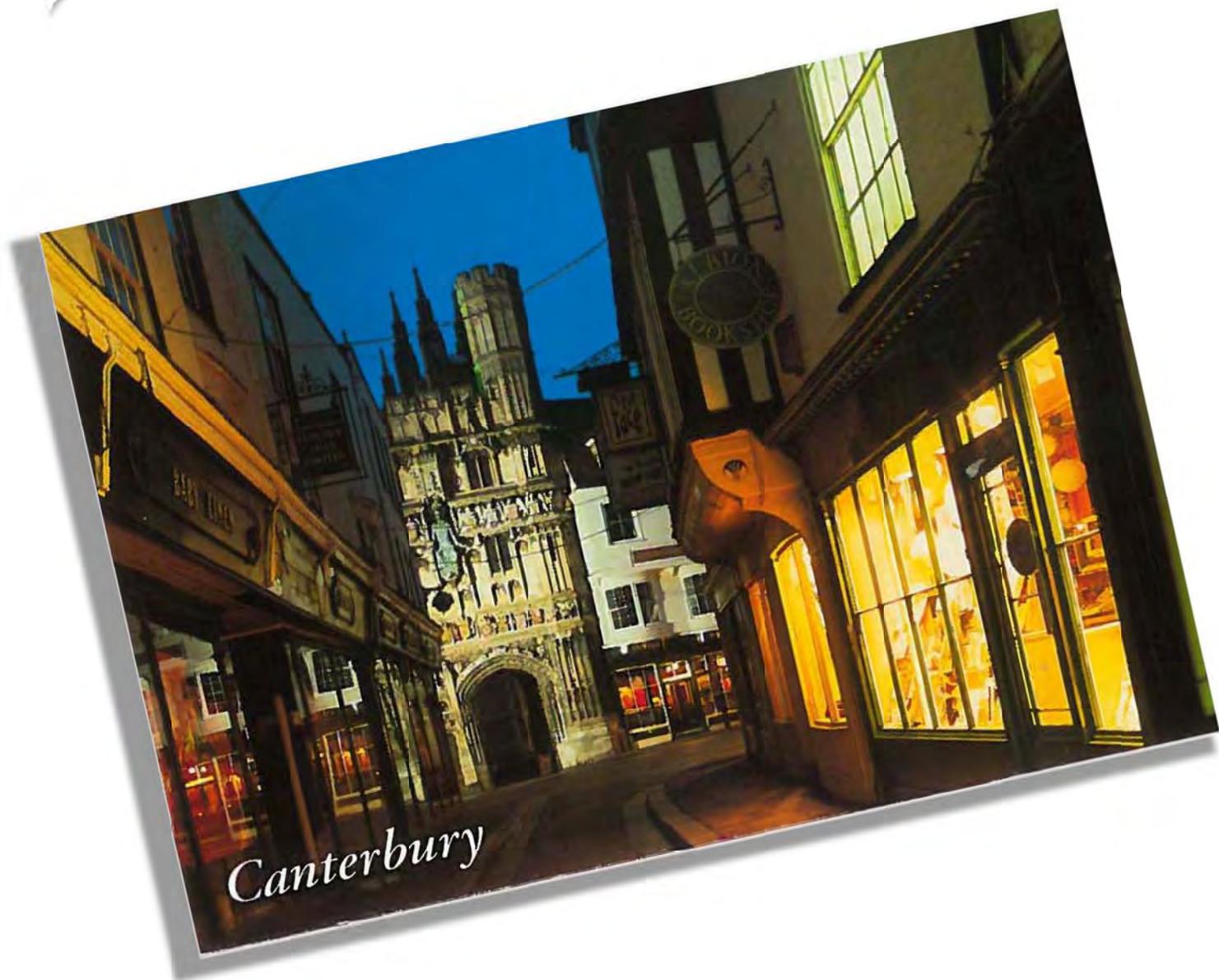


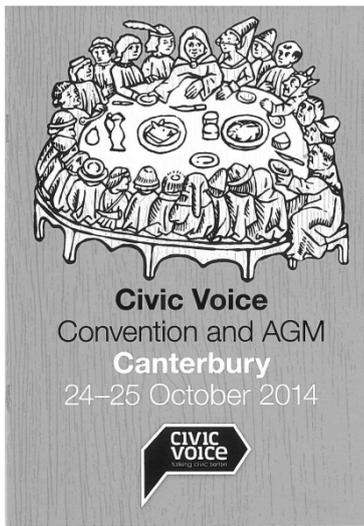


5th Annual Convention **CANTERBURY**



24th and 25th October 2014

Notes by Stephen Langtree, Chester Civic Trust



Convention and AGM (Programme and Attendance)

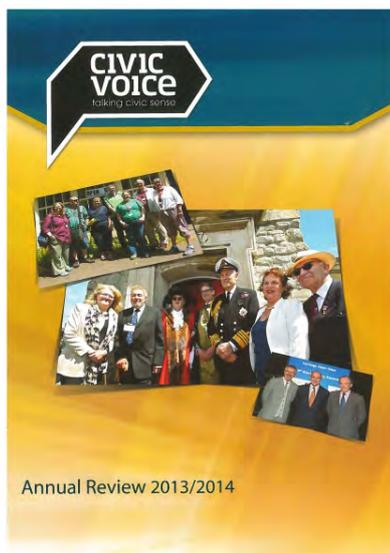
According to *Civic Update* over 200 people attended this year's convention in Canterbury. This may have been true on Friday morning when Griff Rhys Jones addressed a large audience (which included the general public) in the newly-restored Westgate Hall, but the number of people on the delegate list was about 115. Still a good number.

Of these, 17 were from the North West, including four of us from Chester: David Evans, Jean Evans, Martin Meredith and Stephen Langtree.

The convention spanned two days with guided tours and workshops interspersed with formal business, the presentation of awards, campaign 'hustings' and even an official 'pub crawl'.

The programme was sometimes remorseless but nonetheless enjoyable and stimulating. It was a well organised event held in an ideal venue at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge (a modern conference centre of which we can only dream!).

PS. Freddie Gick (Cheltenham Civic Society) is a first rate chairman of Civic Voice and has around him an equally good team of Trustees. The hero of the day, however, continues to be Ian Harvey, the unassuming Executive Director of Civic Voice.



Civic Voice Annual Report 2013/14

Civic Voice has excelled itself with all its new publicity material, not least this year's Annual Report which is the best so far. It is attractively designed and printed, contains a good summary of the activities in 2013/14 and has lots of photographs of things happening.

Thanks to Martin, Chester Civic Trust is featured on page 3(!) with a photo of our members out and about in Handbridge examining buildings for the Local Heritage List.

The Annual Report is available on-line at www.civicvoice.org.uk .

National Design Awards

When the Civic Trust went into administration a former employee bought the 'rights' to the well-established and highly respected Civic Trust Awards. These continue, but have no connection with Civic Voice.

Many societies (including Chester) run their own award schemes but CV has decided to introduce a new National Design Award.

Nominations can be made by properly constituted groups, such as civic societies, and submitted on-line by the closing date of 31 March 2015. For the first round, projects must have been completed between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2014.

A specific objective of these new awards is to encourage all civic societies to run their own schemes and, where appropriate, to nominate the winners for this new National Design Award.

Recommendation: After judging the 2015 New Year Honours we could review the winners of the last two rounds and decide whether to make any nominations for these new Awards

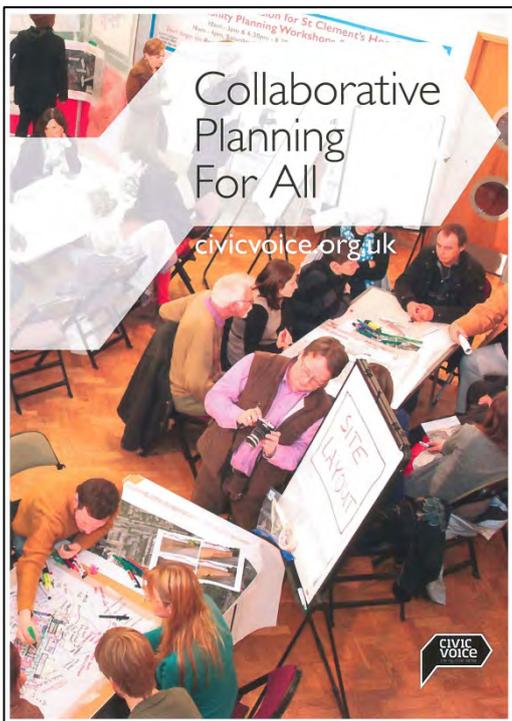
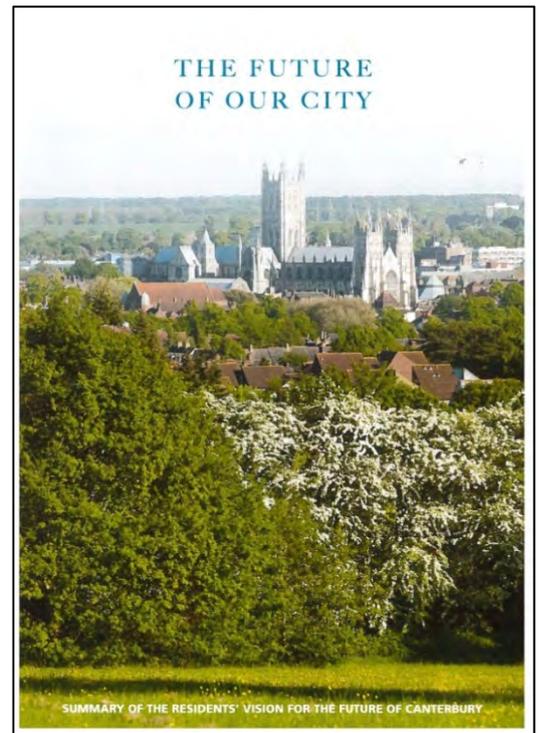


Canterbury Civic Society's 'Vision for the Future'

Canterbury, county town of Kent, has a resident population of less than 50,000. It has three universities with a total of 30,000 students – giving it the dubious honour of having the highest ratio of students to residents anywhere in Europe. The city also attracts circa four million visitors per year – giving it the third highest ratio of visitors to residents in Europe. No pressure there then!

The Cathedral is a World Heritage Site (designated in December 1988) and the city retains a strong sense of history. That said, the Canterbury Society has struggled with two-tier local government, with severe cut-backs in conservation and enforcement services and with a plethora of mediocre new development.

They believed that Canterbury lacked a 'vision' so set about writing it themselves. They are justifiably proud of this achievement but it is still a little early to say how influential the document will be.



Collaborative Planning for All

- A new Civic Voice publication

A new document published by Civic Voice but prepared in conjunction with John Thompson & Partners to celebrate '20 years of placemaking'.

It looks good and feels right – collaborative planning isn't just a better type of public consultation, it's real engagement at a stage when it can be powerful and meaningful.

Recommendations

- 1) We should promote this document to CWaC Council, the Cheshire Society of Architects and our other contacts among planners, developers and agents.
- 2) We should ask Civic Voice for additional copies to give out at the forthcoming conference of the Historic Towns Forum here in Chester.
- 3) We should discuss it with the new Local Design Review Panel to see if there is an opportunity for a trial run in the near future.

WORKSHOP NOTES



Delivered by: Stuart McLeod
Head of HLF South East England

The National Lottery distributes funds to four good causes:

- The Big Lottery
- Sport England
- Arts Council
- Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

HLF currently receives £375 million per annum to spread among its various programmes.

All eligible projects must be **time limited**, i.e. capital projects or 'one-off' grants – not revenue subsidy. The projects must also be both **sustainable** and **resilient** – i.e. have lasting benefit and not vulnerable to failure before being completed.

.... and, needless to say, applications to the HLF must be for **heritage related** projects.

All applications must demonstrate that the proposed project is:

- well planned
- good value for money
- financially realistic
- time imperative (why do it now?)

HLF has a **Single Round Programme** for smaller projects (i.e. less than £100,000) and a **Two Round Programme** for larger projects which involve project development funding as a first stage.

SINGLE ROUND PROGRAMME

- a) Shared Heritage (grants up to £10,000)
 - a rolling programme with no set dates or deadlines for the submission of applications; decisions are made by HLF within 8 weeks.
 - Important to have evidence of community engagement while delivering the project, not just on its completion.
- b) Our Heritage (grants £10,000 - £100,000)
 - Also a 'rolling programme' (see above)
 - Projects usually take 18 months – 3 years to complete
- c) World War One Programme
 - Wholly or significantly linked to centenary of WW1
 - A 'temporary' six year programme running until 2018

d) Young Roots

- must be initiated by, or in close partnership with, a youth group (young people must be involved in scoping the project).
- currently undersubscribed in most parts of the country so applications are welcomed.

TWO ROUND PROGRAMME

a) Heritage Grants (£100,000 - £5 million)

- Capital projects for historic buildings etc
- Usually involves public use or access

b) Places of Worship

c) Heritage Enterprise

- New since April 2013 (sometimes gap-funding)
- Need not involve public access but should include some skills training

d) Townscape Heritage (previously THI grants)

- area based conservation grants
- usually awarded to local authorities

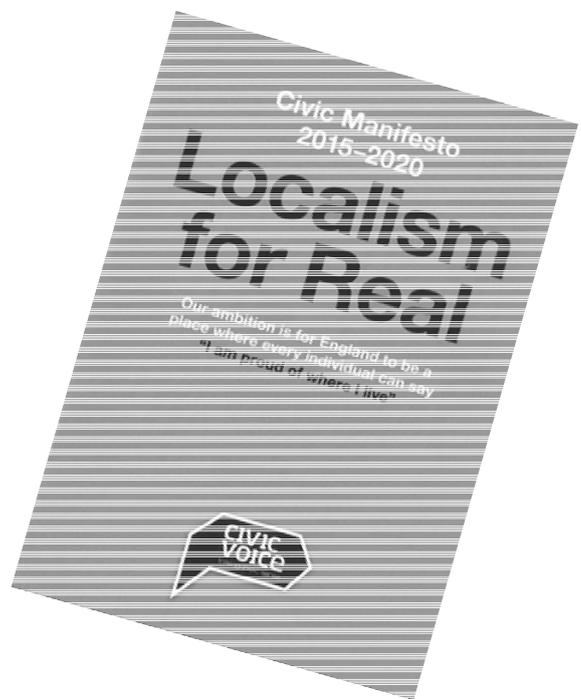
Possible Applicants

- 1) 'Sharing Heritage' – CCT publication about History of BLP
- 2) 'Our Heritage' – Photosurvey, digitisation of slide collection

WORKSHOP NOTES

Civic Voice Manifesto

Delivered by David Tittle
Trustee of Civic Voice



Civic Voice, in consultation with its member societies, has identified three main issues to bring to the attention of all candidates at next year's General Election. The resulting Civic Manifesto is entitled '**Localism for Real**' (copies are available for CCT members).

The premise of the manifesto is that 'When the Coalition Government was formed they made a commitment to localism including "radically reforming the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live". The results have been mixed. While the take-up of neighbourhood planning and listing of assets of community value has been growing, many citizens feel that their cities, towns and villages are not being shaped locally, but more by developers, planning inspectors and the courts.

To achieve real localism the next Government needs to:

1. Make improving the quality of the public realm in our cities, towns and villages a priority.
2. Give all citizens opportunities to actively shape the future of their place.
3. Give local communities the powers they need to enable their town and city centres to prosper.

Every civic society is being asked to take the following types of 'local action':

- i) Internal discussion of the Manifesto
- ii) If supported, distribute to parliamentary candidates and the Press.
- iii) Organise events (hustings, question time etc) to raise the profile of the Manifesto.
- iv) Compile a complementary local manifesto (or use other means) to promote a local civic society Vision for Council elections.