



Chairman's Report

Since the last newsletter, a lot has been going on in Glastonbury. Each household received a survey to fill in and return, about the Glastonbury Neighbourhood Plan. From what I have heard, the response was very high. Early results are that the Footpaths around Glastonbury are well used and that 92% of the responses are in favour of the Footpaths being protected and preserved. Also a very high percent asked that our sacred and historic sites in and

around Glastonbury be protected. The responses to the trees questions, were that 74% were in favour of restoring and protecting existing orchards. So it seems that what the Society have been doing in recent years was highly appreciated. On the tree planting front, we were asked, very late in the season, to help Paul Chant to plant an orchard of 300 trees. This was achieved with help from Bridgwater Metal detectorists, these men have been allowed to search for Civil war artifacts

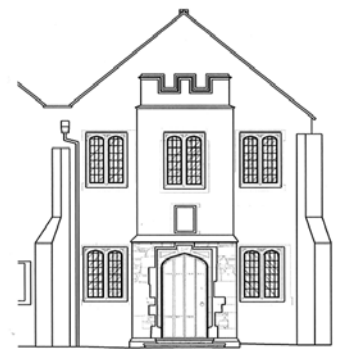
on Paul's land. While on this subject, I am getting very little help with the planting, so from now I am downsizing the planting to in and around Glastonbury. On Friday 27th July from 6.00 to 8.30, Alan Gloak has invited the Society to look around his lovely gardens at Combe House. If you have not been before then it is well worth a visit.

Norwood Park Farm, Wick

This fine 15th century building is listed Grade 2 star. It was built in the reign of Abbot John Selwood. It is one of several surviving buildings associated with Glastonbury Abbey. Built in the form of a tower hunting lodge, within the palisaded deer park. At the dissolution, there were said to be 700 deer within the park. It has survived the ravages of time, losing its top floor, but gaining wings to be now in farm or manorhouse form. In recent times the north door entrance was converted into a mullioned window. Now its present owner Mr Martyn Harrison wishes to restore the door and applied for listed building consent. The north door is clearly shown in the drawing by Skinner(1825) and Shepperd Dale

(1885). To this end, communication has taken place with Jennifer Cheshire of Historic England and Mendip District Council officer Robert Palmer. The principle of alteration has been agreed, but with the condition that the door is not a 'Replica' but distinguishable as a modern replacement and made to a good standard. The owner considers this will enable the original and more convenient usage to

return. As a matter of interest the 'Old Farm' at East Street, West Pennard, recently restored and televised, may have been associated with the Abbots Park Estate.



St Margaret's Chapel and Royal Magdalene Almshouses

Now that the warm weather has at last returned, why not visit the Almshouses and sit in their lovely gardens and watch the world go passed.

Key Dates:

Pre 1250

Hospital next to current site of St John's Church

1184

Great fire destroys Glastonbury Abbey

1247-51

Closure of original almshouse and building of new hospital and Chapel adjacent to Wirral Park (Current site) Long Hall with Chapel at East End. This original building would include the current West gable end and north wall of the almshouses and on the south match the margin of the flower bed which is where the later almshouses stood. A Chapel was always part of a mediaeval hospital and would have had the same daily cycle of liturgy that was practiced in The Abbey and continues in contemporary Benedictine Abbeys.

1348

The Great Plague decimates the population and the economy. Half the local population is killed and it takes almost 300 years for it to recover. A smaller population leads to gradual improvement in freedom of movement and working conditions.

1420-1425

Abbot Nicholas Frome who had been Almoner previously transforms the Hospital. He removes the roof of the great hall and instead builds the two rows of almshouses in the hall's footprint. The Chapel rebuilt reusing original bell tower. There was a feeling that vagrants and the undeserving poor were taking advantage of the Hospitals so almshouse gave more specific help for the local poor, aging and infirm. The golden age of Pilgrimage had by now passed.

1493-1524

Abbot Richard Beere's rule major building works including Women's Almshouses, St Patricks Chapel (behind current Abbey shop and ticket office) and the rebuilding of St Benedict's Church.

1537

At the Dissolution of The Abbey responsibility for the almshouses passed to the Vicar of St John's.

1600's

Management of almshouses and its inhabitants passes to Town Council.

1634

A major endowment of over £500 given to Almshouses. This and other sums provides running expenses and a modest income to the inmates of the almshouses.

1640 and 1740

Restoration repairs and maintenance of almshouses and Chapel.

1841-1900

Census records show that around 21 people male and female including children with elderly heads of households live in the 11 almshouses.

1880's

Shop and house built in front of Chapel (38 Magdalene Street).

1890's

Rebuilding of Women's Almshouses.

1894

Responsibility for the Chapel passes to St Benedict's. It becomes a Chapel of Ease with regular services.

1908

Council's plans to enlarge the almshouses by opening doorways between rooms significantly reduces population of almshouses from around 20 to 7.

1950's

Almshouses condemned by council as unfit for habitation.

1954/7

Last inhabitants leave almshouses.

1960

Contemporary flats built to rear where almshouse's

allotments used to be.

1962

Abbey Trust acquires Women's Almshouses.

1963

Women's Almshouses demolished.

1974

Ownership of Almshouses passes to Mendip DC plans to demolish it thwarted by conservationists protests

1993

Patrick Reilly the Vicar of Glastonbury passes a 10 year repairing lease of the Chapel and almshouses to The Quest community.

1995

38 Magdalene Street purchased by an associate of The Quest Community and the Shop was opened as The Pilgrims Way Charity Shop.

2003

Lease to Quest community ends and the group disbands in 2006 and its assets are passed to St Benedict's Church for the restoration and upkeep of the site.

2009

Mendip Housing pass on the almshouses plus 3 meters of its land to the newly formed Mary&

Margaret Charity which close the site and raise money to do major repairs and restoration of the site.

2011

Restoration work completed and the site was reopened to the public.

2018

The chapel and almshouses have successfully been run by The Mary& Margaret Charity for 7 years. We are open 7 days in summer, 3 in winter. We have a prize winning garden, are a 5 star attraction on Trip Advisor, we are entirely self financed by visitors donations, from profits from running a little shop, and from hiring out rooms for functions outside opening hours. We have a regular monthly Communion Service and a fortnightly Taize Chanting Group. Other spiritual groups some Christian some from other Faiths use the Chapel for services and Gatherings.

We have a future program involving the opening up of more of the almshouses for exhibitions and plan to do any necessary maintenance work to enhance and improve the facility. We have a committed group of volunteers who run the place to a high standard. We are always open to new people joining our team.

Planning

Tor Cottage, Wellhouse Lane

2018/0062/TCA - Alister Sieghart - Reduce height of Scots Pine - TPO Not Required (No Objection)

6 Church Lane

2017/2870/HSE - Erection of two single storey gardens rooms and extension of porch (Retrospective)

2017/2872/LBC - Mrs Daisy Foss Erection of a conservatory to rear elevation. Conservation of garage into room ancillary to conservatory. Internal alterations to wall on first floor for creation of a bathroom and associated works (Retrospective)

2017/2995/LBC - Mrs Daisy Foss - Erection of two single storey garden rooms and extension of porch (Retrospective)

2017/2871/HSE - Mrs Daisy Foss - Erection of a conservatory to rear elevation. Conservation of garage into room ancillary to conservatory. Internal alterations to wall on first floor for creation of a

bathroom and associated works (Retrospective)

Clairmont Villa

2017/3315/OTA :- Mrs Katrina Jones- Erection of a single dwelling to the rear of Clairmont Villa

4 Bove Town

2017/1966/LBC - Mr Sivaroshan Sahathevan - 1. Replacement of 3 no existing windows on the west gable elevation with new hardwood windows. 2. Replacement of existing guttering with new. 3. Supply and fit new downpipes in new positions to carry rainwater more efficiently.

58 Tor View Avenue

2017/3289/HSE - Robert Linham - Creations of a hard standing for domestic vehicles and creation of associated vehicle access (amended description).

13 High Street

2017/3221/APP - Mr Shah - Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 (Joinery Details) on planning consent 2016/2440/FUL.

2017/3223NRC - Mr Shah - Application to vary condition 6 (archaeology) of planning approval

2017/1041/FUL (3 x 1 bedroom flats by conversion of upper floors, together with a bin and bike store). Approval with Conditions.

23 Old Wells Road

2018/0233/APP - Ms Lizzie Pitt- Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 external facing materials for walls and roof on planning consent 2017/1329/HSE.

14 Baily Close

2018/0043/HSE - Mr Jeremy Worgan - Proposed single storey garage lean to on side of house.

Norwood Park Farm

2018/0273/LBC - Mr Martyn Harrison - Reinstatement of mam entrance 1n projecting square bay on east elevation of 15th century farmhouse.

CONSOC CONTACTS



treasurer Kevin Mitchell 0796 8 876 440
footpaths Nathan Pritchard 07752 213 128
newsletter Jim Nagel 833603
talks Stuart Marsh 834727
history Adrian Pearse (01749) 890216

chairman & trees Alan Fear 833185
president John Brunson 831283
secretary & vice-chairman Roger Forsey 831895
planning Jim Gossling 832460

To email, use chairman@, trees@, etc—for example, newsletter@glastonburyconservation.org.uk