



Persnore Civic Society November 2023 Newsletter

Dear Civic Society Member,

Christmas decorations are going up in town and the Christmas Tree is ready to be illuminated. The big switch-on will take place at 6pm on Friday 24th November followed by carols led by the Persnore Abbey Choir and a Georgian Christmas Market in Broad Street for the rest of the evening and all day on Saturday 25th November.



It's not too late to book tickets for the Civic Society Annual Dinner. This is taking place at the Thai Legend at 7.00pm for 7.30pm on Monday 27th November 2023. Tickets are £24.95 for the Special Banquet. Please contact Debby Rowley as follows:

If you would like to attend please return this form together with your cheque for £24.95 per person, made payable to Persnore Civic Society, to Debby Rowley, Manor Farm House, Pensham, Persnore, WR10 3HB

Name/s:

Telephone No:

Cheque enclosed to the value of £

Our Winter Talks in the St Andrews Centre have got off to a phenomenal start. On 26th September Graham Graham Gooderham's talk on the seven towns in Worcestershire that he had responsibility for as Worcestershire County Council's first Conservation Architect provided a glimpse into the way things were in 1967 in Pershore, Bewdley, Malvern, Evesham, Tenbury, Upton on Severn and Stourport. Graham's commentary to the archive film was rich in detail. Town planning challenges 50 years ago seem not to have changed and our historic town centres appear to be, if anything, more threatened by traffic than was the case in the 1960s. The film that was screened can be visited at the British Film Institute's website at <https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-7-towns-1967-online>



Our second talk of the season as given by Leigh Anne Beattie from the Churches Conservation Trust. Leigh Anne's talk entitled "How to read a Church" was a fascinating insight into the work of the Churches Conservation Trust. 357 redundant churches are currently administered by the Trust. The St Andrews Centre (not one of the 357) was a very fitting setting for a discussion about the role that redundant churches can play in their communities. Finance is probably one of the biggest challenges faced by Leigh Anne and her colleagues. "Champing" (camping in redundant churches) is one of Leigh Anne's Summer pastimes – which is one way in which redundant churches can provide new uses for a new generation of users.

Leigh Anne confessed that she has a real soft spot for a church on our doorstep which is curated by the Trust:



Talks for 2024/5 have been arranged as follows:

Talks 2024/2025	
6 th February 2024	Moats, Mills and Fish Ponds – Deborah Overton
1 st March 2024	AGM – Speaker Darren Eden to be asked to report on activity of the Pershore Place Board
Tuesday 23 rd April 2024	A Brush with the Past – Andrew Harris (Harris Brushes)
Tuesday 24 th September 2024	A E Housman: A Worcestershire Lad – Max Hunt
Tuesday 29 th October 2024	An Archdeacon's Tale – Chris Liley
Tuesday 4 th February 2025	Taking the lid off Bee-keeping – John Alexander
Friday 7 th March 2025	AGM Speaker TBA

We look forward to seeing members at these events. Please bring friends – we would be delighted to join them up as members too!! Your committee is also working hard on the 2024 visits programme. Full details and a new programme card will issued soon.

Following the receipt of a £1,000 grant from Welcome to our Future and the receipt of permission from the Birmingham Anglers Association, the Pershore Civic Society plans to install a new bench along the river- bank overlooking Pensham. We hope that this work will be completed by the Avon Navigation Trust in Spring 2024.

The Pershore Civic Society has also provided a £1,000 grant towards the restoration of the Maurice Banbury Memorial Garden at the Pershore Library. The Town Council hope to complete the works in Spring 2024 and we will publicise the re-opening to all members. There may be opportunities for hands-on gardening – so watch this space as we may need support from our members.

This year's Remembrance Day service at Pershore Abbey on 12th November 2023 provided another opportunity for the Civic Society to lay a memorial wreath on the Pershore War Memorial in the Abbey. We are grateful to our member Janet Morris for performing this act of remembrance on behalf of the Pershore Civic Society this year. The recently installed multi coloured programmable LED lighting at Pershore Abbey provided another dimension to this year's solemn remembrance activities:



Other work that the Civic Society's Planning Sub-Committee has been engaged with includes the provision of constructive feedback to Wychavon District Council in relation to the recently submitted planning application for the proposed ALDI supermarket in King George's Way.

An objection has been registered by the Civic Society to outline planning application W/23/02112/OUT for the construction of 300 new houses at Orchard Farm, Defford Road. Members are encouraged to visit the Wychavon Planning Portal to review the scheme and register your own feedback. The threat to the town's 6,000 years old ancient Tiddelsley Wood due to the proximity of the development is real. Action is urgent.



Thanks to all members for your support in 2023. Let us all look forward to playing a part in Pershore's story in 2024 as we preserve the best and look to the future with confidence.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Michael Hodges
Chairman
Pershore Civic Society