

HULL CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February 2010



The Swan Inn and the National Picture Theatre as they could be.
(Sketch by Ken Baker)

In this issue: Ernie Cudbertson, Programme, Subscriptions and Gift Aid, May Newsletter, So what does Hull Civic Society actually do? Hull Truck Theatre Good Mark, Picture Theatre is a National Treasure, Photography and the law, Hull History Centre, Is the Hull Masterplan out of date? Beverley Road Walk 21st July 2009 (part 2), Civic Societies National Conference, Blackpool, Planning & Buildings, Committee changes, President, Officers and Committee.

£1.50 where sold

Ernie Cudbertson

We are sorry to report the death of Ernie Cudbertson, a long-standing member and our Honorary Treasurer from 2000 to 2007, when he retired from the committee for family reasons. His friendly nature, positive outlook and encouragement of other committee members made him a well-liked member and his experience as an architect was very helpful. He started his architectural career with Gelder & Kitchen in the 1940s, being interviewed by the great Sir Alfred himself. He will be much missed and we extend our condolences to his wife and family.

Programme

All meetings are at the Royal Hotel, Ferensway. Non-members are welcome to join us.

Monday 8th March - 7.30 pm - *Yorkshire Film Archives* – Graham Relton

Mr Relton will show examples of this unique historical archive of professional and amateur films and talk about how it is being gathered for posterity.

Monday 15th April - 7 pm AGM, followed at 7.30 by *The History of Hull's Parks and Gardens* – Paul Schofield. *An informed and entertaining account, illustrated with slides of some of the most beautiful locations in the city.*

Visits

Monday 7th June & Tuesday 15th June - Guided tour of South Cave

“South Cave combines the character of a small market town with that of an estate village” (“Buildings of England: Yorkshire – York & the East Riding”, by Nikolaus Pevsner and David Neave)

Advance booking essential – maximum of 12 people per tour.

Monday 19th July, 7 pm – Spring Bank walk (1½ to 2 hours), led by John Scotney

Meet at Britannia House, corner of Ferensway and Spring Bank. In this walk we will be looking at a thoroughfare which reflects a century of change in architectural styles.

Subscriptions for 2010 and Gift Aid

Subscriptions for 2010 became due on 1st January 2010. Some members pay by a standing order to their bank. If you have not already paid your 2010 subscription, please send me a cheque, payable to Hull Civic Society, for £10 (or £17 for a couple). Hull Civic Society needs to increase its income. The Inland Revenue Gift Aid scheme enables us to claim £2.80 on a £10 subscription or donation if the member has completed a Gift Aid Declaration form. I wish to thank the 60 members who have completed a Gift Aid Declaration form as we will be able to claim £230.44 in respect of their subscriptions and donations during 2008. If you pay income tax and wish to participate in the Government's Gift Aid scheme, please ask me to send you a Gift Aid Declaration form.

Walter Houlton, Treasurer.
16 Maple Grove, Garden Village, Hull HU8 8PL

May Newsletter

Editors love contributors! All items that reflect (or challenge) Hull Civic Society's aims and interests will be considered for inclusion, though publication may be deferred until a later edition for reasons of space. Please submit your items, by 9th April, to the Editor, John Scotney at: 126 Cottingham Road, Hull, HU6 7RZ or (preferably) e-mail them to john.scotney@talk21.com.

So, what does Hull Civic Society actually do?

This report is based on the Chairman's presentation about the Society's current activities.

When six blind men tried to describe an elephant, they started arguing furiously; "It's like a tree branch", "No a rope!", "No, a wall!", "No, a solid pipe!" "It's a hand fan!", "It's like a pillar!" As the wise old man of the village pointed out each of them was right, because they were describing the different parts they had come into contact with. I suspect each of us would have a different way of describing Hull Civic Society, because the range of its activities is rather large.

Regular Activities

So what does our elephant do? Let's start with the regular business. Monitoring and commenting on planning applications (directly or through the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee - CAAC), is one of our prime functions. The weekly lists of applications and monthly lists of decisions are now on the internet. We also follow up planning issues raised by Society members. The Society is usually represented at the City Council's Planning Committee meetings, where members of the public can speak for up to three minutes for or against any application.

Many other issues, such as major developments, parking, environment, tourism, and parks, are discussed with the council's planning officers, Hull Forward, VHEY (Visit Hull & East Yorkshire) and others in periodic Liaison Meetings, attended by our chairman, vice chairman and secretary.

To encourage good practice in conservation and new architecture, we award several Good Marks a year, giving recognition in the form of a framed certificate to the architect, contractor and whoever has commissioned the work. Suggestions are discussed at each monthly committee meeting. We also encourage interest in Hull's historic buildings through Heritage Open Day, now partly sponsored by English Heritage, but pioneered by Hull Civic Society with the council's help as early as the 1970s.

Our programme of talks and visits is planned by a sub-committee of four people, each contributing suggestions. The programme is one the Society's more visible activities, together with publicity & marketing, the newsletter and, most recently, our new website, www.hullcivicsociety.org/ which is regularly managed and updated. Unfortunately, our old website on Beehive still comes up first on Google, but we are taking steps to remedy this.

Our treasurer, Walter Houlton, has a very important role, ensuring that the Society lives within its income, which comes entirely from individual and corporate members' subscriptions. The committee are, of course, volunteers, but speaker fees, room hire, the Newsletter and postage all cost money.

Involvement with other organisations

The task of representing the Society in dialogue with public bodies is shared by the chairman, John Netherwood, secretary, Ken Baker, Cynthia Fowler, Malcolm Sharman, Colin McNicol, myself and other committee members as appropriate. Those we meet most regularly are: Hull City Council, CAAC, Hull Forward, the Highways Agency, Visit Hull & East Yorkshire, ARC (the architecture centre), City Venture (Townscape Heritage Initiative), the Local Development Forum, Carnegie Heritage Trust, BID (Business Improvement District), Gateway (Housing) and One Hull. Malcolm Sharman is our YHACS (Yorkshire & Humberside Association of Civic Societies) representative.

Current Projects

What issues are exercising the committee at present? Some are about the city's appearance: A63 landscaping, repainting railway bridges, colourful planting at the entrance to King George Dock, walls & fences, trees & planters and the Townscape Heritage Initiative. Transport concerns include: Castle Street, parking in the Old Town and the Local Transport Plan. Regeneration is important: Trinity Market and Whitefriargate and, last year, consultation about the Newington & St Andrews Area Action Plan. Another aspect of our work is encouraging pride in the city's past; the proposed "Fountain of Fame", dialogue about commemorating Joseph Rank within the "Manor Mills" mixed development scheme for the Clarence Mills site, a campaign for the National Picture Theatre ruins to become a memorial to Hull people's wartime bravery and involvement in the writing of a new Hull History Trail are examples. Next year, the list may be different, but our aim is always the same: to celebrate what is good in our city and to encourage developments to a standard which enhances its unique character and makes Hull a better place to live, work and invest in.

John Netherwood & Editor.

Hull Truck Theatre – Good Mark

The location of this aspirational new theatre, unique to Hull Truck, was an acknowledged cultural contribution promised by the developers of the extensive Ferensway development.

This very masculine building is part of a related group of buildings around a newly created public square. Hull Truck Theatre Company has become dear to the hearts of Humberiders for over forty years. Now they are pleased to visit a main street site close to the transport interchange or from parking accessed by public lift. It is welcoming and accessible to all members of the public. It has prominent signage, an eye catching Las Vegas style abstract neon light sculpture, angled to be seen from the city centre. The building invites passers-by, whether on foot or in passing buses, to focus on its presence and it is clearly evident to all and easy to find.



Hull Truck Theatre, Ferensway
(Photo: JD Scotnev)

Once inside, the open plan foyer is easy to navigate thanks to a clear layout. The box office, auditoria access, bars and toilets are immediately visible. The access to the first floor concourse is a little more difficult to fathom but the open atrium gives a strong clue to the fact that it is accessible. The lift is prominent. Commodious furniture is stylish and appropriate and there is flexibility in its positioning depending on the numbers utilising the space.

The split plan with two auditoria provides for an access spine linking front of house and back stage. This is not for the public, who are clearly front of house, but provides vital access to the private back stage areas.

The robust concrete frame and brick box construction allows for flexibility within to house all the specialist functions of the theatre administration and the various branches of the production team. These are housed close to the stage and rehearsal areas. The changing rooms are spacious and well serviced and the Green Room is such a delightfully appointed and comfortable common room space, with daylight, views and access to the open air. If this doesn't make you feel like a star then the auditorium will.

Having interviewed a number of our Civic Society members, these locals have been unanimous in their favourable response to the theatre and have commented on the design of the auditorium. It was an important part of the brief for the auditorium that it should establish the important sense of continuity - like the old Spring Street Theatre (former home of Hull Truck) but bigger and better.

The design of this space makes detailed reference to Spring Street (like the tunnel vomitorium leading from front of house directly to stage front). The new space is almost three times bigger although it is many times more comfortable with optimised sight lines and a shallow, generous seating layout with no split levels. The designers have achieved their desired aim 'to create an atmosphere of the audience and performers sharing the same room'. We believe it works. It's our theatre and we know where we are.

These improvements allow more flexibility (and space) for various staging options which, allied to state-of-the-art technology, enhances productions and the quality of the experience.

The structure and materials are industrial in nature, apart from the auditorium seating and furniture in the front of house. Wooden floors and staircases are warm and functional. Front of house lighting is designed to create a relaxed mood and warmth. During daylight hours natural light floods into the foyer areas through large curtain walls of glass. Daylight is widely employed on the first and second floor in private staff working areas. Here, large vertical glass opens on to light wells and terraces. In offices and meeting rooms there are roof lights and the best example is in the rehearsal room, where an angled roof light running the full length of the space washes an entire wall with indirect daylight. The actors really like this stimulating illumination. Otherwise, all general artificial lighting is low energy. Water usage is minimized with fittings specified for efficiency. There are low-flush toilets and PIR taps.

Is the scheme eco-friendly? On sustainability, the designers say 'probably the most sustainable theatre built to date'. Having gone to great lengths to minimise the theatre's environmental impact, this building type, formerly energy greedy, now has innovative strategies to obviate excessive energy use and CO2 emission. Ventilation employs a passive stack effect. Fresh air enters through zinc cowls into concrete ducting leading to floor level grills. As the air is warmed by people and equipment it rises to be exhausted by an attenuated plenum. The effect can be supplemented by low energy ceiling fans.

Cooling is achieved by pumping ground water via a borehole from the aquifer through a heat exchanger, ducting around the building, then discharging to a second return borehole. In addition the heavy thermal mass provides a thermal store by absorbing solar gains. The balance of the system minimises temperature fluctuation.

When needed, space heating is zoned and supplied by high efficiency condensing boilers with weather compensated variable controls preventing excessive use.

Lighting is low energy for the main theatre house lights. The lighting is centrally controlled with some local automatic switches. Energy saving natural daylight is maximised virtually everywhere but the auditorium. Energy usage has been certificated at a B rating and BMS (Building Management System) is located in the basement. This and power monitoring are all on automatic.

Fixtures, fittings and materials have all been chosen to be practical, long life and low maintenance where possible.

The building's detail is robust and durability has obviously been a major consideration in choices of materials, fixtures and fittings. The theatre has a democratic feel which obviously suits the clientele and shows are currently being sold out.

I believe the theatre has already a clear identity of its own and is accepted as an important part of our cultural landscape. By design, it meets our current needs and satisfies our expectations. As well as excellent productions, it provides community facilities within the building, such as children's drama groups, over 55s playwright workshops and the special educational facility, meeting community and professional needs. Many spaces are available for hire and various outside groups hold their meetings or celebratory functions at this unique venue.

It only remains to say that, in my view, the Hull Truck building is worthy of the highest award.

This is an outstanding project which furthers the possibilities available to the life of the theatre. This means an improvement to the quality of dramatic experience for the local community and its architecture makes a positive and distinctive improvement to the public realm of which it is part.

Malcolm Sharman

Picture Theatre is a national treasure to preserve

I write regarding recent letters in the Hull Daily Mail about the National Picture Theatre on Beverley Road.

The National Picture Theatre is not the last bomb site, but it is a very rare survival of a WW2 blitzed ruin and the only truly civilian example in the country. There are fewer than 20 bombed ruins surviving in England, all of which are regarded as being of national importance. The majority are churches preserved as memorials, others are military buildings. Nearly all are in the south of England. The National Picture Theatre is particularly special as it has added importance due to the vital role that cinemas played in the war-effort, providing news and entertainment and maintaining morale.

It is a dramatic site that vividly brings home the impacts of wartime bombing, and conveys so much more than pictures or written accounts. It illustrates, uniquely well, the Second World War Blitz and the civilian experience on the Home Front. There is literally nothing else like it in the country. It has huge educational potential.

Dismantling and rebuilding the structure in another area would not only be prohibitively expensive, but would actually destroy its historic value as a rare survival and illustration of the Blitz. The current site is where the event actually happened.

The intention of the National Civilian WW2 Memorial Trust is not to create another museum as such – Kingston upon Hull is already well-endowed with fine museums. Our ambition, shared by many others in the city and further afield, is for the dramatic remains of the cinema to be preserved as an educational and heritage site, to provide future generations with unique first-hand experience of the wartime Blitz, and to serve as a living tribute to the civilian war effort and a commemoration of the many people of Kingston Upon Hull who suffered in the bombing. As a nationally unique survival of a civilian bombed ruin, it would also serve as a national tribute to the people throughout the country, and to groups such as the fire-fighters, wardens, nurses, police and other workers who ‘served on the Home Front’ and kept Britain going during those tumultuous times.

The cinema ruins would become accessible to the public and for educational use by schools, colleges etc. Its handsome front would be restored, complete with 1941 film posters and historic information. Inside, the foyer area would be left as a dramatic bombed ruin. Film projections on the walls would tell the story of the Hull Blitz, and the night in 1941 when the bomb fell here. The rear auditorium section would be a garden and education space. If funds permit it could incorporate a ‘wall of remembrance’ containing the names of the 1200 people who died during the Hull blitz.

The Blitz of Hull is not only an important part of the history of the city; it is also an important part of the history of the European-wide conflict of WW2. Hull underwent more bombing than any other provincial town, yet the city and the port kept going. It was a time when Hull truly played a part on the national and international stage, and the National Picture Theatre is now the ideal place to celebrate and honour this.

To simply sweep this away for a new development is disrespectful to those who died or were injured in the city bombings, and to those who struggled through on the Home Front and kept the country going. And it is neglectful towards the education of our children and future generations for whom the blitz is otherwise only something in stories or pictures. Here they have a unique opportunity to step into history and experience it for themselves.

The adjoining Swan Inn would be returned to its former glory and the possibility of adding a micro-brewery to the rear is being investigated.

A Building Preservation Trust has already spoken to the owner about purchasing the site if sufficient funds can be raised, and the National Civilian WW2 Memorial Trust is supporting their efforts by trying to help raise funds for some of the ancillary costs. The first step is to submit a planning application, and details of how to donate are on the website: ncww2mt.freewebspace.com



Swann Inn and National Picture Theatre, Beverley Road.
(Photo: JD Scotney)

Alan Canvess

Photography and the Law

Readers may remember an incident, reported in the *Hull Daily Mail* on 4th August 2009, when Carl Minns, leader of the city council, was stopped from photographing the exterior of St Stephen's by a security guard, who claimed that it was illegal under counter-terrorism legislation to photograph the shopping centre because it was private property. To make matters worse, Mr Minns was reported to and visited by the police later that day.

The prospect of amateur photographers, tourists and local historians being visited by the police for the innocent use of cameras, a situation usually associated in our minds with the old Soviet Union, prompted me to write to the MP for North Hull, Diana Johnson, for clarification of the legalities of photography. I am grateful to her for obtaining the following official reply from Rt. Hon David Hanson, the Minister of State at the Home Office. I hope readers will find this statement both reassuring and useful – especially the fourth paragraph!



Home Office

Rt Hon David Hanson MP

MINISTER OF STATE

2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Diana Johnson MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our Reference: M22352/9

Your Reference: CS/Scotney

October 2009

Thank you for your letter of 30 September to the Home Secretary on behalf of Mr John Scotney, of 126 Cottingham Road, Hull, HU6 7RZ about photography in public places. I am replying as Minister of State for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism.

There are two issues that have been the subject of recent media attention regarding photography in public.

Firstly, concerns have been expressed about the stop and search powers under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000. Section 44 enables the police to stop and search anyone within an authorised area for the purposes of searching for articles of a kind that could be used in connection with terrorism. The powers do not require a reasonable suspicion that such articles exist. This is a useful power but it is also a very wide ranging one and concerns have been raised that the power is being used to stop people taking photographs within authorised areas -whether this is photographs of buildings or people - and that cameras are being confiscated and images deleted as part of such searches.

I would like to be absolutely clear, that section 44 does not prohibit the taking of photographs. The National Policing Improvement Agency issued revised guidance on the use of section 44 in November

last year which made it clear that the power does not stop the taking of photographs in an authorised area and that the police should not prevent people from taking pictures using these powers.

The police may, of course, stop and search someone who is taking photographs within an authorised area, just as they may stop and search any member of the public, but the powers should not be targeted at photographers.

Secondly, concerns have been expressed about the new offence contained in section 58A of the Terrorism Act 2000, which was inserted by section 76 of the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008. Section 58A makes it an offence to elicit, or attempt to elicit, or publish or communicate information about an individual who is, or has been, a constable or a member of the armed forces or intelligences services. The information must be of a kind that is likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing acts of terrorism.

It has been suggested that this new offence could criminalise people taking or publishing photographs of police officers. Whilst a photograph of a police officer may potentially fall within the scope of this offence, it might only do so in a very limited set of circumstances. This offence is designed to capture terrorist targeting activity directed at members of the protected groups - which, sadly, we know does occur. The offence might, therefore, be committed where someone provides a person with information about the names and addresses and details of car registration numbers of persons in the protected groups.

I would like to emphasise, however, that such photographs would have to be of a kind which are likely to provide practical assistance to terrorists - and the person taking or providing the photograph would have to have no reasonable excuse for doing so, such as responsible journalism. Therefore, the offence would not capture an innocent tourist taking a photograph of a police officer, or a journalist photographing police officers as part of his or her job. It does not criminalise the normal taking of photographs of the police.

While police officers do have the discretion to ask people not to take photographs for public safety or security reasons, the taking of photographs in a public place is not subject to any rules or statute. There are no legal restrictions on photography in a public place and there is no presumption of privacy for individuals in a public place.

Best wishes,

DAVID HANSON

Hull History Centre

Hull History Centre, opposite the Central Fire Station on Worship Street, (near the New Theatre) opened on 25th January. The setting, with grass and trees, is very pleasant and there is a small car park for visitors. It combines Local Studies Library, City Archives and University Archives collections. There is an open reference library with books, computers and microfiche viewers and a Search Room where you can look at rarer documents, provided you have a CARN (County Archive Research Network) ticket. If you bring proof of identity (name, address and signature), the free CARN ticket can be issued immediately and is valid nationally.

Opening hours are:

Monday & Wednesday 09.30-19.45, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 09.30-17.30, Saturday 09.00-16.30.

More information is available on www.hullhistorycentre.org.uk/

Editor.

Is the Hull Masterplan out-of-date?

Nora Galley's Masterplan was produced before the dot.com bubble burst. It was adopted by the City Council although much of the proposed office and residential development depended on the dot.com bubble continuing. Some developers have since realised that the Masterplan was too optimistic and the Boom development on the east bank of the River Hull was halted and the main developer for the Fruit Market Area withdrew. The City Council and Hull Forward are trying to press ahead with the Masterplan. The pedestrian and cycle bridge across the River Hull from Scale Lane Staithe to the abandoned Boom development is being built, presumably hoping that this will kick-start the Boom development.

The Masterplan has been incorporated into the City Centre Area Action Plan and sensible development which conflicts with the plans for the Fruit Market Area, Quay West, Humber Quays and East Bank and Blaydes Dock would most likely be refused.

There is unlikely to be very much retail and office development in the Fruit Market Area. A residential development similar to the Victoria Dock estate would be more sensible.

Quay West was given planning consent after the planning department had accepted Turley Associates' claim that Hull's shopping catchment area includes Immingham, Scunthorpe, Brigg and Goole! They did not seem aware that people in Goole prefer to shop in Doncaster and Humber Bridge tolls deter people on the south bank from shopping in Hull.

The Hull Planning Committee would like Whitefriargate to continue as an important shopping street. Some retail die-back was inevitable for Whitefriargate after St. Stephens was given planning consent. The street should survive as a prime shopping area between Parliament Street and Victoria Square but the eastern end of the street will see many changes.

Walter Houlton.

Beverley Road Walk, 21st July 2009 (Part 2)

Having walked up Beverley Road from the baths, we turned westward into Cottingham Road, the original route from Hull to Cottingham, improved by a turnpike trust in 1764, just as Beverley Road had been in 1744. Newland Toll Bar stood at the junction. Newland grew around this junction. Its fields extended down to what is now Queen's Road, and were part of Cottingham until Hull's 1882 boundary extension. On the left are four fine detached 1880s villas (25-31). The Society mounted a successful campaign about five years ago against their demolition and replacement by shops. The Gardener's Arms dates from 1904. The odd-shaped building opposite, now used as Kexgill's letting agency, was the office of Newland tram (later trolleybus and motorbus) depot (13th March 1909), which replaced the Stepney Lane depot. The western wall of the depot can still be seen behind, next to the flats that were built on the site in the 1990s.



Newland Homes (Photo: JD Scotney)

Newland Homes were built between 1895 and 1899, to the design of WH Bingley, for the Sailors' Orphan Homes. Their original Park Street orphanage survives as a Hull College site. The Sailors' Families Society no longer requires its homes, preferring fostering, adoption and direct help for families, though one house is still used as its office. Planning consent was given in 2009 for the listed houses to become student accommodation and for 38 houses to be built on the western side of the site. The swimming pool, used until recently by the schools and local swimming groups, was erected in

1924, is to be demolished as part of the scheme. St Nicholas School and the adjacent Stratten Hall were built as part of this attractive complex.

From the end of Newland Avenue, a wide grass strip marks the line of the former drain (originally a stream, Newland Beck, the continuation of Cottingham Beck), which continued along Clough Road and entered the River Hull at the “clough” (sluice) opposite Stoneferry. Many of the substantial brick parapets where side roads crossed the drain can still be seen, including one on the western side of Newland Avenue. Until the drain was culverted in the 1960s, houses on this side of the road were also reached across little bridges, some of which survive.

Before crossing Cottingham Road, we looked at the churches on both corners of Newland Avenue. Both were built by Gelder & Kitchen and neither of them conforms to the traditional shape of a church



Hull Community Church, with building work complete. (Photo: J D Scotney)



Trinity (formerly Newland) Methodist Church and the parapet of the former drain bridge. (Photo: JD Scotney)

building. Hull Community Church opened in 2006, has a multi-purpose hall for worship, indoor sports, meetings and even blood donor sessions and we noted the building work to add a third storey to provide extra accommodation for the church’s community work. Their previous building on the site was the former German Lutheran Church (1968, by Robert Rosner), itself replacing the small Newland Methodist chapel of 1859. Trinity (formerly Newland) Methodist Church, is a red-brick, domed building dating from 1928. It completed a building programme that started in 1902 with a multi-purpose Sunday school & chapel, since demolished.

Newland Avenue, originally called Newland Tofts Lane (or “Mucky Peg Lane” because of its thick clay mud), was laid out as a suburban road in the 1880s. Jane Jacobs, in her book “The death and life of great American cities”, points out that the safest and most interesting streets are those whose activities attract people both day and night. Newland Avenue is such a street, with a lively daytime economy of greengrocers (3), butchers (3), a fishmonger, several bakers and other food shops, including Polish, Chinese and Asian ones, hairdressers, florists, various specialist shops, cafés and a newly-opened market hall. In the evening the takeaways, café bars and late-opening convenience stores and the Piper continue to attract people. The proximity to the university and a growing student population has, naturally, helped to generate some of this business, but there is also a substantial permanent population within walking distance and still a few dwellings among the shops. The Piper pub on the eastern side of the avenue was originally the Monica cinema (1914-1961) and then the Piper Club. Sainsbury’s Local, at the corner of Grafton Street was built for Jackson’s in 1913 and still bears its decorative tiles and mosaic lettering advertising bridal cakes, tea & coffee and confectionery. In Sharp Street (1890s), we saw one of the few surviving Great War “Roll of Honour” memorials. It is on the wall of Newland Market. Until the 1920s this was Yorkshire Laundries and has since been WH Beal’s joinery, Buffey’s potato warehouse and Goodfellow’s supermarket.

Once a rival to William Jackson, William Cussons’ chain of grocery shops included the three-storey building at the corner of Lambert Street, now Filmnight video & DVD hire shop.

Lambert Street was named after Cllr. Charles Richard Lambert in 1884, but was originally called Londesborough Street. Lambert Street Primitive Methodist Church began in the rear schoolroom (1888). The fine classical-style chapel (1894), was designed by TB Thompson & Wm Alfred Gelder and its official name, carved at the base of the pediment, was the George Lamb Memorial Chapel. The Rev George Lamb was twice President of Primitive Methodist Conference. Hull was a stronghold of both the Primitive (51 chapels) and Wesleyan Methodists (65 chapels), as well as a number of other branches, all of which united in 1932. The last service at Lambert Street was on Good Friday, 1994, after which the congregation joined that at Newland, to become Trinity Methodist Church. A sympathetic conversion into flats was approved some years ago, but no work has been carried out.

Prince's Road leads southward from this point to join Prince's Avenue at Queen's Road. The bridge under the Hull & Barnsley Railway (1885) is noticeably wider than that on Newland Avenue. Prince's Road seems to have been regarded as more important than Newland Avenue, but the building of Lambert St chapel prevented any northward extension. Prince's Road has some of Hull's earliest "court" terraces on its eastern side; Beech Grove, bears the date 1884. Holiness Hall, opposite, is an independent chapel which has the name "Bethshan" carved on its façade. It must be Hull's smallest chapel. St Augustine's Church Hall, built in 1900 to the design of John M. Dossor and converted into flats in 2009, is a reminder of St Augustine's Anglican Church (1896-1976), which stood on the corner of Prince's Rd and Queen's Rd.

Viewed from the front and the Prince's Road façades, the grey-brick Queen's Hotel looks Victorian, but the hand-made Georgian brick seen from the car park suggests an earlier origin. The car park itself was, within recent memory, a bowling green and the decorative wooden pavilion survives, tucked away in a corner.

The wide green strip of grass is a reminder that the Cottingham Drain passed along the southern side of Queen's Road, until it was culverted in the 1960s.

St Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church, designed by Jopling & Wright, dates from 1932-33. It has a fine tower and is built in a style described as "Early Christian", using Roman-looking bricks. St Vincent's Children's Home, set back from the road, dates from 1908, and the school is probably of a similar date. The directories list a Catholic church here before 1932, perhaps a temporary structure. Also on Queen's Road is Newland Telephone exchange, built in 1922 and extended in 1946 and 1955.

When the streets north of Queen's Road were first developed for housing, the area was marketed as St John's Wood. Some say that the name came from the St John's public house, though I have not been able to verify that point. Maple Street (formerly Argyle Street) pre-dates the H&B railway. This is the most likely reason for it continuing under a railway bridge, then stopping short at a warehouse. Although it looks like a dead end, there is, in fact a passage through to De Grey Street. At the end of Queen's Road, we rejoined Beverley Road, to return to our starting point.

Sources: Nikolaus Pevsner & David Neave's "Buildings of England – Yorkshire: York & the East Riding", Victoria County History (Vols. 1 & 4), John Markham's "Streets of Hull", Alan Wilkinson's "From Corner shop to corner shop in three generations" and numerous directories and booklets.

John Scotney



Lambert Street Methodist Church, closed 1994. (Photo: JD Scotney)



St Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church, Queen's Rd (Photo: JD Scotney)

Civic Societies National Conference, Blackpool, Thursday 15-Friday 16th October 2009
‘FUN & FUNCTION’ - - - - - My personal view of the event

Across the country – far and wide, many of the delegates who attended this important conference will have written reports for their expectant societies. Some will hardly mention the day of fun and accentuate only the momentous function of their stay. However, there is an inspired symmetry in the counterpoise of the two-day experience.

Firstly FUN - visits to the world famous Winter Gardens illustrated the significant role Blackpool has played in the world of popular entertainment. We were allowed to access parts of the complex not seen by human eye for aeons. We were amongst the first to see the recently renovated vast and impressive Opera House which has been restored to its 1930s splendour in anticipation of the Queen’s visit for a Royal Variety Show.

A tour of the town demonstrated the determination of the Heritage Officer to restore neglected treasures and also the bold innovation of the Council to transform the Public Realm with sculpture, fountains and state-of-the art futuristic electronic street extravaganzas – fresh from Las Vegas. All this and the renowned ‘Blackpool Illuminations Tour’ which, incidentally, started as long ago as the 1860s!

The fun continued unabated into the evening with a Mayoral Reception taking place in the recently renovated 1939 former Odeon cinema now splendidly transformed into the nightclub home of the ‘Funny Girls’ cabaret. This famous (or infamous to some) musical spectacular was eminently entertaining and professional. It came to me as something of a surprise to find that the ‘Funny Girls’ were actually men dressed up. Very daring and oh, so Blackpool – It was Fun.

Finally FUNCTION – Early the following morning an austere gathering met at the newly refurbished St. John’s Church and Conference Centre to address the function part.

Many of those in attendance had perhaps some idea (or not) what they thought the notion of a new national civic society body might mean but wondered if others shared their beliefs. Was there a slender hope that there might be concordance within the hall or would it be a blood-bath?

Any chill or gloom was dispelled by a bright, cheerful welcome from Elaine Smith of Blackpool Civic Trust; who planted the seeds of optimism. These grew like Jack’s beans when Elaine’s hero, Carl Carrington, the Heritage Manager, read out a message from HRH the Prince of Wales.

THE PRINCE OF WALES’ LETTER TO THE CIVIC SOCIETIES NATIONAL CONFERENCE

“As a former patron of the Civic Trust, I was saddened to hear of its demise in April this year. I was particularly concerned for the future of the network of Civic Societies which can be of such value to communities around the country.

I was, therefore, hugely encouraged to see the emergence of the Civic Society Initiative to find a way to fill this void. I think Tony Burton and Ian Harvey deserve every congratulation for what they have helped to achieve in five short months.

You play an essential part in cherishing the much loved roots and identities of our communities and in campaigning for a better, more sustainable future. As a movement, your own roots are long and your achievements extensive.

Out of adversity you now have an opportunity, if I may say so, to build something even stronger - a powerful community movement which can address the challenges of a fast changing world and remain a steadfast champion of the fabric and character of our national cities, towns and villages.

Nowhere should be without its Civic Society and no one should be without the voice you can provide.”

Delegates were palpably moved by this surprise intervention and invigorated by the Prince’s encouraging words. Further bolstering by a Griff Rhys-Jones video set the tone for the day.

The main issues of debate were the role of the new national body, how it should be funded and the best way of Civic Societies working together. Everyone was involved democratically through the wizardry of hand-held electronic voting devices that enabled views on predetermined issues to be clearly expressed by individuals and presented on a large screen. Soon a consensus of belief was

evident for all to see and the mood became more affirmative and securely in favour of supporting a new national body.

As a result of Tony Burton's presentation of the 'Own the future' report on the findings of open forums, conducted nationwide by the Civic Society Initiative, all societies have access to an analysis of extensive debate about the future of the Civic Society movement. This draws together a scheme of issues and proposals necessary to help things move forward. This report has been produced quickly but is extensive in its consultation. Those who have not had their say are invited to respond (before 20 November 2009). The matters under consideration are complex but essentially must be grounded in what Civic Societies say they need and want and, of course, what they are prepared to pay for. One of our region's local society leaders shamed her group by chiding their reluctance to pay only 1p per day to sustain the effective future of the Civic Society movement. What value do our members put on their societies?

To find out more, download a copy of 'Own the Future' from the website at www.civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk or obtain a printed version from admin@civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk

Back to the Convention.....having two days with distinctly contrasting emphases made each the more enjoyable. Allowing time for the pleasures of meeting people and seeing places helped us realise all the more how vital our mission is. In order to sustain our pride in where we live and to maintain our quality of life, we must be conscious of the benefits of a grass roots cooperative movement working at a national scale, charged with the simple purpose of supporting our bid to 'Own the future'.

Much has been achieved so far and I do hope that the current aim will become a reality once the Easter 2010 deadline is passed.

The details of both days of the event are available in an excellent report written and illustrated by Graeme and Teresa Basset of Grimsby-Cleethorpes Civic Society. This report can be found at <http://grimsbycleecivic.co.uk/CivicConvention.html>

The information regarding the main issues; the findings of surveys and conference debates and recommendations are available in the Civic Society Initiative – Initiative Bulletin – special issue October 09. Available via email from www.civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk

Wish you had been there!

Malcolm Sharman, Hull Civic Society and YHACS Committee Member

Planning & Buildings

Many planning decisions are delegated and taken between Planning Committee meetings, so I have sometimes expressed dates of decisions as a period, e.g. September/October or Sep/Oct. I am indebted to Walter Houlton for many pieces of information incorporated into this article.

Old Town

The last fruit traders vacated Humber St area on Sat 14th November, moving to Priory Park.

Work on approach ramps and river piling for the new footbridge from Scale Lane Staith to the eastern bank of the River Hull has been in progress all autumn and is still in progress.

January brought an application for a block of 62 flats with a restaurant on the ground floor on Wellington St, next to the bridge, overlooking Humber Dock Basin.

City Centre

In October/November, an application for railings at 41-45 George St (The Venue club, formerly Carmichael's store) was approved in connection with conversion into a hotel (Mr Mounimne).

An application by Essential Leisure Ltd, to build a 7-storey office block on the site of their disused Circus-Circus pub, Spencer St (which links Ferensway with Prospect St), was refused in November.

Another developer, Marblechip, who have permission to build a 4-storey block of either flats or offices at 20-24 Baker St, were refused permission in December to demolish the existing buildings on the site without building anything at all, no doubt to facilitate re-sale of the land. We objected, as just clearing a site without rebuilding goes against the whole idea of a conservation area. The buildings,

some formerly used by Mark C Brown, rubber stamp makers, comprise a coach house, a former chapel of rest, a house and Baker Street Garage, now trading in Cleveland St.

Refurbishment work on 25-30 Albion St, one of Hull's best Georgian terraces, is now complete and the result is very good. In the conversation that started when I asked permission to photograph the work in progress, the builder and developer (an East European) commented that he could have built six similar-sized modern blocks for the cost of restoring these houses, but he felt that these houses were an important part of Hull's history. Much of the cost was caused by the previous owner knocking through load-bearing walls in the basement when it was the Oasis Club.

Across the road, a temporary health centre housed in Portakabins has opened at the corner of Bond St and Albion St. Its permanent home will be the 5-storey "Wilberforce Health & Wellbeing Centre" which will stand on the site of the former Grattan's warehouse, which is now surrounded by hoardings and an equipment compound in preparation for demolition work. Although long disused, it is a very sturdy building, opened in 1952 as Jordan's cycle and motorcycle showrooms, with a ramp for even small 4-wheel cars to be driven to the upper floors, so it will probably take some demolishing!

Hull History Centre, which combines the Local Studies Library, City Archives and University Archives collections opened on 25th January. The setting, with grass and a walk between espalier-style trees, is very pleasant.

Welcomed by some, deplored by others, the "Big Sceen" TV, which has been in Queen Victoria Square since August 2004, went silent on 2nd December.

Ferensway / St Stephens

Approval was granted in Oct/Nov to change the vacant retail Unit 1 at the Ferensway entrance to St Stephens into an NHS health centre.

I suspect many people (with or without a trolley) who descended from the St Stephen's Tesco to the car park were irritated by the recorded advice "Please prepare to push the trolley off the end of the conveyor". Now, it seems, Hull people are officially recognised by Tesco as adults who can be trusted to use our common sense; the recording has been switched off!

West

63-69 Anlaby Rd (former Netto) was originally going to be incorporated into the new hotel on the site of the disused New York hotel, but the hotel scheme is probably dead, as Goodwin Development Trust have applied for change of use to a learning resource centre.

An application to build a house (for the owner) next to Mr Chu's China Palace Restaurant on St Andrew's Dock was refused in Nov/Dec.

Boundaries to properties can often have a great effect upon the street scene, so we were pleased about approval in Nov/Dec for new front garden walls and railings to various properties on both sides of Anlaby Rd between Hawthorn Ave and Sandringham St.

An application to add two lanterns and decorative ironwork to the top section of Pickering Park entrance gates on Hessle High Rd was referred in September to the Secretary of State for a decision. West Park is also to receive new entrance gates and piers, approved in Nov/ Dec.

With the removal of the last fruit traders from Humber St area, the new wholesale fruit market – a group of green-painted warehouses around three sides of a yard at Priory Park East, a little to the east of the Village Hotel - was fully open for business from Monday 16th November.

As part of the new secondary schools programme, permission was granted in November for construction of the new Sirius Academy and Ganton School on the Pickering High School site.

Demolition is now complete at Hull City's old ground, Boothferry Park.

East

Housing development on the Princess Royal Hospital site was approved in outline in Nov/Dec period, subject to Section 106 "planning gains" – extra facilities to be provided by the developer.

Erection of a three storey Integrated Care Centre at Barnes Way, Kingswood received approval on 24 December 2009. This will be a very large NHS building, one step down from a hospital, providing many services including ambulances. This is the Integrated Care Centre for north Hull. It is intended to provide Integrated Care Centres for east Hull and west Hull but the sites have not yet been decided.

An application was submitted in late January by the Buildings at Risk Trust, Sheffield, to carry out restoration work at Victoria Cottage, 23-25 Lowgate, Sutton. Work would include division into two dwellings and providing a thatched roof. This rare and barely-altered example of a single storey 17th century cottage has been on the “Listed Buildings at Risk” register for years.

North

The single storey part of the former Charterhouse Lane School, with its distinctive “witch’s hat” bell turret was used as Hull College nursery until the present one opened in Charlotte St. It now houses rehearsal rooms for the Northern Academy of Dance & Drama.

Permission was given in Sept/Oct for 53 Beverley Rd, an attractive listed house of the 1820s, to be converted from an office into 7 flats.

As feared, the consent granted to Mr Raj Kanadia in September to revive conversion plans for the listed former School of Architecture in Strand Close (19 flats and 4 new adjacent blocks for another 56 flats) has been followed by intense inaction. The building is as derelict and vandal-infested as ever and there is no evidence of any intention to rescue it or build anything. It is a disgraceful and dangerous situation which must be a nightmare for staff of the nearby St Charles School and for local parents.

Another apparently neglected site, the former National cinema and the Swan Inn have been the subject of intense activity and debate (often reflected in the Hull Daily Mail letters page) this autumn. On the 14th October, the Planning Committee considered Reid Park Properties’ revised application to build a restaurant and flats behind the façade extending into the adjacent pub. Despite many objections to the demolition of the brick walls and concrete stairs and landings (some of the most important features of this listed structure and nationally important archaeological site), it was not refused, but “delegated to the City Planning Manager for conditional approval pending negotiations on improving the design elements of the scheme” (Minutes of the meeting). Much now hangs on the negotiations.

Conversion of the listed former vapour baths (rear of Beverley Road Baths) from auction room to a place of worship (possibly a mosque, as the applicant is a Mr Khan) was approved in Nov/Dec.

John Scotney.

Committee Changes

Bill Moore has relinquished his position on the committee due to personal reasons and we understand that he is no longer in Hull, but we would like to express our thanks for the contribution he made to the work of Hull Civic Society during his time on the committee. Last summer, we welcomed Gill Osgerby, who joined the committee as a co-opted member.

Editor.

Civic Society President, Officers and Committee 2010

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