

# 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.

## **BULLETIN NUMBER 23** **January 2004**

Our last communication to members was a letter from the Chairman together with the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting. This January Bulletin is fairly brief but there has been no reduction in our efforts to safeguard all we value in the Close. We continue to keep a watch on issues which may influence the character and atmosphere of the Close, both immediately and in the longer term. Recently this has been quite time consuming even though at the moment we have nothing new to report. However, the Society's Committee is particularly grateful for help it is getting on specific topics from other members with relevant specialised knowledge. Below we summarise news on items which might be described as the Society's normal business. The fact that some of these, such as school traffic, appear to be perennial in no way reduces their significance in terms of impact on the Close.

### **Annual Society Lecture October 2003**

The lecture entitled 'Contemporary Sculpture in the Close and Cathedral' was given by 3 sculptors, Tim Harrison, William Pye and Peter Randall Page, all of whom had had their work exhibited in the Close or the Cathedral. They each described the sources of inspiration for their works and the techniques they used to create them. The Museum Lecture Theatre was filled to capacity and the talks were very well received by a rapt audience who put many appreciative questions to the speakers. Our thanks go to our Committee members Denise Little, Alan Richardson and Lucy Salisbury for organising this excellent occasion.

### **Traffic in the Close**

As mentioned above, the volume of traffic in the Close is a continuing major concern of the Society. We hope that the schools will keep reminding parents that if they do drive their children to school the least they can do is to try and share the trips with other parents so that the numbers of cars with a single child passenger can be greatly reduced. Anything more that can be done to reduce traffic peaks and illicit parking will be much appreciated. One of the consequences of the popularity of 4 wheeled drive vehicles is the need to have heavy duty traffic restrictors at the Harnham gate. The Society contributed towards the cost of restrictors some years ago but we have been concerned at the noise they generate as cars pass over them. Attempts have been made to reduce this as it is an intrusive nuisance to the residents of houses nearby, but we have to accept it is not practicable to do so. Consideration has been given to substituting an electronic barrier control, but abuse of this by mischievous young people who already play on the traffic restrictors, would be just too tempting. As they are, as well as enforcing one way traffic, the restrictors do provide a very necessary reduction in the speed of cars driving out of the Close. The safety of the many cyclists and pedestrians who use this route into Salisbury is thus greatly protected.

### **The Magna Carta Centre Project**

Some members of the Society's Committee have had a further helpful discussion on the project with the Acting Dean and Alun Williams, the Cathedral's manager of visitor services. The Cathedral authorities are continuing to investigate and consider various aspects of the project. The Society will remain in touch so as to be aware of any ways in which the project might affect the Close.

### **The Close Landscape**

Your Committee agreed at their last meeting to offer modest funding to support in part, the purchase of some tree guards for newly planted trees in the Close. They also noted the demise of more of the chestnut trees in the churchyard and the eventual need for some replacements.

### **The Broad Walk**

It is understood that plans are being made to provide a tarmacadam pathway sufficiently wide to accommodate two way wheelchairs on the Broad Walk. This is required to satisfy the standards for Disabled Access. It should improve the uneven and rough surface of the pathway so that pedestrians no longer choose to walk between the pathway and the road, wearing an unsightly bare track on the grass verge.

### **Civic Society Awards**

The new buildings at Leadenhall School have won an award from the Civic Society. The award recognises the successful design, which allows the buildings to blend in with the landscape without detracting from the existing Leadenhall building, or appear out of place when viewed from the Water meadows.

The SCCPS raised objections to an earlier design for the new building but the new design won our approval and commendation. It is therefore pleasing to note that this most recent new building in the Close has gained wider acclaim.

### **Retirement from the Committee**

At the last Committee meeting Mrs Brenda Mackechnie-Jarvis, the Membership Secretary retired. The Chairman expressed thanks, on behalf of all Society members, for the extensive work she had undertaken during the 10 years she had carried this responsibility. Mr Michael Farebrother has agreed to succeed Brenda as membership secretary.

### **Society Annual General Meeting – May 10<sup>th</sup> 2004 at 6.30pm.**

The next AGM of the Society has been arranged to take place in the Salisbury Museum Lecture Theatre on the date above. Please put the date in your diary now and come and enjoy what has been established as a pleasant social occasion as well as dealing with necessary business. Further notice of the meeting and relevant papers will be sent to members nearer the time.