



TRUST TOPICS

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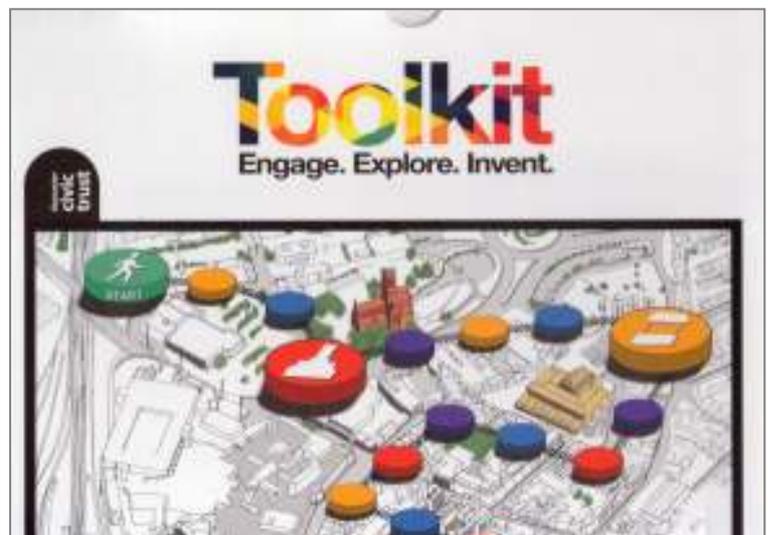
August 2014



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Our Education Project



The Doncaster Toolkit now produced

**Every school in the Doncaster area
already has a copy**

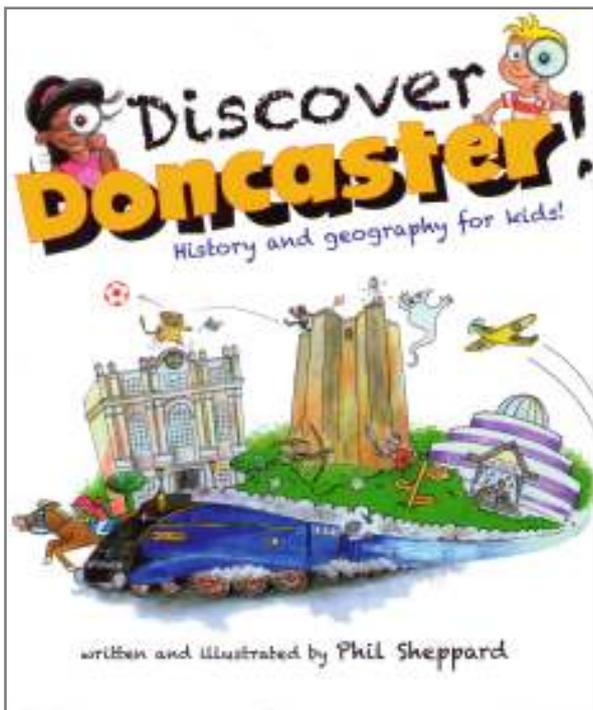
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Member of



**Doncaster Civic Trust : Founded in 1946
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Registered Charity No. 508674**

‘Discover Doncaster: History and Geography for Kids’



A teacher at a local school has written and illustrated a wonderful little booklet about Doncaster.

Phil Sheppard from Hexthorpe Primary School has targeted his work at older primary school kids to tell the story of Doncaster’s history and geography in a light and appealing fashion, using hand-drawn illustrations, maps and photos.

The 32 page publication is packed with facts about famous Doncaster achievements, buildings, places and people and is sure to be popular with our children.

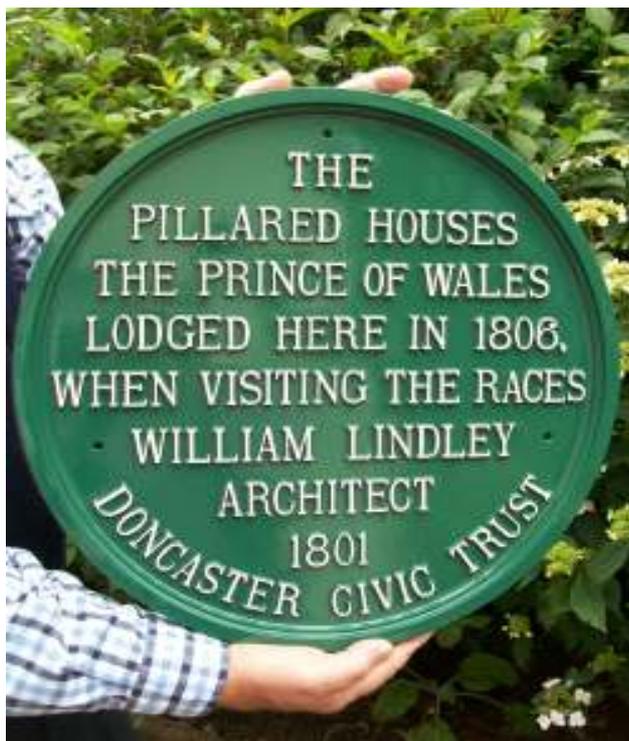
The Trust became aware of the project last year and, in seeing its value in helping kids understand and appreciate our heritage, offered financial support to Phil to get the project off the ground. We also helped him fact-check his work.

Phil has launched the booklet and as a thank-you for the Trust’s support has given 100 copies for us to pass on to members.

The booklet would make a great gift for children and grandchildren. If you would like to obtain a copy you can either pick up one at our regular events for £3.50 or send a cheque for £4.99 (inc p&p) to Archie.

Jeff Prior

New Plaques for Old



Many of our green plaques had started to show their age. They had started to lose their paint and begin to corrode, right.

We entrusted their restoration to Leander, a Buxton firm.

They have sand-blasted 8 plaques to remove old paint and corrosion, then applied primer, undercoat and gloss paint, which was then baked on. The raised lettering was highlighted by hand.

We were very pleased to find out that the cost would be only £56.25 for each plaque, plus carriage and VAT, a total of just over £617 for 8. And to think we had been putting the job off for ages for fear of the likely very high costs!



Members' News

Winter Programme 2014 - 2015

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

All on Thursdays at 7.30 pm

2014

- 18 September** **Michelle Stevens on Landscape Gardens**
Michelle is a practising landscape architect
- 16 October** **Gill Johnson on St Oswald's Church, Kirk Sandall**
Trust member Gill is the Hon Secretary of its Friends' Group
- 20 November** **Annual General Meeting and Buffet Supper**

2015

- 22 January** **Kevin Trickett on Wakefield Civic Society**
Kevin is President of Wakefield Civic Society and Chair of YHACS
- 19 February** **Scott Cardwell on Doncaster Update**
Scott is Assistant Director of Development at Doncaster MBC
- 19 March** **Carolyn Dalton on the History of Place Names of Doncaster**
Carolyn is Heritage Services Manager at Doncaster Museum
- 16 April** **Members' Social Forum and a talk from
Symeon Waller on "The Earl of Rosse"**
Trust member Symeon is a keen local historian and author

The Trust's Student Bursary Scheme

Last year, the Trust supplemented its bursary scheme by offering an award to a young person wishing to study a traditional craft, such as stonemasonry, woodcarving, historic building renovation and similar practical crafts.

Sadly, we had no takers so have decided to offer this additional award to a student wishing to study one of the subjects specified in our original scheme. These were: architecture, town planning, urban design and landscape architecture.

Therefore, in November this year we will be announcing a new round of bursaries, offering three awards of £1,000 per annum from September 2015. This will coincide with Keri Lynch and Rachel Berry, two of our current bursary holders, finishing their studies.

In the longer term, we anticipate that the impact of the Toolkit and the Trust's other education initiatives in the pipeline will create greater interest in the bursary scheme.

Jeff Prior

Holgate Mill, York

Helen Hout & Richard Green Thursday 10 October 2013



Helen and Richard came from the Holgate Windmill Preservation Society to tell us the very successful story of the rescue of this unusual windmill.

It was unusual because it was situated on a mini-roundabout in a residential street 1½ miles from the centre of York. In 2001 the mill was derelict and had no sails. The preservation group was formed in 2001, and local historians were crucial to the mill's rescue. Work started to restore the mill in 2004 and the mill was back in working order in 2013. The restoration cost was approximately £550,000, which was met by fund-raising, sponsorship and grant-aid.

The mill was a tower mill, built of brick. It had five double-shuttered sails and a fan-tail which made it unique in England, and was listed grade 2. It was built by its first miller, George Waud, and was operating by 1770. It was run by three generations of the Waud family until 1851. It was sold, then sold again in 1855 to Joseph Peart, who owned several mills in the area. In 1858-9 the mill tower was raised to bring the sails to a safe height. Shortly after, in 1863, a steam engine was installed, so that milling was no longer wind-dependent.

Mrs Eliza Gutch bought the mill in 1902 and corn was ground by tenant millers using wind power and electric motors that had been installed in the 1920s. There was quite a set-up: as well as the mill, there was the mill house, granary and engine house, together with a piggery, some geese and an orchard. After storm damage in 1930 and despite installing a larger electric motor, milling stopped entirely around 1933. The Gutch family sold the mill to York Corporation in 1939.

The mill's design followed the Lincolnshire pattern invented by the esteemed engineer John Smeaton, from Leeds (who also designed and built the Eddystone lighthouse, near Plymouth). He experimented with the efficiency of windmills and introduced the five sailed windmill, with ironwork and the onion shaped "ogee" cap, which allowed the wind to pass easily. The brickwork had been rendered and tarred, but this was all taken off and replaced with lime render as part of the restoration work. The render was painted black with Keim paint.

The 12 feet diameter fantail moved the cap to and fro using a gear wheel running on a toothed ring on the tower top. The tower was 60 feet high and 22 feet in diameter at its base. The sail timbers were 35 feet long which posed a problem with sourcing suitable timber. The solution was to use laminated larch, made from 2 x 1 inch battens glued together to form much larger sections.



The mill is always open on Saturday mornings 10 am – 12 noon. It makes wholegrain flour from a blend of grain provided by a local merchant. The windmill is still owned by York City Council and leased by the Preservation Society on a peppercorn rent.

There is a very comprehensive website with almost 700 very good photographs of the mill's renovation inside and out. Visit www.holgatewindmill.org/

Archie Sinclair

The Earl of Doncaster

Symeon Waller

Thursday 20 March 2014

On 20 March we were due to hear Michelle Stevens speaking about landscape gardens but unfortunately she had to cancel. We were grateful to Symeon Waller who stepped in to give us a fascinating talk about 'The Earl of Doncaster'. This was about the man and not the hotel, we were told.

Symeon started by telling us not about the Earl, but about the downfall of the monarchy in the 17th century. This was a surprise at first but soon the connection became clear. After Charles I's execution in 1649, Charles II became King, but this was only recognised in Scotland. After the battle of Worcester in 1651 the King fled to France. Here he began a relationship with one of his supporters, a Welsh noblewoman called Lucy Walter, and in 1649 his illegitimate son, James Scott, was born. The boy was raised by his mother until he was nine when, in March 1658, he was placed under the care of the Crofts Baronets in Paris and he became known as James Crofts.

In 1660 Charles returned to England as King, and his son joined him in 1663. Now aged 14, he was created Duke of Monmouth with a subsidiary title of the Earl of Doncaster. This was the first time the title had been used, yet there seems to have been no connection with our town. Symeon told us that one possible reason was linked to a Sir Marmaduke Langdale, one of the King's supporters who died in 1663. He had been based at Pontefract in the Civil War and it is thought that he had raised troops in Doncaster. The title could have been a way of honouring him. However all this was just a theory, for no one knows for certain.

James married Anne Scott, 4th Countess of Buccleuch, and they had several children, one of whom, Charles Scott, became the 2nd Earl of Doncaster, but he died in infancy.

In 1685 Charles 2nd died and the throne passed to James 2nd. The 1st Earl of Doncaster refused to accept it and, in an attempt to claim the throne for himself, he claimed that his parents had married in France. This campaign was known as the Monmouth rebellion which unfortunately resulted in his execution for high treason. This should have been the end of the title, but it was soon revived.

The title of Earl of Doncaster was granted to the 1st Earl's grandson, Francis Scott, Duke of Buccleuch. This was the 1st Earl by the 2nd creation.

Symeon then described all the Earls throughout the centuries giving us a potted history of each of them. Over the years they acquired more and more titles and houses. The main title was, and still is, Duke of Buccleuch and one of their houses is Boughton in Northamptonshire.

Symeon told how he had purchased a document issued by the 5th Earl in 1812. He then sought out Richard, the present Earl, at his home at Boughton and invited him to come to Doncaster to present the document to the Mayor. This is now on display in the Mansion House.

Although the Earl of Doncaster is a subsidiary title to the Duke of Buccleuch, it is pleasing that Symeon has established a firm link between town and Earl. He explained that he has now met the Earl several times and hopes that contact will continue.

This was an interesting and fascinating talk. Until recently most of us didn't realise that there was an Earl of Doncaster. I, for one, had assumed the title was obsolete.

Peter Coote

Symeon Waller is a member of the Trust's Executive and a life member. He also runs his own popular website called Doncaster History. Visit it at <http://doncasterhistory.co.uk/>

In January 1843 Hurst wrote a letter to the Town Council outlining his plans. He suggested that two new roads should be built to improve access to the market and that the town hall should be demolished.

The road to the north, shown as North Road on the map, would be 40 feet wide and run from the middle of the Old Angel on Frenchgate to the east end of Baxtergate. The Old Angel had once been one of the town's best inns, sheltering royalty and the famous. Originally built as the Bear in around 1458, it changed its name to the Angel in the seventeenth century. By the early years of the nineteenth century its glory days had long since faded and in 1810, with the opening of the New Angel (later the Angel and Royal) across the road it went into decline and eventually closed in around 1840.



The Old Angel

There could be few arguments against its demolition. Its age and history seemed irrelevant as Doncaster struggled to remain prosperous after the loss of its coaching trade yet with no direct railway. Hurst stated that the road would also open up a new view to the church by 'rounding off the entrance to Mr. Falconer's'. Rounding of corners had become a feature of the town since first introduced in the eighteenth century and Hurst was a keen exponent.

He also suggested that a new town hall should be built on the new road as close to Baxtergate as possible 'at the point where the quadrant at the eastern end of the projected street commences'. The Town Hall was outdated despite its Georgian makeover. It was also in the way of further market expansion.



The Town Hall in the Market Place

Hurst's proposal for a second road was to make a new street to run from opposite the Reindeer Inn in Hallgate to the Old George in the Market Place. In his letter he outlined the details: the road would run south-west at the angle of Silver Street and Hall Gate thus creating a quintuple junction, at the Hall Gate end.

Four houses would be demolished in Silver Street and one at the eastern end whilst others would have their corners rounded. The theatre and Reindeer would be the termini of the view created.

Part of the theatre including the entrance would have terminated the view in the Market Place from the road leading from the Reindeer in Hallgate. The photograph shows the theatre being demolished in 1900.



Hurst explained that the idea was to provide greater access to the Market Place and reduce the danger of collision in East Laith Gate. He added 'the new road would acquire valuable frontage'. Later on in his letter he stated that congestion in Sunny Bar and Fishergate would be reduced.



The Reindeer at the corner of Hallgate and Cleveland St. This is how the inn would have looked at the time of Hurst's plan. It was partially demolished in 1891 due to the widening of Cleveland Street and finally demolished in 1962.

In the market itself he recommended the demolition of some old buildings near the town hall. He also suggested the building of a new butchers' shambles to be built on a circular plan with shops both outside and inside of the circle plus a slaughterhouse.

The Georgian building called the New Shambles would be converted to a fish and vegetable market. The corn market would have a lofty iron roof of light construction and be open on all sides except one. The existing wool and cattle markets were to remain.

In March 1843 Hurst wrote again, this time suggesting that the plan could be amended to retain the town hall but with improved facilities for the magistrates and public, clerk, attorneys and reporters, who also occupied the premises.

Hurst's plans with the two new streets had some merit, but it was never implemented, and Hurst died the following year at the age of 57.

Unfortunately I can find no record that Hurst's plans were considered by the Council. His personal notes on the matter, which have survived, say he sent in his proposals yet there is no direct reference to them in the records of full meetings or relevant sub-committees of the council. There are, though, vague references in 1844 which might refer to his proposals. Despite the lack of evidence, I think we can assume that they were considered and rejected, perhaps on cost grounds.

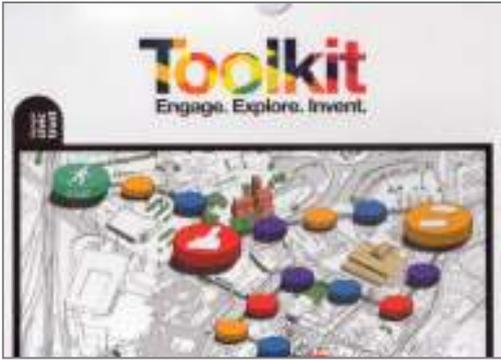
Instead, the Council decided on a more thorough clearing away of the market area. No approach roads were to be built. They asked their steward, John Butterfield, to build a new Market Hall where traders could be under cover. This is the building we see today, although it was extended in the 1870s. He was also asked to demolish and replace the Town Hall. Butterfield replaced it with the Guildhall, which he built on the site of the Old Angel in 1848. So the old inn, which had come into the ownership of the Town Council, was demolished after all, but there was no new road. A few years later Butterfield also built the Wool Market. In 1843 he had also built a Corn Market, but this proved inadequate with increasing trade and in 1873 the present Corn Exchange was built to the design of William Watkins of Lincoln. The fish market was not constructed until the 1930s.

Hurst's plan for the Market was not thorough enough, but his road plans would have been a good solution. Indeed they would probably have looked quite stylish if he had been the architect, which was probably what he was hoping for. He had already had experience in designing one street in the town centre - Priory Place with its chapel - which are both still pleasing to the eye today.

It wasn't until 1894 that the council finally took action and improved access to the Market when they demolished part of Baxtergate, setting back the building line. Sunny Bar was given the same treatment in 1902 although this was to help with the new tramway system, whilst Scot Lane was not fully widened until after the First World War.

Peter Coote

Doncaster Toolkit Launch



The Trust is delighted to announce the much anticipated launch of the Doncaster Toolkit in June. We have been working since 2012 with the University of Sheffield Schools of Architecture and Education to develop a built environment learning package for Doncaster schools. The product, known as the Toolkit, has been distributed free to all primary and secondary schools in the borough.

The Toolkit's neat box

The package consists of a board game, a teachers' activity guide, a website with reference materials and a smartphone 'app', all contained in a neat box.

The **board game** follows a route around the town taking in the Minster, Markets, Sir Nigel Gresley Square and Hyde Park Cemetery. Students are invited to answer questions about the town from game cards.

The **activity guide** contains over 40 exercises, starting with a basic introduction to an understanding of architecture, entitled 'How to Become an Architect'. The guide then helps students discover the history and sights of Doncaster town centre. This section is called '(Re)Discover Doncaster'. Finally, the guide introduces on-site exercises based on the Minster, Gresley Square, Market Place and Hyde Park Cemetery. The guide also contains a useful bibliography for students wishing to undertake further research.



The website homepage

The **website**, www.doncastertoolkit.co.uk is an online companion to the activities guide in the toolkit. It contains all of the tasks from the guide as well as downloadable links to worksheets and tools for each activity. It also contains details of how the toolkit was developed, who did the work and an academic report on the rationale underpinning the project by Lisa Procter from the University School of Education.

The activity guide also introduces the **mobile phone application (app)**. The University has created two games which are designed to be played using a smart phone. The app offers two walks in the town centre. These are a guided walk to discover three of the four gates to the medieval town and a tour around the Waterdale area to observe its architecture, reflect on its history and answer some questions.

The Trust's aim in all of this is to help our young people better appreciate the qualities and value of Doncaster's rich built heritage. It might encourage more students to consider careers in the various disciplines which contribute to making our towns and villages great places to live and work. And of course, they might want to apply for a Trust bursary!

Special thanks are due to Eirini Christofidou, who as a student in the school of architecture was part of the team which created and developed the Toolkit. Latterly, she has been responsible from taking the prototype forward through its final production stages. We think she has done a wonderful job for us.

We do have a limited number of copies of the Toolkit available for sale. They are priced at £19.95 plus £3 p&p unless collected in person from Archie.

Jeff Prior

Planning Matters

The Trust's Planning and Conservation Sub-Committee meets every month. Here are a few of the issues discussed since the last Trust Topics.

Rockingham House, Bennetthorpe, Doncaster

The former Rockingham Arms on Bennetthorpe was converted into flats recently, amidst some controversy. In April we reviewed an application to build a further 14 flats on adjoining land, once the hotel's car park. We decided we had no objections to some development here.



Notice the 4 tiny cottages and shop to the right of the hotel

Some car parking space would still remain and anyway the site had been occupied by cottages until their demolition in the 1960s. However, we were very disappointed with the poor design of the proposed new building and objected to the application. We made suggestions for improvements that could be made. Revised plans have been submitted which might address our concerns. We believe that new buildings in conservation areas should make a positive contribution, or be refused.

Other pubs:



The Red Lion, Doncaster Market Place

It was interesting to see the proposals to convert the Red Lion in the Market Place into a Wetherspoon's hotel. This historic listed building was built as an inn, so this will mark a return to its original use.

At Thorne we were pleased to see an attractive and well designed scheme for a wine bar and other uses at the Mailed Horse, situated on an important corner site at King Street.

18 South Parade, Doncaster



Measured drawing of 18 South Parade

This was an application for change of use to nine flats from an insurance broker's office, known as Bourne-Swann Chambers. The house is the finest domestic property built in Doncaster in the 18th century. It was designed by John Rawstorne but the quality is such that people have mistaken it for the work of James Paine. Although we were initially concerned about the number of flats, we decided after an interior site visit, that we would not object to this part of the application. However we still had concerns about any damage to the important architecture in the interior and we carefully studied the 'Listed Building Consent' application. The proposals were not adequate for us to assess the changes and we asked for more detail. Improved amended plans have been received at the time of writing.

Peel Hill House, Thorne

Peel Hill is the site of a motte (raised earthwork) near the church in Thorne. Adjoining is a 20th century house, called Peel Hill House. The planning application was for a new house in the garden, sandwiched between the hill and new proposed buildings at Thorne House, a Victorian mansion. We objected because of the scale and size of the proposals. A smaller building would be acceptable. However we were surprised that English Heritage did not join in with comments, instead leaving it to the planners.

Bawtry Water Tower

This unusual application was a proposal to turn a redundant water tower into a house! We felt this was an unusual and imaginative scheme which we welcomed.

Bessacarr Conservation Area

The conservation area is under pressure because of the continuing number of proposals to build houses in large gardens on or around Bawtry Road. Some development is acceptable and in many cases we have made no comment. However, we will express our views to the planners where we consider sites are being over-developed or the character of the area is threatened. Recently we objected to three such applications. We hope that proposals on a smaller scale will be the result.

Conservation Area Appraisals---Burghwallis

Doncaster MBC's Conservation team is gradually revisiting every conservation area and re-appraising them. We are then asked to comment and add any historical information. We usually make a site visit and send in our findings. We have recently completed our work on Burghwallis and submitted our views to the Council. The Draft Appraisal will go out to public consultation shortly. Although there have been changes and alterations to old buildings, the village remains delightful, with the grouping of Old Rectory, Church and Hall being particularly charming and important. We did have some help with this appraisal from beyond the sub-committee, both inside and outside the Trust for which we are most grateful. One or two historical gaps remain but we hope to make further contributions during the consultation.

Yorkshire and Humberside Civic Societies (YHACS)

This is a forum for all the Civic Societies in the region which meets quarterly. We try to attend as many of its meetings as possible. There are usually speakers and good discussions. One of the speakers at the last meeting in Wakefield was Freddie Gick, the Chair of Civic Voice, our umbrella organisation. He spoke about 'Assets of Community Value'. This scheme gives local people the opportunity to ask for buildings to go on a community register, for example a struggling village shop or empty pub. Then, if the buildings go on sale, the community group can bid for the property first. Although the Trust has no current plans to become involved locally, it may be of interest to other groups. So far Doncaster MBC has received three applications but only one has been accepted. We hope to bring you a more detailed report of the next summer meeting in Hull.

Civic Voice Report

Civic Voice contacted us in April. It was seeking the Trust's views on a number of planning issues for a Civic Manifesto to be in place by the time the next Government is elected. We completed a questionnaire on 5th May. This covered seven themes including the Planning System, Design Quality and Heritage. Our views will now be compared with others and a national policy prepared.

Planning and Conservation Sub-Committee

Trust Topics is edited by:

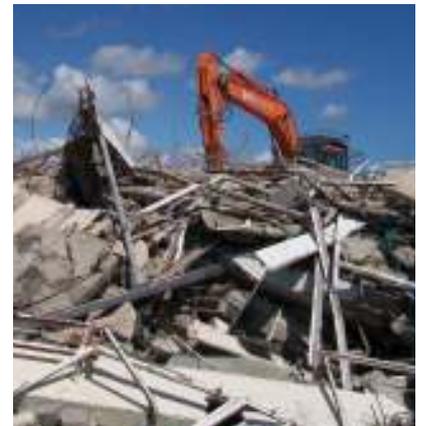
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The Back Page : Giant Clearance Sale

As trailed in Trust Topics 49, June 2013, 3 buildings made redundant by the development of the new Civic Office have now been demolished. Although it really is a giant clearance, there will be no sale yet. The sites will be brought forward by the Council's Partner for the Civic & Cultural Quarter, Muse Developments.



NCB's Coal House, which became The Council House, was quickly reduced to a pile of rubble at 8.13 am on Sunday 20 July 2014. The building had been comprehensively stripped out, and explosives and protective material placed on levels 1, 2, 6 and 10 to initiate the successful progressive collapse.



The Civic Theatre, former Arts Centre, was less dramatically demolished by man and machine. Its clearance revealed its sloping site, fortunately with some mature trees. The original poster frames, later abandoned in favour of large banners on the building, survived the demolition. The brick extensions were designed in 1975 by the Trust's Chairman, John Holmes, who now qualifies as a member of The Rubble Club. Its founder, the late Glasgow architect Isi Metzstein said, "The club is open to all who have had buildings destroyed in their lifetimes, simple as that. There are very few rules, we never meet up and I don't even know who they all are! Self-knowledge makes you a member of the club; it's all a fantasy but not an entirely empty fantasy". *And those posters aren't real!*



Scarborough House, a pre-fabricated timber building erected by the new Metropolitan Borough Council in 1974, was intended to be a short-term answer to an accommodation problem. The new council had to incorporate the functions and staff of the local urban and rural district councils that would disappear in the local government reorganisation. Its short life turned out to be one of 40 years. No full planning permission has been granted for any of these three sites. It is hoped that Muse might build housing on the Scarborough House site in a similar style to that on its site on the opposite side of Chequer Rd, above right.