



Historic Spine and Pavement Plaques

The Society has made good progress in its efforts to encourage greater appreciation of Stratford's Historic Spine, a through route along Henley Street, High Street, Chapel Street, Church Street and Old Town, lined with many of the town's finest buildings. A new edition of our illustrated guide has been published and is in the process of being distributed in its hundreds (and eventually thousands), both to residents of the town and its many visitors.

The policy of installing pavement plaques in front of the most famous buildings has also been extended. To the ten already in place, another four have now been added, for Harvard House, the Old Vicarage, the Dower House and Holy Trinity Church. Two more are very much in the pipeline for the Almshouses and the Shakespeare Hotel. At a recent event held at Harvard House, Michel Wood, the well-known historian, welcomed the arrival in town of this latest batch. Michael has had a long association with the Society's Historic Spine project and congratulated all those involved in the way it has been developed. The makers of the plaques, Ned Heywood and Julia Land, were also there and gave some fascinating insights into the manufacturing processes involved. These plaques have been largely funded by generous donations by residents, interest groups and institutions along the route, but the Society has happy to dip into its own funds when necessary.

Robert Bearman