



looking good!

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stroud, nailsworth
and the 5 valleys

www.stroudcivicsociety.co.uk

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One of Stroud's finest buildings, the former School of Science and Art. Built between 1870 and 1879 it is a magnificent Ruskinian Gothic building, decorated with marble columns and busts of eminent artists and scientists

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Stroud Civic Society is for everyone
who cares about their surroundings
join us!



Stroud Civic Society

is committed to the preservation and protection of our heritage, but also concerned about the quality of new development. We keep an eye out for planning applications and make representations as necessary.

On controversial issues, the Society makes its views known to the relevant planning authorities and through the media.

The Society is on the steering group of Project Stroud, working to improve the town and its surroundings, and to make the most of the opportunities presented by the re-opening of the canal.

Right, the Hill Paul building, saved from demolition by local residents following a campaign by the Civic Society. Centre, the award-winning Stroud College



Photo by Fred Major from the collection of Wilf Aernst

Above, a view down Nelson Street around 1909. In the middle distance is the old Corn Exchange, sadly demolished in the 1960s

campaigns

The Society campaigns in its own right or joins with others on contentious issues. We fought hard to save the Hill Paul building from demolition; to improve the Merrywalks cinema, bowling alley and shopping development. We objected to the appearance and design of the chosen scheme.

Below, the monolithic and oppressive new development at Merrywalks



projects

We intervene directly when we can make a difference. Recently the Society sponsored the restoration of an ancient, rusty petrol pump outside a garage in Nailsworth.



Above right, the petrol pump being shot-blasted; below, restored and re-painted

planning

We have opposed a proposal to convert The Gardener's Rest public house at Cashes Green into flats and build houses on the carpark and garden, involving the loss of a valuable community facility with a largely intact historically important 1950s interior.

visits

We organise a programme of visits to historic buildings and modern developments, many of which are not otherwise open to the public. Recent highlights include:

- Swinhay, a spectacular new eco-house near Dursley, where we were shown round by the architect and the owner;
- Eton College, Dorney Court and the Savill Building;
- Cotswold Water Park Lower Mill Estate, where there are a number of 'green' houses designed by major architects.



walks

We recently organised a walk around Nailsworth to look at its historic mills and houses, and hear about its history. The walk was led by local resident, architect and committee member David Austin, and ended at the eco-home he designed for himself.

talks

We organise a programme of talks throughout the year. Recent subjects have included:

- The Vernacular Architecture of Stroud and Chalford;
- 'Greening' the Historic House;
- Inns and Traffic in the Coaching Age;
- 'Tin Tabernacles' and other Corrugated Iron Buildings.



Above and left, Dorney Court; far left, the Savill Building at Windsor Great Park with its spectacular single-span roof made of green wood

exhibitions

The Society organised a photographic exhibition of buildings at risk in the district, including Cashes Green Hospital.

awards

Every year we nominate a building for the Stroud Town Council Design Award. Recent awards include Stroud College and the Station Master's house.

membership

If you would like to join the Society subscriptions are £15 single and £25 joint, due on 1st March each year. Please send a cheque payable to *Stroud Civic Society* with the completed form to the membership secretary:

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