

Chairman's Report

The holiday season has not seen a reduction in our activities.

Since the previous regular edition of Trust News we have had a Special Edition to report on the June public meeting. The follow-up to that will be held on **13th September** and full details are on page 4. These meetings are intended to give Trust members an opportunity to influence the future of Devizes and to encourage new members to join. I hope that members will find it a stimulating event. We will return to a more traditional social evening in December.

In July a public hearing was held into the new Wiltshire Planning Core Strategy. The Trust and others presented evidence to a planning inspector, emphasising the need to develop the infrastructure of the Devizes Area before permitting further new housing developments. The effort seems to have had some useful results; the Wiltshire Council proposal to restrict the numbers of new houses in our area appears to have been generally accepted by the Inspector. However, we are not taking too much for granted because the

Continued overleaf

Heritage open day Saturday Sept 14th 2013



St James



The Town Lockup



Wiltshire Museum



The Masonic Hall



St Mary The Virgin



St John The Baptist

The buildings involved in the event

On September 14th, Devizes will be participating for the first time in the National Heritage Open Days programme.

We are making a modest start with five buildings being open to the public and free entry to the Museum but hopefully this will grow over the years.

As well as opening during the day, St Mary's Church is holding a Candlelit Tour at 8pm, with music from the pupils of Penny Price Jones and the Gentlemen of St John's Choir will sing Compline.

Leaflets describing the buildings will be available from the museum and other locations about town.

Please take advantage of these opportunities to visit some of our lovely buildings and tell your friends.

Strategy has yet to be brought fully into effect. The Government still seems to be hell-bent on driving through proposals for new developments regardless of local opinion or the adverse consequences for communities like ours with seriously overstretched services.

Two current proposals for large developments at Coate Bridge and Hopton Road will be a test for the Core Strategy and the outcome will be watched with interest and with great concern.

Ted East

New Blue Plaque for John Kent's House



The Trust has recently commissioned a new Plaque for John Kent's House on the Market Place. Here it is in pristine condition.

John Kent, born 1559, moved to Devizes in 1585 and went on to become MP for Devizes as well as town mayor. He died in 1630 and was buried in St John's churchyard.

Albion Place

Trees to be removed! What next?

Devizes Town Council has agreed to remove two large trees that are causing problems in Albion Place off Sidmouth Street. The horn-beams are causing paving to become uneven and are blocking light to some of the businesses and flats above.

The town council set up a working party to investigate the issue and they recommended the trees be removed and two replacement trees be planted elsewhere, possibly on The Green.

The town council's recreation and properties committee agreed that the trees should be removed as soon as possible but deferred a decision about replacement trees and will consult with businesses in Albion Place.

Some Trust members might remember that the trees were

planted by the Trust on 5th March 1980. The picture below shows the Mayor, Councillor Forder with the shovel in his hand. The original idea for Albion Place was to open it up into a paved area for public enjoyment. Historically it was a private garden enclosed with railings.



Offers View

Another small triumph for the Trust

Developers of Offers Court, where one of Devizes' biggest companies was based, have bowed to public pressure and will retain its name. The climbdown follows an outcry from residents and the last direct descendant of the Offer family, supported by the Trust for Devizes.

The Minton Group, based in London, bought Offers Court after it closed in 2011. Gaiger Brothers in Devizes became the joint developers in April and the developers had renamed the block 'Roundway Court'. After some pressure was applied, they agreed to drop 'Roundway' from the name of the development and the building will be called Offers View.

The Trust is pleased that the developers have decided to acknowledge the historic commercial use of the site by incorporating the family name of the previous owners but John Girvan is still puzzled as to where the 'view' is!

The Offer family had its premises there from 1879 to the 1970s, working as carpenters, wheelwrights and latterly undertakers. They made the famous Wiltshire wagon and produced fairground showmen's living wagons for the local Jennings and Edwards families. The Trust for Devizes has asked the developer if it can put up a commemorative plaque at the building.

Saving Devizes' Pillbox

John Girvan reports



Rescue repair work was started on 27th August on the WWII pillbox at Rotherstone Devizes. This was listed by English heritage to be an important defensive structure at the Nodal point of the blue line along the Kennet & Avon Canal, in preparation for a possible attack by an invading German army. The roof of the pillbox was suffering from the deterioration of the external rendering causing water penetration. The work is being carried out by Rocket Masonry of Frome, who have previous experience in canal restoration work. The building is a hexagonal type 24 and the only one now left in the town. The site area will be cleared and cleaned up. New steps were created last year to provide access the towpath.

The pillbox was originally built by W E Chivers the Devizes builders in concrete and red hollow bricks. A stainless steel



plaque was fixed to its gate by the Trust for Devizes who are part funding the project with the Canal & River Trust together with a grant from the Devizes Area Board. A new 'Devizes at War' walk is to be organized by John Girvan in conjunction with the Wiltshire Museum in Long Street.

Museum News

Exhibitions

Creativity in the Bronze Age: a Response

6 July - 6 October 2013.

Bringing together works by seven craft artists working with CinBA (Creativity and Craft Production in Middle and Late Bronze Age Europe). The exhibition is part of an ongoing exchange between academic researchers working in archaeology and contemporary makers / artists engaged in practice-based research.

An exhibition featuring around 80 works by members of the Devizes Camera Club.

The exhibition will be in the Museum's Art Gallery from 8 September to 5 October 2013. For more information go to the website:

www.devizescameraclub.org.uk

SATURDAY LECTURES

The Changing World of 15th Century Wiltshire

Saturday 19 October 2013 at 2:30pm

by Dr John Hare.

Learn about 15th-century Wiltshire, how changes in agriculture and the growth of the cloth industry generated more jobs and demands for consumer goods.

The Great War: Devizes Soldiers

Saturday 16 November 2013 at 2:30

by Richard Broadhead.

Find out more about the Devizes soldiers recorded on local war memorials.

Bookings and enquiries:

www.wiltshireheritage.org.uk

Or call 01380 727369

A message from the Treasurer

Gift Aid allows the Trust to reclaim the tax paid on your subscription. This is a valuable source of extra income which enables us to keep our subscriptions low.

If you are a UK tax payer it is easy to "gift aid" your subs.

Please contact me via the Trust (addresses below) for the appropriate form.

Inez Skinner

Write for Trust News!

We are always on the lookout for interesting articles about Devizes and its history.. Do you have something to offer?

Perhaps you have a question that our local experts can answer, or a comment on one of our stories.

Write to the editor at the address below.

Are you online?

Would you prefer to receive your Trust News by email?

Printing and posting the Trust News is one of the major costs incurred by the Trust.

If you would be happy to receive your copy of Trust News by email it would help to reduce our outgoings, saving paper as well as the time spent by our volunteers stuffing envelopes!

To register for this service, send an email to info@trustfordevizes.info.

Dates for your diary

The next Trust social event will be on **Friday 13th September starting at 7pm for 7:30 in the Cheese Hall.**

This event will be a continuation of the June meeting and will focus on a specific subject - the Market Place.

This will be an open meeting for members, friends and any other Devizes residents or people who wish to share their views on what might be done with the Market Place to provide a focus for the community and visitors alike.

The format of the evening will follow that of the earlier event as this encouraged discussion and participation of all those attending.

Our Christmas social will follow the normal format and entertainment will be provided. It will take place on **Friday 6th December at 7pm for 7:30, at the Nursted Centre** (subject to confirmation).

Planning News

Wiltshire Council Core Strategy - the Planning Inspector's report

The Core Strategy has been developed over the last 2 years and there have been considerable inputs through the consultation stage by the Trust, DCAP, WANHS and other local community bodies.

The review stage took place over several weeks in July and August 2013. Andrew Seaman was appointed as the Planning Inspector and he has been examining the document in public hearings in order to test its robustness and suitability for the county. In particular the Inspector has been keen to establish the level of the involvement of local community bodies and whether the Core Strategy recognised their needs. **John Baumber** represented the Trust for Devizes at the public hearing.

The changes required by the Inspector have now been published.

The Inspector's report shows that the process has been robust and in general supports the Trust's views. The changes involve providing stronger levels of protection for the World Heritage Sites at Avebury and Stonehenge, for listed buildings and monuments and for Areas of Outstanding National Beauty. With over 500 listed buildings and a nationally recognised Museum, Devizes will benefit from this additional protection.

The changes also reflect a strengthening of the role of Neighbourhood Plans to influence outcomes, especially concerning housing needs in areas not defined with a strategic allocation for housing, which is the position confirmed for Devizes.

There is also a requirement to ensure that infrastructure needs such as roads, water supply and sewage disposal are resolved before development is allowed.

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www.trustfordevizes.info