

**SALISBURY CATHEDRAL CLOSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
*"Rus in Urbe"*

Registered Charity No 1015692

**Bulletin No 7 - October 1993**

This bulletin reports on the Annual General Meeting of the Society held in June 1993 and informs you of events which the Committee Members have attended on the Society's behalf, the planning applications which have been commented on and the Garden Party held in July 1993. Attached is a form for you to complete and send, together with your subscription, to renew your membership for 1993/94.

**Annual General Meeting**

The 3rd Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in the Salisbury Library on 14 June 1993. Thirty-seven members attended. The Chairman's Report highlighted the involvement of the Society in activities concerned with the preservation of the Close and its environs during the past year. He noted that whilst the issues raised by the Rothermel Thomas Report had recently faded somewhat, the Society had been asked to take part in a number of joint meetings on issues which related to the preservation of the Close. One such meeting was that held by Wiltshire County Council on the future of the Bishop Wordsworth's School which it had been decided would be redeveloped on the existing site. The Chairman subsequently consulted committee members for their views of the proposals, and wrote on the Society's behalf to Wiltshire County Council with comments broadly approving the plans submitted, provided the size of the school was not increased and commenting on the need for better vehicular access to the school. The possibility of an emergency access through the school grounds to the Close was also raised.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman had been invited to attend a meeting with the Dean and Chapter Clerk and Mr Michael Lear, a landscape expert, from whom a report had been commissioned by the Dean and Chapter. The report recommended replanting and planting some trees in the Close in order to achieve a similar landscape to that which the Close had enjoyed prior to the felling of the diseased elm trees in 1970. The Chairman in his address to members proposed that the Society might wish to support, in a modest way, the planting of trees as recommended in the report. He intended to discuss this further with the Committee members.

In December 1992 the Society had become registered as a charity.

Comments had been made by the Committee to the Chapter Clerk on the report of the traffic survey undertaken by the Bristol Polytechnic team.

A successful Coffee Morning was held in July 1992 in the garden of Braybrooke House, by kind permission of Mrs K Christopherson.

The Society's card, with Bill Toop's drawing of the Harnham Gate, had generated funds for the Society.

A report from the Treasurer indicated that the accounts had been examined by an accountant and the Society's funds showed a balance of £758.

The Membership Secretary reported the Society currently had 470 members.

The Vice Chairman and Margaret Hardiman assisted the Chapter Clerk by analysing responses to a questionnaire about traffic management sent to Close residents. Their report had also gone to English Heritage. The Society's Committee would be looking in more detail at the report and deciding in what other ways it could assist in taking forward the matter of traffic management.

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

Ronald Briggs		Chairman
John Hardiman		Vice Chairman
Alison Pinkerton		Honorary Secretary
Pam Cusack		Honorary Membership Secretary
Sybil Shean		Honorary Treasurer
Denise Little	]	
Charles McKechnie-Jarvis	]	Committee Members
Priscilla Mackay	]	
Ruth Sammons	]	

The Chairman thanked Robert Hawkings, who had stepped down from the Committee, for the enormous contribution he had made to the work of the Committee and the purpose of the Society.

#### **Garden Party at Braybrooke House, 57 The Close, 3 July 1993**

Mrs K Christopherson once again kindly lent her garden to the Society on 3 July. It was a most successful day which started at 10.30am and continued until 5.00pm. Coffee, ploughmans lunches and cream teas were on offer and there was an excellent attendance. A number of stalls of garden produce, cakes, tombola and bric-a-brac entertained visitors.

We were once again most fortunate with the glorious weather. A total of £840 was raised. The Garden Party was masterminded by Charles and Brenda McKechnie-Jarvis, ably assisted by a small committee which included Pam Cusack, Margaret Hardiman, Priscilla Mackay and Christine White.

### Traffic Management in the Close

Following the publication by the Severnside Research and Consultancy Unit of the University of the West of England (formerly Bristol Polytechnic) in January 1993 of the report on the second survey of traffic in the Close, the SCCPS wrote a critique which was sent to the consultants and to the Chapter Clerk. The additional survey did not add much to the previous one, although some of the information collected was significant, such as, for example, data about the distribution of use by residents and other categories of users, and the proportion of those entering the Close using the Exeter Street roundabout. The overall results, however, did not suggest that drastic measures were necessary, and that better traffic management should be sufficient to improve the situation.

The Society has continued to follow up action along these lines. The Chapter Clerk sent a letter to all residents of the Close in November 1992, asking for their views on the traffic problem. Margaret Hardiman, a member of our Society, assisted the Chapter Clerk by analysing the responses to this letter. The responses received contained altogether eighty items, covering a wide range of comments and suggestions. The three major issues raised were parking, traffic generation by parents taking children to school in the Close, and the use of the Close as a short cut south by town traffic.

A Sub-Committee of the Society, chaired by John Hardiman, has been set up to review the position. The Sub-Committee has met twice, and has also been involved in discussions with the Chapter Clerk and others regarding options for addressing these issues.

At a meeting of the Close Residents on 25 October 1993 the Chapter Clerk reported that an experimental scheme for school traffic would be tried for one month at the beginning of the school term in January 1994. Details of the scheme would be circulated to residents. Basically it involved creating a one-way system through the Close during the hours of delivery and collection of children. All traffic would enter through the High Street Gate and leave through the Harnham Gate. The High Street Gate would be closed to outgoing traffic during these periods.

### The Lear Report

The Committee has considered how the Society should respond to the Chairman's proposal at the AGM of contributing to the planting of trees in the Close. It seemed at the AGM that members were in favour of supporting this project. The Committee has decided that modest support should be given by the Society for the planting of specific trees. The Chairman is taking this forward with the Chapter Clerk.