



## Newsletter February – April 2017

### **Chelmsford Civic Society Annual General Meeting**

Sir Simon Burns MP

Report and Accounts 2016 – 2017

7.30 pm Quaker Meeting House, Rainsford Road

Sir Simon has announced that he will be retiring from Parliament at the next General Election. He has been Conservative Member of Parliament for Chelmsford (West Chelmsford 1997 – 2010) since 1987. This will be an opportunity to hear Sir Simon reflect on his 30 years representing the people of Chelmsford at Westminster. He has served in the Coalition Government from May 2010 to September 2012 as Minister of State for Health Services and the between September 2012 and October 2013 as Minister of State for Transport. There have been six Prime Ministers since he entered Parliament, starting with Lady Thatcher.

### **Chelmsford in the Second World War: Andy Begent**

On February 21, war historian and author of the book *Chelmsford at War*, Andy Begent, will give a talk about Chelmsford and the people who lost their lives during the Second World War.



## **Neighbourhood Planning Forum**

On 25th January, On 25th January, we were invited to listen to Jenny Robinson, Planning and Housing Officer, at the Civic Centre. The topic was Neighbourhood Planning. We had expected to hear details on the new Local Plan but this had been deferred pending publication of the Government White Paper on Housing Policy. An interesting and informative evening nevertheless.

## **Future Events**

### **6 April 2017: The Building of High Chelmer and the Town Centre**

The opening of the Bond Street development has transformed the retail sector in Chelmsford. It has also changed markedly the look of the city centre. The last time change occurred on this scale here started with the publication of the detailed plans in 1968 and demolitions related to phase 1 of the redevelopment the following year. Dr James Bettley will take us back to those days in his talk on 'The Building of High Chelmer and the Town Centre' at 7.30 pm in the Quaker Meeting House on Rainsford Road, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Mick McDonagh, current Manager of the High Chelmer Centre, will take the Chair.

£3 members; £4 non-members. Dr. Bettley's article '*The Great progress of the place in modern times: the Chelmsford Planning Survey and the High Chelmer Development 1945 – 1973*', appears in the Autumn 2016 issue of 'Essex Journal' (obtainable from the Essex Record Office).

### **9 May 2017: Oaklands Museum Guided Tour**

There will be a guided tour of Oaklands museum on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May. This will take place at 2.30 pm.

### **17 June 2017: Civic Voice Saturday**

An important day for the Society will be Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June. This will be 'Civic Voice Saturday' throughout England. Civic Voice is the national organisation supporting Civic Societies throughout the country. Chelmsford Civic Society has arranged a tour of the Essex Record Office.

### **7-10 September 2017: Heritage Open Days**

The City Council has commissioned the Society to organise and run the Heritage Open Days programme. Alan Pamphilon will be our organiser for this event from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September.

### **23 October 2017: Ideas Festival**

This year's Ideas Festival will start on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and the Society will, once again, arrange a series of events.

We need to decide what should be the priorities for the Society this year and would welcome your suggestions. Should we, for example, focus on campaigns or lectures. If lectures are wanted, please let us know of any speakers and topics that you might think suitable.

## **Arts, Culture and Events in Chelmsford**

The City Council and Arts Council England (ACE) are working with consultants Festivals and Events International (FEI) to develop an arts, culture and events strategy for Chelmsford. The aim is to achieve an action plan that will make a difference to the arts, cultural and events offer in Chelmsford. Malcolm Noble has been appointed to Focus Group 3 which is charged with working on the strategy that will drive this process. Anyone wishing to convey a view on this should contact Malcolm at [mnoable3211@yahoo.com](mailto:mnoable3211@yahoo.com)

## **Civic Voice Design Awards 2017**

The Society has nominated Aquila's Bond Street development for a design award this year. Our grounds were the quality of design and the transformational effect on the city centre. This includes the retail outlets including John Lewis, restaurants alongside riverside walkways, cinema addition to the public realm: the amphitheatre, the pedestrian access to the High Street (the ginnel) and the Half Moon Square improvements.



## **Marconi News/Events**

On **February 14<sup>th</sup> 2017**, marks the 95th anniversary of the start of Britain's first ever regular, advertised broadcast radio station, 2MT, which came live from Writtle in Essex. To commemorate this anniversary, and to celebrate the young, pioneering team of engineers, the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society will be transmitting from the same building from where the original broadcasts commenced. One of their members, John Salmon, will also be operating a three-day internet radio service, Radio Emma Toc, featuring radio related documentaries, vintage comedies and live

programs from various locations. A special event call sign, GB95 2MT will be used to mark this occasion.

On **April 20<sup>th</sup> 2017**, there will be a Special Marconi Walk @10.30 - starting from Hall St -the world first wireless factory - through the history of the high street at the time to the New St factory where Benefit Cosmetics have invited us inside the 1912 building for a brief visit. To book: [cityhistorywalks@gmail.com](mailto:cityhistorywalks@gmail.com) £5 p.p.

## Society Committee

Our current members are:

Malcolm Noble – Chairman

Stephen Norris – Secretary

Eddie Cassels – Treasurer

Pam Swaby – Membership

Paul McLean – Website

John Hammond – Planning

Rica Gavina – Social Media (Rica replaced Steve Jeyes who left us during 2016)

Jennifer Webb.

Councillor Roy Whitehead is our auditor.

Two committee members are standing down this year. Please let us know if you or anyone you know can help with any of the activities of the Society.

### Contact

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All welcome to visit the Ideas Hub in Market Place. There are Civic Society cards on the Hub information rack, with details on our current activities.