

Doncaster Civic Trust

An independent group of local people interested in Doncaster's heritage

80 Years
Doncaster Civic Trust
1946-2026



February 2026 Bulletin



Doncaster Civic Trust Meetings in February

Thursday 12th February - Members Meeting and Talk
(see details below).

Monday 16th February – Planning and Conservation Committee

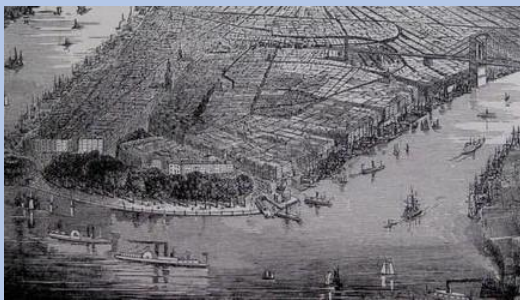
Members Talk Programme

In January, Peter Clegg gave a fascinating talk about South Yorkshire Churches in the Churches Conservation Trust. It was well received and it was delightful to see so many members there despite the rainy night

This month's talk will be given by Michael Ogden, based in Worksop, he is a retired Town Planner born and raised in Sheffield



**THE SKY'S THE LIMIT -
A (MORE OR LESS)
AFFECTIONATE HISTORY OF
THE SKYSCRAPER**



Lower Manhattan in 1885.....



.....in 1920



.....AND NOW !!

Born in the 19th century, the skyscraper came to symbolise the 20th, and now it grows ever more widespread, and ever-taller, in the 21st.

There are nearly 5,000 skyscrapers around the world. That's 5,000 buildings over 40 storeys high, as anything lower doesn't even count as a skyscraper these days.

From the start, there was admiration and enthusiasm in the USA for these dramatic symbols of the country's dynamic growth.

They were also detested by many people for their impact on America's cities, and they were scorned by some as the first new building form in history to be dedicated entirely to the vulgar business of making money.

Where will it end? That's a question well outside this talk's scope. But where, and when, did it begin? Find out when you hear the talk!

As usual the talk will take place in St Peter's Church Hall Chequer Road, Doncaster.

Following the talk there will be refreshments available and a chance to chat and catch up with other members.

There is plenty of free parking inside the church grounds.

Look forward to seeing many of you there.



Opportunities within the Doncaster Civic Trust

Following last month's appeal for members to become more involved with the Civic Trust, we have had some response. This month we are appealing again, this time for a Speaker Coordinator!

Speaker Coordinator

The role involves booking a programme of Guest Speakers for 7 meetings a year. We aim for the talks to be within the subjects of architecture, landscape, history and design. Suggestions for speakers often comes from other members but there is a need to explore different avenues to find suitable talks. The speakers need to be contacted and their availability checked before booking them and compiling the list.

We do need to find a co-ordinator for 2027, without one we may not be able to offer our popular Members Talks Programme.

Are you a good communicator and organiser with some computer skills? Do you like a challenge? Why not get in touch and find out more. Please support us! We need whatever you can offer. The success of the Doncaster Civic Trust depends on the support of its members and volunteers.



Hayfield School



University of
Sheffield

Educational Architecture Links

As I'm sure you are aware the Doncaster Civic Trust offers Bursaries to Doncaster students to help pay their university tuition fees when they study built environment subjects such as architecture, town planning, urban design, building conservation or landscape architecture.

We can also help fund students who wish to study traditional crafts such as stonemasonry, woodcarving and building conservation skills. Students can apply for up to £1,000 a year and at present we have 3 students utilising these bursaries.

We are also lucky enough in Doncaster to have a Secondary School offering Architecture as a GCSE subject. This is quite pioneering and Hayfield School has been offering Architecture at Key Stage 4 for the last 6 years. The Civic Trust, through, it's Education Committee, has built up a relationship with Hayfields and linked them to the University of Sheffield School of Architecture and Landscape. The Architecture Undergraduates have been offering mentorship to the GCSE students with 4 one to one session during the year alongside practical architectural workshops and visits to local architecture.

The two-year course is structured around two design projects; an initial 12-week, or one term, 'mini project' usually producing 'rough around the edges' concept models; and a major project running over at least two terms, during which students develop 'a substantial portfolio of work', generally presented in a sketchbook.

The Course is proving popular with over 40 students opting to take the course last year. Let's hope there are many aspiring Architects taking this route to the profession.

The Civic Trust continues to offer support to the students of Hayfields School and look forward to our next collaborative project with Sheffield University which we hope will take place over the summer.



'Students projects generally involve a huge amount of upcycling' due to a lack of school budget.

'We have cheap venetian blinds that we've recycled, cardboard for the [model] bases, we've found tile grout works really well as an alternative to plaster'.

'Even the little green trees – they're made out of the recycled floor buffer pads that the cleaning staff use.'

Above shows a Concert Hall and Museum influenced by eco issues relating to the sun.

Right shows a Habitat 67 inspired terraced Hotel Complex

Below University of Sheffield School of Architecture

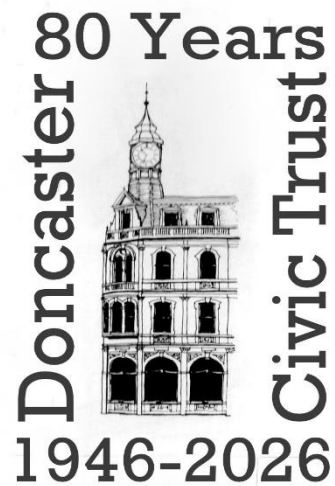


(Highfield, A. (2023), A Doorway to the Profession? What is GCSE Architecture. *Architects' Journal*, October 2023

Doncaster Civic Trust 80th Anniversary

As you know 2026 is an anniversary year for the Doncaster Civic Trust and we are working hard to plan celebrations to celebrate this.

The Spring edition of Trust Topics will be sent out to members towards the end of this month and will include a special 80th Anniversary Edition. So, look out for the envelope dropping through your door.



If you have any feedback to anything you see in the Bulletin, please get in touch.

Rowena Mellows - Membership Secretary

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