

THE CHICHESTER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

www.chichestersociety.org.uk

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Have you sent in your email address to the editor (address back cover) so we can update you on any new events?



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Getting ready for our 40th!

Our Chairman, Richard Childs, anticipates a special year.

Next year marks the 40th anniversary of the Chichester Society and members of your Executive Committee have been considering ways to mark the occasion.

During 2013 we plan to reproduce in the Newsletter, articles from the earliest editions, which will reflect the challenges faced by the Society in the 1970s. Additionally Tim Rooth, the Society's first Secretary, will be producing a history of the Society's early years.

As an archivist, I'm keen for the Society to collect as much information as possible about its activities. A lot of the Society's records have already been deposited at the West Sussex Record Office. This includes an almost complete set of newsletters, correspondence files, even a sonnet written by Christopher Fry for the Chichester Society.



The Society was formed when swathes of the city were threatened by demolition for re-building or to create a dual carriageway racetrack around the Walls. Some of the Society's campaigns succeeded, others, alas!, didn't.

*Demolished ... and then left derelict.
What the NW quadrant looked like in about 1980
Photographs by Joy Crawshaw*



We would like to augment the Society's archival holdings and you can help. Many of you have been members for a long time. We would like to appeal to everyone to have a sort out and see if you can offer us any relevant material. In particular if you have any photographs of the developments in Chichester in the 1970s, we'd like to hear from you. Your material can be of use to us and can be added to our holdings at the Record Office. If you have material but don't wish to part with it, we can scan it and let you have it back.

We want to ensure that all the Society's activities over 40 years have been comprehensively covered. If you do have anything, please contact your Chairman, Richard Childs, preferably by email (infantis56@gmail.com) or phone 539958.

Chisores - does Chichester have to look like this?

As the sun sets over the old adobe hacienda (formerly known as the Crown Inn) on the parched sierra of Rumboldswyke, the locals remove their sombreros as they prepare themselves for a feast of nachos, enchiladas, washed down with plenty of tequila.

This latest incarnation of the Crown Inn has advertised itself in the most vivid of ways with its painting of the wicket fence in the colours of the Mexican flag, thus providing a rather garish aspect for those travelling along Quarry Lane towards Whyke Road. In fairness, Chichester does have a Mexican culinary heritage, with Shippams producing the Old El Paso range of food kits from 1984.



Whether or not this latest Mexican theme proves a success, the proprietors do have a fallback position should it fail as the wicket fence is also in the colours of the Italian flag. However, we would prefer it if Speedy Gonzales could get a large bucket of white paint and restore the fence to its monochrome dignity.



A couple of buildings that are city centre eyesores, each in their own way: Friary Close, only too visible to visitors using the East Pallant House Car Park, with poor maintenance (note the rendering coming away - circled above the upper window) and squatters in attendance; and as a special treat for visitors to the Novium, we present the House of Fraser outbuildings as a counterpoint to the graceful view of the Cathedral spire.



But on a more encouraging note ...



We salute Tesco for their recently reported decision to install coin-operated trolleys at their Fishbourne store. With that development, we hope for an end to the procession of abandoned trolleys down Fishbourne Road East, with one or two of the more adventurous trolleys even making their way across the level crossing. Even so, as our photo shows, there are people, who no doubt grumble mightily about any rise in parking charges, who are nevertheless prepared to abandon both trolley and coin deposit. Their loss also disfigures the city, as this abandoned trolley testifies (It's from M&S, by the railway station - going to fraternise with those at Waitrose?)

Four new and stylish town houses have now been completed at the end of Mount Lane. With well-appointed interiors and an attractive view across Westgate Fields, they are a much more promising addition to central Chichester's housing stock than many other developments with too many houses crammed in to tiny sites.

The owners of the old bungalow formerly occupying the site had let it go past the point of no return, and in terms of housing stock this was no loss. But just to record a little history - it was the first commission for Powell and Moya, who went on to design the 1951 Festival Hall and much else besides.



Clockwise from top right:

The new town houses in Mount Lane; the old bungalow which they replace; a view from the first floor of the town house.



When Summer came to Chichester ...

The City Council's Rodney Duggua tells us about the Jubilee Gala in June ...



In July 2011 the City Council formed a Gala Working Group to plan a Gala Procession and Family Fun Day to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Saturday 2 June 2012. The Group comprised City Council Councillors, Officers, the Editor of the Chichester Observer, the City Centre Manager and members of the Lions and Rotary Clubs.

The City Council has had experience of organising previous Gala processions and events but this was this biggest event to date. With the help of sponsors, volunteers, participants and the hundreds of people that came out to join the City in celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the day was a huge success. Not even the last minute emergency when Rolls-Royce had to substitute a different car for the Gala Queen could dampen things!

The day started at 11am with the procession led by the Prince of Wales's Division Band followed by 900 other participants walking around the City. The theme of the procession was '60 Glorious Years'.

The Family Fun Day began at midday in Priory Park; entertainment included Punch & Judy, Ferret Racing, Police speed indicator, Fun Fair and much more. Many people sat in the sun with picnics whilst others visited the hog roast, vintage tea tent, beer tent and the strawberries and cream cart and watched the events in the arena.

The glorious sunny day was rounded off at 5pm with a community sing-along led by the Chichester City Band and the New Community Rock Choir. It was a good end to the day with everyone joining in with the singing and waving their flags.

Rodney Duggua is Clerk to the City Council



... there was lots to celebrate!

... even more people watched the Olympic Flame

On July 16th the Olympic flame came to Chichester, to be watched by tens of thousands of people, despite the weather, as it travelled down Broyle Road and through the city centre.



Jubilee Gala pictures, facing page, clockwise from bottom left: Grace Church, St George's Church, Martlet Morris, The Prince of Wales' Division Band, The Gala Queen, Westgate party, Punch & Judy in Priory Park.

Olympic Torch pictures, this page: the Torch in Broyle Road and its reception at the Festival Theatre.

Photographs by Rodney Duggua and David Wilson

Fishbourne Roman Palace and Emperor Way

Can the Palace and the cycle path co-exist?

The well-used cycle path leading past the Roman Palace to Fishbourne is not a public right of way, but only a permissive path. Until recently this has not caused problems, but now the Sussex Archaeological Society, owners of Fishbourne Roman Palace and Gardens, have to tackle the associated difficulties of upgrading the site and combating vandalism.

The view from the Palace

The Sussex Archaeological Society (SAS), are faced with a difficult decision relating to the Emperor Way cycle path currently running through the Palace's grounds.

Since 1995, the SAS has leased the land on which the path is constructed at a nominal charge to Sustrans (the organisation who manage the national network of cycle paths). The footpath, which separates the Palace's northern paddocks from the rest of the site, is not a public Right of Way. Yet it is a pop-



*A heritage site of national importance.
This is the largest Roman domestic building north of the Alps.*

ular route, one with which the Society would very much like to continue – if it were not for various interrelating issues.

Recent Problems

The main problems are twofold. Firstly, over the last few years there has been a marked increase in vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the Palace grounds,

compounded by the lack of a security barrier [see boxed text opposite]. This, of course, produces a drain on resources at what are already difficult financial times.

Secondly, the SAS faces an important challenge in making the site more attractive to visitors and thus staying financially sustainable. The grounds in the northern paddocks have been identified as a key space for development to enhance the visitor experience. Until security can be improved, no further investment into the grounds is feasible.

Simple(?) re-routing

Sussex Archaeological Society is not in a position to fund the re-routing of the cycle path, and is therefore faced with exercising their right to withdraw from the lease with Sustrans. After initial enquiries, Sustrans confirmed that they too were not in a position to support the re-routing of the cycle path financially. Their expectation, should Sussex Ar-



*But the entrance doesn't do it justice to such a prestigious location
(unless perhaps you are a dog with a stomach upset?)*



The fence alongside Emperor Way presents few problems to potential intruders, and cuts the site in two.

chaecological Society decide to withdraw, would be to re-route cyclist and pedestrians along Fishbourne Road (A259) rather than construct a new route on Palace grounds.

The SAS is committed to exploring alternative solutions that will alleviate having to withdraw from the lease with Sustrans. It does not want to close the path as it is an important amenity for the local community. However, this can only be avoided if a solution can be found that will allow the SAS to improve site security, improve the first impression for visitors and allow investment into the grounds to improve the visitor offer. If an agreement for a feasible plan for the future cannot be reached, the Trustees of the SAS will have little choice but to withdraw from the lease.

[The above text was taken from a Sussex Archaeological Society press release]

Geoff Hand, Chairman of Fishbourne Parish Council, replies overleaf.

A formal statement of the SAS Trustees' position is to be found on the web at <http://sussexpast.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Trustee-response-on-cyclepath-30-July-2012.pdf>

SOME BACKGROUND

- ◆ The path was opened only under a lease with Sustrans, promoters of the national cycle network. This did not create a public right of way. Sustrans are responsible for maintenance and upkeep, and any public liability.
- ◆ SAS have been in talks with Sustrans as far back as 2010 about the possibility of re-routing the path, to solve the problems outlined in the article.
- ◆ It became clear this year that funds were not available from either Sustrans or WSCC to create a new cycle path keeping to the perimeter of the site.
- ◆ Sustrans would, with reluctance, accept adaptations to Fishbourne Road as they cannot afford a major diversion on a new route.
- ◆ The SAS met Fishbourne Parish Council last April to explore the issue in detail. This was followed by a public meeting in July, to explain problems and answer questions.
- ◆ There is a deadline of December 2012 to resolve competing interests before a final decision is made on the future of the path.



The northern paddock with filming taking place; investment could provide enhanced facilities here.

The Fishbourne Community Perspective

Geoff Hand looks at the problem from the village's point of view

Finding a Solution

The Director of the Roman Palace and Fishbourne Parish Council actually have a common ambition – a solution to their genuine business case for expansion at the Palace which will not have a detrimental effect on the quality of life and safety of cyclists and pedestrians. Finding a solution will not be easy but we are convinced there are solutions out there.

Currently, the main difference between us is the starting point. The Trustees of the Sussex Archaeological Society (owners of the site) see this as the removal or rerouting of Emperor Way. We see the starting point as a blank piece of paper on which all possible solutions can be considered.

Extent of Public Concern

The concern at the Trustees' current proposals is evidenced by the 100+ attendance at the Open Meeting held by the Society, the 800+ responses to the Have Your Say on-line vote in the Chichester Observer, and resolutions from Chichester City Council, Bosham Parish Council, the Governing Bodies of Fishbourne Primary School and Bishop Luffa School and representations from, among others, the West Sussex and the Chichester District Cycle Forums.

Safety Issues

The closure of Emperor Way would remove the only safe pedestrian/cycle route between Chichester and Fishbourne for children,

the elderly and the visually impaired – groups of people for whom we all have a duty of care. To divert them to the busy A259 – a dangerous road with bends, narrow pavements in places and heavy traffic which shows little notice of speed limits – would be a breach of that duty.

The proposed alternative route between the railway line on one side and a security fence on the other would create, especially in the winter months, a dark, unobserved pathway with no escape route. Many parents have already declared this a “no-go” area. The search for a solution continues.

Geoff Hand is Chairman of Fishbourne Parish Council



Two views of a possible diversion route. Left, where the existing public footpath parts company from the route by the Palace. A diversion would go straight on here. Right, the section referred to in the text where the diversion would be sandwiched between high fencing

Your committee would obviously like the cycle path to continue. We are not convinced that the closure by itself will prevent vandalism and theft unless a great deal of extra fencing is put up. So why can't such fencing be put up so as to exclude the path, at least until SAS are ready to develop the northern paddock?

Cicestrian praises the work of our Councils

- and says goodbye!

Local government is often under fire from organisations like the Chichester Society - and rightly so, because councillors and their officials need to be kept on their toes. I have done my own share of griping in this column over the years, with A-boards, bad planning decisions, traffic problems and council tax among the targets.

Full Marks to Parks!

But once in a while I feel moved to refer to some of the achievements of the local councils, and, with summer here, the city's parks are high on my list of accolades. The Bishop's Palace Gardens, in particular, have been looking especially splendid this year, with magnificent displays of flowers and shrubs - a credit to the people who tend them. Extraordinary to think that when I first moved to this area they were still the private gardens of the Bishops of Chichester. The decision to open them up to the public, initiated by the then bishop, has been a real blessing for both local people and visitors. Jubilee Gardens have also been looking lovely, and Priory Park is always well cared for.

Better Cycling

It's a long time since Centurion Way was created, but this footway and cycle route on the edge of the city is another great and well-used asset. This was of course once a railway track, and many of us will remember loads of gravel trundling along it from workings at Lavant, causing minor earthquakes for some homes in the city as they rumbled through on their way to a processing plant. In this case it was

West Sussex County Council which took the initiative, after the line closed, to create Centurion Way, and I have to say the city area would be a lot poorer without it.

New Museum and Gallery

I know the district council's new Novium museum has its critics, but I personally still believe it is a great new feature for Chichester. It was an imaginative decision by the council to go ahead with an iconic modern building like this one, rather than some Georgian pastiche. And how great it is to see the second century Roman baths exposed to permanent public view at last, after years buried underneath a car park, as well as many other historic artefacts and quirky features of the city's past.

Another controversy followed the creation of the Pallant House Gallery with proposals for a modern new extension. The gallery has gone from strength to strength in terms of its visitor numbers: how much better to see a fine building like this put to such an imaginative use, rather than its previous function as local government offices. I had my doubts about the extension, and still have reservations about the large expanses of light coloured rendering at the back of Pallant House; but overall the gallery is a massive asset for Chichester - albeit with the help of a major bequest of artworks from a former dean.

A Restful City Centre

Local planners probably take more stick than any other council department - a good deal of it from conservationists and resi-

dents' groups. But one of their real achievements, I believe, is in having kept the city centre free of illuminated shop signs. This issue was the centre of a long-running controversy years ago, with strong protests from local traders pleading that such signs were crucial to their businesses, rather as some of them argue about A-boards today. Fortunately, the planners stuck to their guns, and were supported by Government inspectors at a number of appeals. I reflect that our city centre today could be looking like many, many others up and down the country, full of garish, multi-coloured lights, if a tough line had not been taken.

Better Buttermarket

Finally, a word of praise for the city council for its restoration of the Butter Market. I look back at what the building had become - shabby, seedy and poorly lit, and a bit like an extension to a run-down street market. Unluckily, the scheme was carried out just as the recession was striking, and there have been delays over finding tenants for the new units - as with a number of other shop units in the city. I believe the restored Butter Market is certainly worthy of inclusion in a list of local government achievements. None of us likes paying council tax, but at least we can reflect that apart from essential services like the fire service, refuse collection and so on, we also have a range of other benefits that enhance the quality of life in our city.

Farewell!

Cicestrian is taking a break for personal reasons

The Shipwrecked Mariners' Society

You may well have walked down North Pallant, noticed the brass plate, and wondered what went on behind that door. Malcolm Williamson, Chief Executive, explains.

Helping Fishermen and Mariners for 172 years

On Sunday 28th October 1838 twelve fishing vessels with a total of 26 men on board left Clovelly harbour for the fishing grounds. A ferocious storm blew up and only one vessel and its crew ever returned.

Hearing of this, Mr Charles Gee Jones, a former Bristol pilot and landlord of the Pulteney Arms in Bath, suggested to Mr John Rye, a retired 'medical man' that something should be done to assist the widows, orphans and dependants of fishermen and mariners who lost their life at sea. So in February 1839 the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society was founded. Our first President was Admiral of the Fleet Sir George Cockburn. Incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1850, Queen Victoria became our first Patron and the Princess Royal is our present Patron.

Still needed today

Our purpose is enduring; to provide financial help to merchant seafarers, fishermen and their dependants who are in need but the emphasis has shifted mainly to helping those in retirement. We pay an immediate grant to the widow of a serving seafarer who dies and sadly shipwrecks continue to occur – usually single-manned fishing vessels. Regular grants are paid to retired or permanently disabled seafarers or their widows, the majority of whom are on a basic state pension and often have no savings.

Special grants are made to meet crises or specific needs, covering items from essential household electrical goods, carpets and clothing to rent arrears and stair-lifts. Grants of over £1.5 million were made last year. We also ensure that our beneficiaries are claiming their correct entitlements. Last year our grants team helped 24 people claim over £45,000 in benefits which they were unaware of, mainly Pension Credit.



The Society made a gallantry award in 2011 to the helicopter crew of HMS Chatham, who rescued the crew of the MV Dubai caught by a tropical storm in the Indian Ocean

Lifeboatmen

From 1851, the Society operated eight lifeboats but in 1854 the Society transferred its lifeboats to the RNLI and gave them a grant instead.

The scale of the problem

Typically, in the last quarter of the 19th century we were helping up to 4,000 people a year. During WWI the Society assisted nearly 51,000 sailors and fishermen and a further 8,500 parents, orphans and widows. We helped a slightly larger number in WWII. Today we support about 2,000 regular beneficiaries to whom we make a grant of £624 per year, equivalent

to about £12 a week – not much, but when you are on the minimum state pension with no savings, then it is a significant increase in income. Not surprisingly, the demand for our assistance has grown over the last two years, a trend that looks set to continue as the cost of food and utility bills continue to rise.

The Society has only been able to do its work because of the national network of volunteers, our Honor-

ary Agents. The permanent staff of seven is based in Chichester, and we are able to spend 87% of our income on our charitable activities.

The difference we make

A letter from a beneficiary says it all: "I was not sleeping worrying about the next day, how I was going to cope ... then out of the blue came a miracle (£400). I know this won't make my debts disappear, but my worrying and despair have at least gone away for a while".

If you would like to find out more about us then please visit www.shipwreckedmariners.org.uk.

Malcolm Williams
Commodore RN

Station Artworks celebrate the Jubilee

**You may have wondered at the vivid appearance of the station recently.
Pene Mather of the Sussex Community Rail Partnership explains.**

The Arun Valley Line, running from Gatwick Airport down to Chichester is looked after by Development Officer Pene Mather for the Sussex Community Rail Partnership. The role involves reconnecting the local community to the station through a variety of projects.

provide community notice boards at stations enabling communities to share what happens locally.

Partnerships along the Arun Valley Line have included Emsworth Station waiting room improvements, Southbourne

main ticket hall at Chichester. The artwork was done by the Itchenor and West Wittering Art Group and has been very well received. Cllr Peter Clementson performed the opening on Friday 1st June. The posters show the great places to visit around the Chichester area.



The exhibition opening on 1 June at Chichester Station, with Pene Mather, Simon Todd the station manager, Cllr. Peter Clementson, Chairman of Chichester District Council, and the Itchenor and West Wittering Art Group

An Active Partnership

A not-for-profit organisation, the Partnership works with Southern Railway, Local Government and communities to improve facilities and services and to run events. Our award-winning guide gives visitors a good view of what is accessible along the line. We share news of current developments through the website www.sussexcrp.org, Facebook pages and Twitter feeds.

We promote community schemes and accessing the countryside by train for sustainable leisure. We

Schools Crossing Safety Artwork competition and Barnham School Notice board. The Aldingbourne Trust work with Southern to set up the wonderful planters and hanging baskets at stations. Christmas 2011 saw Carols and Mince Pies at Bognor, Barnham and Chichester Stations and each of these initiatives was community led.

Posters in Chichester

One partnership activity which has been an inspiration is the wonderful "Vintage Style Railway Posters" displayed in the

The wonderful posters are supported by leaflets detailing the project and the featured attractions, available from the stand in the ticket hall at Chichester and other stations. The project has been so successful it has been nominated for 2 categories in the 2012 ACoRP (Association of Community Rail Partnerships) awards this September.

The centrepiece of the collection is a piece by leader Joan Honor Smith depicting the Queen and honouring the 2012 Jubilee. Other works show us the delights of Goodwood, Itchenor and Tangmere and cover local attractions from Amberley Museum to the Weald and Downland Museum.

We'll be back!

The group is now on a break till September when we hope to return to Chichester Station to transform the waiting rooms. Do look at our website or get in touch with me, Pene Mather, to discuss how you could get involved - phone 07852 221274.

All 24 pictures can be viewed online at www.chichesterweb.co.uk/art/artrail1

The Golden Cockerel

In our last issue, John Wichers left us with the steeplejacks ready to climb the spire. Now for the business of installing the weathercock itself - read on!

First, the repairs ...

At ground level, the cockerel showed the extensive damage of 35 years weathering. The split body and tail section needed re-soldering, so the battered cockerel was whisked off for restoration to **Terry Tyhurst** at Glynde near Lewes, a blacksmith who has specialized in the making and restoring of weathervanes for the last 20 years. Now nationally known, his Forge is the hub of this niche metal-working craft.

The cockerel's remedial work began with a thorough scrub down with wire wool and white



Terry Tyhurst at his Glynde work-shop, using the outside garden for the "wet & dry" stage of the repairs.

Terry's work can be seen at www.wonderfulweathervanes.co.uk

spirit followed by "wet & dry" until every vestige of verdigris had gone and a fine surface remained for the re-gilding. To strengthen the bird for its next tour of duty, Terry also reinforced the original two halves with solder and copper rivets around the neck and tail feathers.

... then the engraving ...

Upon completion of these repairs the bird was sent for engraving - the next stage in its restoration -

with this all-important dedication:

*This weathervane was gilded with Fairtrade gold and dedicated on 2nd November, 2011
Nicholas Frayling Dean*

Facsimile of cockerel engraving

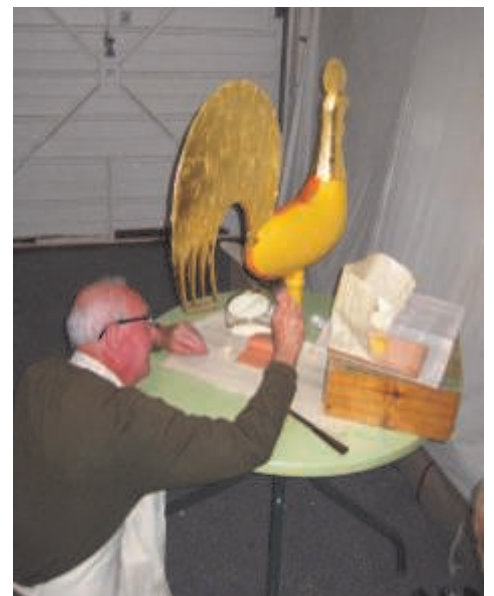
A Brighton-based engraver, well-known to the south coast jewellery trade for his fine work, was chosen to engrave the cockerel.

David Symons, originally from Birmingham, works from his shop 'Inscriptions' [www.inscription.biz] and has over 20 years experience with hand-engraving. He trained as an apprentice at the age

the inscription is composed through a layer of opaque powder and written on with pencil. The excess powder is then removed and the remaining pencil outlines are deepened with a fine chisel shaped somewhat like a calligraphy nib. To give an idea of the intricacy of his work, David estimates it took seven hours for the sixteen words!

... and the painting ...

For the final stage in the cockerel's rejuvenation, the freshly polished and inscribed weathervane returned closer to home. Happily, the Cathedral employs a local craftsman, **Don Hickey**, a sign painter of great experience who had done much of their gilding work in the past; including the major task of gilding the "bosses" of the ceiling vaults. Though Don is officially retired now, he still practises his skill as a signwriter, where gold leaf is regularly used. He is often to be found in his garage surrounded by the unique tools of his trade. These



Don Hickey applying gold leaf over the protective undercoat.

of 15 and was subsequently given a chance to start his own business through the Enterprise Allowance scheme.

David recalls that the most difficult and unusual part of this particular commission was the sheer size of the object! Used to working with small items of jewellery which can be easily manipulated, he found himself instead having to work around his subject. The skill of the engraver is to get it right first time – and to do this,

include the squirrel-hair brushes and chamois leather cushion necessary to handle the wafer thin and delicate gold leaf.

The gilding procedure is lengthy, involving five separate stages from preparation to finished article; the whole job taking in excess of two weeks. Application of the gold leaf calls for a skilled and steady hand, as it must be applied correctly first time... "You only get one chance" is Don's cryptic comment. "At £3 per leaf, it cer-

tainly concentrates the mind!"

Once applied, the gilded article is lightly burnished to remove any small flakes. The purest available gold leaf is used - 23½ carat [24 carat marks 100% purity]. The extra ½ carat of copper added, makes the gold warmer and richer in tone. As gold is completely resistant to corrosion it will ensure the weathervane's protection for at least 30 years atop the spire.

... and the putting back

To quote the steeplejack, **Adrian Tarrant**, the actual removal of the 40lb [18kg] cockerel from its perch and its subsequent replacement "is the easy bit" – the weathervane pivots on a single steel ball-bearing inserted into the hollow tube base of its structure. To replace the weathervane after engraving and gilding, it was carefully wrapped in a 'removals' blanket and carried aloft by one of the team. Finally, the 'bird' was lifted and the tube base dropped over the pivot pin, with a copious dollop of heavy grease to ensure the ball-bearing stayed in place.

For the cathedral contract, Adrian joined forces with his old friend and sometime work colleague, **Alan Harfield**, whose own company is in much the same line of work and who contributed two of the four steeplejacks necessary. Adrian remarks that it is nigh on impossible to find and train men of the right calibre for this specialized job – his own two assistants, David Bull and Bernard Kuil are "no chickens!" He further predicts that the next time the cockerel has to descend earthwards, it will not be courtesy of a "man with a ladder". More likely, we will see the cathedral spire encased in a network of costly scaffolding, and the nagging doubt of the cathedral's structure being able to withstand the weight of several tons of steelwork!

Now, when we look up at our Cathedral spire and see this splendid, golden weathervane – spare a thought for the hours of labour and skills that are contained therein: - Peruvian gold miners - Fair Trade jeweller – blacksmith – engraver – gilder and steeplejack.

John Wichers



Adrian Tarrant and his team restoring the weathercock to its original position

- and below -

Left to right, Greg Valerio, who conceived the project, the Very Rev Nicholas Frayling Dean of the Cathedral, and Chris Davis of the Fairtrade Foundation - and the cockerel., of course.



City Walls Project in its Final Stages

David Wilson explains how the project didn't just stop with the repairs



Since the Heritage Lottery Fund made a grant to the Walls Group under the sponsorship of Chichester District Council in 2008, much of what has happened has been visible to the public.

The repairs themselves (which took up most of the money) have seen scaffolding erected and occasionally, even roads closed. The community dig, which uncovered a bastion new to the archaeologists, was a great attraction in Westgate Fields, and was reported on here. Many of you will also have been to the Celebration with light shows and children's events in the Bishop's Palace Gardens earlier this year, which marked the end of this phase of the work.

Behind the Scenes

Simultaneously with the above, but less noticeable, a Walls guide training scheme was set up., under the leadership of Nigel Brown of the Walls Walk Trust. This involved devising a syllabus and submitting it for national accreditation. The dozen guides who took the course all passed with flying colours.

Sam Fieldhouse, then the Education Officer at the District Museum, devised educational material for Key Stages 1, 2 & 3 so that the Walls can now be used as an educational resource in association with the Novium.

Publications

Oral history has been collected and is being written up by Katherine Milcoy at the University of Chichester. A souvenir guide will shortly be on sale at the Novium.

Perhaps the most ambitious publication is a definitive history of the Walls in book form, produced by a team at the Museum of London, which will be launched at the end of September. Watch the local press for announcements!

And, of course, these days, this

all has to be backed up by a website, www.chichestercitywalls.org, available soon.

Signage

But if you take a promenade around the Walls, you will see new lecterns, illustrating the history of the Walls for Cicestrians and tourists. Besides the illustrations and text, each panel contains a timeline. There's also a children's game, on the line of 'Where's Wally?' - they have to find Max, the cheeky child who's always in the thick of things!

Beneath your feet, too, there will be bronze pavement markers to signpost the route of the Walls Walk more effectively, and other markers to show where the City gates stood.

So buy a guide, walk round with the family, and see the Walls in a new light!



One of the new lecterns recently installed; and two of the seven illustrations being used (building the walls, left, and, below, the castle). Bottom left, a pavement marker now in place.

David Wilson has represented The Chichester Society on the Walls Group since 2006.



Meet your Committee!

In this issue we profile your **Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

Richard Childs, Chairman

Richard is the former West Sussex County Archivist. He moved to Chichester in 1993 and worked at the County Record Office in Orchard Street until he took early retirement in 2011.

Until his move to Chichester at the age of 37, Richard had spent his life living in either Lancashire or Yorkshire. After school in Liverpool, Richard obtained a degree in History at Leeds University, which first aroused his interest in archives. He returned to his home town to take a Postgraduate Diploma in Archives Administration at Liverpool University.

Richard completed a hat trick of great northern cities in 1979 by taking up his first appointment at Sheffield City Archives, where one of his first tasks was to clear out and catalogue the contents of the basement of Sheffield Town Hall. This experience has left him with an abiding interest in 19th century local government and urban politics. In 1988 he was appointed City Archivist and took up his post on the very day building work started on a new home for Sheffield City Archives. One final project before Richard's departure for Chichester was the joint production with Sheffield University of a three-volume history of that

City, for which he was both an author and co-editor.

As a childhood response to his elder sister becoming an Everton supporter (for which he remains eternally grateful!), Richard has supported Liverpool FC for nearly 50 years. He is also a keen follower of Lancashire County Cricket Club.

Since retirement, when not involved in Chi Soc matters, Richard is active in the Worthing Heritage Alliance as Chairman. He is also tracing his family tree across various parts of the country. Richard is married to Jeannette who is also an archivist and works for a major multinational company.



John Templeton, Vice-Chairman

Our vice chairman John Templeton is married with two grown-up children and grew up in Chichester in the 1940's and 50's. Having acquired a BSc degree in Estate Management at London University he decided that town planning was his main interest. He qualified as a town planner and spent the next 37 years working for local planning authorities in Surrey, Coventry, Wiltshire and in three London Boroughs. He retired from paid employment in 1999 to allow more time for his various voluntary activities and has never been so busy since.

He joined the Chichester Society in 1973 as soon as he heard of its

existence and joined the Executive Committee in 2000. At that time, despite living in London, he was already a member of the Chichester Conservation Area Advisory Committee representing the Royal Town Planning Institute. Since 1996 he had represented the Youth Hostels Association on the South Downs Campaign EC which eventually led to the creation of the South Downs National Park.

John and his wife finally left London in 2008 and settled in Chichester, dramatically reducing their travel costs. He enjoys being able to meet all the family's needs on foot, and walks their Yorkshire terrier all over the city and into the countryside.

Further afield he keeps watch over the National Park between Chichester and Midhurst and monitors the monthly meetings of the National Park Authority's planning committee on behalf of the South Downs Society.



The new Local Plan will be the most vital for years

The front page of our last edition in June led with a planning story: the Society's unease that developers may think they have a license to build without limit due to delays in creating a new Local Plan for the Chichester area. Members of your committee have since met with District Council planning staff who briefed us on the background to this complicated issue: **David Wilson** now shares these insights with readers.

That was then - this is now!

It looked at one point as if Chichester was to be given just 12 months to put a new Local Plan in place, but this is not so. First, some background. Readers of this Newsletter may know the District Council's last Local Plan dates to 1999 and its replacement was never formally approved. You may well ask why, but that's water under the bridge.

In the new situation since March 2012, when the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published, our Council must rely on what are called 'saved policies', meaning

those approved in former years, many dating to 1999. This is an interim situation pending the eventual approval of the new Local Plan, a period when 'saved policies' are relevant in decided planning applications - but only as long as they are in step with the Planning Framework. Confused? Stay with me, for this should become clearer.

The Government expects Councils like Chichester to proceed with all deliberate speed to produce their Local Plan. Your Committee was therefore disconcerted to learn the Council's timetable for creating a Plan has been extended to October 2014, a whole year later than the original target date. March 2014 is two and a half years *after* the Planning Framework was published.

One year or two – does it matter?

It is certain that lawyers acting for developers will be looking carefully at Chichester's 13-year-old 'saved policies' and challenging them to see whether they are in

accordance with the Planning Framework. We think it will be a miracle if an expensive planning appeal against refusal of permission for a major development is not mounted at some point in the next two years. Eric Pickles, as Secretary of State, is also said to be routinely approving developments on appeal if Local Plans are slow in appearing.

But having been shown what the Planning Department has to go through, from policy interpretation to consultation and back again, in order for a new Local Plan to be validated, we cannot see how the timetable can be significantly shortened. In the meantime, expect to actively support your Society by making representations against unsuitable development proposals!

Where do we stand now?

Reports to the Council's Development Committees last July explained the status of 'saved policies' and assessed how well they can be relied upon before the new Plan becomes official in autumn



White House Farm (next to Centurion Way)

These areas would suddenly expand Chichester into good agricultural land - and both are under active investigation by developers, as well as the Daffodil Field featured in our last issue.



Oldplace Farm (in the lower Lavant Valley)

Infrastructure problems: the A27 at Fishbourne on a 'quiet' day; and the Apuldram treatment plant. The most economical way to expand would be to construct a long offshore discharge pipe, costing, say, £35m!



2014. About one in ten of these policies are considered to be fully compliant with the NPPF, most (about 80%) are partially compliant and a tiny minority do not comply. Government advice is that 'saved policies' which most closely match the NPPF have maximum credibility. But who decides? No wonder one planning website advised lawyers to start putting down deposits on villas in the Caribbean!

Our view is that many of Chichester's partially compliant policies are relatively close to NPPF requirements. For example, 12 'saved policies' deal with conservation issues around Chichester Harbour and are unlikely to be challenged because the area has special conservation status. So the task is not quite as Herculean as may at first appear.

Where are the development pinch points?

Under the Planning Framework, *no development is not an option*, and any outright opposition will be overruled by Planning Inspectors. What worries our members is the potential for unrestrained growth in all directions beyond Chichester. There are big issues

to be resolved such as redrawing the Settlement Policy Area (SPA) around the city, last defined in 1995. How can a five-year supply of land for housing development be provided when the easier options are now used up, notably Graylingwell and Roussillon Barracks within Chichester? What will happen beyond the city's boundaries?

Your committee thinks that rather than death by a thousand accretions, it would be better to expand one existing community to the point where it becomes fully self-sustaining: Tangmere has great potential, although residents' concerns are understandable. As there will be major opposition, whichever location is chosen, this issue needs to be high up the list of priorities for policy revision.

Industrial and retail space allocated in the 1990s has also been used up and room for this also needs to be found. There may well be problems with a transport strategy to boost city centres, as required by the Planning Framework, now the Council is disposing one of its sites at Barnfield, formerly reserved as a park-and-ride scheme, for retail development. Public transport will also

be difficult, with the concept of sustainability demanding more provision of bus services when the County Council is withdrawing subsidies on a large scale.

A further delay created by the NPPF itself is the duty to consult with neighbouring authorities. Co-ordination meetings take time and can easily lead to an impasse as neighbouring authorities often have differing priorities.

Saved by Sewage!

The lack of adequate sewage disposal capacity currently acts as a brake on new housing development in this area. It is doubtful whether the Environment Agency and/or Southern Water will accept mini-treatment plants at new schemes, as currently proposed by many developers.

For existing communities, the Apuldram waste water treatment works serves Chichester City and Fishbourne. The system cannot cope with storm discharges, and suffers from infiltration. The consequent pollution of Chichester Harbour is an environmental nightmare.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

The costs of building a long sea outfall are neither economic, at around £35m, nor ecologically desirable.

The Tangmere works serving the eastern side of Chichester has reserve capacity sufficient to cope with the proposed Shopwyke Lakes development. An upgrade costing £19m should be economically viable and could be completed by 2019. Other wastewater treatment works in Chichester District have some spare capacity.

We'll be watching!

Your committee will keep monitoring the preparation of a new Local Plan. We would like to be optimistic that in the interim the 'saved policies', implemented by a committed Planning team, will be sufficient to safeguard us against aggressive planning applications. But problems will sometimes be beyond the Council's ability to solve, with unintended consequences.

For instance, lack of infrastructure means that the number of new homes actually built around the City is likely to be constrained in the early years. In consequence the NPPF requires planning permissions to be raised continually to make up for the shortfall. Could this really be what our legislators intended?

Motherhood and Apple Pie?

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is the Government's solution for simplifying the country's land-use planning system – by publishing a policy document that, in terms of page length, is just five percent of the previous collection of official guidance. The NPPF's gestation was controversial, but for a civic group such as the Chichester Society many of the intentions in the published text are praiseworthy. Only experience will demonstrate whether pruning 95% of planning guidance, evolved over decades, proves to be a serious error of judgement. But as far as *intentions* go one cannot really fault the following extracted quotes:

- **Good design:** planning policies and decisions should aim to ensure that developments 'establish a sense of place'... 'respond to local character and history'... and are 'visually attractive as a result of good architecture and appropriate landscaping'
- **Conserving the historic environment:** Local Plans should 'set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment'; when proposed developments are reviewed 'great weight should be given to the asset's conservation'.
- **Green belt land is important:** 'The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open'... and one of its purposes is ... 'to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns...' Once established, Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances through the preparation or review of the Local Plan.

There is no formal Green Belt land in West Sussex, but we think the same principle should apply to the 'Strategic Gaps' between Chichester and the villages which were defined in previous local plans.

- **Plan-making and engagement:** 'Early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with neighbourhoods, local organisations and businesses is essential'.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux said it first: "L'enfer est plein de bonnes volontés et désirs" - "The road to hell is paved with good intentions"!



Speaking of the road to hell, this fearsome fire-breathing beast was spotted in Orchard Street in July, digesting the road surface and spitting it out into waiting lorries!

We're very pleased for Orchard Street residents, who are much less troubled by dust and noise - but wonder whether the same sum might not be found to do something about drainage in, say, College Lane?



CHICHESTER SHIP CANAL

Daily Egremont scheduled trips at 10.15am (Early Bird Special), 12.00pm, 1.45pm & 3.30pm. Passengers can relax during the 1¼ hour trip with a friendly crew providing information on the wildlife and the points of interest on the canal.

For something different, hire the Richmond to celebrate your special occasion; birthday, anniversary, lunch, cream tea or evening trip, whilst passing through pleasant countryside with ever-changing scenery. Call Val 01243 377405. or www.chichestercanal.com

Ear ear!

Experience the sights, sounds and smells of the countryside at harvest time. Enjoy heavy horses and vintage tractors ploughing, steam-powered threshing, falconry and dog displays, woodcraft demonstrations and countryside crafts to browse and buy. There is also a Horticultural Show with classes for adults and children.

Autumn Countryside Show

Sat 13-Sun 14 October
10.30-5pm

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www.worlddownload.com

FESTIVAL THEATRE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON **50** CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE

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ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
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FESTIVAL THEATRE 7-29 SEPTEMBER
01243 781312 CFT.ORG.UK
Children under 18 half price

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AGM, 17 OCTOBER 2012

The constitution requires that the members of the Executive Committee (16 places) and the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are elected at each A.G.M.

Nominations in writing, supported by a seconder and with the consent of the nominee, all being current members, are therefore requested. They must be received by the Secretary, Anthony Quail, at

his address below, 14 days before the date of the meeting (i.e. by **3rd October 2012**). A nomination form is provided overleaf.

In addition to the elections, the Officers will present their Reports. Members will be encouraged to put questions and initiate discussion after each of the Reports.

A list of nominations received and details of any motions received will be sent by post to members as

soon as possible after nominations close **unless no positions are contested and no further motions are submitted.**

By order of the Executive Committee

September 1st 2012

Anthony Quail, Secretary,
44 Westgate, Chichester,
PO19 3EU.

CHICHESTER SOCIETY NOMINATION FORM 2011	Please cut out or photocopy this form if you have nominations and send it to Anthony Quail, Secretary, 44 Westgate, Chichester, PO19 1EU to reach him by 3rd October, 2012.
TITLE OF OFFICE	
NOMINEE'S NAME (CAPS)	
NOMINEE'S ACCEPTANCE (SIGNED)	
PROPOSER (SIGNED)	
SECONDER (SIGNED)	

Meetings and Events

Your Committee hopes to see you on one or more of the following occasions!

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHICHESTER SOCIETY

will be held on **Wednesday 17th October 2012 at 7:00pm**

in the Upstairs Assembly Room, North Street, Chichester (with access available by lift)

For more details and nomination forms, see previous page

Guest speaker, Colin Channon, Editor of the Chichester Observer

After the formal business is complete a glass or two of wine or soft drink and light refreshments will be served. Then, at about 8 p.m., we are pleased to welcome Colin Channon to speak on Life in Chichester - a View from the Media. He will also answer questions.

TOUR OF THE WEST SUSSEX RECORD OFFICE, ORCHARD STREET

A tour of the Record Office, exclusively for Chichester Society members, has been arranged for **7 pm on Wednesday 24th October**, lasting about 2 hours, and including visits to the strong rooms and the map room, with interesting maps spread on the chart table. Our guide will be Alan Readman, Record Office Manager. If members feel like it, we may go on to a nearby pub for a drink afterwards. The numbers are limited to 20, so it will be first come, first served. Members who pay a single subscription will only be entitled to one ticket.

To book your place, please cut out or copy the form below and send it to Julian Snell with an **SAE marked 'Record Office'**, for return of tickets, with a **cheque for £5 per person** payable to 'The Chichester Society'

Booking form for Record Office NameTel. No.

Address

No. of tickets required at £5 per person

Please post booking form to Mr J.A. Snell, 5 Dolphin Close, Fishbourne, Chichester PO19 3QP

CONCERT AT EDES HOUSE, WEST STREET (BY COUNTY HALL)

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES! Mozart and Beethoven at Edes House this November

After the success of our last social and musical evening a year ago, the Society is hosting its second concert at the elegant **Edes House on West Street at 7.30 pm, Thursday 22 November 2012**. Doors open 7.00 pm.

The Quillet Ensemble, who played for us last year, will perform **Mozart's Divertimento in F, K. 138**, and **Beethoven's String Quartet in G, Op.18 No.2**. Admission by ticket only at £10 per person; please book early to avoid disappointment! Wine or soft drink and light refreshments are included.

To book your place, please cut out or copy the form below and send it to Julian Snell with an **SAE marked 'Edes House'**, for return of tickets, with a **cheque for £10 per person** payable to 'The Chichester Society'

Booking form for Edes House NameTel. No.

Address

No. of tickets required at £10 per person

Please post booking form to Mr J.A. Snell, 5 Dolphin Close, Fishbourne, Chichester PO19 3QP

THE CHICHESTER SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 268055

T 01243 776757 E chisoc@hotmail.com

Patron: The Mayor of Chichester

President: David Goodman

Vice-President: Joy Crawshaw

Chairman: Richard Childs

Vice-Chairman: John Templeton

Secretary: Anthony Quail

Treasurer: David Wilson

Members of the Executive Committee:

Rodney Chambers, Cédric Mitchell, John Pavitt,

Trevor Redman, Bill Sharp and John Wichers

MEMBERSHIP

Annual Membership: £5 by Standing Order;

£7 by cheque

Under-18s: £2.50

Joint Membership (double): £8.00 by Standing

Order; £10 by cheque

Corporate membership: £100 (one-off payment)

Life Membership (60 and over):

£75 single; £ 100 joint

Applications for membership and annual subscriptions to the Treasurer,

11 North Walls, Chichester PO19 1DA

T 01243 536725

E david@northwalls.demon.co.uk

Editorial Committee: Richard Childs, Anthony Quail, Bill Sharp, John Templeton, David Wilson (editor). **Letters or Emails to the Editor** via david@northwalls.demon.co.uk or by post to 11 North Walls, Chichester PO19 1DA.

Neither the Editorial Sub-Committee nor the Society necessarily subscribe to the views expressed by our contributors, but we believe that all shades of opinion should be expressed in this newsletter. The Editorial Sub-Committee reserves the right to edit as necessary any submitted articles and letters.

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