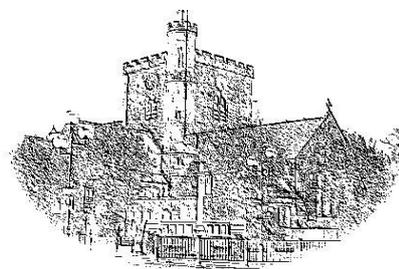


# Havant Civic Society

Newsletter – September 2015



## The Gazebo Garden

Tucked away in the unprepossessing surroundings of the East Pallant car park, the walled garden is a delightful surprise to the casual visitor and a well-loved haven of peace for many residents of the town. While several fine eighteenth century houses in East Street remain, including Magnolia House and The Limes, the property from 1779 that once boasted this gazebo at the end of its garden has gone. That plot is now occupied by an attractive pair of early 20th century semi-detached houses. The Gazebo itself fell into disrepair and in 1982 the now defunct Bosmere Hundred Society organised its structural repair. Then in 1989, with the creation of the car park, a walled garden was created attached to the Gazebo. The planting in the garden was carefully planned by Havant Borough Council's landscape architects with help from the Historic Garden Society and reflected designs and horticulture of the late 18th century.

Over the years since the maintenance of the planting and the signs in the garden has slipped a little. The magnolias that make such a fine Spring display in the garden have become overgrown and, as with any under-tended garden, the more vigorous plants have tended to force out the others. Some original plants have disappeared and a few others not in period have arrived.

The Society decided that it was time for a refresh and approached the Council, who were very receptive to the idea. A partnership was formed to plan the refurbishment of the garden.

## October Public Meeting

### The Annual General Meeting of the Havant Civic Society

will be held  
on Thursday, 22nd October  
at Havant United Reformed  
Church Hall  
Elm Lane, Havant  
7:15 for 7:30 pm start

The agenda will include:

- Updates on Havant planning applications
- Guest speaker on 'The Emsworth Neighbourhood Plan'

It was decided to open up the top floor of the Gazebo itself using this space to display interpretive panels that explain its history and the story of gardening in this period. To help with this the Spring Arts and Heritage Centre joined the partnership. In addition to the panels on site we plan to provide a linking on-line system that will provide more in-depth information for students and interested people. We are proposing to open up one of the blocked windows in the Gazebo and this, and the window that overlooks the car park, will be fitted with appropriate period-style windows. The lower floor of the building will stay much as it is, but be fitted with a rack to take folding chairs that can be used for small



scale events held in the garden. We anticipate building on the occasional existing use of the garden for literary events and school visits and make it a facility that everyone in the community can enjoy. We are indebted to the pro bono contribution of Martin Critchley Architects for professional assistance with the design of these changes.

The garden will be sensitively restored with similar planting to that at present, with the addition of some fruit trees of the period espalier-trained on the walls.

At the beginning of September, the Society took over responsibility for the garden's maintenance. We have set up a sub-group of the Society called The Friends of The Gazebo Garden, coordinated by Helen Handley of Lymbourn Road who is also a member of the HCS Committee. This sub-group has already begun its work, holding its first garden working session and extending the opening hours of the garden at the weekends - the Havant Housing Association whose offices are adjacent have been and continue to open and close the garden most weekdays. The Friends are looking for more volunteers to "get troweling" and also want to recruit those able to help with opening and closing the garden and maintaining the supporting information system. Please contact Helen at [hhandley@hhandley.plus.com](mailto:hhandley@hhandley.plus.com) if you can help. The Society has arranged Liability Insurance that covers volunteers working in the garden.

Whilst the garden maintenance work has already begun, the main restoration project involves overcoming that dreaded obstacle - the availability of funding. Around £20,000 in all is required to complete what we want to achieve. We are currently in the throes of making an application for a grant to the Heritage Lottery Fund and are hopeful of their support, but we will still need additional funding to realise our vision and sustain the

garden for years to come. If anyone would like to contribute to the funding of the project, please get in touch with the Treasurer. We will agree an appropriate way of permanently recognising major donors, if they so desire. This could well be a good way to promote a local business or commemorate someone who loved this space.

## The Post Office Crest

As many of you may know, the Old Post Office in East Street was built in 1936 and is one of the few public buildings in the UK to have the royal crest of Edward VIII. As a comparison, The Royal Mail estimates that there are some 100,000 post boxes in the UK and research on the Internet suggests that there are only 130 extant boxes dating from Edward V111's short reign of 11 months.

Back in June local residents and Councillor Jackie Branson contacted the Society, to express concern that [the crest](#) was starting to deteriorate. After a brief delay, we were able to make contact with the relevant Estates Manager at Royal Mail Group Property. An inspection of the building was very promptly arranged and carried out and subsequently a local specialist was instructed to look at the crest and provide a quote. Since then, things have progressed less rapidly and at the time of writing, we are awaiting a response to our request for an update.

During the process of trying to make contact with Royal Mail, we were also in touch with Royal Mail's Corporate Responsibility team who are responsible for the conservation of memorials on their premises. Although this mainly seems to relate to war memorials, at least they too are now aware of the crest's existence.

## Planning Matters

There have been comparatively few applications of significant interest in recent months. One of the most surprising outcomes, was the refusal of an application for a detached dwelling in the garden of 1 Grove Road. Following last year's similar application for 3 Grove Road, which the Society and local residents strongly but unsuccessfully opposed, we were not optimistic that this latest application would be turned down. Nonetheless, we felt there were grounds to oppose this latest application, which we did and in this instance, there was more opposition from Council officers, particularly the Conservation Officer, which resulted in the application being declined.

Currently, there is a little spate of tree felling applications. We have already objected to that at McCormack House (formerly Town End House) – [APP/15/00805](#). In this application, it seems to us that crown reduction or thinning is the right answer and that felling is unnecessary. We have also written to express our disquiet about proposed tree felling in Leigh Road and Pine Grove.

A possibly worrying trend, is the number of applications where planning has been granted but no work carried out so far. Of particular concern are [numbers 7](#) and [9 East Street](#) and [10a The Pallant](#), all of which are up for sale. It has to be assumed that the current owners don't have the resources to fund the redevelopment of these sites and consequently that section of Havant town centre continues to be somewhat down at heel. In an ideal world an enlightened developer would purchase these three sites along with 5 East Street and the old Streets building and a significant redevelopment could take place. Another smaller development yet to be built, is the proposed

terrace of cottages behind [17 South Street](#). (see also: [APP/14/00543](#) )

## Other planning links of interest

The following planning applications may be of interest and can be viewed on the Planning Portal website by selecting the link highlighted in the text below:

North Street Arcade	<a href="#">Grastar Restaurant</a>
West Street	<a href="#">Cobden Arms</a>
West Street	<a href="#">The 'Glove Factory'</a>

If you are viewing this newsletter online, then selecting the highlighted links will display the Planning Portal Website entry for the specific application. In each case, selecting the 'Documents' tab will display a list of available documents downloadable for each application.

## Membership Rates

The committee members of the society work on your behalf in reviewing and commenting on planning applications and liaising with Havant Borough Council and the local press on matters of interest. In carrying out this activity, we incur costs, for example, for stationary, postage, room hire and website maintenance.

In order to help us cover our costs, we invite annual contributions from residents, currently set at a suggested £4 for a single person and £6 for a couple. The Membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> September.

A membership form may be downloaded from the Havant Civic Society [website](#) or by [email](#) to the secretary.