



TRUST TOPICS

Doncaster Civic Trust Newsletter ©

Issue No. 59

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Member of



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The Mystery of the Missing Stone



No, this is not the title of a detective novel but rather a real life mystery. The missing stone in question is the foundation stone of Christ Church on Thorne Road.

At the Family and Local History Fair in September we were asked by a member of Reach Out Christian Fellowship who own the Church if we knew where the stone was located. They had looked for it without success. Until then we didn't even know it was missing but now we would like to try and solve the mystery.

We know that the foundation stone was laid on 9th October 1827 by the Mayor, Richard Littlewood, after a procession through the town. The ceremony was so important that ladies could view the proceedings from a raised platform. The stone was reported to be about 6 feet square with the inscription 'Unless the Lord build the house, their labour is in vain'. The church was completed in 1829.

Unfortunately we have no idea where the stone is located. Maybe it has just worn away or been replaced?

If you can solve the mystery please let us know. Details of how to contact us are on the front page.

Peter Coote

Family and Local History Fair

Last year the Trust was invited to attend the Family and Local History Fair run by the Family History Society at the Doncaster Deaf Trust on 24 September 2016. The fair also included craft groups. We were given an excellent position near the entrance and this resulted in a steady stream of visitors looking at our 'In Style' and 'Edwardian Doncaster' displays. Our publications sold well too. This was a good day and the Trust would like to thank the eight volunteers who gave their time to assist.

The Executive Committee

TOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRES

Important news items have popped up too late to be fully covered in this issue: The first was the shock that it was proposed to close the Post Office in Priory Place. This listed building of c.1885 is by Frederick Masters and right in the centre of town, and we really don't want to see it shuttered and forlorn. It is said that the business would be re-housed elsewhere, with a counter in W H Smith in the Frenchgate Centre as its presence in the town centre. The public would be consulted.

Secondly, and ironically, just this week the long-vacant 44 High Street, formerly the home furnishings store of Eyre's, Harrison Gibson, and Sheard, Binnington, re-opened its doors as another Subway. It will join a number already in the town and many more throughout the world. This 18th century listed building, adjoining the Mansion House, had struggled in recent years as a restaurant. The new occupier had said that it would restore the once-gilded eagle that sat proudly above the entrance on the shop's fascia, and today there it was, resplendent in shiny gold leaf!

Members' News

Winter Programme 2017

All events will take place at St Peter's RC Church Hall, Chequer Road.

All on Thursdays at 7.30 pm

2017

16 March **Kay Keeton on a Virtual Tour of Sheffield Botanical Gardens**
Kay is the Garden Tour Organiser for the Friends of the Gardens (FOBS)

6 April **Members' Forum**
An evening which usually includes a short presentation, a little food and drink and an opportunity to reflect on what the Trust is doing, or ought to be doing, and how well we're doing it.

Contributions to Trust Topics

We need your help!

Hopefully you enjoy reading our newsletter. We certainly try to make it as varied as possible. We appreciate the contributions sent in to us from members, but now we find ourselves short of contributors.

If you could help by writing an article, however short, on say local history, planning or just your views on a particular topic, please let us know. Even just a letter about issues that concern you would be welcome.

At a time when many Trusts are cutting back on newsletters or going on-line, we continue to bring you a 12 page magazine posted to you three times a year. Please help us continue.

The Editor

Family Membership

We have recently introduced Family Membership to the Trust. This is for a family, including any children under 18, all living at the same address. The cost is £8 per annum which we feel is good value.

We have produced an Information Sheet for families which covers topics such as our Education Programme and Heritage Walks.

Peter Coote
Membership Secretary

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Education Projects Update

Schools Architecture Competition



In November eight local primary schools took part in our third competition run by Sheffield School of Architecture. This is a major increase on previous years and is mainly thanks to a redesign of the competition by our bursary student Rachel Berry.

This year, the challenge was to design a new building for the vacant site next to Cast Theatre in Waterdale. In all, 250 children took part. They were helped to develop their design skills by over 60 masters architecture students from across the world who visited their schools to lead design workshops.

We are pleased to announce that the winner of the Eric Braim Prize worth £500 is Copley Junior School, Sprotbrough, for their exciting and innovative design for 'Doncaster Children's Museum'. Other winners were Askern Spa Junior School and Rosedale Primary School.

"We really enjoyed the architecture competition again. The students really inspired the pupils and it was a great opportunity for the children."
Liz Crayton, Headteacher, Copley Junior School

Built Environment Careers Guidance

November saw the launch of a project which we hope will help Doncaster students think about career options in built environment disciplines....and perhaps apply for one of our bursaries?

In 2016 we commissioned our friends at the University of Sheffield to design a suite of guidance leaflets to set out pathways into careers such as town planning, architecture, urban design, and landscape architecture. The Trust wants to encourage more of our young people to take up interesting and rewarding careers such as these that can help make our towns and villages better places to live, work and enjoy.

The leaflets, which were researched and designed by our bursary student Ashley Mountain, are freely available to download from our website and all secondary schools and colleges that serve the area have been invited to make use of them.

Visit the website and have a look! We think you will be impressed.

Bursary Scheme

Round 4 of our bursary scheme closed on 27 January and we are pleased to say that we have had five applications from Doncaster students. Once again, we are offering cash bursaries of up to £1,000 per annum for Doncaster students to study a range of built environment subjects.

We are currently supporting three local students. We will be announcing the successful applicants in late March. To date we have supported 5 students who have found the bursary very helpful financing their studies. Several of them have given something back to the Trust by helping us develop our education projects recently.

Mansion House Education Plan

The Trust is working with the Friends of Doncaster Mansion House to create an education plan which will see many of our initiatives taken up, developed and made available particularly to schools at the Mansion House. The Trust and Friends, in association with the Council and the universities of Sheffield and York will work with local schools to prepare and deliver some relevant and interesting projects which will help our young people have a better understanding and appreciation of Doncaster's built heritage and new architecture.

We are talking to schools, universities and the council at the moment and will aim to apply for funding later in 2017.

Jeff Prior, Education Group

Plant More Trees!

Last year the nation was exhorted through the media to plant trees to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday. Great Britain has 40% fewer trees than our continental neighbours and the Trust has found it difficult to continue a partnership with Doncaster Council, funding tree planting, since Mick Cooper retired some years ago.

The Civic Mayor and Mayoress with Members of the Trust's Executive Committee and Ben Russell from Green Spaces, Doncaster MBC, at the tree planting ceremony in Elmfield Park on 26 November 2016



Before this time we enjoyed a useful arrangement of sponsoring tree planting dating back to the 1970s. Notable trees are those on the Town Field, plus the avenue of younger lime trees down Town Moor Avenue, the row on East Laith Gate and the seven in Christ Church Yard, plus many more.

I therefore decide to “go it alone” and, with the aid of Mairaid Smith and Margaret Herbert, was able to contact the Friends Groups of Grove Gardens, Sandall Park and Adwick Park, plus the Wheatley Hotel and the Cumberland Hotel.

Councillor Jane Cox, Chair of Grove Gardens held a meeting in her office introducing me to Rachael Granch of Woodland Development and Ben Russell from Green Spaces. This led to the planting of three memorial trees adjacent to the War Memorials in Thorne Memorial Park, Castle Hills Park, Mexborough, and Elmfield Park, all funded by Doncaster Civic Trust.

The Civic Mayor, Councillor David Nevett, and his wife Kathleen attended a simple ceremony on Saturday 26 November 2016, making contact with members of the Trust. He expressed an interest in our work which led to a most pleasant visit by him to our meeting on 19 January 2017.

In all, I expect to have committed or spent approximately £5,000 on tree planting this winter planting season on sites around the Borough.

John Holmes

Planning Matters

With each edition of Trust Topics we bring you details of a few of the cases we have reviewed, mainly affecting listed buildings or buildings in conservation areas. We also look at other applications of interest, including large proposed developments.

Conservation Area Appraisals and Reviews

In 2016 we were asked by the Conservation Officer at the MBC to assist in a review of three Conservation Areas at Town Field, Thorne Road and Christ Church. We had helped with the original appraisal five years previously. We were pleased to be asked as we were able to add quite a lot more information this time particularly relating to dates and architects for the Key Unlisted Buildings.

Planning Applications in Conservation Areas

We continue to be concerned about proposed changes and development which would be detrimental in conservation areas. Below we give three examples of problems that have faced us in the last few months:

1. Development: There are continuous threats to the character of the two Conservation Areas in Bessacarr. “Bessacarr”, which is centred on St Wilfrid’s Road and “South Bessacarr” which is the area to the south of the M18. Overdevelopment, buildings dominating their neighbour, poor landscaping and loss of trees are the main problems. As a result we have objected to four applications in these areas since the last edition of Trust Topics.

2. Materials: Conservation Areas are often threatened with changes that slowly erode their character. New doors, windows and roofs can all spoil an area if care is not taken. We recently objected to a proposal to change a roof of a house (converted into flats) from slate to concrete tiles in Hatfield Conservation Area. We said that the new roof should still be slate and efforts should be made to recycle the old slate and reuse it if possible. Similarly we objected to the replacement of a roof and loss of a front wall at a proposed HMO (house in multiple occupation) on Avenue Road. Here the work had been undertaken without permission so we asked for it to be reinstated.

3. Change of Use: Whilst this may seem on the face of it to be a surprising threat, nevertheless changes of use can affect the character of an area. In a recent case we objected to a change of use from retail to a betting office at 1 St Sepulchre Gate in the High Street Conservation Area. We felt the loss of a wide active retail frontage in such a key location would be detrimental to the surrounding area.

Listed Buildings

One of our other key roles is to look at changes affecting listed buildings. Sometimes these are also in Conservation Areas. Applications for demolition are relatively rare but applications for changes to a listed building or its setting occur nearly every week. Here are three recent examples which resulted in us writing to the Planning Authority:

1. Elmfield House: Elmfield House was built in 1803 by Colonel Childers as a residence for his mother. It continued to be a private house and gardens until after the First World War when the then owners, the Jarratt family, decided to sell. It was acquired by the Corporation for £30,000 and in 1920 it was opened as a park. The house has had various uses but always Council-owned.

Ever since it was built the relationship between house and park has been evident. Unfortunately this is now threatened because the Authority, under its highly questionable policy of selling its historical assets, decided to sell Elmfield House. This resulted in a planning application from the MBC for a fence right across the front to separate it from the park. We objected to the application and expressed concern about the impact of the fence on the listed building. It seemed very high at 2.1 metres for the railings plus the height of the wall to which it would be fixed. It would affect views of the building as well as the views out from the house into the park. As the building itself would have to be secured we suggested it would be possible to lower the railings but still make them unclimbable. Unfortunately it is difficult to avoid a fence at all now but this is a problem of the Council's own making. It is certainly not what was envisaged by their predecessors in 1920.

2. Bawtry Hall: Since the departure of the last owners there has been piecemeal development at Bawtry Hall. One historic room had recently been occupied as a restaurant but a change of use application sought permission for it to be converted for use as a hairdressers. We urged the Planners to ensure that the high quality historic internal features would be retained.

3. Hare and Tortoise: At a recent meeting we prepared ourselves to object to a proposal to virtually gut the interior of the Hare and Tortoise removing internal walls and all the fireplaces. This is listed Grade 2. It was originally an inn and then a private house but it has been run as a restaurant for a number of years now. The proposals would have ruined the building and eroded all its character. Fortunately, the Conservation Officer at the MBC expressed concern and by the time of our meeting revised plans had been submitted leaving the ground floor interior intact. The proposed new signage was poor so we objected to that part of the proposal only.

Planning and Conservation Sub Committee

A Competition Success!

Every year YHACS (the Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies) runs a competition for the Civic Society of the Year based on achievements. We entered for the first time in 2016 citing the achievements within our Education Programme. The deadline was 31 October 2016. The results were then kept secret from all societies until the YHACS AGM on Saturday 28 January 2017 when we were awarded third prize!

A cheque for £50 and a framed certificate were presented to our Chairman, John Holmes, by the YHACS President, Peter Cooper.



The first prize was awarded to Leeds Civic Trust who had been selected by English Heritage for a pilot project on listed buildings. This prize also includes the Peter Spawforth trophy which the winner keeps for a year. Second was Pontefract Civic Society. There were also commendations for four other societies.

Our bid was written by Jeff Prior. Our achievements which were listed included the Bursary Programme, Architecture Competition, Toolkit, Storying Doncaster's Sounds, The Mansion House Project and the Careers Compendium. Only achievements within 2015-16 could be considered.

So the competition was very tough but we were pleased with our Award.

Local History Festival 2017

This year's Heritage Festival will be from Monday 24 April to Sunday 7 May. Details are being finalised at the time of writing but will include walks and talks with various organisations.

Doncaster Civic Trust will be leading on two walks. Our new Doncaster walk, 'Romans to Racing' will be on Saturday 6 May, and a walk at Bawtry takes place on Sunday 7 May.

The Local History Fair will be on Saturday 22 April opening at 11am at the Museum and Art Gallery when we will have a display and stand.

Civic Day 2017 : Saturday 17 June



Civic Voice's Civic Day Launch Event at the Houses of Parliament.

Civic Day is a national celebration of civic pride which this year will take place on Saturday 17 June. The main theme is "Conservation Areas" which will have been in existence for 50 years in 2017.

We have planned one of our new Heritage Walks, 'From Romans to Racing' to coincide with Civic Day.

This is what we have told Civic Voice to go in their national publicity:

Doncaster Civic Trust holds regular Heritage Walks each year. In 2017 we are introducing a new walk in Doncaster town centre called 'From Romans to Racing'. We will be leading four of these walks during the summer months.

Although not originally planned for a conservation area celebration, nevertheless the walks will take place almost entirely within conservation areas and so we decided to time one of them for Civic Day on 17 June. The walk will be led by two very experienced Heritage guides. It will start at 10.30 am at the Minster and proceed to the Museum over about two and a half hours.

We will be walking through five of the town centre's conservation areas: St. George's, Market Place, High Street, South Parade and Bennetthorpe, and highlighting the history of many of the buildings within those areas.

Background: Doncaster Civic Trust issued a report in 1973 asking for the designation of the town's first two central conservation areas. The designation of these and many local conservation areas came eventually after this campaigning.

Peter Coote

Our full list of Heritage Walks for the summer is on the Back Page.

The Rise and Fall of William Anelay Ltd.



York City & County Bank



Rossington Hall



Hyde Park Cemetery Chapels



Cantley, St Wilfrid's Church

During last summer many people enjoyed a series on TV called 'The Hairy Builder'. Dave Myers, one of the 'Hairy Bikers' from the travel and cookery programme of that name, accompanied William Anelay's work force all over England as the restoration firm from York tackled some complex heritage projects.

The first programme was on Doncaster Mansion House on BBC 2 on 11 July 2016 followed by others including a mill in Leicester, Wakefield Cathedral, Bradford Town Hall, Castle Drogo in Devon, Lambeth Palace, Wilton's Music Hall in London and many more. Yet a few months later it was all over when William Anelay Ltd went into administration. One of the oldest construction firms in Britain came to an end.

So why am I writing about a York firm for this newsletter? In fact the firm was established in Doncaster by a man called John Thompson in 1740. He took on a relative, Thomas Anelay as a business partner in 1747. Anelay took sole charge in 1777. During the 18th and 19th centuries Anelay's built up a reputation as a reliable company. They built many interesting and important buildings during this time. Just a few examples are: Rossington Hall, Doncaster Cemetery Chapels, Lodge and Gate, St Jude's Church at Hexthorpe, the Market Hall, a house in Regent Square, the Infirmary and many more in Doncaster and beyond. They also carried out repairs and alterations including superb internal work at St Wilfrid's Church at Cantley.

In 1897 they were selected to build the York City and County Bank, now the HSBC, at the corner of Baxtergate and High Street which brought them into contact with the York architect, Walter Brierley. The meeting was to change the destiny of the firm for ever. Brierley said they would do well in York and following his advice they moved to the city. Brierley was right - their move was successful with the firm constructing many important buildings including Goddards, for the owner of Terry's chocolates. The house is now owned by the National Trust.

Anelay's kept their office in Silver Street open until 1918, and their yard at Dockin Hill until 1939, after which they were based solely in York.

The years after the Second World War saw a shift in direction towards high quality renovation and restoration work rather than new buildings. The firm only returned to Doncaster for contracts to do repairs, including Cusworth Hall from 1970 to 1974, Hyde Park Cemetery, which they had built originally and of course the Mansion House where they had built the attic storey in 1801. John Thompson had also been a bricklayer there during the original construction.

The closure of William Anelay Ltd is a major loss to all those who cherish our heritage. In September 2016 the Chairman, Charles Anelay said "All I can hope is that at some point in the future people will look back at William Anelay Ltd and recognise 260 years of skilled craftsmanship which gave us the privilege to restore parts of our country's architectural heritage with some amazing projects on some very special buildings which will be admired far into the future". The Trust hopes that the skilled workers all find suitable employment elsewhere. **Peter Coote**

Yorkshire & Humber Association of Civic Societies (YHACS) Meeting at The Lowther Hotel, Aire Street, Goole Saturday 29 October 2016

Up early to catch the 9am train from Kirk Sandall to Goole. Goole was my old stomping ground when I worked for the BBC...not that BBC, but Boothferry Borough Council, abolished in April 1996 along with Humberside County Council.

After a not very long but nostalgic walk round the town I arrived at the newly refurbished Lowther Hotel (01405 767999 - more about that later) on Aire Street for a 10.30 tour of the dock area and St John's Church with Steve and Rachel from Goole Civic Trust.

19 of us set off in a light drizzle after a brief introduction from Rachel. Originally a "company town" there was nothing locally until the Aire and Calder Navigation Company decided in 1824 to build a canal to the Ouse from the West Riding. The first building in the area was the Lowther although it was built as offices for the "Banks Engineering Company" who was the main contractor for the canal company. It became a hotel after the works were completed and was named The Lowther after the chairman of the canal company, Sir John Lowther.

The walk went onto the dock area - the furthest inland port in the UK at 50 miles from the sea - and we were told of its history in which coal was its main export. Originally carried in "Tom Puddings" on the canal and later by tilting train wagons by rail, millions of tons of coal from the Yorkshire coalfields left the UK through Goole until the closure of the pits in the late 1980's.

On the walk we passed a number of wall-mounted paintings by local "Pierhead Painter", Reuben Chappell (1870-1940). Famous for painting over 12,000 vessels in his career, 12 of his best are viewable on a walking tour of Goole town centre, a copy of which is available from Goole Library.

In St John's Church - built between 1843 and 1848 by Doncaster architects Hurst and Moffatt - are many plaques dedicated to local ships and sailors lost at sea. We were also told about a memorial in Goole Cemetery to 16 local residents who were killed during a Zeppelin bombing raid during the First World War.

Back for lunch in the Lowther restaurant with the meeting starting at 1pm.

Firstly a welcome by Kevin Trickett of YHACS then a "Welcome to Goole" by Margaret Hicks-Clarke, Chair of Goole Civic Society. Then the usual stuff of minutes of last meeting, chairman's report and treasurer's report - finances healthy!

Our next speaker was Cllr. Terry Smith, Mayor of Goole, on "Civic Pride". He has plenty to be proud about: at 19, he is Britain's youngest Mayor! A great believer in Mayors, Youth and Social Media, he also finds time to be a politics student at Hull University!

Terry was followed by Georgina Petty, Chair of Friends of West Park, Goole. The park was originally laid out in 1923 and comprises 34 acres, but it had deteriorated until it received Heritage Lottery Funding in 2013. The Friends were formed and have organised many events since. Nice to know that they sought the help of Friends of Sandall Park here in Doncaster and are going from strength to strength.

After Georgina we were running early so Kevin put in 2 items of any other business,

1. Linda Kitchen from Leeds Civic Trust about the theft of York Stone paving in the area
2. Sheila Clarke from Skipton Civic Trust about the council's lack of interest in many things heritage e.g. replacement of the Town Hall windows with unsuitable ones.

A break for refreshments was followed by a very interesting presentation from Julie Duckworth who, in partnership with her husband and sons, restored the Lowther which they bought in 2008. Lots of slides illustrated a 5-year painstaking (and expensive) restoration of the 200 year old property. Much applause and congratulations from a very appreciative audience followed!

Kevin was back on the microphone with news from a recent Civic Voice convention - 3 new trustees, 4 new vice-presidents and the good news that the Civic Voice AGM for 2017 would be held in Wakefield!

Under any other business Paul Cartwright from Pontefract Civic Trust spoke on various topics relating to charity status (details available from chairman@pontefractcivicsociety.org) and then Peter Cooper of Scarborough Civic Trust on Conservation Areas.

After the meeting there was an excellent tour of the Lowther by Julie Duckworth showing its many architectural features.

Steve Kimber, Exec Member

Margaret Hicks-Clarke on the Reuben Chappell Art Trail, Percy Jeeves and Goole Civic Society **19 January 2017**

Margaret Hicks-Clarke, Chair of Goole Civic Society, was our January speaker at St Peter's. We enjoyed an excellent presentation on her society's project to display copies of the work of Reuben Chappell, Goole's Pierhead Painter, on the town's buildings.

She then spoke about Percy Jeeves, the Goole cricketer who went on to great professional success with Warwickshire. He was the inspiration for P G Wodehouse's butler character, but he was tragically killed on the Western Front in the First World War.

From left: Archie Sinclair, Trust Secretary; Margaret Hicks-Clarke, Goole Civic Society; Cllr David Nevett, Civic Mayor; and John Holmes, Trust Chairman



Goole Civic Society was a great success story. It was founded only in 2011, and by 2015 it had won the YHACS Society of the Year for its project on the work of local artist Reuben Chappell.

The society launched the Reuben Chappell Art Trail, erecting reproductions of the "Pierhead Painter's" pictures throughout the town, after securing funding from East Riding Council's High Street Fund, the Business in Goole group and a private benefactor. It wrote and designed a booklet to accompany the trail and has so far distributed more than 3,000 free copies. There was a copy on every seat at St Peter's on the night, along with a copy of another of their publications, "50 Fascinating Facts about Goole". This colourful 16-page booklet, designed to appeal to all ages, contained facts about the port town's history and heritage, as well as more up-to-date and quirky facts.

The meeting was attended by Doncaster's Civic Mayor. Cllr. David Nevett, who had expressed an interest in learning more about the Trust when he met members at Elmfield Park last November.

After the talk we were treated to Tina's mince pies and mulled wine, which nicely rounded off an excellent first event for 2017.

Archie Sinclair

Heritage Walks 2017



About the Heritage Walks

All the walks last approximately 2½ hours and the cost is £5 per person.

Numbers are limited to 20 per walk and advance booking is recommended.

Bookings can be made by telephoning Doncaster Tourist Information Centre on Doncaster (01302) 734309 or by e-mailing tourist.information@doncaster.gov.uk

The walks will be led by Steve Kimber and Andy Ward who have already taken over 1,430 guests on the Doncaster Heritage Walks in the last six years.

The Starting Points*

*Doncaster Minster is on Church Street, Doncaster DN1 1RD
Meet at the South door, facing Church Way.

*Cooplands Bakers is at 1 Scot Lane, Bawtry DN10 6JT

*Tickhill Methodist Church is on Northgate, Tickhill DN11 9HZ

New Doncaster Walk “Romans to Racing”

The walk goes from the Minster via High Fisher Gate, Market Place, Scot Lane, High Street, Hall Gate, South Parade, through the Salutation arch, to the Museum in Chequer Road.

NEW Doncaster Walk for 2017 “Romans to Racing”

All start from Doncaster Minster*

Saturday 6th May at 10.30 am

Saturday 17th June at 10.30 am

Sunday 9th July at 10.30 am

Saturday 19th August at 10.30 am

Tickhill Walk

All start from Methodist Church*

Sunday 9th April at 2 pm

Wednesday 14th June at 6 pm

Saturday 8th July at 2 pm

Sunday 20th August at 2 pm

Bawtry Walk

All start from Cooplands Bakers*

Sunday 7th May at 2 pm

Sunday 18th June at 2 pm

Wednesday 5th July at 6 pm

Saturday 26th August at 2 pm

Bawtry Walk

The walk goes via Top Street, Tickhill Road, High Street, South Parade, Swan Street, Arcade, High Street, Church Walk, Wharf Street and Town End.

Tickhill Walk

The walk goes via Northgate, Sunderland Street, Market Place, Castlegate, Dam Road and Church Lane.