

# Salisbury Cathedral Close Preservation Society

*"Rus In Urbe"*

## DRAFT BULLETIN 15

In this Bulletin are three important dates for your diary and an update on matters regarding traffic and the Close environment.

### **Annual General Meeting April 25th 1997 at 6.00pm**

The meeting this year is being held earlier so as not to be too close to the other Society events. The meeting will be held in the Salisbury Museum lecture hall. The Agenda for the meeting is enclosed as is the subscription renewal form for members who have not arranged a Standing Order payment. You are cordially invited to come and hear at first hand how your Committee members have been active on your behalf in keeping Close environment matters under review and to let them know what other measures you think need attention. The Chairman has invited members to take a glass of wine with him after completion of the business meeting.

### **Annual Society Lecture - 26th May 1997 in the Guildhall at 5.30pm.**

This year the lecture is in the Guildhall and is included in the Salisbury Festival Fringe events. Last years lecture was most successful and completely sold out. We expect the same this year as it is timed to fit conveniently between tea and Festival shows taking place later in the evening, Dr Chandler's subject of "Salisbury, a Victorian Artist's Perspective" based on the paintings by Louise Rayner will be of interest to many. Tickets at £5.00 will be available from the Festival office. Dr Chandler is well known for his books on Salisbury his most recent "Endless Street" being extremely popular.

### **Society Garden Party at Braybrooke House, 57 The Close on June 7th 1997**

Once again this event is being held in the beautiful garden of Mrs Kate Christopherson from 10.30 until 5.00. Do come and join in what will undoubtedly be an enjoyable occasion with a variety of new attractions being planned. Any members who would like to help on one of the stalls at some time during the day would be most welcome and are asked to contact Margaret Hardiman (tel 01722 328427)

### **Traffic Management in the Close**

Since the introduction of the car entry permits in September the Working Party has carried out three surveys of the cars parked in the Close. The number of cars parked without proper authorisation has decreased each time. A follow up by the Close constable of those without passes has been undertaken. This revealed that some of the cars were entitled to entry but had not put their permits on display.

The closure of the Harnham Gate from 5.30 - 6.30pm has brought about a welcome respite from the stream of traffic through the Close at that time. Discussion is going on about possibly extending the time the Gate is shut in this way.

The Chapter Clerk still awaits the Council's legal document regarding the use of the tennis courts as a car park.

The continuing and dangerous problem of cars entering the Close through the Harnham Gate is being addressed, one possibility being the installation of "dragon's teeth" to prevent this.

### **Salisbury Bypass**

The Chairman has written on behalf of the Society to the Secretaries of State of the Departments of Transport and Environment to express our interest and concern about any effect which construction of the road might have on the water table and thus on buildings in the Close. There was similar concern about any increase in traffic noise in the Close from the proposed road. A reply has been received from the Departments, noting the Society's interest and commenting on the current situation.

### **Chairman's Meeting with the Dean of Salisbury**

The Chairman and Secretary met the Dean, the Very Reverend Derek Watson, in January to outline to the Dean the objectives of the Society and the support that it had given and was ready to give to improvements in the Close environment, notably in regard to better control of traffic and helping with the planting of trees.

### **Tree planting in the Close**

The new Chairman of the Close Environment Committee is to be Lt Col. Christopher Ross who will be heading the group which plans the tree planting programme. Further planting will not now be undertaken until the Autumn when it will again be an appropriate time. The Society are represented on this group by Mrs Priscilla Mackay.

### **Memorial to Geraldine Symons**

Some members will have noticed the splendid seat at the south end of the Broad Walk which is placed there in memory of Miss Geraldine Symons. Her family very generously elected the Society as the recipient of donations given in her memory, and from these and from the family the seat was commissioned from the Cathedral Works Department who have engraved a commemorative plaque and secured the seat to the ground. At last years AGM it was suggested by a member that some provision should be made in the Broad Walk to enable people on their way through the Close to be able to rest. Thus the seat provides a fitting memorial to a past member and a response to that request.

### **The Society's Funds**

At the AGM the Chairman will be referring to the Society's funds and to some of the purposes for which they may be used. At the end of our last financial year (31 December 1996) the available funds amounted to £8452-80p. This was after making various modest grants, the most notable being for some tree planting in the Close. Any expenditure on the Close is of course primarily the responsibility of the Dean and Chapter. However because they have many demands on their financial resources, it is possible for the Society by contributing to items that would protect or enhance the beauty and atmosphere of the Close, to enable some improvements to be made sooner than might otherwise be the case. For example, your Committee envisage the Society assisting with some further tree planting and also perhaps with items that would improve traffic management in the Close. For this reason the Committee believes it should continue to try to gather funds through activities such as the annual Garden Party and the annual Lecture. Obviously any donations or bequests that members or others may like to make will be gratefully welcomed.