

Wells Civic Society

e-news November 2020

A first for the Civic Society in all its 68 years – a ‘virtual’ Annual General Meeting!

My thanks to members who joined us on *zoom* on 11th November and helped us to keep going in these difficult times.

I can give you a brief summary of the topics discussed at this and the committee meeting the day before:



I am pleased to report that our **financial situation** is stable and I am very grateful to members who have paid their membership subscription for the coming year; Clare will be in touch with reminders for some and we have a few members who renew in January (on the old system). I thank you for your continuing support.

Your **Committee** remains almost the same: Graham Barrow, Clare Blackmore (Membership Secretary), Patrick Brown, Rosemary Evans, Andrew Fawcett, Adrian l’Anson, John Rackham (Hon Secretary), Ian Robinson (Hon Treasurer), Hilary Waters, Philip Welch (Vice Chair), and me (Chair), but we also welcome Jon Jefferies, who has been a co-opted members until now, and Doug Robinson will continue as a co-opted member looking after our website and all things technical.



Adrian provided us with a **planning** update, and I will ask him to add this to the Blog. <<https://www.wellscivicsociety.org.uk/blog>>

It was agreed that one of the very few positives from the current situation is the (almost) traffic free **Market Place**. As requested, I have written a letter of support to the City Council. Here is an extract:

To WCC

“The loss of a few parking places is a small price to pay for the increased benefits to the businesses, especially the cafés, in and around the square. In addition, the opportunity to meet friends and colleagues out of doors, in a beautiful historic setting, without the impact of traffic, is beneficial to both residents and visitors... (and) to the economy of the City. ...

Historic city centres across Europe have achieved car-free environments and the all-year-round café culture that we enjoy visiting so much, and I am sure, with the City Council’s advocacy, Wells can do the same.”

From WCS

It was also reported that the City Council is in negotiations with Mendip District Council regarding the return of the **Bishops Barn** and the **Recreation Ground** to the City.

There are also ongoing discussions about the future of **The Old Deanery** and the **Portway Annex**, in the hope of retaining these for the community.



We are considering several sites for further **plaques**, marking people and places of great interest in the City. These will be progressed when it is possible to do so.



Work on the **Wells in Mosaic** project also continues, and we have been able to support this while fund raising events are on hold.

Unfortunately, the **Museum** has had to close again, but hopes to open on two Saturdays in December – 5th & 12th – from 10 – 4pm, with all Covid precautions in place and the shop will be open for Christmas cards and gifts. In the meantime, volunteers have been working very hard on collections and to make the location 'covid-safe' but we may still be able to help: Dr Julia Wood has asked me to pass on a message to you:

Remembering the sons and daughters of Wells who died in the Second World War

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, Wells & Mendip Museum and Wells City Archives have jointly produced an online exhibition about the 39 men and women of Wells who died during that war and who are named on the Wells War Memorial.

This exhibition can be found at <<https://www.wellsmuseum.org.uk/wells-war-memorial-project>>.

(Alternatively, search for 'Wells & Mendip Museum', put your pointer over the 'RESEARCH' tab, and select 'Wells War Memorial Project'.)



Last year we had great fun at our **Seasonal Celebration**, which sadly we cannot repeat.



The best we can offer is, what I have been calling, a 'virtual vino'!

We will not have the services of our trusty Barman – it will be 'bring your own' - but if you can join us on **zoom** I will set up a meeting for the **evening of Wednesday 9th December**, so that we can wish each other the "season's greetings". Please send me an email if you would like to join and I will send you the link - chris.f.winter@btinternet.com

After that, we have agreed to put some activities on hold for the next few months. Be assured that we will be busy behind the scenes, planning a re-launch in the spring (we hope) but continuing to monitor planning applications, supporting other organisations and projects, and exploring new and exciting activities for 2021 and beyond.

My very best wishes,
stay safe and well

Chris Winter
Chair, Wells Civic Society