



CHELTENHAM CIVIC SOCIETY

E - BULLETIN NO. 3

25 April 2014

Dear Civic Society Member

Another batch of disparate items of news. Some of you took the trouble to say you enjoyed the first issue, which has encouraged us to keep going!

Civic Awards

As you know this is one of our most prominent annual public ventures. This year (on 16 April), thanks to the team consisting of Diane Lewis (Convenor), Douglas Ogle and Mike Duckering, the CCS again put on an excellent show, with the Awards ceremony in the Town Hall in the afternoon and our special guest Tom Dyckhoff as our annual Civic Awards lecturer in the evening. Thanks are also due to the Adjudication Panel of Cheltenham citizens: it's important to remember that the decisions are theirs, not the Civic Society's: we and the Borough Council are organizers and sponsors, not judges, on this one!

Many of you came to one of these events, but for those who were unable to be there, the following is a list of the winning projects. Do go and take a look at them – or admire the photo exhibition in the hall of Parmoor House.

Awards:

16a, Rodney Road

St Paul's Walk

Eslington Mews, Thirlestaine Road

The Wilson

Commendations

Alpha House, Queens Road

Tivoli Villas, Lypiatt Drive

3 and 5 Well Place

Sixways Hall. London Road

Railings at St Faith's Nursing Home, Malvern Road

Civic Voice

You will have read elsewhere that Freddie Gick, a member of our Executive Committee, has also the much more formidable task of chairing the whole organisation of Civic Voice. We feel privileged to have such a significant office-holder working with us in Cheltenham, and it brings with it the opportunity to hear first hand about the nation-wide issues facing the civic movement.

What you may not know is that, through Civic Voice, members of the CCS can obtain day tickets for entry to National Trust properties, several of them if you're planning a tour. The method is to write to Gill Roxborough, Civic Voice, 60 Duke Street, Liverpool, L1 5AA, enclosing an SAE, with contact details and saying you're a member of Cheltenham CS. The passes are transferable. I expect most of you are NT members already, but if not, this is a great opportunity. And even if you are a member, it's a great opportunity to take friends and relatives free of charge.

Cheltenham Arts Council

We have a vacancy for a Civic Society representative on Cheltenham Arts Council. It would involve attending meetings of the Council and occasionally reporting to our Executive Committee on what goes on. No other responsibilities and a very interesting insight into an important part of Cheltenham's cultural scene. Any volunteers?

Volunteering

Many thanks to those who filled in the form attached to E Bulletin 1. If you weren't among that number, please consider downloading the form – or I can attach it again if you just let me know. Roger Brown is building up a good list of volunteers to help, on their own terms, with our various activities.

Cheltenham College

Still on volunteering, does anyone fancy research work at the College, establishing from the school archives details of old Cheltonians who served in WW1? A major exhibition is planned for Remembrance Week and extra help is needed in compiling some of these absorbing biographies. Let me know if you're interested. The degree of commitment would be entirely up to you.

Programme 2015

If you've any bright ideas for good speakers, or different social events, next year, please send them to the Programme Secretary, Lesley Whittal, who is starting to put together plans and would love to hear from you (email: lesley@whittal.plus.com)

What's so special about Cheltenham?

Our former Chairman Stephen Clarke now looks after a group called Cheltenham in Focus, a forum of residents' associations and similar bodies, convened under the umbrella of the Civic Society. A question which members of this group recently discussed was '**What's distinctive about Cheltenham?**' - as opposed to any other place. It's a good question, obviously with no single right answer. But we'd love to know what CCS members' answers would be. Some of you gave hints when you filled in the questionnaire last autumn, but please try again. I won't give you alternatives to choose from, but please come up with your own very brief (one- or two-word) answers. We'll let you know what the trend is!

Best wishes

Roger Woodley
Chair, Executive Committee
