

AGM

Disappointingly there were insufficient members present on the 21st June to be quorate, we were just one short, which means that the trustees have arranged a new date for this meeting.

Monday 16th JULY 2018 at 6.30 pm is the new date and we shall be meeting at the Shaftesbury Arts Centre's Rutter Room.

We really need YOU to attend if you wish the Shaftesbury Civic Society to continue to survive and continue to promote pride in this place, protect our ancient environment and promote cohesion within our community.



The first Rachel Caldwell award being presented by Sir John Stuttard to Ty Crook of the Hilltop Litter Pickers on Civic Day.

Shaftesbury's First Civic Day

Midsummer's Day was chosen as the first Civic Day for Shaftesbury, to tie it in with the UK Parliament's EqualTeas celebrations. Many of our members attended and we hope that you felt the event was a success?

There were highs and lows for us, the organisers. The gathering of so many of the town's groups and organisations in the Town Hall was pleasing and we have had great feedback from those people. We were positively taken aback by the level of enthusiasm to promote their groups, many bringing large displays, despite being asked for a single object. Squeezing everyone in was a tricky yet rewarding task. Our grateful thanks go to the Town Council's Business Manager, Brie Logan, ably assisted by Zoe Moxham, who supported us brilliantly. Keri Jones, SCS member and trustee nominee, was the chap left with the unenviable task of shoehorning everyone into their places. Thanks, Keri.



Meanwhile in the Garden Room at Gold Hill Museum, Louise Madgwick was producing a stunning array of her home-baked cakes as well as manning the tea-pot. She was ably supported by Pam and Charley Goodall, massive thanks to all three of them for a difficult job carried out with grace and courtesy.



Our surprise guest, Simon Hoare MP, made an impromptu address to the assembled group, addressing some of the issues around democracy and equality that had been planned. Sir John Stuttard, our Honorary President followed on with a fascinating glimpse into his forthcoming biography of John Rutter, Shaftesbury's turbulent Quaker and amazing social reformer. What a picture he painted of this extraordinary life. We can't wait to see the book published. There was a bit of a run on the cakes after the talks had finished and Jackie Upton King had thanked our guests for their contributions to the day.

Sir John (left above) and Simon Hoare in the Garden Room



Then to 6.00pm and the Town Hall once again. Sadly despite a reasonable number in the room, the AGM was not quorate but chair, Mike Madgwick did give us a taste of his chairman's report and warned of the avalanche of planning applications sliding towards us as developers try to take advantage of a perceived gap in housing provision in North Dorset. He also talked about the Civic Society's concerns over the way the potential sale of the Cattle Market site is being handled by North Dorset District Council. He promised to keep members updated.

To our enormous pleasure we were able to ask Sir John to present the Hilltop Litter Pickers with the first Rachel Caldwell Award for outstanding services to the community. Ty Crook and a group of litter pickers received a framed certificate and a cheque for £50 for their funds. Mr Crook gave a most gracious and interesting acceptance speech, staggering us with the thought that in 5 years they had collected a stack of black bags equivalent to the height of Ben Nevis. He made an impassioned plea for us all to behave better and for our children to be trained not to drop litter or throw their coffee cups out of car windows, plus a need for more, not less, litter bins on new developments.

Dr Andrew Murrison was our final guest of the day and he gave an interesting talk about his recent historical novel, *Redemption*, set in the West Wiltshire countryside and in Westminster at the time of the Civil War. He linked this in with his thoughts about boundary changes to parliamentary constituencies, the common landscape that we

share on either side of the boundary and how ordinary people's lives are changed by political events. Despite a very small audience he was kind enough to describe our Civic Day as 'a triumph'.

What have we learned? Not to stage an event during the World Cup; not to choose a day when so many midsummer events are going on and not to try to be quite so ambitious and will avoid running activities in parallel next time.

If you have thoughts on how to organise next year's Civic Day, please let us know and give us a hand. Email: shaftesburycivic@gmail.com



Dr Andrew Murrison MP, with Mike Madgwick, Jackie Upton King and the Abbess of Shaftesbury who has a mention in the book!

Please remember to attend the AGM on 16th July and don't forget that you need to be a paid up member to vote.

There will be updates on our current activities including the Cattle Market.