

Paul Priestley Leach 1939-2017

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Paul Priestley Leach on 28th May and we would like to express our condolences to his wife, Margrit and their family.

Paul was born in Bradford. He read Modern Languages at St John's College, Oxford, and later taught German and French at Sydney Smith High School in Anlaby. Paul's last teaching position was as Head of Modern Languages at Wyke College.

As a Civic Society project, he and a group of Sydney Smith pupils rescued and restored the bell post from Victoria Dock. It now stands at the Marina next to the Humber Dock lockpit.



The Marina Bell Post, restored by Paul Priestley-Leach and his pupils from Sydney Smith High School

An early member of Hull Civic Society, Paul made a great contribution over the years, always bringing clear thinking to discussion in the committee and to his articles, salted with lively wit and good humour.

In the 1970s he created the Civic Society's first Old Town Trail and designed a Hull Civic Society tee-shirt. He was Newsletter Editor in the 1970s and early 1980s. His artistic talent was apparent, especially in his



amusing cover illustrations, such as this one from May 1980. He was elected Chairman from 1981-83 and continued for many years after then as an active committee member. Paul stepped down from the Civic Society committee for a few years as he became more involved with matters in Swanland, such as the Swanland Village Association and the Twinning

Paul's view of King William House, Market Place (May 1980).

Committee (with the French village of Lestrem). He also served as a Parish Councillor, later stepping down from that to take part in the

successful campaign to retain Swanland's old school as a village hall and he then became a trustee of the Village Hall Committee. He also found time to scrutinise the Draft Local Plan for the village. Paul always took a keen interest in the arts, especially sculpture, including the Open Competition in the 1990s to provide sculptures for the Marina. He and Margrit also hosted a regular summer exhibition of local sculptors' work in their own garden for several years running.

Nevertheless, Paul never lost touch with Hull Civic Society and in 2014 we welcomed him back to the committee where his most recent role was as Good Mark Secretary. I was personally very grateful for his meticulous proof-reading of the Society's special booklet "Hull and the Civic Society 1964-2017".

Paul will be remembered with great affection for his lively intelligence, good humour, thoughtfulness and fair-mindedness, but most of all he is greatly missed by all of us as a good friend.

John Scotney.