

## From the Editor

As I write this, it seems as if Spring is on the way although there's still a hint of snow in the sky. It's too late to talk about New Year's resolutions but it might be worth reflecting on what we can do for our town over the coming months.

There will be a chance to vote on the Neighbourhood Plan, currently being looked at by a Planning Inspector who will be examining it in the next few weeks. Given the work that has gone into it and the opportunities given to comment on the Plan itself, a 'Yes' vote from the Devizes community would ensure that it becomes part of the planning process and a large 'Yes' vote would show the politicians at County Hall that we are fully behind the Plan. Not that I am suggesting how you should vote, of course!

Another, more mundane, issue which is covered in this copy of Trust News are the problems of graffiti and dog mess which seem to be getting worse rather than better. There is no easy way to resolve this. It comes down to education and civic pride, although more vigorous policing would help. The issue of the Assize Courts will be coming to a head shortly. There is a revised application for houses off Quakers Walk. And so on.

The Trust AGM will be on Thursday 19th March in the Town Hall at 7pm for a prompt start at 7:30pm. After the formal part of the agenda is completed, we will be asking you to let us have your views on what the Committee's priorities should be

*Continued overleaf*

## CAR PARKING

Wiltshire Council publishes its proposals



In June 2014, the Trust held a public meeting about parking issues affecting the town. As a result of feedback and comments at that meeting, we presented a report to Wiltshire Council as our contribution to the public consultation which was carried out between October and December 2014. The results of that consultation have now been made public. Details are to be found in the minutes of the Environment Select Committee, via this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/WiltsParking2015>

Wiltshire Council now plans to make a number of changes to parking in Devizes. In summary, Sainsbury, Northgate, West Central and Central car parks will change from long stay to short stay, with 3 hours maximum. Prices at all car parks will go up except for Station Road where the first hour will go down from 45p to 30p with all day stay at £4. Market Place parking will remain free for 30 minutes.

Commenting on the outcome of the consultation, our traffic and parking expert Tony Sedgwick says, "A number of the Trust's proposals have been accepted. Station Road being divided into Short and Long Stay is a major improvement, since it will give short-term parkers the opportunity of parking at the town end of the car park, rather than being forced to the far end.

"The price reduction to £4 a day is good news. The overall increase in the hourly charge still keeps Devizes competitive with neighbouring centres. The move to make the Central Car Park short term is good news for shoppers and visitors as it will free up spaces for them.

"Tucked away in the report is one fact which I find alarming. Sheep Street is to have its machine removed and payment will be by mobile phone only. As we have pointed out to the Council, this car park is used by a considerable number of elderly people visiting the Baptist Church for Lunch at One and other community activities. They do not all have mobile phones and probably won't know what to do.

"Whilst I am disappointed that our recommendation to convert the central car park to Pay on Foot (a system which requires the driver to pay at a payment machine before returning to their vehicle) has not been taken forward, I am not surprised. The capital cost would be considerable and would inevitably lead to demands for other towns for this change."

The Trust will monitor how the changes affect life in the town.

# From the Editor

continued

for 2015/6. We would like to focus on three or four main issues, although we hope that the discussion will be wide ranging. We look forward to seeing you there.

Philippa Morgan

## Consultations

Have your say

The Merchant Venturers, owners of the land next to Quakers Walk, have submitted an application to build 123 houses on the land, which was previously earmarked for a "care village".

This will be a controversial development, adding to the burden on the town's infrastructure and in particular to the traffic problems on London Road. The Trust will be considering the application at our next committee meeting and will make its comments in due course.

Individuals can view the plans and make comments either in person at the council offices in Snuff St, or online by going to

<http://tinyurl.com/DevizesPlanning>

- search for application number 15/01388/OUT

Comments must be made by 16th March.



The southern end of Quakers Walk, with the resurfacing visible through the repaired gates

# A Road Name to be Proud Of

Tony Sedgewick describes a local hero

At the far end of the Hopton Industrial Estate there is a road named Sergeant Rogers Way. Whilst it is tucked away in a far corner of the town, it is one name we should take notice of.

Sergeant Maurice Albert Windham Rogers fought in the Second World War with the Second Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment and died at the Battle for Anzio on 3rd June 1944. But it was the manner of his death that made this man, at just 24 years old, worthy of special remembrance. He died in action whilst leading his men in a successful assault on an important enemy target. For that he was awarded the highest honour any serving soldier can achieve, the Victoria Cross.

His citation reads *"In Italy, a battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment was ordered to attack high ground held by the enemy. The carrier platoon of the leading company, dismounted were ordered to capture the final objective. They advanced under intense fire and sustained a number of casualties. The platoon, checked by the enemy's wire and the intensity of his machine-gun fire, took cover some 70 yards short of their objective. Serjeant Rogers continued to advance alone, and penetrated 30 yards inside the enemy's defences, drawing their fire and throwing them into confusion. Inspired by his example, the platoon began the assault. Serjeant Rogers was blown off his feet by a grenade, and wounded in the leg. Nothing daunted, he ran on towards an enemy machine-gun post, attempting to silence it. He was shot and killed at point blank range. This N.C.O.'s undaunted determination, fearless devotion to duty and superb courage carried his platoon on to their objective in a strongly defended position. The great gallantry and heroic self-sacrifice of Serjeant Rogers were in the highest tradition of the British Army".*

For Maurice Rogers, this was not an isolated incident; he had already

been awarded the Military Medal. This was a year earlier when the Eighth Army was fighting its way through Sicily.

On this occasion Sergeant Rogers' platoon, consisting of two personnel carriers was ordered forward to engage the enemy. Whilst doing so, his carrier broke down. Leaving his platoon to hold their position with the disabled carrier, he returned to the Command Post, gave the exact bearings of the enemy's mortar and gun positions and then returned to the fight. However, the order came to withdraw. Unwilling to lose his carrier, Rogers calmly attached tow chains to the stricken carrier despite being under heavy fire. He then towed the carrier back painfully slowly, under attack the whole time. Having got his platoon safely back to base, he immediately removed a track off a burnt out carrier and fitted it to his own, bringing back into immediate service.

Sergeant Rogers was an exceptionally brave man; the type of soldier that inspires others to feats of valour. He never returned to enjoy the peace that he gave his life for - we are the beneficiaries of his sacrifice and are honoured to have a road bearing his name.



Sergeant Rogers' grave in Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio



# The Trust launches its new website!

An exciting new development

In the next week or two we will be launching our new web site which is also a membership management system and will make life much easier for our hard-pressed secretary and treasurer.

The web site will be easier to keep up to date, since a number of members will be able to update it and it contains three new and important features.

First, the Trust's Diary will be on the front page, so you will know what is happening, where and when.

Secondly, there will be a "Members Only" section where you will be able to read the minutes of our regular committee meetings as well as those of the AGM. In that section there is also a Bulletin Board where we will be able to inform our members of matters which, for whatever reason, we do not wish to publish on the public pages.

Thirdly, you will be able to pay your annual subs on-line if you wish.

Those of you who have given us your email address will receive an invitation to log in to the new site with a password of your choosing. As well as viewing the website and members-only section, you will also be able to check the contact information we are holding for you and correct it if necessary.

If you have an email address but haven't yet given it to us - or if you have changed your email address - please let us have it by emailing [info@trustfordevizes.info](mailto:info@trustfordevizes.info). We will then issue you with an invitation too.

We hope you like the new site! Please visit us at

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

## Graffiti and dog mess

Let's do something about it!



In recent weeks we have noticed that graffiti has appeared at various locations around town, including the recently-restored pill box alongside the canal.

This is a disappointing development which degrades the general environment. We must hope that it doesn't turn into a major problem.

Instances of graffiti on public property should be reported to the council, who are responsible for cleaning it.



Phone the council on 0300 0456 0105 or use their website to report an issue. Go to

[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/report.htm](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/report.htm)

The same channels can be used to report instances of dog mess, which is a perennial problem around town.

You can report suspected perpetrators by calling the police on 01380 735735.

## Museum News

A selection of forthcoming events

Saturday, 28 February, 2015 at 2:30 pm

**LECTURE: Placing the 'burh' in Searobyrg: Salisbury and Old Sarum in the Anglo-Saxon Period**

A Saturday afternoon lecture by Alex Langlands.

Sunday, 01 March, 2015 at noon

**OEXMANN ART COMPETITION**

Art Competition and Exhibition - entries invited from anyone born or living in Wiltshire. Prizes awarded in junior and adult categories.

Saturday, 14 March, 2015 at 10:30 am

**OUTING: Ancient Technology Centre and Dorset Cursus**

An own car outing to the Dorset Cursus, followed by a visit to the Ancient Technology Centre.

Saturday, 21 March, 2015 at 2:30 pm

**LECTURE: Romans, Britons and Saxons: Wessex in the 5th Century**

A Saturday afternoon lecture by Dr Bruce Eagles

Saturday, 11 April, 2015 at 2:30 pm

**LECTURE: Suffused with a Golden Glow: casting light on the Early Bronze Age gold of Wessex and Britain**

A Saturday afternoon lecture by Stuart Needham, about the Leverhulme funded Project.

Saturday, 18 April, 2015

**Archaeology in Wiltshire Conference 2015**

The third Archaeology in Wiltshire Conference, being held on 18 April 2015 - UNESCO World Heritage Day.

Saturday, 25 April, 2015 at 2:00 pm

**OWN CAR OUTING: Archaeology Walk on Salisbury Plain**

An archaeological walk within the Salisbury Plain military training area led by former County Archaeologist Roy Canham.

Saturday, 02 May, 2015 at 10:30 am

**OUTING: Walking the Dead: Exploring the Stonehenge Ceremonial Landscape**

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.

*Continued overleaf*

# Museum News

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Saturday, 16 May, 2015 at 10:30 am

## WORKSHOP: Neolithic Flint Axes

Come and learn the art of making a Neolithic axe from flintknapper James Dilley, then have a go yourself!

Thursday, 28 May, 2015 at 4:00 pm

## OWN CAR OUTING: Turner's Wessex

A guided tour of Turner's viewpoints in Salisbury Cathedral and Close, followed by a private view of the blockbuster Turner exhibition at Salisbury Museum.

Saturday, 25 July, 2015 at 2:00 pm

## OWN CAR OUTING: Frome Town Walk

A guided afternoon walk around this fascinating and historic market town.

12:00 am, Monday, 05 October, 2015

## SOCIETY TRIP TO POMPEII, HERCULANEUM AND CLASSICAL CAMPANIA

The Society has arranged for Andante Travel of Salisbury to organise a private trip for the members of WANHS, Salisbury and Dorchester Museums.

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

Or call 01380 727369

## Membership

*Are you up to date?*

The annual subscription of £12 is now due. Have you paid? Please consider setting up a standing order. Forms are available from the Hon. Treasurer at the address below, or send an email to

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

Members who pay UK tax can Gift Aid their subscription, which increases the Trust's receipts at no cost to you. Forms are available from the Treasurer or by email.

# A date for your diary

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 19th March at 7pm for 7:30 at the Museum

There will be refreshments. All members are welcome to join us.

After the formal part of the agenda is completed, we will be asking you for your views on what the Committee's priorities should be for 2015/6.

## Assize Courts: The saga continues

In the last Trust News, we reported on repair work which has now been carried out by the owners of the Assize Courts. This has prompted many people in Devizes to ask when the building is going to be developed in line with the planning permission which was granted in May 2012. Unfortunately, we are no nearer having an answer to that question.

However, one of the conditions included in the granting of planning permission was that "The works for which Listed Building Consent is hereby granted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this consent" ie

May 2015. There is no longer an option in the Planning Regulations for an extension to the planning permission to be extended for a further 2 years.

Cllr Sue Evans has advised that "The Council is aware, as are the owners, that the current permission expires in May. The Council continues to monitor the condition of the building and to try to work with the owner to seek a long term solution."

Hopefully, by the next edition of Trust News, we will have some more positive news to report.

## Enforcing planning conditions

Your Committee scrutinises all planning applications in the Devizes area and comments as necessary. We also follow up on these applications in order to ensure that conditions set by Wiltshire Council are adhered to by the applicant.

A recent example of where things can go slightly awry can be seen here.

The application for a new sign on the undertakers' premises in New Park Street was approved by Wiltshire Council, subject to conditions which specified the size of the sign. This followed comments made by the Trust about the signage. However, when the sign was put up, it was quite obviously far too large and out of scale for the building. Indeed, it was almost as wide as the building itself.



*On the application...*



*... and on the street*

Wiltshire Council wrote to the owner requesting that the signs (which are, at the time of writing, still in place) should be removed and replaced with signs of the approved size and shape. The owners have been given time in which to replace the signs and the enforcement officer will re-visit the site to check on compliance.

To report suspected violations of planning conditions, write to your local councillor - or contact the Trust.

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