

HULL CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

June 2016



The Centre for Digital Innovation (C4DI), Queen Street

Photo: John Scotney

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www.hullcivicsociety.org

Winter Programme 2016-17

All meetings are at the Mercure Royal Hotel, Ferensway, on Mondays at 7.30 pm (unless otherwise stated).

12th Sept: 7.30 pm Annual General Meeting (part 2), at the Mercure Royal Hotel, Ferensway. The agenda will comprise the matters outstanding from the AGM suspended on 11th April: annual accounts, election of officers and the date of the next AGM.

This will be followed by the talk which was also postponed: “*Converging on Hull*” – John Scotney looks at the industries that attracted his ancestors to Hull.

10th October. *"Celebrating 250 years of Jewish Life in Hull 1766-2016"*

David Lewis

Subsequent meetings will be on

14th November, 2nd December, 9th January, 13th February, 13th March, 10th April. Full details will be in the September 2016 Newsletter

Details of our events are also published on our website:

www.hullcivicsociety.org

Other Events

National Civilian WW2 Memorial Trust Events

Saturday 30th July and Sunday 31st July: Veterans Weekend, East Park. 10am to 5pm both days; Free. Lots of activities for all the family; reenactments, stalls etc; we'll be there.

Saturday 15th October: Coach trip to Pickering.

Depart at 8.00 am from Ferensway. Pickups on the designated route out of the city only. Arrive back at Ferensway at approximately 8.30 pm.

There is lots going on; steam trains on the North York Moors Railway; Market Day and a short tour in town centre by members of Pickering and District Civic Soc.

Fare £15 per person. Advance booking essential; please contact Alan Canvess as soon as possible to reserve places [pay later]: Alan@Canvess.karoo.co.uk or 01482 446320.

Wednesday 3rd August: NCWW2MT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016 [Likely to be at William Wilberforce PH, corner Trinity House Lane/ Silver St; check with Alan, above, nearer date]. All welcome. By then we hope to have some good news!

Thursday 22nd September: 'War Time' Meal at Hitchcocks Vegetarian Restaurant, Bishop Lane, 8pm. £18 per head. Book via Hilary Byers hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk; 01482 445747.

Remarkable Tourism Award - Congratulations to Paul Schofield

Earlier this year one of our members, Paul Schofield, was recognised for his outstanding work guiding groups around the city centre with a Remarkable East Yorkshire Tourism Award (REYTA) in the category "Remarkable Yorkshire Passion". Other categories in the awards are Bed & Breakfast, Conference & Meeting Venue, Cuppa, Holiday Park / Holiday Village, Hotel Accommodation, Large Tourist Event, Newcomer, Restaurant, Self Catering, Small Tourism Event, Taste, Visitor Attraction and Pub, all preceded by the word "Remarkable".

Paul's nomination was sponsored by Visit Hull & East Yorkshire and the citations reads:

Winner: Paul Schofield

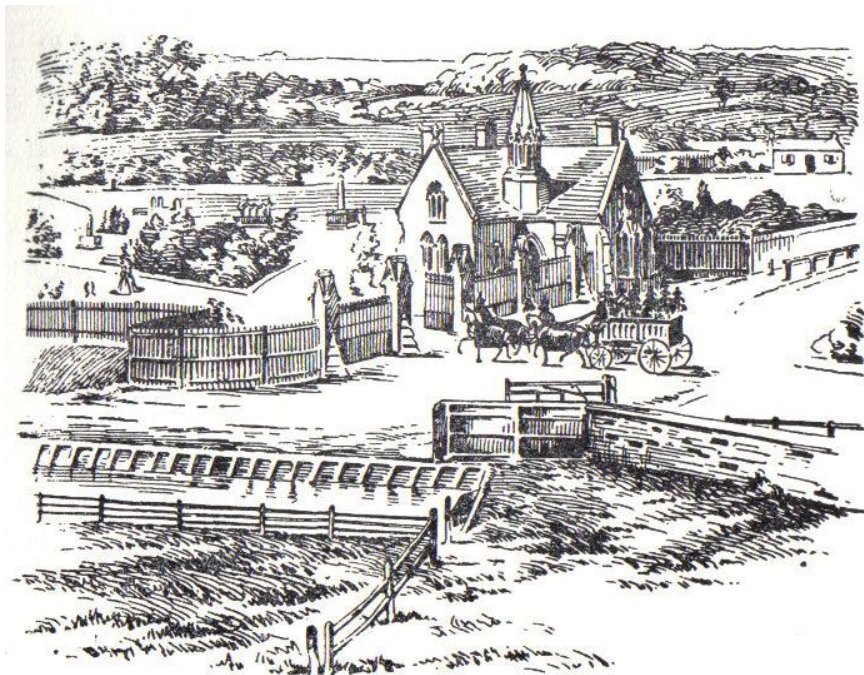
Who is an unassuming but dedicated hero and ambassador of Hull and East Yorkshire. In rain, murk, sunshine, or dusk, weekday, weekend or public holiday for the last 25 years he is to be seen at the head of a column of wrapt walkers explaining our hidden treasures.

We might add that Paul is also well known for communicating his enthusiasm for Hull and East Yorkshire through illustrated talks on topics of local history. He has also recently co-authored a book on Hull Kingston Rovers (The Robins).

This "Remarkable East Yorkshire Tourist Award" is well-deserved. Congratulations, Paul!

Malcolm Sharman and the Chairman – on behalf of Hull Civic Society
*Details of Paul's regular tours can be found on <http://tourhull.com>
or email info@tourhull.com*

The Genesis of the Hull General Cemetary.



The Spring Ditch with the Cemetary gates in 1846

As a child I used to love walking from Fountain Road to Walton Street on the annual trip to Hull Fair in October. One of the delights was to walk through the large drifts of fallen leaves from the many over-hanging trees on the Cemetery side of Spring Bank West. Of course I never strayed too far from my mum as, even though the Cemetery had a large wooden fence enclosing it, it was still a dark, scary place to be next to without the reassurance of a grown up. However the attraction for it was that I loved history. By far my favourite subject at school, I was in awe of historical “things” and I could see, even at the age of 7 or 8, that General Cemetery was old and therefore was “historical” and as such was valuable just as much as dinosaur bones or the Crown Jewels because they were rare and old and yes, historical.

As a young man, I worked for Hull City Council in firstly Northern and then Western Cemetery about the time the Council was despoiling the Hull General Cemetery in the name of progress and transforming it into a

“community resource”. I walked home through the “site” every night after work, usually passing colleagues who were working in the General Cemetery. I noted the destruction that was taking place there with every step home and every night knew that something precious was being lost. I knew one or two of the young lads who’d been taken on by the Council on the Youth Training Scheme to record the stones that were being destroyed and they freely admitted that sometimes they just “forgot to record” some of the inscriptions or simply missed some out. I can still remember one senior member of the Leisure Services Department telling me that if he had had his way the entire site would have been cleared; no ifs or buts. At that time it would be fair to say the Council and the management were in complete agreement with Henry Ford when he had said, “History is bunk.”

Now the site seems to be a multi-functional “community resource”; as a dog walk, a cut through to the Dukeries, a place for “serious drinkers” to frequent and as a rubbish dump. Was that what that tide of destruction was for?

I am not anti-dog. Far from it, I have owned dogs most of my life. Nor have I been troubled to take an alcoholic drink without a good reason not to. I am also aware that the Council runs quite efficient waste disposal sites and they’ll even come to pick up items from your house. So how did we come to exchange a rare resource for the above?

I am (reasonably) sure that the Council did not envision these limited, and to some extent destructive, outcomes for the Cemetery when they trumpeted it as a “community resource”. The Hull General Cemetery site is still an historic asset and should and could be treated with a little more dignity and respect. We cannot undo the harm that officialdom did 40 years ago. There is an organization called the Friends of Spring Bank Cemetery that is hoping to change things in this area. If this article intrigues you to find out more and perhaps help the Cemetery, search them out. The email address is on page 13.

It is this deep interest and respect for the Hull General Cemetery as a unique historical treasure that has prompted this article. I feel some appreciation of why the Cemetery occurred and its very early history may be of interest to others.

As you all know, almost all burials in all population centres, throughout the Christian period in England and Wales were undertaken within the consecrated ground of the parish church or the grounds of a religious order.

With the suppression of the monasteries, in the 16th century, this latter option was removed. However with the rise of the Dissenters against the established church another form of burying place, outside the consecrated ground of the church, was developed to accommodate such people.

I'm sure you can imagine, with the increase of population, especially the boom from the middle of the 18th century onwards, that space was at a premium in the small, enclosed churchyards and burying grounds of the Dissenters. Many tales are told of people seeing their relatives being dug up to place another corpse in the same space.

Hull and Sculcoates, were not immune to this rough and ready treatment of the dead. Holy Trinity Church, by the 1830's, had for its internment use, the ground surrounding the church in the Market Place and the Castle Street burying ground that was opened in 1783. This was closed in the 1860's but was near to full by the 1830's. St Mary's Church in Lowgate had its own churchyard and the small Trippett Street ground, often used in fairly modern days for couples' wedding photographs after the ceremony at the local Register Office. This burying ground had been opened in 1774 but by the 1830's was fast becoming full. The only other burying sites in Hull and Sculcoates at this time were the churchyard of St Mary's, Air Street, which was also full by this time, and the new burying grounds for this parish church in Sculcoates Lane, the south side being opened in 1818.

Apart from the "resurrection men", the best examples of which being the notorious Burke and Hare, and these of course were made redundant after the passing of the Anatomy Act of 1832, the major indignity the dead and their families had to suffer at this time was from the gravediggers themselves. As pointed out above, burial space was at a premium and managing to inter a body must have been something of a work of art.



Memorial to Rev George Lambert, a nonconformist minister (Photo JDS)

Foster, in Living and Dying, cites an example of a burial in St Mary's Churchyard in 1844 where the previous occupants of the grave were all taken out and stacked in the church whilst the gravedigger presumably deepened the grave to accommodate the previous occupants plus the new interment.

He also states that correspondents to The Hull Advertiser of the time were constantly informing the editor of the latest indignities heaped upon the dead in Hull. Just a thin scattering of earth over the next occupant of the grave was all that seemed to be required and there are tales of dogs and rats haunting burying grounds that can best be left to the imagination. One commentator of the period said, of churches generally, that they looked like they had been built in pits so much had the ground around them been raised up by burials.

As also can be imagined, funerals were somewhat different to ones of today. It was rare at this time for the family to accompany the body to the committal at the grave, as the sight of the remains of other ancestors piled on the spoil heap would have been off putting to say the least. Of course, prior to 1832, such a naïve belief in the honesty of the undertaker, may well have been tested by the large price that fresh bodies brought when sold to the medical students and doctors of the day.

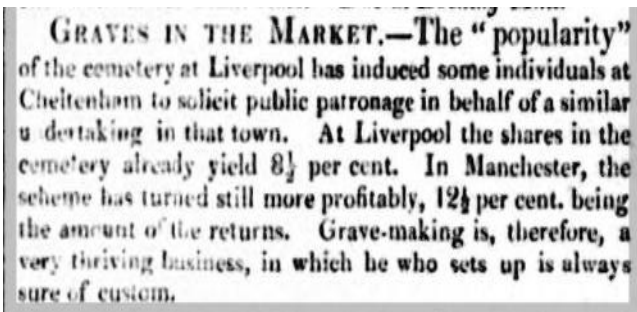
Funerals began to take on their present appearance about the 1820's, concurrent with the rise of the private cemetery such as the General Cemetery in Hull and others across the country. Indeed it was this burst of urban cemeteries that, later in the Victorian period, gave in some senses the impetus for the rise of the "funerary industry" complete with all the artefacts that the Victorians felt they needed to surround themselves with to complete a successful bereavement and mourning period. To us such displays and artefacts are probably hard to understand and perhaps just a little morbid but to the Victorians they were not only displays of affection and grief but were also modern and new and came complete with their own fashion accessories especially for the emerging middle class. Of interest, at least in terms of fashion, was the



History and monumental fashion: the Hohenrein (later Ross) family memorial. (Photo: JDScotney)

dropping of the term “burial or burying ground” to be replaced by exotic terms such as cemetery and necropolis around this time. In our modern, more cynical, times we would probably say that the death business had had a makeover.

Private cemeteries were of course typical of the Victorian sense of laissez-faire in most things and that such a thing as the disposal of the dead can and should be left to a private company and that a profit could ensue from that activity was seen as natural. Accordingly entrepreneurs usually joined together to form joint stock companies issuing shares to individuals who would then expect a dividend from their investment. It was this profit motive, as the press article below shows, that gave a great deal of the impetus to the creation of many of the cemeteries of Britain that we can enjoy today.



GRAVES IN THE MARKET.—The “popularity” of the cemetery at Liverpool has induced some individuals at Cheltenham to solicit public patronage in behalf of a similar undertaking in that town. At Liverpool the shares in the cemetery already yield 8½ per cent. In Manchester, the scheme has turned still more profitably, 12½ per cent. being the amount of the returns. Grave-making is, therefore, a very thriving business, in which he who sets up is always sure of custom.

Fig1. Hull Advertiser, November 1833

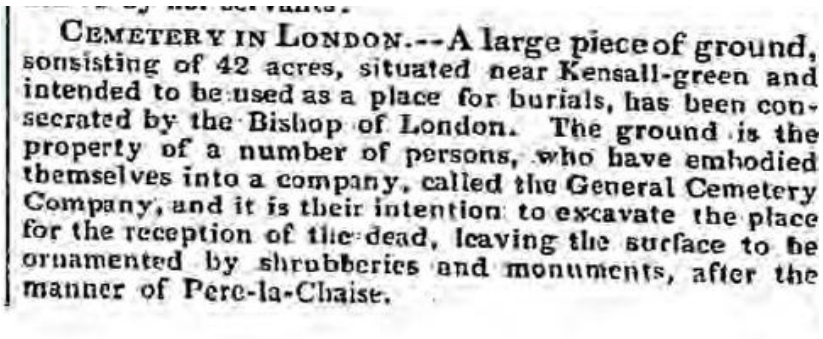
The other major force, apart from the hygiene aspect already alluded to, was the growth of civic pride. This pride, which would lead to the erection of the municipal palaces that masqueraded as town or city halls, also yearned for museums, libraries, parks, market halls, boulevards and prisons to embellish their respective centres. Concurrent with this was the need for great urban centres to have a cemetery that could command respect amongst its equals. And so the growth of cemeteries across the country was assured.

The first private cemeteries in Great Britain were sited to cater for the large urban centres. The first one was probably in Chorlton Row, Rusholme Road in Manchester opened in 1821 for Dissenters. Latterly made famous by The Smiths it is now a park and burials stopped there in 1933. Another early claim to fame is the Rosary Road Cemetery in

Norwich developed in 1819 but not opened until 1821. This last cemetery was 13 acres in size, taken over by Norwich Council in 1954 and managed so sensitively that in 2010 it was granted Grade II listed status. A lesson there for all such ventures but much too late for Hull City Council to grasp it I think.

In the Hull newspapers of the time such improvements of the town's rivals was reported. The death of William Huskisson, M.P. in Liverpool, who was also the first fatality of a rail accident in the world when he was killed at the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway on the 15th of September 1830, was widely reported. That he was buried in the St James Cemetery in Liverpool that had been opened the year before and was capable of at least 50,000 burials was something to be marvelled at by the citizens of Hull. That this was the second large cemetery that Liverpool had opened in less than 5 years just added salt into the wound.

In 1833 the news that a large cemetery was due to be opened in London set civic hearts a beating and was duly reported in the Hull Packet. That later on this cemetery was embellished by some of the most beautiful monuments outside of a museum simply increased the desire to emulate it in Hull.



CEMETERY IN LONDON.--A large piece of ground, consisting of 42 acres, situated near Kensall-green and intended to be used as a place for burials, has been consecrated by the Bishop of London. The ground is the property of a number of persons, who have embodied themselves into a company, called the General Cemetery Company, and it is their intention to excavate the place for the reception of the dead, leaving the surface to be ornamented by shrubberies and monuments, after the manner of Pere-la-Chaise.

Fig.2 Hull Packet, 8th February 1833

In the July of that year it was reported that some people in Leeds had formed a committee and were in the process of purchasing some land with a view to forming a general cemetery company. In the September the Bishop of Durham had given up some land to be used as a private cemetery. By the November a news item stated that people in Manchester were to set up a joint stock cemetery company, the subscribed amount to be of £20,000 with shares at £10 each to create a much larger cemetery.

Much closer to home, it was reported, at the end of November 1833, that York was about to begin the process of setting up a general cemetery company. Even Malton began preparations to establish a general cemetery for itself in 1836. By this time, even if there had been no need for a general cemetery in Hull, there would have been a popular demand for one simply to maintain civic pride. That it took so long after this to finally open one is quite difficult to understand.

One factor hindering the establishment of the cemetery may well have been that at this time (1832) the first attack of Asiatic cholera took place in the town and, although one would think it would have added impetus to the pressing need for a large cemetery, it may also have prevented economic growth, which at the time was needed to spur the project on. Without financial backing from the great and the good such an enterprise was extremely unlikely to take off.

In 1839 a reviewer of the book, "Gatherings From Graveyards" in the Hull Packet stated that,

"The Metropolitan burial places are pre-eminently considered: and well has the talented author asserted his notion that burying the dead in the neighbourhood of human habitations is a national evil... and as Hull at no distant day will proceed to form a cemetery worthy of our flourishing seaport."

During the elections of churchwardens for Holy Trinity the following April it was reported in the Hull Advertiser that it was, "hoped that before long a general cemetery would be here (*in Hull*)".

Finally in the August of 1840 an advert that appeared in most local newspapers would have led to an outpouring of civic pride. **(Fig.3)** At last a general cemetery was to be developed for the use of the townspeople of Hull and its neighbours.

The press reacted supportively and encouraged investors with the hope that,

"We trust the support necessary to carry the object of the company into effect will be properly rendered... Public cemeteries have been rendered ornaments to the towns where they have already been constructed, and have besides, we believe, been found highly remunerative to the public spirited projectors."

Some five or six years later the clipboards and the bulldozers of the Council moved in and one hundred and thirty years of our city's heritage was destroyed over about a 12 month period, and to create...what?

Welcome to Hull, City of Culture 2017. Isn't it one of the paradoxes of life that what was once thought to be unimportant becomes very important but only when you've lost it?

For contact details of the Friends of Spring Bank Cemetery, please see page 13.

Pete Lowden.

Letter to the editor

Setting Standards

Many years ago I gave a talk to Hull Civic Society entitled something like "Hull, must it always be in the Second Division?" Very understandably people presumed I was talking about Hull City's position in the football league tables (silly me), whereas I was talking about the quality of the new architecture in the city, using the position of Hull's football team in the title simply as an analogy. I suspect that as a result of this misunderstanding many people stayed away from the meeting!

But as the literal question has resolving itself in the case of its football team, there are still doubts about which division Hull's new architecture is in. The current renaissance - as it is now being dubbed - of Hull's city centre, is a golden opportunity to rectify this; but there are disappointing signs that we could still do better, and a place in the first division of architecture is not yet always guaranteed.

The design of the proposed "River" annex to the Deep would have been an excellent addition to the waterfront and with its glazed dome an excellent foil to the Deep. The new C4DI building which has now been built on this site is claimed by the planners to complement the Deep building, but to my mind it simply copies it and detracts from what

stood out as the Deep's individuality. The proposed Venue concert hall which was rejected by the council in December was again in the shape of a wedge. Can the architects think of nothing else? The design for the proposed extension to the New Theatre has reaped a great deal of criticism, and this bland design again shows a total lack of architectural flair. The original scheme to put a glass box on the front of the Ferens Art Gallery (also rejected) does open to question the standard of the chosen architects.

Even choosing an architect of national repute is no guarantee of success. The famous Lord Foster's firm was originally behind the St Stephens development and he chose as a motif for the roof a wavy fish (There's that pointed canopy / prow theme again!! It's Hull, and Hull means fish – easy!!). Wilkinson Eyre designed the canopy in front of Paragon Station. This flat roof canopy is simple and neat (easy!) but there has been no effort at complementing the attractive arched openings behind. The architect of the proposed extension to Holy Trinity (now in abeyance) has also a high reputation., but the quality of design still leaves much to be desired. It is to be hoped that with the choice of nationally renowned architects for the new bridge over Castle Street we will be luckier and get a top rate design.

Flair and inspiration is what we got with the Tidal Surge Barrier, the Street Life Museum, the Deep, the History Centre and Scale Lane Bridge, and of course we have many exquisite older buildings. These should be setting the standard for Hull's next new buildings. From what we have seen of the latest planning applications, namely the New Theatre and the Venue, the architects are still falling very short. Liverpool has lumbered itself with some very mediocre buildings along its celebrated waterfront. Let's hope that Hull doesn't follow suit.

Yours truly, Paul Priestley-Leach

Friends of Spring Bank Cemetery

The Spring Bank Cemetery (officially: Hull General Cemetery) was opened in 1847. At the time it lay at the very edge of the city and was needed because the existing burial grounds within the city were full.



Photo: Alan Deighton

were removed, the chapel demolished, trees felled, undergrowth cut back and new paths laid. After this brief period of activity the cemetery fell asleep again.

Since the 1970s repeated studies have shown that the cemetery has become an immensely important ‘green lung’. To have this large piece of mixed deciduous woodland only a mile from the centre of a large city is exceptional, and the area has become a haven for many species of wild plants, animals and especially birds.



Wildlife in Spring Bank Cemetery
(Photo: JD Sotney)

For almost one hundred years this became the final resting place of thousands of Hull citizens. The new cemetery, in its turn, started to fill up and by the 1940s there was no more space. Interments ceased and the Hull General Cemetery fell into disuse and neglect.

In the 1970s the City Council bought the cemetery. Thousands of gravestones

For the many people living near it, it is an oasis of calm in a busy city; it is still contains fine examples of Victorian funerary monuments and it is a tangible witness to the history of the city of Hull and a reminder of the many people who contributed, each in his or her own way, to the development of the city into what it is today. However, too

few of Hull's citizens realise how valuable a place the cemetery is. Many think of it, at best, as somewhere to walk the dog; others use it to drink with friends, get high – sometimes legally, sometimes not, sort swag, and, above all, dump rubbish.



Above: Rubbish! (Photo: Alan Deighton). Below: Our March litter-pick - the last third of the day's pickings. (Photo: JD Scotney).





Who are we?

Local people who love the cemetery and are saddened by what it is in danger of becoming. We are formally a sub-committee of the Hull Civic Society.

What is our aim?

To help and encourage the City Council – the legal owners of the cemetery – to end the degradation and neglect of the cemetery and

to care for it in a way that preserves it as an historical monument, respects it as a burial place, and allows it to flourish and develop as haven for nature within its built-up surroundings.

Can we achieve this?

Yes! But only as part of the local community. We want and need to involve you because the cemetery is your space, everybody's space. Everybody's ideas and help are needed if we are to protect and care for it in a way that respects the needs and wishes of its users.

How can I get involved?

- Tell us what you think about the cemetery. Let us hear your ideas and wishes.
- Join us in our discussions and activities, especially if you have relevant skills.
- Post your ideas to Friends of Spring Bank Cemetery
c/o 237 Marlborough Avenue, Hull, HU5 3LF
- email: fosbc@outlook.com
- Facebook page: *Friends of Spring Bank Cemetery*
- Phone: 01482 492822 (John Scotney, Chairman)

Alan Deighton

Admiral of the Humber

There are links in the chain the Lord Mayors wear that connect us to times gone by.

The Admiral of the Humber commands no ships. The Trinity House brethren know why.

But of flotsam and jetsam, the Lord Mayor is King. And of dolphins and porpoises, too.

Now the Admiralty prison is long since closed down, what is a poor Admiral to do?

It seems hard to fathom the modern day role of a Commander bereft of a fleet,

But the post is symbolic of our maritime past. The river is this city's heartbeat.

And the estuary? Well, it's the soul of this place, while the river gives shelter to all.

Now the Admiral rules over sandbanks and gulls, but on reflection, it's good to recall

That the brethren of Trinity House still survive, from Lister to Pepys to today,

And what started five hundred years past still endures, as the Humber tide flows on its way

So, salute the insignia; there's a story to tell of this seagoing City of pride,
And remember the chain that links us to the past. Like the river, the Admirals abide.

Copyright David Osgerby



Cuthbert Brodrick – Hull’s most famous architect (Part 3)

In 1861 Hull decided it needed a town hall and a competition was announced. Brodrick won 1st prize with a design that had a distinctly Venetian style.



Hull town hall 1866 (sources: a postcard in JD Scotney's collection).

In 1905 law courts were added as an extension and the town hall was demolished in 1912 and replaced by the present Guildhall, completed in 1916. The competition winner was Sir Edwin Cooper, a London architect.

Brodrick did not design many hotels. In 1854 Wells House Hydropathic Company commissioned him to design a large hotel for the emerging spa town of Ilkley. Also in 1854 he designed the Queen’s Hotel, Withernsea, which was later used as a hospital. He may also have designed the station there. In 1862 he submitted a competition entry for Queen’s Hotel, Leeds, which was not chosen, but showed some interesting features. By 1862 The railway had brought a great demand for accommodation in Scarborough. Scarborough Cliff Hotel Company decided to emulate the very large hotels at London’s railway termini such as Paddington, Victoria and Charing Cross, as well as in Paris. Brodrick was appointed architect.

The influence of French style is very clear, but it is also a very striking use of the site. Derek Linstrum (*Towers and Colonnades*) remarks, “It seems not so much to be built on the hill, but to have become part of the hill itself, growing up out of it.” Despite financial problems during



The Grand Hotel, Scarborough (Photo JD Scotney)

construction, it opened on 24th July 1867 with a great banquet. The ball on the following evening featured a new waltz, “Grand Hotel” by M. Lutz,

In 1866 Brodrick was commissioned to produce a design for the Customs house in Bombay. Unfortunately, it was never built, but in the same year his Oriental Baths brought a touch of the exotic to Cookridge St, Leeds, perhaps inspired by his study of suitable Indian styles for Bombay.

His 1866 competition entry for the Wesleyan Methodist Theological College in Headingley was beaten by Wilson & Wilcox of Bath, with a simpler but more unusual design. He entered other competitions for

London buildings, such as the National Gallery (1866), which was really a re-working of his prize-winning design for Leeds Town Hall.

He may have expected to be better appreciated in his home town. Hull Docks Company held a competition in 1866 for their new dock offices and Brodrick submitted a conventional Italianate design, drawn and painted in his own watercolour style, as usual.



Left: Brodrick's dock offices design ("Colonnades & Towers", by Derek Lindstrum)
Right: Christopher Wray's winning dock office design (Photo: J D Scotney)

Brodrick continued in practice for another 4 years, still submitting interesting competition designs, but tastes were changing and new architects were competing. In 1867 and again in 1870 he was invited to accept nomination for the council of the Royal Institute of British Architects, but declined.

His last competition entry was in 1870, for a corn exchange in Mark Lane, London was unsuccessful. When it didn't succeed, he evidently decided to retire at the age of 48. He moved to a villa in the newly-developed Paris garden suburb of Le Vesinet.

Not surprisingly, given his talent for drawing and watercolouring, he occupied himself with painting. The events of the Paris Commune and the Franco Prussian war seem not to have deterred him from staying in Paris. After years of bachelor life there is mention in the 1876 French census of a Marguerite Cawling described as his "femme" – wife. To add to the mystery, it appears that on 7th May 1885 he married a Margaret Chatham, widow, at Marylebone registry office. She died in 1888 and is buried at Le Vesinet cemetery.

Cuthbert Brodrick was looked after by one of his nieces at le Vesinet, but his final years were spent at "La Colline", Saint Martin, in Jersey, where he died on 2nd March 1905. He is believed to have trained Joseph Wright, who designed many Primitive Methodist chapels in Hull, the East Riding and Lincolnshire and his nephew, Frederick Stead Brodrick to whom, in his will, he bequeathed "his architectural drawings, sketch books, architectural books, portfolios and medals". Frederick went on to become one of the partners of the successful Hull firm Smith & Brodrick.

However, his fame still lives on in some of the extraordinary buildings he designed between 1846 and 1870.

John Scotney

KING BILLY'S CROWN

The following article appeared in the September 1989 Hull Civic Society Newsletter. The mystery it describes remains a mystery, unless one of our readers has the answer!

During a recent talk entitled "The Jews of the port of Hull since the 12th Century", a certain piece of information was put by the speaker, Mr Michael Westerman. The following information poses a question that might be of interest to any local history investigators ... it certainly has me baffled!

The centenary of the Revolution of 1688 was celebrated in Hull with great popular fervour. For a century, 5 December had been a day of rejoicing. The symbol of victory was the impressive equestrian statue of William III erected in the Market Place in 1734.

Hadley, writing in the centenary year, states that the Jews of Hull "testified their loyalty" by the presentation to the Corporation by Aaron Jacobs of an elegant crown for the statue. Perhaps it was Jacobs, a Jeweller in Manor Alley, who was the leader of the tiny community and his



King Billy's statue, Market Place
(Photo JDS)

gift was made on behalf of the Congregation.

What I must point out here is that there is no reference to Jacobs or the crown or any gift or any Jewish participation in the celebrations of 1788 in the benchbooks of the Corporation which contain much detail about the preparations and the events of the-days of rejoicing . . . nor does there appear to be any municipal record of the affair.

This crown could be of great importance to Kingston upon Hull and its citizens and fill in a gap in the fascinating story of this city. Here is a historical treasure hunt all can participate in and the following three questions are posed for you to think about:

- 1 Where did the crown get to?
- 2 Why was there no municipal record of the affair?
- 3 What do you suggest?

Let me know of your findings, or submit them to the Editor of the Hull Civic Society Newsletter. Good Hunting,

Roy Rawson

Criteria and procedures for awarding a Hull Civic Society Good Mark

1. A Good Mark is awarded to the project rather than to a specific individual or company.
2. The Good Mark system is there to encourage high standards, originality and initiative.
3. The Good Mark should be given to projects which enhance the environment or add to the amenities of the city, and thereby improve the quality of life in the city, or which bring prestige to the city nationally or internationally.
4. The Good Mark can therefore be awarded, for example, to new building, the restoration of a building, the sympathetic conversion of a building, improvements to the townscape, or it can be for a service provided by a company or an individual.
5. The quality of the project is paramount. We should be very discerning in our choice of Good Marks. A Good Mark should not be given for a service or project which is of a standard which should be expected in the normal course of events. If no outstanding project can be identified at any time, then no Good Mark should be awarded until one becomes obvious.

6. Finally we should use the presentation of Good Marks, not only to highlight the projects themselves, but also to publicise the Hull Civic Society and its aims.

7. When a Good Mark is proposed, if practicable at least three members of the committee should see and recommend it before it is accepted for an award. If a visit is not practicable, then there should be at least some documentary evidence to present to the committee eg. photographs.

8. The potential recipients of a Good Mark should not be told that they are going to receive a Good Mark until the Good Mark has been approved by the HCS committee.

9. When the award of a Good Mark has been agreed, a committee member is nominated to write a citation. This should be checked by the recipient for accuracy. When this process is complete, a time is agreed with recipient for the presentation of the signed and framed certificate, preferably at a public occasion eg. one of the monthly public meetings.

Paul Priestley-Leach

Planning and Buildings

Old Town

Members of the Society visited the first part of the Centre for Digital Innovation (C4DI) on 23rd May. In w/c 12.6.16, there was an application to change the ground floor of "No 1 at The Dock" into a restaurant. There are no supporting documents yet, so it is not clear whether this is at the building we visited. The second block, which lies alongside Central Dry Dock, emerged from its cocoon of scaffolding and plastic sheeting in early June and is now being fitted internally. The third block is at full height and will no doubt soon be open as well. The wooden decking of the



C4DI - second block unveiled and decking in Central Dry Dock (Photo: JDS)

emerged from its cocoon of scaffolding and plastic sheeting in early June and is now being fitted internally. In w/c 12.6.16, The third block is at full height and will no doubt soon be open as well. The wooden decking of the

stage and seating is now being installed in the middle part of the dry dock itself, with the reed beds being formed at each end. This arena is going to be administered by the Freedom Festival Trust.

By 7th June the new block of flats on the north side of Wellington St had received its brick skin and was being fitted out internally. Nearby in Humber St, the paving work on the roadway is still in progress and several of the buildings on the north side have received new shop fronts.

An application was submitted in w/c 12.6.16 for change of use for 64 Humber St, the former East Riding Growers Ltd warehouse between Fruit (62-63) (of which it is physically part) and the Humber Fruit Brokers' building (65-66). Uses proposed include art gallery, retail, professional services, restaurant / café, bar or offices and a new lift and staircase and a roof terrace would be installed.

The railway lines are being re-installed on Humber Dock St, with the original passing loop formation re-created (observed 14.6.16). Permission was granted in w/c 10.4.16 to alter the Cat-Zero building (2-3 Humber Dock St) in to change it into a restaurant, approved last November.

In w/c 3.4.16, plans approved for Trinity Market, include a restaurant, a food court, refurbishing stalls and improved layout, Conversion of 9,10 & 11 Scale Lane (just west of the Manchester Arms) from offices to flats was approved in w/c 19.6.16.

A Listed Building Consent application was approved in w/c 12.6.16 to create nine more flats at the City Exchange (former General Post Office) on Alfred Gelder St; the work involves some demolition at the rear.

At the listed former Mutiny on the Bounty (Hull's second dock office, 1820) a clock (approved in w/c 7.2.16) has been installed on the pediment.

We, and many other people objected to the erection of the 10 metre high "Shadow Gate" art work on Monument Bridge and it was refused on 17.5.16, by a unanimous decision of the Planning Committee.

In w/c 1.5.16 a retrospective application for 1-2 Dock Office Row (behind Hull College) to retain smaller front windows than specified in the approved plans and UPVc side windows was refused.

Marina

An application was submitted in w/c 12.6.16 for a 3-storey extension to the Holiday Inn, Castle St, which overlooks the Railway Dock part of the Marina.

City Centre

After re-branding Pozition night club, 135-141 George St (which includes the former Queen's Hotel at the corner of Charlotte St Mews), as Valbon night club only a few months ago, w/c 12.6.16 brought an application for change of use to 18 flats.

In w/c 3.4.16, applications were approved to re-convert more houses in the Georgian New Town from offices to apartments: four at 17 Albion St (corner of Percy St) and eighteen at 7, 8 and 9 Wright St. Permission to convert no 19 Wright St from office to house followed in w/c 17.4.16. Approval and Listed building Consent was also given in w/c 5.6.16 for two apartments in the former first floor gym and two in part of the ground floor of 83 George St.

By early June, the 1960s offices of Central Fire Station that faced onto Kingston Square had been demolished to make way for the New Theatre extension, for which part of the steelwork was in place by 28.6.16. The older part of Central fire station remains in use for the time being, but is to be incorporated into the New Theatre. Steelwork for its two-bay replacement between Spring St and Pearson St (off Ferensway) had already reached full height by early June. In w/c 1.5.16, permission was granted to amend the approved plans for the New Theatre.

The Ron Dearing Technical University was approved in w/c 10.4.16 for the site next to the New Theatre extension and extending across John St Car Park. We had misgivings about the chosen location and would have preferred to see it on the Queen's gardens Police Station site, as the proposed 4-storey building would dominate the adjacent domestic-scale houses of John St. However the actual design itself is attractive.

Nearby, at Unit 1 The Maltings, an application was approved in w/c 15.5.16 to create a roof garden.

In w/c 22.5.16, an application was submitted to convert Kingston House, Bond St, from offices into 101 flats.

The site for the Hilton Hotel in Ferensway has been cleared and there is now a hard core surface, but no sign of building work.

The former Heaven & Hell Club (originally the Central Synagogue) at the corner of Osborne St and Anne St is still standing, but a "discharge of conditions" application in connection with the approved 7-storey, 135 bed hotel. Does this mean that work may begin in the near future?

Hull College Park St site closed on 24th June. Art & Design courses will move to Queen's Gardens and High St (Bond 31) sites.

Braves' Hall, Roper St (off Waterhouse Lane), an interesting warehouse formerly used by Hull Braves' Guild, is on the Local List and was to be retained in the plans approved last year for the new mixed use venue. However, a notice of intention to demolish it on 22nd August was submitted in w/c 22.5.16. Despite numerous objections demolition was approved in w/c 19.6.16.



Braves' Hall, Roper St
(Photo: JDS)

In w/c 1.5.16 permission was granted for variations to the approved scheme for the Ferens Art Gallery.

In the same week, an application was approved to change the former Santander (previously Alliance & Leicester) bank at 57 Paragon St into a restaurant and takeaway.

Major internal alterations received Listed Building Consent approval for Paragon Station in w/c 19.6.16. These include demolition of the waiting room (built as a travel centre in 1984) to make way for 4 new retail units backing onto the end of the platforms, a glass extension to create a new waiting room in the pavilion (1904) on the south side of the entrance to platforms currently used as a "Pumpkin" refreshment room, alterations to the ticket counters in the present travel centre and repairs to the disused 1st floor rooms in the 1848 buildings on Platform 2. We wrote in support of these proposals.

East

Rank's Clarence Mills next to Drypool Bridge has completely disappeared apart from a neat pile of scrap wood. To the immediate south of the Rank's site, permission was given in w/c 17.4.16 to create a city farm on land south of St Peter's St stretching down to the rear of unit J on Citadel Way.

At Alexandra Dock, the Siemens turbine blade factory buildings appear to be nearing completion. Listed Building Consent was granted in w/c 7.2.16 for restoration work to the Alexandra Dock hydraulic engine house

and tower (just west of the dry docks adjacent to Hedon Rd) and the pumping engine house between the two dry docks.

Several projects are under way on the stretch of Holderness Rd between Field St and Mount Pleasant. The vacant land next to the James Reckitt Library has been fenced off and work has begun on the project to build a 3-storey block of 20 flats on that site, and to convert the listed library into 12 flats. A little further out of town, just beyond the baths, refurbishment work is in progress on the former Co-op at the corner of Franklin St and Holderness Rd. Restoration work is also progressing steadily at the long-disused Cornmill Hotel at the corner of Mount Pleasant and Holderness Rd. Window frames and glazing have been renewed and internal work is in progress.

Permission was given in w/c 24.4.16 for the disused United Reformed Church on Holderness Rd, east of Southcoates Lane (a plain, box-like building) to be demolished and replaced by a 3-storey building for 4 ground-floor units with 4 flats above and two 2-storey houses.

By 21st June work (approved in w/c 7.2.16) was in progress at the former East Park Baptist Church to convert it into 11 flats. Dormers were being installed to give light to the roof space and brick foundations to 3 new houses are visible on the site of the demolished church hall. The church was built in 1913 as a dual purpose church & Sunday school, with the intention of erecting a larger church at the corner of Southcoates Ave. This plan never came to fruition and the corner site was used for a church hall / Sunday school opened in 1964. Sadly it closed in 2010. A history of East Park Baptist Church can be found at <http://www.staidans.org.uk/eastparkbaptist.htm> .



Holderness Rd Baptist Church 9.6.09 and 21.6.16 Photo: JDS

In w/c 22.5.16 an application was submitted to demolish St Catherine's Residential Home (formerly St Catherine's Convent, dating from 1930). The convent is now in later buildings to the rear and the aim is to extend this forward. We do not object to the scheme, but when it came to light (by chance) that the foundation stone laid on 3rd December 1930 came from Watton Priory and dated from 1150, we wrote to ask for it to be salvaged and incorporated into the new building.

An application was submitted in w/c 12.6.16 for an "integrated care centre providing diagnosis, consultation, and therapies" (mainly for older people) and a hub for Humber Fire & Rescue Service on the site of David Lister School, Rustenburg St, off Newbridge Rd. This would presumably replace Southcoates Lane Fire Station.

A "PAAD" application to demolish parts of Isaac Newton School, Greatfield, appeared in w/c 5.6.16.

In w/c 7.2.16, an application was submitted giving prior notice of demolition of houses in various parts of the Preston Rd Estate. By 21.6.16 many houses had been demolished or boarded up east of the drain.

An application to convert Tower Grange Police Station, Holderness Rd (1960s), into 3 shops, 3 offices and 18 two-bedroom apartments was submitted in w/c 8.5.16. The communications aerial was removed by helicopter on 9th April.

In w/c 19.6.16, a development of 83 new 2 & 3-bed houses was approved for a site north of Bellfield Ave, off Holderness High Rd.

On the Reckitt Benckiser complex, the Francis Reckitt Institute has been demolished.

In Cleveland St, work had commenced by May on the Energy Works project (former ADM Cocoa Mills site) alongside the River Hull just north of Chapman St, stretching to Glasshouse Row and Dalton St. It will produce sustainable electricity and biomethane through Advanced Gasification (25 Mwe), Anaerobic Digestion (900,000 therms) and Solar Photovoltaics (0.5Mwe). Approval was granted in October 2011 and a "discharge of conditions" notice was published in w/c 17.4.16. The first steelwork had appeared by 26.6.16

A different kind of energy is to be provided for in a 1 km closed circuit cycle track approved w/c 15.5.16 for Ennerdale Leisure Centre, just off Sutton Rd near the bridge over the River Hull.

In w/c 29.5.16 a hybrid application was submitted to build 750 houses, public and private roads, landscaping, recreational facilities, a local centre and drainage works on land on the western side of Wawne Rd, surrounding the existing Broadacre Primary School, which has stood in the middle of a field at the northern edge of Hull, awaiting a community for about 50 years.

West

In w/c 22.5.16, an application was submitted to build a terrace of five 3-storey houses at the corner of Manor House St and Kingston St on the site of some 1960s offices originally built for British Rail to replace their old offices just to the south on Tee Bridge, which spanned the railway lines into Kingston St Goods. This was demolished in the 1980s.

The derelict New York Hotel has been completely demolished. Across the cleared site, you can now see (for the time being) the side and rear of the Albert Hall (Hull's last surviving music hall), which is also due to be demolished. The Midland St façade was demolished last year because it was unstable, having become detached from the rest of the building.

A revised application was submitted in w/c 22.5.16 to convert the Church of the Holy Apostles, Walker St, into a rehearsal & performance space. This replaced the previous application (July 2015), which included training and a café.

In w/c 24.4.16 approval was given to create allotments at Constable St Fields.

The large new block of “additional care apartments” in Hawthorn Ave had been fully roofed by May.

North

An application to convert the former Hull College Charterhouse Annexe (previously Charterhouse School) into 14 flats was refused in w/c 6.3.16 because of the inclusion of an external steel staircase. We supported a revised application (without the external staircase), as we believe this would be a good use to safeguard this listed building's future. It was approved on 8.6.16

The importance of giving a new use to disused buildings is illustrated by the fate of the listed former School of Architecture, previously Blundell St School (1878). After 20 years of neglect by its owners, despite having

planning approval for conversion into 16 flats, with two flanking new blocks, the vandals finally obliged him by setting light to the building on 30th April, a repeat of the fire of 2004. Land banking – ownership of property for the notional value in a portfolio against which capital can be raised, rather than for genuine interest in development of the site – is the name of the owner’s destructive game. Sadly, it is perfectly legal.

Conversion of the listed High Flags Mill, Wincolmllee into flats is progressing well.

The residential development which includes 85-93 Beverley Rd (early 19th century houses returned to residential use) and new flats & houses on the Grosvenor St side of the site appears to be complete. It looks very attractive. In w/c



High Flags Mill, Wincolmllee (Photo: JDS)

5.6.15 there was an application for a similar development of five 2-storey houses and a building for two more flats, to the rear of 95-97 Beverley Rd.

Across the road, at 104-106 Beverley Rd (corner of Providence Row), the steelwork that has reached first floor height indicates that work has resumed on the block of 24 flats with undercroft parking approved for the site in July 2006.

In w/c 24.4.16, approval was given for alterations to the entrance to the listed Stepney Primary School.

We sometimes worry about the condition of houses in Pearson Park, so we were very pleased that approval was given in w/c 22.5.16 to re-instate a bay window removed from the side elevation of 74 Pearson Park in the 1970s (facing onto Pearson Ave) and restore railings to both 73 and 74.

An application was refused in w/c 15.5.16 to build a 3-storey block of 9 flats on land next to 50 Pearson Park.

In w/c 5.6.16 there was an application to remove, refurbish and re-install Pearson Park’s attractive listed drinking fountain.

We objected strongly to an application in w/c 6.3.16 to change Rockcliffe House (the former Blind Institute care home), into a “house in multiple occupation”.

Permission was granted in w/c 7.2.16 to erect 8 dwellings on the site of the old Wheelhouse pub on Beverley High Rd. Construction of the buildings was well advanced by early June.

A change to the Orchard Park skyline was foreshadowed by a PAAD demolition notice for Gorthorpe High Rise Flats.

Three building projects are in progress at the university. The Middleton Hall extensions and new accessible ground floor entrance appear to be almost complete. At the Inglemire Lane side of the campus, the new residential blocks have reached full height and are being clad. Readers will be relieved (or perhaps disappointed) to know that the violently violet insulation panelling is being covered by brickwork and more soberly-coloured panels! The Allam Medical Centre, opposite the library, has reached first floor height. The artist’s impression shows an interesting, distinctive modern building (all observed on 13th June).

In w/c 24.4.16 permission was granted for 71 houses on Bishop Alcock Rd. This was the site of the 1950s Hull Grammar School, later called William Gee School and finally Endeavour North, closed when the new Endeavour School was opened on Beverley Rd in 2002. A further 11 houses were approved for land to the north-east of 49 Bishop Alcock Rd.

A Landscape History Website

Our speaker for last January’s Civic Society meeting, Richard Clarke, gave us a fascinating talk about “Hull in the Beginning”. If you are interested in finding out more about landscape history, he now has a website:

www.richardclarkelandscapehistorian.co.uk

Editor.

Hull in Paint

If you didn't manage to visit the Hull in Paint exhibition at Princes Quay, you can catch up at its current venue, St John the Baptist Church, on St George's Road. For details of the dates at other venues and opening times, please contact Ian Goodison (tel 791439 or email

iangoodison445@gmail.com)

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Welcome to our two co-opted members, David and Ivor.

September Newsletter

Many thanks to all our contributors. Please submit all items to the Editor, John Scotney, by post to 126 Cottingham Rd, Hull, HU6 7RZ, or preferably, by e-mail to john.scotney@talk21.com by 10th August.

Please note: items may sometimes be held over for lack of space.

Would you prefer to receive your Newsletter by Post or Email?

At present, we post about 350 Newsletters to Civic Society members, but it may be that some of our readers would prefer to receive it by email (in full colour!). If you are on our mailing list, you will continue to receive it by post, but please email the editor if you wish to have your Newsletter by email instead.

If you want to continue receiving your Newsletter by post, but would like to receive notice of additional events by email, please let us know about that, as well.

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Editor john.scotney@talk21.com

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