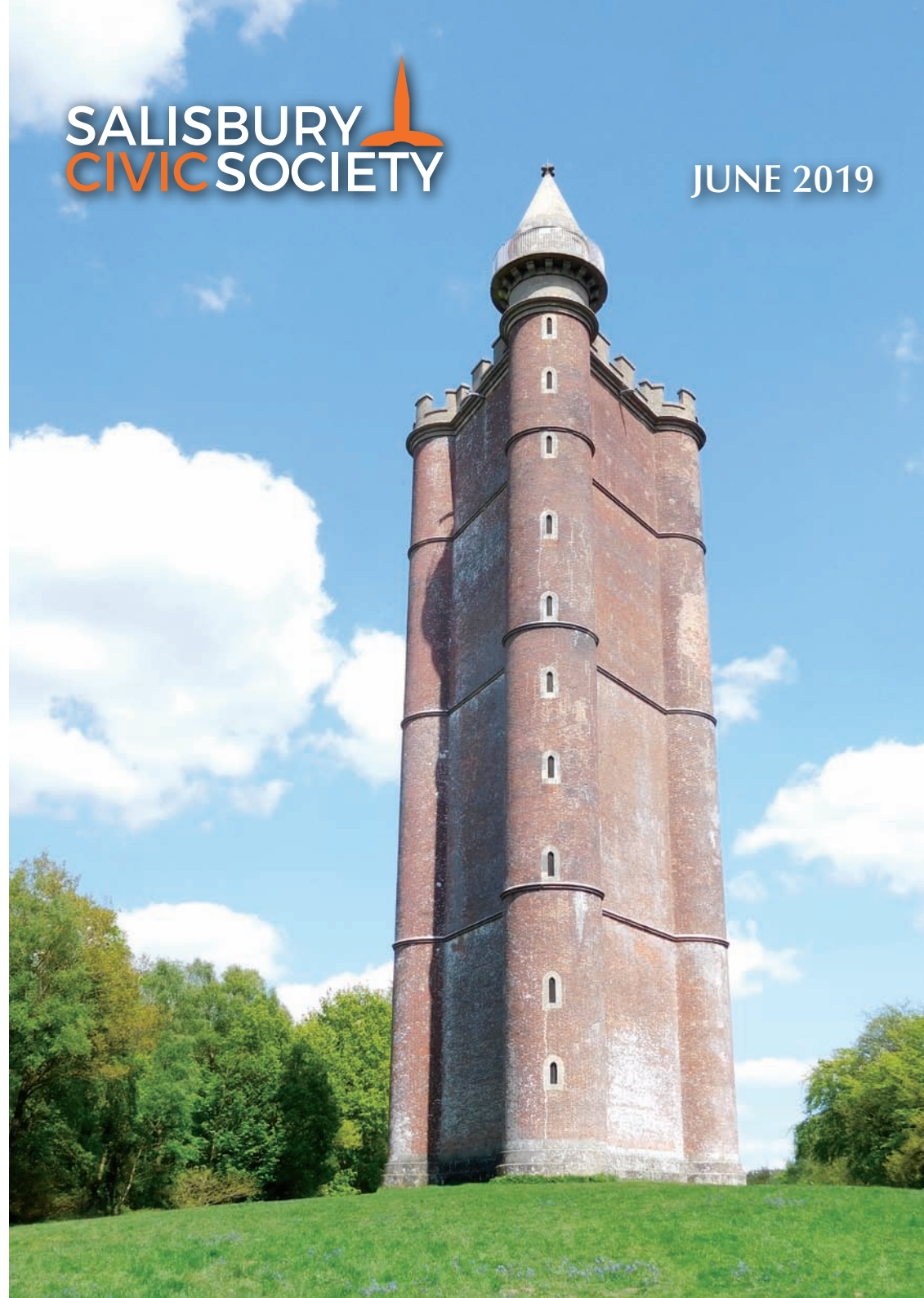




Stirling House, c.1700, everything else around it redeveloped – see page 9



141 Castle Street, riverside elevation of present building – see page 24



Celebrating our **Heritage**, Enhancing our **Environment**, Shaping our **Future**

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

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

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

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

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

Our aims, as set out in our constitution:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ■ <i>To promote high standards of architecture and planning in South Wiltshire</i> | ■ <i>To educate the public in the architecture, history, geography and natural history of South Wiltshire</i> | ■ <i>To secure the preservation, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in South Wiltshire</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Among the many activities of the Society we:

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

We welcome new members of all backgrounds

Cover: King Alfred's Tower, Stourhead

DIARY OF EVENTS 2019

SATURDAY JUNE 22ND

Civic Day

A half day event, with talks and workshop sessions.

Last minute places may still be available.

Email rdeane@madasafish.com, or phone 07974 140888

FRIDAY JULY 12TH, 1.50PM

Visit to Embley Park

Now known as Hampshire Collegiate School, this was the home of Florence Nightingale

See page 24 for further details

MONDAY AUGUST 5TH, 2PM (WALK)

Salisbury's Hidden Art History

led by David Richards

See page 12 for further details

SEPTEMBER 19TH – 22ND

Heritage Open Days

See page 4 for further details

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH

Updating The Wiltshire Pevsner

by Julian Orbach

7.00pm (note changed start time)

**Methodist Church,
St Edmund's Church Street,
Salisbury SP1 1EF**

Free to members: Non members £2.50

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14TH

The History of Theatre and Cinema in Salisbury

by Frogg Moody

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

Free to members: Non members £2.50

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19TH

Open Meeting

Subject not yet decided

**6.45pm Salisbury Arts Centre,
Bedwin Street SP1 3UT**

Open to all

2020

THURSDAY 16TH JANUARY

New Year Party and Annual Awards Presentation

Salisbury Art Centre

Booking details with December magazine

Saintes Visit

The March magazine mentioned the possibility of a visit to Saintes in 2020. This idea has now had to be put back to 2021, so we will be covering it in the magazine during next year.

A Warm Welcome to our New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following to the Society:

Mary and Michael D'Apice, Margaret Downing, Jamie Hobson, Christopher King, Myddelton & Major, Margaret Reese, Hilary Sharp, Step Associates

Editorial

The geographical area covered by the Society was illustrated by a map in the December 2016 magazine, and the same map is on the home page of the Society website – www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk. However it's an area with less than obvious boundaries, being the result of local government reorganisations at various times, and many members are likely to have a slightly hazy perception of it. It's also not that critical a matter, so there's probably not a great risk being run in having an image, on the cover of this issue, which is actually of something not quite in our area at all. The Stourhead estate, in which King Alfred's Tower sits, is certainly almost all in it, but the tower itself is marginally outside, in Somerset. However the tower's distinctive profile is a landmark from many viewpoints within our region, and it does have an entry in the current Wiltshire Pevsner, as well as one in the south Somerset volume. If in his revision of the former Julian Orbach decides to repeat its inclusion of the tower, he can very easily update the entry, since he wrote the one in the Somerset book, when he revised that five years ago.

After referring to some queries raised by Julian in his Salisbury researches in the March magazine, there's a brief coverage of two more, on page 20. Rather more room is given, starting on page 5, to the important matters covered at the Society's Planning Forum on April 11th. The 'Salisbury Recovery' theme obviously has its origins in some very troubling, and indeed tragic, events last year, but it has led to a level of attention to the city from Wiltshire Council which has the potential to be very beneficial. The illustrations of possible improvements to Fisherton Street, on page 6, are not to be taken too literally, not least because funding for the street, from the government's 'Future High Streets Fund', will need to be achieved before much can be done at all. But they do show a positive intent. The fact that Fisherton Street has a character of its own, which mustn't be swept away in some all-purpose '21st Century High Street' approach, is we are told something the relevant authorities are fully aware of.

The subject of the Open Meeting in November is shown as 'not yet decided' in the events diary. We're hoping the themes of the Planning Forum can be returned to, and updates given on what it covered. The September magazine will say whether this can be achieved. That edition will also continue a couple of stories starting this time, including that of the Society's blue plaques, which began in 1989 – though in fact the first plaque was actually green, as can be seen on page 12. Three pages before that comes the start of the rather strange, and sad, tale of Culver Street, in Salisbury's Eastern Chequers. This was a fundamental element in the city's original chequer pattern, which one would rather expect to have been sacrosanct. The story of how Culver Street was in fact largely obliterated, in the 1970s and 80s, will be carried further forward in the next edition.

Richard Deane

Editorial co-ordinator

Photos in this issue, in addition to those credited individually: Richard Deane

Chairman's Report – June 2019

Now that the City of Salisbury enters the summer with many optimistic hopes for enthusiastic revival of retail, cultural and leisure activities for visitors and residents alike, we in the Civic Society are playing our part to put our City back "on the map" as the centre of attraction and interest.

Grants have been secured for early town centre redevelopments from the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership, and now that TH Real Estate have submitted plans for Phase 1 of the Maltings Development along Malthouse Lane, to include a relocated Library, it is hoped the revival of Salisbury will gather pace.

I am very concerned that Wiltshire Council have still given no specific guidance on the future operational style or layout of the new Library and how it will maintain the public services, and have thus drawn justified criticism of the present plans. I have exchanged correspondence with Wiltshire Councillor Pauline Church in the hope we may extract the details so far withheld.

As the Sunday Times declared Salisbury as 'The Best Place to Live' after its national research was published in April, the summary comment was "Salisbury is a beautiful City with a warm and wonderful community that has come through its toughest time". The Civic Society members are a key ingredient of this "community". We welcome the return this year of the Salisbury International Arts Festival as the icing on the cake, and I expect huge numbers will attend the wide range of events organised by Wiltshire Creative.

The Civic Society is now represented on the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Reference Group dealing with activities and campaigns to regenerate Salisbury, and this has included a support letter in connection with a bid from Wiltshire Council for grants from the Government's "High Streets Revival" fund which, if successful, will provide for upgrade works between the Market Place and the Railway Station and Fisherton Street, with its Playhouse/City Hall area, now being labelled as the "Cultural Quarter".

Both Nicola Lipscombe and I have been appointed to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group by Salisbury City Council, and thus we are able to take an active role in promoting those priorities in planning that matter most to local residents.

I have also taken part as one of the judges with John Glen, Wiltshire Councillor Pauline Church and others from local area organisations, in the Schools Challenge which was promoted by the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce and BID whereby many schools and colleges presented their ideas for enhancing the visitor and local experiences in the City centre. The ideas were well researched and illustrated and stimulated much discussion and we hope will be adopted in future plans for the City. The Salisbury Journal wrote a comprehensive description of the submissions, which is well worth looking up.

Looking to the future, I am aiming for us to make closer connection with Schools and Colleges so that the activities of your Society are made known to the younger generations, to stimulate their interest in our mission and programme of events.

The talk given by guest speaker Tim Tatton-Brown at St Thomas's Church in September 2018 was a sell out, and the start delayed while members of the public and members alike crowded

into the church to hear his talk on the History and Architecture of St. Thomas's Church. Tim is not only master of his subject but also enjoyed answering the many questions that followed.

This was a classic example of the Civic Society delivering on its Charitable Objects which include "Educating the public in the architecture, history, geography and natural history of Salisbury and South Wiltshire"

The annual Open Meeting topic in November last year was focused on the Rivers of Salisbury, with most interesting and wide-ranging talks by speakers from the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. It was interesting to note that the comments from the Environment Agency included reference to the ability of the authority to handle a 1 in 100 year flood risk adequately by balancing the flow between existing channels, thus avoiding the need for work digging the existing channels clear. Recent comments on heightened flood risk by Wiltshire Council when promoting their Draft Maltings Masterplan seem to contradict this earlier advice from the Environment Agency.

The long-needed Masterplan is now in the public arena for comments, and feedback will be provided by the Civic Society following considerable discussion and analysis by the Development Committee under the direction of Acting Chairman, Paul Stevens. By the time of this magazine publication the response will have been lodged with Wiltshire Council, and will be seen on the Society Website. It will also be covered in the September magazine.

There is so much more to report but from members' involvement and attendance, you will know how active we are in delivering our programme of Lectures, Walks, Talks and Plaque unveilings. I should like to thank all who serve on the Development Committee, General Purposes Committee and the Trustees of the Executive Committee who work hard to deliver the Objects of the Society, and I encourage anybody who wishes to get involved in any aspect to make contact with me, Vice Chairman Richard Deane or the Secretary, Barrie Sinclair-Kemp.

This magazine is unlikely to have reached many members before the Annual General Meeting on 12th June, and I hope many were able to come along to this, both for the formal business and then to enjoy the talk by Adrian Green from Salisbury Museum about General Pitt-Rivers.

Peter Dunbar
Chairman

Heritage Open Days

Nationally, this year's Heritage Open Days run from Friday September 13th to Sunday September 22nd. The Society's programme is likely to focus on the latter weekend, though with the possibility of events a few days before it.

Currently tours of the Haunch of Venison, and of the Odeon cinema, are being planned, but other visits may be laid on.

Further details will be sent out to members nearer the time.

Planning Forum 2019

The 'Salisbury recovery' process, responding to the nerve agent incidents last year and their impact on the city, has come to embrace quite a wide range of initiatives, and some of the main ones were covered by this year's Planning Forum, which had the overall title 'Staging a Recovery'. This took place at the Methodist Church on April 11th, with two speakers from Wiltshire Council. Tom Dobrashian, who joined the Council relatively recently, has the title 'Director of Economic Recovery, Salisbury and S Wiltshire', while the longer-serving David Milton is 'Team Leader, Major Projects'. He has spoken to the Society before.

Introduction. Tom Dobrashian introduced the presentations, explaining the programme's genesis in the Novichok incidents, and their impact in particular on visitors to the city. There had been some success in encouraging these to return, with a recovery in numbers visiting the cathedral. Looking ahead the hope was that ways could be found to make tourists want to spend longer in the city, which certainly had plenty to attract them to it. David Milton then took up the story, focusing on a bid which was being made to the governments 'Future High Streets Fund'. Announced in October last year, this is a £675 million pot of money which will go towards enabling town centres to find long-term strategies for ensuring their vitality, in the face in particular of pressures on retail from online shopping. Salisbury has submitted an initial expression of interest, backed by letters of support from many local organisations, including the Society. We should find out this summer whether the city's bid has made it through to a second stage.

Future High Streets Fund bid. David explained the local context, which was a 17% drop in footfall since 2015, greatly exacerbated by the Novichok incidents. There was a need to encourage trips to the city centre which involved many different activities, not just shopping, and there was a particular need to encourage young people into the city. The focus of the bid to the fund was on creating a Salisbury Gateway, from the railway station to the Market Place, with therefore a particular

emphasis on Fisherton Street. Discussions were in progress with the rail authorities about improving parking at the station, in a modern attractive way, and there was scope to improve the approach to the station from St Paul's roundabout. In Fisherton Street, the idea would be to build on its existing character, not to seek to transform it into something else. There was potential to upgrade the City Hall frontage on the street, or even, more ambitiously, to take it down and rebuild, to create a plaza leading off the street to City Hall and the Playhouse.

There were several cafes in Fisherton Street, but very few outside tables, due to lack of space. An increase in such space might be achieved by boarding over the Summerlock stream at the start of Water Lane, something the Environment Agency was sympathetic to. And there was certainly potential to make Fisherton Street more attractive by reducing carriageway width, and having wider pavements. It would be great if the particularly interesting green tiled shopfront at No 47 could be put back to its original state, something for which costings had been obtained (by the Society). Son et Lumière was being looked at, for the city generally.

The Central Area Framework. Tom Dobrashian then explained work being done by consultants, Tibbalds Planning & Urban Design of London, to produce a 'Central Area Framework'. This would set out the urban vision for the next 5-10 years, and provide an



Possible improvements to City Hall – conjectural only

Image: Wiltshire Council



Possible improvements at North end of Water Lane – conjectural only

Image: Wiltshire Council

overall masterplan for the central part of the city (slightly wider than the area defined by the ring road), within which more detailed masterplans could be created. The first of these, for the Maltings, would be described a bit later. Tibbalds were looking at opportunities to enhance the city, both aesthetically and financially. Tom commented that as a newcomer he found finding the way round Salisbury a bit problematic, and the city's vibrancy could be improved. The rivers should be more accessible, and the Market Place was a major asset not currently made the most of. He cited 'perceived lack of leadership' as one of the problems, an issue which also came up at a workshop organised for the 'Salisbury brand repositioning' exercise commissioned by Visit Wiltshire. This was not among the initiatives covered at the meeting, but is clearly relevant.

Maltings Masterplan. In the final presentation, David Milton set out the components of the draft Maltings and Central Car park masterplan, consultation on which finished on May 25th. He started with the application for a new library/Travelodge building, in Fisherton Street and Malthouse Lane, and admitted it had been unfortunate this had had to be published before the draft masterplan came out. The latter had now happened, and two other issues had been addressed. Design concerns had led to the architects going away for something of a rethink, and concerns about inadequate provision of library space had led to an increase in its publicly usable floor area, of some 80%. The current library worked fine, but was not future-proof – asbestos made any alterations to it very problematic.

A masterplan was felt to be necessary because earlier proposals for comprehensive redevelopment by the Council's development partners, as seen at the 2017 Open Meeting, were not currently proceeding along the lines

originally hoped for, and the Council felt it needed to set in place overall indications of how the area, which was somewhat wider than the original development site, could best be used. Various considerations had underpinned production of the masterplan. There was a need to improve air quality, by making walking and cycling easier, and improving public transport. However the importance of parking in the Maltings had also come across from the public and traders. Another key issue was the failure of Salisbury, so far, to make the most of its rivers. Public art needed to be included, and the Playhouse was a rare resource, which had to be looked after.

There were two key routes through the area. One, described as a 'major pedestrian boulevard', connected the cultural or creative quarter, centred on the Playhouse and City Hall, to the Market Place, via a new entrance to the Maltings utilising the current library area. The intention here was to create an arcade, accessed by the central archway to the old Market House, with the building open to the roof in the centre. The rest of the upper space would probably be a boutique hotel. The other key route ran north-south, forming a 'green spine' centred on the river Avon. This would create an open area some 40m wide, enabling better flood protection by increasing maximum capacity. Some of the riverside area would have public access, while other parts would be wildlife refuges.

Within this part of the site, a key element was that the coach park would be retained, with hopefully a new welcome point building. There was potential to improve pedestrian and cycle routes through the area, with enhanced links to the River Avon Path to the north, and existing footpaths to the south. As the riverside area headed towards the city centre, it would have a more urban feel, and more commercialisation. To the west of the river was the commercial part of the area,

though uncertainty about Sainsbury's plans made it hard to settle on a fixed shape for development here. Two areas of decked car parking would provide about 1000 mainly short stay spaces, with the visual impact of parking reduced by frontage buildings hiding the cars. It was anticipated that at least 200 dwellings would be fitted in, plus a hotel.

To the southwest was the cultural or creative quarter. As seen earlier, the Fisherton Street proposals envisaged significant improvements to how the quarter presented itself visually. There was scope for the library to eventually have its home here, with art gallery space to accompany it. Developments within the cultural quarter were likely to rely on arts funding, rather than money from the high streets fund if that was forthcoming.

The provisional phasing schedule showed three facets of the masterplan getting underway in 2019. The library/Travelodge building application was of course already in, though the design was due to be amended. An application for the redevelopment of the existing library site was expected within the next few months. The green spine, with the associated coach welcome point, was also shown as something that could start relatively soon, as money was available from the Environment Agency for flood prevention or mitigation work, which would be key to changes to the riverine areas. The cultural quarter might be the next focus, followed by the northern car park area, with dwellings around it, and then the southern car park with its commercial uses around it, plus possibly more dwellings.

Questions. The presentations by Tom and David were followed by many questions, with the supply of them showing no signs of running out by the time the meeting had to be brought to an end. Some points which came out of them were:

Planning status of the Central Area Framework – it will inform the next local plan, expected to emerge in 2020. It will also help to reinforce the Salisbury Neighbourhood Plan, now in the early stages of preparation.

Churchfields – found not to be viable for housing, even with a zero affordable element. However the estate's generation of HGV traffic could be mitigated if car showrooms could be encouraged to move to less central sites. Wiltshire Council and the Highways Agency are in discussion about strategic traffic issues, including the A36.

A transport interchange at the railway station – the Local Enterprise Partnership has provided funding to look at traffic accessibility into the centre of Salisbury, and an interchange is part of the brief for the station site. Better relationships between different transport modes are being looked at, rather than necessarily having a bus station next to the railway one.

Terry Pratchett – agreement that he deserved celebrating in the city, and might be a theme for the projected Son et Lumière system, if this takes off. (Nothing has been heard recently of a project, mooted some time ago, for a Terry Pratchett statue in the city.)

The Young Gallery, and final location of the library – David Milton gave an assurance that though there was no definitive site for it established at present, when the time came for the library to move, there would be somewhere for the gallery to move to as well. One long-term possibility for achieving space for a new permanent library was redevelopment of Summerlock House, currently a government building. But it was always possible that if the library was a success in its new Fisherton Street/Malthouse Lane building, it would remain there.

Young people – a question revealed that there was apparently no-one aged under 40 at the meeting, which the questioner thought indicated a possible weakness in the consultation process. Tom Dobrashian replied that the need to engage young people was something they were very aware of. For the high street funds bid, trouble had been taken to ensure that young people were talked to. A big element of the forthcoming cultural strategy, another facet of the current

effort to look at the future of the city, would be enhancing the offer for young people.

Tom and David were warmly thanked for coming to the meeting to describe and explain several current initiatives. The feeling among the audience was clearly that some very positive work was under way, and that it would be extremely interesting to see how things developed.

Richard Deane

From the archives – Culver Street, and maladministration in high places

There is no really organised Society archive, with most material having been sent to the county records office over the years, first at Trowbridge and now at Chippenham. A visit to the History Centre there is really needed to see exactly what's in their collection. This would also enable inspection of whatever survives from the Society's predecessor body, the Salisbury and District Preservation Trust, which is what this piece refers to. The changeover came in 1985, so the lack of a voluminous easily accessible archive is not surprising.

However some interesting records do remain from those days. A bulky dossier on the Hammersons enquiry, relating to events which led to the creation of the Old George Mall, with quite a few historic buildings perishing or being damagingly altered along the way, would repay scrutiny. There are also several Trust newsletters surviving, one of them referred to in the last magazine in the context of the Compleat Artist building. Another, from June 1981, records an interesting and very unusual tale, written by Trust member Dorothy Bowes, and headed 'The Demolition of Invicta Terrace – a Case of Maladministration'.

Invicta Terrace, 83-107 Culver Street, stood at the south-eastern end of that street, which for those unfamiliar with Salisbury's Eastern Chequers runs parallel to the ring road, just north of St Ann Street. Behind the terrace was the Invicta leather works, a noted local employer. The newsletter article records that in 1975 the recently formed Salisbury District Council gave itself consent to demolish the terrace in order to build old people's flats. The site was in the conservation area, and next to the Grade II* listed Stirling House in Payne's Hill (photo on back cover). The Department of the Environment, or its predecessor, had previously been alerted to dubious behaviour by the local authority about the site, and the decision to demolish was the subject of a further complaint.

After the local ombudsman failed to take action, Mrs Bowes complained to the Parliamentary Ombudsman. After two years of investigation, the ombudsman found the DoE guilty of maladministration on nine counts, not least that it had repeatedly stated that the local council had met all the statutory requirements, without checking whether this was accurate. The department was required to make a 'full and unreserved apology'.



Left: Invicta Terrace, early 1970s Photo: Salisbury Museum

Right: What's there now

This must have been satisfying for the complainants, but did of course not bring back Invicta Terrace, which the photo shows to be a simple unpretentious row of buildings, not of listable quality but still adding to the historic variety of this part of the Eastern Chequers. We can however be grateful that Stirling House, which is in the first rank of city buildings, had previously escaped possible destruction despite the local council having refused to serve a Building Preservation Notice. It was saved through purchase and repair by private owners, Mr and Mrs Warren-Jones.

A process was now underway which eventually saw Culver Street reduced from a key part of the chequers system to two short no through roads, with a large car stack in between. In the southern of these two roads the Milford Street Bridge Project's mosaic, and its information board, give an excellent picture of what's been lost. Future magazines will take the story further.

Next time: *Culver Street meets the Road to Nowhere, and comes out of the encounter second-best.*

The next plaques

In the September 2018 magazine we stated that our next plaque, to Dorothy Brooke, would be erected 'in the coming winter' on the St John Street wall of Malmesbury House. Winter has come and gone and Spring turned to Summer. Where, you ask, is the plaque? We have to confess that we were over-optimistic. We still intend to put up this plaque, and it may, indeed, still be our next one – but it won't be on the St John Street wall, which turned out to be unsuitable for our purpose. We believe we have found a satisfactory alternative location, but are not yet in a position to confirm it. More details will be published in the next magazine.

Beyond Dorothy Brooke, we have a lengthy list of people who would merit a plaque, and are now focusing on four in particular, though the exact timings are not yet determined. These four will be commemorating the Chief Constable of Salisbury responsible for organising the 1919 Children's Peace Pageant; one of England's major photographers, who gave us iconic pictures of Scott's 1910-13 Antarctic Expedition; a World War I head of naval intelligence in charge of breaking German codes; and a pioneer of simultaneous translation, the Chief Interpreter at the post World War II Nuremberg trials. Again, watch this space.

James Woods

The Civic Society's blue plaques

A blue plaque is a permanent sign installed in a public place in the United Kingdom to commemorate a link between that location and a famous person, event, or former building on the site. The local schemes trace their origins back to the scheme for London first launched in 1866, and now run by English Heritage. The 'blue' designation very much belongs to that particular scheme – elsewhere many plaques are also blue, but there is no restriction to that colour and other ones are often encountered.

The original reason for the Society's plaques being blue is not in fact to do with that being the most common colour, but rather because blue was previously the Society colour, prior to a new logo being designed and introduced in 2015. The first ever Society plaque was a green one, whose creation in 1989 is described below.

The Society is the only local organisation in Salisbury and South Wiltshire with an organised plaques programme. The number put up by it has now reached 25, with the general ambition currently being to put up two more each year, where this is feasible. The most recent one, to the English composer John Marsh, went up in July last year. It was hoped to put up another one, to Dorothy Brooke who founded the equine charity known as Brooke, late in 2018 or soon after, but the project has been delayed, as described on the previous page. The next few likely candidates are also listed there.

The Society's General Purposes Committee reviews candidates for plaques (which may be nominated by anyone, whether or not Civic Society members). The review takes note of anniversaries or other relevant dates for installation, as well as the characteristics of the candidates. They will need to have a strong connection to the South Wiltshire area (by birth, death or residence) and have made a significant contribution to local or national history or culture. The Society will undertake research into each candidate to determine his or her suitability. Overall, there is quite a long list of potential candidates.

Once a recipient has been selected, suitable sites for a plaque are sought – birthplace, residence, or place of work. Sometimes the proud owner of a site approaches the Society with a proposal to put up a plaque, but often the Society has to negotiate with site owners to find out if they are happy to have a plaque installed. If all is well, draft wording for the proposed plaque is circulated to all interested parties (such as surviving relatives, site owners, and relevant institutions and societies) and a final text is approved after taking all comments on board. An application for Listed Building Consent is made, if relevant. The final text is sent to a plaque manufacturer and a suitable person approached to unveil the plaque and make a short speech.

The date of unveiling is agreed after liaison with all concerned, including site owners and the plaque unveiler. At this point guests are invited to the unveiling ceremony, which may include the mayor and other VIPs, media representatives, and people associated with the subject of the plaque. Refreshments are provided on site or nearby.

Although blue round plaques are the norm, there is scope to vary this if necessary, as with the plaque on 51 High Street, Salisbury, which commemorates use of the building by Stonehenge Woollen Industries, and was linked to the Society's provision of a replacement wooden sheep there. To fit in with its particular location, this is rectangular, and has black lettering on a cream background.



Benjamin Banks plaque



A Banks cello



Salisbury & Wilton RDC plaque

Salisbury's Hidden Art History

An Exploration of the Rich Visual Heritage of the City's Highways and Byways



Photo: David Richards

Salisbury is a medieval city whose citizens from earliest times have invested in decorative and fine arts to enhance their city and demonstrate their prosperity to the world at large. Houses, businesses and civic buildings display an extraordinarily rich array of decorative and fine art from the distant past to the present. The decorative art still visible includes works of carved wood & stone, plaster work, iron, glass and heraldic images. The fine art includes uniquely beautiful buildings, statues and paintings.

The intention behind many of these creations is multifaceted and occasionally deceptive. The walk will examine their meaning and chronology.

Meet outside Salisbury Information Centre, Fish Row Monday 5 August at 2.00pm. Cost £5 for members and £6 for non-members. Applications to Brenda Hunt preferably by email: brendahunt@clara.co.uk or phone: 01722 322657.



Gun end of base stone, Old Sarum, collapsed and with its lettering hidden – see page 23



The actual gun end, a few feet away

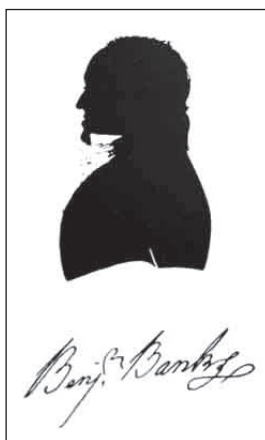


Puzzle picture – see page 23

The Society has made an effort to include as many words as possible on later plaques to tell more of the stories behind them. To take this further, the Society is developing its Blue Plaque webpage on its website at www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk/about-salisbury/blue-plaques/. There is also an independent website, SalisburyPlaques.org, where more details of the stories behind these and other commemorative plaques in Salisbury can be found.

We plan in future magazines to cover all the plaques put up by the Society, at varying levels of detail. The first two are covered here.

Benjamin Banks. The idea of putting up a plaque to local violin maker Benjamin Banks the violin maker was first suggested in October 1988, by the Society's former President and then Patron, Lord Congleton. After an initial response that this might be something for the local council, the Society took the idea up, with responsibility at that time being taken by the Development Committee rather than the GP one. Christopher Congleton then took on the task of raising the money for the plaque, with an eventual cost, including fixing, of about £530. Even without allowing for inflation this is significantly more than the cost for a plaque today, so the Society has done well in finding a more economical process for achieving its plaques. Mouldings, the local builders, who have been corporate members of the Society since 2001, put up our plaques free of charge in lieu of their subscription.



The Banks plaque can be found at first floor level on the Sailors Society building in Catherine Street. As mentioned earlier, this is the only one of our plaques which is green, all subsequent ones, except those at 51 High Street and the statue to Henry Fawcett in Salisbury Market Place, being blue. Benjamin Banks was one of the leading C18th English makers of Amati violins. He had a business in Catherine Street for forty years making cellos, violins and violas. One of his violins is owned by Salisbury City Council and loaned to the leader of the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra. At least two other Banks instruments are currently being played by Salisbury musicians. Bank's grave is in St Thomas's Church's south churchyard.

The plaque was unveiled on July 17th 1989, by leading violin player, and member of a noted local musical family, the late Iona Brown. A photo of the unveiling is in the records and is an interesting period piece, showing several leading Society members of the time. We've never gone in much for group photos, so this is a useful survival. The next three plaque unveilings don't have easily traceable photos, but after that the record becomes fuller.

Salisbury and Wilton Rural District Council. This plaque is at 26 Endless Street, where the council first met in 1953. It had been formed in 1934, and lasted till the formation of Salisbury District Council in 1974. The Society's funding of the plaque was helped by a grant from that latter council, a type of assistance not available in recent times. The plaque was unveiled on July 10th 1998, with it not being clear why there had been a nine year gap since the first one. A note that the plaque's cost, minus fixing, was expected to be around £150, as opposed to the total £530 of the first one, may indicate that paying a bit more than was necessary the first time round had a discouraging effect. After 26 Endless Street, further plaques came rather more rapidly.

Neil Beagrie and Richard Deane

Annual Report 2018 – Development Committee

1. Planning Applications

The old Salisbury District Council area remains as the Society's geographical remit, with probably about 2000 applications affecting it submitted during the year – there is now no easy way of obtaining an exact figure. 262 applications were selected for examination, resulting in 19 letters of objection or comment being sent in by the Society, a low figure by historical standards, though it's difficult to read much into this.

2. McCarthy & Stone, Castle Street/Endless Street

After a presentation at the end of 2016, for an uninspiring scheme to redevelop the large Aviva office site with 100+ flats and houses for people over 60, a better designed and more contemporary scheme was approved late in 2017. Having commented favourably on some potentially interesting brickwork details, and been involved in the choice of specific bricks, the Society's main involvement during 2018 was to help one of the local conservation officers with assessment of and comment on some trial panels put up by the builders, to demonstrate how the detailing would work in practice. After one or two problems had been addressed, the panels were moderately encouraging, but it would be not until the summer of 2019 that the full impact of the scheme could be judged.

3. Old Post Office site, Castle Street

The long-running eyesore of the old Post Office building, and other empty buildings to its north, finally seemed to have a chance of being resolved, with a developer moving in with a largely residential scheme. This would see most of the buildings converted, with one new one replacing an uninspired current structure, already due to disappear under

the approved, but in the end never implemented, previous scheme for a boutique hotel. The new scheme's proponents attended a committee meeting to explain their ideas, which generally seemed very reasonable, but complications seemed to arise over whether the new building should have a traditional or a contemporary design, with the Society expressing a preference for the latter, as long as it was well done. By the end of the year no planning application had been submitted, and the eyesore remained. The developers appear to still be committed to their scheme, and it can only be hoped that 2019 will actually see some progress on the site.

4. The Maltings

In November 2017 the Open Meeting had given a very encouraging picture of how the long-promised Maltings and Central Car Park redevelopment might finally take off, but 2018 was rather less positive. With the national factor of the decline of retail, and the local one of the Novichok incidents, combining to create a lack of incentive for the developers to move ahead, ambitions had by the end of 2018 become more modest. The Society was given a preview of one projected scheme on the edge of the site, a new building to house Salisbury Library plus a Travelodge Hotel, on Fisherton Street/Malthouse Lane/Priory Square, though the application was not submitted till 2019. A further one, for redevelopment of the current library premises, was expected later that year. The Society has long supported a move for the library, to free up the façade of the old Market House as an imaginative new entrance to the Maltings, but the fact that no major scheme for that whole area is currently in sight slightly blurs the picture.

5. Design Review

The idea of independent design review, whereby panels of experts are assembled to scrutinise important design proposals and give a disinterested view on them, is long-established, and gave rise to the local Design Forum, until this was closed down once the unitary authority replaced Salisbury District Council in 2009. The proposed new library building was felt by the Society to merit such independent review, but an attempt to get Wiltshire Council to accept this had no success. As with prior efforts to return to a design review system, the council claims that it has its own in-house expertise which renders independent review unnecessary, something the Society has never accepted. It will continue to press the claims of design review, which in other parts of the country is seen as a valuable part of the planning process, but continued frustration is likely to be the outcome.

6. Planning Forum and Open Meeting

The April Planning Forum dealt with the idea of new settlements, which are a way of catering with the inexorable demand for further housing land, without just adding yet more developments on the periphery of places like Salisbury. A new settlement at Cambourne in Cambridgeshire proved an inspiring example of what could be done in this field, while useful lessons also came from the preparatory stages of one at North Whiteley, SE of Winchester. A statement at the meeting by a Wiltshire Councillor, that the new settlement concept was now under active consideration by local planners, was extremely encouraging.

It has originally been hoped that the Open Meeting in November might cover public art within the Maltings redevelopment, but the lack of any progress on the Maltings front meant that the subject of local rivers formed the theme instead. Samantha Stork of

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust dealt with the nature aspects of rivers, while Guy Parker and Aly Maxwell from the Environment Agency covered the flooding question. The use of rivers by humans was covered from within the Society, and the meeting, which was extremely well attended, was judged to be very successful. It provided further evidence of the importance of rivers, to Salisbury in particular, even if the idea of the city having five of them doesn't entirely stand up to scrutiny.

7. Awards Scheme

2018 saw work to existing buildings being looked at by the awards scheme, with a judging panel chaired by well-known local archaeologist (and Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire) Phil Harding. The Lady Radnor Award, for overall winner, was given to an extension to Cabbage Cottage at Netton, in the Woodford Valley. There were four ordinary award winners – an extension at St Francis Church in Salisbury, conversion of St John's church in Lower Bemerton to community use, conversion of the former King's Arms in Downton to residential, and repairs and improvements to the Sawmill Bridge at Wilton House. Commendations went to extensions at Downton Primary School, and to the Marsh Chequer community art project, at the corner of Brown Street and Trinity Street in Salisbury.

8. Other involvements

The committee's chairman and secretary were both involved with city walks which formed part of a symposium organised by the Royal Town Planning Institute in September. The theme of the walks was how buildings in Salisbury could illustrate various planning issues. The threat to the Britford Lane fields from housing proposals remained an underlying one during the year, with an eye being kept on a long-delayed enquiry, now postponed till early 2019, which would

determine whether Wiltshire Council's list of preferred housing sites would be adopted. If some of the sites on it are ruled to be unsatisfactory by the enquiry inspector, the Britford Lane fields may come back into the reckoning. The Society's area stops just short of Bapton, which is a very small and scattered settlement the other side of Wylde, but with no similar organisation taking responsibility for that part of Wiltshire, the case of a severe threat to a listed cob cottage there was deemed to be worth notifying to the council conservation officers.

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. Links with the CPRE were rather weaker than they previously had been, but the end of the year saw a significant upturn in this respect.

Richard Deane

Alph(a)

This banner, outside the Baptist church in West Winterslow, is no surprise in its advertising of the well-known and long-running Alpha course, which seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith. What is perhaps more unusual is the actual wording – 'Alpha runs here' may not be the most obvious way of putting the message across. Is it too far-fetched to detect a possible influence from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's 'Alph the sacred river'? His poem *Kubla Khan*, notoriously truncated (or so he liked to claim anyway) by a knock on the front door by the 'person from Porlock' as he was in full compositional swing, begins:

*In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree:
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea.*

Coleridge was a Devon man, and with no obvious reason for giving a sacred river the name 'Alph' it is possible that his brain, with a certain amount of opium apparently present in it, drew on the Alphin brook, a somewhat muddy and not obviously sacred minor tributary of the Exe, which gives its name to the Exeter suburb of Alphington. If the name did start out in this somewhat unstructured manner, a bit of further careering this way and that along its course is not impossible, and an influence on the Baptist church banner in passing cannot be ruled out. But some theories are probably best put forward tentatively, rather than being explored to any final resolution.



Annual Report 2018 – General Purposes Committee

The General Purposes Committee (GPC) is responsible for organising lectures, visits, Blue Plaques, HeritageOpen Days, publicity and a quarterly magazine 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.

Two new officers joined the Committee during 2018: Frogg Moody, a well-known local historian, and Sara Blackburn, a licenced conveyancer, who began to work freelance during the year. Both were initially without portfolio, but Sara rapidly found herself helping out with Heritage Open Days. All our officers contributed most effectively to the Society's programme. James Woods remained as Chair; Janet Patch was in charge of blue plaques; Hadrian Cook supported Neil Beagrie over Heritage Open Days; and Neil Beagrie (publicity), Judy Howles (lectures), Brenda Hunt (visits), and Lis Woods (minutes) all continued to discharge their own responsibilities admirably, while at the same time helping others as required. Sadly, Sara has now had to resign after about a year in post, as she found it impossible to combine successfully the demands of her job, family and outside interests.

Lectures. Four lectures were given in 2018, three in the Sanctuary of Salisbury Methodist Church and one in St Thomas's Church. On 8 March, Rosalind Johnson gave a very informative talk on the history of the Quakers in Salisbury, tracing their progress from their first documented appearance in 1657 through to the occupation in 2010 of their current meeting house on the Old Manor site. At the AGM on 6 June we were treated to a talk by Hadrian Cook on the suburbanisation of Salisbury, in which he argued that, for geological and other reasons, Salisbury's growth was not typical of much urban development. On 20 September, Tim Tatton-Brown took us through the history and architecture of St Thomas's Church in a lecture that filled the church with a capacity audience – so large, indeed, that he was unable to walk round the church as he had planned. Finally, on 8 November, Richard Deane and Rod Baillie Grohman, former Cathedral stonemasons, entertained and enlightened us with accounts of their hazardous exploits during the late 1970s and 1980s in repairing the Cathedral spire.

Blue Plaques. On Sunday 8 July 2018, we were reminded of the existence of a somewhat neglected English composer, John Marsh, through a concert in the Guildhall of three of the symphonies he wrote in Salisbury in the late 1770s, and the unveiling of a commemorative blue plaque by the editor of his voluminous and historically important diaries, Brian Robins, on a house in which Marsh lived, now the offices of Myddelton & Major in 49 High Street. We had hoped to commemorate the influential animal welfare campaigner, Dorothy Brooke, as well, but problems concerning the location of the plaque necessitated a postponement till 2019.

Visits. Four very successful visits were organised during the year. The first was in conjunction with the Tisbury History Society, who provided most knowledgeable and enthusiastic guides to several highlights of the village of Tisbury, including the 12th century parish church of St John the Baptist and Place Farm Barn, as well as private houses and gardens. On Thursday 7 June, back by popular demand, the Society's fourth visit to Norrington Manor was, as usual, fully subscribed. On 11 September, following its visit to Salisbury in 2017, the Bristol Civic Society hosted a reciprocal visit to its city, focusing on its heritage buildings and docks, and recent regeneration. Finally, on a sunny 1 October, David Richards took us in the footsteps of



The Secret Garden at St Clement's, looking west – see page 21



Window head at the Quaker Meeting House, almost certainly originally from St Clement's Church

medieval pilgrims round city centre sites that had once been on the pilgrim trail – including the site of a 13th century Dominican Priory, destroyed at the command of Henry VIII, and reborn, 450 years later – as Sainsbury's supermarket.

Magazine and Publicity. Neil Beagrie has publicised the Society's activities across a wide range of media, to the great benefit of Society members. Magazine production has been maintained, in the continuing absence of a formal editor, by Richard Deane, with the help of Salisbury Printing in laying out its pages.

Heritage Open Days. Two Haunch of Venison tours on 7 and 8 September were fully booked, having attracted a mixture of locals and visitors from surrounding counties. Informal feedback was very positive. Over the same period Hadrian Cook led two visits over the Harnham Water Meadows, and participants appreciated the systems of channels and hatches they were shown and the explanations of the operation and role of the meadows in conservation.

Other activities. The Society took the opportunity to put on, in St John's Place, Lower Bemerton, two films in the series Britain on Film hired to us by the Independent Cinema Office on very favourable terms. The first, on 24 January, showed a major collection of rare archive films charting the history of the UK's railways up to the end of the age of steam. The second, on 7 November, was Rural Life – a compilation of a dozen short films covering a wide range of rural activities from 1904 – 1984. Both films were well attended despite the location of the screenings at the very edge of town, and the response to them so encouraging that we have decided to continue this initiative in 2019.

James Woods

Pevsner Puzzles in Salisbury

To follow on from the questions arising from Julian Orbach's revision of the Wiltshire Pevsner which were highlighted in the March magazine, here are a couple more:

Font at St Edmund's, Salisbury. The church is recorded as having an octagonal C13th font made of Purbeck marble. This quite important piece must have presumably found a new home when the church became redundant and was eventually converted into the Arts Centre. Does anyone know where it is? The whereabouts of medieval bench ends, built into the choir stalls and organ case at St Edmund's, are also a mystery.

Angels at St Thomas's, Salisbury. The description of St Thomas's as 'the Church of the Angels', currently being used in connection with the appeal there, is well merited. As well as the very prominent timber ones on the wonderful collection of roofs, and others in medieval embroidery and wall paintings, are the slightly more tucked away ones in the chancel. These are clearly from the Victorian period, painted on zinc. Julian would rather like to know who added them to the church.



Angels in the chancel,
St Thomas's Church

St Clement's Fisherton, Salisbury's Lost Medieval Church

In September 2017 we had a talk about the 'Secret Garden' project in the former St Clement's churchyard. The after talk questions showed an appetite for more about the history of the churchyard and so Steve Webster, archaeologist, was invited back on 14 March 2019 to speak on St Clement's, Fisherton's lost church. He told us of his involvement, a brief history of Fisherton and the church and the contemporary history of an interesting gravestone. Steve was part of the project from the outset, managing the archaeological aspect of the work and joining in with the gardening. The church was demolished in 1852, and the site is now surrounded by houses.

Fisherton was an Anglo Saxon settlement of fishermen on the River Nadder. In Domesday Book Fisertone was a village of 50-100 people including 1 slave. It predates Salisbury. It was not known precisely where the manor was. As Salisbury developed, Fisherton grew towards it and provided services not available (or allowed) in Salisbury e.g. bear baiting. There was a triangular village green just off Fisherton Street, which was cut through by the coming of the railway.

There are paintings of the church by John Butler for Colt Hoare's History of Wiltshire.

The church was cruciform with the addition of a north aisle and transept and had a square tower. The first stone church dated from the 1100s, with the tower added in the 15th century to house 4 bells. Colt Hoare thought it was the earliest church in the diocese of Salisbury. There was a lot of local anger at demolition of the church, though it was described in an article in the Journal as squalid. (The article was written by the firm undertaking the demolition.)

Some material from the church was used to build its replacement, St Paul's church nearby, whose tower is of the same plan and design as that of St Clement's. It is not known what was done with material from the demolition of the chancel. Could it be in the gardens of Churchfields Road? The wall monuments and font from St Clement's were transferred to St Paul's. The Water Board

plan of 1854 shows only the chancel of the church remaining, though the graveyard was still open for 4 years after the demolition of the church. It became overcrowded and its use ceased with the opening of Devizes Road Cemetery in 1856.

Fisherton was a poor parish. Possible benefactors include Godric who held the village before the Norman Conquest when it was given to Hugh of Avranches who was Earl of Chester. The Aucher family held it in 1242 (they gave their name to the parish, in a corrupted form as Anger). No monuments from this period survive. A Poorhouse was built in 1648 for 260 poor weavers of Fisherton. The parish contained more people than the agricultural land could sustain.

The church was repaired several times between 1742 and 1803, but the site was too small to keep pace with the explosion of Fisherton's population, which rose to 4000 in the mid 1800s. Contributing to this were several institutions: the gaol, infirmary, a workhouse and an asylum. The churchyard was expanded in 1788 and 1808, but by the 1840s was very over-crowded. The church sat on a low mound near the river, and the fact that the ground is now flat may be evidence that soil was imported to raise the level of the graveyard and allow more burials. In 1849 a cholera epidemic killed 10% of the population, and the pressure to bury this many people in a short space of time may

have led to double deck burials. Another indication of the burgeoning size of the population is the fact that the old church had seating for 60, but a regular congregation of 120. The new church of St Pauls was built with seating for 600.

Tidying and excavation of the site has located the chancel, grave stones have been recorded and individuals researched. The stone slabs found match the recorded dimensions of the chancel. One grave of a gardener from Mompesson House shows damage from the demolition of the church. Many grave monuments were moved at this time. During the uncovering of the chancel floor, one of first words encountered on a well-preserved slab was martyrdom. This relates to the story of John Thorpe – the owner of the largest inn in Fisherton (the Sun Inn) and the person in charge of the county jail. John would have been one of the richest men in Fisherton in the mid-1600s, but his political leanings lead to his downfall.

In 1655 the future king Charles II was in exile in Europe and Oliver Cromwell was the ruler in Britain. Charles supported a group of people, the Sealed Knot, who launched a rebellion against Cromwell's rule. In the North and Midlands the rebellion was quickly foiled by Parliamentary spies, but in the south Colonel John Penruddock pressed ahead and captured Salisbury. John Thorpe joined the rebellion, releasing all prisoners in the jail who would support the cause and confiscating the horses belonging to the Assizes court.

The rebels were eventually defeated by Parliamentary soldiers and 139 of them were captured and tried, with 14 being executed and many of the others transported to the colonies as slaves. Seven Salisbury men were hanged in the market square on 3rd May 1655, including John

Thorpe. However, there was a happy ending of sorts, as in 1660 when Charles ascended to the throne, John's wife Elizabeth had all the family's property returned to her and she was placed in charge of the jail.

The later life of the churchyard, after the church was demolished, is evidenced by a number of gravel paths and the planting of several exotic tree species, including Corsican Pines, Himalayan Pines and a Coastal Redwood. These seem to have been plants which were left over from the laying out of Devizes Road cemetery, at which time the churchyard became a formal Victorian garden. More recently the Council used to keep the cemetery as a park.

A St Clement's dedication is generally considered to have Viking connections as it is found in Norse ports. In 1003 Sweyn Forkbeard sacked Wilton and by 1016 the Danish attack culminated in the conquest of England and Cnut becoming king. At around this time we get the first indication of a Danish lord of Fisherton manor, and it maybe that it was this man, Haimo, who built and dedicated the first church. There are however tantalising suggestions for the presence of a circular or oval ditch around the churchyard, maybe indication of an early Christian origin for the site.

The talk generated many questions, one of which was whether a window head, of Chilmark stone and currently at the Quaker meeting house, is really from St Clement's (see photo page 19). All the evidence points to that being its origin. Other questions related to the reason for the name change from St Clement's to St. Paul's, and a suggestion that the plan of St Lawrence Stratford sub Castle is identical.

Excitingly, there is yet more to discover.

Judy Howles

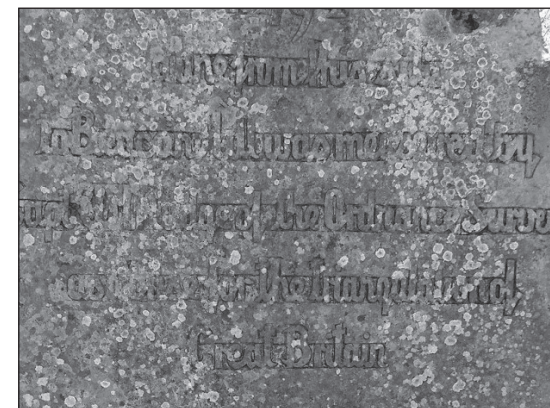
Gun end of base

One or two members with a liking for maps may be familiar with a reference, on older one inch Ordnance Survey maps of the Salisbury area, to 'Gun, end of base', not far from Old Sarum. The wording is repeated on current two and a half inch (or equivalent) maps, but the smaller scale ones now just show 'Mon', for 'monument'. Some light has now been shed on the rather obscure longer terminology by the collapse of a stone which had previously stood beside the pavement, between the hill fort and the Beehive roundabout (photo P13). A local historian asked us if we were planning to do something to get the stone put back, which meant finding out more about its significance.

As can be seen here, it has some remarkably gawky lettering, which doesn't encourage close scrutiny, but ultimately reveals the information 'In 1794 a line from this site to Beacon Hill was measured by Capt W Mudge of the Ordnance Survey as a base for the triangulation of Great Britain'. So the 'end of base' is the end of a survey base line, one of many used across southern England, for a map-making exercise at a time of possible French invasion.

The 'gun' part of the map description remains to be explained, and the answer is that the 'end' word has a dual function. As well as referring to the base line, it also denotes the end of a gun. And visible in the field just beyond the stone's proper position is indeed the end of a gun barrel, the rest of which is buried in the ground (photo page 13). This is what Captain Mudge rested his theodolite on, and with no particular reason for moving it, it's still there today.

Since the original collapse, someone has turned the stone over so that the inscription is now hidden. Laverstock and Ford Parish Council have asked Wiltshire Highways, who they perceive to be the owners, to put the stone back. Niceties of exact land ownership aside, Highways are as likely as anyone to achieve this, though it may take a while. There may be a case for the Society thinking about then adding some information nearby, with a rather clearer record of the stone's purpose, but that's something for the future.



The stone's rather unlovely lettering

Puzzle Corner (see photo on page 13)

This 15" wide face is on a Grade 1 listed building, within half a mile of Salisbury Cathedral, and in a very open and easily accessible location, about 10' from the ground. Yet it seems to be remarkably little known, something that's probably been the case for the 600 or so years it's been there. The answer to where it is will be in the next issue.

141 Castle Street

This office building was originally built in the 1970s, as the national headquarters of the long-defunct Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas. Having decided not to proceed with use of the current system which allows easy change of use for office to residential conversion, developers have now put in a full application, to demolish the building and construct 66 flats, in two blocks. The Society hasn't objected to the principle of this, or to the proposed Castle Street elevation, but it has objected to the one facing the river Avon, at the point where the Mill Stream splits off from it.



Proposed design of riverside elevation

The design shows what is stated to be a 'riverside wharf' treatment, for an area which never had such wharfs, and it isn't great architecture whatever the context. An unresolved relationship to the river was particularly criticised in the Society's objection, and the need to create a broader riverside green strip emphasised.

As the photo (back cover) shows, it's possible peering through the greenery to perceive something currently there which is not unattractive, though badly let down by the hard concrete riverside edge where it comes forward to the river on the left. Conversations with the Environment Agency apparently remain to be had, and the design seems likely to change.

Embley Park Visit

Visit to Hampshire Collegiate School formerly known as Embley Park, the home of Florence Nightingale. Friday 12th July. Meet at the School at 1:50pm. Members £5, non-members £6.

Applications to Brenda Hunt preferably by email: brendahunt@clara.co.uk, or phone: **01722 322657**

Formerly known as Embley Park, the main building was originally constructed in the 16th and 17th centuries. When the Nightingale family bought the estate in 1825 they made substantial changes to the Manor House adding a West Wing, a new porch, a bay and balcony. Later Embley Park became a day and boarding school and is now known as Hampshire Collegiate School.

Members will be given a guided tour by Dr Russ Foster, a former head of History at the school.

OFFICERS as at 1st June 2019

PRESIDENT

Dame Rosemary Spencer DCMG

VICE PRESIDENTS

Mr Ken Wiltshire
Brigadier Alastair Clark

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Peter Dunbar (Chairman)
p.dunbar212@btinternet.com
01722 417847

Richard Deane (Vice-Chairman,
acting membership secretary)
rdeane@madasafish.com
07974 140888

Barrie Sinclair-Kemp (Secretary)
bsinclairkemp@aol.com

Adrian Harris (Treasurer)
adrian.harris62@ntlworld.com

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

James Woods (GPC)
lisandjames@gmail.com

Neil Beagrie (Publicity)
neil@beagrie.com

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

Richard Deane (Secretary)
rdeane@madasafish.com

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

Ed Jameson
jamesonkempsey@gmail.com

Dan Roycroft
dan@atlasplanninggroup.co.uk

Lynne Pearson
lynnempearson@talktalk.net

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

Hadrian Cook
hadrian@salisburywatermeadows.org.uk

Frogg Moody
frogg@timezonepublishing.com

Jamie Hobson
jamie.hobson@icloud.com

These lists do not incorporate changes resulting from the AGM. Updated lists will appear in the September magazine.