



TRUST TOPICS

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Doncaster Civic Trust : Founded in 1946
website: www.doncastercivictrust.org.uk
e-mail: mail@doncastercivictrust.org.uk
telephone: 01302 538225
Registered Charity No. 508674

Colin Joy 1964 – 2016

Doncaster Tourism wrote this obituary for Colin Joy, their Tourism Manager, who passed away suddenly on 1st June 2016 at the age of 52.

Colin came to Doncaster in July 2009 to work as Tourism Manager for Doncaster within the Doncaster Council Business and Tourism team after a long career working internationally for Visit Britain.

In the 7 years working for Doncaster Tourism he became a well-known figure in the town and made a significant contribution to helping raise Doncaster's profile as a visitor destination.

In his time as Tourism Manager he has overseen an increase in visitor numbers to the town by over 15% annually. Colin's greatest achievements included revamping the St Leger Festival week of events each September along with the Racecourse, writing and producing the award-winning Doncaster Visitor Guide and guiding Doncaster Tourist Information Centre to win a White Rose Award at the Yorkshire Tourism Awards in 2013.

He also created a Doncaster Rail week which takes place in February and brings visitors from across the UK to explore Doncaster's rich rail heritage.

Mayor of Doncaster Ros Jones has paid her own tribute to Colin: "I am shocked and saddened to hear of Colin's death. He was a very popular figure head for Doncaster Tourism and a great ambassador for the town. Colin was passionate about Doncaster and worked hard to encourage tourism, including his fantastic work on the St Leger Festival.

His knowledge of the history and heritage of the town, despite not being a Doncastrian was enormous and he did such a great deal to raise the profile of Doncaster as a tourist destination. He will be sadly missed. We have lost a dear friend and valued colleague and our hearts and prayers go out to his family and friends at this very sad time".

Colin's manager Chris Dungworth also said: "Colin was a unique character who brought so much to Doncaster. His enormous passion and knowledge for Tourism was infectious and he embraced everything about Doncaster particularly our heritage. He did so much to tell the story of Doncaster, working with all our visitor attractions and certainly contributed to the growth in our visitor numbers. People across the town certainly knew Colin. He was a well liked and respected person who always made himself available to talk to businesses and residents alike and impart his knowledge and wisdom of Doncaster's proud history."

Doncaster Tourism

Colin's family wanted his love of Doncaster's history and heritage to be recognised and remembered in the long term. With this aim they decided that Doncaster Civic Trust was the appropriate body and generously donated the money collected after Colin's funeral service, together with significant individual donations, making an incredible £690.

A further £120 was raised by a collection at Doncaster Brewery.

A little later the Trust received a cheque for the sum of £400 from Colin's three daughters, his brother and partner and his Mum and Dad, Anne and Ken Joy.

The Trust now holds the quite staggering total of £1,210, and it needs to make the right decision on what should be commissioned or purchased. It needs to be fitting, lasting and acceptable to all the very good people who have been so generous in remembering Colin.

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

- 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.

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 15th September. We are very pleased to tell you that the cost of membership remains the same as last year.

Peter Coote Membership Secretary

Trust Topics is edited by:

Archie Sinclair, 43 Ellers Avenue, Bessacarr, Doncaster DN4 7DY

e-mail: mail@doncastercivictrust.org.uk

telephone: 01302 538225

Planning Matters

With each edition of Trust Topics we bring you details of a few of the cases we have reviewed, mainly listed buildings or those in conservation areas. We also look at other applications of interest, including large proposed developments.

Thorne Road

No 1 (pictured below)



This double-fronted building is close to Christ Church within the Conservation Area. It was built as a house but it had been offices for many years. We studied a revised plan for an extension to provide three flats within two storeys.

This would have resulted in the removal of a Venetian staircase window on the rear elevation, a key feature. We objected and the application was amended to retain the window.

Nos. 152 -154

This application was for a change of use of a pair of semi-detached houses in Wheatley Hills into a physiotherapy clinic. We felt this proposal was totally unsuitable for this residential area. It would be a busy commercial enterprise with its car parking requiring the loss of all the gardens. We decided this non-conforming use would be harmful and objected strongly to this application. We felt that the applicant should be re-directed to a commercial area in the town centre.

Two Conversions:

Stag Inn

The Stag Inn at Dockin Hill is not listed but it is of architectural interest. We perused an application to convert it into seven apartments. We thought this was a well-conceived conversion which retained the decorative features on the front elevation. We had no objections to this scheme but we do regret the loss of so many pubs, which has now become a national issue.

Conisbrough Methodist Chapel

This is a distinctive listed landmark building. We looked at an application to convert the chapel into five flats and four office units. It has important interior fittings and we would have liked them to be preserved. The application showed that some fittings and the gallery would be retained although enclosed under a level first floor.

We were not happy with this level of alteration but we realised that the imposing building would be retained with some internal features. We made no objections in the end but this was a difficult application. Thinking of an alternative viable use for such a building is a major problem.

Planning and Conservation Sub-committee

James Paine Tercentenary

News from the Friends of Doncaster Mansion House

The Friends are planning to stage three major events at the Mansion House in 2017 to celebrate James Paine's tercentenary.



A **Launch** event on either Saturday 18th or 25th of March

A **Fun Day / James Paine Day** event (a 'Love your Mansion House' type event) on 17th June

and

A **Symposium** event on 23rd or 30th September or even 7th October. (James Paine was baptised on the 9th of October 1717 so he could well have been born on the 7th !).

The Friends also intend to hold some events at Cusworth Hall and at the Museum, such as talks on James Paine's work at Cusworth Hall, Hickleton Hall, Wadworth Hall, High Melton Hall, Nostell Priory and Sandbeck Park.

The Council has agreed to hold more Open Days at the Mansion House in 2017. The Friends want to stage a series of cultural/musical/educational and architectural events on Open Days throughout the year. The Friends will be providing the necessary volunteers for the events.

It would be good if Civic Trust members were prepared to volunteer, support and/or attend the above events. As the programme of Festival Events is developed they will be featured in future Civic Trust Newsletters.

About James Paine

James Paine (1717 – 1789) is widely regarded as one of the great architects of the Palladian Revival in the mid 18th century and an early exponent of rococo interior decoration. He took his inspiration from the buildings and writings of the Venetian architect Andrea Palladio (1508 – 1580) and of Inigo Jones (1573 – 1652).

Paine was much admired for his ability to design and decorate grand houses with magnificent staircases to suit the needs of the aristocracy and compact manageable houses for the landed gentry. He was equally accomplished at remodelling existing houses and providing functional estate buildings or decorative temples, gazebos and bridges. Although London-based for most of his career, his buildings are mainly to be found in the north of England.

Paine's first commission was in 1737 as the clerk of works at Nostell Priory, a large house designed in the Palladian style by the amateur architect Colonel James Moyser for Sir Rowland Winn.

In 1745 he was appointed by Doncaster Corporation to design a Mansion House for 'civic hospitality and celebrations'. At the age of 27 his career was launched and between 1745 and 1770 he was involved in the design or alteration of over 30 country houses in the region.

Owen Evans, Friends of Doncaster Mansion House

Five Historic Buildings that the Doncaster Civic Trust would like to see restored to their original condition – back in their heyday

1. Grand Theatre: The setting of this building was ruined when the nicely curved street on which it stood, Station Road, disappeared and was built over to extend the Arndale/Frenchgate Centre. It seems that the enthusiasm of the Friends of the Grand Theatre, who have campaigned tirelessly for its restoration, greatly outweighs that of the building's owners, who appear to have no plans other than to leave the listed theatre to fall into further disrepair.



The Grand Theatre, once kept alive by bingo

2. The Hall, 15 South Parade: This listed building was the 19th century home of Edmund Denison, MP and Chairman of the Great Northern Railway. In the 20th century it was the home of the Borough Architect's Department for 40 years. It passed to other Council Departments before becoming vacant. It is now in a sorry state, but a good scheme for its conversion to apartments has received planning permission and listed building consent. Sadly, the developer behind the scheme has now put the site, with its consents, up for sale by auction in September.



The Hall/Denison House in good repair c.1980

3. 40, 41 & 41A Hallgate (opposite Prince's Street): The designs of the four shop fronts occupying the ground floor of this 3-storey building have long been at odds with the unity of the late 18th century grand town house. Its condition has been poor for at least 40 years, and the upper floors appear dilapidated and only partly used. It really needs to be brought into beneficial use, with a decorative make-over and a scheme to bring the shopfronts into some kind of order, as befits a listed Georgian building.



This listed 18th century building deserves better

4. Former High School for Girls, Waterdale: Although the Civic Trust applied to have the building listed almost 10 years ago, it was not successful. Demolition has been extensive, and now only the important corner façade which contains the main entrance survives. The original plan was for a "boutique hotel" which could have incorporated parts of the former school into the new building. The hotel plan seems to have been abandoned, so we now need a developer with vision and design skill to rescue the school's façade and give it life as part of a new building.



Architect's rendered drawing of the High School

5. Former Brooke's store, 50-51 Market Place:

This listed building dates from the early 18th and early 19th centuries, and displays quite a lot of architectural features for so small a building. The façade dates precisely from 1800 when the building opened as "The New Bank". Like many Doncaster buildings, it is faced in stucco, a smooth render, which is painted. Unfortunately, these buildings need regular repair and re-painting if they are to look good. Sadly, upper levels are often neglected, resulting in a dilapidated appearance, to the detriment of our historic conservation areas.



Brooke's occupied the building for many years

A few weeks ago David Kessen of the Doncaster Free Press rang the Trust to find out what we thought about the plight of some of Doncaster's historic buildings. He asked what our top five buildings in need of re-use and repair would be.

This is the list I sent him illustrated with three images from Eric Braim's collection; no. 2 is an old slide of mine, and no. 3 shows the building today. The article appeared on Thursday 1 September.

Archie Sinclair

Growing Threat Removed - Design Revealed

In Trust Topics issue 44 we featured the Edward VII post box at the junction of Thorne Road and Broxholme Lane. The rampant ivy had covered the fencing, the castellated parapet and the drip mould and was heading for the box itself. Royal Mail was not concerned. It was the responsibility of the adjacent land owner.



August 2011 The Growing Threat



August 2016 Design Revealed

Fast forward exactly five years and the ivy has been cut back, the timber fencing renewed and the post box re-painted in the traditional pillar box red. So why has all this happened now?

A planning application for the change of use of 76 Thorne Road from a single dwelling house to a house in multiple occupation (HMO) with 11 bedrooms was approved on 7 June 2016. Although the exterior of the building is planned to be unchanged, its interior will be really worked over, with 11 en-suite bathrooms, two kitchens, sound proofing and fire precautions. The Trust had objected to the application because of the proliferation of HMOs in the area, but the Council saw no reason to refuse it.

And the repainted post box? It seems that all the area's post boxes are being given the treatment, and very good they look too.

Archie Sinclair

The Trust's 70th Anniversary Part Two

In the February edition of Trust Topics we wrote about how the Trust came into existence in 1946 together with details of its first major campaign: opposition to the building of the Crimpsall Power Station. In this second article we continue the Trust's history. From 1950 onwards we have selected items from each decade out of the huge number of activities in which the Trust has been involved since its foundation.

1950s

(i) In the early 1950s the Trust convened a meeting of Local Authorities with a view to Cusworth Hall being acquired and preserved for the enjoyment of the public. This 18th century house was the property of the Battie-Wrightsons but they no longer needed it. Major Farran, who was the Chairman of the Trust and who also worked closely with the Cusworth Estate was very keen to rescue the mansion. Unfortunately despite some interest from the Authorities no action was undertaken at that time.

Several years of uncertainty followed but in the late 1950s the Rural District Council made a determined effort to purchase it. A meeting took place which included Major Farran, who was also an RDC Councillor, Lord Rosse, President of Doncaster Civic Trust, the owner, Mrs Pearse and her London solicitor to agree the terms of the sale.

The purchase finally went through in 1961 and the grounds were opened to the public. In 1967 the house was opened as an industrial museum. This later evolved into a more general museum of South Yorkshire life.

Today Cusworth Hall is a much enjoyed facility and historic attraction known as Cusworth Hall, Museum and Park.

(ii) In the town centre, in 1956, the Trust made a successful appeal to the Magistrate's Court preventing Regent Square being made into a car park. Today the Square is sometimes referred to as a green oasis in the town centre. It is an important part of the Bennetthorpe Conservation Area.

1960s

Although some notable buildings were lost in the 60s, including the Guildhall, which the Trust actively tried to save, there were successes too and I will write about just one of them: Parkinsons.



Parkinson's – empty and unloved in the 1960s

Famed for its butterscotch, Parkinsons closed its High Street café and shop in 1960. The shop had been a feature of the town since 1817. Its future seemed bleak but the Trust campaigned vigorously over many years to save the building. In 1967 it was purchased by the Post Office for redevelopment. Finally in the early 1970s after a meeting between the Trust and the Regional Director the demolition plans were abandoned. It took until 1976 for the property to be restored and opened as Legards shop with a café upstairs.

This was the end of the Trust's longest ever campaign. The building is now the Georgian Tea Rooms which also includes a shop. It's come full circle and it has one of our plaques commemorating its past.

1970s

In 1970 a newsletter was introduced to inform members of the work of the Executive Committee. The first edition was only two pages but within a short time historical articles were added and the pages increased in number. For nearly 30 years it was largely written and edited by the Trust's Secretary Eric Braim who provided members with a remarkable series of articles on buildings, architects, streets, parks and much more. These well researched articles are prized by the Trust and can be read on line.

In 1970 we established a Tree Fund. At the time the town was desperately short of trees and far more were needed. Funded by donations from Trust members the scheme proved itself to be very effective. Over the following decades many trees were planted in central locations such as the Town Field, Church Way and East Laith Gate, as well as in other areas including Thorne and Campsall. Helping to finance tree planting remains one of our activities to this day.



As the decade came to a close we saved Belle Vue House from demolition by getting it spot listed. It was later sold and became the Grand St Leger Hotel.

The Grand St Leger Hotel in 2013

1980s

Doncaster Town Trail was published. For the first time it brought together accurate history, fine line drawings of buildings and an easy to follow trail through town. It has been revised many times but has never been out of print, remaining enduringly popular.

The most important matter of the 1980s was the Doncaster Common Case. A dispute with the MBC about whether the public had rights of access to Doncaster Common led the Trust applying to the High Court for a declaration that the common was open space. The Trust won. On 1st October 1986 the courts ruled that the public's use of the common was not only lawful but as of right.

1987 marked the beginning of our plaque scheme. Architects, residents and building histories are all recorded. There were eight to start with and two more were added in 1993. Most of the plaques were refurbished in 2014.



Two plaques after refurbishment

Far left: the plaque for The Hall or Denison House, 15 South Parade

Near left: the plaque for the Subscription Rooms. Only its portico now survives, and forms the grand entrance to Priory Walk

1990s



Christ Church: this town centre church is an important building forming a key part of the Christ Church Conservation Area. In 1986 it was declared surplus to requirements eventually resulting in the Trust issuing a leaflet in 1991 called 'A Church in Crisis' which received national press coverage. This was a difficult time but in 1995 the church was sold to the Reach Out Christian Fellowship for a nominal sum. The Trust made substantial donations to help with the restoration.



The Salutation: in 1991 'The Salutation Inn' was the first publication, apart from leaflets and newsletters, to be financed by the Trust. Yes, it was written by me, but it still has to be mentioned as a landmark!

2000s

A new century brought us a new newsletter, Trust Topics, under a new editor, Philip Mottram. This brought in shorter and newsier articles but historical articles continued too. A regular feature, Planning Matters, was introduced to highlight key planning and conversation issues. The magazine still continues today with Archie Sinclair as editor.

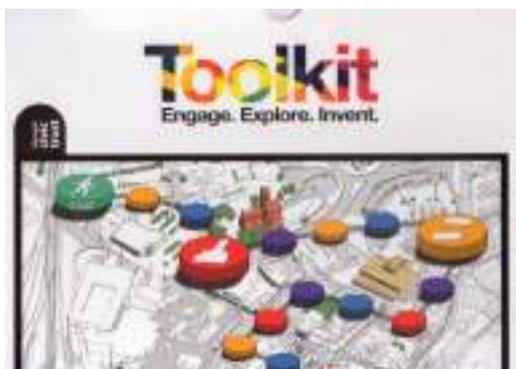
In the summer of 2000 a Millennium oak tree was planted on Bennetthorpe to mark 20 years of tree planting collaboration with the MBC. A ceremonial spade of engraved stainless steel was produced for the occasion by the Council and presented to the Trust.

2010s

Our website was launched on 25th November 2010, bringing newsletters, town trail and more. It was praised by the national organisation, Civic Voice. In 2016 it was re-launched with a new look.

In 2012 the Education Project was launched under the chairmanship of Jeff Prior.

The first stage included a bursary for students who wished to study architecture and design.



A separate scheme was the Toolkit, a learning package for schools in the form of a board game based on historical aspects of the town centre. By 2014 every school had a copy.

These have been followed by other activities (not all listed because of space constraints) including an architectural competition for primary schools. The winner receives monies for the school. This is the Eric Braim prize, in memory of our late Secretary who did so much for the Trust.

2015 marked the launch of the Heritage Walks under the banner of Doncaster Civic Trust. The leaders, Steve Kimber and Andy Ward, had led many walks previously which had been run by Doncaster MBC. Nine walks took place including a walk at Bawtry which was added to the walks of Doncaster North and Doncaster South. In 2016 a walk at Tickhill was introduced which has proven particularly successful.

Peter Coote

A quick look at our local Grade I Listed Buildings

Listed buildings are divided up into categories: I, II* and II. Of these Grade I is the highest. These are buildings which are of exceptional interest, either architecturally or historically. They represent only a small percentage of the total of listed buildings, yet remarkably we have 28 in this area. This compares with 13 in Barnsley, 16 in Rotherham and 5 in Sheffield.

So why do we have so many? Well many of our fine churches are on the list and easily make up the majority of the buildings. If you live in one of the following villages or townships then you have a local church which is Grade I: Barnburgh, Barnby Dun, Bawtry, Burghwallis, Edlington, Finningley, Fishlake, Hatfield, Hickleton, Hooton Pagnell, Marr, Campsall, Owston, Sprotbrough, Thorne, Tickhill, Wadworth, Bentley, Mexborough and Conisbrough. Of course Doncaster lost its ancient church in a disastrous fire in 1853 but the town was fortunate to have a new church designed by the great Gothic Revival architect, George Gilbert Scott. This dates from 1858 and is Grade I listed.

Secular buildings appear on the list too. Two of them, Conisbrough Castle and Brodsworth Hall are owned by English Heritage and are open to the public. Both are remarkable survivals of their type albeit 700 years apart in age.

As Doncaster became a fashionable place in the eighteenth century the Mansion House was built on the High Street. Officially opened in 1749, it was designed by James Paine. This is one of his earliest compositions before he became one of the country's leading architects. Even so it is very fine indeed with a particularly magnificent ballroom. Later work, mainly by William Lindley, including the attic storey and dining room added in the early nineteenth century have enhanced rather than detracted from its splendour.

Cusworth Hall is now a museum but it was built as a private house by the owner William Wrightson commencing in 1740. Later he employed James Paine to alter the house and to add two wings including a chapel. The work was completed in around 1755.

We are lucky enough to have yet another Grade I building by Paine; this is Wadworth Hall built for Josias Wordsworth in around 1750. However, like Cusworth, it may have been started by another builder or architect.

The remaining two Grade I buildings are less obvious, or rather less grand, but are certainly very important. Hatfield Manor House looks like a Georgian house but looks can be deceiving. In fact it is 12th century with additions from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. The listed building description explains how it was once owned by the Crown and states that as a hunting lodge its visitors included Edward Balliol, ex King of Scotland probably in the company of John of Gaunt and Geoffrey Chaucer. It is also thought that the Black Prince visited in 1360.

The other house is the Old Rectory at Campsall. We don't know if it had any famous visitors but we do know that it is a hall house of around 1400 with Georgian additions.

Peter Coote

The Back Page

New Architecture at Welbeck



The Portland Collection 2016

This new gallery in the grounds of Welbeck Abbey, just south of Worksop, has won a hatful of awards in 2016. It received an RIBA National Award, and four RIBA Regional Awards for the East Midlands. It is their Building of the Year, with further awards for sustainability and conservation. It cost £4.73 million, and was designed by Hugh Broughton Architects. It houses the Portland Collection which has paintings, sculpture, books, tapestries, furniture and jewellery, and is one of the finest in private hands in Britain. The new building sits within existing stone walls, with new walls in hand-made Danish brick. The striking barrel-vaulted roofs are clad in zinc and provide top-light to the galleries.

Welbeck Abbey was used as an army training college from the time of the Second World War until 2005. William Henry Marcello Parente inherited the estate from his aunt, Lady Anne Cavendish-Bentinck. It remains the family home of descendants of the Dukes of Portland



Portland Collection – looking into foyer



Picture Gallery



Foyer looking out to the courtyard

The Portland Collection is the latest addition to the site. The Harley Gallery, below left, was constructed within the ruins of the estate's Victorian gas works buildings in 1994 and was designed by local architect Leo Godlewski. It features a changing programme of exhibitions and events.



The Harley Gallery 1994

In 2000 the East Workshops, right, a group of craft workshops, was built to the designs of leading post-modernist architect John Outram.



Outram's East Workshops 2000