



News From Groups Newsletter Number 2 July 2026

Note for your Diary Heritage Fair

3 October 2026 at Doncaster

Corn-Exchange

DONCASTER & DISTRICT HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Welcome to this second newsletter for the DDHA, showing what the groups have been up to and what is coming up in the following months. If groups could let me know if they are able to attend the fair on Saturday 3 October 2026 that would be great. I have attached a booking form sent from Gill. Please return to Gill as she is co-ordinating the fair. Thank you

KIRK SANDALL ST. OSWALD'S FRIENDS' GROUP.

Friends of St. Oswald's Church.

Despite our lack of new volunteers we managed to staff both of our recent Open Days in May and June. Attendances were quite good (43 and 53 respectively) although they seem a disappointing compared to past years. However we do have to realise that because of the volunteer situation we are only open from 1.00-4.00pm now compared to a full 6 hour day session back when we first began in 2007.

On the May opening we were visited by Nigel Hunston who has set up a Facebook site as Heritage Buildings Photographer. Some of you may have seen his postings. He worked in local authority planning departments before his recent retirement including in Doncaster so he knows the heritage of the area well. He took a lot of photographs of St. Oswald's some of which he posted the following day. We had also signed up for the Sheffield Diocese Church Explorers Week and their Buildings Officer turned up to take some photographs as well. He had never been before and was impressed promising to pass on our contact details to a number of groups in Sheffield that he thought might be interested.

We have three more Open Days planned on Saturday 25th July, Sunday 16th August and Saturday and Sunday 19th/20th September for Heritage Open Days.

We are still in discussion with our parent body, The Churches Conservation Trust (TCCT), about their restructuring proposals for Friends Groups.

Initially we think we will try to carry on as we are with our own bank account but that has required us to take out our own Public Liability Insurance and we will need to operate through the CCT via a Memorandum of Understanding. We need to make a decision by the end of the year. If the position regarding recruiting new volunteers does not improve it might be that we cannot run a full summer programme of Open Days next year with perhaps opening just for the national Heritage Open Days event. That in turn might suggest we cease trying to operate independently and revert to what the CCT calls a 'restricted funds' operation i.e. via the CCT's bank account/ insurance etc. but with any funds raised being restricted to St. Oswald's. Time will tell.

Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery



**The Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery
present a FREE guided walk..**

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

**Explore the dark side of Doncaster's
past through stories of criminals and
crime fighters.**

**SUNDAY 26 JULY 2026
3PM START**

MEET AT THE CROSS
OF SACRIFICE
MAIN ENTRANCE
CARR LANE. DN4 5AA



**Friends of
Hyde Park Cemetery**

Cadeby Main Colliery Memorial Group/Conisbrough & Denaby Main Heritage Group

no news

Hatfield War Memorial Group

The group have been working with Bawtry Heritage Group researching pupils from 2 boarding schools on Wharf Street from 1841-1871.

We have researched every pupil looking at their life and what they went on to achieve.

The information has been produced in a book and will be kept at Bawtry Library in the Heritage room. The information will also be available on Bawtry Heritage website.

Ossie through the Ages Project. No news

Carcroft & District Local History Group

New Venue

The society has had to change the venue for it's weekly meetings. The Redmond centre is no longer available. We are now to be found at Chestnut View community centre, located off Edward Road in Carcroft. Meetings times remain the same, 1.15 until 3.00 Fridays.

Doncaster Civic Trust Latest News

Doncaster Civic Trust – Summer Update

This year is the Trust's 80th Anniversary and as part of the celebrations we are planning an exhibition at Doncaster Gallery, Library and Museum (DGLAM) in the Autumn demonstrating the achievements over the last 80 years. The exhibition will commence on 26th September until the end of the year. It will showcase the Trust's greatest achievements. There has been so much to choose from that it has taken a considerable amount of planning and hard work led by Frank Carpenter. The exhibition will be opened by John Goodall, Architectural Editor of Country Life. He will also be giving a talk in the afternoon at the Point.

The Civic Trust has contributed to the restoration of a large portrait of William Sheardown, Mayor of Doncaster in the mid-19th Century. The painting by a local artist William Beetham, was in a very poor state of repair. The Trust has also helped to acquire a 17th century gold "Memento-Mori" ring, discovered by a local metal detectorist. The ring has connections to the Cooke family who were builders of Wheatley all, and other heritage items already in the care of Heritage Doncaster.

We are again coordinating the local events for Heritage Open Days (11th to 20th September) and are hoping to achieve our aim of "80 events for our 80th Anniversary". The booklet is now with the Graphic designer and will then be printed. The launch will be at Doncaster Racecourse on 11th August at 11am. The booklet will then be widely distributed to local libraries and clubs as well as on line. If you would like some copies to distribute to your members please let me know. Events will include Heritage Walks, Talks, Displays and Open door events in Churches and Heritage Buildings.

We have a full Winter Programme of Talks planned for Civic Trust members, although we are short of a “Talks Coordinator”.

Friends of Cusworth Park no news

Doncaster P2 Locomotive Trust no news

D & D Family History Society

Family History Help days are run each week to assist anyone wanting help researching their family history at the local Libraries below.

1st Mon - Conisbrough

2nd Mon - Armthorpe,

3rd Tues – Archives

4th Weds - Sprotbrough

On the Last Wednesday of each month, we hold a meeting with a Guest speaker at the Earl of Doncaster 7-30 until 9pm. Free to members £3 for non- members. Details on our web site.

We are holding our Family History Heritage Fair on Sat the 18th of July 2026 at the Corn Exchange in Doncaster again.

Tickhill & District Local History Society

‘A Very Good Year’

The History Society concluded its 2025-2026 programme with a highly entertaining talk on Henry Eighth. The meeting, held in the afternoon, attracted one of our biggest audiences of the year with a total of 61 members and visitors. Our numbers are up on last year and the Society continues to thrive. Members have enjoyed a varied programme of nine meetings and received four quarterly newsletters, each including short articles focusing on Tickhill and its people. Two recent examples were ‘Tickhill’s connections with Doncaster Royal Infirmary’ and ‘Telling the time in 19th Century Tickhill’. We continue to produce well researched History Papers; last year saw the publication of two: ‘Tickhill’s Curates 1772-1894’ and ‘Tickhill’s Toll House’. All in-print copies can be purchased from Castlegate Cards.

Our final event was an optional excursion to the Richard III museum in Leicester, with time available to explore the Leicester museum, the Cathedral and the Guildhall (a small group of shopaholics found their way to the John Lewis store). The verdict of the 44 members and guests was that it was ‘A Grand Day Out’.

Our Secretary, Nigel Dearnley, has produced ‘A Tickhill History Mystery’. The A5 booklet invites you to look round Tickhill’s well known buildings and find answers to a series of clues. It’s available from the Library, our meetings and several local shops. Nigel is generously donating proceeds to the Society.

Mexborough & District Heritage Society no news

The Victorian Society : South Yorkshire

Saturday 11th July 2026 2.00pm

A guided tour of Loxley Cemetery by the Friends of Loxley Cemetery. There are some magnificent and interesting monuments in the cemetery, as well as 22 victims of the Great Flood of 1864.

Sunday 16th August 2026 2.00pm

Sheffield Networks of Activism - A guided walk by Nigel Slack, Chair of The Victorian Society, South Yorkshire.

We will walk through Sheffield City Centre looking at the buildings and places connected to Sheffield's extraordinary history of activism and political reforming. Queen Victoria's reign began in violence for the city, saw early Women's Suffrage, Chartism, early Unions, the Sheffield Outrages, and political reform that saw the election of working class Councillors to the new City Council. Violence was never far from the surface as social reforms came slowly and the Edwardian era saw a return to Women's Suffrage at the end of Victoria's reign.

Meet in front of Sheffield Town Hall Entrance on Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH at 2.00pm.

We estimate that the walk will end at approx 4.00pm back at the Town Hall.

There are some steep parts to the walk behind the Cathedral, where care will also be needed on uneven surfaces.

Sunday 13th September 2026 2.00pm

Walk around Victorian Hunter's Bar, Sheffield with our Chair, Nigel Slack

Starting at the gates of Endcliffe Park we will walk around the Hunter's Bar area taking in monuments placed here from the city centre, residential expansion, schools, local industry, religious buildings and civic services. We will see how the area started as a leafy country valley, growing into a suburb of Sheffield's westward expansion.

This is a free walk for Heritage Open Days

PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE FOR ALL WALKS AS SPACES ARE LIMITED

<https://www.victoriansociety.org.uk/regional-groups/south-yorkshire/>

Roof Collapse at Sheffield Old Town Hall

The Grade II building has been empty since 1995 and is in private ownership. The Town Hall appeared on The Victorian Society's very first Top Ten Endangered Buildings list in 2007. The collapse has affected the courtroom which was added in 1866 to accommodate growing demands at the time for civic and judicial functions in the city. This is very concerning news for such a historic building - read more here:

<https://www.victoriansociety.org.uk/regional-news/roof-collapse-at-the-old-town-hall-in-sheffield/>

Fishlake History Society no news

The Sand House

Here are the latest highlights for forthcoming activities from *The Sand House Charity*.

Family History Fair – There will be a Sand House stand at this event in the Corn Exchange, on Saturday 18th July (9am to 2pm).

Sand House History Podcast – The trailer for this brand-new podcast, along with the first two full episodes, will be released to coincide with Heritage Open Days 2026. The trailer will be available from Friday 11th Sep and the full episodes from Sun 13th and Sun 20th. Thereafter, we shall release one episode each week until the entire series has been broadcast. You will find links to all of them on our homepage, (www.thesandhouse.org.uk or merely search for “Sand House – A Unique Victorian Marvel” wherever you get your podcasts.

Songwriting Workshop – The local songwriting partnership of Mick Jenkinson and Ian Parks will lead a 3-hour workshop to create a new Sand House song, as part of Heritage Open Days. It takes place on Saturday 12th September. Booking is essential. For details and to book go to <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GIDB>

Virtual Reality (VR) project – We submitted a second grant application (Apr 2026) to The National Archives towards funding a Sand House VR experience pilot project, after receiving very encouraging feedback about our first, unsuccessful, one. We expect a decision in early July.

Sand House Guided Walk – We intend to arrange another of our popular guided walks shortly, around the locality where the Sand House once stood. It will take place on a Sunday afternoon, probably in August. Please keep an eye on our Events webpage (www.thesandhouse.org.uk/events) for details.

Bawtry Heritage Group

Our research into Anne Everard and the two boarding schools which were on Wharf Street in the 19th century led us to know a lot about that street's houses and their residents. We decided to capitalise on that and present all that knowledge in our Heritage Centre at Bawtry Community Library. There, you'll see a fantastic 3D model of the street created by Claire Gratsa, and a paper written by Sherelle Hawes, which describes the houses and the families who lived in them. We had two very successful heritage walks and various talks as part of the Bawtry Festival running over two weeks. We also held our first

reenactment performing the Battle of the Idle it was a very enjoyable day and the local Doncaster Radio broadcast all day from there.



BarnScan no news

Doncaster Archives

News from City of Doncaster Archives and Local Studies

The City of Doncaster Archives and Local Studies service news

Doncaster's new Archives Manager

Many of you will know that we now have a new Archives Manager, Paul Stebbing. Paul started in the post on the 19th of January this year.

Paul studied history at the University of Lincoln and in 2002 he graduated from Liverpool University with a master's degree in archives and records management.

From 2002-2007 he worked at the Derbyshire County Record Office in Matlock, first as archivist and then senior archivist. Paul then headed to Barnsley where he was the Archives and Local Studies Manager from 2007-2026.

Doncaster's new library management system

Doncaster Library Service has joined a consortium of libraries across Yorkshire to have use a shared library management system (LMS). At present we use Axiell but we are moving onto Spydus from Civica. The LMS is where all the book stock is catalogued and is used to issue and discharge library books, search the catalogue of stock; from the staff side we use the LMS to take payments, make memberships and carry out other basic library functions. There will be no access to the existing library system from Monday 6 July until we go live with our new system on Thursday 9 July.

250th Anniversary of Doncaster St Leger Stakes project

Heritage Doncaster has received funding for a project to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the St Leger Stakes.

The Great St Leger: 250 Years of a Racing Classic | 1 August 2026 – 7 November 2026 | Free Exhibition

City of Doncaster Archives, Chequer Road, DN1 2AE

Celebrating 250 years since it was first run, 'The Great St Leger: 250 Years of a Racing Classic' looks at the fascinating history of a race that remains an integral part of Doncaster's identity to this day. From the glamour of 18th century Doncaster, through famous visitors to the races and the impact of the coming of the railways the St Leger has remained a constant feature of Doncaster's sporting and cultural life and holds a special place in the hearts of many.

St Leger 250: Celebrating Doncaster's Horse Racing Heritage | Friday 18 September | 2pm – 3pm | Free, booking required

City of Doncaster Archives, Chequer Road, DN1 2AE

Find out more about the National Lottery Heritage funded project to explore and celebrate the St Leger, the world's oldest Classic horse race, during the 250th anniversary year. The race remains an integral part of Doncaster's identity to this day. This illustrated short talk will highlight what has been

found in Doncaster's archive and local studies collections relating to the race. Booking required.

St Leger 250 project

As part of this project, archives staff are working with the project freelancer, Sheauran Tan (known as Ran) and Wayne Sables, local videographer to create a body of work regarding the St Leger's history. Part of this is the collecting of local people's memories of the St Leger. Please could you pass this appeal onto your members.

WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO HELP WITH THIS? WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO GIVE US THEIR MEMORIES OF THE ST LEGER. THIS COULD BE ATTENDING THE RACE OR THE EFFECTS OF THE ST LEGER ON THE TOWN/CITY.

Please contact Helen or Paul for more information or to arrange to talk to Ran or Wayne on the details below helen.wallder@doncaster.gov.uk or paul.stebbing@doncaster.gov.uk

DDFHS Family History Fair | Saturday 18 July | 9am – 2pm | Free

The Corn Exchange, Doncaster

Staff from Doncaster Archives and Local Studies will be attending with resources, a display and 'goodies'

Heritage Open Days (HODs) Friday 11 – Sunday 20 September

Whatcha Hiding Behind There? : Tours of Doncaster Archives Strong Room | Friday 11 September | 10-11am and 1-2pm | Free but booking required

City of Doncaster Archives, Chequer Road, Doncaster, DN1 2AE

Doncaster Working Lives Display: contribution by City of Doncaster Archives and Local Studies to the series of six free exhibitions at RSPB Old Moor

Saturday 12 to Sunday 20 September | 10am – 4pm | Free Exhibition, no booking required

RSPB Old Moor Lane, Wombwell, Barnsley, S73 0YF

Discover the working lives of Doncaster's women, shop, farm, and public transport workers as part of the RSPB Old Moor Joint Heritage Exhibitions, Talks and Performance Series. The photographs and information panels are all from Doncaster Archives and Local Studies collections. On the opening day, Saturday 12 September, staff from City of Doncaster Archives will be on hand to offer advice, explain more about what the archives and local studies collections hold and answer any questions.

Palaeography workshop: learn to read 16th and 17th century handwriting|
Friday 18 September | 10am – 12 noon | Free, booking required

City of Doncaster Archives, Chequer Road, Doncaster, DN1 2AE

St Leger 250: Celebrating Doncaster's Horse Racing Heritage | Friday 18
September | 2pm – 3pm | Free, booking required

See above for more details

Doncaster Local History Fair | Saturday 3 October | times tbc

Doncaster Corn Exchange, Doncaster Market Place, Doncaster DN1 1NE

Doncaster Archives staff will attend with a display, resources and 'goodies'