



TRUST TOPICS

Doncaster Civic Trust Newsletter ©

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New Old Face at DGLaM

The latest stop on the Lion's journey

Member of



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Eric Gill and the Gill Sans typeface – a personal view



I have used this typeface in Trust Topics ever since I became its editor in 2007. Back in 1989 I was very keen to buy the new Eric Gill biography by Fiona MacCarthy, as I had been very keen on Gill (1882-1940) and his work as letter cutter, wood engraver, sculptor and typographer for many years.

The 300-page biography extensively chronicled his life and wonderful work, but it also revealed shocking details of his scandalous relationships with his daughters and sisters.

Eric Gill, self-portrait 1927, wood engraving Image: British Museum

These revelations were not going to stop me using his typefaces or enjoying his sculptural works. The man died in 1940 and his very good sans-serif typeface was designed in 1926. So it's been in use now for nearly 100 years. The recent hammer attack on Eric Gill's sculptures on the BBC's Broadcasting House has brought the issue of Gill's past to the fore. The BBC has wisely decided to leave the sculptures in place, at least for now.

This comes after widespread concern about monuments and buildings connected to slavery, the wealth it created and the public institutions that were funded. In turn the benefactors were memorialised for their good public works in Britain. There is now a big move to have their statues removed, the benefactors forgotten, buildings re-named and so forth.

BBC Broadcasting House, London 1931-2
Prospero and Ariel sculptures by Eric Gill



There may be something of a bandwagon being jumped on here. Gill's behaviour was appalling but was "domestic" in scale and nothing at all like the gross cruelty, racism and exploitation of the slave trade. The sculptures attacked at the BBC were by him, not of him. The Save the Children charity and the BBC both announced that they were stopping the use of the Gill Sans font, as they suddenly wanted to have no association with Gill, 30 years after his behaviour was exposed in MacCarthy's biography.

I see no reason for the Trust to jump on the bandwagon. Is using the typeface really condoning Gill's behaviour? It was clearly unacceptable, but his design and artistic skills were exceptional and a quite separate issue, I feel.

A detail from Gill's beautiful but controversial war memorial at Leeds University, 1923

Archie Sinclair

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

The Gill Sans font of 1926 is characterised by its very simple and clean design. However, its stylish upper case J and Q, and its lower case g help to identify it.

Members' Page: Winter Programme Dates

All the meetings are at St Peter's Church Hall in Chequer Road, Thursdays, at 7.30pm.

The accommodation has been completely refurbished, with new lighting and furniture, a new floor, a new kitchen and effective heating.

2022

15 September Dave Fordham on "A nostalgic walk from Doncaster to Mexborough"

20 October Malcolm Barnsdale on "Old Doncaster Revisited"

17 November Annual General Meeting, followed by Mark Waterhouse on "The Trust's Art and Photography Competition - the Winners"

No talk in December

2023

12 January Jackie Gladden on "Art Nouveau in Europe - and Beyond"

23 February The Ginger Group with "New Plans for Doncaster Corn Exchange"

9 March Dr. Ed Shaw of the Don Catchment River Trust - "All hands on the Don: Transforming our river together".

20 April Martin Gorman of the Friends of Sheffield Castle "Discovering Sheffield Castle"

Members' News

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to the interesting Autumn Programme of talks.

This summer saw the success of the Doncaster Civic Trust Online Art and Photography Competition, and we are looking forward to seeing the 12 best entries in the Doncaster Civic Trust Calendar this autumn. All entrants in the competition have been offered a year's free Civic Trust Membership, so I would like to welcome the following new members and hope they will enjoy participating in Trust activities:

Katrina O'Halloran
David and Mary Andrews

Look out for more photos and profiles of members of the Executive Committee in this edition. Remember we are always looking for members who may be interested in joining the Executive Committee and taking a more active part in running the Civic Trust.

Rowena Mellows Membership Secretary

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Barnsley St Mary's Church – Built by Doncaster Architects



St. Mary's Parish Church, Church Street, Barnsley, view from Church Street (east)

Our Parish and Civic Church in the heart of Barnsley dates from at least 1180, when the first Rector listed on the board in the porch was called Ralph. There have been several buildings on the site of St Mary's, but the surviving version was completed in 1822. It was designed by Doncaster Architects John Woodhead and William Hurst, who have been researched by Peter Coote for Doncaster Civic Trust. I did a little research of my own into their lives - see end of article - and I would be delighted to learn more about their lasting legacy in Barnsley and beyond.

As the population of Barnsley town grew with industrialisation, it was agreed that a much larger church was needed to serve the town centre than the medieval building, which had fallen into disrepair. A competition was held to find the architects. The old building was demolished in 1820-21 and the new church erected over the original footprint, but was wider resulting in loss or damage to many gravestones in the churchyard, as well as inside the church. The architects reused the stone from the old church and retained the tower, which was heightened. The new church accommodated twice as many people (1,000) as the earlier building because it had galleries round three sides – difficult to envisage now.

St Mary's has undergone various changes since 1822, but few to the outside of the building, apart from the construction of a vestry extension. The interior was transformed in 1870 by the renowned Gothic architect George Frederick Bodley, who removed the galleries, enclosed the chancel within a decorative screen and replaced the Medieval east window with a larger one, reusing the older glass elsewhere. He had a decorative scheme for the walls which were subsequently whitewashed over; I have undated postcards showing two designs, but I do not know whether the second is earlier or later than Bodley's. Rev Kirby, Rector in the late 1800s, achieved his aim of further beautifying St Mary's by having stained-glass installed in all the windows by the time of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, thanks to wealthy and influential donors, whom I have researched.

The 1822 rebuild was consecrated on 22 October 1822, the same day as the new Barnsley St George's Church, designed by Thomas Rickman, causing confusion to Pevsner until the most recent edition corrected the architects of St Mary's Church.

We can feel especially proud of the choice of Woodhead and Hurst because St George's, built as one of the new Waterloo Churches, was demolished years ago and a modern building now stands on a different site with its old churchyard marooned!

The date's significance has been increased because it was chosen when dedicating the new War Memorial Chapel on 22 October 1922. Major alterations were carried out to the south chapel, a magnificent First World War Memorial Pillar was installed in the centre, listing 200 men and the only woman on such a memorial in Barnsley, and two new windows were donated by the families of Dorothy Fox VAD and Captain Jack Normansell of the First Barnsley Pals. The King's Colour of the 13th (First Barnsley) Battalion of the York & Lancaster Regiment was laid up in the chapel, to be joined later by the Second Barnsley Pals Colour.

Friends of Barnsley St Mary organised a programme of events for 2022 and we have so far held a Pet Service in January and a week-long Weddings Exhibition in March in addition to monthly Open Days. These will include participating in the Heritage Open Days in September. We have three large terracotta planters colourfully planted up thanks to Barnsley's Mayor, Friends and a group of disabled students from Barnsley College. We have commissioned two special textile panels for the chapel screen from Helen Riddle, a very talented artist from Wakefield's Art House, as a permanent reminder of St Mary's bicentenary.

Our next public event, which we hope will be well attended, is our Thanksgiving Service at 12 noon on 22 October followed by refreshments, guided tours and an exhibition, which Peter Coote has kindly agreed to contribute towards. Barnsley's Mayor, HM Lord Lieutenant for South Yorkshire and Dan Jarvis MP have all confirmed their attendance or involvement. The two Barnsley Pals Colours, framed just before lockdown in March 2020, will be on display in the chapel on their new stands with a time capsule, and we hope to unveil a new blue plaque. Everyone is welcome.

The Architects

John Woodhead (1763 – 1838) started in partnership with William Lindley of South Parade, Doncaster, who was the first Architectural Assistant to John Carr of York. Little is known about Woodhead's life.

William Hurst (1787 – 1844) was articled to William Lindley who was involved in alterations to the Mansion House. Woodhead and Hurst succeeded Lindley. They designed many buildings, both secular and ecclesiastical, in Doncaster and beyond. Hurst got married to Sophia Elizabeth Pearson in 1820 but she died soon after giving birth to their daughter Mary Sophia Hurst in 1822. Baby Mary was baptised on 25 October, 3 days after Barnsley St Mary's Church was consecrated to Charlotte Jane Innes, who brought up her stepdaughter along with their nine children. The family home was at 6 Regent Terrace, Doncaster. Hurst was a Town Councillor and Mayor in 1829. After Woodhead's retirement in 1838, Hurst went into partnership with Scottish architect William Lambie Moffatt. Amongst their list of churches, they designed two in Barnsley in 1841: Christ Church in Doncaster Road, Ardsley, and Holy Trinity Church in Thurgoland.



St. Mary's, view from Church Lane (west)

Jane Ainsworth

Historian, Author, Friend of Barnsley St. Mary & Doncaster Civic Trust Member

Who's who on the Executive Committee? Part 2

If you are a relatively new member of the Civic Trust you probably receive emails and read articles by various members of the executive committee and may wonder who they are. Perhaps you would like to chat to them at a meeting but cannot recognise them.

In this issue of Trust Topics, we are continuing the series of short profiles of each executive committee member with a recent photograph. We are always looking for other members to join the Executive Committee so please get in touch if you are interested.

Tina Anderson



I am Doncaster born and bred. I taught for over 30 years in Doncaster Schools with 1 year in Nairobi, Kenya as a Commonwealth Exchange Teacher in 1976.

I joined the Civic Trust in 1990/91 being interested in local buildings and future developments in Doncaster. I was invited to join the Executive Committee in 1996 and took on the role of catering for the socials in 1997/8 and then after retiring from teaching in 2002 also became the speaker finder. I continued to serve these two roles for over 20 years until Covid 19. I was also involved in the Education committee led by Jeff Prior encouraging Doncaster Primary Schools to enter the Civic Trust Competitions.

My other interests are singing the services in Cathedrals up and down the country with Doncaster choirs and being a volunteer at the DRI.

I have always enjoyed my involvement in the Trust and like meeting members of other civic societies. Sharing ideas has enlightened and informed me so much more about our past heritage and given me food for thought about future developments in our cities and towns.

Steve Kimber - Exec Member since September 2015



After completing a Housing Management Degree at Sheffield Polytechnic (now Sheffield Hallam) in the mid-1970's I started my career in Public Sector housing with Doncaster MBC.

After 13 years I went to Goole to work for Boothferry BC and then in 1996 to Scunthorpe for North Lincolnshire Council. I took early retirement as part of a management restructure in April 2003.

Since then, my jobs have been many and various! Van Hire Manager, Cemeteries Supervisor, Car Auction Compound Driver, Mobile Library Driver and finally working for Doncaster's Tourist Information Service initially at the Blue Building on the High Street and then at the corner of Priory Place.

A big fan of Dickens and House Music, I now spend 3 mornings a week at a local gym and the rest of the time "tinkering" with car restoration. Under work at the moment is a 1995 VW Golf GTi. I also own a 1963 Ford Zephyr Mark 3 and a 1993 Marlin Roadster kit-car.

To the Civic Trust I bring knowledge of Public Sector housing history, construction, finance and law. I have a particular love of older public buildings in terms of their design and quality of construction. I have written in Trust Topics on Bawtry Hall, Rossington Hall, Fryston Hall and Edenthorpe Hall. My plan is now, post Covid, to start on another local stately pile, but there are so many to choose from!

Sue Barnsdale



I was born in Doncaster and lived here all my life apart from three years in Liverpool at Teachers' Training College. I taught in Doncaster for several years, married Malcolm Barnsdale and built a house together where we still live.

We had two sons and I retired from teaching. I joined the family firm of Barnsdales Estate Agents and Surveyors and spent the next 28 years dealing with property matters.

My Aunt Elsie Hartley was a very active member of Doncaster Civic Trust and in the early 1970s she was keen to increase the number of young members. To this end she invited Sue Burley and myself to the Civic Trust AGM. Before the end of the meeting both Sue and I were members of the Trust and had been elected onto the Executive Committee!

Since that time I have been on the Tree Committee planting trees across the Town.

I was involved with the erection of the Civic Trust Heritage Plaques and I have worked with John Holmes, Tina Anderson and Sue Burley on the Social Committee where we organised Stately Home visits, a yearly Christmas buffet and refreshments at the monthly meetings.

All these committees have been fun whilst having a serious purpose. It is a privilege to be part of such a worthwhile organisation and very rewarding.

Peter Walker

I'm Pete Walker, currently Chair of Tickhill Town Council. My family moved to Tickhill in 1987 when I started to work for an IT company based in Rotherham.

Married with two grown children, I'm now retired having spent most of my working career working in IT primarily for Carillion, and ending up as IT Director in the Middle East and North Africa, and was surprised to learn that India was apparently located in Africa as well.



Now retired I'm attracted to the idea of contributing what I can to the community to which we were initially attracted all those years ago, and of which, after some 35 years we've become so fond.

When not engaged in council activity I remain an unrepentant "petrol head". For many years we enjoyed an early 70's TR6 which we campaigned on numerous organised events, getting to know recovery drivers throughout the UK. The highlight of this era was getting it to Le Mans and back without meeting any recovery teams at all.

I waste many hours learning to play guitar. I've been doing this for best part of 55 years with some way to go yet. I'm also actively involved in Doncaster Civic Trust. Clearly, history interests me and increasingly political history. I also appreciate good architecture and increasingly dislike poor architecture.

We still enjoy travel which has been sadly curtailed in recent years but will hopefully start to grow again in months to come. I've been fortunate to see a lot of the world but I'm afraid travel only whets your appetite to see more. Grandsons can and do take up time which, as a couple, we gladly give.

Doncaster Civic Trust's Art & Photographic Competition Summer 2022

After 4 months of running the Doncaster Civic Trust Art & Photography Competition, the points were added up to achieve a points total for each image. The initial online vote allowed the general public to vote on their favourite submission and, from an entry of 77 images, the top 12 voted images were revealed. From this 12, which will be featured on the 2023 Calendar, a panel of 8 judges chose their top 3 images. The judges each picked their first, second and third choices, and using a points system, this determined the top 3 in the competition

In first place was **The Market** by Sarah White. It was a popular choice amongst the judges. On the calendar, it will be the cover page and the image for January.



Sarah also won the second prize with **The Earl of Doncaster**. She told us:



I started painting during the lockdown, to give myself a break from home-schooling. The Earl of Doncaster and the Market Place picture are the only buildings I have ever painted. I moved to Doncaster just over 30 years ago and Doncaster Market was thriving. The Earl of Doncaster was one of the first places we went to as a family, so it seemed fitting that these were the two places I would try and capture. I love experimenting with colour, and I hope I have done these iconic Doncaster buildings justice.

For third place, both **Back in Time** by Nicola Knox and **Doncaster Minster at Night** by Michael Marsden scored the same number of votes, so they tied for third place. They will be the March and April images on the Calendar.



Back in Time by Nicola Knox

The remaining months will feature images based on how well they did in the online vote.

Members will have the opportunity to see the winning entries when the Art Gallery at DGLaM, will be showcasing all four from 8th September to 8th October.

And a final word from one of our winners:

“Good morning, I am in a current state of shock. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect to win, let alone both of my entries. Thank you so much. I am genuinely touched and honoured, and grateful to be given the chance to showcase my work”.



Doncaster Minster at Night by Michael Marsden

Mark Waterhouse

Restoration of a Hexthorpe Landmark



When King George VI became King in 1937, many local street parties took place within Doncaster. In Hexthorpe these were funded by local residents who found themselves with an excess amount. Alderman Morris (chairman of the Parks Department) suggested a community commemorative Coronation clock. The remaining amount was then raised by public subscription. This Clock tower was in fact Doncaster's only personal memorial of the coronation.

The Hexthorpe Clock, Urban Road
Image: Google Street View

The Hexthorpe Clock Tower stands 18 feet (5.4m) high built in an Art Deco style and faced with 2 inch (50mm) Askern "Asgold" rustic bricks laid in stack bond, sited on a feathered concrete platform. There was a clock at its top section and it was surmounted by a globular electric light. It was erected at the junction of Urban Road and Shadyside in Hexthorpe and was designed by Mr P O'Kirby the Borough Surveyor and was built by Mr J Butterfield, a Hexthorpe resident.

There was a bronze plaque on the base of the clock with the inscription "Erected by public subscription in commemoration of the Coronation of their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth 19th May 1937". At the unveiling ceremony in December 1937 the Hexthorpe Clock was formally presented to the Town Council, who undertook to be responsible for its maintenance.

Sadly, sometime in the next few years, the plaque was stolen, the tower gradually suffered damage from vandals and it fell into some disrepair.



Back in 1991 an article in the Hexpress newspaper (a community newspaper produced in Hexthorpe) complained about the "state of the clock" and described it as a "stack of bricks" which some locals felt should be pulled down. Nothing happened until in 1996 it received a face lift – two new faces with a double-sided clock mechanism were installed. We also believe there was badly needed restoration of the brickwork undertaken at this stage, with re-pointing and what appears to be steel wall ties inserted into the brickwork to hold it together and stabilise the structure.

However in 2005, despite much change to the housing in the area with landscaping and re-routing of some roads, the Hexpress mentioned the clock tower was in need once again. Nothing happened until the Civic Trust looked at the tower whilst assessing it for local listing last year. It was impossible to see one of the clock faces clearly, there was damage to some of the bricks and vegetation was growing out of the top of the tower.

A recent image shows the new clock face, but also reveals the missing bricks and self-set birch trees at high level



Working closely with DMBC we are pleased to report that the clock tower now has 2 new glass faces and is working accurately. We have replaced the plaque and it has been securely bolted to the steel door at the bottom of the tower.

Left: the replacement stainless steel plaque recently funded by the Trust

Right: the young birch trees detract from the new clock face and the re-pointed decorative brickwork.



It is hoped that in the near future the remaining vegetation will be removed and once again the Hexthorpe Coronation Clock will stand proudly opposite St. Jude's Church and be admired and appreciated by the residents of Hexthorpe who raised the funds for its original inauguration.

Rowena Mellows

References:

Sheffield Independent Newspaper, 16th December 1937

Doncaster Gazette Newspaper 16th December 1937

Hexpress Community Newspaper, Issue 40, Page 3, G. Warnes 1996

Firbeck Hall Restored



Owners:

One Construction and Building Group Ltd

Architect:

Building Link Design, Doncaster

Local Authority:

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Interested Parties:

The Friends of Firbeck Hall

Firbeck Hall Restored Summer 2022 Photo © David Johnson

Firbeck is a small village nestling amongst the wooded countryside in the secluded valley of Roche Abbey, near the border of South Yorkshire with Nottinghamshire. This pretty village has changed little since in the years since William West built a house here in 1594 known as Firbeck Hall. An earlier property in Firbeck, the manorial home of the Cressy family, built around 1600, was owned by William West before he started building Firbeck Hall. The earlier building still survives and is now known as Manor Farm.

Firbeck Hall has a fascinating history, passing through the hands of the West family to Elizabeth Fane and then Sir Francis Fane, until it was purchased in 1669 by William and Mary Woolhouse. It was sold to Jonathan Stanyforth in 1676 and the Stanyforth family owned the Hall until 1792, when the last remaining unmarried granddaughter of Jonathan, Amelia Stanyforth died and it was inherited by a relative, John Barker.

In 1800 the Hall was purchased by Henry Gally Knight, the son of Elizabeth Knight and the Rev. John Gally. The surname Gally was changed to Gally Knight for inheritance purposes. In 1808 Henry Gally Knight died and his son, another Henry, inherited Firbeck Hall. During the ownership of the Gally Knight family, the Hall was enlarged with the addition of Elizabethan style gables and the church was rebuilt. After Henry Gally Knight junior's death in 1846, the Hall was left to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

The Hall was bought by Frances Harriott Miles in 1853 on the death of her husband William. This purchase signalled another wonderful era in the history of the Firbeck Hall estate. Frances moved to Firbeck Hall from Bristol with her unmarried sister-in-law Eliza Miles. Sadly, there were no children from the marriage of William and Frances and the estate eventually passed to her nephew the Rev. Henry Gladwin Jebb. The Rev. Jebb made some improvements to the church and estate and after his death his nephew Captain Sydney Jebb inherited Firbeck Hall.

During the early part of the 20th century the estate was offered for sale, but there being no interest, it was withdrawn and let out. Mr Albert Orlando Peech, of Steel, Peech and Tozer, Rotherham, rented the property for a few years. In 1934 the estate was purchased by Mr Cyril Aubrey Nicholson who turned Firbeck Hall into a famous and glamorous Country Club. The outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 interrupted what had become known as the 'Glorious Years'. The Hall was offered, by Cyril Nicholson, to the Sheffield Royal Infirmary and became an ophthalmic hospital. The 'Glorious Years' were over and in 1943 Firbeck Hall was offered for sale again.

In 1945 the Hall was purchased by the Miners' Welfare Commission and converted to become the South Yorkshire Miners' Rehabilitation Centre. It was transferred to the NHS Sheffield Regional Hospital Board in 1951. In 1974 it came under Rotherham Area Health Authority, but in 1991 the Rehabilitation Centre closed.

Along the way there were various land and farm sales and by 1996 a much smaller estate surrounding the Hall was on offer. The Hall and the remaining estate was bought by Mr Glen Saint. Sadly, the Hall, gardens and woodlands were neglected and began to deteriorate. Villagers were alerted to the Hall's perilous state in 2009 by village resident Mr Don Scott and The Friends of Firbeck Hall was formed.

Today Firbeck Hall is owned by One Construction and Building Group Ltd who have taken the building and grounds to new heights, sympathetically returning the Hall to its former magnificence. The fabric of the building has been restored and it is hoped some of the new apartments will be occupied by October 2022.

The Friends' group are delighted that the buildings have been saved and that Firbeck Hall once more stands proudly in the landscape.

Valerie Oxley

on behalf of the Friends of Firbeck Hall

A New Home for the Lion



The Lion that formerly resided in the landscaping in the Regent Square Gardens (image left) has finally been installed in its new home, in the Garden behind DGLaM.

The Trust became very concerned about the Lion's condition as it was subjected to damage from the weather and vandalism. We thought that it deserved a better and more prominent home. We began talking to the Council, the Lion's owner, in 2017. We favoured an indoor site, ideally in the Corn Exchange because both the Lion and its pillar started off their lives in the Market area.

However, the Council was no longer running the Markets, so this was not an option. Instead it was proposed that the Lion be dismantled and put in storage at the Chequer Road Museum, until a suitable new site was available. The ideal one was thought to be at the new Gallery, Library and Museum building being proposed for the Girls' High School site.

The Council commissioned a condition survey of the Lion and pillar from specialist conservators. This was completed in December 2020 and later the same company dismantled the monument, putting the limestone pillar's segments on pallets, one course on each pallet, and the Lion in a bespoke timber packing case. It all went into store at Bentley.



The Lion is now set in DGLaM's garden

Dismayed by the lack of progress, the Trust emailed The Mayor, Ros Jones, and senior officers in late September 2021, and meetings with the Trust began within days. A couple of weeks later a site for the Lion had been chosen in the garden behind DGLaM, a concrete base was planned and 3 specialist conservators were being selected for the re-construction work. By late November contractors had visited the site, and quotations were expected.

The concrete pad was in place by February 2022. An interpretative plaque was always planned and this was designed, agreed and made in April. It is in stainless steel and briefly tells the origin and history of the Lion and its pillar. The plaque carries the logos of the Trust and the Council.

A contractor was selected and the stone pieces were brought to the site but it was some time before the stone pillar was built, on 26 May. The Lion was fixed on it on 01 July, followed by some pointing and cleaning. Removing the blackening from the Lion would have required unsuitably aggressive measures, so it will keep its sooty character.

Sharp-eyed members will have noticed the Lion's rather conspicuous new stone 'prosthetic' fore-leg. Let's hope it tones down quite quickly.



The plaque tells of the artefacts' origins

Archie Sinclair

Planning Matters : The Corn Exchange

With each issue 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.

It has been a very quiet period with few applications of heritage importance since the last Trust Topics. As a result two of our meetings were cancelled. During this time although we made no objections we did peruse several applications and sent representations in on two of them. A representation is where we agree with the proposals but wish to suggest changes or send in additional information which may be of use to the applicant or planners.



The most interesting application was for the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange. Listed Building Consent was required. The Corn Exchange (together with Market Hall and Fish Market) are all grouped together as Grade 2*. The Exchange is later than most of the Market Hall, built in 1870-73 to designs by William Watkins of Lincoln. The application was for a major reorganisation of the interior of the building. After the fire in 1994, a new floor was installed above the ground floor market units.

The Corn Exchange in 2006

It was now planned to remove all of this, plus the access lift shaft, in order to open up views and routes through the building. The ground floor would have trestle-table stalls and so be available for other uses. Three new lifts would provide access between levels for disabled people.

In our representation we said we were in favour of the principle of the proposals to open up views and routes through the building. However we requested that some issues be addressed. Firstly the 1990s scheme was carried out with great care, to replicate the Victorian character, in its materials such as floor tiles and the colour scheme. We felt that it was important that as much as possible of this well-researched scheme be replicated or retained in parts of the building not affected by demolition or change. Secondly we expressed the view that whilst the proposed arrangement of steps and stepped seating would be an attractive feature, we were concerned that it should not create a hazard for partially sighted people going down from the Market Hall. A balustrade might be essential for safety, and it could be mostly glass. The third matter we raised was archaeological in nature.

The excavations for the 1990s scheme revealed remains that had to be re-interred in the site, originally the site of the Church of St Mary Magdalene. We felt that the archaeology of the site must be fully considered. There was no evidence in the application that the architects were aware of this issue which is why we included it in our representation.

Overall this was a very interesting application. As a result we invited the architects to speak to the Trust about the proposals next year. See our future programme page. Of course the decisions on the application will almost certainly have been made by then but we felt that this would be an interesting subject for all our members.

The Planning & Conservation Committee



Doncaster Civic Trust Renewal of Annual Membership Fees 2022-2023

It's that time of the year again when we ask Annual Members to renew their subscriptions. Doncaster Civic Trust's membership fees have remained static since September 2014 and continue to be one of the lowest fees of any Civic Trust or Society within the Yorkshire and Humber area.

For your annual membership subscription, you receive:

- Copy of Trust Topics newsletter sent out to all members 3 times a year
- Programme of meetings and events specifically aimed at the membership
- Chance to meet and interact with like-minded people
- Information, news and updates via the Doncaster Civic Trust Website and Facebook group, with opportunities to contribute your views
- Voting rights at the Annual General Meeting
- Opportunities to influence and contribute to the work of the Doncaster Civic Trust
- Knowledge that your support will help to make the city of Doncaster an even better place to live
- Be part of Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies (YHACS) and Civic Voice which is a national civic movement that works towards giving you a national voice.

Please complete the loose form that came with your newsletter



Pillar House, 19, 20 & 21 South Parade, built 1801



Eyesore Corner

Pillar House, on South Parade, is one of Doncaster's architectural gems. It was originally 3 dwellings and William Lindley, its architect, lived here and played host to the Prince of Wales in 1806. In the 1970s the Trust's Executive Committee used to meet here in an elegant bow-windowed room on the first floor.

After first being desirable residences, then offices, initially prestigious, it finally became vacant around 2015. After a time the building was scaffolded and sheeted. Something was happening. Windows were boarded up presumably, we thought, to prevent unauthorised access from the scaffolding. After some time, everything was removed except the boarding on the windows.

This grade 2 listed building, in a prominent position, is now an eyesore. It would seem difficult to remove the unsightly boarding without any scaffolding. The building appears to be at risk. AMS

The Back Page : The Missing Link?

I joined the ranks of Doncaster Grammar School in September 1948 and soon discovered the railway society in the tower, with its wonderful '0' gauge layout which as a member I spent many hours working on, much to the detriment of my studies.

Regular outings were arranged for train spotting, for example, to York railway sidings and Tinsley marshalling yards, but one of the more unusual trips was to the signal box at Upton pit, guarding the exit from the sidings to the main line.



A familiar 2-8-0 W.D. workhorse, B.R. 90294 photo: www.lner.info

It wasn't long before we were treated (possibly the wrong word) by a line of fully loaded coal trucks hauled by that ubiquitous loco, a W.D. Austerity, a class that was so much beyond our contempt as serious 'spotters' that we never bothered collecting them.

Held up by the 'danger,' the driver was rapidly losing his temper, with many blasts on the whistle at the unnecessary delay as he saw it, until finally the signal gave him the 'all clear.' With an over-enthusiastic use of the regulator, it was followed by the rhythmical clatter of wagons in sequence which many of my generation will remember as the accompanying sound to a Doncaster background.

His impetuosity had the unfortunate consequence of the trucks parting company halfway down under the strain which, of course, he left to the fireman to re-couple. The train was eventually underway once again, a little more circumspect this time, although it wasn't sufficient to disguise a fruitful exchange of pleasantries as they passed the box.

At the first opportunity, I walked down the line and recovered the broken link, to carry it back on the Wakefield bus under the seat to the terminus on North Bridge and then to the school. Incidentally, I hadn't realised just how heavy they were!

It wouldn't surprise me if it still forms part of the collection, however insignificant.

Colin Bycroft

The Hannah Clark Plaque

We have recently signed off the design of our latest plaque, the first to commemorate a notable Doncaster woman.

She was Hannah Clark and there will be more in the next newsletter about her very active civic life.

The plaque will be installed at 5 Lawn Avenue, a house that is close to Thorne Road

Image: Leanderuk.com

Archie Sinclair

