



# TRUST TOPICS

Doncaster Civic Trust Newsletter ©

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**Town Trails for Civic Day  
26 June & 3 July**

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Member of



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## **Members' News 1**

### **Another Change - The Trust Needs a New Treasurer**

At the Executive Committee meeting on 9 February 2011 Lyn Cowles told us that she would be moving to York. She would like to stand down as Treasurer at the 2011 AGM in November. She was planning to be free to have a "gap year" travelling in 2012. The Trust would like to thank Lyn for all her good work and we wish her well.

You may think it is a "long shot", putting an item in the newsletter to try and recruit a Treasurer. Well, you may well think that. But that is exactly how we got Lyn. A neighbour, who is a Trust member, saw the item and thought she could and might do it. And she was right. So we got a treasurer and two new members, as her husband John also joined the Trust.

So we have now got just a few months to make plans. Do you know someone who could and might do it? Or is that person you? The Trust is an organisation with very few transactions, no staff or salaries, and no rent or service bills. Just some fairly straight-forward book-keeping is all that's needed.

Only after our year end, at the end of August each year, does the Treasurer deal with the accountants who prepare the Annual Financial Statements that go to the AGM with the Annual Report.

If you would like to talk it over, ring Archie Sinclair on 01302 538225 who will try to answer any questions you may have. Or he can put you in touch with Lyn to discuss any technicalities.

### **Executive Committee Grants**

At its meeting on 9 February 2011 the Committee agreed to the following actions:

A grant of £2,000 has been made to Wadworth Parish Council for tree planting to replace 11 Lombardy Poplars that had to be removed on the edge of Wadworth Cricket Ground. 11 heavy standard trees will be planted under the control of Mick Cooper.

A "pledge" of £1,500 has been made to the Friends of St Oswald's Church, Kirk Sandall towards the costs of installing an accessible toilet, kitchen and mains drainage in the 20th century vestry of this historic church. The lack of these essential facilities is holding up the development of the church as a local heritage centre.

St Oswald's, right, is mainly Norman, with Saxon and notable later work. It is a redundant church in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust.



The Committee agreed to visit Hooton Pagnell Church to inspect the new lighting scheme on its completion. The Trust had granted £1,000 towards the cost in the last financial year.

## **Members' News 2**

### **Civic Voice - Civic Day 2011**

Civic Day 2011 is an exciting new initiative for civic societies and amenity groups across England to showcase what they are doing and to involve more people in learning about where they live. The Civic Day events will take place between 25 June and 3 July 2011.

### **Town Trails - 10.30 am on 26 June and 3 July**

We are going to lead a different Town Trail at 10.30 am on each of the Sunday mornings, on 26 June and 3 July, starting at Clock Corner at the junction of Baxter Gate and French Gate. The trail lasts about 1½ hours and takes a circular route going directly as far as South Parade, then returning via a different route to Clock Corner.

The first walk will be the Trust's traditional Town Trail, first devised in 1980, with 22 of the town's best known buildings. The second walk will take a slightly different route and look at a different set of buildings, once again with significant architectural or historic interest.

So that we can manage the numbers, we are asking that people wishing to walk the trails book their places by contacting the Trust by e-mail [mail@doncastercivictrust.org.uk](mailto:mail@doncastercivictrust.org.uk) or by ringing 01302 538225.

### **Winter Programme 2011 - 2012**

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

The provisional dates (all Thursdays at 7.30 pm) are:

#### **2011**

**20 October**            Hugh Parkin on Levitt Hagg

**17 November**        Annual General Meeting

**8 December**         Buffet Supper

#### **2012**

**19 January**           Mr Leader and his Mystery Boxes

**16 February**

**15 March**

**19 April**              3rd Members' Forum

Speakers will be arranged for all events except the last one, the Members' Forum.

### **Summer Outings**

For the last few years, these have become more difficult to fund successfully. Costs have risen, while the number of members participating has fallen. It was decided that the special Highgrove trip in 2010 would be the last, unless and until demand from members and enthusiasm for organising such visits revived.

However, there seemed to be plenty of enthusiasm for a trip among those who attended the Forum on 14 April 2011, so a new approach is something to be worked on for summer 2012.

# **The English Parish Church**

**John Hoare      Thursday 20 January 2011**

A substantial group braved the bitter cold to hear a talk by a life member of the Trust.

It proved to be a most interesting and wide-ranging excursion through England's wonderfully varied church buildings. We were taken from simple Saxon, through grand Norman and Gothic, to elegant Classical Georgian and exuberant Victorian, plus some rather dodgy Arts and Crafts.

No stone was left unturned (sorry!), as we met with the full panoply of furnishings: Easter Sepulchre, piscina and sedilia, screens, rood lofts, pews, altars, pulpits, lecterns, Royal Arms and memorials.

One in particular at St Mary, Lydiard Tregoze, Wiltshire, was the Golden Cavalier monument to Edward, son of Sir John St John Bt. It had a standing effigy in a curtained canopy. The young cavalier was armoured, but with boots and long hair. The ensemble was theatrical and reverential, much like our places of worship.

The talk was well illustrated with good slides. Afterwards we enjoyed a glass of sherry with Tina's excellent shortbread, to mark the first event of the New Year.

**John Holmes**

## **Members' Forum 14 April 2011**

The productive meeting came up with plenty of ideas, many of which can be acted on, and some of which produced a result on the night!

- We should try to get a display in Frenchgate or a vacant shop for Civic Day week 25 June to 3 July
- We should run a quiz featuring old street views from postcards, or on details of historic buildings
- We should be recording all buildings facing demolition or alteration, not just the architectural ones
- We should try and reinstate a summer visit next year, and Saltaire was suggested
- We should have followed up the Burton Agnes talk with a visit
- We should give a really long notice of events, especially trips
- We should get a digital projector, and then members could show their favourite images at an event
- We should tell parish councils that we can fund a certain number of tree planting schemes
- We should invite members to contribute items to the newsletter
- We should advertise our talks, on posters and in the press "What's On"
- We should make it clear that we welcome guests and interested individuals to most events
- We should not give up on sponsorship of students – it just needs a committed "driver"
- We should get all our plaques up to a high standard of appearance
- We should give stronger encouragement to Trust members to join its committees
- We should run Town Trails to complement those now done by Doncaster's Tourist Centre

# 100 Years of Doncaster Museum



**Peter Robinson**  
**Thursday 17 February 2011**

Towards the close of the 19th century, an exhibition arranged by the Microscopical and Scientific Society in the Doncaster Mansion House was the stimulus for a permanent museum to be opened on the ground floor of Beechfield House, Waterdale in 1910.

Exhibits were readily available from sources in and around the Town featuring natural history, archaeology, social history and curiosities from other lands. Art exhibitions, meetings and lectures were held upstairs.



There was a pleasant garden and paddock to the rear of the museum with a very popular artificial grotto.

A 1st World War tank and an earlier gun guarded the front door. Sadly, they went for scrap in the 1939-45 conflict. A small zoological garden was a feature of the 1950's. Unfortunately, it was very difficult to maintain.

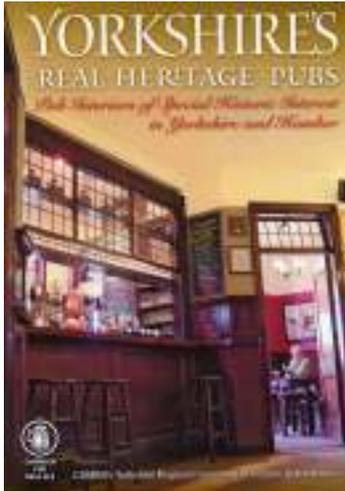
A purpose-built museum was urgently required to house the ever-growing collections. This problem was solved when the Council decided to demolish Beechfield House to make way for a college, and the museum was to be housed in a new building in Chequer Road. It was the first purpose-built, local museum to be built in Britain after the 2nd World War.

From then until the present day, the museum has become an integral part of Doncaster's cultural, historical and social record. Important collections have been added along with special exhibitions, educational activities and musical concerts. Another gallery has been built to house the archive collection of The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, a regiment which had close links with the Town.

Peter finished his talk with illustrations of a variety of items from the collections. Of special interest was the thick rim of a Roman mortaria (a grinding bowl) found near Rossington and bearing the stamp of Sarrius, a British potter who had a contract to supply pots to the Roman Army. He has the honour of being the first manufacturer to be known by name in South Yorkshire.

**John Barwick**

# Historic Pub Interiors to Cherish



The Trust was lucky enough to receive a complimentary copy of a new booklet published by CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale. Eric Braim had helped them some time ago when they were gathering information on possible un-modernised pubs, and this was their “thank you” gift.

The organisation CAMRA was founded in the early 1970s to save Britain’s traditional beers, but it soon became clear that the same forces that were endangering the beers were also ruining our traditional pubs.

The 1970s saw a huge increase in the opening-up of pub interiors and the removal of fine fittings, many of which had been in place for almost a century.

**Yorkshire’s Real Heritage Pubs** lists more than 120 pubs in Yorkshire and Humber which still have “Historic Interiors to Cherish”, as CAMRA describes them. Some of the buildings have been given “listed” status principally for the importance of their intact interiors.

The book includes many fine interiors. York City Centre alone has 15 entries, Leeds 14, Sheffield 7, Rotherham 1 and Barnsley none, which makes Doncaster’s 8 entries seem very respectable. You may be surprised to see where Doncaster’s Heritage Pubs are to be found.



The Coach & Horses at Barnburgh, left, was built in 1937 and has been hardly altered since, making it an exceptional survival, “a true national rarity”, and for that it was listed grade 2 in 2010 (supported by the Trust). It was designed by Doncaster architects Wilburn & Atkinson for brewers Whitworth, Son & Nephew, of Wath upon Dearne.

The Scarborough Arms, Sunderland Street, Tickhill is an old village inn noted for its 1950s “Barrel Room”.

This has a concave-fronted bar-counter and fixed seating, both in oak, and loose tables and chairs made from casks, thought to be by George Millburn, licensee 1953-8.



The Horse & Jockey, St Sepulchre Gate (West), left, is the only survivor of three pubs by local architect Norman D Masters.

Built in 1913, it retains original historic pub fabric in its wood-panelled upstairs meeting rooms and the stairs up to them. It is presently unoccupied, sadly.

The Masons' Arms, Market Place, below left, is included for its front bar, with boarded ceiling, bench seating and a full-length Victorian bar-counter.



The Plough, West Laith Gate, above right, known as the “Little Plough” to avoid confusion with the larger Plough on Balby Road, has a very well-preserved 1934 interior, part of a major re-modelling by brewers Hewitt’s of Grimsby. Apart from modern fireplaces....., “there is little to detract from the pub’s authentic Thirties character”.

The Olde Castle, Market Place, below left, retains a number of features from plans of 1925 and 1937 and includes a striking mock-tudor façade. The entrance vestibules, panelling and main bar-counter are noteworthy.



The Three Horse Shoes, Town End (off North Bridge Road), above right, was designed in 1913 by H L Tacon & Son, local architects and surveyors, for brewers Ward’s of Sheffield. It has well-preserved stained and leaded windows and an intact little bar parlour, “a true delight”.

The Winning Post, Warmsworth Road, Balby was built in 1956 for John Smith’s brewery, designed by Sir Bertram Wilson, their architect for many years, and remains not much altered.

*Yorkshire’s Real Heritage Pubs* A5 size paperback, 95 pages, well illustrated, all colour, published by CAMRA £4.99

# Winthrop Park Nature and Sensory Garden



**Pauline Lee**  
**Thursday 17 March 2011**

We enjoyed a terrific digital presentation, with music and animations, about a quite inspiring project. Pauline told us how David Bowser was recovering from an early stroke and discovered the beneficial effect of time spent in his garden. He thought that others could share the same therapy through enjoying nature.

He was determined. “I’ll do it, I’ll make a garden, and it will be free!” And so, with his wife Carol backing his grand plan, they set about finding a site. They looked at everything, and eventually discovered an abandoned, overgrown sewage works. It had some advantages – it was affordable, and about the size of a football pitch, but it was no garden. It took three years to acquire the land. It had derelict buildings, contaminated soil and a jungle of overgrowth to cut down, clear and burn. It wasn’t all bad news; there was some value in the 18 tons of scrap metal collected by the group of volunteers.

People brought plants and the garden was started, but vandals wrecked it all overnight. David managed to raise £20,000 for security fencing, and everything was re-planted and prospered. A tea room and toilets were housed in Portakabin-type buildings, a new greenhouse/conservatory was “craned in”, the lawns turfed and 15,000 plants and 9,000 bulbs planted – and all with one paid gardener, the rest being volunteers.



After 18 months’ work Winthrop Park was opened in July 2005 by John Healey, the local MP. By 2008 the garden had worked its way up to a Gold Award in the “Rotherham in Bloom” competition. Another accolade was the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service, and an invitation to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace for David and his team, including our speaker Pauline. The Princess Royal visited the Park later and presented the award.

The vision of making nature therapy available to the community, at no charge, has been made a reality, thanks to the efforts of David and Carol Bowser and their volunteers. The garden provides peace and comfort; people can touch and smell anything and get close to nature. We saw images of a place of tranquillity and beauty, yet with an explosion of colour between April and October, after which it would be allowed to rest.

A registered charity, Winthrop Park is now an established visitor attraction, with car parking, tearoom, gift shop, plant sales and toilets. It is situated off Newhall Avenue, Wickersley, Rotherham, close to Junction 1 of the M18. It is open from April until October 11.00 – 15.00 weekdays and Sundays 10.30 – 16.00, but is closed on Saturdays. Admission is free.



People come time and time again, and bring different friends to show it off, we were told. “Go to Winthrop – it’s like Heaven on Earth”, said one 93 year old visitor.

What a recommendation!

**Archie Sinclair**

## William Lindley: Country Houses of the Doncaster Area.

In 1774 Doncaster Corporation asked William Lindley, an architect based in York, to provide a plan for a new playhouse. This was duly approved by the Town Council and by 1776 the building was completed and open to theatregoers. Its success not only brought Lindley to live in Doncaster but also marked the beginning of a long relationship between architect and Corporation. A gaol, a town hall, a dispensary and a new Hall Cross were all built to his designs. He altered the Mansion House, adding an attic storey in 1801 followed a few years later by the addition of a dining room. By 1806 such was his standing in the town that when the Prince of Wales, later the Prince Regent, visited Doncaster he stayed at Lindley's house in the Pillared Houses on South Parade.

Lindley also established an extensive private practice. Soon, fashionable new dwellings built to his designs began to appear all over town. St. George Gate, St. Sepulchre Gate, High Street, Hall Gate and South Parade all had examples of his work. Sadly many have been demolished, but enough still remain to show the influence he had on his 'adopted town'. The atmosphere of much of South Parade today, for example, is still largely due to his work.

Lindley's practice was not just confined to Doncaster. He worked all over Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire building town and country houses, churches and public buildings. He made all these journeys on horseback, as he did not own a carriage.

William Lindley had worked as an assistant to the famous architect John Carr of York for many years and is thought to have helped with his designs for Harewood House. However his earliest known country house work where he worked on his own was at Kirklees Hall probably built before 1777.

### Bawtry Hall

Lindley's first country house in the Doncaster area was Bawtry Hall, constructed in 1780.

This charming brick mansion was built for Pemberton Milnes, a successful woollen merchant, magistrate and keen Whig politician from Wakefield. Milnes had a fine town house in Wakefield (which still stands today, marked by a plaque from Wakefield Civic Society) but he clearly aspired to a house in the country. Why he chose Bawtry is not known but perhaps he wanted it as an escape well away from business. Bawtry must have seemed ideal. Here was the opportunity to build a secluded mansion yet with a busy market town only a few steps away.



The garden front of Bawtry Hall today

Bawtry Hall is of two storeys and seven bays with two principal facades, one looking to the street and the other facing the garden. The original canted bays are a particularly attractive feature. It has been suggested that Lindley incorporated the remains of an earlier house into the fabric although I could see no evidence during a visit.

Milnes' daughter Bridget eventually inherited the house. She and her first husband lived at the Hall but after his death she married the 4th Viscount Galway of nearby Serlby Hall.

Bawtry was retained but became a second home. Although it eventually changed hands it continued to be a private house until the 2nd World War when it was acquired by the Government and occupied by the RAF. For many years it played a leading role in Britain's defence. Today it is occupied by a Christian organisation and run as a conference and training centre.

An extension was added in the Edwardian period and it has been altered internally but nevertheless is still a splendid Georgian house. On my most recent visit (by permission) I wandered round the pleasant gardens and gazed back at the mansion. It did not take too much imagination to think how pleased Pemberton Milnes must have been with his new house built to William Lindley's designs.

### **North: Hooton Pagnell and Owston**

Hooton Pagnell Hall is an historic house situated in one of the area's prettiest villages.



Parts of the building date from the 14th century but it has been much altered and added to over the years. By 1681 the house was owned by Sir Patience Warde, and, according to historian Angus Taylor, it was his descendant St. Andrew Warde who added a wing in 1787 to designs by William Lindley. This garden front had three bays, with the two outer bays having a bowed form. The wing was rendered with stucco which was becoming fashionable at this time. Indeed Lindley used this material on the exterior of most of his houses.

Hooton Pagnell Hall showing Lindley's alterations, notably the two outer bays of bowed form

Later in the 19th century the stucco was removed. From 1894 until the early part of the 20th century Hooton Pagnell Hall was extensively renovated and remodelled, but Lindley's work is still quite evident today with the bow windows still in place.

To the north of Doncaster is Owston Hall, one of Lindley's grandest country houses in the area. Owston is unique in that correspondence between the architect and the owner of the estate, Bryan Cooke, has survived and is lodged at Doncaster MBC Archives. When historians studied the letters in the 1980s they revealed that Lindley was the architect of a number of houses which had previously been unattributed.



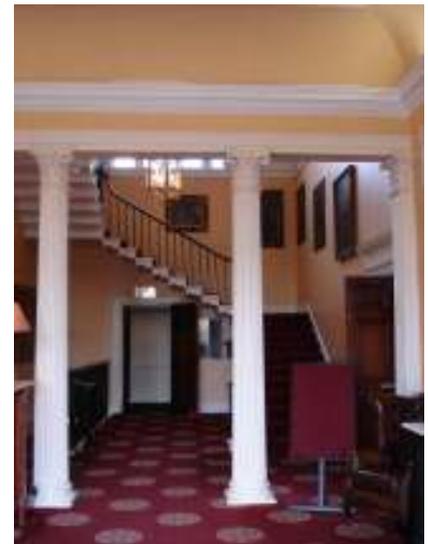
Owston Hall Hotel 2011

We know that Lindley tried to persuade Cooke to build a new house around 1786 but the latter insisted on improving the existing building. Eventually neither party was happy with the result and in 1790 they both agreed to build a new house which survives to this day. It was probably completed just after 1795, which is when Lindley supplied plans of fireplaces and mantelpieces for the bedchamber and drawing room.

The new house filled the blank page in Repton's Red Book\* of 1792 inscribed 'here I intend to insert a view of the house as it will appear' i.e. with an attached portico and a large bow on the return front.

The principal façade of the house has giant pilasters, an architectural feature which Lindley also used elsewhere. Inside, the entrance hall to the house has a fine screen of Corinthian columns, one of Lindley's favourite features. The screen and splendid staircase behind make an attractive entrance to the house.

The correspondence between Lindley and Cooke is also interesting in that it shows the difference between formal and family rooms as well as Lindley's plans to keep the servants out of sight. The description relates to the original plans for altering the older house but even so the same principles, if not the detail, would have applied to the new house, demonstrating Lindley's understanding of how a country house 'worked'.



Owston Hall entrance 2011

He wrote to Cooke saying: "*The Dining & Drawing room, being chiefly design'd to accommodate Visitors in Form & c; and the Library & Breakfast Parlour, for the accommodation of the Master & Mistress of the family... What I call the breakfast parlour would, of course, be your own common dining room; and its opening to the back stairs renders it singularly convenient... placed near the Offices by which means the servants has no occation to cross over the best staircase, or vestibule*".

The Cooke, later Davies-Cooke, family retained ownership of the Hall for around 200 years although for much of the 20th century it had been flats. However, I remember visiting Mrs. Davies-Cooke with the Civic Trust many years ago when she lived in part of the building. Today it is the well-cared for Owston Hall Hotel with its own golf course in the grounds.

### **A house for Thomas Bradford**

Whilst the Cookes and the Wardes were local gentry, Lindley's next client was Thomas Bradford, an entrepreneur. Local history articles often refer to him as an upholsterer but in the 18th century this term signified a furniture dealer and not an upholsterer in the modern sense of the word. However, he was also a property developer. In 1776 he bought some land on Hallgate and built 12 back to back houses between Hallgate and East Laith Gate. These he called 'Bradford Row'. In front, facing Hallgate, he built two houses to designs by Lindley.

Bradford's speculations drove him to bankruptcy but by 1789 he had recovered financially and bought the extensive estate of Adwick-le-Street, subsequently selling its mansion in 1791 to George Wroughton, a former East Indian merchant. He then sold off the rest of the land to 9 separate purchasers but kept 45 acres for himself.

He decided he wanted an elegant house on the site and it is believed that he asked William Lindley to design one for him.



"The Woodlands" in 2011

This was completed in about 1795 and named 'The Woodlands'. (The Woodlands has been attributed to Lindley on stylistic grounds and his previous dealings with Bradford). Thomas Bradford didn't stay there long though and by 1799 he had moved to Ashdown Park in Sussex. The Woodlands, albeit much altered over the years, still stands today, having been a social club for many years. The adjoining grounds are now classified as a country park and open to the public. In the early years of the 20th century this house gave its name to the new model colliery village, Woodlands.

## Cantley Hall

The Childers family had been established in Doncaster since at least the 14th century. Their moment of fame came in the early 18th century when they owned 'Flying Childers', said to be one of the fastest racehorses ever known. The family's principal residence was at Carr House but they also owned a house at Cantley which was probably originally a farmhouse. However, the present house was constructed, or perhaps remodelled, in 1802 for John Walbanke Childers. It was not quite built to Lindley's original plans, but nevertheless the house is unmistakably one of his creations.

The canted bays were built with fine rooms behind them, notably a drawing room with a fine ceiling and a dining room. The Childers family leased out Cantley from the 19th century, and they eventually sold it, but it remained a private house. The Darley family, brewers from Thorne and great friends of the Trust, owned it for many years in the 20th century. Today it is in excellent condition but cannot be visited, being the private home of Lord Kirkham.

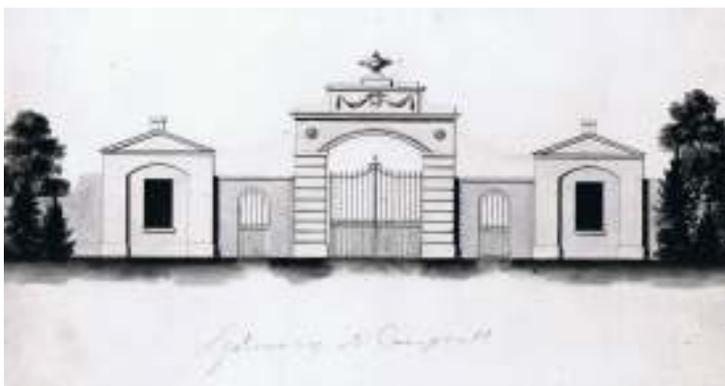


Cantley Hall showing the two principal facades of Lindley's house

Colonel Childers also built Elmfield House in 1803, probably for his mother. This is not strictly a country house but when it was built, despite its close proximity to town, it did face open countryside. This house has been attributed to William Lindley on stylistic grounds, but it was altered in the early nineteenth century.

## Lost Houses

Doncaster has lost two fine country houses which once stood to the north of the town: Campsmount and, close by, Campsall Hall. Lindley provided various designs for major changes to Campsmount in 1812 but only minor work was ever carried out. The house was demolished in the 1950s.



William Lindley's design for the gates and lodges at Campsall Hall

William Lindley provided an Adam-style gateway and lodges at Campsall which stood until the 1950s. However, although this is the only official recognition of Lindley's work, it is evident that he did far more. Photographs (not reproduced here) taken when the Hall was in a derelict state in the 1980s show Corinthian screens, an elegant staircase and internal fanlight, all of which were hallmarks of Lindley's.

He probably altered the existing house for the Bacon Frank family in about 1800. The house later became flats but in the late 20th century it fell empty. By 1979 the Trust had become increasingly worried about the state of Campsall Hall and we wrote to the Department of the Environment expressing our concerns. However, despite being listed Grade II\*, no doubt due to Lindley's interiors, it was demolished in 1984.

## Serlby Hall

In the same year that William Lindley prepared his plans for Campsmount came perhaps his most important local commission, rebuilding Serlby Hall for the 5th Viscount Galway. It was around this time that Lindley took a partner into the practice which was renamed Lindley and Woodhead. It is thought that Woodhead was probably a business partner.

Serlby was built by one of the country's leading architects, James Paine. It was certainly a dramatic tri-partite building, but whilst it looked impressive it was an inconvenient house in which to live.

Lindley swept away the wings with their enormous pediments and created a new central block with a recessed arch. Some of Paine's rooms were retained in this remodelled house.

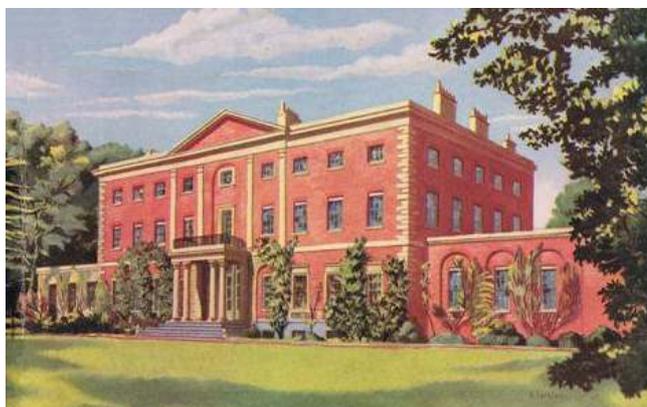


Serlby Hall, as originally designed by James Paine

Eric Braim, who wrote an article on Lindley in 1981, described the result. "Whilst Lindley's house was less striking than its predecessor it certainly gained in compactness and convenience".

I enjoyed visiting the house when it was open to the public many years ago, as there was much of interest. Eventually though, the family sold Serlby and today it is a very much a private mansion.

William Lindley designed in a restrained and elegant style which appealed to the local gentry. We are fortunate that most of his local country houses have survived to this day, and are, in the main, well cared for.



Serlby Hall c.1960

He did not design a Castle Howard or even a Sandbeck but the houses he built are always pleasing to look at and made a real contribution to the Georgian landscape.

**Peter Coote**

Notes:

1. All houses in this article, unless stated otherwise, are private and not accessible to the public.
2. Lindley may have designed other local country houses. Alterations to Hickleton and also the largely demolished Streethorpe (Edenthorpe) Hall have been suggested.
3. As William Lindley was a bachelor, there were no 'heirs' to the firm, but former apprentice William Hurst took over after Lindley's death in 1819, with the practice being renamed Woodhead and Hurst. Hurst continued with country house work.

continued....

I found the following to be useful references to Lindley's career:

'Doncaster Architects No. 2. William Lindley'. Eric Braim 1981 Doncaster Civic Trust News.

This article concentrates on Lindley's town buildings.

'William Lindley of Doncaster' by Angus Taylor. Georgian Group Journal 1994.

Photographs are by the author except for Cantley Hall and Hooton Pagnell Hall which are reproduced courtesy of Gordon Smith from his 1960s collection. The illustration of the Campsall Gateway is copyright of the Minster Library, York. It will appear in a forthcoming book on Campsall Hall written by Gordon Smith.

The drawing of Serlby Hall is taken from the guide book. I would like to thank Bawtry Hall and the General Manager at Owston Hall Hotel for permission to take photographs.

\*Note on Humphrey Repton: Humphrey Repton, who must surely have met Lindley, was a garden designer of national repute in the late Georgian period, often thought of as the successor to Capability Brown. He provided his clients with books of designs usually showing various vistas through parkland, often with 'before' and 'after' views overlaid. The books, of which he supplied over 400, always had a red cover, hence 'The Red Book'. The Owston book was purchased from the family by the MBC Museums Service in 1984 with the help of a grant and is now cared for at the Archives Department. Bryan Cooke also consulted Repton on landscaping his Bessacarr estate, of which the model farm known as Bessacarr Grange formed a key part. However, there is no evidence that Lindley designed the Grange.

## Planning Matters

The Trust's Planning and Conservation Sub-committee meets every month to consider whether we should object or comment on planning applications principally relating to listed buildings, and those within Conservation areas, throughout the Doncaster area.

In the town centre, Barclays Bank on High Street is a handsome building dating from 1885.



Originally the bank had stone rosettes in panels beneath each ground floor window, matching the design on the doors. Over the years the rosettes were gradually removed because of the need for a night safe and ATMs until only one was left.

A few years ago the ATMs were changed and we asked the bank to consider re-instatement of the rosettes, but without success. However, an application from the bank in March this year proposed re-instatement of one of the rosettes which we welcomed.

Unfortunately there was also a proposal for a new ATM on another panel which would have involved cutting through a stone sill. We objected to this application and the proposal was later amended. The sill will now remain unaffected.

The Committee has also been busy assessing the impact of the review of the Conservation Area at Thorne. After visiting the town and studying the review, we concluded that we were broadly in agreement with its contents except for concerns over a proposed change to the boundary in the canal area, which is now being reviewed. We were also able to comment that whilst some very recent buildings were attractive, and others well maintained, a number of the important historic buildings in Thorne were neglected and some were empty.

In the Market Place a former hardware store, which is listed, had long been abandoned. Further away, Thorne Hall, below right, the property of the DMBC, was overgrown and boarded up yet this too is listed and a key building in the conservation area, looking on to the park.

However, we also noted South Yorkshire Building Preservation Trust's commendable work on renovating a house on King Street so that it now has a very much improved appearance.

Shortly after the Conservation Area review we studied a planning application for 50 King Street, Thorne. This is in an unattractive state, but commendably the application proposed to improve it by introducing sliding sash windows. The Trust commented on the window proposals, suggesting further improvements.



Some applications may be withdrawn but then reappear later. One example of this was Number Fifteen, at 21 High Street, Doncaster, left, where the owners wished to change the first and second floors to hotel type use. This building was once a "gaming" rival to the Subscription Rooms opposite and has a grand salon on the first floor.

However, despite some positive amendments to the plans, we were still concerned to see that the standard of drawings was inadequate for a listed building application. Our concerns were about the proposals for this room. Some situations take a long time to resolve.

The Trust also discussed the sale of the former village school at Arksey, right, which took place recently. This is a listed building and forms an important group in the village with the Almshouses and Church. We are extremely concerned that the DMBC is selling off historic buildings such as these and, although we recognise the financial pressures, we think that this policy is not without some danger. We can only hope that legislation and good practice will safeguard the character of the buildings affected.



## Planning and Conservation Sub Committee

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# The Back Page Notts. Bounty



The view of the Council House across the Old Market Square, nicely re-paved and landscaped in 2007

A surprisingly dull day in March couldn't spoil our enjoyment of this trip to Nottingham. We had taken advantage of a free guided tour of the grand Council House, completed 1929 in Portland stone and designed by local architect T Cecil Howitt. The neo-Baroque style continues through its magnificent interior, which includes large rooms for civic, ceremonial and political activities. Although the building appears very large, the rear section is a shopping arcade three storeys high, and the side frontages contain retail shops and a bank. It was clearly a commercial as well as civic proposition for the City Fathers.



Top: inside the Arcade



Below: inside the Council House



Left: Council House, the Sheriff's Room, formerly the Lady Mayoress's Room

Right: Exchange Arcade, viewed from inside the Council House

Below left: Newton Building, 1958 Nottingham Trent University, by Charles Hyde

Below right: Theatre Royal 1898 by Frank Matcham

