

# *Wells Civic Society*

## **Annual Report November 2020**

### **Chair's report**

Just like all other organisations, we have very much had to make the best of a bad job for the latter part of this year. However, we have still managed to make some significant contributions to the community of Wells.

It is gratifying that some of the issues raised by the Society have been taken up and progressed, including better traffic management in the city centre and signage, and a Neighbourhood Plan for the City. Whilst these may take some time to achieve, we will continue to work towards protecting and enhancing the city environs. Responding to planning applications and proactive monitoring of the green environment are two important areas which committee members commit to.

The research being carried out by the *Alliance of Historic Cathedral Cities and Towns* (ACT) continues, and we were pleased to host a visit by researcher Ian Green in early March, just before all travel ceased!

We were able to meet for our usual monthly evening meetings from last October to March, which included our festive gathering in December. This occasion not only featured the talents of Gert & Daisy, but we were also able to present the BA5 Awards, supported by our partners Wells Voice and the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. Sadly though, no *ART 360°* or *Heritage Open Day* this year, nor the traditional *Summer Social*.

The committee has continued to meet electronically and to deal with 'matters arising', which included decisions about the projects and organisations we support in the city. This year these have included: the Visit by Coach and 'meet and greet' project, through the Tourism Forum, Wells in Bloom, Wells Museum and the exhibition of the Phillip's Portrait Exhibition, as well as Wells in Mosaic. This is in addition to installing two new plaques, at the site of the former Mitre Hotel in Sadler Street, and at the City Arms, before Covid restrictions curtailed our activities.

We have seriously considered the possibilities for resuming meetings, and although the Museum is happy to continue hosting these, dependent of course on Covid 19 rules and restrictions, we have decided to err on the side of caution – especially with winter coming – but will continue to review the situation and I will be in touch as soon as circumstances allow. If you can, keep an eye on the website, where we try to keep any news up to date.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated and I would like to thank the members of the committee for their ongoing efforts to help to keep the society active and interesting and Marilyn Cattell for examining our accounts.

*Chris Winter*  
*Chair*

## Treasurer's report

The Society ended the latest financial year (30/09/20) in a generally healthy position. We had:

- £2,320 in the current account
- £9,030 in the reserve account
- £12,205 as the value of the Harry Parkes Bequest, combining to produce
- **£23,555 in total assets.**

The bank accounts showed an increase over the year-end equivalents at the same time last year. This was due to the drop-off in expenses, driven largely by our being unable to meet since last March courtesy of the lock-down and then various social distancing measures.

The value of the Harry Parkes Bequest fund has dropped by £1,663 (12%) over the year. This is not surprising, given that Bequest Fund is invested in UK equities, and the FT 100 was about 20% lower and the FT 250 some 12% down over the same 12-month period.

The financial statement (p4) shows that, although total cash income was down about 12%, expenses fell by almost 48%, accounted for mainly by reduced expenditure on rent for meetings, donations and plaques.

The Society continues to support Wells in Mosaic and since the year-end has donated £2,100 to pay for more tiles to enable work to build the mosaic to continue, until fundraising activities can resume. Last year, among other expenditures, the Society donated £500 to Wells & Mendip Museum, £272 to the Phillip's photo exhibition and £245 to Wells in Bloom.

*Ian Robinson*  
*Honorary Treasurer*

## Membership Report

We have welcomed a total of nine new members during the year, including two during lockdown who have recently moved into St Thomas Street, which brings the total to 167, including Corporate Members.

Updating the membership list recently has identified some members who have not responded to any written notifications or emails for the past year and have not attended any evening meetings pre Covid. This has effectively decreased overall membership numbers and with no vehicle for recruitment at this time, we are unable to reverse this, but we look forward to being able to do so in the future.

*Clare Blackmore*  
*Membership Secretary*

**Wells Civic**  
**Schedule of Income and Expenditure**  
**for the year ended 30 september 2020**

	2020	2019
<b>Income</b>		
	£	£
Subscriptions	1,825.12	2,245.12
Interest (NatWest Business Reserve)	13.78	16.57
Harry Parkes bequest (fund dist.)	327.38	391.64
Gift Aid	-	181.65
Donations	178.60	15.00
Plaque contributions	-	254.00
Mosaic project	-	-
Xmas	-	-
Summer	-	-
Investment proceeds	-	-
Others	400.00	-
Revaluation of HPB assets	(1,662.86)	(1,343.82)
	<u>1,082.02</u>	<u>1,760.16</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
	£	£
Rent	£237.60	380.16
General expenses	£0.00	16.00
Chair's travel	£0.00	186.85
Neighbourhood Plan	£0.00	-
Donations/ memberships	£897.00	936.43
Printing	£19.00	476.00
BA5 Awards	£60.00	-
Plaques	£106.20	676.00
Insurance	£0.00	163.05
Art360	£0.00	-
Website	£0.00	-
Boyne Memorial trees	£0.00	-
Summer	£0.00	75.90
Xmas	£0.00	-
Mosaic Project	£0.00	-
Waterways	£0.00	-
Other	£200.00	-
	<u>1,519.80</u>	<u>2,910.39</u>
Surplus	<u>-£437.78</u>	<u>-£1,150.23</u>

	Opening Balance £	Closing Balance £	Variation £
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Current a/c	1,158.79	2,320.09	1,161.30
Unprocessed receipts and payments	(50.00)	-	50.00
NatWest Bank	1,108.79	2,320.09	1,211.30
CAF UK Equity Fund B	13,867.69	12,204.83	(1,662.86)
NatWest Reserve	9,016.57	9,030.35	13.78
Debtors	-	-	-
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>23,993.05</b>	<b>23,555.27</b>	<b>(437.78)</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>23,993.05</b>	<b>23,555.27</b>	<b>(437.78)</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>23,993.05</b>	<b>23,555.27</b>	<b>(437.78)</b>

Honorary Treasurer

*Robin*  
 Date 13/10/20

Honorary Examiner

*W E Catell*  
 Date 13/10/20