

## Chairman's Report

This newsletter brings news of current developments, achievements and activities to our members in its articles. We do not explain in detail the work done behind the scenes by committee members, but we do want to give credit to individuals from time to time for their efforts on behalf of the Trust. Tony Bolland has been a committee member for about 10 years and now feels it is time to retire. We thank him for all that he has done for the Trust and there is an article about him in this edition.

We are always pleased to expand the skills and interests represented on the Trust Committee and members who would like to be more actively involved in the work behind the scenes should contact me. Those who do not wish to do that can help by suggesting membership of the Trust to friends and neighbours. The larger our membership the more influence we have on local issues. It is the role of the Chairman and the Committee to decide on which local issues to pursue but we are always pleased to hear from members if they want to draw attention to anything of local concern. You do not need to wait for the AGM to become a committee member or to express an opinion.

We have previously commented in Trust News about perverse planning decisions that are damaging to the community. Trust News recently reported that we had joined forces with several other community voluntary organisations to present evidence to the appeal on the Quakers Walk Care Home proposal. The decision by the Planning Inspector, just announced, is in favour of the developer. Reading the

*Continued overleaf*

## QUAKERS WALK CARE VILLAGE THE VERDICT



*A view across the site which will become our new care village*

As we go to press, the Planning Inspector has delivered his verdict on the appeal by the Merchant Venturers against the rejection of their planning application to build a Care Village on the field between the Quakers Walk housing development and the allotments. Not unexpectedly, the appeal has been upheld, so we now have to come to terms with the prospect of the rest of the land to the east of Quakers Walk being built on.

This is a blow to the Trust as we try to hold back the tide of unplanned, speculative, unsustainable and unwanted development in Devizes. Together with the CPRE, the Quakers Walk Protection Group and others, we submitted evidence to the Inspector in the expectation and hope that this would influence his decision. Wiltshire Council had withdrawn its opposition to the application.

The Inspector's report comments on the attitude of the Planning Officers:

"it is clearly the case that the appellant has discussed this proposal in detail with the appropriate Council Officers responsible for such provision. It is

equally clear that these Officers are in favour of the proposed development"

So we were being naive in our expectation that local opposition to this unnecessary, unwanted development would have a bearing on the result of the Inspector's decision. So much for localism, abandoned after only six months!

Of further significance is the fact that the Inspector awarded costs against the Council. In the current financial climate, this makes it extremely likely that, in view of Wiltshire Council's weak approach to planning, they will now adopt a policy of agreeing to any development application of significance on the grounds that they would be faced with expensive legal costs if the applicants appealed and won. Another blow for local communities facing the long term effects of too much development.

Despite this setback, rest assured that the Trust will not change its stance and will continue to fight the battles that we have embarked on to save Devizes becoming another Wiltshire clone town.

Inspector's report, it seems to me that he has carefully combed through the submissions to find all the possible reasons to support the intended decision rather than reaching a balance conclusion on the evidence. The Government's determination to drive through any developments in the belief that they will stimulate the national economy has totally removed the last traces of so-called localism and sustainability. What a cynical system.

The same group of local organisations also met the Area Board to request a public meeting to consider how the planning system operates locally in the light of public concern about some planning decisions that appear to be irrational. We will be printing further information on the topic in the New Year.

Wiltshire Council has a consultation web site where you can have your say on a number of issues of local importance. Please see

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/consultations.htm>. It is very frustrating to those who do not have access to the Internet, but this method of communication is now a fact of life that we cannot change. Members without access to the internet who wish to contact the Trust should write to me or other officers via the address given in Trust News.

Our next social is on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at the Nursteed Centre. There will be musical entertainment by First Stages, a musical theatre group for local youngsters. It is a repeat of last year's event, which was very well received by those present. The Centre is in Nursteed Road, under half a mile from the Green. The entrance is on the right, adjacent to the Pelican crossing outside the Junior School, and there is plenty of parking space.

**Ted East**

## Tony Bolland – a Very Quiet Man

*As Tony Bolland steps down from the committee, Tony Sedgwick reveals the achievement of a man who assiduously avoided the spotlight*



*Tony Bolland's artwork for the cover of the Town Trail booklet*

I first met Tony in 2006 when I was invited to join the Trust Committee. I knew very little about old buildings and their care, but quickly recognised that here was someone who did. Despite his reserve, he went out of his way to make me feel welcome. As an architect, Tony is knowledgeable on all things to do with buildings and I remember being particularly impressed when he spoke about the townscape and the various theories of how they should be developed and conserved. He also taught me that a new building must show respect to an older neighbour.

When I volunteered to take on the role of editor I learned more about the many talents of this quiet man – he had edited journals and understands the importance of visual appearance, balance between pictures and text and the need for “white space”. His advice was invaluable in turning an A5 duplicated offering into the full colour version ‘Trust News’ became. He also provided me with my first leading article, on the Bastide Towns in France and their similarity to Devizes.

On embarking on my next project, I discovered another of Tony's skills – photography. The Town Trail was rather dated and I agreed to rewrite it and publish it in full colour. For that I needed photographs of a professional standard and my own ‘Box Brownie’ style hardly fitted the bill! I had no need to worry, for

forward stepped Tony and in a short time he produced a host of excellent pictures eminently suitable for my purpose. He then designed and drew the artwork for its cover.

When the late Patrick Norton approached the Trust with his idea for a public work of art which he and his wife wished to present to the town, it was Tony who sat down with him and helped design the “pyramid” as it is now known. In addition Tony engineered the design to minimise the opportunities for vandals by its very shape and the way it is mounted. He then became the Project Manager and supervised the whole construction and installation.

Later the Trust became concerned at the possibility of more of Devizes Wharf being used for housing. Tony was asked to produce an idea of how it could be developed as a public space. Once more he did not disappoint and, as a direct result, stakeholders' meeting were held with the Council and a Design Brief produced.

Every organisation needs a Tony; a “backroom boy” who quietly uses his talents to the benefit of all. We in the Trust will miss his contribution, but I know he will continue to be of service to the community in other roles. So we thank him for the huge contribution he has made and wish him every success in whatever ventures he embarks upon.



# Totnes 1 - Costa Coffee 0

Philippa Morgan on a victory for independent traders



Totnes is a market town in Devon, population 7,444, which is well known for its 'alternative' lifestyle. It was the first town in Britain to have its own currency when it launched the Totnes pound in 2007. It has a thriving local economy based largely on independent shops and, at the last count, 41 independently-run cafes and restaurants.

However, In February 2010, a local wholefood business called Greenlife moved out of the High Street to take over new premises on the town's market square. After rumours about who would move in to the empty shop, it was eventually announced that Costa Coffee would be opening a 70-seat cafe in a part of the town that regularly swarms with visitors.

Local cafe owners then started a campaign called 'No To Costa' in an attempt to convince the local Planning Committee members to refuse Costa's planning application. On 1 August 2012, the planning committee of South Hams district council approved Costa's plans by 17 votes to six. As Costa's local opponents pointed out, only four of the councillors who voted actually represented the town.

That wasn't the end of the story though. The people of Totnes continued their campaign against the arrival of Costa



Coffee, collecting more than 5000 signatures in a petition against the coffee chain.

In an unexpected about-turn, in October, Costa Coffee made the decision to pull out and wrote to the people of Totnes saying "Costa has recognised the strength of feeling in Totnes against national brands and taken into account the specific circumstances of Totnes".

Not everyone in Totnes was happy with the success of the campaign, though, and there are people in the town who see this as sending out the wrong signals in terms of Totnes' future prospects for economic growth.

We already have a Costa in Devizes and it has now been joined by Caffè Nero. We still have many independent cafes, and there seems to be room for all of them at the moment. The question is, will this continue to be the case or will the 'chain' cafes squeeze out the locally run cafes? Of course, this also applies to other types of shop.

What do you think? Let us have your thoughts and ideas on this and other aspects of issues which affect our town. You can send an e-mail to [info@trustfordevizes.info](mailto:info@trustfordevizes.info) or write to the address on page 4.

## Apology

The last issue of Trust News included an obituary of Patrick Norton. We referred to the sculpture in Albion Place. The sculpture was in fact designed by Tony Bolland and sculptor Richard Cowdy, not by Patrick, who presented it to the town. It was installed in Albion Place in 2008, not 1997. Please accept my apologies for these errors.

## Museum News

Current exhibitions at the Museum are:

- The Story of Devizes - this will now close on 11 November
- Fantastic Fossils - a Fun Exhibition for all the Family
- Ancient Wiltshire - photographs by Pete Glastonbury which capture the mystery of Wiltshire's ancient monuments and landscapes

Our very own John Girvan will be giving a lunchtime talk on Wednesday 12th December at 1:10pm about Wiltshire's prisons, including a scale model of Devizes prison. Tickets are £4 (£3 for WANHS members). No need to book. Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

## Devizes Transport Strategy update

In the last issue, we reported on the draft transport strategy for Devizes which has been produced by Mott MacDonald for Wiltshire Council.

Public consultation on the draft strategy will take place on **19th November in the Cheese Hall between 3pm and 8pm**. Hopefully, this will result in the strategy being strengthened by taking on board people's comments and ideas.

We look forward to seeing the outcome of the consultation and learning of how the aspirations set out in the strategy will be achieved.

## A message from the Treasurer

In 2013 the annual subscription to the Trust will be £12 per household (not £13 as printed in error in a recent message to some members.) If you have a standing order in place the Trust would be grateful if you would have this adjusted before 2nd January 2013. Thank you to those of you who responded swiftly to the reminder letter regarding late payment of subscriptions which was sent out with the previous newsletter.

I have made a Gift Aid repayment claim recently which amounts to £450.50 and although we may not receive the money very swiftly it will be a handy amount when it comes. If there are members who have not registered for Gift Aid and would like to do so please contact me for the appropriate form.

Inez Skinner

### 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](mailto:info@trustfordevizes.info).



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

## Dates for your diary

The Christmas social will be held on **Tuesday 11th December** - **please note the change of date** - at the Nursteed Centre (see map, below) and entertainment will be by First Stages, the young people's choir who sang so beautifully at last year's Christmas Social. There will also be refreshments and a table-top quiz.

Arrangements for the AGM are still being finalised, and the date and place will be announced in the next issue of Trust News.



## Around Town



### On The Shop front...

The new frontage for Ducks newsagent has been unveiled, pictured left. Also new to the town is The Pottery Painting Company on the site of the old cheese shop on the corner of Monday Market St and Maryport St.

Trust News is published by:

The Trust For Devizes,  
Fairfield House,  
Potterne Road,  
Devizes SN10 5AE

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

The officers of the Trust are :

Chairman	Edward East	email <a href="mailto:edward.east@virgin.net">edward.east@virgin.net</a>
Hon. Secretary	Tony Duck	email <a href="mailto:tonyduckworton@aol.com">tonyduckworton@aol.com</a>
Hon. Treasurer	Inez Skinner	email <a href="mailto:inezskinner@aol.com">inezskinner@aol.com</a>

The Trust is a Registered Charity No 259653