



TRUST TOPICS

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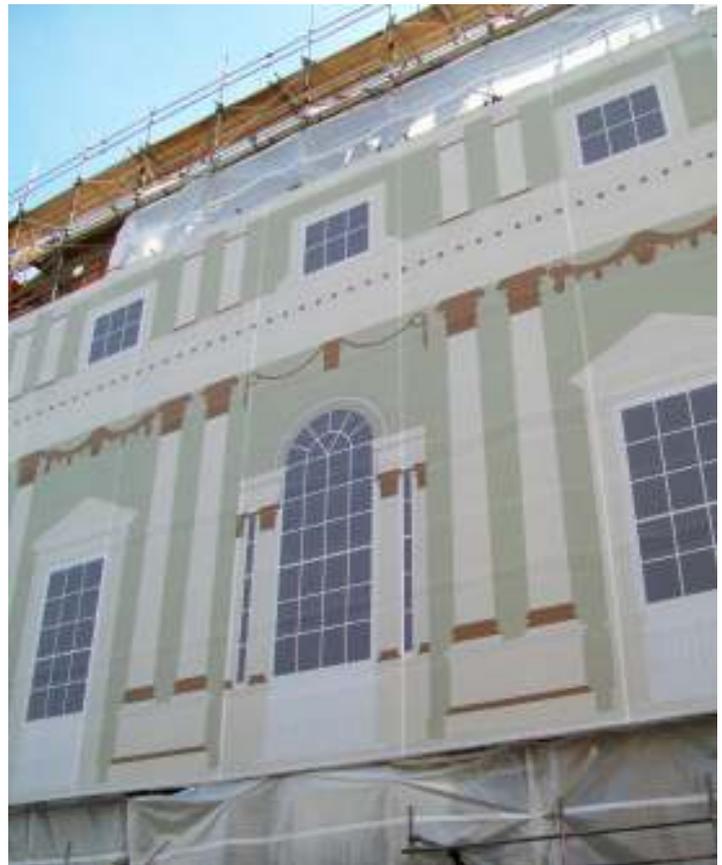
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Member of



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Hexthorpe and Stirling Street Primary Schools Visit to the School of Architecture at Sheffield University 25 June 2015

This year the children had successfully entered the Doncaster Civic Trust competition for primary schools “Build a New Doncaster” and now were keen to learn more about becoming an architect and to view the students’ exhibition of work at the University.

After a good journey by coach from Doncaster these two schools arrived in plenty of time to climb up the many flights of stairs to the 14th floor of the University’s Arts Tower. Depositing lunch bags in a corner it was time for these twenty children who had entered and successfully gained first and second prizes in our Schools’ Architecture Competition to settle at the lecture tables to be introduced to Leo Care, the director of the MA architecture programme with a particular interest in schools. Indeed he had arranged the MA students to visit these schools for a day to introduce the children to the design competition.

Leo along with Charlie, a first year student, explained to the children that the study of architecture was a long intensive training over many years. The rewards were great as it was exciting and creative giving everyone the opportunity to draw, sketch, design, make models, take photographs and discuss their ideas with other students from all over the world. Some projects could even take them to far away places for visits. They were introduced to the formal architectural language which was difficult but when explained in simpler terms the children nodded heads showing their understanding of the meanings of the words so enriching their own vocabulary. They responded and related to the images shown on the screen of various drawings and photos of buildings and environments. Some very good questions were asked showing a keen interest even though they were only 9 or 10 yrs old.

It was time to move to the exhibition level to view the students’ summer end of term show, displaying drawings, photographs and models. It was amazing to see the progress made from year 1 to the level of the years 4 & 5 post graduate students. Some pupils spoke about their favourite drawings giving intelligent reasons. All were amazed by the models showing designs for both inside and outside buildings using various materials.



After lunch it was their turn to become a student with a design challenge. In 5 small groups they had to design a school for five different regions of the world. 1. Polar; 2. Desert; 3. Tropical; 4. Mountain; and 5. Ocean. Taking coloured pens to a large sheet of paper each group discussed and put down their ideas and made sketches. Finally it was time to explain their work to the other groups. Some excellent ideas evolved even thinking about the economical and ecological aspects of the environment and the people of the region using local materials and manpower.

Finally Leo said what excellent students they would be and asked if anyone now wanted to be an architect. “Yes”, said one boy, “but I do not like all the stairs we had to climb!” There were lifts including a rare paternoster, so no worry there!

I thoroughly enjoyed the day even though it was quiet without the mature students present, but it buzzed with enthusiasm from the young pupils who are the architects of tomorrow.

Tina Anderson

Members' News

Winter Programme 2015 - 2016

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

All on Thursdays at 7.30 pm

2015

- 17 September** **Scott Cardwell on Doncaster Update**
Scott is Assistant Director of Development at Doncaster MBC
- 15 October** **The Leader Brothers on Blue and White Pottery**
Return of the popular speakers who brought us their Mystery Box in 2012
- 19 November** **AGM and Buffet Supper**

2016

- 14 January** **Gary Brett on Old Hatfield and Hatfield Woodhouse**
Gary is a local historian with particular interest in the two Hatfield villages
- 18 February** **David Winpenny on Up to a Point – Pyramids in Britain and Ireland**
David is Chairman of Ripon Civic Society and sits on YHACS Committee
- 17 March** **Clive Howarth on Doncaster's Great Fire 1853: St George's Church**
Clive is Churchwarden at St George's and editor of *achurchnearyou* website
- 14 April** **Members' Forum**

Heritage Protection

Anyone visiting High Street recently cannot fail to have noticed the amazing pictorial protective sheeting on the scaffolding at the Mansion House. Rather than using plain tough plastic sheets, or those repetitively emblazoned with the name of the contractor, these display an attractive digital image of the renovated building.

It was an inspired decision by those responsible.



St Martin in the Fields



Buildings at King's Cross

This technique was used to good effect on St Martin in the Fields, off Trafalgar Square in 2007, and again close to Kings Cross in 2013. Neither looked as good as Doncaster's Mansion House.

The present contractor, William Anelay, is the same family-owned firm that added the attic storey to the building in 1801. It took over after the death in 1771 of John Thompson, builder of the original Mansion House in 1744.

The Arnold Building, 39 Printing Office Street

Next time you walk along Printing Office Street please stop at Ladbroke's. Now, I am not suggesting you should go inside. Instead, look above you. On the upper floors you will see 'Harold Arnold + Builder' spelt out in tiles. In this article I will tell you about why it was built and why it has caused the Trust much concern over many years.



Beginnings: Harold Arnold

Harold Arnold was a joiner who established himself in business in 1850 on Silver Street. He became a house builder but soon took on other work including various chapels in the area. In 1879 he erected the building on Printing Office Street which is the subject of this article.

It was for use as workshops and offices for his firm. The building is interesting for its fine display of ornamental brickwork as well as the tiles. By 1881 the firm employed 75 people but Harold Arnold died the following year. His son, William Sayles Arnold, took over the business.

Expansion

W S Arnold built himself a house on Printing Office Street in 1883. The firm's yard was located between the house and the workshops. Arnold continued to live in his house until 1888 but eventually he built another much grander residence, Edenfield, in 1894. The house stands at the top of the Town Field and today it is used as a conference centre.

Under W S Arnold the firm expanded, winning major contracts in Leeds, Manchester and across the north. Larger works were needed and in 1902 they moved to Balby but the HQ remained at Printing Office Street. Offices were built on the site of the yard. The workshop was leased as a warehouse to W E Cox, fruit and vegetable merchants. Eventually the lettering was covered over. It might be interesting to note some of the town centre buildings that Arnold's constructed. They include Clock Corner, the Grand Theatre, parts of Town Moor Avenue, North Bridge, Lloyds Bank, TSB, the Doncaster Infirmary (1930) and the Nurses Home, amongst many more.

Conservation

In 1977, after some pressure from the Trust, the Council designated High Street as a Conservation Area. The boundary included part of Printing Office Street which served as a 'back boundary'. This designation meant that no buildings could be demolished without permission, but it did not protect every structure permanently.

Development Plans

In 1986 a development company called Frogmore Estates wanted to build the Priory Walk Shopping Centre (which in the end was mainly bars and not shops) and applied to demolish part of Cleveland Street and 23-45 Printing Office Street. Our battles relating to this development have appeared in the newsletter previously and there is no space to detail them all again. Nevertheless I will say that we objected to the demolition of four buildings including Arnold's warehouse and house. Eleven years later, in 1997, and after various schemes had been put forward and then abandoned, we noted that nothing had happened and some buildings had fallen empty and derelict. Eventually demolition did start. Arnold's house, which had been a shop since the 1930s, was one of the casualties but the offices and the warehouse survived the rebuilding.

Publicity

The warehouse has appeared on our front page twice. The first time was in April 1988. The story told readers about a retailer called This-is-It leaving the premises and taking its sign down. As they did so an observant councillor and conservationist, Robert Grainger, noticed the original arches. Negotiations then took place with new tenants who agreed to leave the arch and lettering, which had also been re-discovered, exposed to view.



Possibly the finest example of Victorian decorative brickwork in the town centre

Another Threat

We thought we had won the battle for the Arnold Warehouse but sometimes developers will return to ask for more. In 2001 they returned to the original idea of wanting to demolish the buildings on the corner of Cleveland Street and Printing Office Street, including No 39. We objected to the proposal to demolish the Arnold building on the grounds that its façade was the finest example of Victorian decorative brickwork in the town centre. The façade was intended as a showpiece and advertisement for the firm.

The developers said they would rebuild the façade to match the existing. This was complete nonsense as it would have been a feeble imitation in modern materials with no historic interest. The application to demolish the façade was refused. Some parts at the back of the building, which were of little interest, were demolished, but others were left, including the frontage. We celebrated its survival putting it once again on the front page of Trust Topics in January 2003.

Conservation Area Appraisal and Review

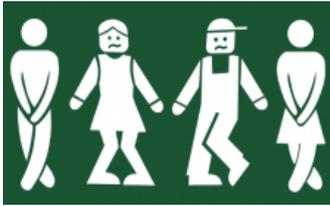
Although the MBC had designated High Street a Conservation Area in 1977 a full appraisal was not carried out until 2007. At long last the importance of the Arnold building was officially recognised. Appraisals rank buildings according to their importance. The warehouse was deemed 'positive'. In other words the Planners would be very reluctant to grant permission to demolish in the event of a further application. A grade above this is 'Key Unlisted'. These buildings are regarded as essential components to any Conservation Area.

In 2015 the MBC undertook a review of the Conservation Area and we were fully consulted. We put forward that, because of its major contribution to the street scene, the warehouse should be 'Key Unlisted' and our views were accepted! This is the best possible protection we could secure for this building short of listing which, in view of the changes beyond the façade, would be unlikely.

So, next time you are in Printing Office Street, do have a look.

Report and photographs by **Peter Coote**

Spending a Penny



On the afternoon of Monday 29 June I entered the fascinating world of “Public Toilets” at Manchester University. This was a speaker event on Bodies, Identities and Design which had been organised as part of the Cross-disciplinary arts-based research project entitled “Around the Toilet: Co-creating Intersectional Understandings of Gender, Disability and Access” funded by AHRC Connection Communities Programme.

The four speakers included Leo Care from the University of Sheffield and Morag Rose from Sheffield Hallam University.

They were addressing questions such as: What makes an accessible toilet?
What can toilets tell us about social constructions of gender, identity and disability?
How have designers approached this most private of public spaces?
What do the hidden histories of toilets in the cities reveal?

One fact that surprised me was in the early 1900’s George Bernard Shaw campaigned for Female Public Toilets in Camden Town Centre so enabling women to move freely in London streets knowing they had the facilities to spend a penny as previously only men’s toilets had been provided. So, now we have public toilets for men and women. But are these accessible to all? Not only was it a question of gender but colour and race as to who should use the public conveniences. The Civil Rights Movement in America fought for blacks and whites to use the same toilets. This can still be a problem today in some countries.

But what about the disabled person? In 1977 lobbying began for Disabled Toilets. Although many of these have the ticks in the right boxes for handrails, lever taps, emergency cords etc. these are often within the toilet in the wrong place for the disabled person.

Although there are toilets for both men and women it is usually the Ladies’ that has the baby changing room. But in today’s world it is often the men who are looking after the children on their own. Where does the man go to change the baby? Then there are Transsexual issues. What do we mean by gender? Transgender people are often refused access to both Ladies’ and Gents’ toilets.



Signs for the toilets can sometimes present a problem in many ways. The Disabled sign is usually a wheelchair but what about people who have stomas and colostomy bags? Who recognises them as being disabled? Not the attendant who refuses them access when it is important for them to have privacy for washing and changing.

Toilets need to make adults and children feel safe and comfortable. In schools children are bullied not only in the playground but also within the toilets. Often blue lighting is put into public toilets so that drug users find it difficult to a vein to inject. Some toilets have a hole in the wall for used needles for public safety.

The design of the toilet is important, even your own bathroom, according to the architect Alexander Kira in his book “The Bathroom”. Do we need to stand, sit or even squat? Different cultures have different traditions and which is the most hygienic?



Queuing is the main problem for women so should we have access to the same public toilet for all genders?
What about ecological toilets to save our precious planet?

“For many architectural practices, the job of designing toilets goes to the most junior member of the office; as long as functionality is preserved, the qualities of the space are not overly important and anyway toilets are only inhabited for short periods of time, so why bother too much? Alternatively, toilets have the power to transform social behaviour, convey powerful environmental principles and provide moments of architectural delight” says Leo Care.

But sadly it seems that statistically public toilets are on the decline. More and more councils are closing the town centre conveniences or charging 30 to 40 pence for the use of them making hundreds of thousands of pounds profit in a year.

These are just a few of the many topics discussed at the seminar. After we enjoyed a lovely cup of tea and homemade cake Lisa Proctor closed the meeting. I came away buzzing with interest but also desperate to Spend a Penny. Guess what? I could not work out how to turn on the new-fangled tap to wash my hands!! Who was the architect or designer of this new building?

O for the good old fashioned tap !!!

Tina Anderson

Google “Images of Public Toilets” to get pictures of conveniences from all around the world. You will be surprised!

An Evening Walk Round Bawtry



On a perfect summer’s evening in July, around a dozen people assembled outside Cooplunds for a walk round Bawtry led by Trust members Steve Kimber and Andy Ward. Both are well experienced in Heritage Walks having led many of them when they were at the Tourist Information Centre. After much research they have now added Bawtry to the list.

Steve and Andy with the heritage tourists

We were soon off on a walk of discovery looking at many buildings of interest in the old town. I realised that some places, such as the Masonic Hall and No 1 Yorkshire, I had only ever just driven past but of course this evening we had time to look at them properly.

On the trail we heard about the history of Bawtry; from the grand houses to the poor house; from the coaching era to the railways and much more besides.

The walk gave us information, anecdotes and humour but it also solved some mysteries. ‘Why was the church not built in the town centre?’ I wondered. ‘How did Swan Street get its name?’ and ‘Where is the wharf on Wharf Street?’ I won’t spoil it by giving you the answers - it’s part of the fun of the walk!

The Trust is very grateful for the ten walks that Steve and Andy have organised this year, including those in the town centre. All have been run under the Doncaster Civic Trust banner and I really enjoyed them. If you came on any of the walks we hope you did too. Preparations will soon be under way for next year, which may include Tickhill, so look out for the dates in Trust Topics and on the web site.

Peter Coote

Yorkshire and Humberside Association of Civic Societies (YHACS) Meeting at Ilkley on 25 April 2015

Peter Coote and Tina Anderson travelled to Ilkley by train for this quarterly get-together of the Region's Civic Societies.

The Walk

The day began with a walk round the town led by Alex Cockshott of Ilkley Civic Society, our host organisation. This fascinating tour began at the handsome railway station built in 1865. We were informed that the rail line from Leeds to Ilkley was threatened with closure in the 1960's but was reprieved after protests from local townspeople, although a through line to Skipton was lost.

Our subsequent walk through the streets was rather wet to begin with but still enjoyable. Alex told us how, in a few years in the nineteenth century, what had been a village rapidly expanded to become a spa town due to the enthusiasm of the Victorians to 'take the waters'.

Close to the town centre we were shown a modern office block and told that a hotel had once stood on the site.

Round the back of the offices we saw a remnant from the hotel's days: a small, tiled, decorative outlet from one of the springs in the hills high above. Surrounded by a few shrubs the site is now maintained by the Civic Society.

We then proceeded up a steep hill, stopping to look at the fine town houses which had once provided lodgings for the visitors. Some were now private houses but others had been converted into flats. In some cases this had led to some inappropriate alterations, notably with both new and original windows in the same building. Although much of Ilkley is a Conservation Area, most of the houses are not listed, which can result in erosion of character as inappropriate changes are made. Half-way up the hill we turned right onto a broad avenue of even grander houses standing in their own grounds. Many of the trees were now fully mature, giving this part of the town much of its character.

Eventually we reached a viewpoint, and there, far below us, stood Ilkley's most important house: Heathcote, designed by Edwin Lutyens for a Bradford wool merchant, and completed in 1908. After years as an office building for N G Bailey it is now a house once more, with beautiful landscaped gardens. This was the highlight of the walk.



Heathcote, Ilkley 1908 by Lutyens, now a grade one listed building

Ilkley Civic Society runs an excellent programme of walks for everyone. Please see their website for details: www.civicsociety.ilkley.org

The Meeting

After lunch we assembled at Abbeyfields for our meeting. We were welcomed by Helen Kidman, the Chair of Ilkley Civic Society who explained that there were over 300 voluntary groups in the town - astonishing as there are only 13,000 residents!

We then listened to our main speaker, Adrian Spawforth, MD of Spawforth's, architects and planning consultants, who talked about the Green Belt. This was a thought-provoking talk and resulted in plenty of questions. Unfortunately there is no space here for more details. In his report, the Chairman of YHACS, Kevin Trickett, spoke on a number of issues. Of particular note was the YHACS Committee's rescue of Horbury Civic Society which had come close to collapse. Kevin spoke about how YHACS would try and rescue any societies in trouble but resources were limited. Horbury is a very small society but the message here was that we must never be too complacent in any Trust or Society, large or small.

We were then divided up into discussion groups with each member of the YHACS committee responsible for a particular topic such as 'Design' and 'Public Realm' amongst others. This is a new idea introduced for us to discuss concerns and issues across all the societies. We were asked about the problems facing each town but of course each one was different. The remoteness of Planning Officers and Conservation Officers was a common theme from some of the more rural societies. Transportation, design standards and unauthorised alterations to listed buildings were some of the other matters discussed.

These YHACS meetings are an opportunity to discuss with other societies during the day. In the past we have obtained ideas on subjects such as archive storage and plaque restoration which have been helpful to us. This time we met David Winpenny, Chair of Ripon Civic Society who will be talking to our Trust in the Winter Programme.

If anyone would like to go to any of the YHACS meetings, please let the Secretary know and we will send you details. Any member of our Trust can attend.

Peter Coote and Tina Anderson

For our newer members - the words 'Trust' and 'Society' are interchangeable; we might have slightly different titles but our aims are the same.



Eyesore Corner

A surprising number of people have commented on the unruly appearance of the property shown below. It's the former Yorkshire Bank at the corner of High Street and Scot Lane, a grade two listed building and the site of one of our green plaques. With the Nat West and Lloyds Bank refurbishments complete, and the Mansion House works now under way, this area should become a real heritage hot spot – but only if this trader is brought into line. This is totally unacceptable.



Planning Matters

In this article we bring you details of some of the planning applications that we have perused in recent months.

New Cinema Complex on Waterdale

In the last issue of Trust Topics we reported on our concerns regarding the proposed new cinema in the Frenchgate Centre.

In August we then studied the detailed plans for another cinema together with four restaurants in Waterdale, adjacent to the Cast Theatre. Overall we felt that this was a good scheme and raised no objections.

Denison House, 15 South Parade, Doncaster



In June we perused the proposals to convert Denison House on South Parade into eleven apartments. This important listed Georgian building, designed by architect William Lindley, had deteriorated since it was declared surplus to requirements by the MBC who had previously occupied it as offices. Ideally we would have preferred it to be offices again but with the fall in demand for office space in the centre we recognised that flats would be the most likely solution.

Overall we were very pleased with this scheme which respected the fabric of the listed building. Nevertheless we wrote to the Planners asking them to ensure the following issues were addressed: an appropriate design for new external railings at the front; retention of key features including the interior entrance columns and a stained glass window at the back; retention of the 6-panelled doors and comments on the design of new glazed balconies at the rear of the house.

We should add that the Trust is very familiar with this house. Trust Chairman John Holmes worked here as an architect for many years and in 2000 Peter Coote researched and wrote 'The Hall on South Parade' for the Trust. 'The Hall' was its name in Victorian times. In the nineteenth century it was occupied by Edmund Denison who was mainly responsible for bringing the railway to the town. Denison House is a modern name.

1 Thorne Road (corner of East Laith Gate and Thorne Road)



This empty property, last used as offices, is to be converted into apartments. No permission was required for change of use due to flexibility in the new planning laws about empty offices. However, a proposed extension at the rear and conversion of the basement required permission.

It was the latter which resulted in our objection. It was planned to excavate the forecourt to form light wells. We thought that the appearance of the frontage, in such a prominent position, would then be detrimental to the Conservation Area.

Carr Grange Cemetery Lodge

In June we reported our objections to the intended lowering of the archway at the Lodge. This Victorian feature is probably an early work by sculptor Robert Glassby. The previous application was withdrawn and the new application proposed retaining a little more of the arch than previously.

Right: the gateway photographed by Garry Swann for "A Skilful Master Builder" in 1975
Far right: the gateway today, shored up



We felt that was still not good enough. The only real long term solution was to take down and rebuild the whole arch on a new foundation, given that it is currently supported by scaffolding. Losing a major architectural feature was not acceptable.

Long Sandall

These two pairs of cottages are listed grade two.

Their setting could be badly affected by industrial development on land that was once part of the farming village.



Photos: Images of England website

This tiny hamlet is hidden away in the vicinity of Clay Lane. Over the years a number of properties have been demolished, whilst some listed cottages have been restored. We decided to object to an application to convert 0.42 Hectares into industrial land. We felt that there should be no piecemeal approach about development of the village and that there should be an effective mixed use plan. The Trust originally suggested this as long ago as 1993 when we expressed our concerns about the village.

Planning and Conservation Sub Committee

Membership Renewals.

We would like to remind our annual members that subscriptions are due on 1st September. A form is enclosed for you to complete and return to me with payment as soon as possible, thank you.

Alternatively you can renew at our next meeting on 17th September. We are very pleased to tell you that the cost of membership remains the same as last year.

Peter Coote Membership Secretary

A Plaque for Barnburgh



The Trust was approached by Peter Dawson on behalf of the Barnburgh and Harlington Local History Group to ask if it could help with a plaque that the group wanted to erect in the village.

Once, there had been a charming house in the village, called Barnburgh Hall. The Hall was noted for its connection with two important families, Cresacre and More. Sir Thomas More was Henry the VIII's Lord Chancellor. Despite its importance the Hall was demolished in 1968. Although the dovecote in the grounds has survived, and is now listed Grade 2, there was nothing in the village which gave information about the history of the site. The local history group wanted to remedy that omission.

We were able to help. We suggested the name of a company who would make the plaque for them: Leander Architectural Foundry, in Buxton. The firm duly supplied the plaque in May and we made a financial contribution of £100 towards the cost.



Members of the Barnburgh & Harlington Local History Group



Founder member Peter Dawson

We were pleased to be invited to the unveiling of the plaque. On Saturday 6th June 2015 on a bright sunny morning I joined the Barnburgh and Harlington Local History group who had assembled at the entrance of Barnburgh Hall gardens to unveil the blue plaque marking the family house of the Cresacre and More families. After many months of research on the Hall where the two families lived for more than 600 years Peter Dawson unveiled the Plaque for all to see.

Report and photographs by **Tina Anderson**

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The Editor would like to thank the contributors to this issue of Trust Topics.