

## From the Editor

In the May edition of Trust News, we reported on the street lighting issues which are affecting residents in Long Street. Despite continuing correspondence with Wiltshire Council, we are no nearer to resolving the problems. We will continue to press for this issue to be dealt with properly. The recent changes are having an adverse affect on residents as well as the aesthetics of the conservation area.

At least there's some good news. The Assize Court project is moving forward, albeit more slowly that we might all wish. The Design brief was released in May and there was considerable interest from architects wanting to get involved in the project with more than 60 firms responding to the invitation. A shortlist has been drawn up and the next stage will be for short-listed companies to visit the building and outline their plans. More news in the next edition, hopefully.

We have had some new members join us recently and we'd like to welcome you to the Trust. For those who have moved here recently, welcome to Devizes. If you feel that you would like to get involved in what we do or would just like to find out more, please contact us.

We would really appreciate feedback from all members about Trust News and the Trust in general. If there is anything you think we could do better, please let us know. We'd love to hear from you.

*Philippa Morgan*

## The Market Place

*A step forward*



*An impression of the Market Place showing option 1*

On 1st August 2019, Devizes Market Place became a paid car park. This was done by Wiltshire Council as a temporary measure in the absence of any decision yet on the longer term future of the Market Place.

Meanwhile, Devizes Town Council has been consulting local people on two options for the Market Place. Option 1 would see the creation of a community open space to the right of the Market Place. It would link the main pedestrianised shopping areas, from the Market place to the Brittox via Little Brittox. The scheme would provide good circulation of traffic, keeping the community space and parking separate. However, it acknowledges that care will be needed to be taken to ensure that it does not look like a big empty space.

Option 2 would see the creation of a community open space to the centre and left of the Market Place. This scheme would frame the monument and fountain and provided natural shade. Having cars going by could be a bit of an issue but the parking is more uniform. It acknowledges that the final

design needs to think about how to manage any risk to pedestrians from traffic speeding along the road, and, as with option one, there also needs to be a good link between the Market Place and the Corn Exchange. Consideration would be needed about how the traders in the Market Place could have better access to the community space.

Your Committee has looked carefully at both Options and has concluded that Option 1, subject to further work on the detail, would be preferable. The community space would be continuous with the Brittox and Little Brittox where footfall is greatest and access to the parking area works better, limiting conflict between vehicles and pedestrians in the community space. We have raised the practical issues about access for delivery vehicles and cars, drop off points for coaches and the layout for the remaining parking spaces.

There may still be time to have your say on this important issue. Contact the council on 01380 722160 or go to:

[www.devizes-tc.gov.uk/marketplace](http://www.devizes-tc.gov.uk/marketplace)



The Devides Neighbourhood Plan has now been in place for four years. The time has come to review it and make any changes and additions that are needed.

The main change identified so far is the addition of adjoining parishes to the Plan. Rowde and Bishops Cannings parish councils have confirmed that they would like to be included in the Devizes Plan. This will mean that, in future, the Devizes Plan will take account of issues where the needs of the town and the villages overlap eg transport.

By working together, the Plan can be enhanced and made more relevant. However, it will not in any way diminish the need for the issues which are specific to Devizes eg our heritage, to be included within the revised Plan.

The Trust will be working with Devizes Town Council and the parishes to make sure that the new version of the Plan is even more relevant to the future of our town.

We know that there are pressures coming from the Government for many more houses to be built in Wiltshire and a proportion of these will fall to Devizes. Over the last few years, we have resisted inappropriate new developments and have had some success. We anticipate that the pressure for new houses to be built on greenfield sites will continue.

The Neighbourhood Plan provides the community with a weapon to fight against that. We will do what we can to make the Plan more robust so that we can challenge developments which will damage Devizes and the surrounding area.

Public consultation on the changes will take place during 2020 and we will make sure that members are kept in touch with developments.

# The Elusive Capsule at St Peter's school

*John Girvan recounts the tale*



*The dig in progress. Top left: the team. Bottom right: the finds*

During the time St Peter's school was being developed for housing, former school pupils recollected burying a time capsule in the garden of this site. The pupils - all now adults - remembered that about 28 years ago one of their class projects was to create a time capsule with their work. As children ageing from 7 years old, they had drawn and written down their thoughts of what life would be like in the year 2000. Their thoughts were then concealed in a container and buried on the site.

The school, founded in 1906, was originally Devizes Secondary School. St Peter's took over the building in 1976 as their junior school. The school site is now under development including some new houses being built adjacent to the original school building.

They wondered whether the capsule was still there and, more to the point, could it be found again? Permission was granted by the developer to attempt to find and dig up this capsule.

A digging party comprising two of the original pupils who had buried the capsule got together with two members of the Chippenham Metal Detecting Club, together with another ex-pupil and former school

manager. It proved to be a more formidable task than expected as the area was wildly overgrown with brambles and nettles.

The two metal detectorists picked up numerous signals on their equipment that turned out to be metal cooking foil and odd fragments of metal pipes and wire etc. Sadly, no tin capsule containing the school children's project work was found. However a collection of toys were found: a toy car, four balls and other small items lost by children, including a small metal wind chime with beads on a chain.

A garden gnome was also found and a lovely statue of an angel that had once graced the nature garden alongside a now filled-in pond used as a dipping pond. A twopence piece dated 1976 was unearthed. Excitement mounted when two halves of a gold coin were discovered but on closer inspection that turned out to be a plastic gold coin!

Despite the failure to find the capsule it was interesting to have found the collection of 26 items from the past. The developer has promised to watch out for any further discoveries in the future.



*Many things have changed over 100 years, but it's still*

# Devizes Carnival



*Carnival entrants from 1965 - Cavaliers and Roundheads*

By the time you read this, Devizes Carnival will have come and gone for 2019. Of course, the Carnival is now part of Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts (DOCA) but it was the Carnival which started what has now become a much bigger programme of events.

The first Devizes Carnival took place in September 1912 although it was developed from the tradition of a Hospital Sunday parade. The Carnival spread out over five days with the parade on the opening Sunday and the grand Carnival Dance in the Corn Exchange closing the proceedings on Thursday evening. On the Wednesday evening, there was a torch-lit carnival procession through the streets of Devizes.

The idea of a Carnival Queen began in 1933 and finally finished in 2012 as the idea fell out of fashion. There was a scandal in 1964 as the Carnival Queen was forced to abdicate when it was discovered that she was not resident in Devizes but actually lived in Calne! The selection of the Carnival Queen, with an accompanying variety show, became a ticketed event in the 1950s, taking place in the Corn Exchange.

The Carnival was cancelled in 1938 until it resumed in 1948 but only really restarted in 1955 when Jim Jennings became mayor and re-introduced the Carnival, linking it to the Jennings family fairground business.

The Devizes confetti battle, which has been part of the Carnival since 1913, appears to be an event which is unique in the UK to Devizes. However, a Google search shows that a confetti battle is held every year in the Basque town of Saint Jean de Luz in France. Other

events which have been part of the Carnival in the past were pram races, dog shows, fashion shows, kart races and even Scrabble tournaments.

The Street Festival began in 1999 and has grown from strength to strength to the extent that it's now renowned as an international event. Performing companies from as far afield as Australia have been involved in events which have delivered acrobatics, humour, delight and entertainment for all ages.

There have been changes to this year's Carnival date which have led to grumbles on social media. But the Carnival has, over the last 107 years, gone through many changes and survived. May it continue for another 107 years!!



*2015 - Day Of The Dead*

Photos courtesy of David Buxton, whose book "100 Years Of Devizes Carnival" is available from Devizes Books.

# Museum News

*A selection of forthcoming events*

## LECTURES

**Mapping Prehistory: OGS Crawford and the Origins of Wessex, by Martyn Barber**

5th October 2019 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Lecture Hall, Wiltshire Museum

WAHNS members £4.50, non-members £7

**Industrial Archaeology Conference 2019**

26th October 2019 at Devizes Town Hall £15 (WANHS members £13). Ticket price includes morning coffee and afternoon tea, but not lunch. Book online (see below).

**The Old Stones – the Megalithic Sites of Britain and Ireland, by Andy Burnham**

30th November 2019 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
Lecture Hall, Wiltshire Museum

WAHNS members £4.50, non-members £7

## EXHIBITIONS

**Devizes Camera Club**

1st - 28th September 2019

An exhibition of works by members of Devizes Camera Club, on show at Wiltshire Museum. The exhibition will be open during normal Museum opening times - Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm and Sundays noon to 4pm. Normal Museum admission charges apply.

**Oexmann Art Award Competition and Exhibition 2019**

27th October 2019 - 5th January 2020

The Wiltshire Museum has been holding the biennial Oexmann Art Award Competition and Exhibition since 1988, and it is now one of Wiltshire's art community's most important events.

This year's competition and exhibition marks the 16th biennial Oexmann Art Award, and is held in memory of the late Theophila Joan Oexmann (née Copland-Griffiths), an artist raised in Potterne. The award was endowed by her husband Richard Oexmann in recognition of her love of this county's artistic heritage.

**Bookings and enquiries:**

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

**Or call 01380 727369**



# Health and Wellbeing Day

*A successful day out*



The Trust had a stall again at the Health and Wellbeing day on the Small Green on Saturday 15th June.

This year, we made sure that we had a gazebo as last year was very hot and sunny. It was just as well that we had some shelter as, this year, it rained a lot.

We were able to meet and greet a good number of people, members of the Trust and non-members. Mayor Judy Rose is pictured here next to our advertising panel which attracted a lot of interest.

## And finally...



Where in Devizes will you find this 'Garden'?

anywhere.  
Hotel. The 'garden' no longer goes  
Answer – at the back of the Bear



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

## Dates for your diary

This year's Devizes Heritage Open Day will be on Saturday 14th September. If you haven't yet visited the town Lock-up, the Masonic Hall or St Peter's, St John's, St James' or St Mary's churches, that'll be the day to do so. The Museum will also be free to visit all day. Full details on our website

[http://www.trustfordevizes.info/news/devizes\\_heritage\\_open\\_day\\_2019](http://www.trustfordevizes.info/news/devizes_heritage_open_day_2019)

## Devizes School Poetry Competition

Once again, the Trust sponsored a Poetry Competition at Devizes School. This year's subject was the Crammer and the Moonrakers. The prizes were £50, £30 and £20 for the first, second and third entries which were judged to be the best.

Although the shortest of the three winners, Alex Bendon's poem was felt to be the most atmospheric and is published here. The prizes were presented by Philippa Morgan at the final school assembly before the summer holidays.



*Philippa Morgan (right) with the winners*

The moonlight danced on the floor  
of the water,  
But the trust of the town close to  
slaughter.  
The tress whipped their leaves and  
covered the place of hiding,  
Alcohol rooks slowly gliding.

Two shadows lurked towards the  
contraband,  
The impish men held captive on  
the grassland.  
Stolen off a horse and a merchant  
boy,

Enslaved in the water, drawn to it  
like a toy.  
But from the darkness men arose,  
Creeping into the light, their face  
expose.  
Giddily laughing they chocked at  
the lie,  
The men in the lake with a smile of  
sly.

Away they went with the barrels in  
hands,  
Slipping away from the moon's  
bands.

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