

HULL CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

October 2015



Zebedee's Yard, Trinity House

(Photo: JD Scotney)

In this issue: Programme; IHBC Conference; Local History Book Fair; February Newsletter; Your Membership Matters! 34 years of Hull's Heritage open Days; Carnegie Heritage Centre Events; Reflections on Germany, Hull & the East Riding; Cuthbert Brodrick (Part 1); Redeveloped Brynmor Jones Library; Thoughts on Beverley Gate; Planning & Buildings; Newsletters by Email; Officers and Committee; Membership Database.

Winter Programme 2015-16

*All meetings are at the Mercure Royal Hotel, Ferensway,
on Mondays at 7.30 pm (unless otherwise stated).
Admission is free to members, £2 to non-members.*

12th October: The Strange Story of Count Werdinsky – Alan Deighton relates the story behind a burial in Hull’s General Cemetery.

9th November: From Corner Shop to Corner Shop in Five Generations - Christopher Oughtred, Advisory Board Member, William Jackson Food Group.

23rd November: The Renaissance of Hull City Centre and the Fruit Market – Alex Codd, Chief Planning Officer, Hull City Council.

14th December: Shot at Dawn – Chris Brigham, The Hull People’s Memorial Charity.

11th January: Hull in the Beginning - Richard Clarke.

8th February: The History of Newland Homes - Alan Richards.

14th March: Hull and the Hanseatic League - Eva la Pensée.

11th April: 7.00 pm Annual General Meeting, followed by **Converging on Hull** – John Scotney looks at the industries that attracted his ancestors to Hull.

Summer Programme

Details of the 2016 walks and visits will be announced in the February 2016 Newsletter.

Other events (please see below)

Friday 30th October: Institute of Historic Building Conservation Yorkshire Regional Conference – “Regeneration in a City of Culture”.



REGENERATION IN A CITY OF CULTURE

IHBC Yorkshire Regional Conference

Friday 30 October 2015

WISE Institute, 27 High Street, Hull HU1 1NE

The announcement that Kingston upon Hull is to be the second UK City of Culture in 2017 was met with huge delight by the people of Hull, but what will it mean in practice for a city which has a proud but often underrated heritage of historic buildings and areas, and often struggles to raise the resources for regeneration?

The conference will be held in the heart of Hull's mediaeval Old Town in the Wilberforce Institute of Emancipation and Slavery, a study centre created by the University of Hull and the City Council from a converted and extended Grade 2 Victorian office.



ALL WELCOME

TICKETS (including lunch)

£15..... IHBC Members, £30..... non-members

please book through eventbrite:

www.eventbrite.com/e/regeneration-in-a-city-of-culture-tickets-10212809789

or

<http://goo.gl/DyXpvP>

or

scan this QR code with your smartphone



ENQUIRIES

to East Yorkshire rep IHBC Hilary Byers:

hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk

(01482) 445747)

Programme

9.30am -10am Registration and tea/coffee

10.15-10.45 *Keynote speech* by Martin Green, Chief Executive, City of Culture Team.

10.45-11.15 *Fruit Market Regeneration*; talk by Mark Hodson of Hodson Architects, lead architects for the scheme.

11.15-11.30 Break tea/coffee

11.30-12.00 *Making Connections*; talk by Garry Taylor, Hull City Council on bridges into the Old Town across the River Hull and A63

12.00-12.30 *Holy Trinity Renewal*; talk by Mark Coates of Alan Wood and Partners on controversial plans to update facilities at this Grade 1 church.

12.30- 1.00 Questions

1.00-1.45 Lunch

2.00 Leave to walk to various visits: Visit to Fruit Market area; Visit to Holy Trinity; Ride on swing bridge.

Finish about 4pm

THE SPEAKERS

CITY OF CULTURE

– **Martin Green**

Martin is Chief Executive of the City of Culture team, charged with delivering an inspirational year-long programme of artistic events in 2017. The man behind the London 2012 Olympic ceremonies, he appreciates the city's great cultural heritage and aims to use culture to transform perceptions of the city and the lives of local people.

FRUIT MARKET REGENERATION

– **Mark Hodson Dip Arch RIBA FRSA**

Much of the work undertaken by Mark has focused on masterplanning, community led projects, educational facilities and projects with an openly 'green' agenda. He has gained RIBA, White Rose and Civic Trust awards in recent years and many buildings and projects have appeared in the architectural press. He is a member of both the Yorkshire and Humber Design Review Panels.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

– **Garry Taylor MA MRTPI**

Garry was appointed to the newly created role of City Manager, Major Projects and Infrastructure in October 2014 to help the council realise its ambitious plans for 2017 and beyond and to deliver on a range of city centre transformation projects including the A63 and Castle Street, Fruit Market development, public realm and conference centre.

HOLY TRINITY

- **Mark Coates – BSc, MRICS, C Build E**

Mark leads the Building and Project Consultancy for Alan Wood & Partners. He is a Chartered Surveyor and Project Manager with over 25years experience.

Visits in the afternoon, which are all within easy walking distance, include:

- A walk round the **former wholesale fruit market**, whose vacant buildings found ‘meanwhile uses’ with a quirky arts flavour until the current challenging structural repairs could begin.

- **Holy Trinity**, England’s largest Parish Church, faces plans to remove Victorian features and construct a glazed extension, to ensure it keeps its role at the heart of city life.

- Near-by, the latest addition to the bridges over the River Hull presents a unique opportunity to ride on a **swing bridge** while it is opening!

Local History Book Fair Sunday 1st November at the Mercure Royal Hotel, Ferensway

The East Riding Local History Book Fair is a well established annual event, usually attracting at least 600 visitors during the day. The Beverley Treasure House is unfortunately unable to host the Local History Book Fair this year, so it is being run by the East Yorkshire Local History Society. It will take place on **Sunday** 1st November 2015 at the former Royal Station Hotel, Hull (whatever they are calling themselves this week). Entrance to the public will as usual be free and it is hoped that with such a central location and good publicity it will be even better attended than before.

The tables available are 6ft long and one of these will cost you £20. There are also a few 4ft long tables which will cost £10. The short tables may be hired individually as a small stand, or added to a longer table. As there are only a few, no more than one short table will be available to anyone. There are no screens, but you may bring your own, or arrange with the hotel conference manager who can hire one for you.

Many of the customers are looking for Christmas gifts for fathers and husbands. This could include your publication or a membership of your society. If you are likely to be interested in taking a stand please contact Helen Good at mail@helengood.com as soon as possible.

Helen Good
East Yorkshire Local History Society

February 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 8th January. Please note: items may sometimes be held over for lack of space.

Your Membership Matters!

Many thanks to all our members for your continued support this year! Without you, the Civic Society would not be able to continue the work of celebrating and defending Hull's heritage, encouraging good standards in architecture & development, and working with others to make Hull a better place in which to live and work. For more than 50 years, Hull Civic Society has enjoyed the support of many Individual Members (currently, over 300) and, more recently, of a number of Corporate Members. The current list of Corporate Members (please forgive any errors!) is shown below:

Allenby Commercial, Arco Humberside, Architect and More, Baker Tilly, Beal Homes, City Care Developments, Clark Weightman, Delaney Marling Partnership, Devine Law, Eon Media, EYMS Group Ltd, Gelder & Kitchen, Gosschalks Solicitors, H & H Agency Ltd, Handelsbanken, Lynn Hope Communications, George Houlton & Sons Ltd, Hull College Group, Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce, Ingrams Solicitors, William Jackson Group, Kingston Communications, Lion & Key, MKM Supplies, Nortech Services Ltd, NPS Humber Ltd, North Bank Forum, J.R. Rix & Sons Ltd, Adrian Roach (Curers) Ltd, Selles Medical Co Ltd, Sewell Group, Spencer Group, G.F. Smith & Sons, Wharram Designs Ltd.

In addition to the regular support for the Society from Individual and Corporate Members, we have also had generous help towards Heritage Open Days from Hull City Council and other local bodies and firms.

Many thanks to all of you!

John Scotney, Chairman.

Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions are due on 1st January each year. If you pay by standing order, please check that the amount is correct: £15 for an individual or £24 for two people living at the same address.

Thirty-four years of Hull's Heritage Open Days

During the second weekend of September, our Heritage Open Days programme allows people to visit historic buildings and local industry, join guided walks and listen to talks about different aspects of Hull's life. Our aim is to celebrate and to encourage wider knowledge of Hull's heritage among its citizens and visitors.

“Open House Weekend”, later re-branded “Heritage Open Days” in line with the nation-wide event, was first held in July 1981 under the auspices of Civic Week and supported from the start by Hull City Council. Our simple aim was to enable people to visit historic buildings not normally open to the public. Early examples included the Banqueting Room of the former Neptune Inn, Whitefriargate (above Boots), Maister House and the Charterhouse Chapel.

Neptune Inn Banqueting Room , and Maister House. (Photos: JD Scotney)



In 2005, we were encouraged by English Heritage to change our event date to the second weekend in September, in line with the nation-wide Heritage Open Days. From 2009 this was raised to new heights by Phil Haskins, one of our members, who ran it for us on a professional basis until 2013. His achievement was recognised at the national Heritage Open Days Awards in June 2014, when we won in the Creative Minds category. Phil, who is now organising the Hull Marathon, decided to step down from organising the Hull Civic Society event, and the 2014 and 2015 Heritage Open Days have been organised by our former Chairman (now Director of Projects), John Netherwood and his wife Christine.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the many people and organisations that have contributed to Heritage Open Days. First of all, the running costs have been covered by generous contributions from Hull City Council, the University of Hull and numerous local companies, many of whom are Corporate Members of Hull Civic Society.

We are especially grateful to the firms that have opened their premises, whether historic or industrial, this weekend and to East Yorkshire Motors Services for allowing their call centre to handle individual bookings for walks, talks and visits, as well as providing vehicles for tours of the city.

A thank you also to the Hull Daily Mail, our partner in production and distribution of a very clear and informative brochure.

Voluntary efforts by Civic Society members have ranged from hand-delivery of brochures to giving walks and talks and acting as welcomers at the many places open. None of this would have happened without the dedicated hard work by John & Christine who have co-ordinated all these efforts.

So, many thanks to all involved in making HODs 2015 such a success!

John Scotney, Chairman

Carnegie Heritage Centre Events

Talks £2 (Sunday 1.30 pm, Tuesdays 7.30 pm)

Tue 27th Oct – Clive Sullivan (Dave Windass)

Sun 1st Nov - The Ball Bearing Run (Judy Galloway)

Tue 24th Nov – Seven Seas Fishes (Mike Covell)

Sun 6th Dec - Beverley Road Regeneration (Tegwen Roberts)

Tue 15th Dec – TBA

Fri 27th Nov 7.30 pm (£5) The History Troupe presents “It’s a long way to the Ice House”, plus readings from the War Poets.

Regular Events

Monday 1.30-3 pm: Family history help desk with the East Yorkshire Family History Society

Tuesday & Friday 9.30-3 pm Open House for queries or research

Contacts: Tel: 01482 561216 e-mail: enquiries@carnegiehull.co.uk

Website www.carnegiehull.co.uk

Reflections on Germany, Hull and East Yorkshire

Several years before the re-unification of East and West Germany, Chancellor Willy Brandt pledged to work to “make the frontier invisible”, despite all the barbed wire, mines, watchtowers and machine gun posts on the eastern side. This year, we spent our summer holiday in two areas of northern Germany - Lübeck & the Baltic coast and the Harz Mountains - that were once divided by the frontier. Today, the only evidence is in the brown signs marking where the roads were once blocked by the frontier. I realized, for the first time, that the frontier actually followed old local government boundaries, once as innocent as those that divide local authority areas here. The removal of both physical and mental barriers between the two halves of Germany is one of Europe’s “good news stories”. Thankfully, our area is free of physical barriers, but mental barriers are not unknown even here across the Hull and the East Riding boundary. Perhaps Hull Civic Society can help to break down some of these mental barriers by celebrating the heritage that Hull and the East Riding shares. Our members live on both sides of the local boundary, we have awarded Good Marks for buildings in the East Riding and this year’s HODs also included places outside the city boundary.

Our first week was based in the historic, brick-built Hanseatic port city of Lübeck, north-east of Hamburg. Our second was about 120 miles further south, based in Wernigerode, a town of half-timbered houses in the Harz Mountains. Lübeck’s city walls and gates were built of brick, like Hull’s. Some of the gates have survived, but lost structures can be visualized



Street model of the demolished Mühlenentor, (Mill Gate) Lübeck (Photo: JD Scotney)

by visitors thanks to a number of scale models displayed in glass cases in the street. Could this help the interpretation of Beverley Gate?

As in Holland, many people cycle. The terrain is as flat as in Hull and many pavements are divided clearly between cyclists and pedestrians. Those who commute by train have the use of massive cycle-parks at railway stations.

Hull has ideal cycling conditions and the City Council has done an excellent job in encouraging more cycle use with cycle lanes, segregated and well-signposted cycle routes and easily available cycle route maps. However, our experience of Lübeck (and, of course, Holland) suggests that there is scope for even more journeys to be made by bike than at present. More (legal) pavement sharing would be feasible in a number of streets with relatively low numbers of pedestrians, for example, to create an even more comprehensive network.

In the Harz Mountains region, we saw fewer cyclists, but the "city tax" which is added to hotel bills gave us a booklet of discount offers which included unlimited free travel on all operators' bus services throughout the Harz district.

For 2017, we could show off even more of our city and our beautiful East Riding countryside, towns & villages if visitors could get a "Hull & East Riding Bus Pass", not necessarily free, but valid on both Stagecoach and East Yorkshire services.



Cycles parked at an event, Lübeck (Photo: JDS)

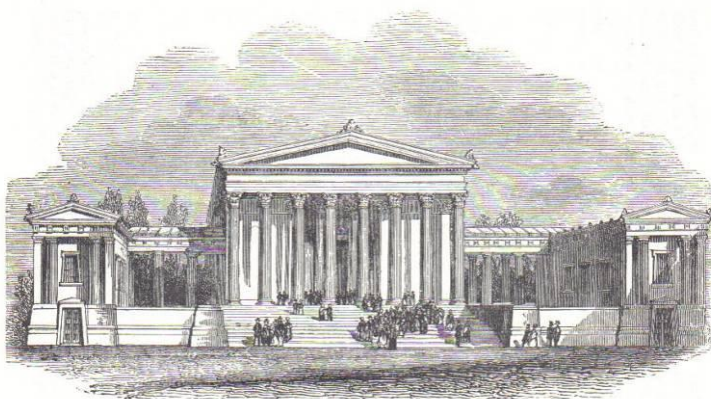


John Scotney

Cuthbert Brodrick – Hull’s most famous architect. (Part 1)

Cuthbert Brodrick, born on 1st December 1821, was the 6th son of John & Hannah Brodrick. John was a merchant and shipowner. Cuthbert was baptised on 7th October 1822 at Holy Trinity. The family lived in Summergangs (near the present East Park) then, but by 1831 they were living in George St, then lined with fine Georgian houses.

He was educated privately. On 4th January 1837, aged 15, Cuthbert became an articled pupil to one of the leading architects practising in Hull at that time, Henry Francis Lockwood, who was equally versed in Neo-Classical and Gothic styles. His office was at 9 Dock St next to Queen’s Dock (now Queen’s Gardens). Examples of the buildings being designed during Brodrick’s time in Lockwood’s office include Kingston College (1837) and Kirk Ella Vicarage (1839), both in Tudor-Gothic style and Beverley & East Riding Public Rooms 1839 (later converted into the Regal Cinema). Lockwood was architect to Trinity House and in 1839, he designed a new chapel in classical style, with Corinthian pilasters on the east facade, a cupola and Diocletian windows. One of Lockwood’s finest buildings in Hull was Great Thornton Street Wesleyan Methodist Chapel 1841, a Greek Corinthian Temple flanked by Doric colonnades and pavilions. Sadly, this was destroyed by fire in 1907.



GREAT THORNTON STREET WESLEYAN CHAPEL. (PAGE 177.)

Great Thornton Street Wesleyan Methodist Chapel by HF Lockwood
(From Sheahan’s History of Hull).

The Blitz deprived us of two fine buildings designed during Brodrick's period of apprenticeship: Albion Congregational Chapel (Albion St, 1842), with its Greek Doric temple front and the Gothic St Stephen's Church.

Brodrick completed his articles in 1843 and continued to work with Lockwood for a further year.

In Lockwood's "Advice to parents" he states the "The youth desirous of becoming an architect should be liberally educated, and in addition to the Latin language, he should be master of French and Italian; have some knowledge of mathematics, geometry and drawing. When he is out of his pupilage, if he can afford it, he should spend a few months in Italy, to study the remains of the ancient masters, and the works of the masters of a more recent date."

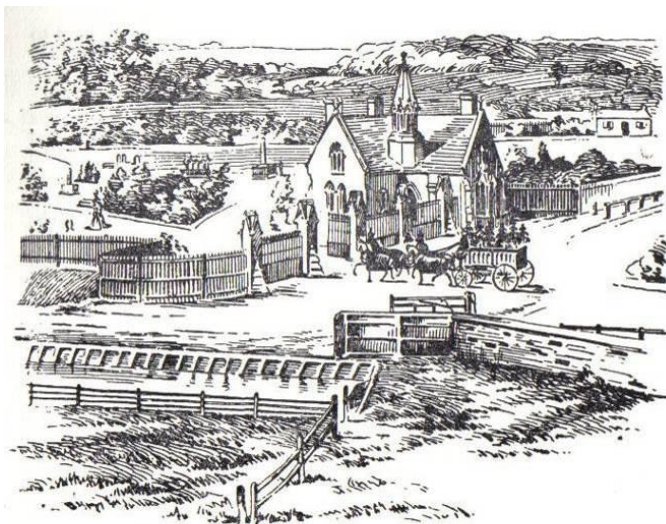
In 1844 Brodrick set out on his travels. He visited Salisbury, Winchester, London, Carentan, Bayeux, Caen, Rouen, Amiens and St Omer – all noted for Gothic architecture - on his way to Paris. After Paris, he continued to Genoa, Verona, Vicenza, Venice, Florence, Siena and Rome. However, in many ways, 17th and 18th century Parisian architecture had the greatest impact upon him, especially the Louvre and the Place de la Concorde.



Brodrick's Parisian inspiration: the Louvre and the Place de la Concorde
(Photos: JD Scotney)

He returned to Britain in 1845 and Lockwood offered him a partnership, but he decided to set up in practice on his own in an office at 1 Savile Street, just round the corner from Lockwood's and close to the family home at 39 George St.

His first commission – 1846 - was not quite on the grand scale of Paris, but of some public significance – an octagonal chapel and entrance lodge for Hull General Cemetery, Spring Bank West.



The Spring Ditch with the Cemetary gates in 1846

Hull General Cemetery entrance lodge – Brodrick's first commission, 1846.

At an early age he became one of the architects to the Church of England and as such designed Christ Church Schools (1847), John Street, near Kingston Square.



Christ Church Schools (1847), restored as flats. (Photo: JD Scotney)

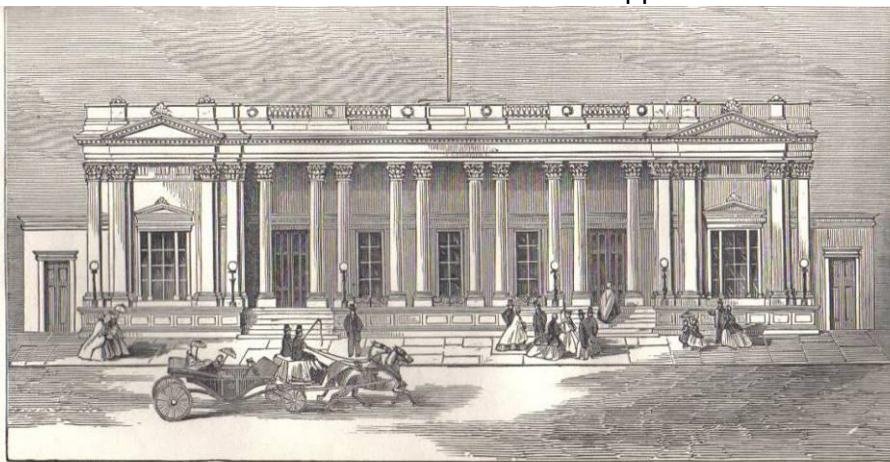
The 1850s brought many local diocesan commissions including church restorations: Hessele All saints (1852), Lund All Saints (1853), Withernsea St Nicholas (1858), church schools (e.g. Driffield National School) and various vicarages.

There were also commercial commissions: shops & offices at 4-6 Silver Street for Hull Charterhouse (1848) and Wellington House (1850), a commercial development at the corner of Wellington St and Queen St, recently demolished. The shop was occupied originally by Edward Philip Dixon & Sons, seedsmen, florists and nurserymen.



Wellington House, Queen St. and 4-6 Silver St (Photos: JD Scotney)

In 1852 Hull Subscription Library and Hull literary & Philosophical Society – the “Lit & Phil” (est. 1822) that still meets today in the Royal Hotel in Ferensway – decided to combine forces to commission a new library, reading room and museum in Albion St, one of the most fashionable locations at the time. Brodrick was appointed as architect.



ROYAL INSTITUTION.

Royal Institution, Albion St from Sheahan's History of Hull

He was at last able to demonstrate his mastery of classical architecture and to reflect his love of French buildings. For example, The paired columns are a feature to be seen on the east front of the Louvre.

The Hull Institution (renamed Royal Institution after the royal visit of 1854) was a handsome building, but sadly, it was destroyed by fire in June 1943 during an air raid. (To be continued).

John Scotney

The redeveloped Brynmor Jones Library at the University of Hull

When the University College of Hull opened its doors to its first students in 1928 it had neither a Library nor a Librarian. The first Librarian, Agnes Cuming, did not take office until 11 February 1929, and the first Library did not open until 8 March of that year.

The Library that opened on that date was not purpose-built. It occupied an area on the ground floor of what is now the Cohen Building, one of the two original University College buildings. The first purpose-built Library was constructed in 1959, followed by an eight-story extension opened in 1969. The building was named in honour of Sir Brynmor Jones in 1967. Sir Brynmor was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hull from 1956 to 1972 and a great supporter of the Library.



Brynmor Jones Library in 2011, (south and east façades): 1959 brick building with 1969 extension behind. (Photo: JD Scotney)

By the early part of the new century the building was showing distinct signs of wear and functional obsolescence, particularly with regard to the appropriateness of study space and the adequacy of technology provision.

Following the appointment in 2009 of the present Vice-Chancellor, Professor Calie Pistorius, a new capital investment programme began to be developed, one that

reflected in particular an increasingly strong focus by the University on the

student experience, and this led to serious thinking about the fundamental redevelopment of the University Library. This was strongly supported by the Students' Union.

A number of drivers informed that thinking. First was the determination to transform the student experience by creating a modern, flexible, technology-enabled environment with the rich variety of learning spaces that students clearly needed. Second was the requirement to replace infrastructural services that were now at the end of life. Third was the desire to solve the long-standing structural problem of the poor integration of the east and west buildings. Fourth was the wish to connect the Library better with the west side of the campus, and at the same time to reintegrate into the Library the areas of the original east building that had been removed from it in 1986. Finally there was an aspiration to make the Library a key gateway into the University for wider communities, particularly a cultural gateway, an aspiration that was eventually to be realised by the incorporation into the Library of a new art gallery and exhibition hall. The thinking on the redevelopment was also consistently informed by a strong focus on quality and on respect for heritage.

With the support of the Council of the University, Sheppard Robson were appointed as architects for the project in the summer of 2011, with Alex Solk as lead architect, working with Arup as structural engineers and Gleeds as cost consultants. After an intense period of consultation, design and planning, preliminary building work began in September 2012, with BAM as the main contractor, and the project was completed, at a cost of £28 million, in March 2015.

Throughout the project lifetime the services of the Library were maintained, as was access to physical stock. This involved exceptional planning and the move of a million volumes of books and periodicals at least twice. At any given time, some parts of the building were within the construction site whilst others remained in use; redeveloped areas were opened for use as soon as they became available, the first of those being the new Reading Room on the first floor in September 2013. This represented a massive effort on the part of all Library staff, supported throughout by the University's Estates department.

The completed Library has triumphantly realised the University's aspirations. All users of the Library have delighted in the variety of spaces and facilities, the outstanding interior design, and the sense of quality

throughout. The heritage of the Library is respected through fabric and furniture choices that are at once modern and yet with a retro feel. Wherever possible, outstanding original features have been retained, and in some cases, key features of the 1959 building that had been lost have been superbly reproduced. The technology provision is second to none in a university library.



Brynmor Jones Library – south and west façades in 2015. Photo: JD Scotney

The two storey glass atrium and central staircase have succeeded in properly integrating the two buildings for the first time, and the new and imposing south entrance has re-orientated the Library towards the west campus and allowed the Library to function as a point of integration for the campus as a whole. The Observatory on the top floor of the west

building offers stunning views of the campus, the city and the surrounding countryside.

The south wing of the 1959 building has been restored to the Library, and now incorporates the New Reading Room on the first floor and the art gallery and exhibition hall on the ground floor. The gallery now houses the University Art Collection in surroundings fitting the excellence of this collection of British art from 1890 to 1940.

The Library that began in 1929 in a series of inadequate rooms in the Cohen building now stands as a proud symbol of the University's growing stature and reputation, and as a sign of its confidence in the future.

Dr Richard Heseltine

Director of Library and Learning Innovation and University Librarian

The redevelopment of the Brynmor Jones Library has been nominated by the Civic Society committee for a Good Mark. This is for a project that

enhances the facilities of the library, making Hull's already excellent university an even more attractive choice for potential students. Some Civic Society members have visited the re-designed art gallery within the library building, a facility open to all of Hull's citizens and just one of many elements in its success.

Editor

Thoughts on Beverley Gate

(1) BEVERLEY GATE – THE GIFT THAT CAN KEEP ON GIVING



Beverley Gate. (Photo: JD Scotney)

At the recent 2015 Heritage Open Days weekend, through a proclamation, I re-enacted how in 1642 when King Charles demanded: "Let me pass", he was steadfastly told by the town's military governor Sir John Hotham: "You shall not pass".

Some of you might now be thinking, hang on, that line is from Lord of the

Rings. Well, I wonder if readers are aware that while convalescing from trench fever during World War One, J R R Tolkien, author of Lord Of The Rings, spent 18-months in the East Riding and Hull between 1917-1918. This is when he had plenty of time to study his surroundings and academics now argue that the East Riding countryside inspired the setting for his Middle-earth epics.

I would argue that the history of Beverley Gate inspired his writing of the scene when Gandalf instructs Balrog "You shall not pass". This scene, courtesy of Hollywood, is now the most iconic scene of all from the movie adaption of Tolkien's book.

What the construction of Beverley Gate will finally be, no-one yet knows. I think consideration should be given to build an archway that

folks can walk through symbolising going from the new town to the old town. If the archway could have steps leading up to a platform it would allow the opportunity for thousands (possibly millions) of tourists to visit the site and re-enact for themselves the famous Lord Of The Rings scene.

Hull's refusal to allow King Charles and his followers into the town precipitated the English Civil War, leading to British Parliamentary Democracy and giving us the role of politicians. Nowadays in our constitutional monarchy in which the Queen reigns but does not rule, Hull is of course welcoming of everyone – royalty and politicians included.

Indeed, Prime Minister David Cameron's recent comment about who Yorkshire folk do and do not hate prompted me to write to him with an invite to Hull, so that he can enjoy some welcoming Yorkshire hospitality – Hull hospitality.

In my letter I also invited the PM to visit Beverley Gate, which without exaggeration is the ground zero of British Parliamentary democracy. This means Hull is responsible for the very first job creation scheme for politicians! A point that should surely have Parliament, as well as local politicians, up in arms to see Beverley Gate receive its due standing.

More importantly, by exploiting its Lord Of The Rings connection, popular culture could see Beverley Gate – a gift that can keep on giving – gain world cult status.

Michael Wood,
Hull's Town Crier

(2) Civic Society's letter to the City Centre Manager

Dear Mr Taylor

I am writing on behalf of Hull Civic Society to express our strong opposition to the reported proposals for Monument Bridge which would cover up the remains of the Beverley Gate and replace it with a sculpture. Judging from the artist's impression, the sculpture would be too big and too intrusive in this location. Monument Bridge is essentially a place of movement and the sculpture would be an unnecessary obstruction. The historic connections, the view of Princes Dock and the colourful flower

stall that is often there are sufficient attractions in themselves. They would not be enhanced by an over-large sculpture. The Beverley Gate remains deserve sensitive treatment as an important part of Hull's historical heritage.

Firstly, relatively few English towns were protected by walls. They are a reflection of Hull's strategic importance as a port and garrison town from the 14th century, when they were built, to the 17th Century, when they protected the town in both the Civil War of the 1640s and the Glorious Revolution of 1688. Hull is also unusual in having had a town wall built of brick. Beverley Gate is the only place where any of the original brickwork is visible

Secondly, Beverley Gate is significant in Britain's national history as the location of the first open act of defiance towards King Charles I, when, on the orders of Parliament he was refused entry to the town by the Governor, Sir John Hotham on 23rd April 1642. This denied the Royalist forces the use of weapons and ammunition and the stronghold of Hull itself in the Civil War, declared on 22nd August 1642.

Many people consider that the present amphitheatre, which often attracts litter, is not ideal, but we believe that the historic nature of Beverley Gate cannot be appreciated if the original brickwork is covered up.

One idea put forward in the recent past is for a glass pyramid to protect the Beverley Gate remains. This could give limited access, but constant visibility and be a striking feature in itself.

Whatever solution is chosen, we believe that it is essential to keep this part of Hull's history visible to visitors and citizens alike.

Yours sincerely,

On 23rd September it was announced on BBC Look North that various options were being considered, but in all of them, the original brickwork of Beverley Gate would remain visible. Congratulations to our fellow-protesters and to Hull City Council for taking on board the concerns of Hull's citizens.

Planning and Buildings

Old Town

At the Pier, a process of renewing the piling has started.

By the end of September, at the C4DI site (“little” Humber St / Queen St), work had started on creation of an amphitheatre in the Central Dry Dock and the first new building for C4DI was finished. Work has now started on the second building, at right angles to the first building.

In Wellington St, work has resumed on the steelwork on the north side near the restored smoke house. A second storey has been added and there is more material on the site, which is to be flats.

Alterations to doorways and rendering at Pier Court, 63-65 Queen St were approved in w/c 23.8.15.

Several reconstructed buildings on the north side of Humber St have already been re-roofed. It was announced in early September that no. 23, previously thought stable, also needs to be demolished and reconstructed.

Permission was granted in w/c 5.7.15 for creation of an apartment above the Green Bricks pub (9, Humber Dock St), with a balcony at the rear.

On 4th August, an application was submitted for works in preparation for the pedestrian bridge across Castle St, including alterations to the walls of Humber Dock and Princes Dock. This was followed in w/c 16.8.15 by a full application for the footbridge itself, landscaping, outdoor eating area, lifts and a pedestrian ramp into Princes Quay. We have written in support.

At 9-10 Scale Lane, permission was granted in w/c 16.8.15 for a “flexible change of use” to a variety of functions, including a hostel and an art gallery / exhibition space.

The installation of a row of five wall-mounted gas meters in the archway of Prince St, one of the Old Town's most photographed scenes, produced, quite rightly, a large number of complaints. A Listed Building Consent application to re-locate them behind a disused doorway within the arch was approved on 29th July and a Discharge of Conditions notice appeared under the Planning Decisions for w/c 20.9.15. I assume that this means “job done”, but I haven't yet seen it for myself.

On 5th June an application was submitted for hotel rooms on the upper floors of the William Wilberforce pub at the corner of Silver St and Trinity House Lane.

Across the road, at the former Nat West Bank (19 Silver St, corner of Land of Green Ginger), the Soper Group had already started work by August on converting this handsome building into a bar & restaurant, approved on 30th September 2014. This, of course, is the reason why it was not open as planned during Heritage Open Days. It is due to open at the beginning of October as Silver's Bar.

At Friary Chambers, on the upper floors of the listed 24-28 Whitefriargate, consent was given in w/c 13.9.15 for offices to be converted into two flats. However, the outcome was less favourable in w/c 30.8.15 for the retrospective application by the games exchange company CEX for a new shop front at 27 Whitefriargate; it was refused because the layout of the shop front did not meet specifications.

The former Trinity House school yard, renamed Zebedee's Yard, has been transformed by removal of some 1950s school buildings into a large enclosed space to be used as a shoppers' car park and for outdoor events such as markets, live music and theatre. It has vehicle access from Posterngate and pedestrians can walk into it from three sides, including Custom House Yard, where a small café has already opened to the rear of the Neptune (Boot's). The official opening took place on 24th September and we believe this is a very welcome development. Zebedee Scaping was Headmaster from 1854 to 1909, the school's longest-serving Head.

18-20 Princes Dock St (East Anglia Chambers), just opposite the bridge into Princes Quay, is being prepared at the moment to open as a pub and restaurant called Furley & Co, named after a former barge & shipping firm.

In w/c 20.9.15 the proposal to create a permanent access ramp at the front of the Guildhall was referred by the Planning Committee to the Secretary of State, necessary because the City Council is the applicant.

Listed Building Consent Approval was granted in w/c 5.7.15 for alterations to the "new" White Hart in Alfred Gelder St: railings around an outdoor seating area, removal of the bar from the rear lounge, conversion of the first floor dining room into a bedroom and conversion of the kitchen area into another bedroom.

City Centre

The Ferens Art Gallery closed on 31st August for major refurbishment. The application, in w/c 9.8.15, included a single storey extension to rear, alterations to the roof to replace the Perspex rooflights with double-glazed

UV filtration rooflights, installation of a glass draught lobby to the entrance foyer, glass draught lobby between entrance foyer and central gallery, glass swing doors to galleries 1 and 10 (formerly the shop), glass swing doors to the first floor children's gallery, and an internal glass box around the entrance to the central court. We were relieved to find that the application did not include the external glass box shown in the artist's impression at the Hull 2017 exhibition held at the Ferens itself during the summer.

There was an application on 2nd September to provide 2 additional bedrooms (new total of 28 bedrooms) and 1 additional kitchen at the Townhouse (formerly The Institute), 14 Albion Street.

The New Theatre closed for refurbishment at the beginning of September, but the plans submitted in w/c 2.8.15 for an extension on the north side have drawn objections from residents of Kingston Square and others, including Hull Civic Society, on account of the poor design of the extension façade.

There have been several applications relating to the listed 83 George St. One was submitted in w/c 19.7.15 to convert part of the ground floor into five one-bedroom apartments. In w/c 2.8.15, an application was submitted for the conversion of the 1st floor gym to the rear of 83 George St (former YPI) into a further 6 apartments.

We objected in June to a retrospective application to retain the new, badly proportioned windows inserted into the façade of the listed 84-86 George St. There was no excuse, as good examples of the correct Georgian proportions are to be seen in neighbouring houses.

Further west at 52-54 George St (also on the south side), permission was granted in w/c 16.8.15 for change of use from offices to cafe/restaurant and 6 self contained flats, erection of an extension at the rear, reinstatement of the semi-basement and installation of a new shop front. Work was still in progress in late August.

On Jameson St, the former post office, empty for several years, opened in July as Sainsbury's Local with Cooplands "Secret Garden" café above.



Hardly Georgian proportions! 84-86 George St (Photo: JDS)

The new branch of Lloyds Bank at the corner of South St and Jameson St also opened in July.

An application was submitted in w/c 31.5.15 to convert the upper floors of Tivoli House (above Coopland's, at the corner of Paragon St and South St) from offices to 30 flats. The old Tivoli Theatre (built 1871 as the Theatre Royal and renamed in 1912) on this site was a variety theatre, which also showed newsreel films and cartoons. It was the regular venue for the pantomime until it closed in 1954, when pantomime moved to the Palace on Anlaby Rd (also long gone). The Tivoli was demolished in 1959.

At Bell Chambers, 10-14 Paragon Square, approval was given in w/c 28.6.15 for alterations to front (north) and rear (south) elevations, involving construction of a new façade, works to shopfront, roof, & windows, and other external works. This will complete the improvements to the appearance of the south side of Paragon Square.

Applications were submitted w/c 13.9.15 for removal of 36 trees in King Edward St, Jameson St, Carr Lane, Paragon St and Paragon Square and the planting of 41 new trees, presumably in connection with re-paving.

At St Stephens, there was an application in w/c 6.9.15 to replace one of the kiosks facing Ferensway with a larger "retail pod".

Demolition of Lexington Avenue club ("LA's") at 18 Ferensway (west side) left a gap, but an application of 27th May proposed erection of a 159-bedroom Hilton Hotel, restaurant, gym and conference centre on the site.

East

Demolition of Rank's Clarence Mill will probably be complete by the time you read this. Meanwhile, restoration of Joseph Rank's house, 371 Holderness Road, has been completed by Probe with funding from the Empty Homes Programme. This is the house where J Arthur Rank, who became Britain's leading film maker and distributor, was born on 22nd December 1888. It has been converted by Probe into spacious flats and looks very good, both inside and outside.

Another step towards the opening of the Energy Works, which will produce electricity from waste, came in w/c 24.5.15 when permission was granted for storage of baled waste, erection of a riverside boundary fence, gatehouse and two weighbridges on the former Hull City Council refuse collection yard on Dalton St, off Cleveland St

Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare Ltd applied to build a temporary 3-storey office in Dansom Lane South for pharmaceutical and research & development staff in w/c 16.8.15 and received permission in w/c 6.9.15 to convert the former police station for use in pharmaceutical manufacture, also in Dansom Lane South.

In James Reckitt Ave, the conversion of Pashby House from offices into flats is finished. The building, designed by Runton & Barry as part of the Garden Village development, was originally accommodation for Reckitts' unmarried female employees. It has been very well restored (observed 31.8.15).



Pashby House, James Reckitt Ave.
Photo JDS)

Conversion of the listed James Reckitt Library into 12 flats and erection of a 3-storey block of 20 flats next door at the corner of Field St were approved in w/c 2.8.15. Conversion of the former shop premises at 94-96 Holderness Rd between East Hull Baths and Franklin St into 7 flats was approved in w/c 20.9.15.

Nearby, on Holderness Rd, construction work was in progress in mid-September to add a second storey to the Post Office between Franklin st and Brazil St.

The new retail development by the local developer, Dransfield, on the north east corner of Mount Pleasant and Holderness Rd is due to open in October. The new buildings are a small Subway sandwich shop and a large unit for B & M Home. The older shops facing Holderness Rd as far as Burleigh St are being refurbished.

At the southern end of Mount Pleasant, a detailed application was submitted in w/c 28.6.15 for a Lidl store and a family pub / restaurant on the site of a former railway goods depot (Drypool Goods) at the north-western corner of Hedon Rd and Mount Pleasant.

The Elephant & Castle pub on Holderness Rd has been closed for some time, but an application was submitted in w/c 16.8.15 to change its external appearance as part of conversion into a restaurant.

In w/c 16.8.15, permission was sought to for a 2-storey building on the site of the former Preston Rd Methodist Church for a “community facility and retail unit”, with a car park.

An outline application was submitted in w/c 6.9.15 to build 150 dwellings on land to the west of Poorhouse Lane, near to Craven Park stadium.

At Green Port Hull, Alexandra Dock, permission was granted in w/c 31.5.15 for demolition of some buildings and erection of new buildings for manufacture of wind turbine blades, assembly of components and reserved matters of landscaping. Demolition of the old river quay had begun by July.

The former winding house which hauled ships up the slipway to be repaired or dismantled, is one of the surviving features of the old Victoria Dock.

Permission was granted in w/c 9.8.15 for conversion to mixed uses, including offices, exhibition space, studio space, café areas, with construction of external walls, gates and screens.



Winding House, Victoria Dock Village.
(Photo JD Scotney)

West

The façade of the Albert Hall (a former music hall) in Midland St was demolished on safety grounds in early June. Its condition was discovered during inspection after a fire at the disused New York Hotel, which is now swathed in scaffolding and green netting.



Albert Hall, Midland St (Photo: JDS)



Holy Apostles Church, Walker St (Photo: JDS)

The Church of the Holy Apostles on Walker St (near the Octagon health & community centre) was built in the late 1950s and is quite a striking building. It is apparently no longer in use by the Anglican Church for regular worship (though a service of some sort was in progress there on 3rd September) and in w/c 20.7.15, the Goodwin Trust submitted an application for change of use of church to

mixed use of non residential training and performance venue and to build an extension on the north side to provide a café, toilets, and rehearsal/training rooms.

The 95 "Extra Care Apartments" on Hawthorne Ave between Greek St and Rhodes St, approved last October, are under construction and the northern section has reached full height. Housing construction on the Amy Johnson School site and other land west of Hawthorne Ave is continuing (observed 2.9.15).

Work had started by early September at the former Tradex warehouse (next to the roundabout at the junction of Anlaby Rd and Boothferry Rd) to divide the large warehouse into two retail units (Aldi and Home Bargains) with a garden centre at the rear and a separate McDonald's restaurant at the front of the site. Approval was granted in April 2015.

North

The old Moors & Robson's Crown Brewery Office (Francis St, next to Freetown Way) was completely demolished by the end of July.

Work appears to have started on the riverside façade of High Flags Mill, 192-200 Wincolmlee, approved in February 2015 for conversion into flats. Industrial buildings are so vulnerable, even when listed, so it's very good news if conversion work has started in earnest!

Work is continuing on converting the five houses between 85 and 93 Beverley Rd into 11 flats and new office buildings are under construction at the rear, with access from Grosvenor Street (parallel to the west side of Beverley Rd). Planning permission was granted in December 2013. The outbuilding to the rear of no. 91 is to be used as a communal cycle store (observed 1.9.15).

Work had started at 104-106 Beverley Rd at the corner of Providence Row on the block of 24 flats with undercroft parking approved in 2006. However, in early September, construction seemed to be waiting the outcome of an application (26.8.15) to vary conditions attached to the original planning permission. The original application was approved on 27.7.06.

In w/c 23.8.15, change of use of the rear of 111 Beverley Rd (west side, just north of the Welly Club) from ancillary workshop/store to a motor vehicle repair workshop was refused because of likely disturbance and fumes and increased on-street parking. However, permission was granted on 17th July for change of use of 109-111 Beverley Road and erection of a three storey rear extension to form 14 self contained flats, installation of new ground floor doors and windows on Beverley Road elevation and installation of replacement windows and enclosure of the front forecourt with railings.

In Pearson Park, an application was approved in w/c 14.6.15 to convert 20a from a single dwelling into 5 flats. The house was one of the earliest in Pearson Park, built in 1862, occupied by one Philip Dannatt and was originally called Carlton House. It was divided into numbers 20 and 20a some years ago. 20a was renamed Daulton House and later 20 became a Mosque.



20 (Mosque) & 20a Pearson Park (Photo: JDS)

In w/c 16.8.15 permission was granted for the vacant coach house at the rear of 17-18 Pearson Park (corner of Pearson Park & Park Rd) to become a single dwelling.

The new flats at 46 Pearson Park are now finished structurally and fit in quite well. Contractors are still on site, doing internal work (observed 10.9.15).

Conversion of the former Mayfair Cinema (recently Hop & Vine pub) into luxury flats appears to be finished.

A little further north, an application was submitted in w/c 9.8.15 to use the former Blind Institute workshops to the rear of Rockliffe House as a depot for council vehicles.

An application for two external decks and other external alterations at Hull University Students' Union building was permitted in w/c 9.8.15

Just to the north, steelwork for the new student accommodation on part of the university sports field has risen to several storeys (observed 2.9.15).

Most of the site of William Gee School, (later renamed Endeavour North), on Bishop Alcock Rd (off Bricknell Ave) remained vacant after it closed in July 2004. In w/c 31.5.15, an application was submitted to build 81 houses there.

Nearby, an application to build a two-storey, L-shaped, 64-bed care home on vacant land bounded by Hotham Rd North and Bishop Alcock Rd was refused in w/c 6.9.15 on the grounds that it would be out of keeping with and overshadow the surrounding homes. This site was originally occupied by a council-run old people's home called Aneurin Bevan Lodge, which was closed and demolished about 20 years ago.

Orchard Park Estate, an application was submitted in w/c 12.7.15 to build 178 dwellings on land northwest of Hall Rd, east of Caldane and Dibdane and south of Isledane, Hardane and Gildane.



The new parade of shops in Orchard Park, next to St Michael's Church, is finished. About half of the shop units were taken in early September. It is served by quite a large car park. The older shops in Orchard Park Rd are still in use.

Orchard Park shopping centre.
(Photo JD Scotney)

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