



Wells Civic Society

Annual General Meeting

6.00pm November 8th 2023

Agenda

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Minutes of the AGM held on the 9th November 2022**
- 4. Matters arising**
- 5. Presentation of the Annual Report**
- 6. Treasurer's Report**
- 7. Election of Officers and Executive Committee for 2023/4**
- 8. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2023/24**
- 9. Any other Business**

Wells Civic Society

Annual Report November 2023

Chair's report

Our evening events over the year have covered a wide variety of topics and have been well attended. These included an update on the City's Neighbourhood Plan, archaeology in Westbury, our famous swans and a special visit to St Cuthberts Church. Housing development in Wells is very current so presentations about the potential for sustainable housing and from the Alliance of Historic Cathedral Cities and Towns of their research into the impact of housing development, were both well received. The ACT research, which includes Wells as one of 12 case studies, is being disseminated nationally and I was able to attend presentations in Peterborough in February and at Westminster in June. Other development topics in Wells were discussed with a panel of representatives of the City Council, including the Bishops Barn, the Recreation Ground and the Portway Annexe.

The social events were a chance to meet and chat with fellow members whilst sharing food and wine. These were held at Christmas and in the summer, when we were also delighted to welcome local artist, Edgar Philips, to talk about his life and work. We are very grateful to speakers for their time and for sharing their passions with us.

We continue to follow the progress of the City of Wells Neighbourhood Plan and can report that this is now in its final stages, with a referendum expected to take place in the near future.

We continue to support Wells in Mosaic and gave the last tranche of the agreed donation to the project this summer.

We are pleased to work in partnership with many other organisations and have made contributions to the following projects and organisations during the year: the Westbury Society, Somerset Buildings Preservation Trust, St Cuthberts Church, Art Experience Days and the Woodland Trust.

The final Blue Plaque, in the series of ten, was unveiled in October at the former workhouse – now the Wells Health Centre. The Plaques Trail leaflet is widely available to visitors to the City and also distributed beyond Wells by Glide Media.

I am pleased to be able to represent the Society at meetings and events and was particularly delighted recently to accompany the Mayor, Cllr Tanys Pullin, to the garden party given by the High Sherrif of Somerset, Robert Drewett.

I would like to thank members, and especially committee members, for their support over the last year, We can look forward to another year of interesting talks and continuing engagement with the Wells community.

Chris Winter
Chair

Treasurer's report

The Society has again ended the latest financial year (30/09/23) in a reasonably healthy position. We had:

- £586 in the current account
- £4,198 in the reserve account
- £14,970 as the value of the Harry Parkes Bequest fund, combining to produce
- £19,753 in total assets.

Last year, we ended with total assets of £21,822.

Compared with the previous year, the main changes in 2022/23 have been:

- We transferred £2,900 as a final contribution to the Wells in Mosaic (WiM) project. The Society has supported WiM over the past few years, providing funding that has amounted to a total of £12,000. This final payment accounts for the reduced amount in the reserve account and is mainly responsible for the total assets being lower than last year's.
- The value of the Harry Parkes Bequest fund has risen by £886 over the year, thanks to some recovery in UK share prices. We received more in dividends this year (£450) compared to last year's £376.
- HMRC paid WCS a gift aid rebate of £343 (£331 the previous year). This is an important contributor to our income, which is why we encourage members who are UK taxpayers to complete the gift aid form and tick the box giving permission to claim in future years.
- Our subscriptions were £1,720, slightly down from £1,865 the previous year. While some new members have joined over the past year, a number have either left or may have forgotten to renew their subscriptions. Renewals from members falling into the latter category would be much appreciated.
- Total cash income in 2022-23 was £2,726 and total cash expenditure was £2,781 (excluding the £2,900 contribution to Wells in Mosaic). This means that we covered almost all our regular expenses with cash income, which is how your Committee will continue to run WCS finances.

Many thanks to Marilyn Cattell for continuing to examine our accounts.

Ian Robinson
Honorary Treasurer