

# Salisbury Cathedral Close Preservation Society

*"Rus In Urbe"*

Patron: Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Heath K.G. M.B.E.  
Chairman: Sir Robin Ibbs K.B.E.  
Secretary: Mrs Alison Pinkerton O.B.E.

12 August 2003

Dear Member

## **Letter from the Chairman**

This year the summer Bulletin again consists of the draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2003 which provide a summary of the main events of the year, plus this letter which reports on developments since then.

### **The 'rat run' through the Close**

For some years a 'rat run' by motorists coming through the Close as a means of avoiding delays in the centre of the City has been a recurrent problem on weekday evenings during the rush to get home. This traffic, sometimes going dangerously fast, has often, spoiled the calm of the Close. At one time, following a suggestion by the Society, the Harnham Gate was closed to motor vehicles for about an hour in the evening and this was very effective in dealing with the problem. Unfortunately such closure ceased to be possible because Close constables were not available to close and reopen the Gate. This spring the problem became increasingly severe and the Society raised it again with the Chapter Clerk. Fortunately re-rostering of constables has now made a period of closure possible and the undesirable traffic has been eliminated.

This year a noisy 'rat run' has also occurred in the early morning when the Gate has been opened to enable pedestrians and cyclists to come through the Close. Again at the request of the Society, the problem has been dealt with by leaving the Gate closed to motor vehicles until the published opening time of 7.30am. The calm atmosphere of the Close at morning and evening is an important element in its character and charm.

### **The Close Residents Association**

We were very pleased to read in the Close Resident Association's first newsletter, under the heading Close Friends, "we are very keen to work together with our friends in the Close Preservation Society". The objectives and style of the two organisations are not identical but obviously overlap; we for our part will be pleased to cooperate with the Residents Association in appropriate instances.

### **The Magna Carta Centre**

In May members of the Society's Committee were invited by the Acting Dean, the Reverend Canon June Osborne, to a presentation on the Magna Carta centre. Subsequently the committee had a full discussion about what we had been told. A short note has been sent to the Acting Dean setting out our views and she has asked us to discuss these further with her. Any outcome from such discussion will be reported in due course.

### **The Society's Annual Lecture**

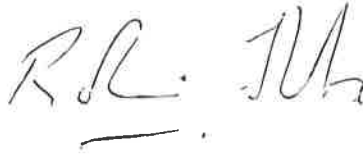
The subject of this year's lecture will be "Contemporary Sculpture in the Close". As mentioned in the AGM minutes, Simon Lole spoke last year on "Music in the Cathedral" which was greatly appreciated by a full audience. This year we have a contrast. We have arranged for three sculptors to speak each for about twenty minutes with an opportunity for questions at the end. The speakers will be Tim Harrison, William Pye and Peter Randall-Page. Theirs is a

fascinating subject and there is likely again to be a strong demand for tickets. I hope many of you will come and encourage your friends to do so too.

We are saddened to record the death of Mrs Kate Christopherson MBE on July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2003. Kate was a staunch member of the Society for many years, making her elegant garden available for a series of the Society's annual garden parties, serving on our Traffic Management Sub Committee and keenly participating in our traffic surveys. Her family and friends have our sympathy in their loss.

This is a fairly quiet period for the Society but there are various important issues (such as school traffic) on which we have to be watchful and maintain pressure. The continued interest and support of our members remains vital and the Committee is grateful to you all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Ibbs', with a horizontal line underneath.

Sir Robin Ibbs