

Doncaster Civic Trust

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

October 2026

80 Years
Doncaster Civic Trust
1946-2026

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80th Anniversary Exhibition Opens

On Saturday 26th September the exhibition was opened in Doncaster Gallery, Library and Museum (DGLAM) which showcases the Trust's work and successes over the 80 years. This will remain in place until the end of the year and I would recommend you all to visit and have a look at the brilliant displays.

The exhibition deserves an edition of the bulletin to itself, so I will give you all the opportunity to view it and welcome some feedback for next months edition when we will look at it in more detail.



The Executive Committee

The exhibition was opened by Dr John Goodall FSA, Architectural Editor of Country Life magazine. Later he also gave an excellent talk to a packed room at The Point entitled "Britain and its Architectural Heritage Today".

Restoration of William Sheardown Portrait



On the same day as the opening of the exhibition we welcomed the Civic Mayor of Doncaster, Councillor Jackie Dudley, to the Art Gallery where she unveiled a recently restored picture of William Sheardown. This nineteenth century portrait of one of the city's former mayors, was by Doncaster artist William Beetham. The restoration by Sheffield-based conservators Critchlow and Kukkonen was part funded by the Doncaster Civic Trust and the Friends of Doncaster Museum as part of our 80th Anniversary Celebrations.

It can be viewed as part of the Doncaster Civic Trust 80th Anniversary Exhibition at DGLAM. [Visit Us - DANUM - Gallery Library Museum](#)



Neil McGregor, Collections and Exhibitions Officer for Heritage Doncaster, supported the project throughout. The restoration has returned the painting to how it would have looked almost 150 years ago

Doncaster Civic Trust – Meetings/Events in October

- Saturday 3rd October Doncaster & District Heritage Association Local History Fair – Corn Exchange 9.00am to 3pm
- Thursday 22th October – Members Talk (see below)
- Monday 26th October – Planning and Conservation Committee Meeting

Members Talks and Social Programme

This month, on Thursday 22nd October, we will welcome **David Scrimgeour from Goole** to talk about:

Early Asylum Life – In the Words of Those Who Were There

A presentation about Stanley Royd Hospital in Wakefield.

The talk will take place at St Peter's Church Hall, Chequer Road starting at 7.30pm.

Refreshments will be available after the talk.



David Scrimgeour is a Scot who after spending 30 years successful years in IT sales, moved to West Yorkshire in 1976. He decided it was time for a complete change of career, aspiring to become an author and publisher.

He has been a keen family historian for around 20 years and has always looked for stories around those ancestors he had found, rather than just their names and dates. He has indulged his passion for digging into the past through exploring in depth the original patients' case notes of the West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum.

He was also involved as a volunteer with the Yorkshire Waterways Museum in Goole. Following its demise, he became one of the founding members and a Trustee of the Yorkshire Waterways Heritage Society.

Heritage Open Days covered 10 days during September and each day was filled with a good choice of events with over 80 in total over the festival. All the contributors worked so hard and we are very grateful to them all for their efforts. It was a great success and here is a montage of what was on offer plus comments from visitors and organisers.



44 people attended the Hyde Park Cemetery tour – theme “Sport & Recreation with newly restored Len Goodson grave (first to score goals for Doncaster Rovers)”



St Helena's Austerfield – “One of the ladies was telling stories of William Bradford and his voyage to the New World, she was very knowledgeable”



“Great Coffee and Walnut Cake!”

“The response was overwhelming”



St John the Baptist Church Wadworth even had a sponsored bell ring raising over £500!

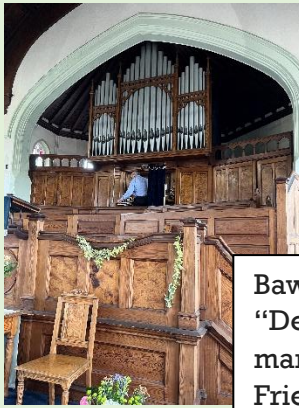
St Mary's Church, Kirk Bramwith – “I managed to find all 26 mice, including the white one!”

“The scones with jam were absolutely scrumptious”



2 lovely Sunday walks around Rossington with knowledgeable leaders and a great crowd. “We were surprised at the interest from outside our community”





Bawtry Methodist Church.
 "Delightful church with
 many original features."
 Friendly welcome.

Doncaster Rovers Stadium Tour and Museum Exhibition



"We know little about football but this was just
 so interesting. A full tour of the stands,
 changing areas, media areas and more. All
 except the pitch. Enjoyable visit to the Rovers
 Museum as the team started in 1879."



"Hands on" workshop with
 stone masons at St Lawrence's
 church Hatfield

"It was harder
 than it looked!"

The 3 hour tour included a visit to the
 gallops, tour of the stables to meet
 trainees and instructors and of course the
 horses. Wonderful to see the original
 Victorian Stable block.



Many people combined a visit to the
 National Horseracing College and
 Rossington Hall. A perfect morning!

"The Racing College's ethos was inspirational"



"Ollie who liked mints!"



photo: Debbie Froggatt

"I met a couple quite a few times who were from Norfolk and staying in an air BnB in Hatfield. They'd read the Doncaster programme - I assume on line - and decided to spend a week here looking mainly at churches."

The crowd waiting to undertake the walk around Fishlake



"An enjoyable one hour tour of the Walled Garden at Cusworth Hall . This included a visit to the Bowling Green Pavilion restored by Gordon Smith a Trust member."



So many Churches to visit – not enough days!!



St Michael's & All Angel's Church Skelbrooke



St Mary's Church Wheatley – wonderful stained glass



St Oswald's Church, Kirk Sandall

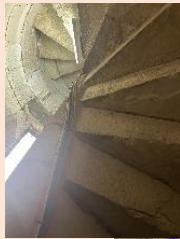
"My favourite church was Hickleton:oozing wealth and a very busy interior"



The ancient tomb in St Peter's Church Barnburgh



Thorne Methodist Chapel hosted 2 illustrated talks on Methodism as well as photographic records of the last 200 years. MP Lee Pitcher mingled with the crowds



A climb up the 94 steps of St. Mary's Tower in Tickhill to hear all about bell ringing and the carillon mechanism

Tickhill Parish Room – a splendid tapestry of the town and I met the nephew of the needlewoman, who actually is portrayed on the picture



"Throughout the city there were the brightly coloured banners"

"We met one lady on 4 different visits!"



Sandall Park Rangers put on an excellent walk around the woods with a mixture of history, nature and odd tales



An unusual view of Hooton Pagnell Hall



The final event was a lovely heritage walk around Hexthorpe Flatts followed by a Brass Band Concert – seemed so fitting



If you have any feedback on anything you see in the bulletin, please get in touch. Or is there something you would like me to add each month?

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Conserving the Past
Shaping the Future