



TRUST TOPICS

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Members' News

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 31 August and Sunday 1 September **The Lions Doncaster Show 2013**
at the Doncaster Deaf Trust, Leger Way. The Trust plans to have a stand for at least the Saturday.

Two Summer Town Trail Walks

Free events for members, family and friends, with no need to book

Sunday July 21 2013: Peter Coote will lead a walk looking at the buildings of the South Parade area. This walk will last a maximum of one hour. Meet at **10.30 am** at the small garden at the corner of South Parade and Waterdale.

Sunday July 28 2013: Archie Sinclair will lead a walk looking at the buildings on the Town Trail. This walk will last a maximum of two hours. Meet at **10.30 am** at Clock Corner, at the junction of Baxtergate and High Street.

Winter Programme 2013-14

All events will take place at St Peter's RC Church Hall, Chequer Road.
All on Thursdays at 7.30 pm

2013

19 September speaker to be confirmed in the next newsletter

10 October **Holgate Windmill, York**

14 November **Annual General Meeting and Annual Buffet**

There will be no meeting in December.

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Sheffield School of Architecture Summer Exhibition

Trust members are cordially invited to attend the launch party for the Sheffield School of Architecture Summer Exhibition.

The exhibition includes work by the students who created the Doncaster schools 'Toolkit'.
The launch starts at **5:30pm on Friday 14th June** on floor 14 of the Arts Tower,
Sheffield University, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2TN
The exhibition runs until 15th July.

This is a great opportunity for Trust members to meet the students and their tutors, and view their exciting work.

For further details please contact Jeff Prior on 01302 728612

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Houses and Gardens of Derbyshire

Keith Thomas

21 March 2013

Keith concentrated on just a few destinations, and then dealt with them most comprehensively. He probably showed us more digital visual images than we've ever seen in one sitting, as he toured us through the houses, then outside around the parks and gardens. What the talk lacked in historical information, it more than compensated for with Keith's comprehensive and high quality photographic record of the places, their planting and some not-so-obvious subjects.



Calke Abbey

We started with Calke Abbey, a house that “ran out of family”, so was handed to the National Trust in lieu of death duties. The Trust opened it to the public in 1985. The beautifully decorated interior featured books perhaps “bought by the yard, and were they ever read?” We saw a primitive shower powered by a stirrup pump and, outside, the Auricula Theatre where flowering plants in pots were displayed in tiers.

Calke had extensive floral and vegetable gardens, and Keith showed us some very good photographs of summer flowers, to cheer us up at the end of the winter. An unusual contraption was a pony-drawn lawn mower, which cost £21 in 1876, and required the pony to wear special shoes to protect the grass.



Kedleston Hall

Next was another National Trust house, Kedleston Hall, home of the Curzon Family since the 12th century. They had provided the last Viceroy of India (1899-1905). The present neo-classical house dated from the 1760s and was the work of the architect Robert Adam. We heard that the building had been a location for the Keira Knightly film “The Duchess”, the story of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, and costumes from the film were on display. We were shown how the furniture and even the floorboards were curved to fit the curved walls.

The Marble Hall was a grand classical interior by Adam, featuring fluted Corinthian columns. Part of the house, the Eastern Museum, was given over to displaying items of interest brought from India at the turn of the 20th century: ivory, clothing, particularly dresses, a ceremonial elephant chair and elephant decoration.

Our last visit was to Bolsover Castle, now in the care of English Heritage. It was built by the son of Bess of Hardwick, and designed for entertaining, not fighting. Like Calke, some of it was derelict, including the Riding House, so ruinous that one's imagination was needed to appreciate it. To help, there was an audio guide and illustrations of how things once were. The keep had been renovated, but not furnished, and it seemed incomplete alongside “the exquisitely carved fireplaces, and richly-coloured murals and panelling of its miraculously preserved and beautifully restored interiors taking the visitor on an allegorical journey from earthly concerns to heavenly (and erotic) delights”.
(as described by *English Heritage*)

Archie Sinclair

The Bursary Programme

Latest news and some reflections from our students

The bursary programme is coming to the end of its first year, so it is a good time for the Trust to take stock of the new initiative. You will see from the following reports that our four local students are making great progress in their studies and place a high value on the help the bursaries are able to make in this difficult financial climate.

The Trust has made a long-term commitment to helping Doncaster students take up studies in built and natural environment subjects and from autumn 2013 plans to extend the programme to provide funding to support a person who wishes to follow a career in traditional crafts such as stonemasonry, wood carving, stained glass or similar skills. The bursary will be open to anyone who plans to study full time and can include mature students.

Emma Grantham (Fishlake) **BA (Hons) Landscape Architecture. Leeds Metropolitan University.**

“My experience at Leeds Metropolitan University has been both an enjoyment and a great learning experience. Studying Landscape Architecture was arguably a precarious decision initially which was due to my lack of knowledge in this subject. However, beginning from the basics, I soon began to realise the deep interest which the subject offers.

Exemplifying a recent project, a small group of us were briefed to design a community garden in Castleford. This was a live project and gave us the opportunity to liaise with the local community to discover their requirements of the gardens. We soon developed a strong concept which we applied to our design. It was a success with the client and is now underway. Although a challenging experience, it was a great enjoyment to be working on a live project and having the responsibility, as students, to create a design that will be used by the local community.

During my time at Leeds I volunteered in Gambia for 3 weeks on a women’s communal garden project. This was a once in a lifetime experience and was without doubt a highlight of my time at university.

The helpful bursary provided by Doncaster Civic Trust has eased the financial pressure and given me the opportunity to take advantage of every opportunity that has been given to me. Overall I have thoroughly enjoyed my educational experiences and now wish to pursue my career in Landscape Architecture.”

Steven Whitehouse (Old Rossington) **BA (Hons) Architecture. University of Lincoln**

"My experience at the University of Lincoln has been very interesting and always fun! Despite the hard work, and occasional all-nighters, I have enjoyed every minute of this course and it is quite sad to say goodbye to my first year.

So far this year I have gone from analysing buildings within Lincoln, to making building and habitable designs in both a foreign place and Lincoln. My final project of designing a Café for Lincoln was definitely my best. I even fused part of the new design from the Doncaster Civic Centre with my own. I also took part in a one-day design competition against all other years on my course. The competition involved re-designing the old tourist information building in the south of the city but needed to include existing site facilities situated there.

It has been a great year, and I feel that the bursary which I will receive next year will help me improve so much more. The course is quite heavy on using computer software to aid our designs and these can build up an expensive bill quite quickly. Furthermore, being able to go abroad with my course would help me experience new cultures and designs, something I missed out on this year.

I should mention that life as a student during these economic times is quite hard, so the Trust's help is greatly appreciated."



Steven Whitehouse's final project designs for a waterfront café in Lincoln

Rachel Berry (Dunscroft)
Bsc (Hons) Architecture & Environmental Design. Sheffield Hallam University

"Having graduated from Sheffield Hallam University in 2010 at the start of the recession, finding local employment proved difficult. So, funded by part-time work, I volunteered for Doncaster Council where I had the opportunity to gain an introduction into multiple departments including building control and planning, vital experience which lead to me eventually finding work within a small Architectural Practice in Leeds. I currently remain in this full- time employment under the title of Architectural Assistant. I feel quite lucky to have found work during my stage one which I know has not been the case for others who graduated alongside me. Having completed my undergraduate study (part 1) and stage one practical experience I am now to progress to part 2 and the next academic course on the route to "architect" status.

I have spent time into researching where would be the right institution to do my part 2, although I am quite drawn towards my original university given the strong focus the department holds towards environmental design. I am very interested in a 'green' way of living and the economic and social rewards this can have. I also love my chickens and their fresh eggs! My passion for the built and natural environment stems from the fact that it shapes everything we do and the way in which we live. I am very excited to explore my ideas and develop my skills further as I continue my education. This bursary will make a significant contribution towards my course fees and it has made continuing my career a viable prospect. Thank you to everyone at Doncaster Civic Trust."

Keri Lynch (Auckley)
BA (Hons) Architecture. University of Lincoln.

"I am an Architecture student in my 4th year, which is a placement year where experience in practice is gained. Due to the current economic climate many people, including myself, struggled to find a placement as businesses couldn't meet the expense of taking on an extra person. However, I was lucky enough to gain the Bursary from the Doncaster Civic Trust. The Bursary has enabled me to take an unpaid placement with the Built Environment Team at Doncaster Council.

Without the financial help that the Bursary has offered me I don't think I would have been able to fund a year's unpaid placement and therefore I would not have been able to continue on my course. I am now over half way through my placement and start back at The University of Lincoln at the end of September. The experience I have gained is immeasurable as I have been able to work with a vast range of people within different specialities, therefore gaining a wealth of knowledge that I wouldn't have acquired at university, for example working on a Conservation Area Appraisal. I'd like to thank everyone involved with the Student Bursary at Doncaster Civic Trust for giving me the opportunity to further myself within my course."

Jeff Prior Bursary Sub-Group

George Haugh: Portrait Painter



“Rover, The Duke of Kingston’s favourite Setting-Dog”

Some years ago Doncaster Museum purchased an oil painting entitled “Rover, The Duke of Kingston’s favourite Setting-Dog”, by George Haugh. Very little is known about the artist, but there is sufficient for this article which I hope is of interest.

George Haugh was baptised in Carlisle in 1756. His talent was recognised at a young age and he was one of a group of artists who received tuition from a Captain Gilpin, a soldier who was also an amateur artist. It was with Gilpin’s encouragement that the young George Haugh entered the schools of the Royal Academy of Arts in 1772, when he was 16.

Very few of Haugh’s paintings are known. The picture of Rover above is dated 1776 and is his earliest surviving work. However, there is an earlier and unsigned portrait of one of his neighbours in Carlisle which could be by Haugh. In 1777 he began exhibiting at the Royal Academy, specialising in animal subjects but also showing landscapes and portraits.



We do not know the exact date that George Haugh moved to Doncaster but by 1779 he had settled in Fishergate with his new wife Susannah, a governess at Bridge Hall School. This 17th century building was situated on the north bank of the River Don.

Bridge Hall, 17th century

It was from his house in Fishergate that Haugh, now a professional artist, advertised in the Yorkshire Journal in September 1786: “Mr Haugh executes portraits in oils and miniature”. This probably resulted in the Countess of Effingham becoming one of his patrons because in the following year she had her portrait painted with a gun and shooting dogs.



The Count and Countess of Effingham lived at Thundercliffe Grange at Kimberworth, Rotherham. A few years earlier they had built a shooting lodge named Boston Castle on a hill at Canklow and it is possible that the portrait was painted in the vicinity. Today the picture is in the Paul Mellon collection in the USA.

Success was then followed by tragedy as Haugh’s wife Susannah died in 1788 aged only 33. However, Haugh met Ann Gardner who had come from Romsey as governess to the family of the Reverend Stovin of Carr House. They married in 1791. In 1796 the Fishergate House was advertised to let.

“The Countess of Effingham with Gun and Shooting Dogs”
(Yale Center for British Art)

In 1793, land on Hall Cross Hill of over four acres, and mainly rented by William Hurst, was put up for auction. Hurst was the landlord of the Salutation and also father of the architect of the same name.



Most of the land was purchased by Hurst who began to build the first two houses on the Hill. These are now numbers 9 and 10 South Parade. A pair of semi detached houses was built next on adjacent land and George Haugh and his wife moved into one of them, thought to be Number 8, in 1796. In November of that year Mrs Haugh announced that her new school on Hall Cross Hill would open in February 1797 for the acceptance of 12 young ladies.

Numbers 7 & 8 South Parade

The school prospered but within a year or two the building proved too small for their needs. In about 1800 George Haugh bought an extensive plot of land at the top of the hill. Here he built a larger house which was fitted out as a school.

Next to the house was the Hall Cross which had been built by the Corporation to the designs of William Lindley in 1793 to replace an older cross which had stood in Hallgate. Lindley was most probably the architect of George Haugh's house too. The design of the doorway of the house is interesting, reflecting the appearance of the windows. The school, which took boarders, was so successful that Mrs Haugh never needed to advertise and it became one of Doncaster's foremost institutions. George Haugh was the drawing master here although his main occupation was that of portrait painter.



Number 1 South Parade

Haugh's father died in 1802 and a legacy may have enabled him to build another house next door, now Number 2 South Parade, probably in connection with the school. It is very similar in design to the house at the top and is also probably by Lindley. (The top storey is a later addition added in 1890). The property was put up for sale in 1805 when it was described as a "house upon Hall Cross Hill adjoining Mr Haugh's". It had a "large garden, stable and other buildings".



Number 2 South Parade

In 1805/6 Haugh visited Scotland to paint some landscapes which he exhibited at the Royal Academy. One of these was “View up Glen Kinglass”, which is now in Doncaster Museum.



View up Glen Kinglass by George Haugh 1805-6

In 1808 he began to exhibit at the British Institute, which continued until 1818. In 1809 he exhibited at Leeds. This article does not attempt to assess Haugh’s skill but we do know that contemporaries thought well of his work. We also have some idea of the way Haugh worked from a letter which he sent to the naturalist Thomas Bewick in Northumberland in 1797:

“I have done nothing more to the sketch I made of you, nor shou’d I like to touch it again – if I had an opportunity of finishing another from you I shou’d copy it and make any Improvement which I might be able, but I always keep the first sketch as exhibiting the effect of first impressions, and have upon many occasions found them very useful. . . I have inclosed it that your Friends may judge whether it can be useful – but I trust you will be careful of it for me, and not let it be injured – for I shou’d not be willing on any acct to part with it.”

Neither the sketch nor a finished portrait has yet been discovered. At the school too, Haugh’s pupils benefited from his expertise. One of his students was Mary Ellen Best from York, whose watercolours were only discovered in the 1980s. He also gave private lessons. Running the rest of the school was Mrs Haugh’s domain. Apart from teaching she also re-landscaped the large garden, based on the Duke of Marlborough’s garden at White Knights in Berkshire. An impression of the garden can be gleaned from a letter written by a Caroline Forth from York who was sent to the school in 1816. In 1819 she wrote to her mother: “Mrs Haugh has improved the garden so much that I scarcely knew it when I returned having thrown it all into a pleasure ground”.

George Haugh also had other business interests apart from his drawing and painting. In 1814 he went into partnership with his brother, who had built a new brewery in Carlisle. He was probably just a sleeping partner but unfortunately when his brother went bankrupt in 1816 George must have lost money too.

Perhaps his experience of building the school led him into another venture. Until 1812 a large field, known as Hall Cross Close, stretched from the entrance to the Town Field opposite the Hall Cross as far as Thorne Road. The residents of South Parade enjoyed an open view across the close. In 1811 it was sold, and within a year it had been divided into three plots and re-sold.

The largest plot of four acres was purchased by John White who lived at Number 15 South Parade. He bought it to preserve his open view. The middle section of one acre was sold to William Haigh, owner of 3 South Parade and agent for Lord Fitzwilliam’s Irish estates. He built a villa with pleasure grounds which later became known as The Lodge. The third plot of just over an acre, adjoining the entrance to the Town Field, was purchased by George Haugh.

In 1814 Haugh advertised his site for sale for building purposes but it would appear that no buyer was forthcoming, as the Tithe Map of 1816 shows the land as a garden in the occupation of George Haugh.

Eventually two houses were built on the land probably in 1817. The next year, a dwelling house, occupied by John Suett was advertised as to let.

Suett was a music teacher who was probably employed in various private schools giving tuition. We know that he worked in Mrs Haugh's school from 1806.

His house was one of two houses built in an unusual castellated 'Gothick' style. They were probably designed by local architect William Hurst and may have been commissioned by Haugh. By 1820 they were known as Regent Place.

By 1825 no further building had taken place. At this time the sale was advertised of the first two properties, described as two modern built dwelling houses, eligibly situated near Hall Cross Hill, occupied by Mr Suett and Miss Bartons together with a parcel of building ground in six lots (each 20 feet wide by 210 feet deep) attached to the houses and in the possession of Mr Haugh. The Misses Bartons ran a private school for young ladies and had been there since 1823. Both houses were described as having two drawing rooms, convertible into one by folding doors.



Numbers 1 & 2 Regent Terrace

The rest of the buildings were completed by 1828 when they were known as Regent's Terrace. They are in a serious classical style, very different from the first two houses. Whether Haugh saw them is uncertain. He died in May 1827 aged 72.

In August the following year, the Doncaster Gazette advertised an auction of "60 oil paintings from the pencil of George Haugh". Unfortunately we don't really know what happened to these or indeed many of his works. Forty years later though he had not been forgotten because the historian C W Hatfield wrote about Haugh, mentioning some of his paintings, including a view of Doncaster from the south east and a self-portrait. Occasionally George Haugh's paintings do appear. A portrait miniature of a gentleman, together with another miniature, sold in 2010 for £450. His larger paintings fetch more including an animal picture worth over £900 in 1972.

Mrs Haugh continued her school until her death in 1849. Other people took it over and it continued until 1885. It had been in existence for nearly 90 years. Number 1 South Parade then became a private house but since early last century it has had various uses. It survived threats of demolition but in 1984 English Estates, who used it as offices, planned a large extension facing the hill. It would have ruined the building and the street. The Trust objected to the proposal and instead the extra accommodation needed was built in the grounds with car parking. This spoiled the grounds but was preferable to the original plan. The interior was altered and changes took place at the back, too. It was all unnecessary because the organisation has long gone. However, its appearance to the street is just as Haugh built it. Today it remains as offices and is well kept. All the buildings on South Parade and Regent Terrace are listed Grade 2 and are also situated in conservation areas.

Peter Coote

I would like to thank the following: Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery for permission to reproduce 'Rover' and 'View up Glen Kinglass'; Dennis Perriam for his research on Haugh's connections in Carlisle; and Eric Braim for his history of Regent's Terrace, previously published in Newsletter 66 February 1992. Information on the garden at the school came from 'Women's Worlds: the art and life of Mary Ellen Best' by Caroline Davidson. PC

Elements of the History of Rossington Hall, and some questions..



South front (yorkshireportraits/google images)



West front (go-design-plans.co.uk/google images)

Following a visit to Rossington Hall at the invitation of the new owners in the summer of 2012 I started to research its history. Whilst there is a great deal that has been written I have come across two puzzles for which I seek the help of Civic Trust members to solve.

Granted to the Mayor and Burgesses of Doncaster by Henry VII in 1505, the Corporation were ordered to sell Rossington Hall (then known as Shooters Hill) by Royal Commissioners in 1835 to pay off corporation debts of £100,000. The successful bidder was Mr. James Brown Esq., a wealthy woollen manufacturer, of Harehills Grove, Harehills Lane, Leeds who bought the estate for £92,500. He moved in in 1838 with his wife Charlotte, daughters Charlotte, Mary and Anne and son James Junior. Shortly after, he renamed it Rossington Hall. The Doncaster, Nottingham and Lincoln Gazette of the time extolled the virtues of the Rossington Estate:

“This estate presents many advantages for a family residence. It lies in a fine open and healthy country, rather elevated than otherwise from the district immediately around. Viewing it from its highest point there is presented to the eye a beautiful map of cultivated fields, luxuriant woods, belts and coppices, bounded and drained by the little River Torne.....”

On the 1st July 1845, James Brown died, leaving the estate to his son James Junior. In 1865 James Junior commissioned a London architect W M Teulon to undertake extensive renovations to Shooters Hill. William Milford Teulon (1823-1900) was a London architect well known for his work on the preservation of churches and a fan of the Victorian Gothic style. Teulon spent the next two years undertaking internal alterations and some external works to Shooters Hill.

My first question, readers, is why William Teulon?

James died unmarried on 19th April 1877 leaving no heirs. His eldest surviving relative was his sister Charlotte. She had married in 1833 and moved to Sussex where her husband Richard Shuttleworth Streatfeild was the High Sheriff. My research shows that Richard Shuttleworth Streatfeild – family home The Rocks, Uckfield, Sussex, old money, titled – and his neighbour James William Scarlett – family home Downland House, Uckfield, Sussex, old money, titled – both married daughters of James Brown – Richard married Charlotte in 1833 and James married Anne in 1837.

My second question, readers, is how did the daughters of a Yorkshire wool magnate get to meet and eventually marry two posh boys from the south of England?

Assuming Richard met Charlotte first, and later introduced her sister to James, how did the first meeting take place?

Richard Shuttleworth Streatfeild had died in 1858 and so the Rossington estate passed to his son, Richard James Streatfeild on the 17th April 1879, with Richard at the tender age of 33. At the time he was a magistrate and lived at The Rocks, Uckfield, Sussex with his wife Mary – she was his cousin from the marriage of James Scarlett and Anne Brown, whom he had married in 1865. They had a daughter Annette in 1866. The Rocks was the family seat and Richard lived there with a staff of 13 including Annette’s governess, Louise Sheren from Switzerland.

Somewhere between late 1879 and 1881 there was a huge fire which completely destroyed the Rossington house. The present hall is thought to stand on the original site of Shooters Hill and was rebuilt by Streatfeild who again commissioned W M Teulon.

The improvements and additions cost approximately £60,000. The house was constructed from traditional English bond red brick with moulded limestone ashlar dressings under a Welsh slate roof. The entrance lobby, once formerly used as a garden room, leads through to the main hall, the grandest space in the building, presenting marble ionic columns and enriched panelled rooms, ceiling cornices, classical chimney pieces, panelled doors and reveals, with ornate architraves. A novel feature was the magnificent rotunda stable block also constructed in red brick but with a graduated green slate roof laid out in a semi-circular D-shaped plan. The house was ready for occupation in 1883. It may have been Teulon’s last work as he retired the same year.

Steve Kimber FCIH, MAbEng

News from the Executive Committee

The Trust learned that Peter Robinson of Doncaster Museum was trying to acquire a small but beautiful late Anglo-Saxon cross pendant for the museum. It had been discovered through metal detecting in the parish of Stainforth and was deemed to be treasure, and had been valued at £900. The Friends of Doncaster Museum had pledged £225 towards its acquisition and, if the Trust matched this, it was hoped that an application to the Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund for the remaining £450 could be successful, and the total cost would be met.

Members of the committee had been circulated with details of the cross by e-mail prior to the meeting, and all were in favour of giving a grant towards the purchase. We have pledged our contribution to the cost of acquisition and now await the outcome of the bid for funding from the Victoria and Albert Museum. The statement of importance includes this text:



“Its charm and importance rests in its relatively simplistic but effective design and execution. It is a functional, devotional piece, exhibiting characteristic artistic and manufacturing skills of the artisan craftsmen of the period and more importantly is an example of an important artistic style present on the European mainland within the Carolingian empire which influenced Anglo Saxon arts and crafts as well as being desirable to Anglo Saxon consumers. It is a unique and rare piece of continental jewellery, for which there are few enough examples in Britain and none previously known from Doncaster or represented in the collection”.

Old Doncaster – a photographic history

Malcolm Barnsdale 21 February 2013



Malcolm had agreed to give us another show based on his comprehensive collection of local post cards. Add this to his comprehensive knowledge of local places and people, and you have a talk which is so thick with really useful information that it is virtually impossible to write up. So, instead of filling many pages trying to cover all the facts and images that Malcolm presented, I decided to pick out from my notes some of the more unusual and lesser-known items.

Finningley Hall was one of the area's lost country houses. It had 20 bedrooms and a charming gatehouse. It was sold in 1943 for £45,000, and the building was demolished so the site could have its sand and gravel extracted. The land now forms part of Robin Hood Airport.

Cantley Hall was built in 1790 as Cantley Lodge for Childers Walbanke-Childers. The racehorse Flying Childers was raised there. The house and large estate was sold in 1904 to Earl Fitzwilliam. Thomas Darley, the brewer, was first the tenant and eventually became the owner in 1950. He lived there until his death in 1982, and his widow stayed there until her death in 1987. Local entrepreneur John Carnell bought the house, which was sold after a short time to Lord Kirkham, the DFS furniture magnate. It is now used principally for entertaining.

The building we now know as the Grand St Leger Hotel was previously called Belle Vue House, but it was built in 1811 as the Turf Hotel. Having been last used as stable-lads' accommodation, it became vacant and was sold in 1984 to Gambles, the shopfitters, who converted it into a hotel. In 1990 it was sold to the Din family who extended it on both sides. A current scheme for further extensions was submitted for planning and listed building consent and is still to be determined.

Elmfield House was built 1803-5 by John Walbanke-Childers for his mother. It was later sold to John Jarratt who owned the Bessacarr Estate, and finally sold to the Doncaster Borough in 1920 for £30,000, including its land that was laid out as Elmfield Park.

The present Doncaster Station building was built in 1933, on land in front of an earlier station building. At the same time, platform one and its railway track were added. So what are now the buildings on platform one, comprising waiting rooms, café and staff facilities, used to form the front elevation of the station. In the image we saw, this was set behind a busy forecourt with horse-drawn cabs.

Hallgate was once all private houses and, with a large proportion occupied by medical men, was said to have been "the Harley Street of the north". By the mid 20th century it had become an important shopping street, and an image featuring Meller's toy shop brought back memories for a lot of people. Further up the street was the large structural steel framework for a development that was started in 1939, and was stalled by the outbreak of war. The frame was not demolished until the late 1950s, and the site was developed for Kingsway House, central government offices for National Insurance. This 1960s building was now in flats. Further up Hallgate we saw Georgian House, where Francis Sinclair had put on bow windows to enable the shop to display goods at a low level. The road had been lowered, so the original window sills would have been well above head height, and this explains why the building had so many steps up to the unusually high ground floor.

It was an entertaining and interesting show, well illustrated with post-cards from Malcolm's collection. He brought places to life as he included facts on alterations to buildings, sales of property and changes of ownership; things Malcolm knows all about. A great evening.

Archie Sinclair

Local History Fair 09 February 2013

The Trust was represented at the Local History Fair on Saturday 9th February at the Museum and Art Gallery on Chequer Road.



The event was very well attended, particularly in the morning, with the Trust's stand and displays attracting plenty of attention and interest. Our publications sold very well, particularly Gordon Smith's new book on Campsall Hall, which was reviewed in the last edition of Trust Topics. Our updated and reprinted Town Trail was also popular.

L-R Symeon Waller, Gordon Smith and Malcolm Barnsdale

I took the opportunity to look at all the other stands. The Doncaster Philatelic and Postcard Society was doing brisk business judging by the numbers of people around their stand. They had had the excellent idea of copying old postcards, largely those of E L Scrivens and selling them. The emphasis was on the surrounding villages. Local village history societies had displays too. A display on the Cadeby Mining Disaster of 1912, for example, was well detailed although quite harrowing to read and made you realise how dreadful it must have been.



My last stop was at the Library Services' Local History Stand. They were advertising various and varied forthcoming talks on local history, with four of them sold out by the end of the day.

I would like to thank all the members who helped on our stand, selling publications and answering questions. Your help was invaluable and I hope you also enjoyed the day.

The Trust's stand was getting plenty of attention

Peter Coote

The Horse & Jockey PH St Sepulchre Gate West

We were disappointed to receive an e-mail from English Heritage on 13 March 2013 informing us that our application to have the Horse & Jockey public house listed would not be taken any further.

The reason given was that, unfortunately, the current circumstances of the Horse and Jockey Public House did not fall into any of the three categories used by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to prioritize designation resources on those sites that are most in need of protection.

The three categories were: threat, strategic priority and evident significance. It was true that the pub was under no known immediate threat, although its future looked far from rosy. Secondly, English Heritage was not currently looking to list pubs on a thematic basis. The third reason was the real blow: that the building's appearance was not significant enough to make it worthy of listing.



Newton's Third Law of Motion and the CCQ

This well-known law has it that every action has an equal and opposite reaction



If we apply this to Doncaster's town centre, and its buildings, we can make an equation. The action can be the building of the new Civic and Cultural Quarter, in Waterdale; and the equal and opposite reaction will be a number of other buildings becoming vacant. The action is the development of a new, large and bustling building; and the equal reaction, opposite in every respect, being a number of older, smaller and now redundant buildings facing a difficult future.

The CCQ with the Civic Office, left, and CAST, right

We could see that it was going to happen, and we had engaged with Peter Davies, the last mayor, about the future of the Mansion House. This was a big issue; a grade one listed building, the most important building in the town, both architecturally and historically, being abandoned as the Council and its leading officers took up residence in their new home in Waterdale. It was such a big issue that we focussed on it rather too intently, and we failed to notice other not-quite-so-important buildings being vacated. But some of these other buildings are also listed buildings, grade two, and still nationally important, just not quite as important as the Mansion House.

When the first plans were being made for the Civic and Cultural Quarter, there was a general view at the time that any existing properties or sites becoming available as a result of the new CCQ buildings would be snapped up for re-use or re-development. This was around six years ago. How times have changed! We now have to get used to seeing cleared sites waiting for re-development, or vacant buildings waiting for a new use or user. And none of this will be easy, or quick.



Mansion House



Nether Hall



15 South Parade



Civic Theatre



Council House



Blue Building



Scarborough House

Archie Sinclair

Planning Matters

Members of the Trust's Planning and Conservation Sub-committee meet each month to decide whether objections or comments should be made on planning applications, mainly those relating to listed buildings or within conservation areas. We also consider other applications of interest.



Over the last two months we have perused around 21 applications and commented or objected to three of them. One of these objections related to an important house in Sprotbrough, the Old Rectory (left), on Boat Lane. This is a fine building, remodelled in about 1840. It is listed Grade 2. It has a pleasing limestone boundary wall which is an important feature. The application related to two sections of wall. One plan was to raise the height of the side/rear walls to 2.85 metres using matching stone. We raised no objection to this proposal.

However, we were unhappy with the other proposal to raise the height of the front wall using metal fencing. There is a sweep of the wall up to the gate piers which is a nice period feature and the proposal to remove it was unacceptable. We also felt that, ideally, railings should not be used on this boundary at all, and the front boundary wall should be retained as at present. However, if the railings were to be approved then they should be of an appropriate design as well as working around the swept wall tops. There was no justification for the loss of historic features and fabric. The Trust has been very concerned about this building for some time. The render has been removed from the walls of the house and is the subject of a separate retrospective application to retain its current appearance. It is really important that historic buildings do not lose their character. *After the Trust's objection, the contentious part of the application was deleted.*



The Trust has observed that Denison House, on South Parade, is for sale. For many years the Council's Architects' Department, it is one of the town's most important Georgian houses. Indeed, the Trust publishes and sells its history as "The Hall on South Parade", its earlier name. During the nineteenth century it was the home of Edmund Denison (later Sir Edmund Beckett), who was largely instrumental in bringing the railway to the town. It has not been required as council offices for several years and unfortunately has stood empty.

The Trust is concerned about its future. We were not impressed by the fact that the sales document has various errors, although the agent has now been notified of these by one of our members. For example, it was claimed that only the staircase is listed whereas in fact the whole house is listed Grade 2. A feasibility study to assess its conversion into flats has been carried out, but there has been no planning application. We will be monitoring the situation as the house has some nice internal and external features, all of which should be retained. Ideally, retention as offices would probably be the best solution.

The Committee is always pleased to see good schemes which will improve buildings. There was a proposal to illuminate the stone lettering on the Black Bull, an eighteenth century establishment in the Market Place, given a new façade in the early twentieth century. Other proposed changes in the planning application included an amenity board and new panels to the existing projecting sign. We thought this was done well and would improve the overall appearance of the building.

Planning and Conservation Sub Committee

The Back Page : a Walk in Barton-on-Humber

I recently visited the little town of Barton-on-Humber, which is just to the south of the Humber Estuary. Barton Civic Society has produced four trail leaflets, and I explored two of them, the 'Georgian Walk' and the 'Victorian Walk'. I certainly found plenty of interest but what made this visit memorable was the discovery that three people who became famous or important had all lived in the town.



Half way round the Georgian Walk I discovered the Old Rectory, a Regency re-modelling of an earlier house. Chad Varah, the founder of the Samaritans, was born here in 1911. A clergyman's son, he too entered the church and in 1953 established 'The Samaritans' in London. He continued to take a key role in the organisation, including its international links, for many years. Apart from mentioning Chad Varah on the trail, the Civic Society has also put up a blue plaque on the house.



Towards the end of the walk I stopped at Laurel House, built in the 1780s for a local surgeon. Later it was the home of Isaac Pitman who developed the world's best known form of shorthand.

He was born in Trowbridge, but in 1832 he came to Barton to take up a post as master of a local school where he stayed for four years. During his time in the town he worked on developing his version of shorthand, although it was not finished until 1837, by which time he had moved elsewhere.



On the Victorian walk I read about Samuel Wilderspin, who was born in London in 1791. Perhaps you have never heard of him but his ideas on education were very influential nationally. He was concerned with teaching methods as well as the furnishing and design of schools and their grounds, and it was he who developed the school playground. Eventually he moved to Barton where he set up his own school with his wife, whilst using it as a national base for promoting change. This school, built in 1844, is Grade 2* listed.

It is now part of a fascinating museum, called the Wilderspin National School which has survived complete with the playground. It is thought to be the only Wilderspin school to survive intact.

Peter Coote