

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL CLOSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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Bulletin No. 5

The last bulletin was issued with the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting on 15th May 1992. This bulletin summarises the main issues raised and activities undertaken by the members and officers of the Society since then. In particular it notifies members of a Special General Meeting to be held on 28th October to consider amendments to the Constitution. The bulletin advertises the issue of an attractive notelet to be sold in aid of the Society and lastly it reminds those members who have not renewed their membership since joining before January 1992, that subscriptions have been due since June.

Annual General Meeting

Some 45 members gathered in the Harnham Memorial Hall at 6.30pm on 15 May for the second Annual General Meeting of the Society. After the minutes of the first AGM had been confirmed, the Chairman reviewed what he saw as the more significant events of the Society's year. These included the rejection by the full Planning Committee of the Cathedral authority's request that Lush House Car park be converted into a coach park (August); the belated Addendum to the Rothermel Thomas report, devoted to the southern end of the Close and the area south of it (September); the Dean's seminar on the Rothermel Thomas proposals (September); the Committee's meeting with the chairman and Members of the Royal Fine Art Commission (September); Dr M Jenks' brief, but telling, report on traffic in the Close (October); the Society's comments submitted on the Salisbury Draft Urban Area Local Plan (December); the Civic Society's Development Committee's memorandum on the Rothermel Thomas report (January); the publication of the Bristol Polytechnic's study of traffic in the Close (February); the publication of the Society's suggestions for traffic management in the Close (March); and the Planning Committee's refusal to consider the District Planning Officer's recommendations on the Rothermel Thomas proposals in the absence of a formal planning application (April). The Committee had agreed that its approach should be good-humoured, constructive and firm rather than abrasive, indignant or strident. We seemed to have established better relations with the newly appointed Chapter Clerk, Brigadier Christopher Owen, LVO, OBE, MDA.

The Chairman expressed thanks to the Committee, to those who had provided hospitality for Committee meetings, to the officers and especially to the Press and Technical Officer and the Honorary Secretary. After over a year of dedicated service, both were relinquishing their offices, though Dr Blissett would continue as Technical Officer. Fortunately Dr Alison Pinkerton had volunteered to take over as Honorary Secretary and Mrs Sheila Long as Press Officer.

The Honorary Treasurer reported a credit balance for the year of £131. Expenditure had been £1707, income £1834, made up of subscriptions £1129, donations £650 and sales £55. The main items of expenditure had been on photocopying, printing, purchase of reports, production of the videotape and postage.

Mrs P L Elliott, FCA, who had audited the year's accounts, was appointed auditor.

The Membership Secretary reported that the membership stood at 432, approximately 50% of which was from outside Salisbury. Fewer new members were now joining; renewals of membership to date were steady, about 50 (the renewal date is 1 June).

The following were elected or re-elected to the Committee:

Ronald Briggs, Chairman, David Blissett, Technical Officer, Pamela Cusack, Membership Secretary, John Hardiman, Vice Chairman, Robert Hawkings, Canon John Kerruish, Sheila Lang, Press Officer, Priscilla MacKay, Charles McKechnie-Jarvis, Alison Pinkerton, Honorary Secretary, Ruth Sammons, Sybil Shean, Honorary Treasurer.

Under Any Other Business there was discussion of the likelihood or otherwise of planning applications for the implementation of the various Rothermel Thomas recommendations, the need for a Close traffic management scheme, the application by Leaden Hall School for listed building consent to construct tennis/netball courts, and no.9 de Vaux Place (unoccupied since purchase by the Chapter).

Special General Meeting - October 28th 1992 at Salisbury Library 7.30 pm.

The application made by the Society to the Charity Commissioners for it to become a registered charity has received a favourable response from the Commission, provided certain amendments to the Constitution are made. The proposed amendments were considered by the Committee at their meeting on 28th July and all were considered acceptable. However, alterations to the existing constitution need the endorsement by the Society's members. A special meeting has been arranged to take place in one of Salisbury Library's meeting rooms for members to consider the Charity Commission's proposed amendments. At this meeting there will also be an opportunity during the evening to see the SCCPS videotape and copies of SCCPS notelet will also be on sale. Please note purchase date in your diaries.

Coffee Morning in the Garden of Braybrooke House, 57 the Close on 7th July 1992

A most enjoyable morning was spent by some 90 people who visited the garden and were able to enjoy its beauty and serenity and to take advantage of the home made produce on sale as well as knick-knacks and a raffle. The Society's 12 minute videotape giving a balanced

presentation of the debate concerning traffic management in the Close was on continuous showing to a packed audience in the summerhouse throughout the morning. £500 was raised which included sums from the sale of videos. The Chairman and committee have expressed their gratitude on behalf of the Society to Mrs Christopherson for generously lending her garden for this event.

VIDEOTAPE OF THE CLOSE

David and Rachel Blissett with the assistance of Peter Phillips of Teaching Media, University Hospital, Southampton, have made an excellent 12 minute videotape which has been acclaimed by all who have seen it. Not only does it examine impartially the debate concerning traffic management in the Close and illustrate the Society's proposals but it also provides an excellent record of the Close as it is today. For members who live outside Salisbury or who have relatives and friends with an interest in the Close and its beautiful features, copies of the videotape are available at £6 with an additional £1.50 postage and package ~~where necessary~~ from Alison Pinkerton, 1 De Vaux Place, Salisbury SP1 2SJ.

Exhibition in the Library

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The exhibition mounted by the Society at the entrance in the Salisbury Library during June attracted borrowers interest. It was constructed around seven text panels, the titles of which were: "What is the Close", "Who owns the Close", "Who controls the Close", "Who cares about the Close", "The Close under threat", "What is the Salisbury Cathedral Close Preservation Society" and "How to join", and made use of photographs and extracts from relevant documents, and reproductions of Constable's "Harnham Bridge" (the original of which is shortly to be sold at Sotheby's) and "Salisbury from Harnham Hill" were included. A special leaflet describing the exhibition and the Society was produced. If you were not able to see the exhibition in Salisbury, Wilton or Tisbury, you may have a further opportunity as it tours the county's branch libraries at Mere - September, Downton - October, Ainsbury - November, Durrington - December and Tidworth - January 1993.

Traffic Survey

A further one-day survey of traffic entering and leaving the Close was undertaken in July by Bristol Polytechnic to complement that undertaken on four consecutive days last November (1991). The report ~~on traffic~~ using the Close in the summer months is expected shortly.

Planning Permission for Tennis and Netball Courts at Leadenhall School

Leaden Hall School

Last year an application for listed building consent to construct tennis and netball courts in the grounds of Leaden Hall School was made. It was amended and finally came before the South East Planning Sub-Committee of the Salisbury District Council on 26 August 1992, with

a recommendation by the District Planning Officer that no objection be raised to the application. That was rejected on th chairman's casting vote. The Society had opposed this application, principally on the ground that the proposed courts would be detrimental to the setting of the listed building. The fact that the building was used as a school made the issue less clear-cut than it would otherwise have been, but there could be no doubt that the hard courts and the ^{net}meeting surrounding them would have done nothing to enhance the building. Two other factors were relevant: (i) the School's lease of the building (from the Chapter) expires in 1996, and (ii) the School has always enjoyed the use of the courts in Lower Marsh. The Cathedral Chapter is reluctant to renew the School's lease of these existing courts or to spend money on their upkeep, because of the Rothermel Thomas Option 2 proposal to convert the existing courts into a car park. No one wishes to deprive the children attending the School of facilities to play tennis and netball. We hope ^X that the Chapter will see its way to allowing the school to continue to use the existing courts until its lease of Leaden Hall expires in 1996.

Lush House Car Park

Policy TR22 of the Salisbury Draft Urban Area Local Plan recommended that Lush House (Cranebridge Road) car park be converted to use as a coach park to service coaches visiting Salisbury Cathedral. Earlier this year the District Planning Officer recommended that the draft policy be deleted from the Plan and on 14 May 1992 the Planning Committee did that.

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, "Salisbury, Vol. II"

For some years the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments has been preparing its second volume on Salisbury, which is devoted to the Close. The work is now complete and the volume will be published by HMSO before the end of the year, alas in paper-back, at a price of about £35.

SCCPS's Notelet

A sample notelet with a drawing by Bill Toop of the 2 listed houses just inside the Harnham Gate is enclosed. It shows the area of the Close most at risk from the proposed developments and will help to bring the Society's name and aims to the attention of many hundreds of potential new supporters if, as we hope, you order copies. The artist has generously allowed this charming sketch to be reproduced for the Society's benefit without payment. Packs of 8 cards costing £1 with postage and packing as indicated on the order form may be obtained from Alison Pinkerton, 1 De Vaux Place, Salisbury, SP1 2SJ.

^{of these Members}
Renewal of Membership Members who joined before January 1992 and are now ^{reminded}
due to renew their Membership

^{They are}
If you have not already done so, please forward your subscription of £3 for individuals, £5 for family membership using the form on the enclosed page.