



TRUST TOPICS

Doncaster Civic Trust Newsletter ©

Issue No. 45

February 2012



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The Latest in Street Furniture?

No sooner had Giles Scott's 1935 K6 telephone kiosk got a mention on page 6, than one appeared outside the Danum Hotel.

But don't try to get in to make a phone call. There's a cash machine inside. But there is a payphone outside, next to the cash dispenser.



Member of



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Planting Trees for Doncaster



Mick Cooper 17 November 2011 (AGM)

Mick both entertained and educated us once again with stories, not just of tree planting in the Doncaster Borough, but also of the very special people whom he had involved in the planting.

He began with the replacement of the avenue of elms at Cadeby. He had involved Battle of Britain pilots, and we heard tales of the pilots' bravery, one being awarded the DFC. The Trust had made a grant of £5,000 towards the trees.

Mick said that a lot of people did not realise that many of the trees being planted were funded by Doncaster Civic Trust. He also thought that the best way to minimise vandalism to new trees was to involve local youngsters in their planting. This had worked well at Denaby where the white-barked birch trees had survived well.

Another project, at Old Thorne Road, Hatfield, involved a £20,000 planting scheme with evergreen oaks, an indigenous species, where Lady Bader, the 2nd wife of the war hero Douglas Bader had been a special guest.

A scheme that everyone would know was the 50 redwoods alongside the Racecourse on Bawtry Road. The trees spent 3 years being grown on in Scotland in containers and cost £18,000. They were planted in August 1995 in very dry conditions in a ceremony involving 5 Gurkha VC recipients. We learned about the problems of compaction of the soil around trees, and "crowding out", where a tree's natural shape was constrained by a lack of space in which to grow.

Mick had campaigned for the preservation of two limes just off East Laith Gate, arguing that sometimes there were more important things than maximising an office development. Sometimes trees needed to be valued, in monetary terms. He was critical of the way the nearby maples had been inexpertly thinned out to allow the CCTV cameras a clear view.

In summer droughts, he had managed to divert the Council's money for grass-cutting, which was not needed, to tree-watering, which was badly needed. Back in 1977, the Council's Tree Team had felled 20,000 elms, victims of Dutch elm disease, which had been a huge task.

We were shown planting in verges throughout the Borough. Mick was very critical of an instance of workers laying new services in trenches only one foot from the young trees' trunks.

In 2000, containerised plants spelling out "Welcome to Doncaster" were installed at Warmsworth. Others at Thorne were less successful and died because of the drought. Lord Kirkham had sponsored the three-piece-suite at Racecourse Roundabout to the tune of £15,000. The floral scaled-down Vulcan bombers on Bawtry Road were another imaginative and well-received scheme.

In 2002, to mark the 60th anniversary of Bomber Command, 60 oaks were planted between Bawtry Road and Finningley.

We had seen many photographs of heroic war veterans whom Mick had involved in his work over the years. There was a sadness as he recounted their gradual passing away in old age, having survived some of the most dangerous encounters imaginable, some 70 years earlier.

In 2013, it would be the 75th anniversary of the record-breaking run of the Gresley A4 Pacific steam locomotive "Mallard", and Mick was hoping that something fitting could be developed. Well, the Trust has a tree fund, so we'll have to put our heads together!

Archie Sinclair

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

2012

16 February Anthea Lawrence on "Safeguarding the Peak District National Park"

15 March John Hoare on "Nostell Priory"

19 April Members' Forum

and Some Dates for your Diary

18 October Christopher Margrave on Clumber Park's Walled Garden

15 November **Annual General Meeting**
and Colin Bycroft on the Development of St Sepulchre Gate

06 December **Christmas Buffet Supper**
Speaker to be confirmed

News from the AGM & Executive Committee

Chairman John Holmes opened the meeting and announced that the Trust had agreed to sponsor a **student bursary scheme**, to help local students through university courses in architecture, town planning, urban design, landscape architecture, building conservation or traditional building crafts.

The scheme was launched on 05 December 2011, and entries have now closed. It will help fund students on courses starting in September 2012. A full report will be in the next Trust Topics.

Treasurer Lyn Cowles stood down from the Executive Committee and the post of Treasurer. She was thanked for her hard work, wisdom and good practice advice over the last eight years.

As we had failed to recruit or appoint a new treasurer, the Executive Committee agreed to extend the role of our accountants, Allotts, who currently prepare our annual report and accounts.

Peter Coote was elected Membership Secretary, and Symeon Waller was elected to join the Executive Committee. Jeff Prior was co-opted on to the Committee during the year and was re-elected.

"Elephant in the Room" Project

Richard Bell had sent a formal request for financial support for a heritage project in spring 2012. This would include an 8 week long exhibition in which the centre-piece would be a full-sized re-creation of the "Elephant and Mahout" carving from the Sand House. This would be done by Jamie Wardley and the exhibition would be at The Point, South Parade from late April to mid-June.

Members of the Executive Committee thought it would be an interesting project, which would promote a unique part of Doncaster's history, and we should make a contribution. However, because of the limited life of the artwork and exhibition, it was agreed to make a limited grant of £500.

The Lost Hamlet of Levitt Hagg



Hugh Parkin 27 October 2011

Hugh gave us a comprehensively illustrated talk on the lost village of Levitt Hagg. The village developed from the 18th century to house a small community whose workers extracted limestone from the quarry on the south bank of the river Don, opposite Sprotbrough. But by 1960 the village had all but disappeared.

The river was made navigable in 1730, and limestone was transported away in barges. The first buildings in the settlement appeared in 1767. Levitt Hagg was the name of the first house. The workers' day rate at the time was 1s 3d, about 6 pence in today's coinage.

In 1814 "White Row" was built, six cottages so called because of their lime-washed walls. We were shown images of a terrace of four cottages, built in 1851 of smooth limestone rubble, with vertical sliding sash windows, clay pantiles on the roof, and a course of stone slates at the eaves.



View of the River Don looking east, with the hamlet and the quarry face of Levitt Hagg to the south

Hugh showed how the village became self-sufficient, as a 3-storey house was built for the manager, terraces for the workers, sheds for the joiners and blacksmiths, a stable block and a steaming shed for timber. Drinking water was supplied from an artesian well.

After the railway came to Levitt Hagg in 1849, transportation was no longer dependent on the river and canal system.

An attractive Mission Hall was built in 1878 with stone walls and a roof of plain tiles, with lancet windows, at a total cost of £485. There were cows to provide enough milk for a milk round, with a horse and dray. There were two collections and two deliveries of post each day.



The Mission Hall and Reading Room 1878

Limestone was not only used as a building material. It was burnt in lime kilns to make lime for improving farmland, for lime mortar and lime-wash. Coal was brought by barge to the village for domestic use and lime burning. "Beehive" (shaped) kilns burned for 5 days to produce the lime. The smaller pieces of limestone were used for the village roads, which got muddy in winter, so clogs were worn, but shoes had to be worn by the children for school.

Levitt Hagg became quite a destination. People came for teas and afternoons in the sun. We saw a horse-drawn barge filled with a church trip arriving for a day out. Children were photographed in front of the lime kilns. 5 donkeys gave rides for visitors – the same donkeys that worked in the quarry pulling tubs of stone.

Hugh really brought the place to life with his tales of some of its characters. If he had not actually met them, he had met some of their descendents. He told us of Alan Barker who, although blinded, ran the paper shop and delivered the papers. Mr and Mrs Chester had nine children, but would have had to manage in the standard rented 2 bedroomed cottage.

A railway carriage did service as a summer weekend “second home”, allegedly for a wealthy Doncaster family.

Boat-building began in the village around 1886, and there was a 6-year apprenticeship. In 1899 the last Humber Keel was built there, with its ribs sawn and steam-bent on site. The children had a day off school and the band played as the barge was launched sideways into the river. The job of knocking the chocks away from under the boat, to get it moving, was not one for the faint-hearted!

An E L Scrivens postcard showing a sailing barge and the ribs of a vessel under construction, with the hamlet of Levitt Hagg in the background



We learned how the stone was quarried: the quarry face was up to 100 ft high and a series of caves were dug into the stone at the lowest level. The caves would be connected, leaving only a grid of pillars of limestone holding up the hundreds of tons of stone above. When the pillars were blown up, the stone crashed down to the quarry floor. It took 3 months to prepare for the blasting, and a further 3 months to clear away the stone.

Levitt Hagg had been an important source of local building materials. Its stone was used for the Hyde Park Cemetery Chapels, and also for repairs at York Minster. Its lime mortar was used at St George’s Church, rebuilt in 1858 to the designs of George Gilbert Scott, and also in the Conisbrough railway viaduct over the Don, where it was used with Conisbrough Blues, the local engineering bricks.

By the mid 20th century, the village was in decline. There had never been any mains drainage, and a public health report of 1925 highlighted the insanitary conditions. There were bad floods in 1932 and 1947, which polluted the water supply. Ultimately the housing was declared unfit and by 1957 the village had been cleared.

The old methods of quarrying the stone were losing ground to modern, more cost-effective techniques at other quarries, and the quarry was closed. One lime kiln survives, and is a home for bats, so it will be protected. Of the tunnels under the Doncaster – Sheffield railway all but 2 have been filled in. The quarry was land-filled with domestic waste over a five year period, and is now restored to grazing land. The natural gas produced by the waste in the tip is now tapped off and supplies the grid.

We really enjoyed Hugh Parkin and his well-illustrated story of Levitt Hagg and its inhabitants.

Archie Sinclair

No Upgrade for the Former Doncaster Grammar School

Our request to have the listing of the oldest part of the school upgraded from grade II (two) to grade II* (two star) has unfortunately been unsuccessful.

In 2008 we became concerned about the future of the former Doncaster Grammar School, now Hall Cross School. Proposals for a replacement school had been published as part of the last Government's Building Schools for the Future programme. The future use of the former Grammar School did not feature in the plans. The issue was covered in Trust Topics no. 34, May 2008.



1869



1938

The original neo-Gothic Grammar School, above left, was completed in 1869 to the designs of George Gilbert Scott and was greatly extended in 1938 with a competition-winning scheme designed by Julian Leathart in a contemporary "moderne" style, above right. The Scott building was listed first, in 1988, and the Trust was successful in getting the Leathart building listed in 1997.



All the buildings were listed grade II (two). 94% of all listed buildings are grade II (two), including those of the least interest. Gilbert Scott's Doncaster Grammar School found itself ranked alongside the K6 "Jubilee" telephone kiosks designed by his grandson Giles Gilbert Scott in 1935. That didn't seem quite right.

The Trust thought that the original 1869 school room, which now forms the library of the Hall Cross School, right, was particularly fine, and appeared unaltered. It had plenty of "special architectural interest", we thought, so on 11 March 2010 we asked English Heritage to consider upgrading the listing of the Scott part of the school to grade II* (two star).

English Heritage described the roof as having "massive arched braced roof trusses supported on moulded corbels"

English Heritage's inspector visited the site on 13 December 2010. We received a copy of the inspector's initial report on 18 January 2011, but then we had to wait for the decision, which did not arrive until 18 December 2011. This had the full report attached which included the recommendation to the Secretary of State.

Of a comprehensive report, these were the critical sections:

After examining all the records and other relevant information and having carefully considered the architectural and historic interest of this case, the criteria for upgrading Hall Cross School, Doncaster, from Grade II to Grade II are not fulfilled.*

It has architectural interest to its design, which gives the school an appearance of long-standing appropriate to an institution originally founded in C14, and the first-floor hall (formerly the class room) benefits from an impressive arched brace roof.

However, the building has gone through a number of alterations, some of which have had an impact upon its intactness. These include, externally, the alteration of a window to a double doorway in the rear elevation, and the infilling of the originally open ground-floor arches with 1930s windows. Internally, the ground floor has been partitioned, but more significant is the loss of the original staircase, which was integral to the use of the building. The loss of original fireplaces is also unfortunate.

So, although we had suggested that the first floor school room was unaltered, the changes affecting the whole of the Scott building, coming about largely as a result of the 1938 development, were deemed to have had a significant impact on the building's intactness or completeness.

English Heritage also undertook a comparative study of both the neo-Gothic and the "moderne" elements of the building, and concluded that the existing grade of listing was appropriate for both. The whole complex remains a grade II (two) listed building, and thereby fully protected.



The "moderne" Leathart staircase by the entrance 1938



Gilbert Scott's "impressive arch braced roof" 1869

It was disappointing for us, but we were relatively satisfied with the depth of the investigation, the report and the justification for English Heritage's decision.

It had taken almost a year from the inspector's report to the decision letter, so I like to think that it was a finely-balanced issue. We'll never know.

Archie Sinclair

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From Balby to Mexborough: Changes to Public Houses

We know that pubs throughout Britain are closing at a rapid rate. Some are being demolished whilst others are being converted into houses or restaurants. These changes are affecting the built environment in a variety of ways. This article explores what those changes have meant in some parts of the Borough.

In 1987 I was appointed to a new job in Mexborough. I drove there from Doncaster every day, along Balby Road to Conisbrough, Denaby and then into Mexborough itself. Between Balby Bridge and my destination I passed sixteen pubs, some old and some new. In 2011 I decided to revisit this route to see how many pubs were still there and what impact any changes had had in conservation terms.

My journey starts with the site of the Vine, a pub I used to see each day, on the corner of Kelham Street, at Balby Bridge. This was an interesting two storey building dating from 1890 designed to look impressive. The Victorians were particularly adept at making corners look more interesting, often by the use of ornament or splayed corners and the Vine was no exception. The pub closed a few years ago and was later demolished.

The next pub to seek out is the Prince of Wales on Balby Road. This is a modern building of little interest but in any case it is no longer a pub and is now occupied by a veterinary practice.



White Swan, Balby Road, built 1930s

As I drive along Balby Road I observe that, on the right hand side, the White Swan, which dates from the 1930s, is just about to open for business for the day.

Further along the road I can see the Plough, dating from 1904. It is still a working pub and looks in good condition but unfortunately it has lost its most interesting feature. There used to be splendid decorative plaster detailing on the façade's bay window known as pargetting.



The Plough, Balby Road, built 1904



Image of the Plough c.1910, showing the lost pargetting

The upper section had a central panel containing the date, whilst below was a depiction of a plough, with the name of the pub also within the plaster. Modernisation resulted in the removal of all this work in the 1980s - a little bit of Arts and Crafts history was destroyed for no real reason. Today the modern render is flat and uninteresting.

Behind the Plough is a small stone outbuilding which looks much earlier than the pub, so perhaps this belonged to an earlier Plough dating from at least 1822 which once stood on the site. It is a reminder of Balby's pre-industrial days.

It isn't long before I reach Warmsworth Road where I spot the Fairway built in 1929.

The name has nothing to do with golf courses though. 'Fairway' was the name of the winner of the 1928 St Leger.

This impressive building, designed by local architects Allen and Hickson in a pre-war style christened 'Tudorbethan' by John Betjeman in 1933, makes a pleasing and characterful contribution to the road. After a spell as a Chinese restaurant, it is now back in business as a pub again, using its original name.



The Fairway, Balby Road, built 1929

We continue with the racing theme with the next pub, the Winning Post, also on Warmsworth Road. This was built in the 1950s and amazingly its interior is still fairly intact.

The CAMRA book 'Yorkshire's Real Heritage Pubs' which concentrates on pub interiors says of it: 'A roadside house with two straightforward spacious rooms, not too much altered since 1956 when it was built by John Smiths brewery. Designed by Sir Bertram Wilson (their company architect for many years) it offers lounge and public bar linked by a rear lobby'.



The Winning Post, Warmsworth Road

We leave Balby now and enter Warmsworth. I remember that in 1987 Warmsworth had a pub on the main road - The Cecil built in the 1960s. Its predecessor had rejoiced in the grand title of the 'Cecil and Battie Wrightson Arms', although this was later abbreviated. The Battie-Wrightsons were landed gentry who owned both nearby Warmsworth Hall (until 1917) and Cusworth Hall. They were related to the Cecil family of Burghley. Also the Christian names of the last of the Battie-Wrightsons to live at Cusworth were Robert Cecil. Pubs named after local families tell us something about local history and, when they close down, the link to that name is lost. In this case the Cecil is now an Indian restaurant, the Tara Lounge. We will look at other pubs named after families soon.

Leaving Warmsworth it doesn't take long to reach Conisbrough. The road descends steeply and my eye immediately catches sight of the magnificent spectacle of Conisbrough Castle, one of the Doncaster area's greatest historic treasures. Pubs are forgotten for the moment. At the bottom of the hill, I remember waiting to turn right at the traffic lights, where I could have a good look at a local pub, The Star. But today I can see by the plethora of signs that it has been converted to other businesses: kitchen fitters in one part, and a window/conservatory company in the other side.

The existence of a 'Star' on this site can be traced back to 1796 and old photographs taken in the early years of the 20th century show it as a grand Georgian building. In 1909 it was burnt down resulting in the death of a 14 year old maid who worked at the inn.



The former Star, Conisbrough, 1910

It was rebuilt the following year in a hard red brick which was typical of Conisbrough buildings in the early years of the 20th century. There is often a dramatic contrast with the earlier buildings of magnesian limestone which seem brighter even on dull days.

Nevertheless the former pub seems appropriate for this location, situated in the Conisbrough Conservation Area. It looks in good order and externally at least has converted well.



The former Station Hotel, Conisbrough, c.1858

Turning right and working my way around the base of the castle I can soon see the Station pub, which dates from at least 1858, on a prominent corner. However all is not what it seems today. There is still one projecting pub sign in place but on the frontage it says 'Furniture bought and sold' thus revealing that the pub has closed. Its character has been eroded over the years and today the building looks rather sad, but at least a new use has been found.

The next community in the Dearne Valley is Denaby or Denaby Main, to give it its full title. This was almost entirely the nineteenth century creation of a mining company, the Denaby Main Colliery Company. By the time of my original drive in 1987 much of the original village had been rebuilt, although houses belonging to the managers still stood.



The former Denaby Main Hotel, Denaby, 1894

On the main road was the company's pub, the Denaby Main Hotel, known as the Drum. It was completed in 1894 and is still there today, an important reminder of the mining era. In 2007 it was sold and soon converted into a Balti Palace but an original 'plaque' on the building informs us of its origins, right.



There is nothing to tell us how it acquired the nickname, the Drum, though. Various ideas have been put forward but Mexborough and District Heritage Society has suggested:

"The one I favour was the explanation given by my maternal grandfather, this being that it was a pay out point. It appears that when Cadeby Colliery was sunk a temporary construction was put up close to the point where the public house now stands from where to pay out the wages.

“The men were journey men, paid out on a daily basis for how much material they had dug out that day, and when their wages had been worked out, then a large drum was sounded in order for them to pick up moneys owing them from the point of the sound of the drum.”

Nearby is the Tavern, a pleasant enough 1960s building and a working pub - the first one I have seen since Balby.

Further along I remember I was always being held up on my way to work by the notorious Denaby level crossing which I was told was closed for 20 minutes in every hour.

Whatever the truth I always had plenty of time to gaze at the Reresby Arms on the left, and, a little further along, on the opposite side of the road, a milestone. Today I am disappointed to see that the pub has gone. The name Reresby came from local landowners at Thrybergh who once owned land in the area. Their coat of arms, incorporating a boar, was once prominent on the sign. Records tell us that the pub, which was probably originally converted from old farm buildings, opened in 1877.



The Reresby Arms c.1920, situated just beyond the Church

A few years ago major changes took place in this area. A fly-over was constructed over the railway to enable the road traffic to move freely. This was great news for the motorist but the Reresby Arms became isolated. It was renamed the Milestone, no doubt after the milestone opposite, but today it has been completely demolished.

Driving into Mexborough I spot another landmark corner building - the Miner's Arms. I notice that I can still see a rather worn inscription on the pediment, 'The Miners Inn' together with its date, 1904. The pub is currently to let. I hope that, whatever happens here, the building is retained.



Miners Arms, Mexborough, built 1904

Another pub on Doncaster Road is the New Mason's Arms dating from 1933/4 and still in operation.

The last stage of the journey now takes me on to the by-pass, turning left to go over the fly-over, and left again into the car park. I have just passed two pubs but I decide to get out and walk to them. This area around Bank Street is interesting and in 2004 became a conservation area.



Montagu Arms, Mexborough, built 1859

The first pub I reach is the Montagu Arms which dates from 1859 although parts of the building on Station Road look slightly later. Nevertheless it is the oldest continuously operating pub on our journey.



It was named after the local land-owning Montagu family who lived in the nearby house known as Melton Park and is now called High Melton Hall. I particularly like the pub's rounded corner and its balconies. It also retains quite a number of its original windows. This is an important piece of townscape.



Montagu Arms, detail

Montagu Arms, rounded corner and balcony

Across the road, I can see to my astonishment that there is a new pub. Well, it isn't new exactly.



Market Hall built 1880, now a J D Wetherspoon pub

J D Wetherspoon, or "Wetherspoon's" as everyone calls the ubiquitous pub company, has created a pub within the large Market Hall building of 1880. This seems a really good use for the property.

I then walk along Bank Street to reach the Red Lion, which I always drove past on my way home. This too is within the conservation area and situated next to the splendidly named Royal Electric Theatre.



The Red Lion, Mexborough, c.1850

The Red Lion is one of the most interesting pubs on the route. It has a hipped roof and a high parapet, but most striking of all are the unusual round-headed windows on the ground floor. I have never been certain of its date, but recently an interesting plan of the pub was discovered, dated 1848. It shows the dining room, the brew house and even the piggery, but it is not the present building. With this documentary evidence as well as the pub's building style, it probably dates from around 1850. However, the part of the building to the right looks earlier, being smaller in scale.

There is a door and doorcase which look to be eighteenth century and which must have been part of the earlier, and original, hostelry. This means that this is the oldest pub building we have seen on our journey. But today I can see that the whole building is closed and boarded up. It seems unlikely to open as a pub again but there are plans to make it into flats.

Of the 16 pubs that I mentioned at the beginning of this article as trading in 1987, two have been demolished, five have been converted to other uses, one has closed and one is to let. That leaves just 7 working pubs. The conversions generally seem to have worked well, although the two empty pubs give grounds for concern. The two demolished pubs, in Balby and Denaby, were not of major architectural merit but their loss is an erosion of our history, a situation, sadly, which is being reflected across the land. Of course this can only be a snapshot of the situation. A review of the whole area would be a major undertaking. Pubs which are listed, or are in a conservation area, have some protection, but for the vast number they remain vulnerable and subject to the whims of developers.

Peter Coote

I would like to thank Gary Barker and Julia Ashby of Mexborough and District Heritage Society for their help in preparing this article.

All photos are by the author, 2011 except for The Reresby Arms which is published by permission of Mexborough and District Heritage Society and the old photograph of The Plough which is from author's collection.

Planning Matters

Members of the Trust's Planning and Conservation Sub-committee get together each month to decide whether objections or comments should be made on planning applications, principally related to listed buildings or conservation areas. Other major applications are also considered.



2008



2011

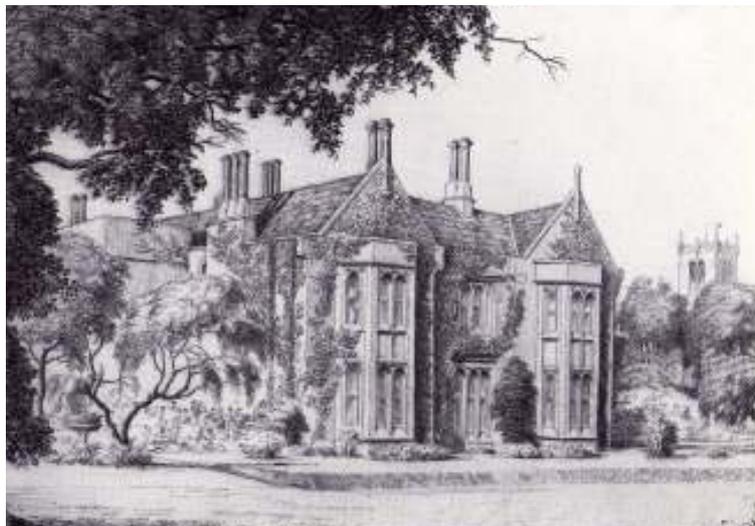


2012

Prudential Chambers, shown above, is situated at the corner of Hall Gate and Silver Street. It was built in 1913 by Paul Waterhouse, son of the distinguished Victorian architect, Alfred Waterhouse, and plays a key role in the character of the conservation area. The shop unit had been acquired by a financial loan company who applied for permission to erect three illuminated fascia signs. We objected to this application as we felt that the design, colours and lighting were strident and obtrusive and inappropriate for such a fine building.

In October we perused an application to convert the former Red Lion pub, situated in Mexborough's conservation area, into apartments, together with a proposal for a new adjoining block of 16 apartments. The Trust welcomed the re-use of the pub building, but considered that the apartment block was too large for its surroundings and would dominate its neighbour. We put forward ideas for amending the roof design to reduce its impact.

We were concerned about two applications for listed buildings. Firstly we objected to an application for one of two proposed new signs at the former petrol station on Station Road in Rossington. We felt the fascia sign should be reduced in size. Unfortunately our objection was unsuccessful.



Sprotbrough Rectory: an etching by W K Mortlock

Secondly, we perused an application at the Old Rectory in Sprotbrough. This historic building was altered and then rendered in around 1840 to create a grand Gothic house. The new owners had recently removed the render and then applied for retrospective listed building consent.

We objected to this application and said it should be re-rendered. Although it was interesting to see the story of its 19th century alterations, the elegant appearance of the building would be lost.

The committee felt this was such an important building that English Heritage should be involved.

Earlier in October the sub-committee perused a major outline application at Marshgate for mixed use development. This included proposals for food, retail, financial services and a vehicle showroom amongst others. We expressed concern about traffic generation, the effect on the town centre's shopping and possible high buildings. We had recently assisted Civic Voice with a survey and views concerning the decline of town centre shops throughout Britain and we felt that a key concern was out-of-centre shopping.

We only object to a few proposals and occasionally we are pleased to see applications. This was the case recently at Bentley Park where we welcomed proposals for restoration including refurbishment of the gates and re-establishment of the band stand. This was a well presented and designed scheme.

We are not always able to tell you the results of our objections at the time. This is because when we go to press most of the recent applications are still outstanding. However we can tell you that where decisions on last year's applications had been made, our objections were successful or partly successful in 14 applications and rejected in five other cases. The committee is pleased with these results.

Reviewing applications is only part of the work of the committee. Doncaster MBC is undertaking appraisals of all of its conservation areas throughout the Borough. The Trust assists with these reviews, often by providing historical information or dates of buildings, but also on materials and conservation issues too. During the last few months we have assisted with the reviews for two conservation areas, Bennetthorpe and South Parade.

This is time-consuming work, involving visits and preparing reports, but it is gratifying that we are being consulted as these are important documents under review. Much of our work is being incorporated and is appreciated by the authorities. The two current conservation area appraisals are still out for public consultation at the time of writing.

The Planning and Conservation Sub Committee

Yorkshire's Historic Pub Interiors



Dave Gamston of CamRA

8 December 2011

Dave was from York, joined CamRA in 1973, and was the chair of its national pub heritage group. He explained that CamRA was not just about saving traditional ales, but was also defending the traditional British pub. It had worked with the Trust to try and get Doncaster's "Little Plough" and Barnburgh's Coach and Horses listed. Of these two pubs, just the Barnburgh one became listed.

CamRA reckoned that every week six pubs were dying: for sale, to let or boarded up. Pubs had once been at the heart of our cultural and social heritage. In the 1960's, in what Dave called "post-austerity Britain", pubs were modernised, altered and "themed" quite indiscriminately, with no thoughts of conservation. It was the age of brewery mergers, with the loss of many local brewers, the introduction of keg beer and short term thinking. Although some good building exteriors were saved, equally good interiors were trashed.

Where historic pubs were listed, it was usually for their exterior qualities, their interiors rarely getting a mention. SAVE Britain's Heritage deplored the lack of a pub preservation culture. The York CamRA branch produced its own list of historic pubs. CamRA now had both regional and national inventories, listing surviving internal historic fabric, layout and fittings, dating from pre-1939. It had expected to find possibly 500 historic interiors in England; in fact it found only 200.

CamRA worked with English Heritage, the 20th Century Society (formerly the '30s Society) and SPAB (the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings) to highlight the loss of good interiors. Their Yorkshire book listed 129 historic pubs, widely agreed through consultation, out of a total of approximately 6,000 in the county. The book had been so successful it was going to be re-printed. Of the 300 pub interiors in England rated outstanding by CamRA, only half were listed buildings.

It was not a great time for conservation, as local authorities were having to make cuts, often losing experienced specialist staff. Conservation was often given too low a priority. But, to keep pubs for their social and cultural value, they had to be profitable. "Use them or lose them" was the cry.

Dave Gamston took us through the development of the public house, from when it was quite literally a house, a farmhouse usually, with a single room for pub use. Early ones were counter-less, with drink being brought from a back room. We saw the King's Arms at Heath, Wakefield, and "Nellie's" at Beverley with its gas lights and stone flag floors, unchanged from the 19th century.

The High Victorian era brought new designs, the most spectacular often using factory-made terra cotta components. The Garden Gate 1901-2, at Hunslet, South Leeds, was regarded as the jewel in the County's Crown, and still survives as built. The very grand Adelphi, just south of the River Aire in Leeds City Centre, was described as a "gin palace". Whitelock's, a hidden gem up a yard off Briggate in Leeds City Centre, was rebuilt in the 1880s and featured a bar with a wonderful tiled front and a long marble top.

The last buildings we saw were in Doncaster: the Three Horse Shoes, close to the River Don, with its original distinctive leaded and lettered windows, and the Horse and Jockey in St Sepulchre Gate West. This fine building was once again boarded up, after a recent re-opening. As well as rich architectural interest, this building had original fittings from 1913 in the first floor public rooms.

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

Archie Sinclair

The Back Page : Forward Planning

The site for Doncaster's Civic Centre was first allocated in the Doncaster County Borough Development Plan. An extract from the Town Map (First Review) of 1960 is shown below. Many new roads were planned, including the one that became College Road, curving around the south of the Civic Centre, before curving around the north of Elmfield Park (POS) to join Bennetthorpe. This proposal was abandoned, fortunately, as it would have required significant demolition and major earthworks to South Parade and Hall Cross Hill. The Hall Cross itself, and some of the nearest buildings, appeared to be sited directly under the line of the proposed road.



Designing the Civic Centre became the job of Sir Frederick Gibberd and Partners. Gibberd was a renowned architect, town planner and landscape architect, a member of the Royal Fine Art Commission and a knight, having been first awarded a CBE. His book "Town Design" runs to over 350 pages and is a comprehensive analysis of town planning schemes ancient and modern, from all around the world. And it includes his work in Doncaster.



Key to the 1960 s Gibberd Plan (left)

- 1 Town Hall
- 2 Council Chamber
- 3 Municipal Office Tower
- 4 Law Courts
- 5 Police Station

Buildings 4 and 5 were designed by Gibberd and were completed in 1968. None of the other buildings went ahead. The buildings to the left of the site are the former Coal House, now The Council House, and St James' Street Baths.

To the right is the 1958 Technical College, demolished 2009, now the site of the new Civic Offices.



The new Civic and Cultural Quarter is taking shape, with the Civic Offices (left) and part of the frame of the New Performance Venue (right). The high quality paving and planting for Waterdale and the new Civic Square are well advanced.