

# HULL CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February 2011



**The Octagon, Walker Street – architect: Kenneth Noel Baker**

(Photo: JD Scotney)

*In this issue: Kenneth Noel Baker, Programme, Donald Campbell, The founding of Hull Civic Society, Heritage Open Days 2011, Hull Heritage Project, Holy Trinity Ideas, Royal Hotel, Spring Bank Walk July 2010 (Part 2), Planning & Buildings, May Newsletter, Committee Changes, Chris Ketchell 1944-2011, Civic Society President, Officers & Committee.*

**Please note the Society's new address for correspondence**

All correspondence should now be directed to our acting Honorary Secretary:  
Mrs Cynthia Fowler, 998 Holderness Road, Hull, HU9 4AG, Email: [pinkhouse1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pinkhouse1@hotmail.co.uk)

## Kenneth Noel Baker 1930-2011

We were very sad to learn of the death of our Honorary Secretary, Ken, on 8<sup>th</sup> January, aged 80. He was elected Secretary at the Civic Society's 1993 AGM, taking over from Donald Campbell. As a Secretary, he had the knack of being quietly efficient, yet still making everyone who rang him or called at his office feel welcome and he always had time for a chat. He was also a great champion of our city and could engage in lively debate over planning and environmental issues. He represented the Yorkshire Society of Architects at the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee and often represented Hull Civic Society at Planning Committee Meetings at the Guildhall, bringing an architect's understanding to the Society's concerns.



An architect by profession and still working until just before Christmas 2010, his flair for design has had a great impact on the appearance of the city. Among his many projects during a career in the city of over fifty years, he designed one of Hull's tallest buildings in the sixties - the headquarters of Northern Foods.

When this was demolished five years ago, Ken was on hand to drive the crane with its ball-and-chain to start the demolition process which made way for the St. Stephens development. He was also the architect of the award-winning Octagon Centre on the Thornton Estate and the conversion of the historic bonded warehouse on Guildhall Road to become, internally, a glittering set of modern offices.

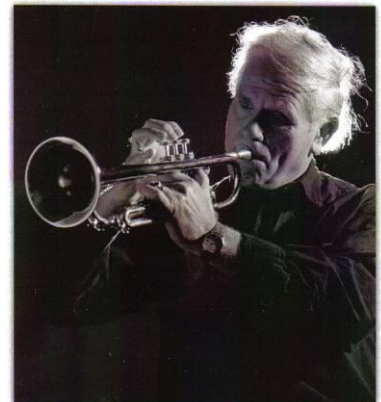
After attending Hull School of Architecture, he worked for Gelder & Kitchen. In 1965 he went to work for three years in Nigeria, where he designed buildings for a university. On his return to Hull he worked for Elsworth Sykes Northern Ltd before going freelance.

Ken was a man with many interests. He was an accomplished artist and a keen jazz musician, playing the cornet in a local group. Rugby League was a lifelong interest and he designed one of the stands at Hull Kingston Rovers' present ground, waiving his professional fees. He was also an active member of the Hull and East Riding Interfaith Group, which facilitates dialogue between people of different faiths through monthly meetings at the Guildhall.

Another of Ken's activities was the Rotary Club and he was a founder member of the Hull Paragon branch, who organised a party in early December to celebrate his eightieth birthday.

Ken was well-known and well-liked and the attendance at his funeral, on the 20<sup>th</sup> January, which approached 300 people, showed that he had touched the lives of many people, earning widespread respect and affection. The funeral service was conducted, appropriately, by Rev Alison Gilchrist, the Rovers' team chaplain.

He will be missed by many people, especially, of course his family, to whom he was always known as Noel. We extend our sympathy to all of them at this difficult time. One phrase used during the funeral, "a life well lived" expresses many people's memories of Kenneth Noel Baker.



John Netherwood.

## Programme 2011

**Mon 14<sup>th</sup> February** – Public Transport in Hull – *Philip Miles*.

**Mon 14<sup>th</sup> March** – **7 pm** – AGM, followed at 7.30 by Cannon and Bollards – *Geoff Bell*.

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> April** – **7 pm to 8.30 pm at Hull History Centre** - a guided tour behind the scenes.

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup> June: New Earswick** - a guided tour of York's "Garden Village" by a member of the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust. *Meet 11.00 am at the Folk Hall, New Earswick. Own transport, but lifts can be arranged.*

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> July 7 pm Exploring Hull's Industrial Past** – a guided walk by Colin Cooper. *Meet outside Blaydes House, High Street.*

**Dates and times for the following visits will be announced in the May Newsletter:**

**South Cave** – a second opportunity to visit this interesting village.

**Wassand Hall** – a visit to one of East Yorkshire's less well known houses.

### Donald Campbell

We regret to announce the death of one of the founder members of Hull Civic Society Donald Campbell, who died in November 2010.

Donald, together with a group of enthusiasts, set about forming Hull Civic Society to stop the destruction of buildings which they thought should be preserved. The inaugural meeting took place on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 1964.

Donald occupied the chair of Hull Civic Society in 1968 and in 1969 became Hon. Secretary, a position he held for 25 years. During his tenure of office, he became the face of Hull Civic Society. Donald always kept a close eye on all planning issues, and was instrumental in saving the warehouses in High Street which are now in residential occupation. All planning applications were meticulously researched, on behalf of Hull Civic Society. Donald was also a member of the Old Town Conservation Area Advisory Panel, which still meets today.

For many years, Donald was the Buildings Officer for the University of Hull which gave him the necessary experience to deal with at times complex planning issues.

On 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1990 he launched CALM (Campaign against loud music) on behalf of Hull Civic Society. This initiative was particularly aimed at loud music in pubs. The first pub to receive this award was Ye Olde Corn Exchange.

Donald was also active in drama circles in Hull and took part in numerous productions in the city.

Although Donald was not born in Hull, he grew to love the city, and for many years, worked tirelessly to make it a better place.

In recognition of his work for Hull Civic Society, Donald was made Vice President of the Society in 1999. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Donald and those early pioneers, who had the foresight to form Hull Civic Society which continues today with over 300 members.

We would like to extend our sympathy to his wife, Brenda, and his family.



Cynthia Fowler.

## The founding of Hull Civic Society

*As a tribute to Donald Campbell and those early pioneers, extracts of the first meeting of Hull Civic Society are printed here.*

The inaugural Meeting of Kingston upon Hull Civic Society, as it was called then, was held in the Ferens Art Gallery on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 1964.

Mr A Arschirvir was Acting Chairman and opened the Meeting. He thanked the Lord Mayor for consenting to act as Patron to the Society during his term of office.

The Annual Subscription was fixed at 10 shillings for Ordinary members.

Officers and Committee Members were elected as follows:

Chairman: Mr A Arschirvir, Vice Chairman: Mr PM Jackson, Secretary: Mrs E Seaton.  
Treasurer: Mr CS Wise.

Committee:

Mr I Ashley Cooper, Mr M Gabb, Mr D Campbell, Mr JM Kaye, Mr RB Clark  
Dr L Rosen, Mr M Compton, Mr WH Rutherford, Mrs L Donovan, Mr WG Wilson.

The Chairman paid tribute to Mr RB Clark, Mr M Compton, Dr L Rosen and Mr CA Wise for their efforts without which the Society would not have been formed.

The balance sheet shows 121 members each paying 10 shillings, total Subscription revenue £60.10s.0d. There were 3 junior members, 2 Life members and 1 Corporate member paying £2.2s.0d.

The new Committee held a further meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 1964 when the General Policy was agreed: Civic Trust registration, registration of the Society as a charitable body, opening a bank account. Individual Committee members were to approach firms with which they had contact, with a view to obtaining their membership. A nominal annual subscription of £10.0.0d was suggested. The Treasurer would supply each Committee member with twelve application forms.

The main issue for discussion was the improvement of Kingston Square and Mr Gabb & Mr Kaye were to draw up a scheme for the Square.

Page 2: Hull Museums approached the Society to take a stand at an exhibition on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1964. The Civic Trust provided photographs, and Dr Rosen obtained drawings from the Town Planning Department of the abortive Parliament Street Project.

There was a membership drive; the Treasurer supplied membership forms and membership cards to Mr. Bartlett, Hull Museum in order to collect subscriptions from any person wishing to become a member.

*The activities of those pioneering days are similar to what the Society deals with now, only today Hull Civic Society covers a broader field of activities. Currently we are dealing with A63 Landscaping, Railway Bridges, Fountain of Fame, Hull History Trail, Castle Street, Regeneration of Whitefriargate, Hull Development Framework, Heritage Open Days and Yorkshire and Humberside Amenity Society as well as regular meetings with Hull City Council and the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee.*

*However, it must not be forgotten that Donald and his group of pioneers enabled us to do everything we are involved with today, and if it wasn't for them there would be no Hull Civic Society.*

Cynthia Fowler.

## Heritage Open Days 2011

Plans to build on the success of the society's 2010 Heritage Open Days events are already progressing with the aim this year of opening more properties to the public and having even more tours, talks and other events.

More information will be available in forthcoming newsletters but organisers would also like to hear from members of the society who would be willing to volunteer during the Open Days (Thursday 8th - Sunday 11th September), to help with the opening of buildings, the running of events or even leading particular events.

Anyone interested in taking part should contact society member Phil Haskins on 01482 646683 or e mail [p.haskins@pfhproductions.co.uk](mailto:p.haskins@pfhproductions.co.uk) . We look forward to hearing from you!

Phil Haskins



Maister House during HOD 2010  
(Photo supplied by Phil Haskins)

## Hull Heritage Project

The Hull Heritage Project was set up in February 2010 by the Civic Society, following a suggestion from John Holmes, of the now disbanded Hull Forward, that the city could do with some more high quality history trails for visitors and local residents - 'the history of Hull through its buildings, streets, people and events'.

The working group, chaired by John Netherwood, comprises local historians, City Council officers and Hull Civic Society members and meets monthly at the History Centre. The idea is to go beyond the printed "town trail" to develop an internet-based resource. This "multi-layered" website will direct users to additional information in words, pictures, video and audio form, drawn from a large database of historical material. There will be five thematic trails, all intersecting at Holy Trinity, the hub which relates to all aspects of Hull's history in one way or another, as well as being Hull's most valuable architectural treasure. The themes chosen are: (1). Hull's Maritime International Links, (2). Medieval Hull, (3). Trade and Commerce, (4). Heroes, Adventurers and Pioneers and (5) Rebellion, Royalty and Religion. Trails will be available on paper, to encourage people to explore the Old Town, but other modern technology such as mobile phone downloads will also be available. At Holy Trinity and at various points on the trails there will also be information panels.

Presenting Hull's fascinating history to a world largely ignorant of the city's attractions will be good, both for the city's image and for the self-esteem of its citizens.

Another important aspect of this project is the wider involvement of community groups, schools and individuals, both in evaluating the trails and contributing additional information, memories and photographs.

A Powerpoint presentation of the project has already been created for people and groups to get more information about the project. Just email the Chairman or Acting Hon. Secretary. This presentation can also be obtained by writing to our Acting Hon. Secretary, *Mrs Cynthia Fowler, 998 Holderness Rd, Hull, HU9 4AG.*

If you have memories of Hull's history, photographs or other information you could share, it would help the bid for Heritage Lottery Funding if you could email or write to the Newsletter Editor, John Scotney (a member of the working group) at [john.scotney@talk21.com](mailto:john.scotney@talk21.com), 126 Cottingham Road, Hull HU6 7RZ, as soon as possible.

Editor.

## Changes to planning regulations – a challenge to the character of conservation areas?

From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010, planning regulations were changed so that change of use from Class 3 (dwellinghouse) to Class 4 (house in multiple occupation) became permitted development.

Local authorities could be liable to pay compensation when an Article 4 Direction is made with immediate effect or is made with less than 12 months notice if a planning application, submitted within 12 months of the effective date, is refused or granted subject to conditions.

Manchester City Council has given 12 months notice that an Article 4 Direction will be made on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011 so that planning consent will be required for change of use from dwelling house to a house in multiple occupation. They were quick off the mark. Some local authorities are not happy with this as, if they give 12 months notice that an article 4 direction is going to be made, a dwelling house can be changed into a house in multiple occupation before the Article 4 Direction comes into effect.

How will Hull City Council respond to this change in planning regulations? Are there any areas of Hull where an increased number of houses in multiple occupation will adversely affect the area?\*

Walter Houlton.

*\*Areas at risk could include to The Avenues and Newland Park, where at present most houses are in single occupation and Boulevard and Coltman St, where one of the aims of the Newington & St Andrews Area Action Plan is to reverse the number of houses in multiple occupation - Editor.*

### Holy Trinity Ideas

---

Below follow a series of general and practical ideas to increase both appreciation and usage of Holy Trinity (HT). This would include its conventional use as a place of worship, but primarily the ideas below are aimed at increasing general and visitor usage.

**Improved Promotion** - HT is not 'promoted' as thoroughly as it could be. It should be included in the literature of Hull City Council, VHEY and other organisations promoting the city as an attraction, and it should be on a par with both The Deep and the Council's 7 free Museums. In essence, it should almost be comparable to Beverley's and York's Minsters.

Practically, this will be reflected in a) the tourism literature produced about the city and b) the advice given to visitors by Tourist Information Centres (TIC), hotels, and other visitor facing people.

Three central aspects of the Church would be included in this promotion:

- i) **History** - many aspects, periods and people of the city's history are reflected in different features of the church. HT is in many senses a timeline of the city's history.
- ii) **Great Building** - the building is light, airy and large, the country's largest Parish Church. It also shows some of the earliest uses of brick in the country. It is a fantastic edifice in its own right.
- iii) **Spirituality** - great solace and peace can be found in any great church or cathedral, and HT is no different. People should be enticed into the building to just recharge their spiritual batteries. The purposes of a building may change over time, and no doubt HT may need to



Holy Trinity chancel (Photo: JD Scotney)

change with the times, but it should still be remembered that for at least 600 years, HT's primary purpose has been as a place of worship.

HT would be better promoted as the central part of a package which also included Trinity Market, Hands on History Museum, King Billy Statue, Trinity Square and the streets of the Old Town. All of these have their unique elements and a compelling narrative for all of them could easily be devised to entice more visitors.

### Practical Ideas

- 1) **Opening Hours** - Needless to say, but opening the building longer would probably lead to more visitors, at the very least the casual passer by would be more inclined to pop in. Importantly, having the building opening longer, more regularly would enable many of the points outlined above under Promotion to be facilitated e.g. the TIC would more easily refer people to visit HT and the Trinity Quarter if they could depend on it being open.

Getting volunteers is always an issue, but I'm sure that trying to be 'creative' about this task would enable them to be recruited e.g. why not put a regular appeal out in the Hull Daily Mail / BBC - there must be lots of people with a few hours to spare. Equally, what about young people and community groups, possibly 'handing over' control of the Church to these groups for a limited time in return for them facilitating the opening of the building.

What about a paid employee? Grant funding e.g. English Heritage, may be possible (and indeed IS possible) to pay for an individual to coordinate outreach work for religious reasons. They could help out with keeping the Church open for longer.

- 2) **Develop Café** - There is a lovely area at the top of the end of the Church (off the Chancel?) which is sometimes used as a Café. Put a bit more resources e.g. proper coffee machine, into here and advertise it as a place to relax and have a break.
- 3) **Regular Exhibitions** - the sides of the Church are ideal places to host temporary exhibitions. These could be local exhibitions and changed regularly so that people coming in (for a coffee/break) could enjoy them.
- 4) **Audio Guide** - not sure if there is one of these, but if not, why not develop one so that people could enjoy the church while listening to one of these guides.
- 5) **Video Inside** - there may be one of these already, but if not, having a video, on a loop, about the Church, quietly running in one corner (or a side chapel), might help understand the church better.



- 6) **Tower Opening** - ascending the Tower is always popular for Heritage Open Days; could not a specific time during the week be put aside to open it up regularly?
- 7) **Branding Clothing** - Would it help develop the 'brand' (sorry about management speak!) of HT if the volunteers meeting and greeting could wear HT branded tops. They may do this already, but probably not always. Maybe it would give the volunteers an extra sense of identity and pride, while also clearly signalling to the visitor a degree of organisation and cohesion to the whole church.
- 8) **Visual Appeal** - HT needs to look more inviting from all angles. I'm not 100% clear what actions could enact this, but, for example, anyone walking past HT along Marketplace/Lowgate would probably

not be enticed to walk down to the main entrance. Ways need to be found to funnel people walking by to make a detour down to the Church. This could be a bright modern sign about the Church (history, photos of inside) or even a video installation. Other simple things like cleaning pillars and surrounding walls, pruning the various trees around the Church (trees down the side could be got

rid of altogether), cleaning flagstones etc. These needn't be expensive jobs, especially if a volunteer 'taskforce' got on with the job.

- 9) **Business Buy In** - HT needs to get the buy in from surrounding businesses in the Old Town so that these people can in turn speak warmly and recommend the Church as a place to visit. My supposition is that many of the people who work around there e.g. the market traders, have very little awareness of what's in the Church and its status/importance. These businesses can be engaged by firstly speaking to them and then maybe inviting them for coffee and a short tour around Holy Trinity. And then maybe hold a Christmas reception every year to cement this relationship. Stressing the fact that this relationship can benefit both parties will help buy in from these people.
- 10) **Churches Trail** - some sort of trail which combines Hull's three major churches (HT, St Charles Borromeo, St Mary's) and maybe some other outlying ones e.g. Hessle, would be of interest to anyone with an interest in particular on ecclesiastical buildings. This might be done on bikes on one day during the year - something similar is done in Norfolk and for their churches.
- 11) **Children's Trail**- A more developed and engaging children's trail around the church could be produced, making use of, for example, the sculptures on the pew ends.
- 12) **National Curriculum Links** - Producing worksheets for schoolchildren based on aspects of the curriculum could also lead to more visits from school groups and ensure future interest and buy in from the next generation. The wide breadth of history related to the church should facilitate this.
- 13) **Kids Area** - Develop a small area (though pews would have to be moved) where small children could play with soft toys/dressing up clothes and crayons etc. They have something similar in Boston Cathedral/church and it seemed to work quite well, at least it meant that the children could entertain themselves whilst the adults had a look around.
- 14) **Masons Marks** - Another interesting feature of Boston Cathedral/Church was the mention of the different Stone Mason's unique signature marks in parts of the stone. It's another curiosity element of the church and it would be good to point about to visitors if HT has them.
- 15) **Admission Charge** - I appreciate that this may be contentious, but introducing an admission charge might a) raise people's valuation of the visit and the church itself by having a monetary value put on it and b) raise funds for the church which could be ploughed back into aspects of the Church, even paying somebody to man its opening.
- 16) **Communication** - Setting up a regular means of communication with congregation and interested people via regular newsletters, in particular an e-newsletter, would help keep HT in people's minds. News about upcoming events, viewpoints, reporting events etc. could all be put into a newsletter, and once the e mail addresses have been collated, the cost of sending a newsletter, is minimal. More expensive, but equally engaging with modernity, why not webcast services - especially around the traditional points of the year e.g. Christmas and Easter where some people automatically turn to the church, but maybe can't / don't want to actually be in the Church.

Phil Haskins

### Royal Hotel

During 2010, the Focus Group completed an extensive refurbishment of the 155 bed Royal Hotel, bringing one of Hull's best-known hotels up to the highest modern standards. The result, as we have noticed when visiting the Royal for our public meetings, is a strikingly modern and elegant hotel. Focus have entered into a franchise arrangement with a company called Accor and this will give the hotel and the city wider publicity. We wish Focus and Accor every success.

Editor.



## Spring Bank Walk 19<sup>th</sup> July 2010 – Part 2

Our walk started at the garden between Ferensway and Spring Street, with its three small domed mosaic fountains and “pillar of light”, overlooked by the 1960s Britannia House. As early as 1817, Cragg’s map shows buildings on this stretch between Prospect Street and Spring Street. They are long gone, some demolished to make way for Ferensway, others destroyed during the Second World War, and the site was edged by advertisement hoardings from the 1940s until the garden was created. Opposite, the Hull Daily Mail buildings now cover the site of Blundell and Spence’s paint works (1811), which, despite war damage and the removal of paint manufacture to a new factory in Sculcoates, survived in various uses until the late 1970s.

The process of covering the Spring Dyke over began in the 1790s. By 1817 the watercourse had been culverted along the whole of Prospect Street and the first part of Spring Bank to a point close to the present Deaf Institute. Baines’s 1823 map shows the dyke still open along the rest of Spring Bank. The first part of Spring Bank was called Spring Row on some maps until at least 1875, but

even the 1823 directory gives the address of the residents here as Spring Bank. In 1817, Spring Street had one building, possibly a pair of houses, on the east side. By 1842 it had 25 residents (Stephenson’s Directory).

The 1823 map shows one row of buildings to the west of Spring Street. This row, including the function room, (until recently called the “Celebration Centre”) and the Spring Bank Tavern, is almost certainly the oldest surviving group of buildings on Spring Bank. Paul Gibson’s “History of Spring Bank Pubs” states that the Spring Bank Tavern started life as the Pine Apple. Baines’s directory of 1823 shows the Pine Apple tavern at no. 6 Spring Bank, occupied by Joseph Haythorn, victualler and gardener, presumably also responsible for the pleasure gardens shown behind these buildings on the 1823 map. It was still the Pine Apple in White’s 1826 directory. The name Spring Bank Tavern appears first in Pigot’s 1829 directory, with Mary Haythorn as victualler. In the 1838 White’s directory it was owned by Robert Virtue and had been renumbered 12 Spring Bank. Looking at the style, the Spring Bank Tavern appears to have been rebuilt or given a new façade a little later in the century. The extension into the former shop at the corner of Hall Street came much later as part of the tavern’s refurbishment in the 1980s or 1990s.

We turned into Hall Street to look at the former Volunteer Fire Station with stone heads of horses and firemen above the two arched doorways. The police were responsible for fire fighting duties until 1886, when the new municipal fire brigade took over. The Volunteer Fire Brigade was formed in 1887 to give extra assistance, but was abolished in 1891.



Above top: Spring St and Spring Bank.  
Above middle: Spring Bank Tavern. Below:  
Hall St Volunteer Fire Brigade Station.  
(Photos JD Scotney)



On the north side of Spring Bank, the oldest part of the three-storey Brunswick Terrace appears on the 1853 OS map, but not on Nicholson & Rayner's 1852 map. It was later extended at both ends and the change in style and brickwork is clearly visible.

Belgrave Terrace on the south side of Spring Bank comprises five three-storey houses with basements and stairs up to the front doors, first mentioned in 1842 and three later two-storey houses. Sadly, the lower windows of most of Belgrave Terrace have been replaced with windows of the wrong shape, except at numbers 53 & 55, but, as the photograph below shows,

some of the houses had already been converted into shops by 1906.

The "Hull, East Yorkshire & Lincolnshire Institution for the Deaf & Dumb" was established in 1853 at 179 High Street and moved to 4 Belgrave Terrace in 1866 (renumbered 53 Spring Bank in 1883). Bulmer's Gazetteer of 1892 refers to a school at the back in Grey Street "furnished with the most approved appliances for teaching, under the new system". This may be the double-gabled building at right angles to Grey Street, which is still standing, but looks fairly derelict. In 1926 the Institution moved to new, purpose-built premises designed by FJ Horth and H Andrew at 63 Spring Bank and this was our next stop, a visit very kindly arranged by the resident caretaker, Marlene. Christine, another member of the Institute staff, who had come in especially for our visit, gave us a guided tour of this interesting and surprising building. We were shown the bar, the Snooker Room, the Quiet Room, the large rear hall, which looks out onto a garden, the Chapel, the Office and, upstairs, the Board Room. This well-appointed building is in use during the day and many evenings and provides a cosy atmosphere for meetings and social gatherings of the deaf community. Most of us had never been inside the building and we are very grateful to Marlene and Christine for giving us this opportunity.

Immediately to the west of the Deaf Institute is Minerva Terrace, a stuccoed group of three-storey houses, (which have retained their domestic appearance) set back from the building line. These were built in 1853 on the site of "Hull College", a classical "Greek Corinthian Style" building, opened as a fee-paying secondary school in 1837, closed in 1845 and demolished in 1852. The front gardens are on the site of the carriage drive that led up to the college. Naming the terrace after Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom may be a reference to its educational past. Hull College was patronised by nonconformists, while its rival, Kingston College on Beverley Road, was mainly Anglican. The teaching staff of Hull College, all well qualified, are listed in the 1838 directory and include the Principal (Rev H.N. Burrows, B.A.), Vice Principal (Rev G.F. Simpson, B.A.) a preparatory teacher and teachers of Writing, Classics. French & German were taught by Prof. C. Baszczewicz, (presumably a Pole). Both secondary schools were patronised by Hull's professional and merchant families but failed in the economic depression of the 1840s. After Hull College closed, Trinity House acquired and developed the site and their architect, William Foale, became one of the residents. (To be continued).



Spring Bank in a 1906 postcard by Raphael Tuck & Son. Note the lime trees in the centre, Belgrave Terrace on the left, Brunswick Terrace and Vane Street on the right. (From Editor's postcard collection)



John Scotney.

## **2010 – An Amazing Year for Hull**

2010 has been an exciting year for the citizens of Hull- one in which the Civic Society has played an important and supporting role towards the enhancement of certain events.

### Hull History Centre

Hulls new History Centre which opened in January was later given the Seal of Approval by the award of a Civic Society Good Mark. The ceremony in August took place at the £8.7 million centre alongside a presentation to the 30,000<sup>th</sup> visitor.

This is an impressive and unique building well- deserving of its reputation as one of the country's most exciting archival research and resource centres. It is currently being considered for a Civic Trust National Award.....

### Larkin 25 and the Toads

The launch of the Larkin 25 Festival at Hull Truck in June set off a phenomenal series of events to celebrate the life and words of Hull poet Philip Larkin who died in 1985. Remarkable was the creation of 40 giant size toads to be displayed around the City in order to stimulate interest and create what became known as 'The Toad Trail'. The toad image was chosen by the Larkin Society as the poet used the toad as a metaphor in relation to the demands of work. The toads were each decorated individually by the sponsoring organisations that paid for their sculpture and the artists' fees out of their own funds. The toads were located in public spaces meaningful to the sponsors in and around the City. Other cities have used similar devices as a festival focus but these toads became universally popular in the City and have done much to foster interest in Larkin's work both locally and nationally. Children, in particular were keen to be photographed with their favourite toad. The culmination of the project was an auction to sell off the toads which raised at least a £120,000 to support local charities. Currently 6 remain on public display.

Hull Civic Society made a donation towards the erection of a statue of Philip Larkin on Paragon Station Concourse. This was unveiled on December 2<sup>nd</sup> by Martin Jennings, the sculptor who created the celebrated statue of poet John Betjeman at St Pancras in London. Members of the Society have been invited to the ceremony in recognition of their support.

### "Hullness" a concept for Civic Societies Week

A Hullness workshop was held in conjunction with Arc, the regional architecture centre. This enabled Civic Society members and the general public to express their views about Hull's architecture, spaces and places and what it is that makes it a unique place to live. Arc is working with Hull University to compile a Hullness collection for publication in 2011.

### The Freedom Festival

The Freedom Festival has become an established custom in the city following on from the Wilberforce Festival in 2007 (1807 Abolition of Slavery). The events currently provide a whole weekend of entertainment in music and the arts. Headline pop groups and international performance artists are able to create sound and spectacle within the streets and open spaces of the city.

This year saw Trans-Express from France perform to music, a trapeze- ballet; high above the crowds in Victoria Square and illuminated against the night sky by follow-spots the figures in their fairy- tale costumes appeared to create a surrealist ambience. This performance was followed dramatically by a host of gigantic inflatable monsters which migrated from the swirling smoke- filled lanes of the Old Town onto the crowds massed in Queens Gardens. Tumultuously accompanied by clouds of smoke, flares and Musique Concrète, these unbelievable terrifying forms were controlled by

an amazing team known as ‘Plasticiens Volants’. The overall effect was so exciting – creating a heightened sense of perturbation that instigated many an involuntary primal scream from our more fretful members. The sculptures were then allowed to slowly deflate before our very eyes and as the smoke cleared and the silence descended the sense of panic subsided. The monsters were flattened, rolled up and put back in their boxes - C’est fini!

### Maritime Links

Humberside gave the ‘Clippers’ a rousing send-off on their Round the World Yacht Race in September 2009. July 2010 saw thousands throng the recently upgraded Marina to welcome them home. This Humber Dock refurbishment means Hull can provide a fitting venue for any Maritime Festival. The annual Sea Shanty Festival was scheduled to coincide with the Clippers return and created a back drop of traditional music and maritime folklore.

Looking to the future the Hull Docklands are preparing to engage with the creation of Green Energy as an important economic boost. The possible manufacture of Wind Turbines for the offshore wind farms and the production of giant wave energy generators are still in their infancy but, with the necessary investment, bode well for the future. Humber Gold is a green fuel concern currently functional and producing ethanol from bulk consignments of grain delivered to their Vivergo Energy site on the Humber bank, east of Hull.

### Heritage Open Days - the best so far

Hull Civic Society’s Heritage Open Days 2010 were declared by English Heritage Director, Trevor Mitchell, as ‘the best in the North’. The number of Open Houses was increased as new premises opened for the first time. The introduction of a wider programme of events gave visitors to the concurrent Freedom Festival an ample range of heritage experiences. All possibilities were proclaimed in advance by the publication of the ‘Ultimate Brochure’ which was generously funded by co-host English Heritage who are keen to encourage people to explore the heritage on their doorstep.

The use of the History Centre provided a superlative operational base for the weekend and the launch of David and Susan Neave’s Pevsner Guide to Hull took on a real significance at this venue.

Many of the Town Trails and Lectures were provided or led by voluntary Civic Society workers and our thanks go to not only all Civic Society officers and members who contributed but to all those local organisations whose premises were opened or services provided for free as part of a spectacular cultural and heritage weekend.

To conclude, these events, which were blessed by fine weather conditions, represent activities over and above the normal Programme undertaken by the Civic Society during the course of the year. This report is a response to what has been a very exciting and significant year in the life our Society and the City at large.

Malcolm Sharman

## **Planning & Buildings**

### Old Town

Fruit, the new venue for music, drama, talks and stand-up comedy, which is now open at 62-63 Humber St, received permission in mid-January to convert another warehouse at 61 Humber St. This will provide additional space for rehearsal, exhibitions, a market and storage. A list of the events can be found on their website [www.fruitspace.co.uk](http://www.fruitspace.co.uk).

In early October, Arc’s application for their mobile exhibition space to stay put until 30.11.2015 was approved. In early December, there was an application for the replacement of windows and introduction of an external staircase at the Minerva Hotel, overlooking the pier.

The popular Studio 10½ in King St (next to the arch into Prince St) has been empty for over a year, but in November there was an application for it to become a café bar. In mid-January the owners of the Olde Corn Exchange pub in the shadow of Holy Trinity, were refused their application to retain the decking that has been erected at the northern side.

Residential use is gradually replacing offices in Bowlalley Lane, with applications approved in December for conversions and related alterations at numbers 15 (single dwelling) and 17 (16 flats). Similar conversions into flats were approved for three more offices in Burnett Court, the L-shaped suite of offices that runs from Scale Lane to High St.

Hull City Council opened their new £7 million Wilson Centre (named after Charles Henry Wilson, the ship-owner) on 31<sup>st</sup> January. It is located in Victoria House, the 1980s office block opposite Marks & Spencers, in the angle of Alfred Gelder St and Guildhall Rd, formerly occupied by the Halifax estate agency, Connexions and Price Waterhouse Cooper. The new customer service centre provides access to more than 130 different council services in one place, allowing closure of several other offices.

### City Centre and Paragon Station

The statue of Philip Larkin is now in position on the station concourse.

Approval was given in early October for creation of a new public square to the east and north of the Wilberforce Med Centre (Story St / School St), an area at present forming a works compound. Nearby in Albion St, there was a Listed Building application in mid-December for an external covered walkway to the restaurant side entrance and for internal walls.

The silicone bronze statue of David Whitfield, Hull's most popular singer of the 1950s was originally to be placed in the David Whitfield Memorial Garden at the corner of George St and Bourne St, where most people would only see it from a moving vehicle. The decision to site the statue on a stone-clad plinth on the east side of Kingston Square, to be enjoyed by theatregoers, was taken in mid-November.



Philip Larkin statue.  
(Photo: JD Scotney)

Kingston Communications' colourful plans to refurbish their 1964 Telephone House were approved in early January. There will be a glazed atrium extension on the main Carr Lane façade, with a polyester powder-coated rain screen with vinyl dots. Above ground floor level, the western Anne St façade will have a knitted fibreglass printed mesh "building wrap". There will also be window-replacement and new glazed entrance canopies.

### North

An outline application for 132 student flats on land bounded by Spring St, Colonial St and Grey St (opposite the Land Registry) was refused in mid-December.

Steelwork for the new flats on Beverley Rd adjoining the Fubar (formerly Mainbrace) pub has reached full height. At Newland Homes, the office and swimming pool have been demolished and there are stacks of new white bricks, presumably for the approved new houses.

A 3-storey replacement for Endike Primary School was approved in mid-January. We objected to its gimmicky design. There was an application in late December to change the school's playing fields into a public open space with two new pedestrian access points, a path to Beverley and Barmston Drain and 3 sculptures at the entrances.

Orchard Park's shopping facilities have always been rather limited. In mid-December approval was given for a replacement shopping centre for retail, financial and professional services, restaurant and hot food takeaways (classes A1, A2, A3 & A5 uses) with a public square, landscaped areas, parking, servicing areas and vehicle access to Hall Road, Ellerburn Avenue and Orchard Park Road.

## West

Development is continuing steadily in the Newington & St Andrews Area, mainly on Hawthorn Ave and Woodcock St, which runs across to St George's Rd. The attractive new 3 & 4-bedroomed houses in the St Andrew's Square development in Woodcock St are finished and those in Eastbourne St and Westbourne St to the north are being roofed.

Just before Christmas, revised plans for 38 houses on Junella Fields were approved. This site lies to the south of Woodcock St and includes Junella Close and a field. When I visited, a pony was enjoying the grazing. Dairycoates Ave, which forms a loop to the south of Woodcock St, encloses the area.

On the section of Hawthorn Ave to the north of Chalk Lane level crossing, the foundations for 4 and 5-bedroomed houses are under construction on a site stretching westward to Wheeler St. Here, only the fine Wheeler St School (1902) stands as a reminder of days gone by. Approval was given in early October for a 100-unit "extra-care residential development" on a nearby site south of Greek St on the eastern side of Hawthorn Ave.



### Newington & St Andrews, past, present and future:

Top left: Greek St – houses on the right may be replaced by a 100-unit extra-care residential development.  
Top right: Woodcock St. new houses. Lower left: St Andrews Square, looking east, new houses:  
Lower right: St Andrews Square – houses backing onto Eastbourne St. (Photos JD Scotnev, Jan 2011).

## East

Kingswood High School's design as a school and library (by Peter G H Dale, Humberside County Architect) was hailed as bold and futuristic when it opened in 1987 as Perronet Thompson School. Sadly, it has been troubled by structural and condensation problems and will soon disappear, following approval of plans to replace it with a new 4-storey school and an "Energy Centre".

Readers with fond memories of Lexington Avenue (LA's) night club on Ferensway (originally the Locarno Ballroom, later Peppermint Park) can re-live their memories with a visit to the listed Malton St School, which has been converted into the new Lexington Avenue night club. Its owner, Mike Thompson, a former DJ, has recreated LA's inside the listed school building with salvaged fittings from the old night club, which closed in 2005 and was demolished in 2009. Extra space has been provided by installing a mezzanine floor, but external changes are limited to a new fire door. The new club opened on 4<sup>th</sup> December, giving a good use to an interesting listed school. The best view of the building is actually in Blenkin St, off Witham, the street parallel to Malton St.



Malton St School – the new Lexington Avenue night club, opened on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2010. Note the decorative crow-step gables. (Photo: JD Scotney 30.1.2009)

Permission was granted in early November for a 3-storey, 68-bed nursing home and a 12-bed “Young Physically Disabled Unit” on the site of the Anchor Inn on Southcoates Lane. Locally this pub was known as “Blue Heaven”, in contrast with “Red Hell” (the Crown, Marfleet Lane). The nicknames are said to derive from their external lighting.

In mid-December an application was submitted for a new 2,600-seat stand at Craven Park, incorporating ancillary facilities, business enterprise and training accommodation.

John Scotney.

#### 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](mailto:john.scotney@talk21.com).

#### Committee Changes

Gill Osgerby has stepped down from the committee, but we are very grateful for the help she has given on re-branding and publicity. We wish her well. We are very pleased to welcome two new co-opted members, Maureen Bristow and Paul Schofield.

#### Chris Ketchell 1944-2011

Two days before going to press, we heard the sad news that Chris Ketchell died in his sleep during the night of 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> January at a nursing home in Driffield, after several years of declining health. Chris was born in Driffield, but is widely remembered as one of Hull's outstanding local historians. As head of the Local History Unit of Hull College, (Park Street), he did a vast amount of research and collected and rescued many photographs and documents. He ran local history classes, sharing his enthusiasm and expertise in research skills with a large number of students, many of whom became personal friends. After the rules on funding local history classes changed, the unit was closed but his work was continued by the Local History Research Group. He was, until his illness, a very knowledgeable, sociable and generous person and he will be greatly missed.

John Scotney.

**Civic Society President, Officers and Committee 2011**  
*\*Please see the front page for our new correspondence address.\**

President	Mike Killoran	(day) 586622
	<a href="mailto:mike@princesquay.co.uk">mike@princesquay.co.uk</a>	
Chairman	John Netherwood	653657
	<a href="mailto:jnetherwood@jnetherwood.karoo.co.uk">jnetherwood@jnetherwood.karoo.co.uk</a>	
Acting Honorary Secretary and CAAC,	Cynthia Fowler	377434
	<a href="mailto:pinkhouse1@hotmail.co.uk">pinkhouse1@hotmail.co.uk</a>	
Vice Chairman, Newsletter Editor, Planning	John Scotney	492822
	<a href="mailto:john.scotney@talk21.com">john.scotney@talk21.com</a>	
Honorary Treasurer	Walter Houlton	375605
	<a href="mailto:walter@houlton1.karoo.co.uk">walter@houlton1.karoo.co.uk</a>	
Programme, Good Marks, Heritage Open Days	Malcolm Sharman	561611
	<a href="mailto:malcsharman@hotmail.com">malcsharman@hotmail.com</a>	
Planning Sec, CAAC, Good Marks, Minutes	Cynthia Fowler	377434
	<a href="mailto:pinkhouse1@hotmail.co.uk">pinkhouse1@hotmail.co.uk</a>	
Planning, Museums, Transport, Industrial Heritage	Colin Cooper	863339
	<a href="mailto:lyndacooper01482@yahoo.co.uk">lyndacooper01482@yahoo.co.uk</a>	
Membership Officer (individual & corporate)	Janet Green	589787
	<a href="mailto:janet@bengreen.karoo.co.uk">janet@bengreen.karoo.co.uk</a>	
Marketing and Old Town Regeneration	Colin McNicol	229891
	<a href="mailto:cmcnicol@cmcnicol.karoo.co.uk">cmcnicol@cmcnicol.karoo.co.uk</a>	
Website, public relations and visits	Chris Lefevre	815132
	<a href="mailto:chrisblefevre@chrisblefevre.karoo.co.uk">chrisblefevre@chrisblefevre.karoo.co.uk</a>	
Planting, soft landscaping and architecture	Nick Garbutt	01964 631140
	<a href="mailto:Nick@westbarnshardyplants.com">Nick@westbarnshardyplants.com</a>	
Co-opted Member	Maureen Bristow	833192
	<a href="mailto:mbristow6@yahoo.co.uk">mbristow6@yahoo.co.uk</a>	
Co-opted Member	Paul Schofield	878535
	<a href="mailto:schopaul@hotmail.com">schopaul@hotmail.com</a>	

**Annual Membership Subscriptions**

Individuals: £12, Additional family member at the same address: £7, Students: £5, Under 16s: £2

**Application for membership of HULL CIVIC SOCIETY**

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

*If you are a tax payer, a Gift Aid declaration can make this subscription worth more the Hull Civic Society at no extra cost to yourself.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send with your subscription to:

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