



TRUST TOPICS

Doncaster Civic Trust Newsletter ©

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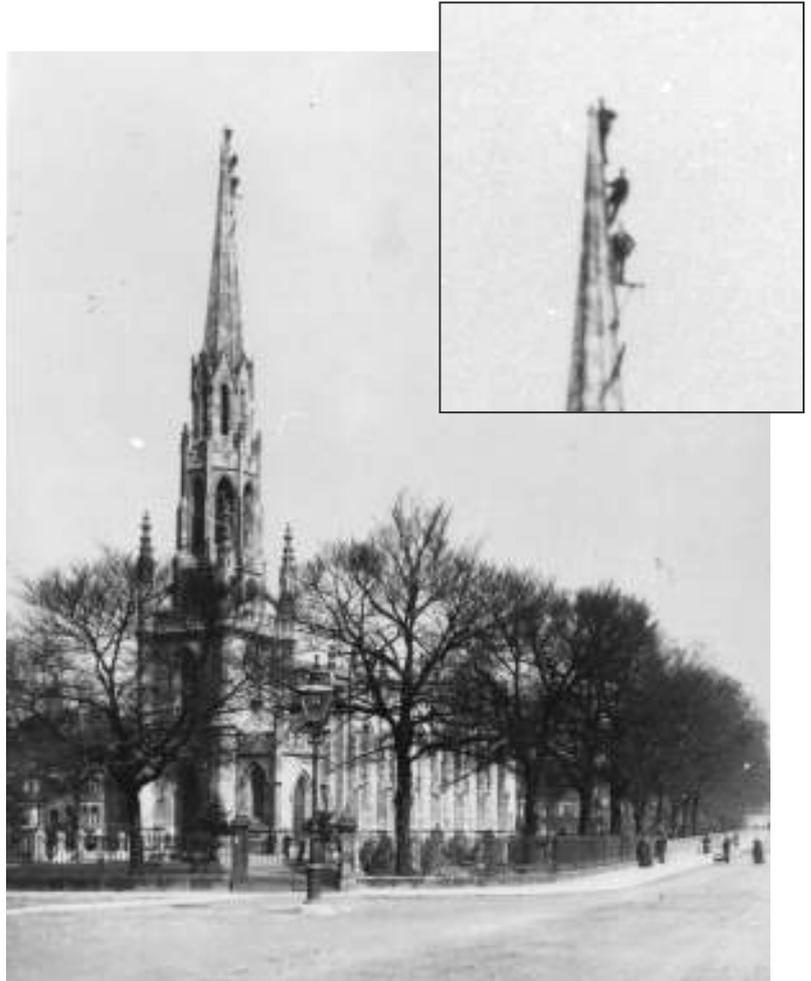
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Member of



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Christ Church and its Spires



The photograph on the cover of this issue came my way as one of a number of miscellaneous images of the town that had been collected by our previous secretary, Eric Braim.

It was one I hadn't seen before. I was amazed by the three figures high up on the spire, and even more impressed by their skill and daring in getting up there and working there without any obvious scaffolding or ladders. Clearly, Heath and Safety hadn't been invented, let alone considered, in the early 1900s.

I discovered that the image was one of Luke Bagshaw's, its high quality being the result of the glass-plate negatives he used at the time. See "Doncaster - through the lens of Luke Bagshaw", by Peter Tuffrey, published by The History Press in 2008, for this and more of Bagshaw's high-quality photographs.

The original slender spire of 1829

Christ Church was built in 1829, designed by William Hurst, with a slender and graceful stone spire. This was struck by lightning in 1836, and damaged again in 1850. By the 1920s the spire was considered to have become structurally unsafe, so it was taken down.



Left: The spire-less church in the 1920s, and right: the new spire added in 1938, shown on this 1950s postcard

For approaching twenty years, the church stood without its spire, truncated, with just its octagonal stone tower topped by a small pediment on each face. Its top section looked a bit like a giant chimney pot, or maybe the typical hat from a Christmas cracker.

However, in 1938 an anonymous donor came forward and commissioned a replacement spire from Doncaster architects Walker & Thompson. Its timber frame was pre-fabricated in the contractor's yard, and it was clad in situ with timber boarding and copper sheet. The cost was £550, or around £34,000 in today's money. As the work was completed, the donor, Mrs E Phillips of Edenfield, came forward saying that the new spire was in gratitude to God for restoring her health, and as a memorial to her late mother.

We've grown up with the landmark of Christ Church's green spire, and the town has been grateful for Mrs Phillip's generosity, but in truth it doesn't quite match the elegance of the stone original.

Doncaster Gazette 14.04.38, 28.04.38 and 14.07.38

Archie Sinclair

Members' News

Winter Programme 2016-2017

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

All on Thursdays at 7.30 pm

2016

June to August **The Trust's Heritage Walks – see page 12**

15 September Ian Stevenson on Monk Bretton Priory
Monk Bretton Priory is an English Heritage site to the east of Barnsley.

13 October John Hamshere on Kelham Island Museum, Sheffield
John is Chief Executive of Sheffield Industrial Museums Trust.

17 November AGM and Buffet Supper

December No meeting

2017

19 January Margaret Hicks-Clarke on the Reuben Chappell Art Trail, Goole
Margaret is Chair of Goole Civic Society, winning Regional Society in 2015

16 February Rachel Walker on the Don Catchment Rivers Trust
Rachel engages with the community on the Living Heritage of the River Don.

16 March Kay Keeton on a Virtual Tour of Sheffield Botanical Gardens
Kay is the Garden Tour Organiser for the Friends of the Gardens (FOBS)

6 April Members' Forum
An evening which usually includes a short presentation, a little food and drink and an opportunity to reflect on what the Trust is doing, or ought to be doing, and how well we're doing it.

Hamish Jamieson

Members were saddened to learn of the death of one of the Trust's most loyal and long-standing supporters. Hamish, always with his wife Gillian, came to almost every Trust event they could, and would always engage with the speakers, the students or the Trust's officials. He was a good active member, even in recent years.

Hamish passed away peacefully at home in Bessacarr on 24 May 2016, aged 86 years. The Trust sends its condolences and best wishes to Gillian and his sons Christopher and Charles.

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100 Years of Beckett Road / St. Andrew's Methodist Church



St. Andrew's Church 1916 viewed from Beckett Road

2016 is a special year for the Methodist Church on Beckett Road at Wheatley. The church is celebrating 100 years since the opening of the church building on the corner of Beckett Road and Morley Road at Wheatley.

Methodist churches grew from the preaching of John and Charles Wesley during the 18th century. After John's death in 1791 the Wesleyans, as they were known, broke away from the Church of England, but before long disagreements in the way things were organised led to other societies forming.

The first of these was the Methodist New Connection in 1797 and there were a number of early societies at Thorne, Fishlake and Hatfield Woodhouse.



The Ebenezer Chapel, or 'Tin Tabernacle' 1905

In 1905 members of the Methodist New Connection in Doncaster bought a piece of land on Morley Road at the terminus of the Beckett Road tram route. Beyond this point the fields stretched east as far as Wheatley Hall.

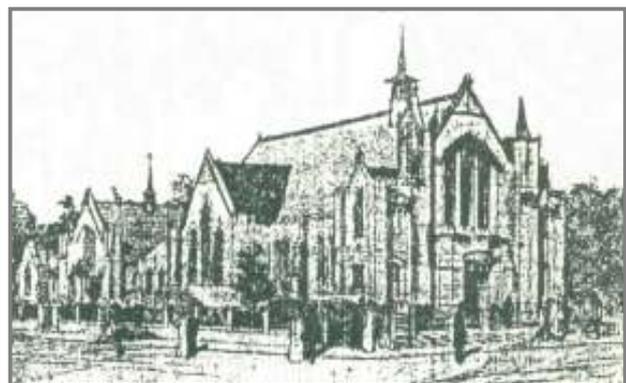
A temporary corrugated steel chapel was erected which was officially called the Ebenezer Chapel but was more irreverently known as 'The Tin Tabernacle'.

In 1916 a new brick church was built facing the now extended Beckett Road.

The Doncaster Gazette described it at the time as being '*a distinct architectural acquisition to the eastern side of the town. The design is carried out in a free and attractive rendering of the Gothic style.*'

Although new school buildings were also planned, lack of money prevented these being built and so the tin tabernacle continued in use as the schoolroom.

Artist's impression of the new Beckett Road Church 1916



At that time Wheatley had three chapels of the Methodist tradition. In addition to the Beckett Road chapel there was a Primitive Methodist chapel on Highfield Road and a Wesleyan on Netherhall Road.

In 1932 all the main divisions of Methodism joined together to become 'The Methodist Church'. So Wheatley now had three united societies within one small area.

In 1964 the Highfield Road and Beckett Road churches decided to amalgamate in the Beckett Road premises. Alterations were made to the interior of the building including the installation of the magnificent organ from Highfield Road. To emphasize that this was a new society a different name was needed.



Left: Highfield Road Primitive Methodist Church (closed in 1964 and later demolished); its organ is now in St. Andrew's Church.

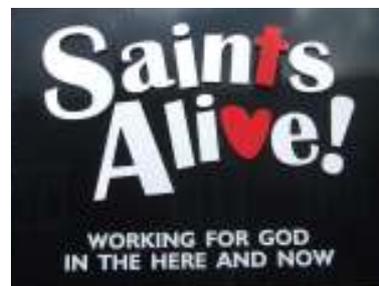


Right: Netherhall Road Wesleyan Methodist Church. Although closed in 1971, and the site re-developed for housing, its tower and front elevation were incorporated into the new building.

So St. Andrew's Methodist Church was inaugurated. St. Andrew is always considered to be the disciple who was good at introducing people to Jesus and it was felt that this should be the mission of the new church. New schoolrooms were built to replace the old tin tabernacle and this gave the opportunity for a range of activities. In 1971 the Netherhall church also joined St. Andrew's. The frontage of this building and the tower paid for by Thomas Hanley the flour miller is still retained as part of the new flats.

Over the last 100 years St. Andrew's has continued to look outwards to serve the surrounding community of Wheatley with youth and children's activities, ladies' and men's meetings and the popular Community Lunch. Two years ago the 50 year celebrations of being called St. Andrew's gave a fresh boost to this outlook.

A striking new logo was incorporated into a new sign on Morley Road - 'Saints Alive! Working for God in the here and now'.



There are many special events being planned this year and everyone is welcome to join in.

Saturday 9 July : 1916 Day - exhibitions and a chance to dress up

Friday 9, Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 September : National Heritage Weekend - The story of St. Andrew's in 100 objects. Stretch your legs on the Wheatley Heritage Walk.

Sunday 6 November : Memorial Service, especially for anyone who has recently lost a loved one

Wednesday 30 November (St. Andrew's Day) : 'Son et lumière' - Celebrating the history of the Church

Come and find out more – you will be very welcome. Also you are welcome to partake of our Community Lunch at 12.30pm on the 3rd Monday of every month. (Only £2.50 for 3 courses!)

Margaret Barton

The YHACS Visit to Doncaster 8th & 9th April 2016

Doncaster Civic Trust is one of around 40 societies who are members of the Yorkshire and Humberside Association of Civic Societies known as YHACS. We meet every three months or so in different towns in the Region. Various members of our Trust's Executive Committee have attended meetings recently in Pontefract, Ilkley, Skipton, Hull and Harrogate, the latter being the usual venue for the AGM.

Last year we decided to volunteer to host one of these events ourselves, partly to show off the re-decorated Mansion House which we knew would make a splendid venue. We agreed with the Chairman of YHACS, Kevin Trickett, that the 8th and 9th of April 2016 would be a good time. With initial advice from Kevin we set to work.



There was certainly plenty to do: sorting out hotels for members wishing to stay overnight, booking a dinner, planning the event at the Mansion House, finding a speaker, arranging a caterer, deciding on activities and much more. We set up a sub-committee of seven people to finalise everything which met at the Salutation. It's a hard life!

On Friday 8th April the seven members met at the Mansion House where we set up our boards including an excellent new education display.

Setting up the displays – two members working, two not

That evening ten members from around the Region attended the YHACS dinner at the Earl of Doncaster, where we were represented by Tina Anderson and our Chairman, John Holmes. Our visitors stayed overnight either at the Earl or Danum Hotel.

The following day many of our Executive Committee arrived early to welcome delegates expected from around the Region. We had planned and catered for 60 people from 24 societies from around the county, and this proved about right.



After a welcoming arrival drink members moved on to a morning event which they had selected in advance. Some people went on a tour of the Mansion House organised by the volunteers there.

Others set off on a Heritage Walk specially designed by Steve Kimber and Andy Ward for the occasion. This included a visit to the interior of the Corn Exchange. Fortunately the earlier rain had cleared and everyone was able to enjoy the walk without a soaking.

The ante-room awaiting our visitors' arrival

After the tours, at 12 noon John Holmes welcomed the Civic Mayor, Councillor Paul Wray and the Mayoress, Mrs. Elizabeth Marsden, who joined us all for lunch in the splendid Ballroom. This was also an opportunity for people to chat as well as look at our displays. We met up with people known to us, such as David Winpenny, Chairman of Ripon Civic Society who recently gave us a talk on Pyramids.

We also met new people, including Rachel Walker from Goole Civic Society, who will be talking to us next year about the River Don. Listening to our guests it seemed that everyone was enjoying the day.

At 1pm the main meeting was opened by Kevin Trickett in the old Council Chamber, formerly the dining room. He thanked members of Doncaster Civic Trust for all their hard work. He said he hadn't had to do anything. John Holmes then welcomed all the members of YHACS to the meeting. The Civic Mayor, Councillor Paul Wray, then addressed the meeting on the theme of Doncaster's history and heritage. He also spoke about the impact of Doncaster's growth on the rest of Yorkshire. Jeff Prior, Chairman of Doncaster Civic Trust's Educational Sub Committee was the next speaker.



Visitors enjoy a guided tour of the Mansion House

He told everyone about the Trust's educational achievements including the bursaries for students, the schools architectural competition and our collaboration with Friends of The Mansion House on a student project. No other Trust has these types of programmes, as far as we are aware, although the Chair of Pontefract Civic Society, in his praise of the programme, said that their society was successful in reaching out to schools.

After the formal reports were completed Kevin Trickett gave a talk on 'Scanning the Far Horizon', a technique for plotting the future. This talk covered many topics including high rise development in cities, increasing numbers and size of cars, pedestrianisation and much more besides. Serious matters but presented with humour. Peter Cooper, President of YHACS, spoke about several schemes and developments under way around the region. It was a good talk and showed the breadth of the civic society movement's activities.

The last speaker was Clive Woods, Chair of Aireborough Civic Society. He spoke about a specific issue - saving Spenfield. This is a Grade 2 starred Victorian mansion on the edge of Leeds, threatened with conversion to apartments. The interiors were very elaborate but were at risk of being damaged. Unfortunately, despite their objections, the scheme received approval. The Society is working with the developer to minimise damage but what it really needs is a saviour with deep pockets. Sadly no one present had a solution to this one which really raised the question about what would happen if it didn't become flats.



The speaker's-eye view of the ex Council Chamber

At 4pm promptly we finished the meeting, said our goodbyes and dismantled our displays. Months of planning seemed to be over in a flash.

The Trust would like to thank everyone who helped on the day and all the sub-committee for their planning, particularly Steve Kimber, Andy Ward and Jeff Prior who all put in a great deal of work to ensure the day was a success.

The Executive Committee

Planning Matters

With each edition of Trust Topics we bring you details of a few of the cases that we have reviewed. These are usually listed buildings or those in Conservation Areas but we include other applications of interest too.

Rossington Hall

In March we examined one of the largest applications ever to come before the Trust. This was a hybrid application consisting of a) Creation of European Tour destination including full permission for golf courses and b) Outline permission for construction of 500 aspirational Fairway Homes, Golf Clubhouse and all associated infrastructure.

To give you some idea of the scale involved, there would be three golf courses - a major one north and west of Rossington Hall up to Old Rossington, a training course near Bawtry Road and a 9 hole golf course north of Littleworth Lane towards the Park and Ride. These would occupy a large area of countryside. We discussed this application at great length and decided to object on various points.

In summary there were a number of major issues: low density housing proposed for unallocated land in a countryside policy area; conflict between existing footpaths, the proposed loop road and the planned golfing activity; impact on the landscape and existing trees; and management of the off-site parking and the impact of predicted traffic levels generated for major events. We expect a decision later in the year.

Unauthorised Works at 8 South Parade



Nos. 7 and 8 South Parade are a pair of semi-detached houses dating from 1797. Number 8 was altered in the early 20th century but even so its Georgian character remained. We were very concerned about unauthorised work carried out here by the new owners. They put in new windows at the back, replaced the front door and removed the chimneystack, stating later that they did not know it was listed. We made representations to the Planning Officer and asked for the Conservation Officer to work to a solution. Since then the windows at least have been altered to our satisfaction.

The rear of 8 South Parade showing the better windows now installed, and the missing left-hand chimney stack. The foreground buildings were unexpected!

Shops and Takeaways in the Town Centre

Walkabout One of Doncaster's largest pubs, Walkabout, situated on Printing Office Street and Priory Walk, closed last year. We were pleased to see a planning application for retail units here. The original plan had always been for retail in this development and the switch to bars and clubs was disappointing. Nevertheless we still expressed some concerns.

One of the signs, for Sports Direct, was far too large for the site so we objected to it and asked for the scale to be reduced. Secondly the application contained a proposal to build a gym over the top in Priory Walk. We felt that this should be redesigned to have less impact on the street scene.

Kentucky Fried Chicken We were disappointed to see KFC's application for a takeaway and restaurant on High Street in the former Mothercare building. Here we were concerned about the impact of a large takeaway in the High Street Conservation Area. The restaurant seemed very small and the take-away very large. We felt there was an opportunity to do something better with a larger restaurant and an ancillary takeaway.

A Welcome Restoration at Christ Church Terrace

We were pleased to see an application to re-roof 8 Christ Church Terrace. At some time in the past this listed Georgian terraced house had been re-roofed with concrete tiles. The roofs were originally slate and the owner wished to put these back, replacing the concrete which was too heavy for the existing roof structure.

An Old Barn at Hatfield

Sometimes we see applications that we are not entirely happy about but decide to accept. In the Conservation Area at Hatfield there was a proposal to demolish an old barn and replace it with a house. Barns, outbuildings and old walls are often important buildings in a rural conservation area. However the structural engineer ruled that it was not technically possible to retain it as a house. The new building would look like a renovated barn so we made no objection.



Danum House, St Sepulchre Gate

The former Co-op Building is an interesting example of pre-war Art Deco. It's certainly a landmark building in the town. Unfortunately, since being vacated by T J Hughes and DMBC, no retail or office organisation has wanted to take space on the upper floors, perhaps not surprisingly. As a result, an application was submitted for change of use of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors to 79 apartments. We were satisfied with the change of use as we felt it could give new life to the property. Unfortunately no consideration appeared to have been given to the historical aspects of the building and the whole application was lacking in detail. Some of the apartments were also far too small. We told the Planning Authority that far more information was needed here.

The Duke Street curve and canopy

An Unusual High Rise: Living in a Water Tower

Sometimes we see unusual and innovative applications. One of those submitted recently was a revised scheme for Bawtry Water Tower.

This former water tower situated high on a hill above Bawtry already had permission for conversion to a house. We were very pleased with the original application which would have meant conversion of the tank to one residential floor and another being constructed below. However this plan was never implemented and the tower was sold on. This new application proposed a more intensive use of the tower to make a 5 bedroomed dwelling. Whilst we would have preferred the original application, this proposal utilised more of the available space beneath the tower and could still be an exciting project.

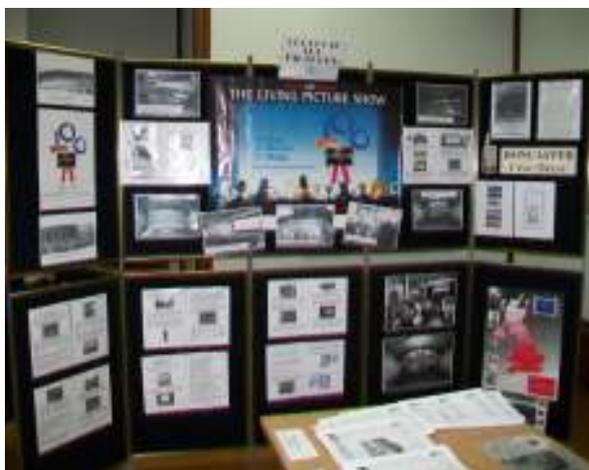
Doncaster Heritage Festival

Doncaster Heritage Festival ran this year for two weeks from 2nd to 15th May. It was organised by Doncaster Heritage Services with societies across the area taking part. There were certainly plenty of activities to choose from: there were talks on subjects as varied as the Pilgrim Fathers, the town at Domesday, the early days of the Borough Police and the servants at Cusworth Hall. The Barnsley Poet, Ian McMillan, spoke about the First World War at the Museum. There were activities too: walks, and, if you were feeling energetic, a trip up the tower at the Minster. Other buildings that were open included the Mansion House and St Helena's Church at Austerfield. The Festival was a definite success with many events being very well attended.

Doncaster Civic Trust organised two Heritage Walks at Doncaster North and Tickhill and also participated in the Local History Fair.

Below, we bring you reports on two of our events as well as a review of a walk at Braithwell.

Local History Fair 7th May 2016



Display on Doncaster cinemas by Ron Curry MBE



Copy of the plaque



The Trust's regular display

Doncaster Civic Trust was represented at the Local History Fair at the Museum and Art Gallery. This year we introduced an excellent new display on the History of Doncaster Cinemas prepared by Ron Curry, who joined the Trust only recently. He is an expert on cinemas and the author of 'Let's go to the Pictures', a book on the local picture houses. Ron was a life-long film projectionist and is named on the plaque erected in High Street, originally produced by the British Film Industry in 1996 commemorating the Centenary of Cinema.

We had a good location and plenty of space for the stand, and our publications sold very well.

There was much else to enjoy at the Fair. There were stands from the Friends of the Grand Theatre and Friends of the Mansion House as well as a number of village/small town history displays including Rossington, Fishlake, Tickhill and Conisbrough. There was also information about the First World War as we are commemorating 100 years since the conflict. The Doncaster Local Studies slide show of photographs of buildings in the town centre, taken over a short period in 1961, created plenty of interest. It's a remarkable collection and well worth viewing.

The Trust would like to thank the seven volunteer members who manned our stand and set up the display this year.

Peter Coote

Tickhill Heritage Walk on Sunday 8th May Organised by Doncaster Civic Trust



The walk halts close to The Millstone

On the hottest day of the year 21 people gathered at the Methodist Church for Doncaster Civic Trust's first Heritage Walk in Tickhill, which was also part of the Heritage Festival. Led by Steve Kimber and Andy Ward, we were told about Tickhill's origins before setting off along Northgate, proceeding some way along Sunderland Street, and then returning to Castlegate towards the Millstone pub.

Leader Andy Ward speaks about Tickhill Castle

Along the way were told about many of the buildings including houses, the Parish Room, pubs, the library and much more. There were mysteries to be solved: we were asked if the town pump had been moved at some time. No one knew exactly. There were fascinating facts too: we were told about how Sunderland Street got its name and what was sold at the Buttercross, apart from butter. (I won't spoil the walk by giving the information here. You'll have to go on the walk to find out!).

After the Millstone we arrived at the Mill Dam where we stopped for a welcome ice-cream. After the refreshment Andy told us about the Castle situated behind us. It has a fascinating history and we all thought it was a shame that the Castle grounds are not open more than once a year. We then proceeded to the almshouses and on to the splendid Parish Church where the walk ended. It had been a most enjoyable two hours but it hadn't seemed that long as the pace was leisurely.

Tickhill is one of the area's most interesting villages so, if you missed this walk, we do have some more dates planned. (See page 12)

Walk Report from Peter and Sue Coote

Braithwell Walk Organised by Village Memories



Two Heritage Walks took place at Braithwell during the Festival organised by Village Memories, a new group set up last year. I wasn't able to attend the first walk which covered the area near the Church.

On the 13th May over 20 people gathered for the second walk at the Master's House, which was originally built as the school. It has a plaque, dated 1693. Later it became a house for the schoolmaster, hence the name.

The Master's House 1693

We set off to the south with the first stop at a farm across the road. The owner told us of its history and restoration, thus making the visit here particularly personal.

Next we were shown one of the settlement's oldest buildings, a cruck-framed cottage in the former Market Place. It had been much altered but was a remarkable survival nonetheless.



Remains of the 12th century cross



The restored village pump

We then moved on to the 12th century cross in an area where the village green had once been located. We were told about several interesting properties nearby. Particularly impressive was Hall Farm, dated 1771, although part of the building is much earlier. Proceeding along Holywell Lane we learnt about the history of the houses set back from the road. In front was the village pump restored in 1985. After a private visit to the grounds of one of the houses, we returned to the Master's House for tea and cakes. It had been a very pleasant walk.

Walk Report from Peter Coote

2016 Heritage Walks Programme

We are just about half way through the Walks Programme for this summer. New this year is the Trust's very first Heritage Walk in Tickhill. The walks will be led by Steve Kimber and Andy Ward who have already taken over 1,300 guests on the Doncaster Heritage Walks in the last five years.

Doncaster North Walk

All start from Doncaster TIC

Saturday 2nd July at 10.30

Saturday 20th August at 10.30

Doncaster South Walk

Starts from Doncaster TIC

Saturday 30th July at 10.30

Bawtry Walk

All start from Cooplunds Bakers

Sunday 3rd July at 2 pm

Sunday 21st August at 2 pm

NEW! Tickhill Walk

Starts from Methodist Church

Sunday 31st July at 2 pm

All the walks last approximately 2½ hours and the cost is £5 per person. Numbers are limited to 20 per walk and advance booking is recommended.

Bookings can be made by telephoning Doncaster Tourist Information Centre on Doncaster (01302) 734309 or by e-mailing tourist.information@doncaster.gov.uk