

HULL CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2006



The Octagon, Walker Street

(Photo: J.D. Scotney)

In this issue: Hull Old Town Heritage Initiative Scheme; Castle Street Revisited; Annison's; Planning for the Rising Tides; East Hull Revisited; Planning and Buildings; Caesar's Restaurant; How Well Did We Know Hull?; Book Reviews: – "Architecture of the Victorian Era in Hull", and "Cottingham in the 20th Century"; Officers and Committee.

Winter and Spring Programme 2006

Non-members are welcome to join us for all our visits and meetings.

Meetings are at 7.30 pm at the Northern Theatre (former College of Art) Anlaby Road.

Monday 13th February - "The Local Transport Plan" *Mike Ibbotson*

Monday 13th March - AGM, followed by "Gateway Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder project" *Janet Whipps, Acting Chief Executive, Pathfinder.*

Visits

To give us an idea of the number of people attending a visit, ***please book in advance*** with our Honorary Secretary, Ken Baker, by booking form, telephone (01482) 224767 or e-mail kbaker@goodwin-centre.org

Monday 20th March, 7pm - Tour of new ARC building (Max 20 people).

Meet at the ARC building at the junction of Castle St, Queen St and Blanket Row.

Designed by Niall McLaughlin Architects, with public participation, the building demonstrates the application of sustainable design and renewable energy resources.

Monday 8th May, 7 pm – Tour of Old Town Townscape Heritage Initiative projects.

Meet outside Burnett House, at the corner of Castle Street and Market Place.

Walk led by Joanne Byrne, Townscape Heritage Co-coordinator, looking at some of properties improved with the help of the Hull Old Town Townscape Heritage Initiative, a £2-million project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Single Regeneration Budget and European sources.

Sunday 21st May, 2pm – Tour of The Boulevard and Coltman Street.

Meet at the statue on the corner of Hessle Rd and Boulevard.

Walk led by a representative of the Hessle Road Network.

Additional visits will be advertised at meetings, in the May Newsletter, or in the local media.

Subscriptions – a Reminder

The Society relies on members' subscriptions for its income, so please accept this as a gentle reminder that your £7 annual subscriptions are due in January!

New Committee Member

We were very pleased to welcome Joanne Byrne to the committee in November 2005. If you are interested in becoming more involved with the Society's work through membership of the committee, please contact our Honorary Secretary, Ken Baker (tel. 224767).

Civic Society Calendar

Our calendar, illustrated with scenes of Hull in full colour, will be available until the end of January from our Honorary Secretary, Ken Baker (tel. 224767). The price is £4.99, including postage, and cheques should be payable to Hull Civic Society (see booking form).

May Newsletter

Many thanks to all our contributors, including those whose articles have been held over until the next Newsletter, for lack of space. Please submit all items to the editor, John Scotney, by post to 126 Cottingham Road, Hull, HU6 7RZ, or email john.scotney@talk21.com by 31st March.

Chairman's Report

Welcome and a Happy New Year to all! It's a great pleasure and very rewarding writing the Chairman's report as I recap what Hull Civic Society has achieved in the last few months.

I hope that you have managed to get to at least one of our public talks at the new venue – Northern Theatre of Performing Arts. Arguably one of the City's most attractive buildings, many remember it as the College of Fine Art. There is an issue about disabled access but we are working with the Theatre to address this problem. The Winter Programme of talks started with Martin Taylor, City Archivist, who outlined plans for Hull's new multi-million pound History Centre. Professor Appleton offered something completely different, with a talk about landscapes and how we interpret them. The Life of Brian Randell was the subject of the November talk. In December, the scheduled talk was to be about the new proposals for Quay West – coinciding with the submission of the outline planning application – but with only a week's notice, the developers informed us that no one was available to speak. This was a great disappointment, as the meeting had been publicised in the Hull Daily Mail and the subject was of great interest to many people. We are very grateful to Ken Baldwin, Hull's City Centre Manager, and Phil Haskins of the Chamber of Commerce for speaking to us at such short notice. The meeting proved a great success and questions were still flowing when the meeting closed at nine o'clock.

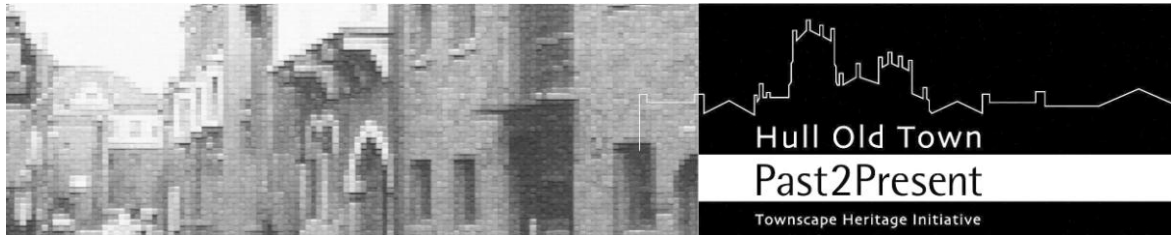
Our thanks to Sue Whittaker of the Newland Park Residents Association, who in September kindly gave a talk in her own garden about the development of this exquisite residential Conservation Area, followed by a guided tour of Newland Park and the proposed University Conservation Area by our editor. Thanks also to Alan Canvess from Hull's Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) who led a walk around historic pub interiors in the Old Town. CAMRA do some excellent conservation work and this was a salute to their achievements. In November, the Committee also visited Island Wharf, Hull's new prestigious waterfront office development. Other events are planned for the New Year, including Hull in Bloom (featuring a guided tour to see the contestants' contributions), Heritage Open Days and ARC (Hull's new Architecture Centre).

Congratulations to Stuart Spandler, a relatively new Committee member, who organised the highly successful 'So you think you know Hull?' quiz. Over 120 people attended the event in October, kindly hosted by the City Council at the Guildhall. As well as having a lot of fun, the event raised vital funds for the Lord Mayor's Charities. The last newsletter featured another of Stuart's Quizzes, which was won by David and Stephen Allen of Hull. They received complimentary rail tickets to London, courtesy of Hull Trains, for identifying familiar Hull landmarks.

In November, Joanne Byrne was co-opted on to the Committee. Joanne co-ordinates the Hull Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) – a £2m grant-giving programme for the repair and regeneration of the historic environment in the Old Town Conservation Area. Her work is supported by a Steering Group, which includes representatives from the Civic Society. Joanne will be leading a walk later on in the year, to show how this money has been spent. Unconnected, we are also supporting an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund by St James Church, Sutton-on-Hull for a Local History Worker and repairs to the Church, which dates back to 1347.

The Civic Society has awarded a range of Good Marks highlighting the variety of new and exciting projects in the City. These include Caesars – a restaurant on Princes Avenue, Platform 1, a hotel and restaurant on Hedon Road, Annison's and 76 Beverley Road. Do try and go to visit these places. I also want to thank John Netherwood and Ken Baker for their efforts in getting the Highways Agency to acknowledge the untidiness of Hedon Road. The Agency has agreed to undertake improvements. Progress is also being made on the Circle of Fame. Members recently attended 'From Vision to Reality – Planning for Hull City Centre', a planning conference hosted by the City Council. We were able to contribute directly towards emerging design guidance. On a quieter note, Ian Loge continues to identify and award CALM (Campaign Against Loud Music) Certificates to public locations that offer peace and tranquillity.

Adam Fowler



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Hull Old Town Townscape Heritage Initiative

Hull's Old Town is an area of significant heritage interest, dating back to the origins of the City in the 12th Century and displaying a wealth of buildings and streetscapes of historic and architectural interest.

Past 2 Present

In the recent past, the economic situation in the Old Town has resulted in some buildings slipping into poor repair and others suffering inappropriate alteration. Today some buildings continue to be under threat from further decay due to vacancy, ownership and redevelopment issues. However, it is these very buildings and streets which capture the story of Hull and its people and which give the area its unique character. These buildings and streets have the potential to link past to present and create an attractive and desirable environment in which to live, work and relax.

Regeneration through Conservation

The Hull Old Town Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) is a grant-giving programme for the repair and regeneration of the historic environment within part of the Old Town Conservation Area. The programme is made up of a £2 million “common funding pot” funded equally by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Single Regeneration Budget Round 6 (SRB6). This common pot will be allocated to eligible conservation projects in the Old Town Conservation Area.

Under Construction

The programme commenced in January 2004 and will run until 2008. A number of projects supported by the THI are currently “on site”, such as the restoration of Burnett House and repairs to the façade of the Hull and East Riding Museum. Others, such as No 52 High Street, have been completed and some are still “on the drawing board”.

What is Eligible?

Grants can contribute to 5 different eligible categories of work:

- Building Repairs
- Reinstatement of Architectural Detail
- Bringing vacant historic floor space back into use
- Infilling gap sites in key frontages
- Public realm works

Grants can also fund:

Professional Fees, Archaeological Work, VAT.

Why you may need a Grant!

In regeneration situations, the additional costs of work in historic areas (to pay for specialist materials, craftsmanship etc.) can mean that much-needed repair and redevelopment projects become financially unviable. The THI grants are designed to compensate for this “conservation

deficit". The deficit is calculated by looking at the cost of work against the end value of the property, or, for new build and public realm projects, by calculating the additional costs of working to a conservation standard.

The Conservation Requirement

The key objective of the THI is to encourage regeneration that is conservation led. All works undertaken with a THI grant must respect the character and integrity of the building or structure, and of the area in which it lies. Design and specification should aim for the highest standards, quality and practice, aiming for use of matching material and detailing where good evidence exists of the original construction material.

Funding Available!

We currently have grant money available to bring new projects into the Old Town THI programme and are looking for suitable schemes to grant aid. If you have a property that you think could benefit from a grant, you should contact us as soon as possible. We are particularly keen to support projects that could commence on site within the coming year. Grant aid could range from smaller grants of £5,000 to larger grants of up to £250,000, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria.

Contact us.

The THI is managed by CityVenture and has a dedicated Programme Coordinator, Conservation Advisor and Project Assistant. We are always happy to meet to discuss the eligibility of a project or assist with an application. You can also find further information on our website at www.cityventure.uk.com (see Past2Present).

All enquiries should be directed to:

Joanne Byrne, Hull THI Co-ordinator, Tel: 01482 320021, Email job@cityventure.co.uk

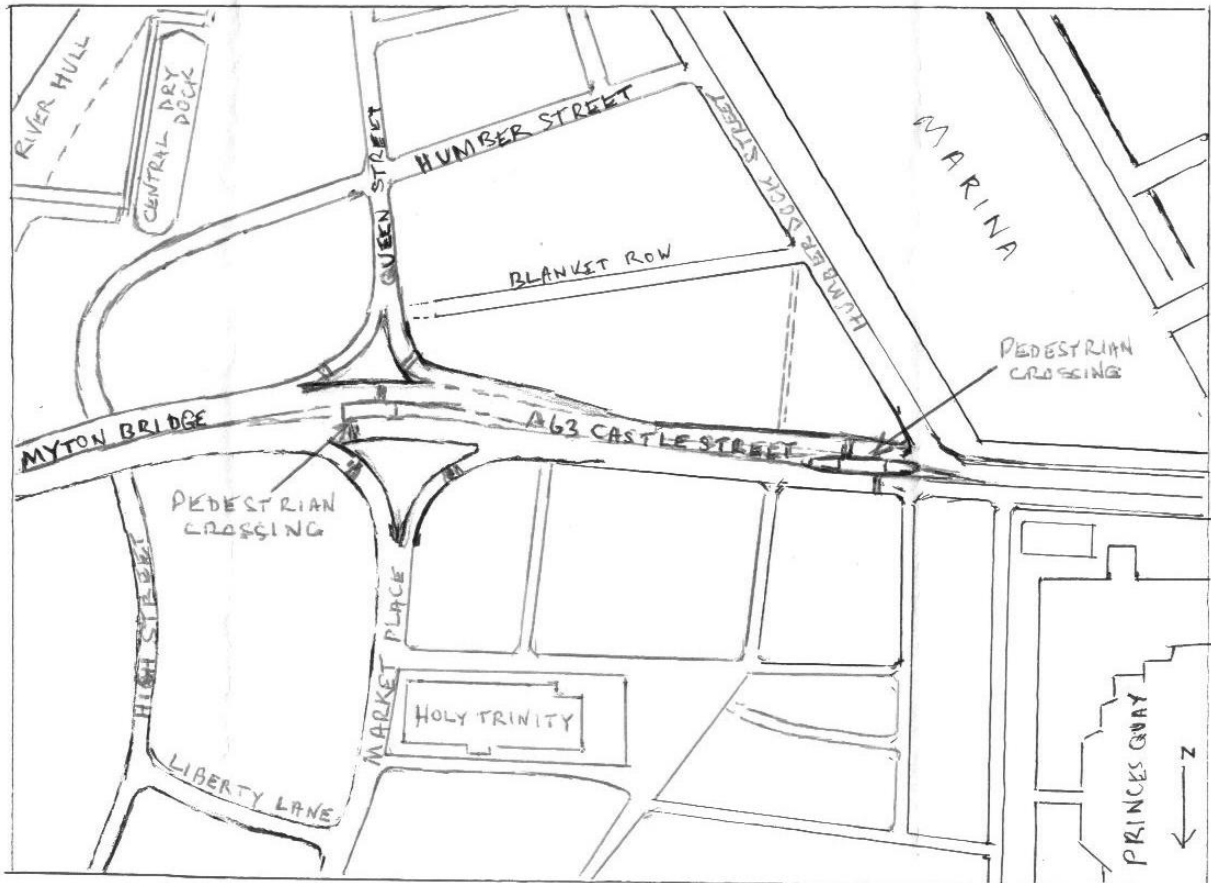
Castle Street Revisited

A report on two improvement schemes for Castle Street came before the Riverside Area committee on 9th November 2005. One scheme, estimated to cost £350,000, is to improve the existing pedestrian crossing near Humber Dock Street by doubling the width of the centre reservation, by widening it to the south, to give more space for waiting pedestrians, and moving the other kerb-line closer to Marina Court. I have never had a problem when using this crossing but there must be times when a large number of people wish to cross and the centre reservation is not big enough. The Highways Agency have accepted this scheme as it would not increase delays to trunk road traffic. They did not accept a scheme put forward earlier by CityBuild. It should have been obvious to them that the Highways Agency would not accept their scheme for a wide straight-across pedestrian crossing as it would have increased delays to vehicles.

The other scheme, costing about £750,000, is to close the central reservation gap at Queen Street and use Liberty Lane, High Street, little Humber Street as a diversion route under Myton Bridge. At present, there are six lanes at the foot of Myton Bridge and they will be reduced to two lanes in each direction. A high quality signalised pedestrian crossing, with a very wide centre reservation, would be made. The pedestrian crossing lights would cause some delays to road traffic but the delays would be much shorter than at present. Pedestrians would use a pedestrian crossing to cross a slip road into a triangular island between two slip roads and then use the pedestrian crossing across the trunk road to the other triangular island. Some improvements would be made to the diversion route and, possibly, roadside parking would be banned. The two schemes were approved in principle by the Riverside Area Committee. If the scrutiny committee agrees to the

schemes, we will await the detailed plans and the public consultation on them. Construction work is unlikely to start before 2007.

When Myton Bridge and Castle Street were being planned in the 1960s, there was an opportunity to make a better grade separated junction at Queen Street as land was available then for a shorter, more compact, diversion route. I seem to remember that the City Council then preferred a direct route to Queen Street and so condemned East Hull motorists and port traffic to years of unnecessary waiting at the traffic lights. I hope that this scheme progresses without delays.



Walter Houlton.

Good Mark – Restoration of Annon’s



Annon's in 2005 – restored to a new use as Witham Bargain Centre.
(Photo: J.D. Scotnev)

Hull Civic Society has awarded a well-deserved Good Mark for the sensitive and thorough restoration of Annon’s by Mr Paul Wheeler, the owner, the Ewbank Partnership, architects, and the builder Mr PM Nixon.

Annon’s livery stables and funeral director’s business at 119-127 Witham is an important piece of Hull’s social and transport history. A livery stable was the Victorian equivalent of car hire and the funeral director’s business was even more important than today in an age when a funeral was very much more a public event for the community in which the deceased had probably lived all his life. Few livery

stables survive anywhere, but Annison's is unique, in being so complete and in having stables on the first floor, with a chapel of rest, funeral director's office and shops underneath.

For many years the building, though listed, was at risk from a road scheme which would have seen it demolished in favour of a roundabout. When that scheme was formally abandoned, the threat of slow decay after years of planning blight was still a reality.

Fortunately its potential was recognised by Paul Wheeler, of the Black Lion in Bridlington's Old Town, who bought Annison's with a view to restoring it. In September, 2000 the restoration scheme, designed by York architects The Ewbank Partnership, was submitted and it was approved in November of the same year.

The present appearance, which displays all the fine detail of Edwardian craftsmanship matched by equally fine 21st century craftsmanship, took many years of patient and careful restoration to achieve. It involved replacing the original roof lights, removal of asbestos roofing and replacement with slate, replacing decayed woodwork with new woodwork to match the existing style, removal of ground floor walls to turn the shops at 124, 125, 126 and 127 into one large unit (more suited to modern retail requirements), construction of new doors into the courtyard from the shop units and removal of the roof over the courtyard (to return it to its original appearance).

After so many years of disuse, the Civic Society was very pleased to see Annison's returned to use when its new tenants, a furniture retailer called Witham Bargain Warehouse, opened for business in September 2004.

We offer our congratulations to the Ewbank Partnership for their sympathetic design work, to Mr Nixon, the builder, for his superb craftsmanship and, especially, to Mr Paul Wheeler for taking on and achieving the enormous task of restoring Annison's, one of Hull's most interesting landmarks.

John Scotney.

Good Mark - The Octagon

Hull Civic Society has awarded its Good Mark to the new Octagon building in Ice House Road, Hull.

The Octagon is the newly-opened facility of the Goodwin Development Trust, and is a major new resource for the residents of the Thornton Estate. It provides a West Hull PCT health centre, a City Council Customer Service Centre, a 67-place high-quality nursery and some extensive conference facilities, which can be used by local residents and business alike.



The Octagon, Walker Street. (Photo: J.D. Scotney)

The new building, as its name suggests, is made up of three interlinked eight-sided buildings, or 'Pods' as they are called, making extensive use of glass to achieve a very light effect.

The building is an outstanding example of a modern building design which is practical, artistic and interesting without the harshness of some modern, high-tech designs. The flowing roof lines grab the attention and seem to float as you move around the outside. The roof was designed to provide an attractive view from above for the benefit of nearby residents in the adjacent apartment towers.

The cladding of the exterior walls is achieved with apparently random shapes of a Spanish form of wood panels, which are highly resistant to the effects of the weather. They were designed Katie Jabbi, the wife of Saikou Jabbi, who comes from Gambia and is one of the Goodwin's Community Wardens. The shapes are very eye-catching and give a light-hearted feel to the building.

The Good Mark is awarded to the Goodwin Development Trust and, in particular to its in-house design team, Thornton Architectural Services, which is led by Kenneth Baker, for achieving a building of which the whole city can be proud.

John Netherwood

Planning for the Rising Tides

I was there when Philip Winn, the Environment Agency's Humber Strategies Manager, gave an interesting talk in the Hull Guildhall on 18th October. He said that sea level was rising by two millimetres a year and this was likely to increase in the future. Flood defences in some places on the south bank of the Humber were in a poor condition but those at Hull were generally good and little work would be needed here during the next 15 years. A separate flood defence strategy would be prepared for flooding from the River Hull.

He spoke about Kilnsea and I was very concerned although I have no personal connections. Kilnsea has been getting a raw deal for many years and it has suffered from flooding many times. The present Kilnsea is not the original village and half of the old Kilnsea is shown to have been destroyed by coastal erosion on the 1852 Ordnance Survey map. The present Kilnsea was built almost a mile west of the old village. The Environment Agency state that coastal defences near Kilnsea are being threatened by erosion and could be breached within five to ten years but possibly in as little as two years. They state that there is no economic justification for realigning or replacing the defences and they are likely to be abandoned. In calculating the economic justification, the Environment Agency seem not to include the losses to farmers when their fields are flooded by sea water in Spring when newly sprouting crops are destroyed. A 1900 photograph shows Kilnsea villagers disconsolately standing on the road looking towards Easington and seeing the road disappearing into a huge lake, which extends as far as the eye could see.

It is understandable that Kilnsea people are upset. Many will have been told by their parents or grandparents of previous floods. The worst flooding was probably in December 1900. The farmland between Kilnsea and Easington has been flooded several times since then. Farmers were ruined but no compensation was paid to them. The lagoons south of Easington are a Special Area of Conservation and the Environment Agency will find it difficult to comply with their statutory duty to protect them. One possible way to protect Kilnsea, the farmland and the lagoons would be to make flood defences to protect the lagoons from coastal erosion, raise the flood bank to protect Kilnsea from flooding from the Humber and construct a clay bank to connect the Humber defences to the coastal defences. The road to Spurn Point would be raised to make a 1 in 20 slope up and down over the clay bank. Kilnsea Warren would be outside the flood defences and properties in that area would be waterproofed up to the predicted maximum flood level. This scheme would be very expensive and the Environment Agency would calculate that the work had no economic justification even if future predicted losses to farmers were taken into account. The Environment Agency's present idea seems to be to just ringbank groups of residential properties and provide floodproofing for isolated houses. Allowing the farmland to flood will cripple Kilnsea. I sincerely hope that our former Hull Councillor, Elliot Morley, now the minister with responsibility for flood defences, will intervene to change the Environment Agency's policy towards Kilnsea.

Walter Houlton.

East Hull Revisited

Work continues apace with the East Park refurbishment and the park resembles a major construction site at the moment.

Projects taking shape now include the new aviary, the extended and refurbished boat house and the new Park Pavilion, which will be the focal point of the park. The Ferens Boating Lake has lost its central island and the ornate rock garden and “Monkey Hill” are well on the course of renovation with the stone pathways and bridges reinstated. Hopefully, by spring 2006 the extensive replanting will have established itself in this once-popular feature, as will the many new trees which line the central vehicle driveway of the park.

Early 2006 should see the animals transferred to the new animal enclosure located near to the original playground and former Lido sites. Perhaps next year would be a good opportunity to have another visit, especially if the landscaping of the Hawkesbury Street lakeside area and the renovation of the listed Wickstead Water-Chute of 1927 are complete.

There is not much building news at the moment. The Vaults public house in the former Midland Bank at 51-53 Witham finally closed its doors in the summer of 2005. An uncertain future faces the James Reckitt Public Library on Holderness Road, designed by Sir Alfred Gelder and opened in 1889. Following a review of library services by the city council, this and the Garden Village Library have been closed and their book stocks transferred to a new public library situated in the Customer Service Centre at the Mount Retail Park, a quarter of a mile away.

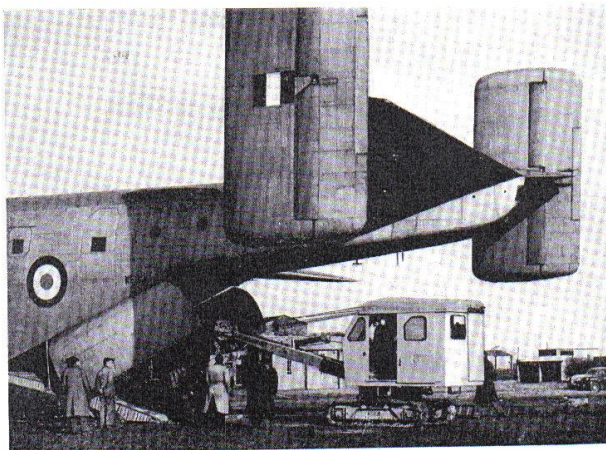
Finally, work has begun on the long-awaited residential development in Marfleet not far from Fenner's Recreation Ground. This must be the first residential development since the inter-war years and follows years of industrial encroachment into the former village which was incorporated into Hull's boundary in 1882. We await its completion with interest.

Another superb exhibition at the city's Maritime Museum reflects the life and times of one of East Hull's industrial giants, Priestman Brothers Ltd (1870 – 1984), who were originally established as millers and general engineers in the Williamson Street area of East Hull. The seeds of success, however, were sown in 1876 with the invention of a grab for dredging in Vigo Bay in Spain, where an expedition had been sent to try to recover treasure from a Spanish galleon sunk two hundred years earlier. The expedition was unsuccessful, but it led to the grab being developed for dock and canal dredging by the Hull dock Company and other port authorities worldwide.

Shortly after this, the company pioneered the oil engine, producing one in 1887 as an alternative to steam power. This was used to power boats, pump hoses etc. and was the world's first

commercially successful oil engine, preceding Rudolph Diesel's eponymous invention by two years – built and perfected in East Hull. An example can be seen in Hull's Streetlife Museum. The exhibition shows how the company grew from its small beginnings to produce the world's first small excavator (the forerunner of the JCB) in the 1920s. By then, Priestman's was an internationally respected provider of construction equipment and their grabs and cranes incorporated the “cutting edge of technology”.

The company possibly reached its peak with the 1950s building boom, when they moved to a 45-acre site in Marfleet, opposite King George Dock and employed 1,380 people in Hull alone. By then they produced a wide range of cranes, earth-moving equipment, grabs, buckets and also developed slewing or



Illustrating two local engineering products—the “Beverley” transport aircraft taking in Hull made excavating equipment.

A Priestman excavator being loaded onto a Beverley freight plane. (Photo by kind permission of Hull City Council).

swivel rings on which all cranes are mounted, which were supplied throughout the industry under the Taperex brand.

As with other famous East Hull industrial giants such as Reckitt's and Rank's, the business was founded by families with strong religious principles (Quakers in this case), whose devotion to the work ethic was unquestionable. Spreading the name of Hull to all corners of the world, it provided income and job-security for hundreds of East Hull households and, moreover, showed that there was more to Hull's economy than fishing and net-making!

The exhibition shows the interest in the company and it is sad that there has not been any booklet provided by the museums or any individuals helping with the exhibition, to document the achievements of this much-missed Hull enterprise.

Another familiar company from East Hull in the news and fortunately still with us is P&O – North Sea Ferries. It is exactly 40 years since the first sailing from Hull to Europoort (17th December 1965) and the European visitors to Hull would have found a port totally unrecognisable from the scene today. The idea behind a roll-on-roll-off ferry from Hull had been proposed a few years earlier by Mr Ian Churcher, a leading figure in European transport circles, who predicted coming trends in continental travel, the advent of wheeled freight operations, the growth in private motoring and overseas family holidays.

His efforts led to a consortium of six companies (two British, two German and two Dutch) investing to build two roll-on-roll-off ferries of 4,000 gross tons with capacity for 250 passengers – the Norwind and the Norwave – and the construction of a ferry terminal at King George Dock.

The service had a shaky start, since the city's dockers were perhaps not ready to accept new technology in the union-dominated 1960s. As late as 1954 there were still 4,000 registered stevedores in the port, and although roll-on-roll-off had been seen during the Second World War, as were other mechanical aids to ship discharging, those procedures disappeared in peace-time and the men reverted to their manual methods of cargo-handling with shovels and scuttles etc. as was the norm for their fathers and grandfathers before them.

Clearly the advent of roll-on-roll-off ferries would pose a tremendous threat to dockers' livelihoods and their militant actions must have led the company and the dock authorities to have serious misgivings about their choice of port, especially by 1976 when the second generation of ferries, the Norland and the Norstar, three and a half times larger, with capacity for 1,243 passengers, entered service and a second daily sailing to Zeebrugge had begun. Against all odds, the company prospered, despite a succession of blockades, blacking of cargo and sending of cargoes back to Europe unloaded. Such events were regular Hull Daily Mail headlines in the 1960s and 1970s.

By 1989, the National Dock Labour Scheme had been abolished and earlier restrictive practices had become a matter for the history books. A Civic Society Good Mark was awarded to the company in 1987 when two further vessels were ordered "for their efforts in showing confidence in the future of the Port of Hull and for improving passenger facilities at the port". The city can be proud of the company now known as P&O North Sea Ferries and the work it has done in promoting Hull as a major ferry port, not a "fishing village at the end of a railway line", as well as providing a direct route for passengers coming from and going to northern Europe, many of whom would never have visited the city, had it not been for the daily ferry service. So, congratulations to the company and here's to the next forty years!



MV Norwave,
(Photo by kind permission of P & O North Sea Ferries)

Colin Cooper.

Planning and Buildings

Old Town

Burnett House, Castle St (which some readers will remember as the Britannia Hotel, Mytongate), is being refurbished, thanks to the Hull Old Town Townscape Heritage Initiative (see article above). It is such a prominent building that its decay or renovation alike can send negative or positive messages about the city to visitors driving along Castle Street. Across the road, the Arc building is nearing completion. It is a temporary building acting as a demonstration of the application of sustainable design, and renewable energy resources.

Schemes for conversion of the fruit warehouses at 6-8 Humber St into 10 apartments and 27-28 into offices were approved in late November. Applications pending are for 59 Humber St (conversion into five flats) and 14 Wellington St (four new 3-storey houses), 17 Humber St (four flats) and 9-11 Wellington St (new 5-storey block of 27 flats). Permission to create 'letting bedrooms' in the upper floors of the Baltic Wharf pub (Humber Dock Side), will make reopening more viable. The demolition of all buildings at the Central Dry Dock (eastern end of Humber St) was approved in late November, though no scheme has been submitted for development yet.

Saturday 7th January saw the closure of Littlewood's Whitefriargate store, which belongs to the Primark group. It was built in the 1950s on the site of the burnt-out branch of the Bank of England.

City Centre

Unit 3a of the Maltings, the part of the old Hull Brewery facing onto Jarratt St, is being completely rebuilt as offices, retaining only the façade, currently held up by a frame of steel girders.

In October, an outline planning application was submitted for the Quay West retail, leisure and residential development. The site area extends from Princes Dock Side to Ferensway and from Osborne St to Castle St and includes Anne St and part of Carr Lane. Redevelopment here would be welcome, as visitors approaching Princes Quay car park via Osborne St get a very poor image of Hull. It is much better to extend the city centre than create another physically separate counter-attraction like St Andrews Quay or Kingston Retail Park.

At the end of November, Lakeland's applications to convert the two fine Georgian houses of the YPI in George St into 14 flats and to replace the later rear additions with a new block of flats were withdrawn. A new seven-storey shop, restaurant and flats development at the corner of Jameson St and Bond St. was approved in late November replacing the disused half of the former Co-op department store. The western half, occupied by BHS, is to remain. It will be interesting to see how this will be achieved structurally.

The new block of Barratt's flats in Wright St is well advanced, but shrouded in mystery and silvery panelled scaffolding. Work has started on conversion of 71-76 Wright St and the second phase of new building to the rear and on the site to the east. Westbridge Homes' new flats on the north side of Wright St and in Baker St are finished. Their next project is the site of Castle Interiors' showroom in Percy St. The building of a block of 45 flats (approved in January 2004) on the site of Crown Windows, on the town side of North Bridge, appears to be imminent; permission for steel sheet piling on the river side of the site was granted in November and the site has been cleared. Another flats development was proposed in November for 10-12 School St.

Hull Screen closed on 23rd December and is due to re-open on 19th January in the large ground floor lecture theatre at the University of Lincoln (former Nautical College) next to the YPI in George St. Hull Screen's cinema seats will be transferred to George St to replace the present ones, which have trays attached for students taking notes. The entrance to the new venue is on the ground floor and fairly inconspicuous, but there is level wheelchair access to the middle of the auditorium and a wheelchair lift to the front half.

The former Alder's (originally Willis Ludlow) building reopened as Primark on 8th December. The façade has regained its 1970 appearance with the removal of the glass canopy added as part of the Princes Quay alterations.

Ferensway

On 5th October, our Hon Secretary, Ken Baker, initiated the demolition of Beverley House, former Northern Foods headquarters, on St Stephen's Square. Ken was the architect of this building in 1965, when he was an associate partner at Gelder & Kitchen. The yard of the former dairy has become the compound for the construction equipment and St Stephen's Street, has been closed off. It is the largest redevelopment site the city has seen since the days of slum clearance.

West Hull

The Vision night club in the listed former Tower cinema (1914), which opened in July after a three-year refurbishment, closed again in December.

The owners, Northern European Leisure, have decided to wait until the completion of the St Stephen's development, which will make the area less of a backwater. One development which may help Vision's success is the revised scheme for a 116 bed hotel on the site of 51-59 & 61 Anlaby Rd (New York Hotel and



former Salvation Army Ice House Citadel) and 10 Midland St, the former Albert Hall music hall, approved at the Planning Committee meeting on 30th November. The

façade of the Albert Hall is being retained and the adjacent businesses in Midland St and Anlaby Rd are not affected.

The Octagon neighbourhood centre, Walker St, run by the Goodwin Development Trust held its first open day in October. Architecturally, I think it makes a splendid modern contribution to the townscape of the Great Thornton estate as well as being useful to the local community.

Another focus of planning attention this season is the junction of the Boulevard, Cholmley St and Gordon St. In early January, the three-storey block of flats for English Church Housing at the south western corner of the junction was under construction. Its three gables echo the roofline of the houses on the north-western corner and the block fills the gap caused by demolition of the original 1903 Boulevard Baptist Church in the early 1970s. The Sunday School of 1904 remains in use. Permission was given in November for a new fountain on the roundabout. In December, there was an application to replace the attractive Gordon Street Police Station (1885) with a new two-storey "Local Police Team Base". We have objected to the demolition of this fine Victorian building and we hope it will still be there for our Boulevard walk on 21st May!

New York Hotel, Anlaby Rd (above) and Albert Hall – second building from the left - Midland St (below).
(Photos: J.D. Scotney)



Rank's Clarence Mills, viewed from Hull College (7th floor) in December 2005 (Photo: JD Scotney)

The application to build houses on the site of Boothferry Park was approved in late November.

East Hull

Hull's last flour mill, Rank's Clarence Mills (1891, but rebuilt after wartime bomb damage) overlooking Drypool Bridge, closed on 3rd December. Rank Hovis say that it would be too costly to bring the mills up to modern standards.

The former Berkeley cinema in Greenwich Avenue, Bilton Grange is to be replaced by a four storey and a three storey block providing a total of 34 flats.

The Hull area's first wind turbine (just

outside the city boundary at Saltend) was approved in October by the East Riding Council for the Waste Water Treatment Works.

North Hull

The flats under construction at the end of Francis St, overlooking Freetown Way, look attractive, with their pedimented main entrance and west-facing bow window. Other residential developments include seven flats approved in late November for the vacant land between Belvoir St and Blenheim St, to the rear of Princes Ave Methodist Church, applications for two blocks of flats at 332-362 Cottingham Rd (next to Macdonald's) and the conversion of the Sunday School rooms at the rear of the listed Trafalgar St church into 8 flats.

A new community facility for parents and children in the Sculcoates Lane area, a Sure Start centre in Fenchurch St was approved in late November. Conversion of the former Durham Pine Shop (59 Spring Bank) into a Turkish community centre and place of worship for the Hull Anatolian Society was approved in October. Two miles north of this, the new Community Church at the corner of Cottingham Rd and Newland Ave is taking shape. After half a century of declining congregations, this project to construct a larger church and extra meeting rooms for an expanding congregation is noteworthy.

An application to demolish the disused filling station on the site at the corner of Spring Bank and Stanley St. is another step towards building Tesco's Spring Bank convenience store. Retail development has also been approved for the site of the filling station opposite Beverley Rd Baths. An unsympathetic extension to the listed Northern Branch Library was rejected in January.

Editor.

Good Mark – Caesar's Restaurant

First impressions are important and the street façade of Caesar's is warm and welcoming with rich crimson and gold frontage and signage which, along with the plants, outdoor tables and chairs, creates a veritable Mediterranean feel. It certainly looks good, particularly in the evening when shining cabinets vividly display interesting and unfamiliar foods. However ... The polished and machined surface of the shop front and the Caesar logo belie the delightful effects to be found beyond the portico and ante-room.

It was a perfect summer evening, hot and bright, when I first chanced upon the Moroccan courtyard, being immediately transported back to my travels in North Africa in the 60s; I ordered sweet mint tea to sustain me whilst I visually explored the this astonishing transformation of a typical Princes Avenue back yard. I couldn't believe I was still in Hull and excitedly congratulated the owner, a Mr Mohammed from Tangier, who explained that to achieve such a convincing illusion he had ferried in his van authentic artefacts and materials overland from Africa.

The walled courtyard he has created is large enough for eight metal tables, round square or hexagonal, each topped in mosaic Islamic geometric patterns. In the centre is a star-shaped terracotta and blue glazed well and fountain, softened with exotic planting and set off by columns surmounted by authentic Arabian metalwork lanterns; all effectively reflected in the pool. The walls of the courtyard are exactly the right shade of terracotta to complement the blue of the sky. Arabesque metalwork grilles and simple Moroccan wire furniture contrast like black line-drawings against the simplicity of the walls. The striking dado of white cement inlaid with blue diamond tiles imprecisely set, provide a dominant *leitmotif* of North African style.

This is a place redolent of the Rif and only the canopy of familiar sycamore leaves overhead and the sound of familiar local accents bring us back to reality. Looking around it's the details that are unfamiliar and vie for our attention. A pair of wall-mounted troughs tiled in complex curlesque designs provide a strong ethnic symmetry as they support the arch leading back into the street. The floor is just concrete slabs, but painted a rich gloss red and with dark green spiky potted plants to

punctuate the space, the whole stage-set illusion is completed by the inclusion of perforated metal "Hadid" lanterns (with glass candle-holders), which are hand-made, rustic and essentially Arabian. Now was that or was that not a camel going past? For the winter, the owner has cheated a tent-like cover for the space and with the addition of three great ornamental lanterns constructed with open fretwork and stained glass, the sense of the exotic remains.

It is certainly worth a visit and the range of essentially Moroccan and Lebanese food simply cannot be had anywhere else in Yorkshire. The staff are friendly and you can take your own wine. A good mark is awarded to Caesar's for a successful overall improvement of business premises, including an imaginative re-creation of a Moroccan courtyard café using authentic artefacts and design influences from another culture.

Malcolm Sharman.

HOW WELL DID WE KNOW HULL?

I wasn't sure I wanted to enter a team in the Hull Civic Society/ Lord Mayor's Quiz "How Well Do You Know Hull?" at the Guildhall on Thursday 20 October, although everyone expected me to. I incorporate lots of quizzes in my local history classes and walks. However we are always more interested in closely defining the question before attempting an answer, I suspected a charity quiz would not be like this! I wasn't sure I liked the idea of perhaps "my" team not doing very well either. The event also clashed with one of my local history evening classes as well, so I had lots of reasons not to enter....

However by the beginning of that week I cracked, and decided to give it a go, although I was worried to hear that the Lord Mayor had drafted in Arthur Credland from Hull Maritime Museum and Martin Taylor from Hull City Archives onto his team; this sounded like a bit of an unfair advantage! The first two of my students I invited declined, oh! I pressed on; by then I'd heard that Chris Mead might not be averse to being invited to take part, so I did, he accepted and we also brought in Jane Pietrusiak, who I think in turn has been in all three of my classes, as has Chris. I knew Chris was good at "all round" knowledge and had been on some television quizzes in the past. As a poet I thought Jane could cover the literary and cultural questions. I knew I needed someone with sporting knowledge and also pop culture. David Bliss and Catherine Foster from my Thursday morning class fitted the bill precisely, both Hull FC fans, although David had dallied with KR in the past, and Catherine has young daughters so I thought she would be OK for the inevitable pop trivia questions.

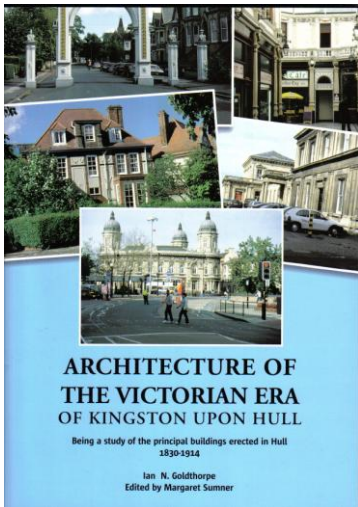
I finished my evening class early and headed to the Guildhall - only half my team there, but all turned up in time. We discovered David A. Smith, from Hull Local Studies Library had replaced Martin Taylor in the Lord Mayor's team, and was a little concerned to see that Hilary Byers, Hull City Council Conservation officer had been drafted into the Cityventure team. However after Round 1 we were not too displeased with ourselves, perhaps only not being able to answer two. As the evening progressed, we felt happier (the paybar?) and could see that the Lord Mayor's team (how many did he have?) seemed to get, err, more merry (the Lord Mayor's hospitality budget?!). We heard rumours that "the BBC team (allegedly) cheat, using mobile phones" - surely not! So how did we do in the end - despite not agreeing with some of the "right" answers and believing that some of our answers were more "correct" we came third with 51 points behind Kingstown Hospital Radio jointly with the BBC in second place with 52 points, and the winning team Cityventure with 54 points..... However if we had been allowed to discuss the inaccuracy of some of the "right" answers, we could have been second!

It was a fun evening, thanks to all who organised and took part and special thanks to Chris, Jane, David and Catherine, "my" team - we certainly did not disgrace ourselves, and had much enjoyment and interest in the classes the following week discussing the questions and answers. Would I do it again?... hmmmmmmn

Christopher Ketchell, Local History Unit, Hull College

**Book review – *Architecture of the Victorian Era of Kingston upon Hull*,
by Ian Goldthorpe, edited by Margaret Sumner.**

Hull's growth in the period between 1830 and 1914 endowed it with a rich variety of buildings



representing, as the author puts it, "... the great series of architectural revivals, known today as Victorian architecture..." There has long been a need for a scholarly work on Victorian and Edwardian Hull to match Ivan and Elizabeth Hall's *Georgian Hull*. This volume, which originated fifty years ago as Ian Goldthorpe's thesis at the Hull School of Architecture, certainly satisfies that need.

After a chapter on Hull's early development, the writer describes its expansion between 1830 and 1914 and the architects involved. He then examines in greater detail local buildings which illustrate the changing fashions in British architecture. The text is supplemented by maps of Hull at different dates and many photographs, which, though they reflect the limitations of photography half a century ago, are very interesting because so many of the scenes have changed, even if the buildings remain. It is interesting to note that this young architect was celebrating the fascination of Victorian and Edwardian

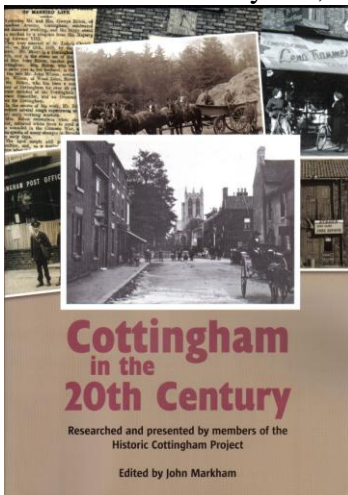
architecture at a time when many architects were so dismissive of buildings of that period and a decade before Civic Societies in Hull and elsewhere were formed to campaign for their conservation. Perhaps the highest recommendation, however, is that Ian Goldthorpe's thesis was used by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner in the preparation of the *Yorkshire: York and the East Riding* volume of his *Buildings of England* series, most recently updated in 1995 by David Neave.

Architecture of the Victorian Era of Kingston upon Hull is published by Highgate (ISBN 190264542 – 1) and retails at £17.50.

John Scotney.

**Book Review - *Cottingham in the 20th Century*
by Members of the Historic Cottingham Project, edited by John Markham.**

For more than two years, members of the Cottingham Local History Society's Historic Cottingham



Group have been writing the history of Cottingham in the 20th century. Extensive historical research, collected photographs and interviews with residents have been brought together under the editorial control of John Markham and published by the society in conjunction with Highgate Publications of Beverley.

The chapters cover church life, leisure, schools, wartime experiences, local government, a view of local life through the minutes of the Urban District Council (1900-35), changing land use and the recollections of several residents, housing, the story of a market garden and occupations. The result is a very readable, well-illustrated book which contains objective accounts balanced by personal memories to show how Cottingham has changed but also retained its identity throughout the 20th century.

Whether you live in Cottingham or not, this is a book full of information for anyone interested in local history and changing lifestyles.

Copies of "*Cottingham in the 20th Century*" (ISBN 190264541 – 3), may be obtained direct from Cottingham Local History Society by contacting Peter McClure (tel. 01482 845734), at a special price of £8 (if collected) or can be posted for an additional charge of £3.75. The book is also on sale (£9.95) in Cottingham at Barker's and in Hull at Brown's Books, WH Smith and Waterstones.

John Scotney.

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