

## From the Editor

The recent loss of Tony Duck and Tony Sedgwick has been a major blow to the Trust. They were both stalwarts of the Trust and their deaths have left a huge hole in our knowledge, skills and resources. Last year we managed to recruit Richard Ormerod, who has become our expert on planning matters, and Mark Boden, who brings a wealth of experience in local government. But we now have a vacancy for an Honorary Secretary and we have operated for a few years without a Chairperson. So we are in desperate need of new Trustees to fill these vacancies.

If you feel that you have the time, interest, experience and skills to offer for either of these roles and would like to get involved, please write or e-mail and we will be in touch with more details of what is involved. Contact details are on the back page of Trust News. Similarly, if you know someone who is not yet involved with the Trust but who might be interested, please encourage them to contact us.

At the time of writing, Long Street has been blessed with a succession of scaffolding as various houses are redecorated and otherwise brought up to scratch. Lansdowne House looks particularly fine following a repaint to the front of the house (see picture on page 4). Some people complain of the bureaucracy of the planning and the listing process. The Trust is not one of them. We value the system which celebrates a building's special architectural and historic interest, and also brings it under the consideration of the planning system, so that it can be protected for future generations. Long may it remain!

*Philippa Morgan*

## The Devizes Millennium Cross

*a brief history*



*Left, the cross. Right, detail of the west side*

Wander into St John's Churchyard through St John's Court and you will see the Devizes Millennium Cross. It's difficult to miss as it's 3.5 metres high, consisting of six separate blocks, bearing twenty detailed panels. The panels tell a story which we will take you through but, first, a little history.

The initial idea for the cross was in May 2000, on the late side for a Millennium Cross. Work on the design was swift and the stone was ordered in August. The sculptor, Eric Stanford, began carving in September as there was no time to lose. The cross was erected on June 15th, 2001 with two panels still to be completed. The Cross was finally unveiled on 23rd June 2001 by then Town Mayor, Ray Parsons.

The subjects on the panels are as follows:

East facing side - Christ's Nativity; Industry in the 18th and 19th centuries, including the Kennet & Avon canal and a steam train emerging from the tunnel under the Castle; The Green, including the Crammer; The Millennium with a hot air balloon and a helicopter representing 'Air' and a tractor and crop circle representing 'Earth'; The Four Ages of Man, with children representing Childhood.

North facing side - Mediaeval Builders constructing the Castle and St John's Church; The Corn Exchange with a scene from the film 'Far from the Madding Crowd'; The Services with the

Wiltshire Yeomanry remembered, tanks on Salisbury Plain and the Assize Courts; The Four Seasons represents spring and summer with flowers; The Four Ages of Man, with teenagers dancing.

West Facing side - Devizes Plan showing the street layout and the Channel 4 'Time Team'; The Civil War with the Battle of Roundway in 1643 and Cromwell's siege of the Castle; Traffic showing a coach and horses outside the Bear Hotel and today's traffic; The Lamb of St John with the third element 'Fire' represented by the sun and a beacon and the fourth element 'Water' by the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race; The Four Ages of Man shows a couple at their marriage

South Facing side - Empress Maud is shown granting a charter to the town in 1141 and a mediaeval market scene is portrayed; Agriculture is represented by a sow and her piglet with a shepherd and his sheep in the foregrounds; Devizes Town Council is shown in session with the Mayor and the Mayor's officer holding the Hanap Cup; The Four Seasons there are apples for autumn and holly for winter; The Four Ages of Man old age is shown by an elderly couple.

The Millennium Cross is an excellent potted history of Devizes and is well worth a look next time you're in the vicinity.

# Tony Sedgwick

A Trust stalwart



Sadly, Tony Sedgwick died on 6th July 2018.

Tony was the editor of Trust News for many years, developing its design and increasing its impact. After he stepped down as editor, he was a great help to me and he continued to produce many interesting and informative articles for publication.

Tony's professional career proved to be extremely helpful to the Trust as he was an expert on traffic and car parking, both issues which are problematic in Devizes. He was able to use his experience and expertise to ensure that the Trust wasn't bamboozled by consultants and other experts when these matters were being discussed.

If Tony didn't know something, he would do his research, analyse what he had found and then reach his conclusion. He was a formidable champion for the Trust and for Devizes. I will miss him greatly as a friend and colleague.

*Philippa Morgan*

## Devizes School poetry competition

Last year, the Trust sponsored an essay competition marking Jane Austen's bicentenary. This year the subject was the unfortunate Ruth Pierce, whose tale is told on the Market Cross.

This year's winners were Sophia Nicholls (year 9), Holly Budgell (year 7) and Josh Day (year 8). Sophia's winning entry is printed below. The runners-up will appear in the next two issues of Trust news. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all who took part!

It was in the month of May  
On a cold quiet normal day  
That a girl known by the name of Ruth  
Was stopped from ever escaping her  
now eternal youth.

She had worn a yellow jumper,  
Now dampened with her blood  
The stains upon her jumper  
Not from innocent blood.

Underneath a navy shirt,  
The remains now covered in layers of  
dirt,  
Her tied back hair had also come  
undone,  
As her blood had started to trickle and  
run.

She and her friends had gone out for  
dinner  
To quench the hunger for food within  
her.  
They had all agreed to split the bill  
But to pay her part seemed against her  
will.

Many would have said that she was  
sweet and nice,  
But for her meal she didn't pay the  
price.  
So her life took a sudden bend  
And she met her chilling, untimely  
end.

In an alleyway that Sunday night,  
In between the cold walls untouched  
by light,  
Death made its fatal nest  
And laid her body there to rest.

She lay there hidden by the towers of  
stone  
As the mystery of her death made its  
home,  
Something had been there to end her  
life,  
She had been at the mercy of the tip of  
a knife.

On her finger, she had worn a ring  
As she was taken away on a raven's  
wing.  
There her body lid on the cobble path,  
After she had faced death's fatal wrath.

The thing that chased her that night  
was dank and cunning.  
Its mere presence would send you  
running  
And leave your skin as cold as ice,  
An end that cannot be described as  
very nice.

Now she laid next there next to the  
alley walls,  
Never again to grace the school halls.  
Due to the events that happened that  
cold cloudless night,  
She didn't even make it to dawn's  
morning light.

It's unknown how and why she had  
died.  
No-one living has ever looked her killer  
in the eye.  
For all we know, it could still be loose,  
It keeps us in fear with its paralysing  
noose.

No-one knows why that happened to  
Ruth  
And perhaps we will never fully know  
the truth.  
So if it's really her who haunts the  
town square,  
Or another victim who there entered  
death's lair.

But her final actions were innocent and  
pure,  
Yet for her predicament she could find  
no cure.  
So to the end of her days, she blew a  
kiss  
And cried a silent tear for those she  
would miss.

*A centenary celebration*

# Wiltshire Suffragettes



*Annie Kearney (left) and Christabel Pankhurst*

February 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the Representation of the People Act 1918, which allowed some women over the age of 30 to vote for the first time, and, in December, it will be 100 years since the first general election in which women actually voted.

Wiltshire was by no means in the lead in the suffrage campaign. Only three women in Wiltshire signed the suffragette petition in 1866 - Anne Cunnington from Devizes and Misses Lanham and Turner who ran a ladies boarding seminary in Corsham. These women then disappear from the suffrage story. We don't know why.

In November 1879, a meeting was held above what was then the Police Station at Devizes, but there seems to have been little support from local women. We know from the *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* of 14 January 1909 that there was a meeting at the Town Hall organised by the committee of the Devizes Literary and Scientific Institution on the previous Thursday evening. Following an 'interesting debate' on Women's Suffrage, a vote was taken and it appeared that there was no great support for votes for women with 104 women and 101 men voting 'against' votes for women with only 35 women and 20 men voting 'for'.

Maybe as a result of that defeat, a Devizes branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies was set up followed in January 1911 by a branch of the Women's Social and Political Union - the WSPU had been founded at the Pankhurst family home in Manchester on 10 October 1903 by

six women, including Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst. Also in January 1911, there was a rally in the Corn Exchange when attendees were addressed by Annie Kenney, a leading light in the WSPU and pictured here with Christabel Pankhurst.

On 17 June 1911, a Women's Pageant was held in London in which 40,000 women marched to the Albert Hall where a meeting was held. We know that three of the women on that March were Miss Eveline Cross, Miss Flora Sainsbury and Miss Eleanor 'Norah' Ussher, all from Devizes, and that they carried the Moonrakers' banner. We also know that these three women evaded the 1911 census when they were living at 25 Victoria Road, Devizes. They did this as a protest against not being allowed to vote yet having to share their details.

Fast forward to 6 February 1918 and the Representative of the People Bill was passed meaning that women over 30 who owned property could vote. Not perfect, obviously, but it did start the process which led to the Representative of the People (Equal Franchise) Act 1928 when women over 21 gained full electoral equality.

And for your amusement, a limerick, one of 6 limericks from 'Books of Today', published in February 1908 following the raid of the Suffragettes on Downing Street.

*A Suffragette down from Devizes,  
Just to show how the Force she despises,  
Threw a constable flat,  
And then jumped on his hat—  
These things are unpleasant surprises.*

## Museum News

*A selection of forthcoming events*

### Devizes Castle Garden Tour

11th September, 2pm

This is the last tour for 2018. Meeting at Wiltshire Museum, you will learn more about the origins of the Castle and town of Devizes in our Devizes Gallery, followed by the short walk to the Castle and guided tour of the gardens. Contact the Museum for more details.

Tickets £15 *booking essential*

### Evening Classes – The Cold War by Dr Bob Clarke

19th September, 7pm – 9pm

This is the first of six evening sessions, full details from the Museum. £7 (£4.50 WANHS members)

### Lecture: The South Wiltshire Roman Temple and an update on fieldwork in the Verlucio area by Dr David Roberts

25th September, 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

In the Lecture Hall, Wiltshire Museum

£7 (£4.50 WANHS members)

### Conference: Industrial Archaeology – Buildings

27th October. 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

At Devizes Town Hall

£15 (£13 WANHS members) The ticket price includes morning coffee and afternoon tea, but not lunch.

### Lecture: the Scandinavian Flint Axe Type in Britain by Dr Katharine Walker

10th November, 2:30pm – 4:00pm

In the Lecture Hall, Wiltshire Museum

£7 (£4.50 WANHS members)

### Lecture: Recovering Lost Music of Medieval Wiltshire by Graham Bathe

24th November. 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

£7 (£4.50 WANHS members)

### Lecture: Return to the Antikythera by Phil Short

8th December, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

In the Lecture Hall, Wiltshire Museum

£7 (£4.50 WANHS members)

Bookings and enquiries:  
[www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk](http://www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk)

Or call 01380 727369

You can now search the  
Museum's Collections  
database online

[www.wiltshireheritagecollections.org.uk](http://www.wiltshireheritagecollections.org.uk)



# The Wiltshire Buildings Record

*A useful resource*

If you are looking for information about a Wiltshire property, it might be worth contacting Wiltshire Buildings Record. The organisation has been preserving records of buildings in Wiltshire since 1979. The records can be accessed at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Swindon. They also have a number of publications packed with useful information about historic buildings.

They are partly funded by Wiltshire Council and their aim is to inspire interest from the wider community and share knowledge. Membership of the Wiltshire Buildings Record is open to anyone interested in Wiltshire's built heritage, non-experts and experts alike.

They are custodians of the Wiltshire Gardens Trust records, available to view with the rest of the archive. These records contain details of historic garden schemes and plantings at some of the larger Wiltshire houses, as well as additional notes on building history.

You can find out more on their website

[www.wiltshirebuildingsrecord.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirebuildingsrecord.org.uk)

Contact details are as follows

Tel: 01249 705508

Email:

[dorothy.treasure@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:dorothy.treasure@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Wiltshire Buildings Record,  
The Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre,  
Cocklebury Road,  
Chippenham,  
Wiltshire SN15 3QN

Personal visitors are welcome on Tuesdays, alternatively by appointment when the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre is open.

## Dates for your diary

On the subject of the Suffragettes, Wiltshire Museum will be taking part in the Devizes Carnival procession on Saturday 1st September, meeting at 5pm on the Green. They would love people to join them for the parade, all are welcome – men, women and children. Take a turn holding a banner and shout "Votes for Women!" Those marching will occasionally sing one verse of the suffragette anthem 'The March of the Women'. More details from Rachael at the Museum [rachael.holtom@wiltshiremuseum.org](mailto:rachael.holtom@wiltshiremuseum.org)

Devizes' Heritage Open Day will be on Saturday 8th September this year. If you haven't already visited the Masonic Hall in Morris Lane, or the Lockup beneath the Town Hall, this will be a chance to do so.

The Trust will be holding an Open Meeting on Thursday, 27th September in the Assembly Rooms at the Town Hall, 7pm for a prompt start at 7:30pm. The subject for discussion will be the update to the Neighbourhood Plan. We also hope to bring you updates on the Market Place car parking proposals. This meeting will be open to everyone, so please bring a friend/neighbour.

## Seen around Devizes



*Lansdown House, Long St*

*Spick and span after a lick of paint - and much more!*



*Duck's in Maryport Street  
Has closed for good and will soon  
reopen as a charity shop*

Trust News is published by:

The Trust for Devizes,  
c/o Wiltshire Museum,  
41 Long St,  
Devizes,  
SN10 1NS

The officers of the Trust are :

Chairman

Acting Hon. Secretary Philippa Morgan [info@trustfordevizes.info](mailto:info@trustfordevizes.info)

Hon. Treasurer James Flood [jamesfloodsenior@ndirect.co.uk](mailto:jamesfloodsenior@ndirect.co.uk)

The Trust is a Registered Charity No 259653

Editor - Philippa Morgan  
[info@trustfordevizes.info](mailto:info@trustfordevizes.info)



[www.trustfordevizes.info](http://www.trustfordevizes.info)