

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRUST

As you walk along the Town Path, through the Meadows, I hope that you will have noticed a significant change to your view. One of the great eyesores has been the cement factory on the Churchfields Estate and this, I am delighted to say, has now been removed. Of course, there may be something put in its place but permission will not be given for anything of the height of this edifice and it should be disguised by the tree protection.

Many of you may be aware that the new Vision for Salisbury has determined that the Churchfields Estate may be considered suitable for housing and there are many discussions going on as to how this might take place, some of which I am involved in. It is clear in these discussions that there is overwhelming support from the

people of Salisbury for this to happen. It is my hope, therefore, that, within the next decade, things like the Tip (another eyesore) and many of the industrial units will be replaced by high-quality houses which will create a totally different environment for the Water Meadows. We must also be vigilant that any change does not impinge upon the integrity of our meadow lands.

It is fair to say that, despite our efforts, the Trust has had little financial support from any of the businesses on the Churchfields Estate, and if it becomes residential, we shall hopefully be able to open the doors to a whole new group of Friends.

The work of the Trustees at the moment is taken up with a lot of the day-to-day management issues whether it is in relation to a

new flock of sheep, fishing rights or maintenance of Rose Cottage and I am very grateful to the Management Committee, chaired by Andrew Jeans, for the huge amount of time they put in.

I am sorry to bang on about fundraising but we still have an overdraft of over £10,000 and we are endeavouring to reduce this to nil so, yet again, I ask you to consider whether you might donate to help us with this. We live in challenging economic times, as you all know and we are so grateful to you all that you continue to subscribe as Friends to our wonderful Trust.

Let me pay tribute to all the volunteers and our Friends Committee, who help make the Water Meadows such a very special place.

Lord Marland of Odstock