

# Salisbury Cathedral Close Preservation Society

*"Rus In Urbe"*

## BULLETIN NUMBER 13

April 1996

### 1. Traffic Management in the Close

#### a) Parking in the Close

Since the last Bulletin the Dean and Chapter have applied for planning permission to convert the tennis courts in the Lower Marsh Close into a **permanent** car park. The Society believes that a long term aim for the preservation of the Close and its unique atmosphere must be to minimise traffic and car parking there. Your Committee cannot accept that a **permanent** car park is compatible with that objective. The southern end of the Close has a quiet rural atmosphere and a substantial car park would be quite out of place there and would spoil it. Your Committee have been willing, reluctantly, to accept the idea of **temporary** use of the tennis courts as a car park, as a practicable way of proceeding with some **trial** traffic schemes that, as an intermediate stage in improving conditions in the Close, should improve traffic flow and reduce parking for some areas where it is exceptionally undesirable. But in the long term there should be no parking in the Close by the public and no major car park. Traffic should be strictly restricted to the minimum needed for those who live and work in the Close. The solution to the problem lies in making full use of City car parks and developing "park and ride" schemes.

An objection to the Dean and Chapters planning application for a **permanent** car park has therefore been sent by the Chairman of the Society Sir Robin Ibbs, to the District Planning Officer.

As explained above, the Society regards the distinction between a permanent and temporary car park as very important. If permanent permission is granted, the motor car will continue to dominate the Close environment just at the time when forward thinking planners are realising that the increasing amount of traffic in places of beauty such as the Close must be curtailed before irreparable harm is done. Any member who would like to add their objections should write immediately to the District Planning Officer at 61, Wyndham Road, Salisbury. SP1 3AH quoting the reference number S/96/0438 . If objections are to be effective it is very desirable that they should be received no later than 2nd May 1996. It is for this reason that the present Bulletin has been issued earlier than usual.

#### b) Working Party on Traffic Management

The Societys Working Party has been much occupied following up some of the conclusions drawn from the survey and questionnaire circulated to all Close residents and local Society members. The introduction of an annual renewal of car entry permits and a review of the position of different categories of users, is being undertaken in co-operation with the Chapter Office. The object is to limit the number of cars entering and parking in the Close. The need for parking space for volunteers working in the Cathedral is recognised and is included in the scheme. Progress has also been made with the proposals for rerouting some school traffic through the Queen's Gate and the Work's yard. It is expected that this rerouting will come into operation sometime in May.

## **2. Tree Planting in the Close**

Many members will have noticed the 14 new small leaved lime trees that were planted alongside existing trees inside the churchyard wall at the end of March. It is hoped that members will agree they enhance the appearance of the Close and there should be further improvement as they grow bigger. A grant of £500.00 to cover the cost of the trees and the planting was made by the Society to the Dean and Chapter. The programme is a rolling one and further planting will be extended to the Lower Marsh and Rack Close and to the Cathedral School grounds.

## **3. The Societys Garden Party Saturday June 1st 1996 10.30am – 5.30pm**

We are holding a Garden Party on this date by kind permission of Mrs K Christopherson at Braybrooke House, 57 The Close, Salisbury. A number of stalls with a variety of interesting wares and good bargains are planned. Light lunches and teas will be available. An invitation is enclosed. Contributions for the stalls and a Silent Auction will be gratefully received and can be collected by contacting the telephone numbers on the invitation. Please come and bring your friends to this popular event.

## **4. The 2nd Society Lecture Monday June 3rd 1996**

**5.30 pm The Lecture Theatre Salisbury Museum  
Historic Landscapes of Salisbury Cathedral Close**

Hot on the heels of the Garden Party is the Society Lecture. One of the Salisbury Festival Fringe events, the title and its theme are particularly suitable to the interests of the Society. Tim Tatton- Brown, the Cathedral archaeologist and well known for his entertaining lectures, will recall the changes in the landscape of the Close which occurred in the late 18th and 19th centuries.

Book early so that you do not miss this event. Members have a concessionary rate of £3.00 and tickets are available from the Festival Box Office, Salisbury Playhouse, Malthouse lane, Salisbury. Tel 01722 320333

## **5. Annual General Meeting Friday July 12th 1996 provisionally arranged at 6.00 pm Lecture Theatre Salisbury Museum**

An early reminder that your AGM has been arranged on this date. This is the chance for you to give your views on the various issues that have arisen during this last year. The Agenda will be sent out nearer to the date of the meeting.

## **6. Donation from Sir Philip Shelbourne's Trustees**

Sir Robin Ibbs has accepted on behalf of the Society a very generous bequest of £4410 from the late Sir Philip Shelbourne's trustees. Sir Philip lived in Myles Place, the imposing 18th century house built for William Swanton in 1718 in the south of the Close

It may be that some members of the Society might like to consider including a bequest to the Society in their will. Such gifts will be much appreciated and will enable the Society to make a greater positive contribution to preserving and enhancing the Close.