

HULL CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

May 2010



City Hall

(Photo: JD Scotney 1999)

In this issue: Programme 2010 – 2011, Hull Civic Society Website, Urgent Appeal, Heritage Open Days in Hull, Civic Trust Award for Hull Truck Theatre, The City Hall, East Yorkshire - Large Bus Operator of the Year 2009, The Philip Larkin Statue Appeal, What's Happening in Hull? September Newsletter, Trinity Square Redevelopment, Good Mark - Tower Park Mews, The Entrance to King George Dock, Hull College Bus Services, Planning and Buildings, Civic Society President, Officers and Committee 2010

Programme 2010 – 2011

Non-members are welcome to join us.

For advance bookings please contact the Hon. Secretary, Ken Baker, (number & email are on p.16)

Monday 7th* & Tuesday 15th June – 7 pm Guided tour of South Cave - Meet at the Town Hall.

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

Advance booking essential – maximum of 12 people per tour.

**Please note that the Monday tour is fully booked (there is a waiting list) but there was space on the Tuesday tour at the time of writing.*

Saturday 3rd July 11.00 to 1.30 – “Hullness Day” – talks, workshop discussions and FREE lunch at ARC, Queen St. *This public event, organized jointly by Hull Civic Society and ARC, explores the theme of Hull’s essential and unique character. Come and share your perception of Hull! **Please book in advance to give us some idea of numbers.***

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

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

Thursday 9th – Sunday 12th September – Heritage Open Days – *an opportunity to visit the interior of many interesting buildings not usually open to the public.*

Public Meetings 2010 – 2011

All meetings are at the Royal Hotel, Ferensway on Mondays at 7.30 pm (unless otherwise stated).

11th October – Maritime Hull – *Arthur Credland, former curator of Hull Maritime Museum.*

15th November – Construction Work at the Old Fruit Market - *joint meeting with the Chartered Institute of Building.*

13th December – Sculpture and Decoration in Hull’s Old Town – *Paul Schofield.*

10th January – How the environment affects an individual’s make-up – *Chris Atkinson.*

14th February – Public Transport in Hull – *Philip Miles.*

14th March – **7.00 pm** – AGM, followed by Cannon Bollards – *Geoff Bell.*

11th April – **7.30 pm at Hull History Centre** (*time and details to be confirmed*)

Hull Civic Society Website

Our Newsletter comes to you three times a year and we hope you enjoy reading it. Now you can also find out about the Civic Society’s activities on our website, www.hullcivicsociety.org

This website is updated regularly by our Website Wizard, Chris Lefevre and contains updated information about many different concerns, ideas and forthcoming activities. If you use Google to find websites, choose the first or second listing. The third listing, “Hull Civic Society Home Page” refers to our old Beehive website, which we no longer use.

URGENT APPEAL

Seven members who pay their subscription by standing order must have cancelled it as nothing from them was credited to our bank account in January. Also, about forty-five members who pay their subscription by cheque have not sent one yet. Reminders to them are included in this Newsletter. It will be difficult to carry out our work and continue to do all that we have done in the past unless we receive the necessary subscription income. If you have not yet renewed your subscription, please do so without delay and if you are able to make a donation, no matter how small, we will be very grateful to you.

Walter Houlton – Treasurer.

Heritage Open Days in Hull - Thursday 9th to Sunday 12th September 2010

Preparations for the Society's Heritage Open Days open days this year are going well. Secretary Ken Baker and Member Phil Haskins have been registering properties and organising a series of events, including tours, talks, exhibitions and other activities which will take place during the 4 days from Thursday September 9th to Sunday September 12th.

New buildings opening this year include Hull History Centre, which will act as a focus for many of the activities taking place, Hull Tidal Barrier and the BBC at Queen's Court, while in Sutton, the Victoria Cottages and the Old Reading Room will be opening their doors for the first time. There will also be tours available of other properties which didn't take part last year such as the Northern Academy of Performing Arts on Anlaby Road, Fishgate on William Wright Dock, Hull Truck Theatre, Hull City Hall, Hull New Theatre and the Guildhall. Old favourites such as Holy Trinity Church, St Charles Borromeo, Trinity House Chapel and Hull Charterhouse will all be featuring as in previous years.

As well as tours of properties, there will also be a range of other heritage related tours. Chris Mead is planning to look at the ranges of Street Furniture in his 'A Load of Old Bollards' tour, while Society members John Scotney and Colin McNicol are back to do their popular tours of the city centre's architecture and Victoria Dock respectively. Tour Guide Paul Schofield will be doing free Old Town tours on Sunday from Trinity Square while the previous day, maritime historian Robb Robinson will be taking to the road and guiding people around the city on special bus tours, again starting from Trinity Square. We also hope to link in to the Larkin25 Celebrations with previews of the Larkin Trail and the Toad Trail.

Plans have also been laid for some interesting talks about the city's heritage. Well known historian David Neave will be launching his updated version of Pevsner's Guide to Hull and its architecture and buildings, while Steve Mathie is also hoping to use the Open Days weekend to launch a book about his unique Hull Wall of Fame based in Trinity Indoor Market which shows famous people associated with the city. Paul Morfitt will be sharing with us his breadth of knowledge about Hull's buses, while Geoff Lawes will again be presenting his very popular and interesting talk about Spanish Civil War volunteers from the city.

Other plans which are being made include a special heritage trail for children around the Old Town with prizes for anyone who gets all the points. There will also be family fun in Trinity Square on Saturday 11th when we hope to have a range of activities going on during the day, including face painting and a craft workshop for children, the popular town crier Masterclass with East Riding Crier Michael Wood, costumed actors from Hull's past, a classic pram parade from The Pram Society and even a poetry competition, using Andrew Marvell's statue as inspiration!

Throw in a Heritage Ale Trail and a Heritage Quiz Night and you can appreciate that this year's programme is set to be bigger than ever before. In order for it to be a success we hope that you will be supporting the event by attending some of the above openings and activities. As a Society we will also be looking for members to help the Society more actively by volunteering to either man the information hub at the History Centre or help out with some of the activities going on over the 4 days.

So, if you have some spare time during those days and would like to help the Society's Open Days, please contact Phil Haskins on 01482 646683 or phil@pfhconnect.co.uk and he will point you in the right direction. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you all in September.

Phil Haskins.



Heritage Open Days 2009 – Hull's history brought to life.
(Photographs supplied by Phil Haskins)

Civic Trust Award for Hull Truck Theatre

At the 2010 Civic Trust Awards, held at St. Georges Hall, Liverpool on 12th March, Hull Truck was given a Special Award for Inclusive Design. The architect was Wright & Wright LLP, the Services Engineer Max Fordham LLP, the Structural Engineer Baxter Associates and the Contractor Quarmby Contractors Ltd.

Walter Houlton.

The City Hall

The city hall is a wonderful piece of Edwardian design, engineering and decoration. Its location in the centre of the town, with a square in front of it, is splendid. However, for a city which was aspiring to be 'City of Culture', it badly needs to be brought into the twenty first century. In a number of ways it is very deficient in features which are now considered to be essentials. It is hoped that this note will initiate thought on this topic by the council and the architects and planners.

I have had some ideas on this for some time, but a recent accident, forcing me to walk with the aid of two sticks, has sharpened my views considerably.

First of all, it must be said that the outside of the building is complete and balanced, and so any kind of addition or extension should be ruled out completely.

I have the following comments and suggestions to make:-

1. The Entrance: At present the entrance doors are at the top of four steps, and are manually operated. The steps have no handrails, making access with sticks very hazardous, with the additional difficulty of opening the door at the top. All modern buildings have access at street level, with automatic doors. I suspect that the present arrangements do not conform to current legislation for disabled access.

I would suggest that the present canopy, outside the entrance doors, be enclosed and fitted with automatic doors, with no steps. The present doors could then be removed and the steps provided with handrails. There is enough space in the square for a pavement to be extended outside the canopy.

2. Entrance Hall, Staircase and Lifts: The entrance hall is a splendid place to meet and greet, but becomes very congested immediately before and after concerts. I would suggest that to improve the space, the statues be removed and located elsewhere. The present lift is clearly an afterthought. It is very small and to reach it from the entrance hall it is necessary to walk down a narrow corridor and step down two steps. It can also be reached, without steps, from a side door of the building. It is quite unsuitable for a modern building.

New lifts should be provided, accessed directly from the entrance hall. I would suggest that the area occupied by the present City Hall Information Shop on the north east of the building be used to provide space for two new lifts. The shop should be removed and located elsewhere. The lifts should give access to the bar, the main floor and the balcony floor.

3. Toilets: The toilets are reached after descending a long flight of steps making them inaccessible for disabled people.

I would suggest that they be either relocated beside the new lifts, or if this is impossible, the lifts be extended downwards to their level. A cloakroom along with the toilets would be a useful addition.



City Hall interior. Photo: JD Scotney



City Hall - the staircase and entrance hall.
"A splendid place to meet and greet."
(Photo: JD Scotney).

4. The Bar: This can be rather crowded. I would suggest that it be extended over the entrance canopy to give more space and to enable a view over the square, rather like the way the bar has been extended at the New Theatre.

5. Access from the Gallery Floor to the Mortimer Suite: My views on this have been sharpened considerably by my current walking problems. My wife is a member of the Choral Union and I like to join her in the Mortimer Suite, coming from the balcony for coffee during the interval. It is possible to reach the Mortimer Suite from the balcony by going down the main stairs to the main floor and then walking the whole length of the main floor to the Mortimer Suite. This is very time consuming. A far quicker way is to thread one's way along the bottom row of seats, go down the steps at the side of the stage and then down a further set of steps behind the stage. For a person walking with the aid of sticks this journey is positively terrifying. The steps at the side of the stage have no dedicated handrail, although for part of the way there is something to hold onto. At the bottom the steps widen out and there is nothing to hold onto. The steps down behind the stage have no dedicated handrail, although there is something to hold onto for most of the way.

I would like to see handrails provided for all these steps. Again, I wonder whether the present arrangements meet current legislation.

6. Restaurant catering: Since the modifications to the New Theatre some years ago the restaurant there beneath the entrance hall seems to have been a great success. People enjoy having a meal before or after a performance.

A restaurant at the City Hall would be a great innovation. While this would be difficult to achieve it might be possible to convert some of the shops located under the main hall, access being either from the entrance hall by means of stairs or lift, or directly from the street.

7. Coffee shop catering: Above the bar is a dome which, as far as I know, is only used for storage and which can only be reached by ladder. This dome has windows all round which, although small, could provide splendid panoramic views over the town.

I would suggest that consideration be given to making this into a coffee shop with access by stairs and lift. Its location would make it unique in the town.

I hope that these comments will be viewed as constructive and will open up discussion on the topic.

F. J. Willson

Hull Heritage Project Group.

This was set up in February following a suggestion from John Holmes 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 group, which meets for about two hours every six weeks or so at the History Centre, is composed of highly regarded local historians, officers of the City Council and Hull Civic Society. The idea is to develop an internet-based resource building on the wealth of historical documented information which exists, from which a variety of 'trails' round the city can be presented in physical form, online or by mobile technology.

John Netherwood

Large Bus Operator of the Year 2009

Observant readers will have noticed these words that have appeared recently on the back of East Yorkshire buses. The Operator Excellence Award scheme is run by Route One, the internet-based magazine of the bus coach industry to encourage and reward excellence in service provision, vehicles, staff and management. The award for the best “large bus operator” (101 or more buses) is sponsored by Voith Transmissions.

We usually take it for granted that buses arrive as near to time as traffic permits, that they are well driven and that drivers are courteous. People are often quick to complain on the rare occasions when things go wrong, so it is good to see professionals of the bus & coach industry comparing operators and recognising East Yorkshire Motor Services’ high standards.

Hull Civic Society would like to congratulate EYMS and their managing director Peter Shipp on earning a well-deserved award.

The last few years have seen constant investment in new, low floor double and single decker buses and one of the company’s latest innovations is the Petuaria Express service to Elloughton, Brough and Gilberdyke, introduced on 26th April this year. It has ten departures each way and the first two morning services into Hull and last three afternoon services from Hull run via Hull College and the Guildhall. As most readers will know, Petuaria was the Roman name for Brough.



EYMS has continually updated its fleet with modern low floor double and single decker buses to ensure passenger comfort. (Photo: JD Scotney)

John Scotney

THE PHILIP LARKIN STATUE APPEAL



St Pancras station has a statue of the poet and conservationist John Betjeman. Now Hull’s Paragon Station is to have its own statue of another famous 20th century poet, Philip Larkin, who was also Chief Librarian of the Brynmor Jones Library at Hull University. To mark the twenty fifth anniversary of his death, the Philip Larkin Society is planning to erect the statue as part of a series of events to be held in Hull as part of the Larkin25 Celebrations. Hull Civic Society has decided to make a contribution of £250 towards the appeal.

Carol Collinson of the Philip Larkin Society describes the proposals in her letter:

On February 11th each of three renowned sculptors who had been involved in a competition to win the statue commission presented their ideas and maquettes to an invited audience in the Quality Royal Hotel in Hull (itself the site of Larkin's poem 'Friday Night in the Royal Station Hotel'. All were asked to mark each sculptor against the four key criteria: artistic quality, likeness to Larkin (including capture of spirit), uniqueness and fitness with location. The Commissioning Group, supported by two expert advisors, interviewed each sculptor. It reassembled on 13th February to consider all the evidence and decided, along with the Society's Chairman, Professor Eddie Dawes, to appoint Martin Jennings.

In Jennings' maquette, Larkin is represented hurrying for his train, "late getting away" as he says in 'The Whitsun Weddings'. He holds a manuscript in one hand and his hat in the other. Typically, his suit jacket is buttoned in the middle and his gabardine mac blows in his wake.

The statue will be done in bronze and aims to evoke subtle echoes of the Betjeman statue in St. Pancras Station (also done by Martin Jennings) and will be of comparable size. It is fitting that a statue of Philip Larkin is to be a feature of Hull Paragon Interchange in the same way as the Betjeman one is in St. Pancras. It will become equally iconic and honour a man who spent most of his life working and writing in Hull. A fantastic statue for a fine city.

We need to raise £80,000. Hull City Council is now the major contributor having made a very substantial donation. The Philip Larkin Society has donated £10,000 and the University of Hull a further £10,000. Appeals to Hull businesses and private individuals have raised an additional £12,000. We are, however, still a long way short of our target and intend to raise a further amount of funding by the sale of a limited edition of maquettes which will each cost approximately £3,000 + VAT.

As an organisation committed to the enhancement of our city we hope that you will be able to support us and be part of this exciting project. The statue will be unveiled on 2ⁿ December 2010, the anniversary of the poet's death and the evolution of the statue will be recorded in a commemorative book. Subscribers, individuals who donate £50 or more and institutions which donate £500 or more, will appear in the book to be published in 2011. We would be delighted to see the name of Hull Civic Society there!

What's Happening in Hull?

Have you ever returned from holiday to find that you have missed the news or a three-day exhibition about some major development in the city? At one of our recent Liaison Meetings with the city council and other bodies, our Chairman, John Netherwood, raised the issue of keeping the citizens of Hull and district better informed about major schemes through a more permanent exhibition.

The project sets out to establish a showcase of the major building projects going on in the areas of housing, education, health-care, public realm and infrastructure which, together, will constitute a renaissance of our City's built environment.

As a result, the City Council, in conjunction with the major project teams, has launched a permanent "What's happening in Hull" exhibition.

To be located in our splendid new History Centre, it will, in effect, be a 'Museum of Hull Now and for the Future'. Its principle aim is to generate pride and confidence in our city.

Editor

September Newsletter

Many thanks to all our contributors. Please submit all items by 28th August to the Editor, John Scotney, 126 Cottingham Rd, Hull, HU6 7RZ, or preferably, by e-mail to john.scotney@talk21.com. Please note that items may sometimes be held over for lack of space.

Trinity Square redevelopment



Hull Civic Society is working together with a number of other organisations, including Hull Forward, HullBid, Hull City Council, Holy Trinity Church and Hull Business Forum, to redevelop Trinity Square in Hull. This small square in the city centre, bounded by Zilli's restaurant and the Kings Ale House to the west, the covered Market Place to the north, the Old Grammar School Museum to the south, also forms the front entrance to one of Hull's most iconic buildings, Holy Trinity Church, shown as Number 11 on the drawing. The square was remodelled some years ago but has sadly become a little neglected and dirty. However, a programme of street cleaning is underway and some further economic remodelling of the square will take place this year with the intention of creating a continental-style outdoor spring/summer/autumn, daytime and evening venue for dining and café themed society, with acoustic entertainment aimed at the mature audience. The trustees of Holy Trinity Church are actively looking at means to make the church an integral part of the new vision for the square and are in discussions as to how to bring this about. Several meetings have been held and Hull Civic Society will continue to drive this initiative forward, with our other partners to make Hull a better place to live, work and relax.

Colin McNicol

Good Mark - Tower Park Mews

Tower Park Mews is a model of sympathetic residential development, conveniently situated in Hurley Close, off Holderness Road, almost opposite Portobello Street. The developers, Daysar Limited, have combined new building with an existing large house, which they have renovated carefully and in a manner that restores its character. The large house and the new build together provide a total of 13 flats and one town house, each with its own car parking space.



Tower Park Mews exterior (left) and entrance hall (right). (Photo: JD Scotney)

The four 2-bedroom flats in the main house are served by the original magnificent hall, with a superb staircase and the original stained glass entrance door. All the flats in the main house have their own original identity. This is because the developer has retained the integrity of the house and the room sizes are more or less based on the original layout, with the minimum of adjustment. As a result, the flats in the original building are light and airy and much larger than most new-build flats. In addition to the four flats entered via the front door, the house contains a large 1-bedroom ground floor flat with its own door facing Hurley Close.

A new wing has been added containing six 2-bedroom flats. The exterior echoes the features of the main building and the bottom flats in this wing all have their own garden area. An entrance in the new wing also gives access to two more 1-bedroom flats in the house. A two-storey extension forms an interesting 2-bedroom town house, with its own entrance and garden to the north of the original house. Tasteful heritage colours have been chosen to integrate the old and the new flats and many original features (including a chandelier above the main staircase) have been retained. The new fittings and doors are also of high quality.

The house is first listed in the 1901 Hull directory as Tower Grange, residence of one Edward Robson (not the brewer), and the design accords with that period. By the 1950s it had been divided into flats.

In this development, the four directors of Daysar Ltd – Nick Day, Doug Day, Jim Day and Mick Arthur - have combined a very sympathetic restoration of the main house with new buildings which harmonise with it. Internally, the flats have individual character and spaciousness so often lacking in many developments. In recognition of this, Hull Civic Society is pleased to award a well-deserved Good Mark.

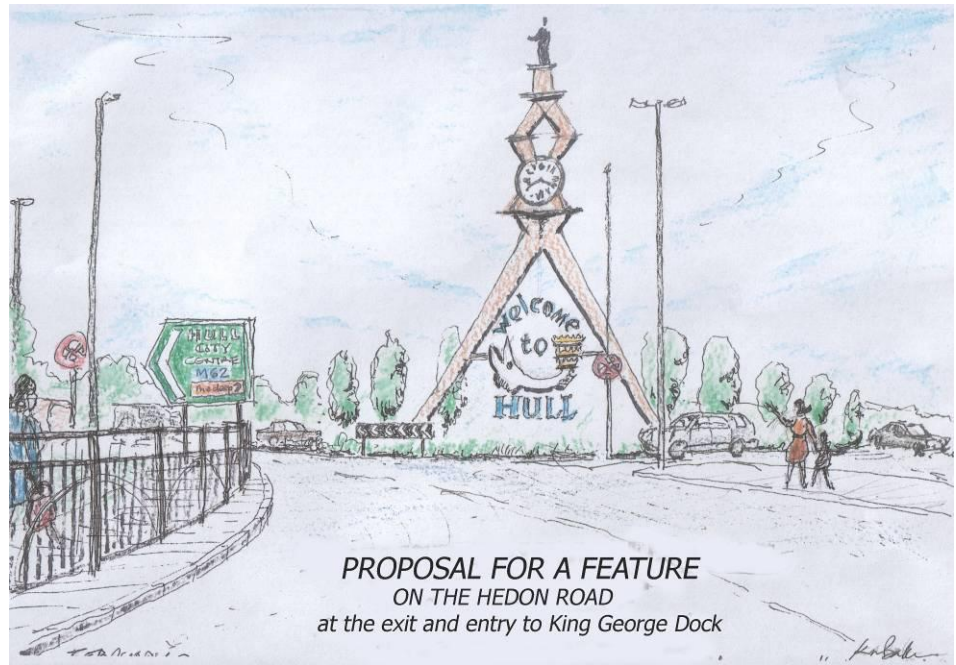
Cynthia Fowler.

The Entrance to King George Dock, Hull

It is an old truism that you don't get a second chance to create a first impression. This is certainly true of the roundabout that forms the entrance/exit to King George Dock. What must visitors to our city think as they leave the dock on entry to our city and indeed the United Kingdom and what impression must stay with them?

The almost bare and vast roundabout is grim indeed; lined to the north with grey concrete blocks to form a perimeter, a second hand lorry park fenced off with open wire fencing to the east of Littlefair Road, an open-air, used car

company sales park and the bare remains of the burnt-out Norman Nicholson Box Company to the west and no sign of a welcome to our city in sight. Over one million passengers are transported by North Sea Ferries every year and it's perhaps no wonder that the vast majority of Continental visitors do not stop and linger to enjoy the attractions of our city; but pass through Hull at some speed to access the excellent motorway links to escape to other destinations to the north and west.



And yet it could be so, so different – and with little cost. Hull Civic Society consider that bright, attractive and colourful hoardings could be placed around the perimeter in place of the grey, drab concrete blocks - to illustrate what attractions Hull has to offer the visitor and to encourage them to stay awhile. The centre of the roundabout could form the focal point for a feature, a sculpture, or a piece of industrial machinery, or equipment to illustrate our maritime and trading heritage and surely there ought to be a huge WELCOME sign to greet them.

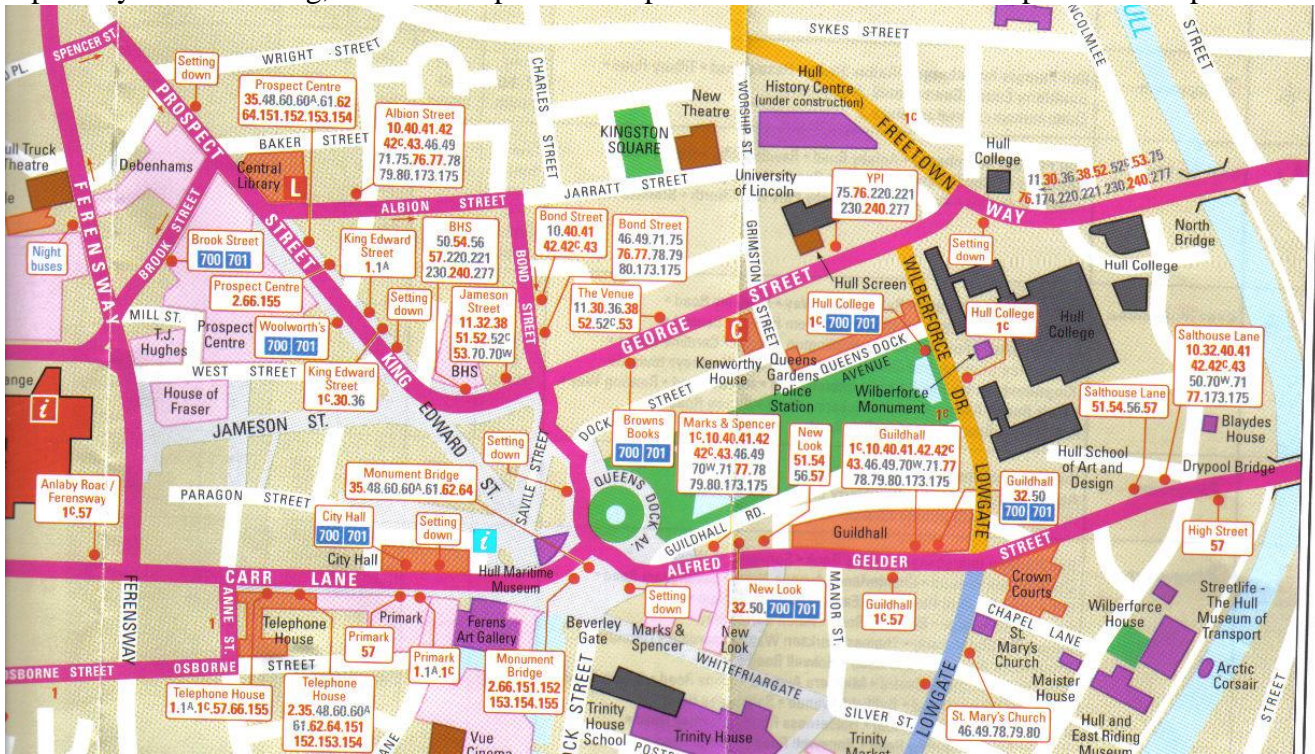
Hull Civic Society is actively engaged in making this vision become a reality by working in conjunction with the Highways Agency, Hull City Council and Associated British Ports, encouraging them to share in our aims of making Hull a better place to live, work, relax and visit. Initial meetings have suggested that there is a high level of support from the interested parties, whilst recognising that there are also several potential hurdles to overcome. However, we are encouraged by the initial support and will press on with this project working for a successful outcome.

Colin McNicol

Hull College Bus Services

Hull College (Queen's Gardens site) has over a thousand staff and thousands of students, making it one of the largest generators of traffic in the city centre. It would neither be practical nor desirable to attempt to provide car parking for every member of staff, let alone every student, but it is not as well served by buses as it appears to be on the map, especially in the evening.

During the daytime, the bus stops outside are only served by the 700 & 701 Park & Ride buses and the hourly 1C to Downfield Avenue via Bridlington Ave estate and Beverley Rd and, at peak periods, by the X55 Petuaria Express. None of these runs in the evening. Re-routing of some services, especially in the evening, could make public transport a much more attractive option than at present.



Present City Centre Bus Routes and Bus Stops (Hull Bus Map 2009)

East Hull & Holderness services via Drypool Bridge: The nearest stops to Hull College are in Alfred Gelder Street, a lonely place to wait in the evening. This problem could be solved by re-routing services which now go to Holderness Road via Alfred Gelder Street, Drypool Bridge and Clarence Street to run instead via Alfred Gelder Street, Wilberforce Drive (stopping in front of the college), North Bridge and Witham to Holderness Road and vice versa. Apart from the convenience of getting on a bus in front of the college, potential bus users would be encouraged by the greater number of people about, including college security staff.

Hessle Services: EYMS Service 57 (Longhill to Hessle via Hessle Road) runs via Holderness Road, Clarence Street, over Drypool Bridge and down Alfred Gelder Street. The stops are not far from Hull College, but again Alfred Gelder Street is a lonely place to wait at night. The best solution would be to re-route the 57 from Holderness Road via Witham, North Bridge, Wilberforce Drive (stopping in front of the college), then via Alfred Gelder Street, as at present.

Services via George Street and North Bridge: These buses pass Hull College and the nearest stop is in front of the University of Lincoln, quite close to Hull College, but at present only East Yorkshire buses

stop there. The nearest stop for Stagecoach services on George Street is about a quarter of a mile from college outside The Venue night club. Ideally, all buses over north Bridge should stop outside the University of Lincoln as well, for the convenience of university and Hull College staff and students.

Services to Anlaby Road, Spring Bank and Beverley Road: These start from the Interchange and anyone using these services after evening classes (which may finish at 8 or 9 pm) faces a 15 minute walk through deserted streets from the college to the Interchange. Many evening class students and staff choose to drive to college through peak traffic between 4 and 5 pm in order to have a car for the homeward journey. While it may not be feasible to re-route west or north Hull buses via the college, the re-routing of inward-bound buses from east Hull to the Interchange via North Bridge and Wilberforce Drive could also provide a faster and safer way of getting to the Interchange. This would make bus travel more attractive for the connecting bus services from the Interchange. Ideally, travel from Hull College would be free or included in a through ticket, but a nominal central zone fare of 20p might be needed to help to defray costs.

Conclusion: The measures suggested above would be very cheap to implement but would greatly improve public transport access to Hull College. The attached map shows the present routes.

This matter has already been raised, together with suggestions for evening availability of parking in George St multi-storey car park in one of our Liaison Meetings with the council and other public bodies.

Planning and Buildings

Old Town

Despite the widely-publicised abandonment of Igloo's role in the regeneration of the old wholesale fruit market in and around Humber St, this year has seen a few planning applications, successful and unsuccessful. In February, Geoffrey Rhodes, who owns former fruit warehouses in Humber St and Pier St, submitted a revised application to demolish his warehouse at 66-68 Humber St and build a part 3, part 5-storey bldg with two A1/A3/A4 units (retail, restaurant or pub use) on the ground floor and 12 flats above and build a similar 5-storey block for 7 flats with one A1/A3/A4 unit at ground floor on the north east corner of Pier St & Wellington St, with his Pier St building retained between the two new blocks. Conservation Area Consent for the demolition was given in April, but approval for the replacement building was still pending at the time of writing.

In February, there an application to extend the Dinostar Dinosaur Museum into the adjoining premises (10 & 11 Humber St, structurally the same building) to provide studio workspace, exhibition gallery & exhibit storage. There was also an application for change of use of 62-65 Humber St to "multipurpose event space, including gallery, arts studio space, rehearsal use, workshop and offices".

The end of March also brought an application for 69-73 Humber St: change of use from retail warehouse to light industrial use& exhibition space, ancillary office, shop and café.

We objected to an application by Innovating Space Ltd for an oversized 11-storey block of 62 flats with a restaurant on the ground floor on the south side of Wellington St, on the grassed site of the former single storey Portside pub, between the lockpit and Minerva Terrace. We considered that the scale was completely inappropriate for this part of the Old Town, overshadowing Henry Vernone Court and all the surrounding buildings. Fortunately, the application has been withdrawn, at least for the time being.

City Centre

The old Jordan's showroom (later Grattan's mail order warehouse) in Story St is gradually succumbing to demolition, but not without resistance! The new medical centre that will replace it is already open in temporary Portakabins on the corner of Bond St and Albion St. For some reason, the application to create a public square in School St to the east and north of the medical centre has been withdrawn.

The former Owner Hotel next to the library on Albion St re-opened in April as the Town House Hotel.

A couple of years ago, every developer was building flats and some are still unoccupied. Now the fashion is for offices. In early February, consent was given for the last section of the Maltings (Unit 5a) to be converted into offices. The work involves providing an additional floor, new doors and windows. This is a logical development, as the Maltings is already a successful office complex. The second development is at 20-24 Baker St. Marblechip Ltd was originally given permission for a 4-storey block of flats here. They then applied to build a 4-storey office block instead (approved), then to demolish all the existing buildings, leaving an empty site



20-24 Baker St (Photo: JD Scotney)

(something contrary to the spirit of a conservation area). In March, they received permission for an amended scheme for a 4-storey office block. The third office scheme approved is for Essential Leisure Ltd to build a 7-storey office block on the site of the disused Circus- Circus pub on Spencer St (which links Prospect St and Ferensway). The design for this scheme was much better than the one refused in November last year.

In April, there was an application to place a new memorial on the western side of Queens Dock Avenue, next to the Maritime Museum. This will be a Merchant Navy Memorial and will incorporate a model of the prow of a 2nd World War "Liberty Ship". Two more trees will also be planted. At present it is not clear where the anchor will be moved to.

West

Since the demolition of the Newington Dance Hall on Albert Avenue, the site has been vacant. Outline planning permission for a 2½ to 3-storey residential care home was granted in May 2009 and the full application was recommended for approval in April, but the Planning Committee disagreed and it was refused.

The process of smartening up Anlaby Rd with new boundary walls and railings is in full swing in the stretch to the west of Albert Avenue and permission was given in April for more such work at 529-535 Anlaby Rd by an applicant called Ian Bullock.

Tesco's application to build a supermarket with four smaller shops on the site of the Tradex store at the roundabout junction of Anlaby Rd and Boothferry Rd is still pending, though recommended by planning officers for refusal.

The redevelopment of Amy Johnson School site and playing fields (to the west of Hawthorn Avenue and north of the Hull - Selby railway line) has moved forward with outline permission granted in April for 452 dwellings with associated access roads, allotment gardens, parks, formal squares and courtyards and full planning permission for 148 dwellings with gardens, access roads and parking spaces.

There has also been an outline application to develop the derelict land on the western side of Calvert Lane for houses.

Birds Eye Iglo Ltd's application to redevelop their factory site on Hessle High Rd with an outline application for up to 260 dwellings was refused in April because it "would result in a loss of readily available employment land and does not demonstrate that there is adequate provision of alternative employment land of suitable quality nearby, contrary to policy E12 of the Local Plan".

East

A scheme for a 3-storey 62 bed nursing home and 12-bed young person's physical disability unit was approved in early March for the site of the closed Anchor Inn (once known locally as "Blue Heaven") on Southcoates Lane.

Victoria Cottage, 25 Lowgate, Sutton, is a rare unaltered example of a late 17th century single storey cottage with a gabled porch and built on a "hearth-passage plan" (Pevsner & Neave, p.567). Sadly, it has been on the Listed Buildings at Risk Register for some time, but a scheme by the Buildings At Risk Trust to restore it was approved in April. The proposed work includes dividing it into two self-contained dwellings, building two flat-roofed extensions at the rear and thatching the roof.

Alterations to another listed building, the Garden Village shopping centre, were proposed in February, involving a single storey extension to rear to enlarge kitchen, alterations to the ground floor frontage (new doors & windows) and a glazed screen at 1st floor.

The applications list for the week ending 19th March included a Marine & Fisheries Agency consultation about their proposed new riverside bulk handling terminal, including new jetty, dredged berth, road, rail and conveyor connections and flood defence works at King George Dock.

An expansion of Kingswood is proposed in an application for another 103 dwellings with roads & landscaping in "section H7".

North

In April the joint application by Sailors' Families Society and Persimmon Homes to develop Newland Homes (Cottingham Road) received permission. The listed orphanage houses are to be used to provide 120-bed accommodation for students (an appropriate residential use) and 38 houses and a block of 9 apartments with a management office are to be built on the western side of the site. This will involve demolition of the swimming pool, recreation hut and western shed, for which the Secretary of State's consent was required.

"Ipark", a scheme for a new multi-sports sports park with 10 all-weather synthetic grass sports pitches, on Bankside (the northern continuation of Wincolmllee on the western side of the River Hull) was proposed in February, but refused in April.

Also in April, Conservation Area Approval was given for Freetown Developments Ltd to demolish 4-6 Temple St, Beverley Rd (Stepney) to make way for a small development of seven 2-bedroom apartments, despite planning officers' recommendation to refuse.

Following refusal of the previous scheme to demolish the disused Newland United Reformed Church (480-498 Beverley Rd, between Brooklyn St and Vermont St) and build 18 flats in a 3-storey block on the site, a revised application was submitted in March.

Holy Name Roman Catholic Church on Hall Rd is also disused. An application in March proposed the erection of a 72-bed care home following the demolition of the vicarage, social club, single storey church extension and garages and change of use of the church building to "purposes ancillary to use of the care home", whatever that might mean when translated into English!

John Scotney.

Civic Society President, Officers and Committee 2010

President	Mike Killoran mike@princesquay.co.uk	(day) 586622
Chairman	John Netherwood jnetherwood@jnetherwood.karoo.co.uk	653657
Honorary Secretary	Ken Baker kbaker@goodwin-centre.org	224767 07766 654955
Vice Chairman, Newsletter Editor, Planning	John Scotney john.scotney@talk21.com	492822
Honorary Treasurer	Walter Houlton walter@houlton1.karoo.co.uk	375605
Programme, Good Marks, Heritage Open Days	Malcolm Sharman malcsharman@hotmail.com	561611
Planning Sec, CAAC, Good Marks, Minutes	Cynthia Fowler pinkhouse1@hotmail.co.uk	377434
Planning, Museums, Transport, Industrial Heritage	Colin Cooper	863339
Membership Officer (individual & corporate)	Janet Green janet@bengreen.karoo.co.uk	589787
Marketing and Old Town Regeneration	Colin McNicol cmcnicol@cmcnicol.karoo.co.uk	229891
Website Wizard, public relations and visits	Chris Lefevre chrisblefevre@chrisblefevre.karoo.co.uk	815132
Publicity & general issues	Gill Osgerby gmosgerby@live.co.uk	07786 920876
Planting, soft landscaping and architecture	Nick Garbutt Nick@westbarnshardyplants.com	01964 631140

Annual Membership Subscriptions

Individuals: £10, Couples: £17, Students: £5, Under 16s: £2

Application for membership of HULL CIVIC SOCIETY

Full Membership subscription: individual £10.00, couple £17.00 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