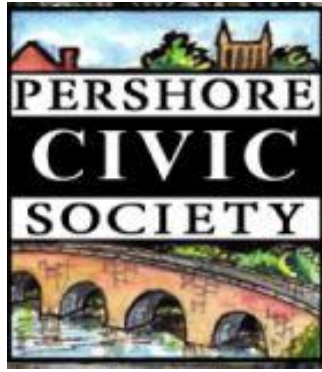




Pershore Civic Society May 2025 Newsletter

Dear Civic Society Member,

The clocks have been advanced by an hour, Easter is now behind us and the cricket season has well and truly started! Pleasure boats will soon be plying the Avon. What is not to like about Pershore in the Spring! We have even been treated to an unusually dry March and an equally unseasonal warm end to the month of April.

Much has happened in the town since my last newsletter and the Civic Society has been able to play its part in many of the positive developments that have been taking place.

Since writing to you last, our AGM has been and gone. We are grateful to Edward Nash RIBA for the talk he gave which followed the AGM. As an architect of some renown, he looks fondly back at his early years at Worcestershire County Council where his passion for contextual architecture and building restoration was first kindled. His illustrations of poor and good new housing development were very helpful in preparing us for the likely consequences as Pershore faces up to the challenges that the new proposed housing developments at Worcester Parkway and Throckmorton will bring to the town.





Debby Rowley has produced and circulated our splendid new 2025/2026 Programme Card. If anyone has not received one, please let me know. The programme between now and our next AGM looks like this:

Pershore Civic Society – 2025/2026 Programme

13th May – Hagley Hall - Visit

9th June River Boat Trip to Nafford – Trip & Picnic

26th June – Pershore Agritech Centre - Visit

16th July – Harvington Hall - Visit

18th September – Little Pomona Cider, Bromyard - Visit

23rd September 2025 – James MacDowall Scott – Pershore Abbey's Organ – Talk with accompaniment

7th October 2025 – Philip Serrell – Auction Notes - Talk

TBA – Annual Dinner – Angel Hotel

3rd February 2026 – Karen Rose – Pershore Wetlands News - Talk

6th March 2026 (AGM) – David Birtwhistle – A Place for Art – Talk

Debby will be getting in touch as each event approaches with full details. The committee are grateful to Janet Morris for taking over responsibility from Catherine Cadbury (to whom we

will be forever thankful) for the organisation of the various visits planned for this Summer. The committee were spoilt for choice in terms of options and several of the good suggestions that didn't make "the cut" will be on the radar screen for 2026/2027!!

On Tuesday 22nd April, Gillian Pawson, Chair of the Vale of Evesham Civic Society gave members of the Civic Society a talk to a crowded St Andrews Centre entitled "Evesham Revealed". As is so often the case, Gillian was able to reveal to her audience features of the well-known town that are "hidden in plain sight". It is a town that she clearly has a real passion for – and who could blame her! The town's history is renowned. It has a rich and glorious past. Her illustrations of more recent improvements to the town centre through her work with the Civic Society and the Evesham Place Board show just how hard the town is working to rediscover new futures for the town's most neglected retail buildings and the spaces between them.

One project that points to ways in which the town is re-establishing its civic pride is the transformation, only recently completed, of the site of the town's Abbey and associated range of buildings. Just think what Pershore would look like if the same fate had befallen Pershore in 1540!!

Imaginative artists and model makers alike have sought to illustrate the powerful size of this once great structure:

History: The Abbey

- Evesham sprang up to serve the Abbey which was founded in 709 and survived until the dissolution by Henry VIII in 1540.



Evesham's current generation has succeeded in restoring the foundations in a parkland setting to commemorate what has been lost - and to remind us that nothing stands forever!!

Transforming the Abbey remains:



Gillian's comprehensive talk on the achievements of the Evesham Place Board was impressive. It seems, appropriate, therefore, that we should reflect on the impact that the Pershore Place Board has had on our own town over the past three years under Darren Eden's Chairmanship. Most of you will recall Darren's talk at the 2023 AGM which outlined early achievements. Some of the Board's work has yet to come to fruition. Whilst not an exhaustive list, the most visible successes include the following:

Completed Projects

- 55 flags & flagpoles in Bridge Street, High Street & Broad Street with owners' consents – an initiative supported by the Civic Society
- 3 Broad Street benches refurbished, 6 new Broad Street benches, circular Michael Amies bench in High Street and 5 similar new Steve Cooper manufactured benches for Church Walk and Chapman Court (being delivered soon)
- Seasonal monthly Broad Street Farmers Markets – 40 stalls
- Georgian Christmas Fayre – 55 stalls
- Christmas Lighting to High Street, Bridge Street and Broad Street
- New High Street LED Festoon Lighting
- Grant to Pershore FC for clubhouse improvements
- Grant to Civic Society for Riverside benches in Birmingham Anglers' Wier Meadow
- St Andrews Gardens – Sensory Garden Planting

Ongoing Projects

- “Persshore Marina” – Feasibility Studies
- Persshore “Better Welcome” Signage at all major entrances to the town
- Improved (Clearer, less cluttered) Signage in the town
- Accessibility improvements throughout the Town Centre
- Paving improvements in Church Walk
- Establishment of “Persshore Events and Festivals Association” as a supported focussed resource for all future town events
- Art competition (with the Civic Society) for Telecommunications “Green Box” enhancement programme
- “Persshore 2040” – an envisioning programme for Persshore’s future residents

Future Persshore Civic Society activities will include the hanging of 8 hanging baskets at the Defford Road and Bridge Street town entrances. When in place, they are destined to brighten Persshore’s welcome from North and South:



I look forward to seeing all Civic Society members at our upcoming events over the Summer. I am looking forward to them all.

My best,

Michael Hodges, Chairman