



EXETER CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2010

Chairman's Remarks:

Firstly I would like to wish all members a Happy New Year.

We had a successful AGM in November. I thank those members who attended on a cold wet evening. But for those who were unable to be there, I will update my report.

The Executive Committee welcomed Tony Bulgin as Secretary. He was duly voted in at the AGM. His help and expertise has been greatly appreciated already by the committee in drafting minutes and agendas. We said goodbye to Jean Levers, who has so successfully organised visits and talks in her capacity as Programme Secretary. We are very grateful to her. Her post is now vacant, so if any member would like to help please get in touch with me. We have 3 events already planned for 2010. We also said farewell to Pam Egeland, who has been for many years on the Planning Sub-Committee. She has given careful and measured attention to planning applications and dealt with correspondence for the sub-committee. I know she will be greatly missed on this small but most important sub-committee. Mrs Wootton and Chris Watson are pleased to welcome one of the Executive Committee members, Barbara Looser, onto their team. The Planning Sub-Committee continues to ably monitor all the city planning applications and projected developments. They deserve our thanks.

Janet Robb recently left the committee. We will miss her calm summing up and wise advice.

Geoffrey Harding organised another excellent Heritage Walk in September. These walks take time to plan and assess for risks. We are glad that Geoffrey continues to run them for us and they are enjoyed by visitors and residents of Exeter.

Mrs Harvey is finding the storage of our publications a problem. Originally these were stored in Bishops Move units in Longbrook Street. When these

premises were converted, Mrs Harvey kindly took them home. The Committee has decided that as we have recouped the costs of publications, we should give the rest away. So new members can receive all the current booklets free, and existing members can have as many as they wish. Heavitree and St Leonards booklets are out of print, but if you would like to have some or all of the other booklets, please contact me. They make most acceptable presents. Why buy cards when you can have a free booklet? Mrs Harvey brought several sets of the booklets to the AGM and they were eagerly snapped up.

David Snell has continued to be a most able Editor and he also keeps our website up-to-date. He is a model of patience with late copy. I would like to have more articles from our members in the Newsletter so if you have a special interest, please submit your piece to me.

The AGM decided against joining the new Civic Initiative as it would add £3 onto the membership fee and give us very little back.

I am grateful to all the other committee members, who help to plan and organise our events and meetings:- Stephan Bouloux for his work as Treasurer and Membership secretary; Felicity Murdin for help with Committee Minutes; and Richard Parker for his historical expertise.

At last the Hoskins seat is in place, not quite where we had planned, after much planning by Richard Parker, Geoffrey Harding, Stephan Bouloux and myself. Mrs Hewitt, Professor Hoskin's daughter, came to see it in place. We presented her with Life Membership and a set of booklets.

The Widgery gravestone has been set upright in Exwick cemetery.. Our thanks are due to Peter Caspar for organising the estimates and invoices. We have enjoyed talks from Mr & Mrs Kirby; Felicity Harper on Powderham Castle; and Mr Whitworth on Greenway, the National Trust property. A visit was made to St Nicholas Priory, and a Saturday visit to Poltimore House with Tiverton Civic Society was a great success.

Our next major event is the launch of our new publication, **Exeter and the Trams 1882-1931**, in the Devon and Exeter Institution on February 5th at 6 p.m. Julia Neville, the author, will talk about the book at 7 pm. We do hope that you will be able to come. To assist us with catering, please will you let Peter Caspar know in advance. Julia and Peter have worked extremely hard on this venture and we cannot thank them enough for all their time and effort. It really is a splendid publication. Still on advance offer of £10 – contact Peter Caspar.

Please join us for the events in this Newsletter. I look forward to meeting you again.

Margo Swift, Chairman

