

From the Editor

As I write, the sun is shining and summer is here. And summer in Devizes means festivals. The Food and Drink Festival has been and gone, the Arts Festival is about to start and the International Street Festival will be in August. But, yet again, we are facing an uncertain future about our lovely Market Place which often provides the back drop for these outdoor events.

Wiltshire Council is proposing to start charging for car parking in the Market Place and this will inevitably lead to pressure that the markets and other events should pay for the privilege of using the Market Place. This is something which the Trust is against and we have made this clear in our response to the council's consultation process which is set out on Page 2.

We understand that Wiltshire Council has to balance the County's budget but there are other issues which need to be considered. Festivals attract visitors who spend money at our shops, restaurants, cafes and pubs. They help to create the sense of community as they appeal to a whole range of folk, including young people and families.

The Trust takes the view that the use of the Market Place should be free, whether for short term parking, traditional markets or any other usage which enhances our town.

Philippa Morgan

Preserving Our Quality Of Life

An update on our long-term campaign



Electric vehicles will not solve the problem for many years to come.

In 2011, the Trust took the decision to move away from its traditional role in conserving the built environment in order to counter what it saw as a real danger to the quality of life of the people living in the town.

The rate of new housing over the past few years had created a good deal of extra traffic without any expansion of our road capacity. That in turn resulted in serious traffic congestion. While this in itself was a serious problem, air pollution had increased very considerably.

In order to focus attention on this matter, a public meeting was called demanding that the council stop building any more new homes until they had an adequate policy in place to combat this new threat. The case for the Trust was presented by its then traffic advisor, Tony Sedgwick.

Tony's research had alerted him to new evidence of the harm caused by pollutants generated by traffic; that there was a particular danger to babies and young children and also to those suffering from coronary and pulmonary diseases. Tony's point that the pollutants were far more dangerous than believed has been proven beyond doubt.

There is no doubt that the stand the Trust made in 2011 was more than justified.

When the Trust first raised this issue, Wiltshire Council's response (and the government's) was that a new generation of clean vehicles would bring about a solution without us needing to do anything.

Seven years later, we are still been given the same story. The fact is that it will take many years before clean vehicles replace the current stock and, in the meantime over a hundred thousand of our fellow citizens will have died prematurely and many thousands of our children will suffer needlessly from asthma.

The European Commission has at last acted and the UK and five other nations have now been referred to Europe's highest court for failing to tackle illegal levels of air pollution.

The European court of justice (ECJ) has the power to impose multimillion euro fines if the countries do not address the problem swiftly. The six nations - the UK, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy and Romania - were given a final warning by the European commission in January.

Let us hope that this action will now force national governments to treat the issue of air pollution with the urgency that it deserves.

The Trust AGM

The Trust AGM was held in The Assembly Rooms, The Town Hall, Devizes at 7.30p.m. on Thursday, 22nd March 2018. James Flood chaired the meeting. There were twenty-seven members present and apologies were received from six members. James Flood reported with sadness the death of Tony Duck who would be greatly missed by all. A bowl of spring flowers and bulbs had been sent to Elisabeth Duck on behalf of the Trust.

In introducing the financial report, James Flood (in his role as Honorary Treasurer), drew attention to the increase in members subscriptions in 2017 which was due to the success in chasing outstanding contributions from previous years and the increase of the membership fee to £15. He noted the expenditure on the revised edition of the Town Trail which was selling well. The cost of printing the 7th edition would soon be recouped through sales

ELECTIONS.

The following were elected:

Hon. Treasurer. Dr. James Flood

Hon. Secretary. Philippa Morgan agreed to take on the role on a temporary basis until a successor could be found.

Trustees:

Peter Allfrey has submitted his resignation. The rest of the board of Trustees had all indicated their willingness to stand again. They were: John Girvan; John Hawthorne; Philippa Morgan; Richard Ormerod; Ian Sharp; Inez Skinner.

Mark Boden had indicated his willingness to join the Trustees.

The Chairman then introduced the speaker, Sue Boddington. Voluntary Curator of the Calne Heritage Centre.

Ms Boddington gave a history of the Heritage Centre from its origins as a Carnegie Library opened in 1905. The current Heritage Centre opened in 2004, presenting information about the history of Calne and has more than 3000 visitors per year.

James Flood closed the proceedings by thanking Ms Boddington for her presentation.

Tony Duck 1935-2018

A Devizes man through and through

Tony Duck, who died in February, was a true Devizes man, a devoted husband, father and grandfather and a stalwart of the Trust for Devizes. Tony was Honorary Secretary of the Trust for many years.

His widow Elisabeth told us that "Tony always enjoyed his work for the Trust, the friendship of members and looked forward with interest to future plans for the development of the town while retaining its integrity".

Tony Sedgwick remembers Tony Duck as a tireless campaigner and volunteer and said about him "He never worried about taking on a role when others faltered." One of the friends who spoke at Tony's funeral said that walking around Devizes with him was almost like being with a rock star! He

knew everyone and he remembered most of their names.

Tony was honoured for his voluntary work and services to many local organisations, including the Trust and the Tornio Twinning Association, at the Devizes Civic Awards ceremony.

When we moved to Devizes 11 years ago, Duck's was a newsagents second to none. A friend visiting the town remarked that she'd never been into a newsagents like it. Tony, who was always immaculately turned out, would order any magazine or periodical that wasn't in stock and it would arrive the next day.

We will miss Tony greatly and will try our very best to do him proud in our desire to 'Keep Devizes Special'.

Data Protection

Your rights as a member of the Trust

There have been changes to the General Data Protection Regulations which will come into force on 25th May 2018. As a result, the Trust has reviewed our Data Protection policies.

Any information which you gave us when you joined the Trust is used purely for contacting you about

subscriptions, membership and supplying a copy of Trust News. We do not share this information with any individuals or organisations.

You can ask, at any time, for a copy of all information that we hold about you by contacting Inez Skinner, our Membership Secretary.

Car parking in Devizes

The Trust's response to Wiltshire Council

The Trust has responded to the recent consultation exercise by Wiltshire Council on car parking. Our comments were as follows:

"The Trust objects to Order 1 in relation to the proposal to charge for parking in the Market Place, on three grounds:

(i) ...We wish to see the Market Place remain as a free car park at times when it is not being used as a market. We are also against any charges being imposed for the use of the Market Place for markets or community events.

(ii) ...The present proposal will severely reduce the availability of short-term

parking, because the spaces in the Market Place will be so attractive to visitors generally, that most of them will buy and occupy the limited number of spaces for 1-2 hrs, substantially reducing the turnover of spaces. This will harm the convenience of short-term visitors, and the vitality and viability of the town centre.

(iii) The installation of [parking ticket machines] will conflict with the statutory objective to conserve and enhance the special architectural and historic interest of this Conservation Area...".

The full text of our submission is available on the website. We await the outcome of the consultation with interest.



There is a commemorative stone at Sedgfield Gardens to Henry Tull who was a Trustee of the Devizes Municipal Charities and who donated money towards the erection of the Arms houses in Sedgfield Gardens. 2018 is the 60th anniversary of their erection in 1958. The donation was in the memory of Mrs Hannah Tull and Mrs Ethel Tull (see photo above).

Philippa Morgan, our acting secretary, felt that more should be known about these three people who had lived in Devizes more than sixty years ago. By consulting Census Returns, Trade Directories, the internet and other sources the following facts have emerged.

Henry Tull was born in Reading in 1873. His father, Michael, worked at Huntley and Palmers, a huge biscuit factory in Reading which employed up to five thousand people at the height of its production. Henry had two brothers and one sister.

Henry trained to be a leather cutter. At the age of thirty-two he married Hannah Milward, one of the daughters of Alfred Milward of Basingstoke. She had two sisters and two brothers. Alfred was a shoe and bootmaker who eventually had a chain of shops. Many people remember as children being bought shoes at Milwards and having their feet x-rayed in the new pair to check that they were the correct size.

Henry and Hannah came to Devizes in 1909. They lived in eight rooms above 22/23 The Brittox and had one child who died at an early age. These premises were already an established shoe and boot maker and mender business. There were eight other shoe-making businesses in Devizes at the time.

Henry used a local printer, Herbert Bolwell, for various items, e.g. advertising his business, headed stationery, printed envelopes, and sheets for bible classes. One advert mentions field boots which would have been needed by the many farm-workers in the area and by the soldiery.

The marriage lasted for 40 years. Hannah died in 1945 and a year later Henry married Ethel. She had lived a few doors away from Henry when they were children and may have been some sort of relation, as her father's name was William Tull. Several of her relatives worked in Huntley and Palmers as did some neighbours. Ethel was the widow of Alfred James Barkshire. They had married in the 1930s and he died in 1942.

All through his adult life Henry was very active in the local Baptist Chapel in Maryport Street. As the commemorative stone shows, he was a trustee of the Devizes Municipal Charities for thirty-one years.

Ethel died in Devizes in 1951. Henry retired to Bournemouth where he lived at 45 Dunkeld Road, Talbot Woods, until his death at the age of 81.

In his Will he left £10,000 for the Charity to build more accommodation at Sedgfield Gardens and it was used for numbers 13-18. The total amount left was £28,972 16s. 1d. One of the executors was Stanley Joseph Milward, Company Director, presumably a member of Hannah's family.

A further point of interest concerning Henry Tull is that he wrote a History of Devizes Baptists which appeared in the Wiltshire Gazette dated 31st August 1922. This traces the roots of the community in the seventeenth century.

Concludes in the next issue

A selection of forthcoming events

Walk : West Kennet Longbarrow

7th June 2018 6:30pm - 9pm

An evening walk, led by David Dawson, meeting at Gunsite Road, West Kennett.

Stout footwear, protective clothing to suit the prevailing weather conditions and reasonable mobility will be required.

Tickets £10 (£8 WANHS members).

Booking essential.

Devizes Castle Garden Tours

12th June, 24th July, 14th August

The owner of part of Devizes Castle has offered us a unique opportunity to provide tours of their part of the Castle gardens, providing an opportunity to get close to the Victorian folly, constructed on the site of the original Norman castle, around which Devizes grew.

Meeting at Wiltshire Museum, you will learn more about the origins of the Castle and town of Devizes in our Devizes Gallery with our Director, David Dawson. He will then lead you on the short walk to the Castle and guide you around the gardens.

Tickets £15

Members outing to Bradley House

8th June 2018 11am

A visit to Maiden Bradley. Home of the Duke of Somerset. Own transport. Arrive 11am.

Tickets £10 *Booking essential.*

Walking Tour: Swindon Railway Village with Mike Stone

14th June 10:30am - 12:30pm

Meet at the front of the Steam Museum, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon, SN2 2EY 10.30 am prompt start. The tour will start with walking around some of the railway factory and then we will make our way through the tunnel and walk around the railway village, returning to the front of the Steam Museum for 12.30 pm. £10 (£8 WANHS members). *Booking essential. No dogs*

Walk : Pewsey Vale and Marden Henge

16th June 10:30am - 6pm

This full day tour will be led by Museum Director, David Dawson. The day

Continued overleaf

Museum News

continued

begins with coffee and a guided tour of the Wiltshire Museum, followed by a light lunch (included) then a guided walk in the Pewsey Vale.

Stout footwear, protective clothing to suit the prevailing weather conditions and reasonable mobility will be required. £40 (£35 WANHS members). Booking essential. No dogs.

Free Lecture: the WRVS in Devizes during World War II

20th June 6:30pm – 8:30pm

by David Dawson

Stonehenge Landscape Walk

25th July, all day

A guided tour of the amazing collections of the Wiltshire Museum, followed by a guided walk from Durrington Walls to Stonehenge. This full day tour will be led by Museum Director, David Dawson.

The morning tour at the Museum starts at 10.30am and the walk begins at 2pm. After lunch, the walk will take approximately 3.5 hours, and starts at Durrington Walls and Woodhenge, close to the River Avon.

The route passes the Cuckoo Stone, a megalithic standing stone, before following the Apple Track – a WW1 light railway. The route then passes the prehistoric Cursus, before passing the Bronze Age barrows of Kings Barrow ridge.

The walk does not include a visit to the monument itself.

£40 (£35 WANHS members). Booking essential. No dogs.

Bookings and enquiries:
www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk

Or call 01380 727369

You can now search the
Museum's Collections
database online

www.wiltshireheritagecollections.org.uk

Dates for your diary

The Trust will be holding an Open Meeting on Thursday, 27th September so please put this date in your diary.

We hope that the meeting will cover the subject of the Market Place and associated car parking issues.

There will be more information about this in the August edition of Trust News.

The mystery of the missing plaque



John Girvan restores the plaque to its rightful place

In February 2018, it was reported to the Trust that Mediaeval Plaque no 5, that's the one in St John's Churchyard, had gone missing. It was nowhere to be seen and we assumed that someone had taken it as a prank rather than to sell it. After all, it would be difficult to sell as it would have been very clear to any buyer exactly where it had come from.

We were hopeful that an e-mail to Jo Moore at the Gazette & Herald with an article in the Thursday edition of the paper would lead us to where it might be.

As is now common practice, Jo put the article on the newspaper's Facebook Page and the following day, this message was received from Simon Fisher at the Town Hall: "Just to let you know we have plaque number five handed into the Town Hall and it is safe". The wonderful world wide web had worked again!

We didn't know who took the plaque and why but we were very glad to have it back. The photograph above shows John Girvan returning it to its rightful home in the churchyard. A happy ending indeed.

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