

Salisbury Cathedral Close Preservation Society

"Rus In Urbe"

Chairman: Sir Robin Ibbs, KBE

Acting Secretary: Michael Farebrother

SUMMER BULLETIN 2006

Letter from the Chairman

As in other recent years, the Bulletin this summer is in the form of the draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 May, together with this covering letter.

This year, the covering letter is fairly brief because, since the AGM, there have been no major new proposals or events affecting the preservation of The Close. As reported in the draft minutes, we continue to await the emergence of proposals from the Master Plan that is being prepared by the Dean and Chapter with the help of the consultants Alan Baxter & Partners. Topics that we normally might be busy with - such as reducing traffic in The Close, or considering possible changes to the location of the Works Department - are in effect 'on hold' awaiting the findings in the Master Plan.

In the meantime, the Committee continues its normal pattern of activities - for example, examining relevant planning applications, and organising the Annual Lecture. You will see in the minutes that this year Pamela Neville-Sington will be speaking on *Anthony Trollope and The Cathedral Close*. She is an acclaimed biographer, and many of you are probably familiar with her work. The Lecture will be in the Museum Lecture Theatre at 6.30 pm on Monday, 16 October. Tickets will cost £5. An application form is enclosed with this letter, and I hope many of you will be able to be there.

Reverting to the Master Plan, I should emphasise that the Dean and others have made it clear that top priority is being given to completing the repair programme for the Cathedral fabric. The SCCPS applauds and is in full agreement with this. We understand that other outcomes from the Master Plan may be in the form of statements of aspirations rather than specific projects. Further work on feasibility and affordability may be needed before well-defined projects can appear. This all means that, for the moment, the Society's main task is to keep itself in good shape, ready to react appropriately when a significant proposal does appear.

During this relatively quiet period, I continue to be most grateful for the support that you all, as members of the Society, give to the Society's Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Robin Ibbs
Chairman, SCCPS