

Salisbury Cathedral Close Preservation Society

"Rus In Urbe"

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

Chairman: Sir Robin Ibbs K.B.E.

Secretary: Mrs Alison Pinkerton O.B.E.

15 August 2002

Dear Member

Letter from the Chairman

This year the summer Bulletin is again in the form of the provisional minutes of the AGM, held on 29 April 2002, together with this letter. The minutes provide a good summary of the Society's activities and only a few new matters have arisen since then.

Retirement of the Dean

The Society's Committee was sorry to learn that the Dean was to retire this September. We were very pleased when he became a member of the Society and attended some of our meetings. We have enjoyed good relations with him and the members of his staff. Following our AGM this year I wrote to him recording how much the Society appreciated the excellent appearance of the Close and the work of his staff that goes into maintaining this. We shall regret seeing him go and we hope that we shall be able to establish similar good relations with his successor.

Traffic in the Close

As indicated in the minutes, traffic in the Close continues to be a subject of major interest for the Society. We have now received a copy of the report on a Green Travel Plan for the Close prepared by the consultant. The main recommendation following a survey of the forms of transport used by Cathedral staff and volunteers was for targets to be set to reduce the number of cars being used. Alternative means of transport or car sharing were advocated. A coordinator has been appointed in the Chapter office to oversee the progress towards achieving the targets.

Again as mentioned in the minutes, we understand that the schools in the Close have been asked to prepare similar plans for the traffic they generate. In particular we now know that Leadenhall school have set up a small committee with representatives of staff, parents and children to develop ideas for reducing the number of cars bringing children to school. One outcome has been that parents have been asked to fill in a quite detailed questionnaire. A small experiment has been conducted whereby for a trial period twelve children were brought in by minibus from a collection point. The Chapter Clerk asked the Society to carry out a survey to establish the effect of this, and we found evidence of a pro rata reduction in the number of cars. We look forward to further developments on these lines, especially on the problem of collecting children in the afternoon, when there is currently unauthorised parking alongside the Broad Walk by parents and very serious congestion.

Magna Carta Centre

A survey on possible ways of funding the project has been carried out by a consultant, and the Vice Chairman and I were each invited to meet him. A position paper prepared as background to the survey indicated three major funding requirements; namely the new centre itself, the Choral Foundation, and extensive maintenance of the Cathedral fabric. The Society's Committee has taken the view that, in terms of our work, long term maintenance of the Cathedral in very good condition has high priority; the Choral Foundation has less relevance for us and the Magna Carta Centre itself comes somewhere in between, although we still know nothing about the proposed design or its implication for the Close. The

Vice Chairman and I expressed the Society's view of priorities during our discussions with the consultant. We do not yet know the outcome of the survey.

Other matters

The Society, through its link with the Landscape Committee, has agreed to make a contribution to the cost of replanting the front garden of Wren hall. Improvement of that garden is very desirable as it forms part of an attractive corner of the Close.

Some members have enquired why the Society's accounts include an item for insurance. This is to provide cover should a mishap occur at "public" events such as the Annual Lecture and the AGM.

The Society's Annual Lecture: October 21 2002

This year as a change from subjects related to architecture and painting the lecture is to be on "The Music of Salisbury Cathedral" and is to be given by Simon Lole the Cathedral's Director of Music. Although music is not a primary concern of the Society, it is of course of great interest and a source of pleasure to many members, and is an important aspect of the Cathedral and the atmosphere surrounding it. We hope many members and their friends will attend. As in previous years, early booking is advisable as numbers in the Lecture theatre are limited.

Finally I want once again to thank all members for their support, and especially the Society's officers and other Committee members for their work on which the Society's effectiveness depends.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. H.', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely'.