



Annual General Meeting to be held on 15th June 2023 at 6.30pm at the Methodist Church, Salisbury

Agenda

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks from the President of the Society, Alastair Clark
2. Apologies for absence, Rosemary Pemberton, Hon Secretary
3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2022.
4. Matters arising from minutes
5. Chair-person's annual report
6. Receipt of Trustees Reports and Accounts
7. Election of the Chair and Trustees. The Chair and existing Trustees are willing to stand again. Election of new trustee, Jamie Hobson
8. Any other Business

The meeting will be followed by a talk from the President of the National Farmers Union, Minette Batters, entitled 'The Future of the Countryside and Food Production'.

Annual Report for the year 2022.

Minutes of the 2022 AGM, held at the Methodist Church on 15 June 2022.

42 members were in attendance

The President opened the meeting, remarking in particular on the success of the awards ceremony in January, which had covered both the 2021 awards scheme and the 2020 one.

Apologies were received from:-

Heather and David Carpenter, Elaine Milton, Hadrian Cook, Margaret Vacha, Melodie and Nigel Brookes, Shirley Evans, Rory and Mira Guinness, Viki and Jonathan Brunskill, Mike Moody, Jennifer Hoare, Jennifer Morrish, Gale Glynn, Neil Burton and Caroline Dakers, Liz Slater, Peter Saunders, Rosemary Allen, Ruth Hawley, Jennifer Blake, Ruth Newman, Rosemary Pemberton, Mary Parker, Neil Beagrie, Susanna and Richard Denniston, Margaret Willmot, Barbara Smith, Alan Mitchell, Wendy English, Rosemary Spencer, Kirsten and Owen Deverill-Jenkins, Ron and Sylvia Smith, Tom Ridley, Anne Woolley, Kate O'Connor, Paul and Janet Draper, Adrian Harris.

Approval of the minutes of the last AGM, held on 29 September 2021 by Zoom, was proposed by J Hobson and seconded by P Ibbs. The minutes were unanimously approved.

There were no matters arising.

The Chair presented her report, which had been circulated with the AGM papers. She concluded that the Society continued to be a successful and highly regarded organisation.

The Treasurer presented the annual accounts, which showed the society in a healthy financial position. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by J Hobson and seconded by P Harding. The accounts were unanimously approved.

Trustee Election. There were no other nominations and with all existing Trustees, including the Chair willing to stand again, they were re-elected with no objections. The President paid tribute to the work which the Chair was continuing to carry out. The Chair mentioned the need to establish a Society communications team, and asked anyone interested in becoming involved to contact her.

Any other business. There was none.

The AGM was followed by a talk by Phil Harding, entitled 'Along the Line: a Life in Archaeology'.

Chair's Annual Report 2022

2022 saw a return to a full and active calendar, introducing a year ahead of meetings, events and activities for members, guests and the general public. The New Year Awards evening took place in April, successfully combining in a busy evening the presentation of awards for the years 2020 and 2021.

Our participation in the National Heritage Open Days, in September, was an important celebration of the Rivers & Waterways of Salisbury. Discovery of the complex network of waterways in and around the city, covered original routes of medieval drainage channels through to a detailed insight into the current River Park works. The many walks and talks were well supported, giving an insight into yet another aspect of the remarkable heritage of this city, focusing on the Society's aims of Heritage, Environment and Future.

Details of the Development and General Purposes teams are recorded in their individual reports but one important event in 2022 was the implementation of the idea for a mural on a blank wall in Fisherton Street, alongside the river in Water Lane. The later months of the year saw the circulation of an invitation to artists to submit their proposals for 'An artwork that adds a new dimension to Fisherton Street and to Salisbury, with a focus on the future'.

With the input of Julie Smith and Tara Siddons Deighton, a Communications team began to take shape with a significant social media campaign in the form of a Christmas Advent Calendar on Instagram using images from Salisbury in Detail. It is always a delight to uncover so much specialist talent from within the membership.

All those who work voluntarily on behalf of the Society, maintained their professional input covering a wide range of activities throughout the year and I would like to express particular thanks to Paul Stevens, Chair of the Development Committee and Judy Howles, Chair of the General Purposes Committee for their continuing hard work and input overseeing the important work of both groups. Jamie Hobson accepted an invitation to join the board of Trustees and it hoped will be elected to the board at this year's AGM. My thanks also go to the trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the Society, their important work is invaluable, given so generously and much appreciated.

Membership numbers currently stand at 457, inclusive of 22 Corporate members. This continues a pattern of steady growth, reflecting a continuing interest in the work and the aims of the Society. This leaves me to finish with a very appreciative vote of thanks to all members of the Society, your continued active support keeps the Society alive and is invaluable in helping to spread the importance of our work and aims.

Stephanie Siddons Deighton

Development Committee Annual Report 2022

Planning Applications

272 applications were selected for examination during the year, resulting in 20 letters of objection or comment being sent in by the Society, both figures slightly below the recent average, but not significantly so. The Wiltshire Council system for making applications available continues to be unhelpful for the Society's vetting procedures.

Future High Streets Fund Consultation

2021 saw consultation on the details, produced by Wiltshire Council, of the expenditure of almost £9.4 million given to Salisbury by the government, towards revitalisation of the retail sector. £5.3 million will go to the railway station forecourt, £3.2 million to the 'Fisherton Gateway', improving the route from station into the city, and £0.9 million to Heritage Living, which involves residential use of currently unused upper floors of historic properties in the city centre. There was no prior consultation on whether this division of the money is likely to be the most effective way of spending it. The Society had concerns over the railway station and Fisherton Street elements, while details of the Heritage Living project remain unknown. Fisherton Street was a particular concern, with the highway engineering led scheme felt to be a missed opportunity.

Grosvenor House & Riverside House, Churchfields Road, and Post Office site, Castle Street

Two difficult sites finally moved forward, with a community use project failing in Churchfields Road and the houses being sold to a commercial developer, for residential conversion. The Society will comment on detailed proposals as they emerge. In Castle Street a new purchaser showed the committee a scheme for largely residential use, with one replacement building. The designs were given a guarded welcome.

Planning Forum and Open Meeting

The idea of a meeting, which could either have been a Planning Forum or an Open Meeting, on the theme of the impact of climate change on the design and functioning of buildings, was thwarted again, as it had been in 2021, but should finally be achieved in 2023.

Salisbury Neighbourhood Plan

The Development Committee is not directly involved in the plan's preparation, though several Society members were on the steering group. The committee took a particular interest in the development of the plan's design section, aimed at promoting the better design of buildings in the city.

Site in Malthouse Lane/Fisherton Street

The land originally proposed for a relocated library remains empty following the demolition of the building previously there. An application for a Travelodge Hotel, essentially using the design approved for the now abandoned library idea, was submitted in March and raised concerns because of a potential degrading of the design approach. However by the end of the year the application appeared to have gone into stasis.

Turning Point sculpture, Guildhall Square

The committee had welcomed the addition of John Maine's sculpture to the square in 2021, but had concerns from the outset about how it was to be fitted in among benches, planters and bins. The setting proved to be very cluttered, a feeling shared by John Maine himself. Attempts to improve the situation, with which the Society was involved, finally achieved success in 2022.

Awards Scheme

2021 saw work to existing buildings being looked at by the awards scheme, with a judging panel chaired by Helen Birchenough, Chair of the Arts Council in the South West. Awards went to St Thomas's church in Salisbury, to Belle Vue House in Salisbury, to Greenfields Gunmakers in Milford

Street, Salisbury, to Shoebottle Barn in West Grimstead, to work to the roof of St Mary and St Melor church in Amesbury and to Myrfield House in Salisbury. Commendations went an extension at 35 Bedwin Street and to the Emmanuel church, both in Salisbury. The Lady Radnor Award, for a particularly outstanding project, went to an extension at Long Close House, Downton.

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, and to the CPRE.

Richard Deane

General Purposes Committee Annual Report 2022

The General Purposes Committee has responsibility for lectures, visits, walks. Heritage Open Days (HODs) and blue plaques. Individual committee members have responsibility for recommending topics and running their type of event, but all members contribute to their choice.

During 2022 the committee continued to meet by zoom. There has been a change in the membership of the committee over the year: Lis Woods resigned as secretary in March 2022 for health reasons but continued to be a member of the committee 'without portfolio'. As efforts to recruit a secretary were unsuccessful, committee members take it in turn to produce the minutes. Judy Howles (chair), Jamie Hobson(lectures) and Brenda Hunt (visits) have remained in their roles. Janet Patch, whilst remaining responsible for plaques throughout 2022, has been assisted by new member Sara Crook who is taking over the role in 2023.

Members without portfolio were Hadrian Cook, Frogg Moody and James Woods. Janet and Paul Draper joined the committee in May 2022 and will be responsible for HODs from 2023.

Lectures

A programme of 'live' evening lectures was possible this year. In March, Julian Richards on Stonehenge 'Old Rocks, New Theories' and Phil Harding's 'Adventures in Archaeology' at the AGM. The planned September talk about the River Park Project had to be postponed to a subsequent year owing to the period of mourning following the death of Her Majesty the Queen. However, in November it was possible to hold a daytime 'walk and talk' event about the River Park starting from St Thomas' House

Blue Plaques

No plaques were unveiled this year owing to a delay with the Listed Building Consent application for the Frances Hale plaque.

Visits and walks

There were 5 walks as part of the visits programme. Two were given by society members - Hadrian Cook on the impact of development on the Rivers and Landscapes of Salisbury and Richard Deane (done twice) around the city in the 'Steps of Pevsner'. Two sessions were led by Blue Badge Guide David Richards - one was 'Witches Wizards and Wiltshire Folklore' in the city and the other around his home village of Dinton. A walk around the villages of Odstock and Nunton, looking at their domestic and agricultural history, was led by local resident Hazel Docherty.

Heritage Open Days

Under the theme of Rivers and Waterways of Salisbury, there was a series of walks and a brief talk by Chris Daniell on city drainage channels

Communications and Outreach

In the first half of the year members discussed enhancement of the website content, publicity for events and contributions to the magazine. Following the election of Stephanie Siddons Deighton to chair of the society at the AGM, this responsibility passed to the Executive Committee.

Judy Howles