

# SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER

## Your New Committee

Our AGM was on April  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April.  
We were delighted to see a  
good turn out from our  
members and enjoyed an  
entertaining talk by  
Ashleigh Jayes the new  
Almonry Manager.

The following were elected:

Jim Powell has now taken  
over as Chairman

Jill Haycock: Vice Chairman

John Goodwin: Hon  
Secretary

Adrian Peake: Hon  
Treasurer

Ken Barclay - Committee

Cefn Blundell – Committee

Sue Campbell - Committee

Brian Chilver – Committee

Colin Tether – Committee

Richard Thomson - Committee



## Arley Arboretum & Hartlebury Castle

Our next outing will be to Arley Arboretum and Hartlebury Castle on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September. The information given in our printed programme is no longer correct. We will not now be arriving via the Severn Valley Railway. Norman Clark kindly let me know that the Flying Scotsman is on the line that week and it has been booked up since April.

Instead we are leaving Evesham by coach at 9.30am and going to Hartlebury Castle where we can have coffee and a leisurely visit. We will leave there at noon to drive to Arley Arboretum where people may lunch in the small café if they wish or they may prefer to take their own refreshments.



## Meet our MP,

### Nigel Huddleston



Our MP, Nigel Huddleston has accepted our invitation to meet the Society and we have arranged the meeting for:

**Thursday 8th September**  
**7:00pm**

**Holland House**

**Main Street, Cropthorne**

**WR10 3NB**

We invite members to submit questions to Nigel. We would prefer these to be related to the usual things the Civic Society is involved in, not things like the European Union. If you do have a question, please submit it beforehand to Jill Haycock. This is so we are well prepared and use the evening efficiently.

Holland House has beautiful gardens so **our members are welcome to arrive from 6:30pm** and enjoy the surroundings. The bar will be open with drinks and tea and coffee available. The car park is behind the house. We will need to charge our reduced talk rate of £2 per member to go towards funding the evening.

## Hartlebury Castle

This moated site was the main residence of the Bishops of Worcester from the thirteenth century until 2007. It is now the home of the County Museum where there is a special section devoted to transport. The Medieval Great Hall and the Georgian Saloon, which were the castle's State Rooms, will be open. We can enjoy morning coffee here and will move on just before lunch time.



## Arley Arboretum

The arboretum is contained in the former park and gardens of Arley Castle. At one time this was the home of the Lytton family and it was inherited by the wife of Arthur Annesley, Viscount Valentia, in 1779. The castle was re-built in 1844 by his son who died in the same year. It was sold in 1852 to the Woodward family of Birlingham who held it until 1959. Sadly it was demolished in the early 1960's and replaced by a modern house. Photographs of the castle can be seen on the Lost Heritage website:

[www.lostheritage.org.uk](http://www.lostheritage.org.uk)

The arboretum was first laid out on the western side of the castle in the early nineteenth century and contains over 300 species of trees. It is on high ground and there are excellent views across the Severn valley. Part of the former kitchen gardens has been converted into a walled Italian garden. There is a café where light lunches can be obtained.

**Please book this visit as soon as possible, the booking form is at the end of the newsletter.**



## Where will our grandchildren live?

As a retired person with grandchildren and being a former town planner, this question is one which increasingly concerns me and, I suspect, many of you. Here in Evesham we are experiencing rapid large scale development throughout the town, most noticeably around its fringes. The consequences, foreseen by many, have led to the loss of traditional orchards, green fields and open spaces close to people and the remorseless growth of traffic and congestion stifling the town and detracting from its historic character.

These problems are not Evesham's alone and were addressed by Lord Matthew Taylor at the Town and Country Planning Association's Spring Conference recently. He noted that there is a misconception that by building housing developments on the edge of small towns, people will walk to shops, services and amenities, thereby reducing carbon emissions. He's right, they don't and they won't. When you're on the edge of a town and there are no regular and convenient buses to catch or safe cycle paths to use (this IS Evesham), most people jump in the car to go about their everyday needs – to work, shopping, children to school, leisure. Many older people – an increasingly large slice of the new housing market in rural towns like Evesham, can't walk everywhere even if they want to.

Lord Taylor asked why homes are being built in all the little gaps and open green wedges and spaces that people use and value in their local areas. This cannot be the only answer for the location of future development. Only 9% of England is developed, half of that is gardens and parks, a big chunk is roads and only a small proportion homes. There's plenty of land in England. To cater for the burgeoning population he advocated the creation of planned settlements, new garden cities and small towns fully serviced and well related to existing towns and cities, road and rail infrastructure. Hear! Hear! to that. If we are to satisfy the housing market as the population grows, we cannot ad infinitum add bits on to existing settlements. It doesn't work to anyone's advantage, save perhaps the developers, and it doesn't create the sort of environment most of us, including our grandchildren, would choose to live in.

Forward with the new towns!

**Richard Thomson**

## The Bridge Street Enigma



At the foot of Bridge Street, between the access road to the multi-storey car park and Bridge Court, there is a very odd piece of land indeed. It includes a shelter and a number of stone built square columns. It is a quiet area, bordered by the Bridge Court buildings, the entrance to the multi-storey, some dense trees and Bridge Street itself. It is the sort of place that you could hang around in and no one would notice.

What is it for?

Perhaps longer term residents can explain how this piece of land came to be. What function do the columns perform? Who uses the shelter? And perhaps more importantly, what should the land be used for? Any information and ideas are welcomed!

## The Traffic Meeting

28<sup>th</sup> June



The Civic Society hosted a meeting all about the best traffic system for Evesham on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June in the Town Hall. The meeting was very well attended with over 100 people present, including some local councillors. The meeting was introduced and chaired by Dr Sue Ablett, who once again demonstrated her ability in guiding the discussions in a fair but firm manner.

Colin Tether held the floor for the first two items, the history of Evesham traffic system and then a resume of the traffic modelling that Worcestershire County Council is undertaking.

Then followed presentations by four speakers: Anthony Dowling, James Fleck, Phil Cooper and James Powell. Each speaker presented their own ideas and answered questions from the floor. We then had a general discussion.

Many valuable points were made, and these have all been carefully noted. In addition we have received over 50 written submissions. Your committee is now carefully summarising the comments and proposals made and these will be placed on our website: [www.valeofeveshamcivicsociety.org.uk/](http://www.valeofeveshamcivicsociety.org.uk/) as soon as possible and passed on to the County Council.

We feel the meeting was well worthwhile. We thank all those who made the meeting possible, those who contributed and all those who took the trouble to attend and make their views known.



## Abbey Road Proposals

Richard's article quotes Lord Taylor asking why houses are being built in little gaps and open green wedges and spaces that people use and value in their local areas. There could be no better example than the Abbey Road area of Evesham. So what is going on? This matter has been addressed by the front page of the Evesham Observer, issue Friday 1 July. The short history is this:

First draft SWDP- No houses proposed

Second draft SWDP- 200 houses.

SWDP Modifications Proposed- 250 houses

Planning Application submitted- 380 houses

Final SWDP agreed- 200 houses.

However the Planning Application is still lodged with Wychavon and it appears that discussions are continuing between the Planning Authority and the Developer. Extensions of time are continually being granted and now, as on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015, a further extension has been agreed lasting until 30 September 2016.

We feel this is unfair to those who objected. The closing date for the consultation is still shown on the Wychavon website as 15 November 2016. A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since then and it looks like being a whole year from the end of consultation until the application will be taken to Planning Committee.

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## Paint the Town Yellow

We all will have noticed the new yellow lines painted throughout our town. The gangs have been out and splurged the yellow thermoplastic down replacing the ones that were worn, everywhere. The replacement lines are 100mm wide (4 inches in old money) but often, as they are laid without too much precision, they turn out rather wider. What is going on?



In Evesham, as with many historic towns, the main centre is a Conservation area. This extends throughout Vine Street, the High Street, Merstow Green and Port Street. The rules say that the narrower 50mm lines should be laid, not yellow in colour, but primrose or cream. Yet the only place you will find the narrower lines is in Vine Street .

The English Heritage Streets for all Publication says this:

*Historic areas are sensitive to the colour and amount of visual street clutter which can reduce the quality of its character. Yellow lines form part of this visual clutter and can detract from the built form, especially in small, narrow streets. The removal of such lines is a goal for conservation areas, but when seen to be essential they should be marked as 50mm wide and primrose or cream in colour.*

English Heritage goes on to say that other means can be used to eliminate yellow lines from sensitive area altogether. So why not in Evesham? A response is awaited from the County Council.

**Colin Tether**

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## Winterbourne House, Edgbaston



An excellent trip to Winterbourne House in Edgbaston , Birmingham took place on Wednesday 11 May. The house now in the ownership of Birmingham University was built in 1903 by Joseph Lancaster Ball to the instruction of John Sutton Nettlefold and his wife, Margaret Chamberlain.

Ball, born in Yorkshire and articulated to the architect William Pocock in London, had moved to Birmingham in 1880 having won a competition to design the Handsworth Wesleyan Theological College in the city. Having initially designed buildings in the classical style he became influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement aesthetic during the 1890's. In 1899 he collaborated with William Lethaby in the design of 122-124 Colmore Row in Central Birmingham, a four storey office building now grade I listed. The commission to build Winterbourne House became his most important individual work and one of the finest houses of its period in the city.

J S Nettlefold was an industrialist working in the family firm later to become part of Guest, Keen and Nettlefold (GKN). He became a prominent Birmingham City Councillor, philanthropist and social reformer with many interests in the early town planning movement and the creation of better housing and living conditions for the urban working classes.

Many thanks to Sue Campbell and Jill Haycock for organising this splendid day out.

**Richard Thomson**

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## David Way



**The picture shows David on a trip to Huddington Court in February with a few Committee members. David has since moved to the residential home in Greenhill Park Road. We wish David every happiness in his new surroundings.**

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## **Booking Form**

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Civic Society Hartlebury and Arley Trip, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September.  
Departure **9.30am** from the rear of Twyford Farm Shop  
**Cost £22** to include admission to Hartlebury Castle and Arley  
Arboretum

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Email:**

**Telephone number:**

Please send details with payment (payable to the Vale of Evesham  
Civic Society) to-

**Sue Campbell,  
13 Lanesfield Park,  
Evesham WR11 4NU**

Phone: 01386 47434

Email: [susancampbell1619@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:susancampbell1619@hotmail.co.uk)

Please let me know as soon as possible if you wish to come