



TRUST TOPICS

Doncaster Civic Trust Newsletter ©

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Member of



All a Matter of Opinion (See page 7)

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Doncaster Heritage Festival 2017

22nd April to 7th May 2017

The Festival is organised each year by Doncaster Heritage Services and supported by Heritage groups across Doncaster. The Trust took part in three events during this year's festival- a fair and two walks.



The Local History Fair started off the Festival on 22nd April at the Museum and Art Gallery on Chequer Road. The Trust had a stand where we sold a number of publications and chatted to visitors about our work. Our new membership information leaflet which tells people about our aims was also available.

The Trust would like to thank the seven volunteers who gave up their time to help, plus another three reserves on stand-by.

Our architectural displays always get plenty of attention

There were plenty of other stands for people to peruse too, including local history societies from Braithwell, Fishlake and Conisbrough. It was really pleasing to see the Fair so busy this year.

Towards the end of the Festival, on 6th May, our Heritage Walk leaders, Steve and Andy, took twelve people on a new walk, "From Romans to Racing". We started at the Roman Wall where Andy gave a fascinating description of the Roman technique of conquering Britain and how they had founded Danum. We then moved on to the Market, Scot Lane, High Street, Hallgate and South Parade stopping at various points where we were told about Doncaster's buildings and people through the ages. Underneath the Salutation arch we went, finally arriving at the Museum, where we were given a tour of the racing memorabilia. It was a fascinating walk, with, as usual, plenty of humour mixed in with the history.

Our second walk was at Bawtry on the Sunday. This attracted 15 people and went very well.

Many of the events run by other organisations were very popular. We thought it an excellent and varied Heritage Festival.

Peter Coote on behalf of the Executive Committee



The Eagle Has Landed!

In the last issue we celebrated the arrival of Subway, new occupant of 44 High Street, immediately next to the Mansion House. As part of the work to smarten up the frontage and add discreet signage, they have re-gilded the golden eagle above the entrance.



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Thanks to those who have written articles for Trust Topics. They will all be used in the future.

Members' News

Winter Programme 2017 - 2018

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

All on Thursdays at 7.30 pm

2017

- 14 September** **Trish Taylor on Fairfax House, York**
The Georgian Townhouse Revealed
- 12 October** **Dr John Tanner on The Earl's Mining Village**
The Story of Elsecar, Barnsley, and the Fitzwilliams
- 16 November** **Annual General meeting and Buffet Supper, with quiz**
- December** **no meeting**

2018

- 18 January** **Pat McLaughlin on Great Houses of South Yorkshire**
- 15 February** **speaker to be confirmed**
- 15 March** **Michael Dowse on Fun with Antiques**
Michael is a third generation auctioneer with Sheffield Auction Gallery
- 19 April** **Members' Forum and Cheese and Wine Evening**
An evening when we have an opportunity to reflect on the Trust's work.

Civic Day on Saturday 17th June 2017

Civic Day is celebrated each year by Civic Societies and Civic Trusts across England, under the auspices of our umbrella organisation, Civic Voice. The theme this year is Conservation, as it is 50 years since the designation of the first conservation area under the Civic Amenities Act 1967.

New Walk "From Romans to Racing"

Doncaster Civic Trust will be participating this year with our new walk "From Romans to Racing" which we first introduced during the Heritage Festival in May. This walk is not specifically about conservation, but more a history of the town and some of its buildings, but nevertheless it does take you through five conservation areas (Minster, Market Place, High Street, Bennetthorpe and South Parade). It is open to all at a cost of £5. If you would like to go it starts at the Minster at 10.30am and lasts for two and a half hours. Please ring Tourist Information on 01302 734309 to book.

James Paine Family Open Day at the Mansion House

Also on Civic Day, as part of the James Paine Festival, the Mansion House will host a James Paine family Open Day on Saturday, 17th June from 10.30 to 3.30, with activities ranging from Georgian tea parties, music, discovery trails, Georgian costumes, and many more. (Information courtesy of the Friends of the Mansion House)

Both these events have also been advertised across Yorkshire in the Regional Newsletter for Civic Societies (YHACS) which we send to members on email.

Please see the back page for our walks programme for the rest of the summer.

Fifty Years of Conservation Areas



In 1967 the Civic Amenities Act was passed. It was sponsored by Duncan Sandys, who had founded the Civic Trust at national level 10 years earlier. The Act established, for the first time, the idea of conservation areas. Until then the law had recognised listed buildings as being of importance, but not whole areas.

The Act encouraged local authorities to designate areas they would like conserving.

South Parade, Doncaster's first conservation area

However it was never intended that every single building would be retained. In 1969 The Trust suggested that South Parade should be designated but the Corporation disagreed. By 1973 over 2,000 areas had been designated across the country, including Thorne, Tickhill and Bawtry but Doncaster itself had done nothing.

It was at this time that Doncaster Civic Trust produced a pioneering document called, appropriately, 'A Conservation Report'. It suggested that two conservation areas should be designated, one around South Parade with a spur towards Christ Church and another around the Market Place. The report was initially shelved but in early 1974 the soon to be disbanded County Borough Council designated the west side of South Parade. The new MBC then designated the Market Place. By the end of that year many of our recommendations were in place and by 1976/7 they were fully implemented. In 1974 we also suggested that High Melton, Marr, Old Brodsworth and Loversall should be designated.

That decade also saw a strengthening of conservation area protection. The Town and Country Amenities Act of 1974 brought control over demolition and other measures to give conservation areas greater force. Under the Act no unlisted building in a conservation area could be demolished without the consent of the Local Authority. If the applicant was the Local Authority then the Secretary of State for the Environment decided.

The days of having to persuade the MBC to designate conservation areas is long over. Today there are 46 conservation areas across the Borough. You can see if you live in or near a conservation area by looking at the list at the end of this article.

After an area is designated it is eventually appraised by the Council's Conservation Officer. Buildings are normally divided up into 5 categories: Listed, Key Unlisted, Positive, Neutral and Negative. The gradings are important because if a building is graded positive or above then it is unlikely that permission will be given for demolition. A negative grading means that redevelopment would be welcomed. For some years now we have been fully consulted about the appraisals and our relations with the MBC are very good. We are often able to add historical information such as dates of construction, architects or information on materials used.

This work is always carried out voluntarily by the Trust's Planning and Conservation Committee but other members sometimes help.

It's enjoyable because we get out and about to study buildings across the area. Sometimes the work is easy - the appraisal of the William Nuttall Cottage Homes did not take long but helping with the appraisal at Tickhill (where a lot of residents were very interested in the work) took us several weeks. Perhaps that was not surprising as this is the largest Conservation Area in the MBC area.

Of course all the appraisals have to be subject to public scrutiny. The MBC advertises these and anyone can comment.

After about five years the Council reviews the document. This is an opportunity to add details of the Key Unlisted Buildings. Recently we have been able to help with this. For example in the Town Fields Conservation Area review in October we were able to identify buildings on Thorne Road as built in 1900 by Athron and Beck. Before that they had just been described as Victorian. Two more examples were in the Thorne Road Conservation Area Review - Belvedere and Netherleigh on Thorne Road. Described as late Victorian, we were able to say they were erected in 1895 for a land agent, George Beall, to the design of G Brownlow Thompson of Hull. These reviews went out to public consultation earlier this year.

Conservation Areas are a brilliant idea and without them the town and surrounding villages would have lost many buildings, but the system is not perfect. One of the problems is that although the system works well for demolition applications and quite well for new buildings, it is less effective when it comes to alterations. This could be resolved but the matter is complex. Also the Council cannot control the situation easily if an area goes into decline and is then described as at risk. Another difficulty is that some people think if a building is not in a conservation area and not listed it is not important. That is untrue and as a Trust we have to be vigilant about such threats. One solution is to have a local heritage list of buildings that everyone would like to see saved but currently don't have protection. Initial discussions have taken place about setting up such a system in Doncaster.

And now 50 years on we must celebrate Duncan Sandys' forward thinking. Without his foresight not just Doncaster but the whole country would be poorer in terms of our built heritage.

Doncaster's 46 Conservation Areas

Adwick-le-Street	Hatfield - High Street
Arksey	Hatfield - Manor Road
Barnburgh	Hickleton
Bawtry	High Melton
Bessacarr	Hooton Pagnell
Braithwell	Loversall
Brodsworth	Marr
Burghwallis	Mexborough
Campsall	Newton
Clayton	Old Cantley
Clifton	Old Edlington
Conisbrough	Owston
Cusworth	Skellow - Buttercross
Doncaster - Bennetthorpe	South Bessacarr
Doncaster - Christ Church	Sprotbrough
Doncaster - High Street	Stainton
Doncaster - Market Place	Sutton
Doncaster - St George's	Thorne
Doncaster - South Parade	Tickhill
Doncaster - Thorne Road	Wadworth
Doncaster - Town Field	Warmsworth
Doncaster - William Nuttall Cottage Homes	Woodlands
Finningley	
Fishlake	

**Planning & Conservation
Sub-committee**

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 development proposals.

Listed Building Demolition Proposed at Thorne



Nos. 1 & 2 Market Place, Thorne now facing demolition

In the last edition of Trust Topics we told you that applications to demolish listed buildings are relatively rare. Yet, almost immediately, an application came in to demolish nos. 1 & 2 Market Place in Thorne. Not only are they listed but they form part of Thorne's Conservation Area. Unfortunately they have been empty for many years. The application sought to replace them with a new retail outlet.

The buildings are listed grade 2, and date from the mid and late 17th century, with 18th century re-modelling, and 19th and 20th century changes.

We considered that the application was important and this is what we had to say:

We object to the demolition and the associated loss of historic fabric. All the buildings should be restored and integrated into the new development. The evidence for the demolition/reconstruction approach needs to be thoroughly tested. If it is accepted by Historic England and ultimately by the Secretary of State that the loss of the buildings can be justified on grounds of their condition and the problematic viability of repair/restoration, then the new development needs to be more carefully designed.

Although efforts have been made to replicate the existing buildings, faithful reproduction is required. The current proposals show an "olde-worlde" appearance when a more robust look would be appropriate for Thorne. Accurate details and carefully selected materials will be essential.

National Conservation bodies have also been involved here and at the time of writing the application remains undetermined. On the rare occasion that an application is made for listed building consent for demolition and the planning authority is minded to approve it, the file has to be passed on to the Secretary of State to make the decision. A public inquiry would be held to hear evidence both for and against the proposal, and the decision letter would arrive in due course.

New Development at Owston

The Trust is concerned not just with historic buildings, but also the quality and design of new buildings too. In February we reviewed an application to build eight detached houses within the walled gardens at Owston Hall. We liked this scheme but felt that the plots were not really large enough for the houses. We suggested that reducing the numbers from eight to six would solve the problem.

Since the last edition of Trust Topics the Committee has looked at 36 applications and objected to or made representations on six of them.

Planning and Conservation Sub Committee

Members' Forum & Opinion Poll 6th April 2017

This year the first part of the Forum was a showing of another 100 slides of the town taken over many years by our late Secretary, Eric Braim. After an extended break for cheese and wine, we re-convened and completed an informal opinion poll about buildings in Doncaster. We had set out six questions to be answered; and these are some of the opinions we heard:



Your favourite or the **best old building**: far left: **Doncaster Mansion House**

Your favourite or the **best recent building**: near left: **CAST**



Your least favourite or the **worst building**: far left: **Job Centre, Wood Street** and near left: **Frenchgate Centre**



The former building that you **miss the most**: far left: **Guildhall, Frenchgate** and near left: **Old Infirmary**



The **worst eyesore**: far left: **Former Odeon Site** and near left: **Girls' High School**



The greatest **missed opportunity**: far left: **The Grand Theatre** should have been re-opened near left: **Nether Hall** should have become home to the Archives **The Guildhall** should have become the entrance to M&S

Do you think we got it about right? Or do you think there are other, better subjects? Please send in your suggestions to the Editor. There may be enough for another list!

A Short History of Bawtry Hall

From the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066, the Manor of Bawtry with Austerfield has changed hands many times. Given by William the Conqueror to his maternal brother, the Earl of Mortaigne, at the time of Domesday, the title reverted back to the Crown in 1471 after the treasonous Earl of Warwick was killed at the Battle of Barnet. By 1603 James 1st had granted the Manor to the Countess of Shrewsbury, also known as Bess of Hardwick.

In 1633 the Manor was bought by Sir John Lister (1587–1640), a wealthy merchant and politician from Hull.



The Lister family had made its money exporting Derbyshire lead via Bawtry – transported by horse and mule from Derbyshire on to boats on the River Idle and then via Hull to the Netherlands.

Sir John's house was on the High Street in Hull and is in use today as the Wilberforce Museum, dedicated to William Wilberforce, campaigner for the abolition of slavery.

Wilberforce Museum, Hull

Sir John bought the title to keep an eye on all goods passing through Bawtry. He put his son Thomas in charge and the family built a fine Manor House on the site currently occupied by Bawtry Hall. Thomas died in 1674 and is buried in St Nicholas Church, Bawtry. The family stay in residence and retain the title but in 1779 decide to sell. Why?

The use of pack animals to transport goods from the Derbyshire mines was both slow and expensive. In 1771, the Chesterfield Canal Company was formed and commissioned James Brindley, probably England's greatest canal builder, to build a 46 mile canal from Chesterfield via Worksop and Retford to West Stockwith on the River Trent. The canal opened in 1777 and almost overnight the River Idle at Bawtry became obsolete. The last residents at the Lister Manor House, sisters Judith and Elizabeth, decide to sell.



James Brindley

In 1779 the title, buildings and land are all bought by Wakefield politician and businessman Pemberton Milnes (1729 - 1795). Pemberton was the youngest son of wealthy Wakefield merchant Richard Milnes (1695 – 1755) and his wife Bridget (nee Pemberton 1698 – 1765).



The Orangery, Wakefield

The Milnes family had made its money by supplying West Riding cloth for the Russian army:-

He had married Jane Slater (1733 – 1812), one of the daughters of Derbyshire doctor Adam Slater MD, in 1754. They were living at Pemberton's smart new town house at 122 Westgate, Wakefield - one of only nine houses in the Wakefield area that could boast a coach-house for 4 coaches. The garden also had an Orangery and a Lodge House – all still there today, near Westgate Railway Station and built around 1752. Pemberton's various careers in politics, the law and trading were booming and he needed a country estate!

“one manufacturing house in that town (Wakefield) clothes all the Russian armies by contract”

The Russian army at that time numbered about 900,000 regulars and 250,000 reservists!

Pemberton’s 3 brothers were all trading locally in cloth but had also diversified into bricks and timber; part-filled ships going out to Russia carried bricks and returning ships carried timber. His eldest brother, Robert Milnes (1719 – 1771), remained predominately in cloth which gave his son Richard Slater Milnes (1759 -1804) the money for a very good education and a prosperous life in law and politics. He was the MP for York from 1784 to 1790 and during that period became the owner of Fryston Hall near Castleford. Fryston and Bawtry will become closely linked in the very near future.

After buying the title and lands of Lord of the Manor of Bawtry with Austerfield in 1779 Pemberton Milnes commissions Doncaster architect William Lindley (1739 – 1818) to design and build Bawtry Hall.

In a walled parkland setting, Bawtry Hall has nine bedrooms, stables, coach house and also an exceptionally fine pleasure garden with a pond and boat house all spread over 9 acres. There is some evidence from an 1879 lease that the rooms across the north of the Hall are referred to as “Old Hall” and the rooms to the eastern and southern side are “New Hall” indicating that in his design Lindley retained some elements of the original Lister Manor House. By 1785 it is completed and Pemberton and Jane move in along with their daughter Bridget (b. Mary Bridget 1754 – 1835). She is their only child.



Bawtry Hall

The Milnes spend their time in residence at Bawtry Hall, 122 Westgate and, after extensive alterations take place at Fryston Hall between 1788 and 1790, at Fryston with Pemberton’s nephew, Richard and his wife Rachael (nee Busk 1760 – 1835).

Daughter Bridget’s first marriage is in 1775 to Peter Auriol Drummond Esq. (1754 – 1799). He is the second son of the Archbishop of York. The wedding takes place at Brodsworth Hall, at that time owned by the Archbishop. Pemberton dies in 1795 leaving his widow Jane in residence at Bawtry. After Peter’s death in 1799 Bridget returns to Bawtry Hall to live with her mother.



4th Viscount Galway

Not for long though, as in 1803 she marries again, this time to Robert Monckton Arundel (1758 – 1810), the 4th Viscount Galway of nearby Serlby Hall, a widower with 7 children. In 1810 the 4th Viscount Galway dies and the Dowager Galway returns to Bawtry Hall. Her mother dies 2 years later leaving Bridget in occupation.

Local historian, John Bigland, writing in 1812, describes the Hall as follows:

“The object most worthy of attention in Bawtry is the elegant mansion of the Dowager Viscountess Galway. This edifice is built of brick and has an extensive and handsome front towards the south. It is pleasantly situated at the southern extremity of the town, on the west side of the Great North Road and would make a noble appearance did not a high brick wall almost seclude it from public view. The pleasure grounds on the south and west side of the house are agreeably variegated and interspersed with groves and plantations all kept in excellent condition; and in a beautiful little area, surrounded with shrubs, is an elegant menagerie, stocked with Chinese pheasants and other rare and curious birds”.

In 1835, at the age of 81, Bridget dies and the Hall is inherited by her cousin, Robert Pemberton Milnes (1784 – 1858) of Fryston Hall, MP for Pontefract 1806 to 1818. Robert Pemberton Milnes is the son of Richard Slater Milnes mentioned earlier. Robert is a politician – Whig Party, magistrate and deputy lieutenant of the West Riding. He is married to the Honourable Henrietta Monckton Arundel, the second daughter of the 4th Viscount Galway by his first wife.

From this point on Bawtry Hall plays no part in the life of the Milnes family and, until its sale in 1904 is rented out to a variety of well-heeled tenants all controlled from the family seat at Fryston.

In the 1841 census the house is described as empty but with 3 servants in residence. The 1851 census shows Robert P. Milnes in occupation along with 3 staff. The Hon. Appolomena Bland along with her 2 children and 10 servants are listed in the 1861 census. A barrister, Mr William Lysley and 8 servants appear in 1871 and from 1881 through to 1901 Mr Lazarus Threlfall Baines, Barrister, is in occupation along with 14 servants. He remains tenant through to the house sale in 1904. What prompted the sale?



Fryston Hall

At Fryston Hall, Robert Pemberton Milnes dies in 1858 and is succeeded by his son, Richard Monckton Milnes (1809 – 1885). Well educated and well-travelled, he became MP for Pontefract from 1837 until 1863. A persistent – but unsuccessful - suitor to Florence Nightingale, in 1851 he married the Honourable Annabella Hungerford Crewe (1814 – 1874), the daughter of 2nd Baron John Crewe of Crewe Hall.



2nd Baron John Crewe

Her father had died in 1835 and her brother Hungerford Crewe had become the 3rd Baron Crewe inheriting Crewe Hall, a Jacobean mansion in Cheshire built for Sir Randolph Crewe between 1615 and 1636 with over 50,000 acres of tenanted land spread over 4 counties. Following his retirement from the Commons in 1863, Richard is elevated by Palmerston to the Lords as Baron Houghton of Great Houghton.

Annabella does not like Bawtry: “...a catch-cold house to move about in – the rooms being very hot and the passages full of cold mixed draughts...”. Richard and Annabella only have one son – Robert Monckton Milnes (1858 – 1945) and his inheritance will be the turning point in the futures of both Bawtry and Fryston.

Following Richards’s death in 1885 Robert inherits his father’s title “The Lord Houghton” and all his father’s estates including Bawtry Hall. His first wife Sybil had died in 1887 and their only son (and his heir) Richard had died in 1890.



Following the death of his uncle, the 3rd Baron Crewe, Hungerford Crewe, in 1894, he also inherited the title and lands of the Crewe family. He changed his name to Crewe-Milnes in 1895 and was created Earl of Crewe in the County Palatine of Chester in the same year.

Crewe Hall, Cheshire

As a British Liberal politician, statesman and writer, Robert's busy life is spread between Fryston Hall, Crewe Hall and his London Town House "Crewe House" on Curzon Street.

In 1899 he marries his second wife, society beauty, 18 year old Lady Margaret Etienne Hannah Primrose, daughter of the 5th Earl of Roseberry, Prime Minister of the UK from 1894 to 1895. The couple decide to live permanently at Crewe Hall and, in 1904, put all their Yorkshire estates up for sale.

To be continued...

Steve Kimber

The Don Catchments Rivers Trust

Rachel Walker 16th February 2017

We had nearly a full house to listen to Rachel Walker talk to us about the Don Catchments Rivers Trust. Rachel is known to the Trust via YHACS as she is the Treasurer of Goole Civic Society. Today though she was talking about her day job at the Rivers Trust which is an independent charitable trust based at St.Catherine's House at Balby. The Trust aims to conserve, protect and rehabilitate the Don, Dearne and Rother rivers. Its aim is to raise awareness of the rivers and to improve habitats.

Literary Quotes followed - an idealised scene of the Don from Ivanhoe by Walter Scott was followed by a quote from Orwell's Wigan Pier in which he called Doncaster the ugliest town in the Old World.

Rachel told us how the river Don was once a spawning river for salmon but changes over the years put a stop to that. The River Don began to change with Vermuyden's re-routing of the river in the 17th century.

Things started to change significantly when mills were constructed which meant that water was taken from the river and over weirs. Salmon cannot get up large weirs. By the 19th century pollution of the rivers was pretty dreadful, poisoning or driving out fish and wildlife.

In 2005 the Trust was set up. It is now on a 3 year project called "The Living Heritage of the Don". It wants to bring back salmon and has already made excellent progress.

The Meadow Hall Fish Pass

It is addressing the issues of the weirs, most of which are no longer needed. They also want more people to enjoy the rivers and have worked successfully to clear litter in some areas, notably around St Mary's Bridge.

We were told how they are encouraging children to appreciate the river by, for example, showing them a birds' nest. One black-spot with graffiti under a motorway bridge has been transformed by an artist into an aquatic scene. It hasn't been vandalised either. Rachel went on tell us of how they want to develop skills to look after the catchment area including repairing stiles.

Lots of questions followed. This was a most enjoyable talk and it was good to see that they had made so much progress in such a short time.

Peter Coote



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 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*

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 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.