

Doncaster Civic Trust Bulletin

May 2025

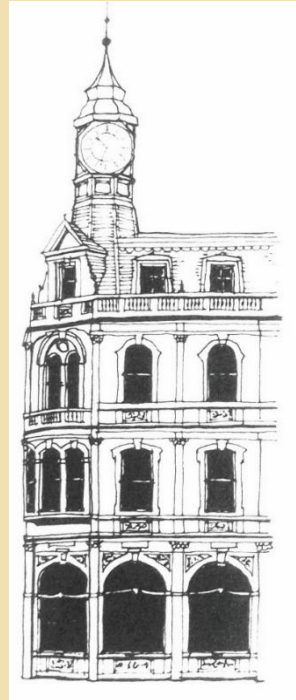
Happy May Day Everyone!

May Civic Trust Events

We have the following committee meeting this month:-

Monday 12th May– Planning Committee Meeting.

Thursday 22nd May – Executive Committee Meeting



**Sir Nigel Gresley
(1876 -1941)**

Doncaster Civic Trust has been involved for some time in a project to erect a plaque and information board at Doncaster Railway Station to Sir Nigel Gresley, designer of “Flying Scotsman” and “Mallard” locomotives, both built here in Doncaster at the Plant Works.

With regard to the plaque, this has been funded mainly by a grant from Doncaster Civic Trust with additional funding supplied by Doncaster Family History Society and the City of Doncaster Council. The Trust’s Archie Sinclair has been involved in the design of the plaque and also liaising with the plaque makers Leander Architectural, based in Dove Holes, Derbyshire.

The plaque was handed over at a meeting in DGLAM on Monday 7th April 2025.



In the picture left to right: Bill McHugh (Culture and Information Lead, City of Doncaster Council), Keith Crouter (Doncaster and District Family History Society), David Ingleby (Chairman Great Northern Railway Society), Christopher Clark (Secretary, The Gresley Society Trust), Marion Baxter (Secretary, Doncaster and District Local History Society) and Steve Kimber (Doncaster Civic Trust).

In addition to the plaque, an information board, courtesy of The Gresley Society Trust, will be sited underneath the plaque giving details of Sir Nigel Gresley and the record breaking locomotives.

The un-veiling ceremony takes place at 11.30am on Thursday 19th June 2025 outside the main entrance to Doncaster Railway Station – make a date in your diary!

Steve Kimber, Executive Member.

Members Summer Walk around Pontefract June

Advanced notice that we are arranging a Guided walk around the Heritage Sites of Pontefract on Tuesday 3rd June. This will be led by Paul Cartwright (Chairman of the Pontefract Civic Society).

The main points of interest will be the Town Hall, Market Hall, Buttercross, Session House and Counting House plus more. So should be a good morning.

The walk is limited to 20 places and I will send out further details and start booking places in the next 10 days. Make a note in your diary if you are interested.



Results of Dendrochronology of Museum Chest

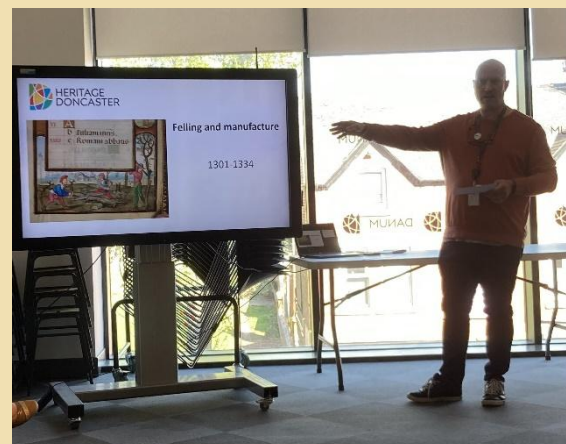
Last month I told you that the results of Dendrochronology on the Community Chest in Doncaster Museum were to be released.



This is the science of dating events by using characteristic patterns of annual growth rings in timber. Doncaster Civic Trust and the Friends of Doncaster Museum funded the investigation.

Peter Robinson revealed that the oak tree the chest was made from was felled between 1137 and 1289. It was sourced from an area between Doncaster and York.

The manufacture of the chest is estimated to be between 1301 -1334



There is more research underway regarding its exact growing position and manufacturing process.

All very exciting!

Heritage Open Days

12th – 21st September

What's In Store?

Plans are continuing for the Heritage Open Days (HODS) events across the city and surrounding areas.

This year we are stretching out to offer events in Bawtry, Austerfield, Fishlake, Conisbrough, Sprotbrough and other areas as well as a selection in the City centre.

More information to follow!

Catch up on previous
bulletin item.



You may remember this photograph that a volunteer from Doncaster Rovers Virtual Museum was trying to identify. The photo was from 1884 (the oldest photo they have of the team) but they could not identify the building behind.

Well Doncaster Civic Trust members always come up trumps and it has now it

has been suggested by our member Philip Langford that the photo was taken in front of the John Carr Grandstand at the Racecourse.

John Carr of York was best known for his Palladian designs and was responsible for several sporting grandstands in York, Richmond, Nottingham and in 1777 Doncaster. All now demolished.

What do you think, could this be the mystery location?



Rotaphoto Co.]

PRESENT-DAY ENTRANCE TO RACE STANDS.

This is from a book published in 1921 and there is a chapter on the Racecourse.

“The attached photo shows the grandstand taken from Grandstand Road and this is of the front of the John Carr stand and I'm sure that is the same entrance as on the Rovers photo.”



The Royal Box, Doncaster Racecourse.

This photo gives some more detail and shows it was called “The Royal Box”.

Well done to Philip for his detective work.

And Finally

An interesting project coming up at the end of May-

Doncaster Festival of Making

Right Up Our Street are bringing Olivier Grossetête's Monumental Constructions to Doncaster Market Square as part of Doncaster's Remake Learning Festival.

Olivier is inspired by local architecture and bringing communities together by making something beautiful out of just cardboard and tape. They will be building a life size model of the Corn Exchange Façade out of cardboard and tape.

“We need the community of Doncaster to help us build a life-size replica of the facade of the Corn Exchange. We'll be hosting free workshops every day from Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May to support the build of the structure.

During the weekend we will invite you back to construct and celebrate the structure created by the community.”



This is an example of his work in Ipswich
click on here for full details)

<https://www.rightupourstreet.org.uk/doncaster-festival-of-making>

If you have any feedback to anything you see in the Bulletin , please get in touch with me as I'd love to know how this is being received by our members.

Get in touch directly:

dct.membershipsecretary@gmail.com

Rowena Mellows