



TRUST TOPICS

Doncaster Civic Trust Newsletter ©

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Looking for Doncaster's Art Deco

see **The Back Page**

Member of



Doncaster Civic Trust : Founded in 1946
e-mail: mail@doncastercivictrust.org.uk
telephone: 01302 538225
Registered Charity No. 508674

Civic Day 2011: Frenchgate Displays

To mark the first Civic Day the Trust had a display in the Frenchgate Centre which we manned for two full days, 28 and 29 June, thanks to a handful of dedicated members. Malcolm Barnsdale had organised a prize quiz with photographs of Old Doncaster.



We had taken advice from Debbie Painter, the Frenchgate Administrator, who suggested that the best days for us would be Tuesday and Wednesday, and she was right. Tuesday morning was the busiest time, with the displays getting a lot of attention.

We also had the best possible pitch, on the ground floor close to the main entrance, with the best foot-fall.

The Trust's display in the Frenchgate mall

In real terms we sold some publications and recruited one or two new members, but to get the stand seen by so many people had to be good publicity. We are very aware that the Trust can seem somewhat invisible, and we really don't want it to be a secret society.

Town Trails

We led two different Town Trails on the Sunday mornings either side of the dates of the Frenchgate displays, on 26 June and 3 July.



Peter Coote speaking about one of the "different buildings" on the second trail, 18 South Parade

The response was a bit disappointing, but a smaller group is easier to speak to, and all the participants really enjoyed the trails. Archie Sinclair led the trails, with Peter Coote helping out with expert commentary on some of the buildings on the second trail. This featured a different set of historic buildings from the original 22 which were covered on the first trail.

Civic Voice has already fixed the date of the next Civic Day on Saturday 23 June 2012. The Frenchgate administrator said she was looking forward to being able to support us, so next year we should be able to get more coverage for our events, having a much longer lead time.

Members' News

Winter Programme 2011 - 2012

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

All on Thursdays at 7.30 pm

2011

- 27 October (note the new date)** Hugh Parkin on "Levitt Hagg"
17 November Annual General Meeting and Mick Cooper on "Planting Trees for Doncaster"
8 December Annual Buffet Supper and Dave Gamston of CamRA on "Yorkshire's Historic Pub Interiors"

2012

- 19 January** Ron Leader and his Mystery Boxes
16 February Anthea Lawrence on "Safeguarding the Peak District National Park"
15 March John Hoare on "Nostell Priory"
19 April 3rd Members' Forum

Betty Braim 1930 - 2011



The sad death of Betty Braim has deprived the Trust of one of its longest-serving and most staunch members. When I joined the Trust, Betty was the proud Mum of toddler twins, Elizabeth and Edwin, but found the time and enthusiasm to support Eric in his work as Hon. Sec.

Before marriage, she held an interesting job in the offices of Doncaster Plant Works, as an Accounts Machine Operator, this being a punch card system, the precursor to today's computer. Taking advantage of the free travel offered to employees, Betty travelled widely with a group of girl friends visiting Scotland, Paris and the Scandinavian countries. A visit to Copenhagen was a well-remembered pleasure.

Betty, knowing each and every member of the Trust, could always be relied upon to fill the gaps in my knowledge, find speakers, help me to organize the summer outings and always be the social face of the Trust.

It was Betty who found such relatively unknown writers/architects as Gavin Stamp and Arthur Percival to speak to us; and usually providing a meal if they had travelled from London.

She could always meet our then President, Lord Scarbrough, with complete equanimity and charm, but was not afraid to deal quite firmly with recalcitrant planning officers either.

She will, of course, be missed greatly by her family, but their loss is our loss also.

John Holmes, Chairman

Some Post Cards of Interiors

This article looks at four interior photographs of buildings, taken from old postcards, that all have an interesting history.

Throughout the early part of the 20th century vast numbers of post cards were sent in this country. They were a common means of communication, not just for holidays but for sending a variety of messages. Collecting the cards became a very popular pastime and it is because of this enthusiasm that so many have survived to this day. In Doncaster, as in many other places, the photographs taken for many of the street scenes are often our best records of how a particular building or street appeared. Most of the photographs were taken outside whilst those of interiors of buildings are much rarer. It is likely that the owners of the buildings sponsored the cards featuring interiors, particularly those of commercial premises.

Danum Hotel

In 1909 the Old Ram on the corner of Cleveland Street and High Street was pulled down and replaced by the Danum Hotel. In the central part of the card is the name of the hotel's manager, John Immer. Although he was not the first manager, we know that he had been appointed by 1912 and the card probably dates from around this time.



Danum
Hotel
High Street
c.1912

The hotel is described on the postcard as a 'first class family and commercial hotel' and we can see views of various rooms in the interior including a dining room, drawing room, reading and writing room, entrance hall and billiard room. In some ways the atmosphere conveyed by the photographs seems quite Victorian, particularly in the entrance hall with its potted plants. Yet in fact this was an important modern hotel with bathrooms, a motor garage and electric lighting. The cars in the garage are interesting and in 1912 would have been a luxury. The building's interior has been much altered since the photographs were taken and it is very difficult to make meaningful comparisons with how the interior looks today.

Externally the original hotel, with its fine dome and rounded corner, is still recognisable, although there have been alterations. Later, it was extended along High Street and it is this part which contains the ballroom, explaining why the hotel's most important internal feature today does not appear on the card.

Parkinson's Café

We are still on the High Street and the interior photograph is of Parkinson's restaurant or café. The building at 50/51 High Street dates back to at least 1775, when it was the home of a draper. In May 1817 Samuel Parkinson took the premises, trading as a grocer and tea dealer. He also made confectionery and eventually Parkinson's was to become famous for one of its specialities, butterscotch.

In the 1890s the family sold the business to Samuel Balmforth and Alec Wilson, although the name 'Parkinson and Son' was retained. Balmforth was a good businessman who introduced many innovations, one of which was the restaurant.

Both of the photographs on the card appeared in an advertisement in a catalogue for the Royal Agricultural show in 1912. Here it says 'Parkinson's Café is renowned as the cosiest and most convenient in town'. Although the photographs may have been taken at this time I think it more likely that they date from a few years earlier, possibly in 1905 when the manufacturing side of the business was moved from High Street to Station Road. Copies of the card must have been on sale for many years as the example shown was not posted until 1921. The interior photo shows some very smart Arts and Crafts furniture from the period. Note too the flowers on the table and the two plates that may be glimpsed on the delft rack above.

In 1960 Parkinson's sold the premises and both shop and café closed. For 16 years the Doncaster Civic Trust fought to save it from demolition, eventually resulting in its restoration in 1976. This was probably our longest campaign! Unfortunately the café, most of which had been an addition to the building, was demolished during these years.



Nevertheless it is good to see that once again the building is in use as 'The Georgian Tea Rooms', with the name 'Parkinson House' appearing on the sign. The new owners have also restored the Civic Trust plaque that commemorates Parkinson's.

Christ Church

Christ Church is one of our most important landmarks, a key point in the Christ Church Conservation Area. It was built in 1829 to the designs of William Hurst, although the chancel was extended in 1862.

The interior photograph, showing what are probably Victorian pews, would have been taken in the Edwardian period.



Twenty years ago Christ Church entered a period of uncertainty about its future and it was at this time that the pews in the photograph were removed.

Sad though this was, we were lucky the whole building was not lost. Members may remember the Civic Trust campaign to save the Church at that time.

Eventually, the Reach Out Christian Fellowship purchased it and the Trust gave significant sums towards its restoration.

Doncaster Grammar School.

Our last photograph is the most unusual. It is from a series of postcards relating to the Grammar School, but this is the only interior shot. The view is the ground floor of the Victorian school built by George Gilbert Scott in 1869.



This fine neo-Gothic building originally had cloisters, rather like an open arcade in a market hall, and the photograph shows the interior of the cloisters with views looking out towards the main drive.

Above, on the first floor, was the school room itself, and this is now the Hall Cross School Library, in one of the town's finest interiors.

In the 1930's the school had a large and much-needed extension built to the designs of Julian Leathart. He filled in the cloisters making what had been a grand but wasteful space into a useable part of the school. He inserted windows in the cloister openings which matched those in his new building.

Initially, the Scott building was the only part of the school to be listed but, due to the efforts of Doncaster Civic Trust, Leathart's building was later also listed. The card is not dated but looking at the set I believe that all of them date from the late 1920s.

Peter Coote



Hooton Pagnell Church Visit

On 13 May 2011, 10 members of the Trust's Executive Committee accepted an invitation to visit Hooton Pagnell Church to see the finished lighting scheme that the Trust had grant-aided. Having new lighting meant that more people would be able to use and enjoy the church for extended hours.



The lighting was effective and discreet. Only if one was facing the congregation, from the altar or focal point of the church, would the light sources be apparent.

Although the church appeared relatively impressive on elevation, its internal spaces were surprisingly intimate. The new lighting seemed to enhance the character of the interior



Jan Faulkner, who liaised with the Trust on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, gave us tea and cake at her charming stone cottage. It was a pleasure to visit the delightful church and see something of the historic village of Hooton Pagnell.

Trust Topics is edited by:

Archie Sinclair, 43 Ellers Avenue, Bessacarr, Doncaster DN4 7DY

e-mail: mail@doncastercivictrust.org.uk

telephone: 01302 538225

Growing Threat to Historic Post Box



Eric Braim asked if anyone had noticed the ivy growing on his local post box at the junction of Thorne Road and Broxholme Lane. I went and had a look and took some photographs. The ivy had come from the garden behind the boundary wall of 67 Thorne Road and had already obscured all the architecture. It would soon go for the box itself. The post box carries the monogram of Edward VII (1901-1910) and is set into a very special decorative length of boundary wall.

Fortunately, I had photographed this distinctive post box probably about 20 years ago. I found the slide, and was able to see what is now hidden by the rampant ivy. The boundary wall is of squared, coursed limestone, and on the street corner it is raised in height about 2½ times and supported by two buttresses of large, squared and tooled limestone blocks. The same tooled limestone is used for the moulded surround to the cast-iron post box, above which a drip mould runs between the buttresses. The wall above, in squared limestone, is castellated and has half-round matching copings. Today, all the neo-Gothic detailing is covered in ivy, so the visual impact of the architectural stone work has been lost. Such local distinctiveness needs to be protected.



The old slide c.1990, with the architecture revealed



2011 The growing threat

I contacted Royal Mail telling it about the situation, and was told that “The growing ivy on the wall would be the responsibility of the owner of the boundary wall of 67 Thorne Road”. I had a second go at Royal Mail making the case for the importance of the box and its setting, and saying that the ivy had almost reached their box. I offered to send them these two images if they could give me an e-mail address.

This time I was told, “It is, ultimately, the responsibility of the property owners to maintain their garden. We would only intervene if there was a health and safety hazard and if the post box was damaged”. And in a separate e-mail, “I am sorry to advise that our current e-mail system is unable to open, or accept attachments, and we would be unable to view any photographs sent in to us”.

Royal Mail clearly does not want to get involved. The fact is that it is not its responsibility. The decorative boundary wall is within the site boundary of the dwelling and is in the same ownership. And it is the owner’s ivy that has climbed over the owner’s wall.

Eric Braim’s article on the Christ Church Conservation Area in the July 1986 Newsletter included part of an Ordnance Survey map of around 1889. The land fronting Broxholme Lane and Thorne Road was part of the extensive grounds of a detached house named “Broxholme”.

At the road junction, the map was marked L B for “letter box”. So we know there was a post box at the junction of Thorne Road and Broxholme Lane in 1889, 15 years before the site of “Broxholme” was bought and developed for housing.



An Ordnance Survey map of the area from around 1889. “Broxholme” stands on a large site in the centre of the map, with the “LB” at the lowest point of the site; Christ Church and the Grammar School are at the bottom of the map.

Eric Braim wrote: *In 1904, “Broxholme” came on the market. F W Masters bought the estate and laid out St Vincent’s Avenue and St Vincent’s Road. The five houses on Thorne Road between Broxholme Lane and St Vincent’s Avenue were known as Edenfield Villas and were designed by F W Masters or, more probably, by his son Norman who was a talented architect and established a practice in London. The houses show the influence of the Arts and Crafts Movement, which was a turning away from mechanisation and a looking back to the days of the artist-craftsman.*

The earlier of the two images opposite shows a distinct difference between the stone work around the bottom of the post box and that at the top. It may be that a smaller Victorian post box was originally set in the lower stones, and was replaced by the larger Edwardian box and surrounding stonework. This was probably set in the higher wall with buttresses when the site was being developed, between 1904 when it was purchased and 1910 when Edward VII died. It is possible that F W Masters, the architect and developer, was behind the design and construction of the distinctive setting for the post box.

Archie Sinclair

Rossington Hall Open Afternoon



On Sunday the 4th September the new owners of Rossington Hall opened its doors to the public for the first time in its history. Shortly I will describe my tour of the house, but before that I thought it would be useful to give you some information about its history.

From 1505 until 1838, Doncaster Corporation owned the Manor of Rossington. At this point they were in serious debt and sold the estate to James Brown, a woollen merchant from Leeds. Earlier, in 1773, they had leased land on the estate to one James Stovin who built a mansion called Shooters Hill.

South-west front before the removal of fire escape stairs

This mansion became James Brown's property in 1838. From drawings, we know that Shooters Hill was a plain house, but around 1865 Brown's son, James Brown junior, engaged London architect W.M Teulon to build an extension including an elaborate tower. It seems unlikely that this was ever built, although Teulon also designed the stables that still stand today. Sometime in the late 1870s it is said that Shooters Hill was burnt down (or possibly just demolished). Whatever the truth, a new and much grander mansion rose up in its stead - the present Rossington Hall. Again the architect was Teulon, and when completed in 1883 it was owner James Streatfield, Brown junior's nephew who had inherited and had overseen the construction, who moved in.

Streatfield and later his daughter continued to own and live in the house (although Streatfield owned another house in Sussex) until 1939 when it was sold to the Roman Catholic Order of the White Fathers. It was then occupied in the war by an Indian regiment and the Royal Veterinary Corps. The White Fathers returned, but in 1946 it was sold, returning to Doncaster Corporation's ownership. In 1953 it was opened as a special school and used as such until sold to the present owners, Gary and Michelle Gee, in 2011.

My Visit



South-west front with conservatory



North-west front with porch and date stone of 1882

The rain poured down as I turned into the drive for the Rossington Hall Open Day. In view of the weather I expected that this would be a quiet and leisurely afternoon. Yet, as I approached the car park I realised that it was nearly full - even though the house had only been open for half an hour!

On the short walk to this Victorian mansion, volunteers from the Northern Racing College, which occupies part of the grounds, were on hand to give out leaflets. These explained the history of the hall but also set out the aims of the new owners:

“Our aim is to restore the Hall, its grounds and the once magnificent Italian sunken garden back to their original state as much as possible, and to preserve them along with the Northern Racing College and its Victorian stables, for the foreseeable future. We feel it is a fantastic setting for a wedding venue and other functions and would make a top class hotel.”

Rossington Hall was used as a special school for over fifty years. Of course, this type of use keeps mansions standing but takes its toll on their character. Very often utilitarian extensions are built. Furniture is sold and some fittings removed. All of this has been the case at Rossington. Nevertheless, as I entered the mansion through the large conservatory, it was evident that the essential character of the country house was still to be found within its many original rooms. Large numbers of people were touring the building and it was gratifying to see that our history and heritage is so much appreciated.

The ground floors were the grandest and perhaps the most interesting. Each room had a label describing its original use and listing its original fittings. The library was particularly impressive, although I also liked the drawing room. This was being used for afternoon teas but you could still appreciate some of the detail, notably the decorative cornice.

The ‘star’ of the ground floor, and a real surprise, was the dining room. This had been beautifully restored with new wallpaper, a new carpet (hidden underneath a temporary carpet apparently), pictures, appropriate furnishings and drapes at the windows. Immediately you were conveyed into perhaps something like the house’s original atmosphere, starkly contrasting with the rest of the unfurnished rooms. The dining room is now for hire and details of the menus were available.

Other rooms, although not all were accessible, included sitting rooms and a billiard room. On corridor walls were examples of proposed fabrics for the restoration along with copies of historic maps and plans. On the ground floor, too, you could see some of the more recent extensions although these were of little interest.



Returning to the grand entrance hall, the magnificent returning staircase (pictured left) had survived and seemed to be in good condition.

Upstairs were the bedrooms, the largest of which had a picture of how it will look when fully restored. This included a freestanding bath, the outline of which was marked on the floor. These rooms were interesting too, with good views from all the windows. Some of the larger windows were apparently being restored.

Trust Executive member Margaret Herbert descends the grand staircase with Howard Lifsey

There was a mystery too: although the rooms were clearly Victorian, two of them had neo-classical decoration over the doorcases. Were these an Edwardian addition or had they been taken from Shooters Hill I wondered? We were not allowed on to the second floor but records tell us that originally the house had eleven principal bedrooms and eleven secondary bedrooms.

As I returned to the entrance it had stopped raining so I ventured out to look at the Italian gardens where the undergrowth had been cleared and work was under way. These should look really splendid once completed.

Just a short walk away were the stables. As I approached I observed that they looked 'cottagey' from the outside with interesting chimneys. A walk through the central archway took me through to the stables, unusually built in a crescent form.



Stables 1855 also by W Milford Teulon (1823-1900) in Gothic Revival style.

Clock by Thwaites & Reed 1856

The stalls were all occupied by retired racehorses, and the young people who were looking after them explained to visitors that they were hoping to become jockeys and that the horses were still working, helping to train them. The site, including accommodation, is leased to the Northern Racing College.

It was now quite warm and dry so I sat in the garden of the house with friends, listening to the Markham Main Colliery Brass Band and sipping tea. It was a pleasant end to a most interesting afternoon, looking and learning about one of the area's grandest country houses.

Peter Coote

For more on the history of the Hall, estate and Rossington in general I recommend: Frank Clark's "*Rossington: glimpses into the past*" (1986)

The owners are seeking out further information on Rossington Hall Estate. They are interested in any plans, photos or literature that will help them with the restoration project.

If anyone has information, you might like to contact them at:

Rossington Hall, Great North Road, Doncaster DN11 0HR, telephone: 01302 866822

or e-mail: paul.foster@rossingtonhall.co.uk

For further information there is a website: www.rossingtonhall.co.uk

You can also follow the restoration of the Hall on www.facebook.com/RossingtonHall

Doncaster : Times Change

“Doncaster is thriving compared with many towns, with twice as many shops opening as closing in the town centre this year”. So wrote Jayne Dowle in The Times’ Bricks & Mortar supplement on 19 August 2011. Many people’s view of the town centre today is that its streets are in decline, with many empty shops and cleared sites. But, according to The Times, this must be wrong. So, where were these newly-opened shops?



Civic Voice ran a “Save the High Street” campaign, and asked local civic societies to send information and ideas for inclusion in its national report. This was looking for ways to arrest the decline of the high street. The Trust’s Planning and Conservation Sub-committee spent some time discussing the problem and sent its thoughts to Civic Voice.

One of our thoughts was that, even though new shops were opening, few of them seemed to enrich the high street in the traditional “shopping” sense. Instead, as the old retail uses declined, they were being replaced by loan shops, old gold buyers, bookmakers, pawnbrokers and tattoo parlours, creating a down-market feel. This impression was further reinforced by the tide of fast food outlets that did little for a street. Their gaudy pictorial signage and lighting seemed to get increasingly strident in an effort to attract custom.



It all seemed very depressing. But is it just me? Doncaster’s principal street, High Street/Hallgate, can never regain the retail business it lost to the Arndale, the Frenchgate extension, the out-of-town retail parks and the peripheral supermarkets that now sell almost everything. So, on balance, it is quite fortunate that new businesses are coming in, attracting customers and paying the rent and rates. And to thrive they must be giving the people what they want.

If the nation’s high streets are to survive, they will have to be different: less retail, more services and more entertainment. We don’t want to see empty buildings, particularly listed buildings or historic buildings in conservation areas, and we are, reluctantly, going to have to come to terms with the changing world.

The role of the Trust must be to ensure that any proposed changes to the town’s central areas will try to preserve their historic character, and to support the local planners in holding out for high quality shop-fronts and appropriately-designed signage.

Archie Sinclair

Planning Matters

The Planning and Conservation Committee members of the Trust meet every month to peruse planning applications of interest and decide whether objections or comments should be made. We are mainly interested in applications relating to buildings in conservation areas or listed buildings, but other major proposals are also examined particularly those likely to have a serious impact on the environment.

In our May edition we raised concerns about the wisdom of Doncaster MBC's policy of selling historic buildings surplus to their requirements. We were particularly concerned about the selling-off of the former school at Arksey, pictured below, with the large tree within its site.



Since then there have been several planning applications relating to the building, principally for listed building consent and change of use to retail, post office and tea room. We were very concerned about this application. The school, which was built in 1683, was listed Grade 2. The environs of the school included a limestone wall, large horse chestnut tree and open space. In addition it was part of an important group of buildings including the church, and Cooke's Almshouses, also dating from the seventeenth century. We realised, in considering whether to comment, that this was an important conservation area and that major change could lose that special quality. Eventually we decided not to object to the change of use, because we felt that it would be a difficult building to convert to residential. We certainly didn't want the old school to lie empty for long either. Nevertheless we did comment on the application as we felt that there were a number of important issues to be resolved including access for large delivery vehicles, poor car parking on a gravel surface and future treatment of the playground. Eventually the application was approved but the car-parking element was removed. The Planners will review this at a later date.

In September, a further application for the school, this time for three new signs was perused by the committee. We were not happy with two of the signs and objected to them. One sign was proposed in the centre of the historic pediment which we thought was inappropriate as well as being likely to cause damage. We felt that the pediment and door case needed restoration without signage. Another sign, free-standing and close to the limestone wall, was considered too large.

In the Finningley Conservation Area there was an application for 35 dwellings at Manor House Farm. Although we did not object to the application we suggested that improvements could be made to the layout and that an enclosed landscape area, which would also protect an ash tree, should be implemented.

Another important application, on which the committee spent a great deal of time, was an application for change of use at 4, South Parade from offices to 6 flats. This was built as a house in 1808 and was one of three very similar properties, of which No 4 was in the best original condition.

It still retained its Georgian rooms with many original features including shutters, doors, staircase and other architectural details.



4, 5 & 6 South Parade

However, the conditions attached to the permission should protect many of the house's features and covers the Trust's concerns to our satisfaction.

We did not object to the change of use as we recognised the current difficulties in letting commercial office space in this area. Many buildings were empty, so a return to the original use of No 4 as residential seemed sensible. However it was not felt to be practical to make it a single dwelling. In studying the application we were concerned with the number of flats, which seemed excessive, as well as being concerned about the damage to the historic fabric of the house. Despite our objections, the change of use was approved for six flats.



18 & 16 Thorne Road

Also in the town centre we objected to a change of use from office to pharmacy on the ground floor of 16 Thorne Road. This was one of 4 houses in professional use and we felt that the conversion to retail was likely to damage the appearance of the building which made a positive contribution to the Christ Church Conservation Area. There were also objections from residents and others to this inappropriate use. Despite the weight of opposition the planners, very surprisingly, put it to Planning Committee with a recommendation for approval. Fortunately the elected members went against officer advice and refused the application.



Corn Exchange before removal of unauthorised signs

Apart from the planning applications the committee considered a number of other issues. For example we were very concerned to see that the front of the Corn Exchange had been covered in unauthorised and unattractive signage, which also obscured the Civic Trust plaque.

We complained about this situation and all signage has been removed. We realised that this was an attempt to advertise the market but this was not the correct way to proceed. We also felt it was a bad example to set to private owners of listed buildings.

The committee was pleased that, at long last, Lazarus had implemented a scheme to improve the appearance of the walls exposed by the demolition of the Odeon cinema. Fortunately the results are very good with realistic dummy windows painted on the side of the adjoining building, a device known as *trompe l'oeuil*.

The Planning and Conservation Sub Committee

The Back Page : Looking for Art Deco



Campaigners have been trying to save the former Percy Jackson Grammar School, at Woodlands. However, their application to have the building listed as “a good example of Art Deco” was unsuccessful. English Heritage recommended that the building not be listed. The building of 1939 is clearly of its time, and does include some decorative features above its main entrance.



PJGS photos Terry McGarrigle

The Deco in Art Deco is short for decorative, and the image above left shows the stylish flagpole brackets, balcony ironwork and exaggerated vertical window mullions, or fins. But English Heritage decided that “the building’s quality of design and degree of alteration were such that the school did not meet the strict criteria for listing this type and date of building in a national context”.



Looking at some 1930s buildings in the Town Centre I found two buildings which also had symmetry, strong vertical elements and pairs of flagpoles.

Modern but not Art Deco, I thought.

Above: the former Elland’s store, St Sepulchre Gate, 1938, with just the stumps of its flagpoles remaining



Right: former Boot’s store, French Gate



But perhaps the most decorative 1930s building in town was the former Nag’s Head pub which once incorporated “The Central Chocolate Box” shop. This had striking geometry in its shopfront surround, decorative window frames and metalwork, and sculpture at roof level. The symmetry was achieved by balancing the former pub entrance, on the right, with a matching opening on the left, housing a display window and the doors to the barrel drop for the pub’s beer cellar. This has to be real Art Deco, surely?

Left: former Nag’s Head, St Sepulchre Gate rebuilt 1932, architect: T H Johnson & Son

Right: detail of the barrel drop doors

