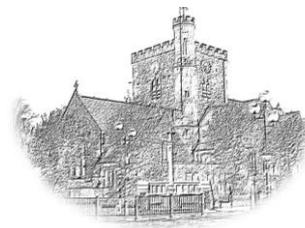


Havant Civic Society

Newsletter – January 2017



An update on the Gazebo Garden



Following a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Havant Civic Society will be undertaking some refurbishment work on the Gazebo Garden this winter.

The work includes the re-pointing of brickwork, new railings, replacement of an existing window and reinstatement of one of the blocked former windows in the top floor of the Gazebo. In order that the work can be undertaken safely, the Gazebo Garden will be closed to public access from Monday 16th January. The Garden will re-open at the beginning of March.

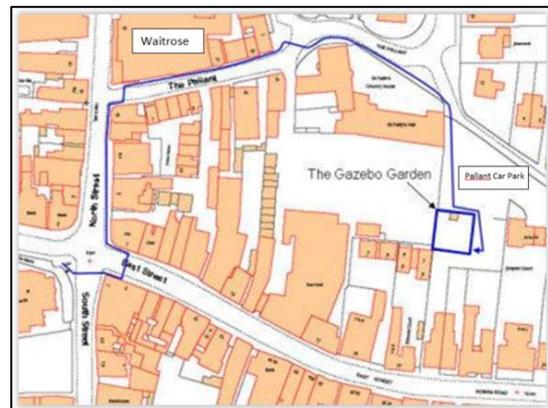
During the spring months, replanting is scheduled to take place, and the Spring Arts and Heritage Centre will be researching the historical context and producing new interpretive panels, which will also be installed next year, when the upper story of the Gazebo will also be open to visitors for the first time. As part of the refurbishment project, new folding seating will be available for any

local organisations interested in using the garden for appropriate education, social or arts events.



Those of you who shop in Waitrose may have noticed that the Gazebo Garden is one of this month's three 'Green Token' candidates for their 'Community Matters' scheme. Please support our efforts by dropping your tokens in the Gazebo Garden box!

The Gazebo Garden is at the back of the public car park in the Pallant, which runs between Waitrose and Beechworth Road.



If you feel able to help with the planting and maintenance of the garden when it reopens, please contact the secretary at civicsocietyhavant@gmail.com

Refurbishment work at St Faith's Church

You may have noticed the new clock faces installed on the tower of St Faith's during November.



Click on the image above to see the TV feature on the refurbishment of the church broadcast by 'That's Solent' in October.

An important Note from the Treasurer

The Society's financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June. The accounts for the year ending 30 June 2016 were presented at the AGM but for those members who were unable to attend, the following gives an insight into our financial state.

Although the Society is solvent, our reserve of funds is very low. At the end of the year we had barely £275 in the bank. Our membership income was only £125, a far cry from the £691 raised two years earlier, in the first flush of our initial membership drive. This level of annual income is inadequate since, from this year, we are required to take out public liability insurance for the Gazebo Garden. Assuming just three instances of room hire for public meetings, our expenditure for the current year will be around £350. Clearly, we need to do something to increase our income.

The Committee is actively investigating other sources of income, such as sponsorship from local businesses and a contribution from the Council for insurance. However, the Society is a membership organisation and will not succeed in the longer term unless the membership is engaged with our activities.

This engagement, I'm afraid, must include paying your subscriptions! Increasing subscriptions is not the answer: we need a large membership, each paying a small subscription, rather than expecting an ever-increasing sum from an ever-decreasing number of members.

Although 22 subscriptions were received at the AGM (thank you very much), this still leaves 82 people who were once members but have not renewed. There may be a number of reasons why so many of our former members have lapsed. The sum is small - £4 for individuals, £6 for a household - and so easily overlooked. It has, perhaps, not been obvious in the past when and how to pay. Possibly, some have not felt they are receiving any benefit from their membership. Whatever the reasons (and the Committee is very keen to hear your views on this), action needs to be taken.

As a first step, we are asking you please to pay now to cover your membership until 30 September 2017. New members who have joined since 1 April 2016 are already paid up until September next year.

Payment by bank transfer is preferred and, while you are doing this, please consider initiating a standing order with your bank.

Payments should be made to "Havant Civic Society", sort code 30-93-97, a/c no. 27923160. If making an online payment, please include your surname, house number and postcode in the 'Reference' field.

Alternatively, cheques or cash can be forwarded to the treasurer at 16 Wade Court Road, Havant, PO9 2SU.

For new members, a membership form may be downloaded [by taking this link](#) or by [email](#) to the secretary.



