

## Salisbury Cathedral Close Preservation Society

*"Rus in Urbe"*

### BULLETIN

MARCH 2011

#### **1. Security**

In the last Bulletin the major topic was the cost saving proposals by the Dean and Chapter by making the Close Constables redundant. Many of you will be aware that despite the best efforts of residents, supported by our Society, the redundancies went ahead. This has resulted in a radical change to the security of the Close, and a reduced control of traffic.

At present it seems that the Close is open to all comers at all hours although there is supposed to be night closure of the gates at 10.30 pm. The afternoon 'rat run' through to the Harnham gate is no longer controlled. We have continued to support the constant attempts by the Residents Association to improve this situation.

A number of thefts have occurred and I have expressed concern for the security of irreplaceable Cathedral treasures.

#### **2. Chapter Clerk**

Responsibility for the Close management is vested in the Chapter Clerk by the Dean and Chapter, therefore we keep in close touch with him. Where possible, we make contributions in support of improvements we suggest. In view of the financial constraints the elements of the Cathedral Vision that involve major capital expenditure have had to be put on the back burner.

Since the Clerk of Works, Peter Edds, left last year his responsibilities have been covered by the Chapter Clerk and Canon Mark Bonney. Two new professional appointments will be made shortly, one to manage the restoration programme, and the other the general maintenance.

#### **3. Planning**

There has been one particular planning application in which we have played an active role in objecting – the extension of the Principal's House at Sarum College for the accommodation of four monks. Although this would not be visible from outside the College it was out of character with both the College and the House and would seriously detract from the amenity of No.18 on the eastern boundary. Following a site visit the objection was upheld unanimously, with one member of the Committee abstaining. We are still in the period allowed for appeal – none has yet been lodged, nor a revised, new application.

We keep a wary eye on all relevant applications and there have been no others that merit comment.

#### 4. Arundells

Despite much press cover for the 'Friends of Arundells' it seems that the Trustees are going ahead, as they have stated, with the sale. There has been no planning application to extend the opening to the public – the original period of permission having expired last year.

#### 5. Current rumours!

- a) The Walton Canonry has had continuous refurbishment and is said to be about to be sold.
- b) Alexandra House (the Court House and ex NAAFI) on the corner of New Street and St John's Street is reported as being taken by Wilsons, Solicitors, for occupation next Spring.  
A major planning application for conversion to town houses, flats and offices had been lodged. That plan could have had a undesirable impact on Malmesbury House, but will presumably now be withdrawn.

#### 6. Annual General Meeting

The formal notice of the AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> May is enclosed. We plan to follow the meeting with drinks and nibbles and a short ***talk by Adrian Green to introduce the Constable Exhibition*** which starts on 20<sup>th</sup> May at the Museum.

I hope that you will be able to attend and ask you to let us have prior notice, if possible, by returning the slip at the foot of this page.

John G. Wort

26th March 2011

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FROM:

I intend to come to the AGM on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30 pm

Please return to: Mrs Moynihan

Hon. Secretary, SCCPS, 18 The Close, Salisbury, SP1 2EB