

TRUST TOPICS

Doncaster Civic Trust Newsletter ©

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Contents

Page 2

Meet Rachel Berry

Page 3

Members' News

YHACS 20th Anniversary

Pages 3-6

William Lambie Moffatt,
Doncaster Architect

Page 7

Planning Matters

Pages 8-9

The Art Deco Style

Pages 10-11

STEM Design Challenge

Page 12 The Back Page

News from the Exec.



The Art Deco Style

Entrance doors once at Barker & Wigfall,
5 Prince's Street, Doncaster

Member of



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Meet Rachel Berry



Photo: Amanda Manby Photography

Everyone knows that it takes seven years to become a doctor or an architect. It's one of those numbers that sticks in the mind like 1066 or 1966.

In the case of Armthorpe woman and Trust member Rachel Berry, the significant number is 12. That is because this is how many years ago it was when she first started her undergraduate degree in architecture and environmental design at Sheffield Hallam University. In December last year she completed her studies and is now entitled to apply for registration as an architect and bear the letters RIBA after her name.

Rachel began her long path to success studying a range of subjects at GCSE level at The Armthorpe School before taking up A levels at Doncaster College, attending night school classes in digital design software, an essential skill for a career in architecture, and completing a foundation course in art and design.

After the award of her BSc in 2010 she decided that it would make sense to gain valuable experience at a time when jobs in the architectural sector were scarce. Rachel worked for a time with the planning and urban design team at Doncaster Council (unpaid) and produced some really useful digital designs for the implementation of the town centre Masterplan.

Most useful to her ambition to be an architect though was when she secured a paid position at a Leeds-based architectural practice which allowed her to develop her design skills, principally in the residential sector. Not wanting to leave her paid position, she decided to combine work with study by enrolling on a four year part-time Masters degree in Architecture at Leeds Beckett University.

Trust members will recognise that this is a tough challenge but it has served Rachel well, qualifying as an architect whilst gaining priceless experience. And the Trust has been there to help her along the way providing financial support through our bursary scheme. Passionate about her home town, she joined the Trust in 2013 and sits on our Education Committee where she is committed to creating a mentorship scheme to support bursary recipients. She has been a member of Doncaster Council's Design Review Panel for eight years.

With the backdrop of today's widely recognised housing crisis, Rachel has also recently joined the management board for the new Doncaster-based not-for-profit organisation called CanDo (Community and Neighbourhood Development Organisation). CanDo has the ambition to provide much needed quality affordable housing in Doncaster whilst addressing the burden of fuel poverty in the community by being an exemplar for delivering energy efficient homes.

Rachel has some clear ambitions: never to stop learning and growing as an individual, both personally and professionally; to have a positive impact on the development of Doncaster and to continue to support Doncaster's young people who may be struggling to enter the profession. Rachel says: "I thank Doncaster Civic Trust for their support at various stages of my education. Architecture has such a long route to qualification and without the assistance of the Trust through the bursary scheme I reflect that I may not have been able to make it this far".

Members' News : Winter Programme 2020

2020 All on Thursdays at 7.30 pm at Doncaster Deaf Trust, Leger Way

19 March **Stella Howe on Restoration Work on Portland Works in Sheffield**
Stella is Outreach & Education Officer at Portland Works.

23 April **Members' Forum**
An opportunity to view the Trust's videos and heritage images, and to share views about the things we need to do now, and in the future

Civic Trust members are invited to the following free talks arranged by The Friends of Doncaster Mansion House.

2020 All on Fridays at 12 noon in the Chamber at the Mansion House

13 March **Malcolm Dolby will be talking about archaeological excavations**
in the town during the 1960s & 1970s.

17 April **David Varley will be talking about the Mansion House's clocks**
and the development of clocks from the 17th Century

Lunch at York to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of YHACS

To commemorate 20 years of the Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies we were invited to a dinner at the Principal Hotel in York. Peter Coote and Tina Anderson represented Doncaster Civic Trust.

A welcome from Regional Chair Kevin Trickett was followed by a brief talk from the Chairman of York Civic Trust. We were told that they had 1200 members. After an excellent lunch where we were seated with members of Dronfield, Addingham and Beverley Civic Societies, Kevin gave a history of YHACS. For many years Doncaster Civic Trust was alone in South Yorkshire, but in 2006 YHACS helped to set up Trusts in Barnsley and Sheffield. We were pleased to hear that YHACS had registered a new civic society in Thorne. We hoped to learn more soon.

Our main speaker was Sarah McLeod of the Wentworth Woodhouse Trust, the charity launched to save this enormous mansion. Until 2017 it was in private hands owned by the Newbold family. In a fascinating illustrated talk we heard that the priority was to make the roof watertight and that their 62 buckets had now been reduced to 12! It was just the start of a 20 year project.



Doncaster Architects no. 11 William Lambie Moffatt

William Moffatt was born in Scotland in 1807. As a young man he became a pupil of William Burn, a noted Scottish architect. He was living in Edinburgh in 1833 but in 1836 he won the competition for Wakefield Corn Exchange with an original design in the Greek Revival style.

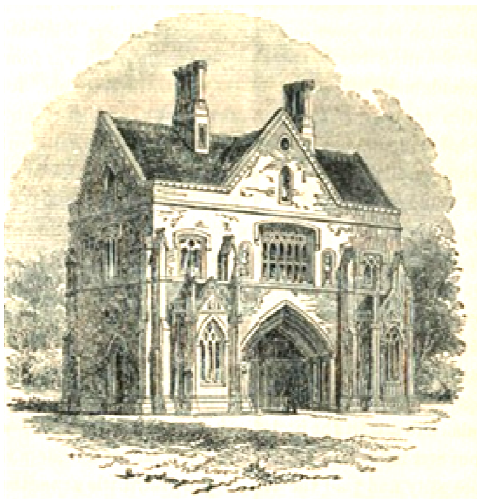
This probably induced him to settle in Doncaster. In 1838 William Hurst of Doncaster invited him to become a partner, his previous partner John Woodhead having died, and for the next six years Hurst and Moffatt had a flourishing practice, particularly for churches financed by The Incorporated Church Building Society.

William Hurst was the subject of our first article in this series. We will now look at Moffatt's work in partnership with Hurst as well as his later solo work in the Doncaster area.

Hurst and Moffatt

Hurst had previously secured a contract to design a Union Workhouse at Selby; Hurst and Moffatt then designed more of them including Thorne (1838) and Doncaster (1839). Many churches were designed too but there were none in this area. Elsewhere they included Ardsley (Barnsley), Woodsetts (Rotherham), and Goole.

In 1839 Moffatt was the architect of improvements to what was then the Independent Chapel, now the United Reform Church, on Hall Gate. Essentially he re-ordered the interior, improving galleries and pews. The chapel was altered more extensively later in the century.



A few years later, in 1842, Hurst and Moffatt designed the Clipstone Archway at Welbeck for the Duke of Portland, shown left. It is very unusual; it has niches with characters from the legend of Sherwood, including Robin Hood and Friar Tuck. The whole design was based on the mediaeval gatehouse at Worksop Priory. Today it is known as Archway House with accommodation above which once housed a school.

The next known Doncaster building designed by the practice was the Savings Bank, in 1843. This later became the Yorkshire Bank. It still stands, with later extensions, on the corner of Scot Lane and High Street. It is now a shop. It is thought that Hurst was the architect here.

In the same year Moffatt designed a Wesleyan Chapel for the congregation at Everton near Bawtry. It still stands today on the Gainsborough Road but it closed as long ago as 1872.



It was replaced by another chapel nearer the village centre. The original chapel probably became a grain store for the Brickmakers' Arms, the nearby inn which is now a house.

In 1844 Hurst died but Moffatt carried on the practice.

Moffatt's solo work in Doncaster

The practice continued to thrive with Moffatt as sole architect.

Churches and Vicarages

In Doncaster he carried on with church work, designing St Peter's at Askern (1848), shown above. St John's in Fenwick was built in 1852 and was demolished in 1978.

He designed vicarages, too, including Kirk Bramwith, shown right, which has a plaque with the date 1846, and Fishlake, extensively remodelled in 1847. Moffatt's plans of the latter show gothic doorways and mullioned windows. He didn't demolish the existing building; instead he built round it on three sides thus creating a 6 bedroomed house with dining room, drawing room and study. He reused bricks from derelict cottages on site and supplemented them with new bricks to complete the work. He finished it off with a new slate roof. The total cost for the work was nearly £500.



Hooton Pagnell was his last vicarage, built in 1860.

Schools

He designed a new school room for the then Yorkshire Institute for the Deaf and Dumb in 1851 as the existing school room was not large enough and a replacement was required. The corner stone was laid in May 1851. After the ceremony there was a holiday for the children and in the evening they were treated to plum-cakes and cocoa. The building was demolished in 1901.

Moffatt designed the Christ Church Day Schools at Waterdale in 1851-2, shown right. Eventually they were sold and became a Sikh Temple. They have since been demolished and a new temple now stands on the site.



Dispensary

In 1856 he prepared plans for an Infirmary at the Dispensary, declining any fee.

Housing in Regent Square

Although much of Moffatt's work was for organisations, he was also involved with housing development. In 1855 he was part of a group of investors that purchased Hall Cross Close, a field opposite the Salutation. Moffatt designed two spacious streets of semi detached houses and displayed them in a shop window in High Street. Unfortunately the land contained a pond which was filled from an old water house which stood where the Regent Hotel is located today.

The Corporation objected to a plan to divert the water course onto the highway. The situation was complex but the solution, only finally agreed in 1858, was for most of the land in the centre to become a garden owned by the Council. The investors could have the old water house and build there. It was agreed that the Square would have semi-detached houses on three sides. In fact, presumably in an attempt to get some of the money back, the southern part of the close had been sold in 1857 to a builder, Samuel Hawksworth.

He constructed the first two fine semi-detached houses with balustrades and urns, which are actually on South Parade. The new houses, built in 1858, faced what would soon be the central gardens. All of these would appear to be designed by Moffatt.

Hawksworth then built two stuccoed terraces of seven and four houses. They are not as elaborate as the earlier buildings, presumably in an attempt to cut costs, but they are still fine houses.



An early layout for Hall Cross Field, with Christ Church on the far left

Although the architect is unknown I think these are by Moffatt too. This is because of the clever design of some of the houses which were built to get the best views of the Square.

Soon tastes changed and the northern part of the Square was sold off to different buyers with different architects. This is why the two halves of the Square are of different character today. It is not what Moffatt had wanted but even so the result is an enjoyable piece of townscape with the town's only Victorian garden.

Leaving Doncaster

After the death of William Hurst his widow left her house in Regent Terrace and moved across the road to South Parade to live. This contained, on the ground floor, the two rooms of Hurst and Moffatt's architectural office which Mrs Hurst let Moffatt continue to use.

However when she died the property went up for auction in 1856. Increasingly, Moffatt was designing buildings in Scotland. Indeed as early as 1849 he had set up another office in Edinburgh, no doubt taking advantage of the new railway which arrived in Doncaster that year. During his time in Doncaster he had lived in Albion Place with his wife Wilhelmina and six children who were all born here. But in 1858 he left Doncaster altogether moving his household to Edinburgh.

After this time nearly all his work, with a few exceptions, was for Scottish clients. (He undertook only one more work here, the Vicarage at Hooton Pagnell, mentioned above, which was probably designed in Edinburgh). He was very successful, designing many hospitals and asylums. He was working nearly up to his death in 1882.

Moffatt was an interesting architect. Although he was to become a specialist in institutional buildings, his earlier work in Doncaster was more varied. According to a record of Scottish architects, "he was equally skilled in Greek, Italianate, Gothic and neo-Jacobean".

I would like to thank Helen Wallder and Brian Barber for their help with this article. The information on Fishlake Vicarage came from the website of the Fishlake History Society. The full history of Regent Square is in the Trust's Newsletter Archive. Notes by the late Eric Braim were also used in preparing this article.

Peter Coote

Planning Matters

With each edition of Trust Topics we bring you details of a few of the cases we have reviewed, usually affecting listed and historic buildings or buildings in conservation areas. We also look at other applications of interest, including large development proposals.

We achieved some very good results in 2019 with 72% of our objections and representations being successful. This figure has been steady for some years now. This shows we are having an important impact on the quality of our historic buildings and new designs.

Houses and HiMOs

Kellett Hotel, Thorne Road

Despite the successes mentioned above, there were of course failures too. We objected to the conversion of the Kellett Hotel to a 20 bed House in Multiple Occupation. HiMOs can cause a decline in the standards of buildings in Conservation Areas. In this case we suggested it should have fewer units and be converted to apartments instead. Unfortunately it was approved by the Planning Committee. Although we think this should have been refused, we were pleased to see that the gardens will be maintained, as we requested.

19-25 Auckland Road

We welcomed a proposal to return 19 and 21 Auckland Road back to single private houses from their previous use as hotel/guest house.

New Developments

7 to 9 Scot Lane, Bawtry

We welcomed the proposal to redevelop this partly derelict site but had concerns over the design and size of the development. We were pleased to see some later improvements to the scheme.

Listed Buildings

5 and 6 Regent Terrace

We looked at an application to change these important buildings from offices to 6 self contained apartments. We had no objections to the apartments but we were aware that these houses contain fine examples of architect William Hurst's design work, particularly No 6. We said no historic fabric should be discarded or damaged. We found some proposals for the fine staircases to be unacceptable and we asked that partitioning of rooms be kept to a minimum.

Change of Use in a Conservation Area

The Millstone, Tickhill

This application for change of use to supermarket with first floor apartments attracted a lot of attention. We welcomed the apartments but objected to the supermarket proposal. We said, "It is not the appropriate location for a retail use. It is outside the town's central commercial area. The proposed retail use could have a negative impact on the character of this part of the Conservation Area. This includes the Castle and the Mill Dam, a popular local amenity".

The Planning & Conservation Sub-committee

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Art Deco

Kevin Trickett : 16 January 2020



A suave Kevin Trickett MBE, the Chairman of YHACS, entertained 73 Trust members on one of his favourite subjects. His talk encompassed the history, style and influence of Art Deco.

The heyday of the style was the “Jazz Age”, the “Roaring Twenties” and “The Thirties”, but it was brought to a halt by the Second World War. It was revived in the 1950s and is still popular today for clothes, furniture and even buildings.

An exhibition in Paris in 1925 of “Arts Decoratifs”, themed on “The Moderne”, was the starting point for Bevis Hillier to write about the style and name his book “Art Deco”; and that name stuck.

Art Deco was the style successor to Art Nouveau. This had been based on organic, sinuous, feminine and natural forms, whereas the later Deco style was more streamlined, stylised, geometric and evocative of the machine age of the 1920s and 1930s.

The Pyramids were being excavated in the 1920s and new interest was generated in Pharaonic, Aztec and Inca designs. We were shown a New York club with a design heavily influenced by Egyptian motifs.

The Art Nouveau forms that we saw in fabrics, clocks, doors and picture frames were exuberant and organic; Art Deco examples of the same things were geometric and often symmetrical. There were many terms for mid 20th Century architecture: Cubism, International Style, Bauhaus, Modernism.....the list goes on, but Kevin thought them all Art Deco for his purposes.

A look at the iconic Chrysler and Empire State Buildings in New York led us on to considering Art Deco as the “Party Style”, where slim elegant people wore fashionable, often striped, clothes and really enjoyed themselves. Robert Redford in the 1974 film “The Great Gatsby” captured the style. The 2012 remake with Leonardo di Caprio featured plenty of good Art Deco.

The TV detective stories featuring Agatha Christie’s Hercule Poirot featured a wealth of English Art Deco with many well-known buildings and their interiors being shown. Some of the interiors, like Poirot’s own flat, were studio sets. Hollywood films embraced Art Deco with its buildings, furniture and fashions, and cinema spread the style, world-wide. We saw Busby Berkeley, Anything Goes and “The Jiving Lindy Hoppers” that were all synonymous with Art Deco.

One of Kevin’s favourite style icons was his Martini glass. At this point in the talk he produced a glass and filled it from a cocktail shaker. See the photo above, captioned, “I don’t mind if I do!” Cocktails had really taken off in the “Thirties” thanks to the Savoy Hotel and its cocktails book.

Having looked at the wide impact of the style, we turned towards Art Deco buildings, particularly those in England. First up was a white, flat-roofed house in Castleford, surprisingly. We usually think of them in the South of England, probably on the coast. Then came the Odeon Cinema, Harrogate, and the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough. BBC’s Broadcasting House, recently extended, was very well known. The Hoover Building, one of Britain’s best known Art Deco buildings, was more recently occupied by Tesco.

The Adelphi Building, close to the Thames, had been featured in Poirot even though it housed offices for the Civil Service. Others included the former Daily Express Building and The Savoy.



BBC's Broadcasting House



The Adelphi



Former Daily Express, Fleet Street

Favourite seaside buildings were the De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill and the Midland Hotel, Morecambe. Kevin had stayed at the Midland and considered it, "Very, very nice". The hotel had good artworks by Eric Gill and Eric Ravilious. The building had been comprehensively renovated by Urban Splash having become fairly dilapidated before their intervention.



LMS Railway Poster

Many of the 1930s buildings featured sculpture by prominent artists often worked into the building's fabric.



Sculpture on Broadcasting House

After buildings we had a look at ships. Kevin thought that original Queen Elizabeth and the latest Queen Elizabeth were pure Art Deco. "Liner Style" with its curved glazing and porthole windows was just another strand of Art Deco.

Cars were next, with a stunning, sleek and coach-built Rolls-Royce. Even a streamlined single-decker coach was included – or was that a Dinky toy? Steam locomotives were shown, not just the LNER's Doncaster-built Gresley A4s, but also the LMS's Coronation streamliner. Then we saw airports and aeroplanes. Shoreham airport was deemed original enough to be featured in Poirot.

We ended as we had started with a piece of decorative Bagley pressed glass from Knottingley in a popular Deco style. Kevin thought that the Dualit toaster had always been Deco, Clarice Cliff was sometimes too jazzy and the modern geometric Alessi tea and coffee set might be OK.

For further reading we were recommended to seek out Bevis Hillier's Art Deco book, the website of the Art Deco Society UK, and information on the V&A's Art Deco exhibition in 2003.

Archie Sinclair

STEM Design Challenge 2019



On Wednesday 4th November the Mansion House was once again the venue for another round of Doncaster Civic Trust's Design Challenge.

This annual event is a collaboration between the Trust, Friends of Doncaster Mansion House, the Council and Sheffield School of Architecture and is proving more popular as the years go by. This is the sixth year of the challenge.

Last year six primary schools entered ten teams in total. This year we had applications from 21 schools, representing 310 children. The Mansion House can only really accommodate ten teams of ten children so sadly we had to turn away quite a lot of children.

The university has offered to hold a second event at the Mansion House in summer to include those schools not selected this time.

Why was there such demand this year? We think it was to do with two factors: the production of a promotional film of last year's event by Mark Waterhouse (view it on the Trust's website); and the branding of the event as a STEM initiative. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) which is a major focus of the National Curriculum.

This year's theme was to design a shopping and cultural complex. On the day, the children were mentored by teams of Masters students from Sheffield. They produced some wonderfully thoughtful and creative designs. The day was one of intense activity and no little fun.

The students were well-prepared and a big hit with the children who responded positively to join in with the spirit of the event. A large proportion of the students were from overseas with English as a second language so it was a challenge for them. It is worth noting that this project represents an assessed module of their Masters studies so they take their engagement with the children very seriously.

At the end of the day, the judges, John Holmes, chairman of the Civic Trust and Dr Irit Katz of the University awarded prizes and certificates as follows:-

Best Overall Design – Southfield Primary School, Armthorpe Most Sustainable Design – Lakeside Primary School, Belle Vue Most Creative Design – Morley Place Primary School, Conisborough Most Fun Design – Town Field Primary School, Doncaster
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Members of the Friends and Trust were on hand to make the day run smoothly. The Mansion House team were very helpful and supportive and leadership of the event was provided by the Education Team from Heritage Doncaster who managed the event with good humour and a practical approach.

The event is funded and organised by the Trust. We have every intention of running this event in 2020 and look forward to delivering another valuable educational initiative at the Mansion House.

Jeff Prior

Some views of the day's activities



Almost time for the awards to be announced



Lakeside Primary designed a whole town centre!



The University students had a good time too



Morley Place Primary won the Award for the Most Creative Design



Sandringham Primary designed a High Street

News from the Exec.

In this new, occasional series, we bring you news items from our Executive Committee. It meets every two months, most recently in January.

Our New Venue: after seeking members' views at the AGM, the Exec. decided to move all our meetings permanently to the Deaf Trust. Tea, coffee and biscuits will still be provided at our general meetings but we regret we can no longer provide cakes.

Trees: we had reported that one of the Trust-funded trees, planted in Elmfield Park to commemorate the 1st World War, had been vandalised. The Council has since replaced it. Another tree, an oak planted by the Council in 2000 to commemorate 20 years of Trust-sponsored tree-planting, needed to be removed as its crown had become rotten. It will be replaced. Our current tree planting programme continues.

Heritage Walks and Calendars: Steve and Andy reported excellent sales for our calendars. People enjoyed the three Christmas Walks but better publicity is needed later in the year if the events are to be successful.

Modernising the Trust: two new films made by Exec. member Mark Waterhouse are now viewable on our website. We will be showing them at one of our meetings too. The films were entered in the annual YHACS Competition, but unfortunately they didn't win.

Future Fairs: we have learned that neither the Heritage Festival nor the Local History Fair will take place in 2020 as Council staff are fully engaged with the new Museum. This affects our Heritage Walks which we usually run as part of the Festival. However we agreed that we will take part in the Family & Local History Fair on the 3rd October. We decided to look for other events where we could take our displays, and to look at running a new Heritage Walk on Civic Day in June. Watch for our email Trust Updates or contact us nearer June for details.

Student Bursary Scheme: the Trust is currently supporting four Doncaster students who are studying architecture, town planning, landscape architecture and architectural engineering. We are looking for applicants for the next round of the scheme which starts in Autumn 2020.

Design Challenge: this event at the Mansion House in December 2019 featured teams from 11 local primary schools. The challenge was to design a shopping and leisure complex. As usual we were supported by Sheffield School of Architecture, Friends of the Mansion House and Heritage Doncaster. The children and teachers had a great time and learned a lot about architecture and urban design.

The Settlement Game: we are finalising plans to roll-out the Settlement Game in local primary schools, supported by Heritage Doncaster. Look out for the video of the project to be launched in the coming weeks.

The Trust Assists: We have now helped the Friends of Doncaster Museums to acquire the ceremonial trowel used to lay the foundation stone of the Corn Exchange in 1870. We have also pledged to help Bawtry Town Council fund works to protect its important Market Cross from damage by vehicles as part of its scheme to enhance Bawtry Market Place.

The Executive Committee