

Salisbury Cathedral Close Preservation Society

"Rus in Urbe"

BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2010

1. Committee appointment

I am pleased to report that Richard Owen, a Close resident, has accepted our invitation to join the Committee.

2. Close Constables

You will no doubt have seen various reports in the press and also on TV about making the Close Constables redundant. A special meeting on 18th August at Sarum College was held by the Close Residents Association to report on the concerns about the economies referred to by the Chapter Clerk in his meeting on 27th July, held in the Nave of the Cathedral. Close Residents and Cathedral congregation members had been invited and it was expected that clarification of the steps being taken to respond to the financial shortfall would emerge. Because of the issues that remained unexplained this special meeting of Residents was convened allowing a short time for further investigation to be pursued - not only with the aim of influencing decisions but also to provide reassurance to those residents who were very worried about their security.

I was present, by invitation, at the meetings. A number of your Committee members also attended. From the point of view of this Society it was unfortunate that the changes decided by the Dean and Chapter had not allowed any opportunity for discussion with others. The skills and experience available to them for the asking had been disregarded. As an example the question of reintroducing the way-rate (lapsed through non-collection) at a meaningful level found considerable favour from residents. It was suggested this could yield £40,000 p.a.

Any changes in security and traffic management will be carefully watched, in liaison with the Residents Association and the Chapter Clerk, to maintain the ambience of the Close.

3. The following suggestions were put to the Chapter Clerk
- a] Extension of manning hours of the 'Box' to 18.00; extra income and control of rat running could be achieved. This cover is expected to be part of the new parking management.
 - b] Consider use of remote controlled rising bollards for gate and provide design information for it.
 - c] Make the Close an alcohol-free zone, using identical signage to that in the city, for which we would be prepared to make a contribution to costs.
 - d] Improved provision of toilets, beyond the planned temporary move of those adjacent to the Chapter House.

News was awaited on a number of matters, in particular a planning application by Sarum College for an extension behind the house of the Principal which would involve tree felling, which the Landscape Committee was unaware of. The house is already an incongruous structure and we would look closely at the impact of any proposal.

The closure of Arundells to the public is scheduled for 27th October and it is rumoured that both the house and contents will be auctioned on a day in late spring next year. However, a more recent rumour is that it may remain open for a further year! We would hope to see it as a family home in future.

The financial constraints suffered by the Cathedral, exacerbated by the withdrawal of grants, mean that our attention is mainly focussed on the care and maintenance of the Close, rather than development . Any advice that could help in raising funds would be particularly welcomed at this time.

John G. Wort

1st September 2010

ANNUAL LECTURE

on Monday 11th October at 6.30 pm in the Museum Lecture Theatre

“Celebrating 150 years of Salisbury Museum” by Adrian Green, Director

*Please complete this slip and send it with your cheque for **£5 per ticket**
and a S.A.E. to: John Wort, 58 Harnham Road, Salisbury, SP2 8JJ*

From:
Address: