

HULL CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

February 2014



Pearson Park (Photo: JD Scotney)

In this issue: Programme, Historical Association, May Newsletter, Annual Report 2013, Willerby Wind Turbine, Hull in Paint, Hull's fantastic architecture, Letters to the Editor, City Planning, YHACS Regional Meeting, Francis Johnson Architects, The Road to Improvement, Planning & Buildings Officers and Committee, Updating the Membership Database, Newsletters by Email, Membership.

Public Meetings 2014

All meetings are at the Royal Hotel, Ferensway, on Mondays at 7.30 pm (unless otherwise stated). All meetings are open to non-members.

10th February - “*Life on the Humber – Sails & Keels*”

Speaker: A representative of Yorkshire Waterways Museum, Goole.

10th March - Annual General Meeting (7pm) – an opportunity for members to have their say about the Society - followed by:

“*The Development of Beverley Road*”. Speaker: Hilary Byers.

Thursday 3rd April - Joint Meeting with the Historical Association.

Hull Civic Society has been invited to participate in a number of events, including an evening lecture, when the national President of the Historical Association visits Hull for the day. Please see below for full details.

14th April - “*Hull’s Fishing Industry – the last 150 years*”

Speaker: Alan Hopper – Maritime Historian.

Thursday 24th July 1 p.m. - Golden Jubilee Lunch at the Royal Hotel, Ferensway, Hull

This will be a buffet lunch, priced at £15, with a guest speaker.

Full details for booking will appear in the May Newsletter.

Saturday 26th July – YHACS Regional Meeting in Hull (*see below for details*)

Spring & Summer Walks and Visits

Paull village & church – a Saturday or Sunday visit – date to be advised.

Dates and times of additional events will be announced in the May Newsletter and e-mailed to members who are on our emailing list. If you wish to be added to our e-mailing list, please send an e-mail message to the Editor, John Scotney john.scotney@talk21.com

Joint Meeting with the Historical Association, Thursday 3rd April

Professor Jackie Eales, national President of the Historical Association, whose speciality is the 16th and 17th centuries, is visiting Hull, on this date and members of the Civic Society are invited to be involved in the events.

The programme for the day is as follows:

2.15 - Visit to the Hull History Centre.

3.15 - Walking tour of the Old Town

4.15 - Meeting at the Beverley Gate with the Lord Mayor, Cllr.

Nadine Fudge.

7.30 Talk by Prof. Jackie Eales:

'The clergy, the people and the English Civil Wars'.

The venue is the Scandinavian Church, Osborne St. Civic Society members and other guests are cordially invited to attend.

The talk is free to Historical Association Members. Non-HA members are invited to make a £2 donation.

To give us an idea of numbers, please book in advance with the editor, John Scotney tel. (01482) 492822 - you can leave a message if necessary - or email john.scotney@talk21.com

Golden Jubilee Lunch, Thursday 24th July

On 24th July 1964, Hull Civic Society was formed by a group of individuals, Messrs. Arschirvir, P.M. Jackson, Mrs. E. Seaton and C.S. Wise, who were passionate about the city of Hull. Sadly, most of the founder members are not with us anymore. However, in honour of those pioneers, and to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Hull Civic Society we have arranged a Golden Jubilee lunch, which will be held on the exact date the Society was formed. This will take place on Thursday 24th July, 2014 at 1 p.m. at the Royal Hotel, Ferensway, Hull.

May 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 7th April. Please note: items may sometimes be held over for lack of space.

Annual Report 2013

This year has been a particularly busy one for the Society and a number of initiatives that fit within our remit have been realised, which are detailed below. Many of them have been achieved through working with our valued partners as a joint effort and we gratefully acknowledge their contribution.

Hull, City of Culture 2017

The Society was pleased to be asked to contribute toward the successful bid for the City of Culture 2017. Our chairman came up with the idea for the highly successful 'Twitter' campaign, which was enthusiastically endorsed by the massive number of 'tweets' sent in support of the bid.



HODS 2013

Heritage Open Days, organised by the Society, provide a unique opportunity offering visitors a chance to discover all aspects of the city from its heritage, to its commerce and its latest developments. The Open Days event is well regarded and has gone from strength to strength over recent years and this year was voted by many as the best ever. It was certainly the most ambitious, with more tours, talks and building opening than ever before. It is always difficult to be precise with numbers but for certain, close on 24,000 individuals recorded their visit and a huge number also attended that went unrecorded. A tremendous effort is involved from our co-ordinator and his team of volunteers to ensure success and we thank them all.

What's Happening In Hull Touring Exhibition.

This exhibition was designed and produced by the Society with the support of eight partner organisations to showcase the renaissance of our city that is often either not acknowledged, or is underappreciated.



The well-illustrated exhibition highlights some of the more significant initiatives that are having a positive impact on the lives of people in the city such as the twenty four new schools, twelve new health centres etc. It has proved extremely successful and has been well-received as it toured to a total of 14 public venues, including some of the new Hull Academies'. It will hopefully be updated and may tour again in 2014.

Joseph Rank Permanent Exhibition – Streetlife Museum

Joseph Rank has long been an almost ‘forgotten’ son of Hull, a son who founded Rank Hovis McDougall, later RHM, one of the United Kingdom’s largest food production and flour milling businesses until 2007, when it was acquired by Premier Foods. He established his own business in 1875, when he rented a small mill on Holderness Road and gradually expanded the business to become the largest flour-milling business in the UK. The Society decided that it was time for him to be recognised in his city of birth with a permanent exhibition, which was designed and produced in co-operation with, and through the generosity of, the Joseph Rank Trust.

Hull Old Town Renaissance

The Society has been represented on a committee set up by the Leader of the Hull City Council to examine ways in which the Old Town of Hull can be re-invigorated and brought back to life. A bid was put forward for the so-called ‘Portas.Award’, in order to finance the various ideas that were put forward, particularly to enhance Whitefriargate and the Market Place. The Old Town was also re-branded, with new blue and white signage. This project is on-going.

Hull’s Amazing Heritage – The Old Town Trails

A series of walks are being developed to support the objectives of the above committee and form the basis of the Society’s contribution to the work to bring the Old Town to life, through exploring the buildings, the people, the events, the trade and commerce and the influence it had on local and national history. The Hull Old Town is almost unique in the United Kingdom in that its boundaries are preserved through the ring of town docks that were built in the late 18th and during the 19th centuries. The medieval street plan and many of the building survived the Second World War and are of great local and national importance. Members of the Society have produced an initial guided walk that explores the riches to be found in the Hull Old Town and is available now in a very high quality, glossy and informative brochure format. It is the first in a series that will look in more depth at the fascinating events and people who lived there. It is hoped that the trails will contribute toward reasons for visitors to spend a longer time in Hull and to explore its assets.

Pavement Pride

This project was initiated by the Society and seeks to improve the appearance of the streets in the city centre by reducing litter and to

encourage the cleaning of shop fronts and the pavements outside. It is aiming at getting business operators and owners to own and take pride in their outside surroundings. HullBid have now made this a part of their Award Scheme for 2014 for which we are grateful.

Good Marks

A number of Good Marks have been awarded during 2013. These are awarded to those individuals and companies that seek to make a positive contribution to the city through selfless good work or deeds and achieve success in making a difference.

Hull in Paint

The Society held the inaugural event, in what is hoped will become an annual competition, for the artists of Hull to present their view of Hull in the media of their choice. It proved to be highly popular, receiving many positive comments.

A63 Landscape Maintenance

Appalled by the weed-infested, overgrown and litter strewn embankments and verges along the A63 as it passes through the city, members of the Society have been pressing for some years for the Highways Agency to increase and improve the maintenance of the highway to achieve a visual improvement. Some improvements have been made, some permanent and some temporary; however, we do not intend to ease the pressure on this issue as an unkempt road reflects badly on our city, both to citizens and visitors alike.

Northern Gateway Project

This issue really sits 'hand in glove' with the above A63 maintenance issue. When it is considered that over one-million visitors travel through the port each year, the first sight that greets them is not 'Welcome to Hull' but a concrete-block encircled roundabout with derelict land staring them in the face, it is little wonder that so few choose to stay overnight. The Hull City Council have now placed attractive planters along the approach to the King George Dock, which have made a positive difference and the Highways Agency have improved the visual appearance of the roundabout on Hedon Road (the Northern Gateway). However the concrete blocks remain, the derelict land remains and there is no 'Welcome to Hull' sign, as yet. The Society will continue to work with the Highways Agency and the City Council to progress the project.

Castle Street Improvement Scheme

This important issue for Hull is linked with the two projects listed above. Castle Street is an undoubted 'bottleneck' in the road network in the city and the Society has been pressing for an improvement scheme for many years. At last a sum of money has been allocated and a provisional date has been set for work to commence. Following a series of meetings with the project engineers and the city council the Society has made its views on the proposals known, in response to the public consultation document and we shall continue to 'keep an eye' on this important scheme.

Maister House – Golfclubs

The Society has become involved with a scheme to replicate the golf clubs discovered at Maister House, which are believed to be the oldest set in the world and thus form an important part of Hull's heritage. This ambition requires considerable fund raising which is on-going.

Winter and Summer programme 2012/13

Additional to the many projects undertaken by the Society there is an annual programme of summer walks and winter talks for members, to which the general public are invited and are welcome to attend. These explore little known aspects or corners of the city.

Colin McNicol December 2013

Willerby Wind Turbine (proposed)

Why should the Hull Civic Society be concerned with a wind turbine possibly being erected well outside the city boundary? Just so that we are all aware, a planning application was made on 7th August 2013 to erect an 87 metre high wind turbine on a 50 metre hillside created over an old, very old, landfill site which according to the application itself contains mercury and cyanide. The site is at Albion Lane, Willerby, HU10 6TS.

The effect on the landscape is, according to some of the local population, horrendous but that is not why we as the Civic Society should be interested, even if we sympathise with those residents' visual and aesthetic concerns. However, from an aesthetic point of view, it will dwarf Skidby Mill, just to the north, one of the area's outstanding listed ancient buildings.

Our interest is, however, much more basic. To support such a tall structure (87 metres equals circa 300 feet), massive foundations have to be

provided, in this case between 12 and 32 rotary-drilled concrete-filled piles of up to 1.2 metres diameter and some 100 metres long (132 feet), which will in all probability pass through the landfill (actual content almost unknown but reputed to contain a train (!), salt, drums of chemicals of unknown provenance etc. etc., plus the mercury and cyanide already identified by the applicant). The piles would most likely rupture the clay membrane at the base of the site which currently contains the toxic leachate produced by water percolation through the site over many years. The clay membrane was put in place many years ago on the insistence of the authorities to safeguard the chalk aquifers which supply the whole area with drinking water. Hence Hull Civic Society's interest, as we all drink that water, as do the rest of Hull and the East Riding.

The Environment Agency's own advice is that "The site is located within a groundwater SP22 for a public water supply. Development on the site must therefore proceed with no impact on the groundwater." In consequence we believe that any "puncture" of the site could well allow initially accumulated leachate to percolate through into the aquifer and subsequently might enable percolating rainwater to leak through. The technical appraisal documents attached to the application, circa 400 pages, make great play on safety, due diligence and tie these in with the need for bored piles, which it is claimed would minimise the likelihood of contamination. We, as laymen, and many with considerable experience of engineering disciplines, are not convinced. Also, how can anyone check just what is actually happening at approximately 100 feet below the surface of a toxic waste dump?

If just one of the 12 to 32 bores goes wrong and toxic leachate enters the aquifer, how can anyone rectify the problem and return the water quality back to purity? We believe that the risk completely outweighs the benefit of the turbine's output. The application is currently due to be heard by the East Riding Planning Committee on Thursday 13th February 2014 and if, before that date, you wish to add your objection, you can do so by e-mail to pete.ashcroft@eastriding.gov.uk Mr Peter Ashcroft, Head of Planning and Development, quoting Ref Dc/13/02629/STP

John C Sharp FIO R; MIED for and on behalf of East Yorkshire Turbines Action Guardians Ltd (08765987)

DC/13/02629/STP – Erection of a wind turbine (60metres to hub, 87 metres to tip) with associated access, cable run, transformer and substation at Land north west of Mill House, Albion Lane Willerby HU10 6TS for Lantanier Ireland Ltd

Editor’s note: the application has been refused by Willerby Parish Council, but could still be approved by the East Riding Planning Committee. Hull Civic Society has therefore lodged a strong objection.

Hull In Paint

A report on the project by David Smith.

Background:

The idea for an artwork based project had been suggested some time ago by two members of the Hull Civic Society committee and they titled this idea “Hull in Paint”. The idea behind it was to combine art and the heritage of Hull.

Early in 2013 the idea was raised again and a project team was formed in order to take the project forward; the team consisted of David Smith (who acted as the Project Manager), Ian Goodison and local artist Doug Smelt (who is not a member of the Society).

The Project Delivery

The team came up with ideas for the Hull in Paint (HiP for short) project consisting of a series of exhibitions to be held around Hull which would coincide with Heritage Open Days, but would run longer than this four day event. A brief for artists submitting work was written and venues to house the exhibitions were found.

HiP gained enthusiastic support from the very start from artists, arts organisation, the Scrap Store, Hull College, Garden Village clubhouse and Holy Trinity Church. There were a lot of submissions of work from artists and a “hanging committee” was formed to select the works to be included in HiP; in fact there were only about 4 works not selected from 53 submission.

In August 2013 the Scrap Store held a series of workshops based around art under the banner of HiP and these proved popular. In September and October a series of exhibitions were held at the Old Western Synagogue, Hull College (Park Street), the Garden Village Clubhouse and Holy Trinity Church.

The project team hoped this was only the start and the project could continue to run in the future with further submissions from artists, more venues around the City and even an educational aspect by taking the project in to schools and/or running children/family workshops as part of the project.

Attendees:

Overall HiP has been a success with the attendees below at the various events.

Saturday 14th September 2013, Hull in Paint launch and public viewing: 59

Sunday 15th September 2013: HiP at Garden Village Clubhouse: 30

Monday 16th September 2013: HiP at Garden Village Clubhouse: 16

Wednesday 18th, HiP at Garden Village: 18

Friday 20th September 2013: HiP at Old Western Synagogue: 2

Friday 4th October 2013: Holy Trinity Church: 12.

This was just one day with the exhibition running here for more than three weeks, but it has been difficult to obtain accurate figures for the whole three weeks because no-one was there on a daily basis counting attendees for HiP. In an email one of the artists stated: “Loved the exhibition at the Holy Trinity Church. It was nicely done and showed every artist work in style, many thanks on my part. Regards Ed Campbell.”

Attendance figures for Hull College have been impossible to obtain accurately, but there may have been up to 1,000 potential viewers of the exhibition there.

Survey of Attendees:

A survey form was produced for the project and handed to attendees at exhibitions to complete. The three key questions on the survey were:

1. Do you think the project is a good idea? (Yes / No / Maybe)
2. Would you prefer exhibitions to tour around Hull or be based in one central location: (Tour / Central / Both)
3. Are there any particular buildings or areas of Hull you would like an exhibition to take place (please also use the space below if you have any other comments).

From the returned survey forms:

- in answer to question 1: 100% thought it was a good idea
- in answer to question 2: 65% thought a touring exhibition was the best idea with 35% stating they would like both a tour and a central location for exhibitions

The suggested venues in answer to question 3 were: Ings Library; the Freedom Centre; Hull History Centre; Hull Museums; Holy Trinity Church; the Old Western Synagogue; Princes Quay Shopping Centre; Fruit Market area; community centres and churches; the City Hall; Art Link.

Volunteers:

The project was entirely organised and run by volunteers. In particular it could not have taken place without the contacts of and enormous effort put in to it by Doug Smelt; Steve Shepherd was another key volunteer. There was also no shortage of volunteers for the “Hanging Committee”. However, sadly when it came to actually hanging the paintings at the exhibition venues there was a distinct lack of volunteers and this relied heavily on just two or three people to carry out this work.

Media Coverage:

This was disappointing. Despite the Hull Daily Mail showing interest in the project they never ran an article about it. A live interview with David Smith was given on Radio Humberside’s morning show and they expressed interest in follow up interviews and further coverage, but sadly they never acted on this.

Cost:

Whilst HiP had no budget and was entirely put together by volunteers costs of £115 were incurred for the launch event, hanging materials to hang the paintings and volunteer travel expenses to the various exhibition venues.

Recommendations for the future of HiP:

- 1) If HiP is to continue and progress it will need a dedicated budget to provide such things as transport (the boot of my car is not an adequate transportation mode for works of art and in fact some paintings were so large they wouldn't fit in the boot and a minibus taxi had to be used); to pay volunteer expenses for travelling to venues for hanging the paintings; to supply appropriate display boarding to hang the paintings (this was a particular issue at Holy Trinity Church); to pay for educational activities and people to deliver these activities as well as a project manager to run the whole thing.
- 2) It needs better image publicity and a greater respect from Hull City Council – the Council were invited at several stages to participate in the project, but there was a snobbish vitriolic response to these invitations which is a great shame considering Hull's bid for City of Culture status.
- 3) It needs a clearly set out and dedicated team to formulate plans for HiP as well as deliver such things as educational activities and hang paintings at the exhibitions.
- 4) HiP needs its own identity independent from HODs – its impact was somewhat lost in the rest of the HODs programme.
- 5) As it ran this year there were too many exhibitions too close together in time. Exhibitions need to be wider apart as they require a large amount of time to organise and actually set up.
- 6) Venues: these need careful consideration. Hull College (Park Street) is not an ideal venue for the public to attend. When I visited the venue I found a locked door with a keypad entry system which stated if you didn't have a key code you could press a button for help, but when I did this no-one answered and when I did get in to the building there was no reception point and when I finally found a member of staff they knew nothing about the HiP exhibition in the building. The attendance figures for the college are **highly speculative**; anyone viewing the exhibition at Hull College would have been an employee, student or friend of a student and not the general public.
Holy Trinity Church was not an ideal location in terms of security for the paintings as they could not be securely fixed to the walls of the building.

The Old Western Synagogue only seems to work for specifically invited audiences at set events; the general public find it inaccessible - it is difficult to find, set back from the street and behind locked gates.

- 7) I also feel that some volunteers who are not members of the Civic Society exceeded their role in the project making unilateral decisions and making promises of events that had not been agreed by the Society or the HiP project team. In future I recommend a volunteer document agreement between the Society and volunteers clearly setting out their role in it, what they can expect of the Society and what the Society expects of them. Such a document would not be difficult to create and many organisations already use them.

David Smith, November 2013

Hull’s fantastic architecture

How many people walk the streets of Hull, eyes cast down, taking for granted the wonderful architecture that surrounds them? I suppose that many will have raised their eyes and looked at the lovely buildings we have; but perhaps not really seen them - and a closer inspection is often rewarded by revealing an attention to detail, that enables some to be seen as cultural statements and others, literally, as works of art. Of course, the basic design consideration of any building is that it has to be functional, in that it has to serve a purpose, often expressed as, “form follows function” and it has to be durable, both to withstand the intended use and the forces of nature imposed on it over many years. But buildings should also aspire to be beautiful, to be viewed as something that delights the eye and raises the spirits of those who see them. It’s a quality that many of Hull’s buildings have - and we should be proud of them. I’m sure that everyone has their favourites and here are some of mine.

Number one on my list is Holy Trinity, often claimed to be the largest parish church in England and certainly one of the



oldest, built over several years in medieval times and first referred to in 1285. There is a great lack of stone in Hull and so the earliest phases were built in brick, hand made and produced in Hull at one of the earliest documented brickworks in England. The stone would have been brought to Hull by ship and worked on by royal stone masons. The church overlooks Hull's historic Market Place and is well-proportioned with many fascinating details waiting to be discovered inside.

I also propose Hull's Guildhall, in a sense two buildings in one. The original imposing building, built 1905 – 1911, was created to replace the overcrowded court rooms at the rear of the Town Hall. It stretches for thirty-five bays along Alfred Gelder Street. Fortunately the architect, Edwin Cooper, persuaded the City Fathers to replace the old Town Hall with something more fitting and in keeping with the new extension. Work began in 1913 and was finished during the First World War.

A more modern classic to my mind is the Archbishop Sentamu Academy in Preston Road, built under the Building Schools for the Future programme. The building is striking in appearance, but buildings alone don't make schools – it houses fantastic learning facilities with every feature that could be desired to improve learning skills and to raise aspirations - and it has delivered – results have improved massively.

From the large to the small, you don't have to be big to impress! Wm Hawkes, the public house in Scale Lane is a modern classic – but you'd never know that from passing by. The ground floor has been converted and



Above: The Guildhall, Below: Archbishop Sentamu Academy.
(Photos: JD Scotney)



given the character of a pub that fits exceptionally well into its Old Town ethos with a great attention to the smallest detail and provides real ales for the discerning drinker.

There are many other buildings in Hull that are impressive and in addition, I would nominate the Transport Museum and Wilberforce House in High Street, together with the Pilot Office, Ferens Art Gallery in Queen Victoria Square and the whole of Whitefriargate, provided that the utilitarian shop fronts were removed to reveal the fine architecture underneath, just as they have done in Salzburg, Austria, where the shop fronts are attractive and distinctive, with old period signs to denote the business carried on inside. Perhaps you'd like to nominate your favourite buildings in Hull and we'll feature them in the Newsletter over the coming months.

Hull City Centre

It's clear that the present trading decline in our city centre has to be arrested and so perhaps the time has come to re-imagine our city centre and plan it as a series of connected urban villages within the city. To achieve that we need to encourage more people to embrace urban living within clearly identified 'districts', with smaller 'village' shops and the other necessary social amenities to support them, such as communal 'garden' spaces, bars, restaurants, cafes and other places to meet. It would be interesting to hear your views.

Colin McNicol

City planning



Have you ever wondered why Hull is where it is - geographically speaking, that is? I mean how and why did it happen and why here? Was it an accidental event? Who first saw the potential? Was it planned? When did it become a town, who lived there, what did they do? How did it develop and how long after that did it take to become a city; and what factors influenced that?

In fact, think about this: if you were planning a new town from scratch right now, what elements would you need to include to make it run smoothly?

Well, that's something we have been thinking about as a Society. A major project that we are considering for development in 2014 revolves around all of the elements that make our city successful. Many of them are taken for granted. In fact, many of them work so well that they are almost invisible. But remove them and there is instant protest, campaigns for instant reinstatement and the possibility of disaster is all too apparent.

We'd like the people in our city to really think about all of those elements and particularly for the young to be educated about the people, the organisations and the services that we often take for granted.

We hope to attract sufficient contributors to explain just how a city works and to show how valuable their contribution really are. You too can contribute with your views. What do you consider to be essential? Let us know either, through the website or the Newsletter, and we'll do our best to incorporate your thoughts.

Colin McNicol

YHACS REGIONAL MEETING AT FOUNTAINS ABBEY SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 2013

The venue was an impressive Visitor Centre designed by eminent architect Ed Cullinan – successfully integrating traditional materials combined with glass and steel. His work is very sympathetic to the location and generally his architecture is based on forms found in nature. Well worth a visit in its own right.

The day was hosted by Ripon Civic Society who organised a guided tour of Fountains Abbey and a National Trust Volunteer delivered a consummate narrative of the daily life of the monastery and its Dominican Friars.

The formal part of the meeting commenced at 1.00 after lunch in the refectory.

Kevin Trickett gave his Chairman's Report to the representatives of the majority of Civic Societies in our region. Amongst the highlights was news of a Civic Society being established in Goole under the chairmanship of Margaret Clark. Kevin alluded to easement in the current planning

regulations which facilitated the change of use of shops and offices in town centres to residential use. He saw this as a real danger to the integrity of retail business neighbourhoods. He informed us of a Civic Voice template available to us to help oppose this possible trend.

There was some talk of rules changing relative to conservation areas and the ramifications of developments being allowed on random pockets of land within designated Green Belts.

Civic Day Awards

This year the awards will be made to Societies for projects of merit created within the last twelve months. Kevin reminded us of the closing date by the end of October. (Ian Goodison has submitted an outline of the Rank Exhibition which serves as our submission and we have high hopes of success). Thanks Ian.

Recruiting, managing and motivating volunteers

The Keynote speech was delivered by Andrew Moss, National Trust Volunteer Coordinator at Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal. His message was particularly relevant to the work of the Civic Society movement which, as we all know, relies on the goodwill of volunteers to achieve its aims. Incidentally, the National Trust depends on the work of 70,479 volunteers nationwide to provide 3 million volunteer hours annually. Andrew was clearly very well organised and sensitive to the interests of both the volunteers and the organisation itself. He stressed the need for clear roles and responsibilities and the importance of acknowledging the hard work and success that individual volunteers provide.

Overall it was an interesting and pertinent outline with good practical tips helpful to our Societies.

The question and answer session which followed gave Kevin Trickett an opportunity to outline the nature of the programme provided over the last year by Wakefield Civic Society which reads as follows:

- 10 excursions for members to places of interest
- 12 dining clubs
- 10 guided walks
- 4 blue plaque unveilings
- 6-8 talks to other groups about Wakefield and the Society

(At the Liverpool Conference of Civic Voice on 25 October 2013 Kevin Trickett was awarded the individual prize for the person considered to have made the greatest contribution to the Civic Society Movement over the last twelve months).

YHACS Regional Meeting, 26th July, 2014 – Kingston upon Hull

YHACS wish to visit Hull to honour Hull Civic Society's 50th anniversary. Cynthia Fowler and I had previously requested this and the YHACS committee were delighted to accept the invitation. We propose to use the History Centre for the formal business and speaker venue but to take lunch at the Old White Hart. Arrangements have been made to this effect by Cynthia and it is hoped that we can pull out all the stops to impress our visitors. The choice of speaker has yet to be decided upon and any suggestions are invited from HCS members. There is customarily a Town Trail which is arranged before lunch for the visiting delegates.

Next YHACS Meeting

AGM on Saturday 25 January 2014 at the Cedar Court Hotel in Harrogate.

This is open to all Civic Society members. Details can be found on the YHACS website.

Malcolm Sharman

YHACS Executive Committee, November 2013

Francis Johnson Architects

Hull University Archives has recently been awarded £32,729 to undertake a project to catalogue and promote the papers of Francis Johnson and Partners, Architects. Still in practice today, the practice of Francis Johnson and Partners, Architects was begun in Bridlington in 1937 by Francis Johnson (1911-1995). He was a Hull born architect who studied at the Leeds school of Architecture where he developed his style along traditional and classical lines. The project is being undertaken at the Hull History Centre where the papers are stored. Work began early in January this year and will be completed in August 2015.

Material in the Francis Johnson archive relates to more than 2,000 projects undertaken by the practice between 1954 and 1996. The practice

has a very strong country house portfolio and has undertaken work on the Orangery at Sledmere House, Maister Hall and the Dower House at Burton Agnes Hall. The practice was also given commissions to design furniture and fittings including an alter cross at Holy Trinity Church, Hull, a pair of candlesticks for HM the Queen, and furniture for the British Embassies in Washington, Tokyo and Oslo. Files include sketches, drawings and correspondence relating to planning approvals, design, and listed buildings consent.

In its current state the archive is stored in its original paper wrappings and there is no finding aid to help indicate to researchers what information is contained within individual files. The archivist working on the project will be repackaging the files for long term preservation and creating a comprehensive catalogue of individual files to enable researchers to use the collection. The completed catalogue will be available online in August 2015.

It is also hoped that volunteers will be recruited to collate additional research and location data relating to the buildings and commissions represented in the archive. This work will be incorporated into the catalogue of the archive to provide more detailed context to the files. Without the help provided by volunteers this aspect of the project will not be possible. The volunteering element of the project is planned to start in May 2014 and is scheduled to run until March 2015. If anyone is interested in volunteering on this project please contact the Project Archivist Claire Weatherall at C.Weatherall@hull.ac.uk for further information.

The collection provides us with a unique record of private and ecclesiastical architectural work undertaken in the East and North Ridings of Yorkshire and will be a valuable resource for researchers interested in the area. A representative for Francis Johnson & Partners said of the archive '*Programmes like Grand Designs, Restoration Homes and Restoration Man have brought architecture and design into the living room. We hope that this material will inspire children, students and the public with an interest in buildings of all shapes and sizes*'. The project staff are keen to engage anyone who might use the archives about this and other resources held at the History Centre which can be used to undertake research into buildings in the local area.

You can follow the project's progress online via the Hull History Centre Website at

<http://hullhistorycentre.blogspot.co.uk/search/label/Francis%20Johnson>

The Road to Improvement - a Personal View

The announcement this week in the Hull Daily Mail that work is to begin on the Beverley Integrated Transport Plan (to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow in the area) has prompted this 'First Person' offering in light of recent events in Hull.

Last Thursday, 28 July, there was CHAOS in Hull caused by damage to just one vehicle on the now infamous A63. Between 9am and 4pm there was massive congestion and disruptive delays on all the major arterial roads through the west of the city. That day was hot, frustrating and wasteful.. Exasperation oozed from every wound down window but, so what, no one was hurt!

BUT WHAT IF.....there had been a major incident in the city where Emergency Services had need to swiftly move about the streets to render vital life saving relief to a potential disaster?

Just as the occlusion of a coronary artery demands a remedial procedure to save the patient, long overdue improvements are needed to the road network to alleviate potential problems caused by only having this one major route through the heart of our city.

There has been substantial road building and improvements on the periphery of the city but these have not been 'joined up' as yet to create an effective Ring Road System.

IMAGINE a fast road like the A63, but of motorway standard skirting our city from the Humber Bridge round the north of the city to the major Industries and Green Port-Hull in the East. There would be no traffic lights, crossings, etc, and the main arterial roads into the City would be accessed by intersections above or below an uninterrupted traffic flow on the main carriageway. In reality this new route would be only a slight diversion to HEAVY DOCKS traffic; serve to link our suburbs; free the city centre from noise, pollution, irritation and danger and so create a better place for cultural and environmental regeneration and reinforce our sense of civic pride.

Do you recall the day of the Clipper Race when Castle Street was closed to traffic for safety reasons? That day was a coup for common-sense and gave the city centre back to its inhabitants. It was bliss.

A purpose-built Ring Road is long overdue and should have been created when the Eastern Docks were being built but, of course, it was rail then that provided the bulk of dock traffic.

Now as we all know to our detriment that heavy road traffic is continuing to adversely affect the environmental quality of our city and hinder its coherent development.

The current road plans for Castle Street are absurd and show a marked lack of vision and limited ambition. It's time for a radical rethink.

A brief study of the local map quickly reveals a possible boundary route with hopefully minimum disruption to local lives and property. In the recent past Ferry traffic was directed around the city on the seriously inadequate inner ring road passing through largely 1930s urban sprawl. These routes are no longer fit for purpose.

I can't help feeling that if this unfortunate circumstance was in the South East of England this Hull Northern Relief road would already be operational and flourishing under the much more inspiring and romantic name of The Via Europa!

Malcolm Sharman

Planning and Buildings

Old Town

Five different designs for a pedestrian bridge over Castle St were published in January. The Society is, of course, involved in the consultation and if you have any comments, we would be very pleased to receive them.

Dating from the 15th century, 5 Scale Lane is almost certainly Hull's oldest domestic building. A listed building application for internal alterations and a change of use application from restaurant (A3 use category) to mixed use restaurant, café and drinking establishment (A4) were approved on 6th January.

10A King Street, once home to the much-loved Studio 10½, has been turned into church offices, shop and café / restaurant for Holy Trinity church, following approval of the application on 21st October.

On 11th November, a change of use application was approved for the ground floor of 94 Alfred Gelder St, from offices to a wide variety of non-

residential uses - retail, financial services, restaurant, drinking establishment or leisure.

Two applications for demolition in Humber St conservation area (no 24 on the north side and the rear part of 59 on the south side) were refused on 16th December on the principle that buildings should not be demolished in conservation areas unless there is also a definite application for a replacement building.

No 52 High St is an interesting example of the pattern of development on High St: a riverside warehouse (in this case probably 17th century) with office (replacing an earlier merchant's house) on the street frontage. Use as a restaurant / bar was approved some years ago and on 16th December applications for internal and external modifications were approved, suggesting that the applicant will soon be bringing the building into use.



52 High St (Photo: JD Scotney)

In early January, customers of Ye Olde White Harte were squeezed into one half, while the replacement of the paving slabs with oak floorboards (approved 16.12.13) was carried out.

On 6th December, an application was submitted to convert the first floor of Friary Chambers (24 Whitefriargate) from offices into 19 flats.

City Centre

There have been several applications for changes to the Georgian buildings on George St, originally erected after 1774 as houses on land to the north of The Dock (later Queen's Dock and now Queen's Gardens) as part of the development by the Hull Dock Co. In late September, permission was granted for three ground floor retail units at 62-72 George St to be converted into three 2-bedroomed apartments. Of these, number 66 also had to receive listed building consent. On 6th December, change of use and listed building consent was sought for the basement and ground floor of 82-88 George St to become two self-contained flats. This includes

new front windows and re-instatement of the basement well and railings at the front and basement access at the rear.

Across the road, behind the hoardings surrounding the Goose & Granite (formerly Manchester Hotel), work is progressing on internal and external alterations. This is best seen from New Garden St, which runs behind, parallel to George St. The rear extension has been demolished and new brickwork walls, doors and windows have been installed. Further east on New Garden St, you can also see the work being carried out at the rear of Venue, formerly Carmichael's store, to provide access to the flats on the upper floors.

Listed building consent was given in early December for internal alterations to the ground floor and basements at Unit 1A of The Maltings.

An application for work to replace the ramp to the front entrance, replace gutters and fallpipes and raise the north and south aisles of St Charles Borromeo Church was submitted on 4th November.

An application was submitted on 16th December to turn the upper floors of 90-92 Prospect St (Richer Sounds) and 21 Story St into 8 flats. The property was formerly Central Carpets, and stretches through from one street to the other.

On 7th January, a scheme was submitted for flats in the upper floors of a former furniture store at 43-45 Paragon St, just to the east of Paragon Arcade.

In King Edward St, work started in mid-January on refitting the vacant That's Entertainment store (relocated to Prospect Centre last year), into a Tesco Express. This is a use which is likely to increase footfall in King Edward St, to the benefit of all the neighbouring shops.

East

In the week commencing 6th January, approval was granted for an 8-storey building to provide student accommodation within 14 'cluster' flats (with roof top common room area) (124 bedrooms in total), with ancillary



Drypool – former Scandinavian Church
(Photo: JD Scotnev)

spaces & parking/servicing at the corner of Hedon Rd and Church St, Drypool.

Permission was given in late September for reconstruction of the brick tower and wrought iron latticework dome at 2-6 Holderness Rd, the former East Hull Gas & Lighting Company's building, now in other uses, but still a landmark as you approach along Clarence St.

Further along at 110 Holderness Rd (between Franklin St and Brazil St, just beyond East Hull Baths), an application was submitted on 8th January for a 3 storey building to incorporate a post office on the ground floor and 6 flats above and another 3 storey building to the rear of the site to incorporate a shop and flat on the ground floor and 2 (duplex) flats on upper floors, plus 9 parking spaces. The existing post office on the site would be demolished. This development would improve the townscape of Holderness Rd by filling a gap in the building line with a structure of a more appropriate scale.

In Chamberlain Rd, work seems to have started on clearance of land for new housing ("Liberty Green") on the former Reckitt's sports ground, next to Dove House.

In the week commencing 30th September, permission was granted for 157 houses and 18 flats on cleared land at Ganstead Grove, off Preston Rd.

Building of new houses is in progress on the site of Princess Royal Hospital on Saltshouse Rd. The new residents will benefit from an application, approved in early December, to lay out a public open space on land between Saltshouse Rd and Bellfield Ave with footpaths, a natural play area, new trees, lighting and seating, as part of a wider regeneration strategy.

Also in the week commencing 9th December, an application to install a biomass boiler at the listed Sutton House, Kingfisher Rise, was refused. In the Sutton conservation area, permission was given in the week commencing 7th October for demolition of the Royal British Legion Club at the rear of 69 Church St and use of its site to extend the garden of 4 Holly Mount. Also in Sutton, there was an application on 8th January to build a 4-storey building for 24 flats at 33 Lowgate, next to The Lawns.

A clock tower, designed by Smith of Derby, was approved in mid-December for a site in front of the Central Pavilion in East Park.

There is a lot of building activity in Kingswood, with the Health Centre completed, Kingswood Parks Primary School well advanced, a small park

laid out and creation of a “local centre” for which 4 retail units were approved in week commencing 20th January. A view of recent Kingswood developments can be gained by following the spine road, Richmond Ave and Richmond Way which take you in a great arc from Kingswood District Centre (Asda, Boots, Matalan etc.) through a surprisingly varied suburban townscape round to re-join the main road nearer to Ennerdale Bridges.

Permission was granted in the week commencing 4th November to demolish the Bridges public house (1930s neo-Georgian) on Sutton Rd and build a single-storey shop on the site.

West

The George Hotel (locally listed) at the corner of Spring Bank West and Walton St, an attractive landmark building, has been closed for some time. Approval for change of use to a hot food takeaway was granted in week commencing 21st October, but this was followed by a PAAD application (prior approval for the means of demolition) approved on 27th November. It is still standing at the time of writing, but hurry if you want to photograph it!

Housing is spreading rapidly at the Spring Bank end of the former Riley College site. This is just on the town side of the railway bridge which was replaced in late December.

Permission was given in week commencing 9th December for the first floor of Haus & Home to be converted into a dance school, martial arts centre and gym. The Art Deco front part of this prominent building, which overlooks Derringham Bank roundabout, was once part of the Priory Cinema. The auditorium was rebuilt and the building used as a supermarket, an indoor market and most recently a furniture store.

The week commencing 16th September brought approval for a further 277 dwellings on land between David Whitfield Close and Stirling St on the east side of Hawthorn Ave. Old houses have already been cleared from the site.

The site of Hull FC’s famous Boulevard ground in Airlie St is now covered by the new Boulevard Academy, opened in September.

The success of the scheme to apply external insulation and render to houses in Airlie St and neighbouring streets has not only improved the appearance of this and neighbouring streets, but has also inspired similar treatment to houses in streets of similar age in east and north Hull.

One might not expect a new cycle-racing track at Costello Playing Fields (submitted 12th December) to be controversial, but arguments seem to centre around location and flooding.

North

Hymers College was granted planning permission on 11th December for a 3-storey Learning Support Centre (library etc. in plain English) incorporating the old gym and backing onto Hymers Ave. Although the design is attractive we supported the nearby residents' objections to the siting which will reduce the light to their houses. Recent construction includes a new swimming pool and a new theatre and more buildings for new facilities are under construction on the site.

10-12 Princes Ave is an attractive pair of early 19th century houses, which once belonged to the North Eastern Railway, though they may have been built earlier. They have been subject to applications for conversion into a restaurant and, most recently, into a taxi office. This new use was approved in the week commencing 23rd September. Sadly their appearance has been marred by erection of an electricity sub-station in the front garden of no 10.

On 9th October, the planning committee voted unanimously to refuse a revised application to erect a 2-storey building in the rear garden of 3-5 Salisbury St (one of the fine listed houses by George Gilbert Scott Junior, described in our May 2012 Newsletter). Of the 7 members of the public who spoke, only the developer spoke in favour!



3-5 Salisbury St (Photo:
JD Scotney)

There has been some concern about a number of applications regarding houses in Pearson Park. This park was laid out by Zachariah Pearson in the 1860s and its perimeter road is lined with numerous fine Victorian

villas. It is not only a popular park but also a very valuable part of Hull’s architectural, recreational and historic heritage and it needs to be protected against inappropriate change of use or development. It is included in the Avenues and Pearson Park Conservation Area, but unlike the Avenues, has many houses which are too big for most residents and have been converted into offices or subdivided into flats.

At the Planning Committee meeting on 6th November, an application was refused for a detached building for two 2-bedroom flats to the rear of 55 Pearson Park with access from Queen’s Rd.

On 6th December, the committee also refused an application by the owner of Pearson Park Hotel to convert it into three “houses in multiple occupation” (HIMO) for students in a total of 33 bedrooms. The refusal was followed on 17th December by a revised application for 26



Pearson Park Hotel (Photo: JD Scotney)

bedrooms, which will be decided this month. We and many others have objected, as the critical difference between a hotel and a HIMO is that a hotel owner has a stake in the area, whereas there is no guarantee that the building or its surroundings will be respected by HIMO residents who have to share kitchens and common areas but are unlikely to want to make it their permanent home.

On 11th December the Planning Committee refused an application to convert 50 Pearson Park, a fine, listed 1860s villa recently used as offices by Social Services. The developers’ plans involved restoring and safeguarding the surviving internal and external features and plasterwork and converting it into 14 self-contained flats. The refusal notice cited the “over-intensive use of the site” as “having an adverse impact on the amenities of prospective occupiers ... and create a demand for on-street parking ...” On 14th January the developers, who have already converted

Wood Grange into a guest house, a fine house on Holderness Rd, submitted a revised scheme for 9 self-contained flats.



50 Pearson Park (Photo: JD Scotney)

An application to convert 17-18 Pearson Park into 10 flats was withdrawn in mid-December, no doubt for revision.

Permission was granted on 11th December for a sympathetic scheme for conversion of 85-93 Beverley Rd, a group of attractive early 19th century villas, into 11 flats. One of these, no.89, is listed.

In mid-January, hoardings were erected around the former United Reformed Church premises on Beverley Rd. The Vineyard Church opposite (built as the Christian Science Church) is now vacant, following the congregation's move to new premises in Reservoir Rd (off Clough Rd).

Steelwork for the new Clough Rd fire station is being erected at present.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

If the Highways Authority and Hull City Council are really serious about creating an "iconic" land bridge over the remodelled Castle Street, why not get Thomas Heatherwick to design it. He is the designer of the spectacular Cauldron at the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games, who has just put forward proposals for a "green" bridge / park across the Thames. What a sensation his Hull bridge could be in 2017 when Hull is celebrated as the U.K. City of Culture, and what an addition to what is becoming a wonderfully impressive list of top class modern buildings, ie. the Humber Bridge, the Deep, the Tidal Surge Barrier, the Scale Lane Bridge and the Hull History Centre.

Yours,
Paul Priestley-Leach

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Committee Changes

Since the last Newsletter there have been several changes to the composition of the Civic Society committee.

Chris Lefevre became a member of the committee in 2008, but resigned in October 2013, owing to pressure of other commitments. We are very grateful for the work he has done, especially in establishing our first website.

When Nick Garbutt joined the committee in 2010, he brought his much-appreciated expertise as a landscape gardener. Sadly, pressure of work and the journey from Patrington to attend meetings led to his decision to step down from the committee in late 2013. He has provided valuable advice in the matter of tree and shrub planting during his time with us, notably in the choice of a holly oak (*quercus ilex*) tree to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We wish him well.

David Smith has started his new job in Bedford as Librarian to the MOD. We would like to thank him for all his hard work for Hull Civic Society, since he joined the committee in 2011, including the very successful "Hull in Paint" exhibition which he organised in the summer of 2013. As the librarian of the old Local Studies section of Hull Central Library, Albion Street, David made a great contribution to Local History in Hull. We wish him well in this new phase in his career.

Phil Haskins has done a splendid job for Hull Civic Society in his organisation of Heritage Open Days since 2009, taking this event to new heights every year. He has, however, decided to make 2013 his last year as organiser and to step down as a co-opted member of the committee. We thank him for all his hard work and for his unfailing patience and good humour, when dealing with such a complex operation. He made all the volunteers feel valued. Under his leadership, Heritage Open Days 2009 to 2013 have done a great service to Hull's image in the wider world. We hope to continue his good work in 2014, though it will be a hard act to follow.

In the second half of 2013 we also gained three new members of the committee, who are co-opted members until elected at the AGM.

Chris Zanetti brings experience of the world of business and marketing and Kevin Marling is a chartered surveyor. Alison Marling, Kevin's wife, who has considerable experience of accountancy, has taken on the role of

Honorary Treasurer, which Cynthia Fowler has filled temporarily since the death of Walter Houlton last year. We welcome all three new members and are very grateful to Cynthia for all her extra work as Treasurer, which she undertook in addition to her duties as Honorary Secretary.

There are a few other amendments to responsibilities among existing committee members, indicated in the list. Our committee is fortunate to have people who are willing to turn their hands to various different tasks.

We understand that one other long-serving committee member has decided to stand down from the committee with effect from the AGM, but will continue his active involvement in the Society.

Editor.

Updating the Membership Database

Following the sad loss of Walter Houlton, our new Membership Secretary, Paul Schofield, is embarking on updating the Civic Society's membership data base. Details are purely for the purpose of contacting members and will not be shared with any other organisation.

Members are politely reminded that subscription fees for 2014 are now due. Cheques can be sent to the address below, or payment can be made through the website.

It would be extremely helpful if ALL members could fill in their details below, and return to:

Paul Schofield (Membership Secretary),
34, Roborough Close, HULL HU7 4RW
email:schopaul@hotmail.com

Name(s):

Address:

Contact Phone Number:

email:

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.

Your email address will not be passed on to anyone else without your permission and notices are sent our "blind" so that recipients' email addresses remain confidential.

Editor john.scotney@talk21.com

Application for membership of HULL CIVIC SOCIETY

Membership subscription: £12.00 individual, £19.00 couple, per annum.

If you are a tax payer, a Gift Aid declaration can make this subscription worth more to Hull Civic Society at no extra cost to yourself. If you would like a Gift Aid form, please tick the box (Charity No 236485)

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Please send with your subscription to our Honorary Secretary,
Cynthia Fowler, 998 Holderness Road, Hull, HU9 4AG