

Our 50th Anniversary Celebration September 2018

by Pauline Carroll

The Stourport Civic Society celebrated its 50th anniversary this time last year.

While the committee were wondering how to celebrate, our President Will Scott, came up with the idea of a Garden Party and very kindly offered the use of his garden. His garden "The Walled Garden" is open to the public through the yellow garden book "The National Garden Scheme". Will's road is short and flat with limited parking. Some of us did get lost as the alternative was to park in Fort Royal road, a very steep hill with hardly any parking left. However, we all eventually arrived with Mrs Scott offering us a very welcome cup of tea.

At the start Will gave us a quick resume of how they came to buy the house and garden. Primarily it was for his wife Julia to have a lot more space to grow her herbs. The house itself was actually the stable to a large house which is still standing. The big house belonged to the Cadbury family and Will's house was the gardeners cottage. When the house was sold it was bought by St Richards Hospice, and when sold again, been now made into apartments.

Unfortunately, that this time of the year is what they call the sleeping time for the garden as it mainly a spring garden. Although there was still plenty to see as besides all the herbs of the everyday ones we were familiar with there were a lot of more unusual ones, there were a few shrubs in flowers and lots of apple and pear trees. Then also an abundance of grapes which had the most delicious sweet taste which Will let us sample and assured us they make excellent wine.

The weather was kind to us in the afternoon as the morning started off dull and wet. After a walk around the garden at our leisure with Will and Julia on hand to answer any questions. This was followed by a picnic to which everyone had contributed to. We were able to sit outside scattered around the patio except for Annette, David and Mary who sat in the beach hut, which was based on one at the Music and Art Festival at Aldeburgh, Suffolk which Will and Julia go to every year. They love it so much that they spend quite a bit of time at Aldeburgh.



Then we had a surprise as Annette had baked an enormous cake to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Well done Annette it really was delicious.



**50th Anniversary
Celebration July 2018**

Stourport Civic Society and me

by Will Scott, President

My involvement with Stourport Civic Society goes back nearly 30 years, when Anna Carter was Chair and Alfie Wood was President. Alfie was Chair of the Worcester City Council's Conservation Areas Advisory Committee and was very supportive to me in getting the conservation team going in Worcester in 1978.

One of our "inventions" was the Worcester City Award Scheme which was designed to recognise and celebrate anything which contributed to the conservation of the City. Alfie suggested this might be good for Stourport and I volunteered to assist the Civic Society to set it up. Design Awards are very important to encourage and support those who wish to do the right thing by their town or city. I am very pleased to see it is still running.

With so many groups and societies dwindling away, it is also very pleasing to see Stourport Civic Society still battling away. You are a real credit to the town and a force for good. **I was very pleased to host the 50th Birthday party in the Walled Garden, Worcester to celebrate your golden event. Well done and congratulations to everyone.**

We had a great afternoon tea with cake and missed Pauline and Richard and passed on our good wishes for her speedy recovery.

Llamas at Moor Hall

by Pauline Annis

The Civic Society have recently been given a copy of a photograph of two llamas which were kept in the stables at Moor Hall in the 1930's and were looked after by the then caretaker, James Elson, who lived in Heath Lodge. It would appear that the llamas were well known locally, having been purchased by Dr Samara Weirra for Whipsnade Zoo. Apparently they had a habit of spitting at visitors unexpectedly.

We have a large file on Moor Hall in the Society archive so I decided to see what I could find out about it in its latter days. As is well known, the first famous owner of the Hall was Jonathan Worthington, the son-in-law of Aaron York.

Llamas at Moor Hall

continued

After his death in 1821 there were several owners until the estate was bought in 1871 by John Brinton who enlarged and altered the house. The glasshouses (some still to be seen off Moorhall Lane) were famous for their prize-winning blooms and fruit. After the death of John Brinton his gardener, J.H.Wilson, moved to Croome Court.

John Brinton died in 1914 but his house and estate was not finally sold until 1917. It was during this time that the local council acquired the area of ground which later became the War Memorial Park.

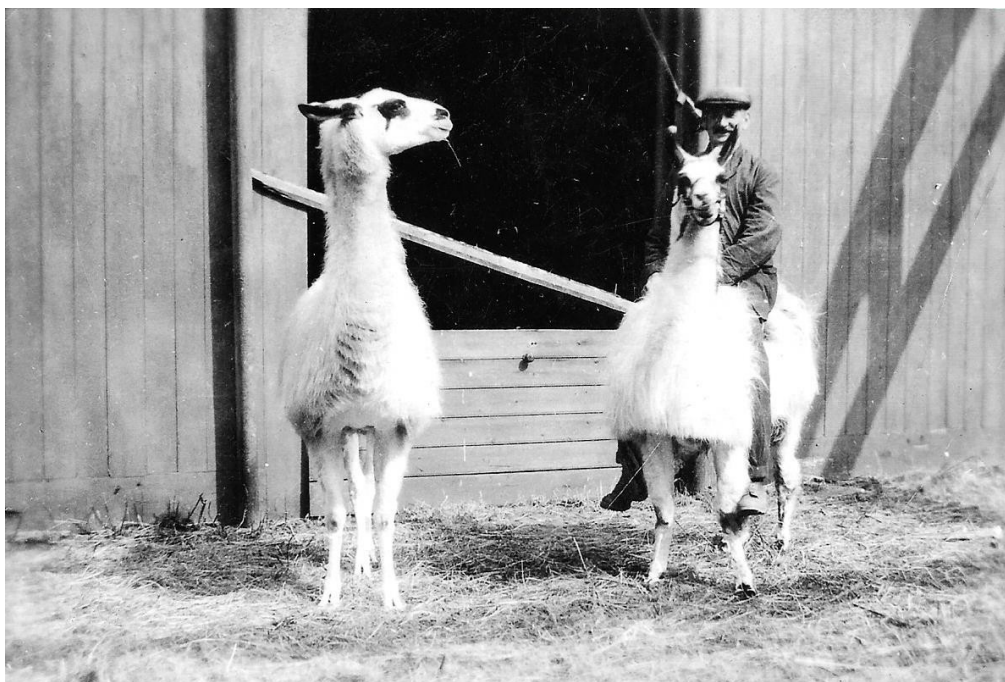
In the mid 1920's T.H.Charles, who lived at Park Attwood, bought the estate and sold it off, a bit at a time and some houses were built. The Hall had a caretaker but by this time was semi-derelict. Some of the land belonging to the estate was given to Stourport Tennis Club.

T.H. Charles, who was Vice-Chair of the County Council, died in 1938. Only the main house was left and the administrators sold it for demolition. It seems to have been well-known that the stables were let out to house the llamas.

You can still see some traces of Moor Hall: the two lodges, one on Bewdley Road and the other on Lickhill Road; remains of the garden wall opposite The Civic and some remaining glasshouses in the gardens of houses at the bottom of Moorhall Lane.

We would be grateful if anyone can provide us with any further information about the last days of Moor Hall.

The caretaker, James Elson, who lived in Heath Lodge, can just be seen sitting On the llama on the right





Stourport Civic Society Talks September 2019 – July 2020

7.30 pm Thursdays, at the Elizabeth Mills Centre, New Street, Stourport

12th September 2019 Landscape in Travel Posters & Postcards *Ned Williams*

An Illustrated account of how British Transport reflects the British landscape through railway adverts, posters and postcards.

10th October 2019 Worcestershire Inn Signs & Pub Names *Anthony Collis*

Besides displaying an excellent variety of inn signs, all located in Worcestershire, Anthony will explain the origin of various local pub names, linking with the heritage of the locality and celebrating local distinctiveness.

14th November 2019 Black Country Murders *Ian Bott*

In our post Halloween talk, Ian takes ten little known murders from his bestselling book, to form an interesting talk. These murders occurred from 1900 until 1958.

12th December 2019 Work and Worship *Robert Barber*

A seasonal look at churches and shops with reference to our local towns and industries.

9th January 2020 Festive Event

A social evening at a local restaurant.

13th February 2020 Amble Around Worcestershire (part one) *John Billingham*

An illustrated amble around Worcestershire, visit locations while you relax in your chair!

12th March 2020 Sir John Mucknell –The English Pirate King *Carole Clements*

Only recently discovered, we hear with this little known and intriguing, story, of how this English pirate helped Charles II restore the royal throne.

9th April 2020 Stories of the English Coinage *Paul Griffiths*

The story of coinage from the first coins nearly 3000 years ago, through Roman and medieval times via decimalisation to the present day, and into the future. With images of coins, maps and coining methods.

14th May 2020 AGM

11th June 2020 Amble Around Worcestershire (part two) *John Billingham*

Continue your travels around Worcestershire, with John's further tour of local areas. Complete the journey.

9th July 2020 How the Stagecoach Transformed our Area *John Butterworth*

An interesting, enlightening talk on how the stagecoach changed our economy, its famous drivers and the many people who used this transport.

Entrance: £1.50 members, £3.00 non members (Light refreshments included)

2019 STOURPORT CIVIC AWARD

A record 8 entries were received.

The Wharf, Mart Lane
Hope & Anchor Public House
Mooch Gifts & Home
Mitton Street House and Flat Development
The Pickup Artists
Rotary Printers
Wharf Care Centre
2-3 New Street



The Civic Award assessment panel, consisting of Pauline Annis, David More, Chris Hunt, Ken Harrison and Will Scott. Copies of the eight submitted schemes had been made available for inspection before each one was visited by the panel. All entries this year were of a very high standard making the decision a very hard one. **Below are extracts from the judges report.**

2-3 New Street

"This prominent historic property on New Street had been empty on the upper floors and in need of major restoration. Originally built as a town house, it is now in full residential use once more. Eleven self contained flats have been provided including one which is wheelchair accessible. Timber sash windows were replaced on the upper floors. All work was of a high standard. Importantly it provides much needed accommodation for those most in need right in the centre of town. Since it opened last November some 100 people have been helped. Information and practical assistance is also available to help the residents."

This entry received a commendation.

Mooch Gifts & Home

"Situated on a prominent corner in the centre of town this transformation of a rather rundown, and derelict property is impressive. The property is tastefully decorated in quiet greys inside and out and many original features have been saved and repaired. The new owners who have been trading for four years, relocated from an adjacent shop. They have restored and repaired this unusual curved frontage building with passion and enthusiasm."

This entry also received a commendation.

The Pickup Artists

"The volunteers are self motivated and have a genuine social awareness of the problems of litter and all kinds of rubbish. Their determination to solve this problem is impressive. One could say that litter is someone else's problem, the land owner or the district council or more importantly the people who drop it in the first place! But this is not working and these energetic volunteers are making a real difference. They talk to schools and have a Junior Pickup Artists team."

Although the Civic Award is primarily about the recognition of buildings which have improved the appearance of Stourport, the panel considered that this initiative was such a force for good, that it was worthy of a Special Commendation for Civic Pride.

The Wharf, Mart Lane

"The Wharf is a very prominent building in the Basin and of considerable historic interest to Stourport's commercial past. The balcony bar and the restaurant with a commercial kitchen, completed since their entry in 2017 had further enhanced the property. The work done by this enthusiastic family was extensive and of good quality."

The Panel considered the sympathetic conversion and reuse of this historic building to be worthy of the 2019 Civic Award.



The Wharf, Bed & Breakfast and Restaurant
2019 Civic Award Winner



The owners, Spencer and Nanette Symonds
receiving their award ceremony at the AGM

Passenger Transport - *Have your say*



Worcestershire County Council are inviting residents to **"Have your say"** on their new draft Passenger Transport Strategy - basically covering how they are spending your money on public transport services over the next 10 years. The strategy covers all aspects of transport from the networks of conventional bus services, through school and social care services, community transport, fares, ticketing, timetables technology and much more.

As with all local authority activities, WCC are working within a tight budget and are seeking help from residents in prioritising where and how funding should be allocated. So now is the chance to speak up and **Have your say** on what is important to you and for our town.

The document can be accessed on line via the Worcestershire County Council's homepage www.worcestershire.gov.uk, by telephoning the Worcestershire Hub on 01905 765765 (Option 9 - General Enquiries), or from Stourport Library. **Consultation closes on 13th September 2019.**

If you would like to know more or have any problem accessing the document please contact Annette More, who is working on this project for WCC.



Saturday 24 August at 7pm

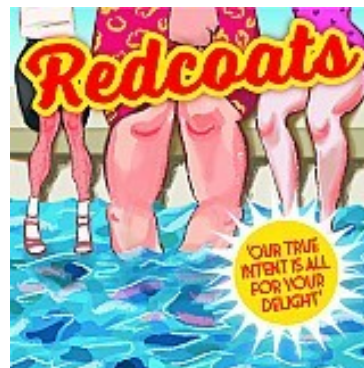
Tontine Gardens, Stourport

[ALL HANDS ON DECK](#)

Sunday 25 August at 2pm

Springfield Park, Kidderminster

[REDCOATS](#)



THE HEREFORD BULL

by Pauline Annis

Currently a new home is being sought for The Hereford Bull, a 2/3 size replica of a Severn Trow built for the Queen's Jubilee procession on the Thames. The boat is currently in Neilson's Yard in Gloucester. A new home is sought because its use is limited in its current location and it has to be transported by road. If a home can be found in Stourport it would have access to the whole of the Severn.

History

A group of retired naval officers and friends in Hereford were seeking to enter the Queen's Jubilee procession in June 2012, with an interesting vessel and thought of the traditional vessel of the lower Severn and Wye rivers. The Hereford Bull was built at Thomas Neilson's yard at Gloucester and was completed in time to be rowed in the Jubilee pageant. Subsequently, the vessel was based at the Hereford Sea Cadet base and was used for training purposes, as well as being chartered for short fund-raising cruises along the navigable length available.

It is hoped that Stourport Yacht Club will be able to provide a mooring and a local group of volunteers will be able to supervise its use and maintenance if it comes to Stourport. It will be a significant addition to the historic boats exhibited at heritage weekends and will be a useful educational tool. **Keep your fingers crossed.....**



VISIT TO ENVIROSORT RECYCLING CENTRE (June 2019)

by Pauline Carroll



In May our monthly talk was given by Michelle James from Severn Waste Services our local recycling plant just outside Worcester. This is one of only 30 recycling sites in the country, ours being the largest. Members found the talk very informative and consequently it was followed up by a visit to see first-hand how our recycling is dealt with.

The day of our visit arrived which turned out to be the hottest day of the year so far. We were greeted in the small foyer with a notice "Welcome to Stourport Civic Society" which I thought was quite a nice personal touch and of course made out of all recyclable materials. We were then directed upstairs to the meeting room where a very nice welcome tea or coffee awaited us. We then had our introduction talk. Michelle, our guide, asked if we had all attended the meeting, so as two or three of us had not due to holidays she gave us a brief resume to catch up and also to refresh everyone else minds.

Everyone was surprised that the whole operation was done in one large room and not several as we all thought. They operate on a shift work pattern being 6.00am to 4.00pm and 11.00am to 10.00 pm with all maintenance only carried out on the night shift when they were no machines running. It was a slightly dusty atmosphere but not as dusty as one imagined it would be.

I think we all came away having learned something different. For examples no black plastics, wash all containers let dry and loosely put the tops back on. Only thin cardboards boxes such as cereal boxes and the boxes that are delivered from Amazon etc. The thick cardboard should be put in black bin. All boxes for recycling should be flatten with our shredded paper inside. Their machines will sort aluminium cans from steel ones. If possible, we could help by taking our bottles to recycling bins near us and sort out the different coloured glass ones. for half an hour we watched the machines in operation and how they dealt with the different articles and threw out what couldn't be recycled.

We were then taken back to the meeting room and shown how to test wrapping paper to see which paper could be recycled. Also, we were told where different articles could be recycled in different areas. This concluded our very enjoyable visit to the site and we came away seeing recycling in a different light and also clearing up a few problems of what items could or could not be recycled.

