



E-BULLETIN NO. 7

16 October 2014

Dear Civic Society Member

Here is the latest news. There will be a Newsletter later in November, but this is intended to keep you in the picture in between. If you ever want to ask/comment/complain about anything, you are always welcome, as you know, to email me. Press 'reply' now!

Developments in the Town

The Echo seems to be full of reports about future developments, all of which the Civic Society will try to get involved with and express a view. So, if YOU have a view, as a member, let us know what it is. The first place where these issues are considered, as you know, is the Society's Planning Forum, and the Forum's views are passed to the Borough Council. But you can contribute too by telling us what you think.

Example: Echo of 15 October

- Developments at Beechwood Shopping Centre, perhaps incorporating a John Lewis53
- Houses on a Pittville School playing field in Cakebridge Road
- The already-agreed development on the Odeon/Haines and Strange site
- Improvements in the High Street, on which the Council have decided to spend over £560,000, and the work on the Brewery which has now started.

Guided Walks

In response to the suggestion in the last E-Bulletin that we might form a panel of volunteer walk leaders for CCS guided walks (perhaps sharing with the Local History Society), I received 4 names – thank you very much. With Roger Jones and myself (we have guided walks during the Music Festival for some years now), we shall certainly have a team. If anyone else is interested please let me know. More detail in due course.

Heritage Open Days

This event seems a long time ago now, but I can report that it was very successful for Parmoor House. There were some 150 visitors, and much interest in our fine Victorian rooms and garden, in our Civic Awards photos, and our extensive archives. Well done to all the volunteers who gave visitors such a warm welcome.

English Heritage

If you are a member of English Heritage you will already know that it is next year to split into two separate bodies. The budget for this was announced this week, with £80mn to spend on the heritage part – all EH's castles and properties – still under the leadership of Simon Thurley. The listing and regulatory function will become a separate organisation called Historic England.

Future Events

- I do hope lots of you will come to the important annual visit of **Jeremy Williamson, of Cheltenham Development Task Force, at Parmoor House, 7.30, Tuesday 11 November.** This is an excellent opportunity to hear from the expert on future ideas for the town (such as those listed above, and more) and to ask questions 'live'.

- You still have time, before the end of October, to visit the **Crucible2 sculpture exhibition at Gloucester Cathedral**. There are some late night openings – see their website.
- Some of us very much enjoyed the talk by Adrian Barlow at **Pip and Jim's** in early October. There is another comparable event on **Saturday 8 November, at 6.00pm, a Remembrance Day concert**, again in aid of the Big Appeal. To book email info@pipandjims.org.uk or phone 573508.

War Memorials

The last-mentioned event leads to this very topical subject. We hope to become involved in further research into war memorials in the whole area, with the help of some money that has become available through Civic Voice. This will call for voluntary input from interested researchers, such as yourself, perhaps? Please would anyone who is interested let me know.

Civic Movement in Gloucestershire

An innovation we are trying out this year is closer liaison with other Civic Societies in the surrounding area. We already have excellent relations with the Gloucester Civic Trust and we are inviting them, and representatives from several other similar bodies in the county and elsewhere to a semi-formal meeting at Parmoor House at the end of November. We hope this will result in a useful exchange of views and perhaps also some useful ideas we can all copy from each other; and not least we want to improve our connections with the County Council!

I hope to see you at one of our events soon.

Best wishes
Roger Woodley
Chair, Cheltenham Civic Society