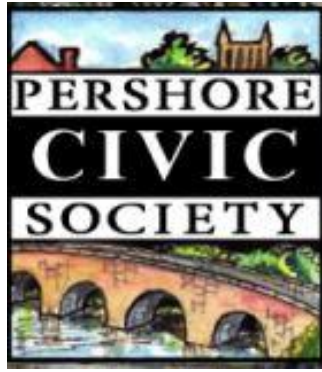




Pershire Civic Society Spring 2026 Newsletter

Dear Civic Society Member,

With our always-popular free to attend **AGM** just around the corner on **Friday 6th March 2026 at St Andrews at 7.00pm** (followed by refreshments and a talk from our old friend David Birtwhistle), I thought that I would put together an account of recent Pershire Civic Society Activity to put all into context as we look forward to the year ahead.

And let's start with **David Birtwhistle**, President of Worcester Civic Society. Many members will recall his two highly entertaining Zoom talks of 2020 when, due to COVID 19, we were unable to meet in large groups. David's talks to the Pershire Civic Society on those dark evenings about his life as a local artist & his encounters with so many people and scenes in rural towns were fascinating. They accelerated hope of a time when we would all be released back into society!! David kindly also prepared a Christmas Card for us that year:



Despite a very wet and blustery winter evening on **3 February 2026**, some **30 intrepid members** of Pershore Civic Society turned out for what proved to be a fascinating and encouraging talk on the future of Avon Meadows.

The presentation, entitled “**Avon Meadows Update**”, was given by **Karen Rose**, Wildlife Sites and Projects Officer at **Wychavon District Council**. Her talk provided a detailed overview of the remarkable ecological transformation taking place at **Avon Meadows**, a site that many local residents now regard as one of Pershore’s quiet success stories.

Karen began by outlining the original objectives for Avon Meadows: restoring natural floodplain habitats, increasing biodiversity, and creating a resilient landscape capable of responding to climate change. She explained how careful management of water levels, grassland, and planting schemes has already delivered tangible results, with notable increases in wildflowers, invertebrates, birds, and amphibians. Members were particularly interested to hear about recent species monitoring and the role of seasonal flooding in supporting wildlife.

The talk also explored the challenges of managing a dynamic riverside landscape, including balancing conservation objectives with public access, flood management, and agricultural interests. Karen highlighted the importance of partnership working, volunteers, and long-term funding in sustaining the project’s success.

Questions from the audience ranged from footpath maintenance and grazing regimes to future plans for habitat enhancement and community engagement. The evening concluded with warm thanks to Karen for an informative and well-illustrated update, which left members with a renewed appreciation of Avon Meadows and the dedicated work underpinning its ongoing restoration.

I attach a few of the stunning photos that Karen used:



Events



PERSHORE EVENTS -2026-

Sunday 5 April	Duck Race 1pm Riverside Centre	Plum Sales Every Saturday in August, Chapman Court	Every Saturday in AUGUST
Sat-Sun 6-7 JUNE	Open Gardens Multiple Locations 1pm - 5pm	Plum Festival Bike Nite From 6pm Broad Street	Thursday 27 AUGUST
Saturday 20 JUNE	Pershore Carnival From 10am - 5pm Abbey Park (Procession 12pm through town)	Plum Family Fun Day Inc. Pershore Plum Plodders 10k Abbey Park	Sunday 30 AUGUST
Late JUNE Early JULY	Confetti Flower Field Wyke Manor Estate, Wick	Plum Festival From 10am - 5pm Broad St & Abbey Park	Monday 31 AUGUST
Saturday 4 JULY	Midsummer Brass 10am - 10pm multiple locations	Georgian Christmas Fayre Fri 4pm - 8pm Sat 10am - 4pm Broad Street	Fri & Sat 27-28 November
Saturday 18 JULY	River Festival King George's Field 10am - 4:30pm	Pershore Broad Street Market First Saturday of the month March - November 9am - 2pm	

"Events, dear boy, events" is a famous, though often unauthenticated, quote attributed to former British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan. It describes what most threatens to knock governments or plans off course—unforeseen, uncontrollable, and unpredictable incidents. It emphasizes that external crises, rather than policy, often define political leadership and success. Who could imagine this sort of thing happening today!!!

Whilst events in Westminster and beyond continue to fascinate political observers in Pershore, perhaps the more predictable events above are of more potential significance. Civic Society members are encouraged to make a note of these in their 2026 diaries as the year gathers pace.

Pershore 2040

And speaking of years gathering pace, it was a great honour for the Civic Society to be able to host an initiative known as "Pershore 2040" at the 2025 Georgian Christmas Fayre. This activity was funded by the Elmley Foundation and Pershore Place Board and fulfils one of the Civic Society's aims to "To promote research into the subjects directly connected with the objects of the Society and to publish the results of any such research"

Whilst 15 years hence may seem too far to contemplate for some, now is the time when we should all be thinking about the future, and particularly the social, cultural, civic and architectural legacy that we wish those living in the town in 2040 to inherit. Thus, the endeavour by our member Sam Tarran to engage with members of the public and to capture

thoughts and opinions visually with support from engagement artist Anna Geyer of New Possibilities. The results are 2 banners informed by hundreds of opinions which will, between now and the middle of 2026 go “on tour” in Pershore at events and locations to capture online residents’ dreams and aspirations, the things they don’t want to lose as the town grows and the things we remember. The result will be an informed living document which can be used by planners and politicians - for the benefit of all. Look out for the banners at the next monthly Broad Street Market on Saturday March 7th 2026 – and have your say!

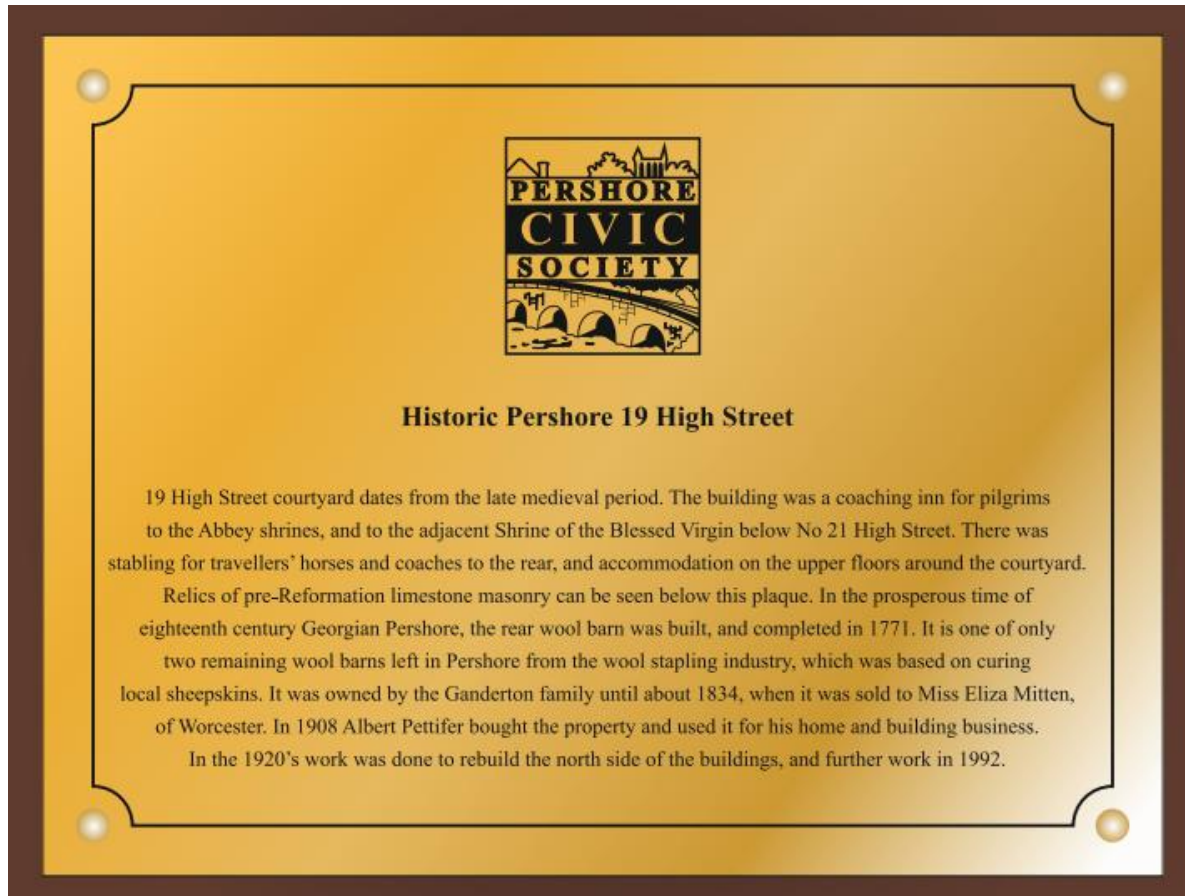


Pershore Civic Society – 2026/2027 Programme

Final touches are being made to the talks at St Andrews and visits to unusual and difficult to get-to buildings and landscapes in our 2026/2027 season. As ever, we have too much choice and your committee has, once again, endeavoured to formulate a programme with something for all. More news will be shared at the AGM, and a new Programme Card will be appearing through your letter boxes once all the arrangements have been made. One more talk will take place during the Spring and then a Summer long vista of local tours will follow. Watch this space!!

And finally.....

A new brass plaque has been commissioned that relates the story of Pettifer's Yard, 19, High Street, Pershore. Professor James Pettifer is the author and patron of this new venture. Look out for the new plaque when it is elevated into position and unveiled by the Mayor, Cllr. Julie Hemming on 7th March 2026.



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

With best wishes,

Michael Hodges, Chairman