



E - BULLETIN NO. 6

3 September 2014

Dear Civic Society Member

Welcome to another of our regular bulletins.

Guided Walks

Roger Jones and I each carry out guided walks in Cheltenham during the Music Festival and on other occasions. Of course there are guided walks available from the Tourist Office from Cotswold Tourist Guides, on Saturday and Sunday mornings at fixed times. These are naturally very good, and can be booked through the Tourist Office. I have been talking with the Local History Society and they too are keen to provide more flexible opportunities for guided walks, to suit specific interests, or at times to suit those participating.

What we're considering is drawing up a group of guides, from our two societies, who could be listed in a panel on our websites, on whom in turn enquirers could draw. There'd have to be a standard of guiding, and we would need perhaps to organise some training sessions and conceivably a selection process of some sort, if there were a lot of interested people. There would be many aspects to consider before we get started. But first we want to gauge the level of interest. I hope the LHS will do the same. Please let me know if you would be interested in undertaking such walks as a guide – you could pick themes and places which reflect your own interests, but these would sometimes possibly have to be adapted to the wishes of the sponsor(s). However the first question is: who's interested? Do let me know – no commitment at this stage, just an expression of interest.

Sir Richard MacCormac (1938-2014)

It's sad to record the death of one of our best ever Paterson memorial Lecturers (at St Matthews, a few years ago, on his firm's then newly-converted Maggie's Centre in College Baths Road). Richard described his work to us with mouth-watering illustrations and we were all smitten. No-one brought forward any 'style' arguments about these lovely buildings, including our own Maggie's. Another example of his work is Southwark Station in London, on the new(ish) Jubilee Line.

Vacancies

I feel a mixture of emotions about our Membership Secretary Roger Brown. The good news is that he has been selected to curate a major exhibition in 2016 at Manchester Art Gallery, covering the work of Wynford Dewhurst, a late 19th century English artist whom he has been studying for some time. This is obviously a really significant achievement, and we all congratulate him. The bad news is that it will prevent Roger continuing as Membership Secretary, a role he has filled with great efficiency for some time. The role would entail reporting to the Executive Committee at least quarterly on membership matters. If they wished the jobholder could become a full member of the Exec. The post does call for some social skills, eg regular communication with the membership and making sure new members immediately feel at home.

The second vacancy is that of Newsletter Editor. Mike Duckering has done this job with very great success, masterminding our very popular new format. I'm pleased to say Mike is not leaving the Exec but he wants a change, and so we're looking for a successor. The Editor role really does entail being on the Executive Committee so that one can commission pieces for the next edition and keep up with events. But it's an interesting task, and one to be carried out with some pride, as the Newsletter is now widely regarded as one of the best around, among local clubs and societies.

If you think you'd enjoy undertaking either of these posts – each calls for different skills, as you see - please get in touch with me. You may prefer to talk the matter through by phone: if so, I'd love to hear from you (260443).

Future Events

On **Tuesday 7 October** we resume our lecture programme, with a talk by one of our members, Dr. Frances Wilson-Copp, on Architectural Style (7.30 at Parmoor House). Obviously this is a subject of continuous interest to us who live in a 'Regency Town', and I do hope large numbers of you will come along to hear Frances's take on this perennial issue.

Some other events to draw to your attention:-

I'm sure I needn't mention Heritage Open Days again – on **11 to 14 September**. Our former Chair Stephen Clarke has organised a huge programme of openings in the town and you're spoilt for choice of distinctive places to visit or events to attend. Details everywhere, but if you need to know more do email me.

Second, even closer, is an interesting event this coming weekend: a free workshop on energy efficiency in traditional buildings, to be held at the New Club. 2-5pm, **Sunday 7 September**. If you're interested in this, email **by Friday morning** alison.crane@ntlworld.com or phone 01242 577671.

Then, on **Wednesday 17 September** at St Philip and St James's Church, Grafton Road (Pip and Jim's to us), at 6.30pm, there is another talk (with buffet supper and wine) to help raise funds for the church restoration. This will be by Adrian Barlow, a very popular speaker in the town at the present time, on the Art and Architecture of Remembrance, a subject of special significance of course in 2014. Suggested minimum donation of £10 per person. To book please call 01242 573508 or email info@pipandjims.org.uk.

Finally, a happier centenary: a performance of Holst's The Planets, begun in 1914, and this time performed on two pianos, at the Pittville Pump Room on **Sunday 21 September** at 3.00pm. Tickets are available from the Holst Birthplace Museum or the Town Hall 0844 576 2210.

I do hope we shall see some of you at one or more of these varied occasions.

Best wishes
Roger Woodley
Chair, Cheltenham Civic Committee
