



NEWSLETTER JULY 2011

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Dates for your diary – see back page for details

Cheltenham Civic Society Summer Party

Saturday 27 August

5.00pm Guided Walk, 6.00 – 8.00pm Garden Party

Heritage Open Days

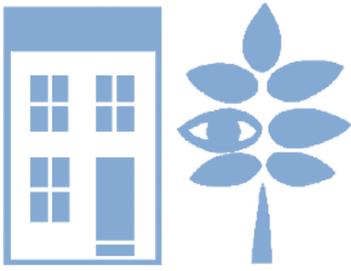
Thursday 8 – Sunday 11 September

A celebration of England's fantastic architecture and culture offering free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission.

Talk at Parmoor House

Tuesday 13 September

Dr Dennis Jackson gives a talk on the geology and building stones of the North Cotswolds.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There seems to be lots happening in Cheltenham at present. It's like buses, you wait a long time and then several turn up at once.

More Awards for Cheltenham

It was great news in May that two of our Civic Award buildings, the Parabola Arts Centre and Maggie's Centre, were amongst the seven South West RIBA award winners, a real triumph for Cheltenham. These two buildings are very welcome additions to Cheltenham's rich architecture and what I call proportionate gems. I hope that both these buildings will be open for this year's heritage Open Days in September. I am also thrilled that Sir Richard MacCormac, the architect of Maggie's Centre has agreed to give the Paterson Memorial Lecture on 12 December this year.



Maggie's Centre, Cheltenham

Things are changing

With the Art Gallery and Museum closed for the long awaited extension and the Everyman closed for Tim Foster's restoration of Matcham's Victorian grandeur there is a lot to look forward to. Civic Pride is starting to motor now since the Cheltenham Development Task Force was formed. The car park in Portland Street and North Place has been awaiting development in all my 22 years in Cheltenham, but now things are moving apace.

The 9 bids for the site received earlier this year have been whittled down to 4 and should come down to 2 during July ready for a public consultation in late August with a final decision by the end of the year. We are hopeful that a bid for funding that will allow for the closure of Boots Corner will be successful which if it is will open up a number of possibilities, particularly for Royal Well. And there are other proposals to remove some of our least loved buildings that seem to be gathering momentum. So there is a lot to be optimistic about and also to remain vigilant that the standards set by our award winners can be maintained in these new developments.

Help needed to record the change

With all this change, I feel that is a good time to take stock, to record what we have now to make sure we are making things better. 2011 has been census year and I feel that we need to do a "street census" for the main routes in Cheltenham, providing a photographic record of the buildings, the state of the roads and pavements, and the signage and general street clutter. Our Spa to Spa Walk for Civic Day on 25 June was along probably our most important route but the High Street is another. Two similar exercises this year have demonstrated that this type of "evidence" does make things happen and Civic Voice are very willing to advise us on how to go about this. If you would be willing to spend some time even if it is just an afternoon to help to record or to photograph then it would help us to be vigilant and more importantly make a difference.

Please do get in touch with me on:

01242 581340

or email: chairman@cheltenhamcivicsociety.org.uk

In the meantime, do not forget to look around and nominate buildings for this year's Civic Awards email to: civicawards@cheltenhamcivicsociety.org.uk There should be a healthy list this year so let us know what you find around the town where you live or visit.

Stephen Clarke



PLANNING FORUM REPORT

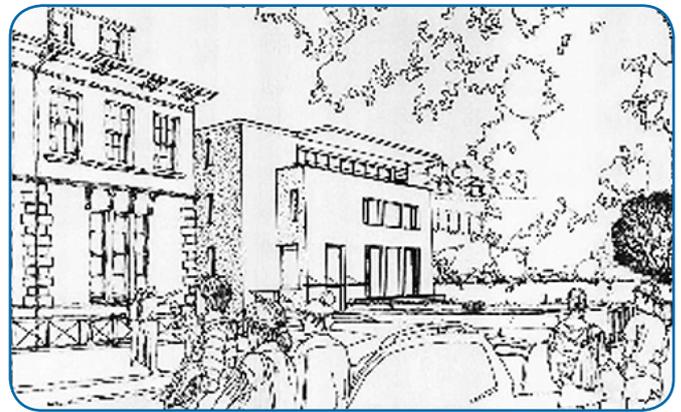
As always, I am grateful to the members of the Planning Forum for their dedication to our work. I should particularly mention Caroline Dunn and Diane Lewis, two of our newer members.

I might start by mentioning two large schemes. The Midwinter allotment site at Gardners Lane is a scheme for 176 dwellings. We thought the developers had handled the site well, including proposals for public open space and landscaping. This scheme is still under consideration, and we were not at this stage able to comment on the design of the individual dwellings. Secondly there is a proposal at Jessop Avenue opposite the Waitrose café – also still under consideration – for a large mixed use development comprising office, residential retail and ancillary uses. This scale of development seems appropriate for the site, though we had some doubts about the viability of the retail element. Jessop Avenue is a fascinating area with a number of large developments of varying quality having been built in recent decades – often very much reflecting the style of the decade in which they were built. This is a large site, and this development will just about complete Jessop Avenue. The proposal is for a glass-fronted facade, which we thought appropriate. But we disliked the flying canopy linking the glass-fronted part to the remainder of the building. We also disliked the fact that the two halves had such different styles, which will make it look as if the smaller part is an add-on. We favour a unified approach, and are hoping that it will reflect – both literally and metaphorically – more of the lightness of touch of Waitrose than the heavy ponderousness of Festival House.

Ledmore Road is an important road. It was developed in the early 1950s with what were called “Foreign Office managerial houses” to accommodate senior staff transferring to GCHQ. The houses are well-proportioned with a pleasant and simple design – a 1950s interpretation of a Georgian house. There have been a number of recent proposals affecting the area. First, about a year ago, there was a proposal for an over-large extension to one of the houses, which we thoroughly disliked. I am happy to say that it was refused.

This year, a proposal for 3 detached houses in a style sympathetic to the houses already there - with which we were generally content - has recently been approved.

There was a sympathetic proposal for alterations to a house in Lansdown Parade. We were impressed by the careful way in which these changes were planned to make the house more suitable for modern living.



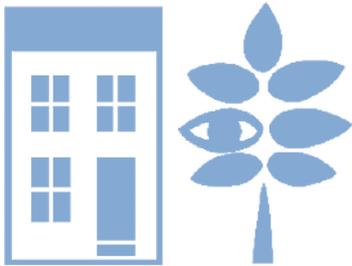
9 Malvern Place

Finally, one scheme that is worth watching as a potential recipient of a future Civic Award. Permission has now been granted for a scheme in Malvern Place involving the demolition of a totally undistinguished 1960s house and replacing it with a modern house of totally contemporary design. We had one or two detailed concerns, but this proposal for such a modern design in this location is an exciting one.

John Henry

Newsletter by email

Would you prefer to receive your Newsletter by email rather than in printed form and reduce our postage bill? If so, please contact the Membership Secretary.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We warmly welcome to the Society Ms Gillian Cope, Mrs Anna Goodrich, Mr & Mrs Mike Handy, Mr Peter Jenkins, Mr & Mrs Tom Jump, Dr Lynne O'Farrell, Dr & Mrs James Pearson, Mr Cecil Sanderson and Ms Mo Woodward who have joined us in the last six months.

There are still a few members who have not renewed for 2011. If you cannot remember whether you have renewed, or not, please contact me on 01242 239179.

Anyone who I have not heard from by the end of July will be deleted from the membership register.

During the Music Festival we are having a membership desk at the Pittville Pump Room on Saturday 2 July and Saturday 9 July in the hope of enrolling some new members from those attending the concerts. We are also organising four Town Walks to introduce festival-goers to Cheltenham's rich history and architecture. These have proved very popular and are already fully booked.

Roger Brown, Membership Secretary

BLUE PLAQUES

I've been asked once or twice now: why no plaques in 2011? But there will be!

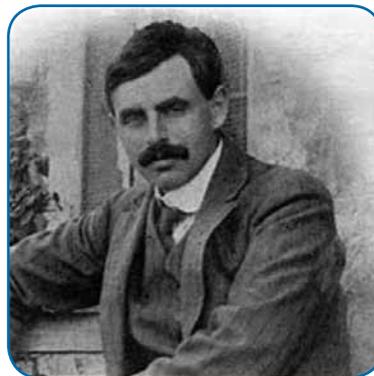
On Friday 7 October at 12.30 the Mayor will unveil a plaque at Dean Close School to the eminent poet, today unjustifiably forgotten, James Elroy Flecker (1884-1915). As a boy, Flecker lived in Cheltenham, where his father was Headmaster of Dean Close School and he was a pupil before moving to Uppingham and thence to both Oxford and Cambridge.

His career with the consular service was cut short when he died in Davos, Switzerland from tuberculosis, at the age of 30; but not before he had published some important and memorable work, including the verse play Hassan and three volumes of poetry, including The Golden Journey to Samarkand and the well-known lyric To a Poet a Thousand Years Hence, from which this is an extract:

O friend unseen, unborn, unknown,
Student of our sweet English tongue,
Read out my words at night, alone:
I was a poet, I was young.

More locally, Flecker wrote of:
November evenings! Damp and still
They used to cloak Leckhampton Hill,
And lie down close on the grey plain,
And dim the dripping window pane,
And send queer winds like Harlequins
That seized our elms for violins
And struck a note so sharp and low
Even a child could feel the woe.

Please diarise the date and time to attend the unveiling of James Elroy Flecker's plaque.



James Elroy Flecker

In 2012, we shall be making particular efforts to commemorate the centenary of the death in the Antarctic, returning from the Pole, of Dr Edward Wilson. Wilson of course already has a statue in the town (the work of Captain Scott's widow, Katharine), and the house where he was born in Montpellier Terrace is appropriately inscribed. But more is intended for the centenary. The Civic Society is participating in a special working group, who hope to erect information boards about Wilson and his heroic exploits at the site of the house where he lived as a boy in Montpellier Parade and also near the statue. There may in addition be a plaque on Crippetts Hill at the house where the family spent many happy hours, and Wilson himself imbibed his love of the natural world.

Roger Woodley



HAPPY HERITAGE OPEN DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN!

Always the second weekend in September, this time 10th and 11th, and we're opening Parmoor House as usual, 11.00 – 4.00 each day. Last year we had a record number of 215 visitors and it will be a challenge to beat that this year. But we're an energetic bunch, so we're very hopeful.

There will be the usual English Heritage balloons and banner to attract those walking down Lypiatt Road, but do please tell your friends to visit us. And do please yourselves visit some of the excellent newcomers to the Scheme who are opening this year for the first time, such as Eagle Tower, the New Club and the Parabola Arts Centre.

At Parmoor House we shall have the benefit of a different vintage car parked grandly outside on each of the days. On the Saturday it will be a 1904 Peugeot, very kindly loaned by our member Mike Sheppard, and on the Sunday, there's a welcome return visit of David Standish-Hays' spectacular 1925 Hupmobile which caught so many eyes last year.

In addition, at 11.30 on each day, Mick Kippin, one of our members, will be leading a guided walk round some of the Blue Plaques in the area, lasting about 1 hour. These walks will start and finish at Parmoor House. Mick was a major contributor to our initiative in 2009 and 2010 in unveiling plaques to four of Cheltenham's distinguished group of VCs.



Mick Kippin on Civic Day 25 June 2011

Inside the House we hope to have on display some items from the Art Gallery and Museum, which is now closed for refurbishment; or, if this proves impossible, we shall display items from our own Archive, which proved a surprisingly popular attraction last year.

On top of all this, as mentioned, many more places in the town are to open. This is in large part due to the energy and commitment of the Civic Society which in the past year has initiated a co-ordinating committee within the Borough Council, chaired by Karen Radford, where a cross section of those opening their properties on HODs meet to plan ideas and tactics. Among the many newcomers this year will be a number of eco-friendly private houses, to demonstrate how heritage buildings can adapt to the requirements of the 21st century.

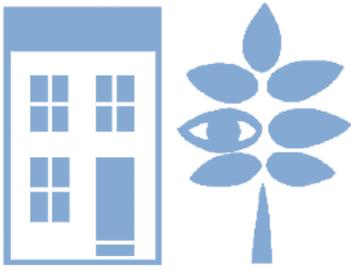
All details will be available in August in an extended leaflet that the Society will be instrumental in producing. Keep an eye open for your copy, available from Parmoor House, the Tourist Office, some shops and elsewhere.

On the Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the HODs weekend, 8-10 September, the Civic Society, jointly with the Local History Society, will be running a stall in Regent Arcade to publicise HODs and hopefully to extend the number and range of visitors.

But we need HELP!! Enclosed in this Newsletter is a form seeking volunteers. As usual we need stewards for Parmoor House on the Saturday and Sunday. Some of you very kindly put your names forward every year and it's greatly appreciated. We do hope we'll hear from you again, and some new names would be welcome. But also this year will be the opportunity to help look after the stall in Regent Arcade, and if you'd prefer to be involved with that please fill in the form accordingly.

Roger Woodley and Stephen Clarke's names and details are on the form. If you want to talk more to find out what's involved in any of the above, please do get in touch. We're waiting to hear from you!

Roger Woodley



CIVIC AWARD LECTURE 2011

Angela Brady Thursday 14th of April

Angela Brady gave the Civic Award Lecture on the future of Architecture. Angela is president elect of the RIBA – the seventyfourth and only the second woman to become president. She has had an international career - Denmark, Toronto, Copenhagen and Dublin and nationally has been involved in productions for Channel 4 TV “The Home Show” and “Building a Dream”. Angela is an active member of many boards and committees, is known for speaking passionately and inspirationally about her subject, is an active campaigner for what she believes in, and is recognised for her presence and confidence in the public arena.

She commenced her talk by highlighting the change in the environment, where buildings have moved from 10% of the environment in Britain in the nineteenth century to a projection of 25% in 2050. She argued that further loss of the countryside could no longer be a reality; brown field sites have to be the source of future building. The suburban house is dead, running out of land, intensify the density of towns, urban sprawl can no longer take place or be a viable proposition.

Angela then took a broad-brush sweep of ideas being tested out. Firstly she considered ideas to accommodate an expanding population. She referred to an experimental brown site development on the Isle of Dogs by the London Development Agency. This is characterised by intense density; vertical villages with a mix of private and social housing in one block; the social mix being an essential component. Success depended on speaking to the community before design commenced followed by further discussions after seeing the model. This localism approach is particularly important for the young - drag them in from the streets if necessary. Residential areas, streets and squares will have little parking space, it will be at a premium, and car sharing arrangements will be required where cars will not be owned personally but will be available for communal use. In addition, better local transport will cut down the carbon footprint. An important component for urban life will be the Foyer de Jeune, communal homes for the young

with poor and difficult backgrounds, designed to create more humane accommodation. She cited as an example St Catherine’s Foyer in Dublin designed by her architectural practice, which is drug and alcohol free. She also advocated the importance of the elderly in a community, as they can contribute from their life experiences.

Angela went on to consider techniques to adapt to changing environmental weather patterns. High on the list was water conservation by having green roofs ie covered with plants with water retaining properties. Water prevented from entering drains would provide for grey non-purified water usage as part of a dual water supply in the home.

She referred to the urban heat effect; urban areas are hotter than the surrounding countryside with detrimental effects on the environment, roads, buildings and other hard surfaces that absorb heat. This can be relieved by the presence of trees and other vegetation - cool technologies. Shading reduced the heating up of buildings thereby reducing the cost incurred for cooling. The evaporation function of trees had a significant cooling effect on humans and caused less damage to roads. It has been shown that environments with trees were associated with less stress and violence in the residential population. Trees had the added benefit of absorbing pollutants from the air. Under the new Localism bill, trees should be part of the policy and plans for development, and it is up to communities to get what they want. Angela was very passionate about trees, she had just come from Birmingham where she had attended a meeting of the Tree Design Action group, whose purpose is to increase awareness of trees, and as she emphasised, no trees no future.

Many groups are working together to reduce the carbon footprint. There is four time more carbon dioxide being produced annually than should be and as yet governments do not know how to deal with the problem. She gave an example where 54% of electricity used by a school was consumed when no one was there. The aim by 2050 is a zero carbon concept; although it will be difficult to achieve.



Finally she referred to how homes would be heated in the future. Homes needed to adapt so there will be greater use of solar energy, part of a dual system, where not everyone will have a boiler.

A big problem posed to the RIBA has been the loss of authority due to the changing nature of approval for buildings; more groups are involved, as well as new ways of working. There is more public talk and talk across the professions, and the Design Council and CABI watchdogs. Design does not have to be bad to accommodate the changes associated with an expanding population and containing urban sprawl. She totally disapproved of the flat packs for schools proposed by education minister Gove, quite unsuitable for educating children, good design does not have to cost more.

The emphasis of Angel Brady's lecture was the requirement for a new mindset on how we go forward and she summarized as follows:

- Density increased in towns and cities
- Trees for air quality and cooling
- Ditch the car and have better public transport
- Harvest the sun, solar energy
- Slow down consumerism

Diane Lewis

CIVIC DAY 2011

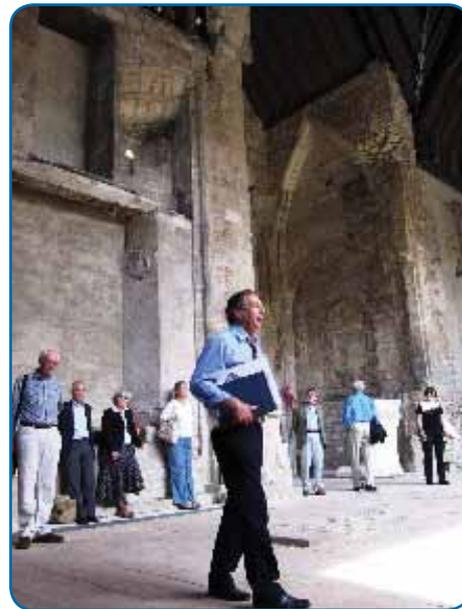
On Saturday 25 June members of the public joined the Cheltenham Civic Society in celebrating National Civic Day with a Spa to Spa walk from Pittville Pump Room to Montpellier Rotunda.



Judy Hodsdon representing the friends of Pittville Park explaining the planned improvements to the Pittville Gates

GUIDED TOUR OF GLOUCESTER AND BLACKFRIARS PRIORY

On Thursday 2 June Gloucester Civic Trust welcomed a group from the Cheltenham Civic Society to a guided walk of the city and Blackfriars' Priory.

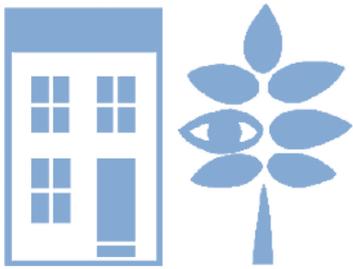


Phil Moss from the Gloucester Civic Trust and the group from Cheltenham Civic Society at Blackfriars' Priory

Music Festival Walks - People and Places

Thirty-eight people came on two walks around the town centre looking at places associated with distinguished former residents, many of them marked with a commemorative plaque. A shower of rain brusquely terminated the first walk in Montpellier after 1 hour 20 minutes; the second group of walkers took refuge in St Mary's Church when the heavens opened a second time where they were able to examine the legacy of the Skillicorne dynasty in some detail. Many of the participants were from the town and enjoyed visiting places of which they were unaware, such as Jenner Gardens, the first purpose built school in England, and the soon to be restored Skillicorne Gardens behind the Town Hall.

Roger Jones



FAVOURITE BUILDINGS IN CHELTENHAM

Talk at Parmoor House, Tuesday 10 May 2011

Lansdown Terrace 21 : College Pavilion 19;
Bungalow 14 : Eagle Tower 10

No, not rugby scores, but the votes for Cheltenham's favourite buildings as proposed by the speakers at the Tuesday talk at Parmoor House. The well-supported evening saw five Civic Society members wax lyrical about their personal choice of favourite building in Cheltenham.

Barrie Stow

Barrie Stow trained as an architect in Cheltenham at the Pittville College, and ran his own practice for twenty years. Ten years ago he changed direction, and now works for Relate as their Counselling Supervisor. Barrie's favourite building was the Bungalow in Shurdington Road. This discreet, single storey modern house was built in 1963 by the architect Roger Dyer to become his own family home. An excellent example of 1960's modern architecture, and now in different ownership, the building was recently upgraded with external insulation behind a white-rendered façade.



Clearly an admirer of the early modernism of de Stijl and Bauhaus, Barrie eloquently expounded the inspiration for his choice with images of Gerrit Rietveld's Schroder House, Utrecht, built in 1924;

Mies van de Rohe's Barcelona Pavilion first built in 1929, demolished in 1930 and re-built in 1986; and another Mies' building, the Farnsworth House, Illinois, built in 1951.

Caroline Dunn

Moving from modern to Victorian architecture, Caroline Dunn spoke next on her choice, the College Pavilion at Cheltenham College. Trained in 3D Spatial Design, Caroline is a freelance interior designer, but she spoke most knowledgeably about the exterior design of the college pavilion. Designed by architect Henry Francis Lockwood, from the Bradford practice Lockwood & Mawson, well known for designing the philanthropic Saltaire Village, the college pavilion was built in 1864/5 in high-Victorian style, with twin towers and decorative Byzantine brickwork. The building has been the venue for the annual Cheltenham Cricket Festival since 1872, and was listed in 1983. Caroline is a self-confessed Victorianophile, expressing her admiration for the industry and forward thinking of the Victorian era.



Although not fitting in with the typical Regency architecture of Cheltenham, Caroline argued convincingly that it is the juxtaposition of architectural styles that creates the rich diversity and character of the locality. From the typical Regency terrace and the Gothic Revival Cheltenham College chapel, through Neo-classical to the modernist Eagle Tower, postmodern and the contemporary Century Court, all styles can be found within a few minutes walk of the college pavilion. But it was her evocation of the very Englishness of the college pavilion – the romanticised idyll of lazy summer days of cricket and picnics - that best captured her delightful talk.



Diane Lewis

Diane Lewis followed to speak admiringly about the wonderful view from her home in Malvern Road, which just happens to be the view of her favourite building, namely Lansdown Terrace. Diane has always been interested in design, and studied the history of art for a number of years after retirement.



Lansdown Terrace was designed and developed by the Jearrad Brothers in 1830. Originally intended to be some twelve houses longer, the terrace appears to have been built in two parts. The first ten houses are built as handed pairs, and the remaining thirteen are built singly. Between nos. 7 & 8 the terrace unexpectedly kinks and changes direction. Diane believes that this was intended to allow better views of Lansdown Crescent. Whatever the reason, it certainly adds to the urban design quality of the terrace, creating an unfolding view as one walks from the southern end of Malvern Road. She also pointed out that other oddity, which is the last single house separated from the rest of the terrace by a footpath. However, the archway linking this house to the next maintains the unity of the whole design.

The five-storey terrace has a very grand frontage, with large ground floor bays surmounted by substantial classical porticos, and Diane gave us a wonderfully detailed architectural description of the facades.

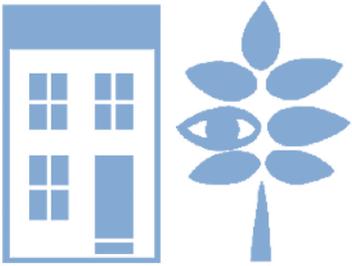
The terrace faces due west and the setting sun catches the upper storeys to give a beautiful warm glow to the stonework.

George Mather

George Mather declared that he did not have a favourite building, but provocatively, went on to select Eagle Tower as his choice. Now in his 90's, George is a retired architect who completed his training in London before the Second World War. At that time architectural education was very much in the Beaux Arts tradition, when the understanding of all things classical was essential. But as a young student, George was aware of those modern architects Le Corbusier, Frank Lloyd Wright and Tecton, and the exciting work that was being produced.

George proceeded to give us all a thorough and in-depth lecture on the history of building design in the UK from the seventeenth century great fire of London to the present day. His most valid thesis being that all architectural design was strongly influenced by the prevailing building regulations, construction techniques and the limitations of structural design. The change from timber framed construction to the brick and stone facades of Georgian buildings flowed from the London Building Acts enacted after the great fire.





Eagle Tower was designed by architects Stone Thomas & Partners and opened in 1968. In its defence, George stated that 'true architecture derives from need, should follow the fashion of the times. Pastiche is not acceptable.' The driving force behind modern architecture was the great freedom offered by the use of a structural frame. This allowed for taller buildings and, in the choice of façade design, freed the architect from the limitations of masonry construction. Eagle Tower is a good example of modern architecture exploiting the new structural design of the time. The stone cladding has been used to create a textured façade, and is an honest reflection of the building's structure. In George's opinion, the tower could be considered as a forerunner to Norman Foster's Gherkin in that it is making a singular architectural statement. Whilst many would like to see the Eagle Tower demolished, George, perhaps presciently, believes that it should be listed.

Richard Stanley

Less controversially, Richard Stanley, again professing not to have a particular favourite building, chose the Boots building. Richard is a practising architect in Cheltenham and is passionate about the town and its buildings, but disappointed with the extent of pastiche and second-rate modern architecture that prevails.

Richard displayed an image of the upper part of an Edwardian neo-classical style building. Whilst most of the audience would claim to know the Boots building, very few recognised this image – until the next image revealed the ground floor shop front of Boots. This elegantly proved his point that the Cheltenham streets, particularly in the retail areas, have a great variety of good architecture that can only be seen above the pervasive and mainly poor quality shop fronts. Further images certainly reinforced this view. Richard deplored this dichotomous approach to our town centres, and argued persuasively for a more considered design approach to shop fronts that maintained the architectural quality of the streets.

The Boots building was selected, not perhaps



because its shop front was much better, although it was slightly less dominating, but because the building was originally built as a Boots shop. Its strong classical form, with a massive raised portico, was designed to properly turn the corner. Richard liked Boots, he liked its history, its nostalgia, and its association with the famous modern Boots factory in Nottingham built in the early 1930's by the architect/engineer Owen Williams.

This excellent series of short talks was very entertaining, and a lively debate ensued. Strong emotions were aroused by George Mather's choice of Eagle Tower, and there was much discussion on the pros and cons of shop fronts. The evening was brought to a close with an informal vote – not quite AV, but votes could be made for one or more of the buildings.



The winner was Lansdown Terrace, closely followed by the College Pavilion. Interestingly, Eagle Tower came fourth with votes in double figures.

Mike Duckering



GEOLOGY AND THE BUILDING STONES OF THE NORTH COTSWOLDS WITH REFERENCE TO CHELTENHAM

Introduction to a talk to be given on
13 September 2011 at 7.30 by Dr Dennis Jackson

The North Cotswolds are made of Middle Jurassic limestones that form hills about 300 metres above sea level. These rocks are mostly oolitic limestones that were laid down in warm shallow seas that supported a rich fauna of shelly animals as well as marine reptiles and terrestrial dinosaurs that lived on an island that extended from Oxfordshire to Belgium. The first dinosaur ever found came from a quarry in Cornwell in 1676 and since that time have been discovered in eight quarries between Cleeve Hill and Stow on the Wold.

Classical sections of Inferior Oolite Limestone are exposed on Cleeve Hill and Crickley Hill. The older Liassic Clay (=Lower Jurassic) underlies all of Cheltenham, the Vale of Evesham and Vale of Moreton, and the junction between Liassic Clay and Middle Jurassic limestones commonly corresponds to the spring line.

Our knowledge of older strata comes from some 450 boreholes drilled mostly between 1960 and 1970 as the Geological Survey in conjunction with the oil industry looked for Coal Measures below the Cotswolds and sought underground structures in

which North Sea gas could be stored. The Jurassic strata are underlain by Triassic laid down under desert conditions, Coal Measures that point to equatorial swamps and Silurian marine limestones deposited when Britain lay south of the equator 435 million years ago.

In the North Cotswolds, Jurassic rocks provided building stones from three levels: (1) rusty brown Hornton Stone of Lower Jurassic age was widely used in villages between Hook Norton and Banbury; (2) the straw coloured Inferior Oolite (ie. Lower Freestone or Cleeve Cloud Limestone) was extensively used in Cheltenham during Regency and Victorian times and in towns like Moreton in Marsh and Bourton on the Water; (3) Chipping Norton and Stow on the Wold used the greyish cream Chipping Norton Limestone. The latter two limestones are of Middle Jurassic age. Apart from buildings, these limestones were used for walling, gate posts, fencing, burials and for the manufacture of water pipes by the Stone Pipe Company (1806-1815) of Guiting.

Dr Dennis Jackson

Cheltenham Civic Society welcomes new members. If you have family, friends or acquaintances who are keen to preserve what is best in Cheltenham and ensure that new developments suit the town, please contact Roger Brown: 01242-239179 or rjb@rbrown70.fsnet.co.uk and he will send them details of events and an application form. We particularly welcome those who wish to become actively involved in the Society's work. The membership fee per annum is £15 single, £20 couple, £8 student & under 18, and £50 corporate.

Three well equipped meeting rooms at Parmoor House are available for private hire. Please contact the House Manager on 01242-524623 or email: parmoor@cheltenhamcivicsociety.org.uk

Please note that the deadline for the next issue is 23 October 2011.



FORTHCOMING CIVIC SOCIETY EVENTS

Saturday 27 August 5.00 – 8.00pm

Summer Party - Parmoor House and Garden

An additional option this year will be a guided walk at 5.00pm preceding the Party, led by Roger Woodley, a Committee Member, who used to lead guided walks in London. Those wishing to join the walk should meet at the front entrance to Parmoor House by 5.00pm. Please see and complete the enclosed form.

Thursday to Sunday 8 – 11 September

Heritage Open Days

A great opportunity to visit many varied and interesting buildings in Cheltenham and surrounding areas. Details of the 2011 event in Gloucestershire will be available mid-July. See article on page 5 or www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory/county/Gloucestershire

Tuesday 13 September 7.30pm

Geology and the Building Stones of the North Cotswolds - Parmoor House

Dr Dennis Jackson will be giving a talk at Parmoor House on the geology and building stones of the North Cotswolds with special attention to the Cheltenham area. See introduction on page 11.

Tuesday 8 November 7.30pm

Civic Pride Report - Parmoor House

A representative of the Cheltenham Development Task Force

Monday 12 December 7.30pm

Paterson Memorial Lecture

Venue to be announced

Sir Richard MacCormac, Architect of the award-winning Cheltenham Maggie's Centre, will be giving this year's Paterson Memorial Lecture.

The admission charge to a Civic Society Lecture at Parmoor House is £2 (members) and £4 (non-members). It would be helpful if you can tender the correct change at the door.

CHELTHENHAM CIVIC SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Honorary Vice-President & Acting Chairman of House Committee: Phil Newcombe

Chairman: Stephen Clarke
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The Editor welcomes letters and other contributions to the Newsletter. Please send to: The Editor, Parmoor House, 13 Lypiatt Terrace, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham GL50 2SX or email newsletter@cheltenhamcivicsociety.org.uk Please note, the deadline for the next issue is 23 October 2011.

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