

THE CHICHESTER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating our anniversary 1973-2013

NO. 178

SEPTEMBER 2013

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we told councillors
about the local plan!**

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The A-board count
218
in the city centre
5th August
In April it was 198



Printed on Nine Lives
recycled paper

Closing ceremonies for the Society's 40th anniversary

Richard Childs sets out our Autumn programme

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer and that some of you were able to get to the Festival of Chichester events, especially those arranged by the Chichester Society. As we move into autumn, I'd like to remind you of two events that will mark the culmination of the Society's 40th anniversary year.

First there is our AGM on the evening of Wednesday 16th October and then two days later on the 18th there is our anniversary lunch at Chichester College. Details of both events may be found elsewhere in the Newsletter and I would encourage all members to attend both events.

Our AGM always provides an opportunity for you to give me and the Society's officers valuable feedback on how you think we've done over the

past twelve months. This year has been a particularly busy one with the publication of the District Council's Draft Local Plan on top of the events we've organised for you.

I'm pleased to announce that we have persuaded Greg Perry, the new Director of Pallant House Gallery, to come and address the AGM and tell us about his plans for its future.

The 40th anniversary lunch will be an occasion for enjoyment and a chance for members to meet and socialise with friends whilst at the same time celebrating the Society's achievements over four decades. The Dean of Chichester has accepted our invitation to attend and has offered to say a few words about our city.

So, two events for you to look forward to. Don't miss out!



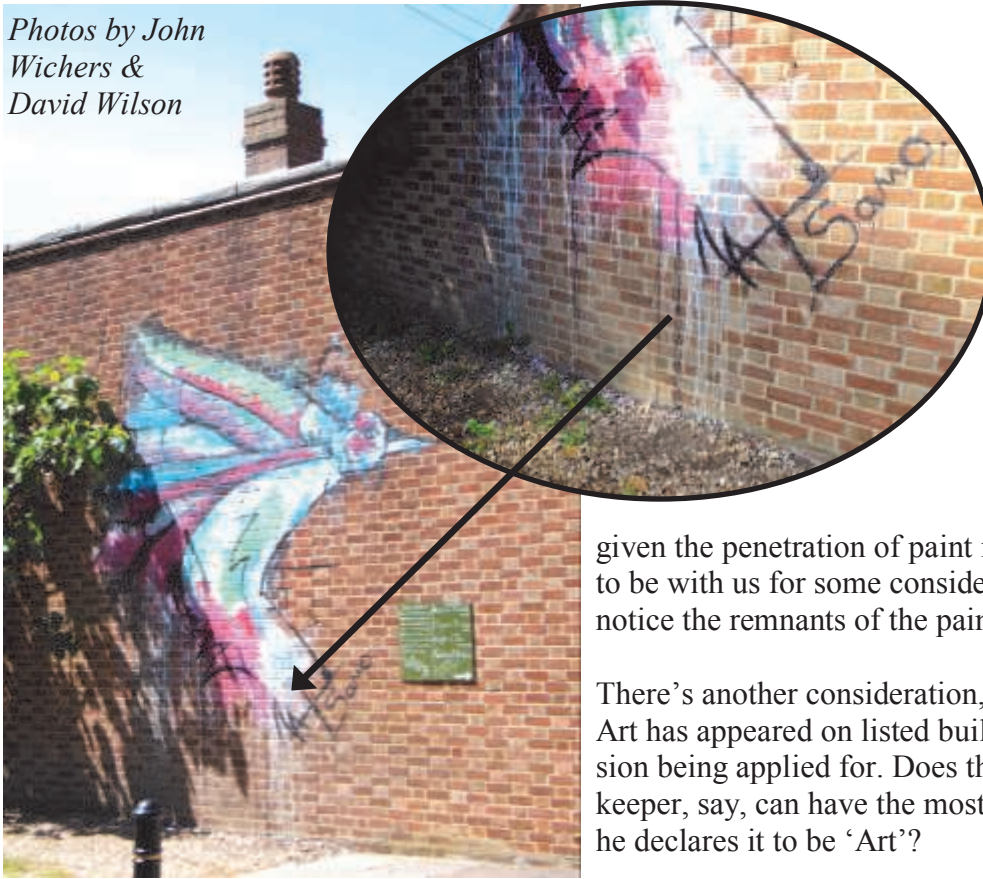
**Full details of the
lunch on page 18
and of the AGM
on page 19. Book
your lunch tickets
NOW!**

*One of the events to
celebrate our
anniversary - the
Chalkstones walk
from Cocking to
West Dean in June.*

Beware of Imitators!

Page 6 describes the upside of Street Art in Chichester - but what about this?

Photos by John
Wichers &
David Wilson



It's all very well having a Street Art Festival with professional artists who know what materials to use. The problem is, that it encourages graffiti by people who are less expert. This mural is opposite the main entrance to Priory Park, and it is patently obvious that the artist has not used waterproof paint.

We are now stuck with an unsightly painting on the wall of a Grade II listed building which, given the penetration of paint into unsealed brickwork, is likely to be with us for some considerable time, even decades if you notice the remnants of the paint on the Old Mill in Northgate.

There's another consideration, too. Some of the original Street Art has appeared on listed buildings without planning permission being applied for. Does this now mean that any shopkeeper, say, can have the most garish shopfront imaginable if he declares it to be 'Art'?

A child's primer of obstructions

A is for A-boards (218 at the last count) but what about the others?



Can you continue the alphabet? Suggestions with pictures gratefully received!

That was a good Festival, that was!

The Chichester Society organised three events; a talk, a walk and a concert

First, as Treasurer, I'm glad to report that all three events made a small profit. There were 19 people at the talk, and it cleared £53; the concert had 68 in the audience but also considerable expenses so that the profit was £100; and the walk sold 14 tickets but the only expense was the commission on ticket sales so that it brought in nearly £70.

David Wilson

The talk 'Surprises in Family History' drew on my own family research over the last few years. There have been surprises, too: an ancestor promoted from the ranks in the Peninsular War; a grandfather who drove an ambulance from Cairo to Tripoli; a widow who drove across the Great Plains with the Mormon pioneers; a girl who worked in the Eagle in City Road (think nursery rhymes!); and founders of the largest ironworks in the Southern Hemisphere - and more!

For the concert we are indebted to Joanna Emerson who as Director of the Quillet Quartet arranged the concert and persuaded Neil Sands of the Chichester Music Press and no mean composer, to provide a

specially commissioned work inspired by Sussex, *Tolling Bells, Rolling Hills*, which was given its first performance. She also brought in Oxana Dodon of the University of Moldova, currently studying for a Masters degree at the University of Chichester, for a delightful programme which also included works by Mozart, Elgar and Haydn.

The Chalkstones Trail, set up by the sculptor Andy Goldsworthy, was fully reviewed in the newsletter of June 2012. No more need be said, except that the weather was perfect for walking - and several of us enjoyed an excellent and well-deserved cream tea at West Dean Gardens after the walk! **DW**



L to R: My grandfather (centre) training as ambulance driver at Crowborough in WWI; Joanna Emerson and Neil Sands (organiser and composer respectively); the walking party at a chalkstone in West Dean Woods



One of the 300 or so orchids on the Whitehouse Farm site in June. Are they to be 'sustainably' developed?

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CHICHESTER District Council

west sussex county council

Chichester's Independent Retailers

After his series on the market stalls, John Wichers starts a new set of interviews with the traditional shops in Chichester, starting with the outfitters Andrew McDowall.

Early days

In 1944, a young man newly discharged from the Army opened his shop in Chichester. Before WWII, **Andrew McDowall** had been a sales rep for Holliday & Brown, exclusive makers of ties and cravats. McDowall returned to the business he was familiar with – men's outfitting. He found premises at 29/30 North Street, the very same frontage that we know today. Subsequently, he introduced a Ladies Wear department across the road (nowadays Phones4U).



New owners

Fast forward to 1982, and McDowall, by this time in his late 60's was ready to retire and having no immediate family, sought a buyer to take over his well-established shop and premises. Michael Moore, a third generation master tailor of Southsea, bought out McDowall's business, but astutely, kept the name. The ladies' wear department was brought under the same roof and finally by 1992 the freehold was purchased from the McDowall estate.



Angela, one of the staff, 'steaming' clothes to be ready for sale

Today, Michael Moore's son, Andrew, runs the business, his father having officially retired fourteen years ago. Moore Senior, now one of the few master tailors outside London, still puts in a three-day week attending to his loyal clientele for bespoke clothing.

Andrew trained as an accountant at the prestigious Fortnum & Mason of Piccadilly, joining the family firm in 1982 and has run the show since 1999. I visited him in his office on the 2nd floor of the shop, not really knowing what to expect. Andrew is seldom seen by customers; that being the domain of Kevin Bonner, the long-serving shop floor manager. As with everything and everyone at McDowalls, 'change' is a word seldom used. Kevin has worked here continuously since he was seventeen – some thirty-six years ago.

A security dog?

Back to my interview with Andrew: as Kevin directs me upstairs, he quietly alerts me to a large black dog who might BARK – "but don't be alarmed, Sir"!

Kevin's warning is, if anything, under-stated. On entering the office a big, black Poodle leaps up from a prone position and places his front paws firmly on my chest, as if to say – "That's far enough"!

This energetic greeting, accompanied as it is by an explosive bark, rather saps my 'interview persona'. "Elmer", *alias* "Drogba", his canine duty done, promptly collapses at his master's feet and remains there, watchfully silent. Why the alias? Well... Andrew is also an avid Chelsea fan! A detail not easily missed, since the wall behind his desk is covered in "The Blues" memorabilia.

Busy on and off the Internet

Andrew's office is a busy place and gives the visitor an impression that there is a lot going on and that he has, quite literally, everything at his finger tips. Whilst there, we had a visit from Andrew's wife Alison and baby grand-daughter; and a five-minute consultation with Moore Senior on some cloth supply matter.



Two generations of owners - Michael Moore (left) with his son Andrew.

Our conversation turns to the current economic climate on the High Street. "What actions are you taking", I ask, "to keep your business buoyant when so many other shops are failing?" Andrew's reply is succinct: "Clearly, we cannot survive without the World Wide Web: but simply to be on it is not enough. The website must be well-designed, easy to use and kept up-to-date".

A glance at McDowall's website reveals that these principles are strictly followed. Much of their mail order business is internet generated, with large orders coming from both Europe and America.

Multiple recent awards at local and regional levels as "Retailer of the Year" are further evidence of McDowall's continued high level of customer service.

New opportunities arise

Andrew's next strategy was to re-establish the 'wedding hire' business: "Years ago we phased it out as being unprofitable - too many other firms in the same line. Then, as more customers began asking for the service, I realized that the climate had changed – fewer people possess their own dress wear;

more weddings and 'grand occasions' are demanding formality and coincidentally, fewer men's retailers to supply this resurgent need!" .

Finally came the decision to take a marketing stand at the Goodwood Festival of Speed and the Revival meetings. "A very successful marketing tool", Andrew happily recalls, "much of the period clothing (almost a required dress code at the Revival meeting) is either pre-ordered from the shop or sold direct from our stand. Look at our shop window in September and you'll see what I mean! It has given an enormous boost to our export business, particularly our States-side customers."



Kevin, Josine & Akasha, of the sales staff, laying out an attractive display for the shop

Where to now?

"If you had a magic wand, what would you change?" I inquire. "Well", he replies, "the individuality of the shops makes Chichester so special and our Councillors must strive to protect this. Unreasonably high rates and rents do no favours - greedy landlords are in danger of 'killing the goose'. Thank goodness we have our own freehold", he adds with feeling!

"Back in 1982, when I joined the firm, there were no empty shops and the only way into the 'High Street' was to take over an existing business. Nowadays, it is a question of how to encourage 'footfall' back into town when shoppers increasingly use the internet. We must make it easier, not more difficult, for car owners – parking charges are too high and people feel under pressure because time has expired. I welcome the introduction of the "pay-on-exit" scheme and wonder if it can be introduced to all major car parks?"

As I leave the premises and look back at the shop, there is no doubt why this business has succeeded over the years – the sparkling brass door fittings say much; here is a shop run by people who care about the business and love what they are doing!

Chichester's own Street Art Festival

Neil Lawson-Baker, the promoter, explains his thoughts about this innovative event

I have always thought that as a city with a population of just over 20,000 Chichester has the most amazing cultural offering. An article I recently read said 'In Britain our industries are long since dead, sadly our sportsmen often disappoint, our banks are well nigh finished, but what we still do **really** well is Culture'

Yet in our city there is a feeling that many of these facts are kept secrets kept from the wider world.

City of Culture

For a city to thrive it needs business and it has been proven again and again that Art and Culture bring business. What better way

vital new awareness and an international audience.

Artists gave generously of their time and I flew them in from around the world. Richard Howard Griffin, 'Griff' of Street Art London, kindly worked with me to persuade them all to come here. It



Region of Culture

There is no doubt that here in Chichester we are very blessed. We have the most wonderful Cathedral, full of great artworks too. We have the extraordinarily successful Festival Theatre; Pallant House Gallery with one of the world's best collections of Modern British Art and with major international exhibitions; the Cass Foundation, one of the finest sculpture parks in Europe; The Weald and Downland Open Air Museum; Fishbourne Roman Palace; West Dean College; a University and a College with thousands of national and international students and both very highly rated; a National Park; numerous famous Sailing Clubs and beaches with wonderful facilities ... the list goes on and on ... Goodwood; Petworth and nearby Arundel.

than to actually see our city as Chichester "City of The Arts".

The recent Street Art Festival demonstrates to the world at large that here on the South Coast of England we really do have this extraordinarily rich art and culture offering. Suddenly we have had the privilege of hosting 10 of the most famous Street Artists in the World; artists renowned in major cities across the globe. At no expense to the various councils or the residents they have painted sensitively on a number of large walls. Such a valuable asset.

People of all ages and all walks of life throughout the city are suddenly all talking to each other about this exciting new topic. Thus through social media platforms and the world wide web the city of Chichester has created a

Left: Thierry Noir, 'Homage to Peter Blake' on Metro House;

Right: Nagel, 'Fox and Birds' at 43 North Street

was a one year intense effort and became a unique gathering. Rarely do so many international Street Artists work together in this way.

Introducing the Artists

Thierry Noir was one of the very first Street Artists and in the 1980's painted 20 kms of the Berlin Wall as a protest to encourage freedom in Germany. It was his way of helping to end the cold war. Parts of the wall have since been sold in international auctions for more than 27 million euros and now we proudly have his work on 109 panels around the Festival Theatre. His work on Metro House is a homage to Sir Peter



Hitnes lives in Paris and painted the colourful Fox being attacked by birds at 43 North Street. Suddenly 'the world and his camera' have found the need to stop in North Street opposite The Ship!

Not far away is **Stik** with his fabulous little figures leading down to Pallant House off East Street. His work is so much a part of the London art scene. Recently he worked in Amman and he flew straight from Chichester to work on commissions in Tokyo. His works sell for huge prices in the art world.

Blake's famous "Beatles 63" work which can be seen at Pallant House Gallery. Thierry's work is available as a limited edition print and can also be seen on the front of the flyer available throughout the city for the public to find all the works on their own Street Art Tour!

Nunca flew from Sao Paulo in Brazil to paint Cathedral Garage. His last work in the UK was a very major commission to paint a whole side wall of Tate Modern.

Phlegm from Sheffield has painted an iconic work at the back of Metro House and **Run** from Italy has painted The Old Electric Cinema. They also worked together on the central building at Chichester College.

Roa from Belgium has done black and white birds in Baffins Car Park and also The Badger at Sildesham Common, the latter a powerful protest at the impending badger cull. From Chichester Phlegm and Roa were immediately commissioned to paint The South Bank Centre in London which they did in early June.



Cityzen Kane has a number of wall hung sculptures hidden away but not so hidden are the 'Schrooms' from well known South African artist, **Christiaan Nagel** ... a lovely yellow one sprouts out from the roof of Marcos where **Run** has painted a telephone on the wall of their conservatory!

The **Rolling People**, a lovely group of London Graffiti Artists who have migrated in to the more disciplined world of

Street Art, have painted the right end wall at the College by the aeroplane.

The Australian artist **DsCreet** has placed his bright yellow Owls on the left wall at the college as well as on two gates in St John Street and Baffins Car Park.

But perhaps the largest and most dramatic work in on the far wall at Metro House near the fire station. **Liquen** and his colleague agreed to fly in from Spain to paint this amazing art work in grey and White and a with a magical mix of fantasies. This work is quite extraordinary.

How lucky we are

Top to bottom:

Stik, 'Figures', North Pallant;

DsCreet, 'Owl'

Roa, 'Starlings',

both in Baffins Lane Car Park.



The next four pages, printed as a pull-out section starting with the page opposite, are the result of a collaboration with the Chichester Residents Associations Co-ordinating Group. They represent our combined position, and were sent to all District Councillors in July. There are two essential points; first, that there is no long-term thinking as to how this Plan will affect future generations and has generated a recipe for continuing sprawl; secondly, that the developers' wish to build on greenfield sites is unreasonable when their 'landbanks' could be used instead and more immediately. Both these points are admirably made by Nick Herbert, M.P. for our neighbouring constituency of Arundel and South Downs in this *Guardian on Sunday* article.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/jul/14/developers-vandalism-countryside-housing-crisis>

Our day out at Rolls-Royce

Richard Childs enjoyed his visit with other Chichester Society members

The name Rolls-Royce is synonymous with excellence, so when a group of Chichester Society members gathered at the Goodwood factory on a sunny April afternoon, expectations were high.

A century of Rolls-Royce

Rolls-Royce began after Henry Royce, an engineer met Charles Rolls a motor car dealer, in 1904 at the Midland Hotel in Manchester. Despite Charles Rolls' death in 1910 (the first Briton to die in a flying accident), the company flourished. In 1998 the German car manufacturer BMW bought Rolls-Royce and the car plant at Goodwood was built.

A bespoke factory

After a friendly welcome we were told about the Rolls-Royce cars on display before we moved upstairs for a view of the factory floor. When first mooted that Lord March was giving over part of the Goodwood estate for a car factory there was much concern, not to say outrage amongst Cicestrians. This was significantly lessened once it was known that the occupiers would be Rolls-Royce.

The factory was designed by Sir Nicholas Grimshaw, the architect of the Eden Project in Cornwall. The buildings are set in a dip created by the removal of gravel which was embanked around the site and landscaped. The roof has been sown with sedum plants and is the largest such roof in the UK, attracting a wide range of bird life. 400,000 trees and shrubs were planted to ensure that the property blended in with the countryside.

The production line

We then moved into the factory itself. What was immediately noticeable was how quiet it was despite producing over 20 cars per week. There are two



Members of the Chichester Society at Rolls-Royce, April 2013

shifts for the workforce of 800, timed so as not to clash with Chichester's rush hour.

Each car is a bespoke model and many personalities, including David Beckham, have visited the factory to order their car. Today, sales are dominated by the Chinese market and we were told that if we saw a car on the assembly line that was black with red upholstery it would be bound for China (red is the colour for luck in China).

Specialist assembly

Though the car frames and engines are manufactured in Germany, the interior of each car is made at Goodwood. Perhaps the most fascinating part of the tour was to see the production of the leatherwork and wood upholstery. Many of the staff with these specialist skills were recruited from local yacht building yards.

We were told that the leather was supplied from a special herd of cattle that were grazed at high levels in Switzerland so as to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes which would cause blemishes on the hide. We were also shown examples of the amazing woodworking and laminating skills used in the cars' interiors.

We shall be arranging another visit to Rolls-Royce so watch this space!

Does this City need a Free School?

In June the Free School put their case. Member Stephanie Carn speaks for those against

I was surprised to read what amounted to a two page advertisement for the proposed Chichester Free School in the June edition of the Chichester Society newsletter. While the editors have a disclaimer that views expressed are not necessarily those of the Society, I should have thought that with such a controversial topic it would have been good to include something from those opposed to so-called free schools in principle and to this project in particular, given its proposed location.

Free - in what sense?

I am very doubtful about the whole free school idea. For a start these schools are not free to the tax payer and the substantial amount of money set aside for them takes away money from other parts of the education budget. There are also other drawbacks; for instance, their teachers do not need to be qualified nor do their costs have to be made public.

The author of the article explains that Chichester has a lack of choice for parents as the two non-faith schools are single sex. True, but a short distance away there are co-educational secondary schools in Bognor Regis, Felpham, Westergate, Selsey and Southbourne. Many pupils from these areas travel daily to Chichester to attend secondary schools here. It would not be too arduous for pupils to travel in the other direction if being co-educational and not attached to a particular church were the most important factors in selecting a secondary school. There are obviously other reasons for people going to such lengths to establish a school separate from the other local provision.

Not the best location

In addition, this article in the June newsletter, gave the impression that planning permission had already been granted for the school to open in September in the premises shown in the photograph. This was not then the case. However, despite substantial opposition from local residents and parish councils planning permission was granted for the school to operate in Vinnetrow Road until 2016.

In my opinion this is one of the major problems with this free school. Nobody will be able to walk or cycle to the school and it is not near any public transport. In their rush to open as soon as possible the proposers have totally ignored the unsustainability of a school in that location. The number of unnecessary car journeys must amount to hundreds a week, all in a road that is already very congested at peak times, and which leads from a very busy roundabout on the A27. I note that they hope to use minibuses and have a car

sharing scheme but it will still leave parents free to take their children to the site by car if they wish.

Pressing ahead regardless

The application to use this site and the planning decision to allow it both show a complete lack of regard for local residents and other road users and for any green agenda.

The lesson that their pupils must take from the determination of the proposers to go ahead regardless must be that instead of waiting until a suitable location is found, this project should be pushed through. Nowhere in this article have they demonstrated a need for extra school places nor have they shown any interest in considering the effect on other local schools.

I fail to see how providing more "choice" for a small minority of local pupils can be more important than considering green issues and being a good neighbour.



A possible problem for getting to the Free School in Vinnetrow Lane? The A27 closed in one direction and blocked in the other (Winter 2012-13)

Everybody's business is nobody's business!

Richard Childs considers the complex of overlapping responsibilities in Chichester

A member of the Society suggested that it might be helpful to clarify the local government arrangements in Chichester as we are subject to the jurisdiction of three separate authorities at county, district and city levels.

The origins of confusion

My starting point is the 1st April 1974 (an appropriate date some might think!), when the current system came into force. The new arrangements swept away the local government model (with its UDCs, RDCs, County Boroughs etc.), which had been a structure created to manage Victorian England. The three-tier council structure that was established for Chichester may have seemed modern and sensible 40 years ago, but is it fit for purpose today?

Chichester is governed on the 'Goldilocks' model of a Daddy Council (County), Mummy Council (District), and Little Baby Council (City). Generally speak-

ing, the County Council looks after all the really big and expensive stuff like education, social services and highways (but the Highways Agency, a national body, covers the trunk roads such as the A27). The District Council looks after the medium sized stuff like local planning applications, car parking, licensing, parks and environmental health. The City Council looks after allotments, street naming and numbering and some historic buildings and monuments.

No democratic deficit!

All 3 councils are run by elected councillors (71 County; 48 District; 20 City) with the day to day work undertaken by paid officers. Now I know these figures represent more than just the City of Chichester area. So let's take the representation for where I live in Chichester East. I am lucky to have 1 county, 3 district and 5 city councillors to represent my interests – truly my democratic cup runneth over!

But who does what?

All well and good in theory so far. However, there is considerable overlapping in functions which is where the ordinary member of the public can become justifiably confused. Here are some examples:

- Off street parking (District Council responsibility) On street parking (County Council responsibility). If the car park was flooded, you should complain to District or County depending on whether the drain was in the car park or outside.
- Refuse collection (District) Refuse disposal (County)
- If I bought a pork pie and found it was both underweight and the meat was off, I would have to complain to Trading Standards (County) about the weight and Environmental Health (District) about the meat.

To this picture you can add the fact that many council services have been outsourced to the private sector and edges are starting to be blurred between local government and the NHS.

Confused? This is an example from my own experience.

Battle of the lamppost

Overwhelmingly the vast majority of street lights in Chichester are maintained by the County Council. However, there are 25 street lights that are the District's responsibility and one of these is outside my house. Some months ago its bulb went out so I phoned the number displayed on the street light column which connected me to the District Council's Call Centre. I knew what was coming.....



Travellers on the Amphitheatre, 2012.

Should you call the police (potential damage to scheduled ancient monument); the District Council (they're on Parks & Gardens land); the County Council (Social Services are required to do an assessment of needs before eviction can be enforced) or all three?

- Me: *I'd like to report a faulty street light. It's one that is maintained by the District Council*
- Call Centre: *All street lights are maintained by the County Council. Please contact them.*
- Me: *But as I said, this one belongs to the District Council.*
- Call Centre: *Silence followed by, I'll take your details and pass your message on.*

Three weeks later nothing had happened so I tried the email approach with the same effect. In short nothing to do with us, try the County Council. Only when I provided them with the link to their own website, showing their responsibility for 25 street lights

Who to call this time? The County Council (because they can't get round to allocating pitches); the District Council (to check if they have a pedlar's licence); the issuing city for their pedlar's licence (which could be as far away as Scotland) or the police (to check that they are genuine pedlars and moving their stall on regularly?)

did they grudgingly acknowledge the fact. Did email work? No. Only when I went directly to one of my district councillors was the matter resolved.

Not one man's problem

Well it might be unfair to condemn the whole of Chichester's local government infrastructure on the basis of one duff street lamp bulb, but on this occasion I don't feel like being fair. In significant parts the system is dysfunctional.

Local journalist Phil Hewitt also thinks so. When he tried to get a busking licence for a band for the launch of the Festival of Chiches-

ter, he was shunted around all 3 councils before ending up back at county, who had denied responsibility in the first place (they are responsible). It's also worth re-reading Kim Long's article on licensing of food stalls in last December's *Newsletter*.

Solved at a stroke!

So here are my top tips for better local government in Chichester:

- Reduce the number of councils governing the city by one but preferably two.
- Co-locate the three councils on to one site preferably in open plan offices where the officers of each council might learn what they're all doing and see where they can join up the dots.
- Abolish the pluralism of councillors holding seats on more than one council to remove the democratic schizophrenia they seem to suffer from.
- Get the officers and members to treat as a priority the removal of glaring anomalies in functions that are so confusing and irksome to members of the public (e.g. various licensing issues on our principal shopping streets).

An outdated model

I know that local government is a bit of a soft target for bashing, (ask the Government, they're used to doing it), but times have changed immeasurably since 1974. I now buy my electricity from British Gas. In Chichester my water, before I turn on the tap, is one company's responsibility. Once it's out of the tap it's another company's responsibility.

The present model for Chichester's governance belongs back in the Heath/Wilson era. Perhaps we need a Boris for Chi!

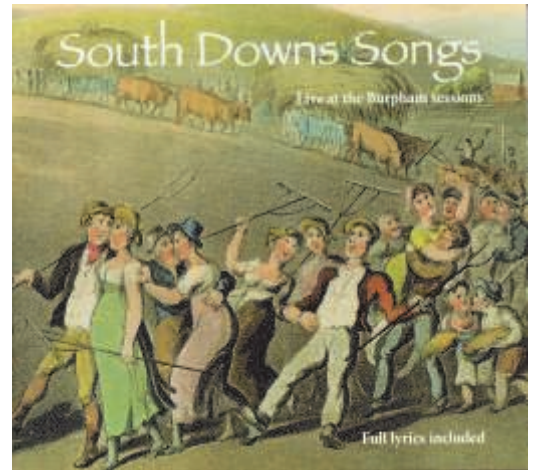


The review page

Books - and a CD - of local interest that we can recommend

Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, traditional singing trio 'Emily and the Hares' were employed by the South Downs Society from 2011 to 2013 to teach traditional songs of the Downs to people living in Sussex and Hants. A series of monthly workshops was held at various locations including Chichester and attracted people of all ages, many who had never sung before.

The project culminated in a celebration at the Weald & Downland Museum in June at which a CD of 21 of the most popular songs was launched including a booklet of words, so the songs can be learnt and sung at home! The CD costs £10 and can be obtained from the South Downs Society by phoning 01798-875073 (Monday-Thursday mornings) or visiting www.sds.org.uk. A good singalong! JT



At dawn on 1st March 1809 two men armed with pistols faced each other across a Gloucestershire field. One was Henry Smith, a Bristol attorney, while his adversary was a local businessman, Richard Priest. The cause of their duel was a trivial argument at the King's Theatre two days before. Priest was hit in the thigh and died from loss of blood despite the surgeons' best efforts. Smith was unhurt but, indicted for wilful murder, he fled Bristol followed by posters offering a reward of 100 guineas for his arrest. He remained on the run for more than a year and his travels eventually took him to the Iberian Peninsula where he joined Wellington's army. His 19-year-old sweetheart, Ann, travelled alone through the war zone of the Peninsula, found him and persuaded him to return to England to accept the court's verdict. This remarkable book is based on his recently discovered journal together with the defence brief from his trial.

Tim Rooth, the Society's first Secretary, has (with Alexander Hallawell) written the story of his ancestor for all to read. 'Surprises in Family History' indeed! The book can be obtained from Kim's bookshop, 28 South Street (01243-778477), cover price £11.50, published by Radcliffe Press. TR & JT

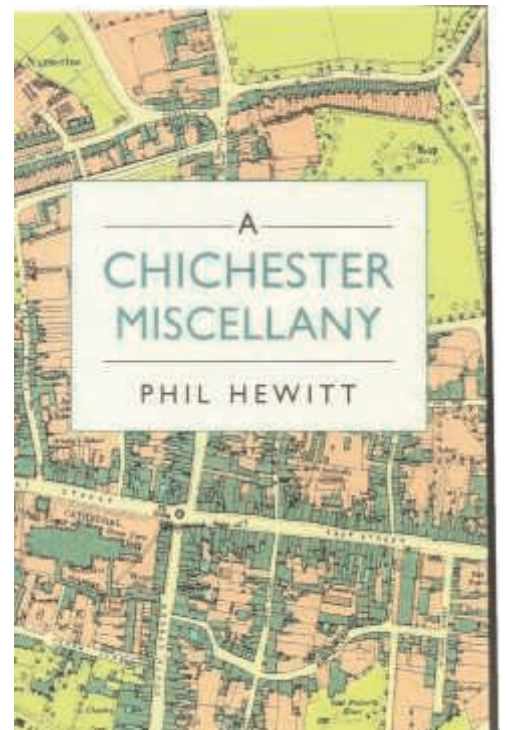
This is a charming little book, delightfully produced by a local publisher. Its author will be well-known to many as one of the Chichester Observer's longest serving journalists. It is clear through the book's pages that the author has acquired a great passion for the place.

Though running chronologically, the book also covers four broad themes, *times, places, people, and culture*, with half a dozen or so articles per theme. It is a book for dipping into rather than reading from cover to cover. The book is also pleasantly illustrated with line drawings by Claire Plimmer. For me the highlight of the book is a succinct chapter on the city's parish churches, detailing the current uses of the redundant mediaeval ones, but there is a wide variety of other interests. I particularly enjoyed the chapter on Chichester actors which includes extracts from some recent interviews undertaken by the author.

Some chapters do occasionally bring odd bed fellows together with William Blake juxtaposed with Mick Jagger and Keith Richards – all having the dubious distinction of being tried in Chichester.

A gentle and enjoyable introduction to our lovely city. The book is published by Summersdale Publishers at £9.99

RJC



We've been here before!

The current threat to the Lavant Gap shows history repeating itself.

This article by Stanley Roth is taken, slightly edited, from the newsletter for June 1983. Mr Roth led an architectural practice in Chichester and was resident here for some 50 years. He purchased and restored derelict properties in Little London including the former District Museum. He was also a JP and Independent County Councillor with a mind of his own. The current appeal by Taylor Woodrow against the refusal of planning permission to build on the very area described by Mr Roth makes this extract in our series of historic newsletters specially poignant! We will be taking part in the appeal process.

A BREATHING SPACE

A critical look at the green belt north of Chichester by Stanley Roth. (Newsletter 48, June 1983)

It is generally accepted that open spaces or green belts around a town or village are vital for the well-being of the community. These exist through normal historic development or are deliberately created, protected and preserved. A green belt restricts outward expansion, assisting a community to become an entity. Its inhabitants can identify with the life and activities of that community, instead of being no more than a number on an electoral roll or rate demand. A sense of security both physical and spiritual is thereby fostered.

.....
Chichester and the surrounding villages provide a classic study in growth, and the dangers which beset a village such as Lavant are there for all to see. Encroachment has taken two forms, visible and audible. The limits of Summersdale had become an accepted demarcation of Chichester's northern bound-

ary, the 30 acres of open country between Summersdale and Lavant being just sufficient to provide a visual breathing space, a barrier to continuous development.

Major development in the northern part of the city has resulted in much concern about the ultimate consequences of this encroachment into the countryside which has been carried out by the District Council and private builders. Development by infilling is not the issue, for both town and village are able to provide for growth within their accepted boundaries.

However, continuing encroachment towards the Goodwood airfield is by any standards bad planning, not only because of noise, but because of the high density of housing and the very unfortunate sight of the countryside finishing abruptly to give way to bricks.

This is also the effect when driving from Lavant to Chichester. A barrier of housing faces Lavant without any screening or attempt by the planners to obtain a gradual visual entry to Chichester. Perhaps they feel this is an indication of what the traveller is about to experience when finally arriving at the chaotic traffic at Northgate or within the City.

.....
Overshadowing Chichester and its villages is the constant disturbance caused to the environment by the activities being conducted at Goodwood airfield. Both County and District Councils seem absolutely reluctant to exercise certain powers open to them and so take positive steps to contain or reduce the noise levels emitting from this circuit. The noises are a daily occurrence, far in excess of any level permitted for light industry, particularly when

adjacent to housing, yet residential development is allowed to continue. It is now within 500 yards of the circuit, yet the houses are being bought.

Does this indicate a change of standards by both the public and the planning authorities? Maybe gravel extraction, larger lorries through our villages, a dense housing development between Lavant and Summersdale on that 30 acre open field, and racing car testing 7 days a week, light airplanes doing circuits overhead, and 4 miles of continuous development from Stockbridge south of Chichester to Yarbrook in North Lavant, is the new pattern of the video age!

The field in the Lavant Gap: say 20 Ha with a (UK average) yield 8 tonnes per Ha and 1600 loaves per tonne (websites average).

Apart from any other considerations, that's the equivalent of 64,000 loaves to be imported. And then add even more agricultural land which it is proposed we lose under the new Local Plan!



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE SOCIETY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCH!

FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER 2013, 12.30 PM, GOODWOOD RESTAURANT, CHICHESTER COLLEGE

To round out the activities and events that have taken place during the Society's 40th anniversary year we are offering members a splendid lunch created by top chefs of the future! Our celebration begins with a **drinks reception** followed by a **three course lunch with wine**, ending with **coffee and tea**: all for a **fully inclusive** £21.50 per person. The Very Reverend Nicholas Frayling, Dean of Chichester is to be Guest of Honour.

Reserve your place quickly because numbers at the Goodwood restaurant are limited! Copy this whole page – one sheet per person - and post to the address below. Members are welcome to bring a guest. Please keep a copy for reference and note that this event is at the College, NOT the University.

NAME.....(PLEASE PRINT)

My menu choice is (tick selected boxes; SEND ONE MENU SHEET PER PERSON):

TO BEGIN (choose one)

- ☐ **Potage Paysanne**
A clear vegetable soup garnished with shaped vegetables
- ☐ **Pappardelle Pasta**
With garlic and leek sauce and parmesan tuile
- ☐ **Warm Autumn Salad**
Rocket topped with roasted butternut squash, goats cheese and a walnut dressing

MAINS (choose one) All served with seasonal vegetables

- ☐ **Fillets of Sole Florentine**
Fillets of sole poached and served on a bed of spinach with a creamy cheese sauce
- ☐ **Chicken Sauté Bonne Femme**
Pan-fried chicken finished with a sauce of shallots, white wine and wild mushrooms
- ☐ **Pea and Herb Risotto (V)**
With parmesan shavings and chives

PUDDINGS (choose one)

- ☐ **Mango Bavaois**
A light mango mousse served with sweetened whipped cream
- ☐ **Apple Tarte Tatin**
Served with fresh custard
- ☐ **Sussex Cheese Board**
Served with water biscuits, celery and grapes

TO END Coffee and tea

To Grace Taylor, Chichester Society, 18 Lloyd Road, Graylingwell, Chichester PO19 6AZ

With this (these) menu selection(s) I enclose my cheque for £..... payable to The Chichester Society fortickets at £21.50 per person. I enclose a stamped addressed envelope for return of tickets.

NAME.....TEL NUMBER.....

ADDRESS.....

.....POSTCODE.....

EMAIL ADDRESS.....

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHICHESTER SOCIETY

will be held on Wednesday 16th October 2013 at 7:00pm

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

Guest speaker, Greg Perry, Director of the Pallant House Gallery

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 will be pleased to welcome Greg Perry, the new Director of the Pallant House Gallery to speak about his vision for its future. He will also answer questions.

We hope that you can come to both this formal meeting and the anniversary lunch on Friday 18th (opposite).

A detailed agenda and copies of the annual accounts will be available at the meeting. The formal Agenda will contain the usual items of Officers' reports, Approval of Accounts and Nomination for next year's committee members (see below) but in addition new subscription rates will be presented.

Your committee has decided to raise subscription levels with effect from the coming January. This is not simply keeping up with inflation (though subscriptions have not been raised for over ten years) but critically because of the dramatic increase in postage rates. We sidestepped the last increase by buying some 2000 stamps at the old rate (then 45p) but these have now run out, and the new rate for 'large letters' is 69p. Thus postage will take up some £2.76 of your subscription before any other expenditure is taken into account.

A full analysis will be presented at the AGM for comment. The committee intends to raise subscriptions paid **by standing order** from £5 to £8 (single) and from £8 to £12 (joint); and **by cheque** £7 to £11 and from £10 to £15 respectively. You do not need to do anything now; forms to enable you to alter your standing order, or to pay by cheque, will be sent out in November in time for renewal on January 1st.

MOTIONS FOR THE AGM & NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE 2013-4

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

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 **2nd October 2013**). A nomination form is provided below.

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 2013

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

CHICHESTER SOCIETY NOMINATION FORM 2013

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 **2nd October, 2013**.

TITLE OF OFFICE

NOMINEE'S NAME (CAPS)

**NOMINEE'S ACCEPTANCE
(SIGNED)**

PROPOSER (SIGNED)

SECONDER (SIGNED)

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Please note that Marco's phone number is as above, and not as given in our June issue. We apologise to the owner of the number given previously for the inconvenience caused.

WILL YOU BE THERE?

Our 40th Anniversary Lunch is on
Friday October 18th at the Good-
wood Restaurant, Chichester College
See page 18

Our AGM is on the evening of
Wednesday 16th at the Assembly
Rooms, and Greg Perry, Director of
the Pallant House Gallery, will speak
See page 19

CHICHESTER CANAL BOAT TRIPS

Daily scheduled trips
10.15, 1200, 1345 & 1530

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Advance bookings 01243 377405

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Registered Charity No 268055
www.chichestersociety.org.uk

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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, Trevor
Redman, Bill Sharp, Grace Taylor and John
Wichers

MEMBERSHIP (subject to review, see p.19)

Annual Membership: £5 by Standing Order;
£7 by cheque

Under-18s: £2.50

Joint Membership (double): £8.00 by Stand-
ing Order; £10 by cheque

Corporate membership: £100 (one-off pay-
ment)

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

Editor: David Wilson; **Editorial Committee:**
Richard Childs, Anthony Quail, Bill Sharp,
John Templeton, John Wichers

Letters to the Editor 11 North Walls,
Chichester PO19 1DA or by email to
david@northwalls.demon.co.uk

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

Published by The Chichester Society and
printed by PurCoprint, 132 Bath Road,
Reading RG30 2EU