



Glastonbury Conservation Society

registered charity number 264036



Abbey Press 32 Norbins Rd, BA6 9JG Glastonbury (01458) 83 3603

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The society was formed in 1972 as an amenity society affiliated to the Civic Trust. Its prime objective is to foster and enhance the historic town and resist unnecessary demolition of old buildings of character—and in particular in 1972, to rescue the Crown Hotel, at that time under threat. Protection has been achieved by obtaining Conservation Area status. The old medieval centre is now designated an Outstanding Conservation Area in a Heritage Town, and the area has been extended (see map).

We are represented on the Mendip Environmental Forum and play our part in the local contribution to Agenda 21 linked to the Rio Convention.

Planning

Mendip District Council (the planning authority) consults us on all applications for building or alterations within the Conservation Area.

Townscape

We have encouraged the enhancement of the town by pressing for the hiding of overhead wires, simplifying direction signs, reducing advertising and by respecting the original designs of houses and shopfronts. We have put trees in carparks and rescued a fine railway canopy from the old station; it now stands as a shelter over part of the main town-centre carpark.

Footpaths

More than 30 miles of the ancient footpaths are shown on the Definitive Map. Mendip council has come to an arrangement with the society whereby members walk these paths to clear overgrowth. We also check stiles and arrange for repair. A hundred new stiles have been erected.

It is important that footpaths are kept open and properly maintained for the benefit and enjoyment of both local residents and visitors, who appreciate our beautiful countryside. The Conservation Society's booklet *Glastonbury Footpath Walks* was well reviewed and is sold in the town.

Countryside

We have planted, or caused the planting of, more than 50,000 trees within 10 miles of the town: not only the carpark trees but copses, hedgerows, traditional cider orchards, rows of oaks and 84 replacement cedar trees. Each year during Tree Week we provide the trees and arrange for schools, Guides, clubs etc to do the planting.

Competitions

National and local events provide us with publicity, and at times with prizes. We sponsor local competitions concerning conservation.

Exhibitions

Our contribution is always expected at local functions, and comprises large photographic displays, pamphlets for sale—and recruiting.

Winter talks, summer walks

We arrange for speakers to address us, usually monthly from September to April, about subjects of interest to local societies: the Glastonbury Antiquarian Society and ourselves. We arrange walks during the summer to tree-planting sites and to areas of interest within the town.

Newsletter

The quarterly newsletter contains articles of local and general interest, contributions from members, advertising of our programme of winter lectures and summer walks, and comment on matters of environmental and conservational interest.



Membership

About 200 and steadily, if slowly, rising. Subscriptions are our main source of income: at present £7.50. Donations are always welcome.

Contacts

For email, use chairman@, talks@, etc, e.g. xyz@glastonburyconservation.org.uk

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