

Salisbury Cathedral Close Preservation Society

"Rus In Urbe"

Patron: Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Heath K.G. M.B.E. M.P.

Chairman: Sir Robin Ibbs K.B.E.

Secretary: Mrs Alison Pinkerton O.B.E.

BULLETIN NUMBER 19

May 2000

This Bulletin is primarily to remind members about the forthcoming Annual General Meeting and to inform them of the new Charity Tax changes which affect beneficially the annual payments made by members to the Society. These are now due. The speaker, subject, and venue of the Annual Society Lecture are also given and there is a booking form for those who wish to ensure a place at this popular event.

Annual General Meeting – Monday June 19th 2000 at 6.00pm in the Salisbury Museum Lecture Theatre

Our annual meeting not only deals with important business but is also a pleasant social gathering. This year the Dean has agreed to attend the meeting to tell us about plans for the proposed Magna Carta Centre in the Close which was referred to in the last Bulletin. The Chairman is once again inviting members to enjoy a glass of wine at the end of the meeting.

In July last year members were sent copies of the minutes of the last AGM held in April 1999 together with a letter from the Chairman. Further copies of the minutes together with the accounts will be available on the day at the meeting, or can be obtained earlier from the Secretary at 1, De Vaux Place, Salisbury SP1 2SJ. An Agenda for the meeting, with details of the Committee membership, is enclosed.

Charity Tax Changes and membership payments

As the Society is a Registered Charity the changes in the Charity Tax law from April 6th 2000 mean that all money paid by members who are taxpayers, will be eligible for tax relief, which the Society will be able to reclaim.

To enable the Society to reclaim this amount (28p for every £1.00) all you have to do, if you pay by standing order, is to sign the enclosed Gift Aid Declaration form.

Those members who do not pay by standing order are asked to send their annual subscription, now due, together with the Gift Aid Declaration.

A standing order form is also enclosed for those who wish to change to this method.

Society Annual Lecture – Monday October 2nd 2000 at 6.00pm In the Salisbury Museum Lecture Theatre

This year James Malpas, who gave a most popular lecture to the Society on Constable and the Close, will return to talk about J M W Turner's work in Salisbury and elsewhere. Please put this date in your diary and apply for tickets to Alan Richardson; an application form is enclosed.

Recent Events

Traffic Report

Since the last Bulletin, the Society's Traffic Management Working Group, led by Margaret Hardiman, has produced a Report covering all the surveys they have done over the last three years. These surveys are carried out to provide data for the Society's efforts to reduce the

traffic problems in the Close, and also on behalf of the Chapter Clerk to help him in his work. The report includes some interesting findings, notably that steps taken by the Dean and Chapter have reduced parking in the Close, that there has been no significant change in the total volume of traffic, that the peak flows are attributable to the schools and that the traffic at the north end of the Close has been reduced by opening the Queen's Gate for Cathedral School parents at peak times. There has been an increase in the number of trade vehicles entering and leaving the Close. Overall the Society believes that useful progress has been made by the Dean and Chapter on the traffic problem even though more needs to be done. The Chapter Clerk has recently confirmed the value to him of these surveys. The Society's Committee is very grateful to the members who participated in making the surveys, not least because many had to endure rather inclement weather. Some survey work will continue but the programme will now be less intensive.

The Plumbery

The Dean and Chapter have recently built a new structure, to house the shop and restaurant for visitors, on the strip of land, known as "the Plumbery" between the south face of the Cathedral and the Cloisters. The Chairman and Secretary of the Society were invited to attend the opening of these new facilities and were impressed by the elegance and suitability of the design. The plan is that this new structure should have a limited life of 10 years and then be removed to permit restoration work on the south face of the Cathedral. It is hoped that by then the new Magna Carta centre will be ready to provide further enhanced facilities for visitors.

The Cedar Trees in the Cloisters

An immediate problem facing the Dean and Chapter is that the two great cedar trees in the Cloisters are outgrowing that space. The one on the south side will have to have remedial work carried out. Possibly the tree will have to be removed if it is found to threaten the Cloister wall. Work in this area will be very difficult, is unexpected, has not been budgeted for and will be expensive. The Society has offered to contribute to the cost of the necessary remedial action.

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September 1st 2000

Dear Member

Letter from the Chairman

To bring you up to date with recent events, the Society is adopting the same procedure as last year. With this letter I am enclosing a copy of the provisional minutes of the AGM which provide a statement of matters which might otherwise appear in a Bulletin. To complete the picture I am including below some additional points.

1. The Society's Annual Lecture

This is a popular and successful event. As mentioned in the minutes it will be held this year on Monday October 2nd at 6.00pm in the Lecture Theatre at the Salisbury Museum. Two years ago James Malpas spoke to us about "Constable and the Close". This was very well received and he has agreed to come back and speak again, this time on "The work of J M W Turner in Salisbury and elsewhere". This subject should be of interest to members and a wider audience. To obtain tickets, price £5.00, please complete and send in the enclosed form.

2. Traffic in The Close

There are three specific items to report on this important subject.

i) Traffic Surveys

The Dean and Chapter have commissioned, jointly with Wiltshire County Council and the District Council, an extensive survey concentrating on vehicles and pedestrians at the North Gate and pedestrians at St Anne's gate. This is taking place over several weeks and the Society, through the work of members who have volunteered, has been contributing to it. We have also been able to provide some comments on the shape of the project and we shall be involved in discussion of the results, on the basis of our own quite extensive previous surveys, we shall be well placed to assess the significance of those results.

ii) Cars in the Churchyard The Society has for some time been concerned about an increased amount of parking in the churchyard. The splendid appearance of the West Front of the Cathedral means that such parking has become increasingly inappropriate. The Cathedral authorities have recently announced that all parking in the churchyard is to cease. Designated parking bays for cars with disabled badges have been marked out on the West Walk. The gates into the churchyard will be locked but there will be provision for severely disabled people to be dropped off and collected by car at the visitors entrance to the Cathedral. There is also provision for access by wheelchairs. Special procedures will continue to be made for major services and funerals. The Society welcomes these changes and believes they will greatly enhance the visual appearance and setting of the West Front which is now one of the outstanding features of the Cathedral and the Close.

iii) School Traffic At the beginning of the new school term in September, cars leaving the Close between 8.00 and 9.30am will be directed to leave by the Harnham Gate in order to reduce the congestion caused by two way traffic at the High Street Gate. In the first instance this will be for an experimental period.

3. Publicising the Society

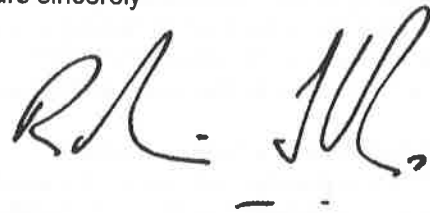
The possibility of publicising the Society by establishing a web site is being explored.

4. Memorial seat for John Hardiman

Several members have asked whether an additional seat could be provided on the Broad Walk as a memorial to John Hardiman who was a leading member of the Society from its inception. The Chapter Clerk has agreed that such a memorial would be appropriate and that a suitable site should be available as part of improved landscaping at the north end of the Broad Walk. The Society will be cooperating with the Cathedral authorities in making the necessary arrangements and ensuring that adequate funds are available.

Finally I am delighted once again to have this opportunity to send best wishes to all members. The work and the continued existence of the Society depends on your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of two distinct parts. The first part is a stylized, cursive 'R' followed by a period. The second part is a more complex, cursive signature that appears to be 'JH' with a flourish at the end. There are two small dots below the signature.