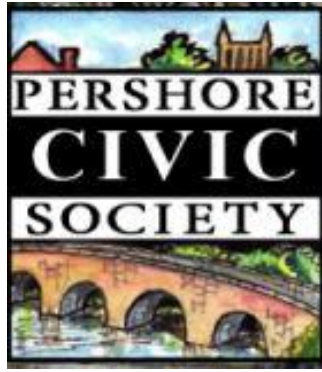




Pershore Civic Society February 2025 Newsletter

Dear Civic Society Member,

I feel confident in being able to say that the depths of Winter are now behind us. Evenings are getting lighter. The Civic Society's programme of events for 2025/2026 is receiving a few final finishing touches. I hope to be able to confirm events, speakers, dates and times at our **AGM on 7th March at 7.00pm sharp in St Andrews. Parish Centre.** The publication of the Pershire Civic Society Programme Card for the Year will follow and we shall rush these to your letterboxes as soon as they have been printed.

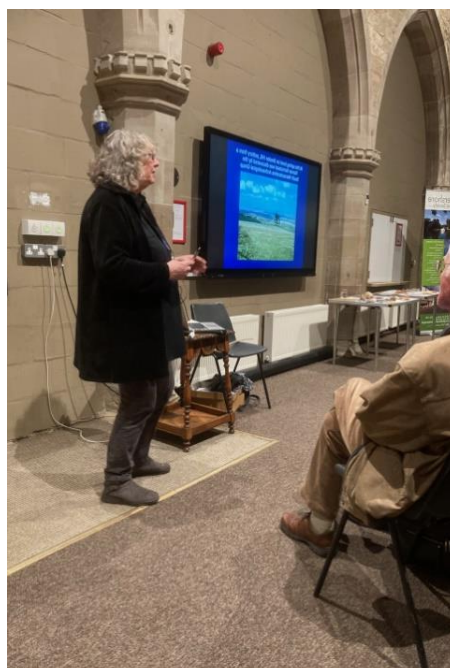
Since writing to you last, the Pershire Civic Society Annual Dinner took place in the Angel Hotel on Monday 25th November. The event was well attended, and it felt appropriate to meet in the festively bedecked half-timbered cosy dining room at the Angel. By the beginning of that week, Pershire had already had its first fall of snow. The following floods that temporarily closed Bridge Street had come and gone in good time for the Christmas Lights Switching on ceremony and the opening of the



Georgian Christmas Fayre in Broad Street at the end of that week. Didn't the town look a picture with extended Christmas Lighting stretching all the way through the centre of town, the crib, the tree and the 75 or so little christmas trees with twinkling lights that had been arranged by the Pershore Place Board. What a great team effort – achieved with grace and humour by the Town Council and others



Our first Pershore Civic Society talk of the New Year took place on February 4th 2025. Deborah Overton's talk on the history and archaeology of Bredon Hill was well attended (50 members and guests) on an evening when a night in by the fire might have seemed like a tempting alternative option. The Civic Society's pulling power, which has all to do with the quality of our speakers and the warmth of the welcome we give to our members, on evenings like this has to be admired! A review of her talk can be found on our website at <https://pershorecivicsociety.org/debroah-overton-the-archaeology-and-history-of-bredon-hill/>



In other news, Paul Butler has continued to liaise with Charlie McIntyre, our Town Clerk, and has agreed to assume greater responsibility on behalf of the Civic Society for the maintenance of the Library Garden. Paul may need some assistance. We are hoping that all of us will be willing to give a little time to ensure that the garden doesn't become the unloved space that it recently declined into being.



In this vein, but on a slightly larger scale, following the proposed improvements to St Andrews Gardens due to be completed by Josh Egan Wyer, Head of Horticulture at Pershore College, by the end of March, a proposal has been made to establish the Friends of St Andrews Gardens. This group is likely to comprise students from the College who will assist Josh with the planting and enthusiasts from the town willing to contribute a small amount of time on a regular basis to ensure that the gardens flourish. The Civic Society may be able to offer some assistance in terms of practical support and co-ordination if required.

Complimenting these works, the Pershore Place Board is hoping to more or less simultaneously complete some improved paving works in Church Walk. This will remove the unsightly patchwork of tarmac and broken paving slabs that we have become used to.



Watch this space for the planned improvements!

Our AGM to be held at St Andrews promises to be thought provoking. In addition to our normal fare of elections to the committee, drinks and buffet, Edward Nash RIBA will be coming to talk to us about his views on the likely development of 5,000 new homes at Worcester Parkway. This imminent expansion of the City (due to be completed by 2041) will lap all the way up to the shores of Stoulton and is almost certain to have a major impact on Pershore's future.



Edward Founded the Nash Partnership, Conservation Architects, of Bath, Bristol and London over 30 years ago, having previously started his career in Pershore. He is a former Newlands resident. His work on new settlements in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire give him a unique perspective on what we can expect – and how we, as a Civic Society, can work together with the authorities to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Progress comes in all shapes and forms. Much is for the best. We endeavour to live longer healthier lives in cleaner sustainable environments. The flipside (and there always is one) is that there are many more of us than there once were. More homes, roads, shops, hospital beds, school places etc. etc. are required. As we embrace change, I suspect that we in the Pershore Civic Society – and in the Civic movement throughout the country – will find that more and more people turn to us to provide the voice of reason – and hope for the future!

It should be a good evening. I look forward to seeing you there.

With best wishes,

Michael Hodges

Chairman